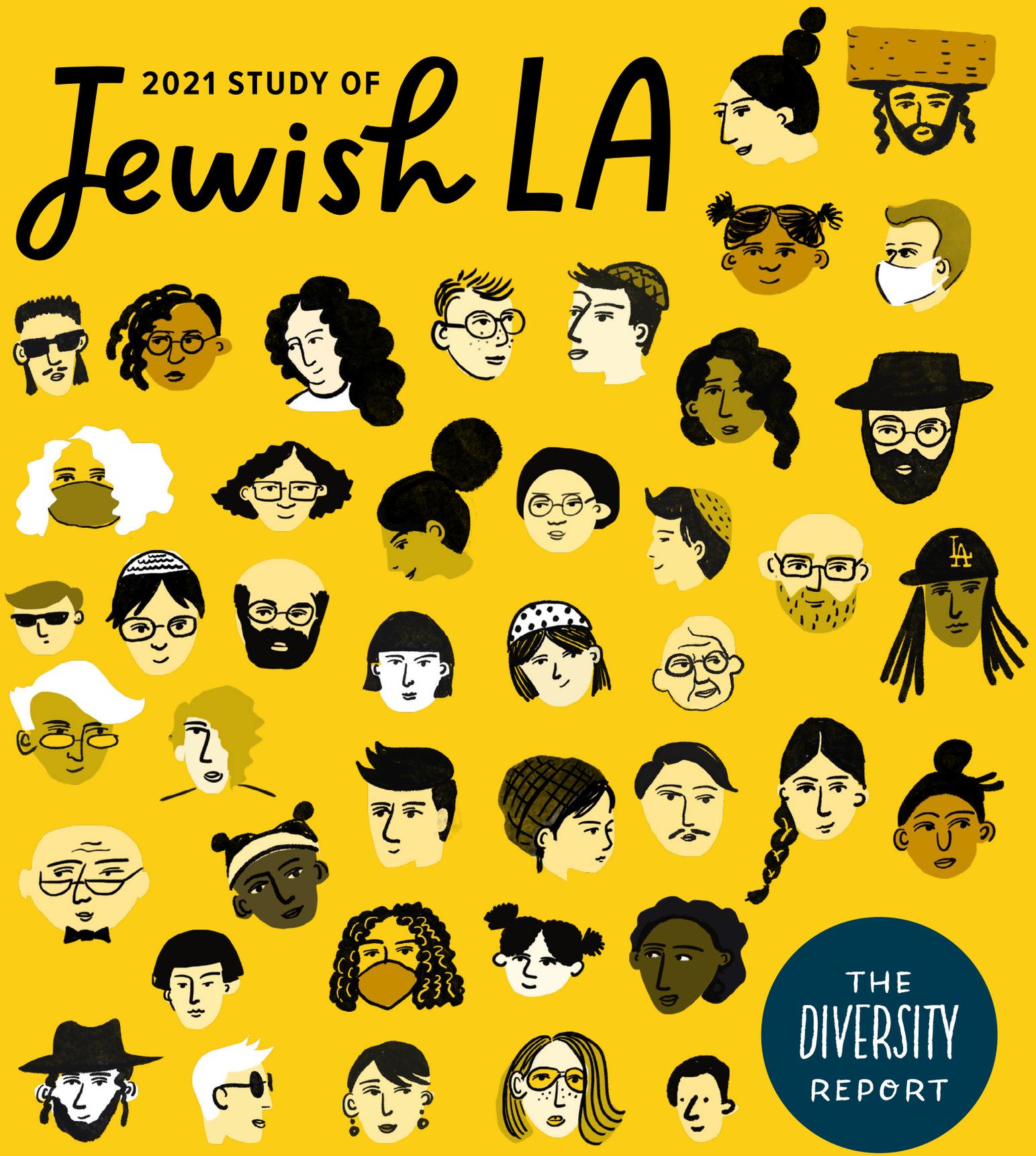


2021 STUDY OF *Jewish* LA



THE
DIVERSITY
REPORT

Brandeis

MAURICE AND MARILYN
COHEN CENTER FOR
MODERN JEWISH STUDIES

NORC at the
University of
Chicago

Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies (CMJS)
at Brandeis University and NORC at the University of Chicago



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2021 STUDY OF *Jewish* LA

Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies (CMJS) at Brandeis University and NORC at the University of Chicago

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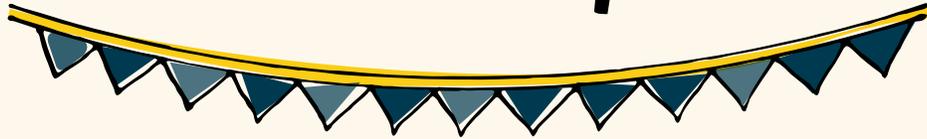


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Maurice and Marilyn Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies
www.brandeis.edu/cmjs

The Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies (CMJS), founded in 1980, is dedicated to providing independent, high-quality research on issues related to contemporary Jewish life.

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In This Report



PREFACE	1
DIVERSITY IN JEWISH LA	4
NATIONAL ORIGIN	5
RACE AND ETHNICITY	17
LGBTQ	24



PREFACE

This is one of a series of reports describing findings from the 2021 Study of Jewish LA. The study was conducted by the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University and NORC at the University of Chicago. For an introduction to the study, along with additional reports and material, visit www.brandeis.edu/cmjs/community-studies/los-angeles-report.html or studyofjewishla.org

JEWISH POPULATION ESTIMATES OF LA, 2021

JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS	294,200
PEOPLE IN JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS	737,900
NON-JEWISH INDIVIDUALS	173,800
JEWISH INDIVIDUALS	564,700
ADULTS	
JEWISH	462,900
NON-JEWISH OR UNKNOWN	143,900
CHILDREN	
JEWISH	101,800
NON-JEWISH OR UNKNOWN	29,900

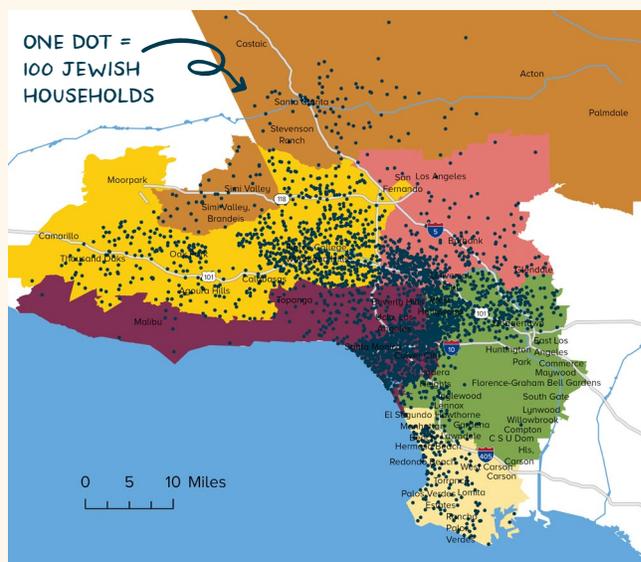
Note: Numbers do not add up to total due to rounding.

How many Jewish people in Los Angeles?

As of 2021, it is estimated that the Los Angeles catchment area is the home to nearly 300,000 Jewish households. These households include almost 740,000 individuals, of whom 564,700 are Jewish.

For this study, Jewish individuals are those who identify as Jewish, whether by religion or ethnicity, and who either have a Jewish parent or converted to Judaism. Jewish households are any households that include at least one Jewish adult.

MAP OF JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS IN LA



PERCENTAGE OF JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS IN EACH REGION:

4% NORTH COUNTY VALLEYS	26% WEST VALLEY
15% EAST VALLEY	24% CENTRAL/METRO/MID
26% WESTSIDE	5% SOUTH BAY

What are the boundaries of Jewish LA?

The Los Angeles Jewish community encompasses all cities and neighborhoods

- East from the coastline
- West from Silver Lake/Downtown/the 710 freeway
- North from San Pedro, including the San Fernando, Conejo, Simi, Santa Clarita, and Antelope Valleys.

For analysis purposes, this report divides the community into six regions: West Valley, East Valley, Westside, Central/Metro/Mid, South Bay, and the North County Valleys.

Index of Jewish Engagement

Jewish life is complex and multidimensional and includes cultural and religious behaviors that are practiced at home, with friends and family, as well as with formal and informal organizations and institutions. Jewish engagement is associated with attitudes, such as feelings of attachment to the Jewish people, and with beliefs, such as valuing social justice.

