

2021 Study of Jewish LA

Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies, Brandeis University

Documentation of Public Use Dataset

For more information contact Dr. Janet Aronson: jaronson@brandeis.edu or commstudy@brandeis.edu

Last updated September 29, 2022

Introduction

This document describes the public use dataset for the 2021 Study of Jewish LA, developed by the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University. It explains the constructed variables in the dataset and the procedures for statistical weighting. This dataset is provided for the use of the research community. It is the researcher's responsibility to ensure that analyses are conducted properly.

Variables that begin with the prefix "m_" "x_" and "wt_" were not part of the original data, but were constructed from other variables, some of which are not included in the public dataset (see below). All other variables are documented in the codebook (Section D of the technical appendices) and are taken directly from the survey.

You can find the report and technical appendices at:

<https://www.brandeis.edu/cmjs/community-studies/los-angeles-report.html>

You can also contact the research team for consultation on the use of this dataset.

Dropped Variables and Observations

This dataset does not include respondents contacted for the survey who were not members of Jewish households in the Los Angeles area. Only respondents whose answers were used in the analysis by CMJS were kept in the public dataset.

Additionally, some variables were deleted, and some responses were consolidated from the public dataset in order to protect the identity of respondents. Contact the CMJS/SSRI research team to apply for access to a restricted dataset.

About the Public Use Dataset

The public use dataset contains all raw data provided by respondents who were members of Jewish households in the Los Angeles area, except for data that might be used to identify individual respondents. Primarily, these removed variables were open-ended responses, household ZIP codes, and answers with fewer than 100 responses that could be used to identify a respondent. Where possible, potentially identifying variables were recategorized into larger groups.

Constructed and certain other variables have prefixes as follows:

1. Variables with the prefix “m_” denote metadata. For more information, see the section **Survey Metadata**.
2. Variables with the prefix “x_” denote those that are not part of the original data. For more information, see the section **Definitions of Constructed Variables**.
3. Variables with the prefix “wt_” denote weights. For more information, see the section **Weighting**.

Variable naming conventions

1. All variables with a “resp” in the name refer to the respondent (e.g., x_respage6cat is the age of the respondent and x_respmartype is the constructed variable noting the marital status of the respondent).
2. Variables with a “hhad” prefix refer to non-respondent adults in the household; these variables range from 2-5 because the respondent is considered as the first adult (e.g., x_hhadage6cat3 is the age of the third adult in the household).
3. Variables with a “hhch” prefix refer to the children in the household; these range from 1-8 (e.g., x_hhchage3cat1 is the age of the first child in the household).

Potential Issues with Data Interpretation

CMJS as a rule maintained the integrity of the data as collected. As such, two potential issues warrant caution. First, responses skipped through survey logic are coded as missing (. in Stata) and individually skipped items are coded as “.s”. In general, the survey programming did not include separate “Don’t Know” or “Refused” response options, and so such cases are recorded as item skips. When a “Don’t know” response option was included for a question, it has a numerical value, rather than one of the previously listed missing values (“.” or “.s”) from Stata.

Second, there are cases where respondents answered a question and its follow-up before seemingly backtracking and changing the original response, which would otherwise render the follow-up response invalid. Such overwritten responses remain in the dataset.

It is up to the analyst’s own interpretation as to how to account for these characteristics of the dataset.

Survey Metadata

m_type: If the respondent comes from the primary or supplementary frames.

m_strata: The strata identified is used for weighting.

Definitions of Constructed Variables (x_ prefix)

Variables were constructed from raw data for three purposes:

1. Standardized recoding of open-ended or skip-logic data.
2. Recategorization and consolidation of responses to make them less identifiable.
3. Analytical variables created through complex combinations of multiple raw variables.

