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# National Jewish Population Survey 2000-01

## **New Jersey Jews**

A United Jewish Communities

Presentation of Findings

United Jewish Communities of Metrowest New Jersey

Whippany, New Jersey

March 23, 2004



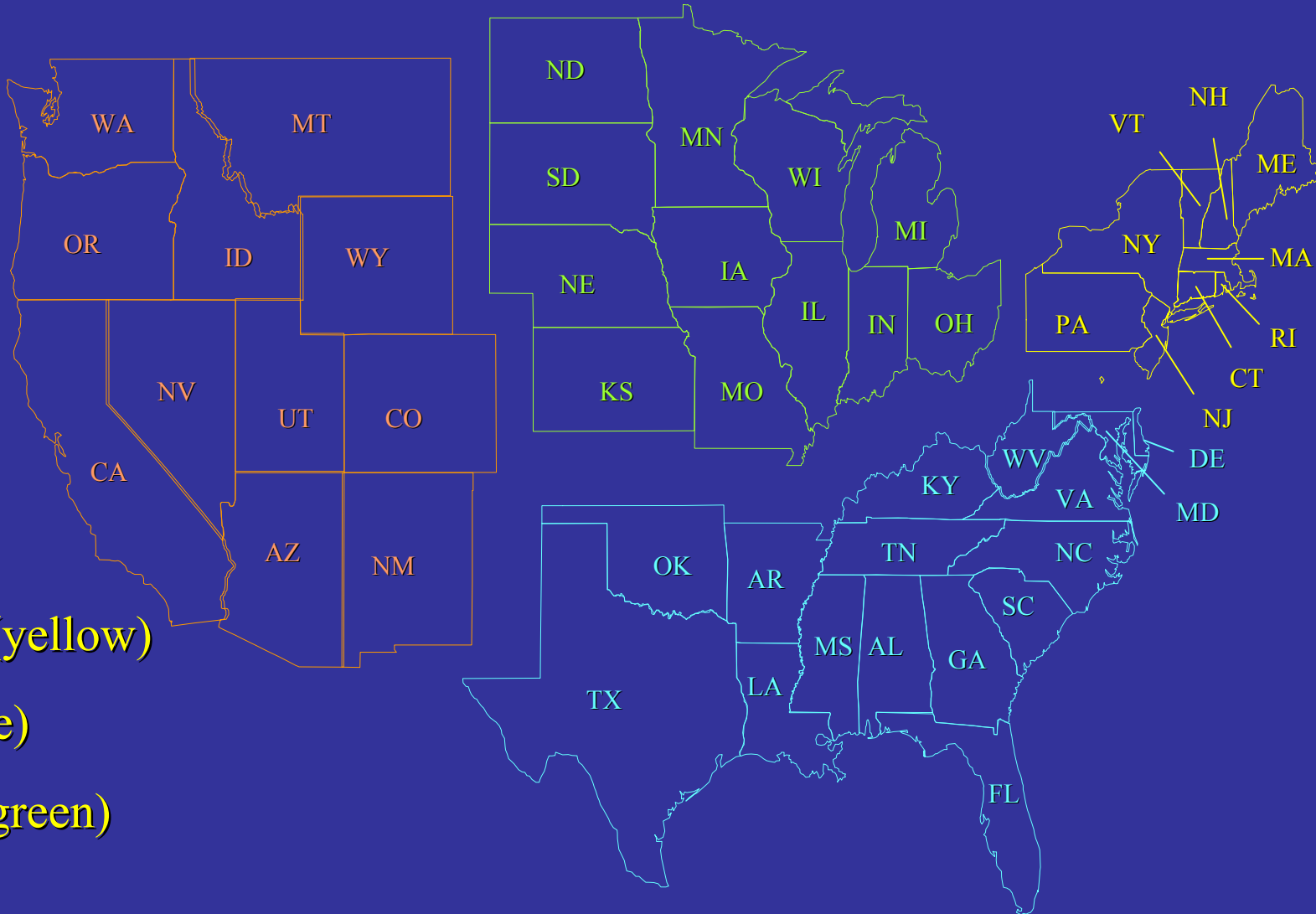
## NJPS Respondents

- 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. It examines Jews who live in the Northeast region of the U.S., as defined in the next two slides.

# Regional definition



The United States is divided into four regions:



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



This presentation divides the entire Northeast region into three distinct areas:

**1. New Jersey (entire state)**

**2. Rest of New York metropolitan area**

Includes the 5 boroughs of New York City, and Dutchess, Nassau, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester counties in NY. Also includes Fairfield, Litchfield, Middlesex, and New Haven counties in CT, and Pike County, PA.

**3. Rest of Northeast region**

## Methodological Note

- The NJPS questionnaire was divided into long-form and short-form versions. The long-form version was administered to respondents with stronger Jewish connections (representing 4.3 million Jews, or over 80% of all U.S. Jews). The short-form version, which omitted many questions on Jewish topics, was given to respondents with Jewish connections that are not as strong (representing in total 800,000 Jews).
- Asterisks (\*) in the presentation refer to questions that appeared on the long-form questionnaire and were asked only of respondents with stronger Jewish connections.

## **New Jersey Comparisons**

- Demography
- Jewish connections
- Philanthropy
- Intermarriage
- Israel
- Poverty/low income
- Health

## Total US Jewish population and household estimates in 2000-01 (in millions)

<b>Total Jewish population</b>	<b>5.2</b>
Adults	4.2
Children	1.0
<b>Total Jewish households<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2.9</b>
<b>Total people, Jewish and non-Jewish, in Jewish households</b>	<b>6.7</b>

<sup>1</sup> Defined as households with at least one Jewish adult

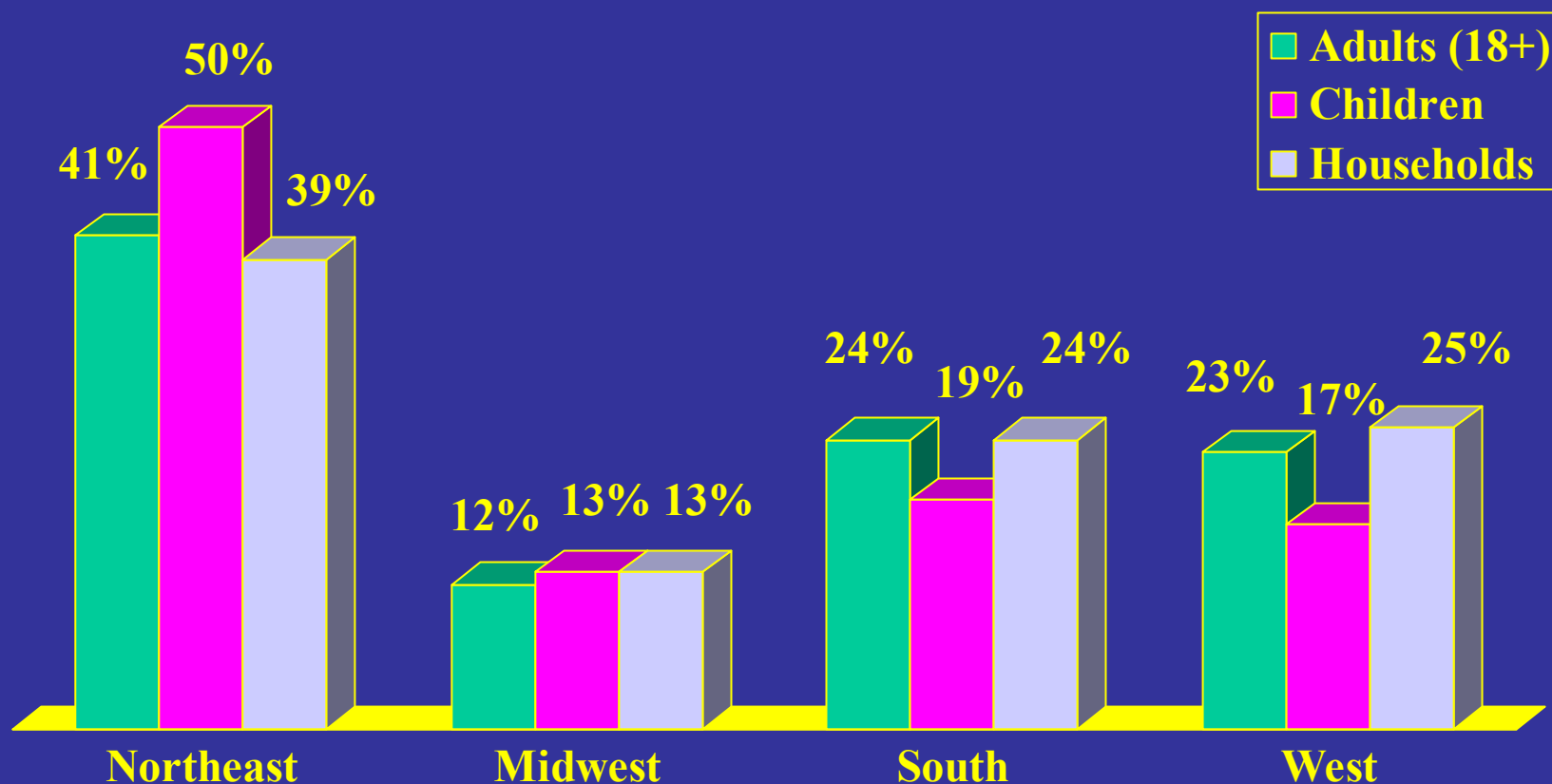
## Total Jewish population and household estimates in New Jersey 2000-01

