



UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO EXTENSION

Needs Assessment

2023



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Needs Assessment

2023

PREPARED FOR

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Introduction

This report summarizes the results of a needs assessment conducted from October 2022 to March 2023. A primary objective of the assessment is to support University of Idaho (UI) Extension’s planning process. The needs assessment is based on county- and state-level secondary data and primary data collected through client listening sessions as well as surveys of county commissioners and clientele throughout the state.

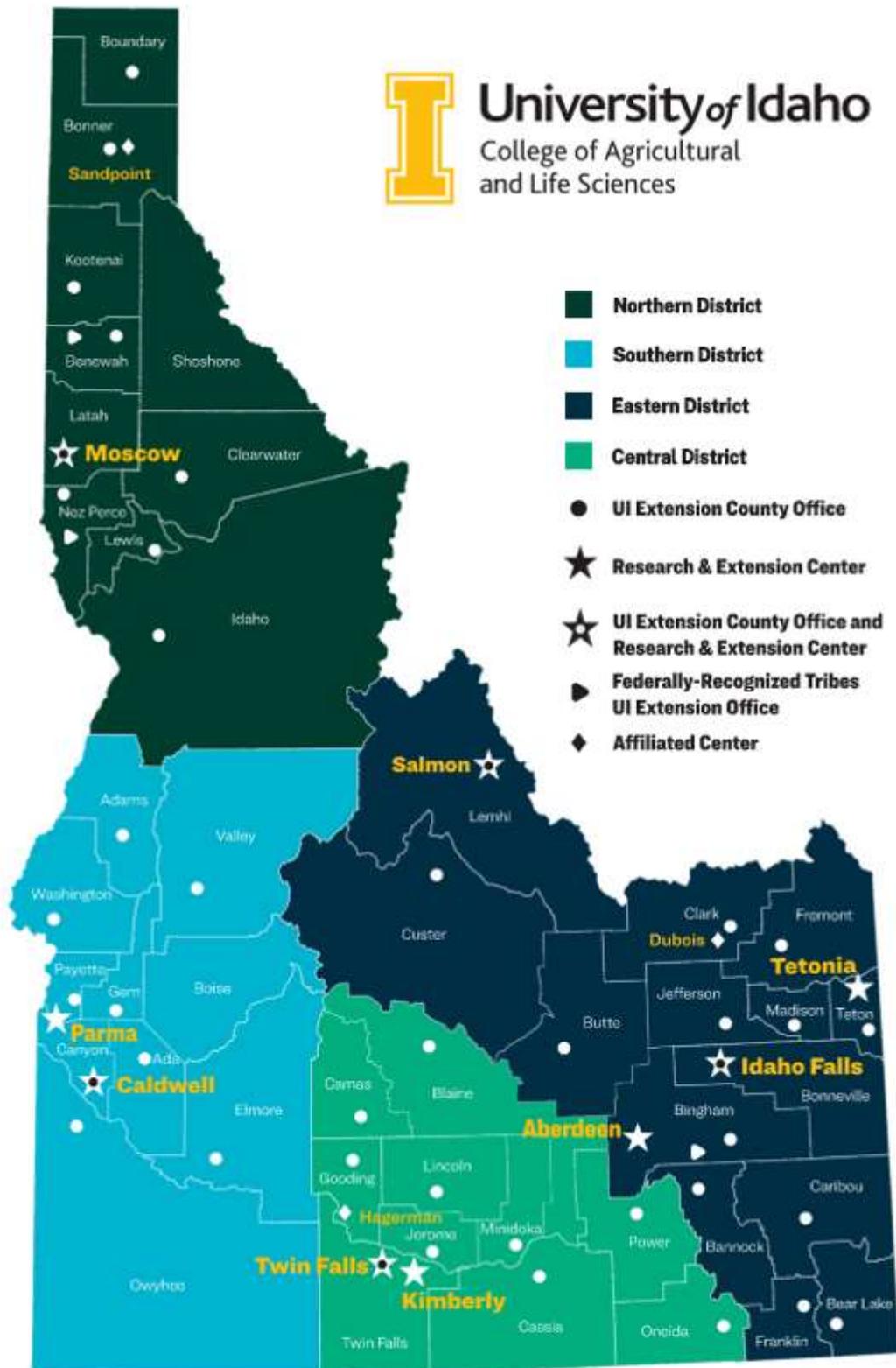
The following report begins with an Executive Summary of primary findings by UI Extension district and program area. It then provides the assessment results in detail organized by data type.

Data for this report are presented by UI Extension district, where possible. Table 1 and Figure 1 show the geographic boundaries and counties in the four UI Extension districts.

TABLE 1 | UI Extension districts and the counties they serve

	Eastern District	Southern District	Central District	Northern District
Counties	Bannock	Ada	Blaine	Benewah
	Bear Lake	Adams	Camas	Bonner
	Bingham	Boise	Cassia	Boundary
	Bonneville	Canyon	Gooding	Clearwater
	Butte	Elmore	Jerome	Idaho
	Caribou	Gem	Lincoln	Kootenai
	Clark	Owyhee	Minidoka	Latah
	Custer	Payette	Oneida	Lewis
	Franklin	Valley	Power	Nez Perce
	Fremont	Washington	Twin Falls	Shoshone
	Jefferson			
	Lemhi			
	Madison			
	Teton			

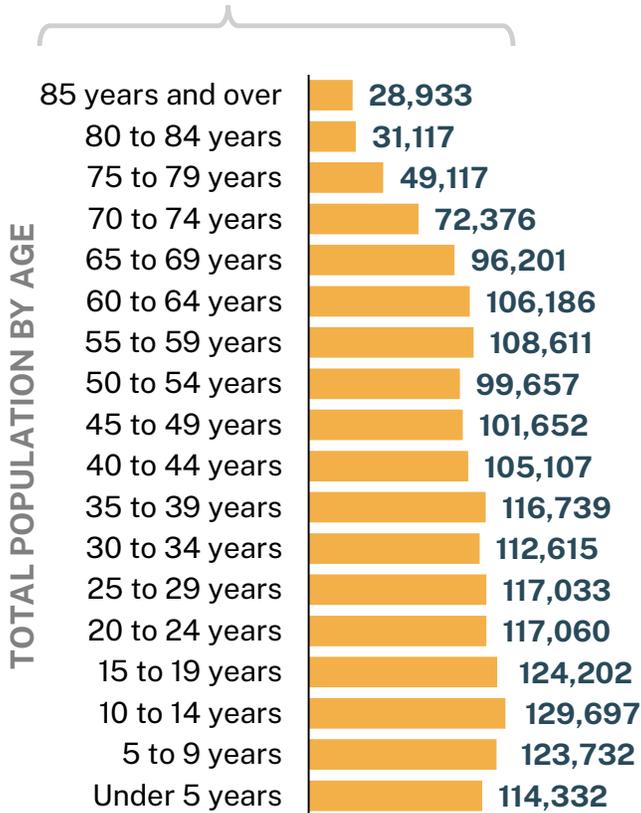
FIGURE 1 | University of Idaho Extension districts and offices



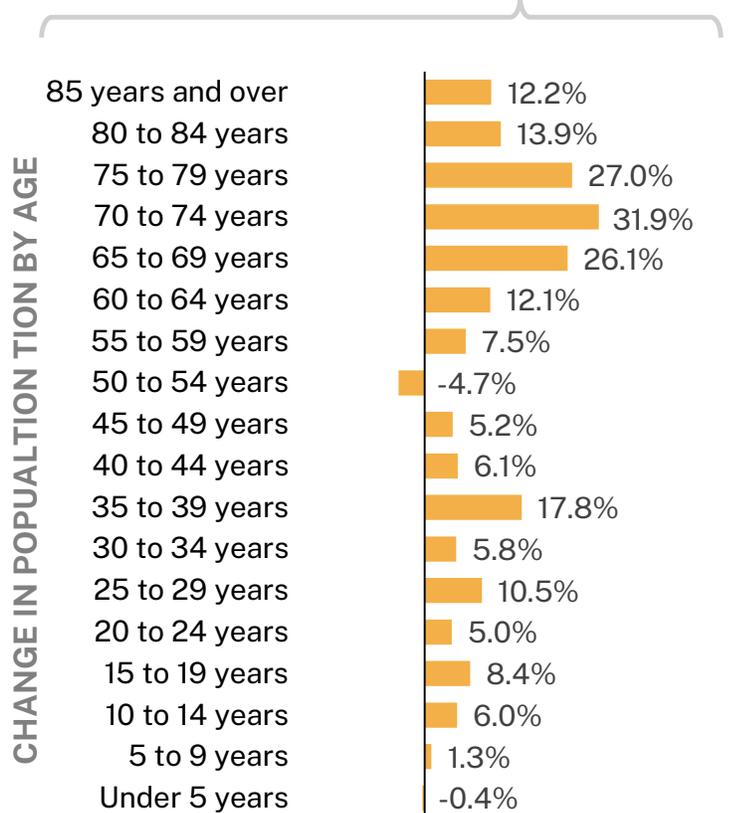
Executive Summary

Idaho State

Idaho is home to over
1,800,000 residents.



From 2016 to 2021,
the population increased **11%**.



11.4%
of the population
lives below poverty



27 / 44
counties are
considered "rural"



Median income
\$64,377



12.8%
of the population is
Hispanic or Latino

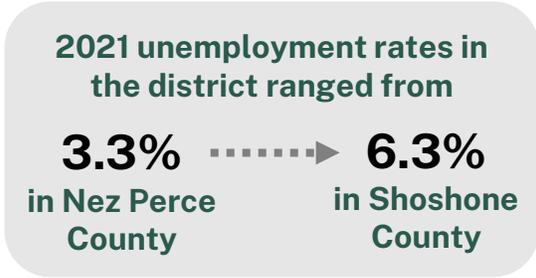
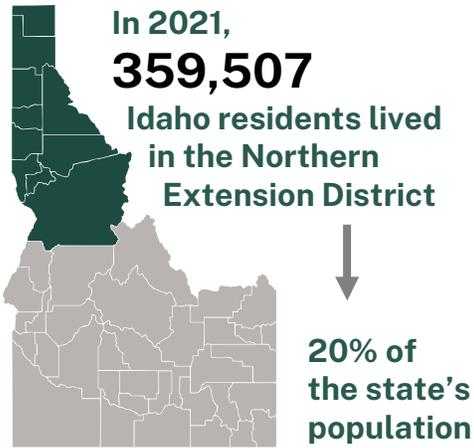


31 / 44
counties have
unemployment
rates below 5%

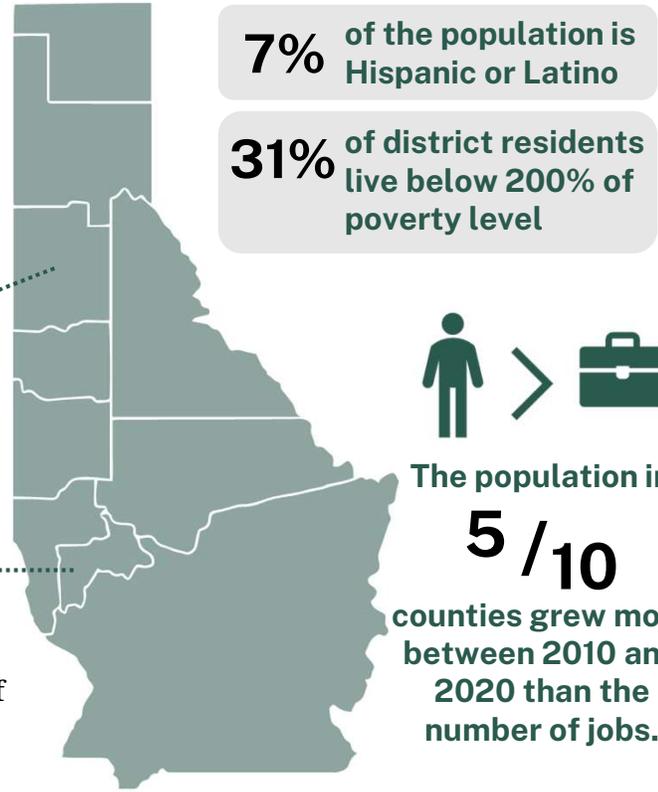
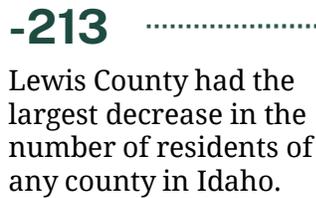
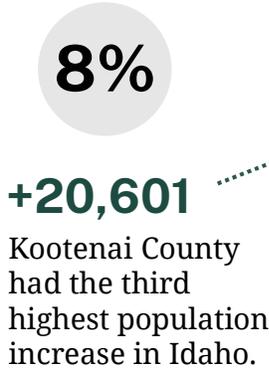


99.2%
of businesses in Idaho
have < 20 employees

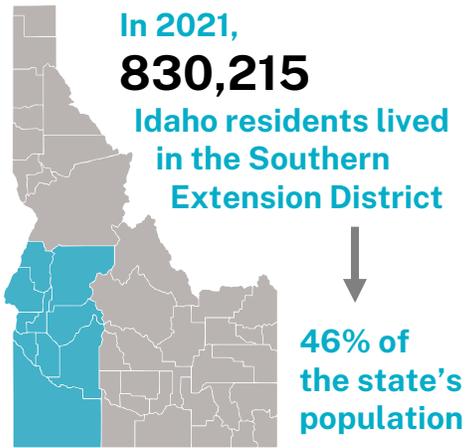
Northern Extension District



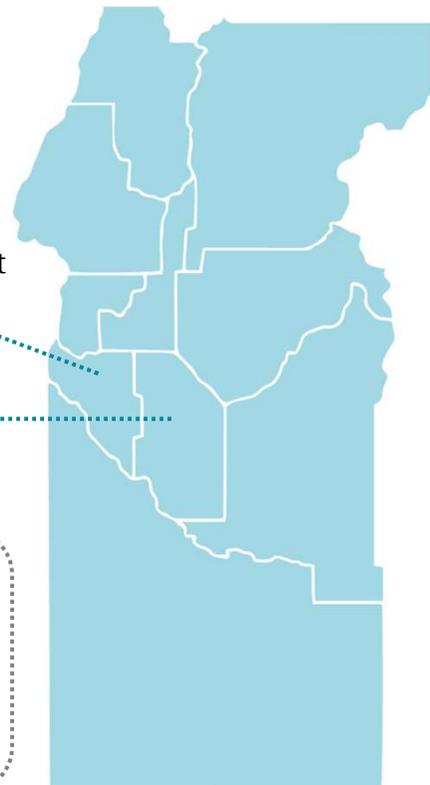
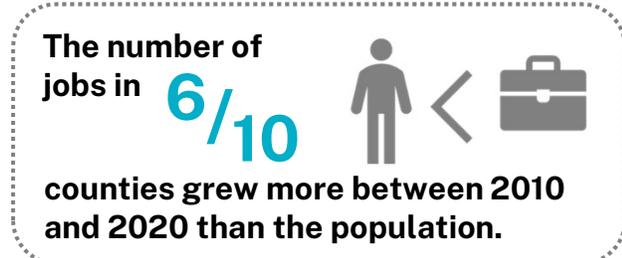
From 2016 to 2021,
the population of the
district increased



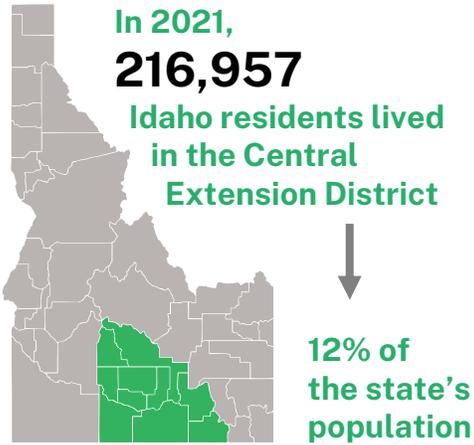
Southern Extension District



From 2016 to 2021,
the population of
the district increased



Central Extension District

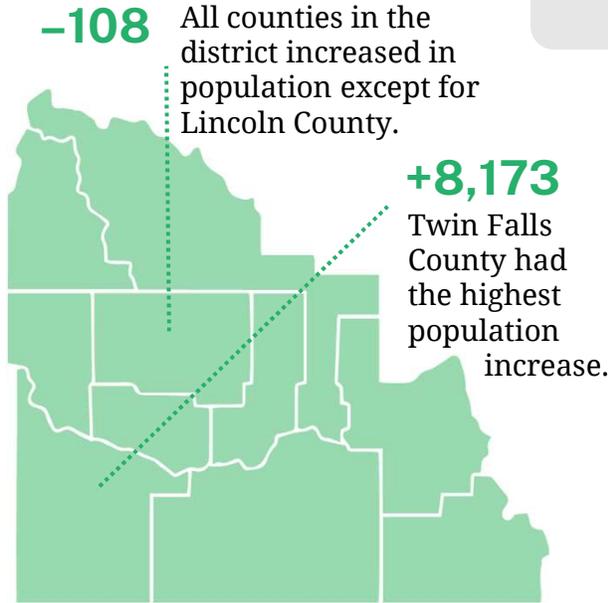


From 2016 to 2021,
the population of
the district increased



25% of the population is
Hispanic or Latino

36% of district residents
live below 200% of
poverty level



The number of jobs in

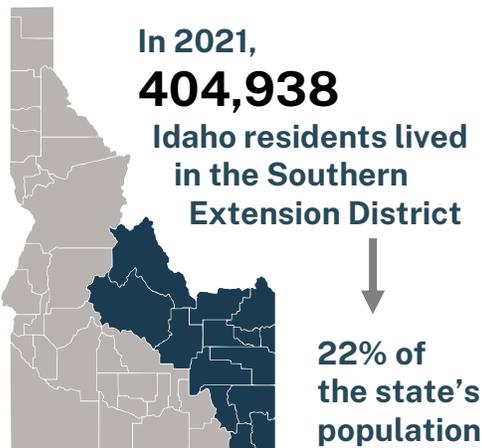


counties grew more
between 2010 and
2020 than the total
population.

2021 unemployment rates in
the district ranged from



Eastern Extension District



From 2016 to 2021, the
population of the district
increased



+12,865
Madison County
had the highest
population
increase.

12% of the population is
Hispanic or Latino

35% of district residents
live below 200% of
poverty level

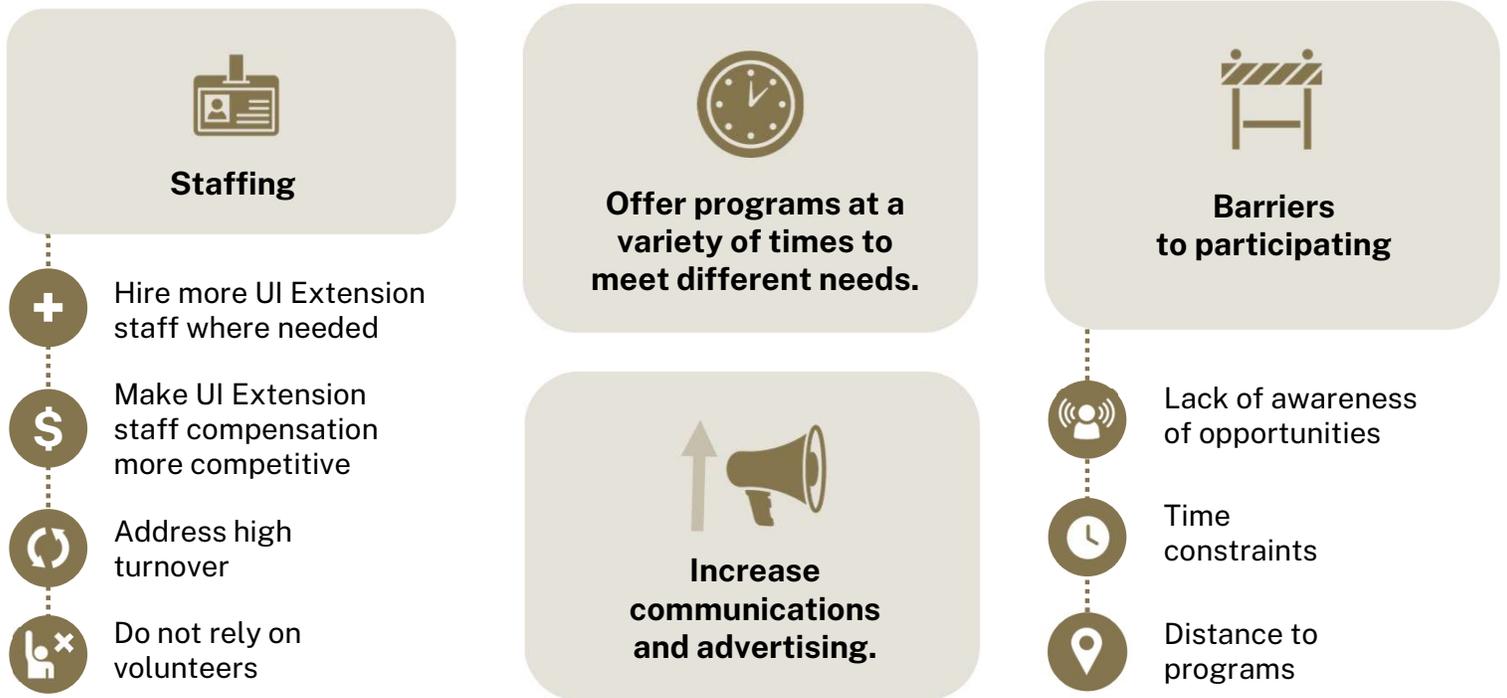
+12,782
Bonneville County
had the second
highest population
increase.

The number of
jobs in **10 / 14** counties
grew more between 2010
and 2020 than the population.

2021 unemployment rates
in the district ranged from **0.8%** in Franklin
County → **6.5%** in Madison
County

General UI Extension Programming

LISTENING SESSION FEEDBACK



COUNTY COMMISSIONER SURVEY

County commissioner survey results revealed tension between the perspective that

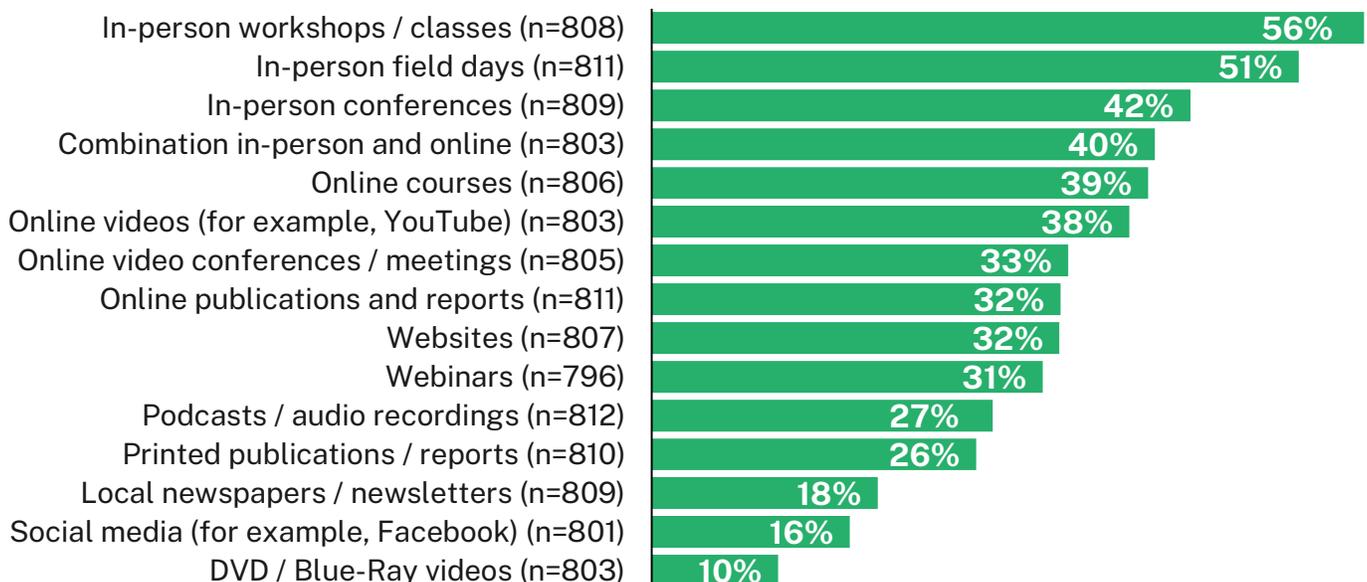
UI Extension offices and programs need to be better resourced on one hand



concern about impact of increasing such resources on taxpayers on the other.

CLIENT SURVEY

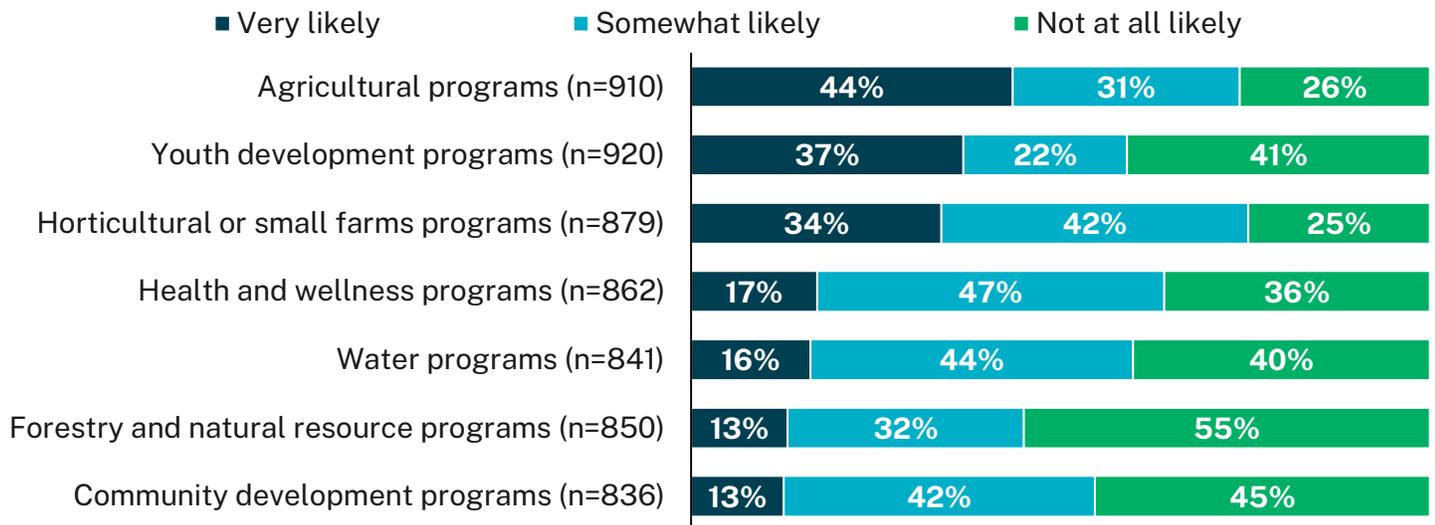
Percent of client survey respondents who said they are “very interested” in learning through select formats. While clients expressed the most interest in in-person formats, there is interest in many forms of delivery.



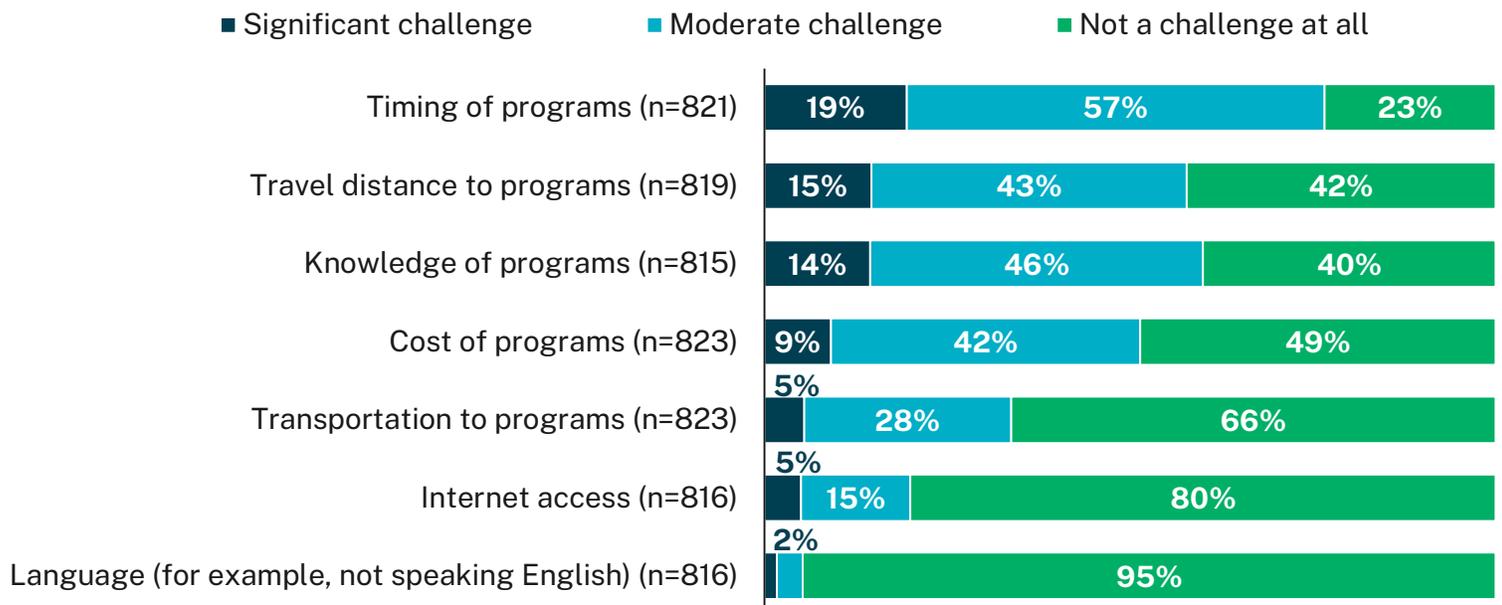
General UI Extension Programming Feedback (Continued)

CLIENT SURVEY (CONTINUED)

Level of likelihood of participating in UI Extension programs, percent of client survey respondents



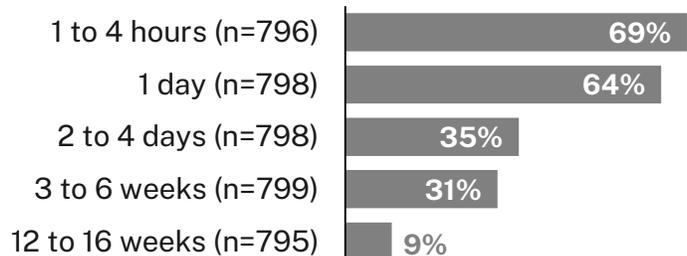
Extent to which select factors challenge client survey respondents' ability to participate in UI Extension programs, percent of respondents



Of client survey respondents with children aged 12 or younger, needing child care is a significant challenge for 11% and a moderate challenge for another 28% (n=279).



