Mandell L. Berman Institute
North American Jewish Data Bank

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PROVIDE EMPIRICAL SURVEY DATASETS ABOUT THE NORTH AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY FROM NATIONAL AND LOCAL SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC STUDIES AS WELL AS OTHER TYPES OF CONTEMPORARY AND HISTORICAL SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH.

MAKE AVAILABLE SUBSTANTIVE AND METHODOLOGICAL REPORTS ON THE JEWISH COMMUNITY, IN PARTICULAR, REPORTS BASED ON DATASETS THAT ARE PART OF THE ARCHIVE.

PROMOTE THE DATA BANK TO JEWISH FEDERATIONS, COMMUNAL ORGANIZATIONS, FOUNDATIONS AND OTHER GROUPS INTERESTED IN RESEARCH CONCERNING JEWISH LIFE IN NORTH AMERICA.

ENCOURAGE ACADEMICIANS, STUDENTS, COMMUNAL PROFESSIONALS AND OTHERS TO UTILIZE DATA BANK HOLDINGS AND TO SUBMIT THEIR STUDIES TO THE ARCHIVE.

SPONSOR SEMINARS AND PROVIDE OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESEARCHERS AND PLANNERS TO DISCUSS ISSUES, IMPROVE METHODOLOGIES AND EXCHANGE IDEAS BASED ON QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH.

PREPARE PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER FORMS OF INFORMATION DISSEMINATION CONCERNING SOCIAL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ABOUT NORTH AMERICAN JEWRY.

PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE TO JEWISH FEDERATIONS, RESEARCHERS, COMMUNAL PROFESSIONALS, JOURNALISTS AND OTHERS INTERESTED IN RESEARCH ON THE JEWISH COMMUNITY.

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NJPS 2000-01
United Jewish Communities

National Jewish Population Survey 2000-01

Adult Jewish Education

A United Jewish Communities
Presentation of Findings

NJPS 2000-01
United Jewish Communities

Adult Jewish Education

- The NJPS 2000-01 questionnaire was administered to over 4,500 Jews in the U.S.

- Nearly 4,150 respondents representing 4.3 million Jews with stronger Jewish connections were administered a long-form questionnaire. Remaining respondents representing an additional 800,000 Jews with Jewish connections that are not as strong received a short-form questionnaire.

- This report only examines the respondents who represent the 4.3 million Jews with stronger Jewish connections.

Estimate of participation in adult Jewish education

Among all adults[1] in the more strongly connected Jewish population, 24% (just over 800,000 total people) attended an adult Jewish education class or other kind of adult Jewish learning[2] in the year before the survey interview.

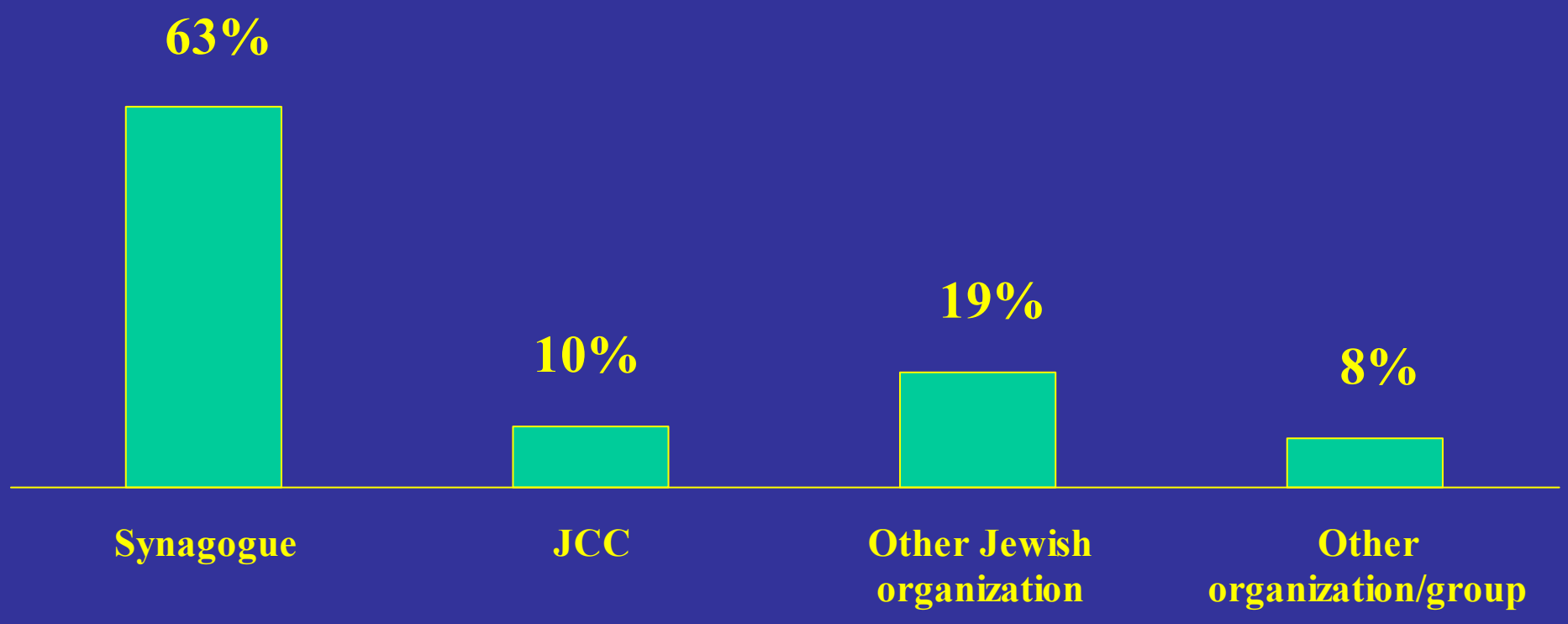
[1] Adults are defined as 18 years of age or older.

[2] The NJPS questionnaire gave as examples synagogue programs, a book group, a study group at home or work, or a Bible study group. The question explicitly excluded college courses.

NJPS 2000-01
United Jewish Communities

Adult Jewish Education

Among participants in adult Jewish education, more than 60% were enrolled in a class or program sponsored by a synagogue.



Sponsoring organization of adult Jewish education class or program

The remainder of this presentation is divided into two sections:

- Section 1 examines factors that are associated with adult Jewish education. It shows what groups are more likely to participate in adult Jewish education and what groups are less likely to participate.

- Section 2 provides a profile of adult Jewish learners by comparing them with those who did not participate in adult Jewish education across a variety of other factors, such as age, secular education and communal affiliations.

SECTION 1

Factors associated with participation in adult Jewish education

- Age
- Education
- Income
- Region
- Marital status
- Household composition
- Jewish education when growing up
- Communal affiliation
- Denomination
- Religious service attendance
- In-marriage/intermarriage
- Jewish friends

Interpreting Slides in Section 1

Recall that the overall rate of participation in adult Jewish education in the year before the survey was 24%. In this section, therefore, readers should note which groups have rates of participation that are higher than 24%, and which groups have rates of participation that are lower than 24%.

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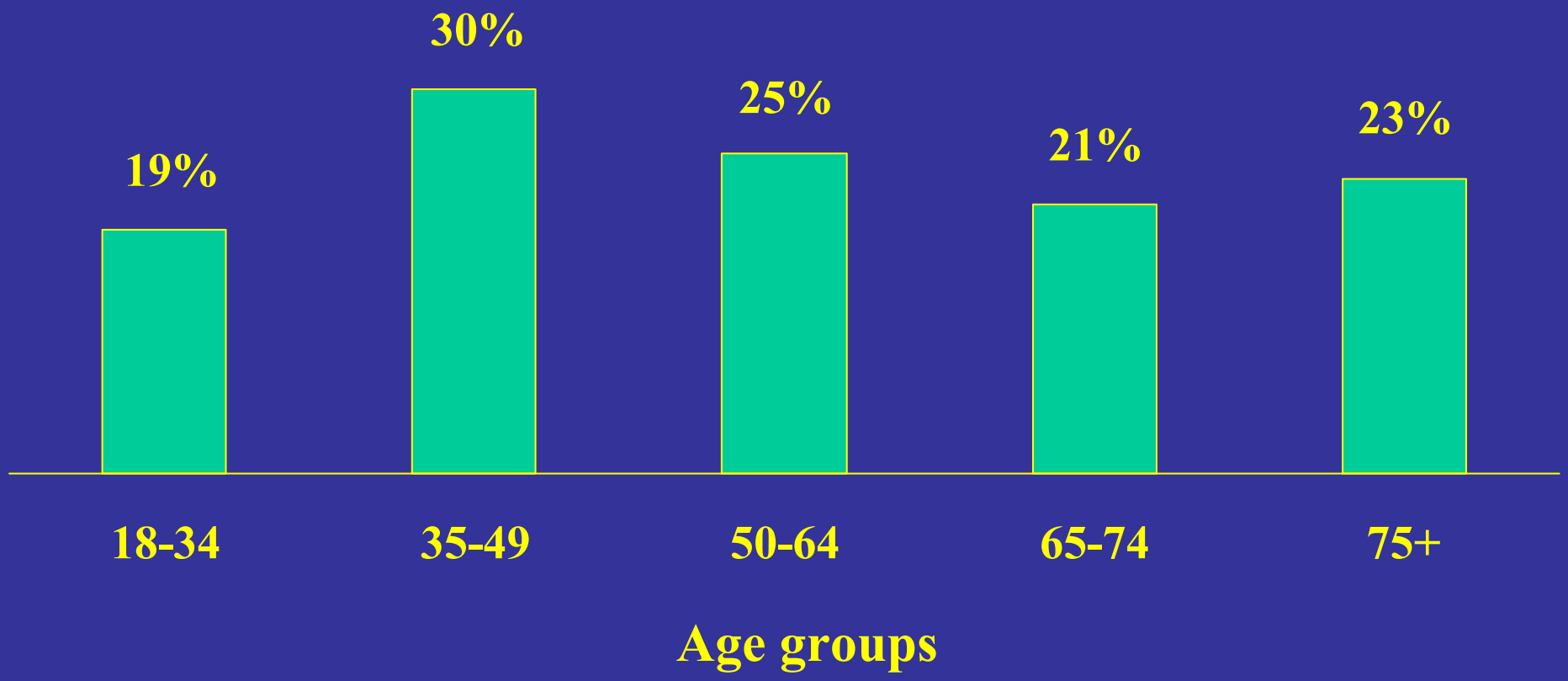
United Jewish Communities

