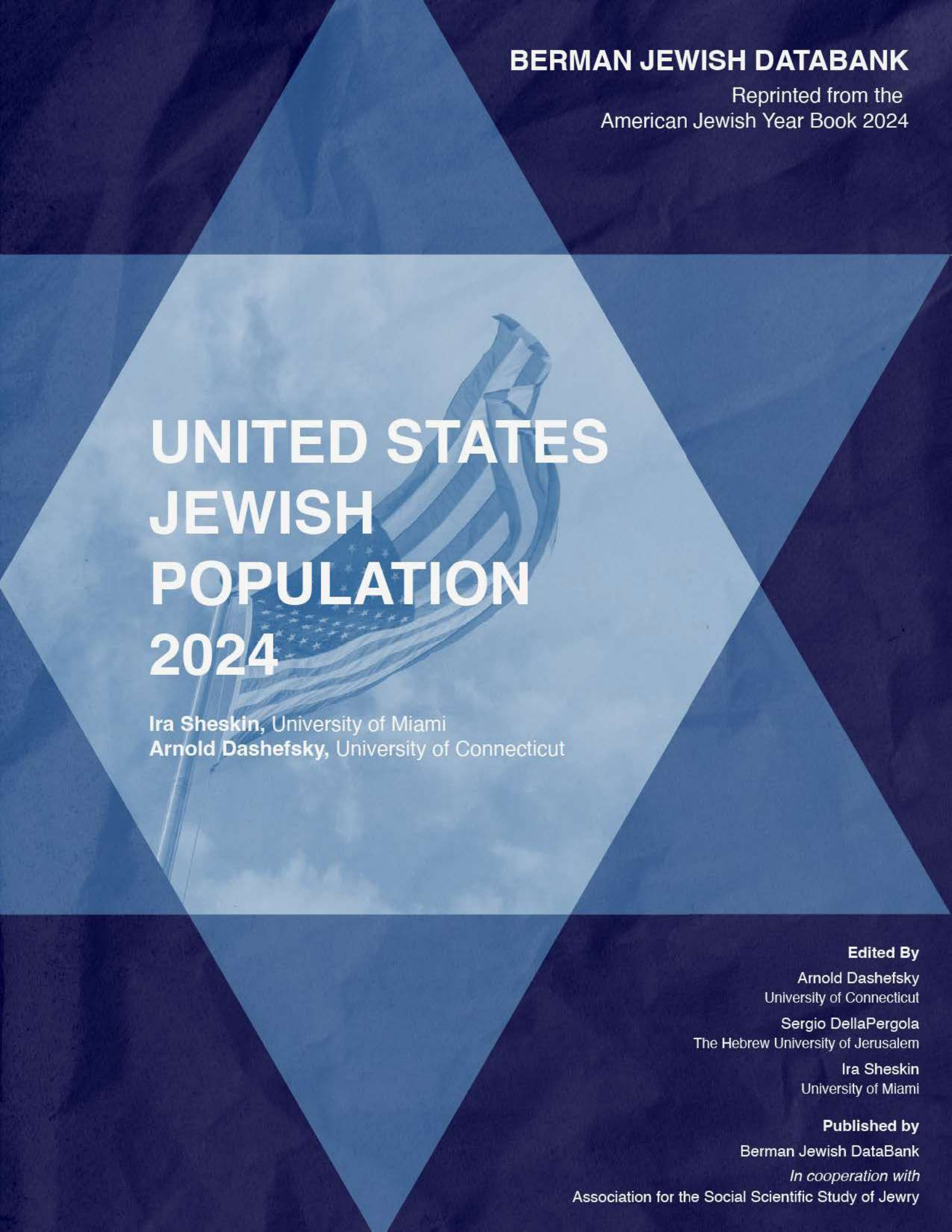
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UNITED STATES JEWISH POPULATION 2024

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United States Jewish Population, 2024

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The American Jewish Year Book 2024

The Annual Record of the North American Jewish Communities Since 1899

This Report derives from Chapter 6 of the *American Jewish Year Book, 2024*.

Since 1899, the *American Jewish Year Book* has recorded the state of North American Jewry: its demographics, its institutions, and its achievements. It serves as the primary outlet for leading scholars to publish detailed review chapters on topics relevant to North American Jewish communities. Among its former editors are notable American Jews, including Cyrus Adler, Milton Himmelfarb, and Henrietta Szold. In 2008, the American Jewish Committee's *Year Book*, which had been published regularly, ceased publication due to the 2008 economic recession.

Since 2012, the *Year Book* has been published by Springer, a leading global scientific publisher. The editors are Arnold Dashefsky from the University of Connecticut and Ira Sheskin from the University of Miami, both distinguished social scientists specializing in American Jewry. The *Year Book* is produced in collaboration with the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry (ASSJ) and the Berman Jewish DataBank. Currently, funding is provided by the University of Miami and the University of Connecticut. The Fain Family Endowed Chair also contributes funds at UM.

The *Year Book* features extensive review chapters on topics of general interest, sections covering key events in North American Jewish communities, and chapters on the Jewish populations in the U.S., Canada, and worldwide. It also includes lists of Jewish organizations—both local and national—Jewish scholarly resources, significant events in the Jewish community, honorees, and obituaries of notable Jewish individuals. This volume has established itself as a vital and respected annual resource for academic researchers, practitioners at Jewish institutions and organizations, the media, and others seeking current, reliable information about North American Jewish communities.

Nearly all books on North American Jewish history cite the Year Book. The Year Book helps preserve the record for future generations.

Obtaining *The American Jewish Year Book, 2023*

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

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_jewish_year_book

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United States Jewish Population, 2024

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United States Jewish Population, 2024

Ira M. Sheskin, Arnold Dashefsky, and Joshua Comenetz

The 2024 *American Jewish Year Book* (*AJYB)* estimates the U.S. Jewish population at 7.70 million.[1] **Moreover, unlike in previous years, it is based on aggregating 3,143 county, county-equivalent, and independent city estimates**. The 7.70 million estimate is close to the 2020 estimates of 7.5 million by the Pew Research Center (2021) and 7.6 million by the American Jewish Population Project (AJPP) (Saxe et al. 2020; Tighe et al. 2022). Thus, through the concept of *convergent validity,* we have confidence that our estimate is reasonable

This report examines the population size and geographic distribution of the U.S. Jewish population. Such information is essential in understanding the American Jewish community (Sheskin 2023; Sheskin 2024; Ukeles 2022).

Section 1 briefly looks at some of the significant findings of the Pew Research Center (2021) study, Jewish Americans in 2020, the most recent national representative, detailed survey of the American Jewish population, which we treat as a study of record.

Section 2 addresses the procedures used to estimate the Jewish population in 3,143 counties and county equivalents, as well as in hundreds of Jewish communities and parts thereof. It contains a description of The New "Multimethod DJN-Guided" procedures.

Section 3 examines population estimates for the U.S. as a whole (including historical estimates), the four U.S. Census Regions, the nine U.S. Census Divisions, each state, the 25 largest U.S. Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), the 25 largest Combined Statistical Areas (CSAs), and the approximately 160 Jewish Federation Service Areas (JFSAs).[2]

Section 4 presents the methodology used to develop population estimates for the 435 congressional districts of the 119th Congress, and presents the results in tables and maps.

Section 5 examines changes in the size and geographic distribution of the U.S. Jewish population since 1980.

Section 6 presents an atlas of U.S. Jewish communities, including regional and state maps of the Jewish population by county.

Section 7 reviews the challenges of estimating Jewish populations.

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[1] For an explanation of the difference between our estimate and that provided by DellaPergola in the World Jewish Population report in this series, see Section 6.2.

[2] See www.jfna.org for an explanation of the role of U.S. Jewish federations.

Previous *American Jewish Year Book* Focus Sections include:

2012: Comparisons of Jewish communities on the percentage of Jews in the overall population
2013: Comparisons of Jewish communities on the percentage of Jewish adults who attended formal Jewish education and Jewish overnight camp as children
2014: Comparisons of Jewish communities on the percentage of synagogue attendance and emotional attachment to Israel
2015: Comparisons of Jewish communities on the percentage of foreign-born adults and levels of secular education
2016: Comparisons of Jewish communities on the percentage of Orthodox and the percentage of single-person households
2017: Comparisons of Jewish communities on the percentage of intermarried individuals
2018: Comparisons of Jewish communities on levels of antisemitism
2019: Comparisons of Jewish communities on political party and voting
2020: Comparisons of Jewish communities on visiting a Jewish museum or attending a Jewish cultural event in the past year
2021: Comparisons of Jewish communities on single-parent households
2022: Synagogue geography
2023: Jews from the Former Soviet Union

Section 1: Demographics of the American Jewish population

This section presents some of the significant results from the Pew Research Center's (2021) *Jewish Americans in 2020.* Note that most of the Pew data collection was conducted before the COVID-19 pandemic. Both the pandemic and the events of October 7, 2023, may mean that a similar survey this year would yield different results. For a recent analysis of U.S. Jews, see DellaPergola (2024)

Demographics

- The 2020 Pew Jewish population estimate was 7.5 million, including 5.8 million adults and 1.8 million children.
- About 92% of Jewish adults identified as White non-Hispanic; 1%, as Black, and less than 1% as Asian. About 4% identified as Hispanic.
- 3% of Jews identified as Sephardic and 1% as Mizrachi. 6% were some combination of Sephardic/Mizrachi and Ashkenazi.
- 4% of U.S. Jews identified as gay/lesbian and 5% as bisexual.
- Compared with the overall public, Jews were:
    - older (33% age 65 and over, compared to 20%);
    - more highly educated (58% with a 4-year college degree, compared to 11%);
    - wealthier (36% of Jews live in a household earning at least $150,000, compared to 8%. On employment patterns, see Chiswick (2020).

- Jewish adults ages 40 to 59 reported having had an average of 1.9 children, the same as in 2013 (Pew Research Center 2013), but below the rate for the overall public (2.3). See also Hartman (2024).
- 90% of Jewish adults were born in the U.S, including 21% who were the adult children of at least one immigrant and 68% whose families were in the U.S. for three generations or longer. One percent were born in Israel.

Religiosity

- 73% of Jews were Jews by religion (JBR) and 27% were Jews of no religion (JNR). JNRs are Jews who identify as atheist, agnostic, or 'nothing in particular,' religiously. The 27% was virtually identical to the percentage for the overall public (28%).
- For Jews aged 18-29, 40% were Jews of no religion.
- More than half of U.S. Jews identified with the Reform (37%) or Conservative (17%) movements; only 9% identified as Orthodox. 32% of Jewish adults did not identify with any particular Jewish denomination, and 4% identified with smaller branches.
- Jews aged 18-29 were both more likely to be Orthodox (17%) and more likely to be of no particular branch (41%).
- Orthodox and Reform Judaism exhibited the highest retention rates. 67% of Americans raised as Orthodox Jews continued to identify with Orthodoxy as adults. Similarly, 66% of adults raised as Reform Jews still identified as Reform as adults. The retention rate for Conservative Jews was 41%, although 93% were still Jewish.
- 42% of U.S. Jewish adults said that being Jewish was very important to them; 34%, somewhat important; and 23%, not too/not important.
- 15% of U.S. Jews said that observing Jewish law is an essential element of what being Jewish means to them.
- 62% of Jews held or attended a Seder last year, 46% fasted on Yom Kippur, 20% attended synagogue at least monthly, and 17% kept kosher at home.

Intermarriage

- Among Jewish respondents who married between 2010 and 2020, 61% had a non-Jewish spouse. Among Jews who married between 2000 and 2009, 45% were intermarried, as were 37% who married in the 1990s and 42% who married in the 1980s. By contrast, 18% of Jews who married before 1980 had a non-Jewish spouse.
- 80% of Jews who were currently parents or guardians of at least one child residing in their household said they are raising their children as Jewish in some way.
- Among Intermarried Jews, 28% said they are raising their children as Jewish by religion, compared to 93% of households with two Jewish parents. Many of the intermarried Jews said they were raising their children as partly Jewish by religion or as Jewish aside from religion.

Community Involvement

- 35% of Jewish households were synagogue members.
- 16% of U.S. Jewish adults said they often or sometimes participated in activities or services with Chabad in the past year.
- 48% made a financial donation to a Jewish charity or cause (such as a synagogue, Jewish school, or group supporting Israel) in the year before the survey.
- 33% of U.S. Jews said that being part of a Jewish community is an essential element of what being Jewish means to them.
- 29% of Jewish adults said that all/most of their friends are Jewish; 44%, some; and 25% hardly any/none.

Antisemitism (Note that these findings are pre-October 7, 2023)

- 45% of Jews said there is a lot of antisemitism in the U.S. today; 47%, some; and 6%, not much.
- 51% of Jews experienced at least one of the following (anti-Jewish graffiti or vandalism, being made to feel unwelcome, been called offensive names; been harassed online, been physically threatened or attacked).

Israel/Worldwide Jewry/Holocaust

- 45% of U.S. Jewish adults had been to Israel.
- 25% of U.S. Jews were very attached to Israel; 32%, somewhat; 41%, not too/not all.
- 48% of Jewish adults under age 30 described themselves as very or somewhat emotionally attached to Israel, compared with 67% of Jews ages 65 and older.
- 45% of U.S. Jews said that caring about Israel is an ‘essential’ element of what being Jewish means to them, and an additional 37% said that caring about Israel is an important (though not essential) element.
- 80% of U.S. Jews said they feel at least some responsibility to help Jews in need around the world, including 28% who said they feel ‘a great deal’ of responsibility to do so.
- 85% of U.S. Jews said they feel at least ‘some’ sense of belonging to the Jewish people, including 48% who feel ‘a great deal’ of belonging.
- 76% of U.S. Jews said that remembering the Holocaust is an essential element of what being Jewish means to them.