Recoding from Other Data

x_resprelig4cat: Religion of respondents and other adults in the household. Open-ended responses were recoded to an existing option whenever possible. Responses were also recategorized to protect privacy.

x_respedu: The highest degree obtained by the respondent. Open-ended responses were recoded to an existing option whenever possible.

x_resprelrsd, x_hhadrdsd2-5: Religion the respondent and adult household members were raised as. Open-ended responses were recoded to an existing option whenever possible.

x_respdenom5cat, x_hhaddenom5cat2-5: Jewish denomination of respondents and other adults in the household. Open-ended responses given as “other denomination” were recoded to an existing denomination wherever appropriate. Denominations were also consolidated into different categories.

x_resporth: Where respondents indicated they were Orthodox, they were then asked which subgroup they identified with (i.e., Modern Orthodox, Chabad, etc.).

x_hhchrlg1-8: In the original survey, after identifying the religion in which the first child is being raised, respondents were asked if all children are being raised in the same religion. These variables fill in the responses for children 2-8 who have the same religion as child 1. Open ended responses were also used to recode this variable.

x_resperg* x_sperg*: In the original survey, respondents were asked about their Jewish heritage and that of their spouse/partner (if any). Open-ended responses were recoded to an existing option whenever possible.

x_jllmt*: Respondents were asked about factors that limited their engagement with Jewish life. Open-ended responses were recoded to an existing option wherever possible.

x_orgcomf*: Which factors make respondents feel welcome, including knowing people and being invited.

x_orgprog*: Whether the respondent participated in programs of a range of types, including educational and cultural programs.

x_charedu- x_charnone: Respondents were asked to select the causes which were most important to them which they might volunteer for or donate to. Open-ended responses were recoded to an existing option wherever possible and responses were recategorized to protect privacy.

x_hldisment, x_hldisint, x_hldisphys, x_hldischron, x_hldisnone: Respondents were asked about the particular health issues faced by household members. Open-ended responses were recoded to an existing option wherever possible.

x_hlcarewhopar, x_hlcarewhoothfam, x_hlcarewhoother: Who caregivers were providing care to. Responses to “other” recipients of care were recoded to an existing option wherever possible.

Recategorized and Consolidated Responses

x_region: Respondents supplied the ZIP code of their primary residence in the area. To protect their identities, this variable groups ZIP codes into regional boundaries. See the report for more details on these regions and sub regions.

x_respgender, x_hhadgen2-5, x_hhchgen1-8: In order to protect privacy, those who identify as neither male nor female were replaced with the value: .s and labeled as an item skip. The gender variables are the only instances in which an item skip may not refer to an individual refusing to respond to a question.

x_respage6cat, x_hhadage6cat2-5, x_hhchage3cat1-8: Ages of household members were categorized.

x_respborn x_hhbornother x_parbornother: Respondents were asked in which country/countries they, their parents/in-laws, or anyone else in the household were born. Countries of birth were consolidated to protect privacy.

x_resphisp, x_hhhisp, x_resppoc, x_hhpoc: Whether the respondent was, or the household included, someone who identified as Hispanic or Latino/a, or as a person of color.

x_hhhispi, x_hhpoci: Whether the household includes a Latino/a Jew or a Jewish Person of Color.

x_locyearscomb4: The number of years respondents have lived in the area. Years were categorized to protect privacy.

x_rlsyntypesrecnd x_rlsyntypesorgoth: If members of a Jewish congregation, respondents were asked the type it was. Some were consolidated to protect privacy.

x_respizr, x_hhizr, x_resplgbtq, x_hhlgbtq, x_resprus, x_hhrus, x_resppers x_hhppers, x_respholch, x_hhholch: Whether the respondent or any other member of the household identifies as one of the following sub-groups: Israeli citizen, LGBTQ, Persian, Russian-speaking, Persian, or descendant of a Holocaust survivor.

x_hldiswhoadch: Where respondents indicated that they or someone in their household had a chronic health issue, mental health issue, special need or disability that limited their activities, they were asked to indicated who this person was. Responses with low frequency (non-spouse adult or child) were consolidated into an “other” category.

x_hldisother: Cognitive disabilities, substance abuse/addiction, COVID-19 complications, and “other” health issues were combined to protect privacy.

x_wbinc: Respondents were asked to indicate their household’s annual income in 2020. Responses were consolidated to protect privacy.

x_wbfinsit4cat: Self-described financial situation. “Cannot make ends meet” and “Just managing to make ends meet” were combined into the category “Struggling” to protect privacy.

x_wbsvc* x_wbsvc*prv: Respondents who indicated that they were struggling in describing their financial situation were then asked if they had required any services and if they were provided with those services, including legal and mental.

x_wbhard x_wbhardpast: Household suffered hardship in previous year, or between 1-3 years ago. Responses were consolidated to protect privacy.

x_respraceothnw: Whether the respondent identifies with any of the following racial identities: Black, Asian, American Indian / Alaskan Native, or Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander. Responses were combined in this way in the public dataset to protect privacy.

x_hhracewhite, x_hhraceasian, x_hhraceblackaiannhpi, x_hhracenwother: Whether anyone in the household identifies as white, Asian, Black/American Indian/Alaskan Native/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, or another racial identity. Responses were combined in this way in the public dataset to protect privacy.