Percent of client survey respondents who said they are "very interested" in courses lasting select durations



Youth Development

LISTENING SESSIONS

Youth development needs commonly identified in listening sessions:



Life skills, soft skills, and character development



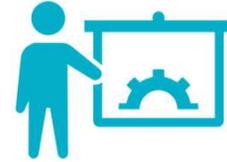
Personal finance skills



In-person opportunities to support social-emotional wellbeing



STEM skills



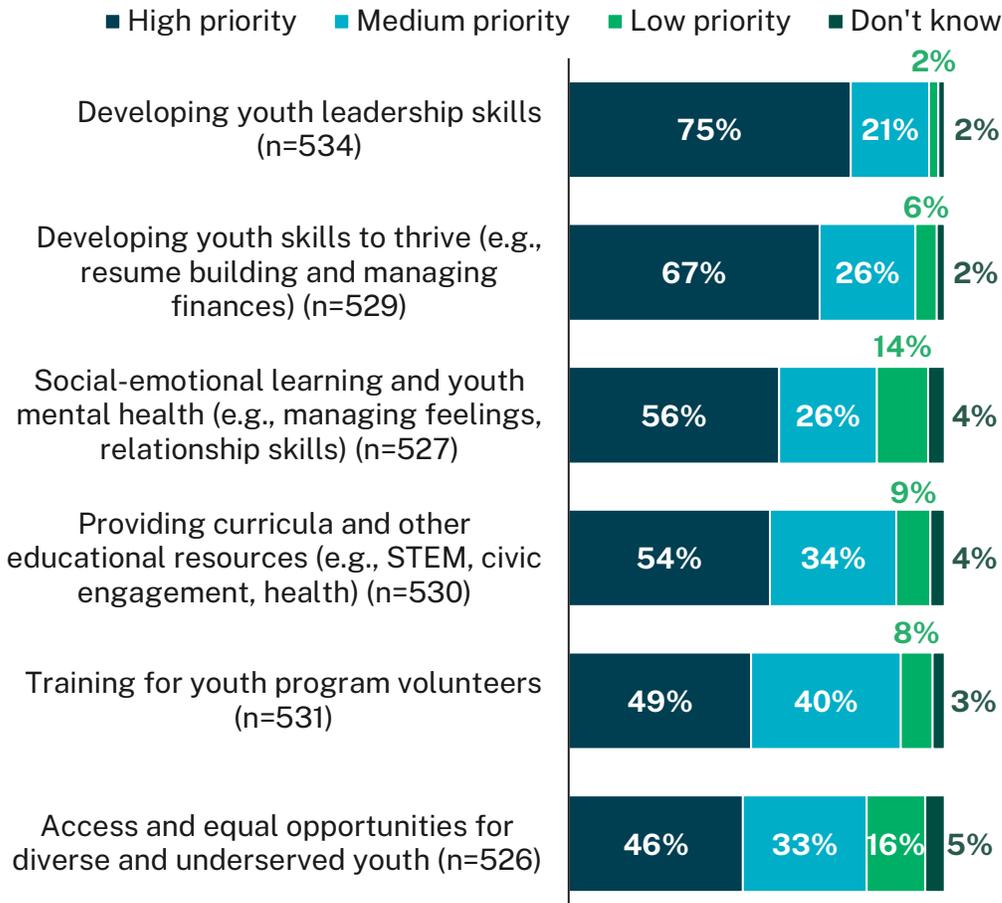
Vocational and technical training



Small animal and non-animal 4-H options in addition to large-animal programs

CLIENT SURVEY

How much of a priority client survey respondents believe select youth development topics should be for new UI Extension programs and resources, percent of respondents



Topics respondents commonly listed:



Soft skills



Life skills



4-H and FFA



Career development



Health

Youth Development

SECONDARY DATA



In the 2021-2022 school year
13,427 students
were enrolled in 4-H in Idaho

3,389

in the
Northern
Extension
District

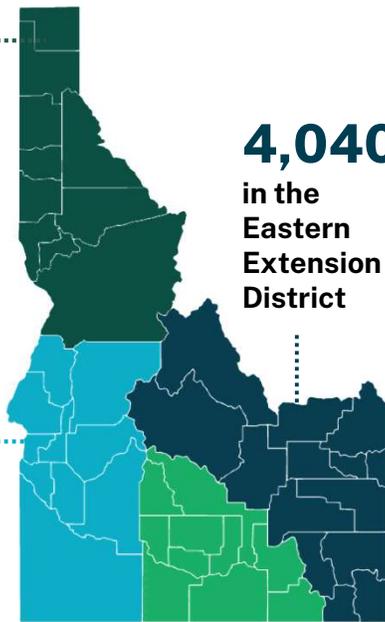
4,040

in the
Eastern
Extension
District

3,026

in the
Southern
Extension
District

2,969 in the Central
Extension District



In 2021, **2,096 teens**
ages 16-19 were not enrolled
in school or in the workforce

316

in the
Northern
Extension
District

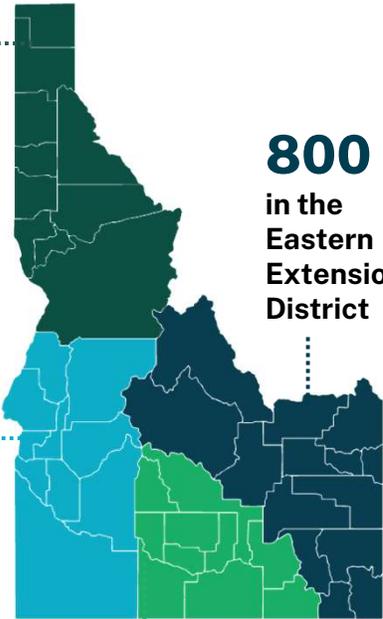
800

in the
Eastern
Extension
District

652

in the
Southern
Extension
District

328 in the Central
Extension District



Community Development

COUNTY COMMISSIONER SURVEY

Workforce-related needs identified
by county commissioners:



Soft skills



Affordable
housing



Vocational and
technical training
programs



Child care

LISTENING SESSIONS

Needs commonly identified in
listening sessions:



Self-
sufficiency

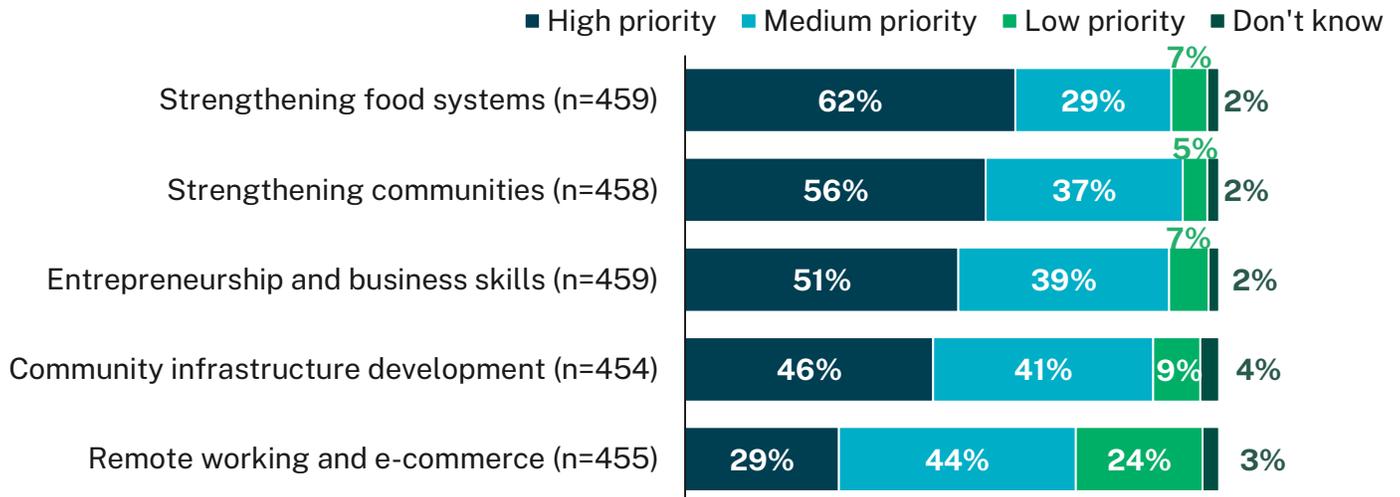


Personal finance
skills for youth
and adults

Community Development

CLIENT SURVEY

How much of a priority client survey respondents believe select community development topics should be for new UI Extension programs and resources, percent of respondents



Topics respondents commonly listed:



Fostering relationships



Communication and business development



Population growth

SECONDARY DATA

7% of Northern Extension District adults had not graduated from high school in 2021

8% of Southern Extension District adults had not graduated from high school in 2021



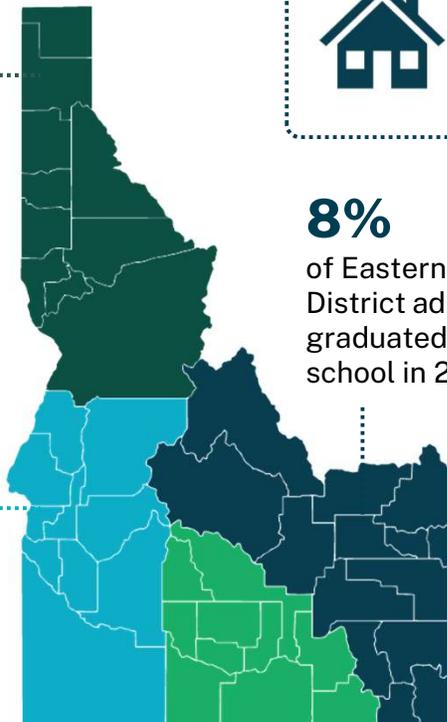
From 2019 to 2020, the State of Idaho had the **largest percent growth** in median housing prices in the entire nation.

8% of Eastern Extension District adults had not graduated from high school in 2021

Housing prices rose **9.6%** in the one year alone.

17% of Central Extension District adults had not graduated from high school in 2021

This is **over double the percent** of the other Extension districts.



Food Production Systems

COUNTY COMMISSIONER SURVEY

Needs identified by county commissioners:



Farm succession planning support



Outreach on emerging agricultural technologies



Small-acreage farm programming

LISTENING SESSIONS

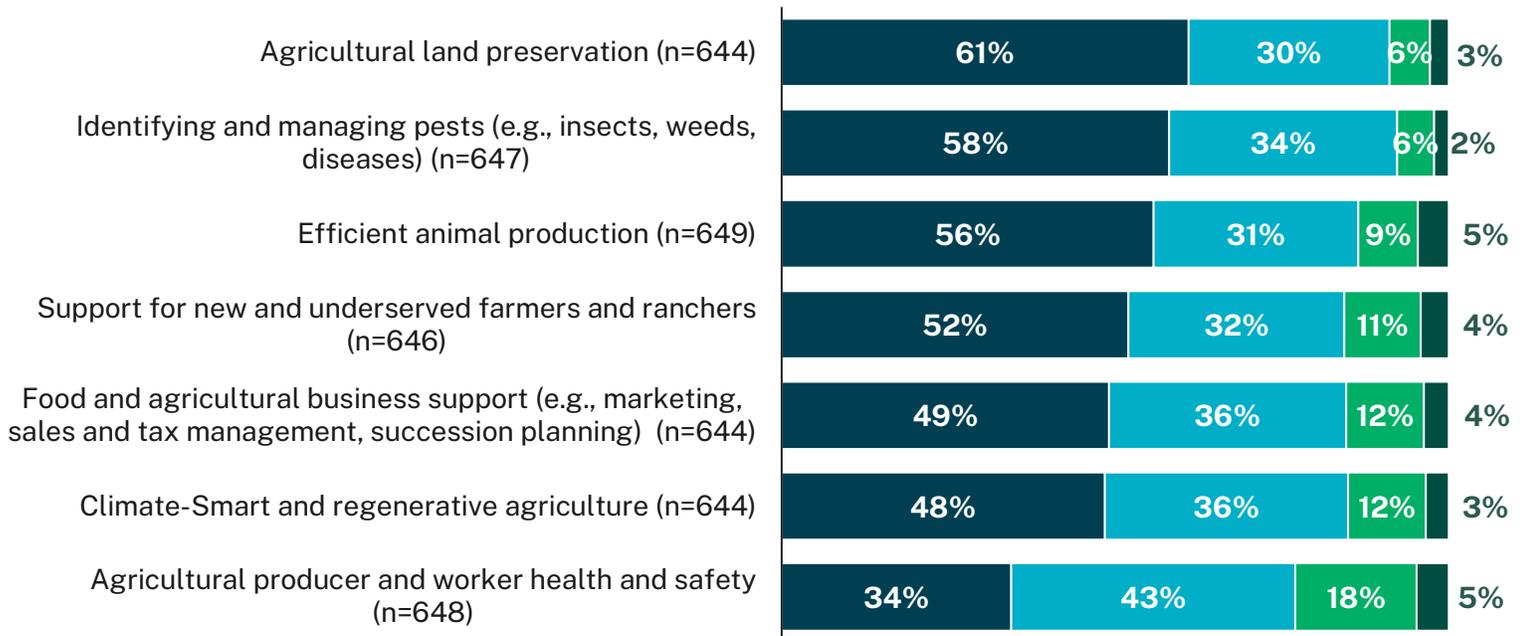
Listening session participants saw a need to raise awareness of the importance of agriculture in Idaho, especially as more people move here from out of state.



CLIENT SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

How much of a priority client survey respondents believe select agricultural topics should be for new UI Extension programs and resources, percent of respondents

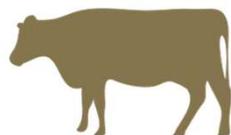
■ High priority ■ Medium priority ■ Low priority ■ Don't know



Topics respondents commonly listed:



Natural resource stewardship and conservation



Raising livestock and animals



Farm economic viability



Home gardening and small-acreage food production

Food Production Systems

SECONDARY DATA

In 2017, Idaho had

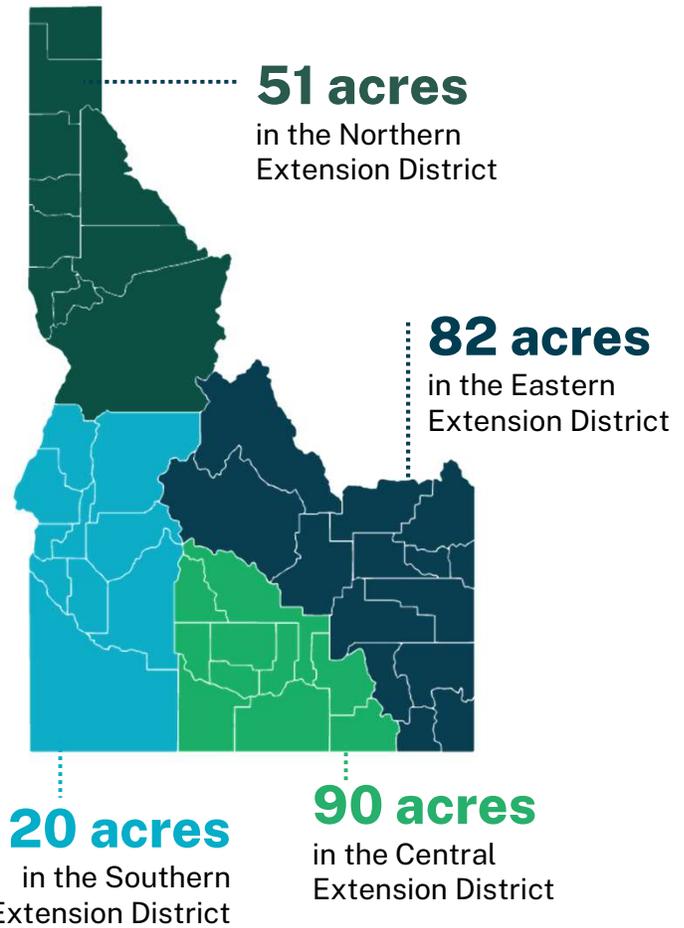


24,996
farm operations with



>11 million acres
of land.

Median farm size in Idaho: **34 acres**



In 2017, the state's agricultural sector employed about
50,000 workers

Counties with median farm size at or less than 15 acres:

ADA COUNTY
1,304 farms
with a median size of
9 acres.

CANYON COUNTY
2,289 farms
with a median size of
10 acres.

BONNEVILLE COUNTY
1,109 farms
with a median size of
13 acres.

BOISE COUNTY
90 farms
with a median size of
15 acres.

Health & Wellness

LISTENING SESSIONS



The need to increase cooking, nutrition, and "healthy living" skills were common listening session themes.

CLIENT SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

Topics respondents commonly listed:



Exercise classes



Healthy eating

Health & Wellness

SECONDARY DATA

In 14 counties, each doctor is responsible for the care of over 3,000 residents.

In 6 counties, there is only **ONE** physician.



Clark and Camas counties have **ZERO** physicians.

Health indicators include

Health outcomes

(length of life, overall health)

Health factors

(health behaviors, clinical care, social factors, economic factors, physical environmental factors)

The counties with the **highest** health outcomes are

1. Valley County
2. Ada County
3. Blaine County
4. Latah County
5. Teton County

The counties with the **lowest** health outcomes are

1. Benewah County
2. Shoshone County
3. Lincoln County
4. Owyhee County
5. Lemhi County

The counties with the **highest** health factors are

1. Ada County
2. Latah County
3. Madison County
4. Jefferson County
5. Teton County

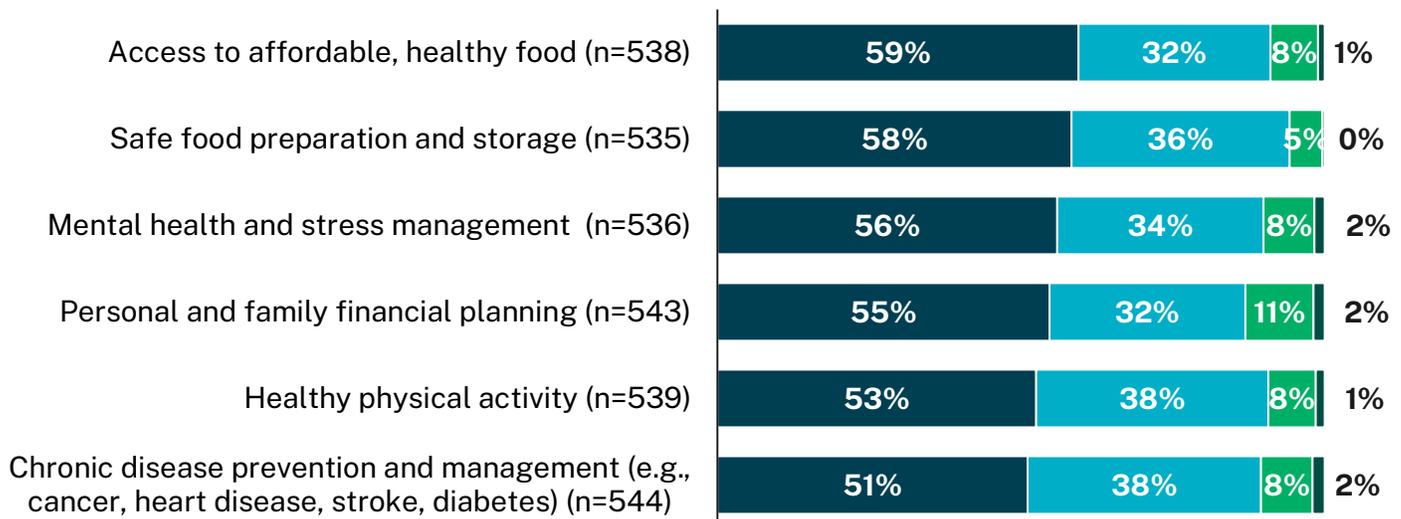
The counties with the **lowest** health factors are

1. Shoshone County
2. Owyhee County
3. Lincoln County
4. Benewah County
5. Clearwater County

In 2020,
1,818
 babies were born pre-term
1,481
 babies born had low birth weight, and
817
 babies were born to mothers who had not received prenatal care or had received it only in the 3rd trimester of pregnancy.

How much of a priority client survey respondents believe select health and wellness topics should be for new UI Extension programs and resources, percent of respondents

■ High priority ■ Medium priority ■ Low priority ■ Don't know



Horticulture & Small Farms

LISTENING SESSIONS

Listening session themes included



Role of gardening to increase self-sufficiency



Need for small-acreage farm production programming

COUNTY COMMISSIONER SURVEY

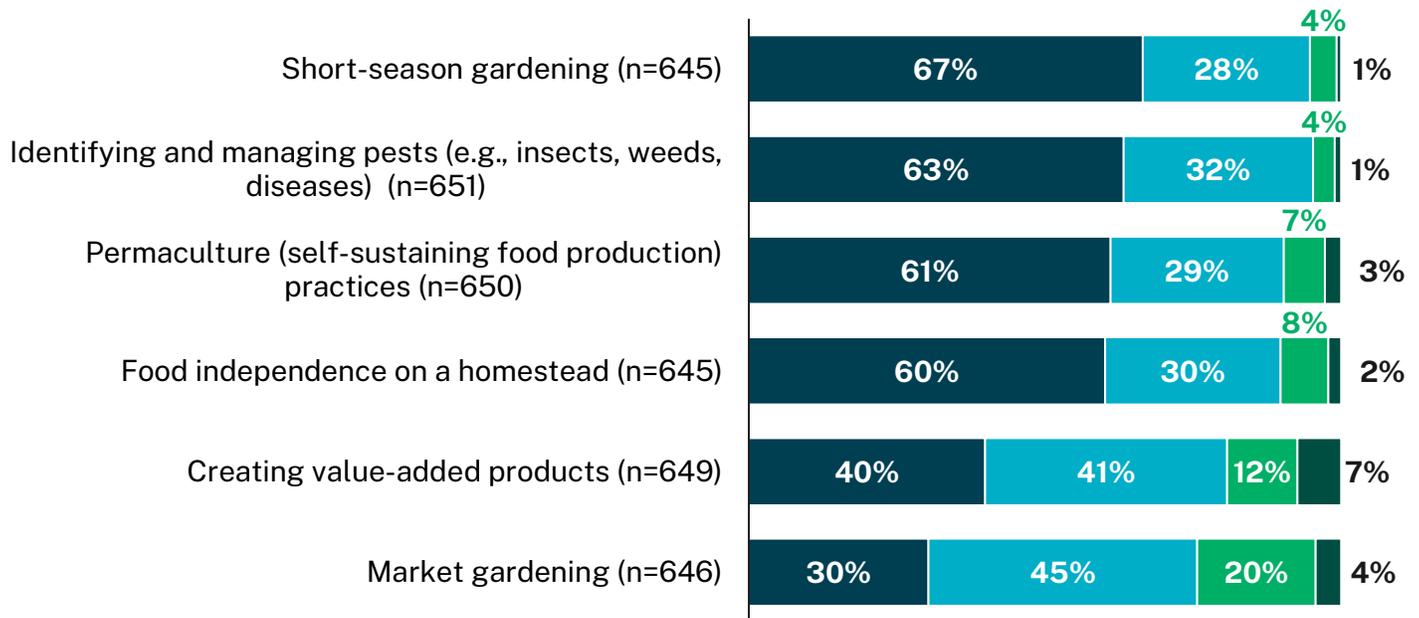


County commissioner survey participants saw the need for small-acreage and “hobby” farm programming.

CLIENT SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

How much of a priority client survey respondents believe select horticultural and small farms topics should be for new UI Extension programs and resources, percent of respondents

■ High priority ■ Medium priority ■ Low priority ■ Don't know



Topics respondents commonly listed:



Water conservation



Specialty crops



Livestock and animals



Soil management

Forestry & Natural Resources

LISTENING SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Asked in the listening sessions
“What matters in your life?”
 Participants frequently answered
“nature,” “the environment,”
 and **“the outdoors.”**



The need to support
water conservation,
water quality,
adaptation to climate
change, and improve
soil quality and
health

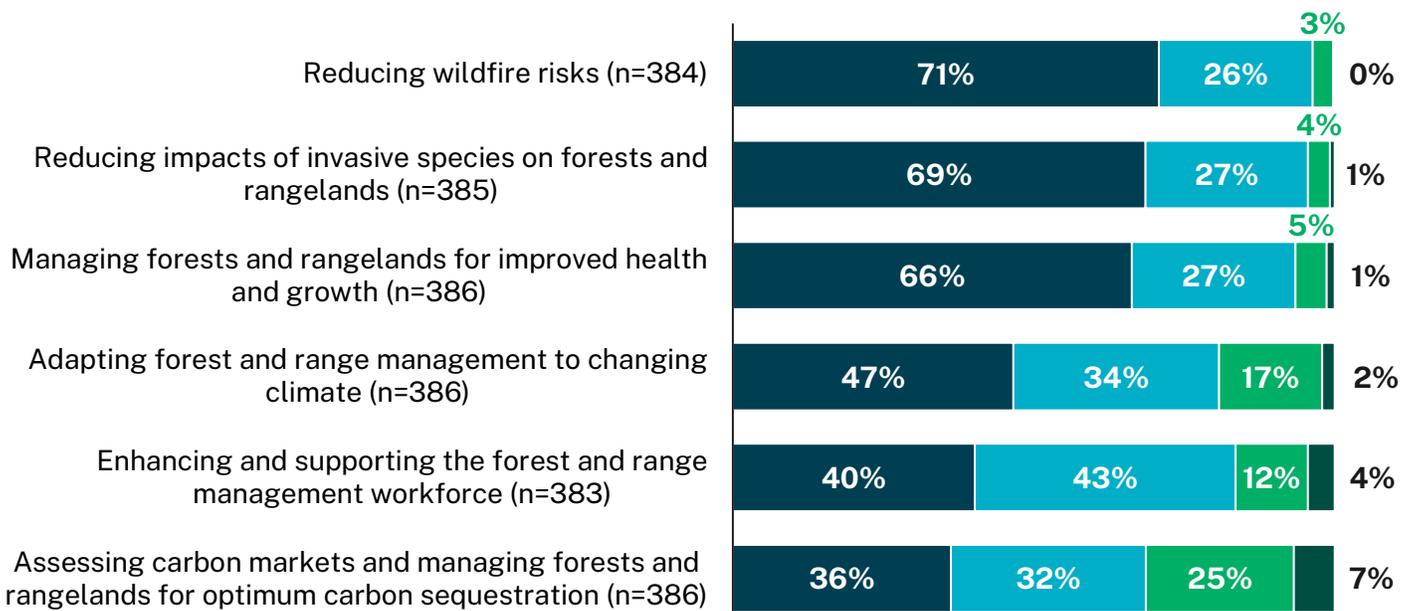
were primary themes across listening sessions.



CLIENT SURVEY

How much of a priority client survey respondents believe select forestry and natural resource topics should be for new UI Extension programs and resources, percent of respondents

■ High priority ■ Medium priority ■ Low priority ■ Don't know



Topics respondents commonly listed:



Economic viability



Forest management



Diseases and pests

SECONDARY DATA

In 2021, forestry contributed
\$2 billion
 to the state's gross product.



The forestry and natural resources industry employees
>31,000 people
 throughout
>200 businesses
 related to manufacturing and wholesaling.

Water

CLIENT SURVEY

Topics respondents commonly listed:



Water conservation



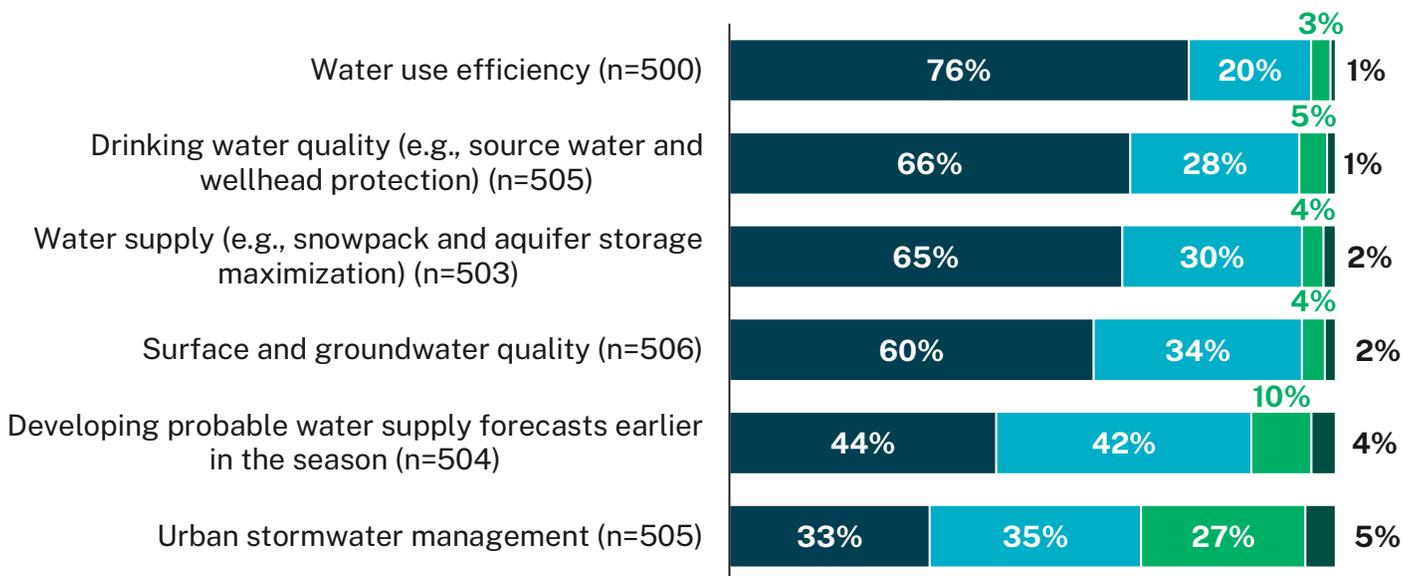
Irrigation



Water quality

How much of a priority client survey respondents believe select water topics should be for new UI Extension programs and resources, percent of respondents

■ High priority ■ Medium priority ■ Low priority ■ Don't know



SECONDARY DATA

In 2015,
15.3 billion gallons
of water were used
for irrigation in Idaho

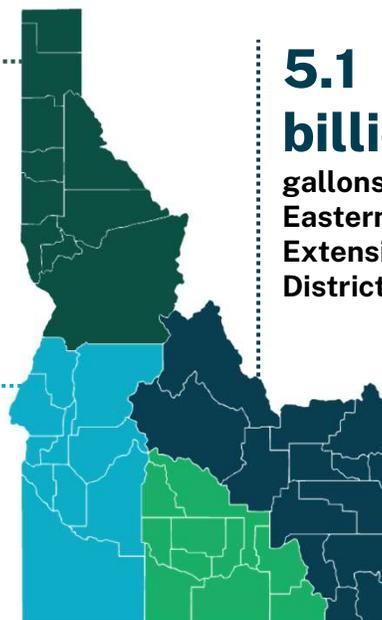
276 million gallons
of water were used
for public supply
per day

744 million gallons used for irrigation in the Northern Extension District

5.1 billion gallons in the Eastern Extension District

3.3 billion gallons in the Southern Extension District

6.1 billion gallons in the Central Extension District



Secondary Data

Secondary data

This section provides an overview of relevant population and community data from secondary sources such as the US Census Bureau and USDA. All data presented are the most recent data available for public access.

Demographic data

In 2021, the State of Idaho had a total population of 1,811,617 (Table 2).¹ Almost half (46%) of Idaho residents live in the Southern District, which is home to Boise, the largest city in the state. Figure 5 shows the total population in 2021 by county.

Idaho is one of the fastest growing states in the nation. From 2016 to 2021, the total population increased 11% (176,134 total), with the largest population increase in Ada County (Boise) in the Southern District (Table 2). Only four of Idaho’s 44 counties (Butte, Clark, Lewis, and Lincoln counties) decreased in population from 2016 to 2021, all of which are rural. Figures 6 and 7 show Idaho’s population change by county. Despite variation at the county level, the total population in all four UI Extension districts increased from 2016 to 2021 (Table 2).

FIGURE 5 | Total population by county

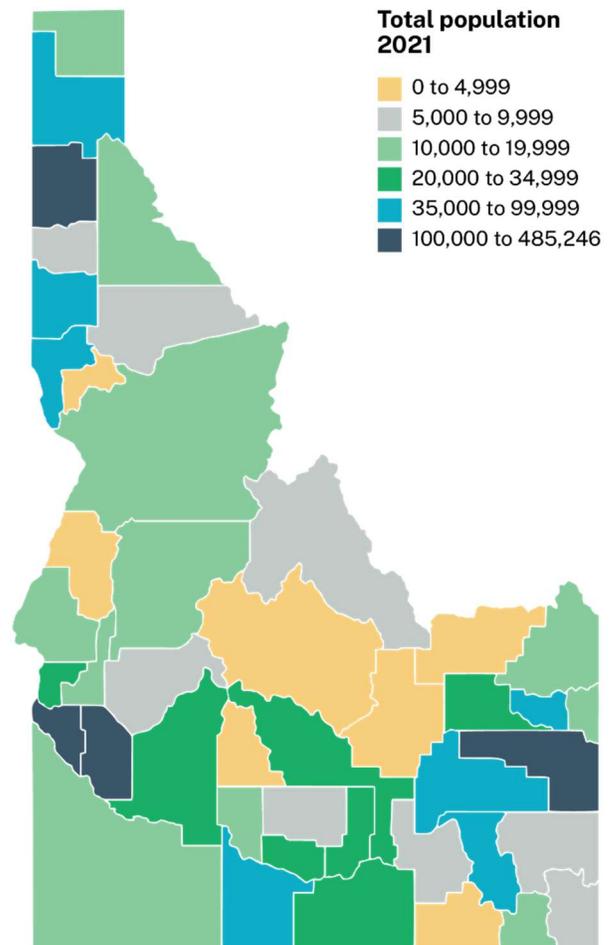


TABLE 2 | Total population and population change in Idaho by UI Extension district, 2016-2021

Extension District	Total population 2021	Percent of population 2021	Change in population 2016-2021 (%)
Idaho State	1,811,617	100%	11%
Central District	216,957	12%	7%
Eastern District	404,938	22%	9%
Northern District	359,507	20%	8%
Southern District	830,215	46%	11%

FIGURE 6 | Number change in population from 2016 to 2021, by county

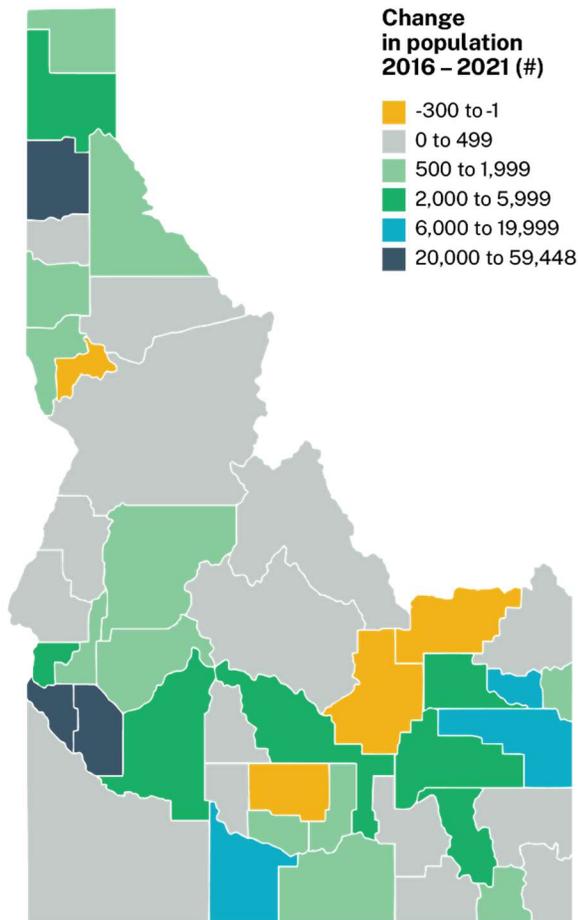
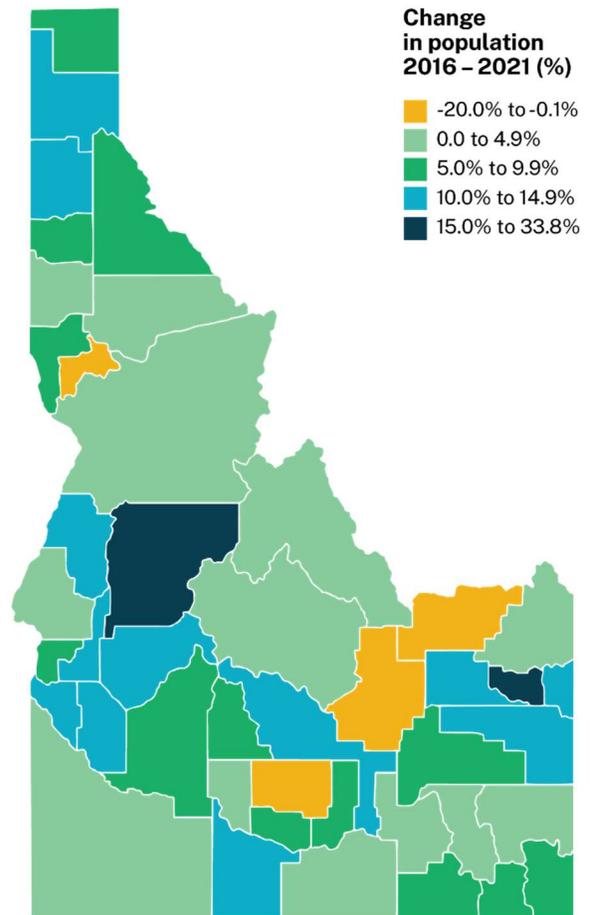


FIGURE 7 | Percent change in population from 2016 to 2021, by county



Population by age

Figures 8 and 9 show the population of Idaho by age group.² While the state population is growing, much of the increase at the state level is driven by retirement-age adults: the population over 65 had the greatest percent increase from 2015 to 2020 while the number of children younger than five did not change substantially.

CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OLD

In 2021, a quarter of the total population of Idaho was children under 18 (Table 4).³ The proportion of the population under 18 varies

by county, ranging from 15.8% in Boise County to 34.0% in Jefferson County. Apart from Latah County, counties with percentages of children under 18 below 18% tend to be the most rural, highlighting that families with children under 18 are concentrated in population centers with more employment opportunities and community resources.⁴

Households with children under 18 make up 29.5% of households in the state (Table 3).⁵ The Southern District has more than twice the number of households with children under 18 than the other districts.

POPULATION OVER 65

In 2021, 15.8% of the population in Idaho was 65 years old or older (Table 4). With one-third of its population age 65 or older, Custer County has the highest rate of population over 65 in the state. At 7%, Madison County had the lowest percent of population age 65 and older.

FIGURE 8 | Total population in Idaho by age, 2020

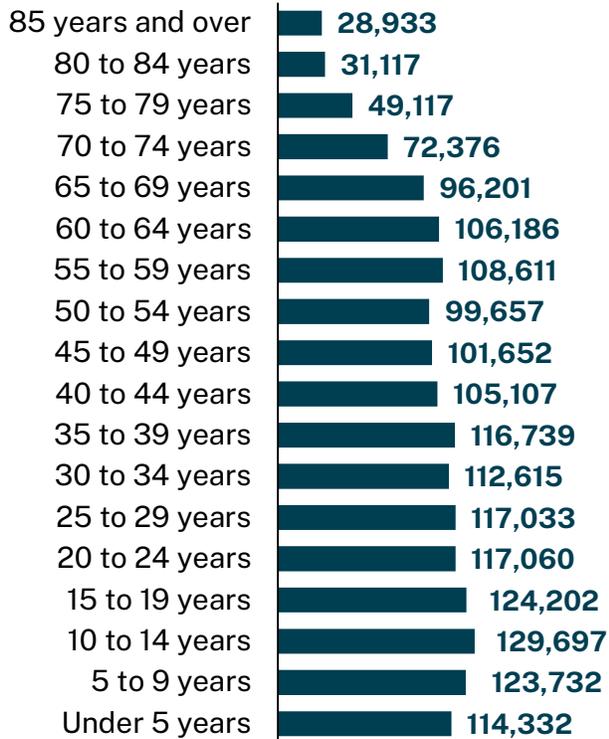


FIGURE 9 | Percent change in population in Idaho by age group, 2015 to 2020

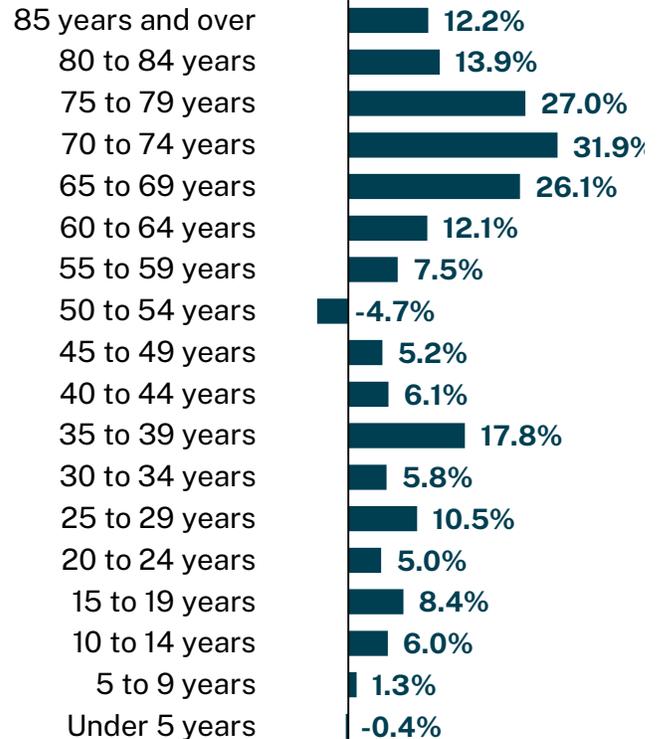


TABLE 3 | Households with children under 18 by UI Extension district, 2021

Extension District	Total households	Households with children <18 years old	Percent of households with children <18 years old
Idaho State	657,101	193,887	29.5%
Central District	76,493	25,175	32.9%
Eastern District	134,046	44,156	32.9%
Northern District	141,208	33,934	24.0%
Southern District	305,354	90,622	29.7%

TABLE 4 | Total population of children under 18 and population 65 years and over, 2021

	County	Total population	Children under 18 years old (#)	Children under 18 years old (%)	Population 65 years and older (#)	Population 65 years and older (%)
	Idaho State	1,811,617	458,830	25.3%	287,098	15.8%
EASTERN DISTRICT	Bannock	86,362	22,549	26.1%	12,376	14.3%
	Bear Lake	6,327	1,741	27.5%	1,267	20.0%
	Bingham	47,540	14,626	30.8%	6,649	14.0%
	Bonneville	121,771	37,500	30.8%	15,874	13.0%
	Butte	2,573	590	22.9%	550	21.4%
	Caribou	7,003	1,994	28.5%	1,166	16.7%
	Clark	839	187	22.3%	127	15.1%
	Custer	4,273	723	16.9%	1,424	33.3%
	Franklin	14,036	4,513	32.2%	1,954	13.9%
	Fremont	13,370	3,367	25.2%	2,310	17.3%
	Jefferson	30,427	10,338	34.0%	3,391	11.1%
	Lemhi	7,948	1,420	17.9%	2,390	30.1%
	Madison	50,979	13,819	27.1%	3,508	6.9%
	Teton	11,490	2,769	24.1%	1,435	12.5%
SOUTHERN DISTRICT	Ada	485,246	113,471	23.4%	71,175	14.7%
	Adams	4,321	695	16.1%	1,289	29.8%
	Boise	7,549	1,192	15.8%	1,968	26.1%
	Canyon	227,367	63,837	28.1%	31,181	13.7%
	Elmore	28,396	7,241	25.5%	3,842	13.5%
	Gem	18,692	4,273	22.9%	4,013	21.5%
	Owyhee	11,815	3,038	25.7%	2,105	17.8%
	Payette	24,928	6,544	26.3%	4,656	18.7%
	Valley	11,476	1,933	16.8%	3,133	27.3%
	Washington	10,425	2,398	23.0%	2,631	25.2%
CENTRAL DISTRICT	Blaine	23,868	5,221	21.9%	4,569	19.1%
	Camas	1,044	299	28.6%	156	14.9%
	Cassia	24,469	7,713	31.5%	3,413	13.9%
	Gooding	15,422	4,222	27.4%	2,681	17.4%
	Jerome	24,081	7,361	30.6%	3,036	12.6%
	Lincoln	5,184	1,460	28.2%	715	13.8%
	Minidoka	21,393	6,268	29.3%	3,335	15.6%
	Oneida	4,514	1,236	27.4%	876	19.4%
	Power	7,854	2,440	31.1%	1,161	14.8%
	Twin Falls	89,128	24,486	27.5%	13,831	15.5%
NORTHERN DISTRICT	Benewah	9,509	2,149	22.6%	2,148	22.6%
	Bonner	46,481	9,206	19.8%	11,591	24.9%
	Boundary	11,966	2,802	23.4%	2,708	22.6%
	Clearwater	8,719	1,399	16.0%	2,397	27.5%
	Idaho	16,494	3,228	19.6%	4,580	27.8%
	Kootenai	168,317	38,544	22.9%	31,841	18.9%
	Latah	39,464	7,428	18.8%	5,480	13.9%
	Lewis	3,613	843	23.3%	955	26.4%
	Nez Perce	41,820	9,058	21.7%	8,232	19.7%
	Shoshone	13,124	2,709	20.6%	2,979	22.7%

Population by race

In Idaho, 9.3% of residents are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) (Table 6).⁶ Benewah County in the Northern District and Elmore County in the Southern District have the highest proportions of BIPOC residents. The Coeur d’Alene Reservation overlaps with Benewah and Kootenai counties and 8.6% of Benewah County residents identify as American Indian or Alaska Native and 6.3% as two or more races. In Elmore County, 7.0% of the population is two or more races and 3.3% is Asian.

Population by Hispanic or Latino ethnicity

According to the 2020 Census, 13.0% of Idaho residents are Hispanic or Latino (Table 5).⁷ A quarter of the population in the Central District is Hispanic or Latino. In 2020, Canyon and Ada counties (Southern District) had the largest number of Hispanic or Latino residents in the state, with 59,166 and 45,223 Hispanic or Latino residents, respectively. Figure 10 shows the percent of the population that is Hispanic or Latino by county. Forty-two percent of Clark County residents (Eastern District) are Hispanic or Latino and more than a third of the population in many counties in the Central District is Hispanic or Latino.

Figure 11 shows the percent change in the Hispanic or Latino population compared to the percent change in the non-Hispanic or non-Latino population in Idaho by county from 2010 to 2020. In that period, the number of Hispanic or Latino people in

Madison County (Eastern District) increased 137%. There are also large percent increases in the number of Hispanic or Latino community members in Boundary, Kootenai, and Bonner counties in the Northern District among other counties. Meanwhile, the number of Hispanic or Latino residents in Custer, Camas, and Clark counties notably decreased from 2010 to 2020.

TABLE 5 | Percent of the population that is Hispanic or Latino by UI Extension district, 2020 Census

Extension district	Percent of population that is Hispanic or Latino
State of Idaho	12.8%
Central District	24.6%
Eastern District	11.7%
Northern District	7.2%
Southern District	14.3%

Language

English and Spanish are the two most common languages spoken at home throughout Idaho.⁸ The Central District has the highest proportion of the population that speaks Spanish at home compared to other districts (Table 7). One out of every four residents in Power, Minidoka, and Lincoln counties speak Spanish at home. Clark County is also notable for having a high proportion of Spanish speakers, with 37.1% of people primarily speaking Spanish at home.

TABLE 6 | Population by race, 2021

	County	White	Black or African American	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian alone	Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Two or more races
	Idaho State	90.7%	0.9%	1.2%	1.6%	0.2%	0.5%	4.9%
EASTERN DISTRICT	Bannock	89.1%	0.9%	3.3%	1.5%	0.3%	0.5%	4.5%
	Bear Lake	97.0%	0.2%	0.4%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%
	Bingham	88.1%	0.3%	7.3%	0.5%	0.1%	0.3%	3.4%
	Bonneville	93.5%	0.6%	0.6%	1.3%	0.1%	0.4%	3.5%
	Butte	95.7%	0.1%	0.6%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	3.3%
	Caribou	96.2%	0.0%	0.7%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	2.5%
	Clark	92.2%	0.6%	0.4%	0.2%	0.0%	0.4%	6.2%
	Custer	94.5%	0.1%	0.8%	0.4%	0.0%	0.5%	3.8%
	Franklin	96.4%	0.2%	0.6%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	2.4%
	Fremont	95.7%	0.2%	0.6%	0.4%	0.2%	0.3%	2.7%
	Jefferson	95.6%	0.3%	0.5%	0.4%	0.1%	0.4%	2.7%
	Lemhi	94.8%	0.2%	0.6%	0.4%	0.1%	0.5%	3.4%
	Madison	92.3%	1.5%	0.3%	2.0%	0.5%	0.3%	3.2%
Teton	95.1%	0.2%	0.3%	0.5%	0.0%	0.4%	3.5%	
SOUTHERN DISTRICT	Ada	88.5%	1.7%	0.5%	3.0%	0.3%	0.6%	5.4%
	Adams	94.4%	0.1%	0.6%	0.2%	0.0%	0.4%	4.2%
	Boise	92.7%	0.3%	0.8%	0.5%	0.1%	1.2%	4.6%
	Canyon	90.4%	0.8%	0.7%	1.1%	0.4%	0.7%	5.9%
	Elmore	84.8%	2.9%	1.0%	3.3%	0.4%	0.6%	7.0%
	Gem	92.7%	0.2%	0.7%	0.6%	0.1%	0.6%	5.2%
	Owyhee	89.6%	0.3%	4.2%	0.5%	0.1%	0.8%	4.6%
	Payette	91.1%	0.2%	0.8%	1.0%	0.1%	0.6%	6.1%
	Valley	93.9%	0.1%	0.5%	0.5%	0.1%	0.7%	4.2%
	Washington	91.9%	0.2%	0.8%	0.9%	0.1%	0.6%	5.5%
CENTRAL DISTRICT	Blaine	93.6%	0.2%	0.2%	1.1%	0.1%	0.6%	4.2%
	Camas	92.1%	0.2%	0.0%	0.8%	0.0%	0.5%	6.4%
	Cassia	94.6%	0.4%	0.7%	0.7%	0.2%	0.5%	3.0%
	Gooding	93.4%	0.2%	0.7%	0.4%	0.0%	0.5%	4.8%
	Jerome	94.0%	0.3%	0.7%	0.5%	0.1%	0.5%	3.9%
	Lincoln	93.0%	0.2%	0.6%	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%	5.6%
	Minidoka	94.5%	0.2%	0.7%	0.4%	0.1%	0.4%	3.8%
	Oneida	97.1%	0.0%	0.3%	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	1.9%
	Power	91.9%	0.3%	3.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.4%	3.6%
	Twin Falls	91.1%	1.4%	0.7%	1.9%	0.3%	0.4%	4.4%
NORTHERN DISTRICT	Benewah	83.8%	0.1%	8.6%	0.3%	0.2%	0.8%	6.3%
	Bonner	92.8%	0.3%	0.7%	0.6%	0.1%	0.6%	4.9%
	Boundary	92.8%	0.2%	1.3%	0.6%	0.1%	0.6%	4.3%
	Clearwater	93.5%	0.5%	1.6%	0.5%	0.0%	0.4%	3.5%
	Idaho	92.0%	0.3%	2.6%	0.3%	0.0%	0.6%	4.1%
	Kootenai	91.7%	0.3%	1.1%	0.8%	0.1%	0.6%	5.4%
	Latah	89.4%	0.8%	0.7%	2.6%	0.1%	0.6%	5.7%
	Lewis	89.3%	0.2%	5.3%	0.2%	0.0%	0.4%	4.6%
	Nez Perce	87.6%	0.5%	5.8%	0.8%	0.1%	0.3%	5.0%
	Shoshone	92.5%	0.1%	1.1%	0.4%	0.0%	0.7%	5.1%

FIGURE 10 | Percent of total population (all races) that is Hispanic or Latino, 2020

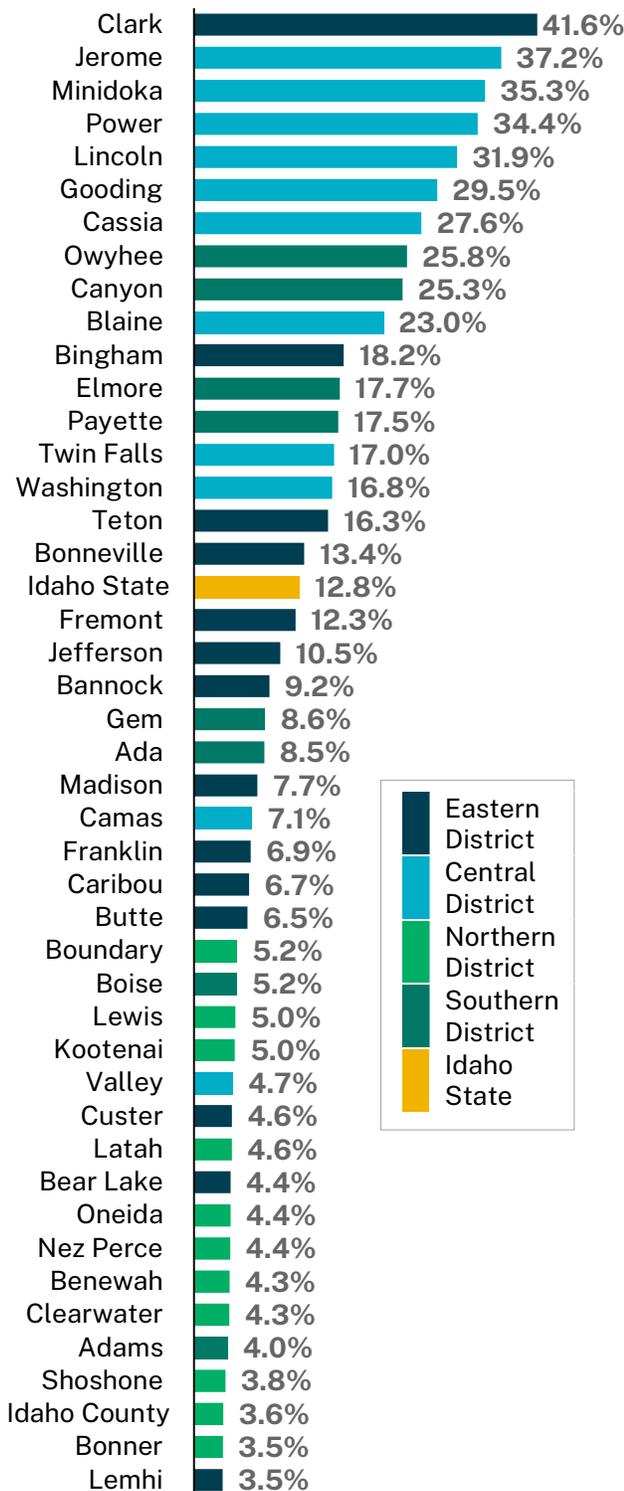
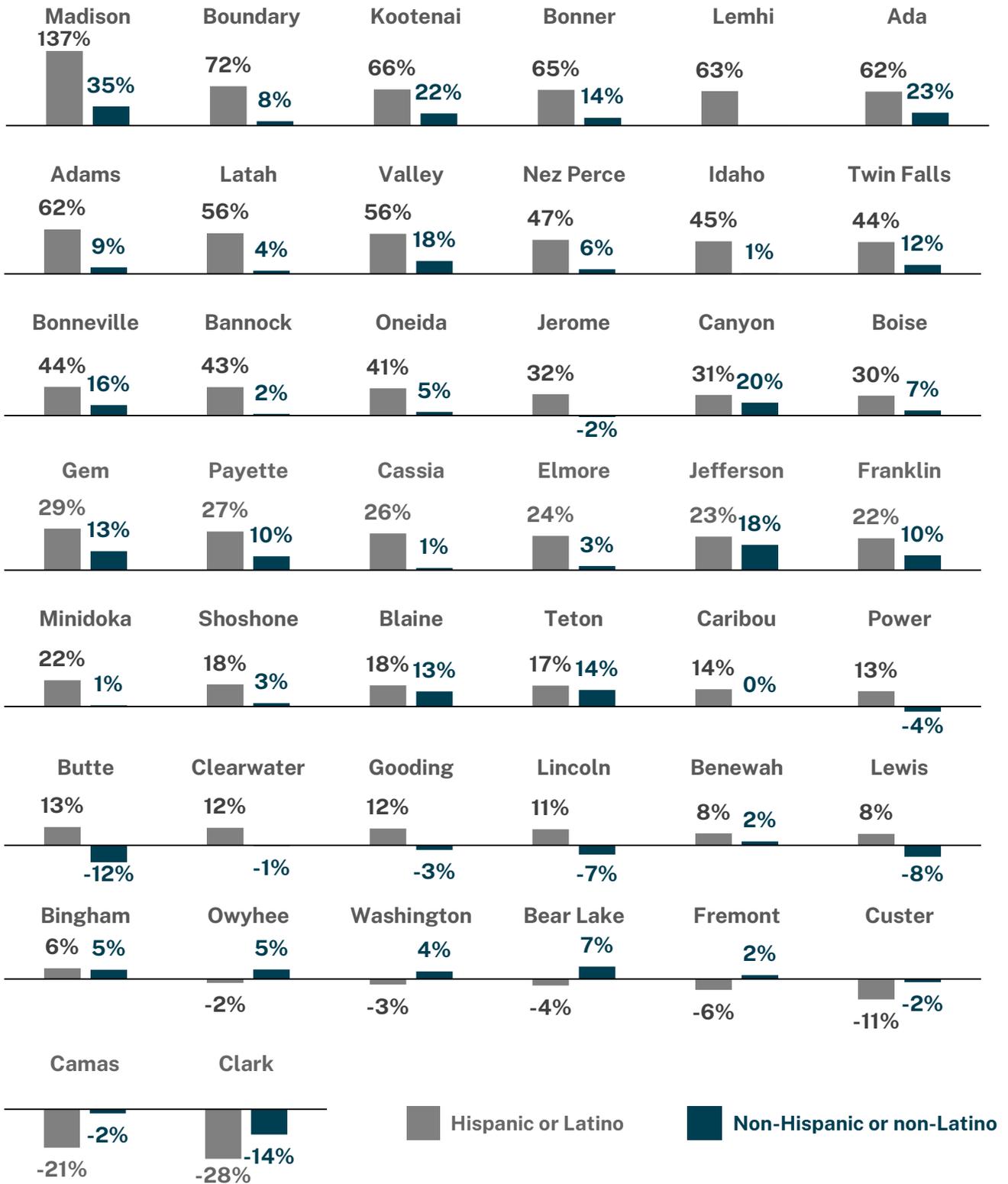


TABLE 7 | Percent of the total population that speaks Spanish at home, 2021

County	Speaks Spanish at home (%)
Idaho State	8.1%
EASTERN DISTRICT	
Bannock	2.8%
Bear Lake	3.5%
Bingham	12.0%
Bonneville	8.3%
Butte	5.2%
Caribou	4.4%
Clark	37.1%
Custer	3.0%
Franklin	4.1%
Fremont	11.7%
Jefferson	9.8%
Lemhi	1.1%
Madison	6.6%
Teton	13.1%
CENTRAL DISTRICT	
Blaine	21.1%
Camas	5.3%
Cassia	17.9%
Gooding	24.6%
Jerome	31.6%
Lincoln	25.9%
Minidoka	25.4%
Oneida	6.0%
Power	26.4%
Twin Falls	11.8%
NORTHERN DISTRICT	
Benewah	1.6%
Bonner	1.4%
Boundary	1.1%
Clearwater	2.3%
Idaho County	2.1%
Kootenai	2.1%
Latah	1.7%
Lewis	2.1%
Nez Perce	1.1%
Shoshone	1.8%
SOUTHERN DISTRICT	
Ada	4.5%
Adams	1.6%
Boise	2.8%
Canyon	16.6%
Elmore	9.2%
Gem	6.5%
Owyhee	21.4%
Payette	11.5%
Valley	2.7%
Washington	12.6%

FIGURE 11 | Percent change in Hispanic/Latino population compared to non-Hispanic/non-Latino population by county, 2010-2020 Census



Rural population

The Idaho Department of Labor uses four classifications to categorize counties:

1. **Urban** counties are those in which the largest city has more than 20,000 residents.
2. **Commuting** counties are rural counties where at least 25% of the working population commutes to an urban county for work.
3. **Rural centers** are rural counties where the largest city has a population between 7,500 and 20,000.
4. **Open rural** counties are rural areas that have neither a commuting population nor a large enough city to be classified in other categories.⁹

Figure 12 lists the counties by classification type. In 2018, 72% of Idaho residents lived in urban counties, 8% lived in commuting counties, 9% lived in rural centers, and 11% lived in open rural counties.¹⁰ Altogether, 28% of Idahoans lived in rural counties, which comprise 88% of Idaho’s land area.

Idaho’s rural counties tend to have older populations, higher poverty rates, and lower access to healthcare and other services.¹¹

FIGURE 12 | Counties categorized by type, 2018

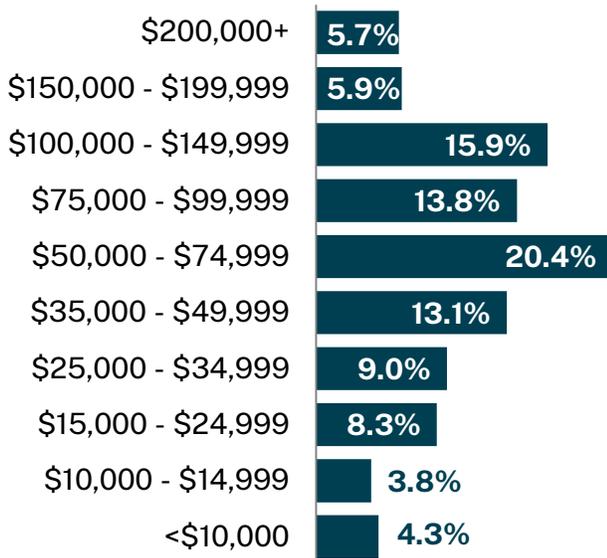
Urban	Commuting	Rural Center	Open Rural	
Ada	Boise	Bingham	Adams	Idaho
Bannock	Butte	Blaine	Bear Lake	Lemhi
Bonneville	Elmore	Bonner	Benewah	Lewis
Canyon	Fremont	Cassia	Boundary	Lincoln
Kootenai	Gem	Minidoka	Camas	Oneida
Latah	Jefferson		Caribou	Payette
Madison	Jerome		Clark	Power
Nez Perce	Owyhee		Clearwater	Shoshone
Twin Falls			Custer	Teton
			Franklin	Valley
			Gooding	Washington

Economic data

Median income

In 2021, the median income in Idaho was \$64,377.¹² Figure 13 shows the distribution of the state population by household income group.

FIGURE 13 | Percent of Idaho’s population by household income, 2021



Poverty

In 2021, 11.4% of Idaho’s population (202,560 total) lived in a household with total income at or below 100% of the federal poverty level (FPL); \$26,500 for a family of four in 2021.¹³ With over 20% of the population living below 100% FPL, Madison and Butte counties in the Eastern District had the highest poverty rates in the state (Tables 8 and 9).

Figure 14 shows the percent of county population living in households with income at or below 200% FPL by Extension district and county in 2021.¹⁴ Thirty-six percent of Central District population was living below

200% FPL compared to 35% in the Eastern District, 31% in the Northern District, and 28% in the Southern District.

Unemployment

Like other areas of the nation, unemployment rates in Idaho increased drastically in Spring 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic (Figure 15). Prior to the pandemic, Idaho’s unemployment rate averaged 2.9% in 2018 and 2019.

Valley, Blaine, and Adams counties were especially hard-hit by the pandemic, with unemployment rates above 20% in April 2020. Madison County was the only county to maintain an unemployment rate under 5% throughout the pandemic.

Unemployment rates returned to pre-pandemic norms as of May 2021.

Unemployment data by county and Extension district can be found in Figure 16.