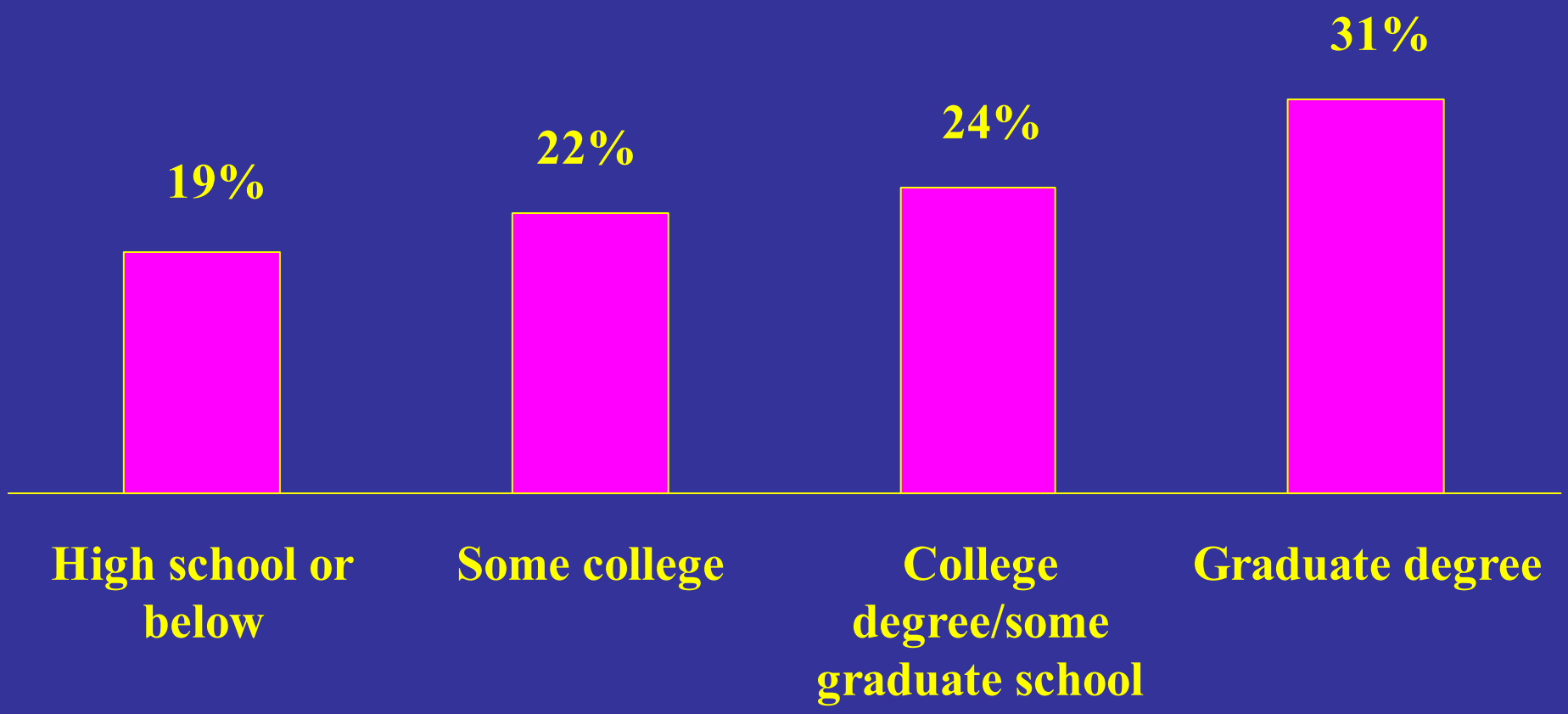
Adult Jewish Education

Thirty percent of adults age 35-49 report they participated in an adult Jewish education program, the highest of any age group.



Adult Jewish Education

The likelihood of taking an adult Jewish education class is associated with levels of secular education.



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United Jewish Communities

Adult Jewish Education

Those with the highest household incomes are nearly twice as likely to participate in an adult Jewish education program as those with the lowest household incomes.

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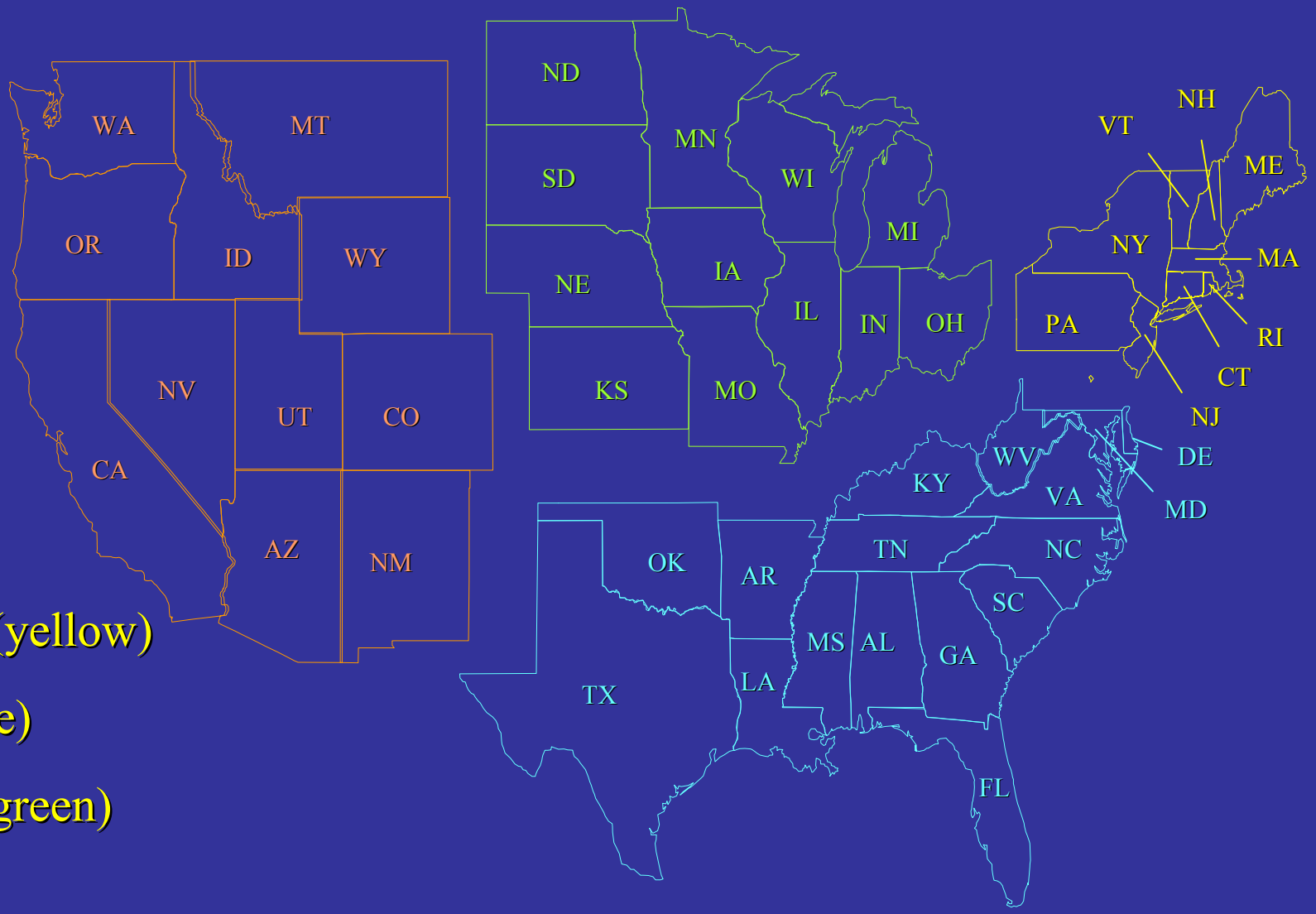
United Jewish Communities

Adult Jewish Education

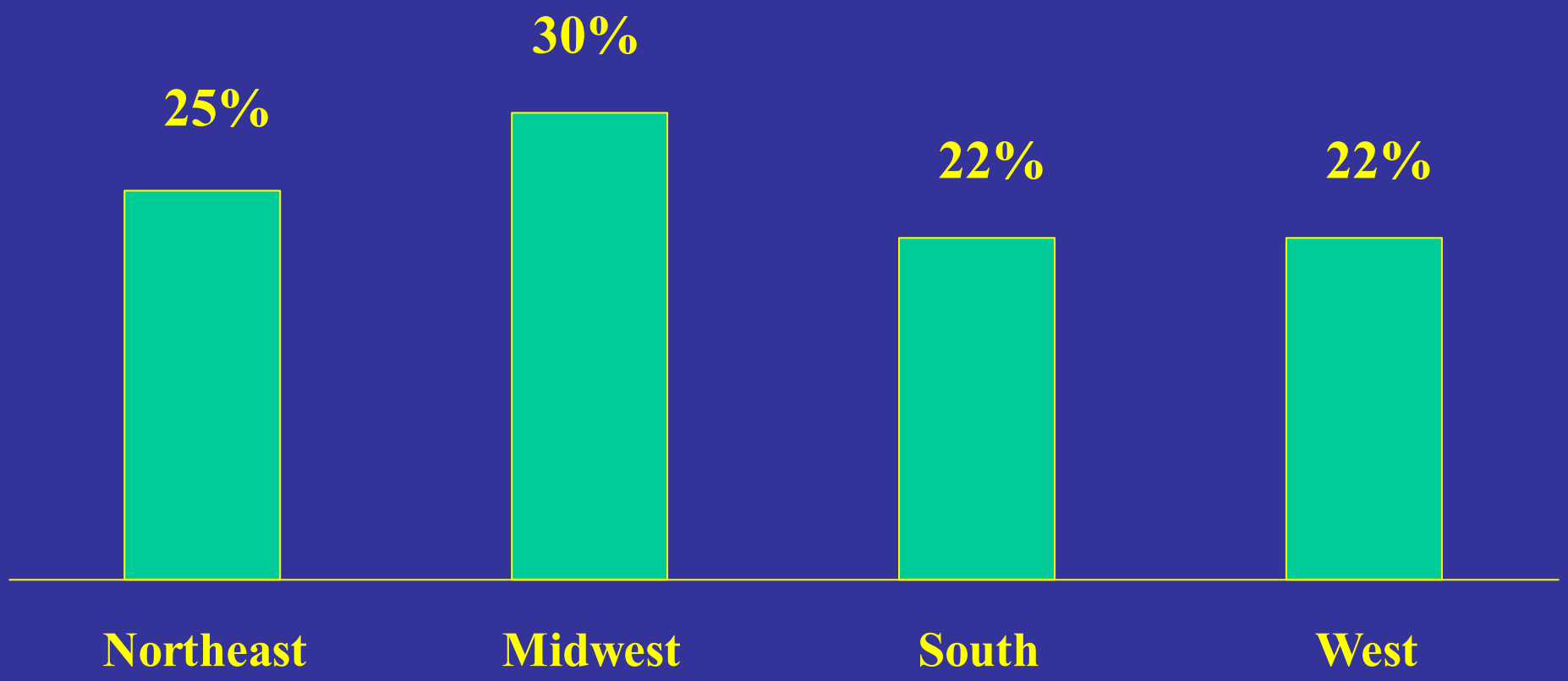
The United States is divided into four regions:

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



Adult Jewish Education

Jews in the Midwest have the highest rates of participation in adult Jewish education.