<b>Total Jewish population</b>	<b>358,000</b>
<b>Adults</b>	<b>257,000</b>
<b>Children</b>	<b>101,000</b>
<b>Total Jewish households<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>169,000</b>
<b>Total people, Jewish and non-Jewish, in Jewish households</b>	<b>430,000</b>

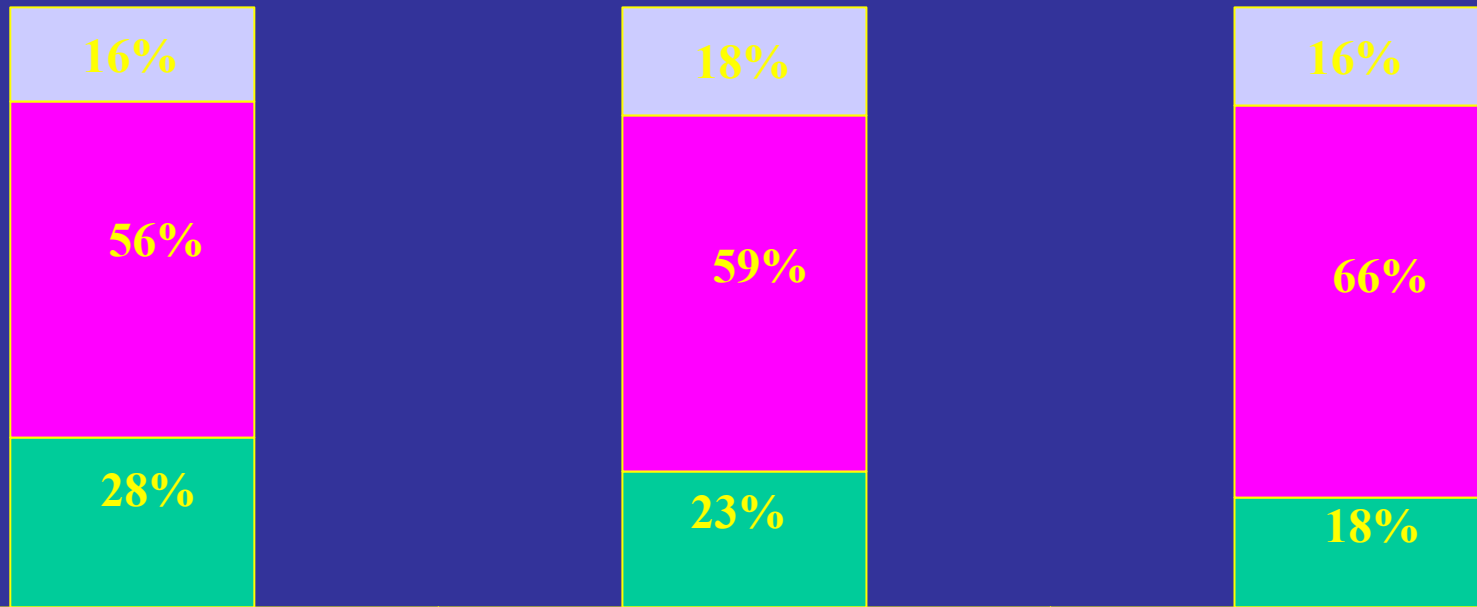
1. Defined as households with at least one Jewish adult



**The Jewish population is concentrated in the Northeast. Approximately equal proportions of Jews reside in the West and South, with the Midwest trailing all other regions.**



New Jersey has proportionally more children than the rest of the Northeast.



**New Jersey**

**NY metropolitan area**

**Rest of NE**



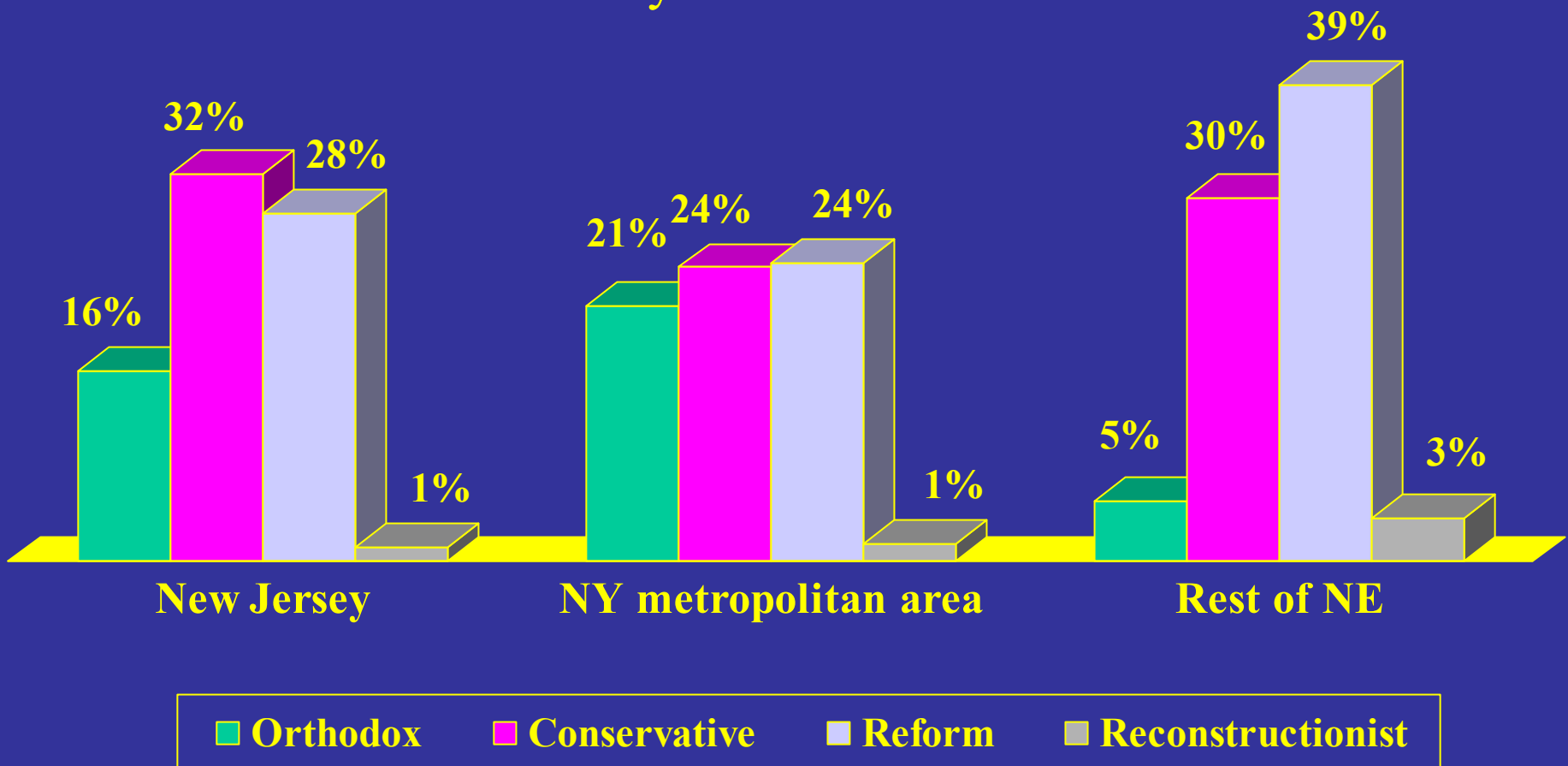


## Jewish Connections:

- Denominations
- Affiliations
- Synagogues
- Attitudes
- Rituals
- Jewish media



Six out of ten Jewish adults in New Jersey consider their religious denomination to be Conservative or Reform, and one out of six say they are Orthodox.\*





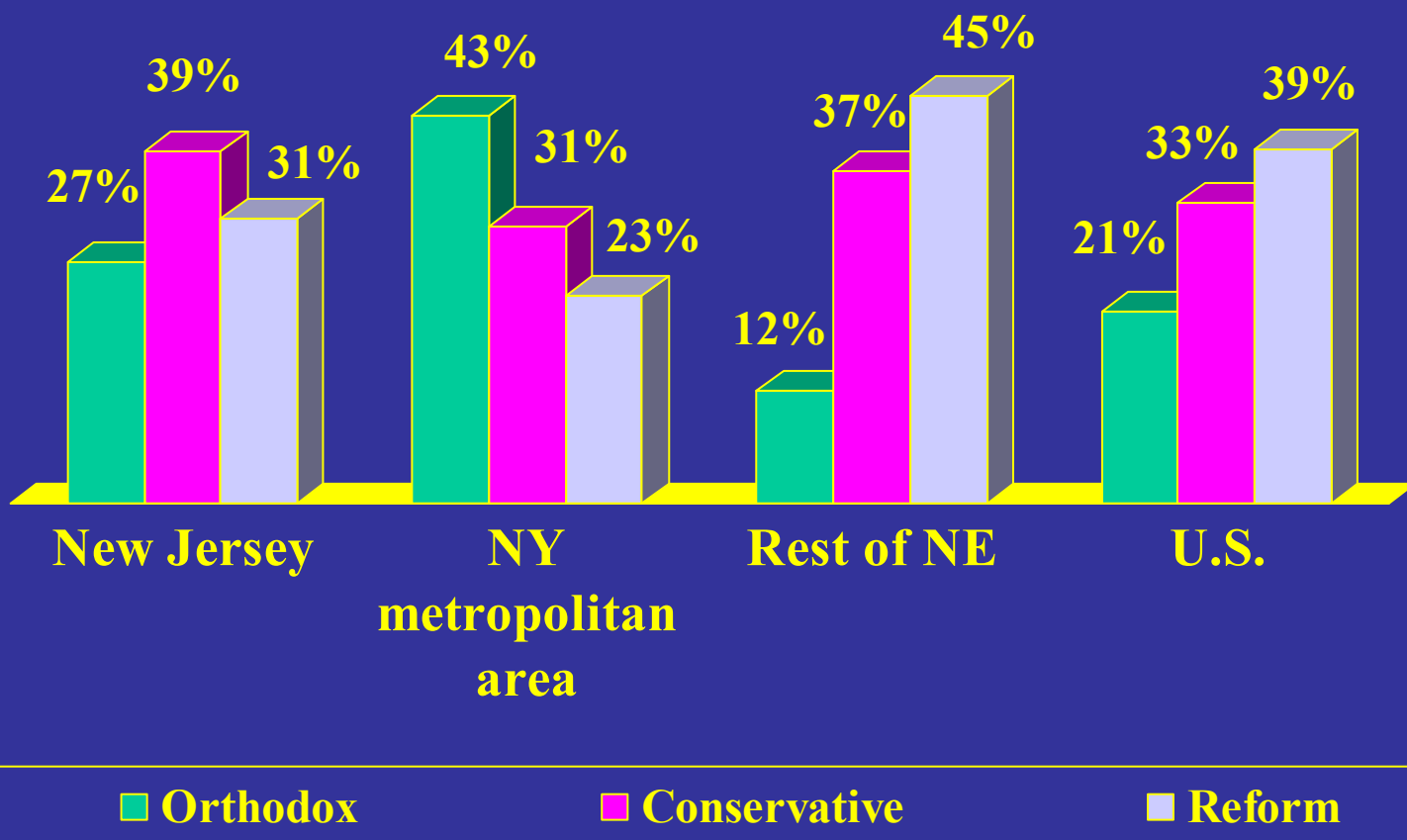
Forty percent of American Jewish households<sup>1</sup> belong to synagogues,\* with New Jersey having a slightly higher proportion than the rest of the Northeast.