Constructed Analytic Variables

x_hhsize: The total number of people in the household.

x_respjewtype, x_hhadjewtype2-5: These variables denote the “type of Jew” corresponding to the respondent or the household adults.

All Jewish adults have a Jewish background: at least one Jewish parent, were raised Jewish, or converted to Judaism. Jews by Religion (JBR) say their religion is exclusively Jewish. Jews of No Religion (JNR) are either atheists, agnostics, or have no religion and consider themselves Jewish aside from religion. JNRs are also those who say their religion is both Jewish and atheist/agnostic. Jews of Multiple Religions (JMR) either say they have two religions, one of which is Judaism; or have another religion but consider themselves Jewish aside from religion. Unknown Jews (UJ) are individuals who did not provide enough information to be classified as JBR, JNR, or JMR, but provided enough information to be identified as Jewish.

People of Jewish Background (JB) are those who have a Jewish background but do not identify as Jewish. People of Jewish Affinity (JA) are those who have no Jewish background but do identify as Jewish. Non-Jews (NJ) are people who do not have a Jewish background and do not identify as Jewish.

x_respjewish, x_hhadjewish2-5: Jewish adults who are JBR, JNR, or JMR.

x_hhchjewish1-8: Children are counted as Jews if they are considered Jewish or Jewish and another religion (corresponding to the variables x_hhchrlg1-8).

x_respmartype: This indicates if the respondent is inmarried, intermarried, or unmarried (for this variable, both spouses and unmarried partners are counted as being “married”).

x_hhmartype: This notes if the household contains an inmarried or intermarried couple, or no couple, whether or not the respondent is part of the married couple (for this variable, both spouses and unmarried partners are counted as being “married”).

x_jengage: This is the category of the index of Jewish engagement of the respondent (see report).

x_hhadjewct x_hhchjewct x_hhjewishct: The number of Jewish adults, Jewish minor children, and total Jews in the household.

x_hhage6cat: The age of the “head” of the household. Head of household is defined as the respondent if the respondent is married/partnered and Jewish. If the respondent is unmarried or non-Jewish, the head of the household is the oldest married/partnered Jewish member of the household. If a non-Jewish respondent does not live with any married Jewish adults, the head of the household is the oldest Jew in the household. By definition, every Jewish household includes at least one Jewish adult.

x_fplpoor: Based on income and household size, whether the household income is below 250% of the Federal Poverty Level.

x_hhchild x_respar: These variables were constructed for analytic purposes from other variables, indicating if there was a child in the household or if the respondent is a parent.

Weighting

Two sets of weights are available for this dataset. One set is at the household level (**wt_hh_main** and **wt_hh_mainsupp**) and one is at the respondent level (**wt_rj_main** and **wt_rj_mainsupp**). Household-level weights should be used to calculate characteristics of the household, population counts, and anything involving children. Respondent-level weights should be used to calculate characteristics of individual adults (e.g., behaviors and attitudes).

For each set of weights (household and respondent) there are two variants: one is used for the primary sample (**wt_hh_main**, **wt_rj_main**) and the other is for the full sample (**wt_hh_mainsupp**, **wt_rj_mainsupp**). The primary weights apply only to respondents in the primary or probability sample. The full weights include all respondents, whether in the primary/probability sample or the supplement/nonprobability sample.

Primary weights are used to estimate counts or characteristics of the overall population. Full weights are used to estimate characteristics of subpopulations or any within-group analysis. For example, the primary weights would be used to estimate the proportion of the entire population that belongs to a synagogue. The full weights would be used to estimate the proportion of synagogue members and synagogue non-members who attended a Passover Seder.

The public-use dataset does not include screened-out non-Jewish households but does include all screener data.

Weighting instructions below are designed for use with the Stata statistical analysis program.