Political Views

- 71% of Jews were Democrat/lean Democrat, and 26% were Republican/lean Republican. Among the Orthodox, only 20% were Democrats/lean Democrats, and 75% were Republicans/lean Republicans. See also Wald (2019) and Weisberg (2019).
- Most U.S. Jews (63%) said they think a way can be found for Israel and an independent Palestinian state to coexist peacefully.

Section 2: Population Estimation Methodology

Since we began authoring the chapter in the *American Jewish Year* Book (AJYB) in 2006, from which this report derives, we have endeavored to compile accurate estimates of the Jewish population, working within the constraints of estimating a rare population. Note that the decennial census has never asked a religion question, although two Census Bureau surveys did ask about religion.[3] Moreover, while numerous surveys completed by private companies have asked a religion question, only a handful have asked questions appropriate to identifying both Jews by religion and Jews of no religion.

Our fundamental approach in developing these estimates is that, because of the nature of the task, we will never know with certainty how many Jews live in the U.S. as a whole, in U.S. counties, in U.S. Jewish communities, or in other geographic units. All we can do is use various methodologies to hopefully derive reasonable "ballpark" estimates.

In previous reports in this series, we estimated the Jewish population for about 1,200 Jewish communities and their geographic subareas. Most estimates were derived from two sources:[4]

1) **Scientific estimates,** available from Jewish community studies sponsored by Jewish federations (www.jewishdatabank.org), provided data for metropolitan areas and (sometimes for) counties and amorphously defined subareas (such as "Northwest Valley" and "Tri-City Area"). Local Jewish community study estimates are primarily based on random-digit-dialing (RDD) telephone surveys or address-based sampling (ABS) internet/mail/telephone surveys. In a few cases, U.S. Census Bureau data are available.[5]

2) **Informant estimates**, provided by a community leader or rabbi with local knowledge, were provided to a researcher or to the press. These Informant Estimates historically were based on contacting about 140

[3] Some statistics are available from Engelman (1947). See also Linfield (1940). An 1890 Census Bureau survey interviewed 10,000 Jewish households (Billings 1890), and the March 1957 Current Population Survey (CPS) asked about religion (Bureau of the Census, no date, ca 1958).

[4] See Sheskin and Dashefsky (2023) for a more detailed explanation of the previously-employed methodology.

[5] U.S. Census data, both the Decennial Census and the American Community Survey can be used to estimate the Jewish population in several highly Jewish communities inhabited by Hasidic and other ultra-Orthodox groups: Bloomingburg, NY; Kaser Village in Rockland County, NY; Kiryas Joel (Town of Palm Tree) in Orange County, NY; Lakewood, NJ; Monsey in Rockland County, NY; and New Square in Rockland County, NY (Comenetz 2006).

> Jewish Federations and about 300 Jewish Federation of North America (JFNA) "network communities" annually. These informants generally had access to information about the number of households on the local Jewish Federation's mailing list and/or the number of households who are members of local synagogues and Jewish organizations. An estimate for Jews who are not currently associated with the Jewish community would then be added. An analysis by Sheskin and Dashefsky (2008, 136-8) strongly suggested a greater reliability of informant estimates than was previously assumed.

These scientific and informant estimates have been collated annually in the American Jewish Year Book for more than 100 years. However, in many areas of the country where Jews lived, but there was no organized Jewish community, no estimates were available. Also, the available local Jewish community studies were often quite dated, with no reliable methodology for updating the information.

2.1 Changes in the Geographic Scale for Which Jewish Population Estimates Are Made

Starting with this volume, we have changed the geographic scale at which estimates are made. While we still present estimates for about 400 Jewish communities (and parts thereof), we now present estimates for the 3,143 U.S. counties, county equivalents, and independent cities.[6]

The scientific estimates or U.S. Census Bureau estimates provide Jewish population estimates that account for about 80% (6.2 million) of the total number of U.S. Jews (7.7 million). Thus, about 20% of the total estimated number of U.S. Jews is based on the Multimethod DJN-Guided procedure. Therefore, we are left with the challenge of estimating the Jewish population in the remaining counties. Our innovation was to develop a new methodology, which we call the Multi-Method DJN Guided Population Estimates.

2.2 The DJN Methodology

Developing a DJN Multiplier. Historically, the fact that about 8-12% of U.S. Jews, despite rising intermarriage rates, continue to have one of *36* Distinctive Jewish Names (DJNs)[7] facilitates making reasonable estimates of the Jewish population. Note that we

[6] County equivalents include boroughs in Alaska, parishes in Louisiana, and independent cities in Virginia and elsewhere. Hereinafter, we use the term "counties" for all these geographic areas.

[7] Berman, Caplan, Cohen, Epstein, Feldman, Freedman, Friedman, Goldberg, Goldman, Goldstein, *Goodman*, Greenberg, *Gross*, Grossman, *Jacobs*, Jaffe, Kahn, Kaplan, Katz,

omitted the six DJNs in italics in the footnote because in some areas of the country, we judged that too high a percentage of people with those DJNs would not be Jewish. A Schwartz in Brooklyn is almost certainly Jewish, but a Schwartz in a rural area of western Nebraska is much less likely to be so. For each of the 3,143 counties, the number of households with one of the 30 DJNs was counted in SelectPhone.[8]

Because SelectPhone listed households rather than persons, the traditional 8%-12% "DJN Multiplier" was changed to 17-25%, since the average number of Jews per Jewish household is 2.1 (Pew Research Center 2021).[9] Accounting for inaccuracies in SelectPhone (SP)[10] Because only 30 of the 36 DJNs were counted, the DJN Multiplier was changed to 20%-30%.

However, the DJN Multiplier of 20% to 30% was only a guideline. The idea was that if a particular county had 20 DJN households in SP, then DJNs would suggest that that county had between 400 and 600 Jews. We did not hesitate to depart from this guideline if other factors (see Section 2) indicated that the estimate yielded by the DJN Multiplier was unreasonable. In counties with a large Orthodox population, a higher multiplier was sometimes used, given that the average Jewish household size in Orthodox households is significantly higher than in non-Orthodox households.

Adjusting the DJN Counts. The 30 names were counted for all 3,143 counties. When summing these counts, we found, for example, that 2.0% of households with one of the 30 names were "Epstein" households. In addition, the Greater Miami Jewish Federation provided a count of households with the 30 names, and on that list, 1.6% were Epstein households.

Now, while there is no good reason to assume that every state must have about 2% Epstein households, it does seem unlikely that 10% of households in a state would be Epstein households. Subjective judgment was then used to "trim" the number of

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Kohn, Levin, Levine, Levinson, Levy, Lieberman, Rosen, Rosenberg, Rosenthal, Rubin, *Schwartz*, Shapiro, Siegel, Silverman, *Stern,* Weinstein, and *Weiss)* See Abrahamson (1986); Fermaglich (2018); Kaganoff (1996); Kosmin and Waterman (1989); Lazerwitz (1986); Sarna (2009); and Sheskin (1998, 2024). See also Mateos (2014) on the uses of ethnic names in general.

[8] The national household directory that we use is SelectPhone from Data Axle (https://www.dataaxleusa.com). They claim to spend $20 million annually to ensure accuracy.

[9] For known ultra-Orthodox areas for which we used census data for estimates of the Jewish population, we found that the DJN Multiplier is much higher, since the number of Jews per household among the ultra-Orthodox is probably around 8, not 2.1.

[10] In some states, the number of households in SP was significantly different from the U.S. Census. When the SP number was lower, a somewhat higher DJN Multiplier was used. When SP listed more households than the census (suggesting duplication), a somewhat lower DJN Multiplier was used.

Epsteins using the following procedure. Suppose a county in the 10% Epstein state had only eight households with one of the 30 DJNs, but six of those households were Epstein households. It is possible that a Jewish Epstein household had moved to that county and that several of its adult children stayed. However, it seems much more likely, remarkably, that the U.S. Census ancestry data suggesting the county has a high percentage of German-origin population means that all of those Epsteins were probably not Jewish, particularly if this was a small rural county far from any metropolitan area. The problem was particularly evident in the upper Midwest and affected names such as Epstein, Grossman, Rubin, and Siegel. In general, another consideration is that the percentage of DJN households that are actually Jewish is likely to be much higher in, say, a county near New York City than in a rural county in a Midwest state.

After this correction at the state level, we examined the DJN counts for all 3,143 counties and found that further adjustments were needed, particularly in counties in a few southern states. For example, our research indicated that the name Levy should be about 7-8% of the 30 names. However, we had several counties (in the South) in which the count of Levy was simply too high. One county, for example, had 30 DJN households, but 24 of them were Levy households. By Googling Levy and the county name, it was determined that all of the faces were African American, and the obituaries named pastors who officiated at the funerals. In addition, according to the U.S. census, this county is only about 20% non-Hispanic white. (Less than 2% of American Jews are African-American (Sheskin and Dashefsky 2024). The 24 DJNs were reduced to 2.[11])

An additional adjustment was also made based on the total DJN count in a county. Suppose County A has 50 Levys, 50 Cohens, and 10 Grossmans and a total DJN count of 200. County B has 2 Levys, 3 Cohens, and 6 Grossmans, and a total DJN Count of 20.

It is likely that, in a Jewish area like County A, a high percentage of Grossmans are Jewish. Such is much less likely to be the case in County B. Thus, assuming that County B has 400 Jews (20 DJNs times a 20 DJN Multiplier) seemed overly heroic. Thus, for Counties like County B, where DJNs were included in the count of 20, and other factors discussed in Section 2 played a greater role than the number of DJN households in estimating the Jewish population.

As an example of this method's efficacy, consider Walton County in the Florida Panhandle on the Gulf Coast. In previous years, no estimate was provided because no informant from this county ever came forward to provide one. We found 71 households with one of the 30 DJNs in Walton County, and in the end, quite conservatively estimated 1,200 Jews.

[11] Less than 2% of American Jews are black according to the Pew Research Center (2021). Consequently, a minuscule percentage of the 47 million African Americans identify as Jews. This percentage is increasing due to conversion, intermarriage, and other factors

2.3 The New "Multimethod DJN-Guided" Population Estimates

Utilizing the new "Multimethod DJN-Guided" Population Estimates represents a significant change from past procedures. In addition to the DJN estimation procedures discussed above, 12 other factors were considered in developing Jewish population estimates:

1) When a Jewish community had conducted a scientific study, such as had been conducted in New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles, we generally ignored the DJN counts and used the numbers from that study.[12] Such studies cover most of the American Jewish population, as the vast majority of Jews live in large urban areas.

2) We also found some improvements that could be made for counties contiguous to counties with scientific studies. For example, the Rochester study (Sheskin 2000) included estimates for Monroe County (the main area served by the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester) and for Victor, a small town in neighboring Ontario County very close to Monroe County. In 2000, the assumption was made that few, if any, Jews lived elsewhere in Ontario County, so only Victor was included in the study, and the AJYB assigned the Victor number to Ontario County. The DJN counts indicated a much larger Jewish population in Ontario County, particularly in areas east and south of Victor.

3) More weight was given to scientific studies completed in the past ten years than to studies completed earlier. We sometimes revised estimates for counties where studies were completed more than 15 years ago.

4) We still considered existing informant/internet estimates from the 2023 *American Jewish Year Book* as a guide to current numbers, with more weight being given to the more recent estimates.

5) The American Jewish Population Project (AJPP) made estimates in 2020 for all states, some individual counties, and for groups of counties. The AJPP analyzes scores of surveys completed by private and commercial research firms for other purposes, but which ask a question about religion. This provides an estimate of the number of adults who are Jews by religion. The AJPP then makes estimates based on the Pew Research Center's *Jewish Americans in 2020* and some local studies

[12] Note that an exception was made for the 5-county Philadelphia federation service area, where a recent demographic study (Marker and Steiger 2019) indicated 351,000 Jews. This was suspect because it suggested an increase over the past ten years of 136,000 Jews, including an increase of 95,000 in the City of Philadelphia (one of the five counties) itself, from 67,000 to 162,000. In addition, the DJN Multiplier for the city would have been 76, highly unlikely given our guide of 20-30. Also, the American Jewish Population Project had a 2020 estimate for the City of Philadelphia of 81,600, and a recent study for the Jewish Federations of North America also suggested the 162,000 and the 351,000 estimates from the Philadelphia study were too high.

of the number of Jews of no religion and the number of Jewish persons per household, to derive estimates primarily for groups of counties. When AJPP made estimates for groups of six counties or fewer, we combined our estimates for those groups and compared them with the AJPP estimates. Most of the time, our estimates and AJPP estimates were within a reasonable range of one another.

6) We gathered data on the presence of synagogues and other Jewish institutions from all the sources we could find, including lists on the websites of large Jewish religious organizations such as the Union for Reform Judaism, the Orthodox Union, the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, and Chabad-Lubavitch; smaller organizations such as the American Sephardi Federation and BlackJews.org; the National Center for Education Statistics for Jewish private schools; Hillel and Chabad for campus organizations; the *American Jewish Year Book* for non-synagogue community organizations (see the National Jewish Organizations chapter in the *American Jew Year* Book), and Google searches. If Jewish institutions are present in a zip code or county, more than a few Jews likely live in the surrounding area. In counties of fewer than 100 DJN households, we recorded the number of synagogues. The presence of one or more synagogues in these small counties led to increased Jewish population estimates.

7) A county contiguous or very close to a county with a sizeable Jewish population, particularly if connected to that large county by an interstate or interstate-quality highway, was given a higher DJN Multiplier. Jews in such a "hinterland county" could well be employed in the large county and could be taking advantage of the Jewish infrastructure in the large county. A county with the same number of DJNs as the hinterland county but located nowhere near a city with a significant Jewish community would have a smaller Jewish population estimate. Google Maps was used to assess the location of counties, major cities, and major highways.

8) Procedures were used to deduct seasonal residents from the estimated Jewish population. In some local Jewish community studies, particularly in Florida, respondents were asked how many months per year they usually spend in their homes in Florida. In other cases, such as Vail, CO, people have residences inhabited in the winter to ski. Residences in northern Michigan and Maine are used as hunting and fishing lodges. We identified counties with a high percentage of seasonal housing units from the U.S. Census. We assumed that if x% of the housing units in an area are seasonal, then that x% applies to the Jewish population as well.

