Mandell L. Berman Institute
North American Jewish Data Bank

THIS PUBLICATION IS PROVIDED BY THE NORTH AMERICAN JEWISH DATA BANK WITH PERMISSION FROM THE STUDY AUTHORS.

THE NORTH AMERICAN JEWISH DATA BANK IS A COLLABORATIVE PROJECT OF THE JEWISH FEDERATIONS OF NORTH AMERICA AND THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT'S CENTER FOR JUDAIC STUDIES AND CONTEMPORARY JEWISH LIFE AND ROPER CENTER FOR PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH. OUR MISSION IS TO:

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.

PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR DATASETS AND REPORTS ARE PROVIDED FOR NON-COMMERCIAL USE ONLY.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
HTTP://WWW.JEWISHDATABANK.ORG

Mandell L. Berman Institute North American Jewish Data Bank, Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life
University of Connecticut, 405 Babbidge Rd, Unit 1205, Storrs, CT 06269-1205
info@jewishdatabank.org
phone: 860-486-2271 fax: 860-812-2032

A Tale of Two "Jewish" Cities: The 2002 Phoenix and 2003 San Diego Jewish Community Studies

Ron Miller, Ph. D.

Research Director
Ukeles Associates Inc.

Associate Director
North American Jewish Data Bank

DECEMBER, 2006

PowerPoint Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies
San Diego CA
December 18, 2006

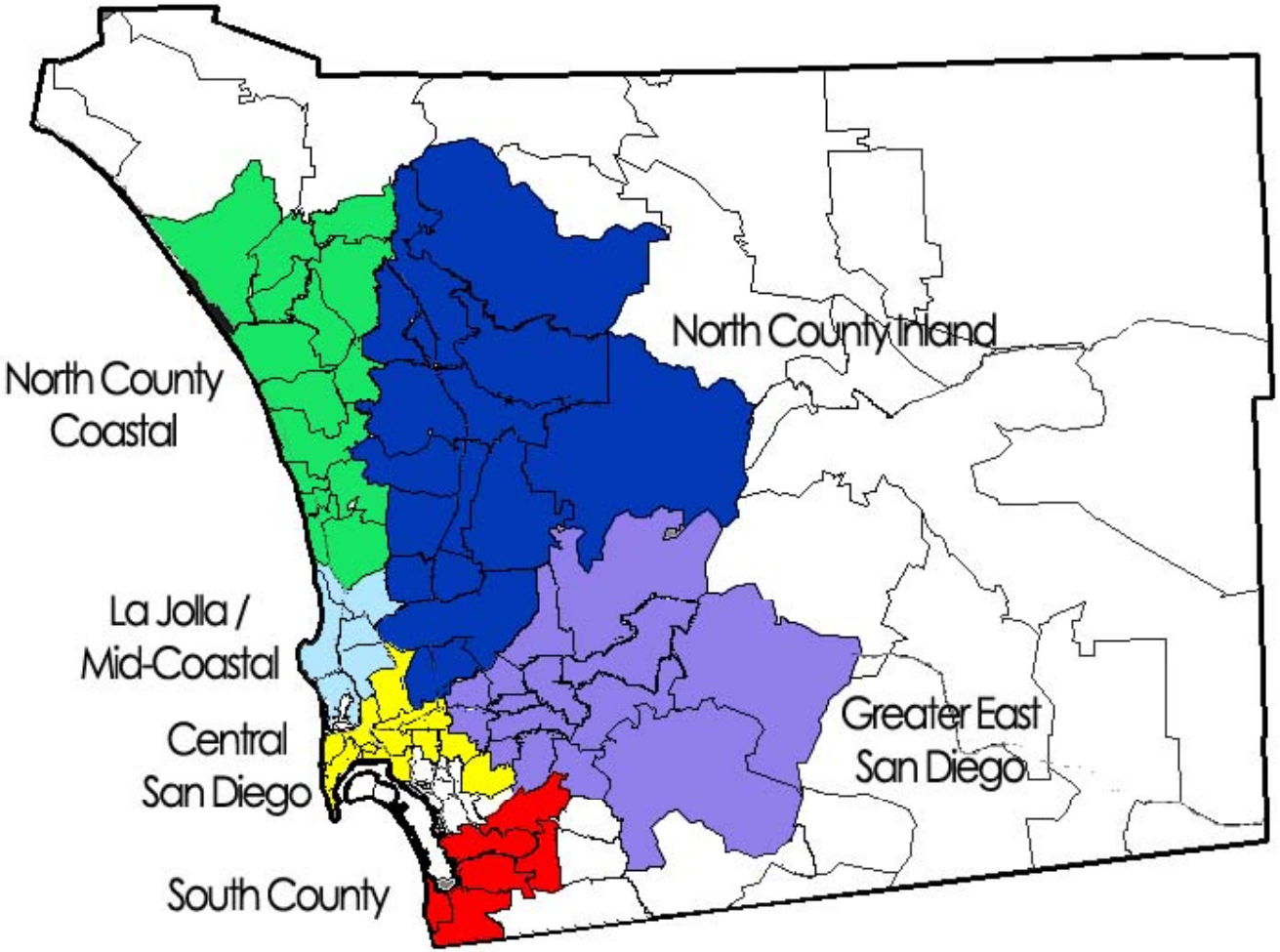
The Mandell L. Berman Institute
North American Jewish Data Bank
www.JewishDataBank.org

A Tale of Two “Jewish” Cities

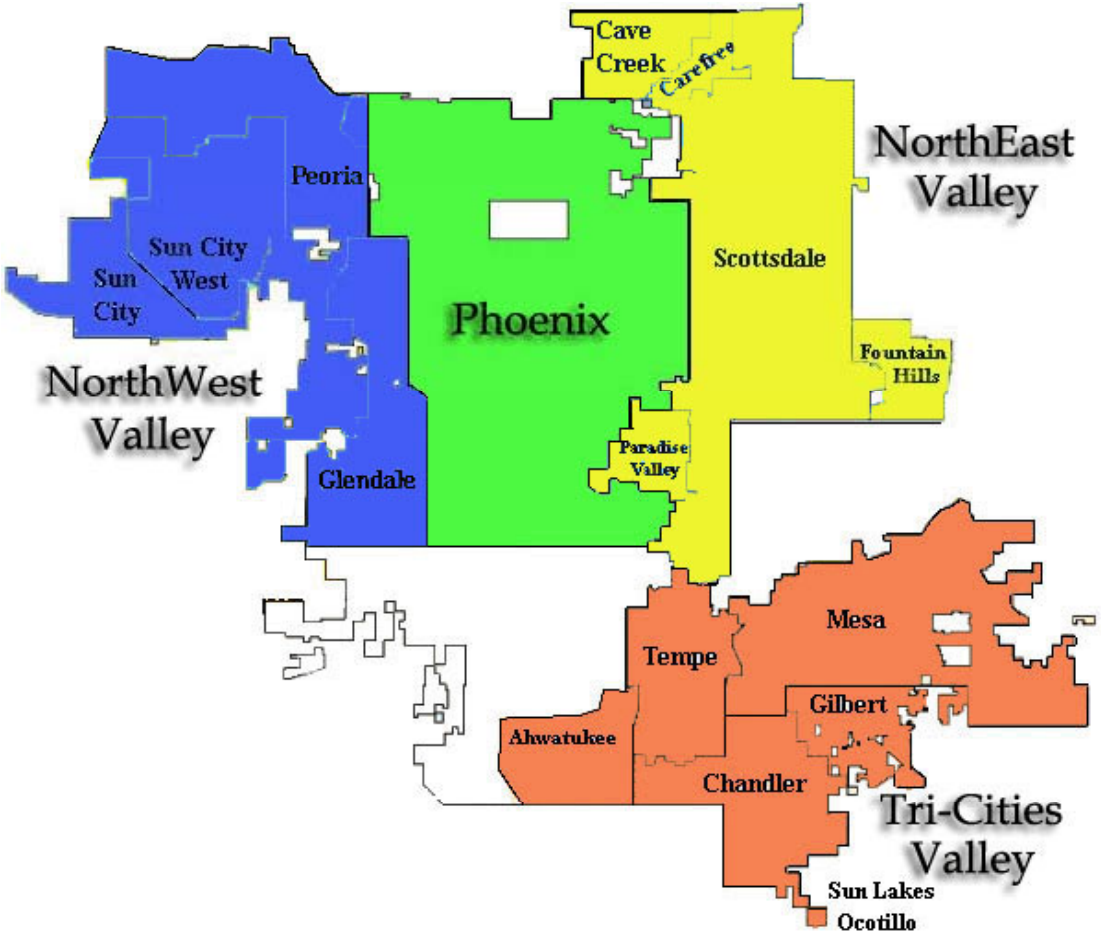
In 2002-2003, Ukeles Associates Inc. (UAI) conducted two Jewish community studies in the western region of the United States.

- The Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix sponsored the community study: interviews were completed between January and May, 2002.
- The United Jewish Federation of San Diego County sponsored the study: interviews were completed between October, 2002 and March, 2003.
- Sample design, Jewish population estimation, weighting and error calculations were provided by MSG-GENESYS Sampling Systems, while interviewing for the studies was conducted by ICR (International Communications Research).

