

## OR PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTORS SURVEY - RESULTS



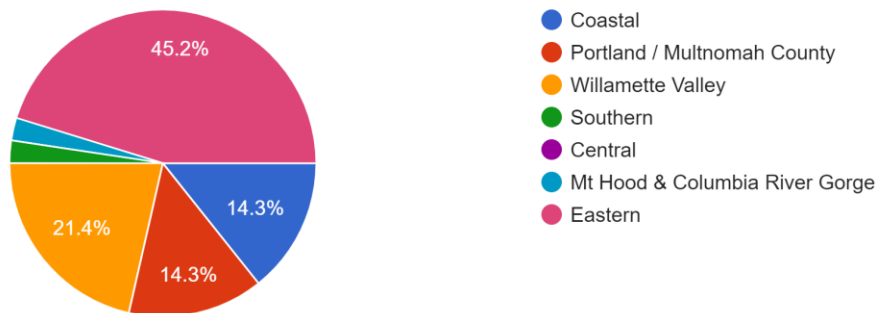
### Oregon Library Directors Survey on Sharps Bins

Baker County Library was recently asked by a local organization to place an outdoor sharps collection bin on our property. We are currently conducting a community survey and the Library Board would also appreciate input from our library colleagues.

Thank you for taking a few minutes to contribute your experiences and perspectives.

What Oregon region best describes your location? For reference, visit map at <https://industry.traveloregon.com/regions>

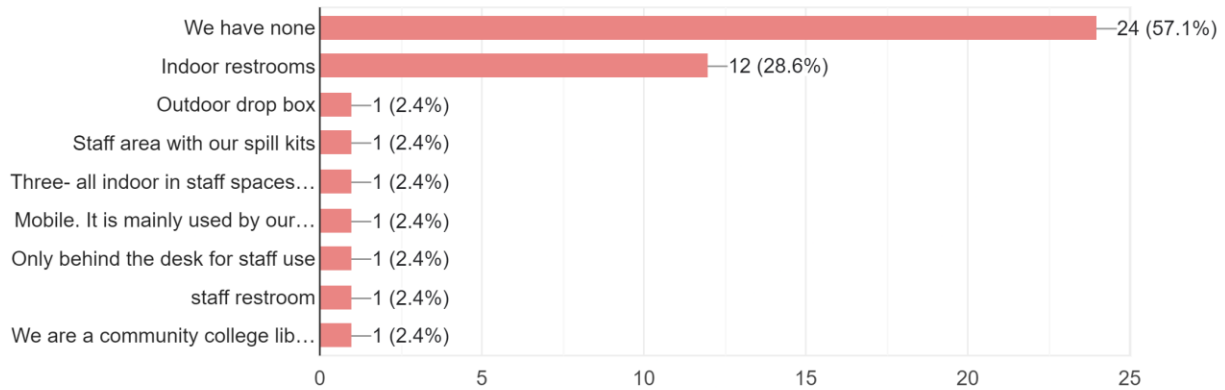
42 responses



BAKER COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT  
 Survey Results – Sharps Drop Box Proposal  
 Nov 17 – Dec 10 2023

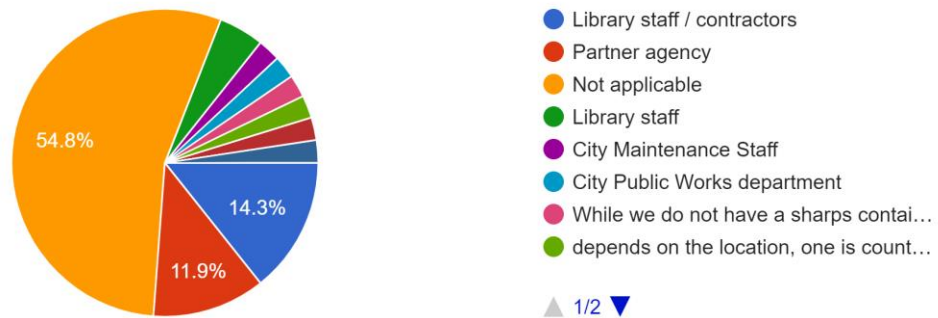
Where are sharps drop bins located at your library? (Mark all that apply)

42 responses



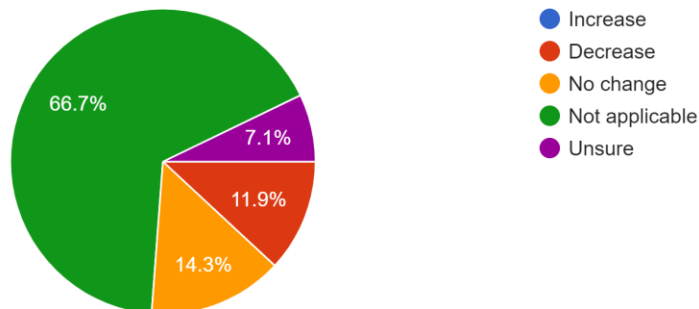
Who mostly performs maintenance (Inspection, emptying, repairs) of the sharps bins?

42 responses



After installing sharps bins for public use, did you see an increase or decrease of medical waste hazards (littering, attempted flushing, or other unsafe disposal of syringes) at your facility?