9) Procedures were used to deduct college students living in on-campus dorms from the county totals. This involved using data from Hillel International on the number of college students at various American universities, focusing on colleges estimated to have 400 or more Jewish students. Since the impact was small, we did not use this procedure for colleges in major Jewish communities. This procedure was most useful in rural counties with a university and a large Jewish student population. Also,

most larger universities have a reasonable number of Jewish faculty. Note that, in the U.S., about 150,000 Jews are either seasonal residents or are college students living in dormitories in college towns.

10) Census data were occasionally used when a scientific study was old, and the DJN Multiplier indicated some growth in the Jewish population. Such was the case in Rhode Island, but to be on the conservative side, since the overall population of RI increased by only 1% in the past 20 years. The non-Hispanic white population decreased by 7 percentage points, even as the Jewish population increased, while the general population did not; no change was observed in Rhode Island's Jewish population.

11) The 2020 U.S. census and the Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) provide data on ancestry, language spoken, and birthplace at the county level. While these data do not include estimates of population by religion, variables that indicate the presence of Jews include:

    a. Yiddish or Hebrew home language – very few, if any, non-Jews speak these languages at home.
    b. Israeli ancestry and Israel as a birthplace – on the assumption that most non-Jews who could identify themselves this way do not, because they identify as Arab or Palestinian.
    c. Russian home language, Russian ancestry or Russia as a birthplace – a large share but by no means all immigrants to the U.S. from Russia or the former Soviet Union -- have been Jewish. A sizable Russian-speaking or Russian-ancestry community very likely contains some Jews.
    d. Non-Hispanic white (NHW) category – most American Jews select this when asked to select from the standard American race/ethnic categories. In the absence of better indicators, the distribution of the NHW population can be used to approximate the distribution of Jews, especially when adjusted for the location of Jewish institutions. Areas where more Jews choose other categories, such as Hispanic in South Florida and Hispanic and Black Jews in the New York City area, tend also to be larger urban areas with good coverage by local Jewish community studies.

12) Special procedures were used for the Atlanta, Dallas, Las Vegas, and Phoenix metropolitan areas. In these cases, while relatively recent estimates of the overall Jewish population were available, estimates of the geographic distribution of that population were judged too dated to provide an accurate portrayal of Jewish distribution in these areas (2006, 1988, 2005, and 2002, respectively). The four federations cooperated by providing us with counts of Jewish households by zip code in their communities. In the case of Atlanta, because of issues with their mailing list, we also counted the number of DJN households in each zip code area

on SelectPhone (a national household directory) to allocate the total for the Atlanta area to each county.

2.4 Who is a Jew?

All estimates are of Jews living in households and in institutions (such as schools, prisons, and nursing homes), where data are available, and do not include non-Jews living in households with Jews. The estimates include Jews who are affiliated with synagogues and Jewish organizations as well as Jews who are not. A confounding variable is that 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 (Sasson 2014; Tapper 2016; Wertheimer 2018; Dashefsky, Sheskin, and Winter 2024; DellaPergola 2024). Unlike most religious groups, "being Jewish" can be both a religious and an ethnic identity. Kosmin and Keysar (2013, 16) suggest that 30-40% of U.S. Jews identify as "secular." In 2020, the Pew Research Center reported that 27% of Jews are Jews of no religion. (Pew Research Center 2021, 8). One remains a Jew even if one is an atheist or an agnostic or does not participate in synagogue services or Jewish 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 or professes any form of Messianic Judaism. This religious movement considers Jesus the messiah.[13]

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. In contrast, Reform (as of 1983) and Reconstructionist (now Reconstructing) rabbis recognize both matrilineal and patrilineal descent under certain circumstances. Furthermore, Orthodox rabbis only recognize as Jewish those Jews-by-Choice whom Orthodox rabbis converted, while the other movements are more liberal in this matter.

In general, social scientists conducting survey research with U.S. 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 "self-identify as Jewish" (with the exceptions noted above) are counted as such. However, clearly, the estimate of the size of the Jewish population of an area can differ depending on whom one counts as Jewish, and to some extent, on who is doing the counting and the time of year the counting is being done.

For the most part, we have chosen to accept the definition of "who is a Jew" that was applied in each community by the researcher conducting the scientific demographic study in the community, even in cases in which we disagree with that definition. See the World Jewish Population report for an excellent summary of the issues in defining the Jewish population.

[13] For more on secular Judaism, see DellaPergola, Levy, Rebhun, and Sagi, 2018; Kosmin 2018; and Keysar 2018).

Section 3: National, Regional, State, and Urban Area Totals

This section examines population estimates for 1) the U.S. as a whole, 2) the four U.S. Census Regions, 3) the nine U.S. Census Divisions, 4) the 50 states and DC, 5) the 25 largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), 6) the 25 largest Combined Statistical Areas (CSAs), and 7) the approximately 160 Jewish Federation Service Areas (JFSAs).

3.1 Historical U.S. Jewish Population Estimates

More than a century ago, in the first volume of the *AJYB*, the editor observed the following regarding the U.S. 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 1899, 283).

Of course, it is important to note that this report and the Pew reports present the most scientific *estimates* of the Jewish population. The first edition of the *American Jewish Year Book* included a section on "Jewish Statistics," which consisted of just three pages! Among the estimates of the American Jewish population over the years were (Adler 1899, 283):

In 1818, Mordecai M. Noah	3,000
In 1826, Isaac C. Harby	6,000
In 1840, American Almanac	15,000
In 1848, M. A. Berk	50,000
In 1880, Wm. B. Hackenburg	230,257
In 1888, Isaac Markens	400,000
In 1897, David Sulzberger	937,800

What has changed since the nineteenth century in the art of estimating the U.S. Jewish population? Estimates during the past half century have relied on probability-based sample surveys. The first such survey was the *1971 National Jewish Population Survey* (NJPS 1971) (Massarik and Chenkin 1973), which provided an estimate of 5,370,000 Jews (N = 5,790 households), with 5.8 million people (Jews and non-Jews) living in a Jewish household. (In that same year, the *American Jewish Year Book,* based on a different methodology, estimated 5.8 million Jews.) NJPS 1971 was sponsored by the Council of Jewish Federations (CJF), now called the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA), and was based on an in-person, door-to-door representative sample.

Two decades later, a second national study was sponsored by CJF: the *1990 National Jewish Population Survey* (NJPS 1990) (Kosmin et al. 1991), which reported a "Core Jewish Population" of 5,515,000 (N = 2,441 households), only slightly larger than the 1971 figure. (In that same year, the *American Jewish Year Book,* based on a different

methodology, estimated 6.0 million Jews.) The number of people in Jewish households increased from 5.8 million in 1971 to 8.2 million in 1990. Much of this increase is almost certainly related to the significant increase in intermarriage, which led to many more non-Jews living in households with Jews. The representative sample was collected via random-digit dialing (RDD).

The third national study, the *2000-01 National Jewish Population Survey* (NJPS 2000-01) (Kotler-Berkowitz et al. 2003), was sponsored by United Jewish Communities (UJC, the successor to CJF and predecessor to JFNA). Despite the two previous surveys showing an increase in the Jewish population from 1971 to 1990, the third survey reported a Jewish population of 5,200,000 (N = 4,523 households), with 6,700,000 people in Jewish households. (In that same year, the *American Jewish Year Book,* based on a different methodology, estimated 6.1 million Jews.) The representative sample was gathered, like in 1990, through RDD. The reason cited for this apparent slight decline in the Jewish population from 1990 to 2000-01 of 315,000 persons is: "that certain study design questions, such as the composition and placement of the religion screening question, may have produced an estimate of the Jewish population that is slightly lower than that reported by the General Social Survey (GSS) religious battery and other surveys" (Schulman 2003, 1).

While these three major and frequently cited surveys were conducted under the auspices of the organized Jewish community (JFNA and its predecessors, CJF and UJC), the fourth major survey was conducted by the Pew Research Center (2013). This study provided an estimate of 6.7 million Jews (N = 3,475 households). (In that same year, the *American Jewish Year Book,* based on a different methodology, also estimated 6.7 million Jews.) The difference in comparing the estimates for NJPS 2000-01 and Pew 2013 led the Pew researchers, in part, to offer the following introductory statement to Chapter 1 of their report:

> The size of the U.S. Jewish population has been a matter of lively debate among academic experts for more than a decade. Because the Pew Research survey involves a representative sample of Jews, rather than a census of all American Jews, it cannot definitely answer the question. However, data from the survey can be used to derive a rough estimate of the size of the U.S. Jewish population. (Pew Research Center 2013, 23)

Moreover, because the sample designs and questionnaires vary across surveys, direct comparisons are difficult. This representative sample, like NJPS 1990 and 2000-01, was also gathered by RDD.

Note that the U.S. Census Bureau, unlike those of Canada and the UK, does not ask a question on religion. In 1957, however, the Census Bureau did ask a question on religion in the periodic Current Population Survey (CPS) and found 3.9 million Jews age 14 and older (Pew Research Center 2013, 27).

In sum, while in the nineteenth century, "estimates" of the U.S. Jewish population were provided by informants, in the twenty-first century, we still have "estimates." The difference is that, more than a century later, the estimates are produced by the most advanced social scientific methods, which rely on probability-based sampling techniques.

Figure 1 shows changes in the U.S. Jewish population over time based on a variety of historic estimates from 1780 to the current year. The estimates on the graph for 1780 to 1900 are the "high" estimates from Sarna (2019, 391). Ranges from "low" to "high" are provided in the footnotes below.

Not shown on the graph is that the Jewish population of the U.S. as of 1654 was 23, a figure derived from court records documenting the arrival of a boatload of Jewish refugees in New Amsterdam (renamed New York in 1664). They came to the North American Dutch colony from the Dutch colony in Recife, Brazil, when the Portuguese captured it. Note that the 23 excludes Jews in the southwest, which was then part of Mexico.

Figure 1 shows that the growth of the U.S. Jewish population was fueled by four periods of Jewish migration (Dimont 1978; Sachar 1992).

Early Republic (1654-1810). The Spanish Inquisition, which started in 1478, gave Jews the choice of conversion to Christianity or expulsion from Spain. Many migrated to parts of the Ottoman Empire, as the Ottoman Sultan welcomed Jews expelled from Spain. Others eventually found their way to North America. Many, but not all, of these Jews were Sephardic. They were mainly shopkeepers and merchants. Because they were not allowed to own land in most European countries, Jews had not developed farming skills. Thus, during colonial times, while 80% of Americans in general were farmers, the vast majority of Jews were urbanites. The earliest Jewish congregations were founded in New York (NY), Newport (RI), Savannah (GA), Philadelphia (PA), and Charleston (SC). During this period, the Jewish population increased to between 2,650 and 3,000.[14]

Central European Immigration (1810-1880). While Napoleon's message of liberty, equality, and fraternity had improved conditions for Jews in Europe and had freed them from the confines of the ghetto in many areas, with the end of the Napoleonic era, Jews once again faced restrictions and difficulties in many areas, particularly in Central Europe (Hertzberg 1989). This led to a new wave of migration to the U.S. Many of these Central European immigrants were involved in retail trade, particularly in the garment industry. Some who began peddling goods from pushcarts gradually developed retail outlets that evolved into major department stores, including Abraham & Straus, Gimbels, Bloomingdale's, Macy's, and others. When the Gold Rush of 1849 began, some Jewish merchants left the East and became storekeepers in the West.

By 1880, 200 new synagogues had been established, providing immigrant Jews with a place to pray, a familiar milieu, and a center for socialization. B'nai B'rith, open only to men, began as a group that stressed Jewish peoplehood (emphasizing ethnic and communal ties rather than faith-based ones) (Sarna 2019, 89). Many of the German Jews who came to the U.S. were attracted to Reform Judaism. Economically, many Central European Jews prospered and, as they moved into the better neighborhoods and the non-Jews moved out, created "gilded" ghettos. Other Central European Jews remained poor. This Central European migration changed America from a country in which most Jews were American-born to one in which most were foreign-born.

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[14] Sarna (2019, 391) provides estimates of 50 Jews in 1660, 200-300 in 1700, 1,300-3,000 in 1790, and 2,500 in 1800.