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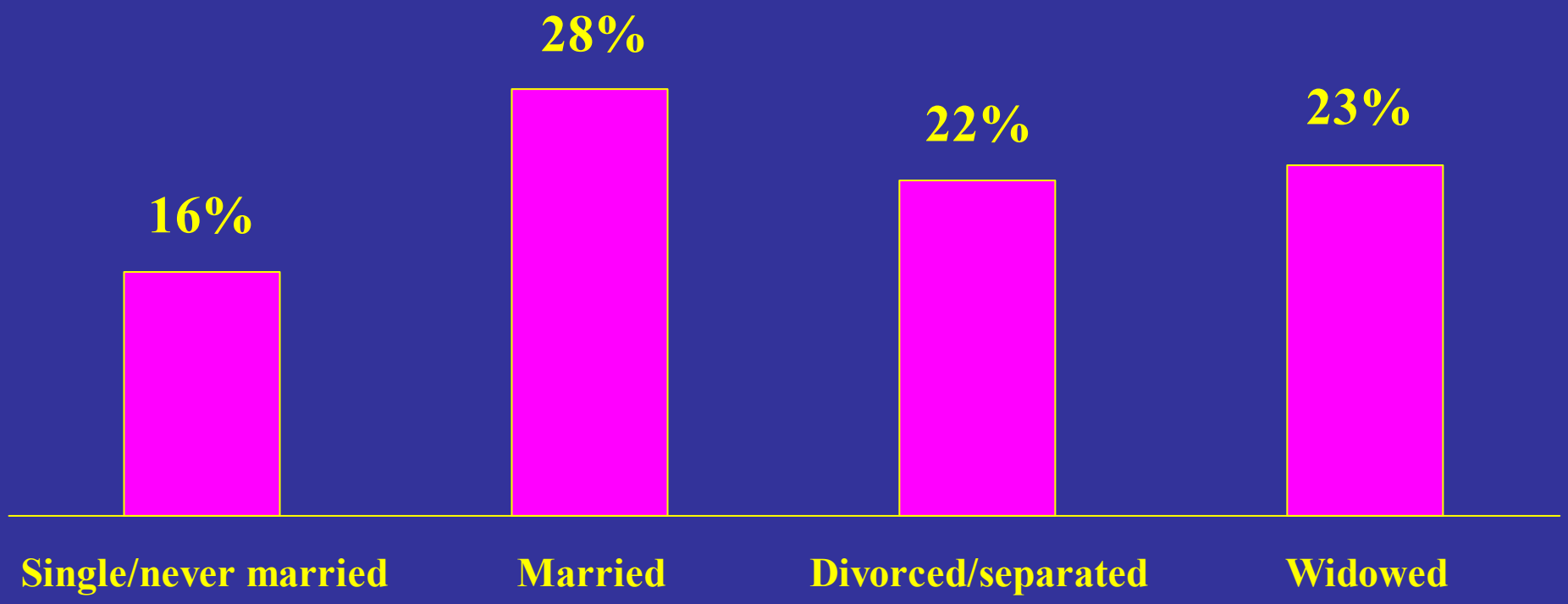
United Jewish Communities

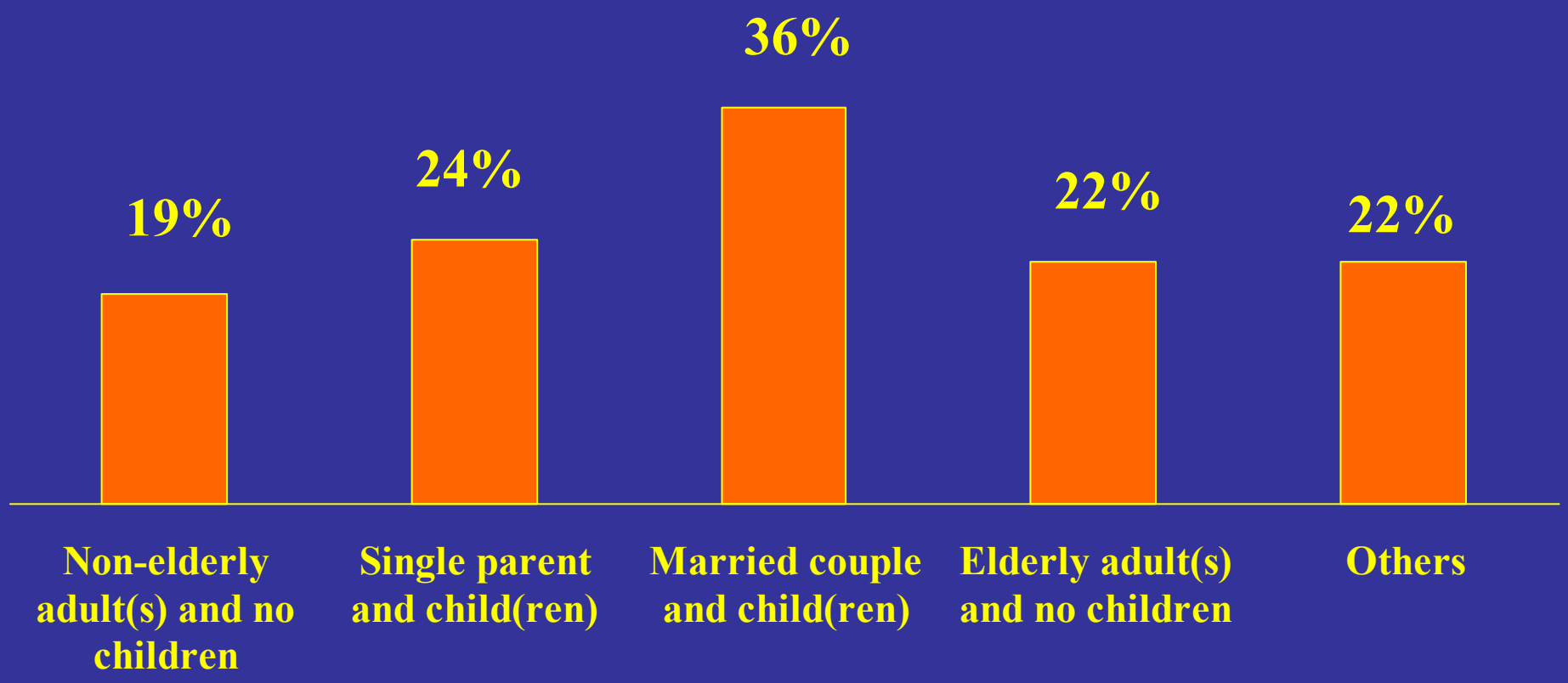
Adult Jewish Education

Adults who are single/never married are the least likely to participate in adult Jewish education, while married adults are the most likely to participate.



Adult Jewish Education

In terms of household composition, married adults who reside with children are, proportionally, the most frequently involved in adult Jewish education.



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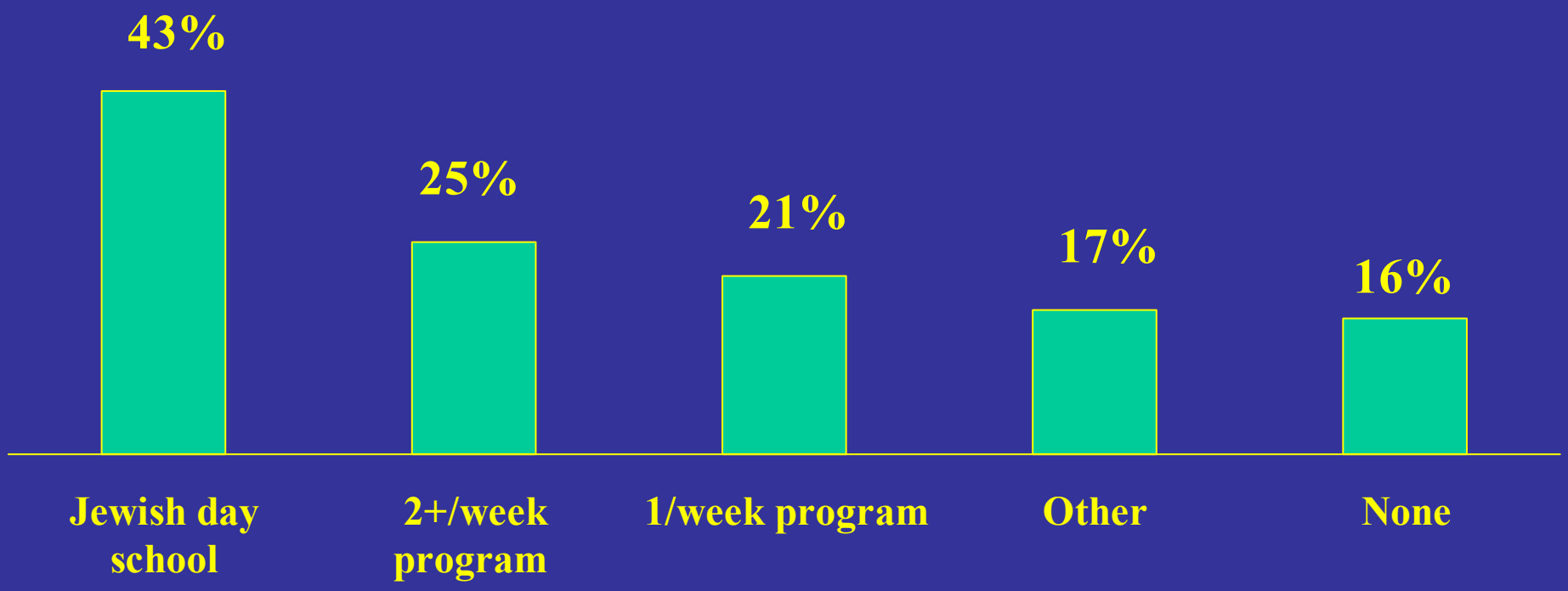
United Jewish Communities

Adult Jewish Education

More intensive forms of Jewish education when growing up, especially day school education, increase the likelihood of participating in adult Jewish education.