San Diego County: Geographic Sub-Communities



Greater Phoenix: Geographic Sub-Communities



A Brief Presentation

This brief PowerPoint presentation seeks to:

- Review and summarize several themes that emerged in these studies;
- To present the data in the context of several other western Jewish community studies that had already been completed before 2002-2003;
- To compare “Jewish connections” data on San Diego and Phoenix, and other western Jewish communities, with western regional data from the National Jewish Population Study;
- To offer some thoughts on Jewish community life in the western USA, as they relate to “Jewish” Phoenix and “Jewish” San Diego.

Fascinating Methodology (oxymoron?)

Both the Phoenix and San Diego Jewish community studies used the same sampling design.

Interviews were conducted with randomly selected respondents from two electronically unduplicated, independent, complementary sampling frames which represented all telephone households in each community:

- A Jewish community List, typically provided by the federations, designed to represent all Jewish households "known" to the local Jewish community, and
- A residual RDD (random digit dialing) designed to represent all other households in the local communities, including "unknown" Jewish households.

More Fascinating Methodology

In Phoenix, of the 793 usable interviews completed with Jewish household respondents (from over 59,000 random telephone numbers dialed), 564 interviews were completed from the List frame, 229 from the residual RDD frame.

In San Diego, 1,080 interviews were completed (over 93,000 different random telephone numbers dialed); 549 List interviews and 531 residual RDD.

The weighted data files adjust for this disproportionate sampling:

- Phoenix: 23% of the weighted HH total came from the List frame, 77% from the residual RDD frame;
- San Diego: 22% of the weighted HH total came from the List frame, 78% from the residual RDD frame.

Screener

S1. RESPONDENT:

- **Do you consider yourself to be Jewish or non-Jewish?**
  - *Jewish
  - *Jewish and Something Else
  - Not Sure (Probe – often continue and review afterwards)
  - Non-Jewish (Ask S2)

S2. IF RESPONDENT IS NOT JEWISH:

- **Is there anyone else in the household who considers himself or herself to be Jewish?**
  - *Yes
  - *Jewish and Something Else
  - Not sure if person considers self Jewish (Probe …)
  - No. no one Jewish (Ask Jewish "origin" and telephone lines)

Definitions

JEWISH PERSONS

- **Adults (age 18+) who consider themselves Jewish, or (a few) Jewish and "something else."**
- **Children being raised as Jews or Jewish and "something else."**

JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS

- **Households that include one or more Jewish adults, at least 18 years old.**

PEOPLE LIVING IN JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS INCLUDE:

- **Jews, and**
- **Non-Jews: non-Jewish adults, and children who are not being raised as Jews.**

Jewish Household and Population Estimates

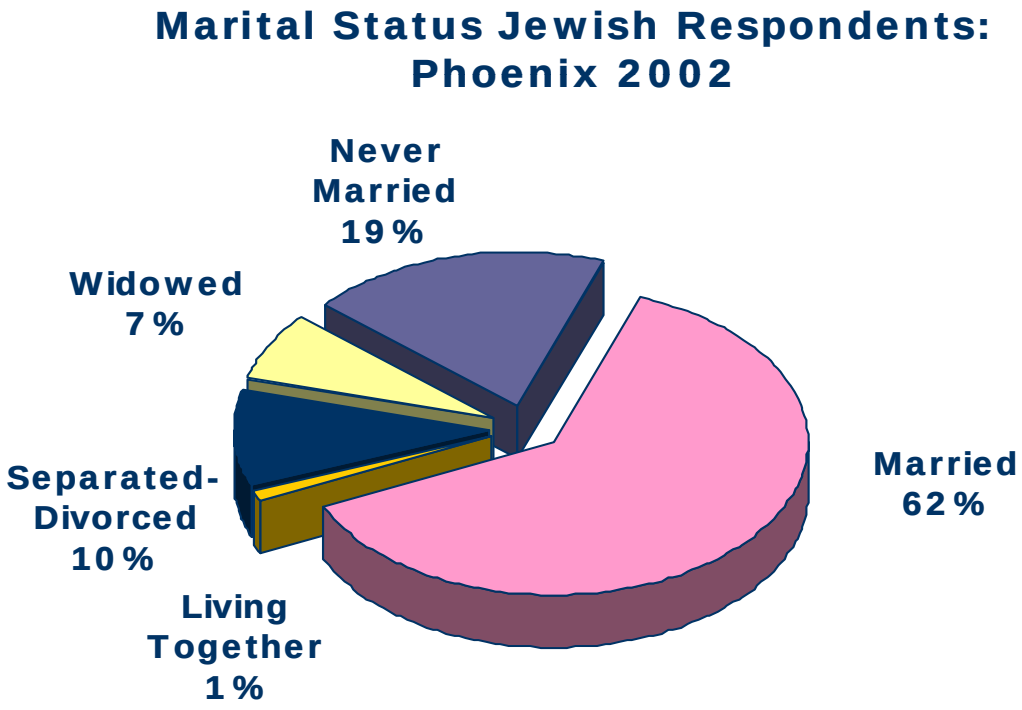
Both Greater Phoenix and Greater San Diego include over 80,000 Jewish persons, and well over 100,000 people, including non-Jews.

Jewish HH represent just over 4% of all Phoenix and San Diego HH.

	Phoenix	**San Diego**
Jewish Households	44,000	46,000
Jewish Persons	82,900	89,000
All People in Jewish Households (including non-Jews)	106,900	118,000

Demographic Similarities, Differences

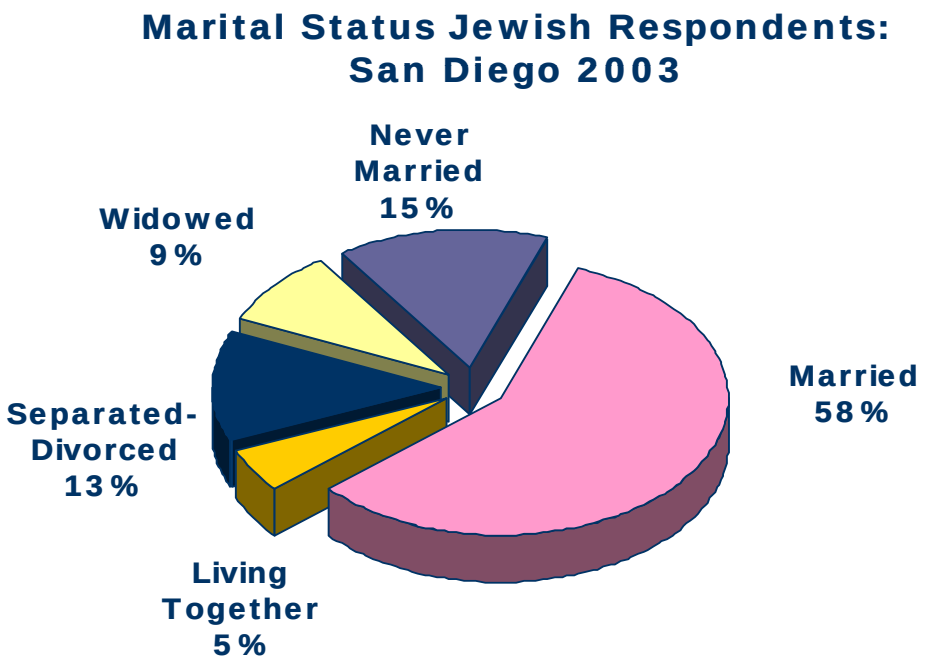
62% of Greater Phoenix Jewish respondents were married; 19% reported that they had never married.



Demographic Similarities, Differences

San Diego: 58% married,15% never married.

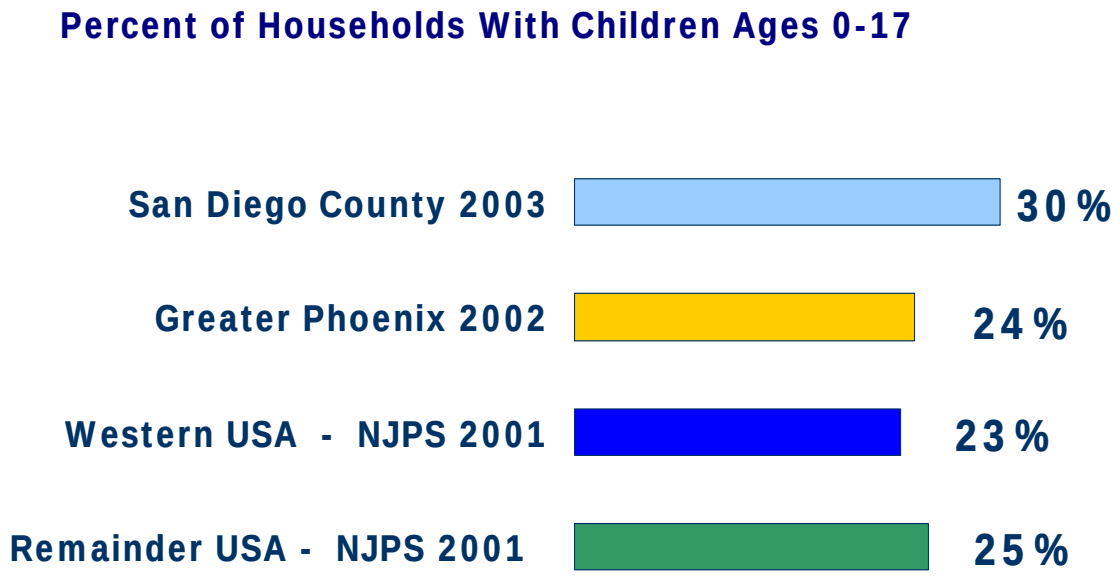
NJPS 2001, Western USA: 52% married, remainder US: 61%.



