

Berman Jewish DataBank

# Jewish Population in the United States, 2014

Number 10 - 2014



## CURRENT JEWISH POPULATION REPORTS

Reprinted from the *American  
Jewish Year Book 2014*

Ira Sheskin  
University of Miami  
  
Arnold Dashefsky  
University of Connecticut

### Edited by

Arnold Dashefsky  
University of Connecticut

Sergio DellaPergola  
The Hebrew University of  
Jerusalem

Ira Sheskin  
University of Miami

### Published by

Berman Jewish DataBank

*in cooperation with*

Association for the Social  
Scientific Study of Jewry

## BERMAN JEWISH DATABANK

A Project of  
The Jewish Federations  
OF NORTH AMERICA



### Berman Jewish DataBank

A project of The Jewish Federations of North America  
*in partnership with*

The Berman Jewish Policy Archive @ NYU Wagner

The Center for Judaic Studies and  
Contemporary Jewish Life at the  
University of Connecticut

and

The Mandell and Madeleine Berman Foundation



The Jewish Federations  
OF NORTH AMERICA



Center for  
Judaic Studies  
and Contemporary  
Jewish Life

#### DataBank Staff:

Laurence Kotler-Berkowitz, Director

Ron Miller, Senior Research Consultant

Arnold Dashefsky, Director Emeritus and  
Senior Academic Consultant

#### Graphic Designer:

Carla Willey

#### Fact Checker:

Sarah Markowitz

Berman Jewish DataBank  
The Jewish Federations of North America  
Wall Street Station  
PO Box 157  
New York, NY 10268

Web: [www.jewishdatabank.org](http://www.jewishdatabank.org)

Email: [info@jewishdatabank.org](mailto:info@jewishdatabank.org)

***The American Jewish Year Book 2014***  
***The Annual Record of the North American Jewish Communities***

**This Report derives from Chapter 17 of the *American Jewish Year Book, 2014*.**

The *American Jewish Year Book* is "The Annual Record of Jewish Civilization." This volume is a very important and prestigious annual publication because it has acted as a major resource for academic researchers, researchers at Jewish institutions and organizations, practitioners at Jewish institutions and organizations, the media, both Jewish and secular, educated leaders and lay persons, and libraries, particularly University and Jewish libraries, for up-to-date information about the American and Canadian Jewish communities. For decades, the *American Jewish Year Book* has been the premiere place for leading academics to publish long review chapters on topics of interest to the American Jewish community.

***Obtaining The American Jewish Year Book, 2014***

Hard bound and Kindle copies are available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). Persons with access to University libraries that offer Springer's eBook Collection can obtain a soft cover copy or an electronic copy for \$25.

***Table of Contents from the American Jewish Year Book, 2014***

The 2014 volume is 919 plus xvi pages.

**Part I Forum on the Pew Survey, *A Portrait of Jewish Americans***

- 1 Are you "Pewish"? Multiple Assessments of the Landmark Pew Survey Arnold Dashefsky and Ira Sheskin
- 2 Executive Summary, Pew Research Center
- 3 Rhetoric About the Diverse Jewish Community, Sarah Bunin Benor
- 4 The Shrinking Jewish Middle, Steven M. Cohen
- 5 End of Jewish/Non-Jewish Dichotomy? Evidence from the 2013 Pew Survey, Sergio DellaPergola
- 6 The 2013 Pew Report through a Gender Lens, Harriet Hartman
- 7 The Americanness of American Jews, Samuel Heilman
- 8 Assimilation Anxieties and the Case of American Jews, Bethamie Horowitz
- 9 A Policy of Surveys, Ari Y. Kelman

- 10 It's the Best of Times: It's the Worst of Times, Barry A. Kosmin
- 11 Jews Who Count: Putting Pew in Historical Perspective, Deborah Dash Moore
- 12 Pew's Portrait of American Jewry: A Reassessment of the Assimilation Narrative, Leonard Saxe, Theodore Sasson, and Janet Krasner Aronson
- 13 Response: Pew Research Center, Alan Cooperman and Gregory A. Smith

## **Part I Review Articles**

- 14 **Gender in American Jewish Life**, Sylvia Barack Fishman
- 15 **National Affairs**: January 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014, Ethan Felson
- 16 **Jewish Communal Affairs**: April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014, Lawrence Grossman
- 17 **Jewish Population in the United States, 2014**, Ira M. Sheskin and Arnold Dashefsky
- 18 **The Demography of Canadian Jewry, the "Census" of 2011: Challenges and Results**, Morton Weinfeld and Randal F. Schnoor
- 19 **World Jewish Population, 2014**, Sergio DellaPergola

## **Part II Jewish Lists**

- 20 **Jewish Institutions**: Jewish Federations, Jewish Community Centers, Jewish Social Service Agencies (Jewish Family Services, Jewish Vocational Services, Jewish Free Loans), National Jewish Organizations, Synagogues, College Hillels, Jewish Day Schools, Jewish Overnight Camps, Jewish Museums, Holocaust Museums, Memorials, and Monuments, Ira Sheskin and Arnold Dashefsky
- 21 **Jewish Press**, National Jewish Periodicals, Broadcast Media, Local Jewish Periodicals, Ira Sheskin and Arnold Dashefsky
- 22 **Academic Resources**, Jewish Studies, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Israel Studies Programs, and Jewish Social Work Programs, Major Books, Scholarly Articles, and Websites and Organizations for Research on North American Jewish Communities, Major Judaic Research and Holocaust Research Libraries, Arnold Dashefsky, Ira Sheskin, and Pamela Weathers
- 23 **Transitions**, Major Events, Persons Honored, Obituaries, Arnold Dashefsky, Ira Sheskin, and Pamela Weathers

**AJYB 2014 was produced with the generous support of:**

- The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Connecticut (Dean Jeremy Teitelbaum)
- Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life at the University of Connecticut (Jeffrey Shoulson, Director)
- The Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies (Haim Shaked, Director) and its Jewish Demography Project (Ira Sheskin, Director); and The George Feldenkreis Program in Judaic Studies (Haim Shaked, Director)
- College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Miami (Dean Leonidas Bachas and Senior Associate Dean Angel Kaifer)
- Mandell L. “Bill” Berman and the Mandell and Madeleine Berman Foundation

**For more information about the American Jewish Year Book:**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American\\_jewish\\_year\\_book](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_jewish_year_book)  
<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9783319096223>  
[www.springer.com/series/11193?changeHeader](http://www.springer.com/series/11193?changeHeader)

**Citing this Report**

Springer is permitting us to post this Report on line with open access, but requests that the citation be to the *American Jewish Year Book* itself:

Ira M. Sheskin and Arnold Dashefsky. “Jewish Population in the United States, 2014,” in Arnold Dashefsky and Ira M. Sheskin. (Editors) *The American Jewish Year Book, 2014, Volume 114* (2014) (Dordrecht: Springer) pp. 215-283.

# JEWISH POPULATION IN THE UNITED STATES, 2014

**Ira M. Sheskin**

University of Miami

Professor and Chair, Department of Geography and Regional Studies

Director, Jewish Demography Project

Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies

217 Ferre Building, Coral Gables, FL 33124

[isheskin@miami.edu](mailto:isheskin@miami.edu)



and

**Arnold Dashefsky**

University of Connecticut

Doris and Simon Konover Chair of Judaic Studies

Professor Emeritus, Department of Sociology

Director Emeritus and Senior Academic Consultant, Berman Jewish DataBank

405 Babbidge Road, Unit 1205, Storrs, CT 06269

[arnold.dashefsky@uconn.edu](mailto:arnold.dashefsky@uconn.edu)



## Acknowledgments

The authors thank the following individuals and organizations:

- 1) The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) and former staff members at its predecessor organizations (United Jewish Communities and Council of Jewish Federations), Jim Schwartz, Jeffrey Scheckner, and Barry Kosmin, who authored the *AJYB* United States Jewish population articles from 1986 to 2003. Some population estimates in this report are still based on their efforts;
- 2) Laurence Kotler-Berkowitz, Research Director at The Jewish Federations of North America;
- 3) Sarah Markowitz, Research Assistant to Ira Sheskin, for her contributions to the project;
- 4) Rae Asselin, Program Assistant at the Mandell Berman Institute-North American Jewish Data Bank at the University of Connecticut, for her assistance;
- 5) Chris Hanson and the University of Miami Department of Geography and Regional Studies Geographic Information Systems Laboratory, for assistance with the maps;
- 6) Mandell L. (Bill) Berman for his strong support of this effort.

## Citing this Report

Springer is permitting us to post this Report on line with open access, but requests that the citation be to the *American Jewish Year Book* itself:

Ira M. Sheskin and Arnold Dashefsky. "Jewish Population in the United States, 2014," in Arnold Dashefsky and Ira M. Sheskin. (Editors) *The American Jewish Year Book, 2014, Volume 114* (2014) (Dordrecht: Springer) pp. 215-283.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Part I: Population Estimation Methodology.....	2
Source One: Scientific Estimates.....	3
Source Two: US Census Estimates.....	3
Source Three: Informant Estimates.....	3
Source Four: Internet Estimates. ....	3
Features of Population Estimates in the Appendix. ....	4
Other Considerations in Population Estimation. ....	5
 Part II: Changes and Confirmations of Population Estimates.....	 6
 Part III: National, State, Regional, and Urban Area Totals. ....	 7
National Level. ....	7
State Level.....	9
Census Regions and Divisions. ....	10
Metropolitan Statistical Areas. ....	10
Jewish Federation Service Areas.....	11
 Part IV: Changes in the Size of the Jewish Population, 1971-2014. ....	 18
National Level Changes.....	18
State Level Changes. ....	18
Regional Level Changes. ....	19
 Part V: Local Jewish Community Studies.....	 26
 Part VI: Comparisons among Jewish Communities. ....	 26
The Decade 2000 Data Set. ....	26
Synagogue Attendance Once per Month or More by Age and Gender. ....	27
Emotional Attachment to Israel by Age and Gender. ....	28
 Part VII: Atlas of American Jewish Communities. ....	 35
Northeast. ....	36
Middle Atlantic. ....	40
Midwest. ....	45
South. ....	50
West. ....	57
 Endnotes. ....	 56
References.....	57
Author Biographies.....	60
Appendix.....	61

## LIST OF TABLES

	Page
Table 1: Jewish Population in the United States by State, 2014.....	13
Table 2: Jewish Population in the United States by Census Region and Census Division, 2014. ....	15
Table 3: Jewish Population in the United States, Top 20 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), 2014. ....	16
Table 4: Jewish Population of Jewish Federation Service Areas with 20,000 or More Jews, 2014.....	17
Table 5: Changes in Jewish Population in the United States by State, 1971-2014..	20
Table 6: Changes in Jewish Population in the United States by Census Region and Census Division, 1971-2014. ....	25
Table 7: Synagogue Attendance Once per Month or More by Age and Gender of Respondent, Community Comparisons..	29
Table 8: Synagogue Attendance Once per Month or More by Age and Gender of Respondent by Jewish Identification, Decade 2000 Data Set..	32
Table 9: Extremely/Very Emotionally Attached to Israel by Age and Gender of Respondent, Community Comparisons..	33
Table 10: Extremely/Very Emotionally Attached to Israel by Age and Gender of Respondent by Jewish Identification, Decade 2000 Data Set..	35

## LIST OF MAPS

Map 1: Census Regions and Divisions of the United States. ....	12
Map 2: Jewish Population, 1971. ....	22
Map 3: Jewish Population, 2014. ....	23
Map 4: Changes in Jewish Population, 1971-2014.....	24
Map 5: Jewish Population by County. ....	37
Map 6: Jewish Communities of Southern New England . ....	38
Map 7: Jewish Communities of Northern New England . ....	39
Map 8: Jewish Communities of New Jersey ..	42
Map 9: Jewish Communities of New York . ....	43
Map 10: Jewish Communities of Pennsylvania . ....	44
Map 11: Jewish Communities of the Midwest-Part 1. ....	47
Map 12: Jewish Communities of the Midwest-Part 2 and Arkansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma.....	48
Map 13: Jewish Communities of Ohio . ....	49
Map 14: Jewish Communities of the South . ....	53
Map 15: Jewish Communities of Maryland, Delaware, DC, and Northern Virginia ..	54
Map 16: Jewish Communities of Florida . ....	55
Map 17: Jewish Communities of Texas . ....	56
Map 18: Jewish Communities of the West . ....	59
Map 19: Jewish Communities of California . ....	60

# Jewish Population in the United States, 2014

*The New York Times* on October 1, 2013 had the following teaser on the bottom of the front page:

**Identity of U.S. Jews Shifts:** A survey found a significant rise in the number of Jews who are not religious and marry outside the faith.

Of course, this was a reference to the survey by the Pew Research Center, *A Portrait of American Jews*, reported and analyzed above in Chapter 1 and cited in Chapter 4 as well. As well as providing insights into the belief, behavior, and belonging of American Jews, the Pew survey also presented an estimate of the US Jewish population, as reported in Part III of this chapter. However, one of the Pew authors noted that:

We deliberately did not put the population estimate in the overview, because we wanted to avoid making "THE number"...the focus of our report....The past debate over a single point estimate of the Jewish population had been misleading and unhelpful. As I'm sure you will notice, we also went out of our way to avoid giving just one number; instead, we provided tables with numerous detailed estimates, emphasizing that the estimate of the number of Jews in America depends on (a) the definition one chooses for who counts as Jewish, and (b) the survey question wording and methodology that underpins the estimate....I don't want to put huge focus on one point estimate...and rekindle the kind of unhelpful debate that raged in the past. We worked hard to bring more sophistication to the issue. There is no single "right" number. It depends (Cooperman 2014).

Likewise, in Part III of the current chapter, we have presented a range of the estimates of the US Jewish population. Similarly, Saxe and DellaPergola (2013) postulate:

Assessing the size and characteristics of the Jewish population in the United States is probably not the central question that needs to be addressed by American Jewry, but is surely one of the most intriguing, debated, and at times antagonizing tasks-not only in demographic studies but more generally in the social scientific study of Jewry....Competing narrative and empirical approaches have generated divergent estimates, with a significant high-low gap of about one million, and opposite interpretations of current and expected trends.

The complexity of assessing the composition and changes of a rare population, like American Jews, is complicated by a shifting sense of personal identity, i.e., of how one defines oneself. Consequently, in addition to the standard demographic variables of fertility, mortality, and net migration, there are also accessions and secessions from the Jewish population based on identity shifts. Thus, the move to recognize patrilineal descent by some Jewish denominations and the growth of interfaith families have provided further

challenges to offering an accurate estimate of the US Jewish population. Nevertheless, our effort is to provide in one source, estimates for the national, state, regional, urban, and local areas of the American Jewish population, as a reference for today and a legacy for posterity.

This chapter examines the size, geographic distribution, and selected characteristics of the Jewish population of the US. Part I addresses the procedures employed to estimate the Jewish population of over 900 local Jewish communities and parts thereof.

Part II presents the major changes in local Jewish population estimates since last year's *Year Book*. Part III examines population estimates for the country as a whole, each state, the four US Census Regions, the nine US Census Divisions, the 20 largest US Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), and the 51 Jewish Federation service areas with 20,000 or more Jews. Part IV examines changes in the size and geographic distribution of the Jewish population at national, state, and regional scales from 1971-2014.

Part V presents a description of local Jewish community studies and a listing of studies currently in progress. Part VI relates to Chapter 2 on gender by presenting comparisons of Jewish communities on synagogue attendance and levels of emotional attachment to Israel by age and sex. Part VII presents an atlas of local American Jewish communities, including a national map of Jews by county and 14 regional and state maps of Jewish communities.

## **Part I: Population Estimation Methodology**

The authors have endeavored to compile accurate estimates of the size of the Jewish population in each local Jewish community, given the constraints involved in estimating the size of a rare population. This effort is ongoing, as every year new local Jewish community studies are completed and population estimates are updated. The current Jewish population estimates are shown in the Appendix for about 900 Jewish communities and geographic subareas of those communities. A by-product of this effort is that the aggregation of these local estimates yields an estimate of the total American Jewish population, an estimate that actually may be a bit too high as explained briefly in Part III below and in more detail by Sheskin and Dashefsky (2006). The national estimate presented below, however, is in general agreement with the recent estimates of the Pew Research Center and the Steinhardt Social Research Institute at Brandeis University (see Part III below).

These estimates are derived from four sources: (1) Scientific Estimates; (2) US Census Estimates; (3) Informant Estimates; and (4) Internet Estimates.

### ***Source One: Scientific Estimates***

Scientific Estimates are most often based on the results of telephone surveys using random digit dialing (RDD) procedures (Sheskin 2001, p. 6). In other cases, Scientific Estimates are based on Distinctive Jewish Name (DJN) studies.<sup>1</sup>

DJN studies are sometimes used to estimate the Jewish population of an area by itself, or one that is contiguous to another area in which an RDD telephone survey was completed<sup>2</sup> or to update a population estimate from an earlier RDD study. In a few cases, a Scientific Estimate is based on a scientific study using a different methodology (neither RDD nor DJN).<sup>3</sup>

### ***Source Two: US Census Estimates***

Three New York Jewish communities inhabited by Hasidic sects are well above 90% Jewish:

- 1) Kiryas Joel in Orange County (Satmar Hasidim)
- 2) Kaser Village in Rockland County (Viznitz Hasidim)
- 3) New Square in Rockland County (Skverer Hasidim)

Thus, US Census data were used to determine the Jewish population in those communities.

Although Monsey, another community in Rockland County with a Hasidic population, is not 90% or more Jewish, US Census Data on race and language spoken at home were used to derive a conservative estimate of the Jewish population in this community.

### ***Source Three: Informant Estimates***

Informants at the more than 150 Jewish Federations and the more than 300 Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) "network communities" were contacted via email. Responses were emailed to the authors. These informants generally have access to information about the number of households on the local Jewish Federation's mailing list and/or the number who are members of local synagogues and Jewish organizations. For communities that did not reply and for which other information was not available, estimates were retained from previous years.

### ***Source Four: Internet Estimates***

For some communities, we were able to update Jewish population estimates from Internet sources, such as newspaper, Jewish Federation, and synagogue websites. For example, the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life ([www.isjl.org/history/archive/index.html](http://www.isjl.org/history/archive/index.html)) has been publishing vignettes on existing and defunct Jewish communities in 12 Southern States (Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and Texas). These provide useful information for updating the estimates for Jewish communities in these states.

### **Features of Population Estimates in the Appendix**

The Appendix provides estimates for about 900 Jewish communities (of 100 Jews or more) and geographic subareas of those communities. Many of the estimates listed in the Appendix are for Jewish Federation service areas. Where possible, we have disaggregated Jewish Federation service areas into smaller geographic units. For example, separate estimates are provided for such places as Boulder (Colorado) (a part of the service area of JewishColorado, formerly the Allied Jewish Federation of Colorado) and Boynton Beach (Florida) (a part of the service area of the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County).

The Appendix indicates whether each estimate is a Scientific Estimate, US Census Estimate, or an Informant/Internet Estimate. Estimates in boldface type are based on a scientific study, which, unless otherwise indicated, means an RDD study. The boldface date indicates the year in which the field work was conducted. The superscript *a* next to the boldface date indicates that the Scientific Estimate was based on a DJN study. The superscript *b* indicates that a DJN study has been used to update a previous RDD study. The superscript *c* indicates an estimate based on US Census data. The superscript *d* indicates a Scientific Estimate based on a scientific study using a different methodology (neither RDD nor DJN). The superscript *e* indicates a Scientific Estimate based on a scientific study using a different methodology (neither RDD nor DJN) that is used to update an RDD study.

Estimates for communities not shown in boldface type are based on Informant/Internet Estimates. The former compilers of the data for the *American Jewish Year Book* provided only a range of years (pre-1997 or 1997-2001) for the dates of the last informant contact. For communities for which the date in the *Date of Informant Confirmation or Latest Information* column in Appendix A is more recent than the date of the latest study shown in boldface type, the study estimate has been confirmed or updated by a local informant subsequent to the scientific study.

For communities for which the information is available, the Appendix also presents estimates of the number of Jews in part-year households. Part-year households are defined as households who live in a community for three to seven months of the year. Note that part-year households are probably important components of many additional communities for which we do not have data on months per year in residence.

Jews in part-year households form an essential component of some Jewish communities, as many join synagogues and donate to Jewish Federations in the communities in which they live part time. This is particularly true in Florida, and, to a lesser extent, in other states with many retirees. Presenting the information in this way allows the reader to gain a better perspective on the size of Jewish communities with significant part-year populations, without double-counting the part-year Jewish population in the totals. Note that Jews in part-year households are reported as such in the community that is most likely their "second home." The *Part-Year Jewish Population* shown in the final column of the Appendix is not included in the *Number of Jews* column for that community, since the part-year Jewish population is already reflected in the *Number of Jews* column for their primary community.

The Excel spreadsheet used to create the Appendix and the other tables in this chapter is available at [www.jewishdatabank.org](http://www.jewishdatabank.org). This spreadsheet also includes

information on about 250 *Other Places* with Jewish populations of less than 100 which are aggregated and shown as the last entry for many of the states in the Appendix. The spreadsheet also contains Excel versions of **Tables 1-6** in this chapter as well as a table showing some of the major changes since last year's *Year Book* in the population estimates shown in the Appendix and a table showing the calculations for the indices of dissimilarity referenced below.

### ***Other Considerations in Population Estimation***

The estimates for more than 85% of the total number of Jews reported in the Appendix are based on Scientific Estimates or US Census Estimates. Thus, less than 15% of the total estimated number of American Jews is based on the less-reliable Informant or Internet Estimates. An analysis presented by Sheskin and Dashefsky (2007, pp. 136-138) strongly suggests greater reliability of Informant Estimates than was previously assumed. It should also be noted that less than 0.2% of the total estimated number of American Jews is derived from Informant Estimates that are more than 17 years old.

All estimates are of Jews living in households (and institutions, where available) and do not include non-Jews living in households with Jews. The estimates include Jews who are affiliated with the Jewish community as well as Jews who are not. Different studies and different informants use different definitions of "who is a Jew." The problem of defining who is, and who is not, a Jew is discussed in numerous books and articles. Unlike most religious groups, "being Jewish" can be both a religious and an ethnic identity. The 2000-01 National Jewish Population Survey (NJPS 2000-01) (Kotler-Berkowitz et al. 2003) suggests that about one-fifth of American Jews are "Jews of no religion." This is consistent with the Pew Research Center result (Pew 2013, p. 7). Kosmin and Keysar (2012, p. 16) suggest that 30%-40% of American Jews identify as "secular." One does not cease to be a Jew even if one becomes an atheist or agnostic or does not participate in synagogue services or rituals. The exception to this rule, according to most Jewish identity authorities, is when a person born Jewish formally converts or practices another monotheistic religion.

During biblical times, Jewish identity was determined by patrilineal descent. During the rabbinic period, this was changed to matrilineal descent. In the contemporary period, Orthodox and Conservative rabbis officially recognize only matrilineal descent, while Reform (as of 1983) and Reconstructionist rabbis recognize, under certain circumstances, both matrilineal and patrilineal descent. Furthermore, Orthodox rabbis only recognize as Jewish those Jews-by-Choice who have been converted by Orthodox rabbis.

In general, social scientists conducting survey research with American Jews do not wish to choose from the competing definitions of who is a Jew and have adopted the convention that all survey respondents who "consider themselves to be Jewish" (with the exception noted above) are counted as such. But, clearly the estimate of the size of the Jewish population of an area can differ depending on whom one counts as Jewish – and also, to some extent, on who is doing the counting.