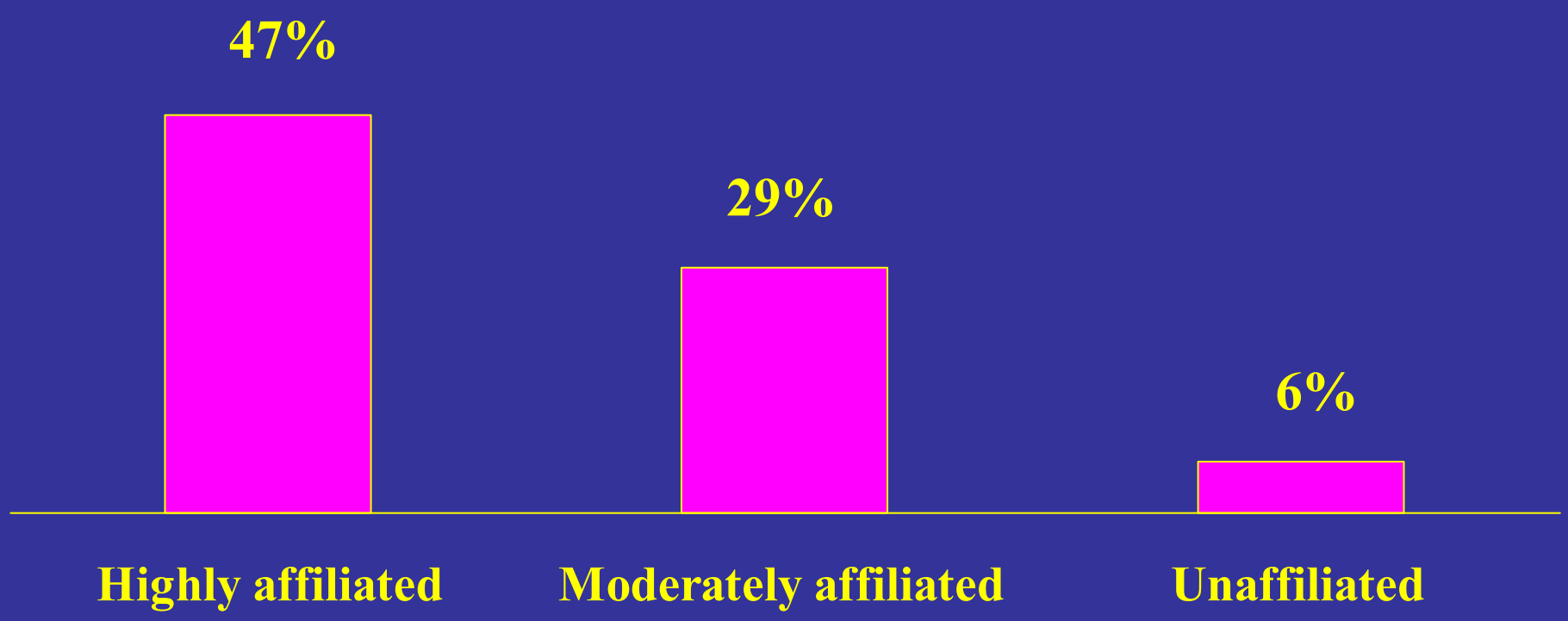


Adult Jewish Education

The Jewish population can be 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%

Participation in adult Jewish education is strongly associated with Jewish organizational affiliation.



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United Jewish Communities

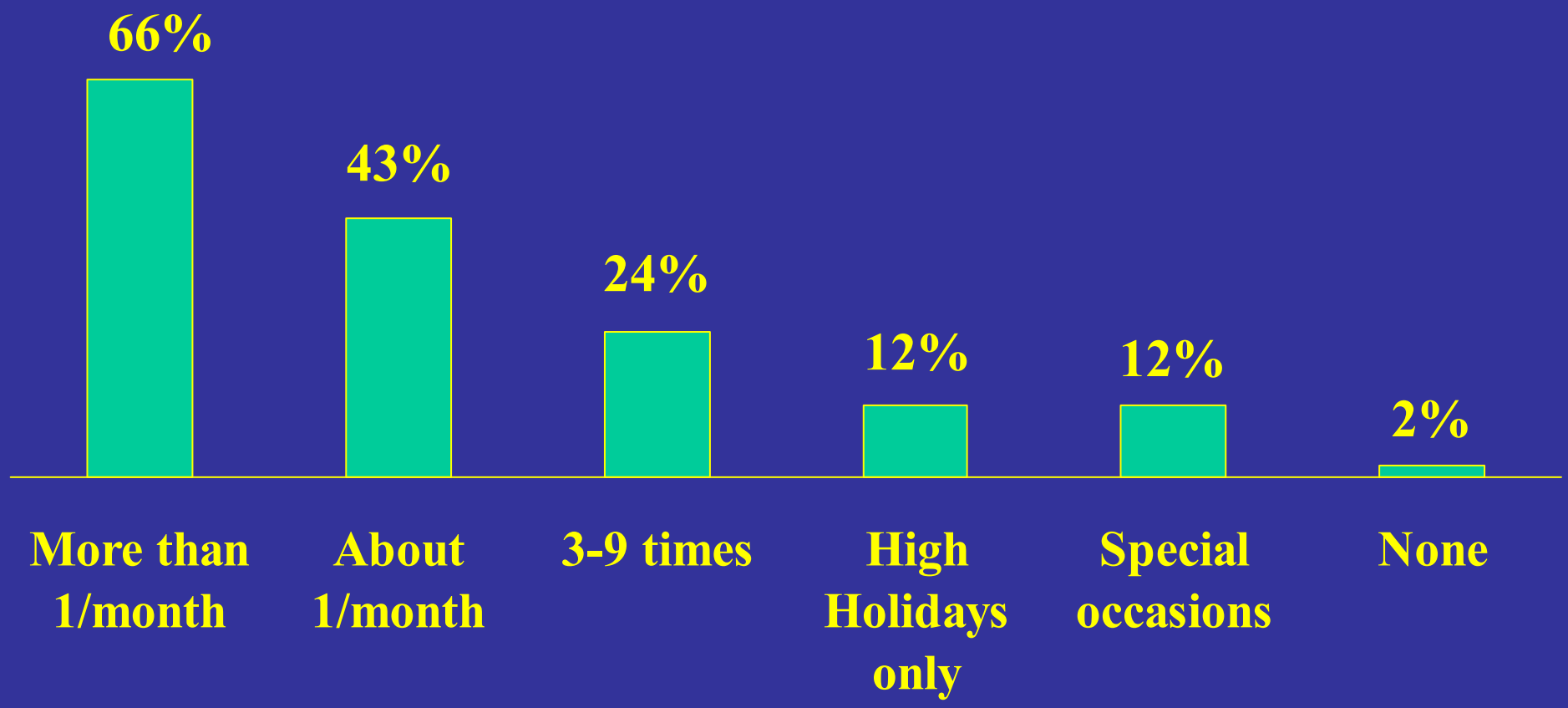
Adult Jewish Education

Adult Jewish education is most common among those who identify as Orthodox and least common among those who report they have no denominational identification or are secular.

NJPS 2000-01
United Jewish Communities

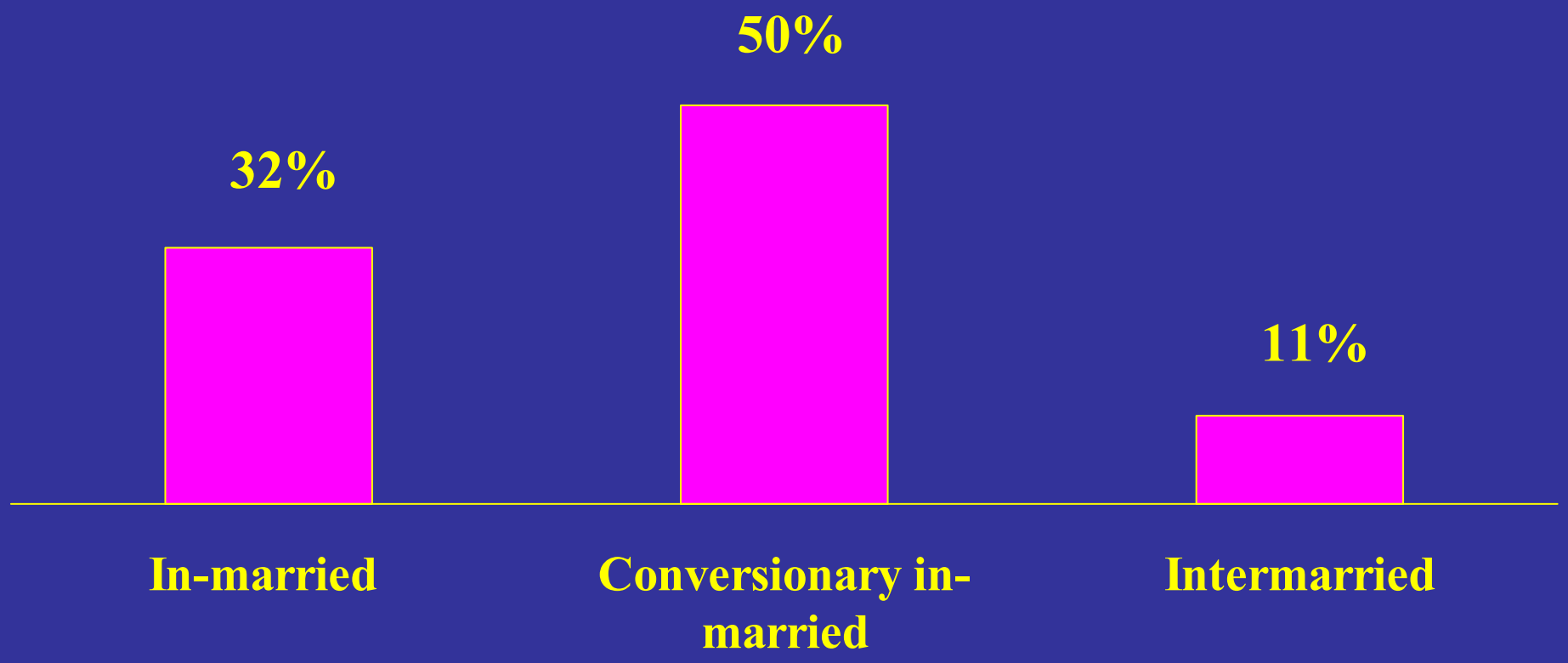
Adult Jewish Education

Participation in adult Jewish education is strongly associated with attendance at religious services in the year before the survey.