TABLE 8 | Household income limits by relation to poverty, 2021

Family size	100% FPL	200% FPL
1	\$12,880	\$25,760
2	\$17,420	\$34,840
3	\$21,960	\$43,920
4	\$26,500	\$53,000
5	\$31,040	\$62,080
6	\$35,580	\$71,160
7	\$40,120	\$80,240
8	\$44,660	\$89,320
9+	+ \$4,540 per person	+ \$9,440 per person

TABLE 9 | Number and percent of population living below 100% and 200% FPL, 2021

	County	Total population 2021 (#)	Population living below 100% FPL (#)	Population living below 100% FPL (%)	Population living below 200% FPL level (#)	Population living below 200% FPL (%)	
	State of Idaho	1,780,875	202,560	11.4%	557,572	31.3%	
EASTERN DISTRICT	Bannock	84,158	10,692	12.7%	28,581	34.0%	
	Bear Lake	6,280	823	13.1%	2,184	34.8%	
	Bingham	46,990	5186	11.0%	16,996	36.2%	
	Bonneville	120,707	11,506	9.5%	38,694	32.1%	
	Butte	2,544	585	23.0%	1,047	41.2%	
	Caribou	6,915	461	6.7%	1,742	25.2%	
	Clark	839	44	5.2%	343	40.9%	
	Custer	4,244	642	15.1%	1,559	36.7%	
	Franklin	13,913	1592	11.4%	4,392	31.6%	
	Fremont	12,810	1,543	12.0%	4,405	34.4%	
	Jefferson	30,358	2,415	8.0%	10,600	34.9%	
	Lemhi	7,827	973	12.4%	2,901	37.1%	
	Madison	50,663	12,296	24.3%	23,752	46.9%	
	Teton	11,478	935	8.1%	3,133	27.3%	
SOUTHERN DISTRICT	Ada	475,109	43,553	9.2%	6,675	28.0%	
	Adams	4,284	688	16.1%	362	34.7%	
	Boise	7,531	876	11.6%	9,002	37.2%	
	Canyon	224,206	24,863	11.1%	6,075	39.7%	
	Elmore	27,459	3915	14.3%	9,305	39.0%	
	Gem	18,212	1,955	10.7%	1,896	36.9%	
	Owyhee	11,672	1775	15.2%	8,713	41.0%	
	Payette	24,671	2,676	10.8%	1,017	22.7%	
	Valley	11,352	1,205	10.6%	3,249	41.6%	
	Washington	10,330	1,425	13.8%	31,012	35.2%	
	CENTRAL DISTRICT	Blaine	23,827	2,369	9.9%	3,813	40.7%
		Camas	1,044	150	14.4%	14,654	31.8%
Cassia		24,177	2,453	10.1%	4,286	36.1%	
Gooding		15,310	2294	15.0%	2,671	33.8%	
Jerome		23,873	3,781	15.8%	6,047	38.0%	
Lincoln		5,140	635	12.4%	46,289	27.8%	
Minidoka		21,227	3,819	18.0%	12,007	33.0%	
Oneida		4,490	520	11.6%	1,579	43.9%	
Power		7,818	756	9.7%	12,653	31.0%	
Twin Falls		88,051	11,446	13.0%	5,374	41.6%	
NORTHERN DISTRICT	Benewah	9,375	1,378	14.7%	108,332	22.8%	
	Bonner	46,060	5,386	11.7%	1,402	32.7%	
	Boundary	11,887	2,067	17.4%	1,911	25.4%	
	Clearwater	7,895	1,076	13.6%	80,352	35.8%	
	Idaho	15,928	1,878	11.8%	11,503	41.9%	
	Kootenai	166,430	15506	9.3%	5,575	30.6%	
	Latah	36,415	5900	16.2%	4,352	37.3%	
	Lewis	3,596	583	16.2%	8,059	32.7%	
	Nez Perce	40,862	5,986	14.6%	4,277	37.7%	
	Shoshone	12,918	1,953	15.1%	4,801	46.5%	

FIGURE 14 | Percent population living under 200% the federal poverty level (FPL), 2021

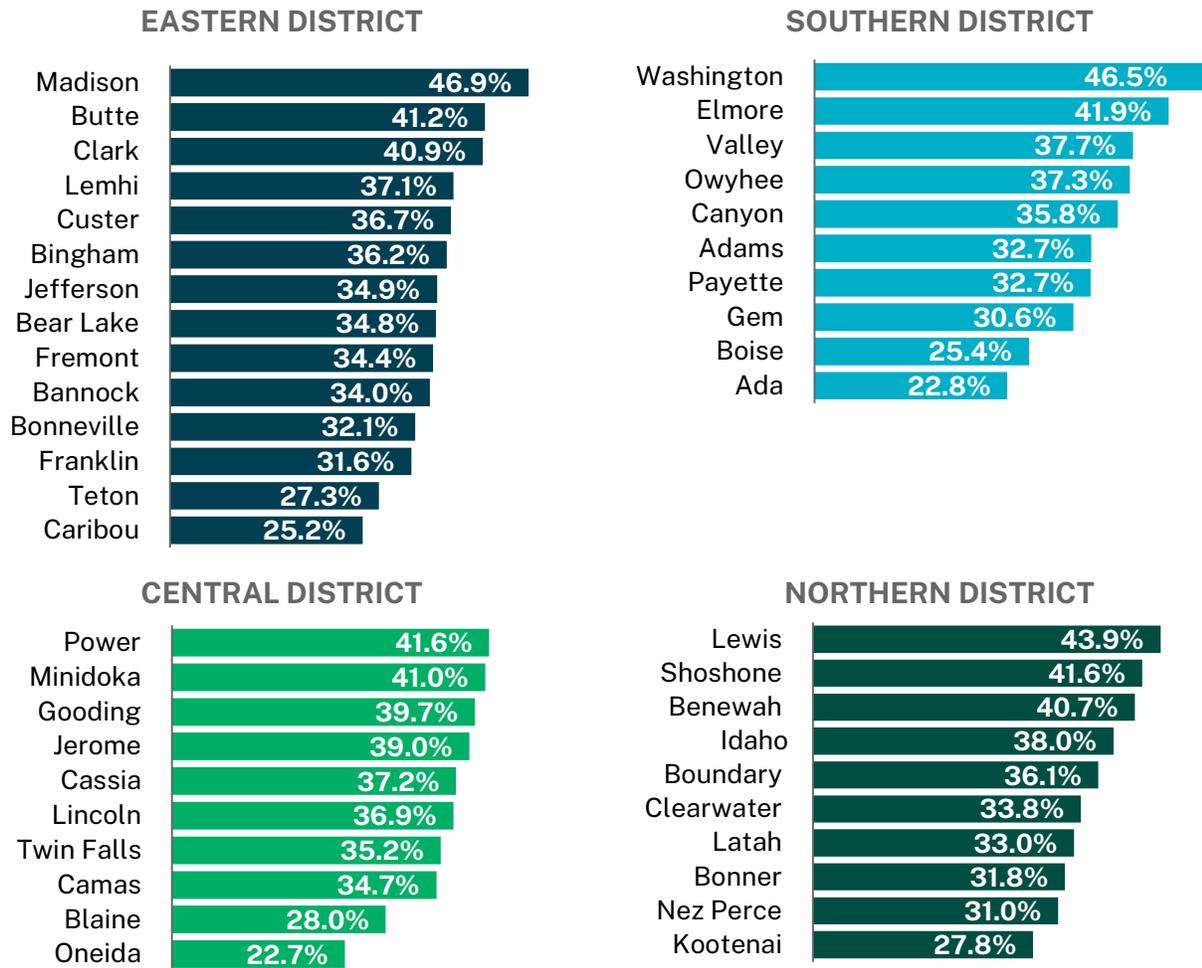


FIGURE 15 | Monthly unemployment rate for the state of Idaho from January 2020 to January 2022 compared to the pre-pandemic (2019) unemployment rate

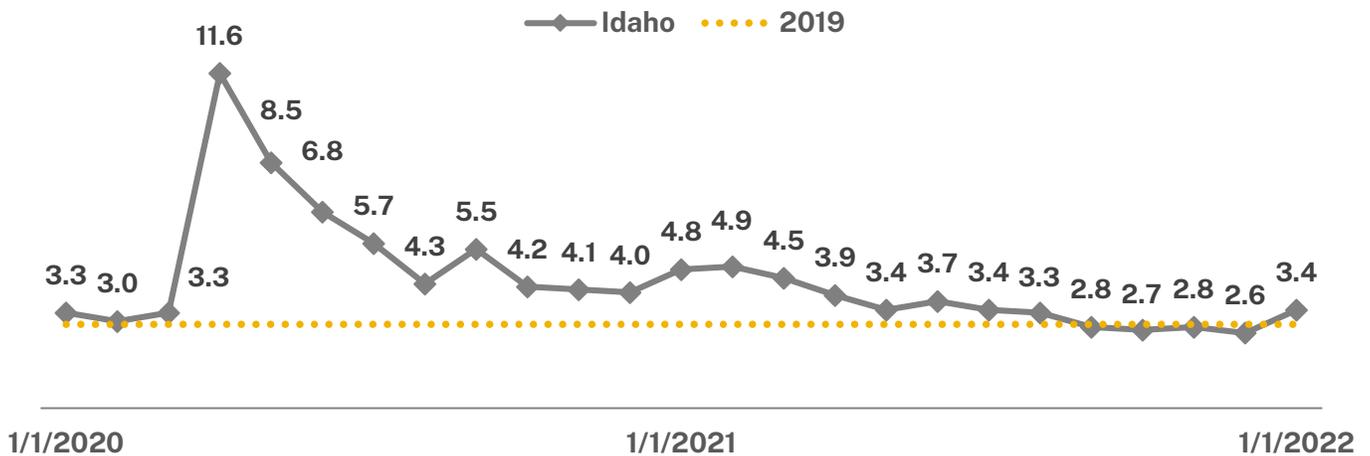
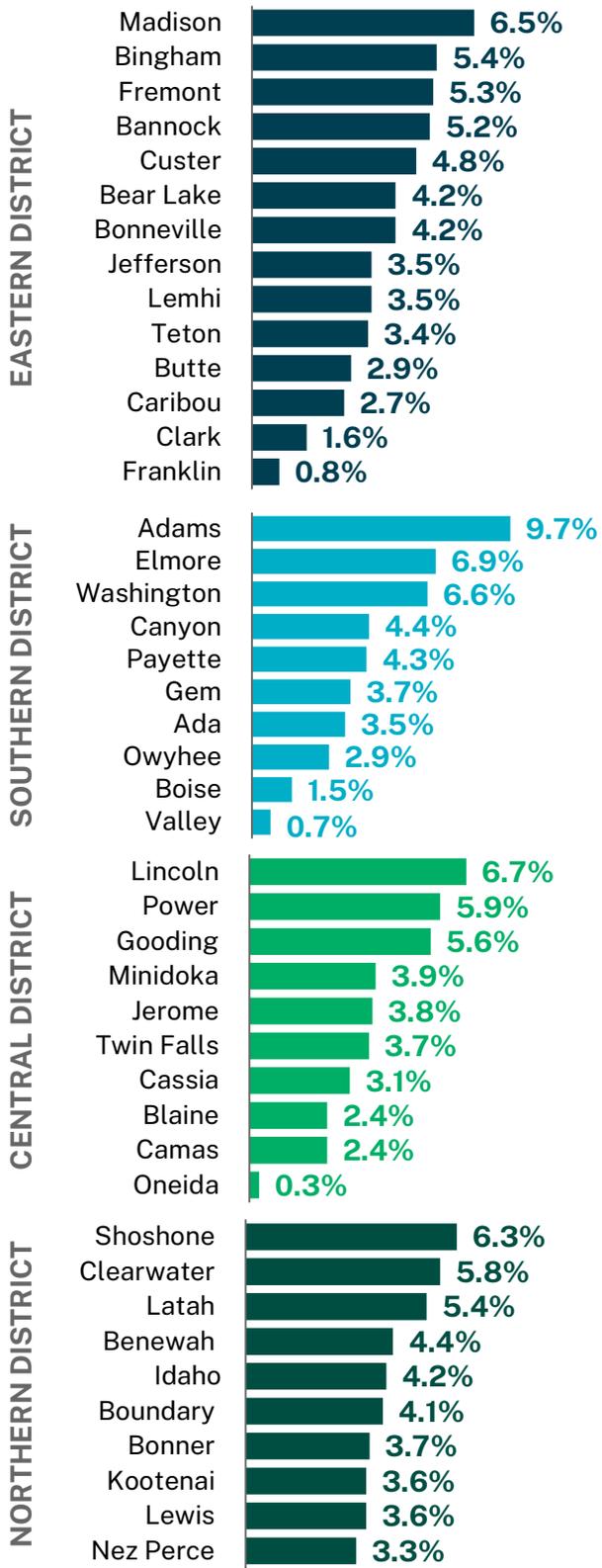


FIGURE 16 | Unemployment rate by county, 2021¹⁵



Employment

Table 10 highlights the number and change in the number of jobs by county in 2010 and 2020.¹⁶ Comparing the change in the number of jobs to the change in the total population highlights county discrepancies and potential areas where workers might be having a difficult time finding work and others where employers might be having difficulty finding workers. Notable changes from 2010 to 2020 include the following:

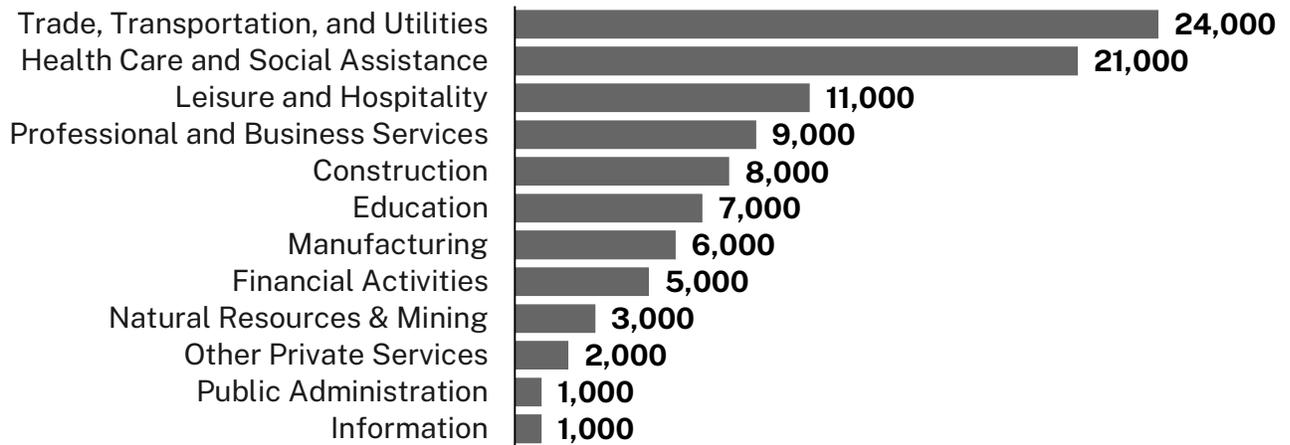
- The number of jobs in Ada County increased 31.1% compared to the total population increase of 26.1%.
- The number of jobs in Canyon County increased 35.9% compared to the total population increase of 22.3%.
- The total population and number of jobs in Kootenai County both increased 23.7%.
- The total population of Madison County increased 41.0%, while the number of jobs increased 36.4%.
- The total population of Blaine County increased 13.5%, while the number of jobs increased 5.4%.

The Idaho Department of Labor projected that the largest growth in the number of jobs from 2016 to 2026 would occur in the Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, and the Health Care and Social Assistance sectors (Figure 17).¹⁷

TABLE 10 | Number and percent change in jobs from 2010 to 2020

	County	Number of Jobs 2010	Number of Jobs 2020	Change in Jobs (#) 2010 - 2020	Change in Jobs (%) 2010 -2020	Change in Population (#)
EASTERN DISTRICT	Bannock	43,978	47,604	3,626	8.2%	5.0%
	Bear Lake	3,073	3,285	212	6.9%	6.4%
	Bingham	21,672	22,249	577	2.7%	5.2%
	Bonneville	60,131	74,577	14,446	24.0%	18.9%
	Butte	9,408	9,680	272	2.9%	-11.0%
	Caribou	4,522	4,938	416	9.2%	0.9%
	Clark	528	513	-15	-2.8%	-19.6%
	Custer	2,835	2,699	-136	-4.8%	-2.0%
	Franklin	5,794	6,799	1,005	17.3%	11.0%
	Fremont	5,353	6,233	880	16.4%	1.1%
	Jefferson	10,513	12,739	2,226	21.2%	18.2%
	Lemhi	4,316	4,370	54	1.3%	0.5%
	Madison	18,186	24,801	6,615	36.4%	41.0%
	Teton	4,937	6,971	2,034	41.2%	14.4%
SOUTHERN DISTRICT	Ada	261,664	343,043	81,379	31.1%	26.1%
	Adams	2,018	2,242	224	11.1%	10.1%
	Boise	2,632	2,855	223	8.5%	8.3%
	Canyon	75,633	102,786	27,153	35.9%	22.3%
	Elmore	13,197	13,676	479	3.6%	6.0%
	Gem	6,220	7,248	1,028	16.5%	14.4%
	Owyhee	4,212	4,903	691	16.4%	3.4%
	Payette	9,380	10,406	1,026	10.9%	12.2%
	Valley	6,167	7,122	955	15.5%	19.1%
	Washington	4,538	4,474	-64	-1.4%	3.0%
	CENTRAL DISTRICT	Blaine	19,307	20,348	1,041	5.4%
Camas		683	652	-31	-4.5%	-3.6%
Cassia		13,552	15,795	2,243	16.6%	7.4%
Gooding		8,060	8,886	826	10.2%	0.9%
Jerome		11,133	12,398	1,265	11.4%	8.3%
Lincoln		2,323	2,617	294	12.7%	-1.6%
Minidoka		8,925	11,224	2,299	25.8%	7.7%
Oneida		2,062	2,346	284	13.8%	6.5%
Power		4,365	4,796	431	9.9%	0.8%
Twin Falls		44,368	52,376	8,008	18.0%	16.6%
NORTHERN DISTRICT		Benewah	4,839	4,986	147	3.0%
	Bonner	20,752	23,064	2,312	11.1%	15.2%
	Boundary	5,296	5,989	693	13.1%	9.9%
	Clearwater	4,255	3,973	-282	-6.6%	-0.3%
	Idaho	7,427	7,718	291	3.9%	1.7%
	Kootenai	75,121	92,230	17,109	22.8%	23.7%
	Latah	21,021	21,903	882	4.2%	6.1%
	Lewis	2,520	2,432	-88	-3.5%	-7.5%
	Nez Perce	25,660	26,082	422	1.6%	7.2%
	Shoshone	6,142	6,226	84	1.4%	3.2%

FIGURE 17 | Projected growth in employment (#of jobs) in Idaho from 2016-2026, by industry



Small business owners

In 2021, 99.2% of businesses in Idaho were small businesses (176,029 total), defined as businesses with less than 20 employees.¹⁸ Together these businesses had 335,696 employees, representing 56.2% of the Idaho workforce. The majority of small businesses in the state had no employees (Table 11). Twenty percent of small businesses in 2021 had between 1 and 19 employees.

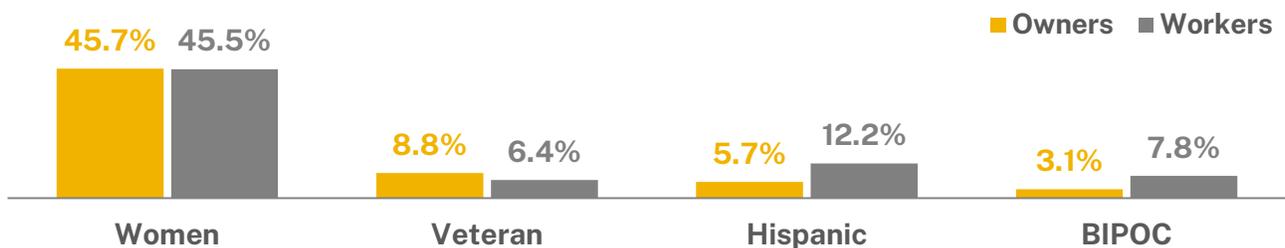
Industries with the greatest number of small businesses in Idaho include Construction businesses (23,121 total); Professional, Scientific, and Technical services businesses (22,464 total); Real Estate and Rental and Leasing businesses (20,531 total); and Retail Trade businesses (18,540 total).

Out of all small business owners, 45.7% in 2021 were women, 8.8% were veterans, 5.7% were Hispanic, and 3.1% were BIPOC (Figure 18). Both the Hispanic and BIPOC workforce have higher percents of the population working for small businesses rather than owning small businesses.

TABLE 11 | Number of businesses by size of business, 2021

Number of employees	Number of businesses
Total	176,029
No employees	135,986
1-19 employees	35,861
20-499 employees	4,182

FIGURE 18 | Business ownership share versus percent of workers, 2021



Extension topic areas

Youth development

4-H PROGRAMS

In the 2021-2022 school year, 13,427 students enrolled in 4-H programs in the state.¹⁹ The highest enrollment was in the Eastern District and the lowest enrollment was in the Central District (Table 12). Table 13 highlights the specific county-level enrollment that year.

TABLE 12 | 4-H enrollment by school year by district

Extension District	Members enrolled in 2021 - 2022 school year
Idaho State	13,427
Central	2,969
Eastern	4,040
Northern	3,389
Southern	3,026

IDLE TEENS

On average between 2016 and 2021, Idaho had 2,096 teens ages 16 to 19 who were not working and not in school, also known as idle teens.²⁰ The Eastern District had the highest number of idle teens with 800 total, followed by the Southern District with 652 (Table 14). Bonneville County had the largest population of idle teens, with 334 total. Figure 19 shows the number of idle teens in 2021 by county with those omitted that had zero during that time.

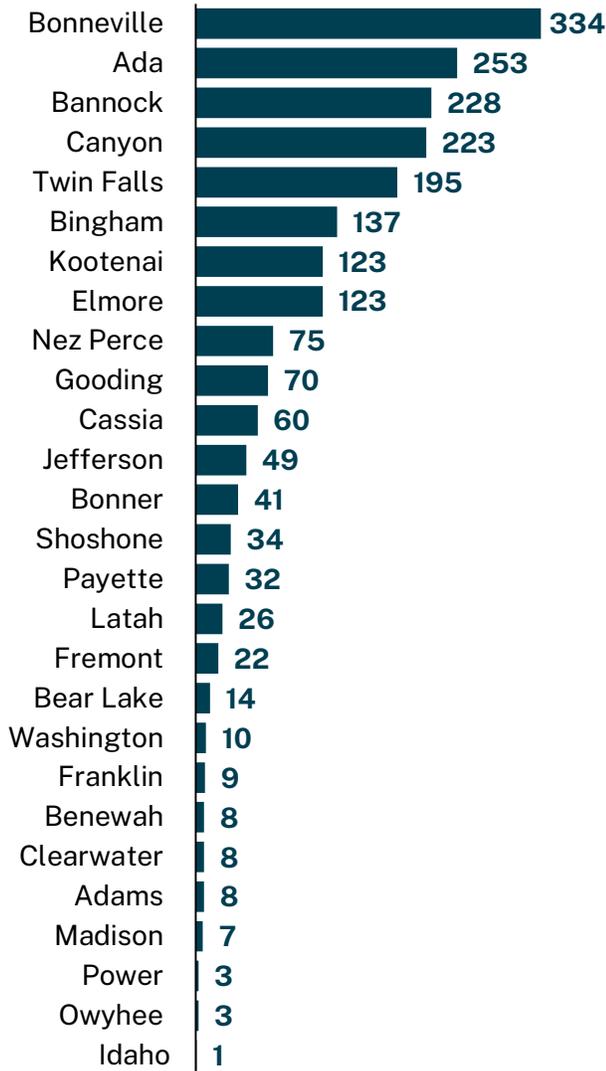
TABLE 13 | County-level enrollment in 4-H programming in the 2021-2022 school year

	County	Members enrolled
EASTERN DISTRICT	Bannock	229
	Bear Lake	254
	Bingham	408
	Bonneville	526
	Butte	74
	Caribou	208
	Clark	17
	Custer	81
	Franklin	414
	Fremont	303
	Jefferson	627
	Lemhi	182
	Madison	473
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes	10	
Teton	234	
SOUTHERN DISTRICT	Ada	492
	Adams	57
	Canyon	809
	Elmore	245
	Gem-Boise	386
	Owyhee	343
	Payette	358
	Valley	118
	Washington	218
CENTRAL DISTRICT	Blaine	188
	Camas	63
	Cassia	503
	Gooding	202
	Jerome	288
	Lincoln	116
	Minidoka	456
	Oneida	192
	Power	170
	Twin Falls	791
NORTHERN DISTRICT	Benewah	186
	Bonner	455
	Boundary	264
	Clearwater	138
	Idaho	445
	Kootenai-Shoshone	881
	Latah	333
	Lewis	216
	Nez Perce	450
	Nez Perce Reservation	4
Coeur d'Alene Reservation	17	

TABLE 14 | Number of idle teens by extension district, 2021

Extension District	Number of idle teens
Idaho State	2,096
Central	328
Eastern	800
Northern	316
Southern	652

Figure 19 | Number of idle teens by county where number is greater than zero, 2021



Community development

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Education is a key factor in determining a person's earning potential and health.²¹

Figure 20 shows the population in each UI Extension district by educational attainment.²² Notably, over double the percent of residents in the Central District have not graduated from high school compared to the other districts.

The educational attainment of mothers, specifically, plays an important role. Mothers without a diploma are more likely to have lower-paying jobs, which can lead to poverty and financial instability for their families.²³ Additionally, women with higher levels of education are more likely to have healthier pregnancies and to raise healthier children.²⁴ Table 15 shows the percentage of mothers who do not have a high school diploma by county in 2020. Strikingly, 20% or more of mothers in Butte, Lemhi, Owyhee, Camas, Gooding, and Lincoln counties do not have a high school diploma. Lincoln and Gooding counties especially stand out with 25.9% and 30.4% of mothers without a high school diploma, respectively.

FIGURE 20 | Educational attainment, 2021

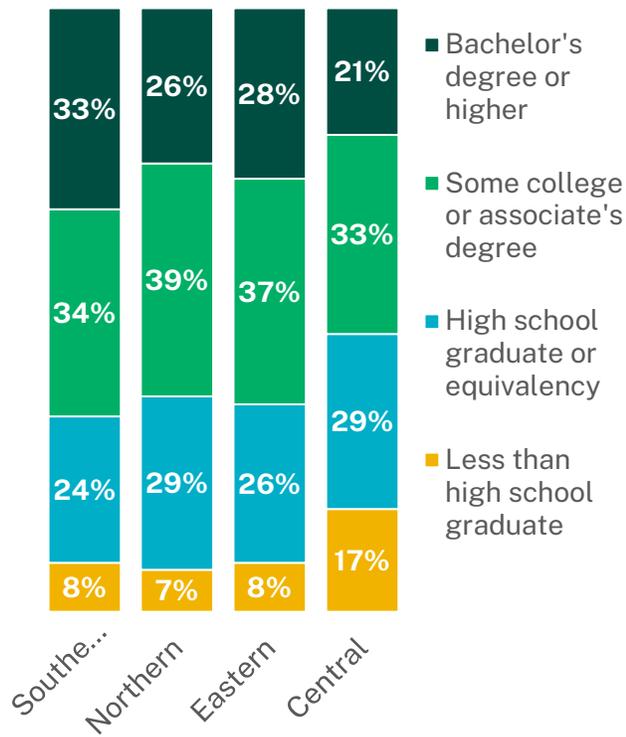


TABLE 15 | Mothers without a high school diploma by county, 2020

	County	Mothers without a high school diploma, 2020 (%)
EASTERN DISTRICT	Bannock	7.7%
	Bear Lake	8.3%
	Bingham	12.0%
	Bonneville	8.7%
	Butte	20.7%
	Caribou	7.3%
	Clark	0.0%
	Custer	6.9%
	Franklin	7.8%
	Fremont	8.4%
	Jefferson	6.8%
SOUTHERN DISTRICT	Lemhi	20.8%
	Madison	1.5%
	Teton	11.0%
	Ada	7.6%
	Adams	10.3%
	Boise	12.5%
	Canyon	14.2%
	Elmore	11.0%
	Gem	13.5%
	Owyhee	23.7%
CENTRAL DISTRICT	Payette	12.0%
	Valley	5.8%
	Washington	14.4%
	Blaine	14.7%
	Camas	20.0%
	Cassia	15.9%
	Gooding	25.9%
	Jerome	20.1%
	Lincoln	30.4%
	Minidoka	15.0%
NORTHERN DISTRICT	Oneida	10.8%
	Power	11.9%
	Twin Falls	13.8%
	Benewah	16.2%
	Bonner	10.8%
	Boundary	17.1%
	Clearwater	17.8%
	Idaho	10.8%
	Kootenai	7.0%
	Latah	4.1%
Lewis	7.3%	
Nez Perce	6.7%	
Shoshone	12.9%	

HOUSING

Throughout Idaho, the median value for owner-occupied housing units varies drastically, from \$128,674 in Clark County to \$479,622 in Blaine County (Figure 21). The top-three counties with the highest median housing prices all are counties known for their ski resorts and recreational opportunities.

Housing prices throughout the country, especially in more rural areas, exploded during the COVID-19 pandemic. From 2019 to 2020, the state of Idaho had the largest percent growth in median housing prices in the entire nation, rising 9.6% in the one year alone. The total monetary increase in median price was \$21,652 (Figure 22).²⁵

FIGURE 21 | Median value for owner-occupied housing units by county in 2020

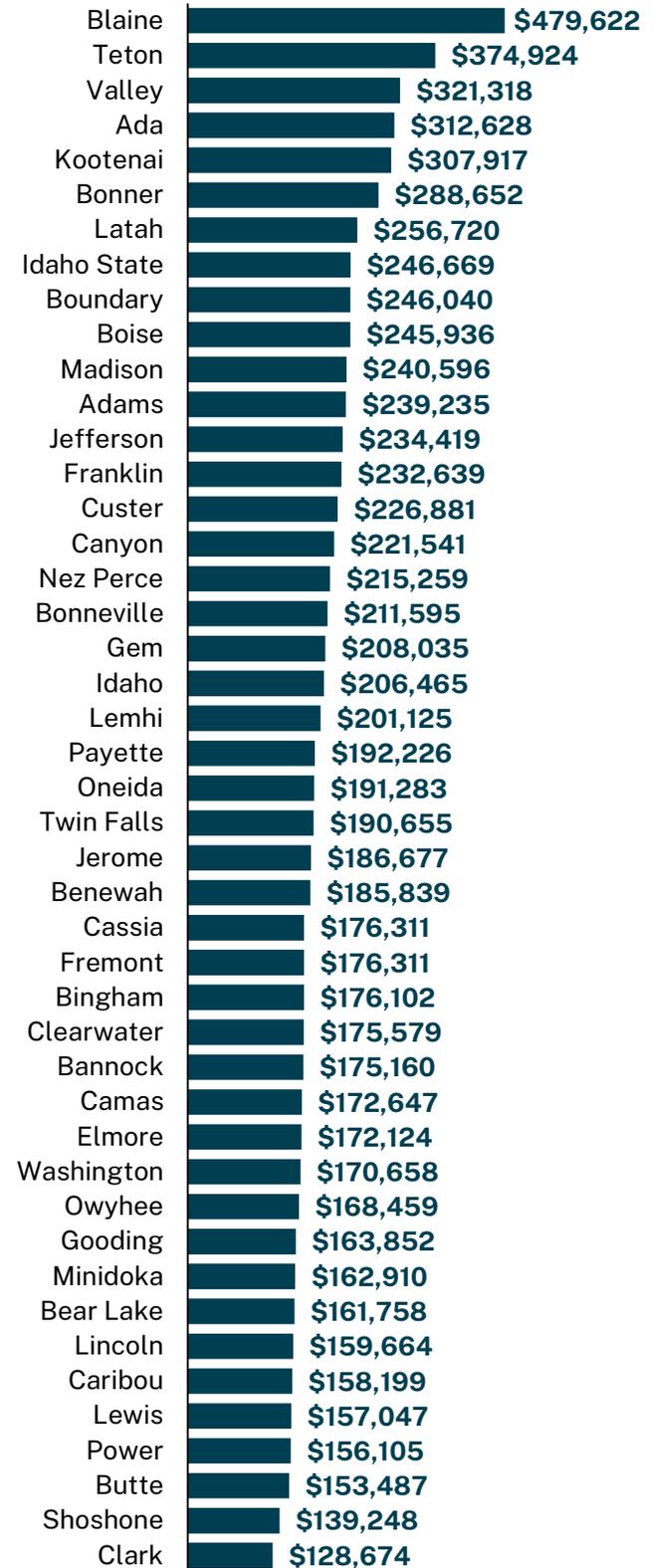
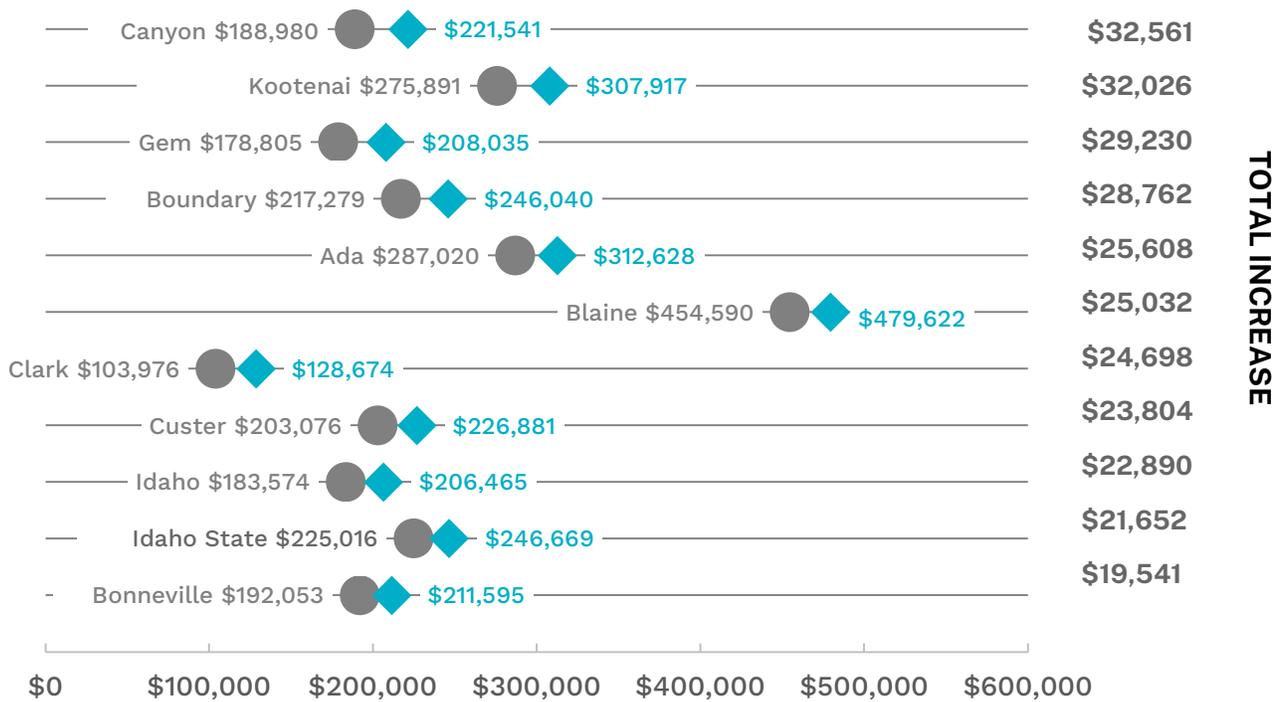


FIGURE 22 | Counties that experienced the greatest growth in median value for owner-occupied housing units between 2019 and 2020



Health and wellness

The University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute provides county-level health rankings throughout the country, including health outcome and health factor ratings.²⁶

Health outcomes are defined as

“The overall rankings in health outcomes represent how healthy counties are within the state. The healthiest county in the state is ranked #1. The ranks are based on two types of measures: how long people live and how healthy people feel while alive.”

Health factors are defined as

“The overall rankings in health factors represent what influences the health of a county. They are an estimate of the future health of counties as compared to other counties within a state. The ranks are

based on four types of measures: health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic, and physical environment factors.”

Health outcomes and health factor rankings for all Idaho counties are shown in Table 16. Based on these rankings, Ada, Blaine, Latah, and Valley counties are the healthiest counties in Idaho. Benewah, Lincoln, Shoshone, and Owyhee are among the least healthy counties in Idaho.

Low health rankings and other health factors may be related to access to and availability of local health care. Many counties in Idaho have very few or no physicians, as Table 19 shows.