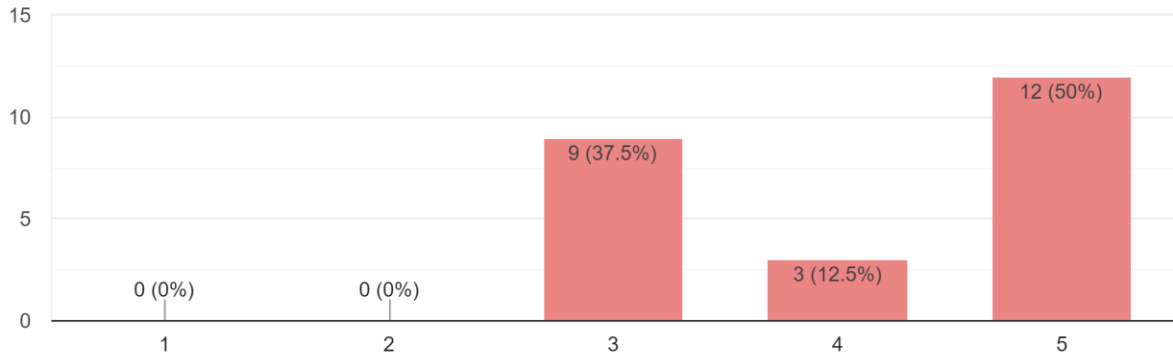
42 responses



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Based on experience with sharps bins at your library, are you inclined to discourage or recommend that a library implement the service?

24 responses



Please share any NEGATIVE impacts or problems your library has experienced due to the availability of sharps bins at your location (Optional)

17 responses

n/a

The plastic flaps often break.

Finding a place to dispose of the bins has been an issue for my library.

We don't have them. We were going to, and had a very large outcry from the community. As we were already dealing with a couple of other heated controversies, the board advised me not to pursue getting them. I wasn't thrilled about that, but I accepted it.

Had them at my previous library, only negative response was the perception from people that thought they were only for drug users.

We have had a couple of incidents where people have tried to take out syringes which have led us to replace broken containers. We also had one incident where a patron dropped off a box of syringes at the customer service counter and asked staff to dispose of them for him.

We have not added permanent bins in our facility mainly because of concerns about quantity and our

**See spreadsheet for full responses**

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Please share any POSITIVE impacts or success stories your library has experienced due to the availability of sharps bins at your location (Optional)

15 responses

n/a

People use them which has decreased the number of syringes/sharps found in chairs, thrown into wastebaskets uncapped, and other places which presented a hazard to staff and patrons

Our janitor LOVED them because they felt safer emptying the trash bins.

Indoor sharps containers used by folks who have diabetes.

Our police department, county health department, and non-profit partner organizations have all expressed their support and, in some cases, gratitude. There are only two or three public buildings in the city that have them.

It's positive from a safety standpoint that we provide them. It's overall a much safer environment for patrons and staff when we provide an appropriate place for sharps disposal, especially when the alternative could mean finding a needle in a chair with their rear end or in the stacks with a finger.

It gives us the flexibility to confidently run programs in outdoor spaces like parks.

**See spreadsheet for full responses**

What advice do you have for a library considering installation of sharps bins (Optional)?

17 responses

n/a

Our landscaping crew noted that they find needles in our landscaping and that it's hard to keep the crew safe. I don't know if a sharps bin outside would help, but maybe? I'd love to hear what you learn from other libraries.

Know where your disposal sites are. I would think twice about outdoor containers. Indoors provides a discreet disposal option. Outdoor looks like an invitation to use on the grounds.

Make sure you know where you are going to dispose of the containers!

Have them available in each bathroom, including staff and family.

Get buy-in from your city [sic] safety officer and police department.

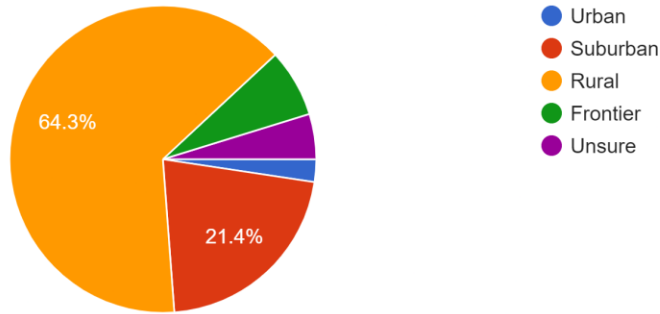
Our issues against putting them in our restrooms were negative public perception and not really having a good outlet or even idea of how to dispose of them. Also, cost of purchasing, installing containers.

**See spreadsheet for full responses**

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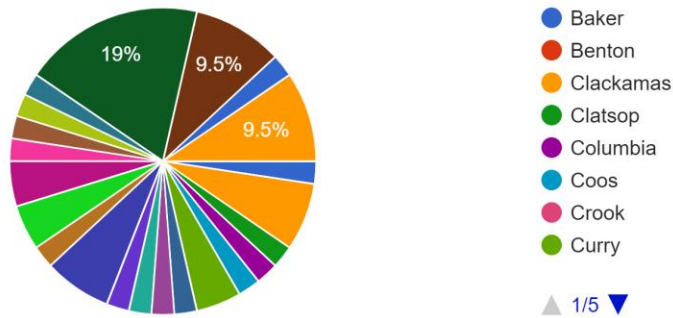
What geographic designation best describes your library service area?

42 responses



Your County

42 responses



Name of your library (Optional)

33 responses