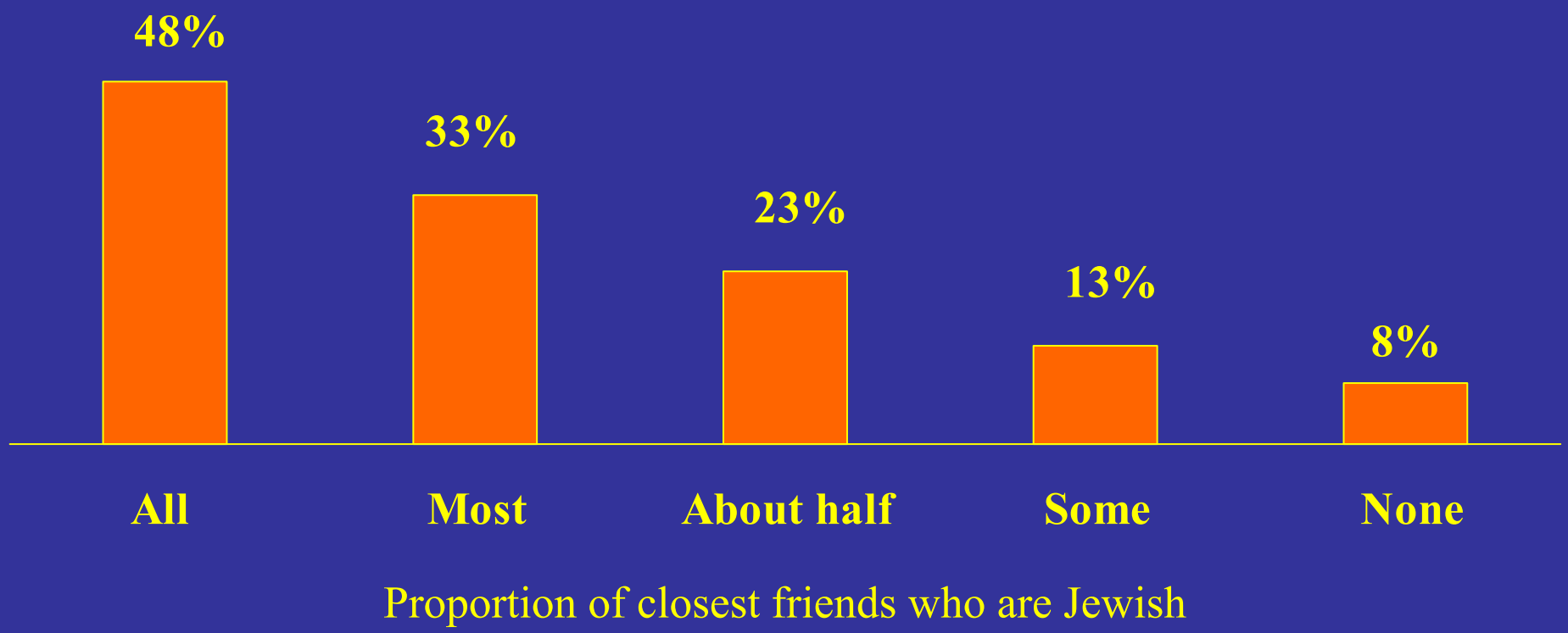
Adult Jewish Education

Participation in adult Jewish education is more common among in-married than intermarried Jews.



Adult Jewish Education

Participation in adult Jewish education rises among those who report that all or most of their closest friends are Jewish.



SECTION 2

A profile of adult Jewish learners, by comparing them against others

- Age
- Education
- Income
- Region
- Marital status
- Household composition
- Jewish education when growing up
- Communal affiliation
- Denomination
- Religious service attendance
- In-marriage/intermarriage
- Jewish friends

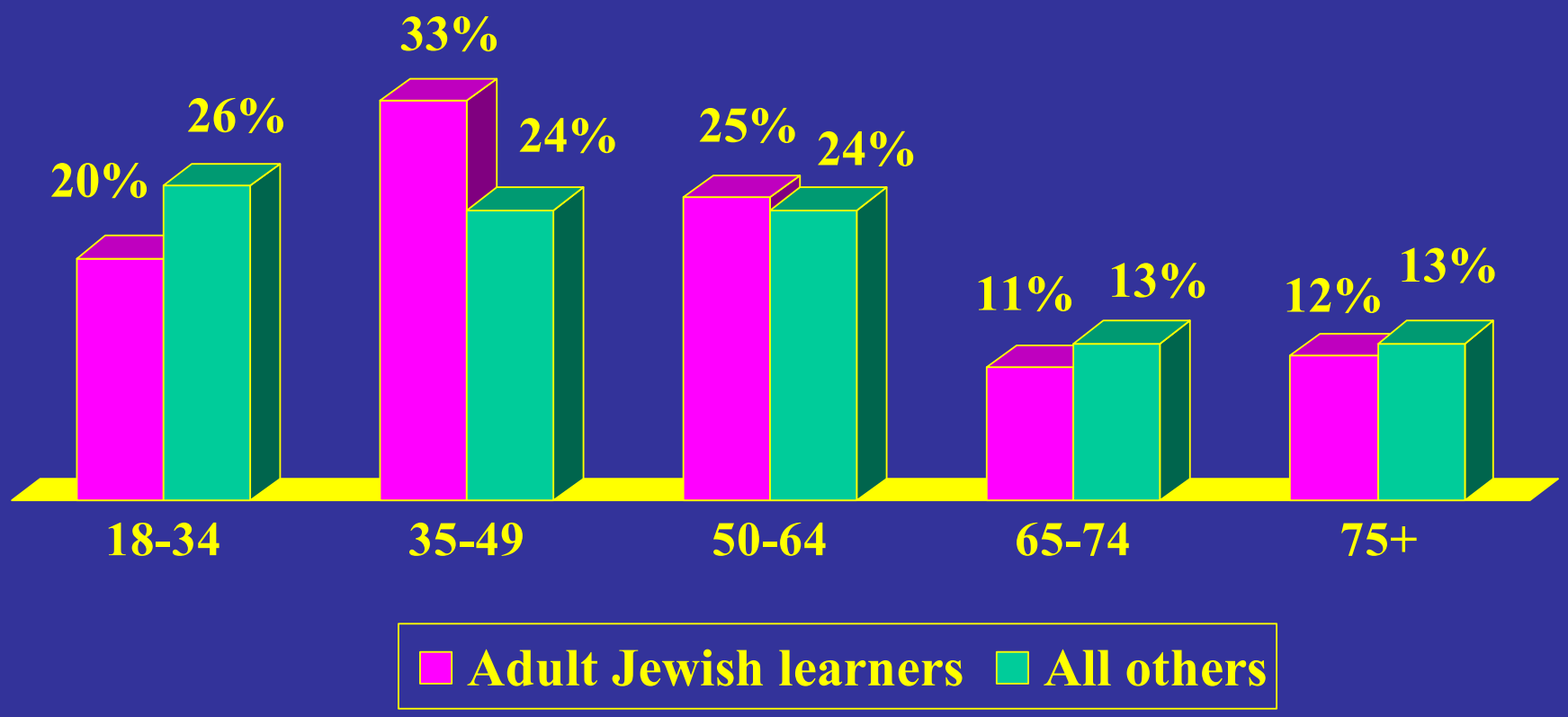
Interpreting Slides in Section 2

Slides should be interpreted differently in Section 2 than in Section 1. In this section, the 24% of Jews who are adult Jewish learners are compared with the 76% who are not. For each group separately, column percentages will sum to 100%.[1] Categories with differences in percentages between adult Jewish learners and all others indicate that the profile of adult Jewish learners is different than the profile of other Jews.

[1] Columns may sum to 99% or 101% due to rounding.

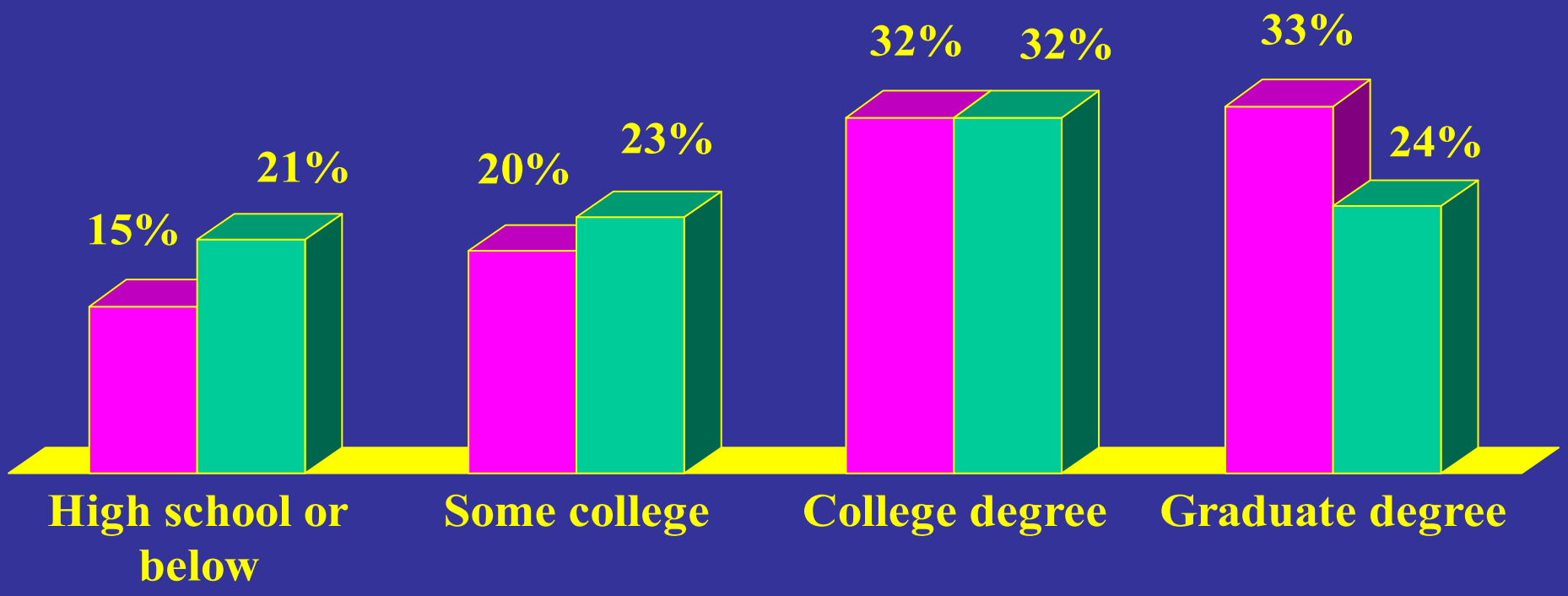
Adult Jewish Education

Compared to others, adult Jewish learners are more likely to be age 35-49 and somewhat less likely to be age 18-34.



Adult Jewish Education

Adult Jewish learners tend to have higher levels of secular education than others.



Adult Jewish learners also tend to have slightly higher levels of household income than others do.