*Note that, for the most part, we have chosen to accept the local definition of "who is a Jew" when a scientific demographic study has been completed in a community, even in cases where we disagree with that definition. In particular, this impacts the 2011 New York study, which counted as Jewish about 100,000 persons who responded that they*

*considered themselves Jewish in some way, although their religion was Christian. Note that the world Jewish population chapter by Sergio DellaPergola (Chapter 7 in this volume) does not include these 100,000 persons in the total for the New York metropolitan area. This issue also arises, although to a lesser extent, in some California Jewish communities.*

Population estimation is not an exact science. If the estimate of Jews in a community reported herein differs from the estimate reported last year, readers should not assume that the change occurred during the past year. Rather, the updated estimate in almost all cases reflects changes that have been occurring over a longer period of time but which only recently have been documented.

## **Part II: Changes and Confirmations of Population Estimates**

This year, more than 165 estimates in the Appendix were either changed or confirmed. Since last year's *Year Book*, only Columbus (OH) completed a new local Jewish community study using RDD, but a large number of Informant/Internet Estimates have been either changed or confirmed as "correct." Some of the more significant changes include:

**California:** Based on a new Informant Estimate, the number of Jews in San Diego was increased by 12% from 89,000 to 100,000. This seemed reasonable based on the documented growth in San Diego between their two studies in 1979 and 2003 and the significant increase in the general population of the area as shown in recent census data.

**Colorado:** Based on a new Informant Estimate, the number of Jews in Denver was increased by 13% from 83,900 to 95,000. This seemed reasonable based on the documented growth in Denver between their two RDD studies in 1997 and 2007 (which outpaced the growth in the general population) and the significant increase in the general population of the area as shown by recent census data.

**Connecticut:** Based on a new Informant Estimate, the number of Jews in Danbury increased by 56% from 3,200 (an Informant Estimate from 1997-2001) to 5,000.

**Massachusetts:** Due to the merger of the Boston and North Shore Federations, the North Shore population was added to the Boston total, increasing the Boston estimate from 210,500 to 229,100, an increase of 18,600 (9%). This change results in Boston, which was ranked as the 7<sup>th</sup> largest American Jewish community in 2013, becoming the 4<sup>th</sup> largest (after New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago) American Jewish community in 2014.

The previous estimate of 13,000 for Worcester County, based on both an RDD study and an Informant Estimate, decreased by 2,500 to 10,500 (19%), based on a 2014 Informant Estimate.

**New Jersey:** The previous estimate of 49,200 for Southern NJ, based on a 1991 RDD study, increased by 7,500 to 56,700 (15%) (based on a 2013 scientific study using another methodology (neither RDD nor DJN)).

**New York:** The previous estimate of 13,000 for Buffalo, based on a 1995 RDD study, decreased by 950 to 12,050 (7%), based on a 2013 scientific study using another methodology (neither RDD nor DJN).

The previous estimate of 21,000 for Rochester, based on a 1999 RDD study, decreased by 1,100 to 19,900 (5%), based on a 2010 scientific study using another methodology (neither RDD nor DJN).

**Ohio:** The previous estimate for Akron-Kent, based on a 1999 scientific study using another methodology (neither RDD nor DJN), decreased by 500 from 3,500 to 3,000 (14%), based on a 2014 Informant Estimate.

The previous estimate of 23,000 for Columbus, based on a 2001 RDD study, updated by a 2012 Informant Estimate increased by 2,500 to 25,500 (11%) based on a 2013 RDD study.

**Texas:** The previous estimate of 50,000 for Dallas, based on a 1988 RDD study, increased by 20,000 to 70,000 (40%), based on a 2013 scientific study using another methodology (neither RDD nor DJN).

### **Part III: National, State, Regional, and Urban Area Totals**

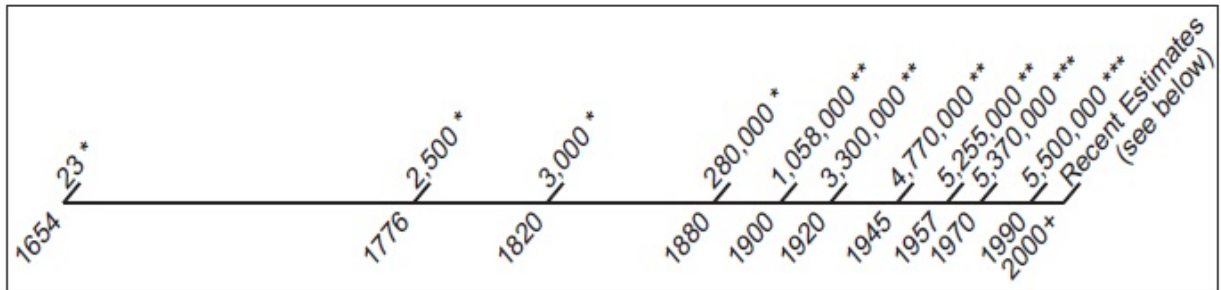
This Part examines population estimates for the country as a whole, each state, the four US Census Regions, the nine US Census Divisions, the 20 largest US Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), and the 51 Jewish Federation service areas with 20,000 or more Jews.

#### ***National Level***

More than a century ago, in the second volume of the *American Jewish Year Book*, the editor observed the following in regard to the American Jewish population:

As the census of the United States has, in accordance with the spirit of American institutions, taken no heed of the religious convictions of American citizens, whether native-born or naturalized, all statements concerning the number of Jews living in this country are based on estimates, though several of the estimates have been most conscientiously made (Adler 1900, p. 623).

Below is a time line showing changes in the American Jewish population based on a variety of historic estimates. Two of them are based on government sources. The first entry of 23 persons for 1654 is derived from court records when a boat load of Jewish refugees arrived in New Amsterdam (renamed New York in 1664). They came to the Dutch colony from Recife, Brazil, when it was ceded by the Dutch to the Portuguese. The other government estimate used is derived from the one time that the US Census Bureau asked a question in a sample survey in 1957, which yielded an estimate of 5,255,000 Jewish persons. All estimates for the time line from 1970 to the present are based on sample surveys, or as in the current estimate reported in this chapter, an aggregate of local Jewish community sample surveys, estimates derived from the Internet and/or informants, and to a very limited extent, the US Census.



\* American Jewish Historical Society  
 \*\*\* National Jewish Population Survey

\*\* *American Jewish Year Book*

### Estimates of American Jews from 2000-2002

Three estimates of the US Jewish population are available from the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century:

- 1) National Jewish Population Survey (NJPS 2000-01): 5,200,000 (Kotler-Berkowitz et al. 2003) ([www.jewishfederations.org/njps](http://www.jewishfederations.org/njps))
- 2) American Jewish Identity Survey (AJIS 2001): 5,340,000 (Mayer, Kosmin, and Keysar 2001) ([www.jewishdatabank.org](http://www.jewishdatabank.org))
- 3) Survey of Heritage and Religious Identification (HARI 2001-02): 6,000,000 (Groeneman and Tobin 2004) ([www.jewishdatabank.org](http://www.jewishdatabank.org))

### Estimates of American Jews from 2013-2014

As stated above, estimating the number of American Jews is dependent upon the definition of who is Jewish. Nevertheless, it is interesting that three different methodologies have recently produced estimates of the number of American Jews and all three are in general agreement:

1) **AJYB 2014:** Based on a summation of local Jewish community estimates in the Appendix, the estimated size of the American Jewish community in 2014 is 6.769 million Jews (**Table 5-1**), an increase of about 47,000 from the 2013 estimate. Allowing for some double counting (see below), the *American Jewish Year Book* estimate is 6.6-6.7 million. This estimate is based on the aggregation of local estimates of over 900 American Jewish communities and parts thereof. The bulk of the estimate is based on studies conducted over the past decade.

The 6.769 million is about 1.6 million more than the Jewish population estimate reported by United Jewish Communities (now The Jewish Federations of North America) in its 2000-01 National Jewish Population Survey (NJPS 2000-01) (Kotler-Berkowitz et al. 2003). These differences are discussed in Sheskin and Dashefsky (2006), Sheskin (2008), and DellaPergola (2013a).

For reasons discussed in Sheskin and Dashefsky (2006), it is unlikely that the number of American Jews is as high as 6.769 million. Rather, we maintain that the actual number of Jews is more likely between 6.6 million and 6.7 million. Briefly, some part-year households (households who spend part of the year in one community and part in another), some college students (who may be counted in both their home and school

communities), and some households who moved from one community to another between local Jewish community studies are likely, to some extent, to be double-counted in the Appendix.

2) **Pew 2013:** The Pew Research Center estimate ([www.pewresearch.com](http://www.pewresearch.com)) is 6.7 million. This includes 5.7 million persons who are Jewish and 1 million who are partly Jewish. This estimate is based on a national RDD study conducted in 2013 (Pew Research Center 2013). However, with the advent of a high percentage of households who rely solely on cell phones, the lower response rates on cell phones, and the increasing tendency of households with landlines to only answer calls from known phone numbers, conducting RDD surveys has become increasingly challenging and response rates on this and other surveys reflect this.

3) **SSRI 2013:** The Steinhardt Social Research Institute (SSRI) Brandeis Meta-Analysis estimate of 6.8 million is based on an “averaging” of the percentage of Jews found in tens of national studies conducted over the past decade that happened to ask a question about religion (Tighe et al. 2013). Note that DellaPergola (2013b) takes serious issue, among other things, with: a) the fact that the SSRI estimates are based on adults only; b) SSRI’s methodology for estimating the number of children; and c) SSRI’s method for extrapolating the number of Jews “not by religion” from surveys that only estimate Jews by religion. See Chapter 7 in this volume for further elucidation of this issue.

Thus, we have three recent estimates of the number of American Jews, all using different methodologies, each with their own significant shortcomings. Yet, all three methods yield relatively comparable estimates.

A different approach and estimate of the American Jewish population is employed in Chapter 7 of this volume on World Jewish Population (5.7 million). In that chapter, Sergio DellaPergola relies on the Pew Research Center estimate, but, to be comparable with definitions accepted and used in other countries, and to keep to a consistent concept of “core Jewish” population worldwide, he does not include the 1 million persons who identify as “partly Jewish” (who are included in the *American Jewish Year Book*, Pew, and SSRI totals).

**Tables 1-2** show the total Jewish population of each state and the District of Columbia, Census Region, and Census Division. **Tables 3-4** show the Jewish population of the 20 largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) and all Jewish Federation service areas with an estimated Jewish population of 20,000 or more. **Map 1** shows the definitions of the Census Regions and Census Divisions.

### **State Level**

The first data column of **Table 1** shows the number of Jews in each state. Eight states have a Jewish population of 200,000 or more: New York (1,757,000); California (1,232,000); Florida (639,000); New Jersey (516,000); Illinois (298,000); Pennsylvania (293,000); Massachusetts (275,000); and Maryland (238,000).

The third column of **Table 1** shows the percentage of the population in each state that is Jewish. Overall, about 2.1% of Americans are Jewish, but the percentage is 4% or

higher in New York (8.9%), New Jersey (5.8%), the District of Columbia (4.3%), Massachusetts (4.1%), and Maryland (4.0%).

The final column of **Table 1** shows the percentage of the total US Jewish population that each state represents. The four states with the largest shares of the Jewish population – New York (26%), California (18%), Florida (9%), and New Jersey (8%) – account for 61% of the 6.769 million American Jews reported in **Table 1**. These four states account for only 27% of the total American population. The Jewish population, then, is very geographically concentrated, particularly compared to the total population. In fact, using a measure known as the index of dissimilarity or the segregation index (Burt, Barber, and Rigby 2009, pp. 127-129), 39% of Jews would have to change their state of residence for Jews to be geographically distributed among the states in the same proportions as the total population. The same measure for 1971 was 44%, indicating that Jews are less geographically concentrated in 2014 than they were in 1971. In 1971 (**Table 5**), the four states with the largest Jewish populations – New York (42%), California (12%), Pennsylvania (8%), and New Jersey (7%) – accounted for 68% of the 6.060 million American Jews.

### ***Census Regions and Divisions***

**Table 2** shows that, on a regional basis, the Jewish population also is distributed very differently from the American population as a whole. While only 18% of all Americans live in the Northeast, 44% of Jews live there. While 21% of all Americans live in the Midwest, only 11% of Jews do. While 37% of all Americans live in the South, only 21% of Jews do. Approximately equal percentages of all Americans and Jews live in the West (24%).

### ***Metropolitan Statistical Areas***

**Table 3** shows the total and the Jewish population of the 20 largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) in 2014. The Jewish population estimates in **Table 3** were compiled from the data in the Appendix using the US Census Bureau definitions of each MSA.

38% of all Americans live in the top 20 MSAs, as do 79% of American Jews, and while Jews are only 2.1% of all Americans, they constitute 4.4% of the population of the top 20 MSAs.

The New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA MSA and Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, FL MSAs are both 10% Jewish, while the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD, Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH, and San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA MSAs are all 5%-7% Jewish.

Note that, with some exceptions, the Jewish populations shown in **Table 3** are not presented in the same manner as in the Appendix or in **Table 4**. The major communities listed in the Appendix are generally based on Jewish Federation service areas, while **Table 3** shows the population for US Census Bureau-defined MSAs. Thus, for example, the Appendix shows the Jewish population of Baltimore to be 93,400, while **Table 3** shows a Jewish population of 115,400, because the Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD MSA covers a larger geographic area than the service area of The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore.

### ***Jewish Federation Service Areas***

Among American Jewish communities, more than 150 are served by organizations known as Jewish Federations. The Jewish Federations of North America is the central coordinating body for the local Jewish Federations.

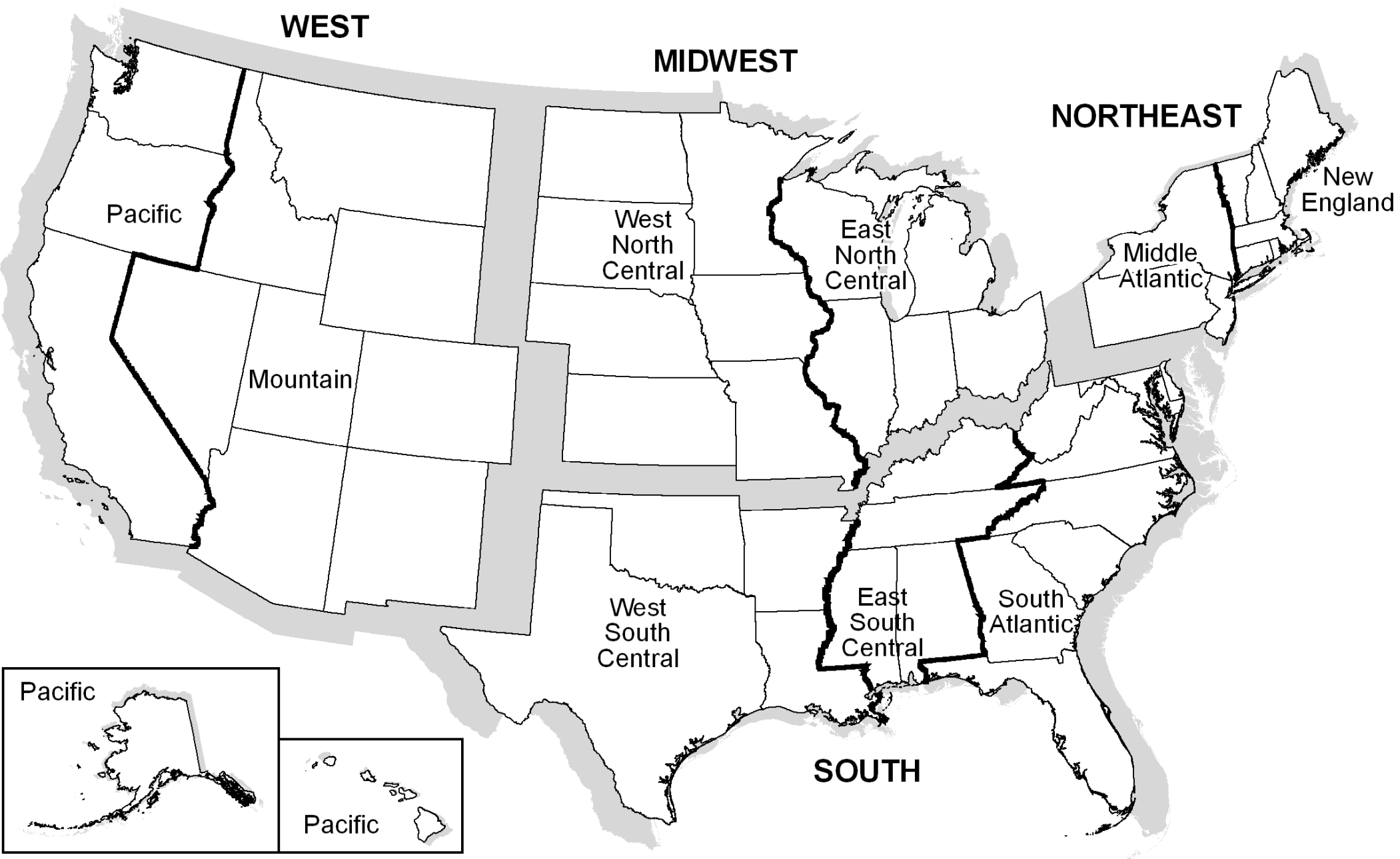
A Jewish Federation is a central fundraising and coordinating body for the area it serves. It provides funds for various Jewish social service agencies, volunteer programs, educational bodies, and related organizations, with allocations being made to the various beneficiary agencies by a planning or allocation committee. A local Jewish Federation's broad purposes are to provide "human services (generally, but not exclusively, to the local Jewish community) and to fund programs designed to build commitment to the Jewish people locally, in Israel, and throughout the world." In recent years, funding programs to assure Jewish continuity has become a major focus of Jewish Federation efforts.

Most planning in the American Jewish community is done either nationally (by The Jewish Federations of North America and other national organizations) or locally by Jewish Federations. Population data for local Jewish Federation service areas is essential to the American Jewish community and to the planning done both locally and nationally (Sheskin 2009, 2013a).

The geographic extent of the areas served by local Jewish Federations are a result of historical forces and the geographic distribution of the Jewish population. History has produced service areas that vary significantly in size and population. UJA-Federation of New York serves an 8-county area with 1,538,000 Jews, while five Jewish Federations serve parts of Fairfield County in Connecticut which has about 50,000 Jews.

The Jewish Federation service areas rarely align themselves geographically with Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) as defined by the US Census Bureau. Thus, the estimates in **Table 4** are often quite different from those found in **Table 3**. The Jewish Federation service areas are generally smaller than the geographic areas of the MSAs.

**Table 4** shows the Jewish population in 2014 of the service areas of all Jewish Federations with 20,000 or more Jews. The Jewish Federation service areas with 200,000 or more Jews are New York (1,538,000), Los Angeles (519,200), Chicago (291,800), Boston (229,100), San Francisco (227,800), Washington (215,600), and Philadelphia (214,600).



**TABLE 1**  
**JEWISH POPULATION IN THE UNITED STATES BY STATE, 2014**

<b>State</b>	<b>Number of Jews</b>	<b>Total Population <sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Percentage Jewish</b>	<b>% of Total US Jewish Population</b>
Alabama	8,800	4,833,722	0.2%	0.1%
Alaska	6,175	735,132	0.8%	0.1%
Arizona	106,300	6,626,624	1.6%	1.6%
Arkansas	1,725	2,959,373	0.1%	0.0%
California	1,232,190	38,332,521	3.2%	18.2%
Colorado	103,020	5,268,367	2.0%	1.5%
Connecticut	117,850	3,596,080	3.3%	1.7%
Delaware	15,100	925,749	1.6%	0.2%
District of Columbia	28,000	646,449	4.3%	0.4%
Florida	638,985 <sup>b</sup>	19,552,860	3.3%	9.4%
Georgia	127,470	9,992,167	1.3%	1.9%
Hawaii	7,280	1,404,054	0.5%	0.1%
Idaho	1,525	1,612,136	0.1%	0.0%
Illinois	297,885	12,882,135	2.3%	4.4%
Indiana	17,220	6,570,902	0.3%	0.3%
Iowa	6,170	3,090,416	0.2%	0.1%
Kansas	17,425	2,893,957	0.6%	0.3%
Kentucky	11,300	4,395,295	0.3%	0.2%
Louisiana	10,675	4,625,470	0.2%	0.2%
Maine	13,890	1,328,302	1.0%	0.2%
Maryland	238,200	5,928,814	4.0%	3.5%
Massachusetts	274,680	6,692,824	4.1%	4.1%
Michigan	83,255	9,895,622	0.8%	1.2%
Minnesota	45,635	5,420,380	0.8%	0.7%
Mississippi	1,575	2,991,207	0.1%	0.0%
Missouri	59,175	6,044,171	1.0%	0.9%
Montana	1,350	1,015,165	0.1%	0.0%
Nebraska	6,150	1,868,516	0.3%	0.1%

**TABLE 1**  
**JEWISH POPULATION IN THE UNITED STATES BY STATE, 2014**

<b>State</b>	<b>Number of Jews</b>	<b>Total Population <sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Percentage Jewish</b>	<b>% of Total US Jewish Population</b>
Nevada	76,300	2,790,136	2.7%	1.1%
New Hampshire	10,120	1,323,459	0.8%	0.2%
New Jersey	516,450	8,899,339	5.8%	7.6%
New Mexico	12,725	2,085,287	0.6%	0.2%
New York	1,757,270	19,651,127	8.9%	26.0%
North Carolina	32,075	9,848,060	0.3%	0.5%
North Dakota	400	723,393	0.1%	0.0%
Ohio	150,615	11,570,808	1.3%	2.2%
Oklahoma	4,625	3,850,568	0.1%	0.1%
Oregon	40,650	3,930,065	1.0%	0.6%
Pennsylvania	293,240	12,773,801	2.3%	4.3%
Rhode Island	18,750	1,051,511	1.8%	0.3%
South Carolina	13,570	4,774,839	0.3%	0.2%
South Dakota	250	844,877	0.0%	0.0%
Tennessee	19,600	6,495,978	0.3%	0.3%
Texas	158,505	26,448,193	0.6%	2.3%
Utah	5,650	2,900,872	0.2%	0.1%
Vermont	5,985	626,630	1.0%	0.1%
Virginia	95,595	8,260,405	1.2%	1.4%
Washington	45,885	6,971,406	0.7%	0.7%
West Virginia	2,310	1,854,304	0.1%	0.0%
Wisconsin	28,255	5,742,713	0.5%	0.4%
Wyoming	1,150	582,658	0.2%	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,768,980</b>	<b>316,128,839</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Note that the total number of American Jews is probably about 6.6-6.7 million due to some double-counting between states (Sheskin and Dashefsky 2006).

<sup>a</sup> Source: [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov) (July 1, 2013 estimates).

<sup>b</sup> Excludes 77,675 Jews who live in Florida for 3-7 months of the year and are counted in their primary state of residence.