TABLE 16 | County Health Rankings

	County	Health Outcomes Rank	Health Factors Rank
EASTERN DISTRICT	Bannock	33	16
	Bear Lake	37	14
	Bingham	38	18
	Bonneville	20	8
	Butte	34	22
	Caribou	11	10
	Clark	NR	NR
	Custer	18	17
	Franklin	14	11
	Fremont	9	15
	Jefferson	8	4
	Lemhi	39	27
	Madison	6	3
Teton	5	5	
SOUTHERN DISTRICT	Ada	2	1
	Adams	32	34
	Boise	26	20
	Canyon	15	28
	Elmore	21	30
	Gem	30	32
	Owyhee	40	42
	Payette	35	23
	Valley	1	6
	Washington	16	29
CENTRAL DISTRICT	Blaine	3	7
	Camas	22	24
	Cassia	27	21
	Gooding	28	35
	Jerome	12	37
	Lincoln	41	41
	Minidoka	31	31
	Oneida	23	9
	Power	29	25
	Twin Falls	25	19
NORTHERN DISTRICT	Benewah	43	40
	Bonner	13	26
	Boundary	19	33
	Clearwater	24	39
	Idaho	10	36
	Kootenai	7	13
	Latah	4	2
	Lewis	36	38
	Nez Perce	17	12
Shoshone	42	43	

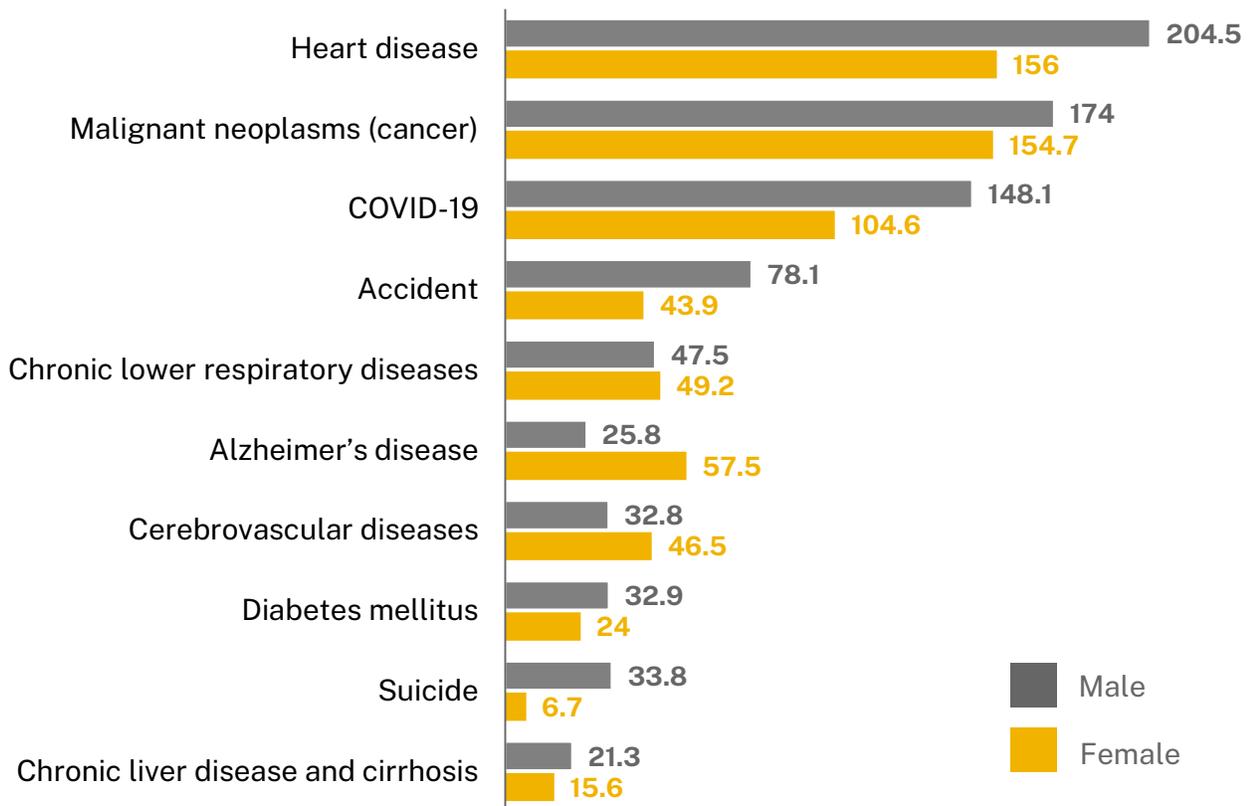
MORTALITY

Identifying the leading causes of death in a community can help public health officials, policymakers, and UI Extension programs develop and implement targeted interventions to address these issues. Table 17 and Figure 23 show the ten leading causes of death in Idaho in 2021.²⁷ As the table highlights, for the top four leading causes of death in the state, males experience them at greater rates than females. However, for causes of death like Alzheimer’s disease, females have over double the death rate of males.

TABLE 17 | Leading causes of death in Idaho, 2021

Cause of death	Number of deaths	Death rate per 100,000 population		
		Total	Male	Female
Heart disease	3,430	180.4	204.5	156.0
Malignant neoplasms (cancer)	3,126	164.4	174.0	154.7
COVID-19	2,406	126.6	148.1	104.6
Accident	1,163	61.2	78.1	43.9
Chronic lower respiratory diseases	919	48.3	47.5	49.2
Alzheimer’s disease	789	41.5	25.8	57.5
Cerebrovascular diseases	752	39.6	32.8	46.5
Diabetes mellitus	541	28.5	32.9	24.0
Suicide	387	20.4	33.8	6.7
Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	351	18.5	21.3	15.6

FIGURE 23 | Death rates in Idaho by cause and sex, 2021



PRENATAL HEALTH

Prenatal health data is crucial for improving the health outcomes of pregnant people and their babies, as well as informing policy and program support. According to the American Pregnancy Association (APA), access to prenatal health data allows healthcare providers to identify potential health risks early in pregnancy, leading to early intervention and treatment to improve outcomes for both the mother and baby.

In 2020, 1,818 babies were born pre-term, 1,481 babies born had low birth weight, and 817 babies were born to mothers in Idaho who had not received prenatal care or had received it only in the 3rd trimester of pregnancy (Table 18).²⁸ Low birth-weight babies are those weighing less than 5.5 pounds at birth.

Ada, Canyon, Bonneville, and Bannock counties had the highest number of pre-term and low-weight babies born in 2020. Canyon County also had the highest number of mothers who had received late or no prenatal care.

ACCESS

Knowing the ratio of physicians to population is crucial to understanding the needs of distinct areas, especially in rural areas, where access to healthcare is often limited. According to the National Rural Health Association, rural communities face unique challenges in recruiting and retaining healthcare professionals, including physicians due to factors such as lower salaries, higher student debt burdens, and limited resources for continuing education and professional development.

TABLE 18 | Prenatal health indicators, 2020

	County	Pre-term Births	Low-birth weight	Late or no prenatal care
	Idaho State	1,818	1,481	817
EASTERN DISTRICT	Bannock	138	97	39
	Bear Lake	7	8	2
	Bingham	70	60	37
	Bonneville	182	136	98
	Butte	3	3	0
	Caribou	8	4	4
	Clark	0	0	0
	Custer	2	4	2
	Franklin	22	17	6
	Fremont	13	13	10
SOUTHERN DISTRICT	Jefferson	47	45	17
	Lemhi	3	3	2
	Madison	74	76	63
	Teton	7	6	6
	Ada	409	310	108
	Adams	3	3	1
	Boise	4	5	1
	Canyon	248	205	127
	Elmore	42	27	7
	Gem	12	13	12
CENTRAL DISTRICT	Owyhee	20	13	15
	Payette	27	25	25
	Valley	11	8	2
	Washington	6	4	7
	Blaine	11	12	4
	Camas	0	0	N/A
	Cassia	31	31	18
	Gooding	9	9	9
NORTHERN DISTRICT	Jerome	24	22	12
	Lincoln	7	4	0
	Minidoka	18	18	4
	Oneida	5	4	0
	Power	9	8	4
	Twin Falls	88	82	32
	Benewah	15	13	12
	Bonner	22	16	21
	Boundary	13	7	10
	Clearwater	6	9	4
	Idaho	1	1	8
	Kootenai	135	95	56
	Latah	25	24	12
	Lewis	3	6	2
	Nez Perce	25	23	13
	Shoshone	13	12	5

Table 19 shows the ratio of physicians to population by county. In rural areas, a shortage of physicians can result in decreased access to care, longer wait times for appointments, and limited availability of specialty services. Research has shown that rural communities with higher physician-to-population ratios have improved health outcomes and lower mortality rates.

INSURANCE

Health insurance is important for accessing healthcare services, including preventative care, medical treatment, better management of chronic conditions, and prescription medications.²⁹ Figure 24 shows a timeline of the total population in the state without health insurance.³⁰

FIGURE 24 | Total uninsured population in Idaho, data were not collected in 2020 due to Covid19³¹

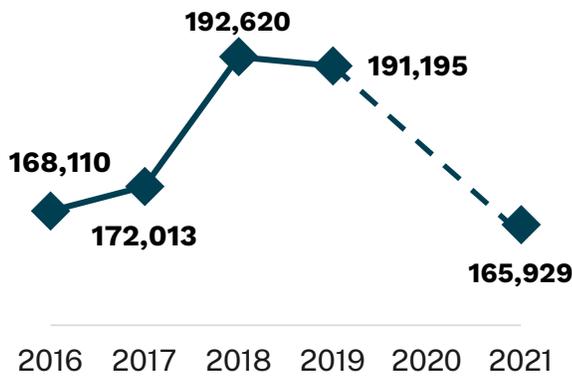


TABLE 19 | Number and ratio of physicians to population by county, 2019

	County	Number of Physicians	Ratio of Physicians to Population
EASTERN DISTRICT	Bannock	62	1,420:1
	Bear Lake	4	1,530:1
	Bingham	14	3,340:1
	Bonneville	46	2,590:1
	Butte	1	2,600:1
	Caribou	4	1,790:1
	Clark	0	850:0
	Custer	No data	No data
	Franklin	6	2,310:1
	Fremont	4	3,270:1
	Jefferson	7	4,270:1
	Lemhi	7	1,150:1
Madison	27	1,480:1	
Teton	4	3,040:1	
SOUTHERN DISTRICT	Ada	464	1,040:1
	Adams	1	4,290:1
	Boise	1	7,830:1
	Canyon	74	3,110:1
	Elmore	16	1,720:1
	Gem	11	1,650:1
	Owyhee	1	11,820:1
	Payette	10	2,400:1
	Valley	16	710:1
	Washington	5	2,040:1
CENTRAL DISTRICT	Blaine	24	960:1
	Camas	0	1,110:0
	Cassia	19	1,260:1
	Gooding	4	3,790:1
	Jerome	9	2,710:1
	Lincoln	1	5,370:1
	Minidoka	5	4,210:1
	Oneida	2	2,270:1
	Power	2	3,840:1
	Twin Falls	62	1,400:1
NORTHERN DISTRICT	Benewah	4	2,320:1
	Bonner	21	2,180:1
	Boundary	6	2,040:1
	Clearwater	9	970:1
	Idaho	15	1,110:1
	Kootenai	145	1,140:1
	Latah	31	1,290:1
	Lewis	1	3,840:1
	Nez Perce	29	1,390:1
	Shoshone	4	3,220:1

Food production systems

FARMS BY SIZE

According to the USDA Census of Agriculture, in 2017 there were 24,996 total farm operations in Idaho with over 11 million acres of land (Tables 20 and 21).³²

Farm operation size varies throughout the state, with the Central District being home to larger farms (median of 90 acres) and the Southern District home to a greater number of smaller farms (median of 20 acres).

Counties with median farm size at or less than 15 acres include the following:

- Ada County has 1,304 farms (5% of state total) with a median size of 9 acres.
- Canyon County has 2,289 farms (9% of state total) with a median size of 10 acres.
- Bonneville County has 1,109 farms (4% of state total) with a median farm size of 13 acres.
- Boise County has 90 farms (<1% of state total) with a median size of 15 acres.

FARM EMPLOYMENT

Farm employment is a critical part of Idaho's economy, employing almost 50,000 people according to the 2017 Census of Agriculture. Table 22 shows the number of farmworkers by type in Idaho.

Migrant and seasonal workers

Migrant and seasonal farmworkers are essential to agriculture in Idaho.

Figures 25 and 26 show the number and change in migrant farmworkers by county.

Migrant farmworkers travel from one area to another, while seasonal farmworkers work for a limited period each year. These workers often face significant challenges, including limited access to healthcare, low wages, and poor working conditions.³³

TABLE 20 | Farm characteristics by UI Extension district, 2017

	Number of farms	Land in farms (acres)	Median size of farm (acres)	Percent of Idaho's farms
Idaho State	24,996	11,691,912	34	100%
Eastern District	7,505	4,086,823	82	30%
Southern District	7,043	2,554,557	20	27%
Central District	4,774	3,084,695	90	19%
Northern District	5,674	1,965,837	51	22%

TABLE 21 | Farm characteristics by county, 2017

		Number of farms	Land in farms (acres)	Median size of farm (acres)	Percent of Idaho's farms
	Idaho State	24,996	11,691,912	34	100%
EASTERN DISTRICT	Bannock	757	315,038	40	3%
	Bear Lake	395	296,959	160	2%
	Bingham	1,177	932,944	25	5%
	Bonneville	1,109	418,881	13	4%
	Butte	189	130,366	235	1%
	Caribou	411	366,499	305	2%
	Clark	68	149,411	600	<1%
	Custer	267	147,837	126	1%
	Franklin	787	228,382	69	3%
	Fremont	513	279,578	95	2%
	Jefferson	750	333,522	32	3%
	Lemhi	351	173,956	55	1%
	Madison	454	196,046	44	2%
Teton	277	117,404	101	1%	
SOUTHERN DISTRICT	Ada	1,304	112,370	9	5%
	Adams	232	163,054	93	1%
	Boise	90	53,198	15	<1%
	Canyon	2,289	274,952	10	9%
	Elmore	340	358,454	20	1%
	Gem	860	183,177	10	3%
	Owyhee	565	727,338	73	2%
	Payette	640	162,622	20	3%
	Valley	188	50,959	39	1%
	Washington	535	468,433	53	2%
CENTRAL DISTRICT	Blaine	190	211,228	80	1%
	Camas	151	192,672	280	1%
	Cassia	585	643,346	100	2%
	Gooding	538	188,353	36	2%
	Jerome	486	171,643	51	2%
	Lincoln	276	134,911	160	1%
	Minidoka	620	267,567	41	2%
	Oneida	422	319,789	170	2%
	Power	295	486,377	554	1%
	Twin Falls	1,211	468,809	40	5%
NORTHERN DISTRICT	Benewah	288	139,944	64	1%
	Bonner	1,213	89,331	20	5%
	Boundary	348	68,884	50	1%
	Clearwater	312	56,556	47	1%
	Idaho	708	537,428	134	3%
	Kootenai	1,073	139,705	20	4%
	Latah	1,041	349,532	51	4%
	Lewis	197	200,435	206	1%
	Nez Perce	446	381,587	80	2%
Shoshone	48	2,435	20	<1%	

TABLE 22 | Number of farmworkers with estimations of type of farmworker, 2017

	County	Total number of farmworkers	Estimated animal production workers	Estimated crop production workers	Estimated migratory crop workers	Estimated seasonal crop workers
	Idaho State	49,886	16,214	33,672	5,818	27,853
EASTERN DISTRICT	Bannock	663	259	403	69	333
	Bear Lake	253	148	105	18	87
	Bingham	3,737	692	3,045	526	2,518
	Bonneville	1,215	307	907	157	751
	Butte	205	48	157	27	130
	Caribou	710	188	521	90	431
	Clark	133	35	98	17	81
	Custer	274	156	118	21	98
	Franklin	1,152	801	350	60	290
	Fremont	1,319	106	1,214	210	1,004
	Jefferson	1,973	455	1,518	262	1,255
	Lemhi	348	283	65	11	53
	Madison	1,723	186	1,537	266	1,271
	Teton	531	125	406	71	336
SOUTHERN DISTRICT	Ada	1,992	939	1,052	182	871
	Adams	200	65	44	5	3
	Boise	69	22	15	2	1
	Canyon	6,020	1,146	4,873	842	4,031
	Elmore	1,568	485	1,083	188	897
	Gem	641	305	336	58	278
	Owyhee	1,129	716	413	71	341
	Payette	1,192	314	878	152	726
	Valley*	91	91	61	11	34
	Washington	672	160	512	89	424
	CENTRAL DISTRICT	Blaine	362	56	306	53
Camas		183	59	40	5	3
Cassia		3,313	1,522	1,791	309	1,482
Gooding		2,701	1,926	775	134	641
Jerome		2,678	1,269	1,409	243	1,166
Lincoln		693	484	209	36	173
Minidoka		2,466	497	1,969	340	1,629
Oneida		393	140	253	43	210
Power		1,795	111	1,684	291	1,393
Twin Falls		3,064	1,251	1,814	313	1,501
NORTHERN DISTRICT	Benewah	199	25	174	30	144
	Bonner	543	169	374	65	309
	Boundary	773	100	674	117	557
	Clearwater	168	55	37	4	2
	Idaho	511	197	314	54	260
	Kootenai	624	280	344	60	284
	Latah	790	114	676	117	559
	Lewis	223	72	49	6	3
	Nez Perce	554	141	413	72	341
	Shoshone*	43	14	9	1	1

FIGURE 25 | Peak migrant and seasonal farmworker employment in 2021

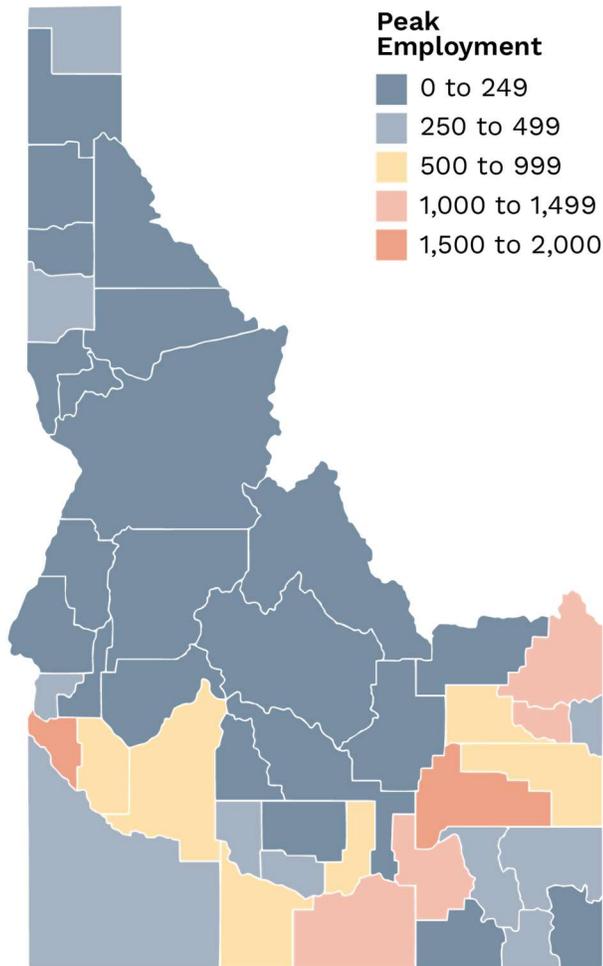
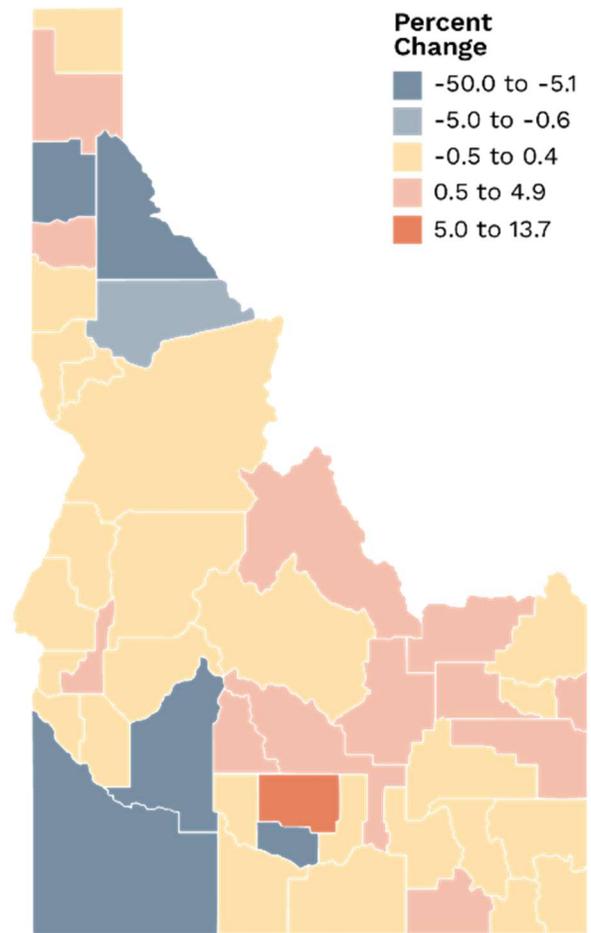


FIGURE 26 | Percent change in peak migrant and seasonal farmworker employment in 2021 compared to 2017



FARMERS MARKETS

Farmers markets are important for small-scale farmers and ranchers to sell their products directly to consumers. In 2022, Idaho had 49 farmers markets operating throughout the state.³⁴

Forestry & natural resources

TIMBER HARVEST

Forestry in Idaho contributed \$2 billion to the state’s gross product in 2021.³⁵ It is an industry that employs 31,000 people with over 200 businesses related to

manufacturing and wholesaling. COVID-19 resulted in job loss and fluctuating timber prices, but by 2021 the market had already stabilized, and incomes of forestry workers rose.

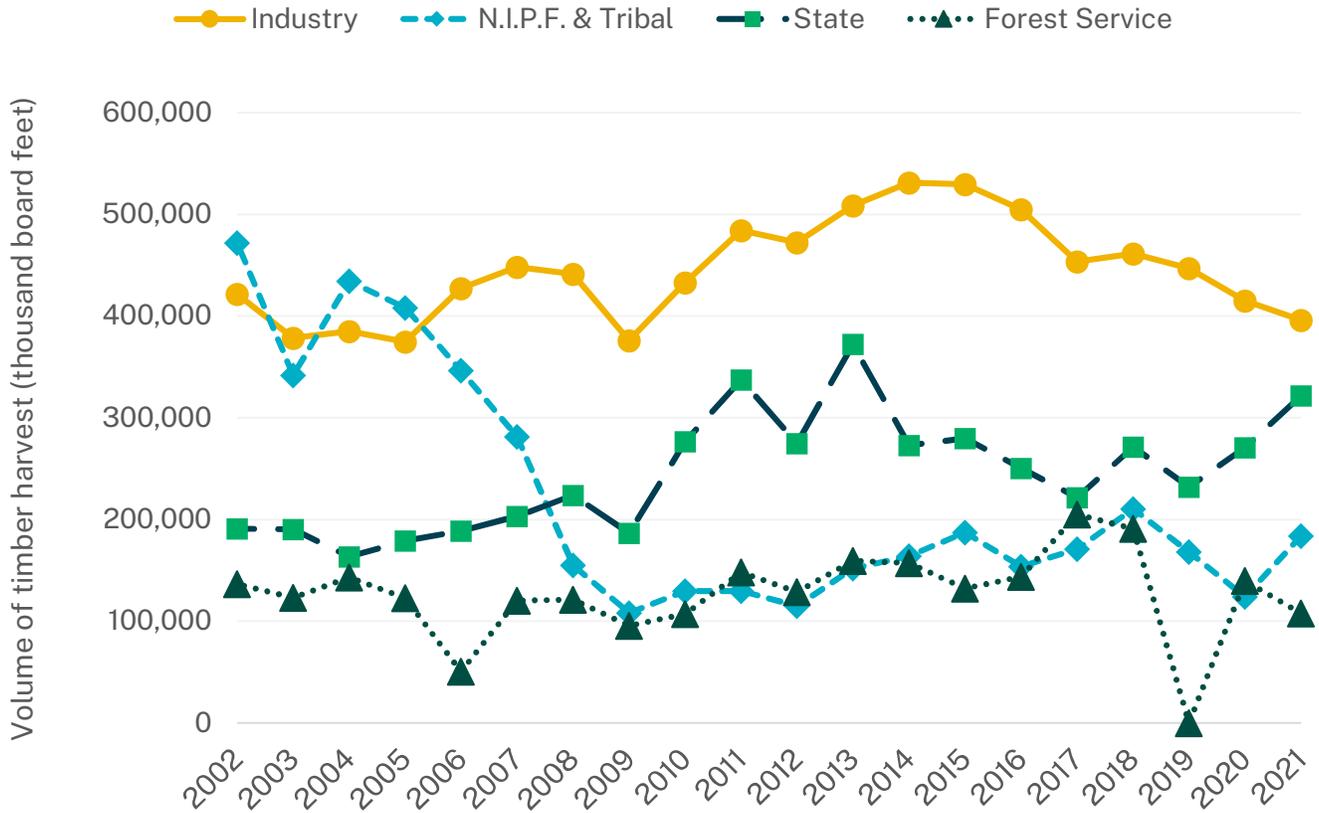
Figure 27 shows the total volume of timber harvest by ownership over time.

Ownerships considered private include Industrial private (Industry), Nonindustrial private forests (N.I.P.F), and Native American tribes (Tribal). Ownerships considered public include Idaho Department of Lands (State), United States

Department of Agriculture Forest Service (Forest Service), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), County and Municipal (Other Public). BLM and Other Public data

were not included in the figure because maximum harvest was less than 15,000 board feet.

Figure 27 | Timber harvest by ownership



Water

Table 23 shows the water use by Extension district in 2015.

AGRICULTURAL USE

Water is a critical resource for agriculture in Idaho, which used approximately 11.8 million acre-feet of water in water year (2020-2021), accounting for about 88% of the state's total water withdrawals.³⁶

Approximately 5.5 million acres of land in Idaho is irrigated.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

In 2020, the total water use for public water supply in Idaho was approximately 329,000 acre-feet, which accounted for about 2% of the state's total water withdrawals.³⁷

The majority of Idaho's public water supply is from surface water, with approximately 85% of the state's population being served by surface water systems.³⁸ The remaining 15% of the population is served by groundwater systems.

In some areas of the state, groundwater resources are being depleted faster than they are being replenished, leading to concerns about their long-term sustainability.³⁹ Additionally, some public

water systems have aging infrastructure and need costly upgrades and repairs.

TABLE 13 | Water use by district, 2015⁴⁰

	Public water supply - total population served (#)	Public Supply total self-supplied withdrawals (Mgal/day)	Per capita use (gal/pers on/day)	Livestock total self-supplied withdrawals (Mgal/d)	Aquaculture total self-supplied withdrawals (Mgal/d)	Irrigation total self-supplied withdrawals (Mgal/d)
Idaho State	1,262,720	276	11,962	51	1,965	15,293
Central	129,758	38	3,271	28	1,541	6,111
Eastern	269,072	80	5,316	8	124	5,105
Northern	248,372	57	1,627	1	273	744
Southern	615,518	101	1,748	14	27	3,334

County Commissioner Survey

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO EXTENSION NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2023

County commissioner survey

Methods

The county commissioner survey was originally developed for the 2017 UI Extension Needs Assessment with input from the 2017 project advisory committee. We removed one of the questions from the 2017 questionnaire but otherwise implemented the same county commissioner survey for the 2023 Needs Assessment. Specifically, the 2023 survey asked three questions:

1. In which UI Extension district do you work?
2. From your perspective, what issues are emerging in your county that UI Extension could work to address in the next five years? Please describe up to three issues.
3. Do you have any additional comments?

Data was collected in January and February of 2023 using Qualtrics, a web-based survey platform. The UI Extension team emailed an invitation to participate along with a link to the survey to all county commissioners in Idaho followed by reminder emails. The Arrowleaf Consulting team analyzed the two open-ended questions to sort the data and identify themes using ATLAS.ti qualitative data analysis software.

Fifty-eight county commissioners participated in the survey. Figure 28 shows the number of commissioner respondents by UI Extension district.

FIGURE 28 | Number of county commissioner survey respondents by UI Extension district (n=58)



Perspectives on emerging issues

The most salient emerging issues “UI Extension could work to address in the next five years” county commissioners identified fell into three themes: workforce, UI Extension’s resources, and agriculture and small farms. Respondents’ answers to the open-ended question related to emerging issues are available in Appendix A.

Table 24 summarizes subthemes related to workforce issues. Commissioners identified the need to grow, train, and retain the workforce in their counties. Some responses highlighted the need for more affordable housing and child care. Some emphasized the need for programs that help young people develop “soft” skills and for vocational and technical programs that prepare people to work in local industries.

Table 25 summarizes subthemes related to UI Extension’s resources. Several commissioners viewed their local UI Extension services as under resourced,

especially understaffed, while three expressed concerns about taxpayer burden or “unnecessary or redundant” public programs (all three comments are included in Table 25).

Table 26 summarizes the subthemes related to agriculture and small farms. Several county commissioners would like to see outreach related to emerging agricultural technologies (they did not specify which). Others mentioned business- and economics-related topics like farm succession and input costs. There were also respondents who would like to see more programming relevant to small-acreage agriculture and “hobby” farms. Several referred to development pressure and the need to preserve farmland.

Additional comments

Most commissioners did not respond to the final question asking if they had additional comments or indicated that they did not. Four left the following comments of appreciation:

- “Thanks for your help!”
- “I appreciate all that our Extension staff does for us in the county. We have good, thoughtful, efficient, knowledgeable people.”
- “Our district director has been great to work with.”
- “NO, you guys are sooo great!”

Two mentioned additional emerging issues; therefore, we incorporated those into the analysis of the Question 2 (emerging issues) responses.

TABLE 24 | Emerging workforce issues identified through the county commissioner survey

Theme(s)	Quotes from respondents
Lack of needed community infrastructure	“Workforce challenges – housing, daycare, training.”
Recruitment	“How do we retain and recruit young people to work and live in Idaho as we adjust to our success?” “Quality students staying in the area for jobs that require degrees or technical skills such as business, nursing, heavy equipment operators and law enforcement.”
Vocational / Technical careers	“Technical education...in the public schools for kids to stay home and be productive in our community and work if they can’t afford college!”

TABLE 25 | Emerging issues related to UI Extension’s resources identified through the county commissioner survey

Themes	Quotes from respondents
Extension needs more resources	<p>“I realize that our current Extension officer...is already stretched extremely thin. For her office to be able to offer what I am asking, she would need to have additional staff and resources provided by the U of I.”</p> <p>“We need an agent for Bear Lake so Caribou County can retain our agent full time.”</p> <p>“Improved support for local fair events.”</p>
Concern about tax burden	<p>“Reduce burden on taxpayers by reducing spending for all government agencies, including UI.”</p> <p>“People are overburdened by property taxes. If UI Extension lessened the burden for property taxes (charge fees/gather donations) that would help ease the burden and keep people from having to sell their homes due to taxes.”</p> <p>“Eliminate unnecessary or redundant government programs.”</p>

TABLE 26 | Emerging issues related to agriculture and small farms identified through the county commissioner survey

Themes	Quotes from respondents
Advances in production	<p>“Looking for and education of new and innovative ways to farm.”</p> <p>“Technology for growing specialty crops.”</p> <p>“Gain trust of the ag producers so they once again rely confidently on UI Extension.”</p>
Farm finances and economics	<p>“Agriculture advances in economics.”</p> <p>“Continuous education for local farmers/ranchers regarding sustaining multi-generational farms/ranches.”</p> <p>“Input cost on crops.”</p>
Small-scale agriculture	<p>“People doing hobby farms.”</p> <p>“Support in knowledge of small-acreage agriculture.”</p>
Farmland protection	<p>“Help keep farming viable in an era of high land values and pressure to develop/subdivide.”</p> <p>“The loss of farmland.”</p>

Clientele Listening Sessions

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO EXTENSION NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2023

Client listening sessions

Methods

UI Extension staff organized and facilitated 12 listening sessions with clientele located throughout the state, including at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Falls, Lewiston, McCall, Pocatello, Salmon, and Twin Falls. The UI Extension team also created the listening session guide, which is available in Appendix B. Listening session participants were recruited by UI Extension employees at each site. The UI Extension facilitators recorded detailed notes during the listening sessions and sent them to the Arrowleaf Consulting team, who analyzed the responses to each question for key themes using ATLAS.ti software.

In the following, we present the primary themes that emerged for each listening session question.

Benefits of UI Extension programs

Participants provided a wide variety of answers to the question, “How has UI Extension benefited you, your family, or your community?” Table 27 summarizes the primary themes and subthemes that emerged. Agriculture and youth programming were the predominant responses, with long-standing UI Extension programs such as Master Gardener, various crop or livestock “schools,” and food preservation classes mentioned by name. Family and consumer sciences and community development programs were also themes that emerged in the responses.

TABLE 27 | Primary listening session themes that emerged in response to the question “How has UI Extension benefited you, your family, or your community?”

Key themes	Primary subthemes
Agriculture and small farms	Home gardening and Master Gardeners Program Research Extension Farm finances and economics
Youth programs	Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) 4-H
Family and consumer sciences	Career and personal development Food preservation and canning Personal finance Nutrition classes
Community development	General community development County fairs

Reflection on values

Table 28 summarizes the primary themes that emerged when listening session participants were asked to share what matters in their lives. The most common answers were family, community, and youth development.

TABLE 28 | Primary listening session themes that emerged in response to the question “What matters in your life?”

Primary themes
Family
Community
Youth development (in general, and 4-H specifically)
Service
Career and personal development
Education
Agriculture (in general, farming, livestock)
Health
Nature, the environment, the outdoors
Religious beliefs
Self-sufficiency
Home finance and economics
Safety
Food preparation, food safety, and food preservation
Food security

How do or could UI Extension programs help you reach your goals or enhance what matters?

Table 29 summarizes the most salient themes related to how listening session participants said UI Extension programs are helping or could help them reach their goals or enhance what matters. A primary theme was the value of UI Extension staff and programs as accessible, independent, and trusted resources on a variety of topics. Looking forward, listening session participants expressed a desire for UI Extension programs to continue to be independent and evidence based. The perspective that agricultural advocacy and programs that raise general public awareness of the economic and cultural importance of agriculture is needed was also a common theme, especially in the context of Idaho’s changing and growing population. The other commonly mentioned themes included the need to teach life skills, especially home finance, and the need for youth programming in general.