All NJPS Western US data presented are based on the author’s reanalysis of the NJPS data file, focusing on Jewish HH in which a Jew with “stronger” connections resides – more or less equivalent to the Jewish household definition used in the UAI Phoenix and San Diego studies, and the 1990 “Core Jew” designation. Household data analysis for NJPS used the household weight variables, not the Jewish respondent weight, so data will not typically match NJPS reports.

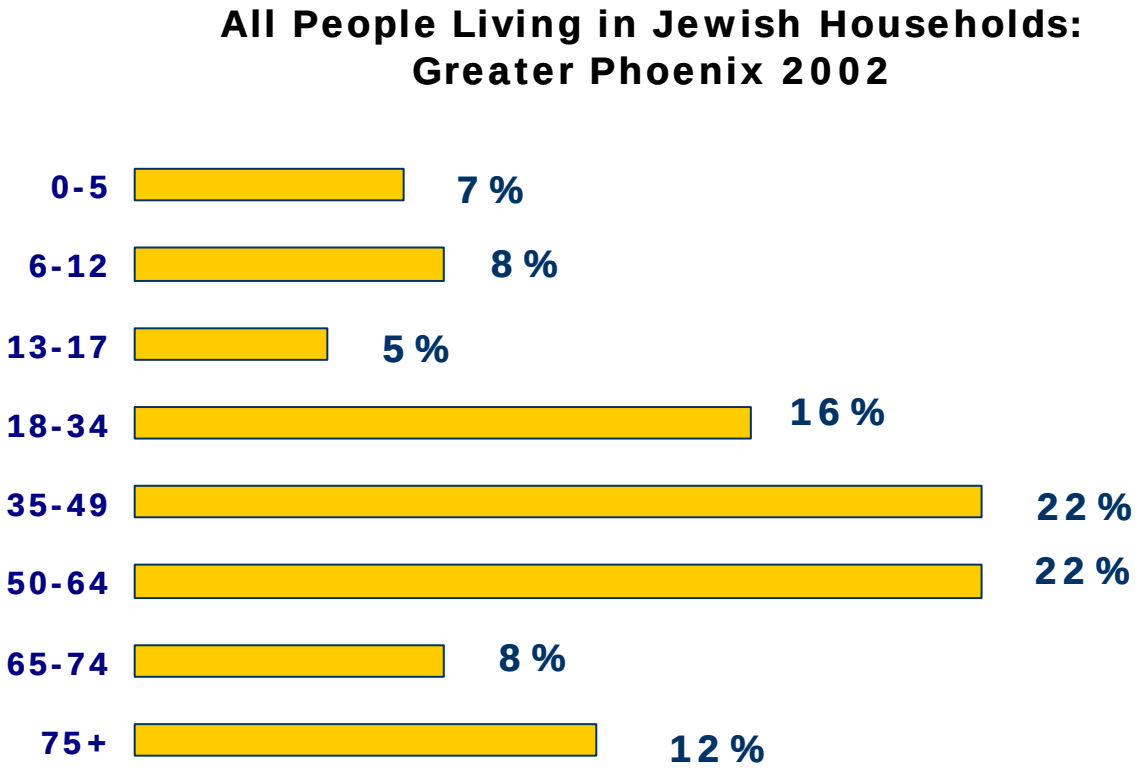
Demography

San Diego County Jewish households are slightly more likely to include a child…. but ….(next slides)



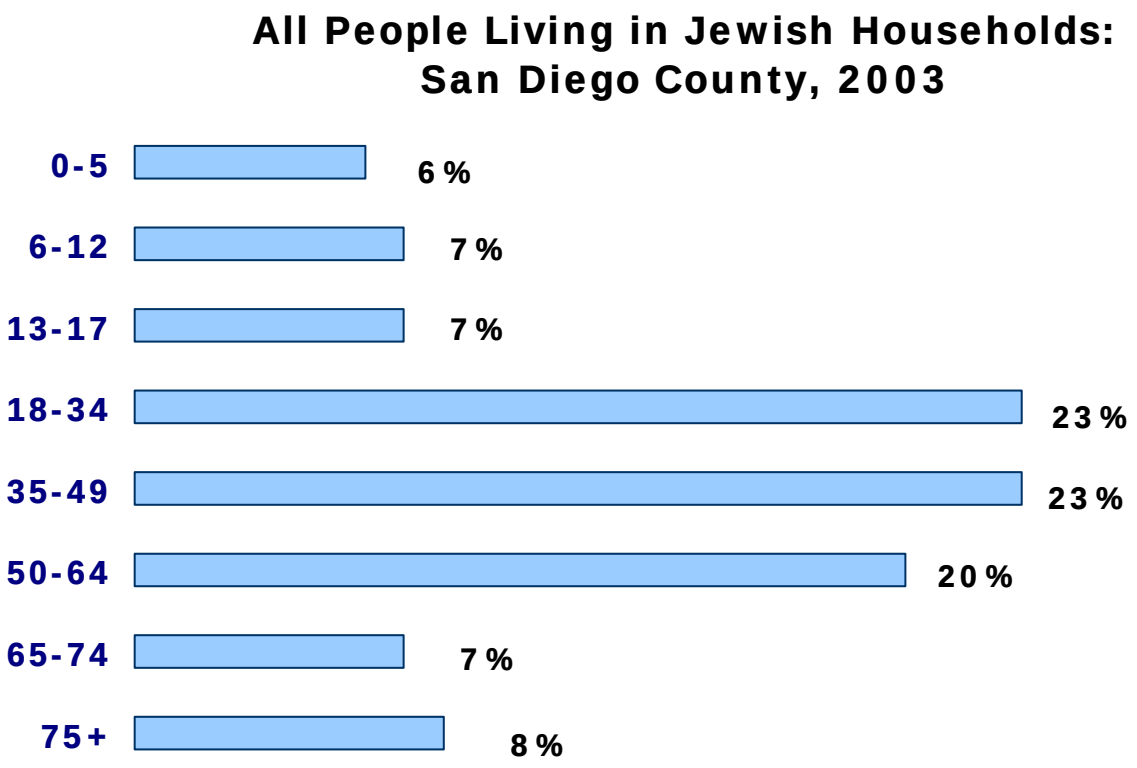
Demography

But … 20% of all people in Jewish HH in both Phoenix and San Diego are children. Phoenix seniors = 20% also.



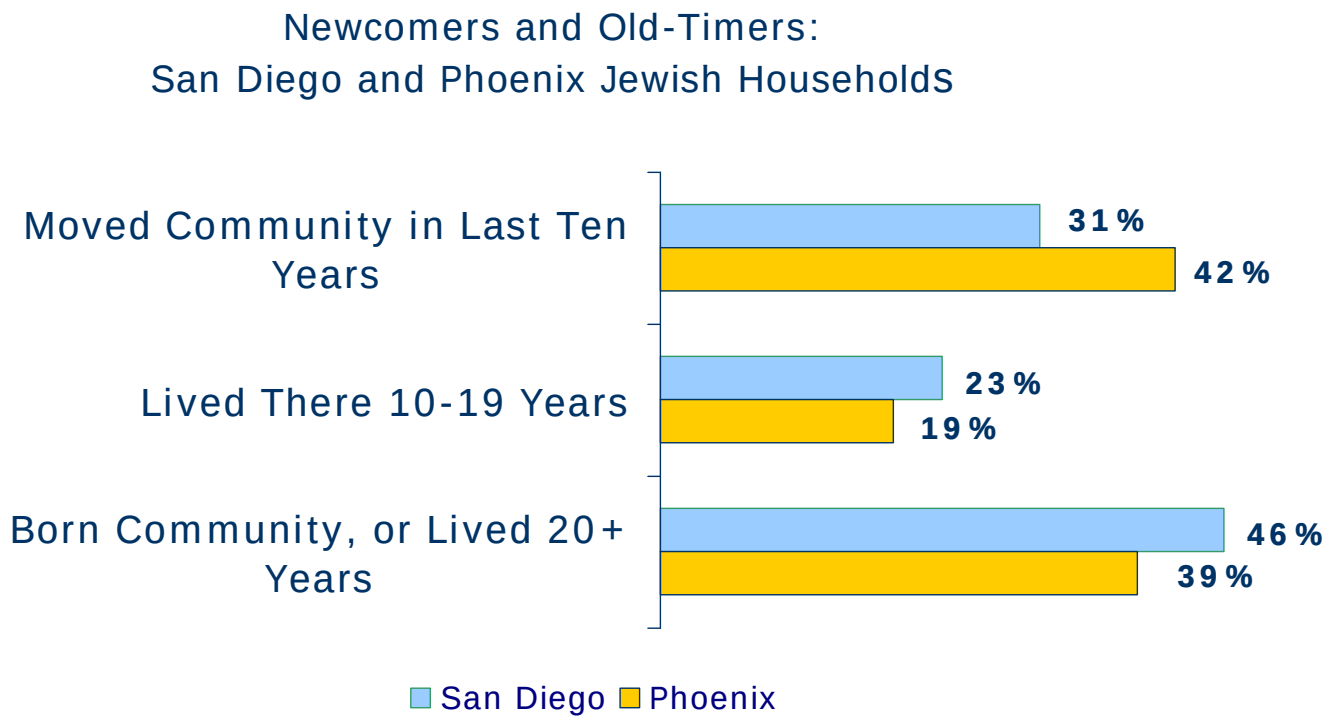
Demography

In San Diego County, 20% of all people in Jewish households are children, but only 15% are seniors.



