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# **JEWISH POPULATION OF SOUTH PALM BEACH COUNTY**

## **1999**



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## Executive Summary

☞ This study finds that approximately 128,000 persons live in about 68,000 Jewish households in South Palm Beach County. (A Jewish household is defined as a household containing one or more self-defined Jews.) Of these, about 30,000 persons in about 16,700 Jewish households spend 3-7 months in the area. Also, about 5,800 (4.5%) of the persons in Jewish households are not Jewish.

☞ In addition to the 128,000 persons in Jewish households, about 360 Jewish persons live in nursing homes without their own telephone numbers and about 500 Jewish students from out of the area live in dormitories. Thus, the South Palm Beach County Jewish community numbers 129,000, including all part-year residents, non-Jewish members of Jewish households, Jews in nursing homes, and students in local dormitories. If we add at least in another 8,000 persons who are in residence for less than three months of the year, the total increases to 137,000.

☞ About 50% of Jewish households live in Boca Raton. About 50% live in Delray Beach. About 53% of persons in Jewish households live in Boca Raton. About 47% of persons in Jewish households live in Delray Beach.

☞ During the past 11 years, the population in Jewish households increased from 75,000 to 129,500, a 71% increase.

☞ In 1970, 74% of the population lived in Boca Raton. In 1980, this had declined to 42%. Since 1984, it has been just about half.

☞ The number of persons in Jewish households in Boca Raton has increased from 60,000 to 69,000 over the past four years.

☞ The number of persons in Jewish households in Delray Beach has increased from 55,700 to 60,000 over the past four years.

## Current Size of the Jewish Population

This study finds that approximately 128,000 persons live in about 68,000 Jewish households in South Palm Beach County (**Table 1**). (A Jewish household is defined as a household containing one or more self-defined Jews.) Of these, about 30,000 persons in about 16,700 Jewish households spend 3-7 months in the area. Also, about 5,800 (4.5%) of the persons in Jewish households are not Jewish.

In addition to the 128,000 persons in Jewish households in 1999, in 1995 about 360 Jewish persons lived in nursing homes without their own telephone numbers and about 500 Jewish students from out of the area lived in dormitories. If we assume that these numbers have not changed significantly, then the South Palm Beach County Jewish community numbers about 129,000 persons, including all part-year residents, non-Jewish members of Jewish households, Jews in nursing homes, and students in dormitories.

In February 1995, another 8,000 persons lived in approximately 4,200 “snowflake” households that live in South Palm Beach County for 0-2 months of the year. These households were not interviewed and are not considered as part of the South Palm Beach County Jewish community for the purposes of this report. It is likely that the number of snowflake households has also increased.

In Boca Raton (**Table 1**), a total of 69,000 persons live in Jewish households, of whom about 14,500 are part-year residents. About 6.5% of this population in Jewish households is not Jewish. Thus, there are about 64,400 Jews in Boca Raton, of whom 14,500 are part-year residents.

In Delray Beach (**Table 1**), a total of 59,000 persons live in Jewish households, of whom 15,700 are part-year residents. About 2.2% of this population in Jewish households is not Jewish. Thus, there are about 57,800 Jews in Delray Beach.

<b>TABLE 1 CURRENT SIZE OF THE JEWISH POPULATION</b>				
	<b># of Households</b>	<b>Household Size</b>	<b># of Persons in Jewish Households</b>	<b># of Jews</b>
<b>Boca Raton</b>				
Part-Year Residents	8,081	1.8026	14,567	14,494
Full-Year Residents	25,875	2.0996	54,327	49,927
Total Boca Raton	33,956	2.0290	68,897	64,421
<b>Delray Beach</b>				
Part-Year Residents	8,352	1.8846	15,740	15,362
Full-Year Residents	25,377	1.7070	43,319	42,409
Total Delray Beach	33,729	1.7516	59,080	57,771
<b>Total South Palm Beach County</b>				
Part-Year Residents	16,697	1.8463	30,307	29,856
Full-Year Residents	51,530	1.8976	97,646	92,336
Total S Palm Beach County	68,227	1.8851	127,953	122,192
Snowflakes (0-2 months)	4,200	1.92	8,060	7,931
Jewish persons in institutions (almost all in nursing homes)				360
Students from out of South Palm Beach County in dormitories (mostly at FAU)				500

