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# National Jewish Population Survey 2000-01

Strength, Challenge and Diversity in  
the American Jewish Population

A United Jewish Communities  
PowerPoint Presentation of Findings

- The NJPS 2000-01 questionnaire was administered to over 4,500 Jews in the U.S.
- This presentation is a compilation of selected findings from those interviews
- The presentation is divided into four sections:
  - Demography
  - Jewish Connections
  - Intermarriage
  - Special Topics

- Respondents representing 4.3 million Jews with stronger Jewish connections were administered a long-form questionnaire. Respondents representing an additional 800,000 Jews with Jewish connections that are not as strong received a short-form questionnaire.
- Asterisks (\*) in presentation refer to the more Jewishly engaged population of 4.3 million Jews rather than the total Jewish population of 5.2 million.

## Who is a Jew?

For purposes of this presentation, a Jew is defined as a person:

- Whose religion is Jewish, OR
- Whose religion is Jewish and something else, OR
- Who has no religion AND has at least one Jewish parent or a Jewish upbringing, OR
- Who has a non-monotheistic religion AND has at least one Jewish parent or a Jewish upbringing.

## The Demography of American Jews

- Total population and household estimates
- Age structure
- Marriage and fertility
- Geography: regional residence and mobility
- Education, employment and income

## Jewish population and household estimates in 2000-01

Total Jewish population	5.2 million
Total Jewish households <sup>1</sup>	2.9 million
Total people, Jewish and non-Jewish, in Jewish households	6.7 million

1. Defined as households with at least one Jewish adult

## Jews and non-Jews in Jewish households

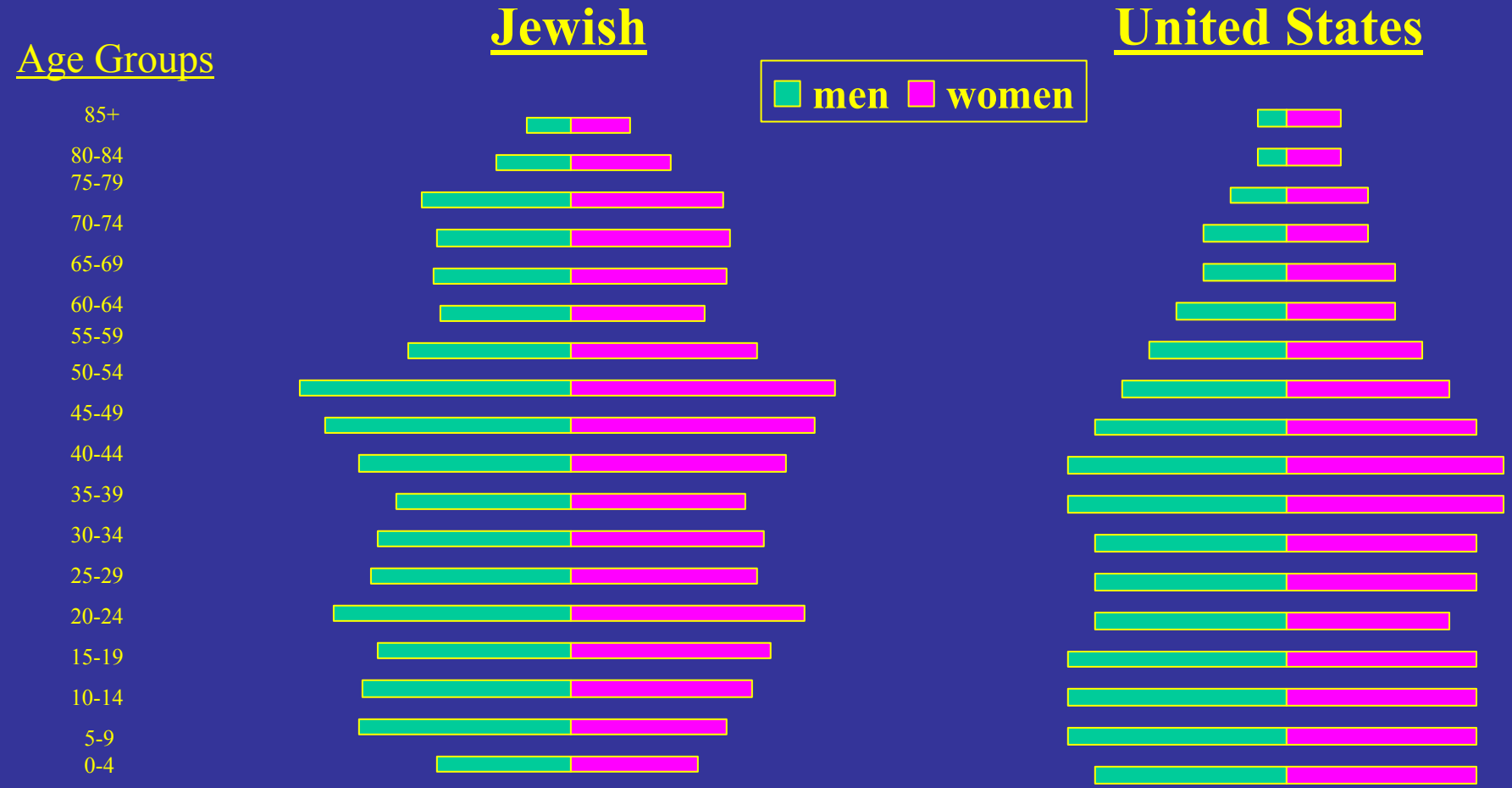
Jews per Jewish household	1.8
Non-Jews per Jewish household	0.5
People per Jewish household	2.3
People in Jewish households who are Jewish	76%
People in Jewish households who are not Jewish	24%

Jewish households are marked by great diversity in composition.

Single adult living alone	30%
Two adults, no children	37
Three adults or more, no children	7
One adult and child(ren)	3
Two adults and child(ren)	19
Three or more adults and child(ren)	5



The Jewish population is older than the U.S. population.



Most American Jews are currently married and a quarter have never been married.

Single, never married	25%
Married	57
Separated	1
Divorced	9
Widowed	8

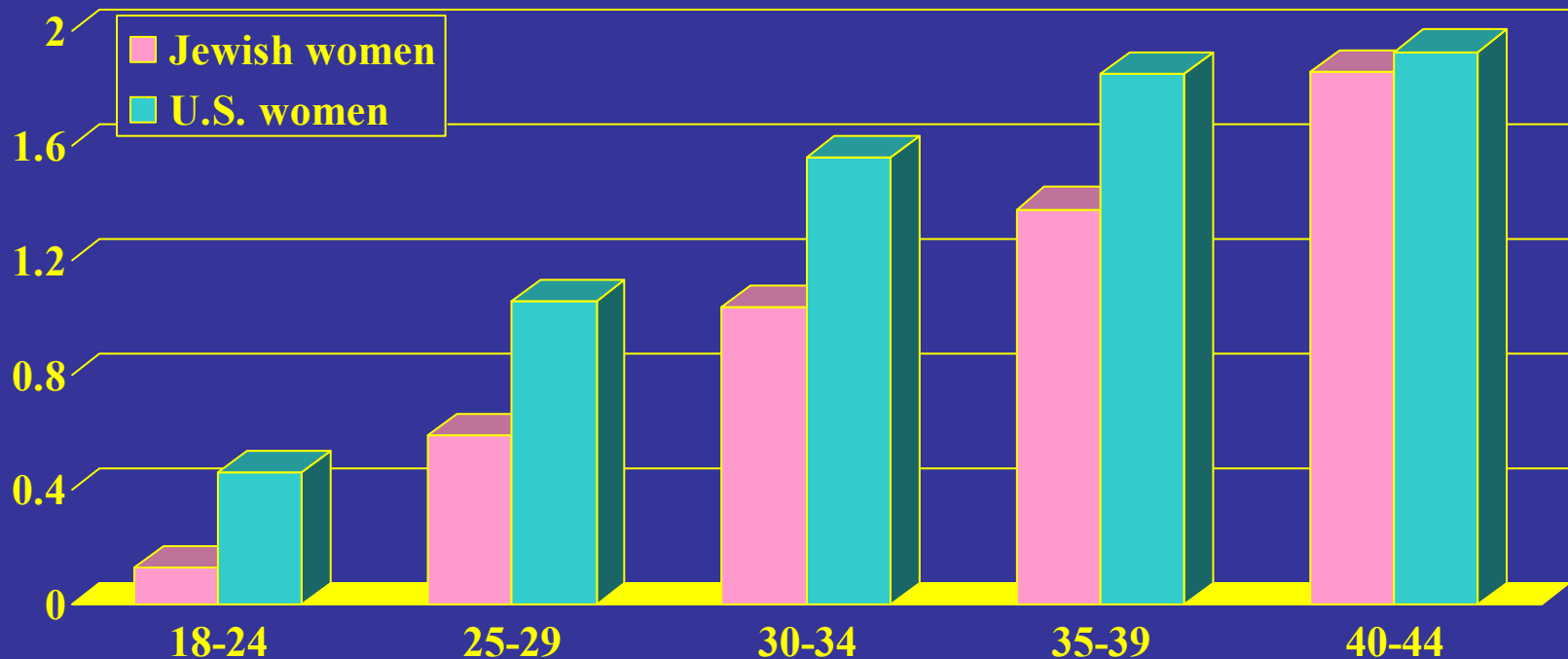
In every age group up to 65, proportionally fewer Jews than all Americans have ever been married.

Age	Percent Ever Married			
	Men		Women	
	Jewish	U.S.	Jewish	U.S.
18-24	10%	12%	18%	21%
25-34	48	59	64	70
35-44	74	82	85	87
45-64	90	92	90	93
65+	96	96	98	96
Total	72	73	79	79



For all age groups through 44, Jewish women have given birth to fewer children than U.S. women, but the gap among 40-44 year olds is small.

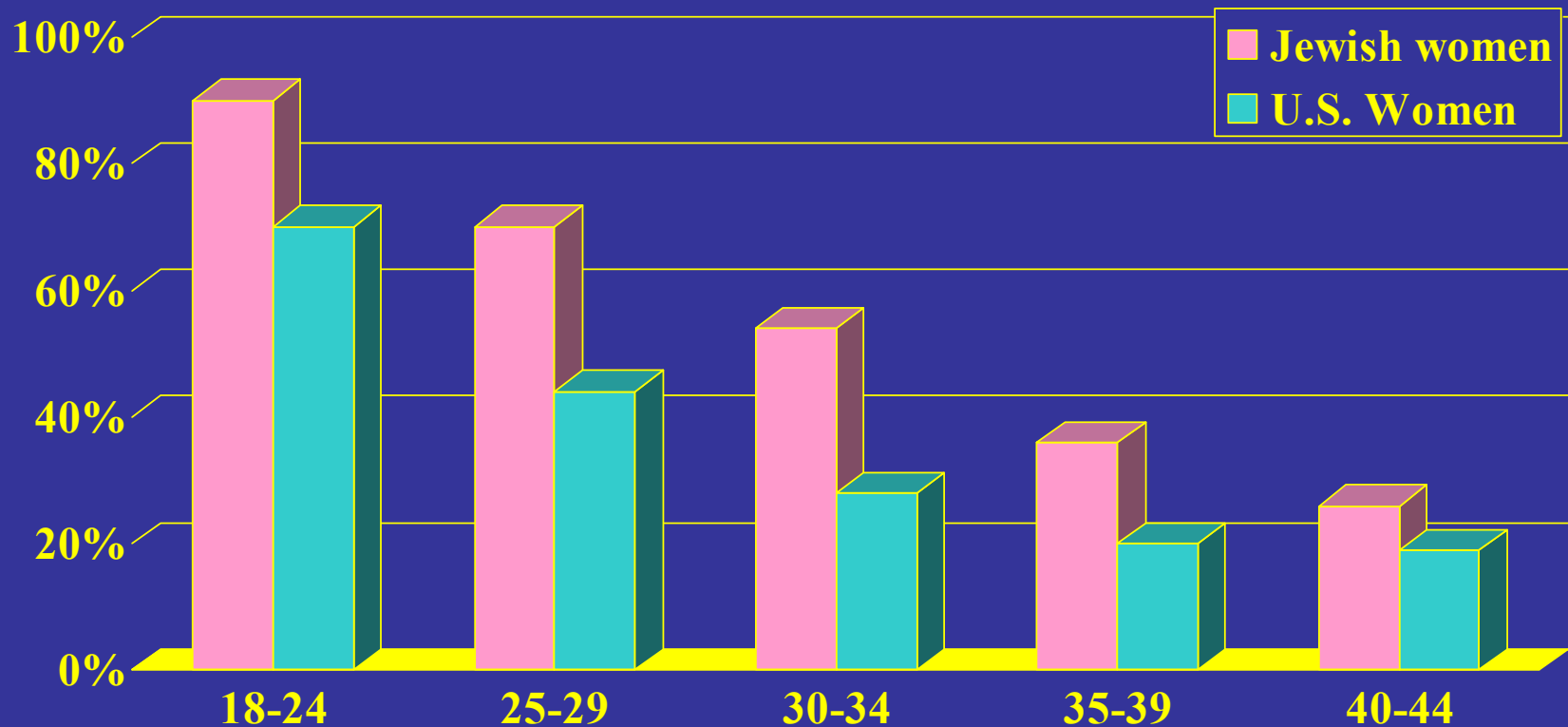
Average # of children born





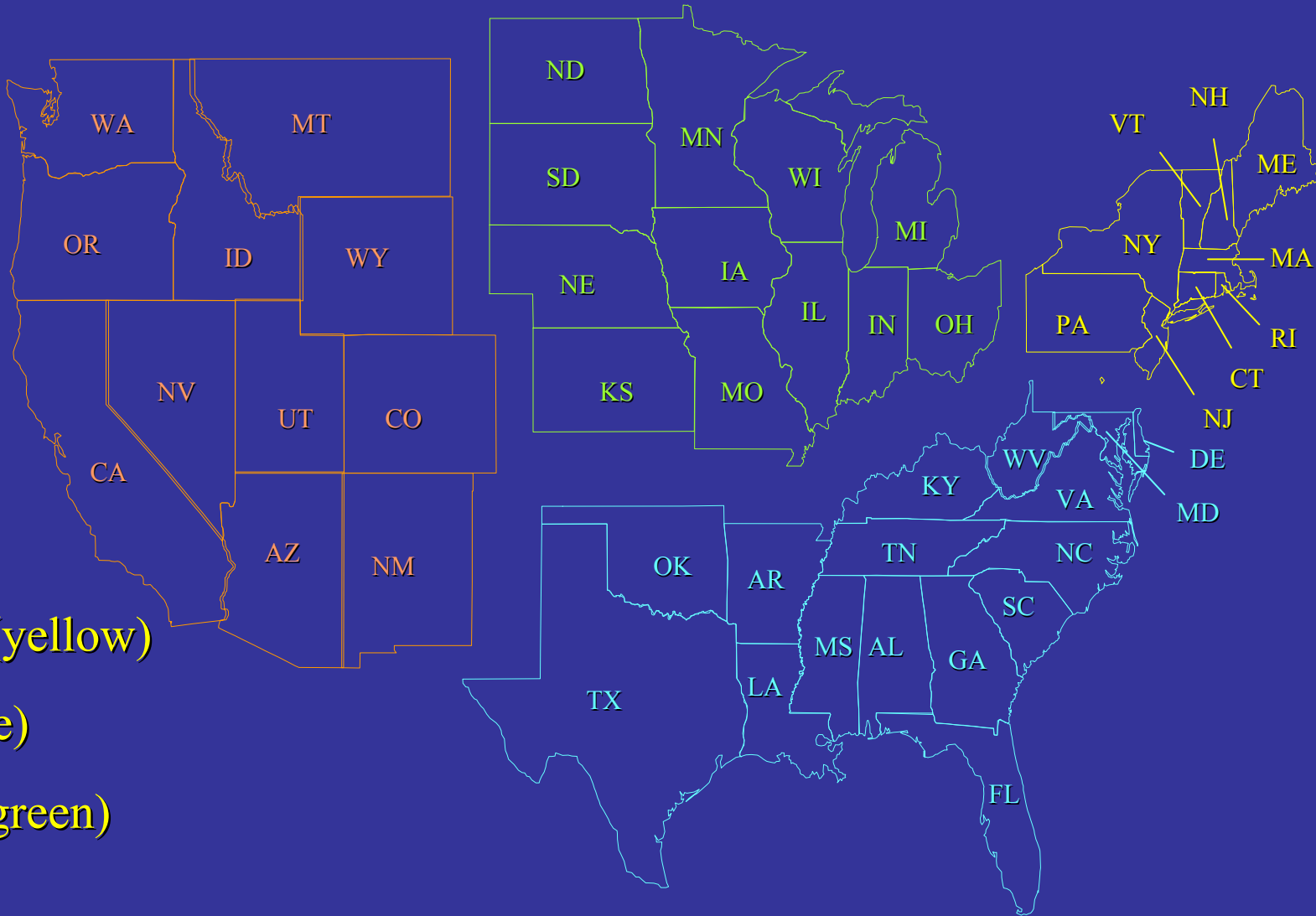
Proportionally more Jewish women than all U.S. women remain childless in every age group through 44.

% childless





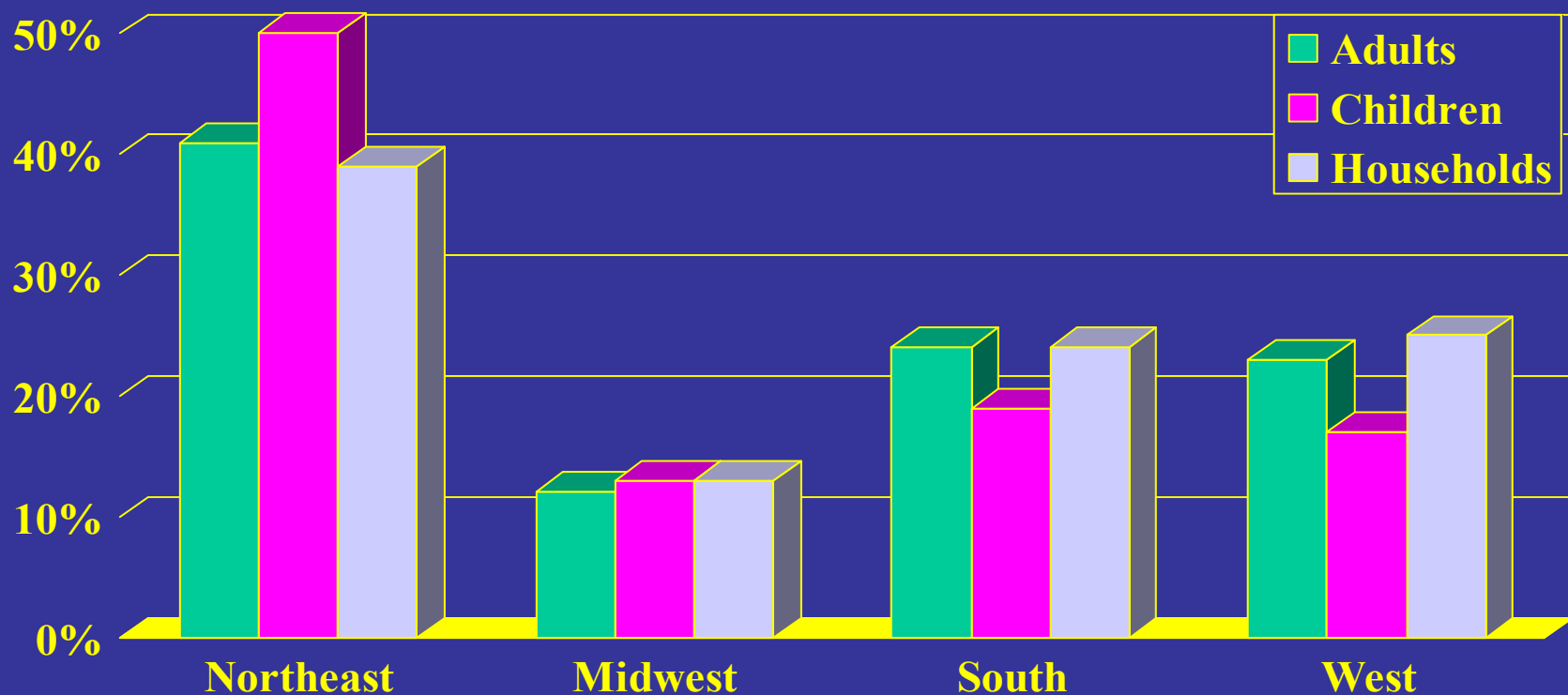
The United States is divided into four regions:



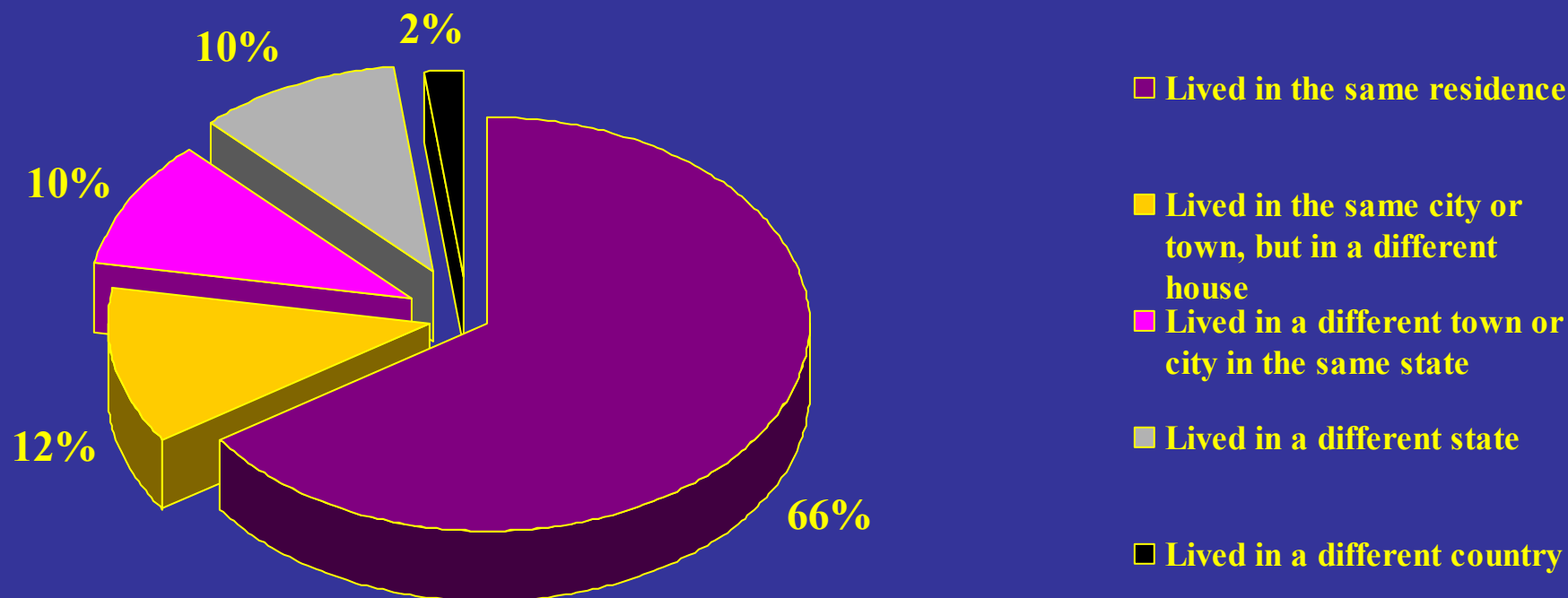
- Northeast (yellow)
- South (blue)
- Midwest (green)
- West (red)



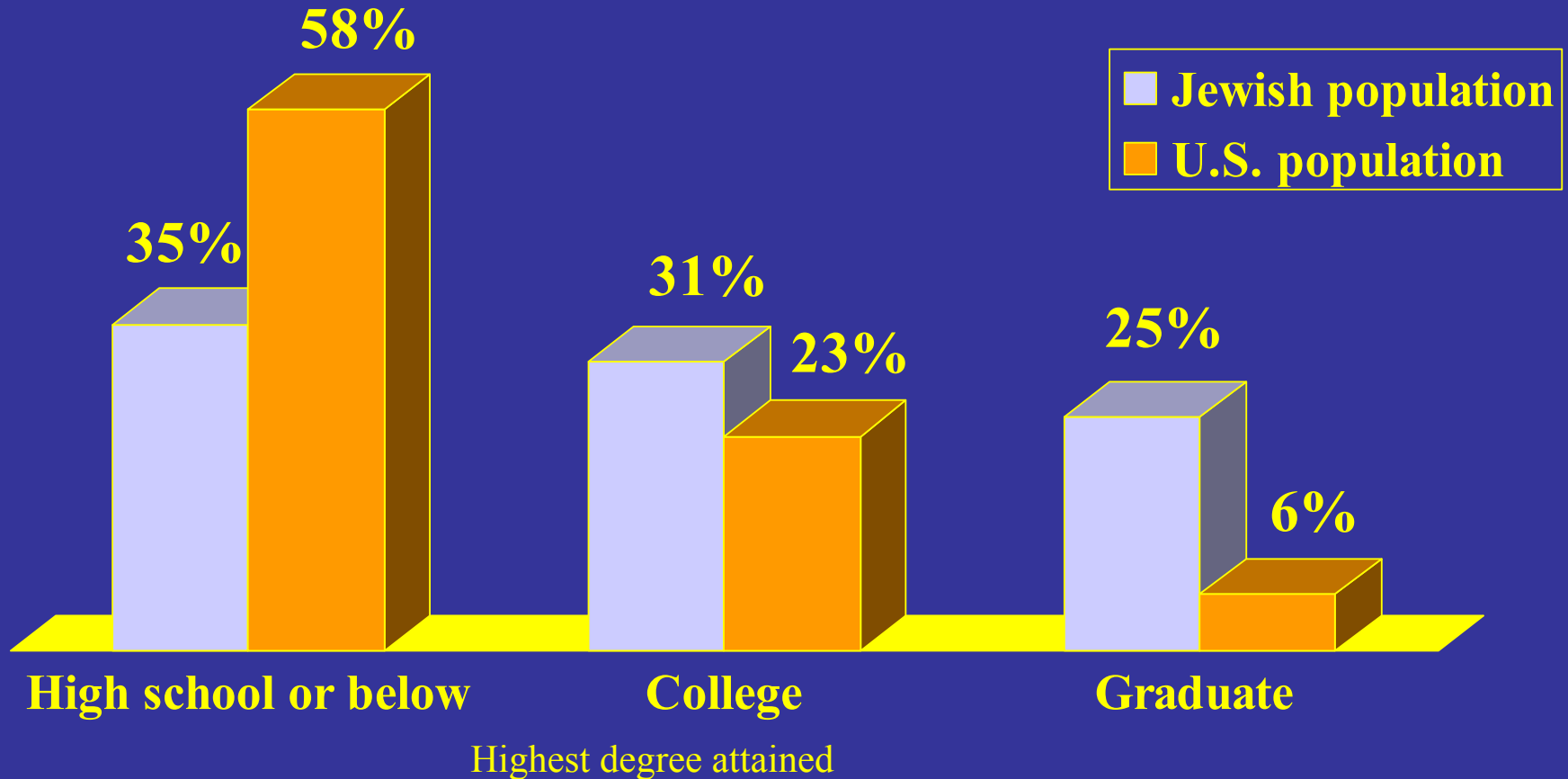
The Jewish population is concentrated in the Northeast, with 41% of Jewish adults, 50% of Jewish children and 39% of Jewish households in the region.



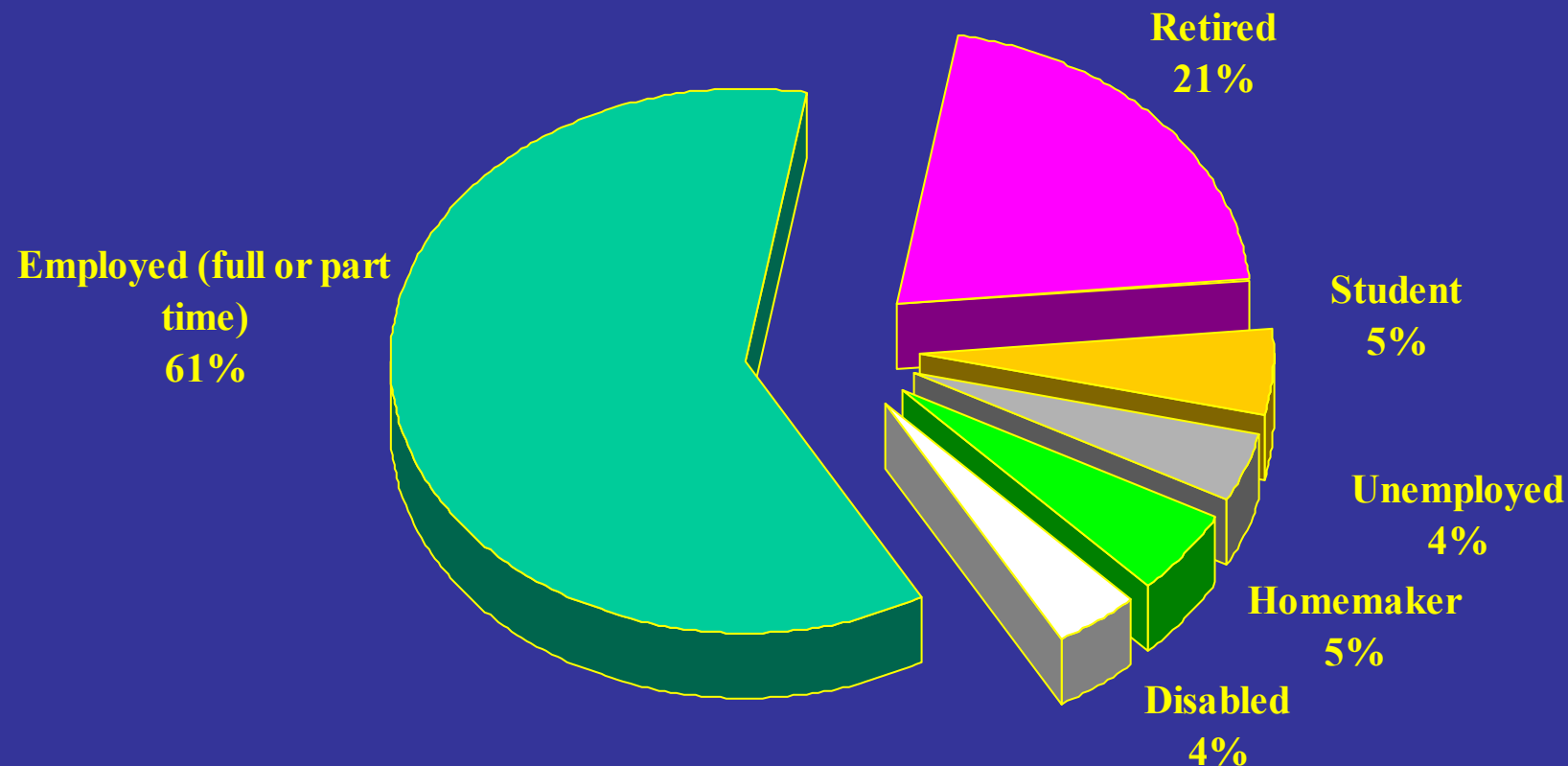
More than one-third of Jews lived in a different residence five years ago.



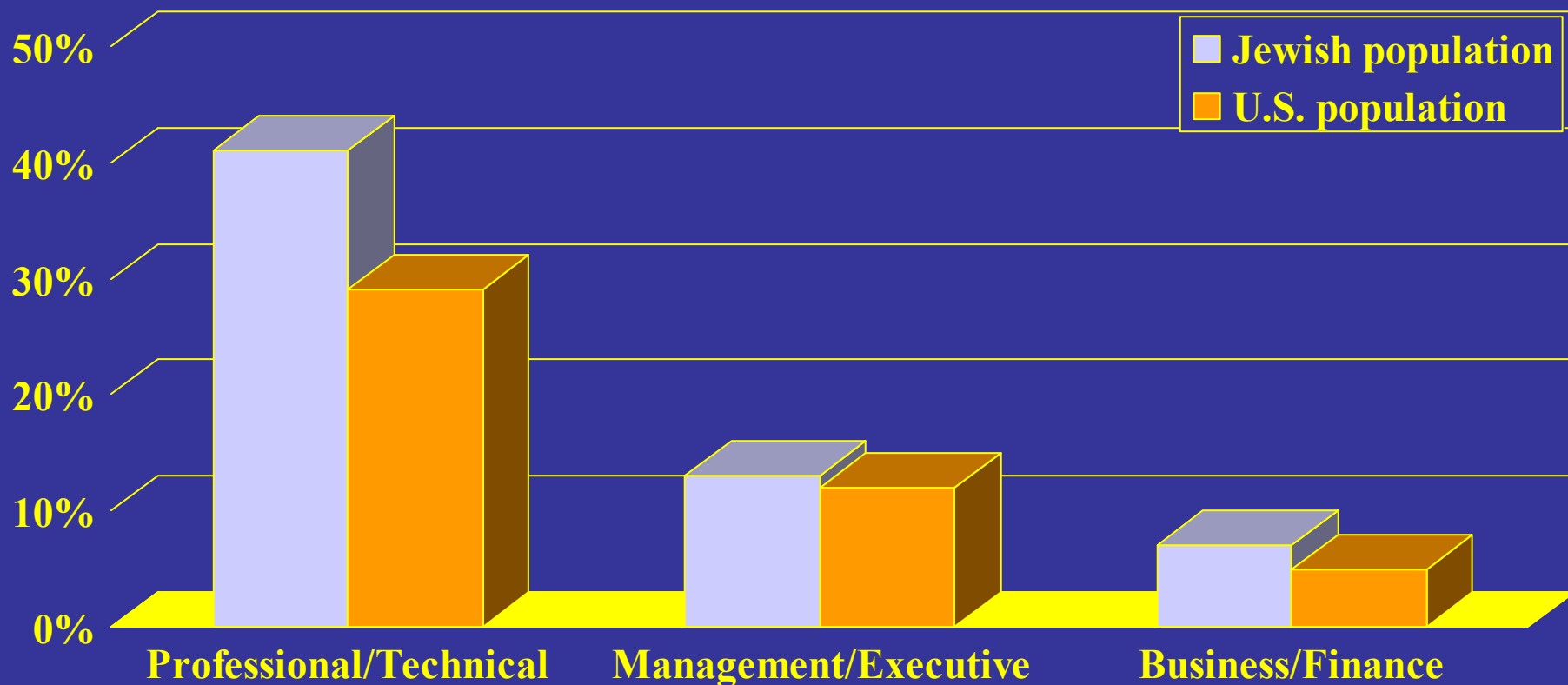
Jews have higher educational achievement than Americans generally.



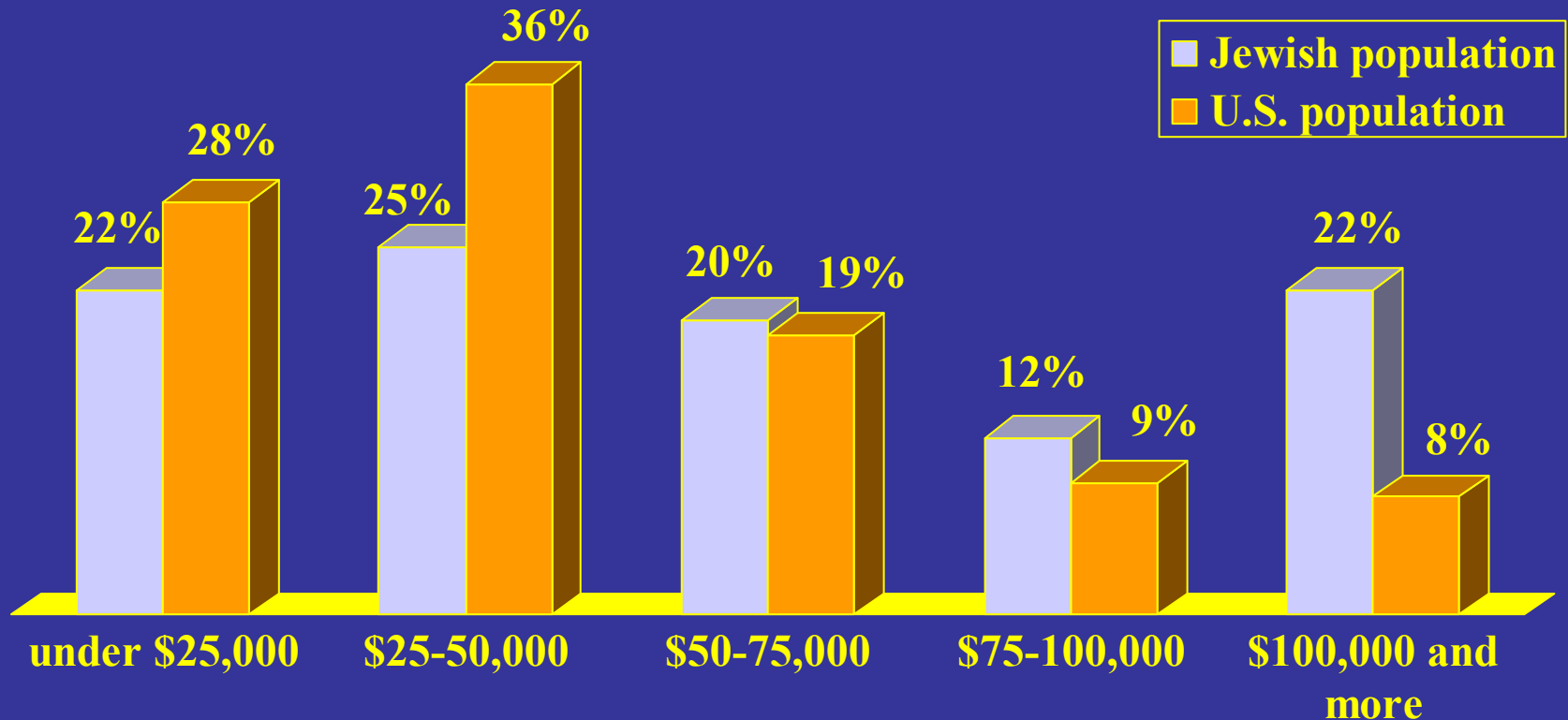
Most Jews are employed and about a fifth are retired.



Proportionally more Jews have high status occupations than do all Americans.



Jews have higher household incomes than Americans generally, but many Jews have low household incomes.