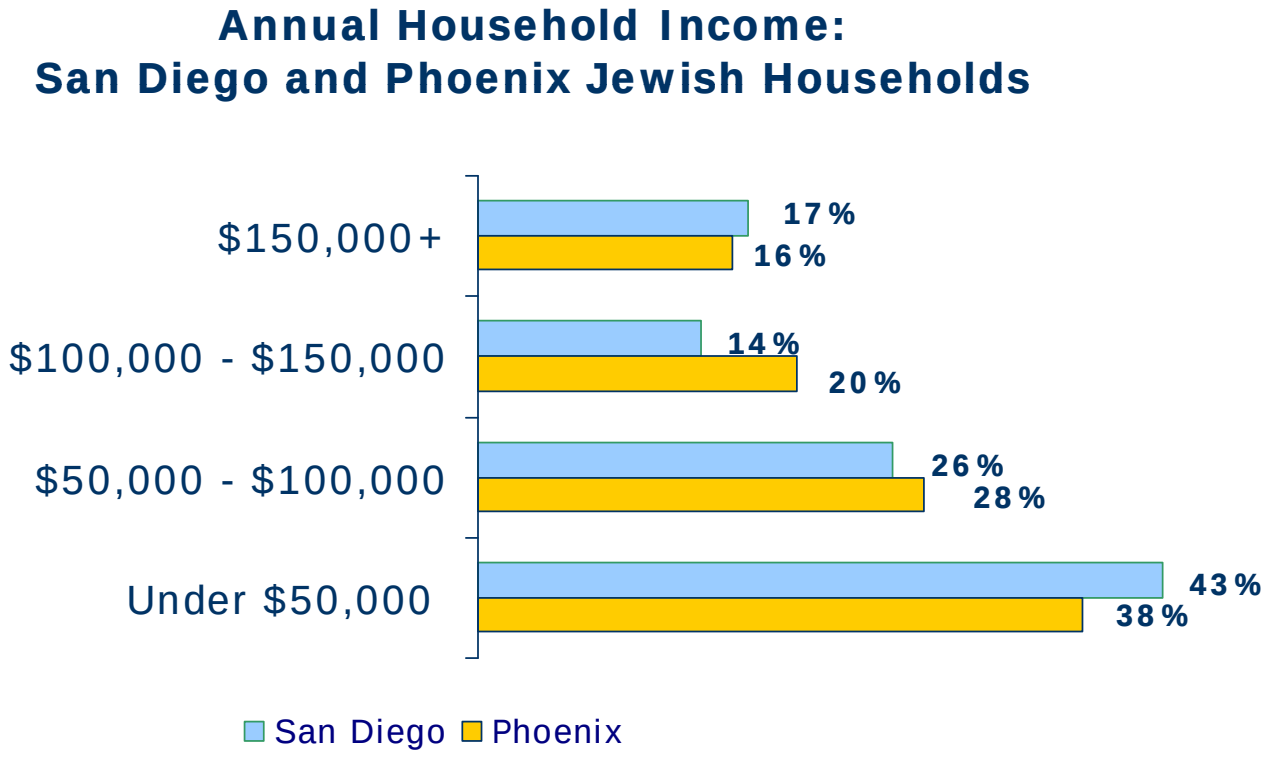
Demography

Both communities have had high percentages of newcomers over the ten years preceding their survey.



Demography

Income Patterns Are Also Similar.



Jewish Connections

According to the UJC Special Report for NJPS 2000-01, “Jews in the West,” Jews in the Western USA are less likely to:

- Be congregation members
- Observe the most commonly practiced Jewish rituals
- Donate to Jewish federations
- Yada, yada, yada

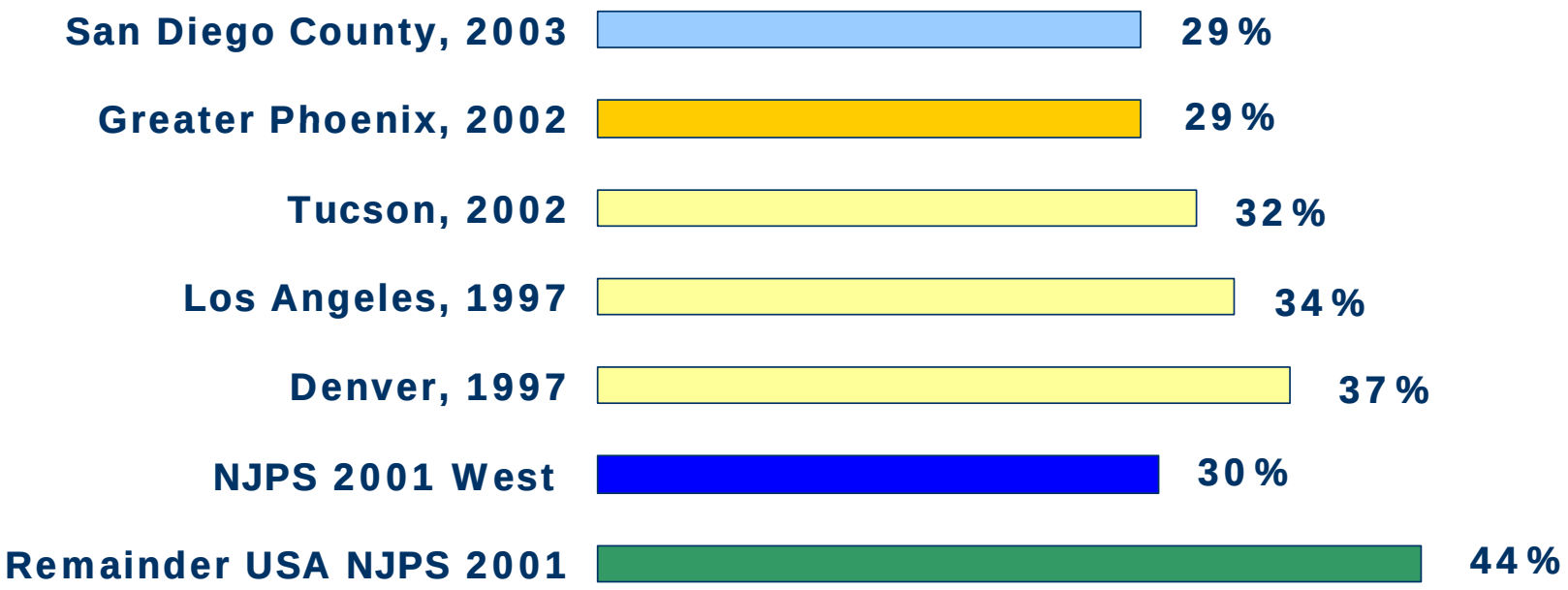
They are more likely:

- To be intermarried… etc.

Jewish Connections: Do They Belong?

Congregation membership in both Phoenix and San Diego is at the lower end of the range for Western US Jewish communities.

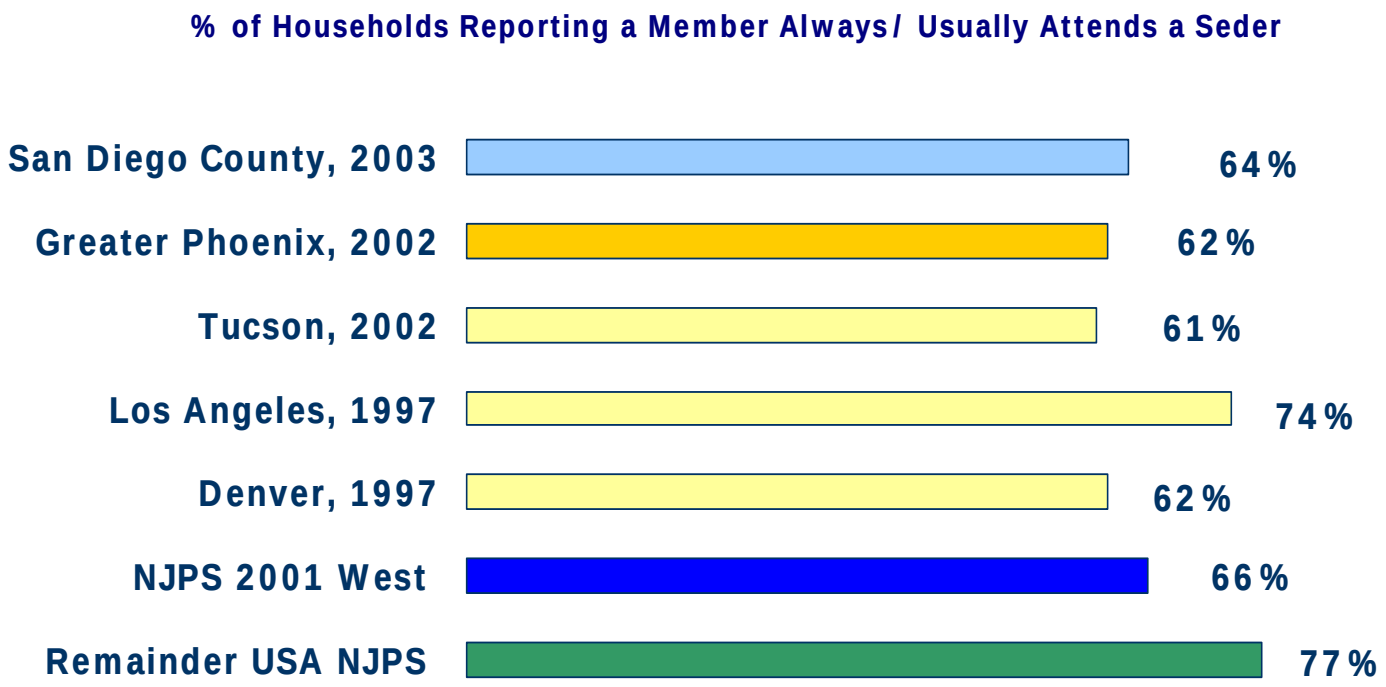
% of Jewish Households in Key Western Jewish Communities Which Belong to a Synagogue or Temple



In all comparison charts, NJPS data presented only for households which have "stronger" Jewish connections.