**TABLE 2**  
**JEWISH POPULATION IN THE UNITED STATES**  
**BY CENSUS REGION AND CENSUS DIVISION, 2014**

Census Region/Division	Jewish Population		Total Population	
	Number	Percentage Distribution	Number <sup>a</sup>	Percentage Distribution
<b>Northeast</b>	<b>3,008,235</b>	<b>44.4%</b>	<b>55,943,073</b>	<b>17.7%</b>
Middle Atlantic	2,566,960	37.9%	41,324,267	13.1%
New England	441,275	6.5%	14,618,806	4.6%
<b>Midwest</b>	<b>712,435</b>	<b>10.5%</b>	<b>67,547,890</b>	<b>21.4%</b>
East North Central	577,230	8.5%	46,662,180	14.8%
West North Central	135,205	2.0%	20,885,710	6.6%
<b>South</b>	<b>1,408,110</b>	<b>20.8%</b>	<b>118,383,453</b>	<b>37.4%</b>
East South Central	41,275	0.6%	18,716,202	5.9%
South Atlantic	1,191,305	17.6%	61,783,647	19.5%
West South Central	175,530	2.6%	37,883,604	12.0%
<b>West</b>	<b>1,640,200</b>	<b>24.2%</b>	<b>74,254,423</b>	<b>23.5%</b>
Mountain	308,020	4.6%	22,881,245	7.2%
Pacific	1,332,180	19.7%	51,373,178	16.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,768,980</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>316,128,839</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Note that the total number of American Jews is probably about 6.6-6.7 million due to some double-counting between states (Sheskin and Dashefsky 2006).

<sup>a</sup> Source: [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov) (July 1, 2013 estimates).

**TABLE 3**  
**JEWISH POPULATION IN THE UNITED STATES**  
**TOP 20 METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS (MSAs), 2014**

MSA Rank	MSA Name	Population		Percentage Jewish
		Total <sup>a</sup>	Jewish	
1	New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA	19,949,502	2,067,500	10.4%
2	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA	13,131,431	617,480	4.7%
3	Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI	9,537,289	294,280	3.1%
4	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	6,810,913	75,005	1.1%
5	Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX	6,313,158	45,640	0.7%
6	Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD	6,034,678	283,350	4.7%
7	Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	5,949,859	217,390	3.7%
8	Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL	5,828,191	555,125	9.5%
9	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA	5,552,942	119,800	2.2%
10	Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH	4,684,299	249,060	5.3%
11	San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA	4,516,276	295,850	6.6%
12	Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA	4,380,878	22,625	0.5%
13	Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ	4,398,762	82,900	1.9%
14	Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI	4,294,983	67,000	1.6%
15	Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	3,610,105	39,700	1.1%
16	Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI	3,459,146	44,500	1.3%
17	San Diego-Carlsbad, CA	3,211,252	100,000	3.1%
18	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	2,870,569	58,350	2.0%
19	St. Louis, MO-IL	2,801,056	54,200	1.9%
20	Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD	2,770,738	115,400	4.2%
Total Population in Top 20 MSAs		120,106,027	5,329,280	4.4%
Total US Population		316,128,839	6,768,980	2.1%
Percentage of Population in Top 20 MSAs		38.0%	78.7%	

<sup>a</sup> Source: [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov), July 1, 2013 estimates.

Notes: 1) See [www.census.gov/population/metro/files/lists/2009/List1.txt](http://www.census.gov/population/metro/files/lists/2009/List1.txt) for a list of the counties included in each MSA; 2) Total Jewish population of 5,329,280 excludes 75,875 part-year residents who are included in MSAs 8, 12, and 18; 3) The total number of American Jews is probably about 6.6-6.7 million due to some double-counting between states (Sheskin and Dashefsky 2006).

**TABLE 4**  
**JEWISH POPULATION OF JEWISH FEDERATION SERVICE AREAS**  
**WITH 20,000 OR MORE JEWS, 2014**

	Community	Number of Jews			Community	Number of Jews
1	New York	1,538,000		28	Ocean County (NJ)	61,500
2	Los Angeles	519,200		29	Southern NJ	56,700
3	Chicago	291,800		30	St. Louis	54,000
4	Boston	229,100		31	Middlesex County (NJ)	52,000
5	San Francisco	227,800		32	Houston	45,000
6	Washington	215,600		33	Pittsburgh	42,200
7	Philadelphia	214,600		34	Seattle	37,200
8	Broward County	170,700		35	Portland (OR)	36,400
9	Atlanta	119,800		36	St. Petersburg	33,400
10	MetroWest NJ	115,000		37	Hartford	32,800
11	South Palm Beach	107,500		38	Orange County (NY)	31,500
12	Miami	106,300		39	Orlando	30,600
13	Northern NJ	102,500		40	San Gabriel (CA)	30,000
14	West Palm Beach	101,350		41	Minneapolis	29,300
15	East Bay (Oakland)	100,750		42	Cincinnati	27,000
16	San Diego	100,000		43	Columbus	25,500
17	Denver	95,000		44	Long Beach (CA)	23,750
18	Baltimore	93,400		45	New Haven	23,000
19	Rockland County (NY)	91,100		45	Tampa	23,000
20	Phoenix	82,900		47	Tucson	21,400
21	Cleveland	80,800		48	Sacramento	21,300
22	Orange County (CA)	80,000		49	Milwaukee	21,100
23	Las Vegas	72,300		50	Kansas City	20,000
24	Dallas	70,000		50	Somerset (NJ)	20,000
25	Detroit	67,000				
26	Monmouth County	64,000				
27	San Jose	63,000				

Includes only full-year population in Florida communities, Monmouth County, and Tucson.  
See the Appendix for the year of each estimate.

## Part IV: Changes in the Size of the Jewish Population, 1971-2014

**Tables 5 and 6 and Maps 2 to 4** show the changing geographic distribution of the Jewish population from 1971 to 2014. In examining the maps, note that the dot symbols are randomly placed within each state.

*Furthermore, for the most part, we have chosen to accept the local definition of “who is a Jew” when a scientific demographic study has been completed in a community, even in cases where we disagree with that definition. In particular, this impacts the 2011 New York study, which counted as Jewish about 100,000 persons who responded that they considered themselves Jewish in some way, although their religion was Christian. Note that the world Jewish population chapter by Sergio DellaPergola (Chapter 7 in this volume) does not include these 100,000 persons in the total for the New York metropolitan area. This issue also arises, although to a lesser extent, in some California Jewish communities.*

### National Level Changes

Overall, the data reveal an increase of 709,250 (12%) Jews from 1971-2014. During this same period, the number of non-Hispanic whites increased by 18%. Had the Jewish population increased at this same rate, the 6,060,000 Jews in 1971 would have increased to 7,136,000 in 2014, or about 367,000 more than the 6,769,000 shown in **Table 5**. The smaller than expected increase in Jewish population is due to such factors as low birth rates, children in intermarried households not being raised Jewish, and persons of Jewish ancestry simply “opting out” of identifying as Jews. Without the significant in-migration of Jews from the Former Soviet Union during this time period, the number of Jews would be even lower. If we chose not to accept that very broad definition of a Jew used in the recent New York study, the increase becomes less.

Note that the total Jewish population for 1971 from the *American Jewish Year Book* is 6,059,730. The 1971 National Jewish Population Survey (Massarik and Chenkin 1973) estimated 5,420,000 American Jews. Thus, the *American Jewish Year Book* produced an estimate that was about 12% higher than the 1971 National Jewish Population Survey (NJPS 1971). The difference was no doubt due to inaccuracies in both figures. NJPS 1971 was not a random digit dialing telephone survey, but a home interview survey that did not fully cover the entire geography of the US. The *American Jewish Year Book* data had many fewer local scientific Jewish community studies upon which to rely.

### State Level Changes

At the state level (**Table 5**), the number of Jews in New York decreased by 779,000 (31%), reflecting primarily the decrease in the New York City area, from 2,536,000 in 1971 to 1,757,000 in 2014. The number of Jews in Pennsylvania decreased by 179,000 (38%), reflecting primarily the decrease in Philadelphia, from 472,000 in 1971 to 293,000 in 2014. Other notable decreases in states with significant Jewish population include Missouri (25,000, 30%), Michigan (10,000, 11%), Ohio (8,000, 5%), and Indiana (7,000, 29%).

The most significant *percentage* decreases not referenced in the preceding paragraph occurred in North Dakota (68%), South Dakota (67%), Mississippi (62%), and West Virginia (53%), all of which have small Jewish populations.

The number of Jews in California increased by 511,000 (71%), reflecting increases particularly in San Francisco, Orange County, and San Diego, from 721,000 in 1971 to

1,232,000 in 2014. The number of Jews in Florida increased by 379,000 (146%), reflecting increases especially in Broward and Palm Beach Counties, from 260,000 in 1971 to 639,000 in 2014.<sup>4</sup> Other significant increases include New Jersey (104,000, 25%), especially reflecting migration from New York City to the suburbs in northern New Jersey; Georgia (102,000, 397%), reflecting most notably the growth in Atlanta; Texas (91,000, 135%), reflecting largely the growth in Dallas and Houston; Arizona (85,000, 406%), reflecting particularly the growth in Phoenix; Colorado (77,000, 289%), reflecting primarily the growth in Denver; Nevada (73,000, 2,157%), reflecting especially the growth in Las Vegas; Virginia (54,000, 132%), reflecting the growth in the northern Virginia suburbs of Washington, DC; and Maryland (51,000, 27%), reflecting the growth in the Montgomery County suburbs of Washington, DC.

The most significant *percentage* increases not referenced in the previous paragraph occurred in Alaska (1,958%), Kansas (730%), Hawaii (385%), New Mexico (371%), Oregon (363%), Wyoming (233%), Vermont (223%), North Carolina (216%), and Washington State (201%), most of which have relatively small Jewish populations.

### ***Regional Level Changes***

**Table 6** shows that the changes in the geographic distribution of Jews by Census Region and Census Division from 1971-2014, to some extent, reflect the changing geographic distribution of Americans in general. The percentage of Jews in the Northeast decreased from 63% in 1971 to 44% in 2014. The 12% of Jews in the Midwest remained virtually unchanged during this period. The percentage of Jews in the South increased from 12% to 21%, and the percentage of Jews in the West increased from 13% to 24%. In sum, the Jewish population shifted from the Northeast to the West and the South, with little change in the Midwest.

The final column of **Table 6** shows that the number of Jews in the Northeast decreased by 21% (820,000) from 1971-2014 and the number of Jews in the Midwest decreased by 3% (20,000), while the number of Jews in the South and the West each doubled from 1971-2014. The number of Jews in the South increased by 713,000 from 1971-2014, and the number of Jews in the West increased by 836,000.

**TABLE 5**  
**CHANGES IN JEWISH POPULATION IN THE UNITED STATES BY STATE,**  
**1971-2014**

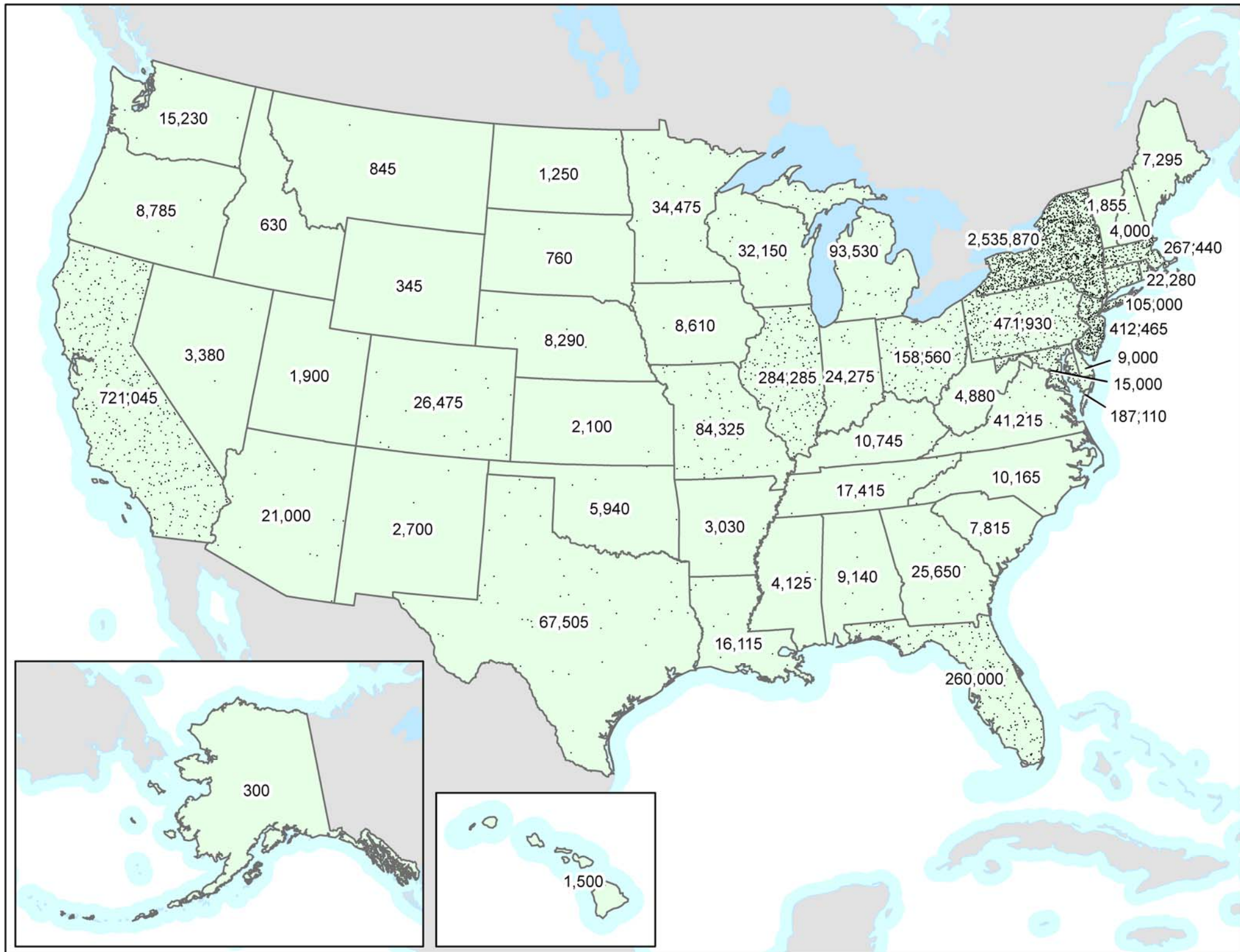
<b>State</b>	<b>1971 <sup>a</sup></b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>Increase/ (Decrease)</b>	<b>Percentage Change</b>
Alabama	9,140	8,800	(340)	(3.7)%
Alaska	300	6,175	5,875	1,958.3%
Arizona	21,000	106,300	85,300	406.2%
Arkansas	3,030	1,725	(1,305)	(43.1)%
California	721,045	1,232,190	511,145	70.9%
Colorado	26,475	103,020	76,545	289.1%
Connecticut	105,000	117,850	12,850	12.2%
Delaware	9,000	15,100	6,100	67.8%
District of Columbia	15,000	28,000	13,000	86.7%
Florida	260,000	638,985	378,985	145.8%
Georgia	25,650	127,470	101,820	397.0%
Hawaii	1,500	7,280	5,780	385.3%
Idaho	630	1,525	895	142.1%
Illinois	284,285	297,885	13,600	4.8%
Indiana	24,275	17,220	(7,055)	(29.1)%
Iowa	8,610	6,170	(2,440)	(28.3)%
Kansas	2,100	17,425	15,325	729.8%
Kentucky	10,745	11,300	555	5.2%
Louisiana	16,115	10,675	(5,440)	(33.8)%
Maine	7,295	13,890	6,595	90.4%
Maryland	187,110	238,200	51,090	27.3%
Massachusetts	267,440	274,680	7,240	2.7%
Michigan	93,530	83,255	(10,275)	(11.0)%
Minnesota	34,475	45,635	11,160	32.4%
Mississippi	4,125	1,575	(2,550)	(61.8)%
Missouri	84,325	59,175	(25,150)	(29.8)%
Montana	845	1,350	505	59.8%

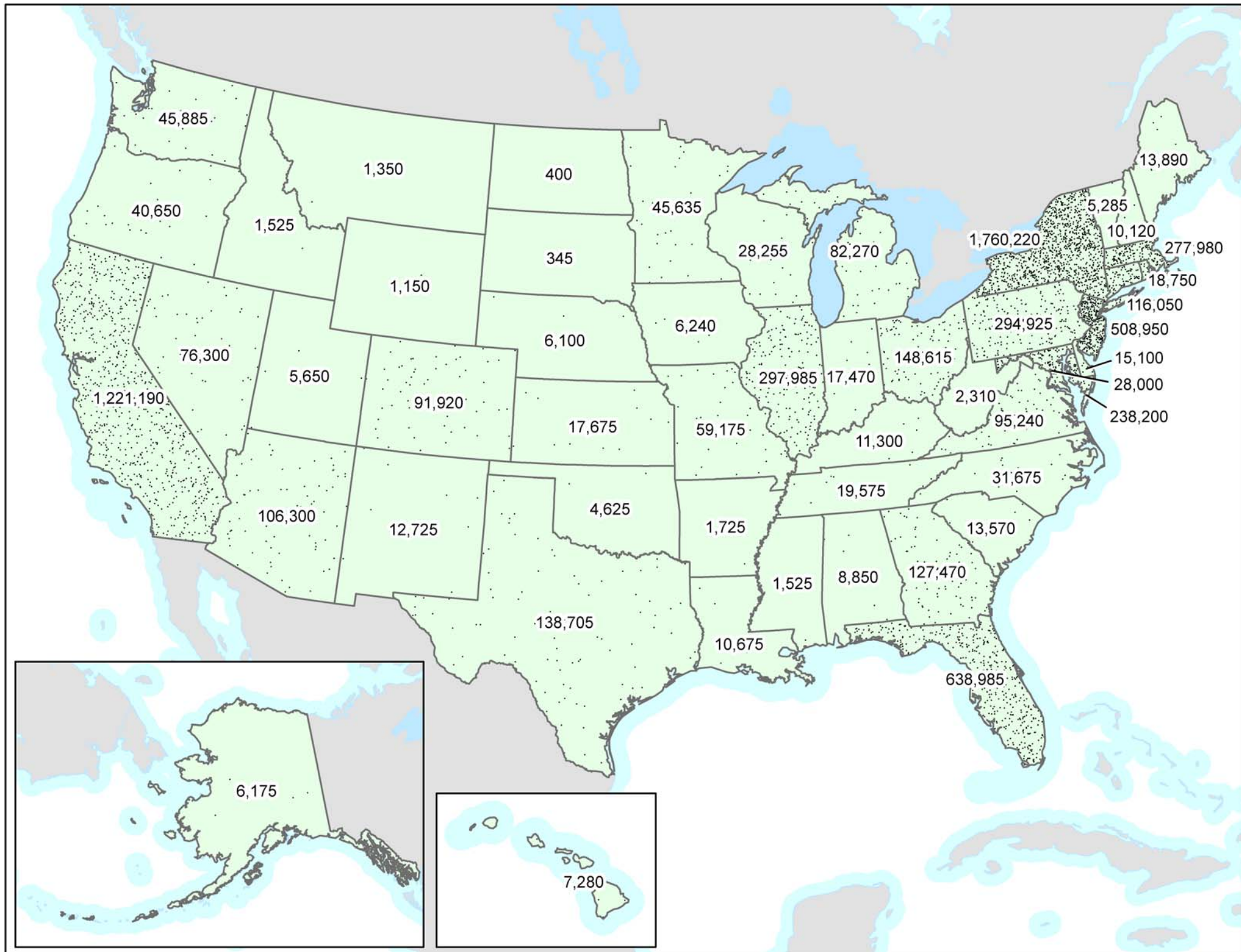
**TABLE 5**  
**CHANGES IN JEWISH POPULATION IN THE UNITED STATES BY STATE,**  
**1971-2014**

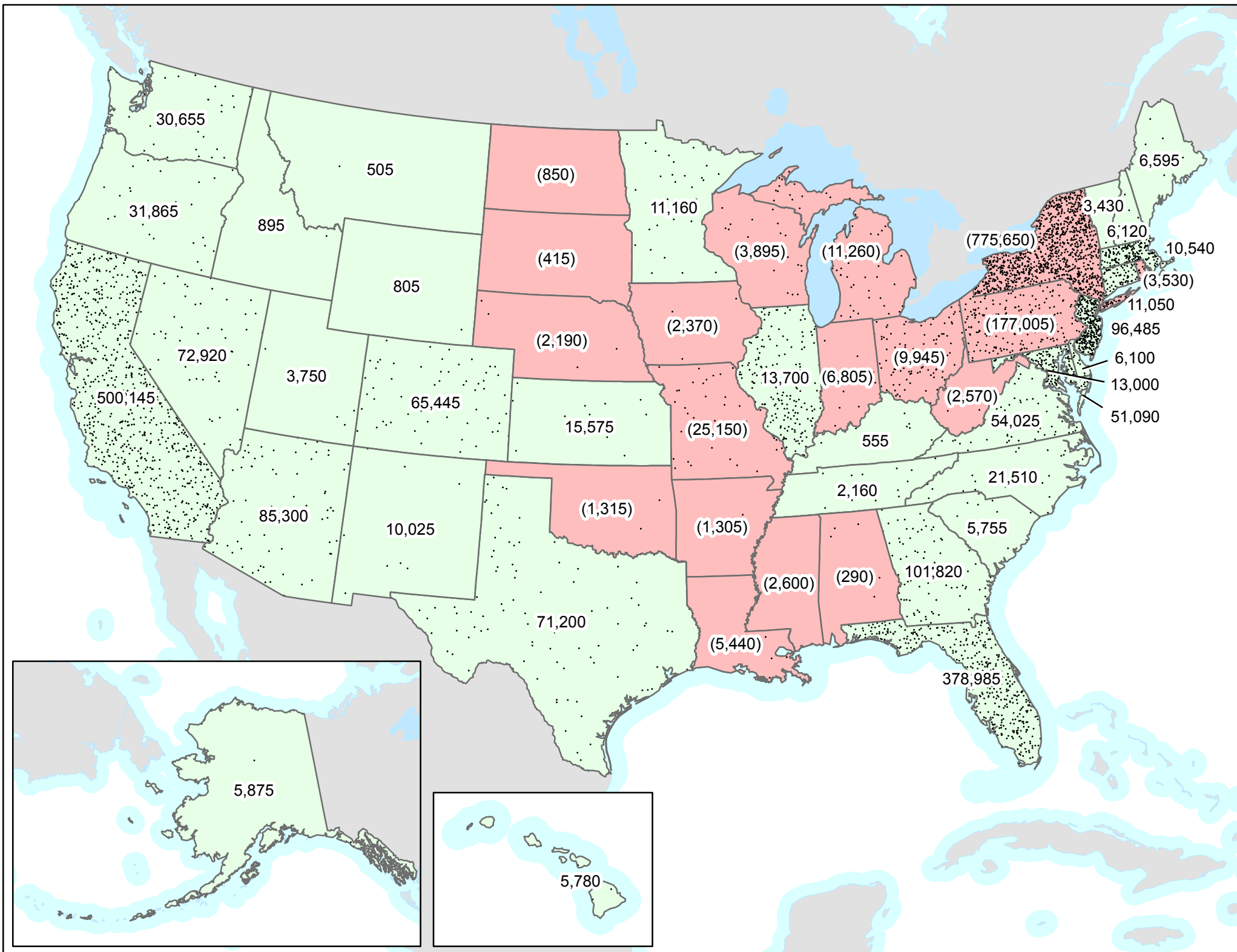
<b>State</b>	<b>1971 <sup>a</sup></b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>Increase/ (Decrease)</b>	<b>Percentage Change</b>
Nebraska	8,290	6,150	(2,140)	(25.8)%
Nevada	3,380	76,300	72,920	2,157.4%
New Hampshire	4,000	10,120	6,120	153.0%
New Jersey	412,465	516,450	103,985	25.2%
New Mexico	2,700	12,725	10,025	371.3%
New York	2,535,870	1,757,270	(778,600)	(30.7)%
North Carolina	10,165	32,075	21,910	215.5%
North Dakota	1,250	400	(850)	(68.0)%
Ohio	158,560	150,615	(7,945)	(5.0)%
Oklahoma	5,940	4,625	(1,315)	(22.1)%
Oregon	8,785	40,650	31,865	362.7%
Pennsylvania	471,930	293,240	(178,690)	(37.9)%
Rhode Island	22,280	18,750	(3,530)	(15.8)%
South Carolina	7,815	13,570	5,755	73.6%
South Dakota	760	250	(510)	(67.1)%
Tennessee	17,415	19,600	2,185	12.5%
Texas	67,505	158,505	91,000	134.8%
Utah	1,900	5,650	3,750	197.4%
Vermont	1,855	5,985	4,130	222.6%
Virginia	41,215	95,595	54,380	131.9%
Washington	15,230	45,885	30,655	201.3%
West Virginia	4,880	2,310	(2,570)	(52.7)%
Wisconsin	32,150	28,255	(3,895)	(12.1)%
Wyoming	345	1,150	805	233.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,059,730</b>	<b>6,768,980</b>	<b>709,250</b>	<b>11.7%</b>

<sup>a</sup> Source: Chenkin 1972, pp. 384-392.