The 2021 Study of Jewish LA uses a typology of patterns of Jewish engagement as one of its primary analytic tools for understanding Jewish life in LA. LA Jews were categorized into five groups using a statistical analysis (latent class analysis) of levels of participation across 20 different Jewish behaviors, including ritual and cultural behaviors. The names of the five groups reflect the primary ways in which each group engages in Jewish life. This typology is unique to the LA Jewish community and is used throughout this report to highlight the diversity of expressions of Jewish life.

Overview of Methodology

This study is based on analysis of a rich set of data collected from 3,767 eligible households between June and September 2021. Survey respondents were randomly selected from all households in the Los Angeles catchment area (see map). The study design integrated an Address Based Sample (ABS) with known households on Jewish organizational lists. Households were contacted by mail, email, and telephone, and invited to complete the survey online or by telephone. Responses were statistically weighted to represent all LA Jewish households. The response rates for the main sample were 11.2% unweighted and 10.2% weighted (see Technical Appendix for details).

Although some survey responses were likely influenced by the special circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, which began in March 2020, the questions were designed to provide a demographic and attitudinal portrait of the stable characteristics of the community. As necessary, questions were modified to account for changes in usual patterns of behavior during the pandemic.

INDEX OF JEWISH ENGAGEMENT

Jewish engagement groups and primary activities of each group



23%

MINIMALLY INVOLVED

Few Jewish activities



27%

HOLIDAY

Passover seder, Hanukkah candles, occasionally mark Shabbat



16%

COMMUNAL

Passover seder, Hanukkah candles, High Holiday services, attend Jewish programs, donate to Jewish causes, partake in Jewish books/TV/music



16%

RITUAL

Passover seder, Hanukkah candles, High Holiday services, mark Shabbat regularly, follow some Kosher rules, donate to Jewish causes, half are congregation members



17%

IMMERSED

All holidays, mark Shabbat weekly, attend Jewish programs, donate to Jewish causes, read Jewish publications, most are congregation members

HOW TO READ THIS REPORT

AS YOU READ THIS REPORT, KEEP IN MIND THE FOLLOWING:

TERMS: Unless otherwise specified, references to “all Jewish adults” or “all Jewish households” refer to Jewish adults and Jewish households in Los Angeles.

Throughout this report, the term “couples” includes those who are legally married and those who are partnered and living together. Unless otherwise specified, “children” refers to minor children under age 18.

RESPONSES: Information in this report is based on over 3,700 survey responses. Responses to survey questions are often subjective and reflect respondents’ interpretation of survey questions. Data presented in this report reflect an estimate of the distribution of responses to a particular question if every member of the community had been interviewed.

ESTIMATES: Because estimates are based on a probability survey, no one estimate should be considered an exact measurement. As a guideline, the reader should assume that all estimates have a range of plus or minus five points; therefore, reported differences between any two numbers of less than 10 percentage points may not necessarily reflect true differences in the population.

When a percentage is between 0% and 0.5% and would otherwise round down to 0%, the number is denoted as < 1%. When there are insufficient respondents in a particular subgroup for reporting reliable information, the estimate is shown as “—”.

COMPARISONS ACROSS SUBGROUPS: When there is a statistically significant difference among subgroups, we are 95% confident that at least some of the differences in estimates reflect actual differences and are not just the result of random chance. Unless otherwise specified, all tables in this report that compare subgroups reflect some significant difference. However, even in cases where there are statistically significant differences in a full set of responses, it is unlikely that there are statistically significant differences between every pair of numbers. As noted above, as a rule of thumb, differences between any two numbers of less than 10 percentage points may not reflect true differences in the population.

QUOTES in this report may have been edited for clarity and to protect privacy. While representing an individual experience, the quotes illustrate the themes identified in the numeric data.



Each report brings a fresh analysis of the data in the hope of stimulating community members to ask new questions, engage in strategy conversations, and consider the implications for our community. These thematic reports are intended to act as a starting point and designed to spark curiosity.

RABBI NOAH FARKAS, PRESIDENT AND CEO
JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER LOS ANGELES

Diversity in Jewish LA

The Los Angeles Jewish community is both large – the second largest in the United States – and diverse. Jewish Angelenos not only differ demographically by age, gender, where they live, and whether or not they are partnered and/or have children, but also in terms of ethnicity, birthplace, race, what languages are spoken at home, and how long they have lived in Los Angeles.

Along with demographic diversity, there is also substantial diversity in the Jewish identities and practices of those who live in Los Angeles Jewish households. Some identify as Jewish by religion, some as Jewish by ethnicity, and, among those who identify as Jewish, the ways they express and think about their Jewish identity vary widely. Many Jewish households also include non-Jewish partners and children.

This report examines some of the diverse identities and backgrounds of members of the LA Jewish community. Included is a description of community members' background characteristics and the ways in which their Jewish identities, attitudes, and engagement with the Jewish community distinguish them. This report highlights some of the groups that form the LA Jewish community and illustrates some of the ways in which we can think about diversity.



“
[The strengths of the LA Jewish community include its] multi-cultural, multi-ethnic diversity; widespread welcoming and acceptance of a multitude of Jewish identities and backgrounds; the same for LGBTQ and, to a lesser but growing extent, Jews of Color. For the most part, you can be any kind of Jew, any kind of Jewish, you want to be or are.”

National Origin

Nearly three-in-ten Jewish households in Los Angeles include at least one person born outside the United States, including 17% of households in which everyone is an immigrant. Another two-in-ten Jewish households include a US-born child of an immigrant. In total, about half of Jewish households in LA include an immigrant to the United States or someone whose parent is an immigrant.

COUNTRY OR REGION OF ORIGIN

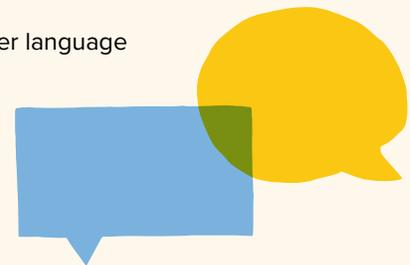
Total exceeds 100 because of multiple responses

%	Someone in household was born in:
83%	USA
8%	Russia/FSU
5%	Latin America
4%	Israel
4%	Iran
4%	Europe
3%	Canada
1%	South Africa
5%	Other country

LANGUAGES SPOKEN REGULARLY

Total exceeds 100 because of multiple responses

%	Someone in household speaks:
85%	English
6%	Russian
6%	Spanish
5%	Hebrew
3%	Farsi
5%	Other language



Diversity is the greatest strength of Los Angeles. We need more interaction among various kinds of Jews in LA. I have little contact with Persian Jews or Black Jews or LGBTQ Jews. I know LA has [different groups], but I don't think the [groups] interact with each other much."

RUSSIAN-SPEAKING JEWS

About 48,000 Jewish Angelenos were raised in a Russian-speaking home. This group, which we refer to as “Russian-speaking Jews” (RSJs), is the largest ethnic sub-group in the community, representing those who were born in Russia, Ukraine, and other states of the Former Soviet Union (FSU), as well as many of their children born in the United States. Ten percent or about 27,000 Jewish households include an RSJ.

Most RSJs have lived in the United States for many years and are well integrated into the fabric of the community; in terms of demographics, they are similar to other Jewish Angelenos. For half of RSJ households, Jewish life is a cultural rather than a religious identity, and their primary Jewish activities are home- and family-based and not through Jewish organizations.

Demographics

- In terms of **AGE, MARITAL STATUS,** and the **NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN,** RSJ households are similar to other LA Jewish households. RSJ households can be found throughout the LA area and are not concentrated in particular regions. RSJ households are also similar to all LA households in terms of financial well-being and health status.
- **LANGUAGE:** Among RSJ households, 90% speak Russian at home on a regular basis.
- **POLITICS:** RSJs tend to be politically conservative. More than one third (37%) describe themselves as conservative or very conservative, compared to 18% of all LA Jews. Another 36% describe themselves as moderate, and 26% define themselves as liberal or very liberal.