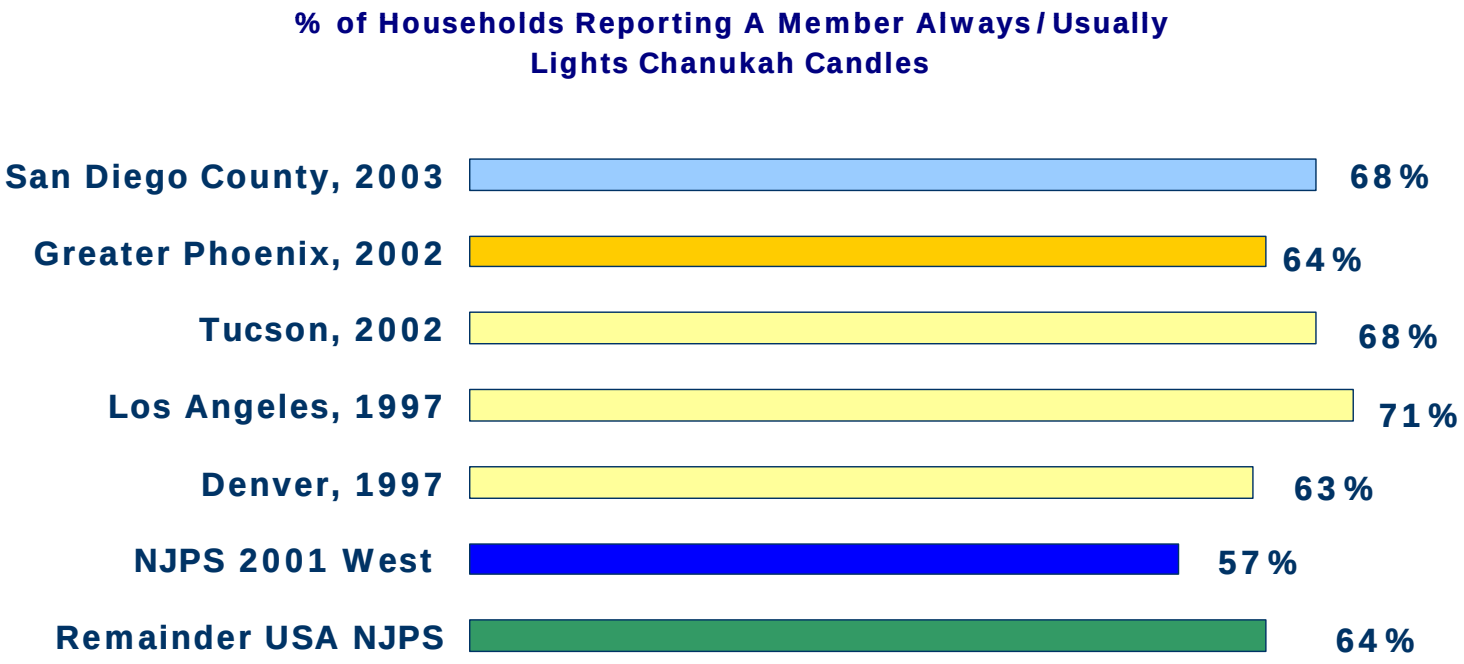
Jewish Connections: Passover Seders

About 2-out-of 3 Greater Phoenix and San Diego County Jewish households report that a household member always/usually attends a Passover Seder. NJPS estimates for the western US are similar.



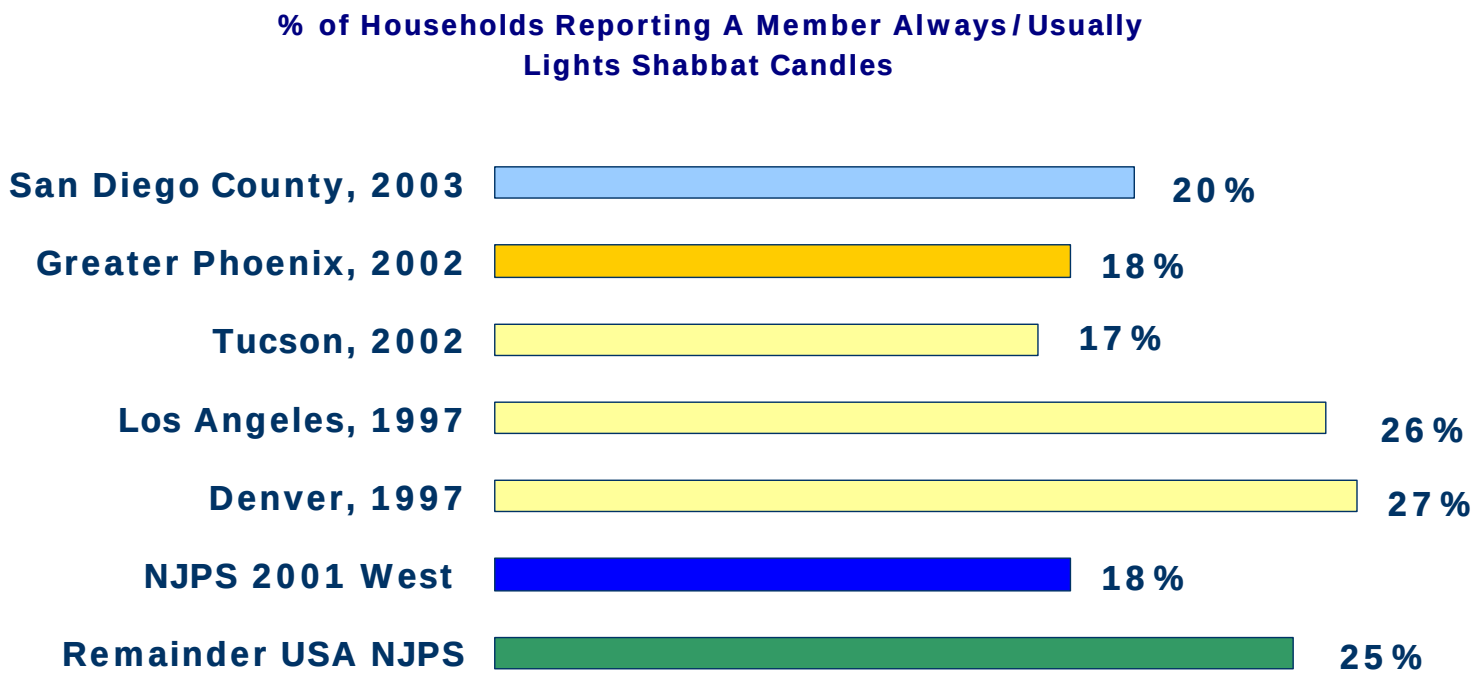
Jewish Connections: Chanukah Candles

Lighting Chanukah candles is reported at similar, but slightly higher rates to Seder attendance; two-thirds of all Jewish households participate on a regular basis.