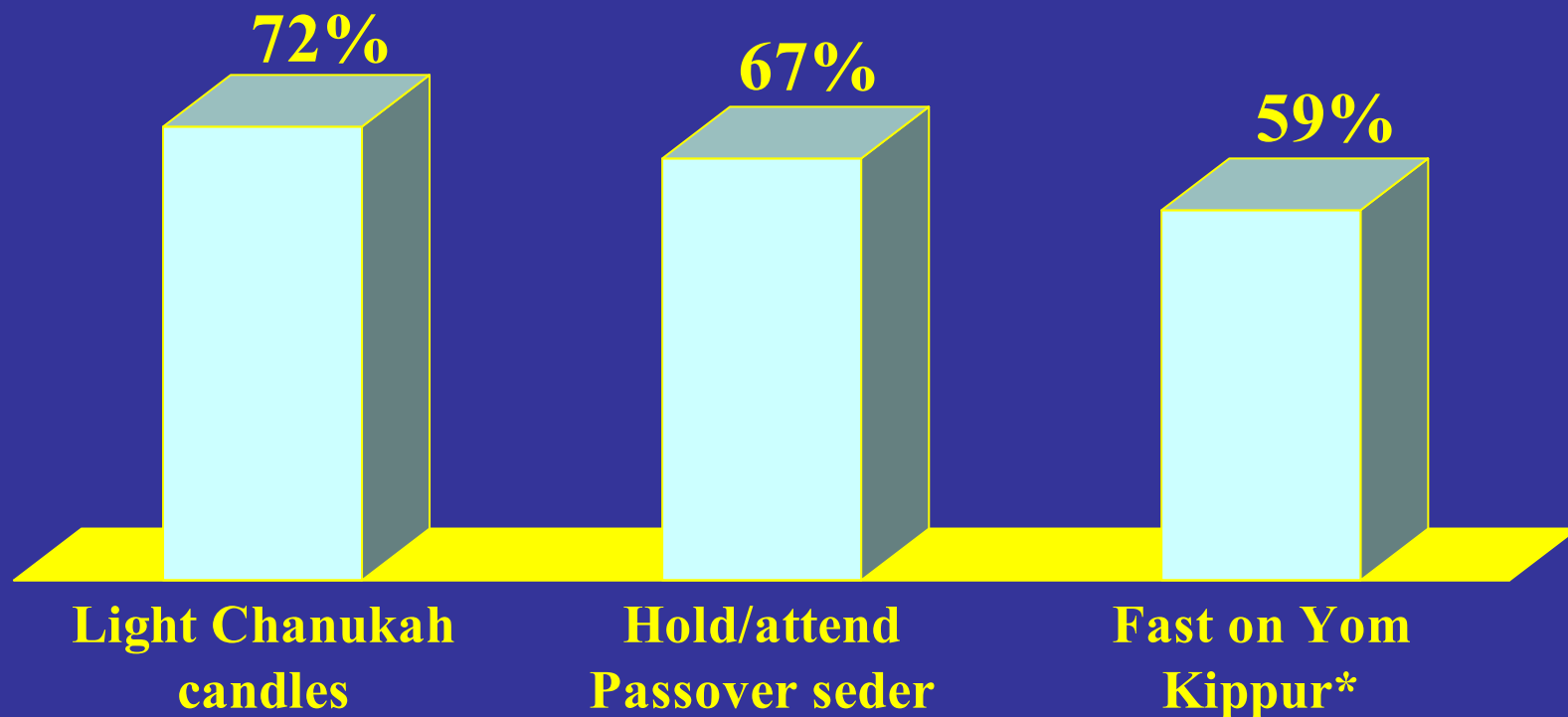


## Jewish Connections

- Jewish indicators
- Regional variations
- Over-time continuity and change
- Communal affiliation
- Israel
- Philanthropy
- Jewish education

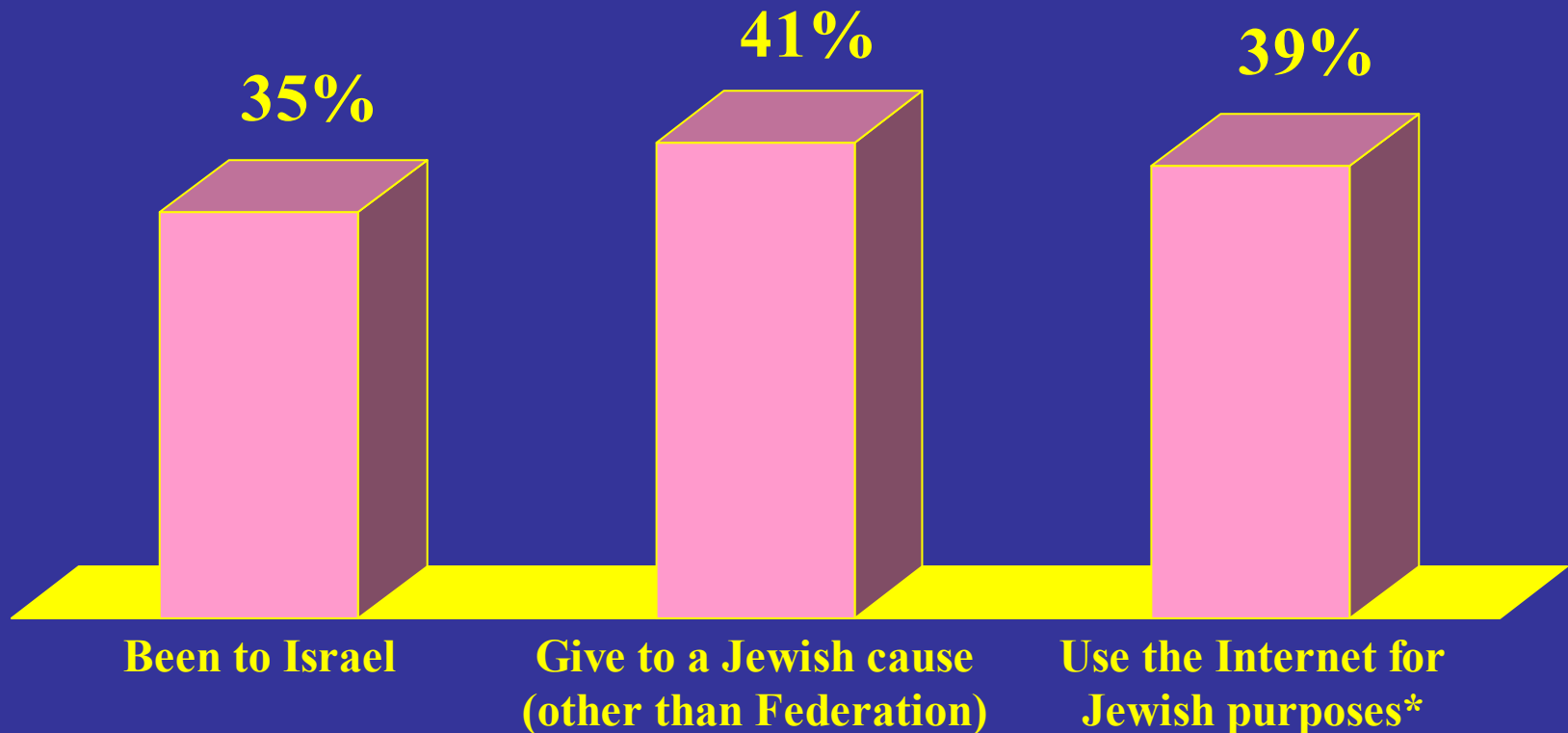


Most American Jews observe a number of important Jewish holidays and rituals.



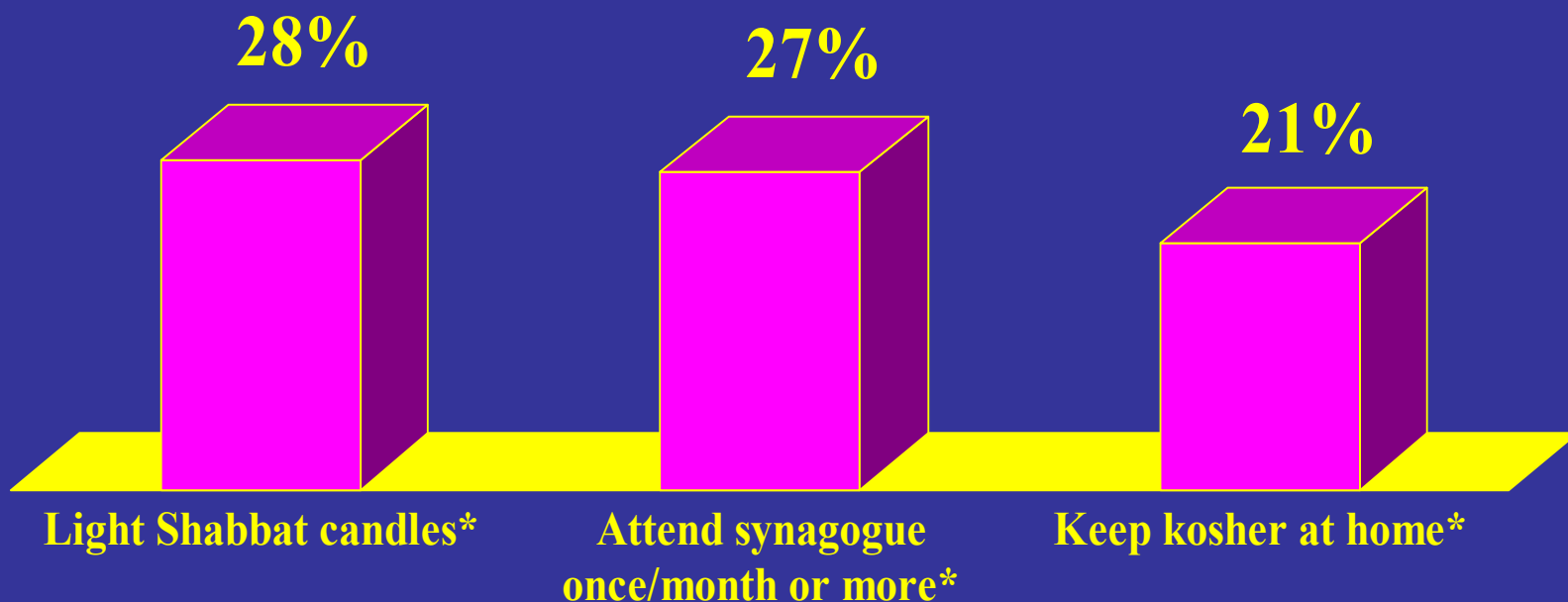


Moderate proportions of Jews engage in a variety of Jewish behaviors.



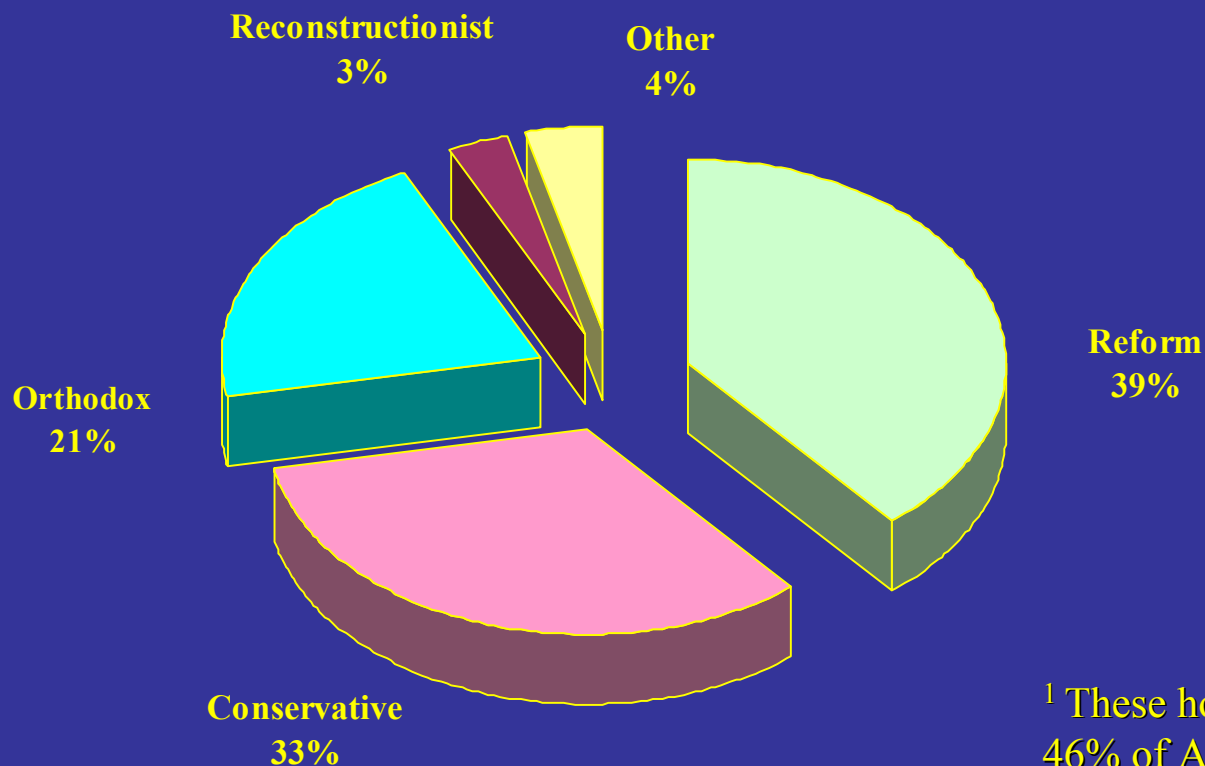


Minorities of American Jews engage in these religious activities.





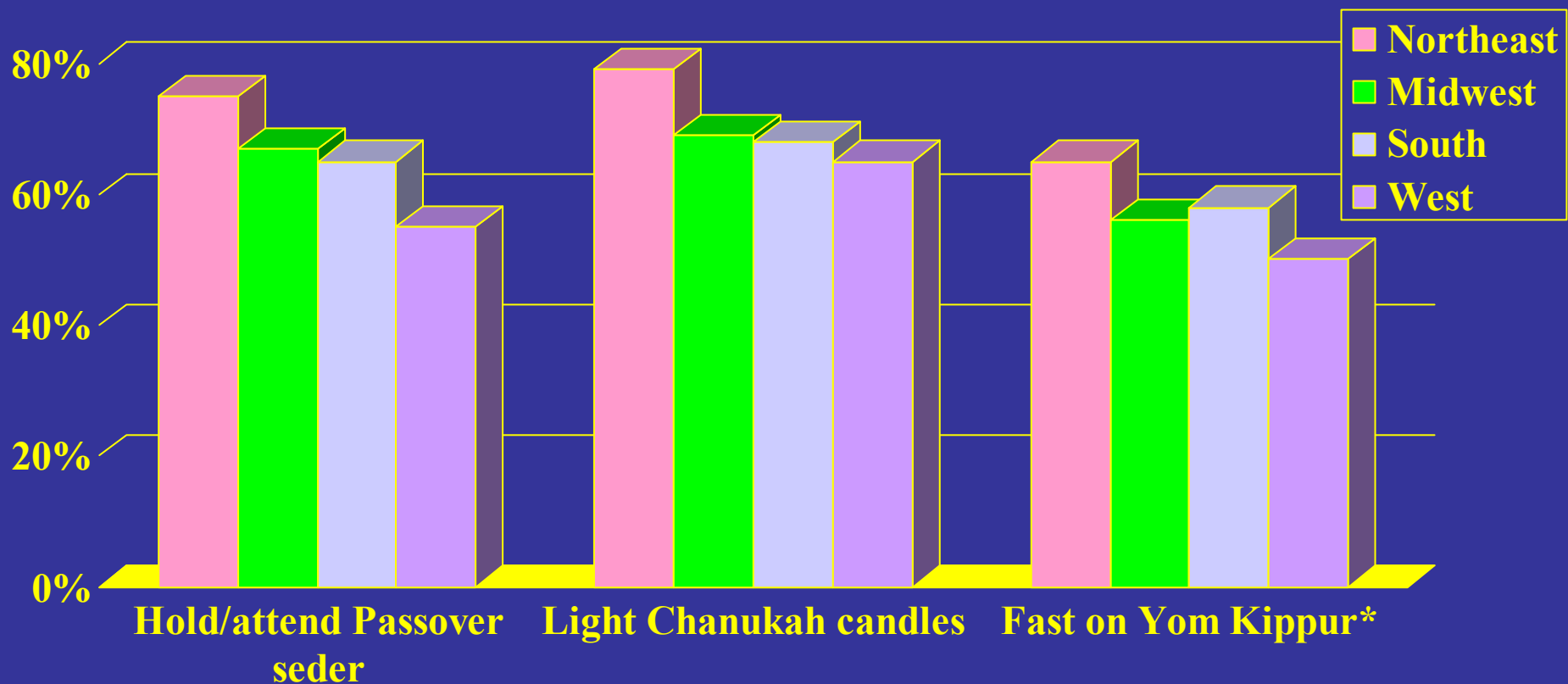
Forty percent of American Jewish households<sup>1</sup> belong to synagogues.\* Among these households, the denominational distribution is shown below:



<sup>1</sup> These households contain 46% of American Jewish adults.

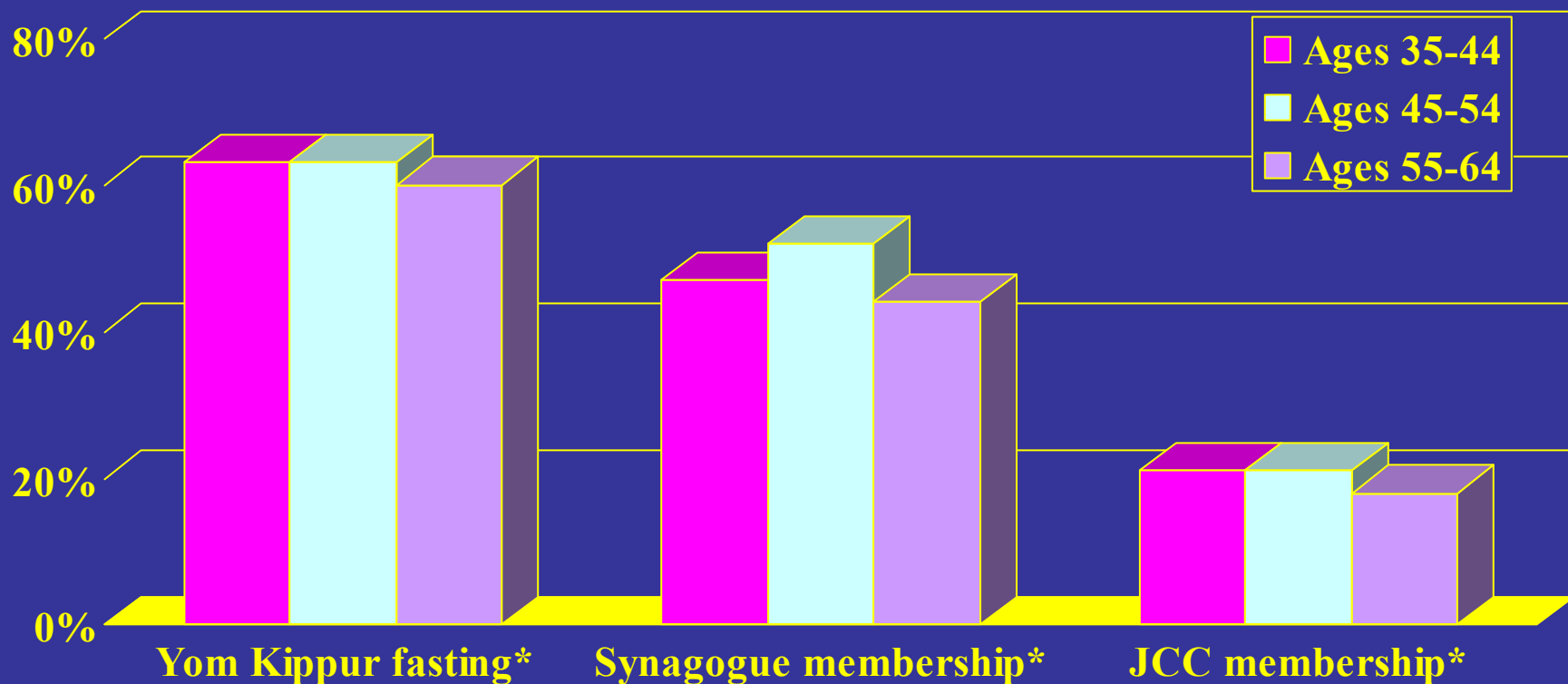


Proportionally more Jews in the Northeast observe rituals than Jews in the other regions.