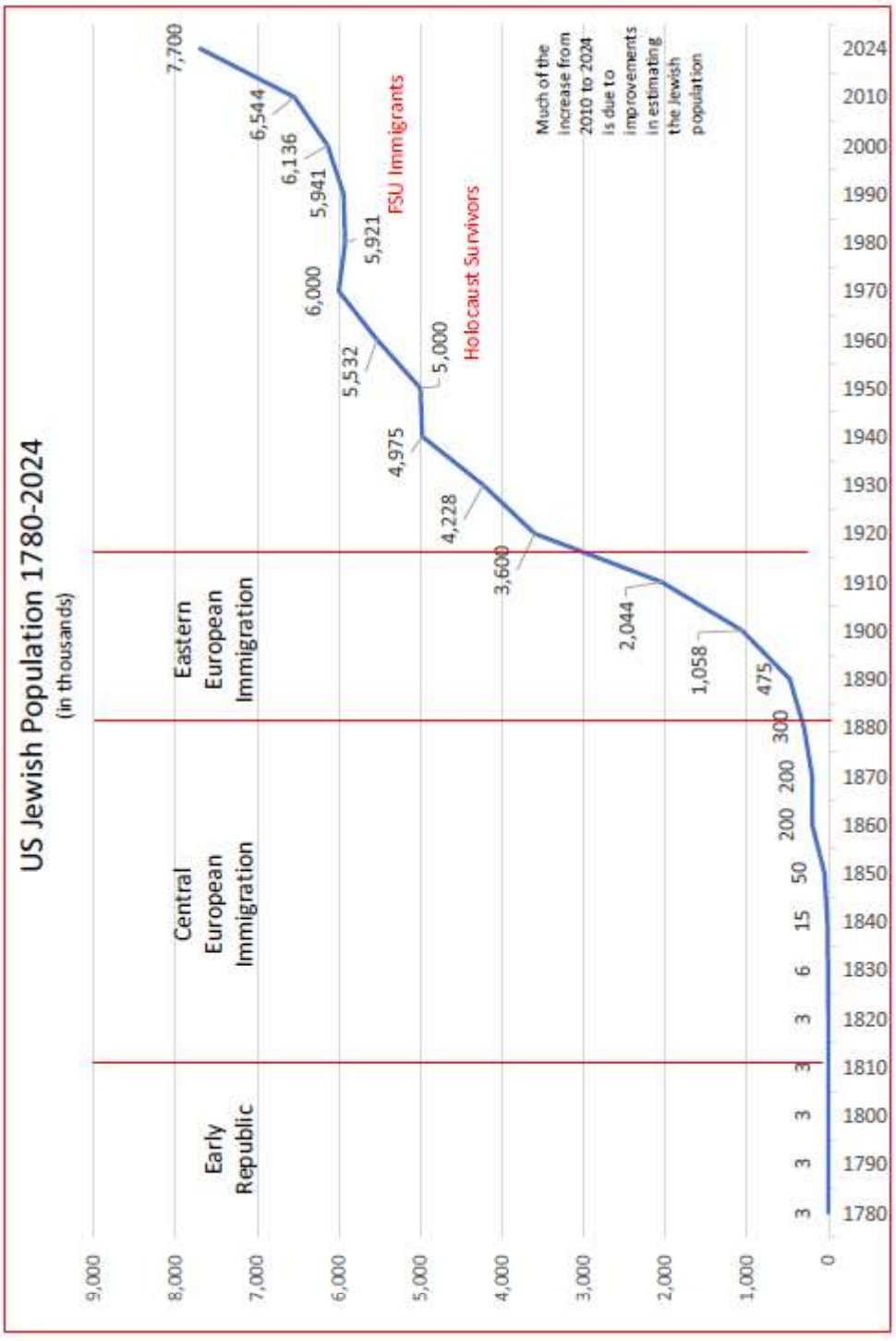


Figure 1: Growth of the U.S. Jewish population, 1780-2024 (in thousands)

During this period, the Jewish population rose to 230,000-300,000.[15]

Eastern European Immigration (1880-1930). The third period of Jewish migration is often dated to the assassination of Tsar Alexander II of Russia in 1881. However, thousands of Eastern European Jews are now known to have arrived earlier (Sarna 2019, 152). The murder of Alexander II led not only to pogroms (169 Jewish communities were attacked) but also to anti-Jewish legislation (Pasachoff and Littman 1995, 218-21 and 236-9). Many of these Jews were also attracted by the economic opportunities in the U.S. Jews began to arrive in significant numbers in New York, Baltimore (MD), Philadelphia (PA), Boston (MA), all prominent ports of entry, as well as Chicago (IL) (Sanders 1988, 167).[16]

This migration was to change the culture of American Jewry from one dominated by Central European (primarily German) Jews to one dominated by more religious Eastern European Jewish migrants (Sarna 1995). More than 90% of Jewish migrants during this period were from Russia. In total, 3,715,000 Jews entered the U.S. between 1880 and 1929. During this period, 8% of migrants to the U.S. were Jewish (Barnavi 1992, 194-5). Fifteen percent of all European Jewry moved to the U.S. during this period.

Most Jewish immigrants came to the U.S. to stay. The rate of reverse migration was only 5% among the Jewish population who arrived after 1900, compared to 35% among the general immigrant population (Sherman 1965, 61). This difference is probably related to the fact that while "economic opportunity" was a "pull" factor to the U.S. for all immigrant groups, the "push" factor (antisemitism) for Jews to leave Europe was clearly more significant than for most, if not all, other ethnic groups. According to Sarna (1981), of those arriving before 1900, higher percentages, particularly of Austro-Hungarian Jews who did not face pogroms, returned,

At first, elite American Jews of Central European extraction, fearing antisemitism, looked to spread the new Jewish immigrants throughout the country. Their thinking was that if the Jewish population became too geographically clustered, non-Jews would react with antisemitism. The Hebrew Emigrant Aid Society (HEAS) and later the Industrial Removal Office (IRO) sought to implement this policy. The Galveston Plan in the early 1900s attempted to divert some of the immigrants headed for northeastern cities, particularly New York, to Galveston (TX) (Sanders 1988, 235-40). This plan failed, as Jews wanted to move to the large northeastern cities that already had large Jewish populations, where they could find *landsmannschaften or landsleute, cultural societies with membership from their former country* or even their former city (Shamir and Shavit 1986).

This large-scale migration increased the U.S. Jewish population to about 4,228,000-4,400,000 by 1930. By 1940, this large-scale immigration, along with their offspring, had increased the U.S. Jewish population to just under 5,000,000 1940.

World War II Migration (World War II to 1980). With the passing of the First

[15] Sarna (2019, 391) provides estimates of 2,650-3,000 in 1820, 4,000-6,000 in 1830, 15,000 in 1840, 50,000 in 1850, 125,000-200,000 in 1860, and 230,000-300,000 in 1880.

[16] Sarna (2019, 391) provides estimates of 400,000-475,000 in 1890, 938,000-1,058,000 in 1900, 1,508,000-2,044,000 in 1910, and 3,300,000-3,600,000 in 1920.

(1921) and Second (1924) Johnson Acts (Sanders 1988, 386-7), Congress severely reduced Jewish (and other Eastern and Southern European) immigration (Friesel 1990, 132). Unfortunately, this closing of the door to immigration occurred at the worst time for European Jews, as the next two decades saw the rise of Hitler and the Holocaust. Those Jews who came to the U.S. during World War II clearly came as refugees, not merely as immigrants. From 1933-1937, fewer than 40,000 Jews were permitted to enter the U.S. In total, about 110,000 Jews were permitted entry from 1938-1941. Wyman's (1984) *The Abandonment of the Jews* provides significant detail on this period.

After the birth of Israel in 1948, most of the world's Jewish migrants, especially displaced survivors of the Holocaust, migrated to Israel. However, Jewish migrants continued to enter the U.S., including 160,000 Holocaust survivors (Shapiro 1992, 126).

Smaller numbers of Jews have come to the U.S. from various other locations. For example, Jewish migrants came from the Arab world starting in 1948. Over 10,000 Hungarian Jews arrived just after the 1956 Hungarian revolution. A few thousand Cuban Jewish migrants came to Miami in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

Since the 1970s, Jews from several Middle American and South American countries have moved to Miami (Sheskin 2015). After the fall of the Shah of Iran in 1979, Jews came from Iran (particularly to Los Angeles and New York).[17]

The Modern Period. (1980 to the present) Between 1980, when the AJYB estimated a U.S. Jewish population of 5.9 million, and 2024, when we estimate a population of 7.70 million, a significant population increase is evident.[18] How do we explain this increase, given that one might have expected: 1) a likely natural *decrease* due to a low Jewish fertility rate and a relatively high Jewish death rate[19], and 2) the general feeling that the Jewish community is probably losing more members due to people opting out of being Jewish than it is gaining due to people becoming Jews-by-Choice?

We argue that much of this increase is due to a significant net in-migration and the children of these immigrants. Many more Jews have migrated to the U.S. than have left it.

Pew 2020 found that about 10% (750,000) of American Jews were born in the Former Soviet Union (FSU) or are the children of Jews born in the FSU.[20] Jonathan Sarna

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[17] Sarna (2019, 391) provides estimates of 4,228,000-4,400,000 in 1930, 4,771,000-4,831,000 in 1940, 4,500,000-5,000,000 in 1950, 5,367,000-5,531,000 in 1960, 5,370,000-6,000,000 in 1970, 5,500,000-5,921,000 in 1980, 5,515,000-5,981,000 in 1990, and 5,200,000-6,155,000 in 2000.

[18] For a description of some earlier efforts at estimating the U.S. Jewish population, see Dashefsky and Sheskin (2012); Kosmin, Ritterband, and Scheckner (1988); Marcus (1990); and Rabin (2017). Note that the problem of estimating the population of small religious groups is not unique to Jews (Adler, Fulton, and Hoegeman 2020).

[19] Note that this is somewhat moderated by increasing life expectancy

[20] This number is generally consistent with the 600,000-750,000 cited in Remennick

(2013) also estimated about 750,000 FSU Jews in the U.S.[21] Thus, a good portion of the increase in Jewish population from 1990-2024 is probably due to the immigration of FSU Jews.

In addition, based on data from Sheskin (2010),[22] there are likely about 135,000 Israeli-born Jews in the U.S. and another 190,000 "Israeli-connected" Jews (persons not born in Israel but who speak Hebrew at home and/or claim Israeli ancestry).

Pew 2020 data (Pew Research Center 2021) show that about 4% (300,000) of American Jews identify as Hispanic. The largest group of Hispanic Jews are Cubans, most of whom migrated to the U.S. well before 1990. However, other Hispanic Jews came to the U.S. since 1990 from Argentina, Venezuela, Peru, and other Latin American countries (Sheskin 2015a).

There are also small numbers of Syrian, Iranian, South African, Ethiopian, and other Jews who migrated to the U.S. since 1990 (Gold 2015).

Thus, the estimates of FSU Jews (750,000), Israelis/Israeli-connected persons (325,000, although some of these are also FSU Jews), Hispanic Jews (300,000—although again many came pre-1990), and other immigrants and their descendants likely account for much of the increase of 1.7 M in the Jewish population from 1990-2024.

Few American Jews have emigrated from the U.S. since 1990. Based on data from the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics on www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org, it is likely that no more than 60,000 American Jews moved to Israel between 1990 and 2024, some of whom returned to the U.S. Even allowing for moderate amounts of Jewish migration to countries other than Israel, Jewish migration into the U.S. has far exceeded Jewish out-migration.

Another explanation for some of the increase in AJYB Jewish population estimates from 1980-2024 is the change in methodology we use to produce AJYB estimates, as well as the shift in scientific studies from RDD telephone surveys to ABS internet surveys (Link et al. 2008). It is also possible that local community studies and informants are both using broader definitions of "Jewish" than in the past.

(2017, 175) and the U.S. Department of State, which reported almost 600,000 Jewish refugees from the USSR/FSU from 1961-2001. Gold (2015) estimated that since the mid-1960s, more than 600,000 Jews have immigrated to the U.S. from the FSU. Not consistent with these estimates is one by the U.S. Department of Justice, which reported 394,000 (Chiswick and Wenz 2004).See also Sheskin, Altman, and Hartman (2023).

[21] For a summary of FSU Jewish migration, see Tolts (2020).

[22] These data are based upon the 2008 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) from the U.S. Census Bureau.

3.2 Jewish Population Estimates for the U.S.[23]

As stated above, although estimating the number of U.S. Jews is dependent upon one's definition of who is Jewish, the three different methodologies that have recently produced estimates of the number of U.S. Jews are in general agreement:

1) **AJYB 2024**: Based on the summation of county Jewish population estimates in the Appendix and at www.jewishdatabank.org, the estimated size of the U.S. Jewish community in 2024 is 7.7 million Jews, an increase of about 308,000 from the 2023 estimate of 7.392 million.[24] Note that the increase from 2023 is primarily due to our improved estimation methodology (the New Multimethod "DJN-Guided" procedure) and does not represent a real increase, but rather a superior methodology.

We recognize that there may be some double-counting caused by seasonal households (households that spend part of the year in one community and part in another), college students (who may be counted in both their home and school communities), and residents who moved from one community to another between local Jewish community studies. Where information was available, seasonal residents were subtracted from the County totals.

2) **AJPP/SSRI 2020**. The American Jewish Population Project (AJPP) at Brandeis University's Steinhardt Social Research Institute estimates a total Jewish population of 7.6 million for 2020 (Saxe et al. 2020). The foundation of AJPP's estimate is a data synthesis of nationally representative surveys of U.S. adults that assess religious identification (Saxe and Tighe 2013; Saxe, Tighe, and Boxer 2014; Tighe et al. 2010; Tighe et al. 2020a).[25] Religiously identified Jewish adults comprise the majority of Jewish adults.

Supplemental sources of data available at the time of this study, such as the Pew survey of American Jews (Pew Research Center 2013, 2021) and recent local Jewish community studies (Aronson, Boxer, and Saxe 2016), are used to estimate the population not represented in the model-based estimate; in particular, "Jews of no religion" (adults who identify as Jewish, had at least one Jewish parent, and did not identify with another religion [JNR]) and children. Local estimates and Pew's data are aggregated to yield a

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[23] See the World Jewish Population report in this series for Sergio DellaPergola's analysis and criticism of all three population estimate methodologies presented below.

[24] All estimates exclude about 2,000 Jews in U.S. Territories, including 1,500 in Puerto Rico. See the last six rows of the Appendix.

[25] AJPP's estimates are based on pooling the most recent five years of available data. Individual records from all surveys – totaling 1.3 million respondents – are combined and analyzed using Bayesian multilevel regression with poststratification (MRP) (Park, Gelman, and Bafumi 2004). The Bayesian method used to synthesize general population surveys has been validated using data from Canada and the UK where results could be compared to Census data (Claassen and Traunmüller 2020; Magidin de Kramer et al. 2018).

national estimate of 20% (1.2 million Jewish adults) who identify as JNR (Tighe et al. 2020). In addition, it is estimated that 21% (1.6 million) of the total Jewish population are children under age 18 who are being raised Jewish in some way. Analysis of local studies and Pew's data is also used to estimate populations in smaller geographic areas.