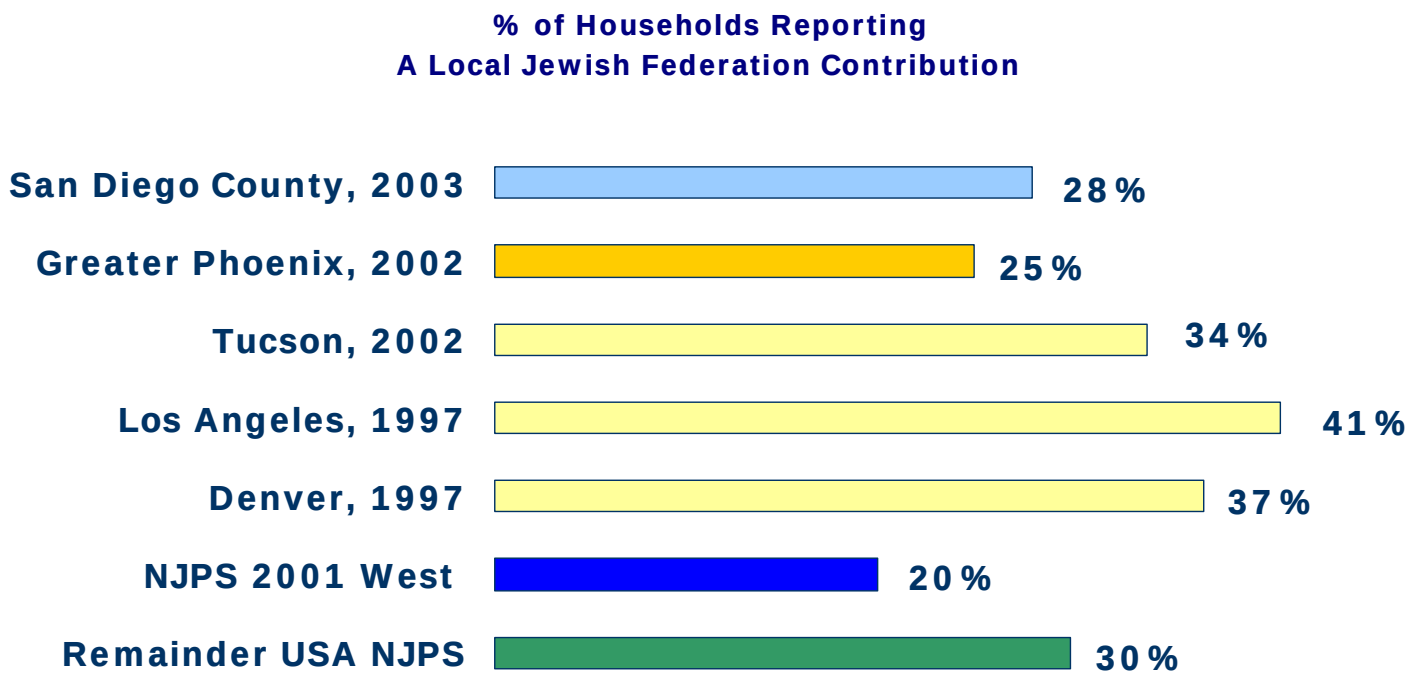
Jewish Connections: Shabbat Candles

Lighting Shabbat candles is reported at much lower rates: 20% of San Diego Jewish households, 18% in Greater Phoenix - but consistent with overall western Jewish NJPS data.



Jewish Connections: Federation Gift

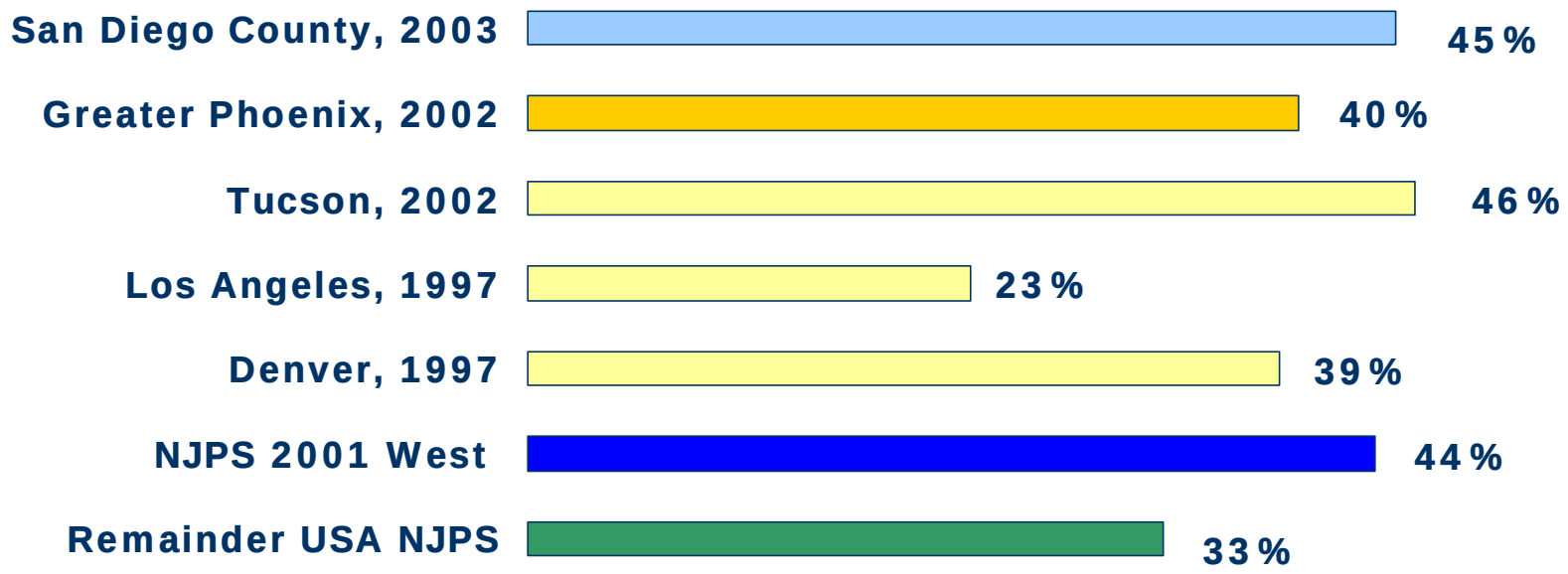
Federation contribution rates: 28% of San Diego Jewish households, 25% in Greater Phoenix. But, NJPS West was only 20%.



Jewish Connections: Intermarriage

Intermarriage rates for all currently married respondent/spouse couples are between 40% - 45% for Phoenix, San Diego and the Jewish West. The low Los Angeles intermarriage percent is atypical.

% of Current Respondent/Spouse Marriages Which Are InterMarriages: Western Jewish Communities and Western Region



Intermarriage: Research Definitions

Inmarried Jewish Households

- Both spouses raised as Jews.

Conversionary Jewish Households

- Jewish adult married to spouse who was not raised as a Jew, but the spouse currently considers self Jewish (regardless of whether formal conversion occurred).

Intermarried Jewish Households

- Jewish adult married to spouse who does NOT consider self Jewish.

Numbers of Children in Intermarried Jewish Households

In Phoenix, 44% of all children reside in an intermarried Jewish household.

San Diego County: 42%.

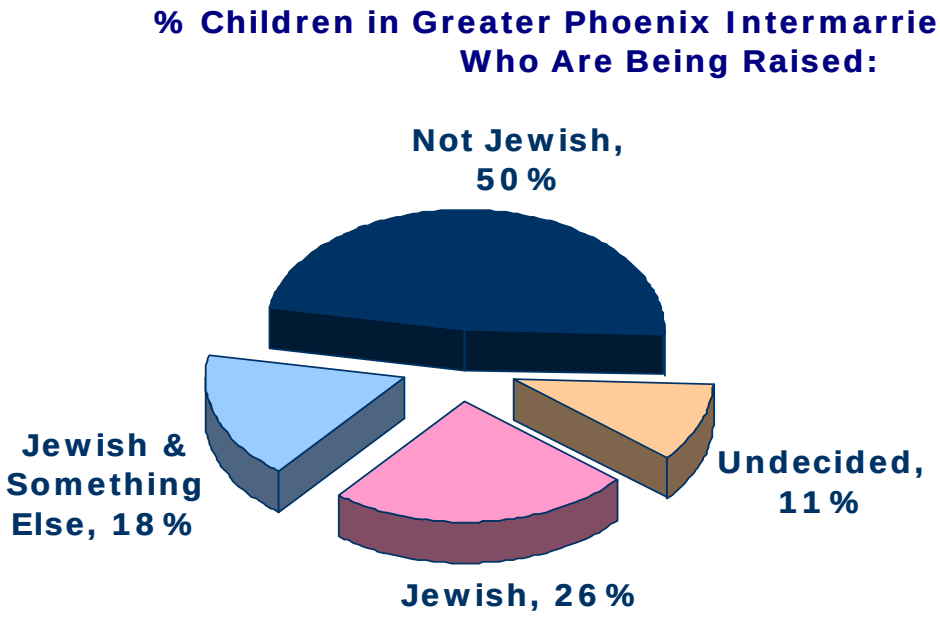
	Greater Phoenix		San Diego County	
Type of Marriage	Number of Children	% of Children	Number of Children	% of Children
Inmarried Households	5,100	26%	7,000	30%
Conversionary Inmarried	4,100	20	2,400	10
Intermarried Households	**9,200**	**44**	**10,000**	**42**
All Other Jewish HH*	2,300	11	4,300	18
Total	20,700	100%	23,700*	100%

***"Other Households"** can include unmarried partners, divorced, separated, widowed, and never-married households.

Intermarriage & Raising Children Jewish

Only a minority of children living in intermarried Jewish households are being raised Jewish only.