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

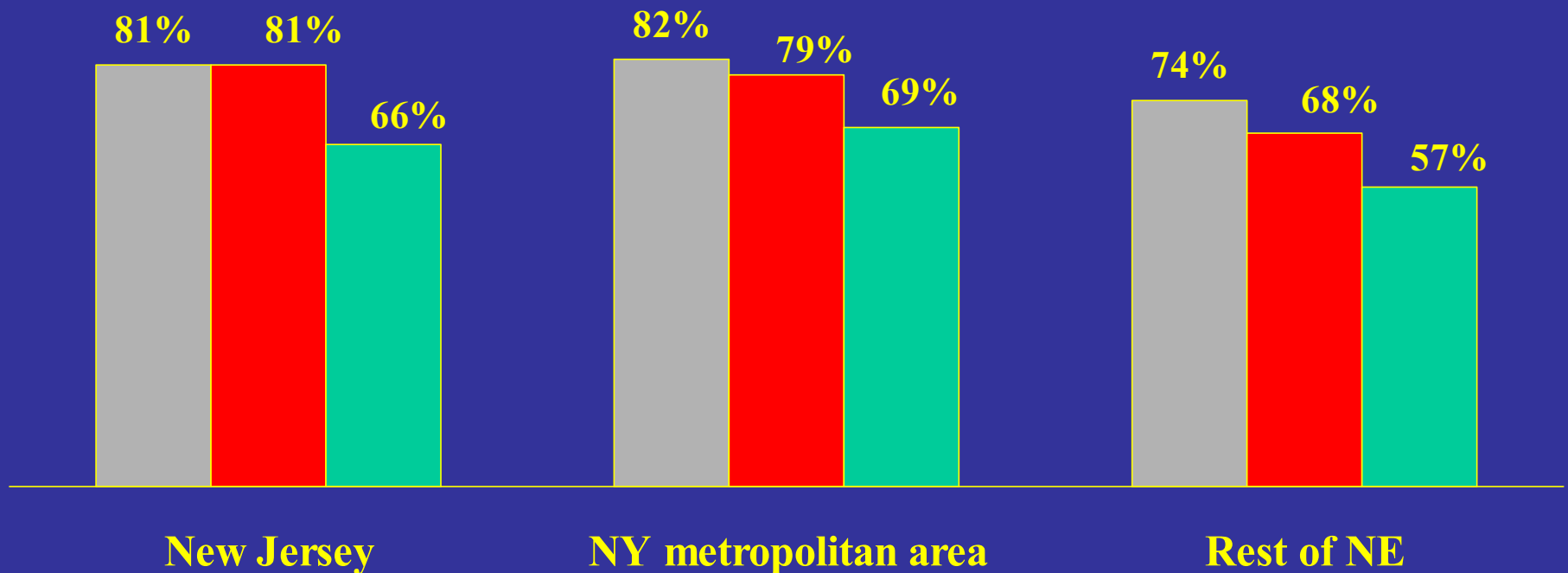


Among New Jersey synagogue members, the largest proportion belong to Conservative synagogues.\*





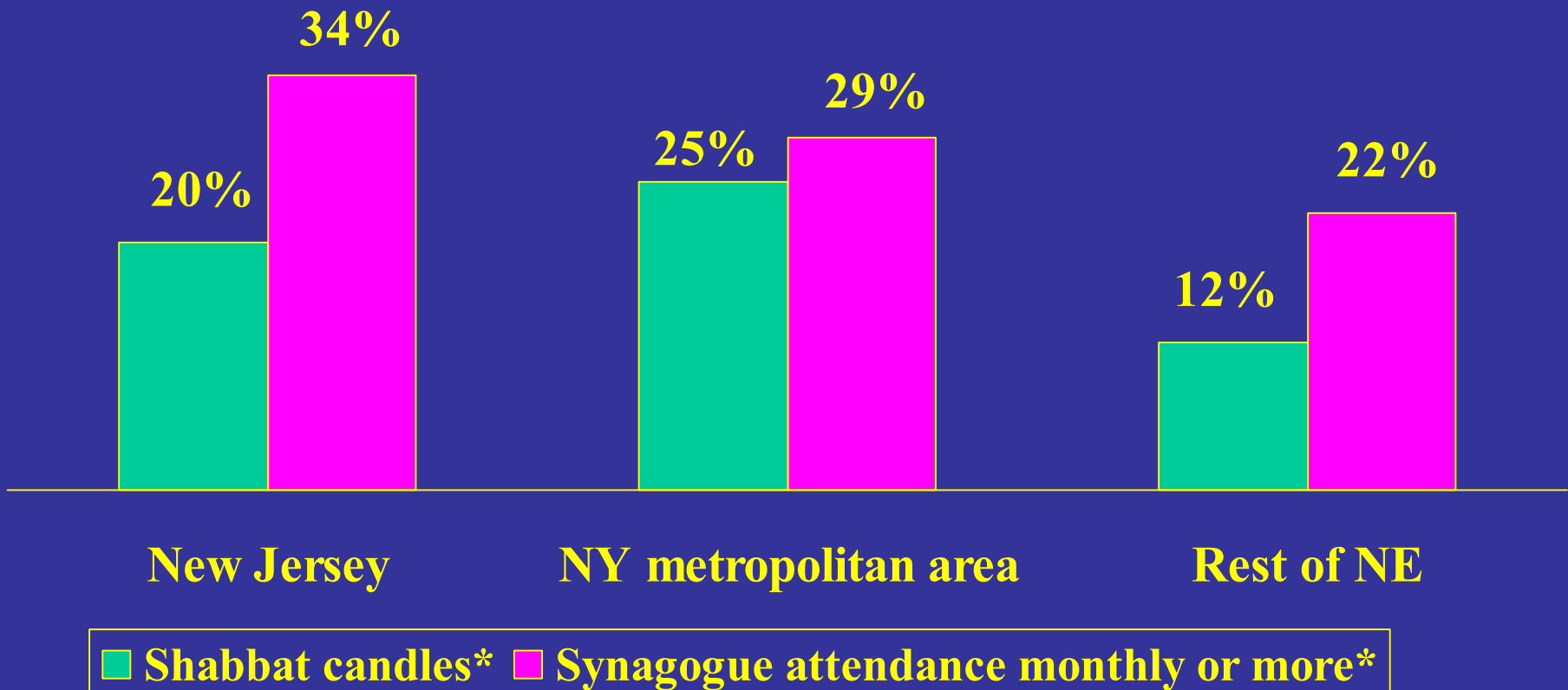
Most Jews in New Jersey observe a number of important Jewish holidays and rituals.