TERMS

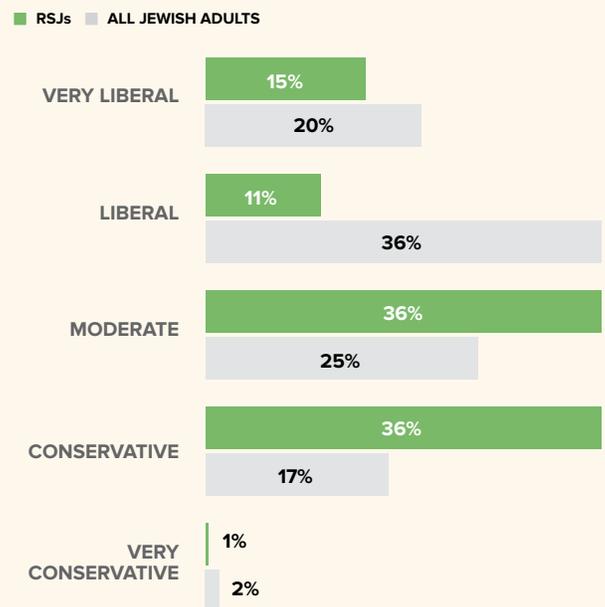
“**RUSSIAN-SPEAKING JEWS**” (RSJs) are Jewish individuals who were raised in a Russian-speaking home

“**RSJ HOUSEHOLDS**” are households that include an **RSJ**

POPULATION ESTIMATES



POLITICAL IDEOLOGY



Jewish Engagement

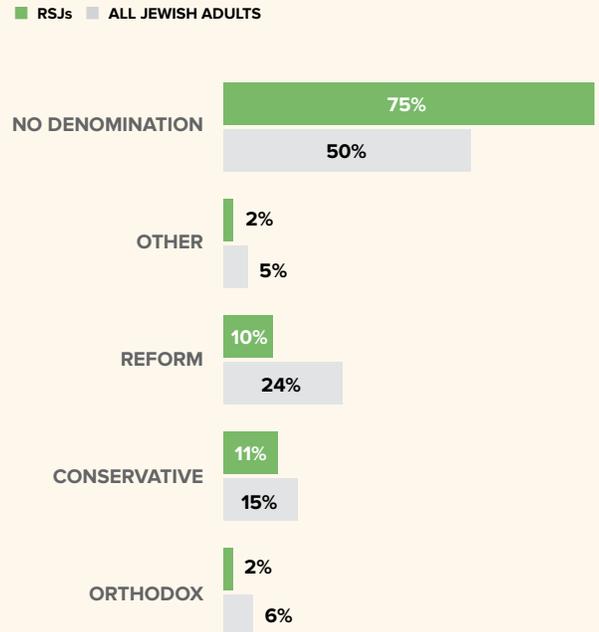
For half of RSJs, Jewish life is centered around the home and family, and three quarters do not identify with a specific Jewish denomination. About half of RSJs are in the Holiday engagement group. This group marks Passover and Hanukkah with home rituals but is not involved with Jewish organizations such as synagogues. Compared to most Jews in LA, relatively few RSJs are strongly involved in Jewish communal and religious life. Nonetheless, half of RSJs report that most or all of their close friends are Jewish.

For RSJs, the most important aspects of being Jewish are leading a moral and ethical life and connecting to family and traditions. Approximately half of RSJs consider each of these aspects of being Jewish to be essential.

INDEX OF JEWISH ENGAGEMENT

ENGAGEMENT GROUP	RSJS	JEWISH ADULTS
 MINIMALLY INVOLVED Few Jewish activities	20%	23%
 HOLIDAY Passover seder, Hanukkah candles, occasionally mark Shabbat	52%	27%
 COMMUNAL Passover seder, Hanukkah candles, High Holiday services, attend Jewish programs, donate to Jewish causes, partake in Jewish books/TV/music	9%	16%
 RITUAL Passover seder, Hanukkah candles, High Holiday services, mark Shabbat regularly, follow some Kosher rules, donate to Jewish causes, half are congregation members	9%	16%
 IMMERSED All holidays, mark Shabbat weekly, attend Jewish programs, donate to Jewish causes, read Jewish publications, most are congregation members	9%	17%

DENOMINATION



Feelings of Connection

About half of RSJs feel very connected to the Jewish people around the world. However, they feel lower levels of connection to the LA Jewish community. Eight percent of RSJs feel very connected to the local community, compared to 20% of all LA Jews. In addition, 14% of RSJs report that they have no local support network, compared to 6% of other LA Jewish adults.



I think the Jewish community in and of itself is strong, but the Russian Jewish community is weaker, as during the USSR, being Jewish was not something people practiced openly. Hence, Russian Jews seem to not have as tight a bond. I wish there was more unification.”

LATINO/A JEWS

The Los Angeles Jewish community includes 28,000 Jewish individuals who identify as Latino or Latina (“Latino/a Jews”). These Latino/a Jews live in 19,500 households (“Latino/a Jewish households”). Including the Latino/a Jews themselves, there are 43,000 Jews in Latino/a Jewish households.

LA Jewish households also include many Latino/a non-Jews who are part of the extended Jewish community. There are nearly 20,000 non-Jewish Latino/a individuals who live in Jewish households. In total, there are 31,000 households in which at least one person (Jewish or non-Jewish) identifies as Latino/a.

Not all Jewish individuals who were born in Latin America identify as Latino/a. In addition to those who self-define as Latino/a, there are 5,000 Jewish households that include someone who was born in Latin America or whose parent was born in Latin America but does not identify as Latino/a. We estimate that between 4,000 and 12,000 additional Jewish individuals could be counted as Latino/a.

“ I would pay any money to belong to a Jewish club of the likes they have in Latin America. [The LA Jewish community] lacks a Jewish place for the mainstream Jewish secular person, a place that has cultural events, sports, Israel activities etc., the kind of place that Jews in Latin America have... If I want to play soccer, tennis, basketball or swim with other Jews, there is nowhere to go. If I want to watch movies with other Jews and have a discussion etc., there is nowhere to go.”

TERMS

“**LATINO/A JEWS**” are Jewish individuals who identify as Latino/a

“**LATINO/A HOUSEHOLDS**” are households that include at least one Latino/a

POPULATION ESTIMATES

28,000

LATINO/A JEWISH INDIVIDUALS

Jewish individuals who identify as Latino/a or Latino

19,500

LATINO/A JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS

Jewish households with at least one Latino/a Jew

43,000

JEWISH INDIVIDUALS IN LATINO/A JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS

5%

JEWISH INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE LATINO/A

4%

JEWISH ADULTS WHO ARE LATINO/A

6%

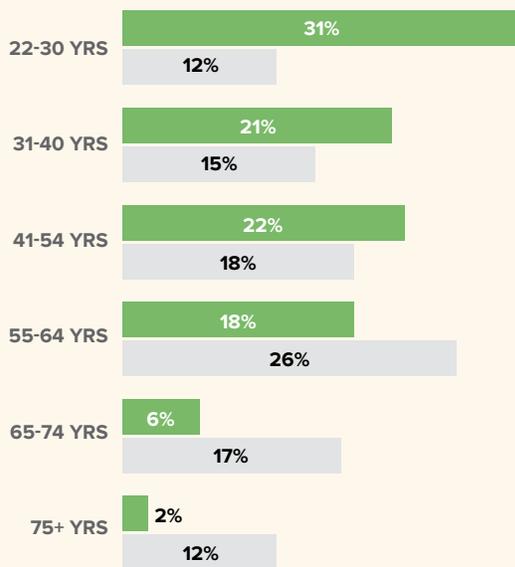
JEWISH CHILDREN WHO ARE LATINO/A

Demographics

- **AGE:** Latino/a Jewish adults are on average much younger than Jewish adults in Los Angeles as a whole.
- **HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION:** Half of Latino/a Jewish adults are married or partnered, and, among those who are, about half are intermarried. Two-in-five Latino/a Jewish households include minor children.
- **FINANCES & HEALTH:** In terms of finances and health, Latino/a Jewish households are similar to other LA Jewish households.
- **POLITICS:** Political views of Latino/a Jews are more varied than other LA Jews. Among Latino/a Jews, 31% consider themselves to be very liberal, compared to 23% of all LA Jews; 25% define themselves as politically conservative, compared to 16% of all LA Jews.
- **LANGUAGE:** Spanish is spoken at home regularly in 41% of Latino/a Jewish households.
- **GEOGRAPHY:** About one quarter each of Latino/a Jewish households are in the West Valley, Westside, and Central/Metro/Mid regions, similar to the LA Jewish community as a whole.