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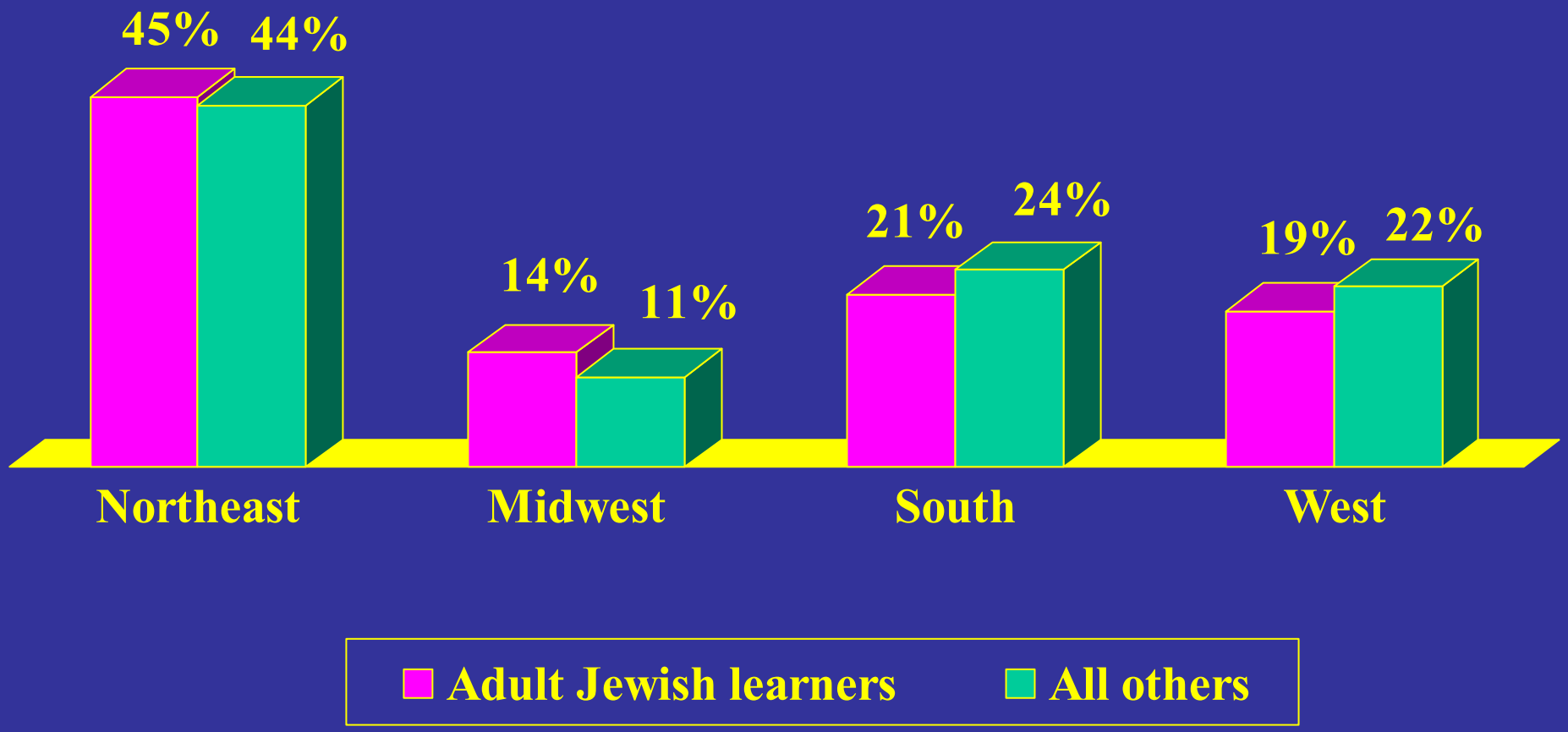
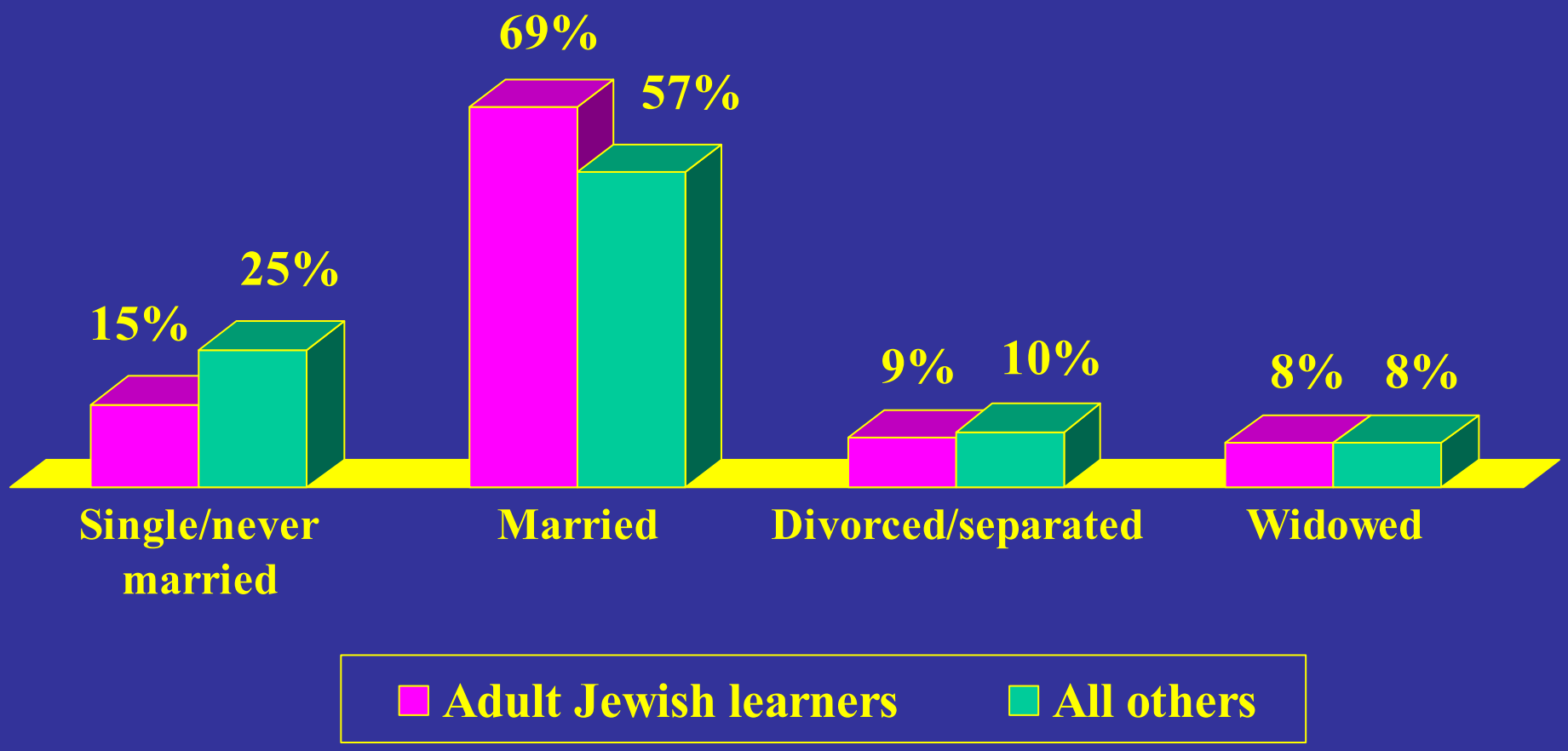
Adult Jewish Education

There are very small, if any, differences in the regional distributions of adult Jewish learners and others.



Adult Jewish learners are less likely to be single/never married and more likely to be married than others.



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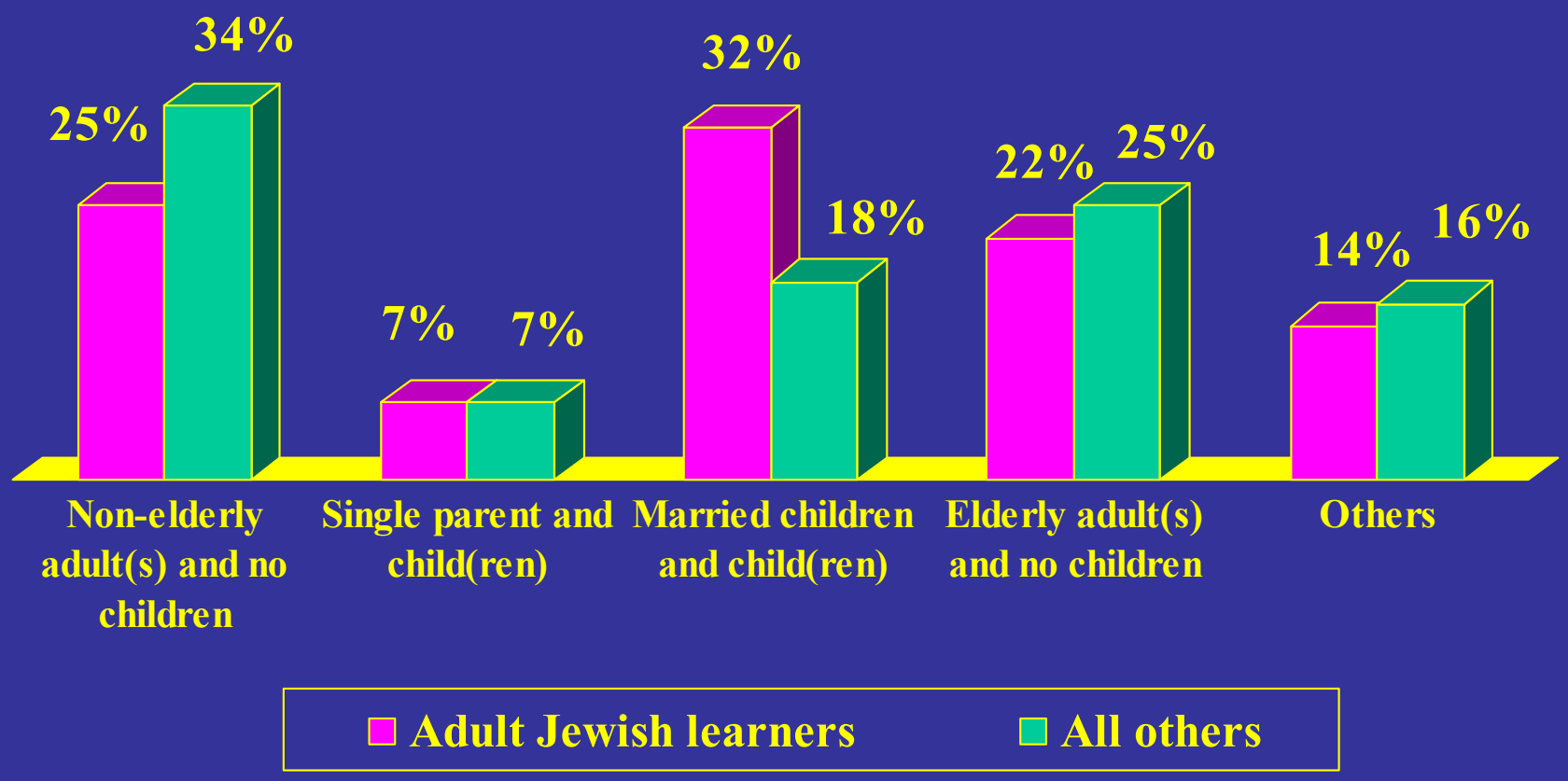
Adult Jewish Education

Married adults who reside with children are overrepresented among adult Jewish learners relative to others, while non-elderly adults who have no children at home are underrepresented.



