

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY, COHEN CENTER FOR MODERN JEWISH STUDIES
DEFINITIONS: JBR, JNR, JMR, JB, JA, NJ

Jews by Religion (JBR) are those who say their religion is Jewish and have a Jewish background (i.e., a Jewish parent, was raised Jewish, or converted).

Jews of No Religion (JNR) are atheists and agnostics who consider themselves Jewish aside from religion and have a Jewish background, or say they are Jewish and atheist/agnostic, and have a Jewish background.

Jews of Multiple Religions (JMR) either say they have two religions, one of which is Judaism, and have a Jewish background, or have another religion but consider themselves Jewish aside from religion and have a Jewish background.

Jewish Background (JB) say they have a religion other than Judaism, do not consider themselves Jewish aside from religion, but have a Jewish background.

Jewish Affinity (JA) consider themselves Jewish either by religion or not by religion, but do not have a Jewish background.

Non-Jews (NJ) have a religion other than Judaism, do not consider themselves Jewish in any way, and do not have a Jewish background.

Messianic Jews with a Jewish background were categorized as JB, and those without a Jewish background were categorized as NJ.

Source: The Berman Jewish DataBank has extracted these definitions used in Brandeis/CMJS Local Community Studies from the "Documentation..." explanation for the Greater Boston Jewish Community Study, 2015.

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