Most-important issues for UI Extension programs

Listening session participants reflected on the question “What are the most important issues UI Extension programs should address in the next few years?” This question included two follow-up questions. The first follow-up question was “What workforce skills will be the most important for Idaho adults and youth in the next decade?” While there were many mentions

of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and technical/vocational skills, the need for workers to possess “soft” and positive “character” skills were strong themes across listening sessions. Table 30 summarizes the themes related to this discussion.

The second follow-up question was “How should the 4-H Youth Development program reach the most vulnerable young people and the communities in which they live throughout Idaho?” The primary themes for

this question are summarized in Table 31. The importance of not duplicating services or reinventing the wheel was strongly expressed. The three main suggestions were 1) implement place-based programming in collaboration with other organizations that serve vulnerable youth, as applicable, 2) meet the social-emotional needs of participants, for example, by giving youth opportunities to interact in person, and 3) think “outside tradition” when planning course offerings and projects.

TABLE 29 | How does or could Extension programs (within the framework of our mission) help you reach your goals or enhance what matters?

How UI Extension helps now	
Subtheme	Subtheme description
Free, trusted resource	UI Extension is an independent source of knowledge and problem-solving on a variety of topics.
Social opportunities	Encourages family interaction and opportunities to build relationships and interpersonal connections.
Volunteer opportunities	Service-oriented programs are an outlet for those looking to volunteer in their community.
Lifelong education	Provides lifelong educational opportunities on a variety of topics.
How UI Extension could help	
Subtheme	Subtheme description
Free, trusted resource	Keep doing this!
Agricultural advocacy	Help raise awareness of the importance and value of agriculture.
Life skills, especially financial skills	Provide programs that teach “what they used to teach in high school home economics classes.”
Youth programming	Provide youth programs of all kinds.

TABLE 30 | Listening session themes regarding important workforce skills for Idaho adults and youth in the next decade

Key workforce skills	Examples of specific skills in this theme
STEM-oriented	Technology, computers.
Career and Technical Education (CTE) or vocational	Welding, trade school promotion in addition to college promotion.
“Soft” and “character” skills	Communication, interpersonal skills, emotional regulation, negotiation, perseverance, grit, critical thinking, problem solving.
Other key skills	Examples of specific skills in this theme
Self-sufficiency	Home production of food and fiber.
Personal finance	Financial literacy, budgeting.
Health and wellness	Cooking, nutrition, healthy living.

TABLE 31 | How should the 4-H Youth Development program reach the most vulnerable young people and the communities in which they live throughout Idaho?

Key Themes	
Place-based programming	Meet target populations where they are through or in partnership with the organizations who are already serving in this space.
Meet social-emotional needs	The in-person, social aspect of 4-H is important; include social activities where social bonds and support systems can flourish.
“Think outside tradition”	Embrace and promote small animal projects, non-livestock projects, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-friendly activities, and recruit bilingual leadership.

Program priorities for the near future

When asked what UI Extension’s future programming priorities should be, listening session participants’ suggestions fell into two broad categories: youth programming and adult programming (Table 32). Household and personal finance classes were high priorities for both youth and adults.

For youth programs, participants suggested that small animal and non-animal 4-H projects could encourage a broader range of youth to participate. There is a perceived need for youth and families to understand career development options available to them beyond the “often-pushed” college route, especially vocational and technical options.

For adult programs, the most suggested topics for programming, after household and personal financial literacy, were water and natural resource education for individuals and households as well as helping raise awareness of the importance of production agriculture in Idaho.

Another common theme across small group discussions was the importance of adequate

funding and support for the work that UI Extension is already doing. Personnel turnover, compensation, and a lack of dedicated communications staff were all listed as areas in need of improvement (Table 33).

Barriers and solutions for participating in UI Extension programs

The two most often-cited barriers from listening sessions to participation in UI Extension programs were lack of awareness and time (Table 34). Several factors were mentioned as secondary barriers, exacerbating the two main barriers listed above; these include the physical distance participants must travel to attend and that programs are often age group specific. Some listening session participants suggested that if adults could attend Extension classes while their children are also participating in an activity at the Extension facility, then it would be easier for families to participate in UI Extension programming. There was also the suggestion that providing open computer/internet access for parents while their children attended UI Extension programming would allow them to work on other tasks while they waited.

TABLE 32 | Primary listening session themes related to what UI Extension’s programming priorities should be in the near future

Programming suggestions	
Youth programming and 4-H	Including educational topics such as life skills, soft skills, how to navigate different post-secondary options, other workforce- and career-development activities.
Financial literacy and household economics	Budgeting, offering family consumer science classes that are no longer taught in schools.
Agricultural advocacy	The importance of production agriculture economically and as a way of life; awareness of “norms” by an increasingly urban population
Water and natural resource issues	Water conservation, quality, and adapting to climate change; soil quality and health

TABLE 33 | Listening session participants’ feedback on how UI Extension can improve

Opportunities for improvement	
Personnel	Hire an adequate number of staff, don’t rely on volunteers to teach classes, compensation needs to be more competitive, address the issue of employee turnover.
Communications	Hire dedicated communications staff, increase web and social media presence, fund this work adequately.
Program delivery	Offer programming at a variety of times and days. Not all Extension facilities have a classroom or meeting place that can accommodate everyone who wants to participate.

TABLE 34 | Listening session themes related to barriers to participating in UI Extension programs and participants’ suggestions to address them

Barriers	Suggested solutions
Lack of awareness People don’t know what Extension does, when classes are offered, or how to participate.	Hire dedicated communications and marketing staff; increase social media and web presence.
Time Time commitment required to participate in programs, the timing of classes offered (during regular business hours).	Offer virtual or self-paced options in addition to the traditional in-person schedule. Don’t schedule classes on the same nights as other common activities (especially important in smaller communities).
Aggravating factors Physical distance to Extension offices, programming offered by Extension is too specialized.	Make Extension offices multi-use spaces – Internet hubs, offer programming relevant to parents while their kids are participating in youth activities, or bring

programming closer to kids (integrated into the school day).

Client Survey

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO EXTENSION NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2023

Client survey

Methods

The client survey was developed with input from the UI Extension team, including faculty representing each of the UI Extension program areas who developed the topics for their respective area. Respondents had the option of taking the survey in English or Spanish. Data was collected from January 11 to March 8, 2023, using Qualtrics online survey data collection software. The UI Extension team asked clientele through their networks and distribution lists to participate in the survey. The client survey instrument is provided in Appendix C. We identified themes in the open-ended question responses using ATLAS.ti.

Respondent characteristics

A total of 923 UI Extension clients responded to the survey. Of those, 99.7% opted to take the English version and only 0.3% took the Spanish version (n=923) (Figure 29). Figures

30 and 31 show the distribution of respondents by county and zip code, respectively. The number of respondents in each county ranged from no respondents in Bear Lake County to 74 respondents in Latah County. Respondents worked in a range of sectors and industries; however, 39% said they work in farming/ranching, 29% said they work in education, and 23% identified their sector or industry as “other” (Figure 32). Table 35 presents the sectors and industries respondents wrote into the “other” category. Forty-three percent of those who selected “other” wrote in that they are either retired or unemployed (n=154). Figure 33 shows the distribution of respondents by age and Figure 34 shows the distribution of respondents by race and ethnicity. Thirty-three percent of respondents have at least one child in their household age 12 or younger (n=831) (Figure 35).

FIGURE 29 | Number of client survey respondents who took the survey in English vs. Spanish (n=923)



TABLE 35 | Sectors, industries, and other responses client survey respondents wrote into the “other” category (n=154)

	Number
Retired / Not working	66
Agriculture / Forestry	18
Business	18
Retail	7
Public Services	6
Homemaker / Homesteader	6
Hospitality / Food Service	5
Manufacturing	4
Construction	4
Information technology	3
Media	3
Health and safety	2
Transportation	2
Electrician	1
Engineering	1
Self-employed	1

FIGURE 33 | Number of client survey respondents by age category (n=568)

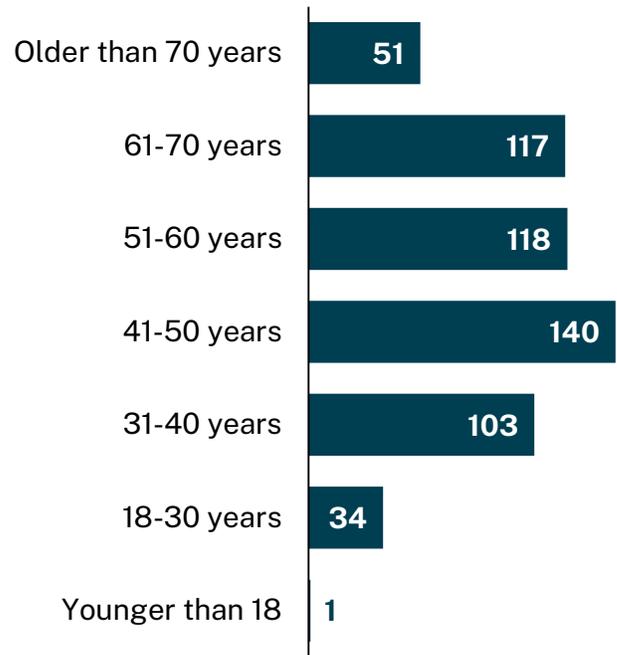


FIGURE 34 | Client survey respondents’ race/ethnicity (respondents could select all that applied) (n=781)

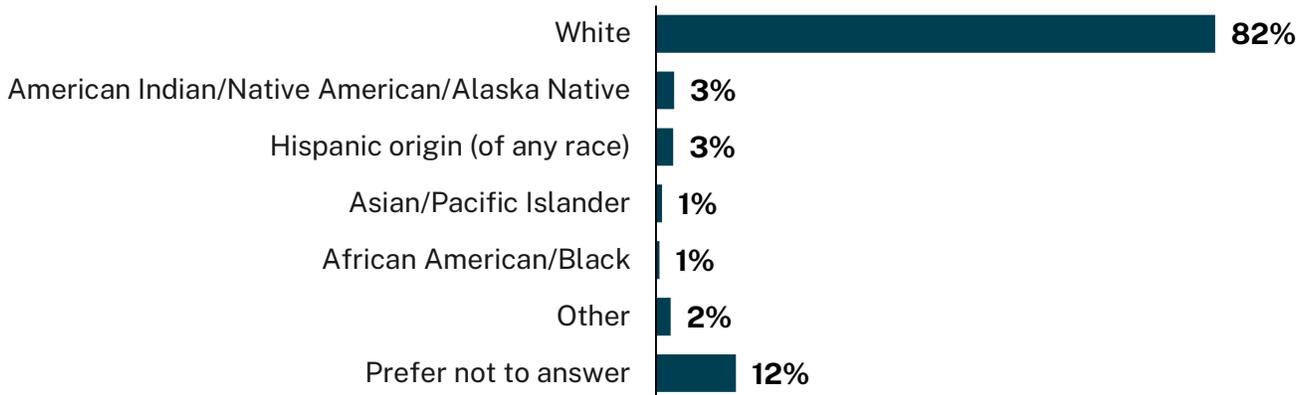


FIGURE 35 | Number of client survey respondents with at least one child in their household age 12 or younger (n=831)



Youth program priorities

The survey asked participants to indicate the level of likelihood they or someone else in their household will participate in UI Extension youth development programs in the next five years (Figure 36). Examples of these programs include 4-H animal/plant projects, 4-H afterschool, summer camps, Cloverbuds, Robotics, Food Smart Families, and Shooting Sports. Thirty-seven percent of respondents said they or someone else in their household were very likely to participate in these programs (n=920).

FIGURE 36 | Likelihood respondents or someone else in their household will participate in UI Extension youth development programs in the next five years, number of respondents (n=920)



Those who said they or someone else in their household are either very or somewhat likely to participate in youth development programs (543 respondents, 59%) were then presented with these two questions:

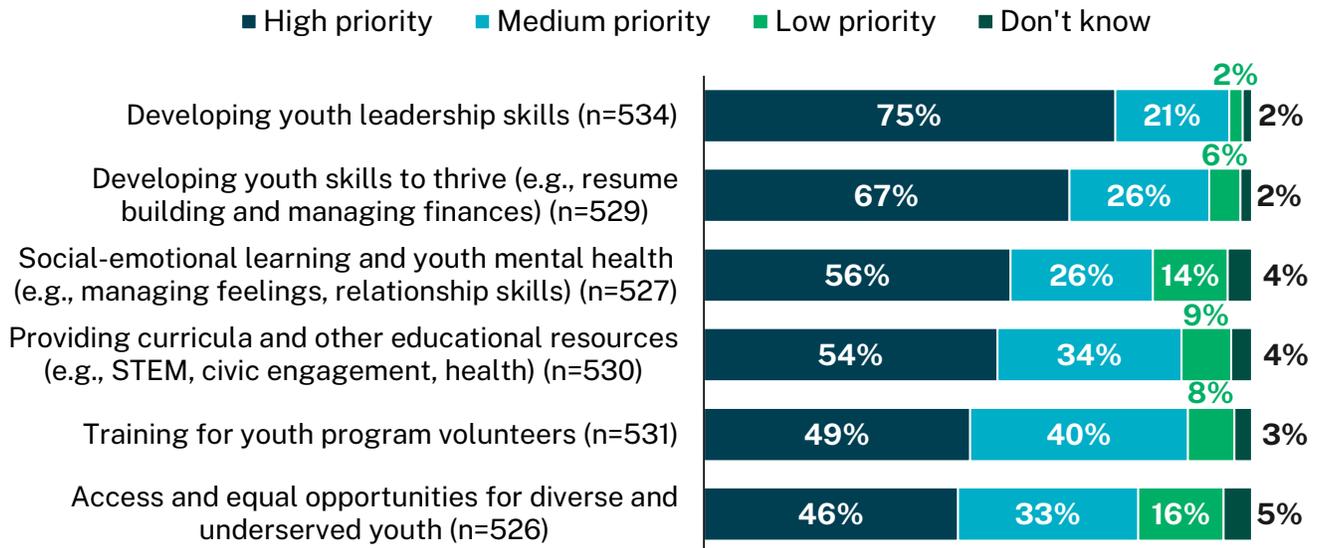
- UI Extension is planning the new youth programs and resources we will offer in the next five years. How much of a priority do you think the following topics should be?
- Are there other youth topics for UI Extension to address in the next five years? If so, please list one or two.

Table 36 summarizes the results of the open-ended question and Figure 37 presents clients' priority ranking for the pre-determined youth development topics. Developing youth leadership skills and "developing youth skills to thrive (e.g., resume building and managing finances)" stand out as high priorities from the perspective of clients. The most common topics respondents listed in the open-ended question were soft skills, life skills, 4-H and FFA, and career development. Respondents' answers to the open-ended question are available in Appendix D.

TABLE 36 | Summary of client survey respondents' input on "other" youth topic priorities

	N
Soft skills	19
Life skills	18
4-H and FFA	17
Career development	14
Health	10
Home gardening	8
Food preparation	7
Personal finance	6
Agricultural advocacy	6
Postsecondary preparation	5
Natural resource stewardship and conservation	5
Civics	4
Service	3
Entrepreneurship	2
STEM	2
Summer and afterschool programs	1
Early childhood education	1
Art	1

Figure 37 | How much of a priority client survey respondents believe select youth development topics should be for new UI Extension programs and resources, percent of respondents



Agricultural program priorities

The survey asked participants to indicate the level of likelihood they or someone else in their household will participate in UI Extension agricultural programs in the next five years (Figure 38). Examples of these programs include livestock, dairy, cereals, potatoes, sugar beets, pests, hay, and weed management. Forty-four percent said they were very likely to participate in these programs in the next five years (n=910).

Those who said they or someone else in their household are either very or somewhat likely to participate in agricultural programs (676 respondents, 74%) were then presented with these two questions:

- UI Extension is planning the new agricultural programs and resources we will offer in the next five years. How much of a priority do you think the following topics should be?
- Are there other agricultural topics for UI Extension to address in the next five years? If so, please list one or two.

Table 37 summarizes the results of the open-ended question and Figure 39 presents clients' priority ranking for the pre-determined agricultural topics. More than half of respondents identified agricultural land preservation (61%, n=644), identifying and managing pests (58%, n=647), efficient animal production (56%, n=649), and support for new and underserved farmers and ranchers (52%, n=646) as high priorities. Natural resource stewardship and

conservation, raising livestock and animals, farm economic viability, and home gardening and small-acreage food production were the most common topics to emerge in the open-ended responses. Respondents' answers to the open-ended question are available in Appendix D.

FIGURE 38 | Likelihood respondents or someone else in their household will participate in UI Extension agricultural programs in the next five years, number of respondents (n=910)

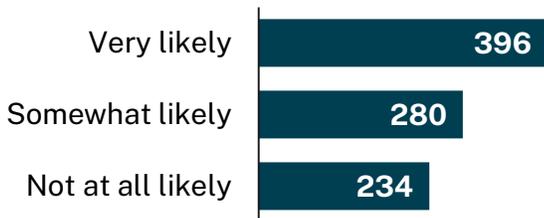
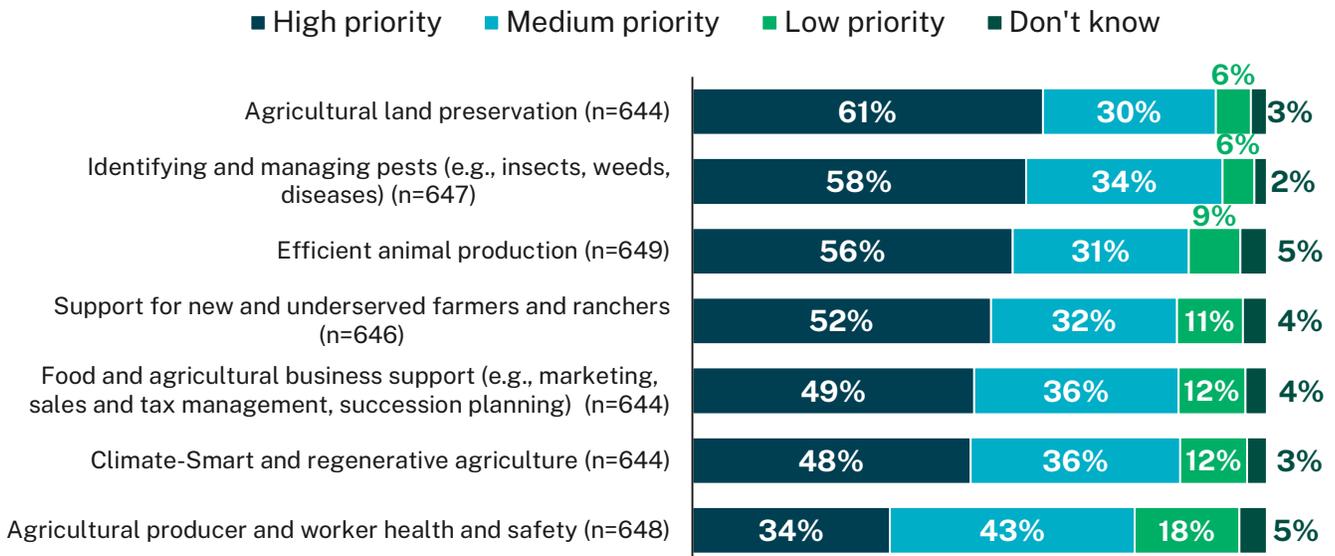


TABLE 37 | Summary of client survey respondents' input on "other" agricultural topic priorities

Topic	N
Natural resource stewardship and conservation	30
Animal agriculture	17
Farm economic viability	12
Home gardening and small-acreage food production	12
Specialty horticulture	9
Crops	8
Organic, non-GMO, and regenerative agriculture	5
Pest control	5
Community food systems	4
Food preservation and processing	3
Forestry	3
Tribal and cultural practices	3
Mental health	2
Soft skills	2

FIGURE 39 | How much of a priority client survey respondents believe select agricultural topics should be for new UI Extension programs and resources, percent of respondents



Horticultural and small farms program priorities

The survey asked participants to indicate the level of likelihood they or someone else in their household will participate in UI Extension horticultural or small farms programs in the next five years (Figure 40). Examples of these programs include Master Gardener and Cultivating Success Sustainable Small Farms Education. Only 25% of respondents said they or someone else in their household are not at all likely to participate in UI Extension horticultural or small farms programs in the next five years (n=879).

Those who said they or someone else in their household are either very or somewhat likely to participate in horticultural or small farms programs (663 respondents, 75%) were then presented with these two questions:

- UI Extension is planning the new horticultural and small farms programs and resources we will offer in the next five years. How much of a priority do you think the following topics should be?
- Are there other horticultural or small farms topics for UI Extension to address in the next five years? If so, please list one or two.

Table 38 summarizes the results of the open-ended question and Figure 41 presents clients' priority ranking for the pre-determined horticultural and small farms topics. Interestingly, only 30% (n=646) of respondents viewed market gardening as a

high-priority topic for new horticultural and small farms programs and resources compared to 67% (n=645) who viewed short-season gardening, 63% (n=651) who viewed identifying and managing pests, and 61% (n=650) who viewed permaculture as high priorities. The most common topics mentioned in response to the open-ended question were water conservation, specialty crops, livestock and animals, and soil management. Respondents' answers to the open-ended question are available in Appendix D.

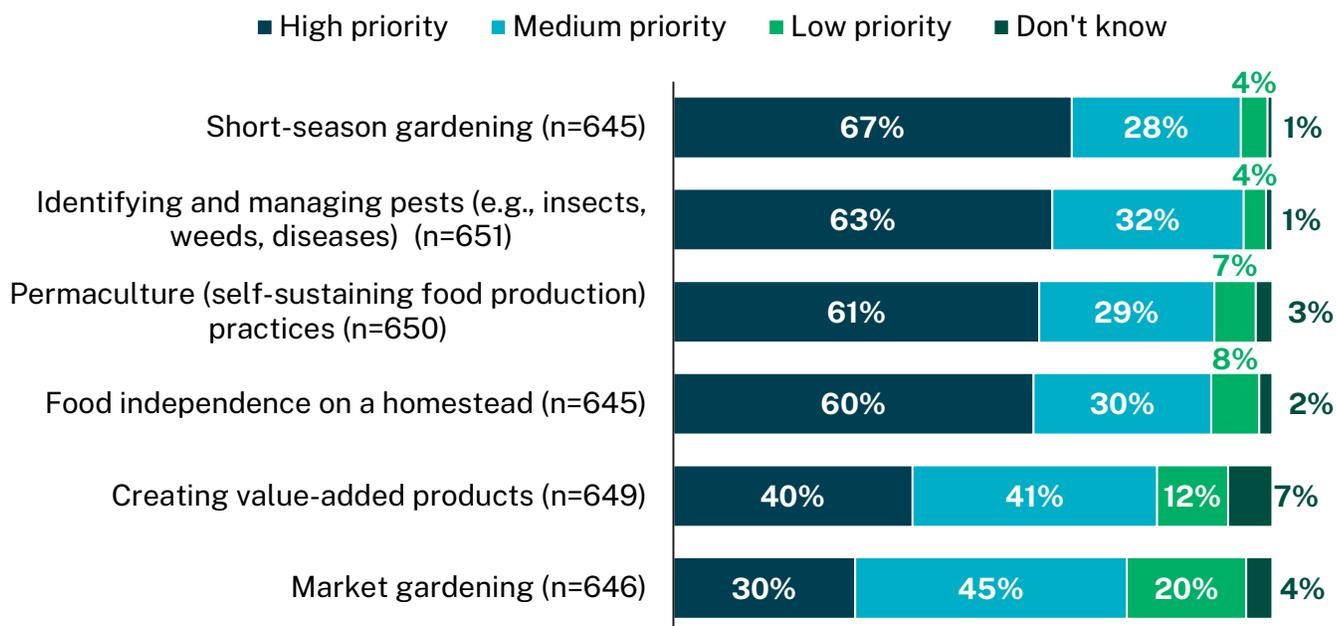
FIGURE 40 | Likelihood respondents or someone else in their household will participate in UI Extension horticultural or small farms programs in the next five years, number of respondents (n=879)



TABLE 38 | Summary of client survey respondents' input on "other" horticultural and small farms topic priorities

	N
Water conservation	16
Specialty crops	15
Animal agriculture	13
Soil management	13
Home gardening and small-acreage food production	12
Organic, non-GMO, and regenerative agriculture	7
Pest control	6
Native pollinators and plants	5
Greenhouses and indoor production	5
Food preservation and processing	4
Economic viability	4
Season extension	4
Landscaping	3
Climate change	3
Forestry	2
Community food systems	2

FIGURE 41 | How much of a priority client survey respondents believe select horticultural and small farms topics should be for new UI Extension programs and resources, percent of respondents



Health and wellness program priorities

The survey asked participants to indicate the level of likelihood they or someone else in their household will participate in UI Extension health and wellness programs in the next five years (Figure 42). Examples of these programs include personal finance, family finance, human health, nutrition, and food safety. Seventeen percent of respondents said they or someone else in their household is very likely to participate in UI Extension health and wellness programs in the next five years and another 47% said they are somewhat likely to participate (n=862).

Those who said they or someone else in their household are either very or somewhat likely to participate in health and wellness programs (552 respondents, 64%) were then presented with these two questions:

- UI Extension is planning the new health and wellness programs and resources we will offer in the next five years. How much of a priority do you think the following topics should be?
- Are there other health and wellness topics for UI Extension programs to address in the next five years? If so, please list one or two.

Table 39 summarizes the results of the open-ended question and Figure 43 presents clients' priority ranking for the pre-determined health and wellness topics. More than half of respondents identified all

the pre-determined health and wellness topics as high priorities for new UI Extension programming; however, access to affordable, healthy food (59% high priority, n=538) and safe food preparation and storage (58% high priority, n=535) were narrowly at the top of the high-priority list. Exercise classes and healthy eating stand out as other topics many respondents identified in the open-ended question responses as priorities for new programs and resources. Respondents' answers to the open-ended question are available in Appendix D.

FIGURE 42 | Likelihood respondents or someone else in their household will participate in UI Extension health and wellness programs in the next five years, number of respondents (n=862)

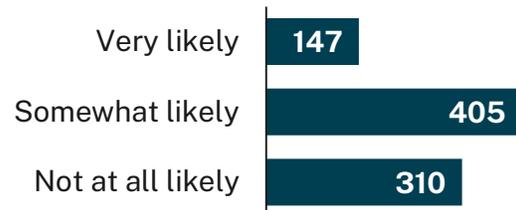
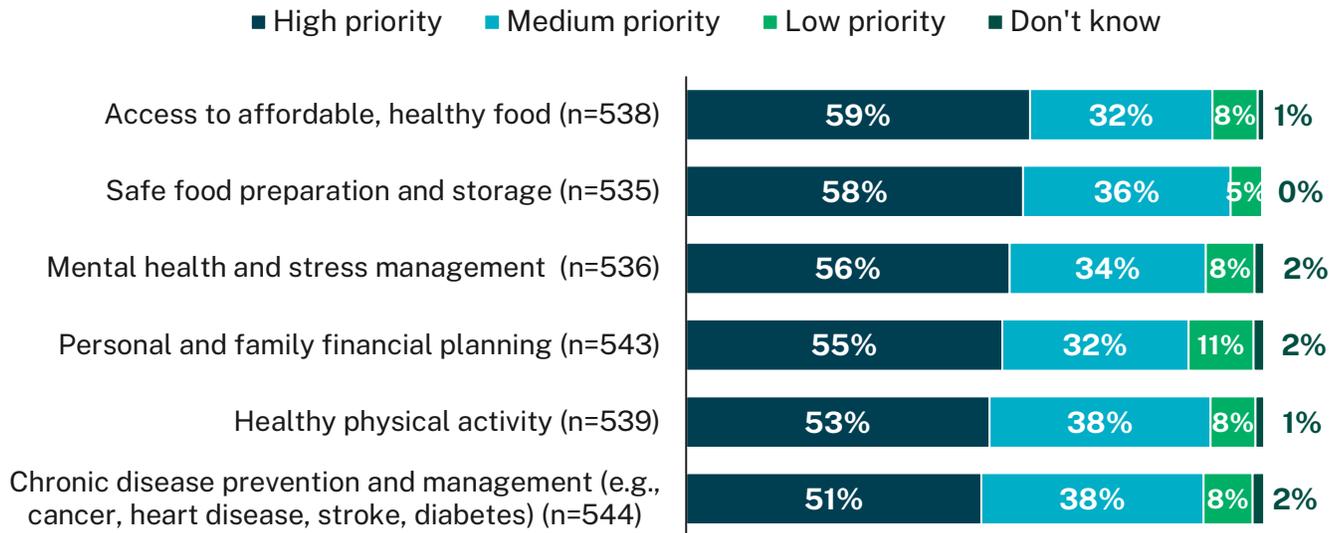


TABLE 39 | Summary of client survey respondents' input on "other" health and wellness topic priorities

	Number
Health programming (general)	16
Exercise classes	9
Healthy eating	8
Personal finance	4
Programs for adults	3
Textiles and sewing	2
Tribal and cultural practices	2
Youth programming	1
Food security	1
Community involvement	1
Career development	1
Animal health	1

FIGURE 43 | How much of a priority client survey respondents believe select health and wellness topics should be for new UI Extension programs and resources, percent of respondents



Forestry and natural resource program priorities

The survey asked participants to indicate the level of likelihood they or someone else in their household will participate in UI Extension forestry and natural resource programs in the next five years (Figure 44). Examples of these programs include natural resource management, Pro-Logger, American Foresters Certified Forester, and Master Forest Stewards. Thirteen percent of respondents said they or someone else in their household are very likely to participate in UI Extension forestry and natural resources programs and another 32% said they are somewhat likely to participate (n=850).

Those who said they or someone else in their household are either very or somewhat likely to participate in forestry and natural resources programs (383

respondents, 45%) were then presented with these two questions:

- UI Extension is planning the new forestry and natural resource programs and resources we will offer in the next five years. How much of a priority do you think the following topics should be?
- Are there other forestry and natural resource topics for UI Extension to address in the next five years? If so, please list one or two.

Figure 45 presents clients' priority ranking for the pre-determined forestry and natural resources topics, and Table 40 summarizes the results of the open-ended question. The most notable and top-three highest priorities among the pre-determined topics were reducing wildfire risks (71% identified this as a high priority, n=384), reducing the impacts of invasive species on forests and rangelands (69% high priority, n=385), and

managing forests and rangelands for improved health and growth (66% high priority, n=386). Economic viability, forest management, and diseases and pests were the most common topics participants listed in the open-ended question responses. Respondents' answers to the open-ended question are available in Appendix D.

FIGURE 44 | Likelihood respondents or someone else in their household will participate in UI Extension forestry and natural resources programs in the next five years, number of respondents (n=850)

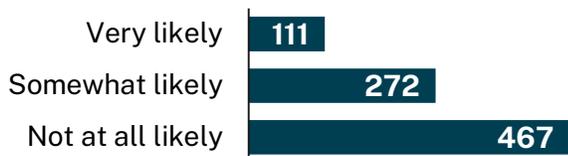
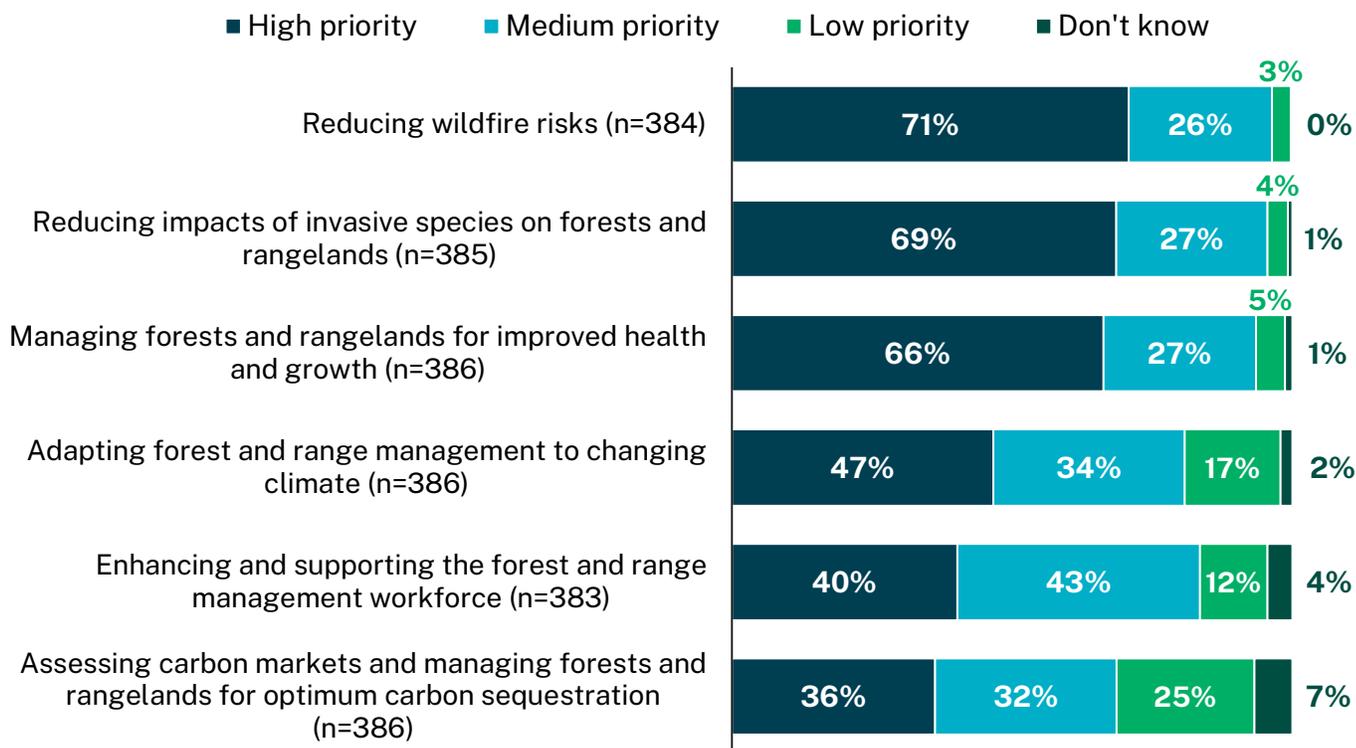


TABLE 40 | Summary of client survey respondents' input on "other" forestry and natural resource topic priorities

Topic	N
Economic viability	12
Forest management	11
Diseases and pests	6
Fire	4
Range issues	4
Natural resources	3
Livestock	2
Native plants and pollinators	2
Regulations	2
Tree identification and uses	2
Technology	1

FIGURE 45 | How much of a priority client survey respondents believe select forestry and natural resource topics should be for new UI Extension programs and resources, percent of respondents



Water program priorities

The survey asked participants to indicate the level of likelihood they or someone else in their household will participate in UI Extension water programs in the next five years (Figure 46). Examples of these programs include IDAH2O, stormwater and erosion education, and irrigation. Sixteen percent and 44% of respondents, respectively, said they or someone else in their household are very or somewhat likely to participate in UI Extension water programs in the next five years (n=841). A considerable number of respondents said they are somewhat likely to participate, suggesting perhaps an untapped audience among current UI Extension clients for these programs.