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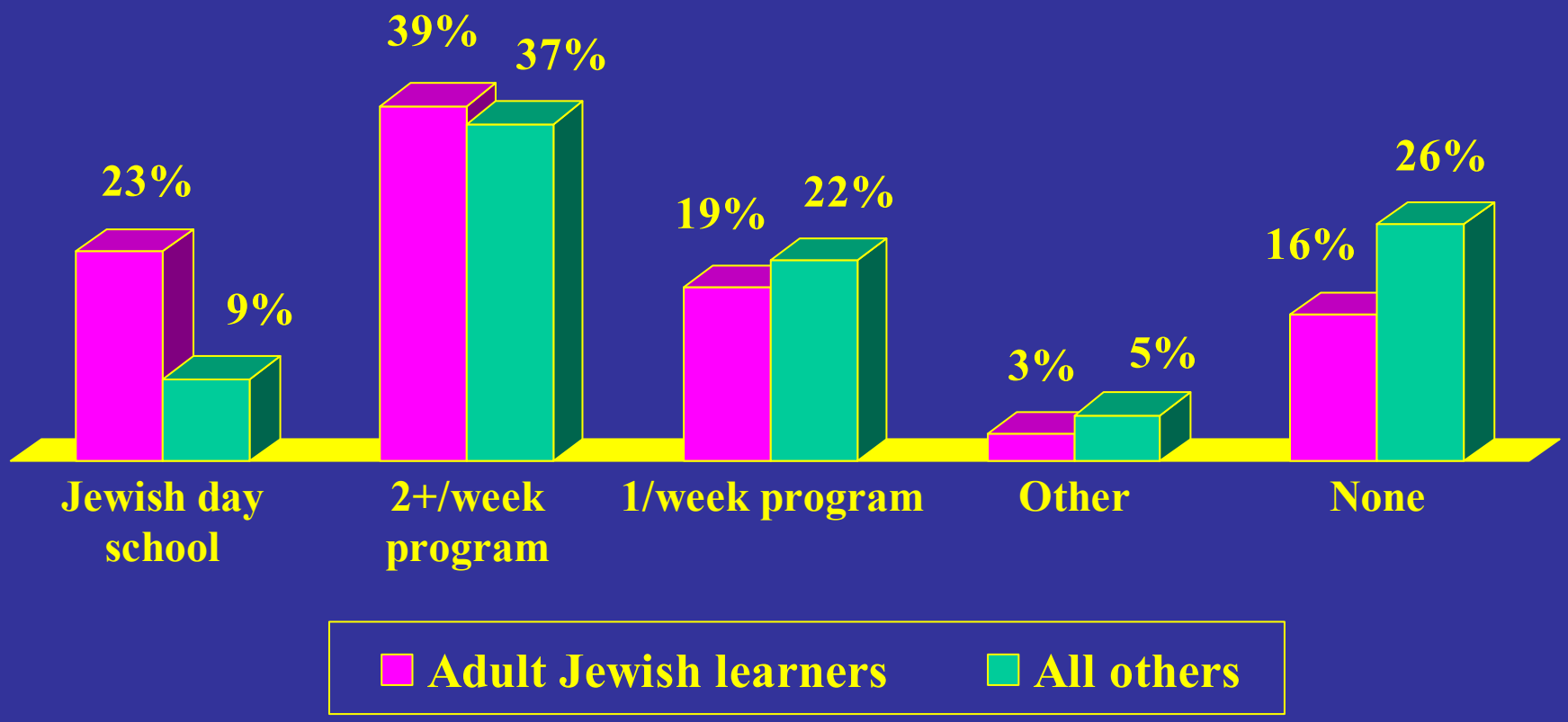
Adult Jewish Education

Compared to others, adult Jewish learners were more likely to have gone to Jewish day school when growing up, and less likely to have received no Jewish education.



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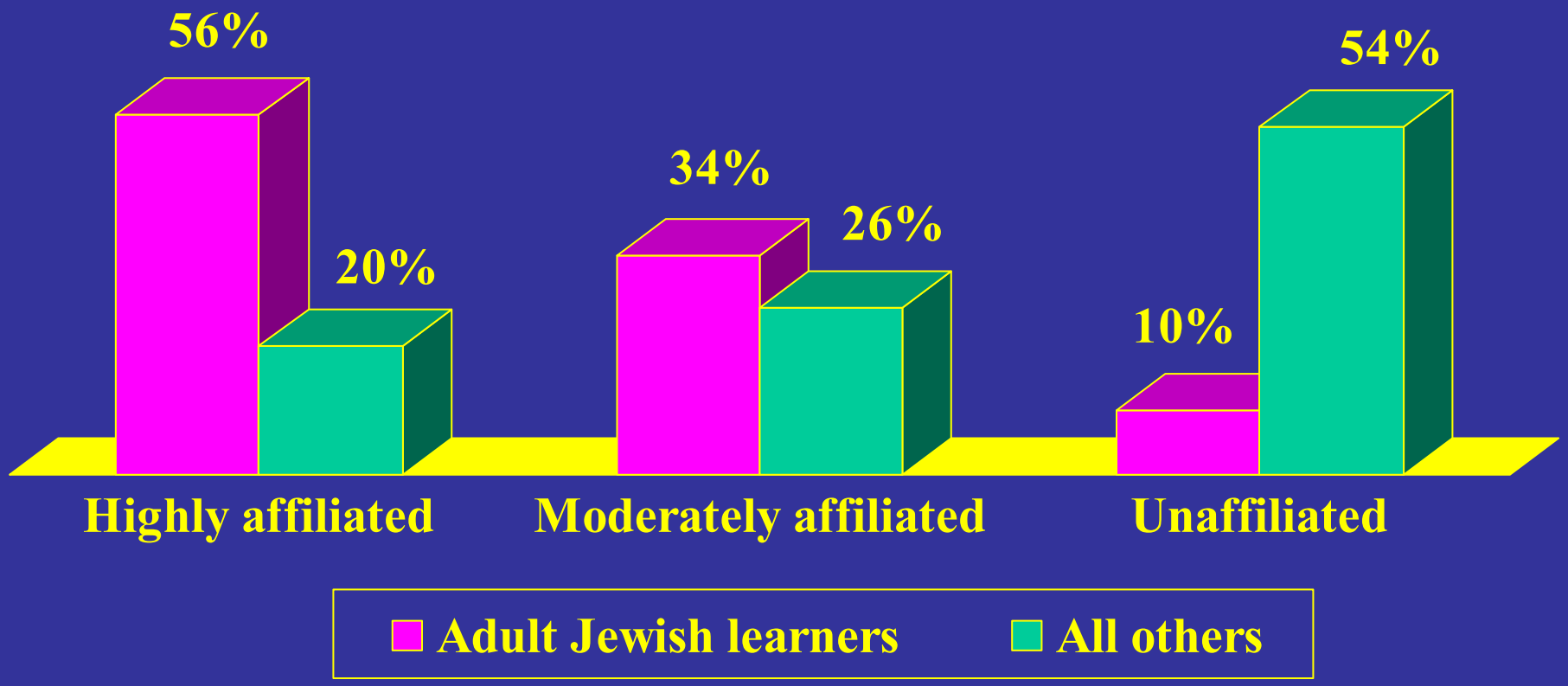
Adult Jewish Education

More than half of adult Jewish learners are highly affiliated with communal institutions, while more than half of all others are unaffiliated.



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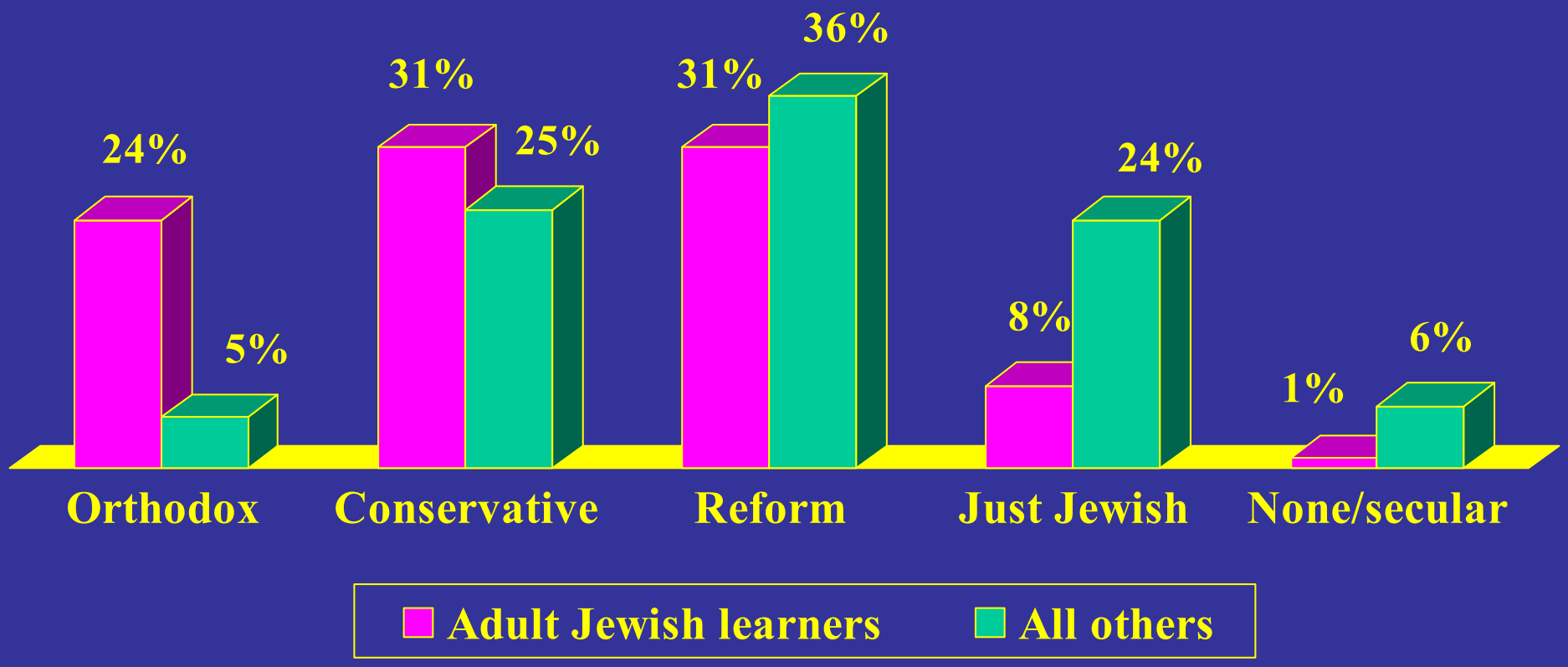
United Jewish Communities

Adult Jewish Education

Adult Jewish learners are more likely to identify as Orthodox than others and less likely to identify as Just Jewish or secular.