The following table summarizes the 2020 estimate by AJPP/SSRI:

	Count in millions	**Confidence Interval**
Adults		
Jewish by religion	4.9	(4.8, 5.0)
Jewish not by religion	1.2	(1.1, 1.2)
Total Jewish Adults	6.0	(5.9, 6.2)
Children		
Total Jewish Children	1.6	(1.5, 1.6)
Total Jewish Population	**7.6**	(7.5, 7.8)

Using accepted definitions of Jewish identity, the synthesis of general population surveys, supplemented by local and other national data, ensures coverage of the whole U.S. Included are areas with known Jewish communities and Jewish communal institutions as well as those without such groups and institutions. See https://ajpp.brandeis.edu for maps of the U.S. Jewish population and for additional socio-demographic information about the population.

3) **Pew 2020**: The Pew Research Center estimates of Jewish Americans (www.pewresearch.org) is 7.5 million. This estimate is based on a national ABS study conducted in 2020 (Pew Research Center 2021).

Thus, although there are three recent estimates of the number of U.S. Jews, each using different methodologies and each with significant shortcomings, all three methods yield relatively comparable estimates.

A different estimate of the U.S. Jewish population (6.3 million) is employed in the World Jewish Population report in this series. In that Report, Sergio DellaPergola relies on the Pew Research Center estimate, but to adhere to his concept of the "core Jewish" population worldwide, he excludes some of the individuals identified as Jews in the Pew study. These individuals are included in the *AJYB*, the Pew study, and AJPP/SSRI totals. Thus, we estimate that there are 17,136,555 Jews in the world and that 45% (7,699,755) of all Jews live in the U.S. and 42% (7,153,000) live in Israel.

3.3 Jewish Population Estimates by Census Regions and Census Division

Map 1 shows the definitions of the Census Regions and Census Divisions.

Table 1 shows that, on a regional basis, the Jewish population is distributed very differently from the U.S. population as a whole. While only 17% of all Americans live in the Northeast, 41% (3,132,000) of American Jews live there. While 21% of all Americans live in the Midwest, only 12% (897,000) of Jews do. While 39% of all Americans live in the South, only 24% (1,856,000) of Jews do. Equal percentages of all Americans and American Jews live in the West (24%) (1,814,000). Significant differences are found demographically and in the level of Jewish connectivity among Jews across the different census regions (Sheskin 2005).

Table 1: Jewish population by census region and census division, 2024

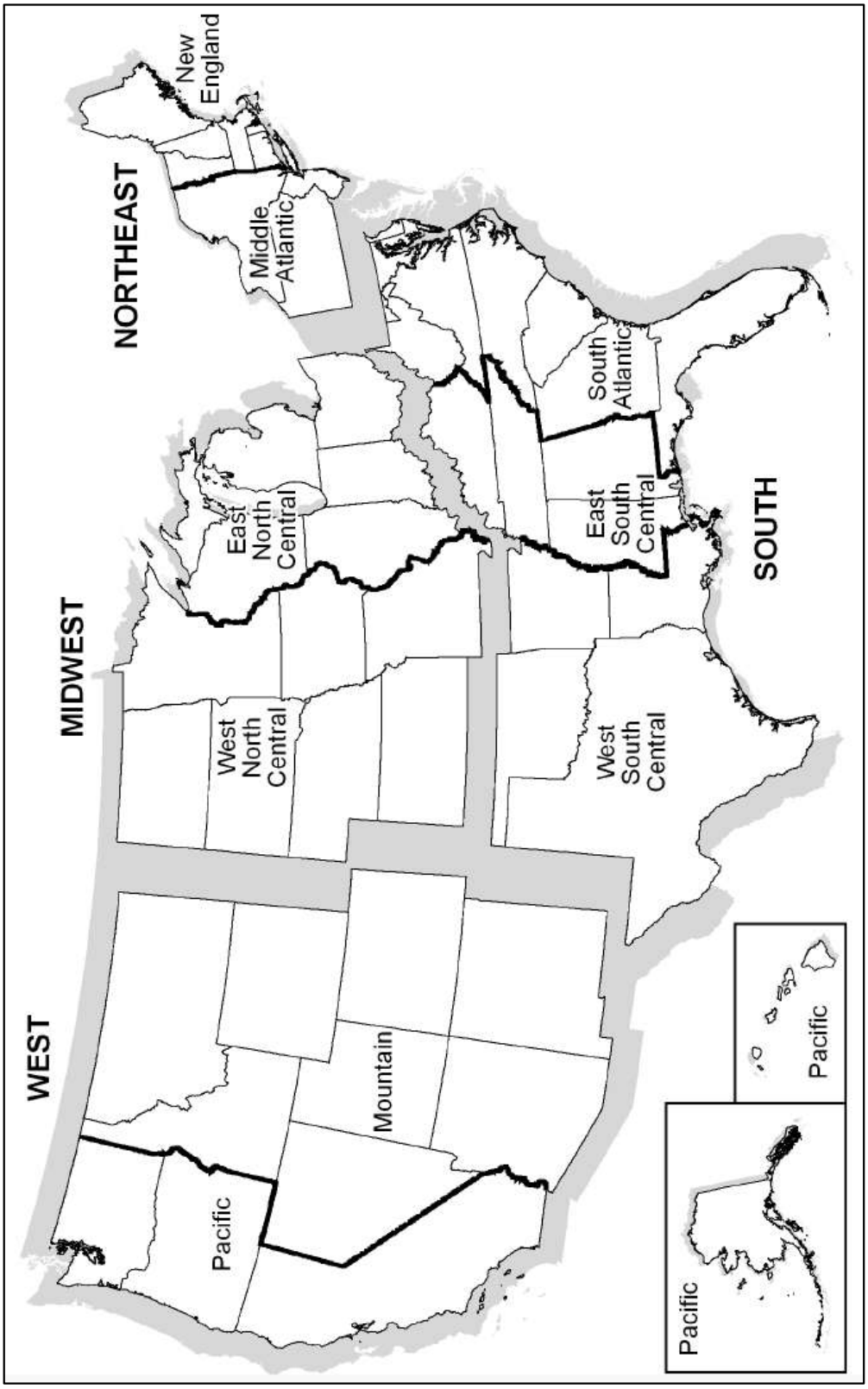
Census Region/Division	Jewish Population (2024)		Total Population (2023)	
	Number	Percentage Distribution	Number	Percentage Distribution
Northeast	3,132,045	40.7%	56,983,517	17.0%
Middle Atlantic	2,601,085	33.8%	41,823,740	12.5%
New England	530,960	6.9%	15,159,777	4.5%
Midwest	897,160	11.7%	68,909,283	20.6%
East North Central	720,485	9.4%	47,146,039	14.1%
West North Central	176,675	2.3%	21,763,244	6.5%
South	1,856,395	24.1%	130,125,290	38.9%
East South Central	69,110	0.9%	19,700,801	5.9%
South Atlantic	1,532,470	19.9%	68,225,883	20.4%
West South Central	254,795	3.3%	42,198,606	12.6%
West	1,814,155	23.6%	78,896,805	23.6%
Mountain	379,785	4.9%	25,716,830	7.7%
Pacific	1,434,390	18.6%	53,179,975	15.9%
Total	7,699,755	100.0%	334,914,895	100.0%

Source: Total population data: www.census.gov and authors.

3.4 Jewish Population Estimates by State

The first data column of **Table 2** shows the number of Jews by state. Nine states have a Jewish population of 200,000 or more: New York (1,672,000); California (1,259,000); Florida (754,000); New Jersey (581,000); Pennsylvania (348,000); Illinois (334,000); Massachusetts (318,000); Maryland (251,000); and Texas (221,000). Seven states have 100,000-200,000 Jews: Ohio (177,000); Virginia (165,000); Georgia (149,000); Arizona (132,000); Michigan (129,000); Connecticut (142,000); and Colorado (118,000).

The third data column of Table 2 shows the percentage of the population in each state that is Jewish. Overall, about 2.3% of Americans are Jewish, but the highest percentages are in New York (8.5%), the District of Columbia (8.4%), New Jersey (6.3%), Massachusetts (4.5%), and Maryland (4.1%).



Map 1

Map 1: Census Regions and Divisions

Table 2: Jewish population by state, 2024					
State	Number of Jews (2024)	Total population (2023)	Percentage Jewish	% of total U.S. Jewish population	Seasonal Jewish Population
Alabama	18,080	5,108,468	0.4%	0.2%	200
Alaska	6,530	733,406	0.9%	0.1%	200
Arizona	132,360	7,431,344	1.8%	1.7%	1,650
Arkansas	5,120	3,067,732	0.2%	0.1%	0
California	1,259,325	38,965,193	3.2%	16.4%	5,225
Colorado	117,910	5,877,610	2.0%	1.5%	2,500
Connecticut	141,500	3,617,176	3.9%	1.8%	500
Delaware	17,400	1,031,890	1.7%	0.2%	0
District of Columbia	57,300	678,972	8.4%	0.7%	0
Florida	753,895	22,610,726	3.3%	9.8%	74,550
Georgia	148,625	11,029,227	1.3%	1.9%	350
Hawaii	9,900	1,435,138	0.7%	0.1%	300
Idaho	5,920	1,964,726	0.3%	0.1%	200
Illinois	334,220	12,549,689	2.7%	4.3%	500
Indiana	31,230	6,862,199	0.5%	0.4%	700
Iowa	6,385	3,207,004	0.2%	0.1%	0
Kansas	17,610	2,940,546	0.6%	0.2%	300
Kentucky	18,300	4,526,154	0.4%	0.2%	0
Louisiana	19,915	4,573,749	0.4%	0.3%	0
Maine	18,460	1,395,722	1.3%	0.2%	1,350
Maryland	250,860	6,180,253	4.1%	3.3%	1,000
Massachusetts	318,450	7,001,399	4.5%	4.1%	4,600
Michigan	129,225	10,037,261	1.3%	1.7%	4,350
Minnesota	68,855	5,737,915	1.2%	0.9%	0
Mississippi	2,910	2,939,690	0.1%	0.0%	0
Missouri	71,895	6,196,156	1.2%	0.9%	375
Montana	3,170	1,132,812	0.3%	0.0%	100
Nebraska	10,245	1,978,379	0.5%	0.1%	0
Nevada	85,330	3,194,176	2.7%	1.1%	0
New Hampshire	20,900	1,402,054	1.5%	0.3%	1,050
New Jersey	581,200	9,290,841	6.3%	7.5%	27,700
New Mexico	19,855	2,114,371	0.9%	0.3%	0
New York	1,672,025	19,571,216	8.5%	21.7%	10,750
North Carolina	99,830	10,835,491	0.9%	1.3%	2,400
North Dakota	920	783,926	0.1%	0.0%	0

Table 2: Jewish population by state, 2024					
State	Number of Jews (2024)	Total population (2023)	Percentage Jewish	% of total U.S. Jewish population	Seasonal Jewish Population
Ohio	177,295	11,785,935	1.5%	2.3%	450
Oklahoma	8,920	4,053,824	0.2%	0.1%	0
Oregon	70,105	4,233,358	1.7%	0.9%	1,000
Pennsylvania	347,860	12,961,683	2.7%	4.5%	1,100
Rhode Island	18,950	1,095,962	1.7%	0.2%	300
South Carolina	36,245	5,373,555	0.7%	0.5%	2,000
South Dakota	765	919,318	0.1%	0.0%	0
Tennessee	29,820	7,126,489	0.4%	0.4%	0
Texas	220,840	30,503,301	0.7%	2.9%	0
Utah	13,030	3,417,734	0.4%	0.2%	650
Vermont	12,700	647,464	2.0%	0.2%	2,650
Virginia	165,365	8,715,698	1.9%	2.1%	1,100
Washington	88,530	7,812,880	1.1%	1.1%	600
West Virginia	2,950	1,770,071	0.2%	0.0%	200
Wisconsin	48,515	5,910,955	0.8%	0.6%	2,050
Wyoming	2,210	584,057	0.4%	0.0%	200
Total	7,699,755	334,914,895	2.3%	100.0%	153,150
Note: Excludes 1,500 Jews in Puerto Rico, 400 in the U.S. Virgin Islands, 100 in Guam, 10 in American Samoa, and 0 in the Northern Mariana Islands Source: Authors					

The next-to-last column of Table 2 shows the percentage of the total U.S. Jewish population in each state. The four states with the largest shares of the Jewish population – New York (22%), California (16%), Florida (10%), and New Jersey (8%) – account for 55% of the 7.7 million U.S. Jews. These four states account for only 27% of the total U.S. population. The Jewish population is then 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, 127-9), 35% 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 final column in Table 2 shows the number of seasonal Jewish residents for each state. The Florida numbers are from scientific studies of various Jewish communities. The other numbers are based on an examination of the percentage of seasonal housing units in all 3,143 U.S. counties. In counties where the U.S. Census indicated a high rate of seasonal housing units and a significant Jewish community, we assumed that the general population's seasonal rate could be applied to the Jewish community as well. The two states with the highest numbers are Florida (75,000) and New Jersey (28,000). The New Jersey seasonal Jews include Syrian Jews in Monmouth,

others who go to the Jersey shore in the summer (Atlantic City), and Chasidic Jews (Lakewood).[26]

3.5 Jewish Population Estimate by Urban Area

Estimates of the Jewish population are provided for three different definitions of urban areas: Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) (**Table 3)**, Combined Statistical Areas (CSAs) (**Table 4**), and Jewish Federation Service Areas (JFSAs) (**Table 5**).

Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) are geographic entities delineated by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for use by federal statistical agencies in collecting, tabulating, and publishing federal statistics. Each MSA has a core urban area with a population of at least 50,000. Each MSA consists of one or more counties and includes the counties containing the core urban area, as well as any adjacent counties that have a high degree of social and economic integration (as measured by commuting to work) with the urban core.

Combined Statistical Areas (CSAs), also defined by OMB, consist of two or more adjacent MSAs or micropolitan areas (essentially MSAs where the major city's population is 10,000-50,000) that have substantial employment interchange. Thus, CSAs are generally geographically larger than MSAs.