Those who said they or someone else in their household are either very or somewhat likely to participate in water programs (503 respondents, 60%) were then presented with these two questions:

- UI Extension is planning the new water programs and resources we will offer in the next five years. How much of a priority do you think the following topics should be?
- Are there other water topics for UI Extension to address in the next five years? If so, please list one or two.

Figure 47 presents clients' priority ranking for the pre-determined water topics, and Table 41 summarizes the results of the open-ended question. Only 33% identified urban stormwater management as a high priority

for new UI Extension programming (n=505). In contrast, 76% of respondents viewed water use efficiency as a high priority (n=500). Drinking water quality, water supply, and surface and groundwater quality were also viewed as high priorities to 60% or more of respondents. Water conservation, irrigation, and water quality were the most common topics respondents wrote in response to the open-ended question. Respondents' answers to the open-ended question are available in Appendix D.

FIGURE 46 | Likelihood respondents or someone else in their household will participate in UI Extension water programs in the next five years, number of respondents (n=841)

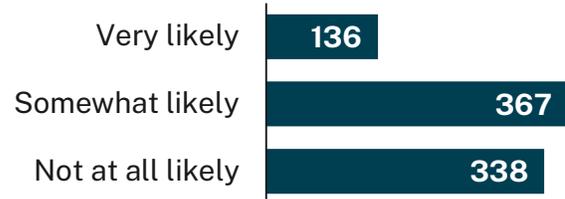
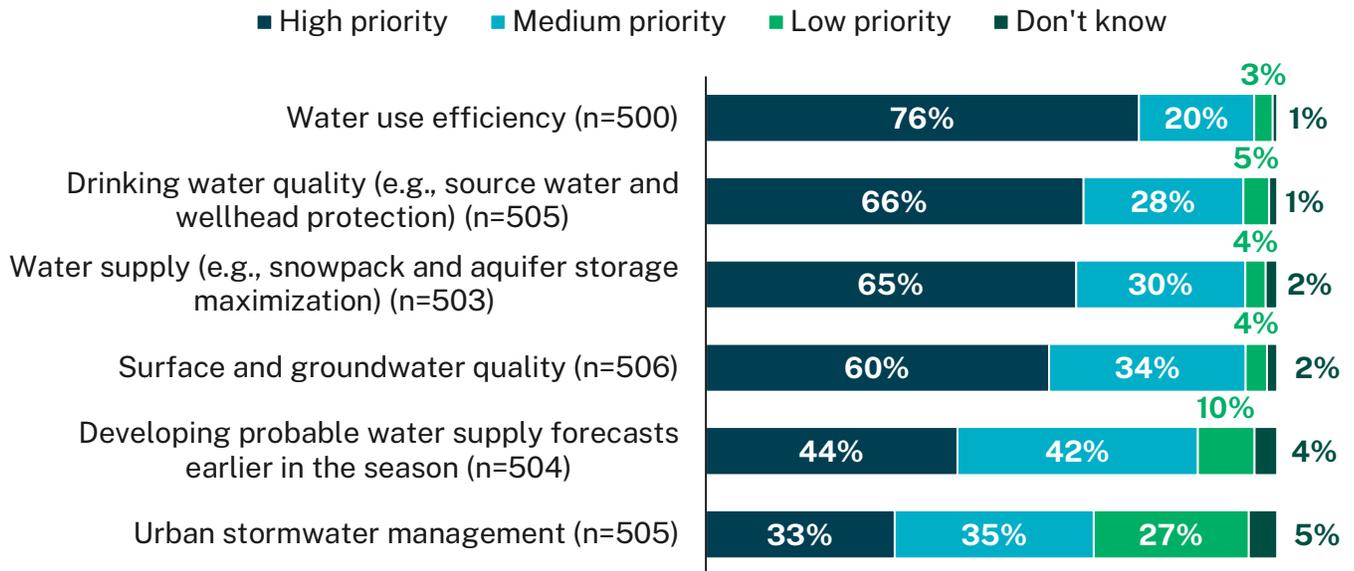


TABLE 41 | Summary of client survey respondents' input on "other" water topic priorities

	N
Water conservation	15
Irrigation	11
Water quality	10
Water-wise landscaping	6
Storage	6
Water rights	6
Regulations and policy	5
Technology and machinery	4
Prioritize agriculture	3
Funding opportunities	2

FIGURE 47 | How much of a priority client survey respondents believe select water topics should be for new UI Extension programs and resources, percent of respondents



Community development program priorities

The survey asked participants to indicate the level of likelihood they or someone else in their household will participate in UI Extension community development programs in the next five years (Figure 48). Examples of these programs include leadership training and community planning. While only 13% said they or someone else in their household are very likely to participate in UI Extension community development programs in the next five years, another 42% said they are somewhat likely, which is similar to the proportion who said they are not at all likely (45%) (n=836). The large number of respondents (352) who said they or someone else in their household are somewhat likely to participate may suggest there are existing

UI Extension clients who have not yet participated in these types of programs that could be interested in doing so given the opportunity.

Those who said they or someone else in their household are either very or somewhat likely to participate in community development programs (457 respondents, 55%) were then presented with these two questions:

- UI Extension is planning the new community development programs and resources we will offer in the next five years. How much of a priority do you think the following topics should be?
- Are there other community development topics for UI Extension to address in the next five years? If so, please list one or two.

Table 42 summarizes the results of the open-ended question and Figure 49 presents clients' priority ranking for the pre-determined community development topics. Strengthening food systems was the topic that the largest proportion of respondents (61%, n=459) identified as a high priority for new UI Extension programming. While 51% (n=459) saw entrepreneurship and business skills as a high-priority topic for new UI Extension programming, only 29% (n=455) viewed remote working and e-commerce as a high-priority topic. Fostering relationships, communication, and business development were the most frequently mentioned topics in respondents' answers to the open-ended question. Respondents' answers to the open-ended question are available in Appendix D.

FIGURE 48 | Likelihood respondents or someone else in their household will participate in UI Extension community development programs in the next five years, number of respondents (n=836)

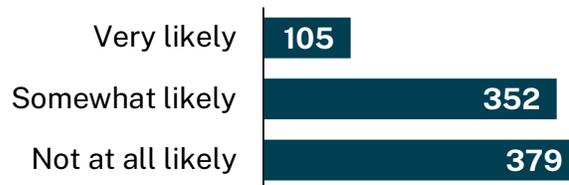
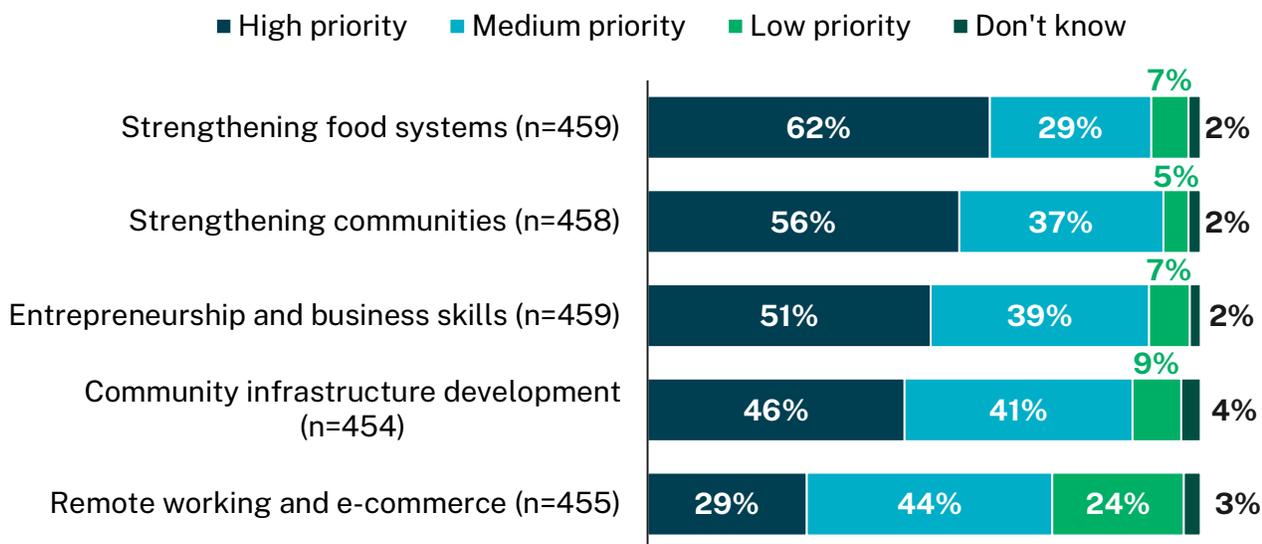


TABLE 42 | Summary of client survey respondents' input on "other" community development topic priorities

	N
Fostering relationships	8
Communication	6
Business development	5
Agriculture	4
Population growth	4
Working landscapes and recreation	3
Infrastructure	3
Workforce development	2

FIGURE 49 | How much of a priority client survey respondents believe select community development topics should be for new UI Extension programs and resources, percent of respondents



Challenges to participating in UI Extension programs

Client survey respondents indicated the extent to which select factors challenge their ability to participate in UI Extension programs (Figure 50). Timing of programs, travel distance to programs, and knowledge of programs were the top-three challenges identified in terms of the proportion of respondents that experience them and the level of challenge they present. Few respondents identified language as a barrier. However, only three respondents opted to take the survey in Spanish, so this issue may simply not be a common barrier

among this convenience sample of current UI Extension clients, the vast majority of whom speak English as their primary language.

Respondents also had the opportunity to write in “other” challenges that affect their ability to participate in UI Extension programs. The most common challenges participants wrote in were program delivery (i.e., the programs they are interested in are either offered in-person or online and they prefer the opposite form of delivery), the available programming is not applicable to them, they are unaware of available programs and resources, and they do not have time to participate (Table 43).

FIGURE 50 | Extent to which select factors challenge client survey respondents’ ability to participate in UI Extension programs, percent of respondents

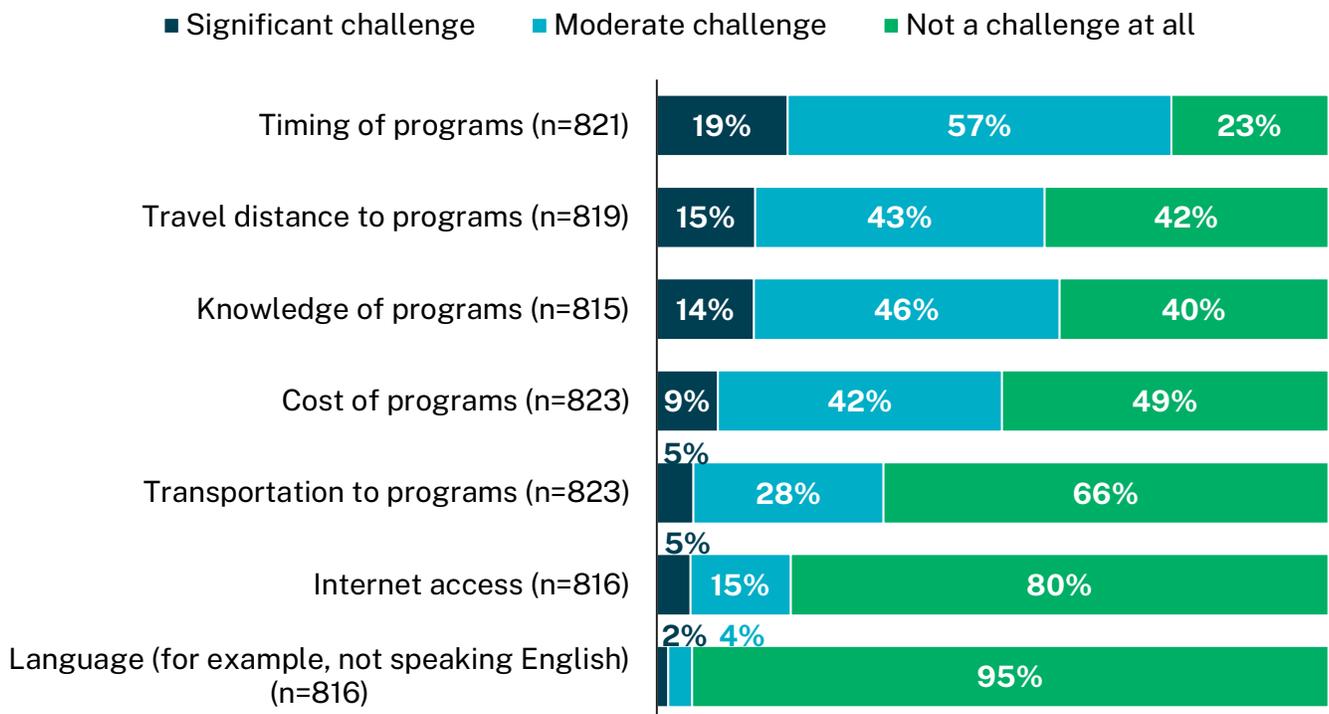
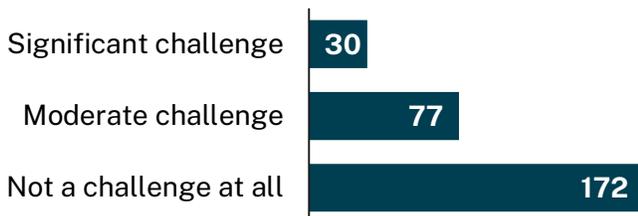


TABLE 43 | Summary of client survey respondents’ “other” challenges

	N
Program delivery (preference for either in-person or online offerings)	20
Programming not applicable	19
Awareness	17
Time	15
Accessibility	10
Politics	9
Age	5
Transportation	3
Health	2
Education	1

The client survey respondents who indicated they have at least one child in their household age 12 or younger also had the opportunity to share the extent to which the need for child care is a challenge to participating in UI Extension programs (Figure 51). Eleven percent said the need for child care is a significant challenge, and another 28% said it is a moderate challenge (n=279).

FIGURE 51 | Extent to which needing child care challenges client survey respondents’ ability to participate in UI Extension programs, number of respondents (who have children age 12 and younger) (n=279)



Interest in learning through select formats

The client survey explored respondents’ level of interest in learning through different formats and course durations. Figure 52 summarizes respondents’ level of interest in select in-person, audio, and print formats while Figure 53 summarizes their level of interest in learning through select hybrid and web-based formats. The greatest proportions of client survey respondents are most interested in in-person formats followed by hybrid in-person and online formats. At the same time, more than half of survey respondents said they were at least somewhat interested in all of the formats we asked them about on the survey, suggesting there are audiences for multiple and different approaches. DVD/Blue-Ray videos and social media stand out as two types of outreach where large numbers of respondents said they are not at all interested in the format.

Figure 54 reports respondents’ level of interest in courses lasting from 1 to 4 hours to those spread out over 3 to 4 months. While more than 60% of respondents said they are at least somewhat interested in all course durations we asked about, results show stronger interest in courses requiring smaller time commitments.

FIGURE 52 | Client survey respondents' level of interest in learning through select in-person, print, and other (non-web-based) formats, percent of respondents

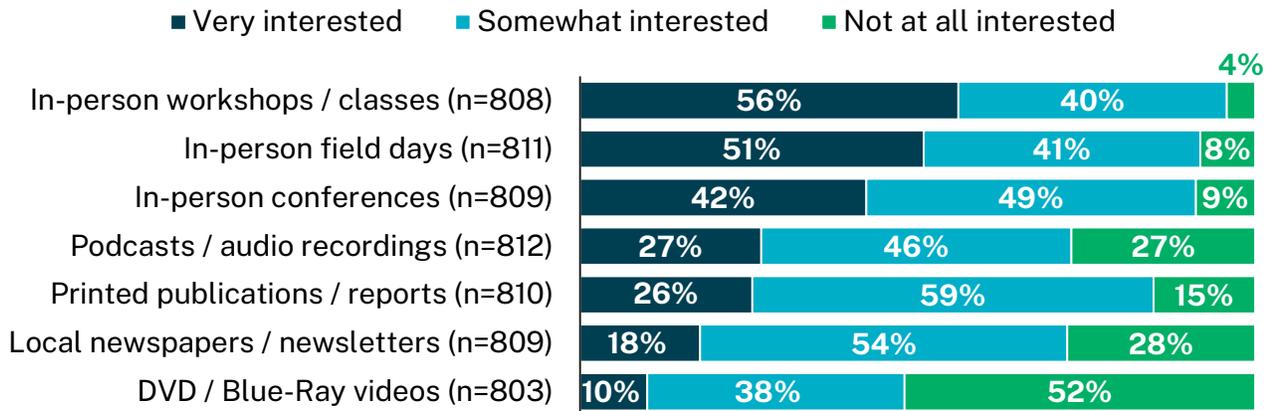


FIGURE 531 | Client survey respondents' level of interest in learning through select hybrid and web-based formats, percent of respondents

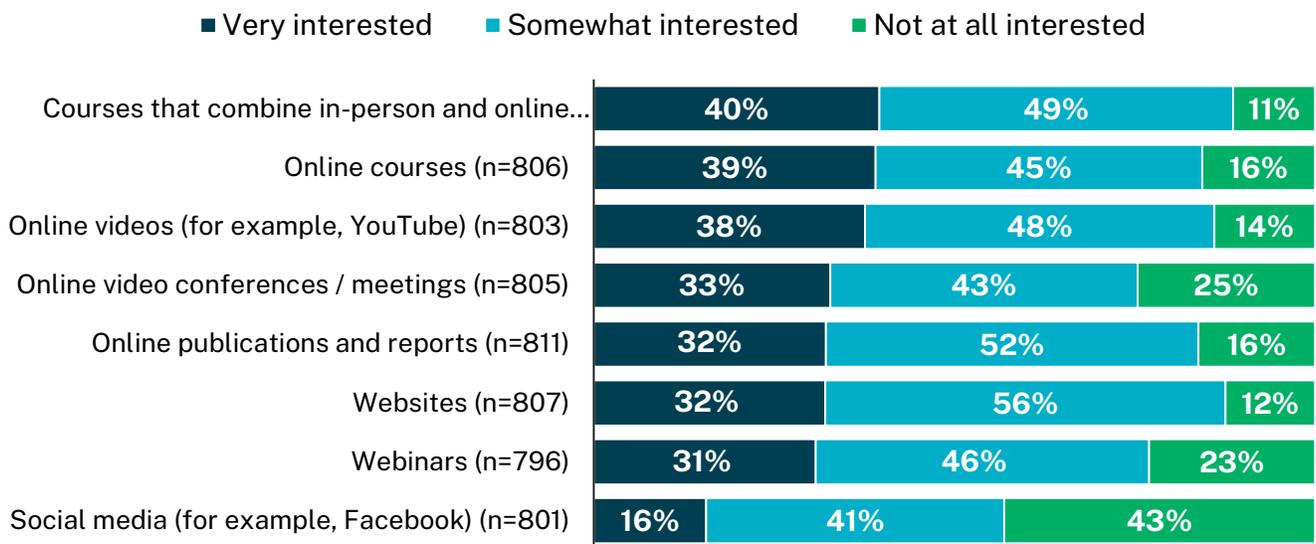
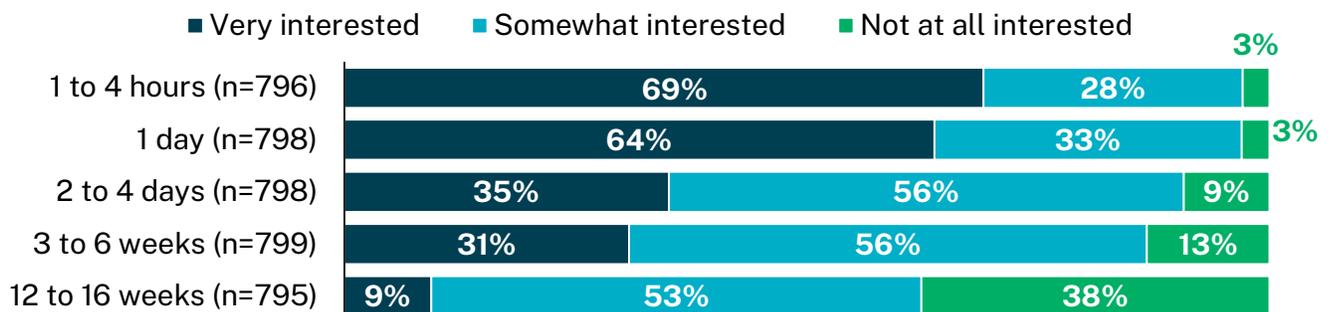


FIGURE 54 | Client survey respondents' level of interest in participating in courses spread out over select durations, percent of respondents



Appendix A: County commissioner answers to open-ended question

County commissioners had the opportunity to answer the question, “From your perspective, what issues are emerging in your county that UI Extension could work to address in the next five years? Please describe up to three issues.” The following is a list of their unedited responses:

- » 1. An increased population desiring sustainable home production and storage knowledge. 2. This same population will need more knowledge in successfully working from home. 3. Succession planning for retiring farmers and their farming operations. 4. Looking for and education of new and innovative ways to farm.
- » 1. Help keep farming viable in an era of high land values and pressure to develop/subdivide. 2. Expand organic farming and minimize/discourage use of chemicals and pesticides.
- » 1. The loss of farmland, aging farmer demographic, and the difficulties faced by young people who wish to get started farming (land expense, etc.). 2. Continuing education on where food comes from and how much food is wasted.
- » 1. Water, hydrology & aquifer level reporting 2. 4-H program Expansion to areas outside of Livestock & Horse such as drone operations and robotics in line with STEM programs
- 3. Grains, horticulture, weed control reporting and management on a community level
- » 1-Agriculture advances in economics, plant health and crop generalities, gain trust of the ag producers so they once again rely confidently on UI extension 2- Continue strengthening youth, keeping them grounded in life 3-Train commissioners in the workings of County Gov /UI admin
- » Community development. How do we retain and recruit young people to work and live in Idaho as we adjust to our success.
- » Continuous education for local farmers / ranchers regarding sustaining multi-generational farms / ranches.
- » Dairy's merging together and wanting to combine animals at one location to help be more efficient. The growth of energy producing opportunities. If dairies could be combined and then the unused CAFO location could be converted to farm ground.
- » Drought
- » Environmental capacity (e.g., clean drinking water availability) of the area to accept new growth, focus on entrepreneurship for young people

- » Good work ethic - Leadership - Conservative principles
- » Grass hay nutrition, youth programs, technology for growing specialty crops.
- » Grass hoppers are a challenge for our county. Our Extension educator is working to expand our 4H programs which is welcomed by our youth.
- » Our agricultural community values the educational classes that are being taught.
- » I have none at this time
- » I would like to see our extension office, which specializes in family and consumer finance, reach out to and offer services to the folks most in need of this service: Folks in the recovery community, folks in the Asset Limited Income Constrained Population (the working poor that cannot afford to attend a financial conference) and folks that are re-entering society from the prison population.
- » I would like to see other extension offices, with other areas of expertise, offer the same in our county. For example, we have no local office to assist folks in food preparation or preservation.
- » Improved support for local fair events.
- » Irrigation water, input cost on crops, continued expansion of new 4h programs for kids
- » Lack of Water wildfires Mormon crickets
- » New agent, sustainable water, workforce
- » New extension agent of course, I would love to see mini small farm courses, for cottage industries etc.
- » People are overburdened by property taxes. If UI Extension lessened the burden for property taxes (charge fees/gather donations) that would help ease the burden and keep people from having to sell their homes due to taxes.
- » People doing hobby farms.
- » Both parents working, busy lifestyles.
- » People's different eating habits
- » Increased enrollment in 4h.
- » Population explosion in our county.....Affordable housing.....keeping infrastructure up with growth
- » Quality students staying in the area for jobs that require degrees or technical skills such as Business, nursing, heavy equipment operators and law enforcement. Focus on education vs social causes. Business are reporting back a lack of education in core curriculum such as math, reading and writing.

- » Reduce burden on taxpayers by reducing spending for all government agencies, including UI.
- » Eliminate unnecessary or redundant government programs.
- » Oppose mandates restricting the freedoms of Idahoans.
- » Support in knowledge of small acreage agriculture, Gardening classes, Youth programs.
- » Teaching kids basic everyday skills to survive without technology...cooking, exercising, gardening, budgeting (checkbook balancing, counting back change), basic manners in a social/business environment.
- » Technical education! (welding, wood shop, drafting, auto repair etc) in the public schools for kids to stay home and be productive in our community and work if they cant afford college!
- » Also get (teach) rid of the entitlement BS at the grade school level that has crept into our society because of liberal stupidity!
- » The loss of agricultural land due to Urban expansion, working with county to help with food security, federal regulations
- » The programs are running great with high participation. We are currently hiring an Associate Extension Educator.
- » Urban horticulture, water resource and usage, career development through 4-H
- » Vocation training
- » Voles...they are eating us out of house and home....
- » Water quality and quantity, and conservation practices for rural and residential users.
- » We need an agent for Bear Lake so Caribou county can retain our agent full time.
- » Workforce challenges- housing, daycare, training. Sustainability

Appendix B: Listening session guide

Listening Session Questions, November 2022

UI Extension Mission:

University of Idaho Extension improves people's lives by engaging the University and our communities through research based education.

Our areas of expertise are Agriculture, Community Development, Family and Consumer Sciences, Natural Resources and Youth Development

Goal: to gain an understanding of the priority needs of individuals and communities and identify how Extension can meet those needs.

Objectives:

- **To learn what you, your family or your community value**
- **To discover ways in which Extension can partner with you to help you accomplish your short and long term family and community goals**
- **To identify preferred methods of receiving information and engaging with Extension**
- **To understand how Extension has made an impact on you, your family and/ or your community**

Small Group Discussion Questions

- 1. How has Extension benefited you, your family, or your community?**
- 2. What matters in your life? (Personal reflection, write it down)
Once you have written it down, share with your neighbor: Hopes, dreams, aspirations. Then report to the small group.**
- 3. How does or could Extension programs (within the framework of our mission) help you reach your goals or enhance what matters?**
- 4. What are the most important issues UI Extension programs should address in the next few years?**
 - a. What workforce skills will be the most important for Idaho adults and youth in the next decade?**

- b. How should the 4-H Youth Development program reach the most vulnerable young people and the communities in which they live throughout Idaho?**
- 5. Are there any barriers for you or for the people in your county to participating in UI Extension programs?**

If there are, what are they? Do you have solutions to address these barriers?

For the remaining questions, participants will respond to a QR Code so we can capture individual responses. We will have some paper copies for people who do not have a smart phone.

If time allows:

How can UI Extension best market our programs, services, and opportunities in your county?

Is there anything else you would like to say?

Appendix C: 2023 UI Extension assessment client survey

Q1. How likely are you or someone else in your household to participate in UI Extension youth development programs in the next five years? *Some examples of these programs include 4-H animal/plant projects, 4-H afterschool, summer camps, Cloverbuds, Robotics, Food Smart Families, Shooting Sports, and other programs.*

- Not at all likely → *skips to Q4*
- Somewhat likely → *continues to Q2*
- Very likely → *continues to Q2*

Q2. UI Extension is planning the new youth programs and resources we will offer in the next five years. How much of a priority do you think the following topics should be?

	Low priority	Medium priority	High priority	Don't know
Developing youth skills to thrive (e.g., resume building and managing finances)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Developing youth leadership skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social-emotional learning and youth mental health (e.g., managing feelings, relationship skills)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Access and equal opportunities for diverse and underserved youth	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing curricula and other educational resources (e.g., STEM, civic engagement, health)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Training for youth program volunteers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q3. Are there other youth topics for UI Extension to address in the next five years? If so, please list one or two:

Q4. How likely are you or someone else in your household to participate in UI Extension agricultural programs in the next five years? *Some examples of these programs include livestock, dairy, cereals, potatoes, sugar beets, pests, hay, weed management, and other programs.*

- Not at all likely → *skips to Q7*
- Somewhat likely → *continues to Q5*
- Very likely → *continues to Q5*

Q5. UI Extension is planning the new agricultural programs and resources we will offer in the next five years. How much of a priority do you think the following topics should be?

	Low priority	Medium priority	High priority	Don't know
Identifying and managing pests (e.g., insects, weeds, diseases)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agricultural producer and worker health and safety	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Climate-Smart and regenerative agriculture	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Food and agricultural business support (e.g., marketing, sales and tax management, succession planning)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agricultural land preservation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support for new and underserved farmers and ranchers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Efficient animal production	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q6. Are there other agricultural topics for UI Extension to address in the next five years? If so, please list one or two:

Q7. How likely are you or someone else in your household to participate in UI Extension horticultural or small farms programs in the next five years? *Some examples of these programs include Master Gardener, Cultivating Success Sustainable Small Farms Education, and other programs.*

- Not at all likely → *skips to Q10*
- Somewhat likely → *continues to Q8*
- Very likely → *continues to Q8*

Q8. UI Extension is planning the new horticultural and small farms programs and resources we will offer in the next five years. How much of a priority do you think the following topics should be?

	Low priority	Medium priority	High priority	Don't know
Identifying and managing pests (e.g., insects, weeds, diseases)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Creating value-added products	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Short-season gardening	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Market gardening	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Food independence on a homestead	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Permaculture (self-sustaining food production) practices	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q9. Are there other horticultural or small farms topics for UI Extension to address in the next five years? If so, please list one or two:

Q10. How likely are you or someone else in your household to participate in UI Extension health and wellness programs in the next five years? *Some examples of these programs include personal finance, family finance, human health, nutrition, food safety, and other programs.*

- Not at all likely → *skips to Q13*
- Somewhat likely → *continues to Q11*
- Very likely → *continues to Q11*

Q11. UI Extension is planning the new health and wellness programs and resources we will offer in the next five years. How much of a priority do you think the following topics should be?

	Low priority	Medium priority	High priority	Don't know
Access to affordable, healthy food	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chronic disease prevention and management (e.g., cancer, heart disease, stroke, diabetes)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mental health and stress management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Safe food preparation and storage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Healthy physical activity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Personal and family financial planning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q12. Are there other health and wellness topics for UI Extension programs to address in the next five years? If so, please list one or two:

Q13. How likely are you or someone else in your household to participate in UI Extension forestry and natural resources programs in the next five years? *Some examples of these programs include natural resource management, Pro-Logger, American Foresters Certified Forester, Master Forest Stewards, and other programs.*

- Not at all likely → *skips to Q16*
- Somewhat likely → *continues to Q14*
- Very likely → *continues to Q14*

Q14. UI Extension is planning the new forestry and natural resource programs and resources we will offer in the next five years. How much of a priority do you think the following topics should be?

	Low priority	Medium priority	High priority	Don't know
Reducing wildfire risks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reducing impacts of invasive species on forests and rangelands	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adapting forest and range management to changing climate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Enhancing and supporting the forest and range management workforce	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Managing forests and rangelands for improved health and growth	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assessing carbon markets and managing forests and rangelands for optimum carbon sequestration	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q15. Are there other forestry and natural resource topics for UI Extension to address in the next five years? If so, please list one or two:

Q16. How likely are you or someone else in your household to participate in UI Extension water programs in the next five years? *Some examples of these programs include IDAH2O, stormwater and erosion education, irrigation, and other programs.*

- Not at all likely → *skips to Q19*
- Somewhat likely → *continues to Q17*
- Very likely → *continues to Q17*

Q17. UI Extension is planning the new water programs and resources we will offer in the next five years. How much of a priority do you think the following topics should be?

	Low priority	Medium priority	High priority	Don't know
Surface and groundwater quality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drinking water quality (e.g., source water and wellhead protection)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water supply (e.g., snowpack and aquifer storage maximization)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water use efficiency	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Developing probable water supply forecasts earlier in the season	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Urban stormwater management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q18. Are there other water topics for UI Extension to address in the next five years? If so, please list one or two:

Q19. How likely are you or someone else in your household to participate in UI Extension community development programs in the next five years? *Some examples of these programs include leadership training, community planning, and other programs.*

- Not at all likely → *skips to Q22*
- Somewhat likely → *continues to Q20*
- Very likely → *continues to Q20*

Q20. UI Extension is planning the new community development programs and resources we will offer in the next five years. How much of a priority do you think the following topics should be?