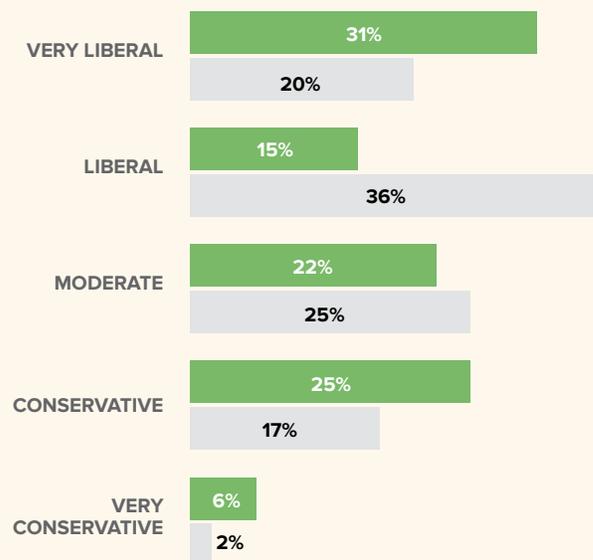
AGES

■ LATINO/A JEWS ■ ALL JEWISH ADULTS



POLITICAL IDEOLOGY

■ LATINO/A JEWS ■ ALL JEWISH ADULTS

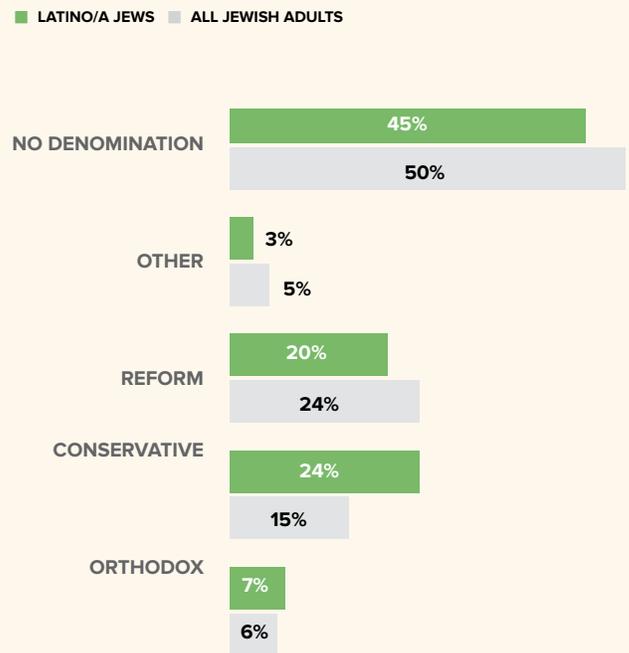


Jewish Engagement

Jewish engagement among Latino/a Jewish adults is similar to that of other Los Angeles Jewish adults. Latino/a Jews identify with denominations and belong to synagogues at rates similar to that of the overall Jewish community.

- In total, over 80% of children in Latino/a Jewish households are being raised Jewish in some way, including 67% who are being raised exclusively Jewish.
- Compared to other Jews in LA, Latino/a Jews have fewer close Jewish friends. One quarter of Latino/a Jews say most or all of their close friends are Jewish, as opposed to 41% in the overall Jewish community. However, Latino/a Jews feel the same level of connection to the LA Jewish community and to Israel as do Jewish adults overall.
- For Latino/a Jews, the aspects of being Jewish that most think are essential concern connecting to family and traditions (62%) and helping Jews in need around the world (60%).
- Nearly two thirds of Latino/a Jews participate in programs with Jewish organizations, similar to the share in the overall LA Jewish community. However, one quarter of Latino/a Jews participate in Chabad programs, compared to 12% of all LA Jews.
- Among Latino/a Jewish households, one third (33%) donate to both Jewish and non-Jewish causes, and 4% donate to Jewish causes only. In comparison, among all LA Jewish households, half (51%) donate to both Jewish and non-Jewish causes. However, the share of the Latino/a Jewish households that volunteer for Jewish and non-Jewish organizations is similar to that in the overall Jewish community.

DENOMINATION



INDEX OF JEWISH ENGAGEMENT

Engagement Group	Latino/a Jews	Jewish Adults
MINIMALLY INVOLVED	31%	23%
HOLIDAY	15%	27%
COMMUNAL	16%	16%
RITUAL	13%	16%
IMMERSED	26%	17%

ISRAELI JEWS

The large group of Israelis in LA includes Jews who were born in Israel and moved to LA, as well as those born elsewhere who lived in Israel for a time. Some Israeli Jews have strong religious connections, while others are secular and express their Judaism through engagement with cultural activities. Not surprisingly, most Israelis are bound together by a strong attachment to the Jewish people and to Israel. More than half say that most or all of their close friends are Jewish. The majority feel very connected to the Jewish people around the world and are very attached to Israel.

Yet, there are important differences in the Jewish engagement between two groups of Israelis. Those who were born in Israel and moved to LA (“Israeli-born”) are more likely than other Jews in LA to connect primarily to Jewish communal life rather than religious life. In contrast, Jews who were not born in Israel but became Israeli citizens (“born elsewhere”) include more Orthodox Jews and those who are immersed in all aspects of Jewish life, including communal and religious life.

How Many Israelis Live in LA?

For the purposes of this study, we considered someone Israeli if that person holds Israeli citizenship. Although we did not ask, it is likely that many hold dual citizenship with the United States and have been in the United States for many years. About 27,000 people in Los Angeles are citizens of Israel (5% of the LA Jewish population) of whom 16,500 are Israeli-born, and 10,500 were born elsewhere. These Israeli citizens reside in 19,000 LA households. In total, 46,000 Jewish people live in households that include an Israeli citizen.

But Israeli citizenship is only one marker of Israeli identification. Adding those who have lived in Israel or have parent/s who are Israeli citizens, there are about 43,500 LA Jews who might consider themselves Israeli. There are 35,000 households with individuals who fall in this category. A total of 83,000 Jewish individuals live in those households.

TERMS

“ISRAELI JEWS” are Israeli citizens

“ISRAELI HOUSEHOLDS” are households in which at least one member holds Israeli citizenship

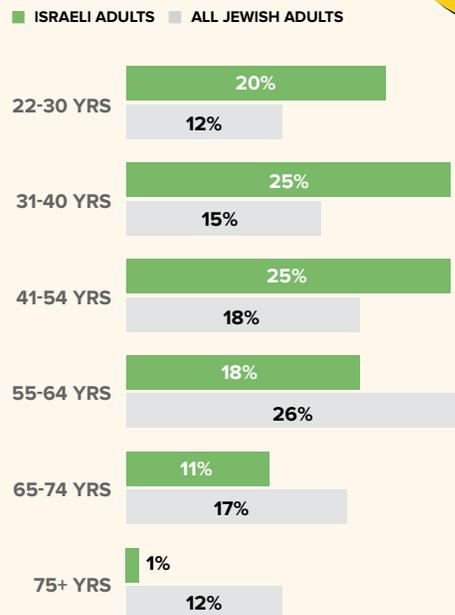
POPULATION ESTIMATES

	JEWISH INDIVIDUALS	JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS	JEWISH INDIVIDUALS IN JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS
ISRAELI JEWS (CITIZENS OF ISRAEL)	27,000	19,000	46,000
BORN IN ISRAEL	16,500	10,000	28,500
NOT BORN IN ISRAEL	10,500	9,000	17,500
EXPANDED ISRAELI COMMUNITY (NON-CITIZENS OF ISRAEL)			
HAS ISRAELI PARENT	5,000	5,000	10,000
LIVED IN ISRAEL	11,500	11,500	27,000
<i>CITIZENS + EXPANDED COMMUNITY</i> → Total	43,500	35,000	83,000

Demographics

- **AGE:** Israelis are, on average, younger than other Jewish adults in Los Angeles.
- **HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION:** Three quarters of Israelis are married or partnered, and among them, 23% are intermarried.
- **CHILDREN:** One third of Israeli households include minor children. There are a total of 12,000 minor children in these households, including over 7,500 school-age children. Some of the children were born in Israel, and some were born elsewhere.
- **FINANCES:** In terms of finances and health, Israeli households are similar to other LA Jewish households.
- **LANGUAGE:** Among Israeli households, 85% speak Hebrew at home on a regular basis.
- **GEOGRAPHY:** About one third of Israeli households reside in the West Valley, and another quarter reside in Central/Metro/Mid.

AGE



45%
of Israeli citizens are
ages 40 or younger

“*The Israeli American community in Los Angeles serves as a model for how to be unabashedly Jewish without assimilating.*”

Jewish Engagement

Jewish engagement among Israelis differs in significant ways from that of other Los Angeles Jews. Whereas 7% of all Jewish adults in LA identify as Orthodox, 18% of Israeli Angelenos identify as Orthodox. However, about two-in-five Israelis do not identify with any particular denomination. Almost 40% of Israelis are members of a synagogue or congregation of some type, and 34% attend services at least monthly.