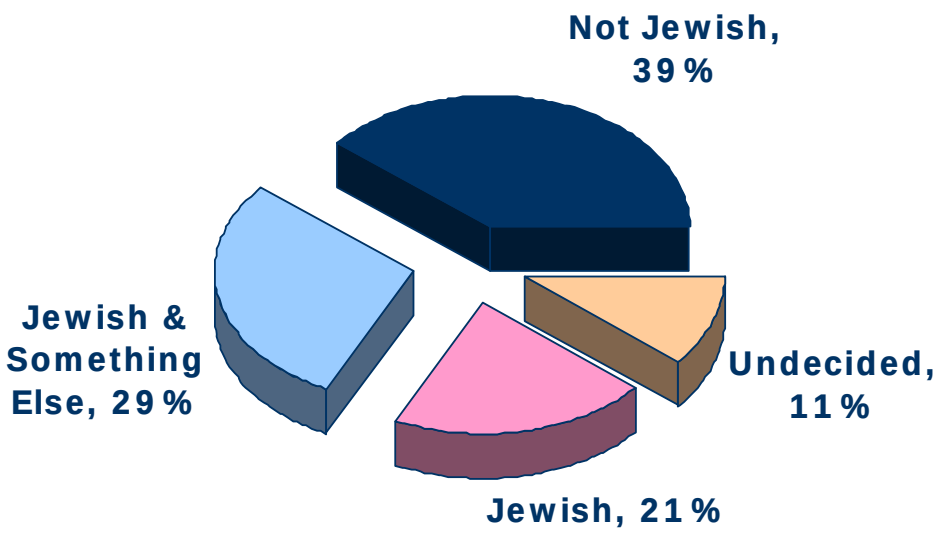
Phoenix: 26% are being raised "Jewish" only, 18% "Jewish + something else." Half are not being raised as Jews at all.



Intermarriage & Raising Children Jewish

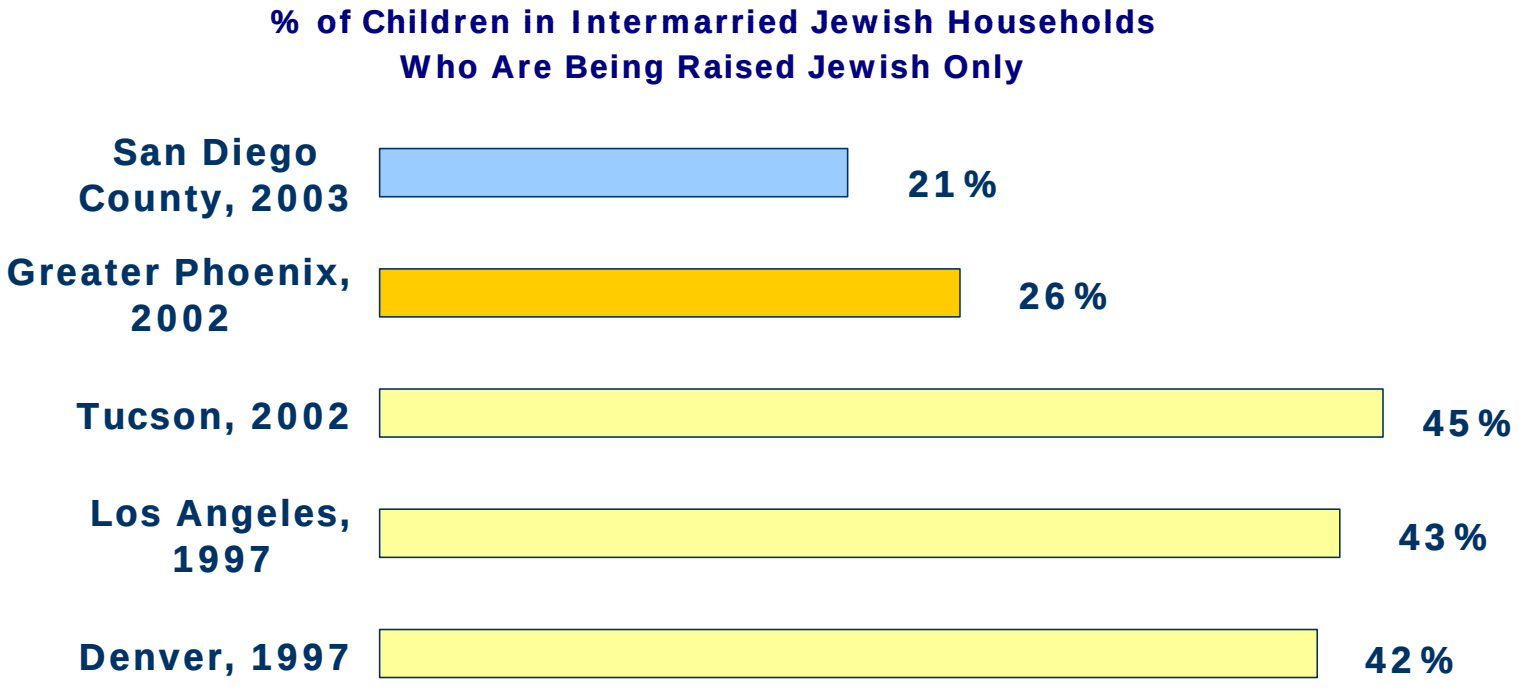
San Diego County: 21% are being raised "Jewish" only, 29% "Jewish + something else."

% Children in San Diego County Intermarried Households Who Are Being Raised:



Jewish Connections: Raising Children Jewish?

The low percentages of intermarried-household children raised as Jewish-only in Phoenix and San Diego appears to be atypical compared to Denver, Tucson and Los Angeles - all of which are similar to each other.



A Tale of Two “Jewish” Cities

San Diego County with almost 89,000 Jews and Greater Phoenix with a Jewish population of almost 83,000 are major American Jewish communities.

Apparently growing daily, their Jewish populations exceed the Jewish populations of American cities viewed as Jewish life centers, such as the mid-eastern USA Jewish communities of Cleveland: 81,500 Jews, Detroit: 72,000 Jews, and Pittsburgh: 42,000 Jews.

Yet, the Jewish infrastructure in these western Jewish communities, although developing and expanding, is much less well developed than in their mid-eastern US counterparts.

A Tale of Two “Jewish” Cities

Jewish communal leaders in both San Diego and Phoenix can only envy the Jewish infrastructural development in Detroit, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh – as they struggle to develop their local Jewish infrastructures.

- Although on December 18, 2006, as we meet in sunny San Diego, Jews in San Diego and Phoenix certainly do not envy the weather in the older, traditional Jewish communities;
- Which, of course, is part of the reason for the growth of San Diego and Phoenix, and their Jewish populations

A Tale of Two “Jewish” Cities

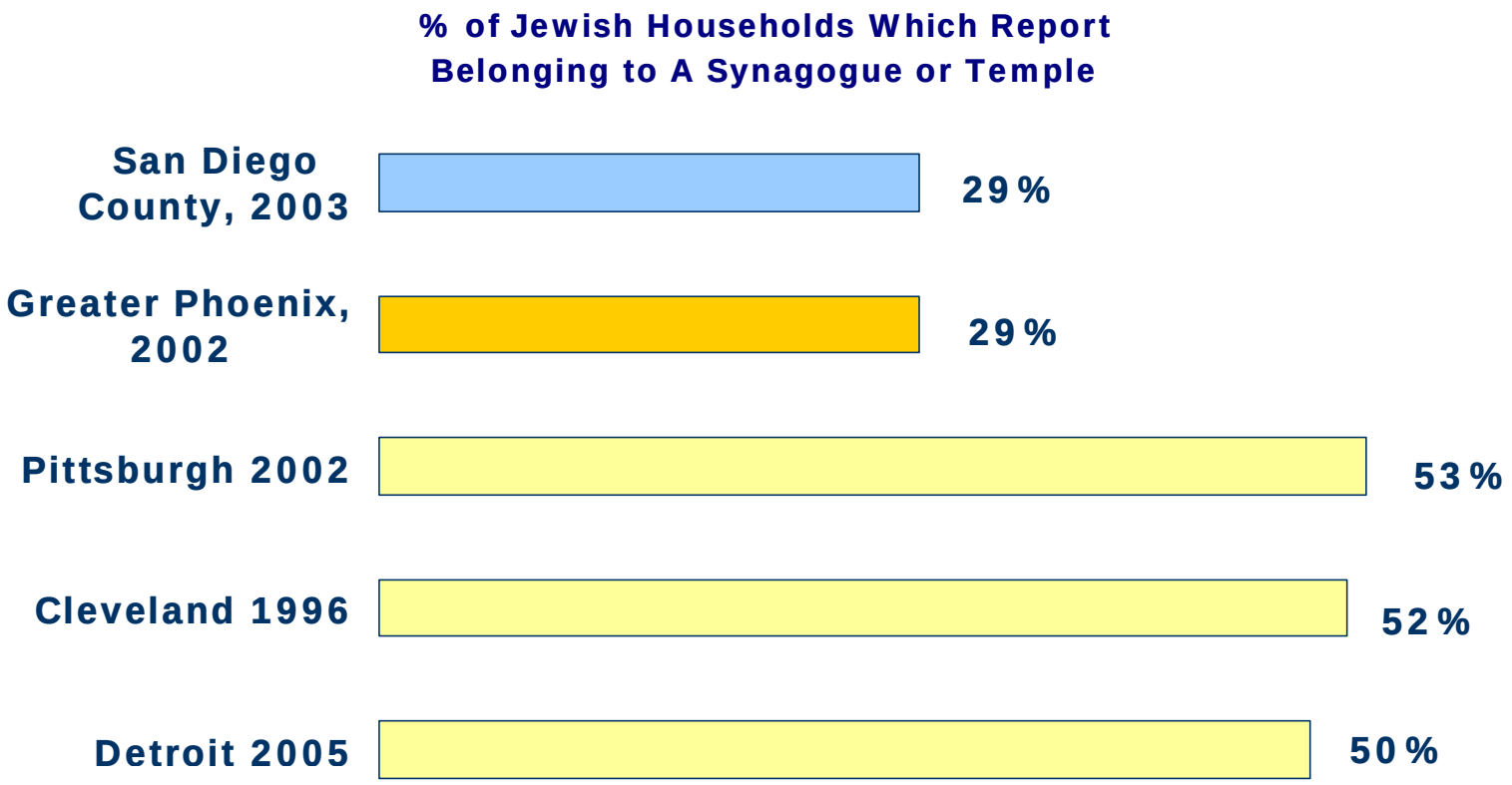
In many ways, the Jewish experience in San Diego County and Greater Phoenix reflects the lower levels of connections to Jewish life that typify the modal western Jewish experience compared to the older, and colder, mid-eastern Jewish centers:

- Relatively low rates of Jewish congregation membership, moderate levels of Passover Seder and Chanukah celebrations, low Shabbat candle lighting, high intermarriage rates …yada ….yada…

Three comparisons with Cleveland, Detroit and Pittsburgh follow to refocus the San Diego and Phoenix Jewish experience away from just western comparisons to western and eastern comparisons.