Note that the total number of American Jews in 2014 is probably about 6.6-6.7 million due to some double-counting between states (Sheskin and Dashefsky 2006).







**TABLE 6**  
**CHANGES IN JEWISH POPULATION IN THE UNITED STATES**  
**BY CENSUS REGION AND CENSUS DIVISION, 1971-2014**

Census Region/Division	1971		2014		Percent- age Change
	Number of Jews	Percentage Distribution	Number of Jews	Percentage Distribution	
<b>Northeast</b>	<b>3,828,135</b>	<b>63.2%</b>	<b>3,008,235</b>	<b>44.4%</b>	<b>(21.4)%</b>
Middle Atlantic	3,420,265	56.4%	2,566,960	37.9%	(24.9)%
New England	407,870	6.7%	441,275	6.5%	8.2%
<b>Midwest</b>	<b>732,610</b>	<b>12.1%</b>	<b>712,435</b>	<b>10.5%</b>	<b>(2.8)%</b>
East North Central	592,800	9.8%	577,230	8.5%	(2.6)%
West North Central	139,810	2.3%	135,205	2.0%	(3.3)%
<b>South</b>	<b>694,850</b>	<b>11.5%</b>	<b>1,408,110</b>	<b>20.8%</b>	<b>102.6%</b>
East South Central	41,425	0.7%	41,275	0.6%	(0.4)%
South Atlantic	560,835	9.3%	1,191,305	17.6%	112.4%
West South Central	92,590	1.5%	175,530	2.6%	89.6%
<b>West</b>	<b>804,135</b>	<b>13.3%</b>	<b>1,640,200</b>	<b>24.2%</b>	<b>104.0%</b>
Mountain	57,275	0.9%	308,020	4.6%	437.8%
Pacific	746,860	12.3%	1,332,180	19.7%	78.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,059,730</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>6,768,980</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>11.7%</b>

Note that the total number of American Jews in 2014 is more likely about 6.6-6.7 million due to some double-counting between states (Sheskin and Dashefsky 2006).

## Part V: Local Jewish Community Studies

Local Jewish community studies produce information about the size and geographic distribution of the Jewish population, migration patterns, basic demographics (e.g., age, marital status, income), religiosity, intermarriage, membership in the organized Jewish community, Jewish education, familiarity with and perception of Jewish agencies, social service needs, visits and emotional attachment to Israel, experience with and perception of anti-Semitism, usage of Jewish and general media, philanthropy, and other factors.

Several local Jewish community studies are currently underway: Columbus (OH), Miami (FL), St. Louis (MO); and Seattle (WA). While the population estimates for Columbus are included in the Appendix, a vignette will be included in next year's volume when the data become available to researchers.

## Part VI: Comparisons among Jewish Communities

Since 1993, 56 American Jewish communities have completed one or more *scientific* Jewish community studies. Each year, this chapter presents several tables comparing the results of these studies. This year, two tables are presented: (1) synagogue attendance once per month or more by age and gender; and (2) emotional attachment to Israel by age and gender (**Tables 7 to 8**). These two tables were selected because they relate to the topic of Chapter 2 in this volume. Synagogue attendance was selected as a measure of religious identification and emotional attachment to Israel as a measure of ethnic identification.

The comparisons among Jewish communities should be treated with caution, because the studies span a 19-year period, use different sampling methods, use different questionnaires, and differ in other ways (Sheskin and Dashefsky 2007, pp. 136-138; Sheskin 2005). Note that many more comparison tables may be found in Sheskin (2013b) and Sheskin (2001).

### ***The Decade 2000 Data Set***

This section makes use of the Decade 2000 Data Set, which combines the data from 22 Jewish community studies conducted by Ira M. Sheskin as the principal investigator since the completion of NJPS 2000-01. Restricting the data set to include only those studies completed by the same researcher had a number of significant advantages. First, the questionnaire used in each of these local Jewish community studies was basically the same, with minimal variation from community to community. The survey research literature indicates that even small changes in question wording or in the sequence in which questions are asked in a survey can have a significant impact upon survey results (Bradburn, Sudman, and Wansink 2004); so this was an important consideration. Second, and of major import, Sheskin had already compiled all 22 studies into a single meta-data file, having performed the preliminary comparisons of the questionnaires and eliminating (for the most part) variation by standardizing response categories. It should be noted that this preparation is extremely time-consuming and is mentioned as a major drawback for doing this kind of integrative data analysis (Curran et al. 2008; Cooper and Patall 2009).

Third, Sheskin used the same basic methodology for determining the survey sample (usually a combination of RDD and DJN techniques) for all studies. Note, however, that significant variation exists in the percentage of the sample obtained by RDD and DJN methods, and that in Jacksonville, in addition to RDD and DJN samples, a sample was selected from the Jewish Federation mailing list. Fourth, the same procedure was used to select a respondent from the household to interview (any cooperative adult, Jewish or not, who answered the telephone in a Jewish household). In each study, a respondent was pursued intensively until a high cooperation rate was achieved. Fifth, all 22 community studies used the same definition of a Jewish person: a Jewish person was defined as any person who considered himself/herself Jewish (or who was identified as such by the respondent) or who was born Jewish or raised Jewish and had not formally converted to another religion and did not regularly attend synagogue services of another religion (irrespective of formal conversion). A Jewish household was defined as any household containing a Jewish person.

Note that the 22 studies varied in their cooperation rates, ranging from 49%-97% for the screener (which determined eligibility for the survey) and from 64%-99% for the survey itself. The studies were conducted over ten years, which may affect the results.<sup>5</sup>

The Decade 2000 Data Set includes 19,800 20-minute interviews and represents a random sample of 547,000 Jewish households in the 22 communities.

### **Synagogue Attendance Once per Month or More by Age and Gender**

**Table 7** shows the percentage of Jewish respondents by age (under age 50, age 50 and over) and gender who attend services once per month or more (*attend regularly*). In cases where the male percentage and the female percentage are statistically significantly different ( $\alpha = .05$ ), the percentage which is significantly higher is in boldface type. Synagogue attendance may be viewed as a measure of religious behavior. The table is divided into 5 different groups (labeled Groups 1 to 5) based on whether statistically significant differences exist between the attendance behavior of males and females.

For respondents under age 50, 20 communities show no difference between males and females (Group 1), while 18 communities (Group 2) show significantly higher percentages for females than for males.

For respondents age 50 and over, only three listed in Group 2 (Jacksonville, Tidewater, and Tucson) and one listed in Group 5 (Cleveland) of the 41 local Jewish community studies show a higher percentage of females attending regularly than males.

Male attendance at synagogue services is higher than female attendance in only two communities (Groups 3 and 4). For New York, 40% of males under age 50 attend regularly, compared to only 28% of females under age 50. For respondents age 50 and over, the difference, while statistically significant, is only three percentage points. These differences are no doubt due to the large percentage of Orthodox Jews, particularly young Orthodox Jews, in New York (Cohen et al. 2011). For Pittsburgh, a difference in favor of male attendance is seen for respondents age 50 and over (36% for males, compared to 29% for females), but not for respondents under age 50.

Note that for the Decade 2000 Data Set, in which we combine the 22 local Jewish community studies marked with an \* in the table, females under age 50 are more likely to

attend regularly (by 26% to 20%) than males under age 50, but such is not the case for respondents age 50 and over (21% for both males and females).

**Table 8** explores the relationship between Jewish identification (Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, and Just Jewish) and synagogue attendance by age and gender using the Decade 2000 Data Set. For respondents under age 50, no important difference is seen for Orthodox Jews between males and females. It is thus Conservative and Reform females who are impacting the attendance rates of females under age 50. For respondents age 50 and over, Orthodox males are more likely to attend regularly than females (74% compared to 65%) .

### ***Emotional Attachment to Israel by Age and Gender***

**Table 9** shows the percentage of Jewish respondents by age (under age 50, age 50 and over) and gender who are extremely or very emotionally attached to Israel. In cases where the male percentage and the female percentage are statistically significantly different ( $\alpha = .05$ ), the percentage which is significantly higher is in boldface type. Emotional attachment to Israel may be viewed as a measure of ethnic identification.

For 24 of the 34 Jewish communities in the table (Group 1), no statistically significant differences are seen between males and females at either age level. For the five communities in Group 2, females under age 50 are more emotionally attached than males, while for the five communities in Group 3, females age 50 and over are more emotionally attached than males.

Note that for the Decade 2000 Data Set, in which we combine the 22 local Jewish community studies marked with an \* in the table, females under age 50 are more likely to be emotionally attached (by 48% to 42%) than males under age 50. Such is also the case for respondents age 50 and over (57% for females, compared to 55% for males). Note that the large sample size for Decade 2000 ( $N = 19,800$ ) is the reason that a two percentage point difference is significant for respondents age 50 and over. The extent to which females are more likely than males to be emotionally attached to Israel is greater for respondents under age 50 than age 50 and over.

**Table 10** shows that few gender differences exist in emotional attachment when examined by Jewish identification.

Thus, for both synagogue attendance (religious identification) and emotional attachment to Israel (ethnic identification), where there are gender differences, we generally see females showing higher levels of Jewish identification than males (Trzebiatowska and Bruce 2012). Of course, one would need to examine many additional variables to form an overall conclusion about the relationship between Jewish identity and gender (Chapter 2 in this volume). Another important finding is that relationships between Jewish identity and gender vary by community.

**TABLE 7**  
**SYNAGOGUE ATTENDANCE ONCE PER MONTH OR MORE**  
**BY AGE AND GENDER OF RESPONDENT**  
**COMMUNITY COMPARISONS**

BASE: JEWISH RESPONDENTS					
		Under 50		50 and Over	
Community	Year	Male	Female	Male	Female
<b>Group 1</b> <b>No Statistically Significant Differences by Age and Sex</b>					
Bergen*	2001	28.3%	36.0%	26.7%	25.5%
Broward	1997	18.7%	26.9%	17.1%	16.8%
Columbus	2001	20.4%	17.0%	32.8%	29.3%
Detroit*	2005	35.8%	36.1%	26.9%	23.9%
East Bay	2011	23.3%	21.3%	15.2%	17.3%
Las Vegas*	2005	13.7%	10.0%	11.1%	14.8%
Minneapolis*	2004	16.4%	22.6%	19.1%	25.7%
New Haven*	2010	24.1%	33.5%	20.4%	25.3%
Orlando	1993	19.6%	21.1%	23.0%	22.7%
Portland (ME)*	2007	16.4%	17.7%	13.8%	14.7%
Rhode Island*	2002	20.9%	25.2%	19.9%	19.9%
Richmond	1994	18.9%	21.6%	26.2%	25.2%
S Palm Beach*	2005	22.7%	22.9%	19.3%	18.9%
San Antonio*	2007	24.8%	34.6%	21.5%	25.7%
San Diego <sup>1</sup>	2003	26.5%	24.8%	26.2%	20.4%
Sarasota*	2001	21.8%	18.3%	27.6%	25.4%
St. Louis	1995	26.6%	29.3%	29.5%	35.7%
St. Petersburg	1994	27.0%	28.1%	26.9%	27.6%
W Palm Beach*	2005	9.5%	14.2%	19.1%	15.4%
Washington*	2003	19.9%	21.4%	23.0%	22.6%

**TABLE 7**  
**SYNAGOGUE ATTENDANCE ONCE PER MONTH OR MORE**  
**BY AGE AND GENDER OF RESPONDENT**  
**COMMUNITY COMPARISONS**

BASE: JEWISH RESPONDENTS

		Under 50		50 and Over	
Community	Year	Male	Female	Male	Female
<b>Group 2</b>					
<b>Communities in Which Under 50 Females Attend More Often Than Under 50 Males</b>					
Atlantic County*	2004	12.0%	<b>31.2%</b>	13.7%	19.0%
Charlotte	1997	17.7%	<b>30.1%</b>	24.3%	30.4%
Harrisburg	1994	15.3%	<b>28.7%</b>	30.4%	42.6%
Hartford*	2000	20.4%	<b>39.7%</b>	22.0%	26.8%
Jacksonville*	2002	15.2%	<b>41.6%</b>	20.3%	<b>31.3%</b>
Lehigh Valley*	2007	13.0%	<b>36.2%</b>	21.0%	23.1%
Miami*	2004	26.3%	<b>37.3%</b>	23.6%	22.2%
Middlesex*	2008	18.4%	<b>35.2%</b>	20.7%	20.0%
Milwaukee	1996	13.5%	<b>27.6%</b>	26.3%	30.5%
Monmouth	1997	17.4%	<b>29.4%</b>	27.0%	21.8%
Phoenix	2002	9.3%	<b>25.4%</b>	17.1%	21.4%
Rochester	1999	16.5%	<b>33.3%</b>	23.5%	28.2%
St. Paul*	2004	16.6%	<b>30.5%</b>	25.2%	35.5%
Tidewater*	2001	14.1%	<b>39.7%</b>	22.6%	<b>32.6%</b>
Tucson*	2002	15.9%	<b>26.8%</b>	15.3%	<b>25.8%</b>
Westport*	2000	17.3%	<b>31.8%</b>	16.8%	21.7%
Wilmington	1995	5.7%	<b>14.3%</b>	19.7%	12.7%
York	1999	18.4%	<b>38.6%</b>	22.4%	20.4%

**TABLE 7**  
**SYNAGOGUE ATTENDANCE ONCE PER MONTH OR MORE**  
**BY AGE AND GENDER OF RESPONDENT**  
**COMMUNITY COMPARISONS**

BASE: JEWISH RESPONDENTS					
		Under 50		50 and Over	
Community	Year	Male	Female	Male	Female
<b>Group 3</b> <b>Communities in Which Males Attend More Often Than Females</b>					
New York	2011	<b>39.6%</b>	28.2%	<b>27.0%</b>	23.8%
<b>Group 4</b> <b>Communities in Which 50+ Males Attend More Often Than 50+ Females</b>					
Pittsburgh	2002	23.0%	27.5%	<b>36.3%</b>	29.4%
<b>Group 5</b> <b>Communities in Which 50+ Females Attend More Often Than 50+ Males</b>					
Cleveland	2011	20.2%	29.0%	19.0%	<b>37.4%</b>
Decade 2000	2000-2010	20.1%	<b>26.3%</b>	20.5%	20.7%
<sup>1</sup> Question was asked about synagogue attendance <i>in the past year</i> . * Indicates community included in the Decade 2000 Data Set. Boldface type indicates a statistically significant difference at alpha = .05.					

**TABLE 8**  
**SYNAGOGUE ATTENDANCE ONCE PER MONTH OR MORE**  
**BY AGE AND GENDER OF RESPONDENT BY JEWISH IDENTIFICATION**  
**DECADE 2000 DATA SET**

BASE: JEWISH RESPONDENTS

	Under 50		50 and Over	
Community	Male	Female	Male	Female
Orthodox	90.2%	87.6%	<b>74.4%</b>	65.2%
Conservative	40.0%	<b>46.0%</b>	<b>38.7%</b>	34.5%
Reform	16.9%	<b>28.1%</b>	21.6%	20.5%
Just Jewish	7.5%	8.4%	5.4%	6.3%

Statistically significant differences by gender are shown in boldface type.

**TABLE 9**  
**EXTREMELY/VERY EMOTIONALLY ATTACHED TO ISRAEL**  
**BY AGE AND GENDER OF RESPONDENT**  
**COMMUNITY COMPARISONS**

BASE: JEWISH RESPONDENTS					
		Under 50		50 and Over	
Community	Year	Male	Female	Male	Female
<b>Group 1</b> <b>No Statistically Significant Differences by Age and Sex</b>					
Atlantic County*	2004	34.7%	37.5%	58.5%	53.2%
Bergen*	2001	45.3%	45.3%	42.5%	46.0%
Charlotte	1997	30.1%	31.6%	42.8%	31.6%
Detroit*	2005	47.7%	44.3%	44.4%	43.5%
Harrisburg	1994	30.9%	39.2%	43.2%	55.8%
Jacksonville*	2002	53.9%	50.6%	59.0%	57.1%
Las Vegas*	2005	35.0%	30.5%	35.1%	41.2%
Miami*	2004	56.2%	59.6%	65.7%	62.8%
Middlesex*	2008	57.6%	44.6%	56.8%	62.2%
Milwaukee	1996	36.1%	36.2%	50.0%	51.4%
Monmouth	1997	28.9%	37.1%	46.3%	48.3%
New Haven*	2010	30.2%	44.0%	49.0%	50.3%
New York**	2011	69.3%	67.3%	80.0%	81.2%
Portland (ME)*	2007	27.1%	18.8%	37.4%	43.4%
Richmond	1994	35.9%	31.5%	52.6%	52.5%
San Antonio*	2007	50.5%	52.8%	55.1%	57.3%
Sarasota*	2001	30.3%	23.3%	48.3%	56.0%
St. Petersburg	1994	35.7%	30.1%	40.7%	40.3%
Tidewater*	2001	29.9%	37.5%	46.2%	45.2%
Tucson*	2002	43.9%	44.0%	48.3%	48.4%
W Palm Beach*	2005	36.0%	27.7%	56.7%	59.3%

**TABLE 9**  
**EXTREMELY/VERY EMOTIONALLY ATTACHED TO ISRAEL**  
**BY AGE AND GENDER OF RESPONDENT**  
**COMMUNITY COMPARISONS**

BASE: JEWISH RESPONDENTS

		Under 50		50 and Over	
Community	Year	Male	Female	Male	Female
Westport*	2000	40.3%	36.8%	44.5%	44.9%
Wilmington	1995	33.3%	35.8%	46.7%	41.1%
York	1999	21.2%	24.3%	34.7%	43.9%
<b>Group 2</b> <b>Communities in Which Under 50 Females Are More Emotionally Attached Than Under 50 Males</b>					
Broward	1997	32.4%	<b>45.0%</b>	42.8%	43.3%
Hartford*	2000	23.4%	<b>36.2%</b>	44.4%	45.0%
Rochester	1999	23.3%	<b>37.2%</b>	38.9%	44.8%
S Palm Beach*	2005	34.5%	<b>49.4%</b>	63.8%	62.3%
Washington*	2003	39.9%	<b>53.2%</b>	52.5%	49.9%
<b>Group 3</b> <b>Communities in Which 50+ Females Are More Emotionally Attached Than 50+ Males</b>					
Cleveland**	2011	77.9%	85.3%	85.5%	<b>91.2%</b>
Lehigh Valley*	2007	34.1%	46.0%	52.2%	<b>63.6%</b>
Minneapolis*	2004	44.0%	51.5%	47.6%	<b>60.0%</b>
Rhode Island*	2002	41.4%	42.2%	52.2%	<b>64.4%</b>
St. Paul*	2004	38.8%	43.1%	42.3%	<b>65.9%</b>
Decade 2000	2000-2010	41.8%	<b>47.7%</b>	54.5%	<b>56.8%</b>

\* Indicates community included in the Decade 2000 Data Set.

\*\* Categories were very, somewhat, not very, and not at all attached. For other communities, categories were extremely, very, somewhat, and not at all attached.

Boldface type indicates a statistically significant difference at alpha = .05.

**TABLE 10**  
**EXTREMELY/VERY EMOTIONALLY ATTACHED TO ISRAEL**  
**BY AGE AND GENDER OF RESPONDENT BY JEWISH IDENTIFICATION**  
**DECADE 2000 DATA SET**

BASE: JEWISH RESPONDENTS				
	Under 50		50 and Over	
Community	Male	Female	Male	Female
Orthodox	88.8%	92.4%	88.7%	87.8%
Conservative	63.0%	64.5%	71.8%	68.1%
Reform	37.8%	38.4%	52.2%	50.7%
Just Jewish	29.5%	29.9%	38.6%	<b>44.1%</b>
Statistically significant differences by gender are shown in boldface type.				

## Part VII: Atlas of American Jewish Communities

This Part presents regional and state maps showing the approximate sizes of each Jewish community. State maps are presented for the states with the largest Jewish populations. In a few cases, states with smaller Jewish populations are presented on the state maps because of proximity. For example, Delaware is presented on the Maryland map. The Appendix should be used in conjunction with the maps, as it provides more exact population estimates and more detailed descriptions of the geographic areas included within each community. Note that in some places, county names are utilized, and in other cases, town or city names appear. In general, we have tried to use the names that reflect the manner in which the local Jewish community identifies itself. In some cases, because of spacing issues on the maps, we have deviated from this rule.

The rankings of the population sizes of the communities within the US are from **Table 4**, which is based on the Jewish populations of Jewish Federation service areas.

**Map 5** shows the percentage of Jews by county. As expected, the percentages are highest in the Northeast, California, and Florida. Note that in some cases, particularly in the West, where counties are generally larger, it may seem that the Jewish population is spread over larger areas of a state than is actually the case. For example, San Bernardino County (CA), the largest county in area in the US covers 20,105 square miles and is larger than nine US states. Almost all Jews in this county live in the southeastern section of the county, but on the map a very large area is shaded.

Large areas of the country have virtually no Jewish population. Rural, agrarian areas, in particular, are often devoid of any Jewish population. In Europe, from which most American Jews can trace their ancestry, Jews often did not become farmers, because 1) during many eras and in many geographic locations, Jews were not allowed to own land; and 2) as a people who often felt that they could be expelled at any time, Jews did not tend to invest in real estate, which

clearly could not be taken with them if they were expelled. Thus, when Jews came to the US, they tended to settle in urban areas. This is still evident.

### ***New England* (Maps 6 to 7)**

**Connecticut (Map 6).** The estimates for Hartford (32,800 Jews), New Haven (23,000), and Westport, Weston, Wilton, Norwalk (11,450) are based on 2000, 2010, and 2000 RDD studies, respectively. Hartford is the largest Jewish community in Connecticut, accounts for 28% of the Jews in Connecticut, and is the 37<sup>th</sup> largest American Jewish community.. New Haven is the 45<sup>th</sup> largest American Jewish community.

The estimate for Western Connecticut (8,000) is based on a 2010 DJN study. All other estimates are Informant/Internet Estimates.

**Maine (Map 7).** Based on a 2007 RDD study, 8,350 Jews live in Southern Maine (Portland). The estimates for Oxford County (South Paris) (750 Jews), Androscoggin County (Lewiston-Auburn) (600), and Sagadahoc (Bath) (400) are DJN estimates. All other estimates are Informant/Internet Estimates.