Current wisdom suggests that 1,200 - 1,400 Jewish students attend Florida Atlantic University (FAU) in Boca Raton and 100-150 attend Lynn University (LU) (formerly the College of Boca Raton). Of these it is estimated that almost all at Lynn University are from out of the area and live on campus. Of the students at FAU, about 400 live on campus and come from outside the area. Thus, in total 1,300 - 1,550 Jewish students attend the two schools, about 500 of whom live on campus and have a permanent address outside South Palm Beach County.

## Changes in the Population in Jewish Households, 1970-1999

**T**able 2 shows the changes in the population in Jewish households since 1970. Caution should be used in interpreting older data. Measures of Jewish household size are available at only three points in time: 1984, 1986, and 1995. Certain assumptions had to be made in deriving the older estimates that become more questionable as we move back in time: that the percentage of unlisted telephone numbers and the percentage of Jewish households with telephones remains constant; that the percentage of households with a Distinctive Jewish Name remains constant, and that, prior to 1984, Jewish household size remains a constant proportion of the household size for all South Palm Beach County residents.

Despite these methodological problems, it is clear that the Jewish population of South Palm Beach County increased significantly from 1970 to 1999. The increase from 1970 to 1980 is truly dramatic. The increase from 1988-1999 is 71%.

<b>TABLE 2 POPULATION IN JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS 1970-1999</b>					
Year	DJN Count	Number of Households	Household Size	Persons in Jewish Households	% Increase
1970	66	500	2.30	1,150	
1980	2,297	18,000	2.06	37,080	3124.3%
1984	3,985	31,221	1.96	61,193	65.0%
1986	4,594	36,000	1.90	68,400	15.3%
1988	4,988	39,080	1.93	75,424	8.6%
1992	7,233	56,670	1.91	108,240	45.0%
1995	7,824	61,300	1.89	115,547	8.1%
1999	8,708	68,227	1.89	129,000	11.6%

## Jewish Population of Boca Raton and Delray Beach

**T**able 3 shows the population in Jewish households for the two major geographic areas of South Palm Beach County and the manner in which these populations have changed over the past 29 years.

In 1999, about 50% of *Jewish households* are in Boca Raton. This percentage has not changed significantly since 1995. About 50% live in Delray Beach. About 53% of *persons in Jewish households* are in Boca Raton. Again, this number shows no significant change since 1995. 47% of persons in Jewish households live in Delray Beach.

In 1970, 74% of the population lived in Boca Raton. In 1980, this had declined to 42%. Since 1984, it has about 50%.

The number of persons in Jewish households in Boca Raton has increased from about 60,000 in 1995 to about 69,000 in 1999. The number of persons in Jewish households in Delray Beach has increased from about 55,700 in 1995 to about 60,000 in 1999.

<b>TABLE 3 REGIONAL CHANGES IN THE JEWISH POPULATION</b>				
	<b># of Households</b>	<b>Household Size</b>	<b>Number of Persons in Jewish Households</b>	<b>Percentage Change</b>
<b>Boca Raton</b>				
1970	370	2.58	955	
1980	7,560	2.31	17,464	1729.4%
1984	15,298	2.20	33,656	92.7%
1995	29,485	2.03	59,825	77.8%
1999	33,956	2.03	69,000	15.3%
<b>Delray Beach</b>				
1970	130	2.09	272	
1980	10,440	1.87	19,523	7085.4%
1984	15,923	1.78	28,343	45.2%
1995	31,815	1.75	55,727	96.6%
1999	33,729	1.75	60,000	7.7%

## Future Size of the Population in Jewish Households

**T**he future is unpredictable. If a major economic downturn occurs, the size of the Jewish population of this area may be affected negatively. If something like a Century Village development is built, it is unlikely that population projections will be accurate.