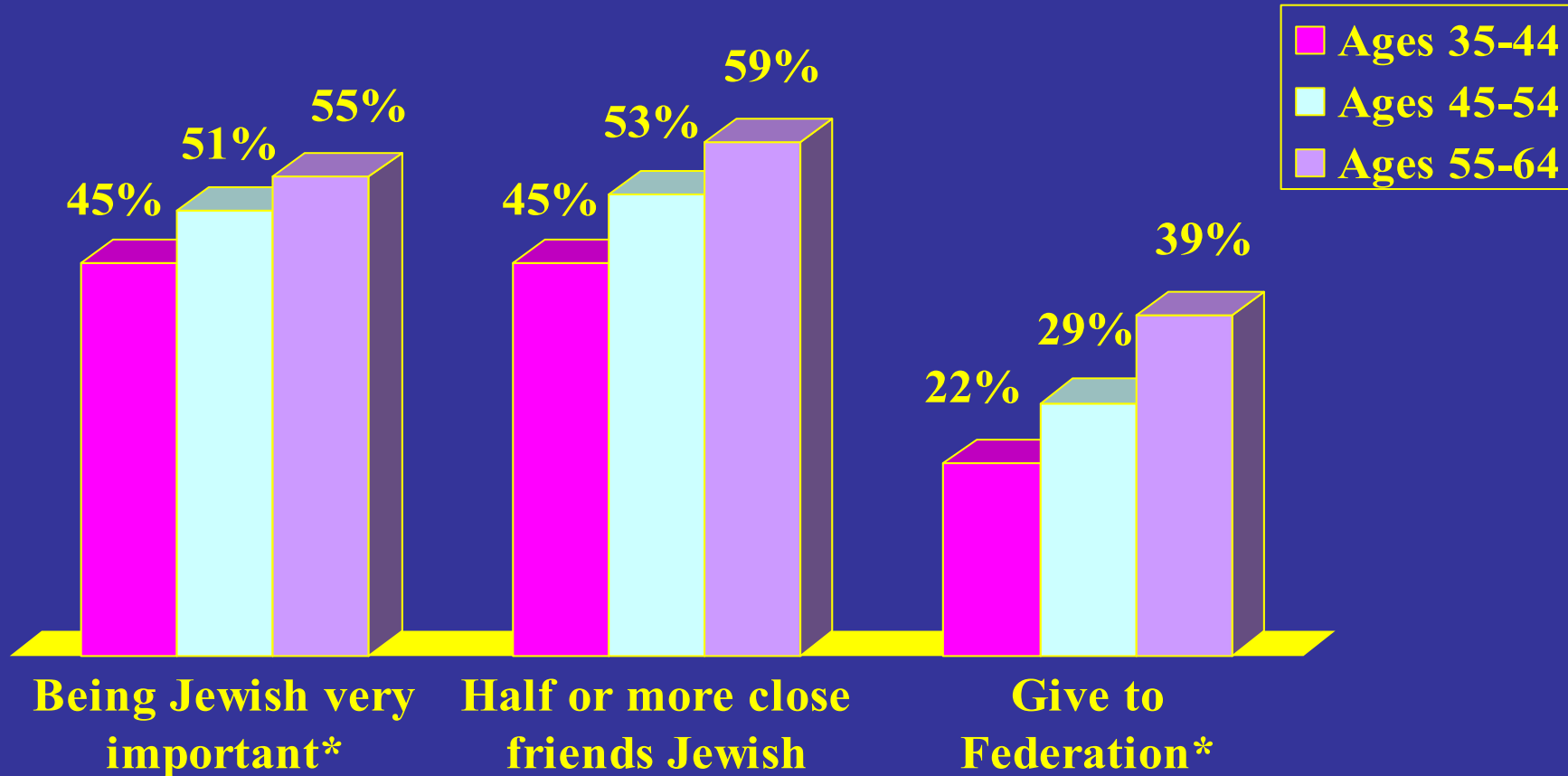


Many indicators of Jewish engagement remain steady across three crucial age groups 35-64.





Other indicators of Jewish connection show older Jews are more engaged than younger Jews.





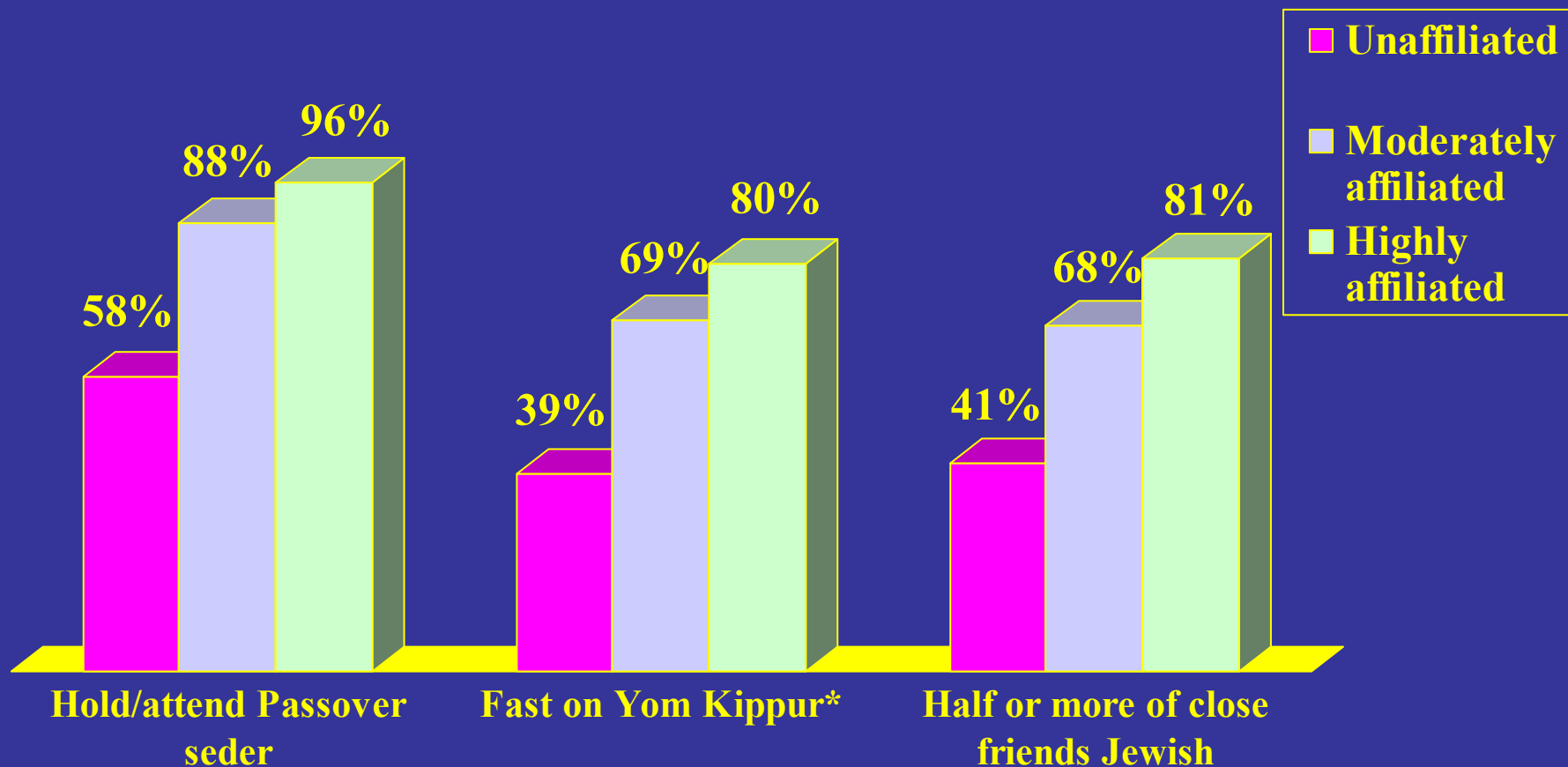
The Jewish population is divided into three segments according to membership in synagogues, JCCs and other Jewish organizations.\*

Highly Affiliated	Two or more Jewish memberships	28%
Moderately Affiliated	One Jewish membership	28%
Unaffiliated	No Jewish memberships	44%

# Jewish Connections

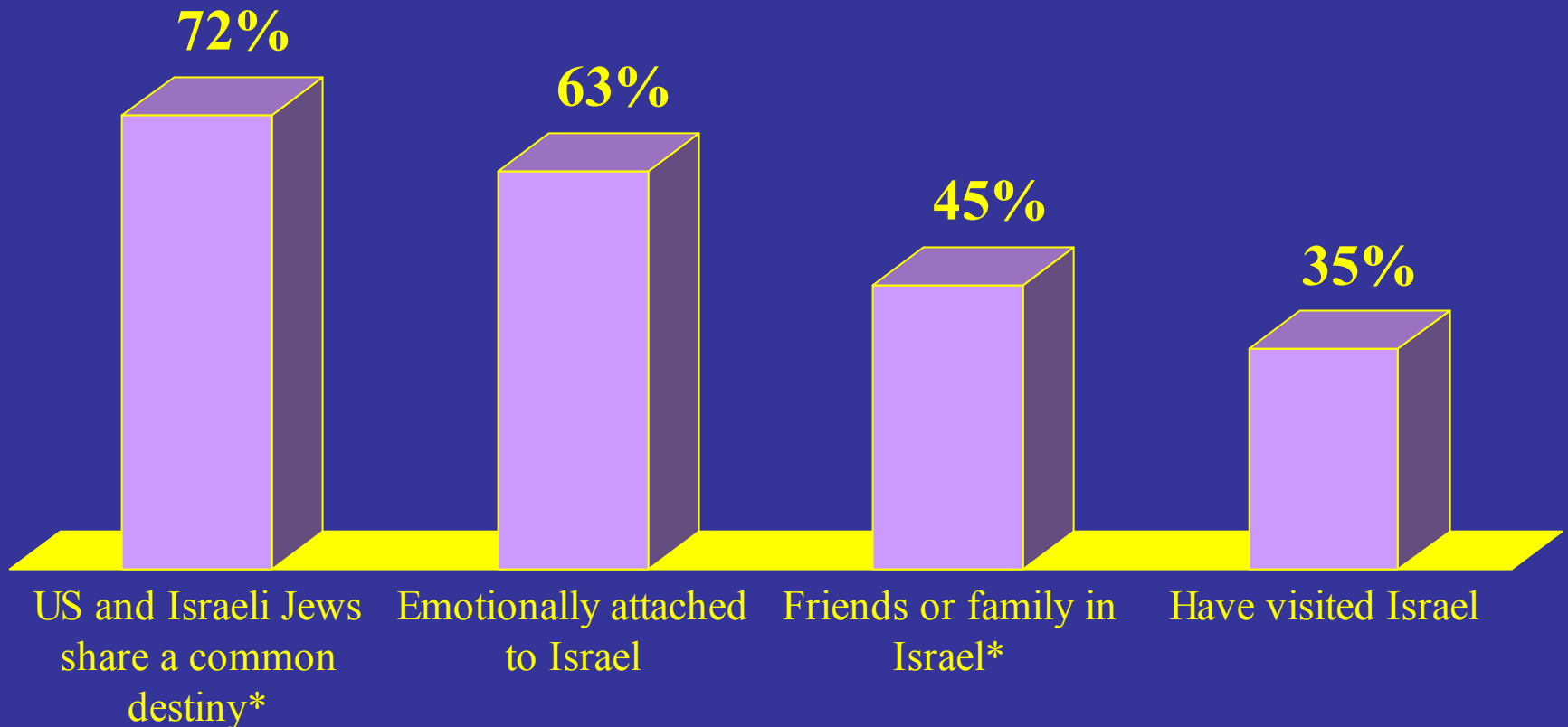


Highly and moderately affiliated Jews are more engaged in other areas of Jewish life than unaffiliated Jews.\*



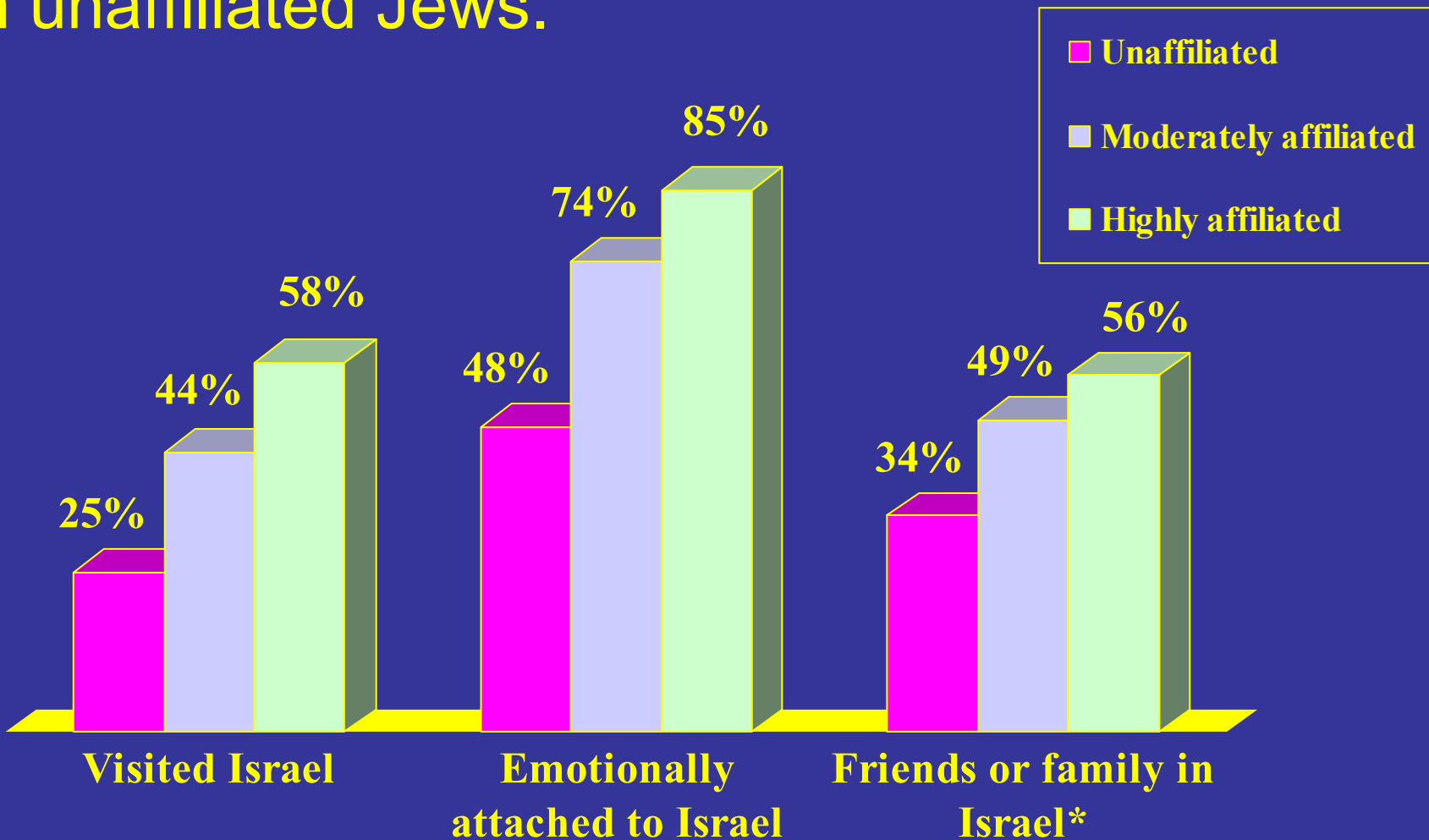


American Jews have multiple connections to Israel.





Affiliated Jews have stronger connections to Israel than unaffiliated Jews.\*



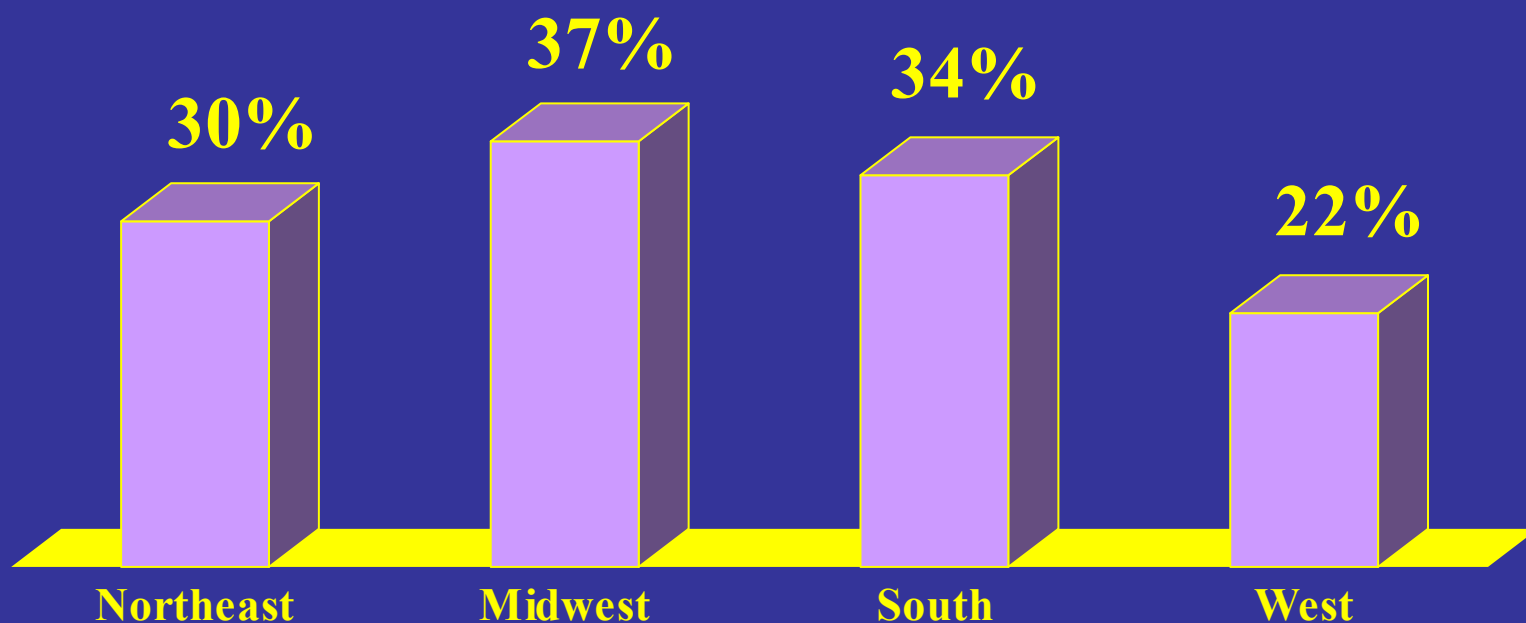


More American Jews give to non-Jewish causes than to Jewish causes.

Donate to Federation*	30%
Donate to non-Federation Jewish causes	41%
Donate to non-Jewish causes	62%

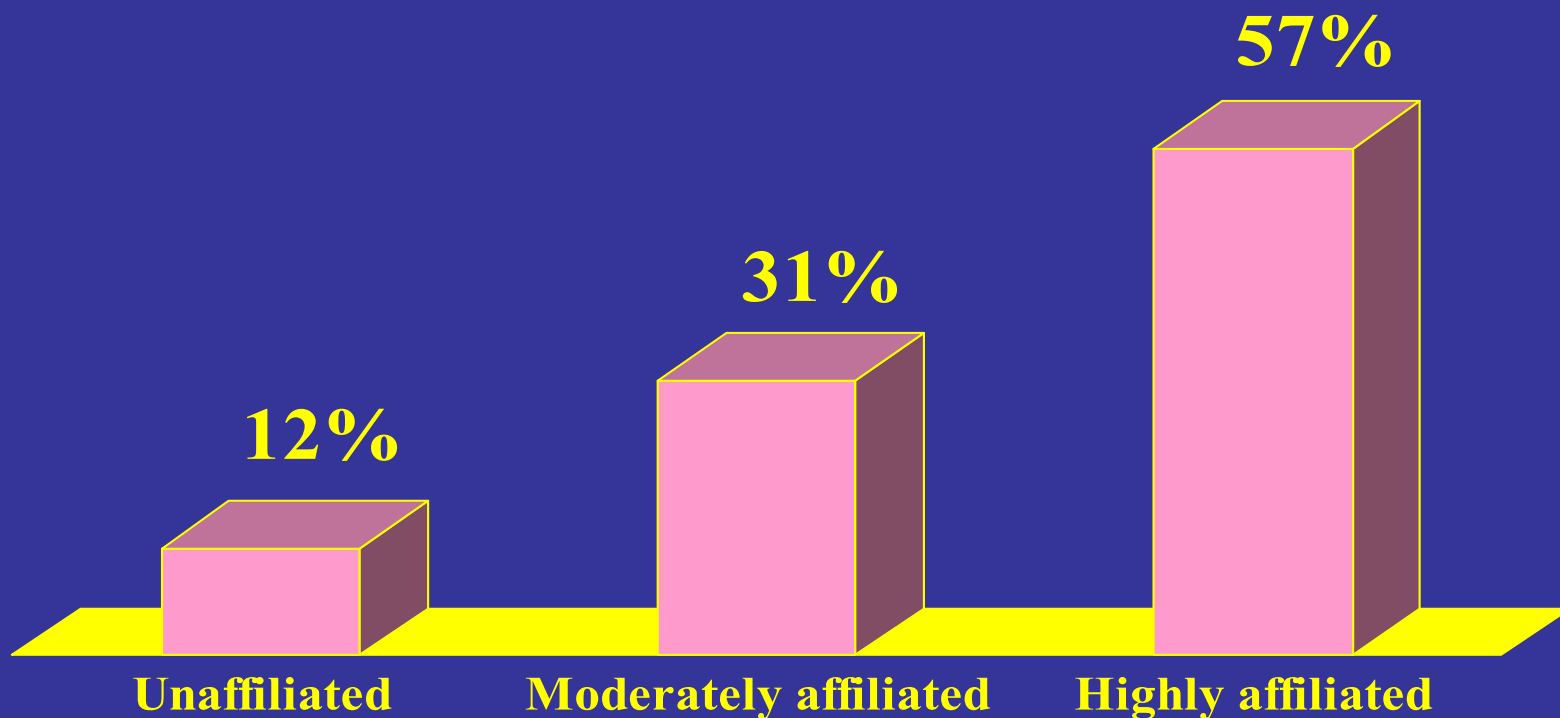


Jews in the Midwest donate more frequently to Federations than do Jews in any other region.\*