■ Light Chanukah candles ■ Attend/Hold Passover Seder ■ Fast on Yom Kippur\*

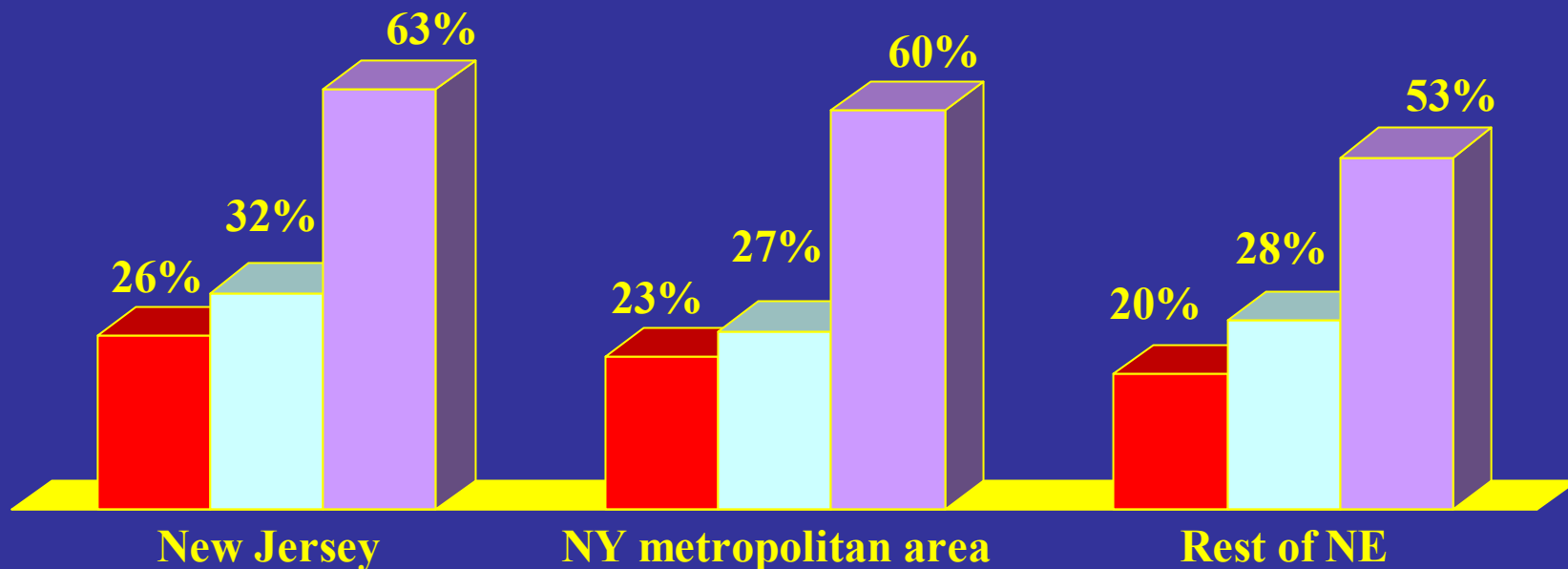


In the Northeast, minorities of American Jews engage in these religious activities.





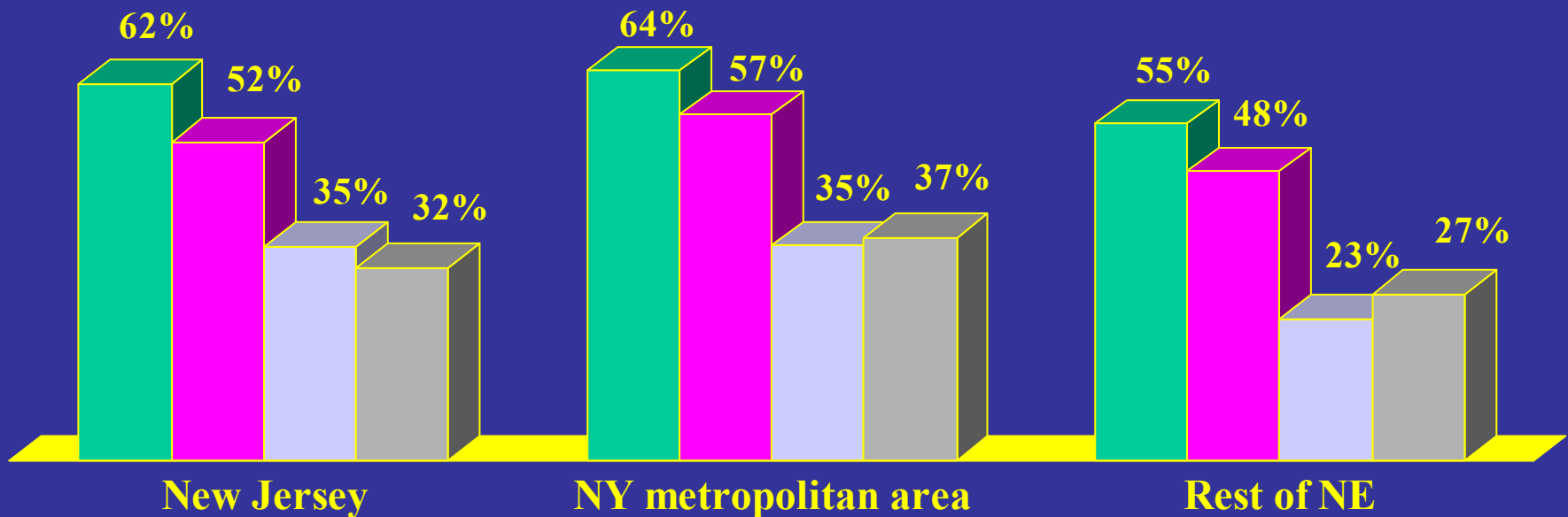
New Jersey Jews affiliate with, and volunteer for, other Jewish organizations at higher rates than other Northeastern Jews.



■ Belong to JCC\*    
 ■ Belong to other Jewish organization\*    
 ■ Volunteer under Jewish auspices\*



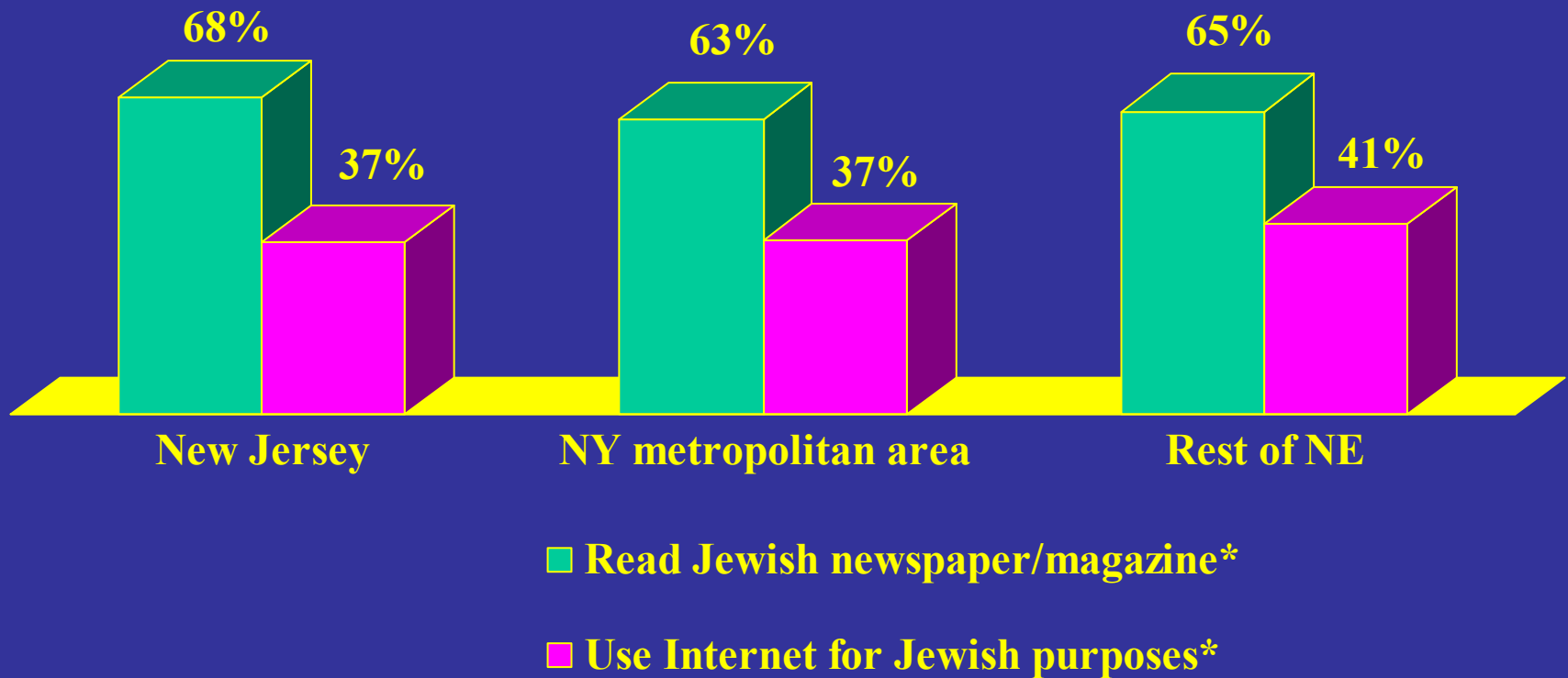
Jews in the Northeast who said they “strongly agree” with the following statements:



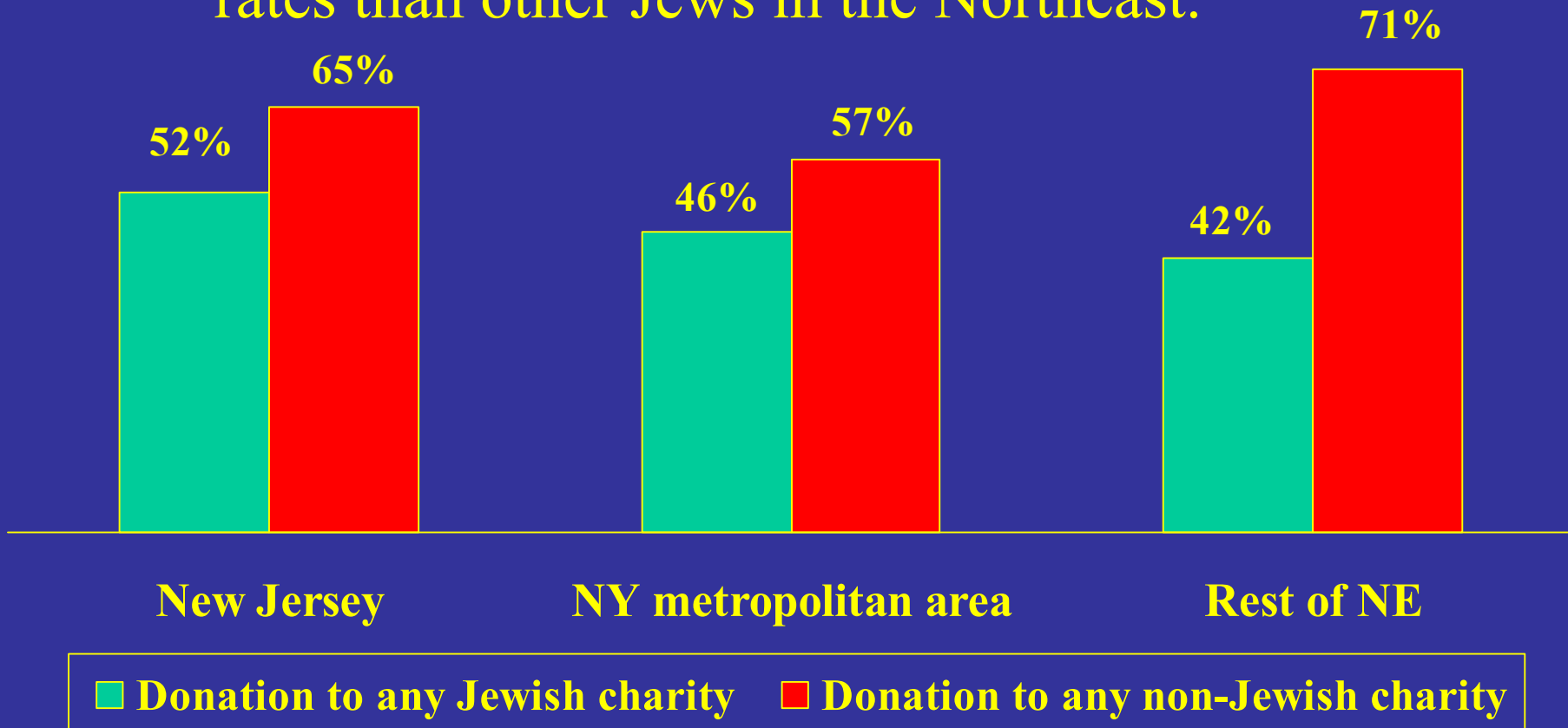
- Strong sense of belonging to the Jewish people\*
- Regard being Jewish as very important\*
- Jews have greater responsibility to other Jews than to non-Jews\*
- Special responsibility to take care of Jews in need\*



Most Northeastern Jews read Jewish publications and many use the Internet for Jewish information.

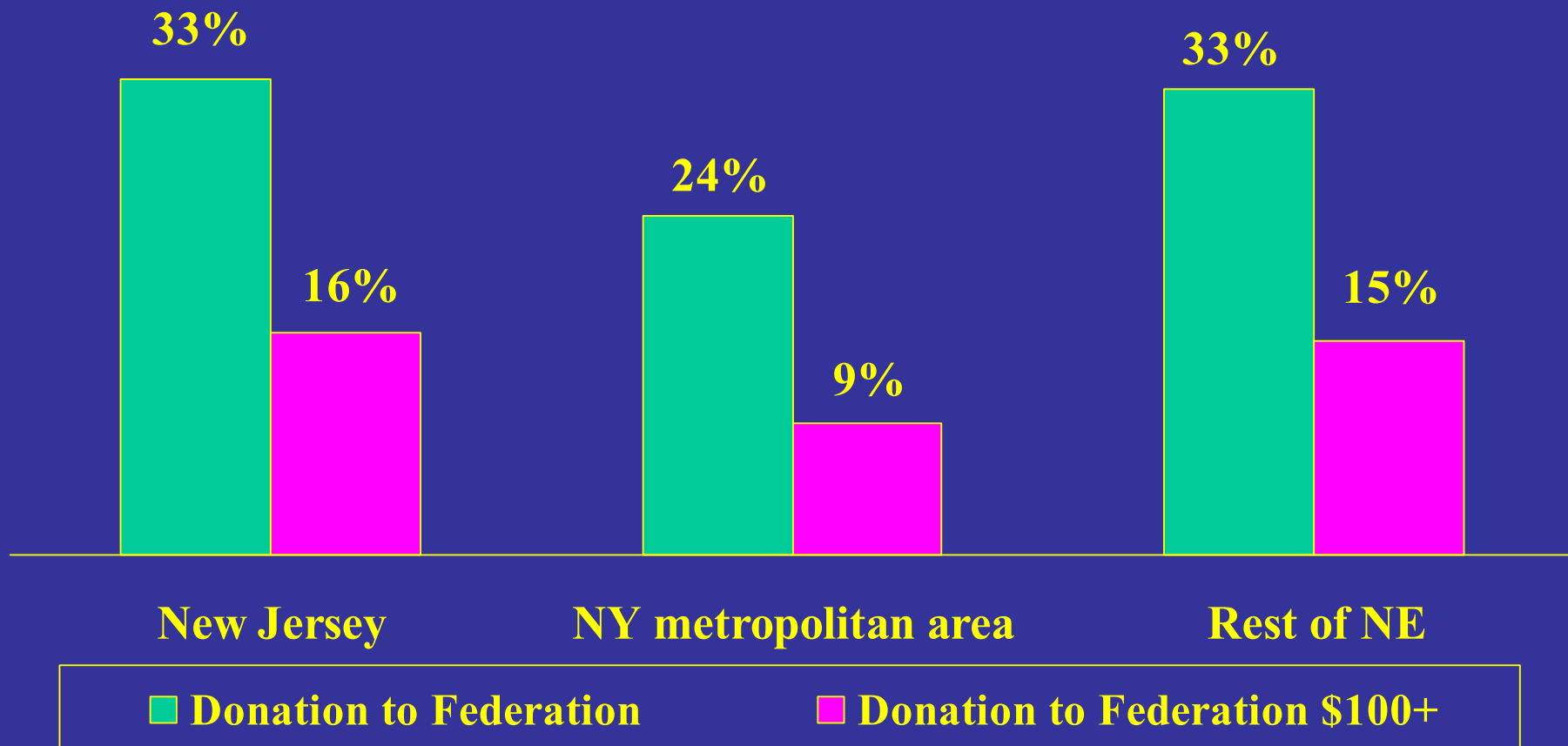


New Jersey Jews donate to Jewish charities at higher rates than other Jews in the Northeast.



<sup>1</sup> Household data

New Jersey Jews donate to Federation at higher rates than Jews in the New York metro area.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Assumes no donation to Federation among less engaged population.

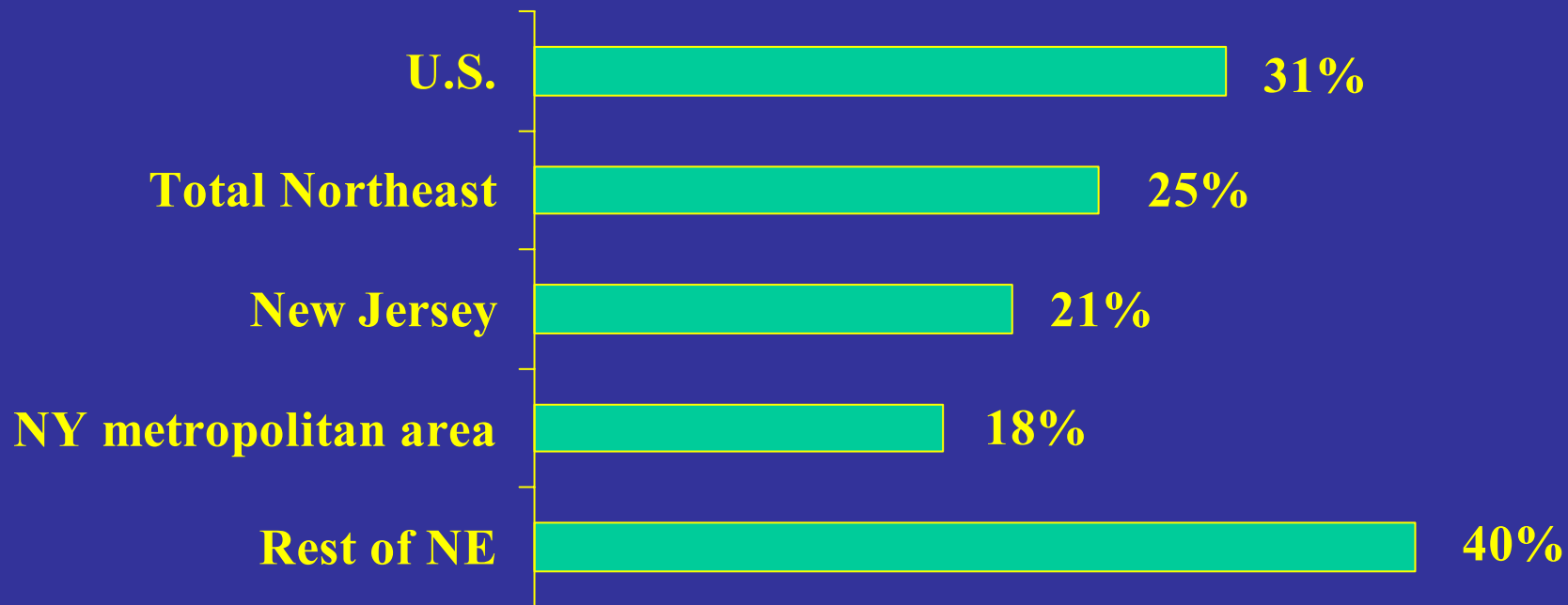
## **Intermarriage**

### **Major finding:**

**Among all American Jews who are married, 31% are married to someone who is not Jewish. Intermarriage is lowest in the Northeast and highest in the West.**



About one in five currently married New Jersey Jews is intermarried. While New Jersey and the New York metro area have relatively low intermarriage rates, the rest of the Northeast has an intermarriage rate which is significantly higher.