If the rate of population increase over the past 11 years (71%) prevails for the next 11 years, then South Palm Beach County will be home to about 220,000 persons in Jewish households in 2010.

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## Comparison with Other Metropolitan Areas

Data from the 1998 *American Jewish Year Book* can be used to compare the size of the Jewish population of the service area of the South Palm Beach County Jewish Federation with other metropolitan areas. **Table 4** shows the populations of the 20 largest American Jewish communities. Note that using *American Jewish Yearbook* data suggests that South Palm Beach County is about the twelfth largest Jewish community in the United States. It is almost equal to the population of Baltimore and Detroit.

If we were to include some portion of the snowbird population in the South Palm Beach County population, then South Palm Beach could be said to be the ninth largest Jewish community.

Note that the 83,000 figure shown in **Table 4** omits part-year residents and non-Jews in Jewish households.

According to the 1990 National Jewish Population Survey (NJPS), about 5.5 million Jews live in the United States. The 1998 *American Jewish Year Book* indicates that 6.0 million Jews live in the United States. This does not imply an increase. Rather, two different methodologies (one for the NJPS and one for the *American Jewish Yearbook*), yield different results.

<b>TABLE 4</b>			
<b>TWENTY LARGEST AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITIES</b>			
<b>(MODIFIED FROM THE 1998 AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK)</b>			
<b>Rank</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Jewish Population</b>
1	New York City	NY	1,450,000
2	Los Angeles	CA	519,000
3	Chicago	IL	261,000
4	Boston	MA	233,000
5	Broward County	FL	220,000
6	Philadelphia	PA	206,000
7	Washington, D.C.		165,000
8	Miami	FL	134,000
9	Essex-Morris Counties	NJ	109,700
10	Baltimore	MD	94,500
11	Detroit	MI	94,000
<b>12</b>	<b>South Palm Beach County</b>	<b>FL</b>	<b>92,300</b>
13	Bergen County	NJ	83,700
14	Rockland County	NY	83,100
15	Cleveland	OH	81,000
16	Atlanta	GA	77,000
17	San Diego	CA	70,000
18	West Palm Beach	FL	67,000
19	Monmouth County	NJ	63,000
20	Orange County	CA	60,000

For those Florida communities in which no study has been done, **Table 5** reports the figure from the 1998 *American Jewish Yearbook* in Column A. These figures omit part-year residents and non-Jews living in Jewish households. For communities in which a study has been done, Column B presents a population figure including part-year residents and non-Jews living with Jews.

The Jewish community of Broward County has grown from 40,000 in 1970, to 175,000 in 1980, to 275,000 in 1990, and then declined slightly to 270,000 in 1997.

The Jewish community of Dade County increased from 198,000 in 1970, to 230,000 in 1980. It then declined to 169,000 in 1990, and to 152,000 in 1996.

**Table 5** indicates that South Palm Beach County has surpassed West Palm Beach in Jewish population. Palm Beach County as a whole (221,000) has surpassed Dade County (152,500) but has fewer persons in Jewish households than Broward County (270,000).

Florida is now home to about 626,000 Jews, about 513,000 of whom live in South Florida for eight or more months of the year. If we include non-Jews in Jewish households and part-year residents, then about 721,000 live in Florida, 643,500 of whom live in Southeast Florida.

Note that the figures for West Palm Beach are significantly dated. A new study was completed in this area in February of 1999 and results from this study will be made public in the Fall of 1999.