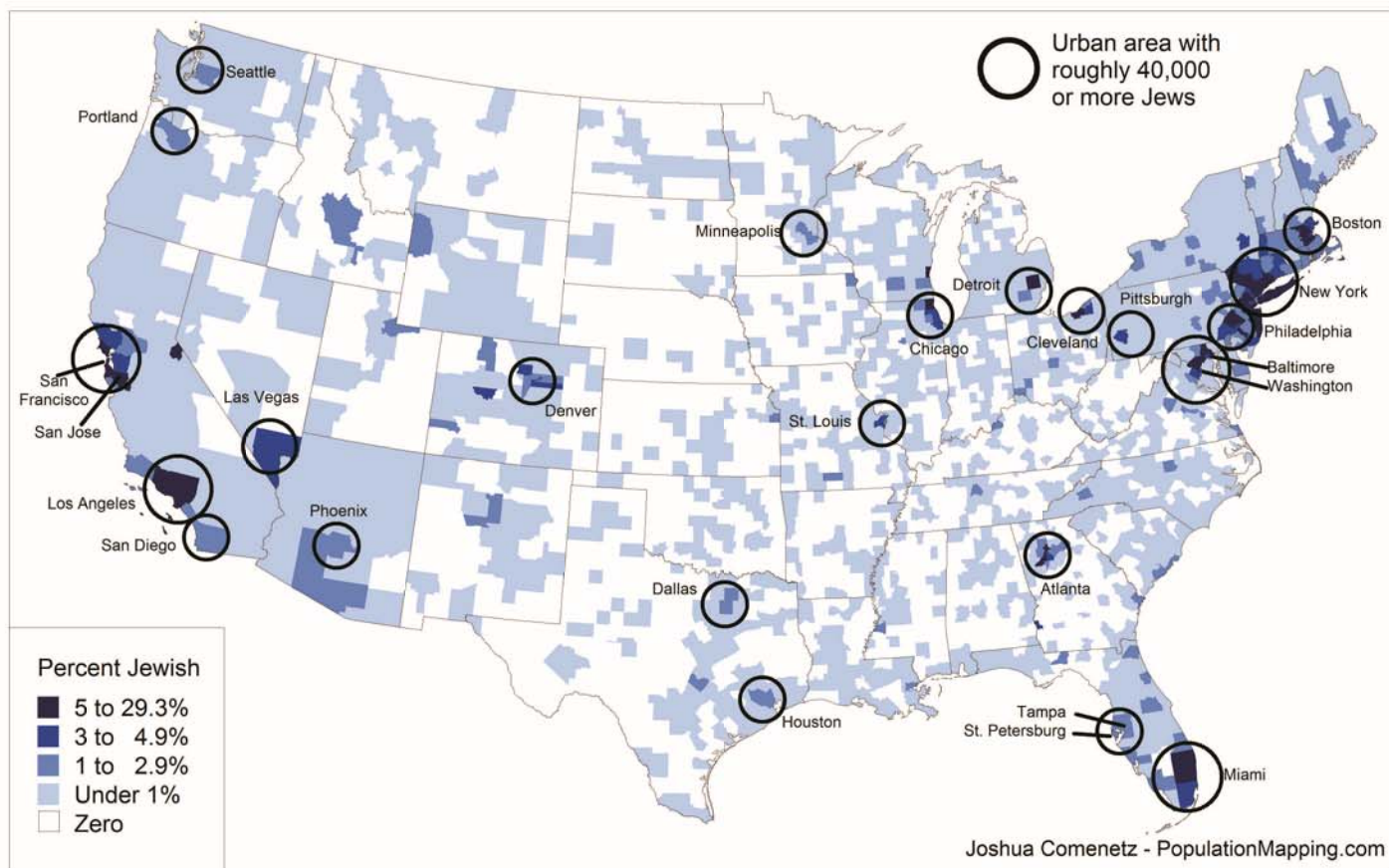
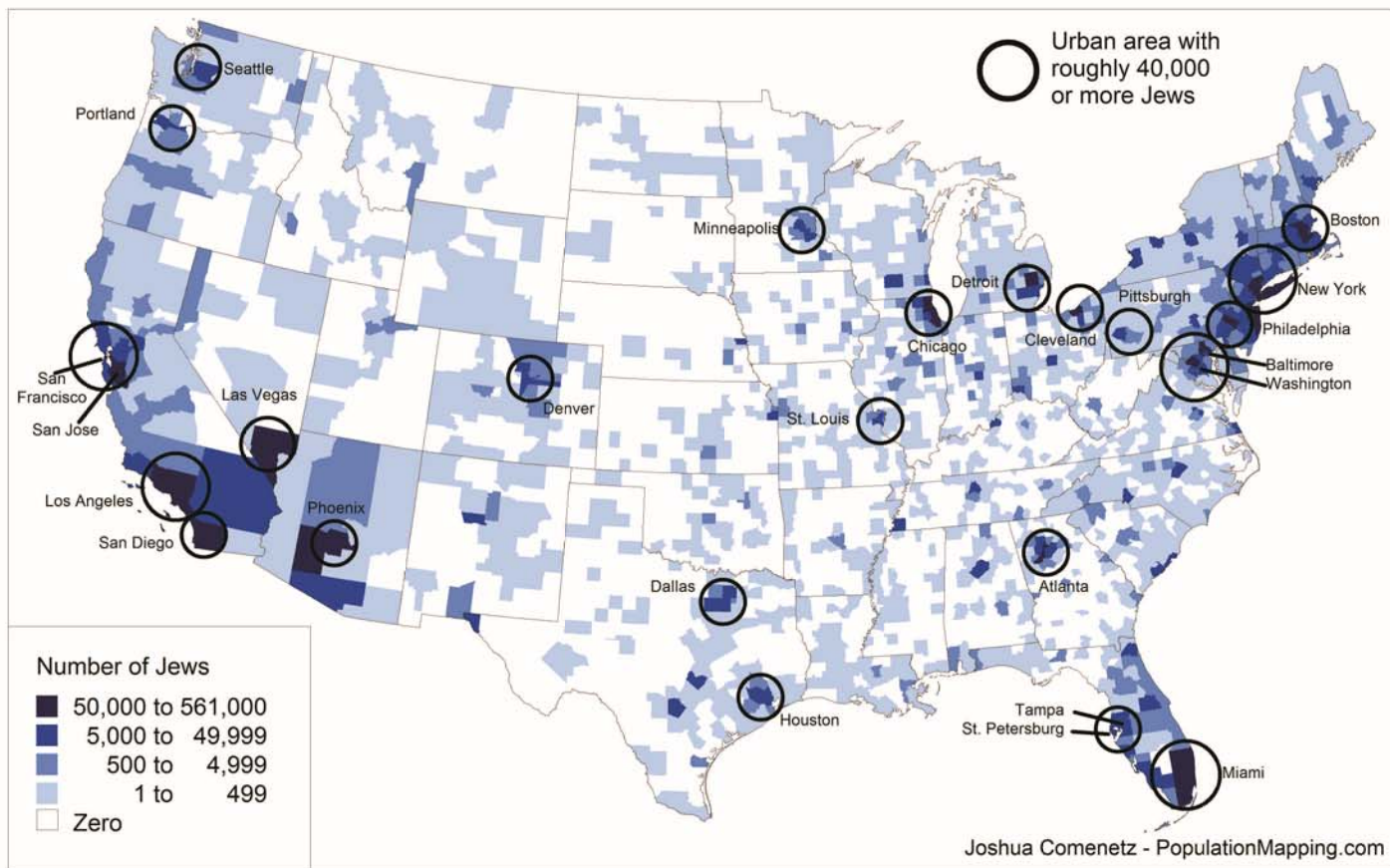
**Massachusetts (Map 6).** Based on a 2005 RDD study, 229,100 Jews live in Boston. Boston is the largest Jewish community in Massachusetts, accounts for 83% of the Jews in Massachusetts, and is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest American Jewish community.

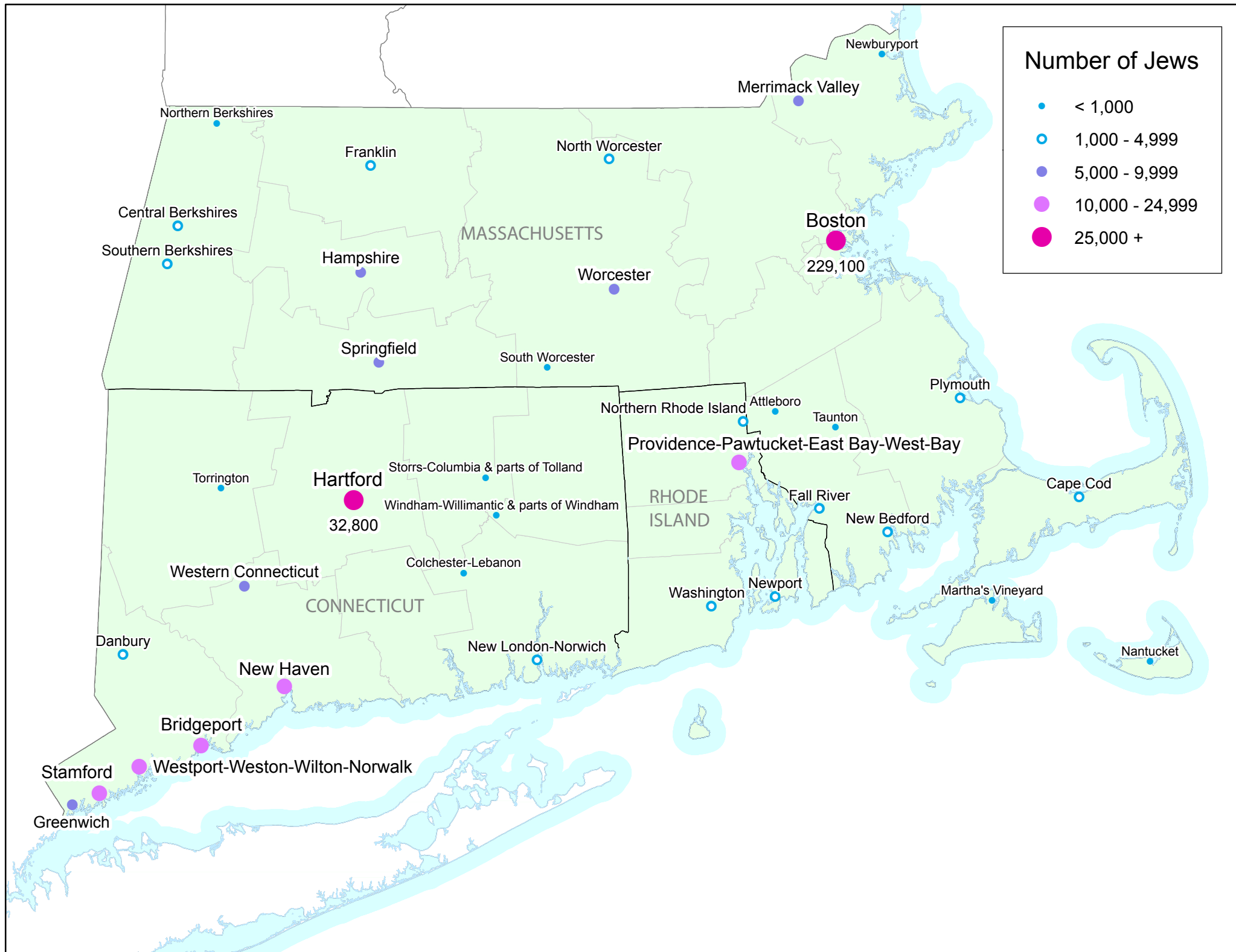
The estimate for Worcester (9,000 Jews) is based on a 2014 Informant update of a 1986 RDD study. An estimate of 7,050 Jews (including part-year residents) for the Berkshires (2008) is based on a scientific study using a different methodology (neither RDD nor DJN). Attleboro, based on a 2002 DJN estimate, has 800 Jews. All other estimates are Informant/Internet Estimates.

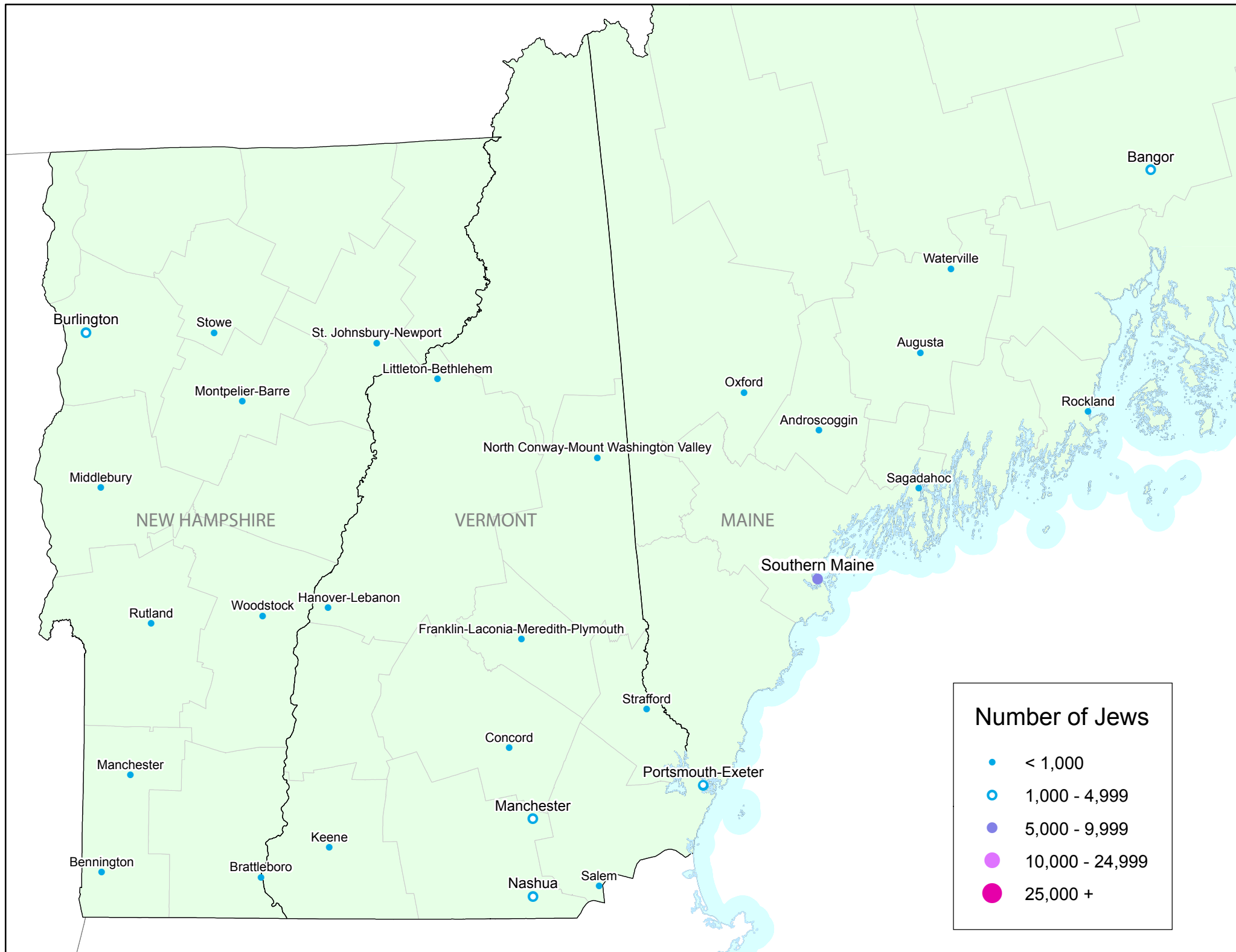
**New Hampshire (Map 7).** Manchester (4,000 Jews) is the largest Jewish community in New Hampshire. Most of the estimates are Informant/Internet Estimates.

**Rhode Island (Map 6).** The 18,750 Jews in the state is based on a 2002 RDD study of the entire state.

**Vermont (Map 7).** Burlington (3,200 Jews) is the largest Jewish community in Vermont. All estimates are Informant/Internet Estimates.







### **Middle Atlantic (Maps 8 to 10)**

**New Jersey (Map 8).** The most significant Jewish populations are in Bergen County, Monmouth County, Ocean County, Southern New Jersey, Middlesex County, and Essex County. Part-year residents live in a community for 3-7 months of the year.

Based, in part, on a 1998 RDD study, updated with a 2012 DJN study, 115,000 Jews live in the service area of the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ, including 48,200 in Essex County, 30,300 in Morris County, 24,400 in Union County, 7,400 in northern Somerset County, and 4,700 in Sussex County. Greater MetroWest is the largest Jewish community in New Jersey, accounts for 22% of the Jews in New Jersey, and is the 10<sup>th</sup> largest American Jewish community.

Based, in part, on a 2001 RDD study, 102,500 Jews live in the service area of the Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey, including 92,500 in Bergen County, 8,000 in northern Passaic County, and 2,000 in north Hudson County. Northern New Jersey is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest Jewish community in New Jersey, accounts for 20% of the Jews in New Jersey, and is the 13<sup>th</sup> largest American Jewish community.

Other communities with RDD studies in New Jersey include Monmouth County (1997) (70,000 Jews, including 6,000 part-year residents), Middlesex County (2008) (52,000), Southern New Jersey (2013) (56,700), and Atlantic and Cape May Counties (2004) (20,400, including 8,200 part-year residents). Monmouth County is the 26<sup>th</sup> and Middlesex County is the 31<sup>st</sup> largest American Jewish community. The 1991 Southern New Jersey (Cherry Hill) study was updated with a 2013 scientific study using a different methodology (neither RDD nor DJN). Southern New Jersey is the 29<sup>th</sup> largest American Jewish community.

A 2012 DJN study estimates 20,000 Jews for the service area of the Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon & Warren Counties, including 11,600 Jews in southern Somerset County, 6,000 in Hunterdon County, and 2,400 in Warren County. Somerset, Hunterdon & Warren Counties is the 50<sup>th</sup> largest American Jewish community.

The estimate for Ocean County (61,500 Jews) is based on an Informant/Internet Estimate that is derived, in part, from a count of a mailing list said to be a complete listing of the ultra-Orthodox community in the Lakewood area. Ocean County is the 28<sup>th</sup> largest American Jewish community.

All other estimates are Informant/Internet Estimates, including southern Passaic County (12,000), south Hudson County (9,400), and Trenton (6,000)..

**New York (Map 9).** Based on a 2011 RDD study, 1,538,000 Jews live in the UJA-Federation of New York service area, including 561,100 in Brooklyn, 239,700 in Manhattan, 229,900 in Nassau County, 197,800 in Queens, 136,200 in Westchester County, 85,700 in Suffolk County, 53,900 in The Bronx, and 33,900 in Staten Island. New York is the largest Jewish community in New York State, accounts for 88% of the Jews in New York State, and is the largest American Jewish community. .

The 91,100 estimate for Rockland County is based primarily on an Informant/Internet Estimate. Rockland County is the 19<sup>th</sup> largest American Jewish community. The 31,500 estimate for Orange County includes an estimate of 19,500 for Kiryas Joel based on the US Census. Orange County is the 38<sup>th</sup> largest American Jewish community.

The five most significant Jewish communities in upstate New York are Rochester (19,900 Jews), Buffalo (12,050), Albany (12,000), Dutchess County (10,000), and Syracuse (9,000). The

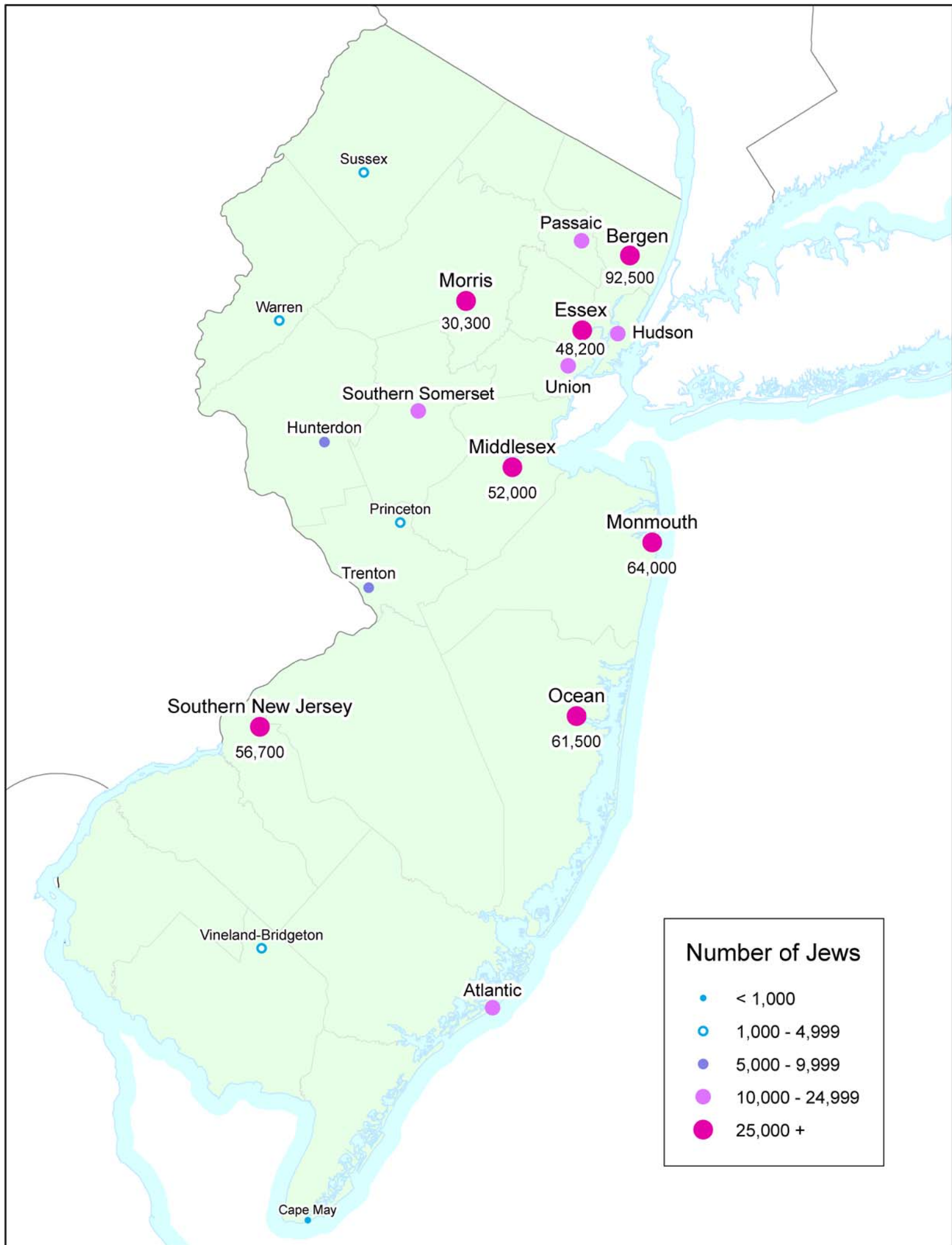
estimate for Rochester is based on a 1999 RDD study, updated using a different methodology (neither RDD nor DJN). The estimate for Buffalo is based mostly on a 2013 RDD study.