Jewish Federation Service Areas (JFSAs) are areas served by local Jewish federations and result from historical forces and the geographic distribution of the Jewish population. History has produced service areas that vary significantly in size and population.

The JFSAs rarely align themselves geographically with MSAs or CSAs. Thus, the JFSA estimates in Table 5 are often quite different from those for MSAs and CSAs in Tables 3 and 4. The JFSAs are generally smaller than the MSAs' geographic areas and much smaller than the CSAs'. The Appendix definitions generally reflect JFSAs. For example, the Appendix and Table 5 show that the Jewish population of the Baltimore JFSA is 95,000. In contrast, Table 3 shows a Jewish population of 123,000 because the Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD MSA covers a larger geographic area than the Baltimore JFSA. Table 4 shows that the Jewish population of the Washington-Baltimore-Arlington DC-MD-VA-WV-PA CSA is 432,000.

Table 3 provides data for the 25 largest **MSAs** in 2024. Forty-two percent of all Americans live in the 25 largest MSAs, compared to 75% of U.S. Jews, and while Jews are only 2.3% of all Americans, they constitute 4.1% of the population of the top 25 MSAs.

The New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ, and Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL MSAs are 10.2% and 7.8% Jewish, respectively.

The Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH; San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA; Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA; Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD, and Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV are all 4.8-5.4% Jewish.

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[26] Every state probably has some portion of seasonal Jewish residents. We have only made estimates for the places that are likely to be the location of the "second home," so as not to double count seasonal Jews in the national total or for places in which students add significant numbers to counties with small Jewish populations.

Table 3: Jewish population in the top 25 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), 2024					
MSA Rank	MSA name	Population		Percentage Jewish	Seasonal Jews
		Total (2023)	Jewish (2024)		
1	New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ	19,498,249	1,980,200	10.2%	19,500
2	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA	12,799,100	647,500	5.1%	0
3	Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN	9,262,825	325,250	3.5%	0
4	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	8,100,037	87,525	1.1%	0
5	Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands, TX	7,510,253	62,745	0.8%	0
6	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA	6,307,261	135,670	2.2%	0
7	Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	6,304,975	303,500	4.8%	0
8	Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD	6,246,160	311,400	5.0%	0
9	Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL	6,183,199	481,000	7.8%	54,500
10	Phoenix-Mesa-Chandler, AZ	5,070,110	99,000	2.0%	0
11	Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH	4,919,179	265,200	5.4%	0
12	Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA	4,688,053	47,100	1.0%	2,000
13	San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA	4,566,961	247,500	5.4%	0
14	Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI	4,342,304	80,350	1.9%	0
15	Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA	4,044,837	66,900	1.7%	0
16	Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI	3,712,020	66,335	1.8%	0
17	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	3,342,963	59,800	1.8%	1,500
18	San Diego-Chula Vista-Carlsbad, CA	3,269,973	100,700	3.1%	0
19	Denver-Aurora-Centennial, CO	3,005,131	69,775	2.3%	0
20	Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD	2,834,316	122,950	4.3%	0
21	Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, FL	2,817,933	53,650	1.9%	0
22	Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC	2,805,115	32,300	1.2%	0
23	St. Louis, MO-IL	2,796,999	65,740	2.4%	0
24	San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX	2,703,999	17,860	0.7%	0
25	Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA	2,508,050	56,700	2.3%	0
Total Population in the Top 25 MSAs		139,640,002	5,786,650	4.1%	77,500
Total U.S. and Jewish Population		334,914,895	7,699,755	2.3%	
Percentage of Population in Top 25 MSAs		41.7%	75.2%		
Source: Authors					

Table 4: Jewish population in the top 25 combined statistical areas (CSAs), 2024

CSA Rank	CSA Name	Population		Percentage Jewish	Seasonal Jews
		Total (2023)	Jewish (2024)		
1	New York-Newark, NY-NJ-CT-PA	21,859,598	2,145,400	9.8%	24,000
2	Los Angeles-Long Beach, CA	18,316,743	743,000	4.1%	2,000
3	Washington-Baltimore-Arlington, DC-MD-VA-WV-PA	10,069,592	432,060	4.3%	0
4	Chicago-Naperville, IL-IN-WI	9,794,558	327,525	3.3%	0
5	San Jose-San Francisco-Oakland, CA	9,001,024	346,525	3.8%	300
6	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX-OK	8,654,750	87,965	1.0%	0
7	Boston-Worcester-Providence, MA-RI-NH	8,345,067	326,200	3.9%	650
8	Houston-Pasadena, TX	7,706,626	62,830	0.8%	0
9	Philadelphia-Reading-Camden, PA-NJ-DE-MD	7,390,919	328,700	4.4%	8,200
10	Atlanta-Athens-Clarke County-Sandy Springs, GA-AL	7,221,137	138,275	1.9%	350
11	Miami-Port St. Lucie-Fort Lauderdale, FL	7,011,936	503,100	7.2%	56,300
12	Detroit-Warren-Ann Arbor, MI	5,361,927	103,750	1.9%	2,000
13	Phoenix-Mesa, AZ	5,124,113	99,350	1.9%	50
14	Seattle-Tacoma, WA	4,993,725	74,650	1.5%	150
15	Orlando-Lakeland-Deltona, FL	4,509,624	80,150	1.8%	0
16	Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-WI	4,104,786	66,660	1.6%	0
17	Cleveland-Akron-Canton, OH	3,732,803	94,510	2.5%	300
18	Denver-Aurora-Greeley, CO	3,691,404	95,175	2.6%	0
19	Charlotte-Concord, NC-SC	3,387,115	33,450	1.0%	0
20	Portland-Vancouver-Salem, OR-WA	3,286,669	61,350	1.9%	200
21	St. Louis-St. Charles-Farmington, MO-IL	2,900,730	65,800	2.3%	0
22	Salt Lake City-Provo-Orem, UT-ID	2,805,734	12,320	0.4%	600
23	San Antonio-New Braunfels-Kerrville, TX	2,785,647	18,060	0.6%	0
24	Pittsburgh-Weirton-Steubenville, PA-OH-WV	2,727,866	49,930	1.8%	0
25	Sacramento-Roseville, CA	2,706,315	27,050	1.0%	950
Total Population in the Top 25 CSAs		167,490,408	6,323,785	3.8%	96,050
Total U.S. and Jewish Population		334,914,895	7,699,755	2.3%	
Percentage of Population in Top 25 CSAs		50.0%	82.1%		

Note: https://www.census.gov/geographies/reference-files/time-series/demo/metro-micro/delineation-files.html contains a list of counties included in each CSA
Source: Authors

Table 5: Jewish population of Jewish federation service areas with 25,000 or more Jews, 2024			
Rank	Community	Jewish federation name	Jewish population
1	New York, NY	UJA-Federation of New York	1,372,000
2	Los Angeles, CA	Jewish Federation Los Angeles	564,700
3	Chicago, IL	Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago	319,600
4	San Francisco, CA	Jewish Community Federation & Endowment Fund	310,600
5	Washington, DC	Jewish Federation of Greater Washington	295,500
6	Boston, MA	Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston	248,000
7	Philadelphia, PA	Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia	247,500
8	Broward County, FL	Jewish Federation of Broward County	149,000
9	South Palm Beach County, FL	Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County	136,100
10	Atlanta, GA	Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta	132,100
11	West Palm Beach, FL	Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County	127,200
12	Northern NJ	Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey	126,000
13	Miami, FL	Greater Miami Jewish Federation	123,200
14	MetroWest, NJ	Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ	122,000
15	Middlesex-Monmouth, NJ	Jewish Federation in the Heart of New Jersey	122,000
16	Ocean County, NJ	Jewish Federation of Ocean County	113,500
17	Rockland County, NY	Jewish Federation & Foundation of Rockland County	109,900
18	San Diego, CA	Jewish Federation of San Diego County	100,700
19	Phoenix, AZ	Center for Jewish Philanthropy of Greater Phoenix	99,000
20	Baltimore, MD	The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore	94,550
21	Denver, CO	JEWISHcolorado	90,800
22	Cleveland, OH	Jewish Federation of Cleveland	81,000
23	Orange County, CA	Jewish Federation of Orange County	80,000
24	Detroit, MI	Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit	78,050
25	Las Vegas, NV	Jewish Nevada	72,300
26	Dallas, TX	Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas	71,000
27	Seattle, WA	Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle	70,700
28	St. Louis, MO	Jewish Federation of St. Louis	61,100
29	Portland, OR	Jewish Federation of Greater Portland	56,300
30	Orange County, NY	Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County, New York	54,000
31	Orlando, FL	Shalom Orlando	51,400
32	Southern NJ	Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey	50,700
33	Houston, TX	Jewish Federation of Greater Houston	50,700
34	Pittsburgh, PA	Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh	49,200
35	Minneapolis, MN	Minneapolis Jewish Federation	42,800
36	San Jose, CA	Jewish Silicon Valley	39,400
37	Albany, NY	Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York	37,200
38	Austin, TX	Shalom Austin	35,800
39	Hartford, CT	Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford	32,800
40	Cincinnati, OH	Jewish Federation of Cincinnati	32,100
41	Tampa, FL	Tampa Jewish Community Centers & Federation	30,000
42	Sarasota-Manatee, FL	Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee	28,800
43	Long Beach, CA	Jewish Long Beach	28,300
44	St. Petersburg, FL	Jewish Federation of Florida's Gulf Coast	28,000

Table 5: Jewish population of Jewish federation service areas with 25,000 or more Jews, 2024			
Rank	Community	Jewish federation name	Jewish population
45	Jacksonville, FL	Jewish Federation & Foundation of Northeast Florida	26,800
46	Delaware	Jewish Federation of Delaware	26,500
47	Tucson, AZ	Jewish Philanthropies of Southern Arizona	26,000
48	Milwaukee, WI	Milwaukee Jewish Federation	25,800
49	Columbus, OH	JewishColumbus	25,500
50	Palm Springs, CA	Jewish Federation of the Desert	25,000
51	San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys, CA	Jewish Federation of the Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys	25,000
Source: Authors			

Table 4 provides data for the 25 largest **CSAs** in 2024. Fifty percent of all Americans live in the 25 largest CSAs, compared to 82% of U.S. Jews, and while Jews are only 2.3% of all Americans, they constitute 3.8% of the population of the top 25 CSAs.

The New York-Newark, NY-NJ-CT-PA, and Miami-Port St. Lucie-Fort Lauderdale, FL CSAs are 9.8% and 7.2% Jewish, respectively.

The Philadelphia-Reading-Camden, PA-NJ-DE-MD; Washington-Baltimore-Arlington, DC-MD-VA-WV-PA; Los Angeles-Long Beach, CA; Boston-Worcester-Providence, MA-RI-NH; and San Jose-San Francisco-Oakland, CA CSAs are all 3.8-4.4% Jewish.

Table 5 provides data for the **JFSAs** with 25,000 or more Jews in 2024. The JFSAs with 200,000 or more Jews are New York (1,372,000), Los Angeles (564,700), Chicago (320,600), San Francisco (311,000), Washington, DC (296,000), Boston (248,000), and Philadelphia (248,000).

Note that the spreadsheet available at www.jewishdatabank.org contains the Jewish population of approximately 160 JFSA service areas. These include all 140+ federations registered with the Jewish Federations of North America (www.jfna.org), as well as others that act as federations but are not part of the JFNA organization. About 95% of American Jews live in areas served by a Jewish federation.

3.6 Jewish Population Estimates by County

Given our new methodology of estimating the Jewish population of all U.S. counties, **Map 2** shows the Jewish population by county.[27] As expected, counties with the highest Jewish population are in the Northeast, California, and Florida.

In some cases, particularly in the West, where counties are generally larger in area, it may seem that the Jewish population is spread over a larger area than is actually the case. For example, San Bernardino County (in southern CA), the largest U.S. county in area, covers 20,105 square miles. It is larger than the combined area of 9 U.S. states. Almost all Jews in this county live in the southwestern corner of the county, but on the map, a very large area is shaded.

[27] See Sheskin and Dashefsky (2020) for a 2011 map based on Comenetz (2011).

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 U.S. Jews can trace their ancestry, Jews often did not become farmers because they were not allowed to own land during many eras and in many geographic locations. Furthermore, as a people who were repeatedly expelled from various countries throughout history, Jews did not tend to purchase land, which clearly could not be taken with them. In America, the most significant opportunities lie in cities and not on farms. As technology transformed the agricultural sector and many farmers moved to the cities, it made little sense for immigrants and others to become farmers. Thus, when Jews arrived in the U.S., they tended to settle in urban areas, a trend that continues to this day.

Table 6 presents Jewish population estimates for all counties with 40,000 or more Jews. The five largest counties are Los Angeles (561,000),[28] Kings (Brooklyn) (462,000), New York (Manhattan) (277,000), Palm Beach (263,000, including seasonal residents), and Cook (227,000). Eight counties are in California, 7 in New York, and 6 in New Jersey. The Jewish population of all counties with 100 or more Jews is shown in the Appendix. Estimates for counties with fewer than 100 Jews are in the spreadsheet at www.jewishdatabank.org.

3.7 Jewish Population Estimates by Zip Code

Jewish population for zip codes is available for many of the local Jewish community studies available at www.jewishdatabank.org. When data are not available in the reports, they can be obtained by special request from the report's authors.

[28] Note that because three Jewish federations serve Los Angeles County, an estimate for this county has never been available. All three federations have now completed studies and, given the data available to the authors at the zip code level, we were able to make an accurate estimate.