**TABLE 5: JEWISH POPULATION FIGURES FOR FLORIDA  
MODIFIED FROM THE 1998 AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK**

	Column A	Column B
<b>Community</b>	<b># Jews (Full-Year)</b>	<b># of Persons in Jewish Households (including part-year residents)</b>
Brevard	5,000	
Crystal River	100	
Daytona Beach	2,500	
Fort Pierce	1,060	
Gainesville	1,600	
Jacksonville	7,300	
Key West	500	
Lakeland	1,000	
Lee County (Fort Myers)	5,000	
Naples	3,500	
Ocala - Marion County	500	
Orlando	21,000	25,900
Pasco County	1,000	
Pensacola	650	
Pinellas County	24,200	30,700
Port Charlotte/Punta Gorda	900	
Sarasota-Manatee	17,000	21,500
Stuart - Port St. Lucie	3,000	
Tallahassee	1,640	
Tampa	15,000	
Vero Beach	300	
Winter Haven	300	
Other places	100	

<b>TABLE 5: JEWISH POPULATION FIGURES FOR FLORIDA MODIFIED FROM THE 1998 AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK</b>		
	<b>Column A</b>	<b>Column B</b>
<b>Community</b>	<b># Jews (Full-Year)</b>	<b># of Persons in Jewish Households (including part-year residents)</b>
<b>Southeast Florida (Updated from the <i>Year Book</i>)</b>		
Dade County (1996)	134,000	152,500
Broward County (1997)	220,000	270,000
South Palm Beach County (Boca Raton/Delray Beach)(1999)	92,300	128,000
West Palm Beach (Boynton Beach to Jupiter)(1993)	67,000	93,000
<b>Total Southeast Florida</b>	<b>513,300</b>	<b>643,500</b>
<b>Total for Florida</b>	<b>626,450</b>	<b>721,600</b>

## Methodology

This study has used a method employing Distinctive Jewish Names to update the size and geographic distribution of the Jewish population of South Palm Beach County. The table in this appendix shows the counts for 36 DJNs in the 1994 and 1999 Boca Raton telephone directories. From these counts, the percentage increase (1994-1999) in the Jewish population in each area is calculated.

In February 1995 a major demographic study using Random Digit Dialing was completed which estimated 115,500 persons in Jewish households in South Palm Beach County. A ratio was developed between the DJN count in the 1994 telephone directory and the estimated number of households in 1995. To develop an estimate of the current Jewish population, it is assumed that the same ratio applies in 1999.

This current study also assumes that household sizes and the percentages of part-year residents have not changed since 1995.

<b>DJN COUNTS IN SOUTH PALM BEACH COUNTY</b>				
<b>Name</b>	<b>1994</b>		<b>1999</b>	
	<b>Delray</b>	<b>Boca Raton</b>	<b>Delray</b>	<b>Boca Raton</b>
Berman	66	74	64	89
Caplan	12	12	7	28
Cohen	440	511	500	618
Epstein	55	98	60	96
Feldman	70	135	80	158
Freedman	42	69	35	67
Friedman	130	211	164	231
Goldberg	142	168	144	217
Goldman	71	105	79	132
Goldstein	147	200	156	130
Goodman	86	93	94	117
Greenberg	88	172	93	177
Gross	58	88	55	103
Grossman	59	77	69	92
Jacobs	71	71	72	96
Jaffe	27	35	22	52
Kahn	31	60	27	61
Kaplan	123	178	136	214
Katz	111	159	125	195
Kohn	13	18	11	17
Levin	49	66	56	72
Levine	171	221	186	221
Levinson	17	26	21	32
Levy	108	147	106	195
Lieberman	54	48	46	57
Rosen	80	117	85	126
Rosenberg	104	123	103	140
Rosenthal	49	94	54	91
Rubin	98	147	103	180
Schwartz	198	261	206	329
Siegel	83	114	106	187
Silverman	106	115	102	135
Shapiro	97	151	83	132

<b>DJN COUNTS IN SOUTH PALM BEACH COUNTY</b>				
	<b>1994</b>		<b>1999</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Delray</b>	<b>Boca Raton</b>	<b>Delray</b>	<b>Boca Raton</b>
Stern	62	114	62	117
Weinstein	71	82	71	105
Weiss	118	157	123	193
Total	3,307	4,517	3,506	5,202