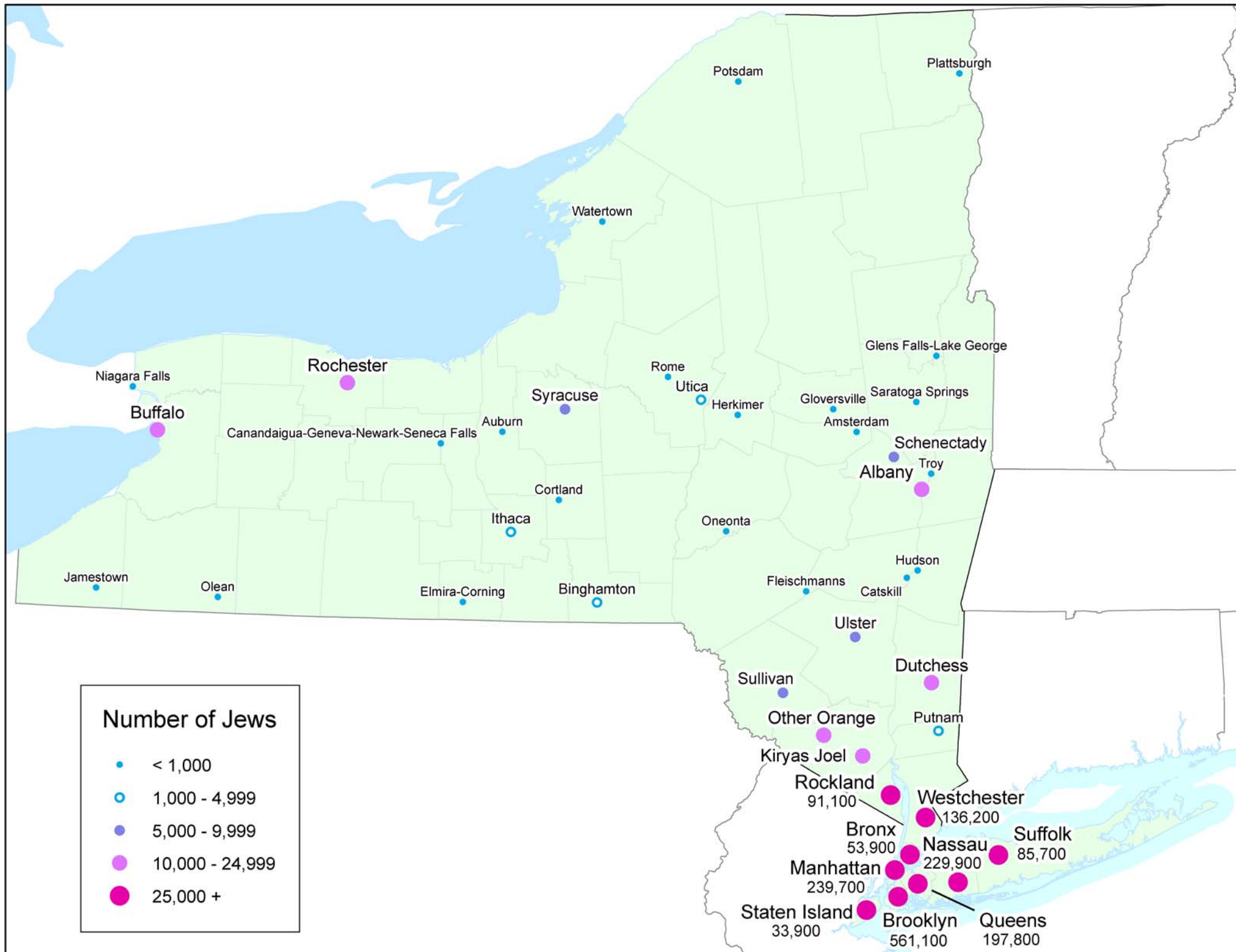
Putnam County (3,900) is based on a study using a different methodology (neither RDD nor DJN). All other estimates are Informant/Internet Estimates.

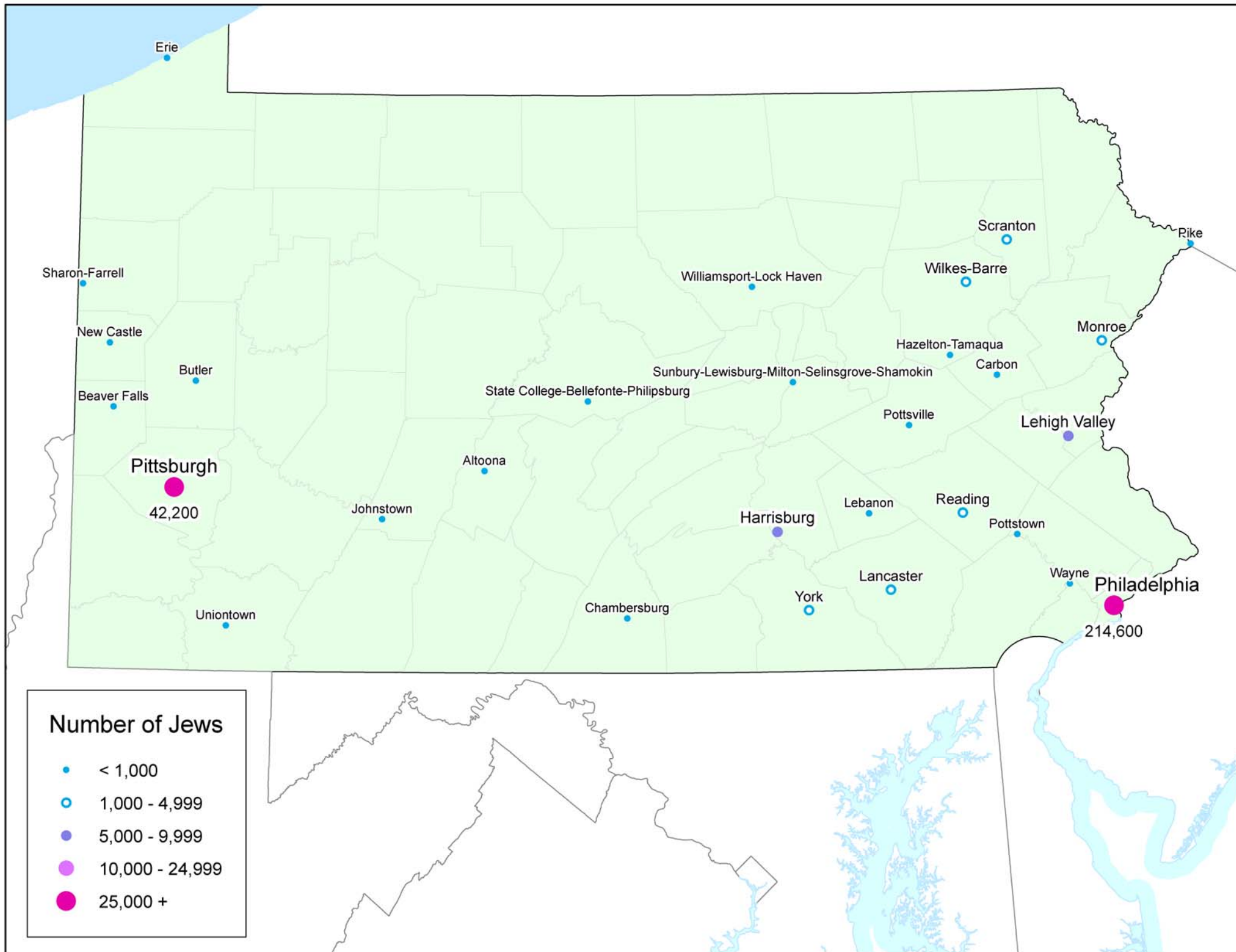
**Pennsylvania (Map 10).** Based on a 2009 RDD study, 214,600 Jews live in the service area of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, including 66,800 in the City of Philadelphia, 64,500 in Montgomery County, 41,400 in Bucks County, 21,000 in Delaware County, and 20,900 in Chester County. Philadelphia is the largest Jewish community in Pennsylvania, accounts for 73% of the Jews in Pennsylvania, and is the 7<sup>th</sup> largest American Jewish community.

The estimate of 42,200 Jews for Pittsburgh is based on a 2002 RDD study. Pittsburgh is the 33<sup>rd</sup> largest American Jewish community.

Other Jewish communities with RDD studies in Pennsylvania include Lehigh Valley (Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton) (2007) (8,050 Jews), Harrisburg (1994) (7,100), and York (1999) (1,800). The 2007 estimates of Jews for Monroe County (2,300) and Carbon County (600) are based on DJN studies. The estimate of 1,800 Jews for Wilkes-Barre is based on a 2014 Informant Update of a 2005 scientific study using a different methodology (neither RDD nor DJN). All other estimates are Informant/Internet Estimates.







### **Midwest (Maps 11 to 13)**

**Illinois (Map 11).** Based on a 2011 RDD study, Chicago (291,800 Jews) is the largest Jewish community in Illinois, accounts for 98% of the Jews in Illinois, and is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest American Jewish community.

The only other scientific estimate is for Quad Cities (750, of which 300 live in Illinois), which is based on a 1990 scientific study using a different methodology (neither RDD nor DJN). All other estimates are Informant/Internet Estimates.

**Indiana (Map 11).** Indianapolis (10,000 Jews) is the largest Jewish community in Indiana and accounts for 58% of the Jews in Indiana. All estimates are Informant/Internet Estimates.

**Iowa (Map 12).** Des Moines-Ames (2,800 Jews) is the largest Jewish community in Iowa, based on a 1956 scientific study using a different methodology (neither RDD nor DJN), updated by an Informant Estimate between 1997-2001. Des Moines-Ames accounts for 45% of the Jews in Iowa. The only other scientific estimate is for Quad Cities (750, of which 450 live in Iowa), which is based on a 1990 scientific study using a different methodology (neither RDD nor DJN). All other estimates are Informant/Internet Estimates.

**Kansas (Map 12).** The Kansas portion of the Kansas City Jewish community contains 16,000 Jews, based on a 1985 scientific study using a different methodology (neither RDD nor DJN) updated in 2014. Kansas City is the largest Jewish community in Kansas, accounting for 92% of the Jews in Kansas. Combined with the 4,000 Kansas City Jews living in Missouri, Kansas City is the 50<sup>th</sup> largest American Jewish community. All other estimates are Informant/Internet Estimates.

**Michigan (Map 11).** Detroit (67,000 Jews) is the largest Jewish community in Michigan, accounts for 80% of the Jews in Michigan, and is the 25<sup>th</sup> largest American Jewish community. The estimate is based on a 2005 RDD study, updated by a 2010 scientific study using a different methodology (neither RDD nor DJN).

The estimate for Ann Arbor (8,000) is based on a 2010 DJN study, updated by a 2014 Informant Estimate. Flint (1,300) is based on a 1956 scientific study using a different methodology (neither RDD nor DJN), updated by a 2009 Informant Estimate. All other estimates are Informant/Internet Estimates.

**Minnesota (Map 12).** The combined Twin Cities Jewish community of Minneapolis and St. Paul, with 39,200 Jews based on a 2004 RDD study (partially updated with a 2010 DJN study), is the largest Jewish community in Minnesota and accounts for 86% of the Jews in Minnesota. Minneapolis, with 29,300 Jews, is the 41<sup>st</sup> largest American Jewish community. The estimate of 5,300 Jews for the counties surrounding the Twin Cities is based on a 2004 DJN study. All other estimates are Informant/Internet Estimates.

**Missouri (Map 12).** St. Louis (54,000 Jews), based on a 1995 RDD study, updated by a 2009 Informant Estimate, is the largest Jewish community in Missouri, accounts for 91% of the Jews in Missouri, and is the 30<sup>th</sup> largest American Jewish community.

The Missouri portion of the Kansas City Jewish community contains 4,000 Jews, based on a 1985 scientific study using a different methodology (neither RDD nor DJN) updated in 2014. All other estimates are Informant/Internet Estimates.

**Nebraska (Map 12).** Omaha (5,400 Jews), based on a 2010 DJN estimate, is the largest Jewish community in Nebraska and accounts for 88% of the Jews in Nebraska. The estimate for Lincoln-Grand Island-Hastings is an Informant/Internet Estimate.

**North Dakota (Map 12).** The estimates for both Fargo (150 Jews) and Grand Forks (150) are based on Informant/Internet Estimates.

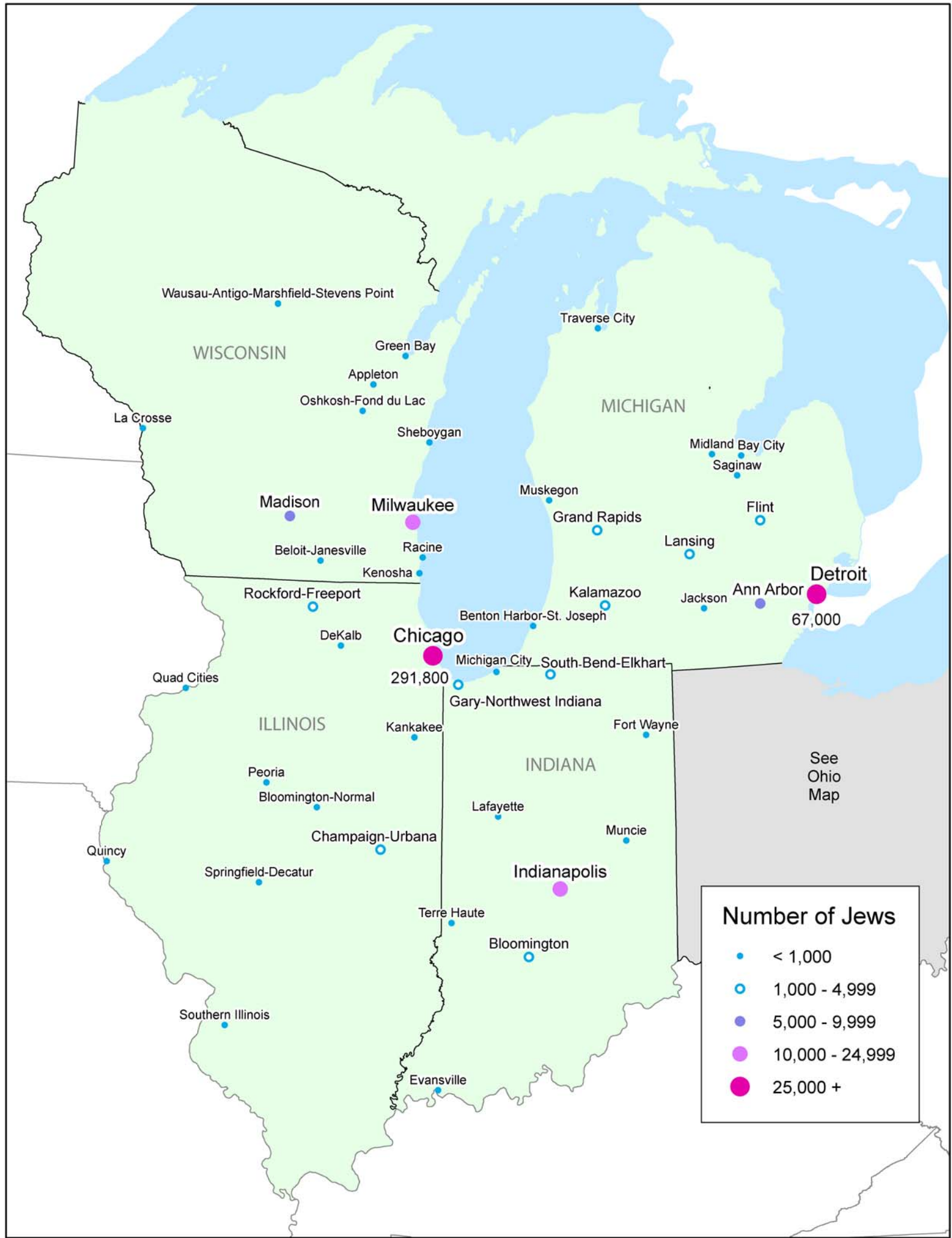
**Ohio (Map 13).** Cleveland, with 80,800 Jews, based on a 2011 RDD study, is the largest Jewish community in Ohio, accounts for 54% of the Jews in Ohio, and is the 21<sup>st</sup> largest American Jewish community.

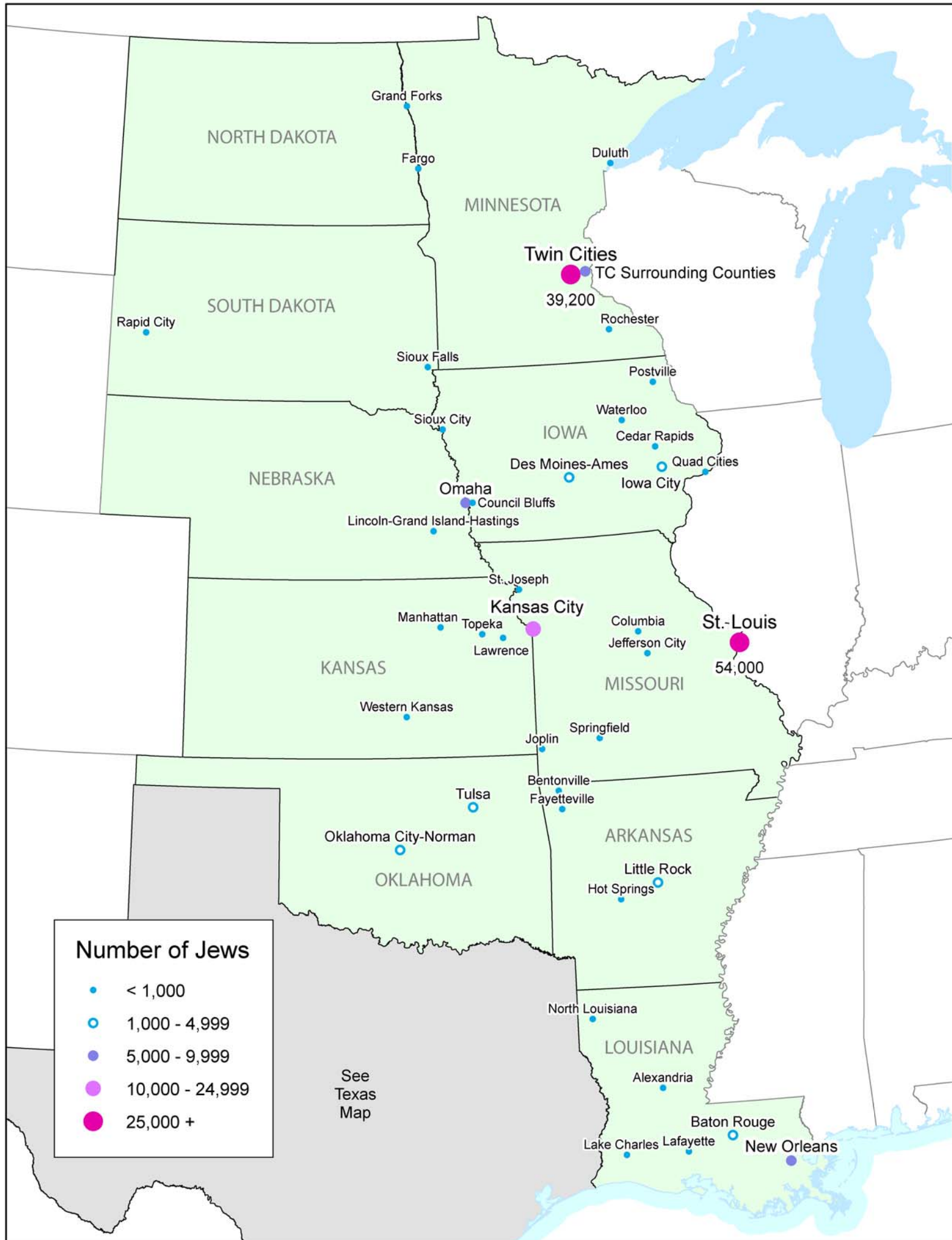
The next two largest Jewish communities in Ohio are Cincinnati, with 27,000 Jews, and Columbus, with 25,500. These estimates are based on RDD studies in 2008 and 2013, respectively. Cincinnati is the 42<sup>nd</sup> largest American Jewish community and Columbus is the 43<sup>rd</sup> largest. Cleveland, Cincinnati, and Columbus combined account for 89% of the Jews in Ohio.

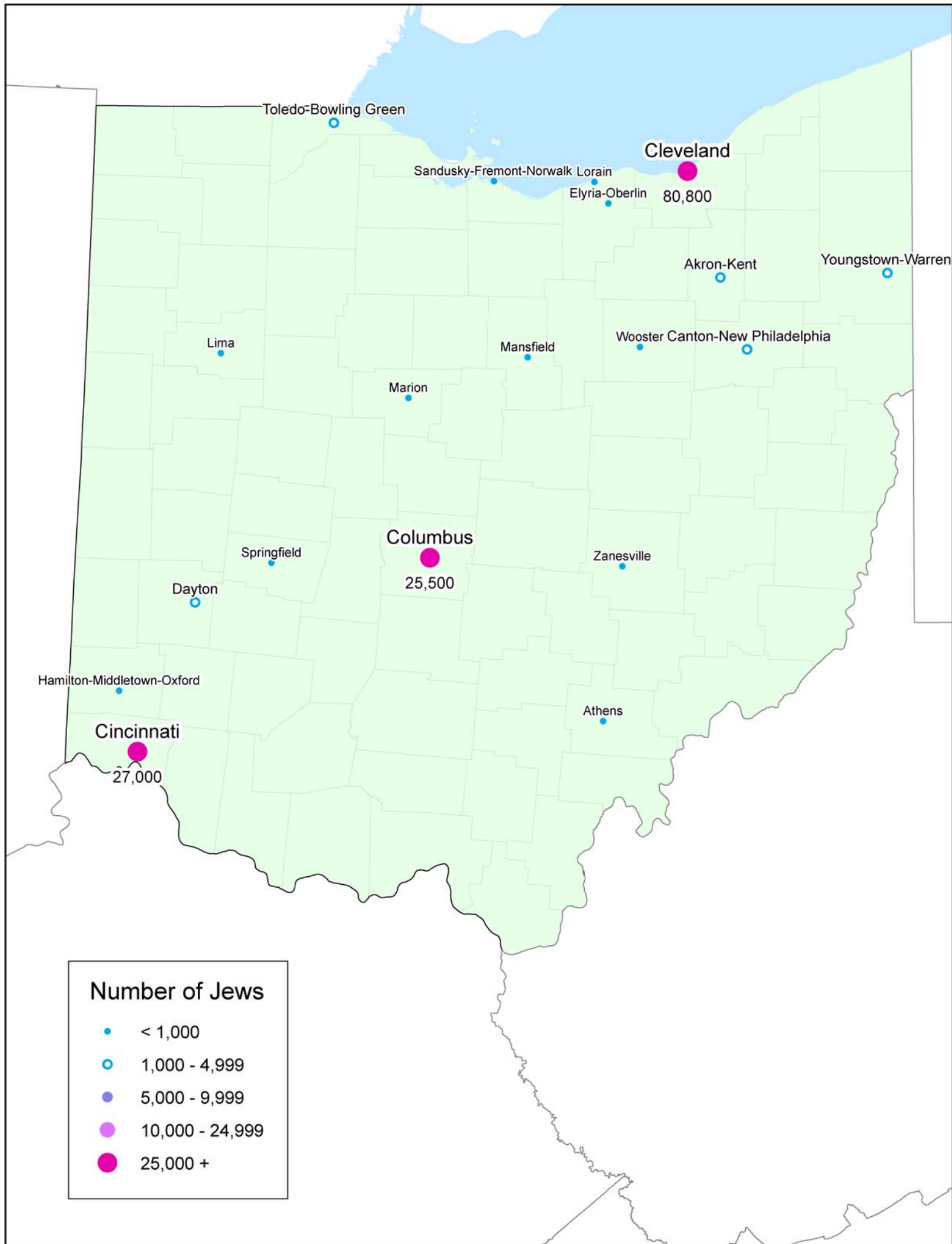
The estimates for Dayton (4,000 Jews), Toledo-Bowling Green (3,900), Akron-Kent (3,000), Youngstown-Warren (2,500), and Canton-New Philadelphia (1,000) are based on older scientific studies using a different methodology (neither RDD nor DJN), and most were updated recently by Informant/Internet Estimates. All other estimates are Informant/Internet Estimates.