There are notable differences in the Jewish engagement between the Israeli-born individuals and those born elsewhere. Nearly half of Israelis who were not born in Israel are in the Immersed engagement group, and very few are in the Communal group. About one quarter of Israeli-born adults, on the other hand, are in the Immersed group, and one third are in the Communal group. Few Israelis are in the Minimally Involved group.

About three quarters of children in Israeli households are being raised exclusively Jewish, and 20% are being raised with no religion. One third of school-age Israeli children were enrolled in a day school or yeshiva during the 2021-22 academic year (compared to 12% of all children).

DENOMINATION

	NO DENOM.	OTHER DENOM.	REFORM	CONSERVATIVE	ORTHODOX
ALL JEWISH ADULTS	50%	5%	24%	15%	6%
ISRAELI ADULTS	39%	5%	18%	20%	18%
• ISRAELI BORN	52%	1%	17%	21%	8%
• BORN ELSEWHERE	30%	7%	19%	19%	24%

INDEX OF JEWISH ENGAGEMENT

ENGAGEMENT GROUP	 MINIMALLY INVOLVED	 HOLIDAY	 COMMUNAL	 RITUAL	 IMMERSED
ALL JEWISH ADULTS	23%	27%	16%	16%	17%
ISRAELI ADULTS	4%	17%	18%	23%	39%
• ISRAELI BORN	7%	10%	34%	22%	27%
• BORN ELSEWHERE	2%	21%	7%	24%	46%

Feelings of Connection

Israelis have strong community connections. More than half (58%) say that most or all of their close friends are Jewish, including four-in-five Israeli-born adults and two-in-five Israelis who were born elsewhere. About 70% of Israelis feel very connected to the Jewish people around the world, and 70% are very attached to Israel.

Although the share of Israelis who join organizations is similar to that of other Jews in LA, Israelis are more likely to attend programs often, with 27% attending often and 38% attending sometimes. Seventy-one percent of Israelis attend programs sponsored by Jewish and non-Jewish organizations. Programs that are most attractive to Israelis include Jewish and non-Jewish cultural programs, spiritual and religious programs, and outdoor/active programs.

Israelis believe the most important aspects of being Jewish are leading a moral and ethical life (73%), connecting to family and traditions (72%), helping Jews in need around the world (66%), and caring about Israel (63%). With regard to philanthropy and volunteering, the causes that are most important to Israelis are Israel, education, antisemitism, human services, and social justice.

PERSIAN AND IRANIAN-AMERICAN JEWS

Los Angeles is home to one of the largest concentration of Jews in the United States who identify as Persian or Iranian-American, including those who immigrated from Iran as well as the children and grandchildren of immigrants from Iran. Persian Jewish engagement is, on average, stronger than among LA Jewish adults overall, with about half being synagogue members and attending services regularly. About one third are Conservative Jews, and another third have no particular denomination.

How many Persian Jews live in LA?

Four percent, or about 22,500, of Jewish individuals in Los Angeles identify as Persian or Iranian-American. There are 7,500 Jewish households that include someone born in Iran, and 4,000 that include a child of someone born in Iran. There are an additional 4,000 households that include the child of someone who was born in Iran but does not self-identify as Persian. In total, 42,000 Jewish people live in households with someone who identifies as Persian or is the child of an Iranian immigrant.

TERMS

“PERSIAN JEWS” are Jewish individuals who self-identify as Persian or Iranian-American

“PERSIAN HOUSEHOLDS” are households with at least one Persian Jew

POPULATION ESTIMATES

22,500

PERSIAN JEWISH INDIVIDUALS

31,500

JEWISH INDIVIDUALS IN PERSIAN
JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS

11,500

PERSIAN JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS

4%

JEWISH INDIVIDUALS WHO
ARE PERSIAN

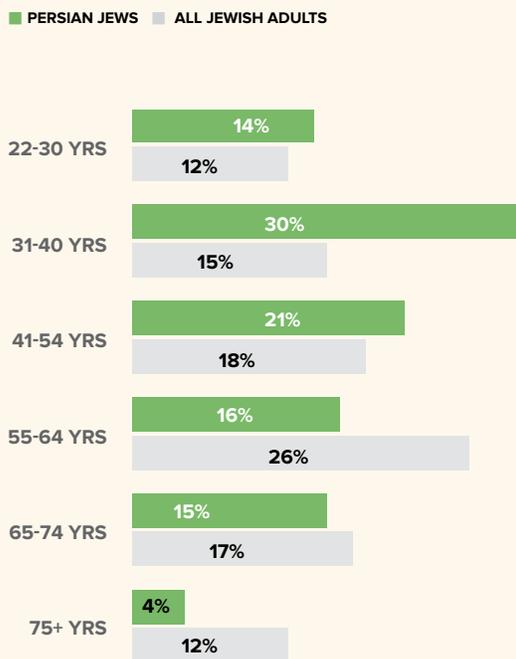


For me as an Iranian-American so many things got lost in translation because my husband and I are immigrants, and our culture is so different from the American one. So by the time that we grew up ourselves, our kids drifted away from us.”

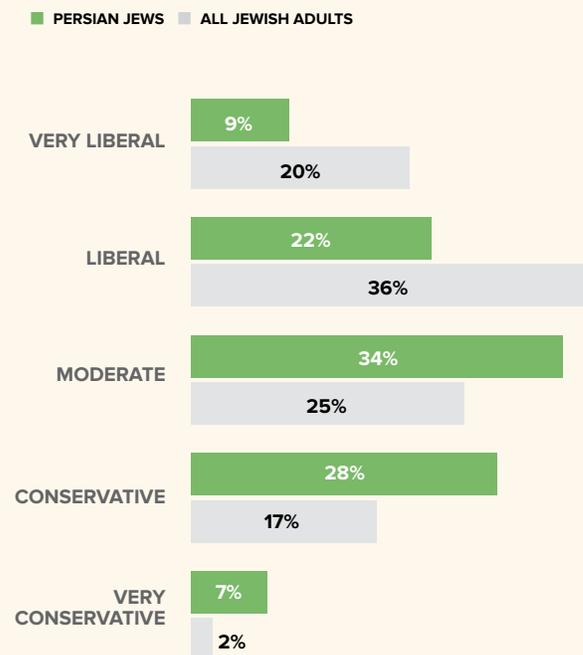
Demographics of Persian Jews

- **AGE:** Persian Jewish adults are, on average, younger than LA Jewish adults overall.
- **HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION:** Two thirds of Persian Jewish adults are married, and among those, 19% are intermarried, a much smaller share than among all LA Jewish adults.
- **CHILDREN:** About one-in-five Persian households include minor children.
- **FINANCES:** In terms of finances, Persian households are similar to other LA Jewish households.
- **HEALTH:** Persian households report a smaller share of households that include someone with a health issue or disability (11% versus 23% for all Jewish households).
- **LANGUAGE:** Among Persian households, 93% speak Farsi at home on a regular basis.

AGES



POLITICAL IDEOLOGY



GEOGRAPHY

	WEST VALLEY	EAST VALLEY	WESTSIDE	CENTRAL/METRO/MID	SOUTH BAY	NORTH COUNTY VALLEYS
ALL JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS	26%	15%	26%	24%	5%	4%
PERSIAN JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS	22%	8%	44%	25%	<1%	<1%

Jewish Engagement

Compared to LA Jews overall and Jews throughout the United States, Persian Jews tend to identify as Conservative in greater numbers, while fewer identify as Reform. Close to half of Persian Jews are in the Immersed engagement group, and another third are in the Ritual group.

Almost half (49%) of Persian Jewish households are members of a synagogue or congregation of some type, and a similar share (47%) attend services at least monthly.

All children in Persian households are being raised exclusively Jewish. Twenty-four percent of school-age children in Persian households are enrolled in day school or yeshiva (compared to 12% of all children).