Overall intermarriage rates, by region



## Connections to Israel

Major finding:

Among Jewish adults, 35% have been to Israel. The highest rate of travel to Israel is in the Northeast; the lowest rates are in the Midwest and West.



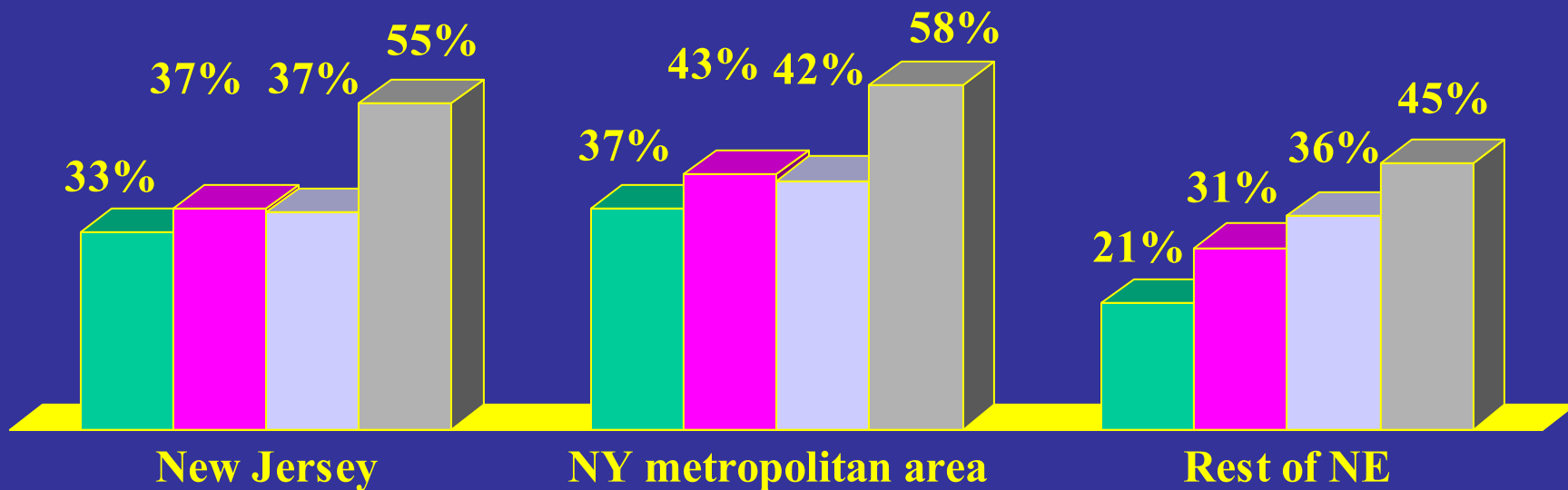
More than four out of ten Jews in New Jersey have been to Israel. As with intermarriage, the profiles of New Jersey and New York metro area Jews are similar.



Ever been to Israel, by region



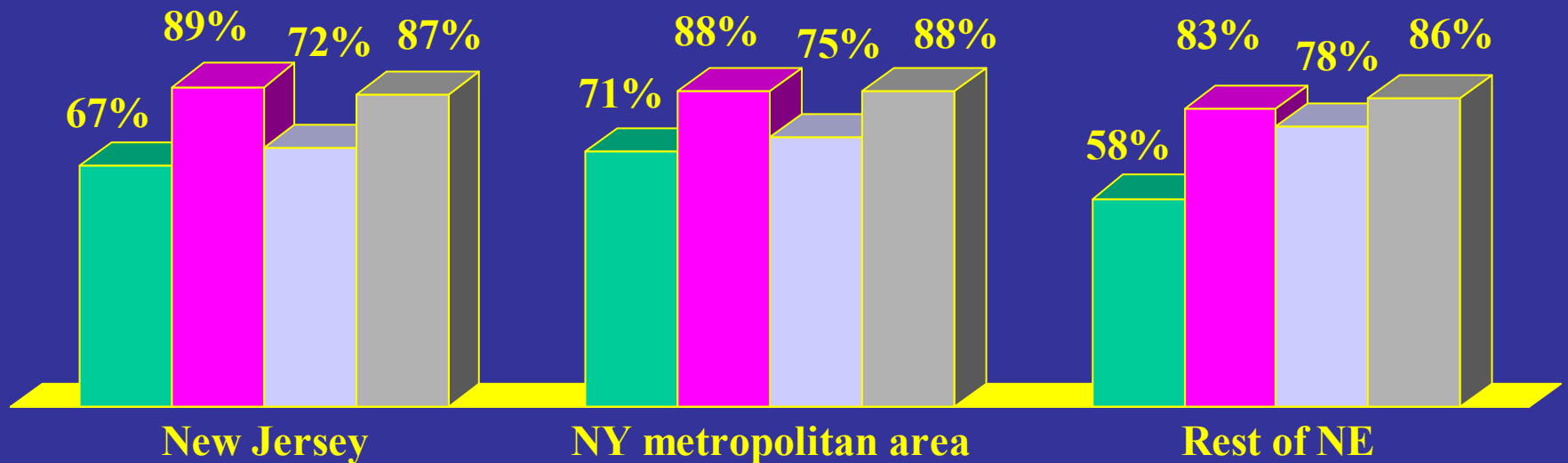
One third to one half of New Jersey's Jews report strong positive attitudes about Israel.



- Very emotionally attached to Israel\*
- Very familiar with social and political situation in Israel
- US and Israeli Jews share common destiny: strongly agree\*
- Israel needs financial support of US Jews: strongly agree\*



Across the Northeast, most Jews have generally positive Israel connections.



- Somewhat or very emotionally attached to Israel\*
- Somewhat or very familiar with social and political situation
- US and Israeli Jews share common destiny: somewhat or strongly agree\*
- Israel needs financial support of US Jews: somewhat or strongly agree\*



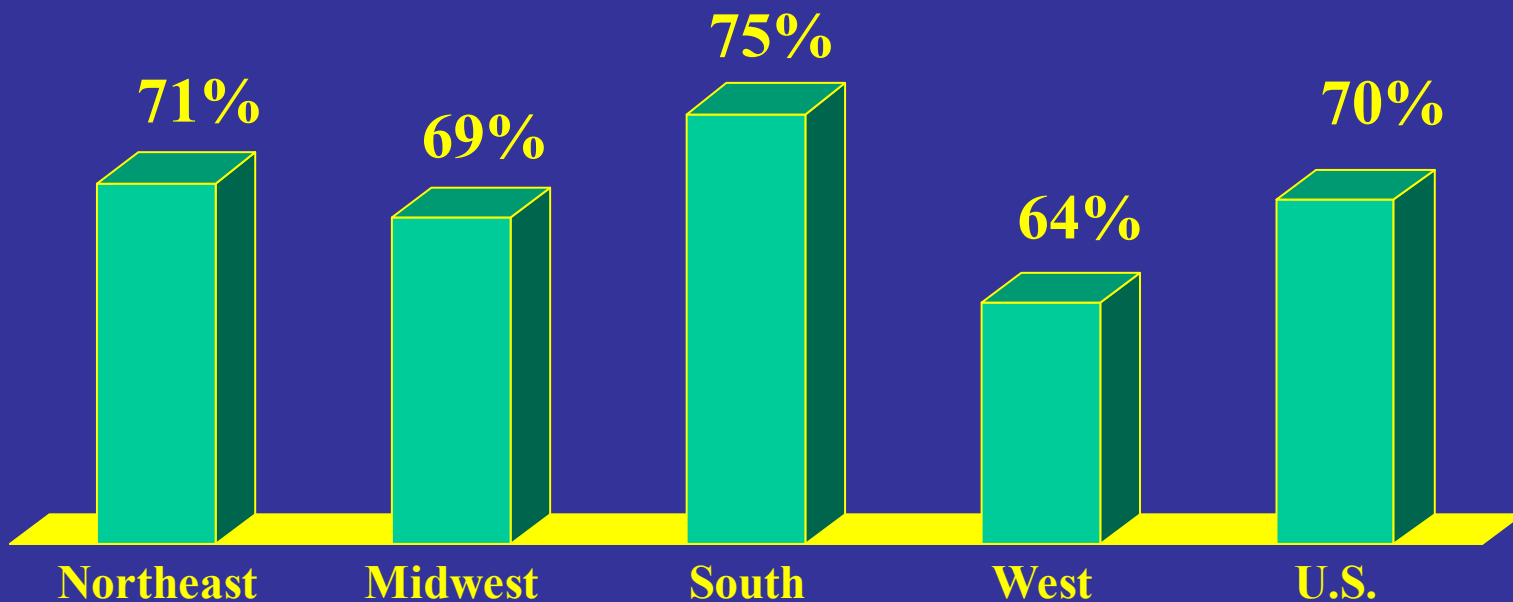
## **Jewish education\***

- Current rates among Jewish children ages 6-17
- Types of Jewish education among Jewish children
- Comparisons of children to adults in day school enrollments
- Adult Jewish education

\* Reminder: Asterisk means all education data are restricted to the Jewish population of 4.3 million with stronger Jewish connections.