Table 6: Jewish population by county, 2024				
Rank	Community Name	Full-Year	Seasonal	Total
1	Los Angeles, CA	560,700	0	560,700
2	Kings, NY	462,000	0	462,000
3	New York, NY	277,000	0	277,000
4	Palm Beach, FL	218,300	45,000	263,300
5	Cook, IL	227,400	0	227,400
6	Nassau, NY	222,000	0	222,000
7	Queens, NY	150,000	0	150,000
8	Broward, FL	143,700	5,300	149,000
9	Middlesex, MA	130,600	0	130,600
10	Miami-Dade, FL	119,000	4,200	123,200
11	Ocean, NJ	100,000	13,500	113,500
12	Rockland, NY	107,600	0	107,600
13	Montgomery, MD	105,400	0	105,400
14	Westchester, NY	105,000	0	105,000
15	San Diego, CA	100,700	0	100,700
16	Bergen, NJ	100,000	0	100,000
17	Maricopa, AZ	98,500	0	98,500
18	Orange, CA	86,800	0	86,800
19	Suffolk, NY	85,000	0	85,000
20	Philadelphia, PA	81,600	0	81,600
21	Santa Clara, CA	73,200	0	73,200
22	Clark, NV	72,300	0	72,300
23	Monmouth, NJ	64,000	6,000	70,000
24	Cuyahoga, OH	69,900	0	69,900
25	Montgomery, PA	69,600	0	69,600
26	Baltimore, MD	65,200	0	65,200
27	Lake, IL	64,900	0	64,900
28	Oakland, MI	64,050	0	64,050
29	Alameda, CA	63,100	0	63,100
30	Fairfax, VA	62,200	0	62,200
31	San Francisco, CA	61,500	0	61,500
32	DC	57,300	0	57,300
33	Fulton, GA	50,900	0	50,900
34	Contra Costa, CA	55,900	0	55,900
35	King, WA	55,400	0	55,400
36	Fairfield, CT	55,000	0	55,000
37	Orange, NY	54,000	0	54,000
38	Middlesex, NJ	52,000	0	52,000
39	St. Louis, MO	50,050	0	50,050
40	Ventura, CA	48,400	0	48,400

Table 6: Jewish population by county, 2024				
Rank	Community Name	Full-Year	Seasonal	Total
41	Essex, NJ	47,800	0	47,800
42	Norfolk, MA	47,400	0	47,400
43	Harris, TX	47,000	0	47,000
44	Bucks, PA	44,400	0	44,400
45	Hennepin, MN	40,950	0	40,950
46	Morris, NJ	40,350	0	40,350

Section 4: Focus on the Jewish Population of Congressional Districts (CDs)[29]

Although the number of congressional districts (435, plus the District of Columbia) is much smaller than the number of counties (3,143), calculating CD Jewish populations is more difficult because many CD boundaries are irregular and do not align with county or zip code boundaries. By law, CDs must have roughly equal populations.[30] and are constructed of census blocks. No Jewish population data are available for census blocks.[31]

Therefore, to move from the county Jewish population estimates in the Appendix to CD estimates, we utilized several other indicators for counties, zip codes, and census tracts. We also created a national map of current CD boundaries, which forms the basis for **Map 3**. The Jewish population of each CD was calculated using Geographic Information System (GIS) software.

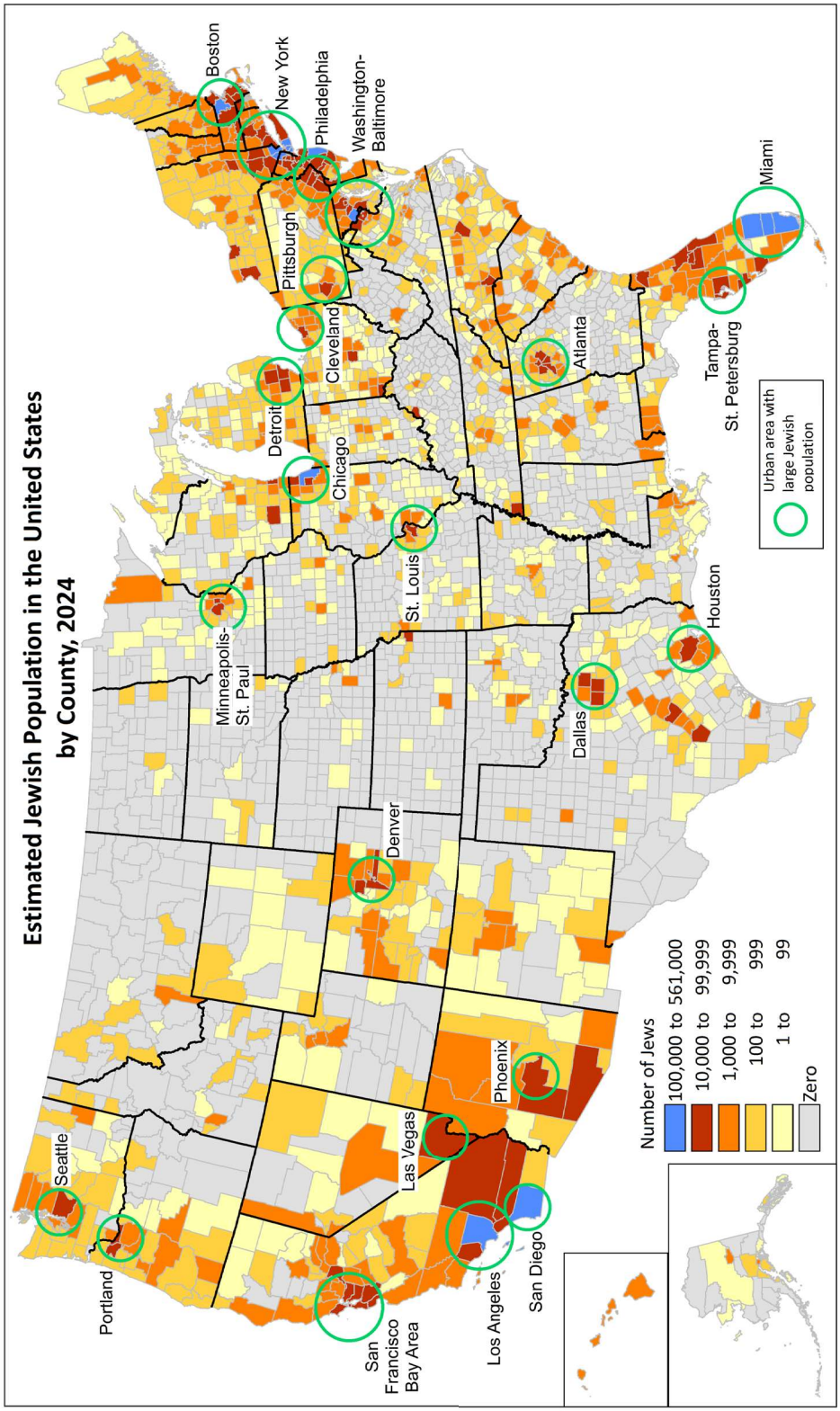
A *split county* is one whose area is divided among multiple CDs (usually two). A *split zip* is a Zip Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA) [32] whose area is divided among multiple CDs (usually just two).

[29] Previous attempts at estimating the Jewish population of CDs include Paul (2006), Comenetz (2014), and Tighe et al. 2020b. For those CDs whose boundaries have not changed, or have changed minimally since 2010, we did make comparisons with our 2020 numbers. All were within range of the 2010 estimates.

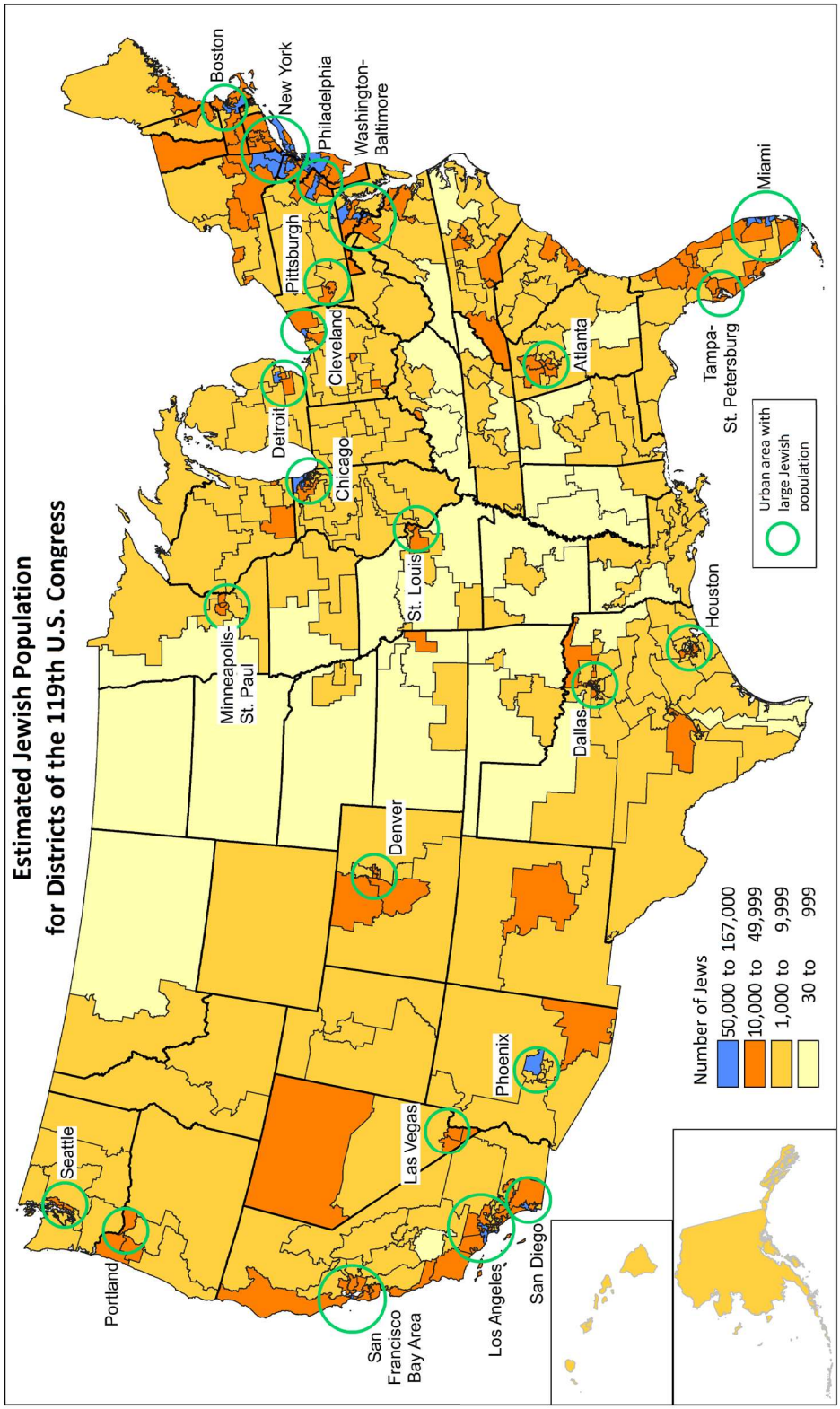
[30] In 2020, the average CD had a total population of about 760,000.

[31] Census blocks are small geographic units defined by the Census Bureau containing approximately 100 people.

[32] ZCTAs are very similar to postal zip codes. We will use “zip codes” in the discussion.



Map 2: Jewish Population by County, 2024



Map 3: Jewish Population by Congressional District for the 119th Congress, 2024

4.1 CD Jewish Population Estimates Based on State or County Estimates

State-based estimates. Six states (Alaska, Delaware, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, Wyoming) and DC have only one CD. The state Jewish populations in Table 2 were simply used as CD estimates.

County-based estimates. All counties entirely within one CD were assigned to that CD. Also, split counties with zero Jewish population, or fewer than 100 Jews (or a higher threshold in states with higher Jewish populations) were assigned to the CD containing the county centroid,[33] or to whichever CD contained a Jewish institution or a Jewish urban center.

In Iowa and West Virginia, all CDs are comprised of whole counties.

In some other states, particularly rural areas, CDs also encompass entire counties. In some CDs, all split counties had small Jewish populations that could be assigned to CDs based on the county centroid location or the presence of a Jewish institution. In all these cases, county estimates were summed to obtain CD estimates.

4.2 Estimates Based on Community Studies

The only local Jewish community study that provides estimates for CDs directly from survey results is the 2023 study of the eight-county[34] New York City area. Because the New York study used address-based sampling (ABS), street addresses were available for almost every respondent. We adapted estimates from this study for 16 CDs in the New York area and part of one CD just north of Westchester.

4.3 CD Jewish Population Estimates Based on Zip Code and Voter Registration Data

In many places, CD boundaries do not follow county borders. Geographically detailed Jewish population estimates below the county level are tabulated mainly by zip code. We used three types of zip code data:

1) DJN counts from lists of registered voters, using the 30 DJNs mentioned above;
2) Estimates of the Jewish population from more than 60 local Jewish community studies covering about two-thirds of American Jews; and
3) Updated household counts directly from the Jewish federations in the Atlanta, Dallas, Las Vegas, and Phoenix areas. As described above, these provided more current information on population distribution in these four rapidly-growing urban areas, all of which have relatively old local Jewish community studies and significant Jewish populations.

[33] A centroid is the point at the geographic center of an area.

[34] The five boroughs of New York City, Nassau, Suffolk, and Westchester.

Zip code-based estimates. During political redistricting, all large urban counties were split among multiple CDs, as were many smaller counties.

Fortunately, zip code data were available from local Jewish community studies, voter registration lists, or Jewish federation mailing lists for most counties with large Jewish populations. Local Jewish community study or Jewish Federation mailing list zip code estimates of Jewish population can be summed, wherever zip codes wholly fit within CDs.

However, like counties, many zip codes are split by CD boundaries. As with counties, the first step was to assign zip codes with small Jewish populations to CDs based on the zip code centroid, the location of Jewish institutions, or other evidence of Jewish population density. Frequently, Google Maps imagery shows that towns or housing are located in only one part of a zip code. The Randy Majors website (https://www.randymajors.org/) overlays county, zip code, and municipality boundaries on Google Maps, and Google Maps itself will show most individual CDs, counties, and zip codes.