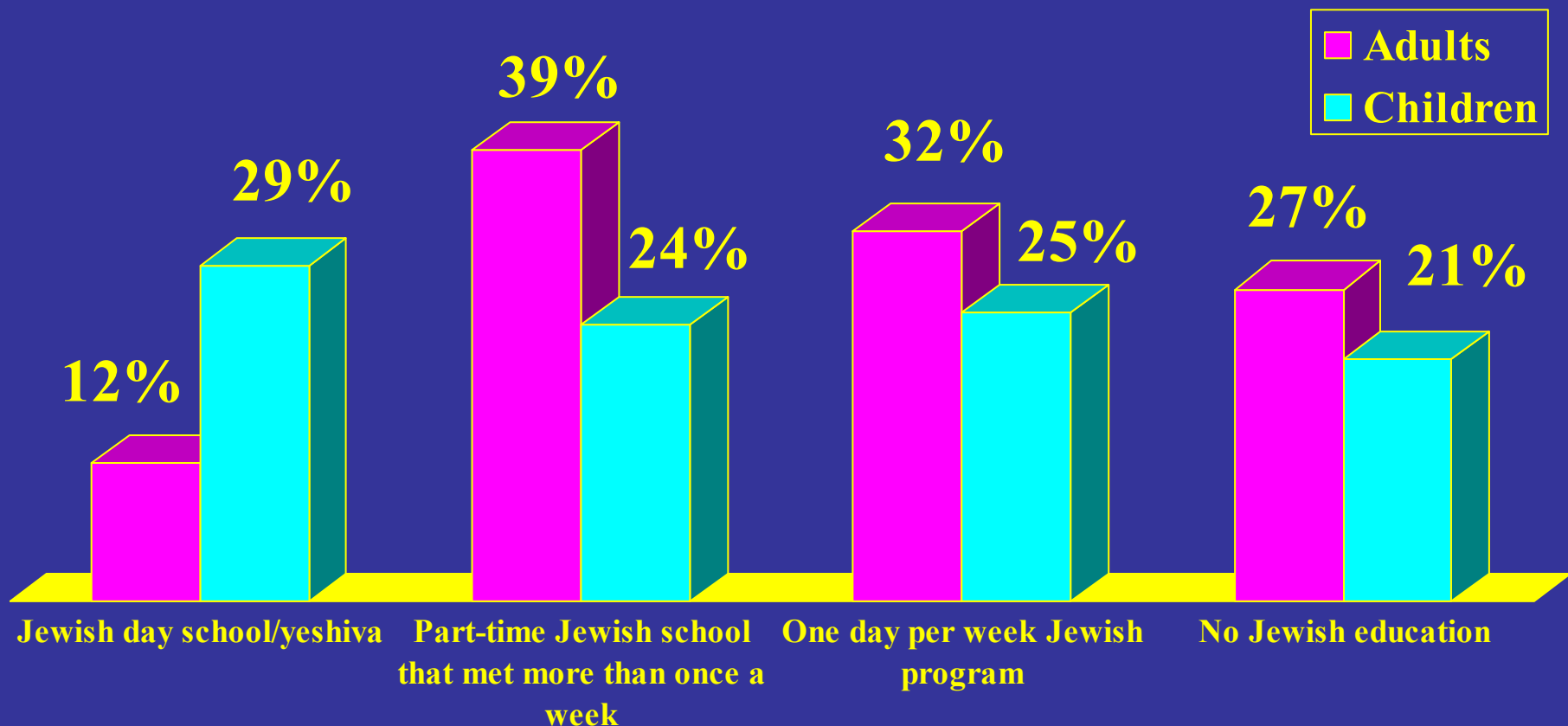


Affiliated Jews donate more frequently to Federation than do unaffiliated Jews.\*





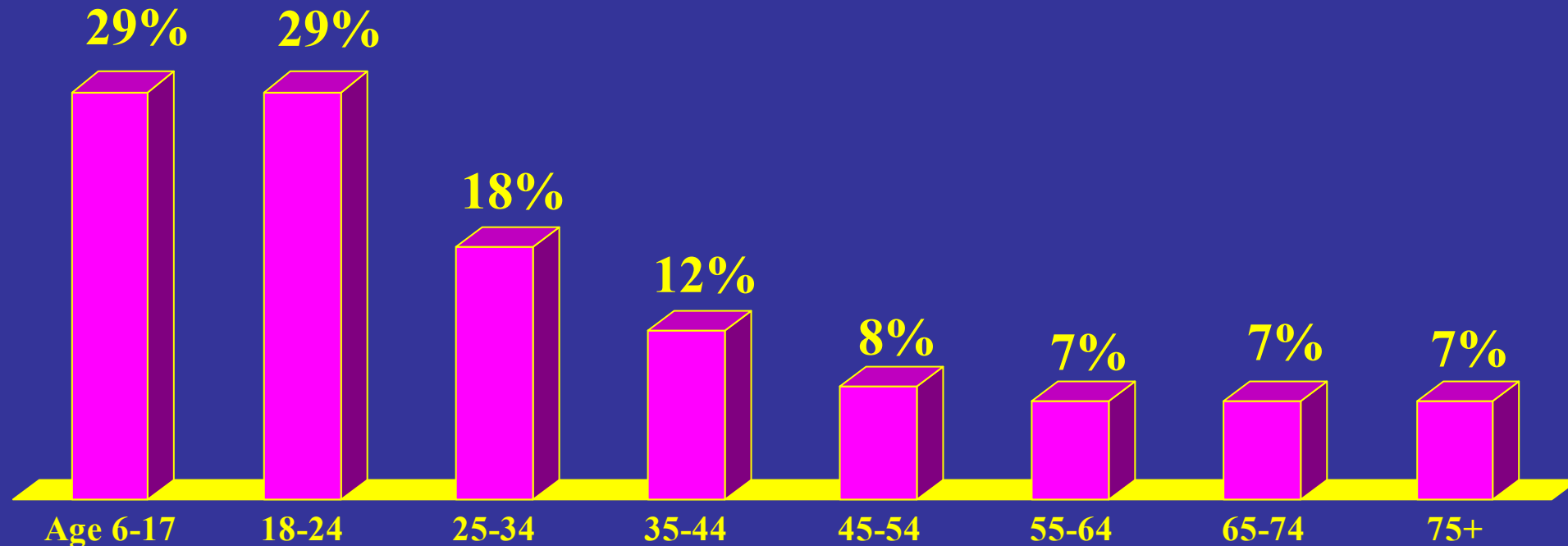
Jewish children today receive more full-time Jewish schooling than did Jewish adults.\*



Adult totals exceed 100% because some adults received multiple forms of Jewish education as children

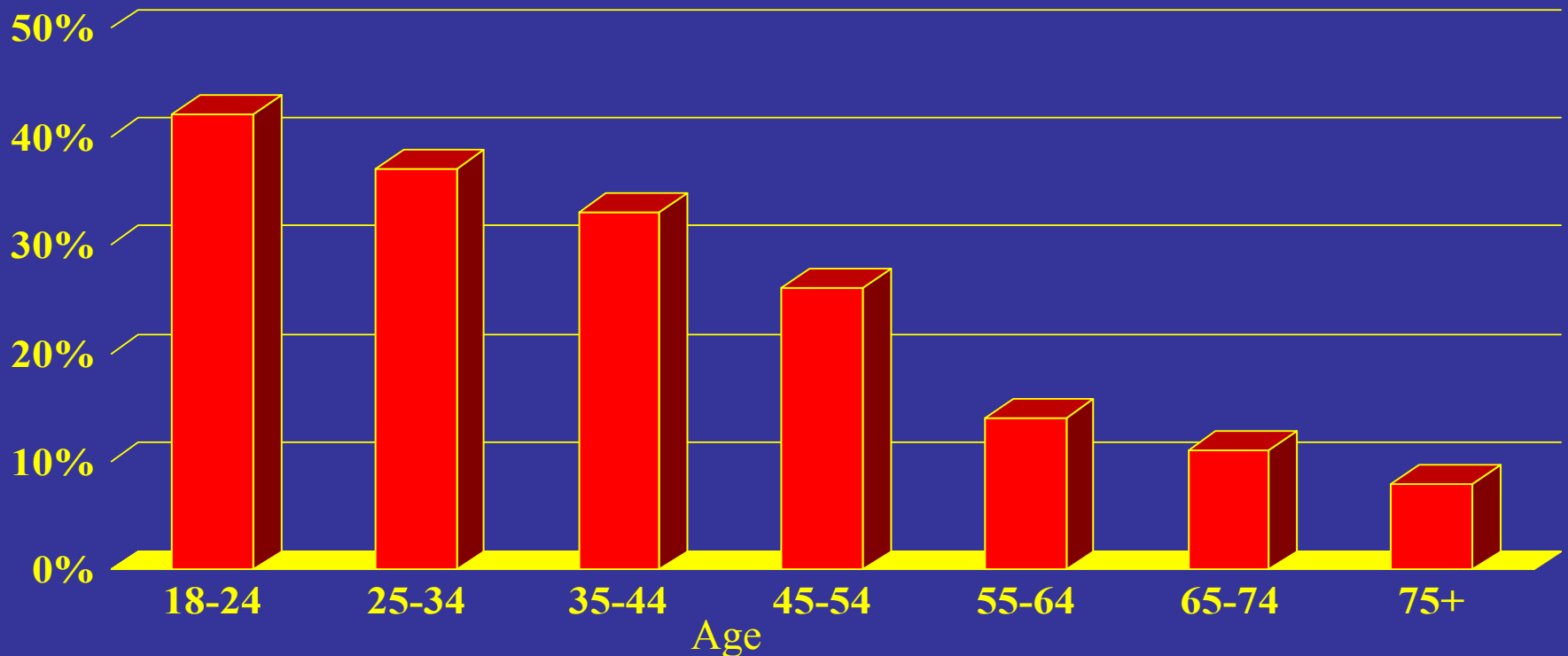


Greater proportions of Jewish children and young adults have received Jewish day school/yeshiva education than older adults.





Among those who have been to college, proportionally more young Jews have taken a Jewish studies course.





## Intermarriage

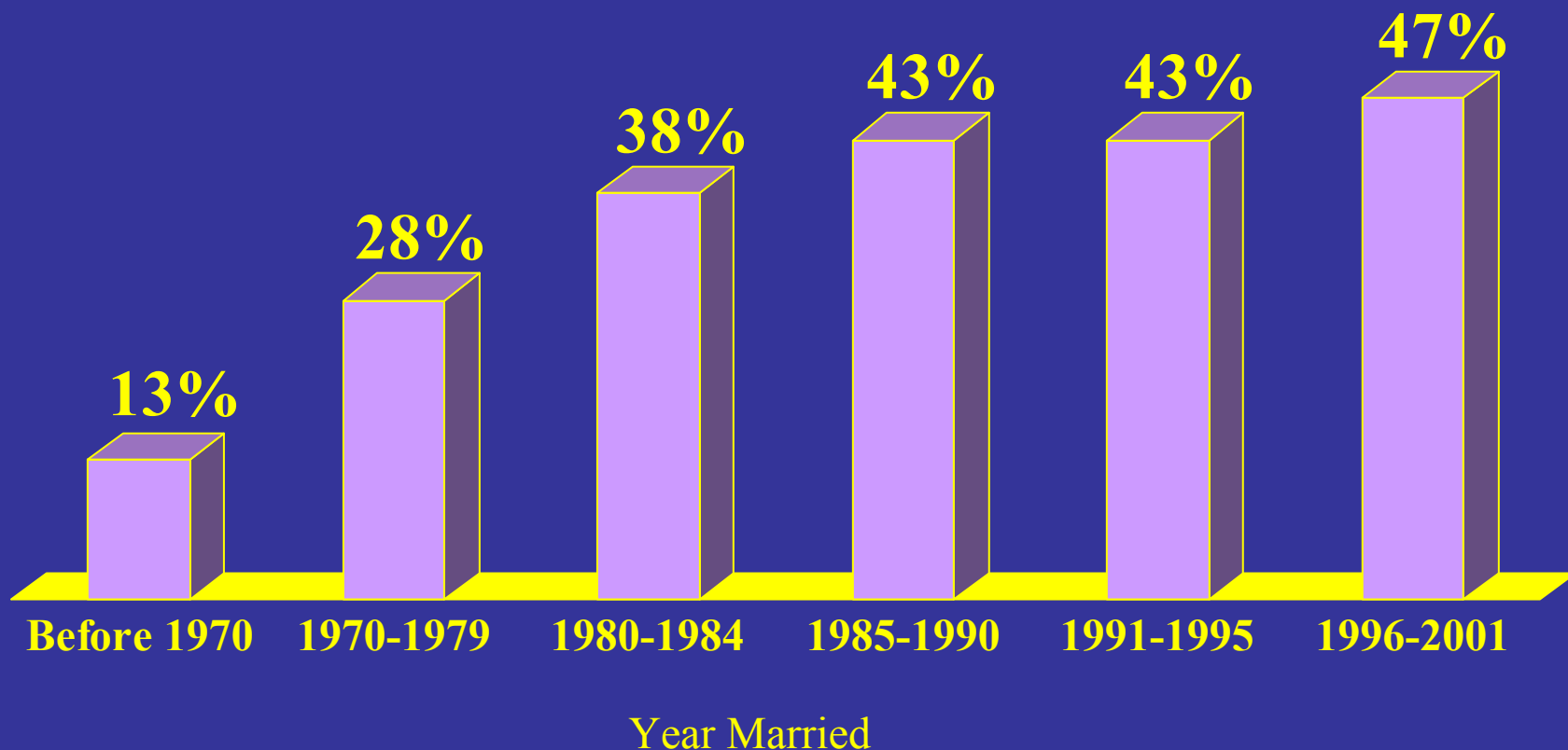
- Defining and calculating intermarriage
- Rates of intermarriage
- Variations in intermarriage
- Intermarriage and Jewish connections
- Intermarriage and Jewish children

## Definitions of Intermarriage

- Jews married to non-Jews are defined as intermarried.
- Jews married to Jews are defined as in-married.
- Converts to Judaism are included in the analysis.
- Intermarriage statistics exclude non-Jews married to non-Jews, even if one of them was Jewish at an earlier point in time.
- The intermarriage rate applies to individuals, not to couples.
- The intermarriage rate includes only current intact marriages.

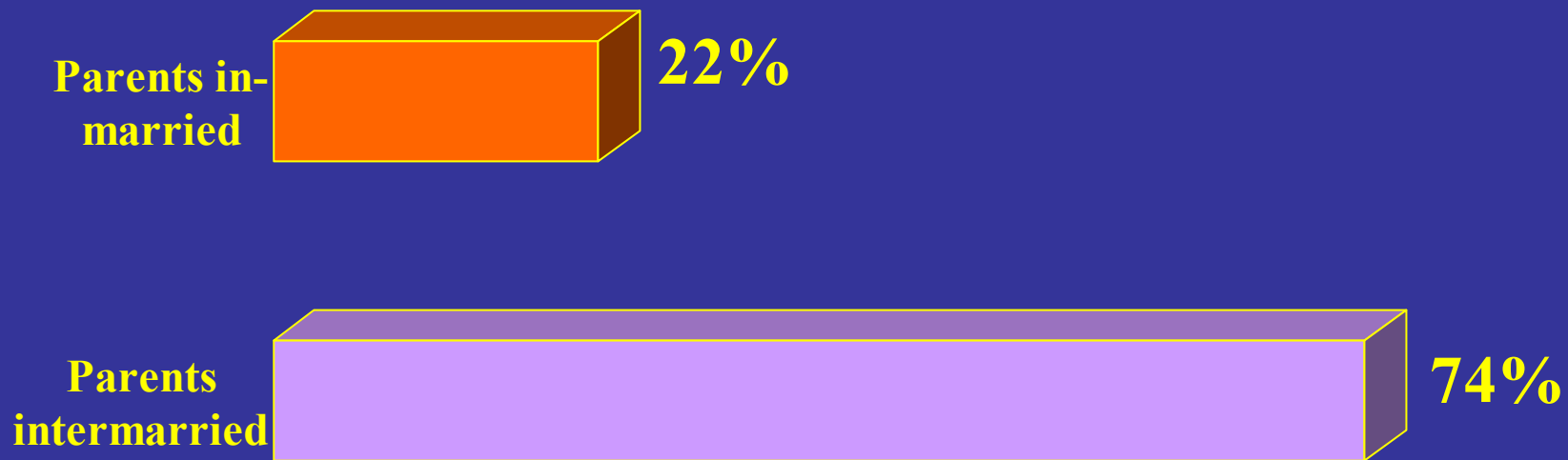


Rates of intermarriage have increased since 1970, but the rate of increase has slowed since the 1980's.





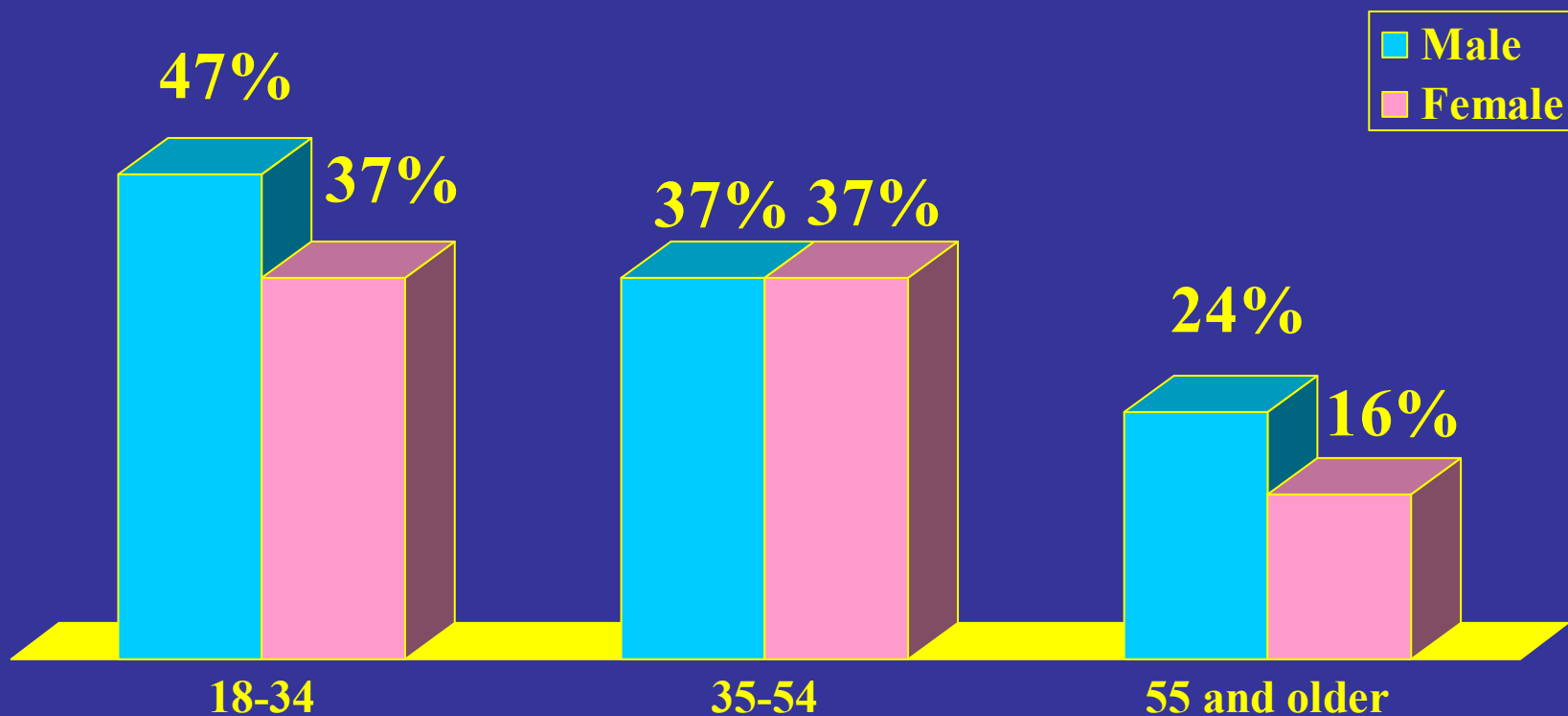
Jews with intermarried parents are much more likely to be intermarried themselves.