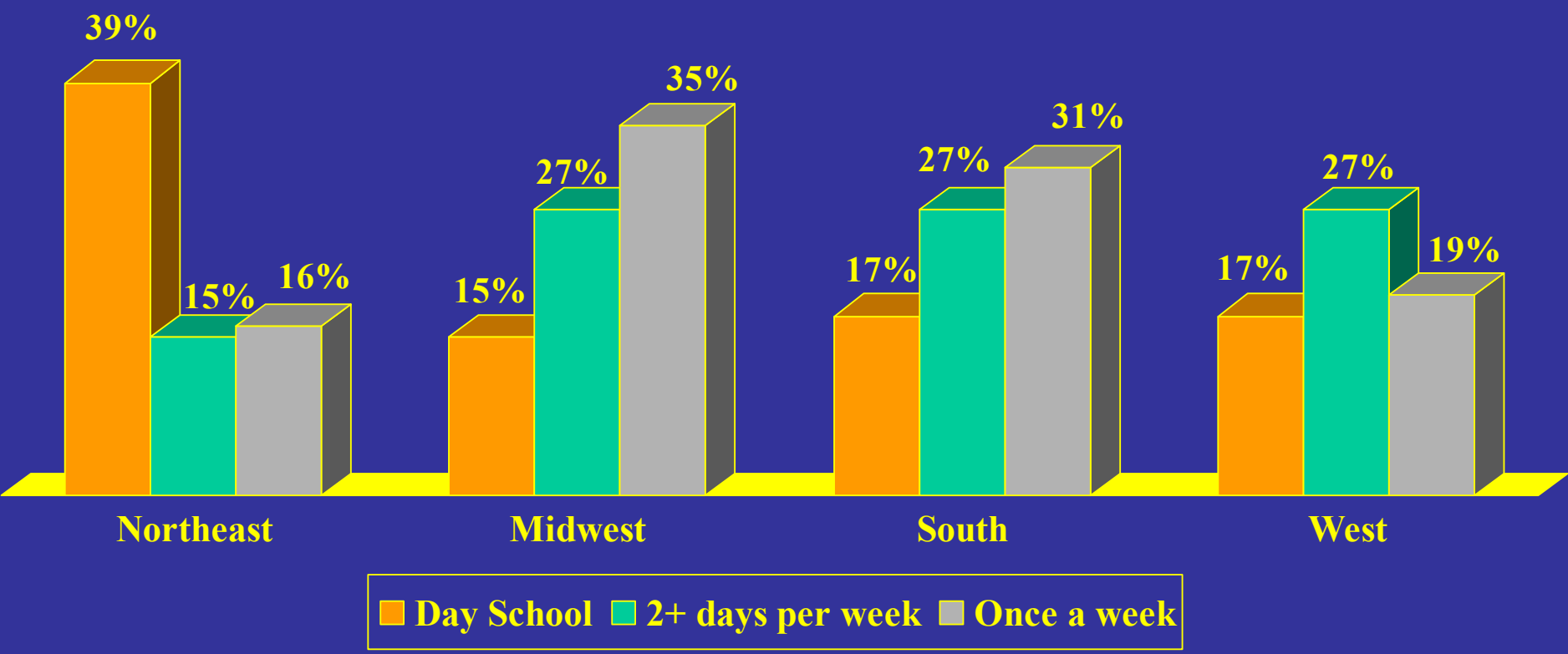
The proportion of children ages 6-17 in the Northeast receiving any kind of Jewish education in the year prior to survey is equal to the national rate.\*



Note: data on children in the Midwest should be interpreted cautiously due to the small number of cases.



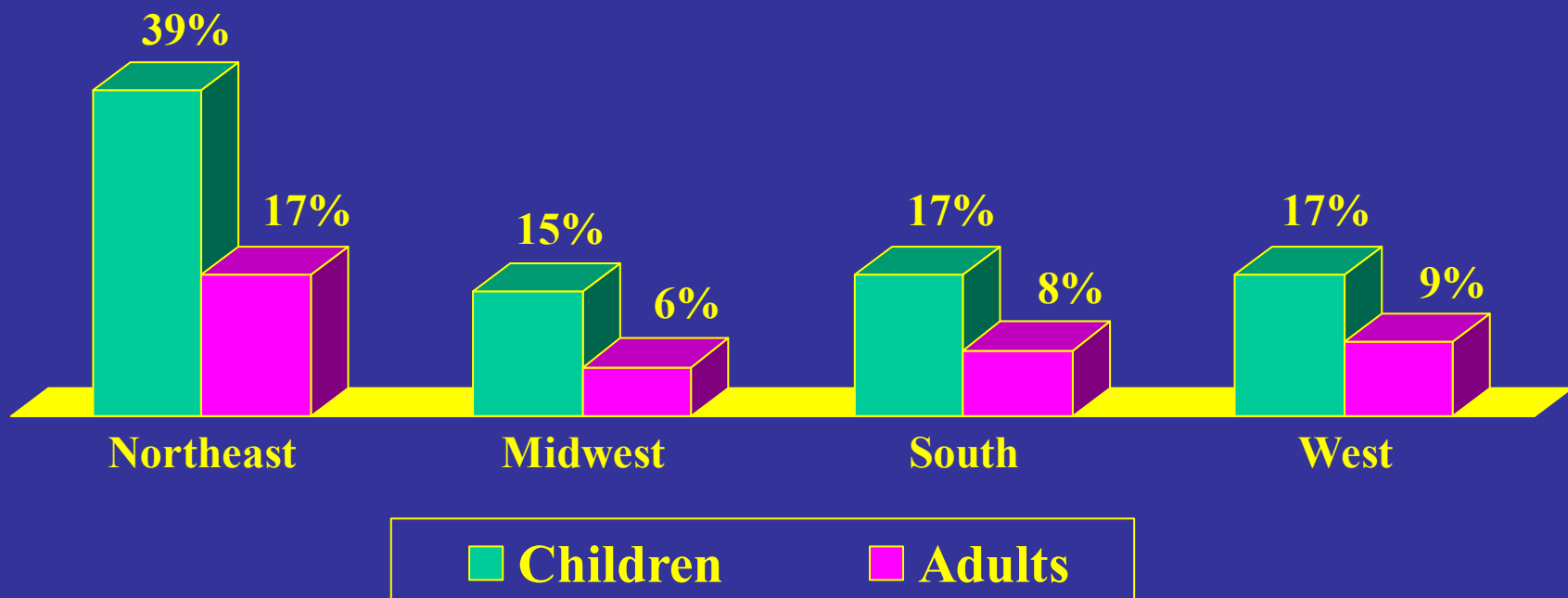
**The proportion of children 6-17 in day schools\* is similar in the Midwest, South and West but all three trail the Northeast.**



Note: Multiple responses permitted. Data on children in the Midwest should be interpreted cautiously due to small number of cases.



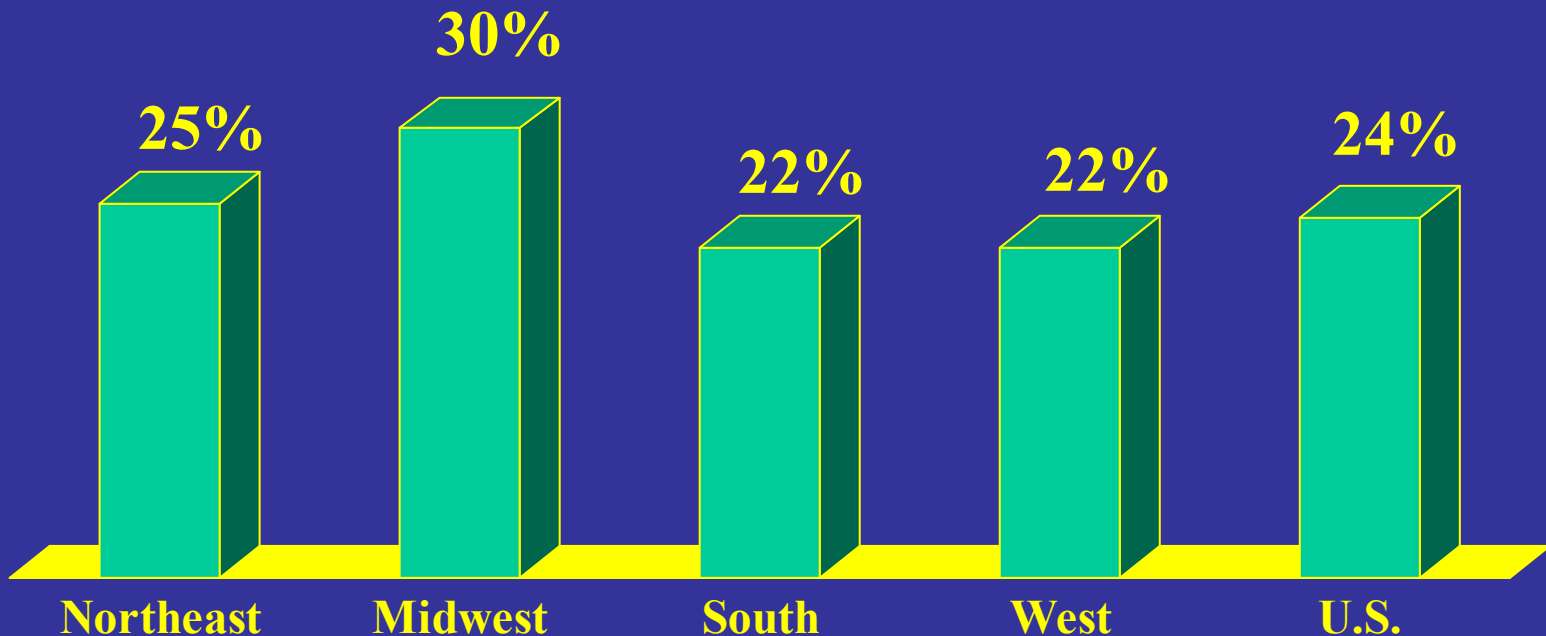
In all four regions, proportionally more Jewish children 6-17 are receiving day school education than adults did when they were growing up.\*



Note: data on children in the Midwest should be interpreted cautiously due to small number of cases.