**South Dakota (Map 12).** The estimates for both Sioux Falls (100 Jews) and Rapid City (100) are based on Informant/Internet Estimates.

**Wisconsin (Map 11).** Milwaukee (21,100 Jews), based on a 1996 RDD study, updated by a 2006 Informant/Internet Estimate, is the largest Jewish community in Wisconsin, accounts for 75% of the Jews in Wisconsin, and is the 49<sup>th</sup> largest American Jewish community. All other estimates are Informant/Internet Estimates.







### Number of Jews

- < 1,000
- 1,000 - 4,999
- 5,000 - 9,999
- 10,000 - 24,999
- 25,000 +

### **South (Maps 12 and 14 to 17)**

**Alabama (Map 14).** Birmingham (5,200 Jews) is the largest Jewish community in Alabama and accounts for 59% of the Jews in Alabama. All estimates are Informant/Internet Estimates.

**Arkansas (Map 12).** Little Rock (1,100 Jews) is the largest Jewish community in Arkansas and accounts for 64% of the Jews in Arkansas. All estimates are Informant/Internet Estimates.

**Delaware (Map 15).** The estimates of Jewish population in Delaware are all based on a 1995 RDD study, updated with a 2006 DJN study. Wilmington (7,600 Jews) is the largest Jewish community in Delaware and accounts for 50% of the Jews in Delaware. The other Jewish communities are Newark (4,300) and Kent and Sussex Counties (Dover) (3,200).

**District of Columbia/Greater Washington (Map 15).** Based on a 2003 RDD study, 215,600 Jews live in the service area of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, including 113,000 in Montgomery County (MD), 67,400 in Northern Virginia, 28,000 in the District of Columbia, and 7,200 in Prince George's County (MD). Greater Washington is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest American Jewish community.

**Florida (Map 16).** Based on RDD studies, 555,125 Jews (including 69,275 part-year residents) live in the three South Florida counties (Broward County, Miami-Dade County, and Palm Beach County<sup>6</sup>), including Broward County (1997 RDD study, updated by a 2008 DJN study) (186,275 Jews), South Palm Beach (2005) (131,300), West Palm Beach (2005) (124,250), and Miami (2004) (113,300). Note that population estimates on the map for Florida *exclude* part-year residents. Excluding part-year residents, Broward County (170,700) is the 8<sup>th</sup> largest American Jewish community, South Palm Beach (107,500) is the 11<sup>th</sup> largest, Miami (106,300) is the 12<sup>th</sup> largest, and West Palm Beach (101,350) is the 14<sup>th</sup> largest. Excluding part-year residents, these four communities account for 76% of the Jews in Florida.

Other important Jewish communities in Florida include the service area of the Jewish Federation of Pinellas (St. Petersburg) & Pasco Counties (35,000, including 1,600 part-year residents), Orlando (31,100, including 500 part-year residents), Tampa (23,000), Sarasota (15,500, including 3,300 part-year residents), and Jacksonville (13,000, including 100 part-year residents). Excluding part-year residents, St. Petersburg-Pasco (33,400) is the 36<sup>th</sup> largest American Jewish community, Orlando (30,600) is the 39<sup>th</sup> largest, and Tampa is tied for the 45<sup>th</sup> largest.

The estimates for Jacksonville and Sarasota are based on RDD studies (2002 and 2001, respectively). The RDD studies for Pinellas (St. Petersburg) (1994) and Orlando (1993) are considerably older, but both estimates were updated with 2010 DJN studies. The estimate for Tampa is based on a 2010 DJN study.

The estimates for Naples (10,000, including 2,000 part-year residents and Tallahassee (2,800) are both based on 2010 DJN studies. The estimate of 6,700 Jews (including 900 part-year residents) for Stuart-Port St. Lucie is based on a 1999 RDD study, updated with a 2004 DJN study. All other estimates are Informant/Internet Estimates, including Fort Myers-Arcadia-Port Charlotte-Punta Gorda (8,000).

**Georgia (Map 14).** Atlanta (119,800 Jews), based on a 2006 RDD study, is the largest Jewish community in Georgia, accounts for 94% of the Jews in Georgia, and is the 9<sup>th</sup> largest American Jewish community. The only other significant Jewish community in Georgia is Savannah (3,500), which, like all the other communities in Georgia, is based on an Informant/Internet Estimate.

**Kentucky (Map 14).** Based on a 2006 scientific study using a different methodology (neither RDD nor DJN), Louisville (8,300 Jews) accounts for 73% of the Jews in Kentucky. Lexington (2,500), which is based on an Informant/Internet Estimate, is the only other significant Jewish community. All other estimates (except Covington-Newport which is based on an RDD study) are Informant/Internet Estimates.

**Louisiana (Map 12).** New Orleans (7,800 Jews), based on a 1984 RDD study, updated in 2009 (post-Katrina) with a scientific study using a different methodology (neither RDD nor DJN), accounts for 73% of the Jews in Louisiana. All other estimates are Informant/Internet Estimates.

**Maryland (Map 15).** Based on a 2003 RDD study, the largest Jewish community in Maryland is Montgomery County (113,000 Jews) which is part of the service area of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington. (See District of Columbia above.) Montgomery County accounts for 47% of the Jews in Maryland.

Based on a 2010 RDD study, Baltimore (93,400) is the second largest Jewish community in Maryland, accounts for 39% of the Jews in Maryland, and is the 18<sup>th</sup> largest American Jewish community

The estimate of 17,200 Jews for Howard County (Columbia) is based on a 2010 RDD study. Three communities, the Maryland portion of the service area of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington (Montgomery and Prince George's Counties), Baltimore, and Howard County, account for 90% of the Jews in Maryland.

Based on a 2010 DJN estimate, 3,500 Jews live in Annapolis. All other estimates are Informant/Internet Estimates

**Mississippi (Map 14).** The estimates for all four small Jewish communities in Mississippi are Informant/Internet Estimates.

**North Carolina (Map 14).** Charlotte (8,500 Jews), based on a 1997 RDD study, is the largest Jewish community in North Carolina. Durham-Chapel Hill (6,000), Raleigh (6,000), Western North Carolina (3,400), and Greensboro (3,000) are other significant communities. With the exception of Western North Carolina, which is based on a scientific study using another methodology (neither RDD nor DJN), the other estimates are Informant/Internet Estimates. Winston-Salem (1,4000) is based on a 2011 DJN estimate. All other estimates are Informant/Internet Estimates.

**Oklahoma (Map 12).** Based on a 2010 DJN study, the largest Jewish community in Oklahoma is Oklahoma City-Norman (2,500 Jews). The estimate for Tulsa (2,000) is an Informant/Internet Estimate.

**South Carolina (Map 14).** Charleston (6,000 Jews) is the largest Jewish community in South Carolina and accounts for 44% of the Jews in South Carolina. The estimate for Greenville (2,000) is based on a DJN study. All other estimates are Informant/Internet Estimates.

**Tennessee (Map 14).** The estimates for Memphis (8,000 Jews) and Nashville (7,800), the two largest Jewish communities in Tennessee, are based on scientific studies using another methodology (neither RDD nor DJN). Memphis and Nashville combined account for 81% of the Jews in Tennessee. The estimates for Knoxville (2,000), Chattanooga (1,400), and Oak Ridge (150) are based on DJN studies. Bristol-Johnson City-Kingsport (125) is an Informant/Internet Estimate.

**Texas (Map 17).** Dallas (70,000 Jews ) is the largest Jewish community in Texas, accounts for 44% of the Jews in Texas, and is the 24<sup>th</sup> largest American Jewish community. The estimate for Dallas is based on a 1988 RDD study, updated by a 2013 scientific study using a different methodology (neither DJN nor RDD).

Houston (45,000) is the second largest Jewish community in Texas, accounts for 28% of the Jews in Texas, and is the 32<sup>nd</sup> largest American Jewish community. The estimate for Houston is based on a 1986 RDD study, updated by a 2009 Informant Update. Dallas and Houston combined account for 73% of the Jews in Texas.

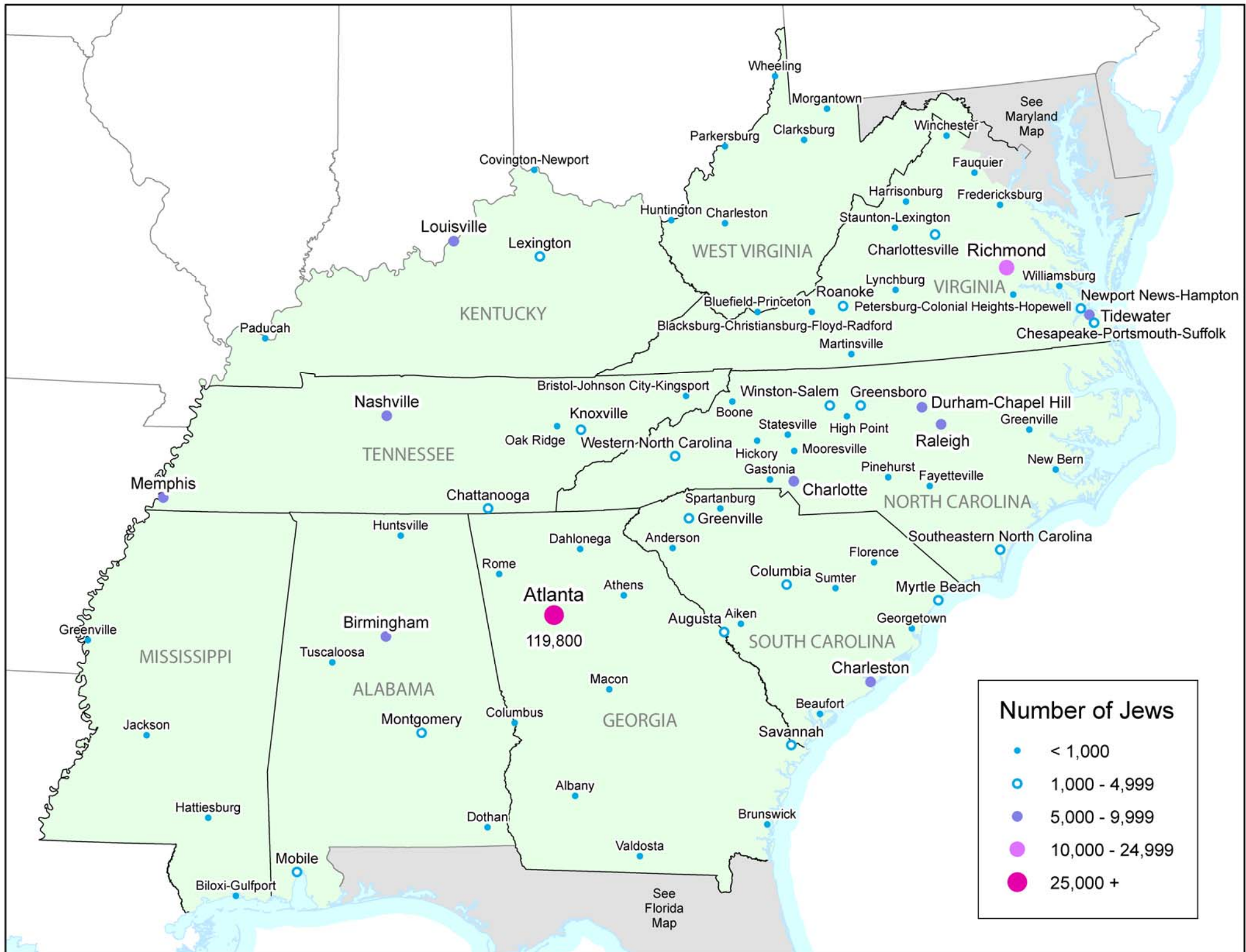
The only other RDD study completed in Texas was in 2007 in San Antonio (9,200). Based on a 2007 DJN study, an additional 1,000 Jews live in counties surrounding San Antonio.

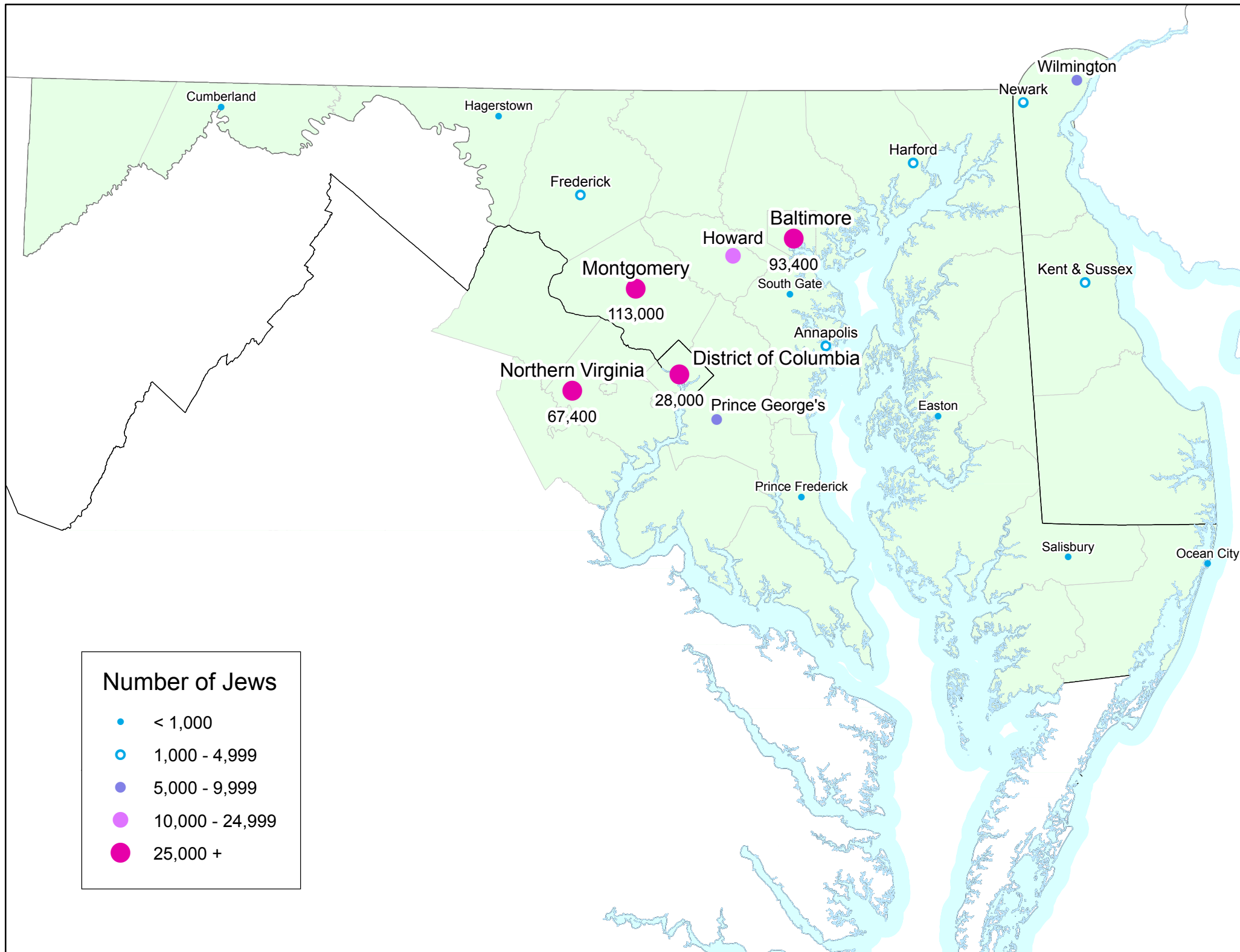
All other estimates are Informant/Internet Estimates, including Austin (18,000), El Paso (5,000), and Fort Worth (5,000).

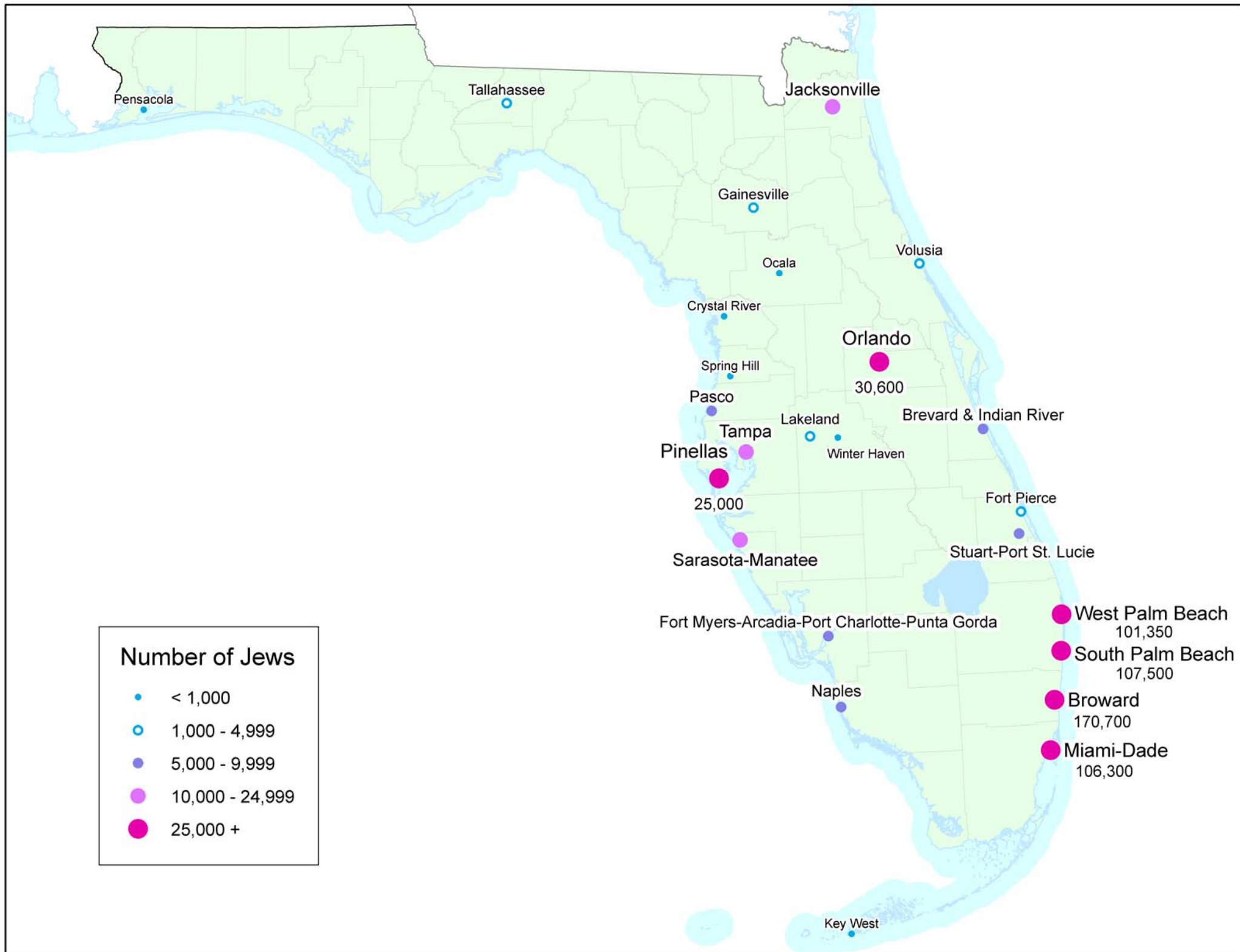
**Virginia (Maps 14 and 15).** Based on a 2003 RDD study, Northern Virginia (67,400 Jews) is the largest Jewish community in Virginia and is part of the service area of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington. (See District of Columbia above.) Northern Virginia accounts for 71% of the Jews in Maryland.

Other significant Jewish communities in Virginia are Tidewater (mainly Norfolk and Virginia Beach) (10,950), based on a 2001 RDD study, and Richmond (10,000), based on a 1994 RDD study, updated with a 2011 DJN study. All other estimates are Informant/Internet Estimates.

**West Virginia (Map 14).** Charleston (975 Jews) is the largest Jewish community in West Virginia and accounts for 42% of the Jews in West Virginia. All estimates are Informant/Internet Estimates.

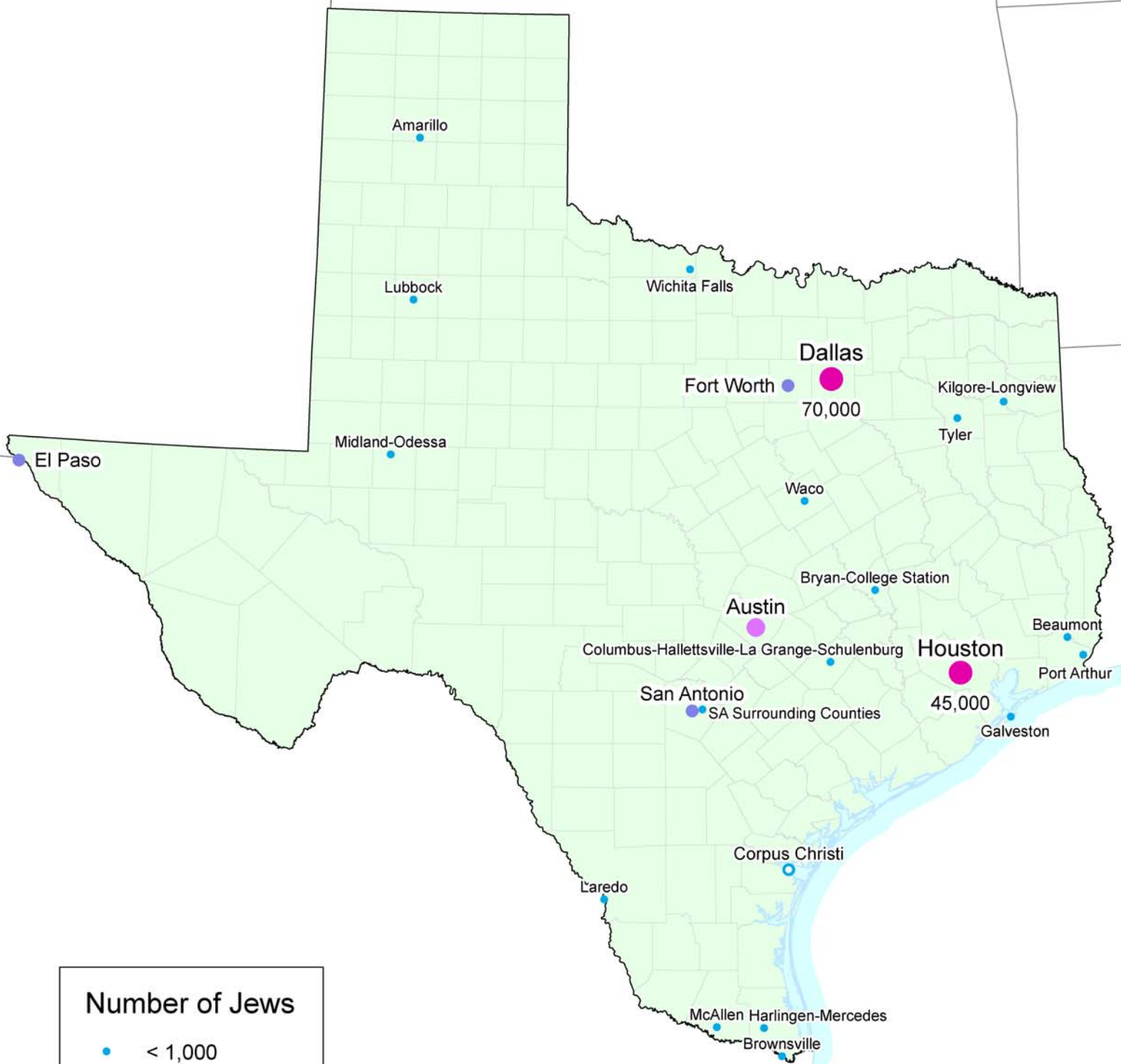






## Number of Jews

- < 1,000
- 1,000 - 4,999
- 5,000 - 9,999
- 10,000 - 24,999
- 25,000 +



**West (Maps 18 to 19)**

**Alaska (Map 18).** Anchorage (5,000 Jews) is the largest Jewish community in Alaska and accounts for 81% of the Jews in Alaska. All estimates are Informant/Internet Estimates.