Percent Intermarried

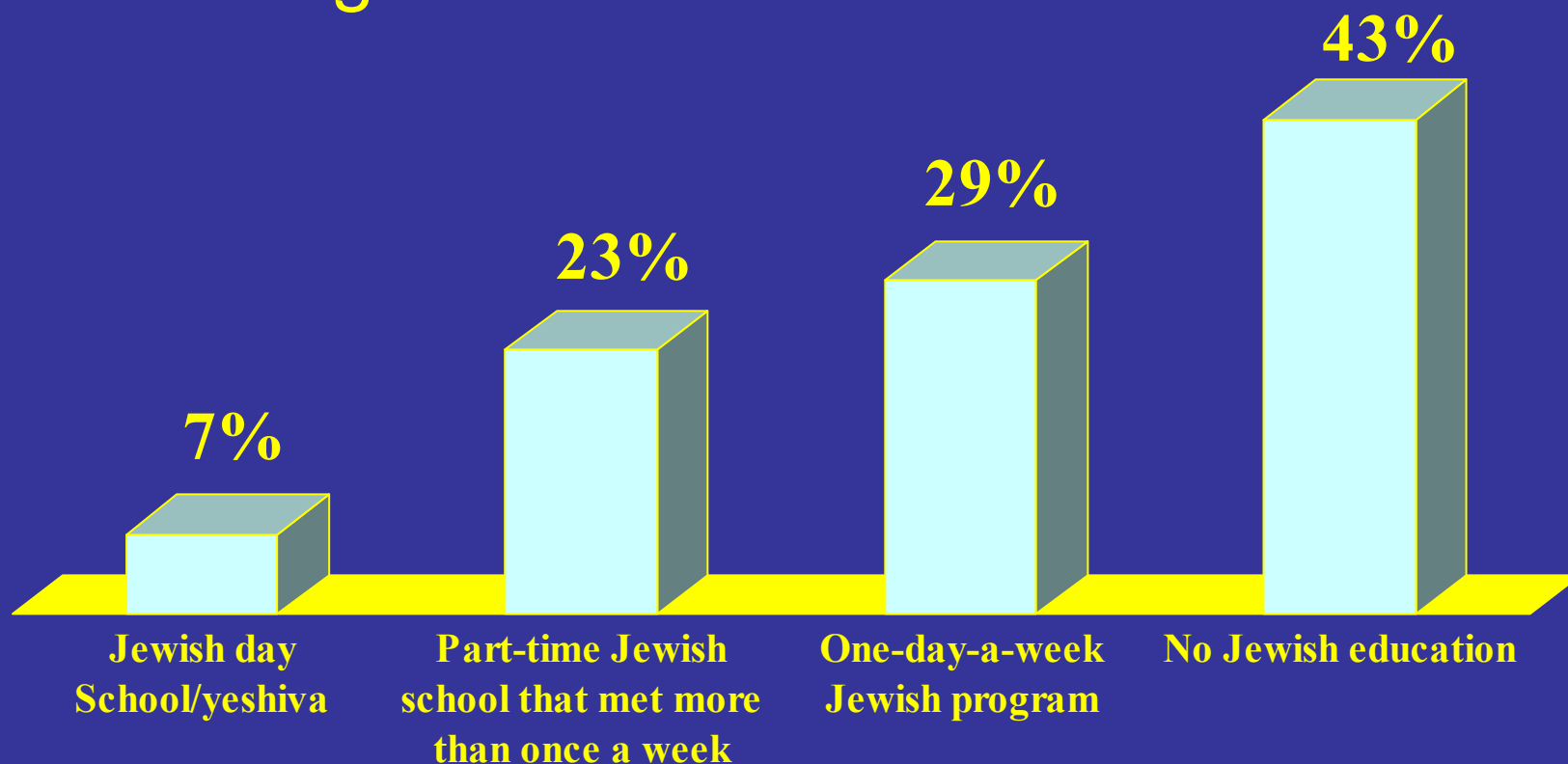


In younger and older age groups, Jewish men are more likely to be intermarried than Jewish women.



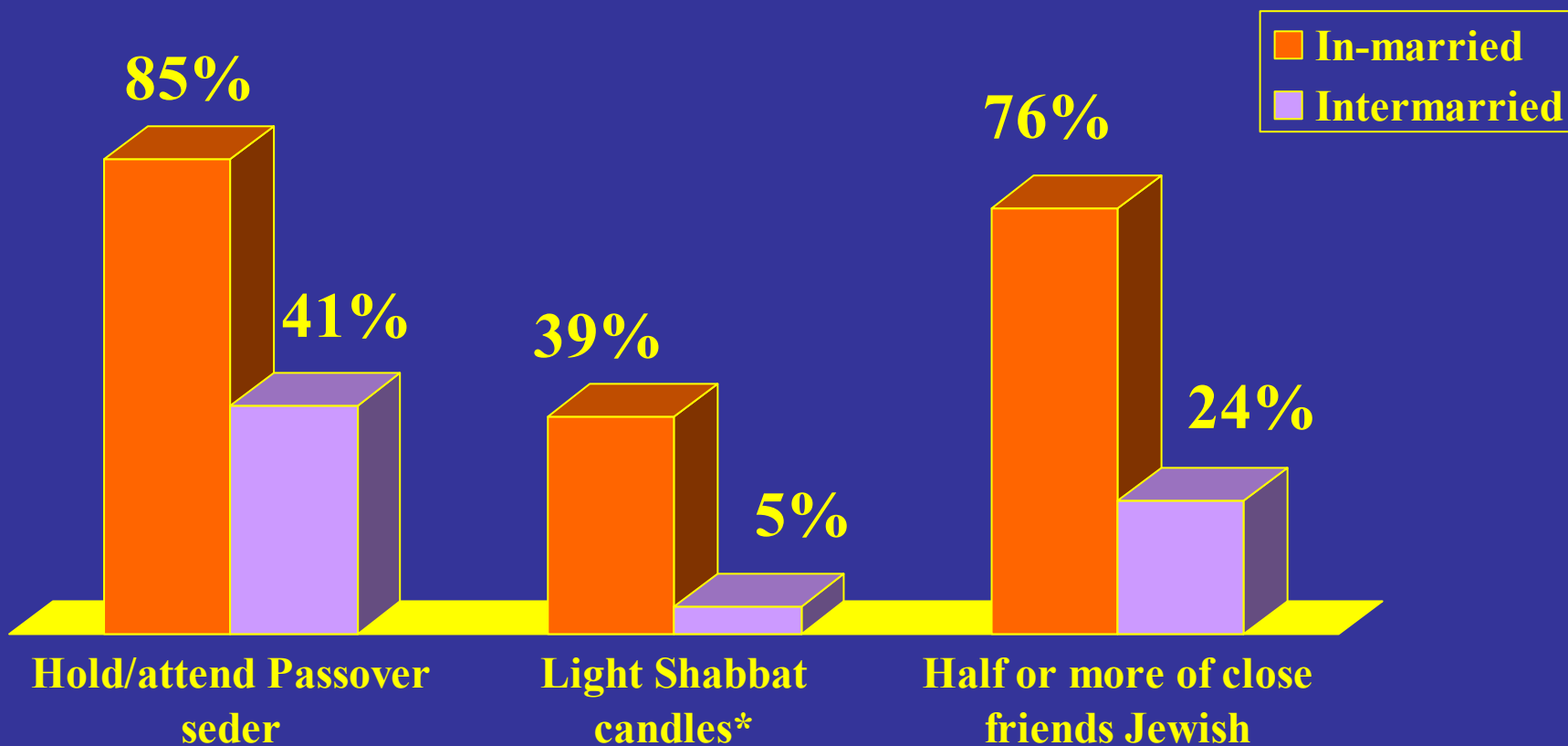


More intensive forms of Jewish education in childhood are associated with lower rates of intermarriage in adulthood.



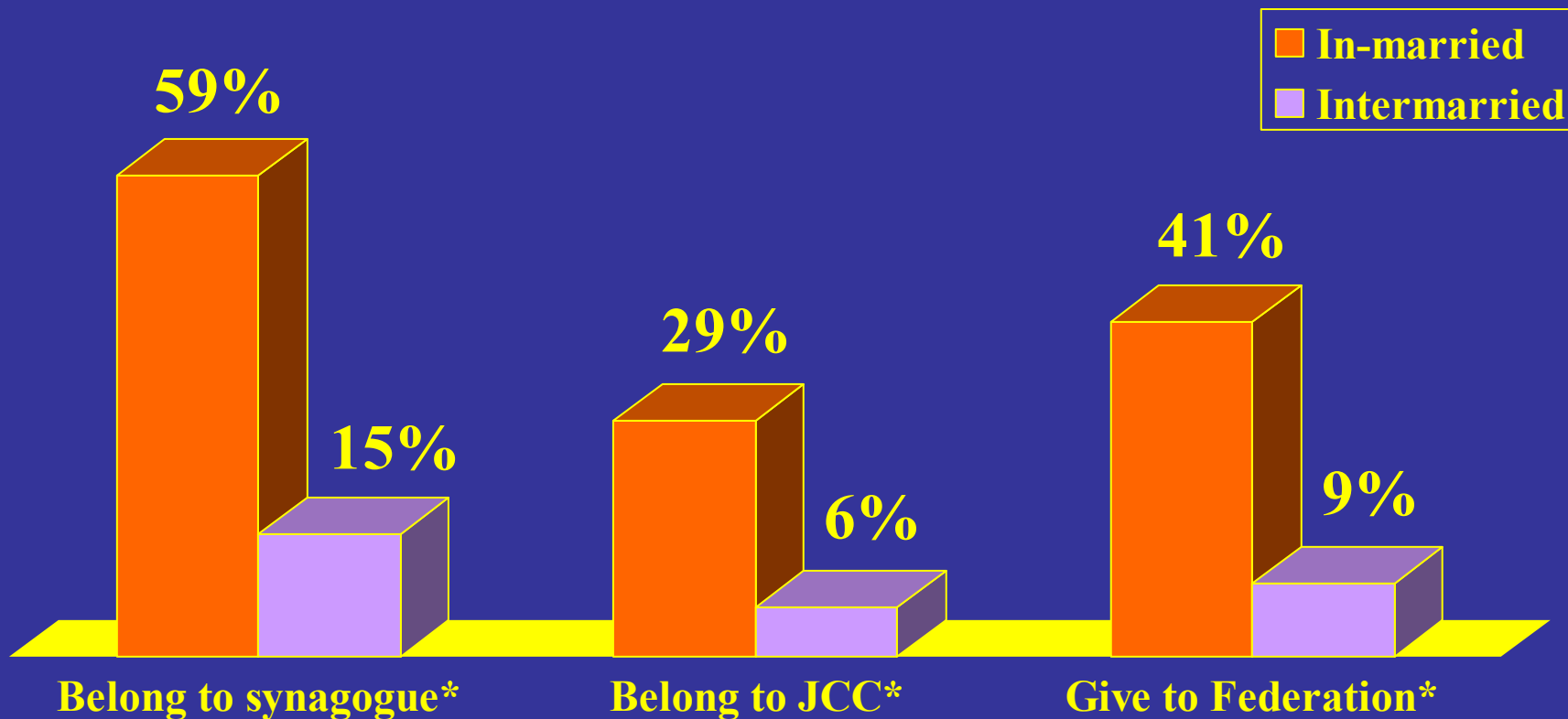


In-married Jews report stronger Jewish connections than intermarried Jews.



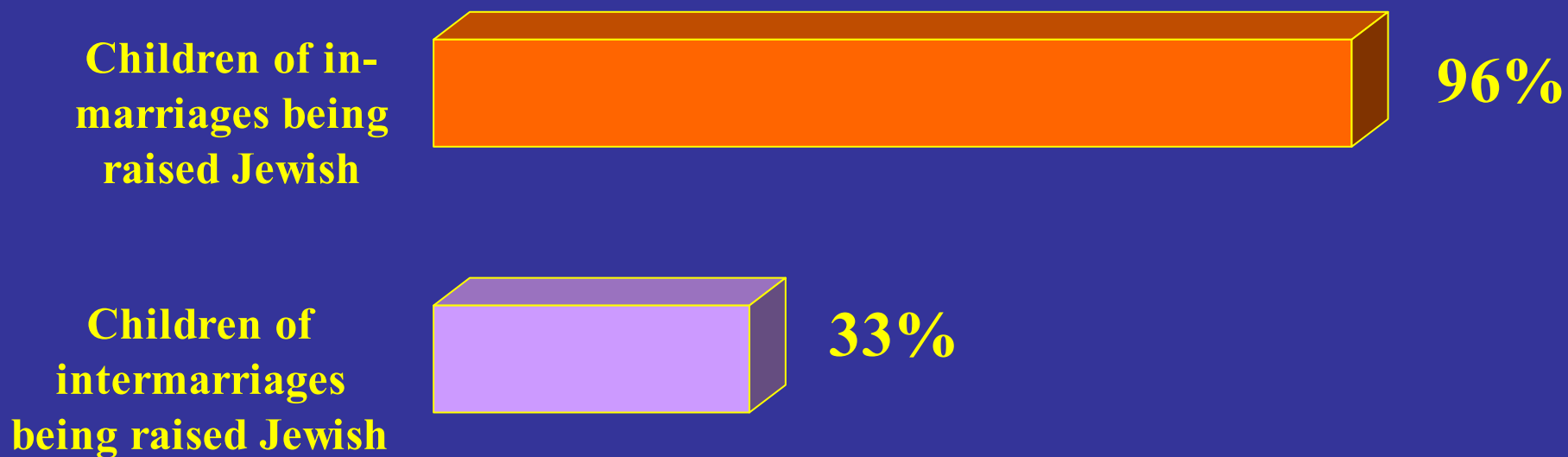


Proportionally more in-married Jews are communally affiliated than intermarried Jews.





Almost all children of in-marriages are being raised as Jews, compared with one-third of children of intermarriages.



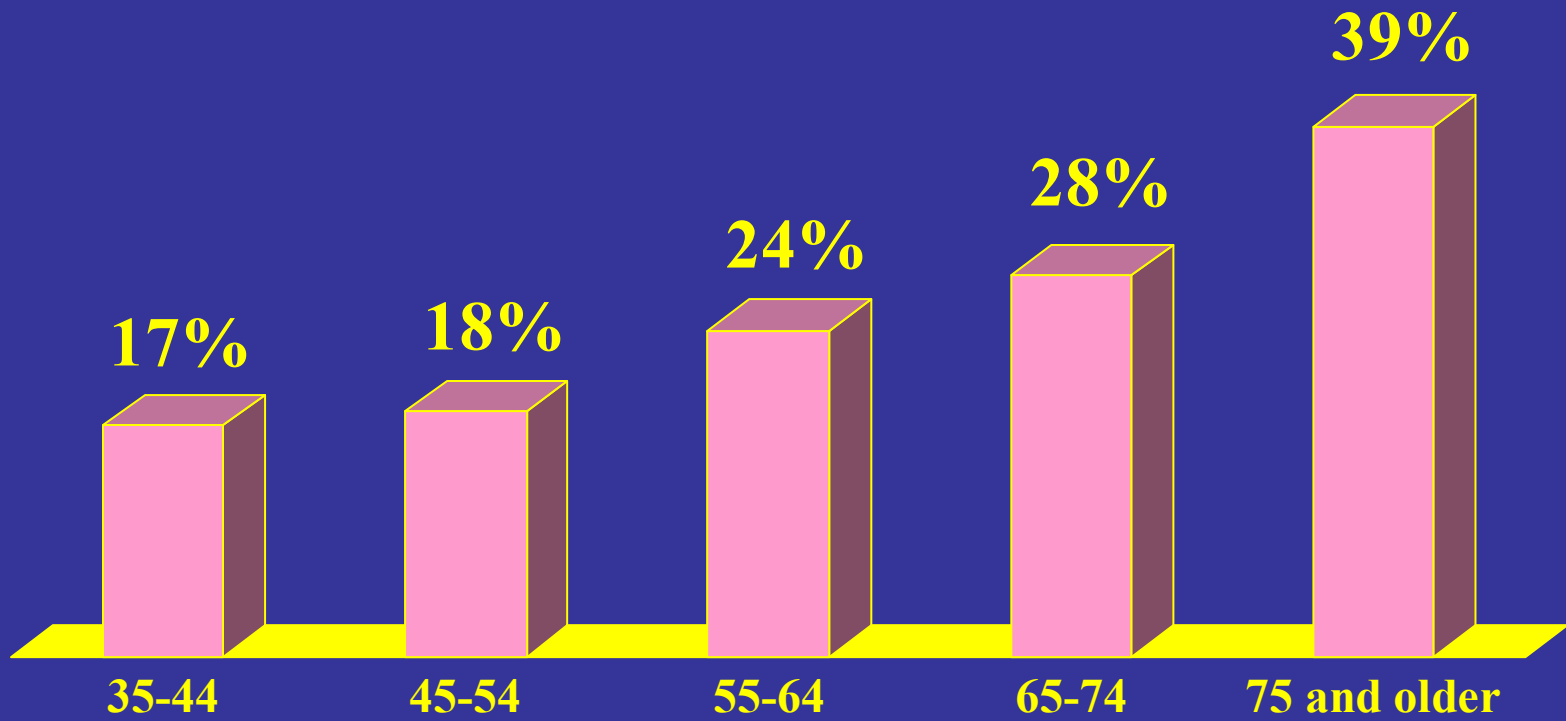


## Special Topics

- Elderly
- Immigrants
- Poverty

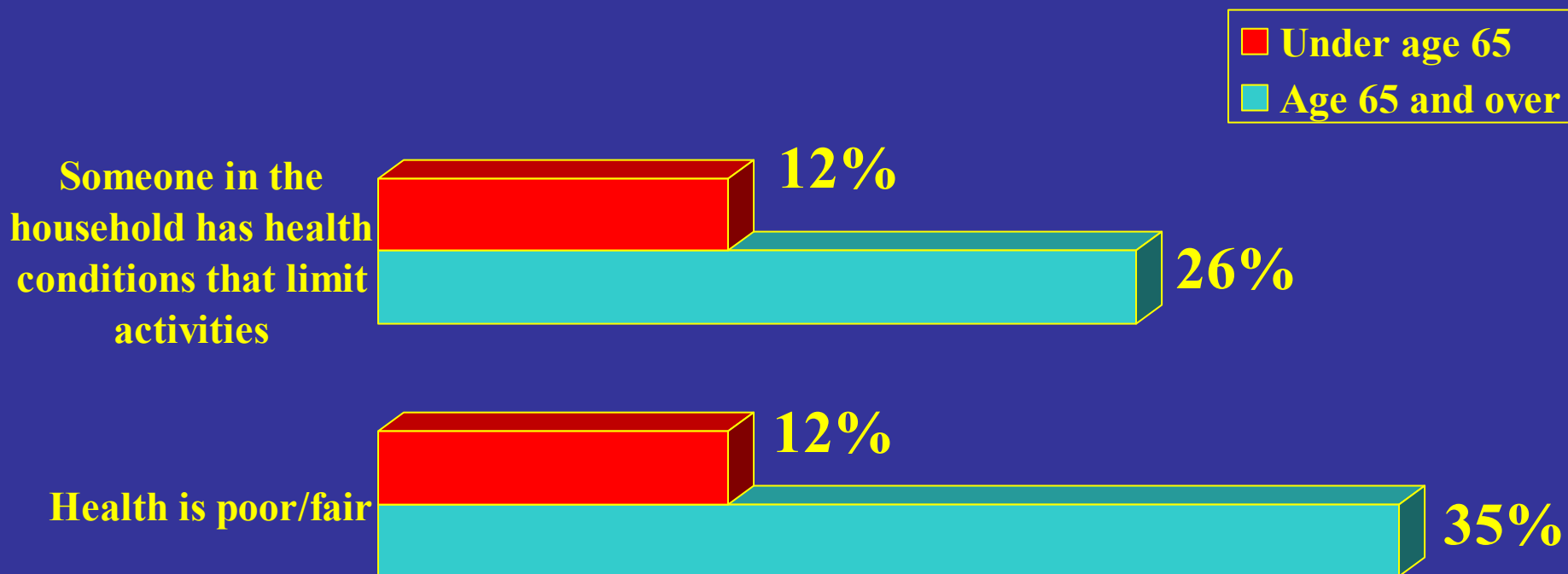


A greater percentage of elderly Jews (age 65 and older) live alone than other Jewish adults.



