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## **SOUTH PALM BEACH, Florida 1995**

The 1995 South Palm Beach County, Florida, 1995 Jewish Community Study utilized RDD [random digit dialing] techniques to conduct telephone interviews with 1,070 households. Data was collected from February 1, 1995 to February 12, 1995 with 23 interviewers hired and trained by Ira M. Sheskin, Ph. D., University of Miami, the principal investigator, under contract with The Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County. Ron Reshefsky served as Chair of the Demographic Study Committee for the Federation.

The 1,070 interviews derived from a base of 6,000 randomly generated, potential telephone numbers, after reaching a total of 1,439 Jewish households. Of the 1,439 Jewish households contacted: 1,070 completed the survey, 12 were “ineligible due to health reasons and sitting *shiva*,” 283 either refused or could not be reached in call back efforts, and 74 were labeled as “snowflakes” who spent 0-2 months in the area and were not considered as part of the Jewish population. Data were weighted (“wf”) only based upon the [inverse] number of telephone lines in the household. The interviews averaged 15 minutes.

Population estimates were based upon census data from the Palm Beach County Planning Department. Over forty-three per cent [43.7%] of the households reached via RDD contained at least one Jewish person. In addition, Dr. Sheskin added several modifications: first, a 5% correction factor was added “...to account for Jewish households who deny that they are Jewish in surveys...” so that 45.9% of households in the sampling area were designated as Jewish; second, households that refused to indicate during the screener if they were Jewish were designated by surname [where possible] as Jewish or non-Jewish via the reverse telephone directory; third, since there were more telephone numbers in non-Jewish households than in Jewish households, another modification was introduced. Based upon this series of adjustments, Dr. Sheskin estimated that 47.2% of the South Palm Beach County households were Jewish households.

Thus, Dr. Sheskin estimated that there were 65,502 Jewish households in South Palm Beach County. Since the “snowflakes” accounted for 6.4% of the total, approximately 61,300 Jewish households lived in the area for three months or more. The total population living in these 61,300 Jewish households was estimated to be 115,600 [with an additional 360 Jews in institutions, and 500 in dormitories]. Of the 115,600 people living in Jewish South Palm Beach County households, 5,100 were not Jewish. Dr. Sheskin indicated that since 1984, the population in Jewish households had increased 89% [from 61,000 to 115,500].

The results of the survey were presented in both a “Main Report” and a “Summary Report.”

1. The “*Main Report*,” 1995 *Jewish Community Study of South Palm Beach County: Jewish Demographic Study, Main Report* was issued in February, 1996, 467 pages plus questionnaire, approximately 260 tables. The areas covered in the report are Boca Raton, Delray Beach, and Highland Beach.
2. 1995 *Jewish Community Study of South Palm Beach County: Jewish Demographic Study, Summary Report*, was also issued in February, 1996; 61 pages, 11 tables, approximately 80 unnumbered charts.

**Data File:**

The 1995 “**South Palm Beach County**” data file was constructed by Dr. Sheskin as an SPSS household main frame data file, and was later transformed to an SPSS portable file.

**The SPSS portable file has 1,070 cases and 450 variables...**

The weight factor “wf” adjusts for the number of telephone lines in each household. The Weighted N = 997