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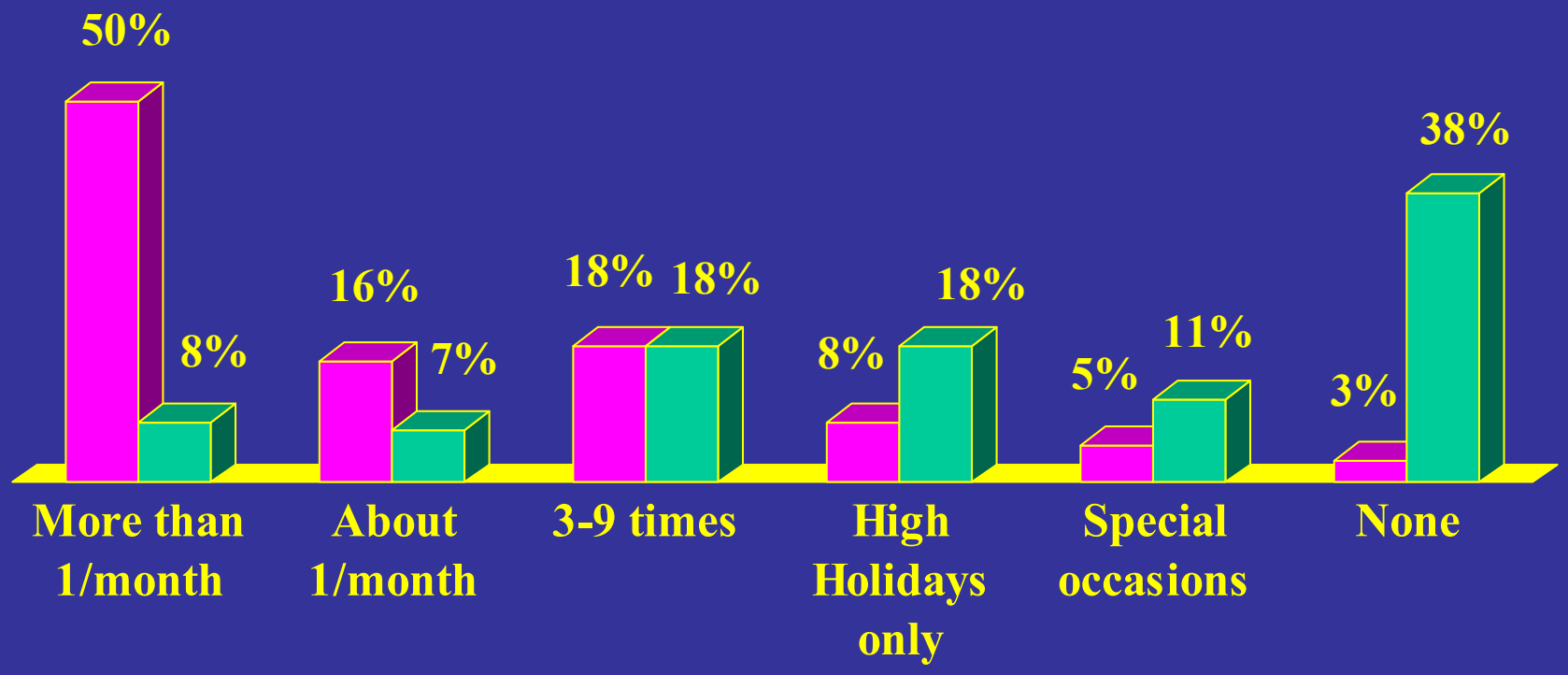
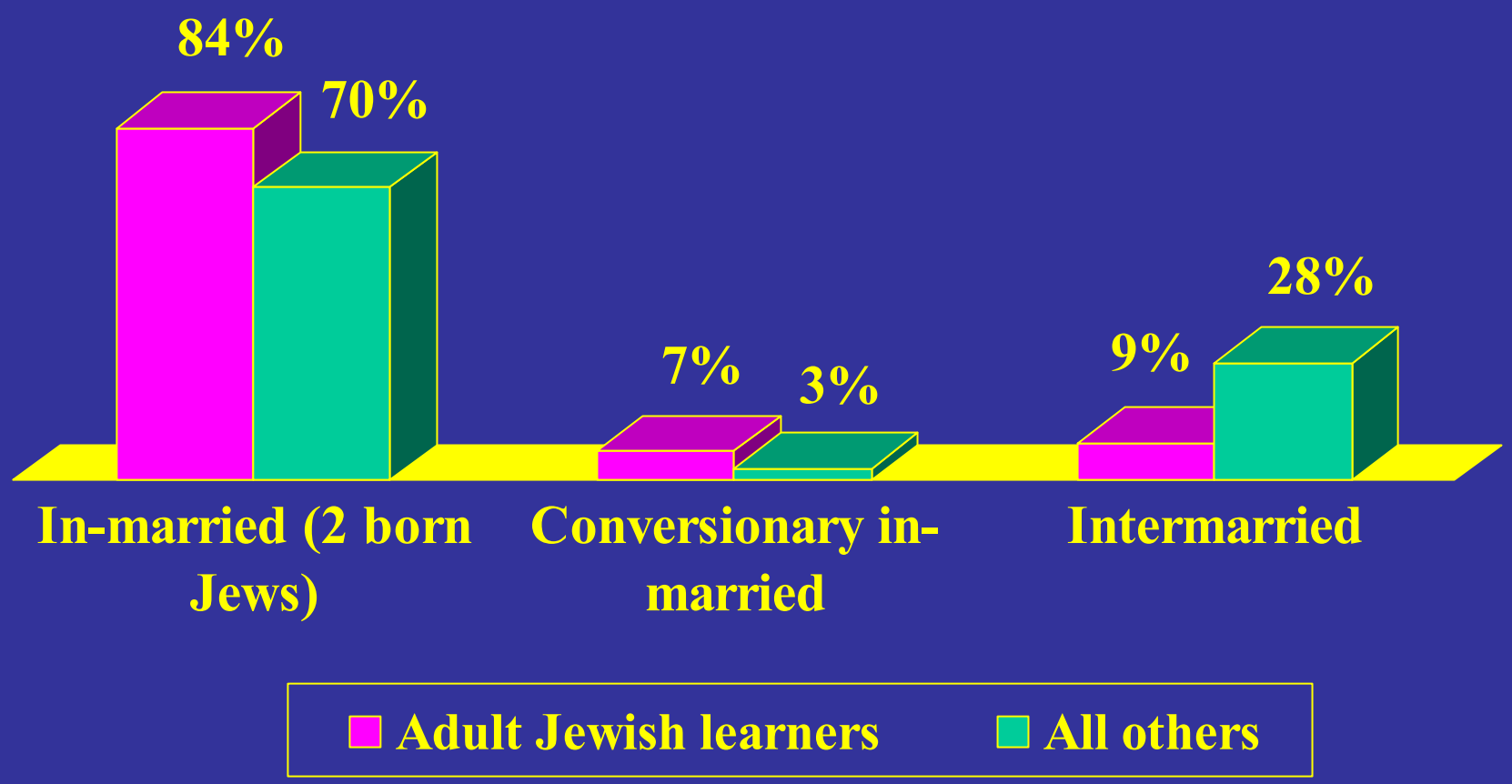
United Jewish Communities

Adult Jewish Education

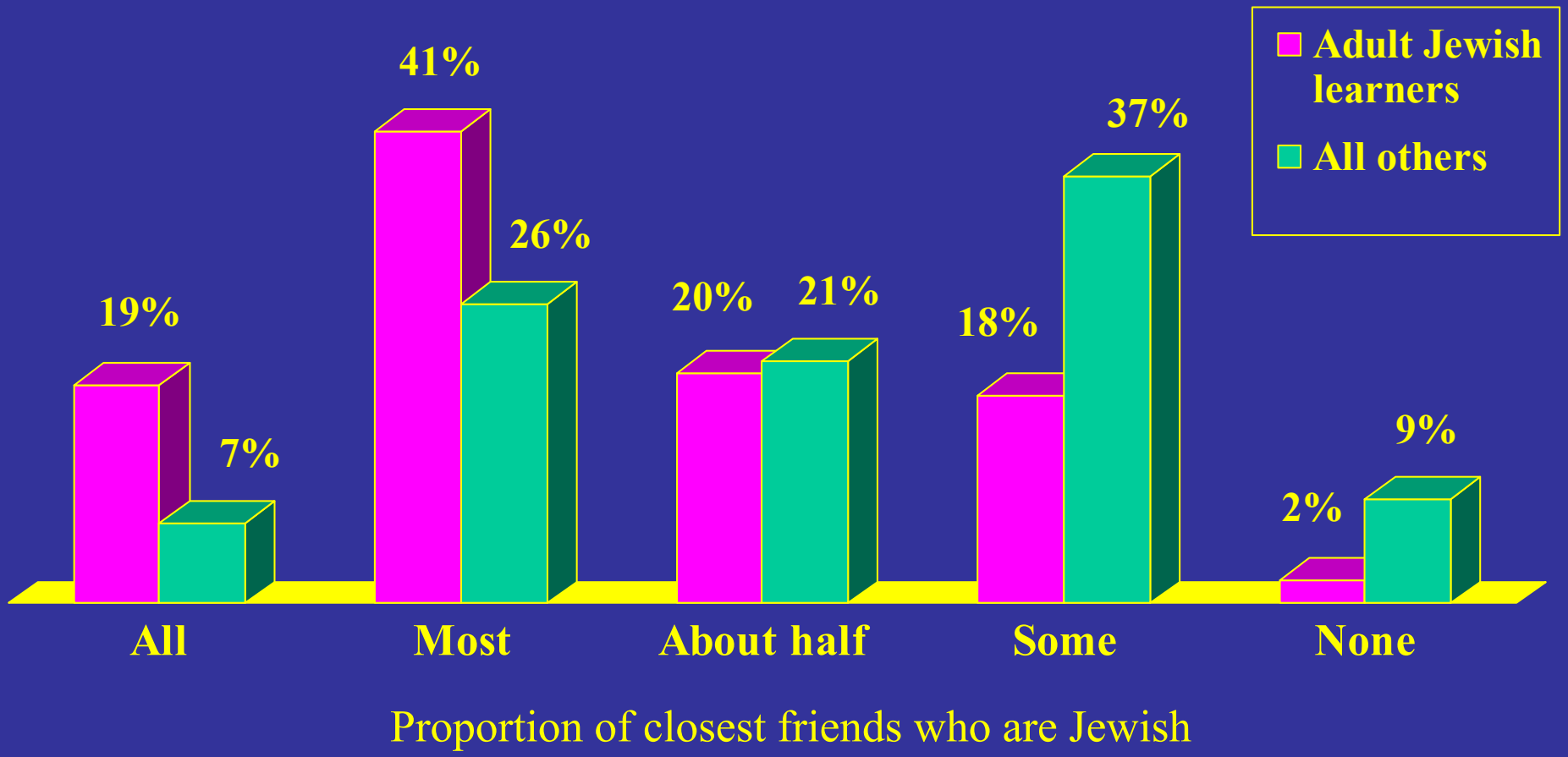
Half of adult Jewish learners attended religious services more than once per month in the year before the survey, compared to less than 10% of all others.



Adult Jewish learners are more likely to be in-married and less likely to be intermarried than others.



Compared to others, adult Jewish learners have more close friends who are Jewish.



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Questions?