In most cases, analysis of individuals is limited to Jewish respondents using variable `x_respjewish`.

Constructed variables for weighting

`m_type`: If the respondent comes from the primary or supplementary frames.

`m_strata`: The strata variable used for weighting.

`wt_hh_main`: The primary-sample household weight.

`wt_hh_mainsupp`: The full-sample household weight.

`wt_rj_main`: The primary-sample respondent/individual weight.

`wt_rj_mainsupp`: The full-sample respondent/individual weight.

Primary Weights

Primary weights should be used for generating characteristics of the population as a whole, including population counts, characteristics, and the sizes of various subgroups.

For household estimates use `wt_hh_main` to estimate the characteristics of households including counts and proportions. For estimations on the number of people—i.e., counts—use the household weights with totals of count variables—e.g., `x_hhadct`, `x_hhchct`. In Stata the primary household weights are set with the following syntax:

```
svyset _n [pweight= wt_hh_main], strata(m_strata) vce(linearized) singleunit(missing)
```

Use the respondent weights for characteristics of individual adults. For example, use `wt_rj_main` for characteristics of adults (including respondent and non-respondent adults). In Stata, the primary respondent weights are set with the following syntax:

```
svyset _n [pweight= wt_rj_main], strata(m_strata) vce(linearized) singleunit(missing)
```

Example: Household Characteristics

The number or proportion of Jewish households that experienced antisemitism in the past year:

```
svyset _n [pweight= wt_hh_main], strata(m_strata) vce(linearized) singleunit(missing)
```

```
svy: tab jlantiexp, count
```

```
svy: tab jlantiexp
```

Example: Count of Adults

The total number of adults in Jewish households:

```
svyset _n [pweight= wt_hh_main], strata(m_strata) vce(linearized) singleunit(missing)
```

```
svy: total x_hhadct
```

Example: Respondent or Individual Characteristics

The proportion of Jewish denomination limited to Jewish adults:

```
svyset _n [pweight= wt_hh_main], strata(m_strata) vce(linearized) singleunit(missing)
svy, subpop(x_respjewish): tab x_respdenom5cat
```


Full Weights

Full weights should be used for characteristics of subgroups or for any within-group analysis using crosstabs.

In Stata the full household weights are set with the following syntax:

```
svyset _n [pweight= wt_hh_mainsupp], strata(m_strata) vce(linearized) singleunit(missing)
```

The full primary weights are set with the following syntax:

```
svyset _n [pweight= wt_rj_mainsupp], strata(m_strata) vce(linearized) singleunit(missing)
```

Example: Household Subpopulations

The proportion of Jewish households who donated to Jewish charities by financial situation

```
svyset _n [pweight= wt_hh_mainsupp], strata(m_strata) vce(linearized) singleunit(missing)  
svy: tab charany x_wbfinsit4cat, col
```

Example: Respondent or Individual Characteristics

The proportion of Jewish respondents who have been to Israel by denomination of respondent:

```
svyset _n [pweight= wt_rj_mainsupp], strata(m_strata) vce(linearized) singleunit(missing)  
svy, subpop(x_respjewish): tab x_respdenom5cat isrnum, row
```

Outliers and Excepts to Weights

When presenting data based on small cell sizes, outlier cases can have an outsized effect that distorts the interpretation of findings. We suppressed outliers in a number of cases under conditions where excluding a single response changed the point estimate by 15% of the original estimate and a minimum of a five-percentage point change.

For example, if excluding a case changes an estimate from 20% to 15%, the case is suppressed because the five-point change in the estimate reflects a 25% change from the original estimate ($5/20 = 25\%$). However, if excluding the case changes the estimate from 50% to 45%, the case is not suppressed because the five-point change represents only 10% of the original estimate ($5/50 = 10\%$).

The table below lists the tables in the report in which outliers were suppressed, the relevant analyses, and the tokens of the outliers.

Removed Outlier Cases

Report	Table/Figure	Row	Column	Token
Israel	Attachment to Israel by political views	Very conservative	Not at all attached	10590453
Israel	Caring about Israel is essential to being Jewish by political views	Very conservative	Not important	10590453
Israel	Agreement with statements about Israel by political views	Very conservative	Important for Israel to exist as refuge for the Jewish people	10590453