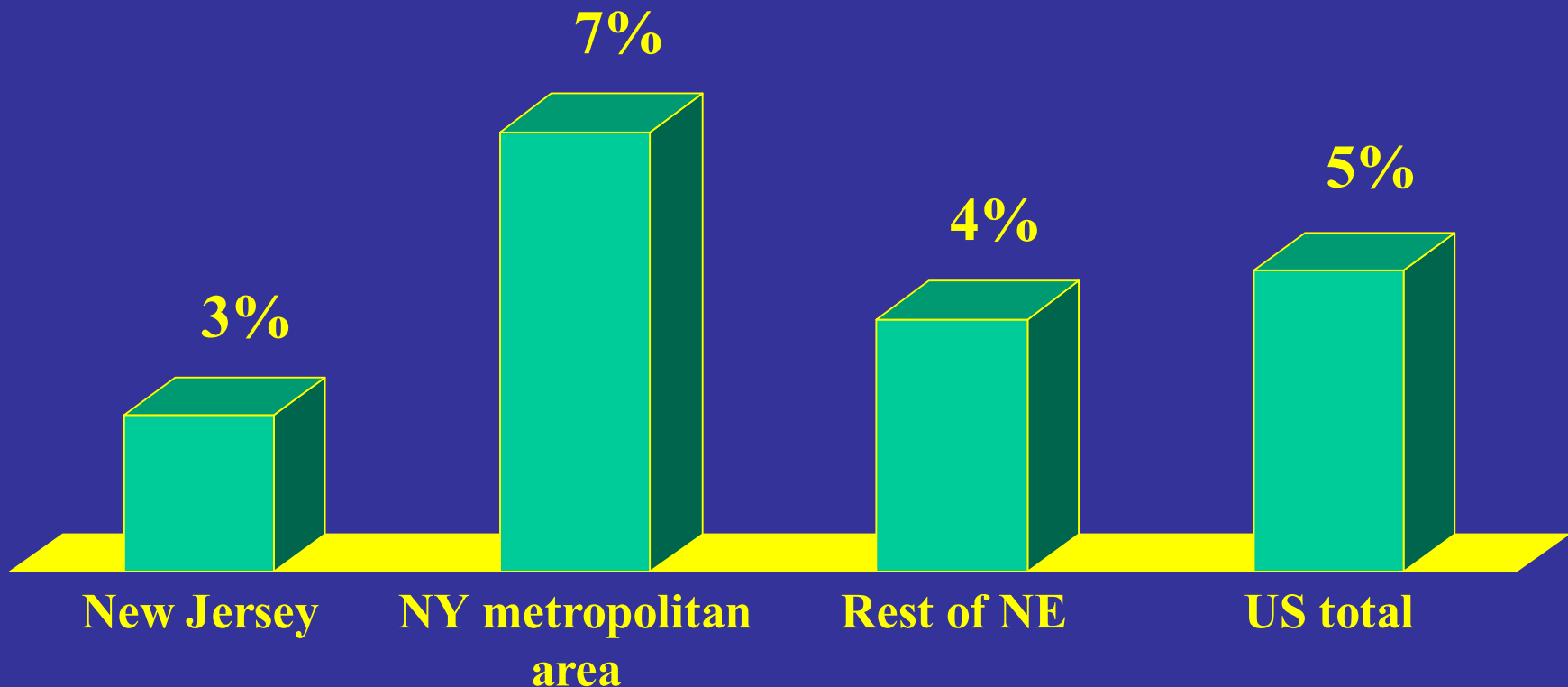


One out of four adults in the Northeast participated in an adult Jewish education class in the year prior to survey.\*



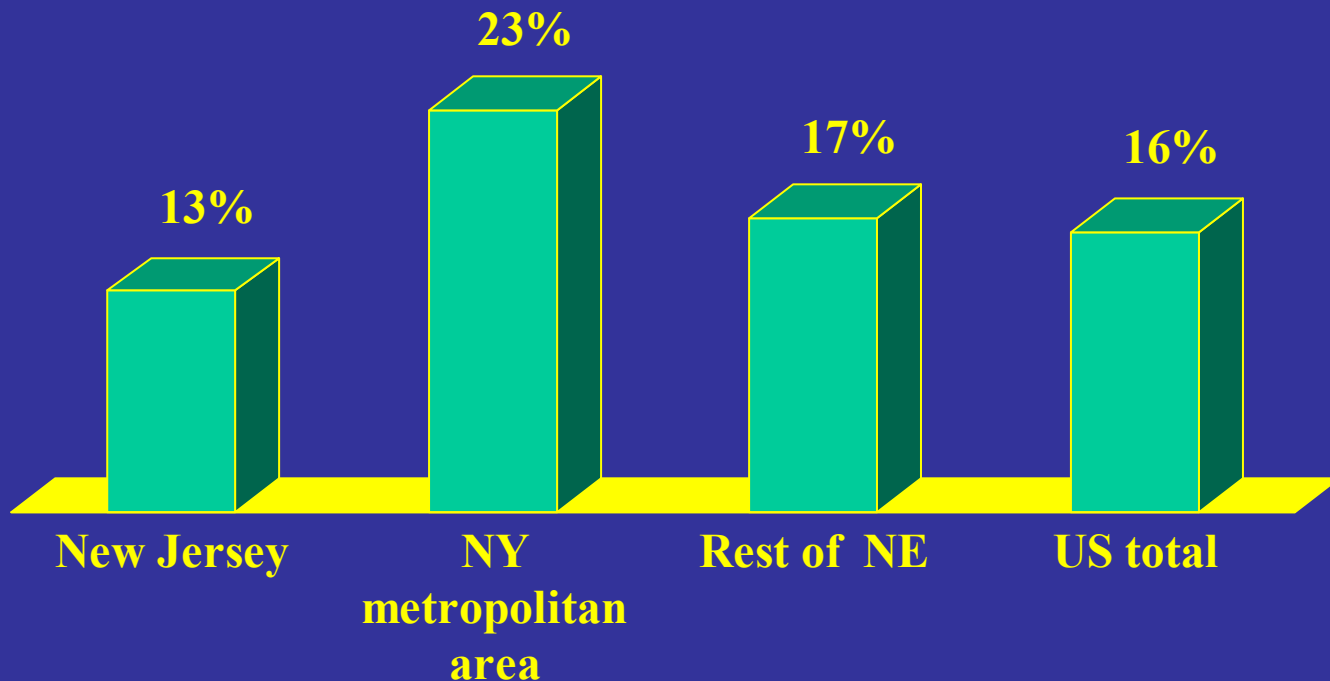
- **Poverty:** US federal government standards; combination of income and household size
- **Low income** = < \$25,000, any household size
- Poverty and low income report confirmed cases of all people asked question, thus producing conservative estimates of incidence
- **Health:** someone in household has health condition that limits daily activities

The poverty rate\* (federal government definition) among New Jersey Jewish households is less than half the poverty rate for the New York metro area.



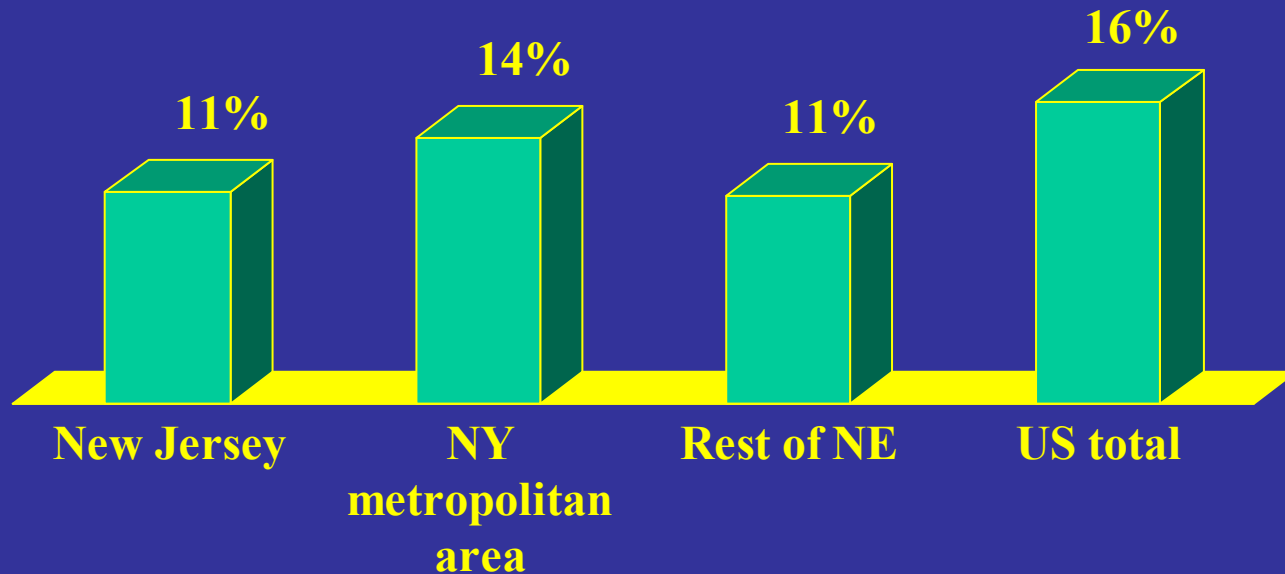


The incidence of low income (under \$25,000) also appears to be somewhat lower among Jewish households in New Jersey than elsewhere.





The presence of a household member with a limiting health condition\* appears to be slightly less likely in the New Jersey than in the New York metro area.





Questions?