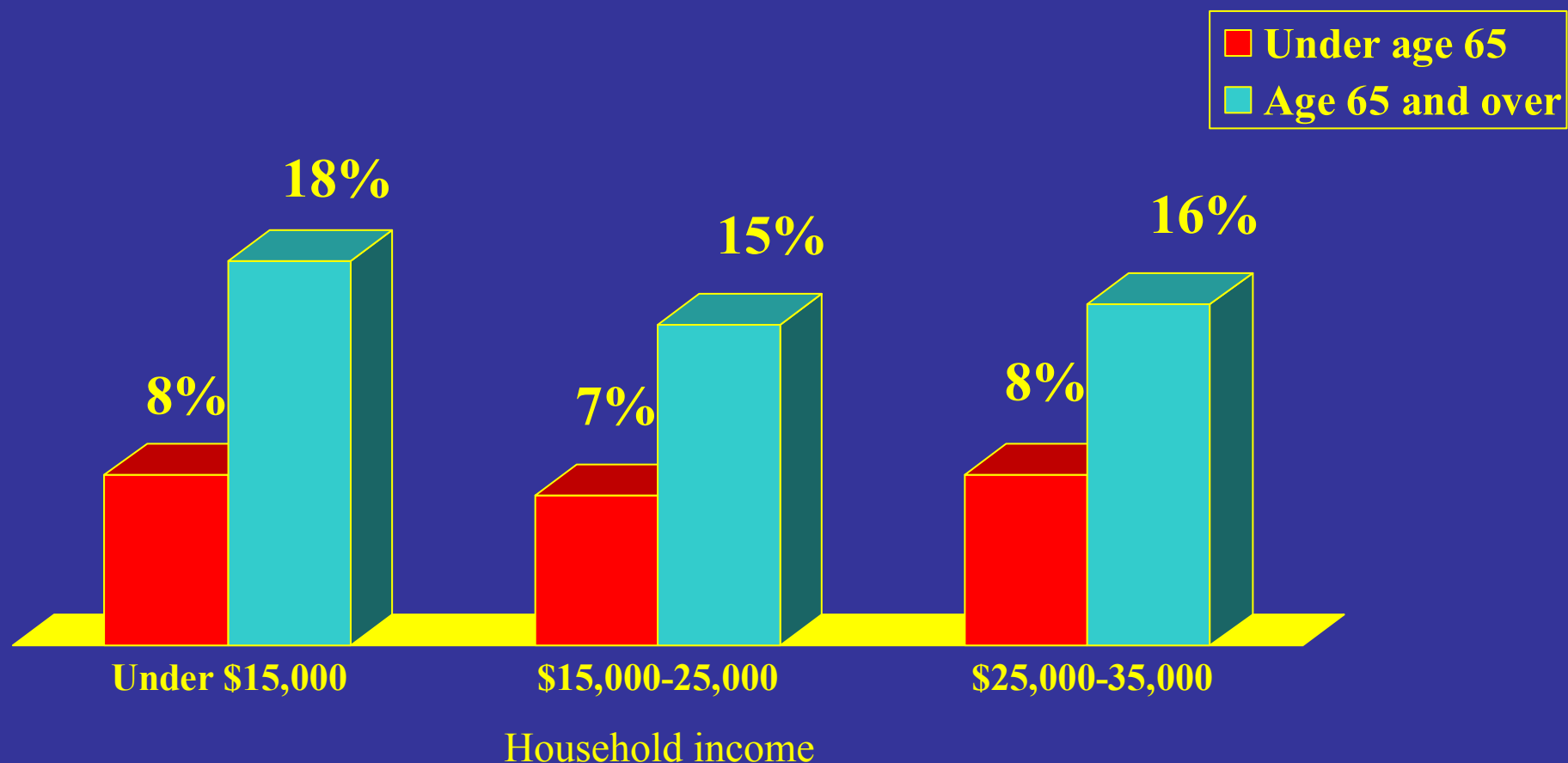


**Jews 65 and over report more health problems.**

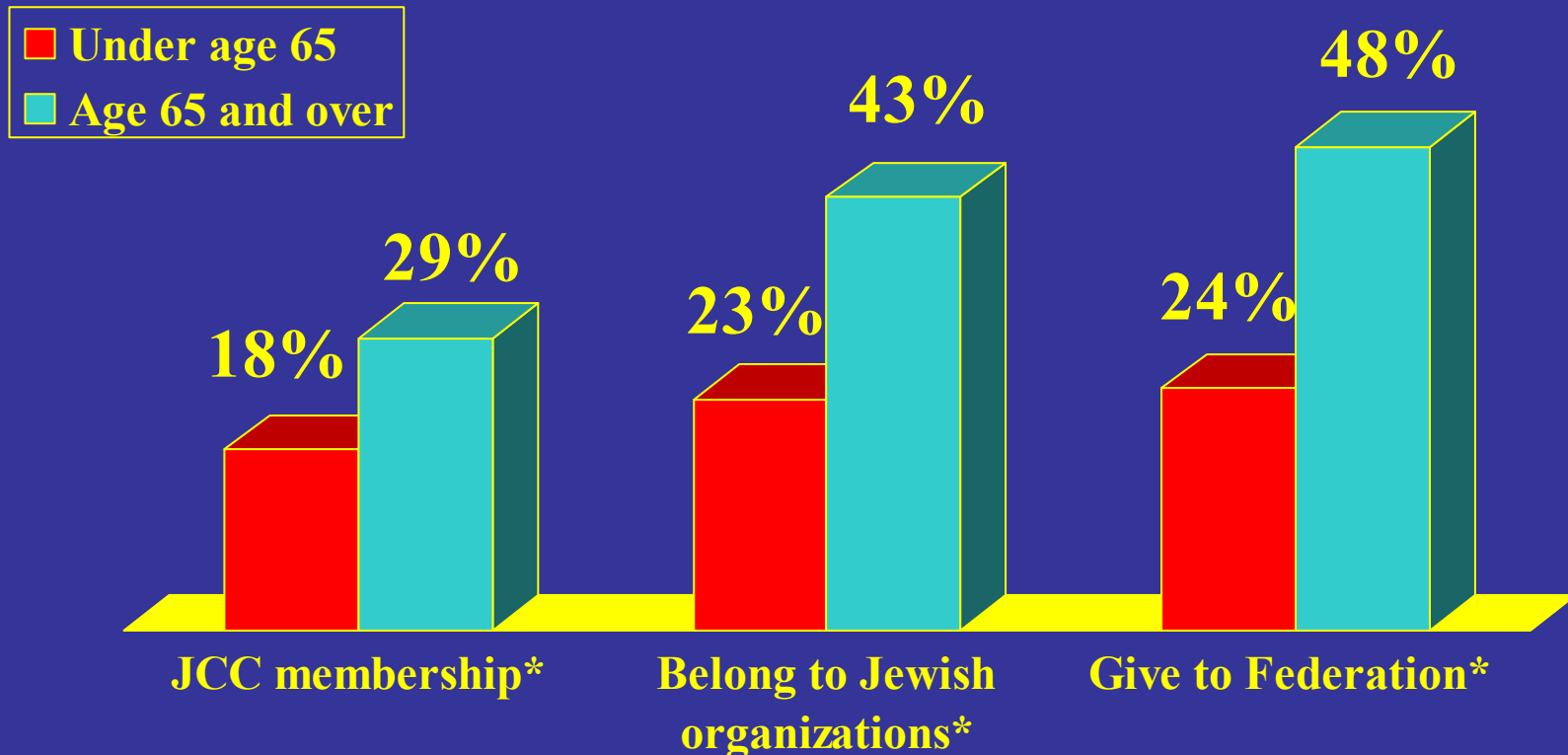




Proportionally more elderly Jews earn low incomes than Jews under 65.

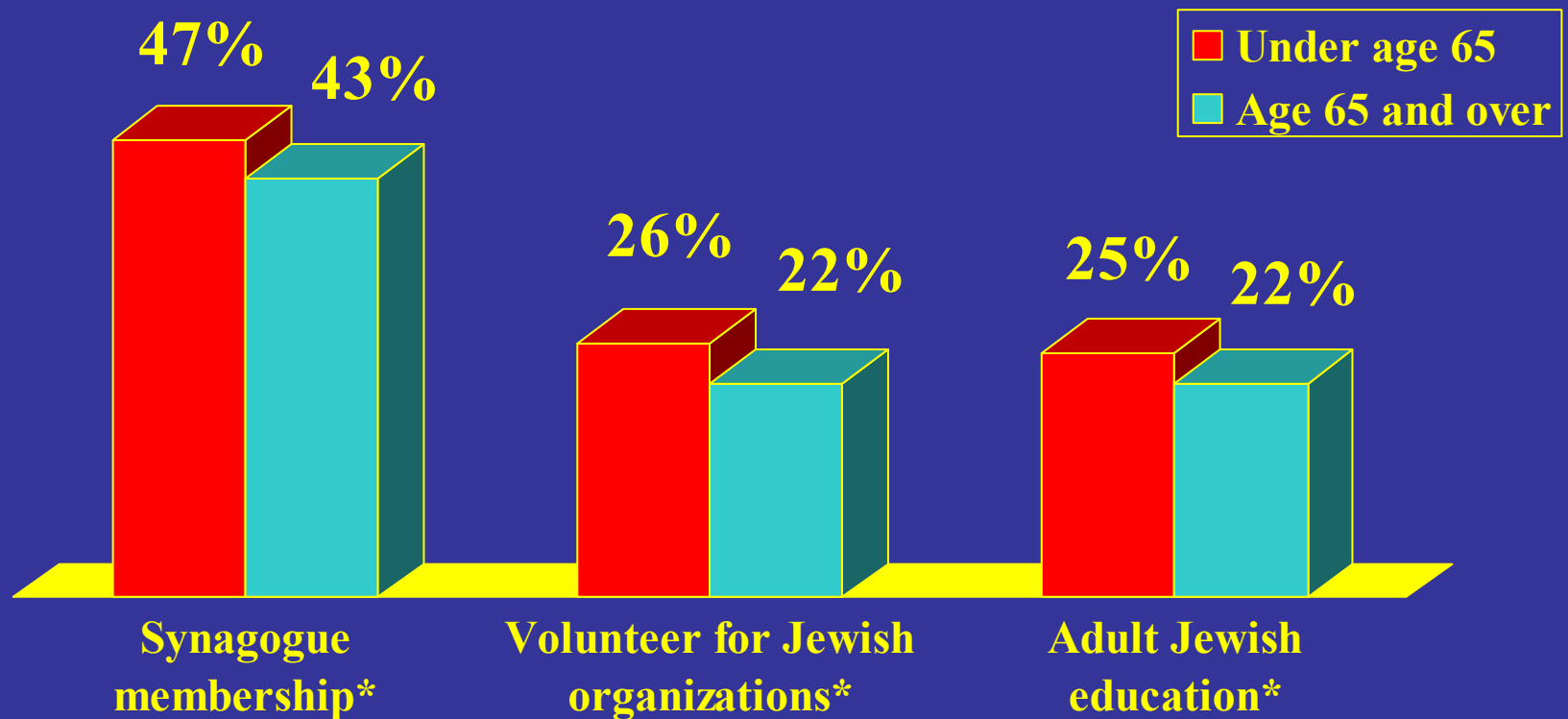


In some cases, proportionally more elderly Jews are affiliated with Jewish organizations.



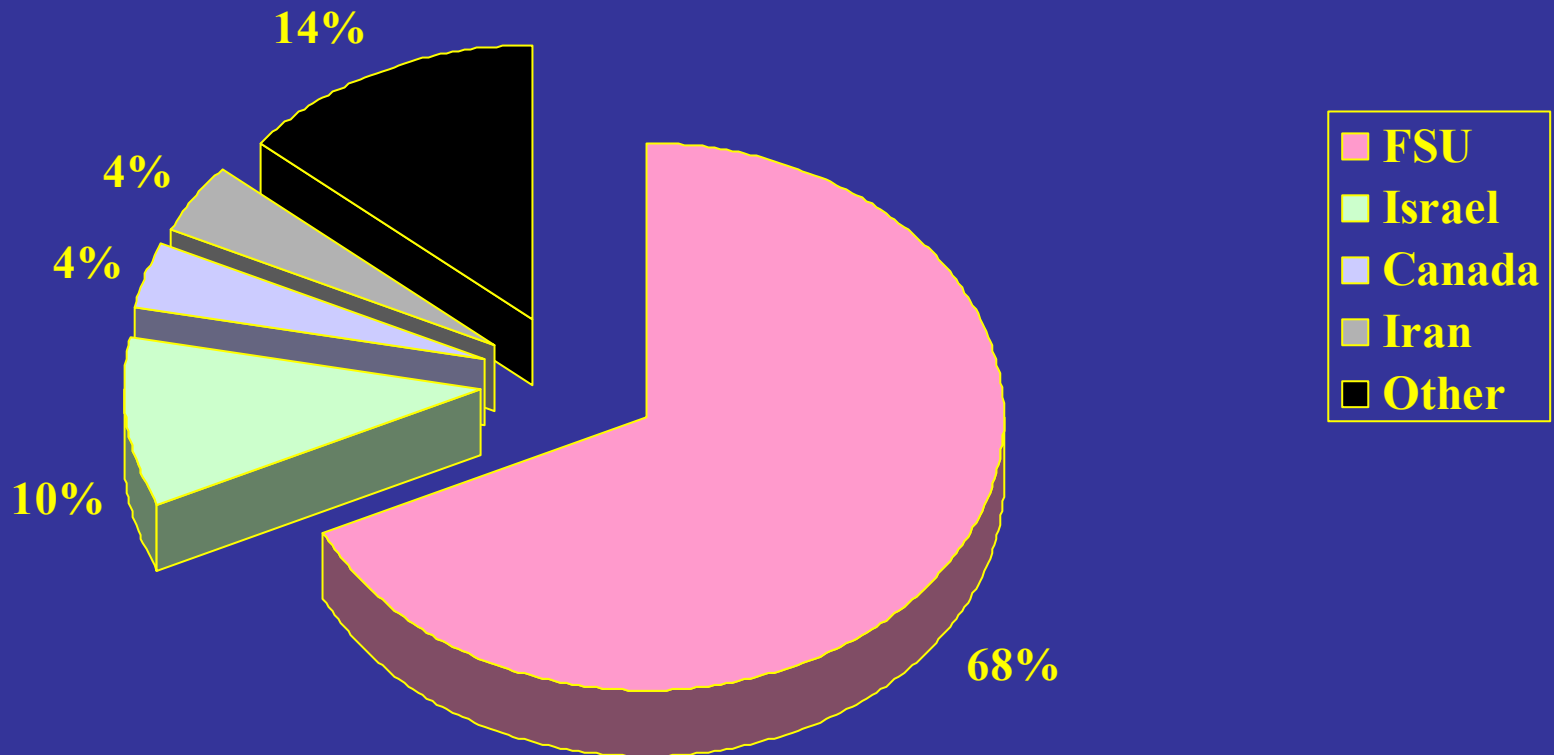


In other cases, nearly equal proportions of Jewish elderly and other adults are involved with Jewish organizations and programs.



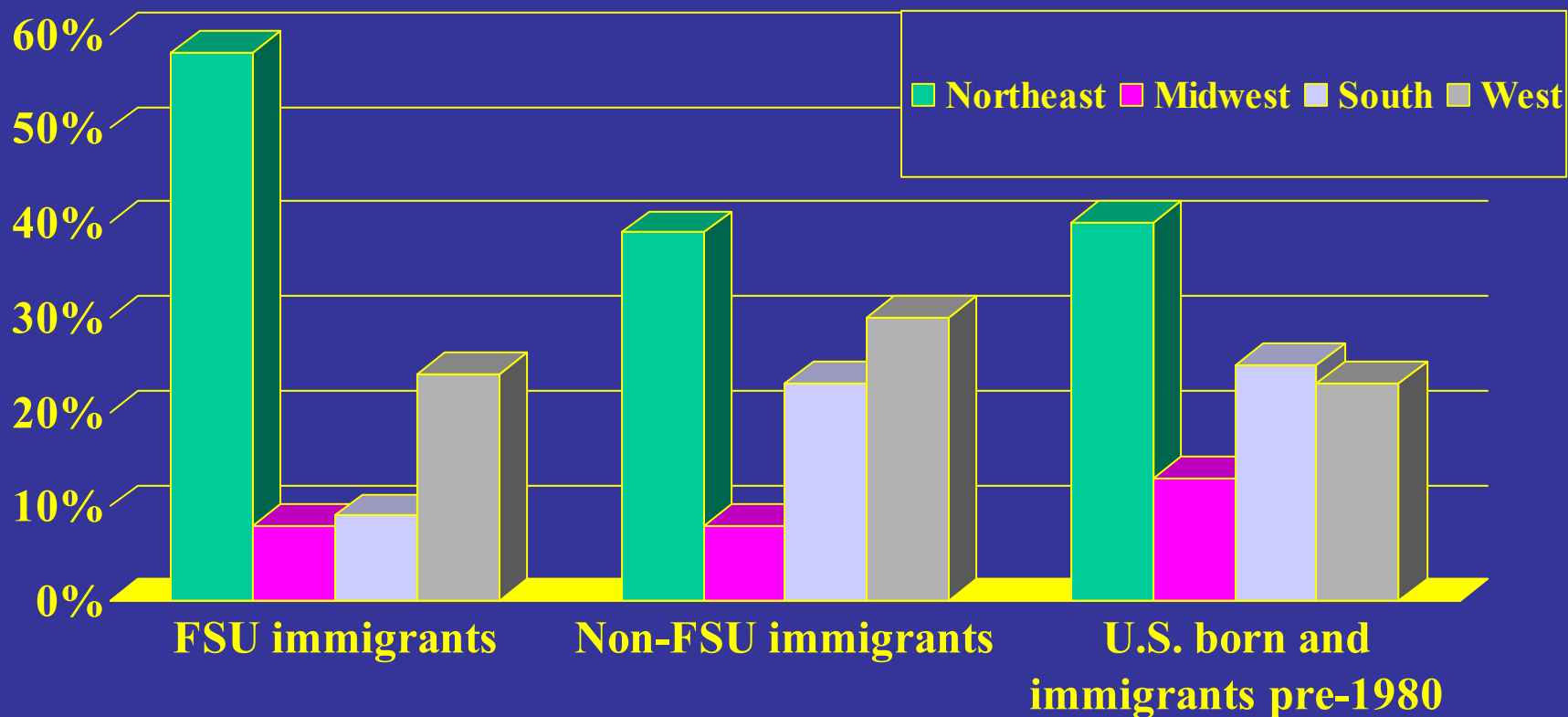


More than two-thirds of Jewish immigrants to the U.S. since 1980 come from the former Soviet Union (FSU).