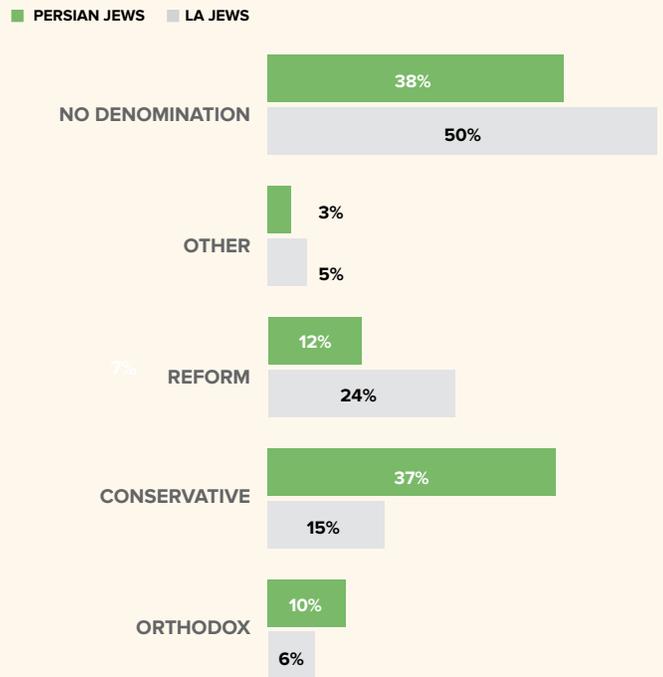
Feelings of Connection

Persian households have strong community connections. Over three quarters (78%) say that most or all of their close friends are Jewish. Approximately 70% of Persian households feel very connected to the Jewish people around the world, and 67% feel very attached to Israel. Three quarters of Persian households donated to at least one Jewish organization in the past year, including more than one quarter of Persian households who donated only to Jewish organizations.

These connections are also expressed through relatively high levels of organization membership and program participation. About one quarter of Persian households belong to a Jewish organization other than a synagogue, 17% attend programs often, and 42% attend programs sometimes. Participation in programs sponsored by synagogues, Chabad, and national organizations is particularly high.

For Persians, the aspects of being Jewish that feel essential are connecting to family and traditions (82%), leading a moral and ethical life (77%), helping Jews in need around the world (67%), and caring about Israel (68%).

DENOMINATION



INDEX OF JEWISH ENGAGEMENT

ENGAGEMENT GROUP	PERSIAN JEWISH ADULTS	JEWISH ADULTS
MINIMALLY INVOLVED	<1%	23%
HOLIDAY	11%	27%
COMMUNAL	7%	16%
RITUAL	35%	16%
IMMERSSED	46%	17%



Our Iranian-Jewish community is strongly pro-Israel and a supporter of Jewish causes.”

Race and Ethnicity

JEWISH PERSONS OF COLOR

About 6% of Jewish people in LA, or 32,500 individuals, identify as a person of color. For this report, we refer to Jewish individuals who identify as a person of color as “Jewish persons of color” (JPOC). There are 22,500 households in LA that include a JPOC, which is 8% of all LA Jewish households. Compared to the 6% of LA Jewish adults who identify as a person of color, a larger share of Jewish children (9%) identify as JPOCs, suggesting that this number will increase over time.

Among JPOCs in LA, about one quarter of this group identify as Black, 21% identify as Asian, 11% identify as Hispanic white, 7% identify as non-Hispanic white, 5% identify as American Indian or Alaskan Native, 2% identify as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 13% indicate they have some other racial identity. Another 17% of JPOCs described their racial identity as Jewish, Ashkenazi, or some other self-defined Jewish identity rather than a standard race category.

Although the focus of this section of the report is on Jewish individuals who identify as a person of color,

there is a larger group of LA Jews—about 14%—who identify as Latino/a or identify with a race other than white. The share of children who are non-white and/or Latino/a is slightly larger than among the adults (22%). Of those who identify as Latino/a or identify as a race other than white, fewer than half describe themselves as a person of color.



There is a wide assumption that the Jewish community is white / Ashkenazi. As a bi-racial Jew, whose mother is not the Jewish parent, I still often don't feel quite welcome or a part of the Los Angeles Jewish community.”

POPULATION ESTIMATES

9%
INDIVIDUALS IN
JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS
WITH A JPOC

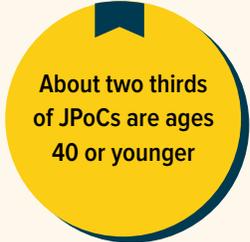
6%
ALL JEWISH ADULTS
WHO ARE JPOC

9%
ALL JEWISH CHILDREN
WHO ARE JPOC

8%
JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS
THAT INCLUDE A JPOC

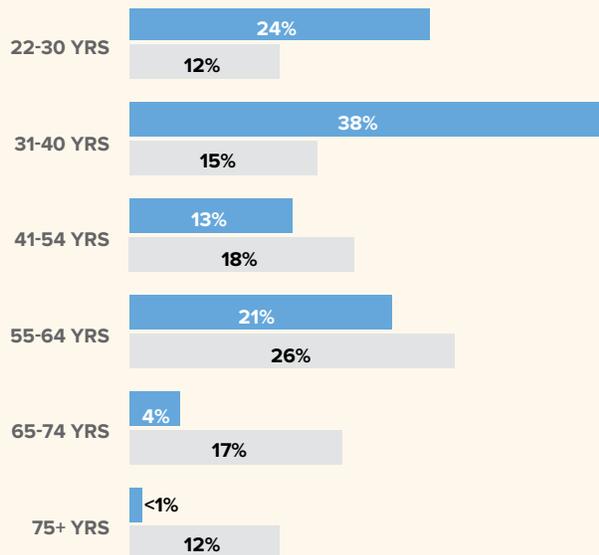
Demographics

- HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION:** Just over half of JPoCs are married or partnered and, among them, one third are intermarried.
- AGE:** JPoCs are younger than other LA Jews; one quarter are ages 22-30.
- GEOGRAPHY:** About one third of LA JPoC adults live in Central/Metro/Mid, and about one-in-five JPoCs live in the West Valley, East Valley, and Westside.
- POLITICS:** JPoCs describe themselves as more politically liberal than do LA Jews overall. Among JPoCs, 39% identify as very liberal, and 25% identify as liberal.



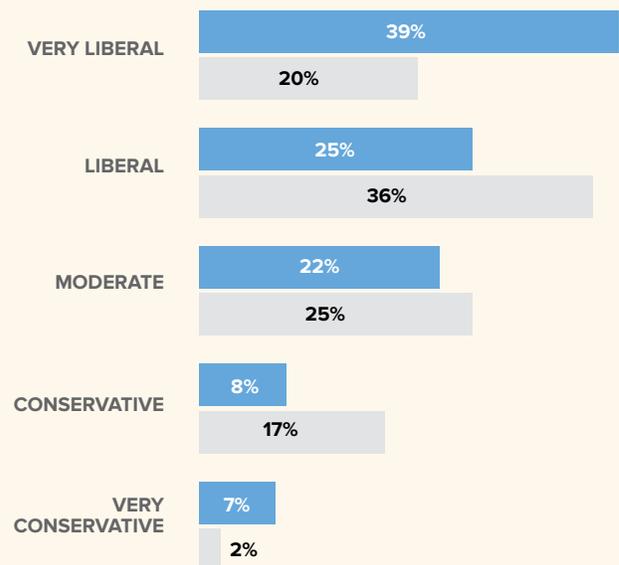
AGES

■ JPoC ■ ALL JEWISH ADULTS



POLITICAL IDEOLOGY

■ JPoC ■ ALL JEWISH ADULTS



Need more work to recognize and support Jews of Color, but glad to see the conversation starting.”

Jewish Engagement

Although overall denominational affiliation and Jewish engagement of JPoCs is similar to that of other LA Jews, there are some notable differences in their experiences of Jewish life. Two thirds of JPoCs consider helping Jews in need around the world as essential to being Jewish (compared to 44% of LA Jewish adults overall), and almost half prioritize spiritual practice and belief (compared to 29% of LA Jewish adults overall).

Nearly half of JPoCs report that have few or no close Jewish friends, compared to one quarter of LA Jewish adults overall. While about one-in-ten Jewish adults in LA are limited in their desired Jewish involvement because they do not feel that Jewish spaces are welcoming to people like them, four-in-ten JPoCs feel this way. Whereas one third of all adults in LA are made more comfortable at Jewish events when policies around inclusion and diversity are made explicit, this is true of over half of JPoCs. Seventy percent of JPoCs say they feel more comfortable when program attendees come from diverse backgrounds.

INDEX OF JEWISH ENGAGEMENT

ENGAGEMENT GROUP	JPOC ADULTS	JEWISH ADULTS
 MINIMALLY INVOLVED	25%	23%
 HOLIDAY	19%	27%
 COMMUNAL	23%	16%
 RITUAL	14%	16%
 IMMERSED	19%	17%



The Jewish community in Los Angeles is extremely segregated and unwelcoming. Being a Black family, no matter where we go, we stand out and are singled out as oddities. I have had to defend and prove my ‘Jewishness’ more times than I can count. Regardless of the fact that I’m a Sabra [born in Israel]... and grew up in an observant household, none of that matters because of the color of my skin. I have had more negative experiences than positive unfortunately.”