**Arizona (Map 18).** Based on a 2002 RDD study, Phoenix (82,900 Jews) is the largest Jewish community in Arizona, accounts for 78% of the Jews in Arizona, and is the 20<sup>th</sup> largest American Jewish community.

A 2002 RDD study of Tucson estimated 22,400 Jews (including 1,000 part-year residents) making it the second largest Jewish community in Arizona and accounts for 20% of the Jews in Arizona. Tucson (21,400, excluding the part-year residents) is the 47<sup>th</sup> largest American Jewish community. Phoenix and Tucson combined account for 98% of the Jews in Arizona.

The estimates for Cochise County (450) and Santa Cruz County (100) are based on 2002 DJN studies. All other estimates are Informant/Internet Estimates.

**California (Map 19).** Based on a 1997 RDD study, 519,200 Jews live in the service area of the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, which is the largest Jewish community in California, accounts for 42% of the Jews in California, and is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest American Jewish community.

Based on a 2004 RDD study, 227,800 Jews live in the service area of the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties, including 72,500 in South Peninsula, 65,800 in San Francisco County, 40,300 in North Peninsula, 26,100 in Marin County, and 23,100 in Sonoma County. The San Francisco area is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest Jewish community in California, accounts for 18% of the Jews in California, and is the 5<sup>th</sup> largest American Jewish community.

Based on a 2011 RDD study, 100,750 Jews live in the service area of the Jewish Federation of the East Bay, including 59,050 in Alameda County, 32,100 in Contra Costa County, 5,000 in Solano County, and 4,600 in Napa County. East Bay is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest Jewish community in California and the 15<sup>th</sup> largest American Jewish community.

Based on a 2003 RDD study, updated by a 2014 Informant/Internet Estimate, 100,000 Jews live in San Diego. San Diego is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest Jewish community in California and the 16<sup>th</sup> largest American Jewish community. Based on a 1986 RDD study, 63,000 Jews live in San Jose, which is the 27<sup>th</sup> largest American Jewish community.

Based on a 1993 scientific study using a different methodology (neither RDD nor DJN), 21,300 Jews live in Sacramento, which is the 48<sup>th</sup> largest American Jewish community.

Based on Informant/Internet Estimates, 80,000 Jews live in Orange County (excluding parts included in Long Beach); 30,000, in San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys; 23,750, in Long Beach; 15,000, in Ventura County (excluding the Simi-Conejo area included in Los Angeles); and 7,000, in Santa Barbara. Orange County is the 22<sup>nd</sup> largest American Jewish community, San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys, is the 40<sup>th</sup> largest, and Long Beach is the 44<sup>th</sup>.

Based on a 1998 RDD study, 17,000 Jews (including 5,000 part-year residents) live in Palm Springs.

DJN studies were completed in 2011 in Santa Cruz-Aptos (6,000 Jews), the Monterey Peninsula (4,500), and Fresno (3,500). All other estimates are Informant/Internet Estimates.

**Colorado (Map 18).** Denver (95,000 Jews), based on a 2007 RDD study, updated by a 2014 Informant/Internet Estimate, is the largest Jewish community in Colorado, accounts for 92% of the Jews in Colorado, and is the 17<sup>th</sup> largest American Jewish community.

The estimates for Colorado Springs (2,500) and Vail-Breckenridge-Eagle (1,500) are based on DJN studies completed in 2010 and 2011, respectively. All other estimates are Informant/Internet Estimates.

**Hawaii (Map 18).** Oahu (Honolulu) (5,200 Jews), based on a 2010 DJN study, is the largest Jewish community in Hawaii and accounts for 71% of the Jews in Hawaii. All other estimates are Informant/Internet Estimates.

**Idaho (Map 18).** Boise (800 Jews) is the largest Jewish community in Idaho and accounts for 52% of the Jews in Idaho. Estimates for all five small Jewish communities in Idaho are based on Informant/Internet Estimates.

**Montana (Map 18).** Estimates for all five small Jewish communities are based on Informant/Internet Estimates.

**Nevada (Map 18).** Las Vegas (72,300 Jews), based on a 2005 RDD study, updated by a 2009 Informant Estimate, is the largest Jewish community in Nevada, accounts for 95% of the Jews in Nevada, and is the 23<sup>rd</sup> largest American Jewish community. Based on a 2011 DJN study, 4,000 Jews live in Reno-Carson City.

**New Mexico (Map 18).** Albuquerque (7,500 Jews), based on a 2011 DJN study, is the largest Jewish community in New Mexico and accounts for 59% of the Jews in New Mexico. All other estimates are Informant/Internet Estimates, including Santa Fe-Las Vegas.

**Oregon (Map 18).** The service area of the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland (36,400 Jews), based on a 2011 scientific study using a different methodology (neither RDD nor DJN), includes 33,800 Jews in Portland and 2,600 in Vancouver (WA) and is the 35<sup>th</sup> largest American Jewish community. Portland is the largest Jewish community in Oregon and accounts for 83% of the Jews in Oregon.

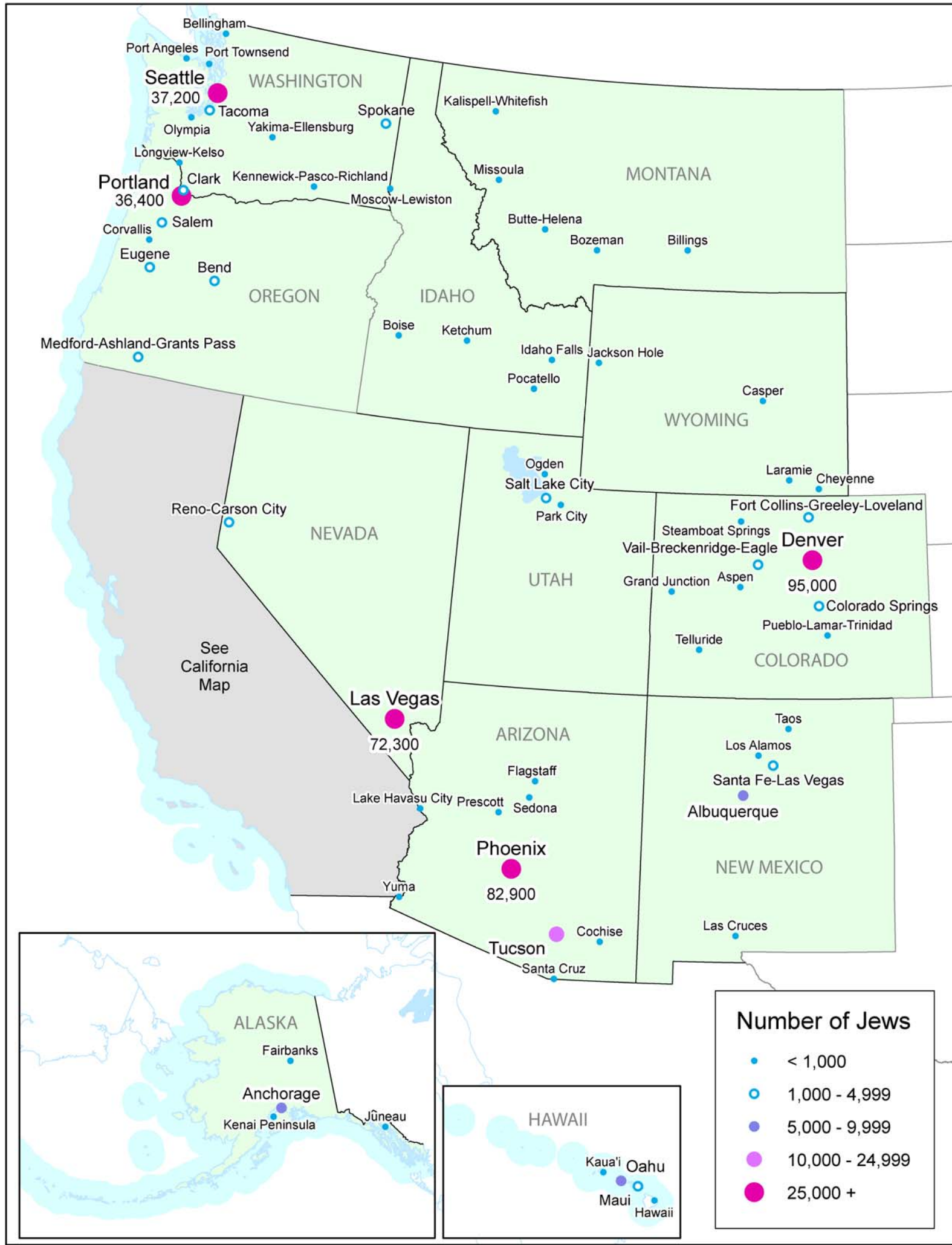
The estimate for Bend (1,000) is based on a 2010 DJN study. All other estimates are Informant/Internet Estimates.

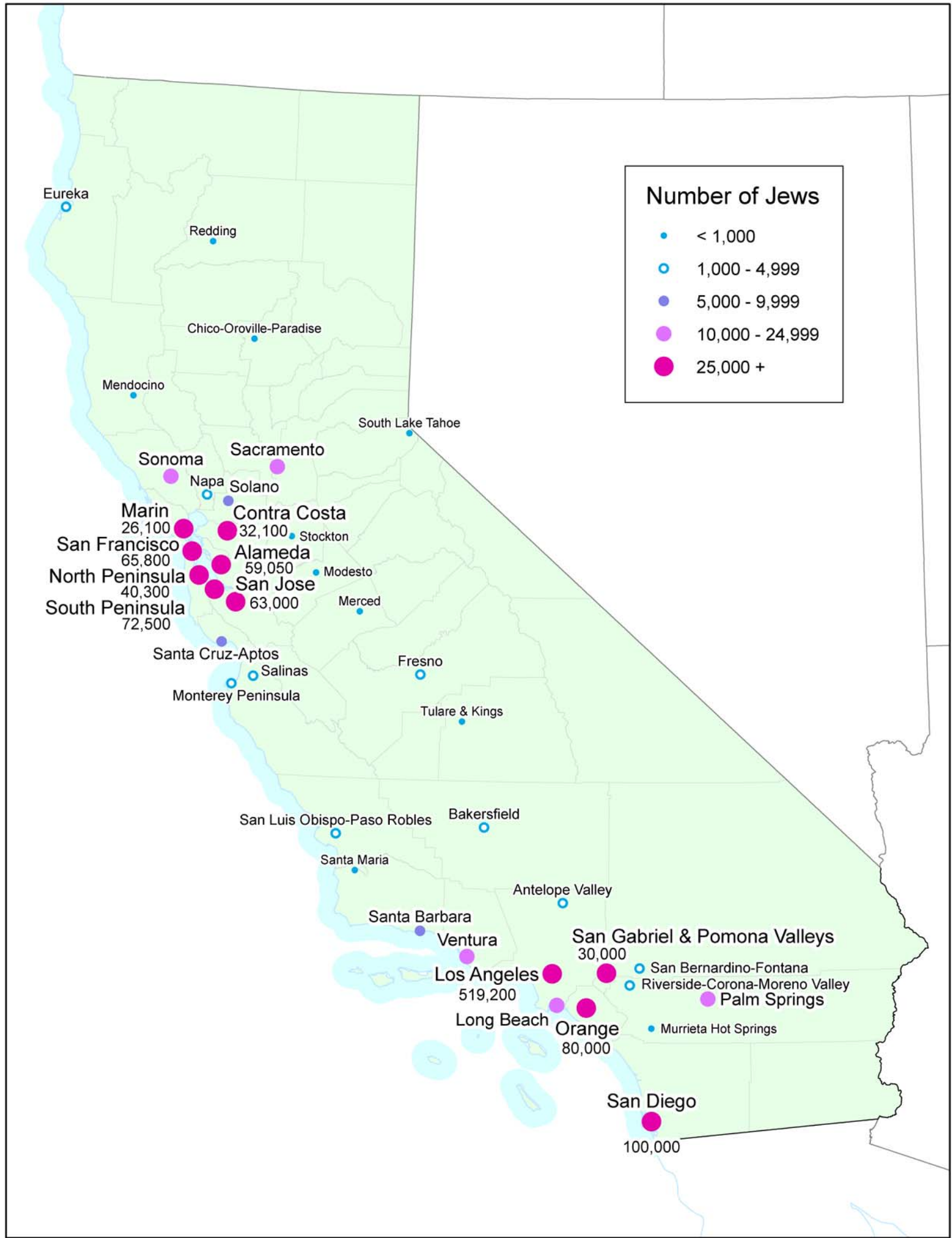
**Utah (Map 18).** Salt Lake City (4,800 Jews), based on a 2010 DJN study, is the largest Jewish community in Utah and accounts for 85% of the Jews in Utah. All other estimates are Informant/Internet Estimates.

**Washington (Map 18).** Seattle (37,200 Jews), based on a 2000 RDD study, updated by a 2009 Informant/Internet Estimate, is the largest Jewish community in Washington, accounts for 81% of the Jews in Washington, and is the 34<sup>th</sup> largest American Jewish community.

The estimate for Clark County (2,600) is based on a 2011 scientific study using a different methodology (neither RDD nor DJN). All other estimates are Informant/Internet Estimates.

**Wyoming (Map 18).** Estimates for all four small Jewish communities are Informant/Internet Estimates.





## ENDNOTES

1. See Sheskin (1998). The fact that about 8%-12% of American Jews, despite rising intermarriage, continue to have one of 36 Distinctive Jewish Names (Berman, Caplan, Cohen, Epstein, Feldman, Freedman, Friedman, Goldberg, Goldman, Goldstein, Goodman, Greenberg, Gross, Grossman, Jacobs, Jaffe, Kahn, Kaplan, Katz, Kohn, Levin, Levine, Levinson, Levy, Lieberman, Rosen, Rosenberg, Rosenthal, Rubin, Schwartz, Shapiro, Siegel, Silverman, Stern, Weinstein, and Weiss) facilitates making reasonable estimates of the Jewish population. See also Mateos (2014) on the uses of ethnic names in general.
2. For an example, see footnote 4 in Sheskin and Dashefsky (2008).
3. Note that while we have classified DJN and “different methodology” methods as Scientific, the level of accuracy of such methods is well below that of the RDD methodology. Most studies using a “different methodology” have made concerted efforts to enumerate the known Jewish population via merging membership lists and surveying known Jewish households. An estimate of the unaffiliated Jewish population is then added to the affiliated population.
4. The number of Jews in Florida in 2014 excludes Jews in part-year households (“snowbirds”). The historical record does not indicate the portion of the population that was part year in 1971.
5. For more detail on these communities, see Hartman and Sheskin (2012).
6. Palm Beach County consists of two Jewish communities: The South Palm Beach community includes Greater Boca Raton and Greater Delray Beach. The West Palm Beach community includes all other areas of Palm Beach County from Boynton Beach north to the Martin County line.

## REFERENCES

- Adler, C. (1900). *American Jewish year book, 1900-1901, volume 2* (p. 623). Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America.
- Bradburn, N. M., S. Sudman, and B. Wansink (2004). *Asking Questions: The Definitive Guide to Questionnaire Design--For Market Research, Political Polls, and Social and Health*. New York: Jossey-Bass.
- Burt, J. E., G.M. Barber, and D.L. Rigby (2009). *Elementary statistics for geographers, third edition*. New York: Guilford Press.
- Chenkin, A. (1972). Jewish population of the United States, 1971. In M. Fine and M. Himmelfarb (Eds.), *American Jewish year book, 1972, volume 73* (pp. 384-392). New York: American Jewish Committee and Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society of America.
- Cohen, S. M., J. B. Ukeles, R. Miller, P. Beck, S. Shmulyian, and D. Dutwin (2011). *Jewish Community Study of New York 2011*. New York: UJA-Federation of New York.
- Cooper, H. and E. A. Patall (2009). The Relative Benefits of Meta-Analysis Using Individual Participant Data or Aggregated Data. *Psychological Methods* 14: 165-176.
- Cooperman, A. (2014). Personal communication. May 8.
- Curran, P., A. M. Hussong, L. Cai, W. Huang, L. Chassin, K. J. Sher, and R. A. Zucker (2008). Pooling Data from Multiple Longitudinal Studies: The Role of Item Response Theory in Integrative Data Analysis. *Developmental Psychology* 44(2): 365-380.
- DellaPergola, S. (2013a). World Jewish Population, 2013. In A. Dashefsky and I. M. Sheskin (Eds.), *American Jewish year book, 2013, volume 113* (pp. 279-358). Dordrecht: Springer.
- DellaPergola, S. (2013b). How Many Jews in the United States? The Demographic Perspective. *Contemporary Jewry*, 33: 15-42.
- Groeneman, S. and G. Tobin (2004). *The Decline of Religious Identity in the United States*. San Francisco: The Institute for Jewish and Community Research.
- Hartman, H. and I. M. Sheskin (2012) The Relationship of Jewish Community Contexts and Jewish Identity: A 22-Community Study. *Contemporary Jewry*, 32: 237-283.
- Kotler-Berkowitz, L. et al. (2003). *Strength, challenge and diversity in the American Jewish population*. New York: United Jewish Communities at [www.jfna.org/NJPS](http://www.jfna.org/NJPS).

Kosmin, B. A. and A. Keysar (2013). American Jewish secularism: Jewish life beyond the synagogue. In A. Dashefsky and I. M. Sheskin. (Eds.), *American Jewish year book, 2012, volumes 109-112* (pp. 3-54). Dordrecht: Springer.

Massarik, F. and A. Chenkin (1973). United States National Jewish Population Study: a first report. In M. Fine and M. Himmelfarb (Eds.), *American Jewish year book, 1972, volume 73* (pp. 264-306). New York: American Jewish Committee and Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society.

Mateos, P. (2014). *Names, ethnicity, and populations*. Dordrecht: Springer.

Mayer, E., B. Kosmin, and A. Keysar (2001). *American Jewish identity survey*. New York: The Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

Pew Research Center (2013). *A portrait of Jewish Americans*. Washington, DC: Pew Research Center at [www.pewforum.org](http://www.pewforum.org).

Saxe, L. and S. DellaPergola (2013). Introduction: Special Issue on Jewish Demography in the United States. *Contemporary Jewry*, 33: 3-8.

Sheskin, I. M. (1998). A methodology for examining the changing size and spatial distribution of a Jewish population: a Miami case study. *Shofar, Special Issue: Studies in Jewish Geography*, 17(1): 97-116.

Sheskin, I. M. (2001). *How Jewish communities differ: variations in the findings of local Jewish demographic studies*. New York: City University of New York, North American Jewish Data Bank at [www.jewishdatabank.org](http://www.jewishdatabank.org).

Sheskin, I. M. (2005). Comparisons between local Jewish community studies and the 2000-01 National Jewish Population Survey. *Contemporary Jewry*, 25: 185-192.

Sheskin, I. M. (2008). Four Questions about American Jewish Demography, *Jewish political studies review*, 20 (1 and 2): 23-42 at [www.jcpa.org](http://www.jcpa.org).

Sheskin, I. M. (2009). Local Jewish community studies as planning tools for the American Jewish community. *Jewish political studies review*, 21 (1 and 2): 107-135.

Sheskin, I. M. (2013a). Uses of local Jewish community study data for addressing national concerns. *Contemporary Jewry*, 33(1-2): 83-101.

Sheskin, I. M. (2013b). *Comparisons of Jewish communities: a compendium of tables and bar charts*. Storrs, CT: Mandell Berman Institute, North American Jewish Data Bank and The Jewish Federations of North America at [www.jewishdatabank.org](http://www.jewishdatabank.org).

Sheskin, I. M. and A. Dashefsky (2006). Jewish population in the United States, 2006. In D. Singer and L. Grossman (Eds.) *American Jewish year book, 2006, volume 106* (pp. 133-193). New York: American Jewish Committee at [www.jewishdatabank.org](http://www.jewishdatabank.org).

Sheskin, I. M. and A. Dashefsky (2007). Jewish population in the United States, 2007. In D. Singer and L. Grossman (Eds.) *American Jewish year book, 2007, volume 106* (pp. 133-205). New York: American Jewish Committee at [www.jewishdatabank.org](http://www.jewishdatabank.org).

Sheskin, I. M. and A. Dashefsky. (2008). Jewish population in the United States, 2008. In D. Singer and L. Grossman (Eds.) *American Jewish year book, 2008, volume 106* (pp. 151-222). New York: American Jewish Committee at [www.jewishdatabank.org](http://www.jewishdatabank.org).

Tighe, E. et al. (2013). *American Jewish Estimates : 2012*. Waltham, MA: Brandeis University, Steinhardt Social Research Institute at [www.brandeis.edu/ssri](http://www.brandeis.edu/ssri).

Trzebiatowska, M. and S. Bruce (2012). *Why are women more religious than men?* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

## Author Biographies

**Ira M. Sheskin, Ph.D.**, is the Director of the Jewish Demography Project of the Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies at the University of Miami and Professor and Chair of Geography at the same institution. He has completed more than 40 major Jewish community studies for Jewish Federations throughout the country and has been a consultant to numerous synagogues, Jewish day schools, Jewish agencies, and Jewish Community Centers. He served on the National Technical Advisory Committee for the 1990 and 2000-01 National Jewish Population Surveys. He is the author of *Survey Research for Geographers, How Jewish Communities Differ: Variations in the Findings of Local Jewish Demographic Studies*, and *Comparisons of Jewish Communities: A Compendium of Tables and Bar Charts* and numerous articles and is the Editor with Arnold Dashefsky of the *American Jewish Year Book*.

**Arnold Dashefsky, Ph.D.**, is a Professor of Sociology and the Doris and Simon Konover Chair of Judaic Studies emeritus at the University of Connecticut in Storrs. He was the founding Director of the Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life, located in the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center at the University of Connecticut. He is also one of the founding members of the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry, created in 1971, serving as its first secretary-treasurer and later as vice-president and president, as well as editor of its journal, *Contemporary Jewry*. He served for nine years as the Director of the Berman Institute - North American Jewish Data Bank (now the Berman Jewish Data Bank), also located at the University of Connecticut. He is the co-author or editor of seven books and numerous articles and reports on Jewish identity, charitable giving, and interfaith marriage, among others. He is Editor with Ira Sheskin of the *American Jewish Year Book*.