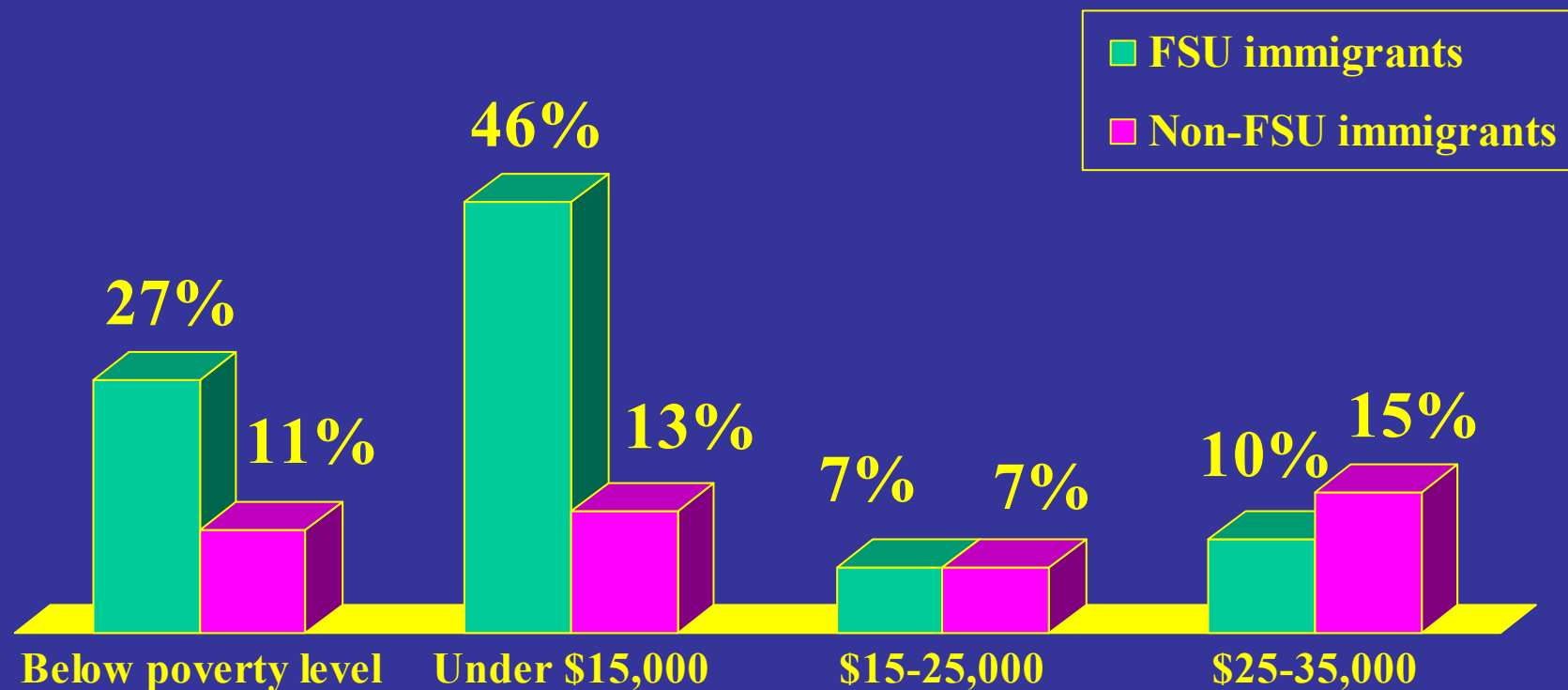


Most immigrants from the FSU live in the Northeast.



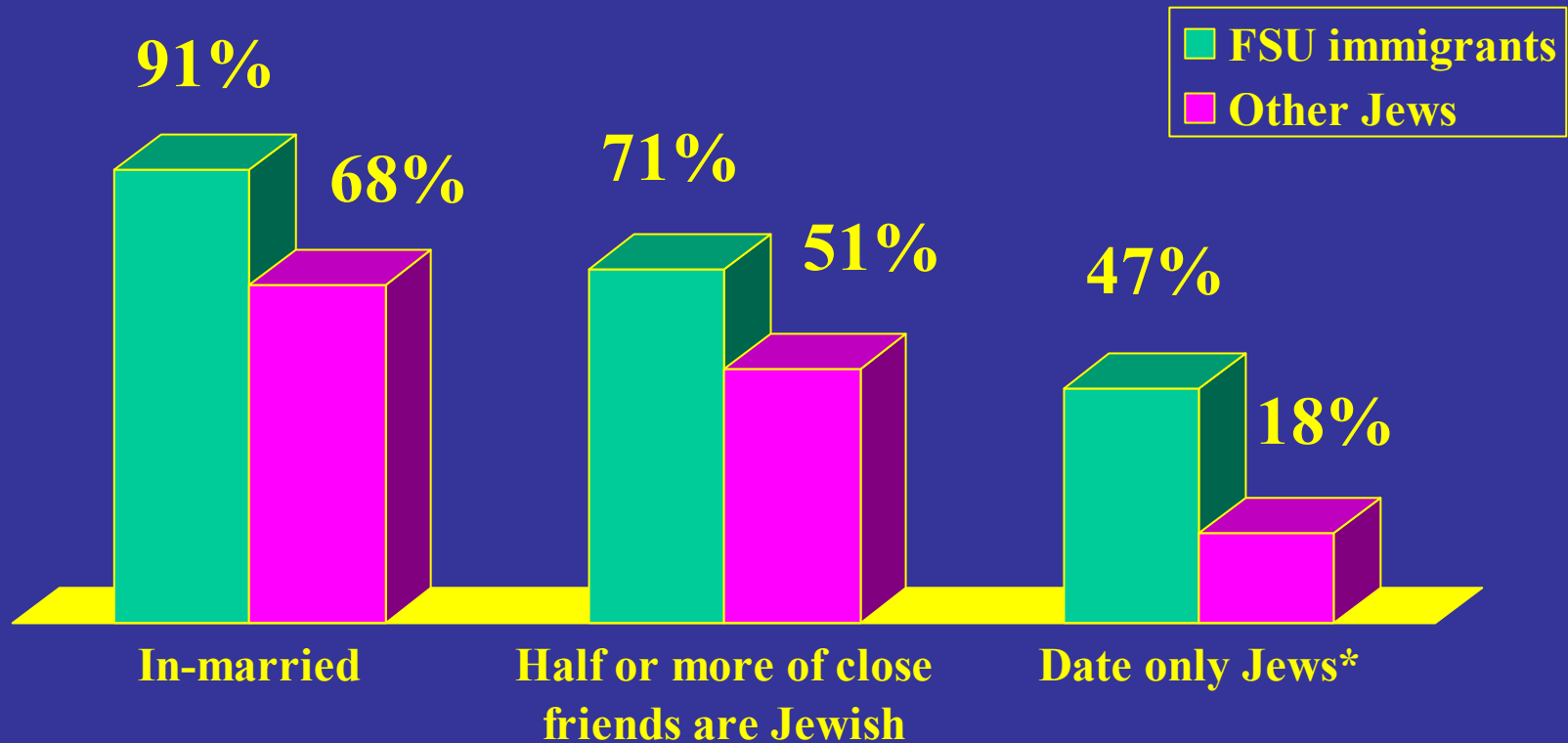


Immigrants from the FSU report lower household incomes than other immigrants.





FSU Jews are more connected to other Jews through marriage and friendship.





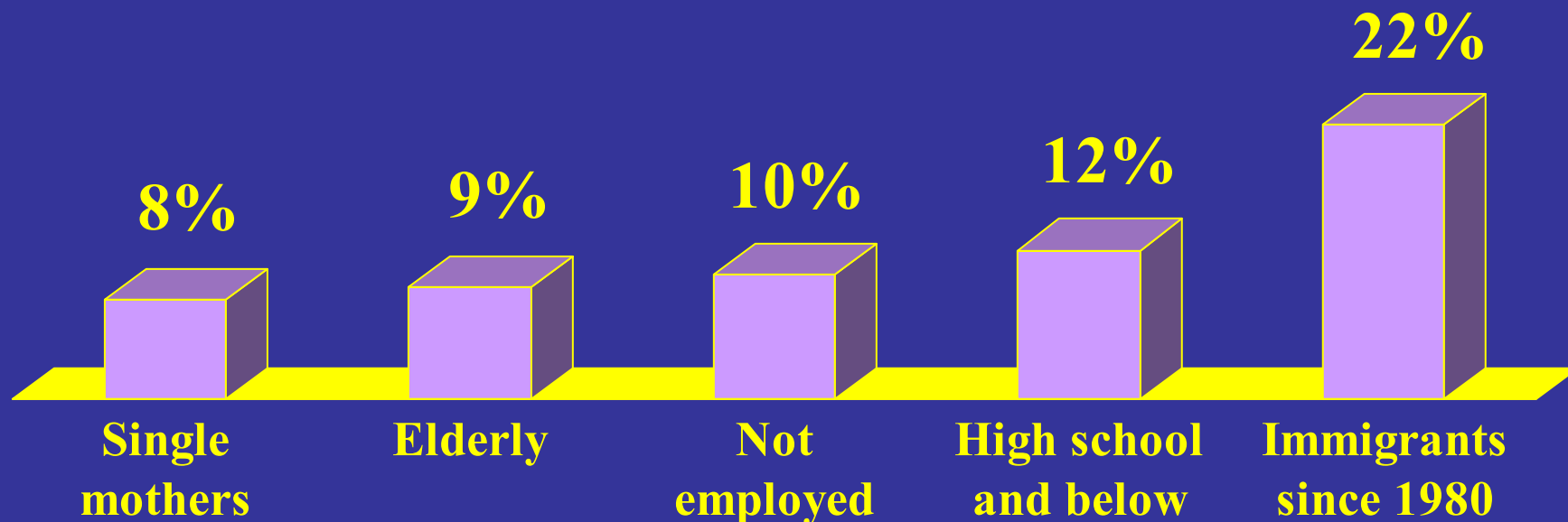
Households living in poverty\* are a growing concern for the American Jewish community.

Americans living below poverty level	11%
American Jews living below poverty level	5%
Total adults living in Jewish households with incomes below poverty level <sup>1</sup>	272,000
Total children living in Jewish households with incomes below poverty level <sup>1</sup>	81,000

1. Based on estimation procedure for total Jewish households

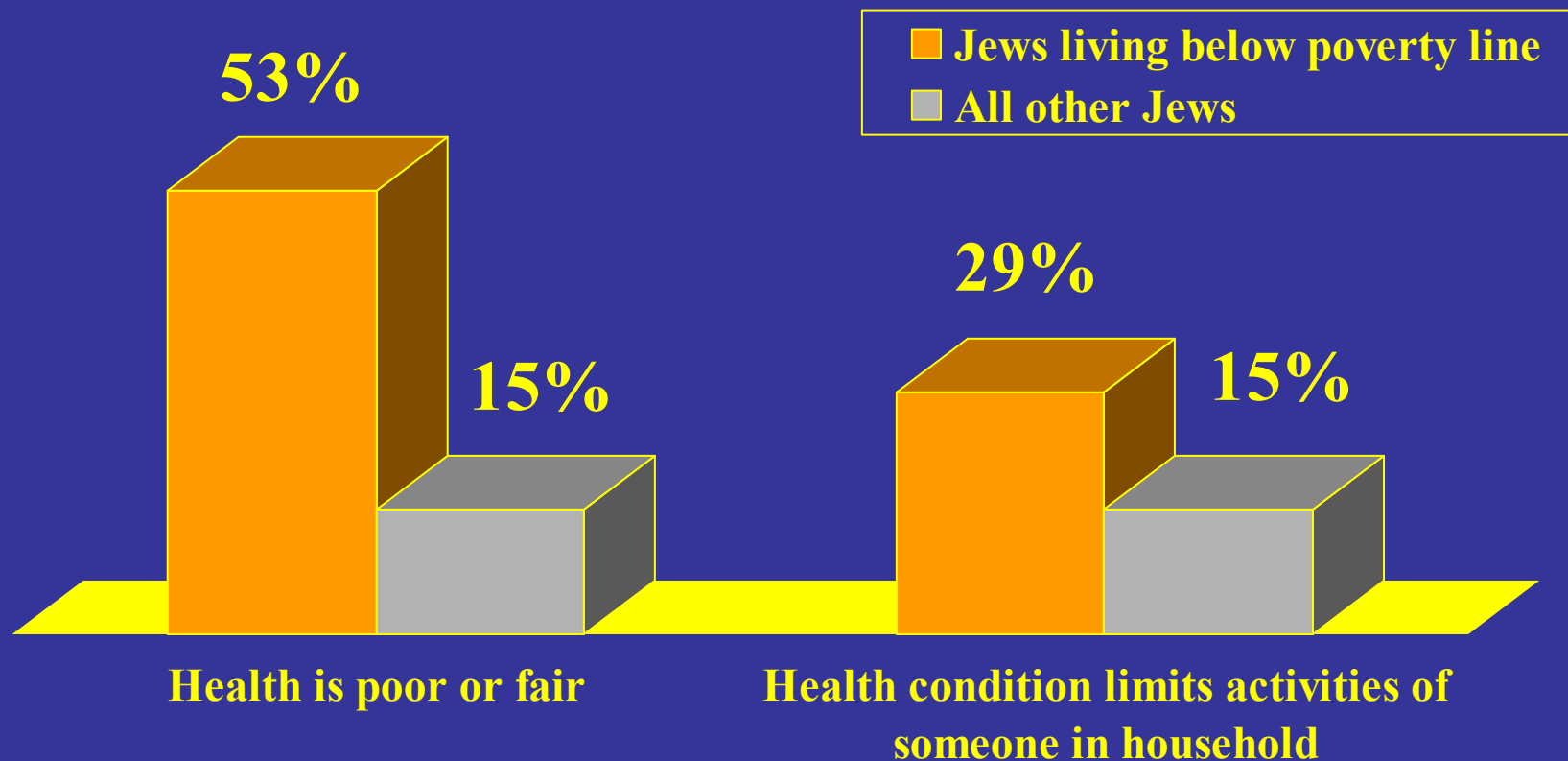


The overall Jewish poverty rate is 5%, but poverty is more common among some groups of Jews.



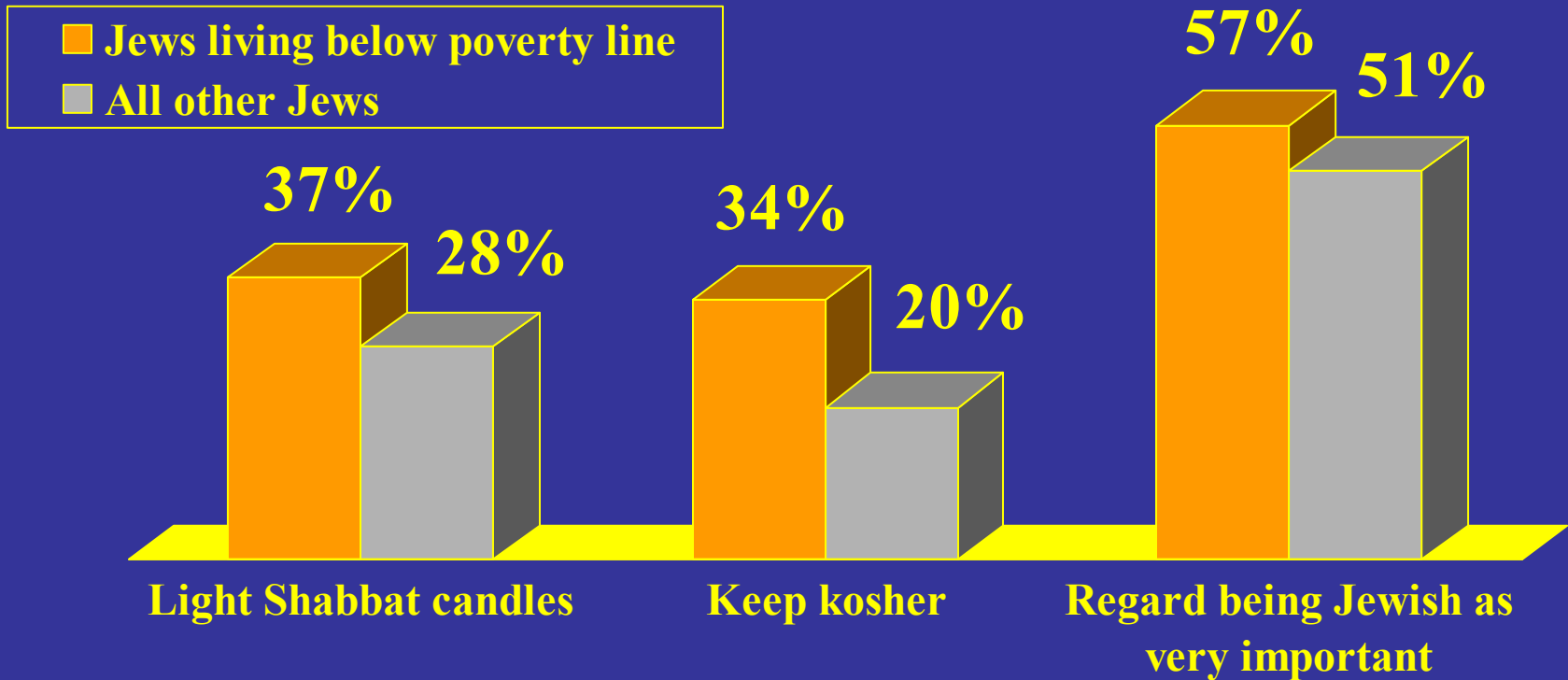


Jews living below the poverty line report proportionally more health problems.



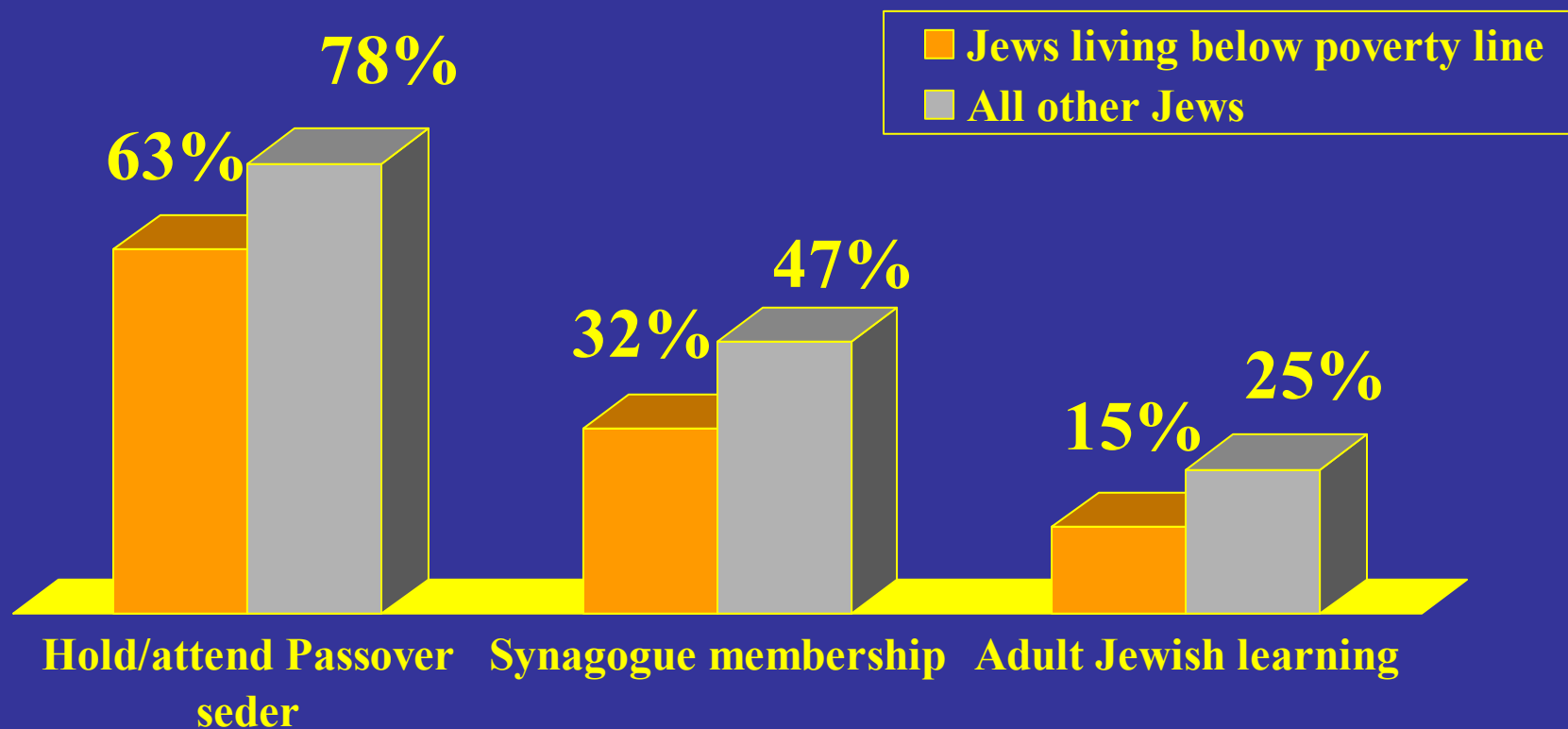


Jews living below the poverty line are more likely than other Jews to observe individual rituals and have strong ethnic attachments.





Jews living below poverty level are less engaged in some areas of Jewish life than other Jews.



- General Assembly in Israel
  - Specialized report series
  - Community presentations
  - Policy conference
- For information call: 1-888-711-4490  
email: [NJPS@ujc.org](mailto:NJPS@ujc.org)