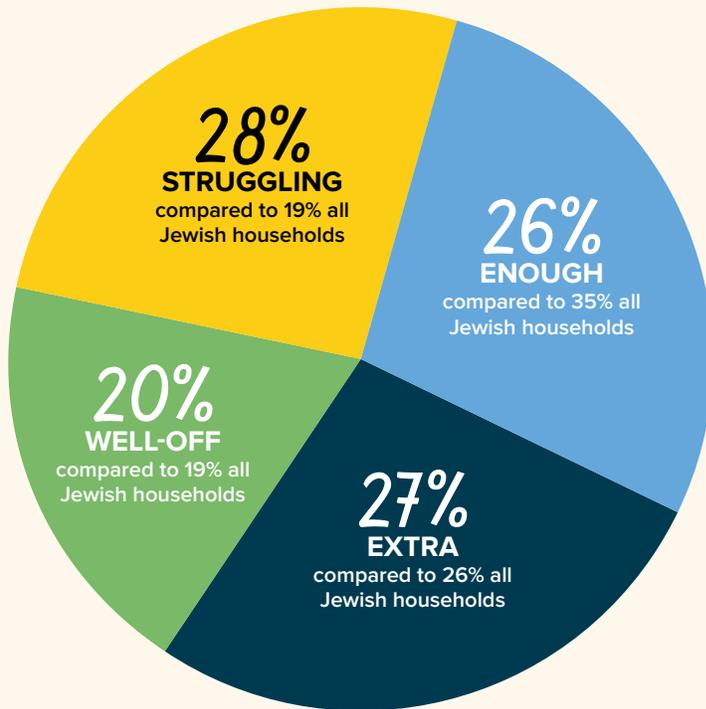
Feelings of Welcoming

Just over half of JPoCs find LA Jewish organizations to be very welcoming (27%) or somewhat welcoming (27%) to people of color.

FEEL JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS ARE WELCOMING TO PEOPLE OF COLOR

	JPOC ADULTS	ALL JEWISH ADULTS
NOT AT ALL WELCOMING	13%	3%
NOT TOO WELCOMING	16%	7%
SOMEWHAT WELCOMING	27%	20%
VERY WELCOMING	27%	29%
NO OPINION	18%	40%

JEWISH HOUSEHOLD FINANCIAL SITUATION



Well-Being of Jewish Persons of Color

Among households that include JPoCs, a larger share (28%) are financially struggling compared to LA Jewish households overall. However, one-in-five JPoC households are well-off, similar to LA Jewish households overall. Nearly one third of JPoC households report that someone in the household has a health issue, special need, or disability, compared to 23% of all LA Jewish households.

JPOC HOUSEHOLDS	JPOC HOUSEHOLDS	ALL JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS
Household has member with health issue, special need, disability	31%	23%
Not all health services received in past 3 months	9%	5%

JEWISH HERITAGE

Ashkenazi, Sephardi, and Mizrahi Jews

Many Jewish people trace their family origins to a variety of places throughout the world, with different customs and traditions associated with their place of origin. As is true throughout the US Jewish community, the majority of Jewish adults in LA have Ashkenazi Jewish heritage (origins in Central and Eastern Europe). However, 14% of Jewish adults in LA identify their heritage as Sephardi (origins in Spain or descendants of Spanish exiles), and 4% as Mizrahi (origins in North Africa and the Middle East). Nine percent of LA Jewish adults report having no particular heritage, and 5% report having multiple heritages. In general, Jewish engagement among Sephardi and Mizrahi Jews is stronger than among most LA Jews, with one third of Sephardi adults and nearly half of Mizrahi adults in the Immersed engagement group.

“Elevating and empowering the voices of non-Ashkenazi leaders should be a core focus of community development moving forward.”

JEWISH HERITAGE

	JEWISH ADULTS WHO HAVE THIS HERITAGE	JEWISH ADULTS WHO ONLY HAVE THIS HERITAGE
ASHKENAZI	78%	74%
SEPHARDI	14%	10%
MIZRAHI	4%	3%
OTHER	< 1%	< 1%
NONE, NO PARTICULAR HERITAGE	9%	9%
ANY COMBINATION	5%	5%

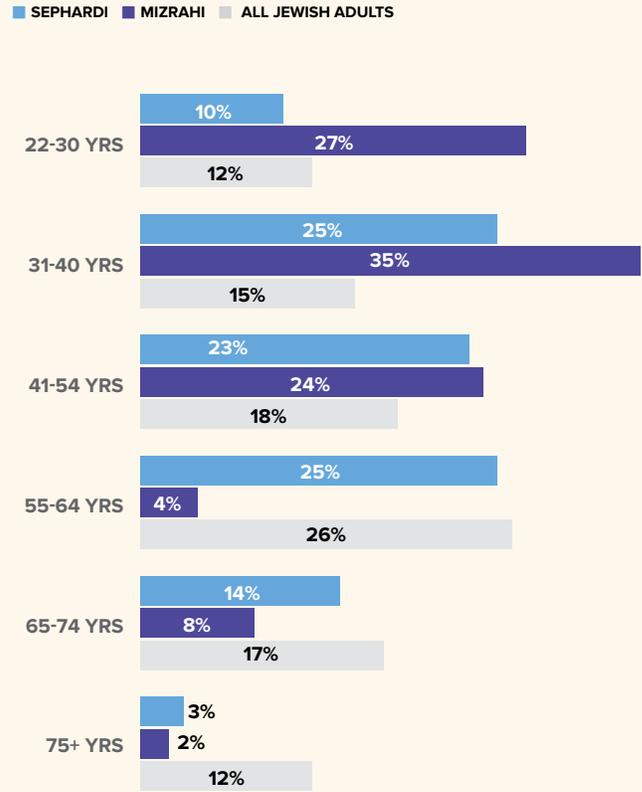
*Total adds to more than 100% as more than one option could be selected



Demographics

- **AGE:** Sephardi and Mizrahi adults are younger than LA Jewish adults overall.
- **HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION:** Compared to the rest of the LA Jewish community, Sephardi and Mizrahi Jews are more likely to be inmarried.
- **FINANCES:** The financial situations of Sephardi and Mizrahi households are similar to those in the LA Jewish community overall.
- **CITIZENSHIP:** Sixteen percent of Sephardi adults and one third of Mizrahi adults are Israeli citizens. One third of Sephardi adults and half of Mizrahi adults are Persian.

AGES



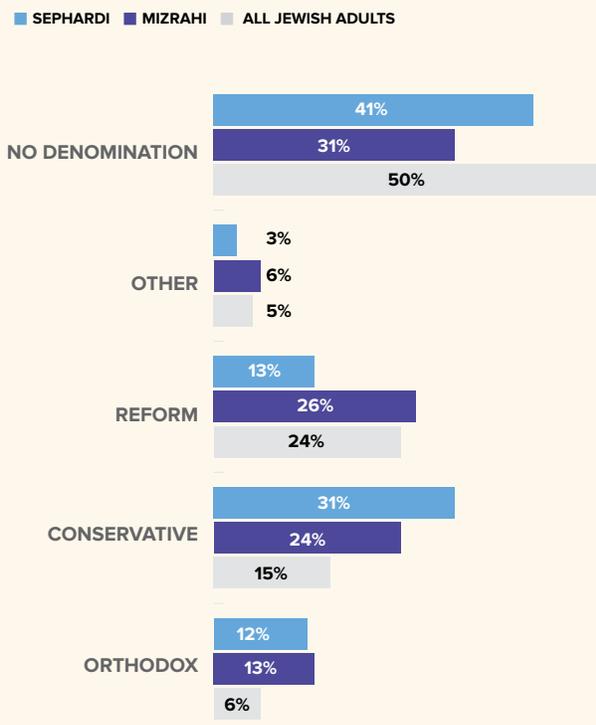
Jewish Engagement

A greater share of Sephardi and Mizrahi adults identify with a denomination than among the LA Jewish community overall. Half of LA Jewish adults indicate they identify with no denomination, compared to 41% of Sephardi Jews and 31% of Mizrahi Jews. In general, Jewish engagement among Sephardi and Mizrahi Jews is stronger than among LA Jewish adults overall, with one third of Sephardi adults and nearly half of Mizrahi adults in the Immersed engagement group. Synagogue membership is also more common among Sephardi and Mizrahi Jews: 38% of Sephardi households and half of Mizrahi households are synagogue members, compared to 28% of LA Jewish households overall.