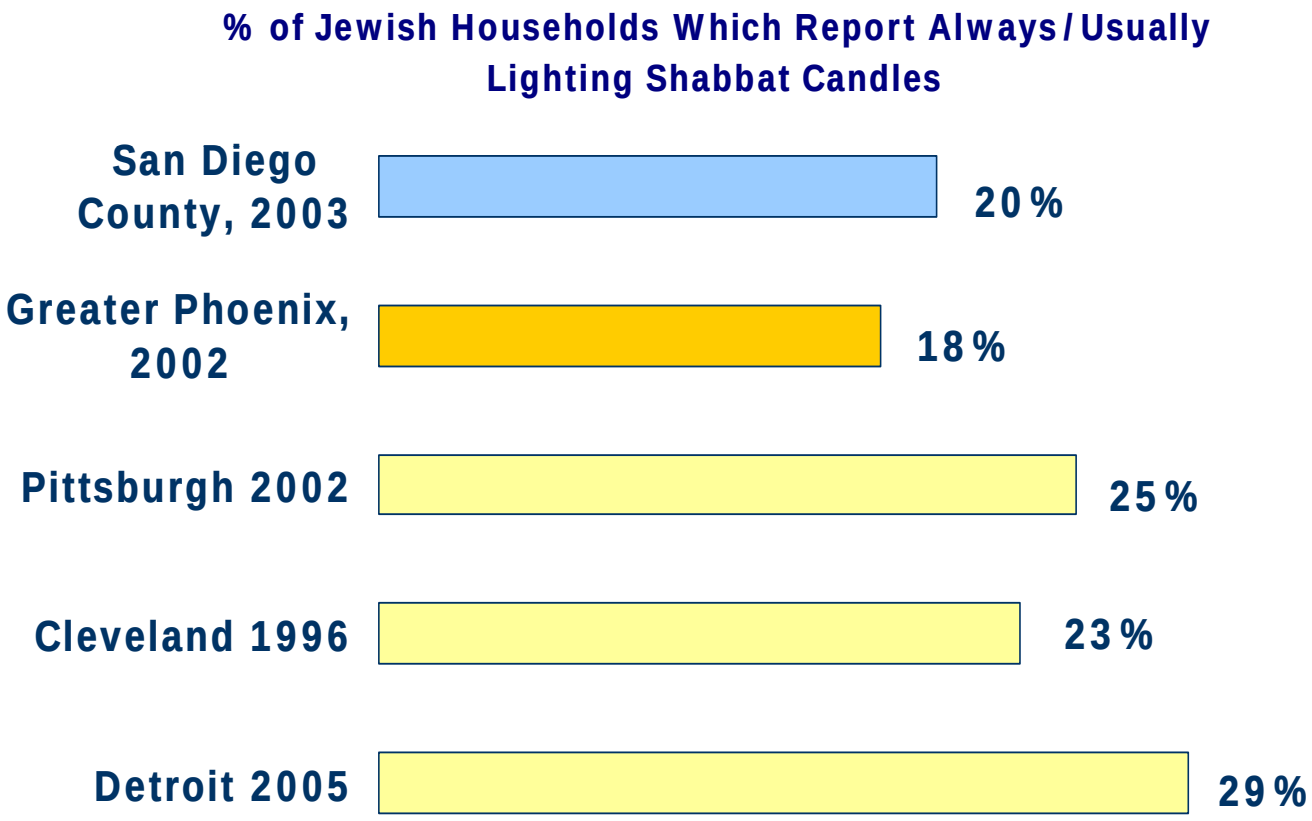
West and East: Congregation Membership

Congregation affiliation differences enormous.



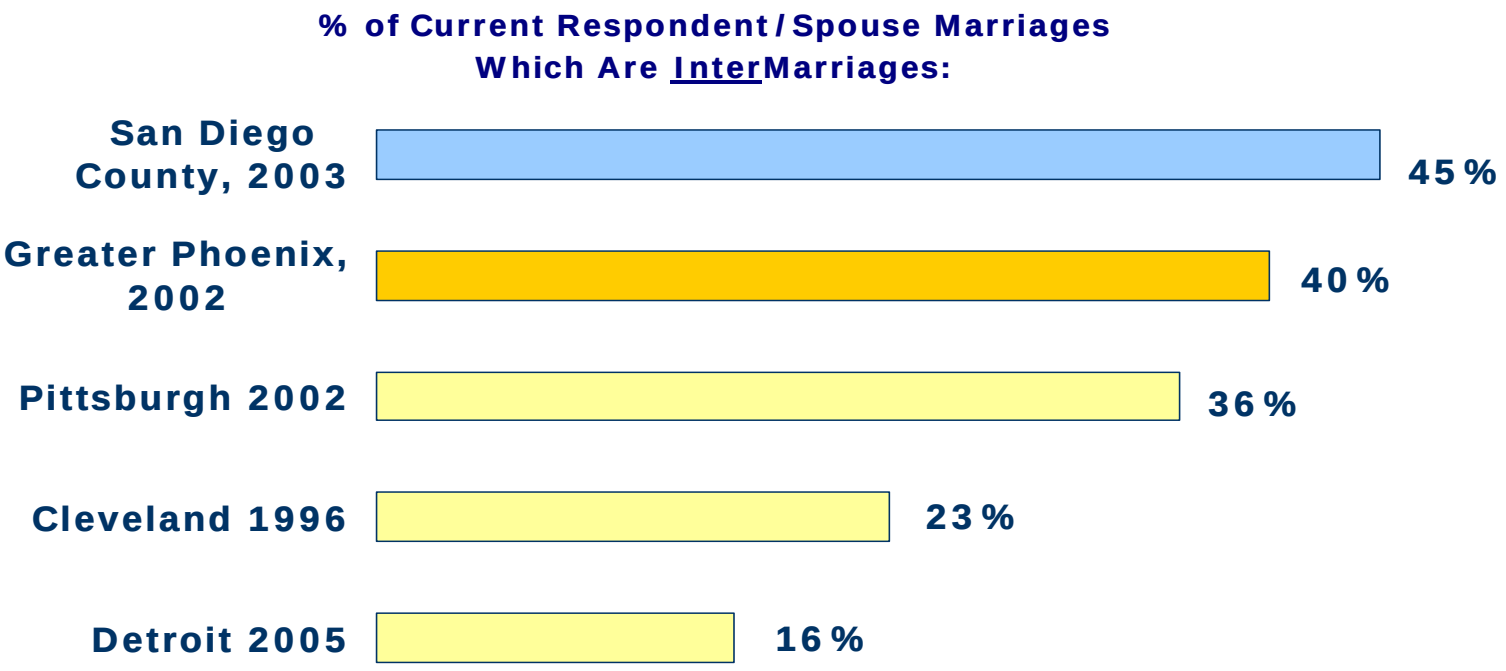
West and East: Shabbat Candles

Shabbat Candle lighting differences exist, but subtle.



West and East: Intermarriage

Intermarriage: San Diego and Phoenix highest, Pittsburgh just below (UAI study design focuses on finding “unknown” Jewish HH and weighting them correctly)…Cleveland, Detroit no surprise.



Jewish Reminders

In Pittsburgh’s Jewish Squirrel Hill, in Cleveland’s Jewish neighborhoods, in Detroit’s Jewish suburbs, a “walker in the city” sees constant reminders that he/she is Jewish - - in delicatessen signs, in the availability of kosher foods in bodegas, in ubiquitous Chanukah reminders, and in countless other ways that are subliminal reminders of our religious identity.

In much of the west, in San Diego and increasingly in Phoenix, Jewish reminders are minimal or non-existent, and often only accessible by automobile, or in Los Angeles.

Without Jewish reminders, it is easy to forget.

In Phoenix, on Shea Boulevard, Scholtsky’s deli (no longer there I think) used to remind me that I could have a Jewish western deli experience - gefilte fish, matzoh balls, etc.

I could also have a nova omelet …

…with ham or bacon on the side if I wanted.

Welcome to the Jewish West!

Questions?

The Mandell L. Berman Institute
North American Jewish Data Bank
www.JewishDataBank.org

Comments!

The Mandell L. Berman Institute
North American Jewish Data Bank
www.JewishDataBank.org