	Low priority	Medium priority	High priority	Don't know
Strengthening communities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Entrepreneurship and business skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Remote working and e-commerce	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community infrastructure development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Strengthening food systems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q21. Are there other community development topics for UI Extension programs to address in the next five years? If so, please list one or two:

Q22. To what extent, if at all, do the following factors challenge your ability to participate in UI Extension programs?

	Not a challenge at all	Moderate challenge	Significant challenge
Cost of programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transportation to programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Travel distance to programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Timing of programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Internet access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Language (for example, not speaking English)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Knowledge of programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other—please specify:	_____		

Q23. Do you have at least one child in your household age 12 or younger?

- Yes → *continues to Q24*
- No → *Skips to Q25*

Q24. To what extent, if at all, does needing child care challenge your ability to participate in UI Extension programs?

- Not a challenge at all
- Moderate challenge
- Significant challenge

The next group of questions will help us understand the formats (for example, online, print, and other media) we can use to best serve our clientele.

Q25. How interested are you in learning through the following formats?

	Not at all interested	Somewhat interested	Very interested
In-person conferences	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In-person field days	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In-person workshops / classes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
DVD / Blue-Ray videos	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Printed publications / reports	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Podcasts / audio recordings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Local newspapers / newsletters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q26. How interested are you in learning through the following online formats?

	Not at all interested	Somewhat interested	Very interested
Online courses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Online publications and reports	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Online video conferences / meetings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Online videos (for example, YouTube)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social media (for example, Facebook)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Webinars	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Websites	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Courses that combine in-person and online formats	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q27. How interested are you, if at all, in participating in courses spread out over 12 to 16 weeks?

- Not at all interested
- Somewhat interested
- Very interested

Q28. How interested are you, if at all, in participating in courses spread out over 3 to 6 weeks?

- Not at all interested
- Somewhat interested
- Very interested

Q29. How interested are you, if at all, in participating in courses spread out over 2 to 4 days?

- Not at all interested
- Somewhat interested
- Very interested

Q30. How interested are you, if at all, in participating in courses lasting one day?

- Not at all interested
- Somewhat interested
- Very interested

Q31. How interested are you, if at all, in participating in courses lasting 1 to 4 hours?

- Not at all interested
- Somewhat interested
- Very interested

Q32. In what county do you live?

_____ Name of county

Q33. What is your zip code?

_____ Zip code

Q34. Do you work in any of the following sectors or industries? *Please select all that apply.*

- Agribusiness
- Education/youth development
- Farming/ranching
- Food processing
- Forestry/natural resources
- Economic development
- Government
- Healthcare/health services
- Nonprofit/non-government organization
- Other—please specify: _____

Q35. In what year were you born?

_____ Year of birth

Q36. How do you identify your race/ethnicity? *Please select all that apply.*

- White
- Hispanic origin (of any race)
- American Indian/Native American/Alaska Native
- African American/Black
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Other: _____
- Prefer not to answer

Q37. Do you have any additional comments?

Appendix D: Client survey answers to open-ended program priority questions

Clients had the opportunity to list one or two topics they believe UI Extension should address in the next five years. The following appendix provides their responses by program area in direct quotes.

Youth topics

- » Being good stewards of our lands and growing your own foods
- » Better support for the children in 4h
- » Budgeting, personal finance, how to start/run a business.
- » Career opportunities in ag
- » Career selection and development a priority post Covid definite necessity
- » Careers exploration
- » Citizenship/Understanding Our Government = Who-What-When-Where-Why Of: Constitution, Bill of Rights, Patriotism, 3 branches of Gov't, Exceptionalism of USA, - Definitions of: Republic, Democracy, democracy, Capitalism, Fascism, Marxism - History of Immigration - How a Bill Becomes a Law
- » College applications, applying for scholarships
- » Community service, collaboration skills
- » Construction, Electrician careers The Trades
- » cooking and gardening classes for youth
- » Cooking, sewing
- » dairy judging teams
- » Developing community service/civic engagement, Developing personal responsibility
- » Early Childhood Education (0-5 years)
- » Emotional maturity
- » Energy conservation, soil preservation
- » Extending services to geographically isolated areas (elk river is 53 miles from Moscow and makes getting the youth to "events" difficult)
- » Field dressing and processing of game animals.
- » gardening or creating a community garden, STEM & STEAM,
- » Get back to teaching kids about Livestock. You have moved towards STEM and its seems as though you don't care about the animal projects.
- » Getting leaders that lead by example and not adjust weights and mess with the scales.
- » Getting more youth involved in the Idaho 4-H State Dairy Judging Contest and dairy fitting clinics.
- » Hands on, real world experience
- » Hard work and completing assigned tasks on time.

- » Health Education, Healthy Eating,
- » Healthy living, college readiness
- » Holistic management
- » Home and life skills. (Cooking for yourself, budgeting, vehicle maintenance)
- » Home ec style, skills for tweens to teen to adults, nature skills
- » how are an honest 4H....right now parents are paying outrageous prices for the animals, what happen to Wilber, you teach them to raise animals for the experience not the big \$\$
- » How to prepare them for what's after high school. Job shadowing, finance how to apply for jobs, rental, how to use bus schedules. All things to prepare them to be on their own
- » How to set goals and follow through to completion. And to being responsible for something, responsibility
- » I feel all of these are important, but they need to know how to deliver. Take initiative!
- » Idaho first and conservative studies. At the Payette County Fair students should allowed to have a market animal for sale in FFA & a market animal for sale in 4-H as well - why not?
- » Idaho focused curriculum for 4-H, new projects especially for teens
- » importance of ag and range in Idaho
- » Instead of so much emphasis on leadership, there is a need for responsibility and accountability
- » Instilling the ideas that some menial jobs are good for kids no matter their expected goals
- » jobs, economics taxes --knowledge of
- » Keeping things neutral by not focusing or promoting a sexuality, make the 4h program more about doing and less bookwork/paperwork.
- » land and water-based experiences that are accessible for all
- » Leadership
- » Life skills
- » life skills - balancing a check book, math for everyday life. Maybe an introduction to the stock market and investing.
- » Life skills such as business, financial system, government.
- » Life sports during summer. Long ago you had a student/s for a few years and they organized sign up programs for twice weekly, or daily for two week (and then again)....in hockey (in line skates) basketball, tennis, volleyball etc. It was most valuable and supported! Then it went away!!!
- » Livestock Judging
- » Livestock Judging Business management
- » logging and forestry operations and careers
- » Logistics of getting curriculum to youth. Teach 4-H Corridinators where materials are so they can easily get the information to the end user.

- » Many you could do something for young men. You bunch of feminist woke leftist asses.
- » More activities for teens (12-18) More leadership opportunities as the teens teaching skills to the younger kids. Using your adult resources in the valley for speaking, & job mentoring.
- » Motivating young men to have confidence, drive and develop skills to for future employment.
- » national or international student exchanges
- » Need to do a better job of getting information to the youth about all of the leadership and learning opportunities. Over the years we have often learned about these by word of mouth, often missing deadlines for enrollment or learning to late to budget for trips. Ie. KYG, camps, etc.
- » not everyone can become a paid social media influencer, so now what?
- » nutrition education
- » nutrition/cooking
- » Online skills and college readiness
- » Physical activity and healthy living
- » Physical Health
- » Physical Health and well-being. Arts.
- » Produce Cultivation/gardening hacks, bridging the communication gap between science and ag
- » Professional appearance, presentation, public speaking and interview skills.
- » reinforce need to serve others and get minds off themselves, teach need of humans to lead balanced lives including giving to others, nourishing their bodies, edifying their minds, seeking God's help and hope in troubled times, building goals towards a meaningful future, physically working their bodies
- » relationship building- understanding of differences/ bullying prevention education
- » Selecting the right career. Environmental Stewardship.
- » Self Esteem management and awareness
- » Self sufficiency in terms of basic house hold skills
- » self-sufficiency classes- gardening, tanning, soap making, canning, cooking
- » Shooting sports and outdoor education
- » Shooting sports safety
- » Skills in the trades - carpentry, welding, automotive, plumbing, electrical
- » Social development and opportunity (ie. friends)
- » something promoting college education, FFA for kids where it is not available in school
- » Stop fostering the attitude that everyone is a winner, competition is healthy. There are winners and losers at every point in our lives, winning and losing gracefully is a life skill.
- » Study skills, interviewing, School to work
- » Teach kids to be winners, don't give them participation trophies

- » Teach vertical gardening & ag practices for a changing climate. Teach how to grow your own food and how to preserve it.
 - » The people at the office need to get better at calling people back that are wanting their kids to join 4H, to help them get into a 4H club! I know tons of people that have asked to have their kids put in 4H and they never get a call back or never get help in getting them in a club!
 - » The value of working toward goals. Seeing accomplishments and struggles
 - » Trade job introduce or training
 - » Understanding how to make healthy food choices, reading labels,
- ingredients, following their food to meet the farmers.
 - » Understanding the value and opportunities in agriculture.
 - » Update the curriculum for the hecla projects. Many of them have not changed since the 80s. Provide engaging opportunities beyond animals. Most of the current options are boring or has been crafts such as scrapbooking.
 - » Ways to engage with the outdoors
 - » We need to direct some education towards agricultural avenues for kids to follow. Need to educate the school districts & communities as to HOW IMPORTANT Ag Ed is to our communities!

Agricultural topics

- » "Water-Smart" agricultural for our drought-prone, high desert climate
- » 1. Getting away from GMOs and keeping our food production uncontaminated and Organic. 2. The importance of using Organic seed to prevent the spread of GMO pollen. 3. How to market Organic/grass fed/free range so that it is a viable option over standard food production.
- » Absolutely need to focus on regenerative agriculture and get away from the large scale, commodity agricultural based systems. The large scale commodity based systems are a thing of the past. We cannot sustain a world with these types of systems. The reason we are struggling is because we are trying to make a broken system continue to work. Let us focus on real-long term- solutions that bring back the health of our food.
- » Animal health care
- » Arborist, orchard management and production,
- » Backyard orchard/vineyard education, backyard wildlife habitat and certification
- » Be visible in the community where you are at!
- » beekeeping
- » Biochar economic development and marketing

- » biopesticides, fungal growth promotor, measurements of soil carbon
- » Blending of Tribal/cultural practices
- » Canning homegrown/store bought produce and meat
- » Cattle AI breeding class for state certification and personal homestead
- » Chickens and more home options for city folk
- » Climate resiliency and adaptive management to a changing climate
- » Community leadership, political involvement
- » County commissioners should be more favorable toward soil and water conservation practices.
- » crop fertility, crop varieties
- » Dairy farm comes to elk river the kids and families love it
- » Developing collaborative relationships between ag producers, scientists, and fish/wildlife managers and/or restoration folks.
- » developing operational resiliency in farms and ranches
- » Don't know
- » Ecosystem service payments
- » Efficient forage/food production, Efficient/Conservative water usage in agriculture
- » Establishing native species fruit/berry orchards.
- » Farm financial management
- » farming: potato growth development, how to run a business. Form a business model
- » Fishery
- » Food processing facilities and practices, community food systems (farmers market, community gardens
- » Forestry
- » gardening & self sufficiency on small acreages due to the economy and people moving in
- » Gardens for Elders and Youth
- » Greenhouses
- » Helping farmers to find lease ground is a very high priority
- » Helping Idaho counties adopt reasonable grey water regulations - less water for neighborhood lawns, more water for ag. How homeowners can reduce their water use and raise food even in very small areas.
- » Herbal Medicine, Medicinal gardens
- » Holistic management and value add production
- » I don't care for the term "efficient animal production" because many of the efficiencies of production have created overgrazing, over population in pens, increased diseases, etc. Animal production should be focused on humane and reasonable production, with efficiency being a lower priority.
- » I love the Forestry Extension Programs; I have gained all of my forestry understanding from the extension classes science I graduated in the

sciences but not related to forestry. The Idaho Master Forest Stewards program has been a godsend for my small acreage and how to reforest it after the high grading of the previous owner.

- » I think that market animal projects need to be judged and taught more on industry standards. The trend has gone to nearly completely "club animals" that would not likely be sought after by an industry buyer.
- » I would be very interested if you could arrange a class/field day with Kathy Voth (onpasture.com) the "Train your livestock to like and eat problem weeds" lady.
- » Interface organic growers and traditional growers for better relations and understanding.
- » invasive species
- » land conservation
- » Less climate change oriented BS you bunch of brainwashed asshats
- » logging and forestry operations - please provide programs in these areas that are as strong as the others Extension provides.
- » Maintaining farm equipment, cooperative farming practices
- » Maintaining range livestock operations
- » Market garden management, foraging and it's legalities, wetland/sub-irrigation growing.
- » Meat science, judging livestock
- » mental health support
- » mental health, when to know if you should stay in business or exit
- » New crop production info and training to improve producer efficiencies.
- » Non-traditional agricultural products, ie hemp, biomass for energy
- » Offer pesticide certifications on a weekend not always weekdays.
- » Orchard health
- » Organic farming and why gluten in US is an allergy for so many.
- » Organic weed control
- » Planning and maintaining farm infrastructure efficiently.
- » planting small plots of land with native bee and butterfly-friendly plants
- » Poultry and rabbits
- » Predator control on your ranch
- » questioning what you mean as efficient....
- » Range Management/public lands issues/solutions for ranchers
- » Rangeland management
- » Regenerative Agriculture and equivalents thereof are critical to even having a future food supply.
- » Responsible husbandry (not just efficiency) health and wellbeing of animals, heritage breeds.
- » Season extension, seed production
- » Selling the farm
- » Small acreage food production
- » Small dairy farming
- » Small farm production

- » Small farms
- » Small garden farming and season extension
- » small household garden topics
- » Small or women-owned farm management and Local food production/consumption and engaging with Farmer's Markets
- » small scale food production
- » Soil and Hay sampling and the importance of it
- » Soil building, water conservation
- » soil health
- » Soil Health, Fire Wise/Prevention/Risk Reduction, Grazing Management
- » Soil health, orchard management, water management
- » Soil preservation, small farmer fonts!, no till- pros and cons, native species plants and how to get them, best practices for pastures- native grasses.
- » Solar power heating of buildings. Property drainage knowledge/management. Also fire barriers around properties.
- » stay away from telling people they are oppressed - wouldn't it be better to show them how they can succeed with knowledge, experience, work ethics. It might take having a full time job while completing full time college courses. It might take working off the farm at the same time as working the farm. Teach that People cannot be lazy or have a "poor me" attitude and Luck is when opportunity meets preparation.
- » Stress Ag Education to school districts & communities!
- » successful farming in this day and age, diversity of products.
- » Support for new farmers
- » Teaching kids these agri skills
- » teaching the NEED for agricultural land and water resources to maintain humans, far above the WANTS of that same water for recreation and the good irrigated farmland for houses and shopping.
- » These are all high priority. Lots of good goals to help our children become strong and self-reliant.
- » Training on more affordable self-sufficient ways to feed and care for animals, planting high protein forage, feed per pound of meat ration training, meat raising economy class vs only focusing on show- balance of conformation and homesteader meat production
- » tree seed harvest
- » urban and peri-urban farming, farming with pollinators, organics, small-acreage
- » Urban farming, compost programs for cities and suburbs.
- » Using greenhouses and high tunnels as season extenders. I get inquiries about this but because we do not do community outreach, I am not as helpful as you could be. Ross Spackman, Dept. Chair, Applied Plant Science Dept., BYU

- » Using your adult resources in the valley to speak/show youth "how to". Job mentoring
- » Utilizing gov programs, multi revenue avenues like carbon credits and alt energy
- » Virtual education of all the above topics at elementary school and up level. Wish to assist those home schooling, and thus far U ID extension has excellent curriculum and presentation, but not yet easily adapted in lesson plan format for the younger generation as far as I know
- » Water conservation
- » Water management and conservation. Farming and ranching in the urban interface.
- » Water safety and resource protection
- » water system restoration
- » We need pesticide, pest, and breeding research more than anything. We need definitive answers to what pesticides work best and what varieties will work best in our areas. Chemical companies try to sell their products and we need to have third party information to make the best decisions we can for our operations

Horticultural and small farms topics

- » Again, education in drought-tolerant gardening would benefit the public.
- » America once was small enough that families could survive on a small piece of land. These 'old ways' should be taught again.
- » apprenticing/apprenticeships, high tunnel management, greenhouse management
- » aquaculture would be great and small scale farming
- » best water practices, legal protection
- » Better crop options for climate/ grow season
- » Biochar economic development and marketing
- » Buying organic seeds.
- » Community gardens.
- » container farming
- » cover crops & soil retention
- » developing good soil, fertilizers,
- » effective landscaping, not just edible farms
- » Efficient/Conservative water management, Short-season FARMING
- » Elders and Youth Gardens
- » Electro culture methods, chicken keeping
- » Expand more Master Gardener spin off classes like landscape design, plants for changes in climate in our area, water-wise plants, trees, etc
- » Expansion of Moscow Farmer's Market..craft days, food days missed between LCF and Downtown Moscow?

- » Food preservation classes are always cool classes
- » Foraging, food preservation (canning), cooking with what you grow, soil science
- » Forestry
- » Freeze drying, dehydrating and fermentation
- » fruit production
- » Gardening in small spaces, Gardening in pots
- » Greenhouse gardening
- » Greenhouse gardening.
- » Greenhouse production
- » Greenhouses
- » Growing microgreens, hardscaping minimizing grass.
- » Hair sheep
- » high protein feeds that can be planted in with grasses, alternative sustainable feeds, hydroponics possibly, feed cost reductions, alternatives to antibiotics/pharma treatments for livestock, planting & feeding garden plants, insect management via natural methods (plants, oils, diatomaceous earth, natural wormers, rotational grazing, immune building)
- » Holistic management and small farm startup
- » Home healthcare and wellness through herbs, diet, & natural options (avoid the ER or high medical bills for small issues)
- » Hops and grape growing techniques
- » How about a class on how to fight the U of I culture of woke indoctrination
- » How to build and better soil and how to maximize the beneficial population of fungi and bacteria.
- » how to use horticultural and small farm programs in every day life.
- » hugelkulture
- » I consult regularly with the Agricultural Educator for Bonner County on disease prevention and countermeasures to disease or insect pest onset. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. There is a lot that my background and work experience would not allow me to comment meaningfully.
- » importance of native pollinators and native plants!
- » integrating farm animals with gardening and orchards
- » irrigation from ponds versus groundwater what do we need to change; managing pests in small home orchard
- » Landscaping with natives and other water conservation measures
- » Living on the Lands Class, master gardeners, tree diseases
- » Locally sourced inputs and soil amendments, soil building
- » Low water plants; heat and could tolerant plants
- » making a living on a small farm, a real living
- » Managing backyard chickens
- » Master gardener

- » Master Gardener
- » maximizing water usage
- » Mixing animal and horticulture production
- » Mushroom production
- » Native vs non-native vs invasive species and the importance of planting the right things to keep native species abundant and thriving.
- » Natural Aquaculture
- » No
- » orchard management (e.g., insects, diseases, proper pruning)
- » organic
- » Organic
- » Organic Gardening
- » Organic practices
- » Ornamentals
- » Pasture restoration
- » planting native plants for bee and butterflies
- » Please please and please!!! I spend more money trying to maintain the I am able to provide and it's just not working and there are so little resources for the little folks
- » Poultry classes, fruit tree health/feasibility.
- » Protecting our environment
- » raising various livestock on small acreages
- » Recipes and dishes for the lesser used parts of the market animals. Pondtonics
- » Regenerative farming (see kiss the ground, free info/data review for amazing CO2 graphic release due to industrial farming)
- » Replacing lawn with something less wasteful and toxic
- » Root cellar
- » science based companion planting, cover crops. no-till gardening
- » season extending opportunities. How to manage gardens to avoid wild animal damage - by deer, raccoons, skunks,
- » See answer on previous list.
- » seed production
- » Small animals besides chickens on small acreage
- » Small farm finance/grants.
- » Small fruit production
- » small household gardening
- » Small scale and local regenerative, permaculture and equivalents thereof are critical to even having a future food supply.
- » Soil
- » Soil building, water conservation
- » Soil care
- » Soil preparation and maintenance. Growing fruit trees and berries
- » soil vitalization through composting methods, worm casting production, dealing with herbicidal contamination.
- » Specific plant and garden designs for low water usage and low maintenance for our climate.
- » sustainable land management, native restoration projects

- » The importance of using non GMO seed and starts to prevent contaminating our food supply.
- » tree management--harvesting (fruits??) & general health (landscaping?)
- » urban food production (where there is only a backyard to work with and not necessarily a homestead).
- » Use me as a resource
- » Use of agricultural machinery and tractors
- » Vegetable physiology and how the environment effects them. In depth farming of various vegetable species for production.
- » Water Conservation
- » Water conservation and soil management
- » Water use &rights
- » Winter gardening
- » Wise use of water in high desert gardens, alternatives to lawns, creating wildlife habitats in home gardens

Health and wellness topics

- » "soft" physical activity (for the beginner, elderly, infirm, etc.)
- » A retirement class with estate planning?? These are great classes to have for adults.
- » Align with Nature to Have Our Health, Health is Wealth
- » Animal health
- » Any Health Education is always welcome
- » Basic business math for homes and small business
- » Be visible in community and work with other community based offerings
- » Blending of tribal/ cultural practices/values
- » Career planning
- » caretaking of elderly family members, taking care of children who were affected by the pandemic. health and wellness for children when parents going through divorce.
- » clothing, apparel, sewing
- » creating a good foundation for your health by what you eat and knowing that strictly organic is not a sustainable way to feed our world.
- » estate planning.
- » Exercise classes
- » Financial Capability & or Financial Coaching, not just financial literacy (see U of Wisconsin Extension). Health Literacy & Capability, The health district already teaches disease prevention focus on how to understand your bills, your tests, who to contact to resolve a problem with a bill.
- » Food distribution issues and Food Deserts/poverty-stricken rural populations access to nutritious food.

- » Herbal wellness, alternative wellness, education of vitamin & mineral content/balance in foods
- » How about a class that does not teach woke mental illness.
- » How to improve community support for mental and emotional health
- » How to meal plan and prep foods
- » I don't see the UI Extension as being the right place to find health advice.
- » I guess I've never thought of the extension office for these topics, but with the right curriculum it would be helpful
- » I was unaware of health and wellness programs
- » If you focus on healthy food, a lot of these things won't be as prevalent. If you are focusing on recommendations for health from places like the American Heart Association then I ABSOLUTELY say NO to you focusing on health. If you go with conventional medicine wisdom then I say ABSOLUTELY NO to focusing on stress management and mental health. If you take a holistic approach and help people based off things like what they eat, reducing EMF exposure, mold mitigation, and the like, then yes you should help with mental health. If you think they need to go on prescription medications and push how to do that- then no! Mental health MUST start with gut health. Period.
- » include less covered chronic diseases like metabolic diseases, chronic infections, chronic fatigue/long Covid, metabolic diseases, mental health diagnoses; financial planning for persons/families dealing with chronic illnesses
- » Lifelong family activity done together for fun and health.
- » Making good choices for tweens is high, friendship support and help with peer pressure
- » mental health--physical health, spiritual health
- » organics is now an elitist product. quite frankly the rules have changes and it does not benefit the working class or poor.....
- » Prevention, awareness, collaboration should all assist these processes
- » promotion of physically interactive gaming
- » refer to gardening for exercise, disease prevention and nutrition
- » Safe canning & Master Food Preserver courses near Priest River
- » See answer on previous list.
- » Strong People classes in afternoon
- » Teach a better understanding of our creator and our mission in life. Harvesting rain water.
- » The latest (cutting edge, new discoveries...) on nutritional and health and physical activity
- » These are excellent suggestions and needed.

- » topics for seniors age 55 and older, healthy aging, exercise especially for women
- » We need more Agricultural education taught. Our work will be in a world of hurt without agriculture producing food for our world
- » Weight training, stretching. Walking around towns group.
- » what specific foods help provide. example: milk and the many

- » nutritional benefits - strong bones and teeth, brain strength, helps avoid dementia etc., foods we eat that give us fiber, give us good bacteria for healthy gut, give us protein, give us iron, etc. example: red meat - protein, iron, etc.
- » Would be great to partner with existing clubs, organizations and help promote and expand outdoor related activities
- » Yoga classes

Forestry and natural resource topics

- » Animal health within range management
- » Assessing best practices from pre-colonial forest management
- » Biochar economic development and marketing
- » BLM Horse program Curriculum
- » breaking hawthorn/juniper disease cycle; balance fire prevention with wildlife impacts
- » Business management skills for small forestry owners (accounting, tax, succession planning), Timber sales "how-to" for small forestry owners
- » Chris does an exceptional job laying out practical courses. I'd like to see a classroom course on appropriate herbicides that eliminates weeds impacting the growth of conifers.
- » Conflicts/government regulations/endangered species/multiple use on public lands
- » creating non-traditional forest products to encourage income from timberlands to keep forests working instead of conversion to other land uses
- » depends if i move to an area and my property has more forest
- » ditto
- » Economics of a logging job
- » Fire prevention/Firewise, Insect and Disease
- » Forest Road Management for Water run-off and soil & water quality/protection
- » forestry always is key
- » fungal networking in forests
- » how to best manage your 20 acre parcel
- » I would like to see training for portable milling operations and/or considerations in choosing one.
- » identify trees, learn their purposes, class on Nez Perce use of trees within landscape.

- » Improving water quality and quantity on forests and rangelands.
- » Keeping managed forests as forests via conservation, not preservation.
- » Let's get back to managing the forest like Pres. Teddy Roosevelt implemented - controlled burns, harvesting and replanting. One major forest fire from improper managed forests expels more carbon into the air than Idaho puts out in three years. Douglas Fur Beetle management. Get more people involved with Luck Peak's nursery sales. Encourage natural and native landscaping. Encourage farmers to utilize proper drainage and cleaning, using bedding instead of animals bedding down in their own waste.
- » Logging business courses similar to what Extension provides farmers and ranchers please!
- » logging costs
- » managing small diameter tree removals from stands via commercial thinnings. What size of trees are the minimum to be able to market and what diameters are the best to sell in such an intermediate treatment.
- » Managing urban forest interface
- » Native Ecosystem Restoration
- » native plants and pollinators
- » Need to stress how important the cattle industry is to the welfare of our natural resources.
- » Non-timber forest products
- » prescribed burns
- » reduction of wood waste during logging
- » Research impact of extremist litigation to sound management of federally managed land.
- » seedlings, thinning
- » Soil science, geology tied to forests, range and natural resources
- » Succession planning
- » Teach them when they are young how important this is
- » The importance of using fire as a management tool and the positive effects of fire. The increase in carbon sequestration with moderate (50% utilization) Grazing levels.
- » The latest on Knapweed, managing for carbon sequestration
- » Timber sales on small private acreage
- » Training for forestry careers
- » Use of drones and other high tech tools. Getting kids out into the public lands that are throughout Idaho.

Water topics

- » Again, the use of land & water for agricultural purposes as a NEED, MUST BE EMPHASIZED over land & water use for recreational use and housing. Case example: Cascade Reservoir vs the current lingo of "Lake Cascade" destroys the critical thought of recognizing it is for agricultural use first & foremost

Another example of teaching all of the new transplants that have come from dry climates that xeriscaping is not desirable in the Treasure Valley, but instead irrigating is important to maintain the aquifer and subdivision developers and commercial builders who pave farm ground must inject the water into the ground (like Micron does) in order to maintain the aquifer or ag wells will go dry in the west end of the valley. People MUST be educated about agriculture in Idaho or it will turn into dry California

- » Alternatives to turf grass
- » Cistern construction and maintenance, landscaping to utilize runoff, Well-pump cistern management
- » Conservation practices and finding grants or other funding for projects
- » Crop Irrigation from springs and river sources.
- » Crop usage of water and maximizing the return.
- » Crop water usage and soil moisture measurement technology
- » Drinking water analysis and home water treatment
- » ditto
- » Farm and garden irrigation practices
- » Farmers pumping mass water out of the aquifer.
- » Feasible cloud seeding sights. Ground water storage
- » financial assistance for irrigation development
- » Grey water systems and regulations
- » Homeowner water conservation: Rain barrels
- » how some counties are trying to take control of water
- » How to collect and store rainwater
- » Impact of fertilizers on our ground water
- » Irrigation and water rights education
- » irrigation management
- » Leave no trace water safe practices
- » Maximizing drip irrigation efficiency
- » Maybe in the parts of Idaho that get more rain fall think about implementing cisterns in new homes. Solar pond operation generating clean energy heat.
- » Natural solutions water management (e.g. green stormwater management)
- » navigating the legalities of water use
- » NRCS does a good job with supply forecast, city/municipalities seem to have stormwater under control. Recharge may be good framing to include
- » policy
- » Preservation and conservation
- » Programs at the intersection of recreation and water quality/land health are more future facing programs that are needed.
- » Rainwater catchment systems for homeowners
- » rangeland stream restoration

- » Road Management for flood reduction. Land management for a more sustainable hydrograph.
- » small acreage BMPs to improve water quality
- » Target market to include law makers, installer of systems, yard maintenance and end user reference water conservation.
- » Transforming soil to become a true water reservoir
- » Utilizing ground source heat pumps
- » water conservation strategies for the homeowner
- » Water is Life, keep it clean.
- » water is the most important commodity. learn to preserve it and use it judiciously
- » Water management
- » Water rights
- » Water Rights and Water Share management
- » Water rights are an issue and as a flood irrigation person I waste a lot of water due to not having the means to divert water correctly or know what I am doing.
- » Water rights.
- » Water storage
- » water topics specifically related to farming and home gardening issues are very important in rural and self sustainable areas
- » Water use efficiency within plant management
- » Water zones identification not just surface impacts
- » Ways to minimize water use in garden and/or small farm environments.
- » We are running our aquifer dry in this area.
- » well water maintenance and testing
- » Wetland, creek and stream management, aquaponics, fish breeding in natural environments.
- » With the increase in population and urban areas it is becoming greater competition for water with farming needs. Efficiency from both sides will be more and more serious as time continues. Water is a life line and so is food.
- » xeriscaping your yard. can we collect rainwater to use at our residence?
- » Yards with focus on low water usage.
- » Yes, teach the NRS Howell not letting us use an ambigram on pivots they subsidize, but making us use 10 times the water to flood irrigate those corners really isn't saving water!
- » you can't predict mother nature.....try as you might!

Community development topics

- » Affordable Labor housing
- » Buy local
- » all of the above

- » communications between fire and police departments and fire prone communities
- » Community Development within Neighborhoods: Bartner networks, networking with people in your own apartment to trade skills with or learn skills from such as how to change your oil, how to sew or crotchet. Be sure to have other tools available that don't require internet or computer literacy to participate. Host "where client is" @ local school, community centers, places that are walkable if transportation not available.
- » Community market development
- » Community roles and responsibilities, from elected positions to volunteer groups in small towns
- » Conflict resolution
- » Defining community - getting to know those who don't look like you
- » Development of indoor Farmers market and indoor growing systems utilizing empty commercial sites
- » Employer swop. If Johnny lives in Emmett and drives to work at McDonald's in Payette, why can't there be an app to research employers and have employees do an employer swop? Eddie, the Payette youth works in Emmett at that McDonald's - let's switch those two. Yes, have an idea of "Employer Swopping". For example, Payette kid works at McDonalds in Fruitland and Fruitland kid works at McDonalds in Payette - the kids should have a site to search on where those employers could swop out these two kids - saves driving, gas and keeps familiar faces in the community.
- » Enhancing accessibility within community programming and events
- » facilitation communication across different perspectives and ideologies
- » For small and rural communities it is imperative to have any sort of programs that bring us together and make a community aware of who and what is available within it. Programs that would relate to this fact would be a huge help not only on a small local level, but help people learn how to do this on a global level as well.
- » Green space / recreational needs
- » hig quality planning and zoning and how important they are to a community and it's future
- » Hospitality courses, tourism development and job prep
- » how to develop and maintain community gardens
- » I feel this one Very important. We all need to work together
- » Importance of a working landscape and not just a recreational playground
- » Increase market locations for small producers, niche producers
- » leadership training
- » Not to be harsh but in my area folks do not conceptualize extension as the most informed or up-to-date group for community development because there is almost zero attention to recreation which is a natural part of sustainable

land/water management. Additionally remote working and e-commerce as a separate category is confusing to me. Business today is about being able to work anywhere, it's not a separate construct.

- » on the fence after 4 years of participating and in the end the powers that be do not listen, why do we grab onto key words and reality is it is a sham.....touchy feely BS
- » Population growth and remaining sustainable
- » senior and community activities not just youth activities
- » Small business development, small business q&a, small business taxes, small business law, womens business, grants
- » smart growth
- » smart growth. building within the city limits, not extending it.
- » This idea for water protection (last section; could not locate a back key). Mold in waterline for public water supply- how to treat, address, remediate. Covers this community development section too.
- » Tribal practices/values
- » Urban communities need to be educated on where food comes from, that manure is actually a benefit to soil and plants, that a backyard garden is not available to most people in our country. That being a vegan doesn't work for everyone. How important it is for urban and rural areas to work together for strengthening communities.
- » Youth programs in small communities. Adult programs in small communities.

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