INDEX OF JEWISH ENGAGEMENT

ENGAGEMENT GROUP	SEPHARDI JEWISH ADULTS	MIZRAHI JEWISH ADULTS	ALL JEWISH ADULTS
 MINIMALLY INVOLVED	13%	1%	23%
 HOLIDAY	15%	4%	27%
 COMMUNAL	13%	14%	16%
 RITUAL	25%	35%	16%
 IMMERSED	33%	46%	17%

DENOMINATION



Feelings of Connection

Sephardi and Mizrahi Jewish adults feel strong connections to the LA Jewish community, to Israel, and to Jews around the world. Over half of Sephardi Jews and 70% of Mizrahi Jews believe helping Jews in need around the world is essential to being Jewish.



I believe there is a huge divide between the Ashkenazi and Sephardic communities. I think this is unfortunate since we are all Jewish. There needs to be a greater sense of unity and acceptance.”

LGBTQ

Eight percent of Jewish adults in Los Angeles identify as LGBTQ* (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning), and 14% of Jewish households have a member (who may or may not be Jewish) who identifies as LGBTQ. Nationally, 4% of US Jewish adults identify as gay or lesbian, and another 5% describe themselves as bisexual.

Although more than half of LGBTQ Jewish adults feel that LA Jewish organizations are welcoming to LGBTQ individuals, many report that their participation in Jewish life is limited because they do not know many people who attend programs and services, or because there are situations that make them feel unwelcome.

Nearly one third of LGBTQ Jews report that they often felt lonely in the past month and that they experienced emotional or mental health difficulties “often” or “all the time.” These rates are much higher than for LA Jewish adults overall.



LA has a very diverse Jewish community, and is one of the best places to be an LGBTQ+ Jew, with a dedicated organization to this. It is very well connected throughout the Jewish community in LA, and the community in LA is very welcoming on the whole. There is, however, a lack of dialogue between the more conservative and religious communities, and some negative views on LGBTQ+ and other inclusion and equality issues persist.”

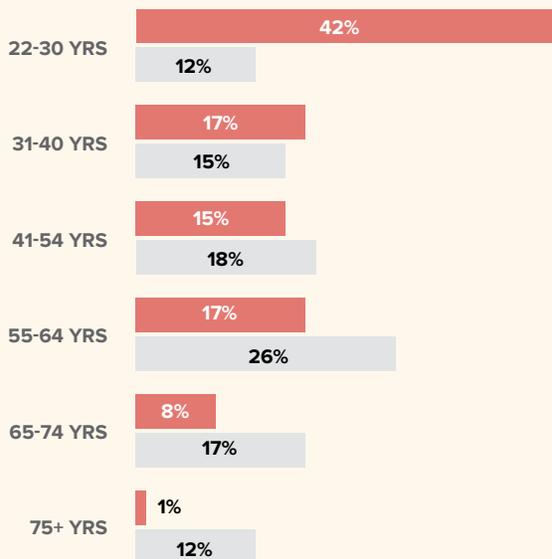
* LGBTQ is the term that was used in the survey and the text of this report reflects that usage. The authors recognize that some prefer LGBTQ+ or other variations.

Demographics

- **HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION:** About half of LGBTQ Jews are married or partnered, and among them, two thirds are intermarried.
- **AGE:** LGBTQ Jews on average are younger than LA Jewish adults overall.
- **CHILDREN:** Eleven percent of LGBTQ households include a minor child, a smaller share than overall Jewish households (24%).
- **GEOGRAPHY:** About one third of LGBTQ Jews live in Central/Metro/Mid.
- **POLITICS:** LGBTQ-identifying Jewish adults describe themselves as more politically liberal than do LA Jewish adults overall. Among LGBTQ Jews, 46% identify as very liberal, and 28% identify as liberal.

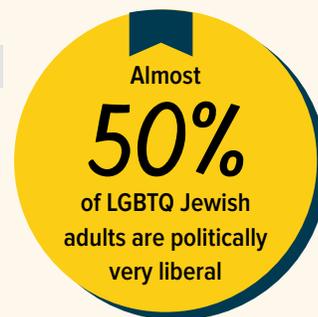
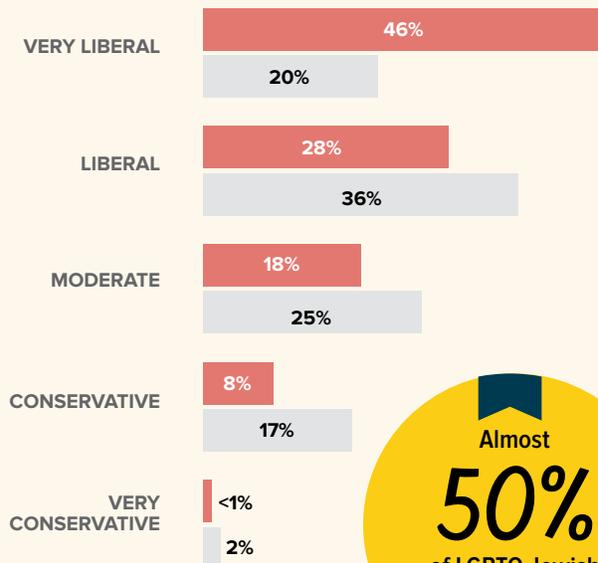
AGES

■ LGBTQ JEWISH ADULTS ■ ALL JEWISH ADULTS



POLITICAL IDEOLOGY

■ LGBTQ JEWISH ADULTS ■ ALL JEWISH ADULTS



Jewish Engagement

Although overall denominational affiliation and Jewish engagement of LGBTQ Jewish adults is similar to that of LA Jewish adults overall, there are some notable differences in their Jewish experiences.

For LGBTQ Jewish adults, Israel is less central to their Jewish lives than for LA Jewish adults overall. Caring about justice and equality is an essential part of being Jewish for three quarters of LGBTQ Jews in LA.



Organizations think they are more LGBTQ inclusive than they are, and don't look for help becoming more LGBTQ friendly."

INDEX OF JEWISH ENGAGEMENT

ENGAGEMENT GROUP	LGBTQ JEWISH ADULTS	ALL JEWISH ADULTS
 MINIMALLY INVOLVED	16%	23%
 HOLIDAY	31%	27%
 COMMUNAL	20%	16%
 RITUAL	21%	16%
 IMMERSSED	13%	17%

Feelings of Welcoming

More than half of LGBTQ Jewish adults consider LA Jewish organizations to be very welcoming (29%) or somewhat welcoming (34%) to LGBTQ people.

However, LGBTQ Jewish adults report experiencing barriers to their involvement in Jewish organizations in larger numbers than does the community as a whole. Two-in-five LGBTQ Jewish adults do not know enough people to feel comfortable at Jewish programs and events. One third of LGBTQ Jewish adults feel that Jewish spaces are not welcoming to people like them, and one quarter say their political views are unwelcome.

Conversely, two thirds of LGBTQ adults feel especially welcome and comfortable at Jewish events when people with diverse backgrounds attend, compared to half of Jewish adults overall. And while one third of all Jewish adults want policies around inclusion and diversity to be made explicit, two thirds of LGBTQ adults feel this way.

FEEL JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS ARE WELCOMING TO LGBTQ PEOPLE

	LGBTQ JEWISH ADULTS	ALL JEWISH ADULTS
NOT AT ALL WELCOMING	3%	3%
NOT TOO WELCOMING	11%	5%
SOMEWHAT WELCOMING	34%	20%
VERY WELCOMING	29%	28%
NO OPINION	23%	43%

BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION IN JEWISH ACTIVITIES

	LGBTQ JEWISH ADULTS	ALL JEWISH ADULTS
DON'T KNOW MANY PEOPLE	38%	24%
NOT WELCOMING FOR PEOPLE LIKE ME	32%	13%
POLITICAL VIEWS ARE UNWELCOME	24%	11%

Well-being of LGBTQ Jews

Households that include LGBTQ Jews are financially similar to other LA Jewish households. More than one third of households that include LGBTQ Jews report that someone has a health issue, special need, or disability, compared to 23% of all LA Jewish households. Nearly one third of LGBTQ Jews said that they “often” felt lonely in the past month and that they experienced emotional or mental health difficulties “often” or “all the time.” This proportion is much higher than for LA Jewish adults overall.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

	LGBTQ JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS	ALL JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS
Household has member with health issue, special need, disability	38%	23%
Not all health services received in past 3 months	7%	5%
Local support network: no one	6%	6%
Felt lonely past month: often or all the time	31%	9%
Emotional or mental difficulties past month: often or all the time	29%	6%