The Jewish populations of larger split zips were divided between CDs using a combination of decennial census or American Community Survey (ACS) data by census tract (tracts are usually smaller than zip codes), Jewish institution location, and evidence of Jewish population density. For example, if a zip code were split between two CDs, but all tracts with census or ACS counts of people speaking Hebrew, Russian, or Yiddish, or having Israeli or Russian ancestries or birthplaces, were in one CD, most or all of the Jewish population could be assigned to that CD. If the part of a zip code within one CD contained a town with a synagogue, while the other part contained sparsely populated rural areas, according to Google Maps, we assumed that most or all Jews lived in the first CD. Where no other census Jewish indicators were available, the Jewish population of a zip code was estimated by examining the distribution of the non-Hispanic white (NHW) population, since at least 92% of Jews are NHW.

This method is not perfect, because census tracts, too, are split by zip codes; census and ACS variables do not fully correlate with Jewish population distribution and only represent a minority of the total Jewish population; local Jewish community study and DJN data vary in accuracy and currency (date of gathering); and, as with counties, there is a subjective element in splitting zip code and county populations that cross CD boundaries. However, in the absence of a census religion question or a national Jewish household mailing list, the method maximized accuracy, given available data sources. Also, in most cases, adding split-zip information did not significantly change the results obtained with only zip codes entirely contained within a CD.

Other situations. Many CDs were constructed from split counties where no zip code data were available. In these cases, entire county Jewish populations were split among CDs using the same methods applied to split zips, based on census data and the location of Jewish institutions. Fortunately, these split counties tended to have smaller Jewish populations, so the overall accuracy of CD population estimates did not suffer.

4.4 Jewish population by CDs

This section presents some results from an extensive study of the Jewish population by Comenetz and Sheskin (2024), the methodology for which has been described above.

Table 7 shows the Jewish population of CDs, listed alphabetically by state. The Jewish population varies from 40 (KY-5) to 181,000 (NY-12). While Table 7 does not show the percentage of the population in each CD that is Jewish, the reader can easily calculate the approximate percentage by dividing the Jewish population by 760,000, since every district has about 760,000 people. Table 8 shows the percentage Jewish for the 99 CDs with the largest Jewish populations. **Map 3** shows a national map of the Jewish population by CD.

Readers who need a more exact percentage of Jews can consult Comenetz and Sheskin (2024, 33-53), which also provides, for many CDs, the rate of the Jewish population of voting age, the percentage of the Jewish voting age population that is age 18-34, and political party affiliation. Also in Comenetz and Sheskin (2024) are maps of CDs by state showing, for each CD, the number of Jews and the percentage Jewish. Maps also show the CD and county boundaries. Also provided are demographic data of interest to politicians and social scientists for dozens of Jewish communities.

Maps 4 and **5** (New York and Southern California) are examples of maps found in Comenetz and Sheskin (2024) for 15 states.

Table 8 shows the number of Jews for the 99 CDs with 20,000 or more Jewish residents, ordered by Jewish population size. The Jewish population of these 99 CDs ranges from 20,000 (2.6%) in TX-37 to 181,000 in NY-12. Note that for these CDs, this table provides estimates of the percentage of the population that is Jewish.

Table 7 Jewish population by congressional district (alpha order), 2024					
CD	Jewish population	CD	Jewish population	CD	Jewish population
	Alabama	21	4,900	5	23,000
1	2,400	22	800		**DC** 57,300
2	3,100	23	8,200		**Delaware** 7,400
3	900	24	17,200		
4	700	25	5,200		**Florida**
5	2,200	26	47,200	1	6,100
6	5,300	27	33,800	2	3,800
7	3,500	28	25,800	3	6,800
	Alaska 6,530	29	33,000	4	4,100
	Arizona	30	79,500	5	22,100
1	67,900	31	6,000	6	14,800
2	5,600	32	166,100	7	21,800
3	7,100	33	4,300	8	17,000
4	9,800	34	15,600	9	6,600
5	4,200	35	3,900	10	17,600
6	21,100	36	117,100	11	16,600
7	5,400	37	48,600	12	9,800
8	8,800	38	6,400	13	17,600
9	2,700	39	3,400	14	18,500
	Arkansas	40	28,100	15	10,500
1	400	41	15,600	16	14,000
2	2600	42	13,700	17	22,800
3	1600	43	5,300	18	5,500
4	400	44	6,700	19	17,200
		45	9,000	20	41,100
	California	46	5,000	21	48,600
1	3,100	47	34,200	22	108,100
2	45,800	48	14,500	23	111,400
3	9,900	49	14,800	24	80,200
4	9,300	50	53,700	25	67,400
5	3,700	51	25,000	26	3,900
6	6,500	52	8,400	27	28,600
7	6,500		**Colorado**	28	11,400
8	12,400	1	28,800		**Georgia**
9	2,400	2	31,400	1	4,900
10	46,600	3	6,800	2	1,100
11	57,200	4	8,700	3	4,300
12	43,000	5	7,000	4	18,600
13	1,600	6	14,300	5	25,500
14	18,300	7	16,100	6	21,100
15	28,700	8	4,900	7	32,200
16	41,600		**Connecticut**	8	700
17	27,000	1	27,800	9	5,500
18	9,900	2	17,600	10	3,100
19	23,000	3	29,000	11	20,800
20	1,800	4	44,000	12	2,600

13	4,900	2	500		Minnesota
14	3,300	3	12,200	1	1,200
	Hawaii	4	2,600	2	7,000
1	3,900	5	40	3	16,000
2	6,000	6	2,700	4	15,100
	Idaho		Louisiana	5	25,000
1	3,300	1	8,500	6	2,500
2	2,600	2	6,600	7	90
	Illinois	3	1,600	8	2,100
1	8,800	4	600		Mississippi
2	8,000	5	1,700	1	600
3	13,300	6	1,000	2	600
4	2,500		Maine	3	600
5	53,800	1	13,700	4	1,000
6	7,400	2	4,700		Missouri
7	26,600		Maryland	1	31,200
8	10,600	1	7,500	2	25,200
9	87,500	2	62,100	3	6,300
10	88,300	3	28,100	4	500
11	11,200	4	9,800	5	6,200
12	1,400	5	6,600	6	800
13	3,500	6	14,900	7	1,100
14	3,200	7	28,500	8	600
15	2,300	8	95,500		Montana
16	2,900		Massachusetts	1	2,600
17	2,800	1	18,800	2	600
	Indiana	2	24,900		Nebraska
1	4,300	3	9,800	1	1,400
2	2,400	4	79,800	2	8,600
3	1,400	5	58,000	3	200
4	1,600	6	33,800		Nevada
5	9,000	7	39,500	1	18,300
6	1,300	8	36,100	2	12,000
7	8,600	9	17,800	3	47,100
8	1,000		Michigan	4	7,900
9	1,600	1	3,500		New Hampshire
	Iowa	2	3,400	1	11,100
1	1,600	3	4,800	2	9,800
2	1,300	4	4,300		New Jersey
3	2,600	5	5,400	1	33,400
4	800	6	22,200	2	19,200
	Kansas	7	5,400	3	60,300
1	600	8	3,900	4	111,600
2	500	9	3,200	5	100,200
3	15,400	10	3,800	6	23,100
4	1,100	11	52,100	7	30,300
	Kentucky	12	13,700	8	18,500
1	200	13	3,500	9	19,400

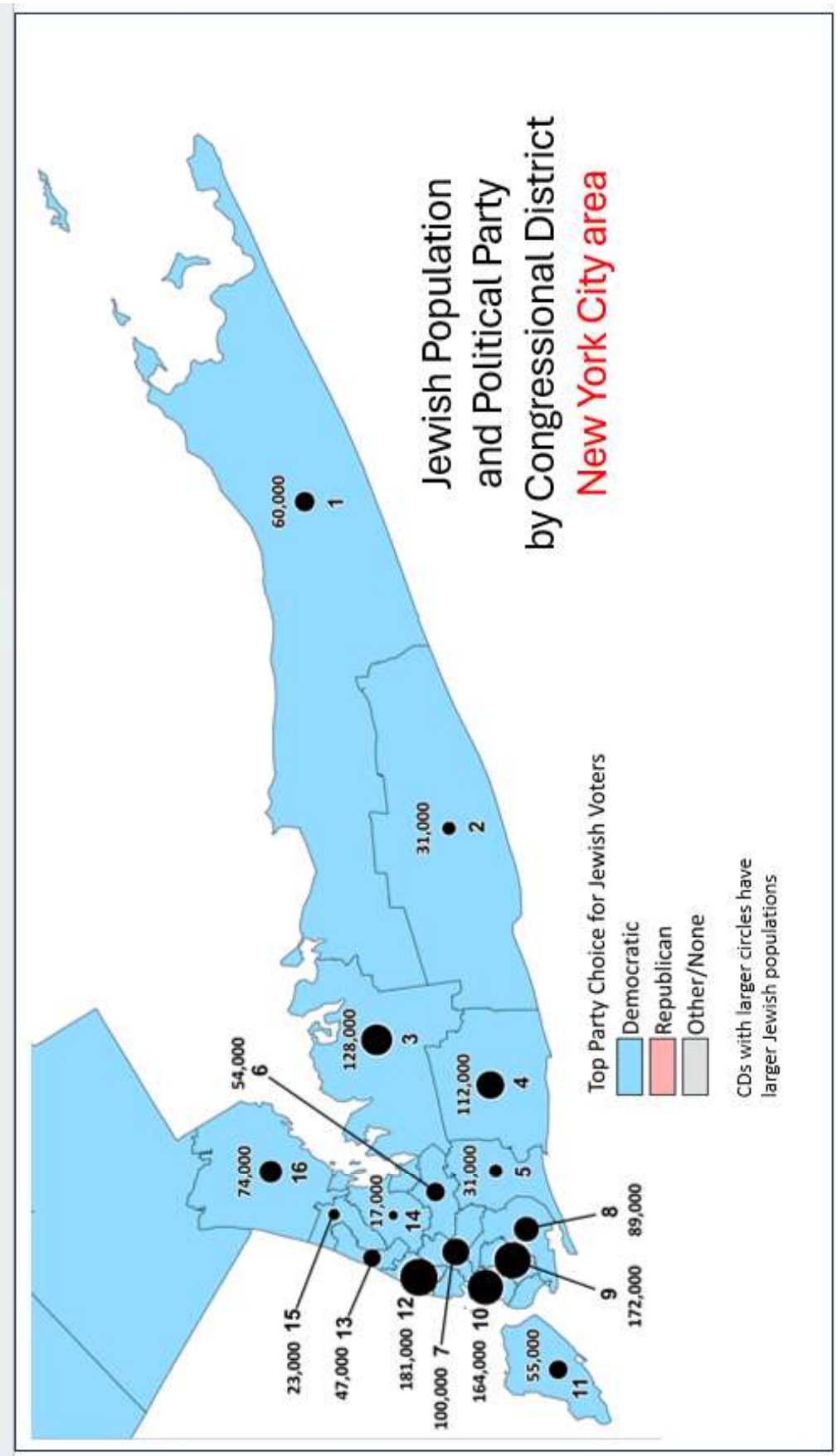
10	18,600	14	3,200	16	4,800
11	74,300		**North Dakota**	17	12,000
12	72,300		920		**Rhode Island**
	New Mexico		**Ohio**	1	10,500
1	10,200	1	24,600	2	8,400
2	3,000	2	2,800		**South Carolina**
3	6,600	3	20,000	1	10,600
	New York	4	2,700	2	3,800
1	60,000	5	3,600	3	1,800
2	31,000	6	3,200	4	4,200
3	128,000	7	14,100	5	3,200
4	112,000	8	6,000	6	7,400
5	31,000	9	8,400	7	5,200
6	54,000	10	6,000		**South Dakota**
7	100,000	11	57,300		765
8	89,000	12	5,100		**Tennessee**
9	172,000	13	8,200	1	500
10	164,000	14	12,600	2	4,100
11	55,000	15	2,800	3	3,000
12	181,000		**Oklahoma**	4	900
13	47,000	1	3,300	5	7,500
14	17,000	2	200	6	1,200
15	23,000	3	700	7	2,200
16	74,000	4	1,700	8	7,900
17	147,500	5	3,100	9	2,600
18	75,800		**Oregon**		**Texas**
19	28,300	1	22,500	1	800
20	25,100	2	5,400	2	5,600
21	5,700	3	16,900	3	6,500
22	12,200	4	5,900	4	10,200
23	4,700	5	8,400	5	2,000
24	3,600	6	11,100	6	2,700
25	20,100		**Pennsylvania**	7	16,500
26	11,100	1	47,900	8	1,000
	North Carolina	2	26,100	9	12,500
1	800	3	53,000	10	7,500
2	10,400	4	54,300	11	1,200
3	3,200	5	45,100	12	5,700
4	19,700	6	24,200	13	700
5	4,300	7	12,300	14	3,800
6	3,300	8	9,100	15	700
7	7,200	9	2,400	16	4,300
8	10,600	10	9,700	17	2,700
9	4,000	11	6,200	18	4,200
10	5,800	12	32,400	19	1,200
11	10,600	13	3,200	20	3,500
12	13,900	14	3,100	21	10,000
13	2,800	15	2,000	22	6,000

23	4,400	7	4,500
24	26,900	8	53,000
25	3,700	9	600
26	3,700	10	24,400
27	1,900	11	42,600
28	1,200		**Washington**
29	900	1	10,500
30	4,900	2	7,400
31	4,600	3	5,100
32	18,800	4	1,100
33	2,700	5	3,100
34	500	6	7,500
35	3,600	7	28,300
36	2,300	8	7,000
37	20,000	9	15,000
38	11,300	10	3,800
	Utah		**West Virginia**
1	4,800	1	1,600
2	1,400	2	1,300
3	4,400		**Wisconsin**
4	2,400	1	4,900
	Vermont 12,700	2	10,100
	Virginia	3	1,600
1	11,900	4	19,300
2	8,400	5	4,500
3	5,800	6	4,700
4	6,700	7	1,800
5	3,600	8	1,700
6	3,900		**Wyoming** 2,200

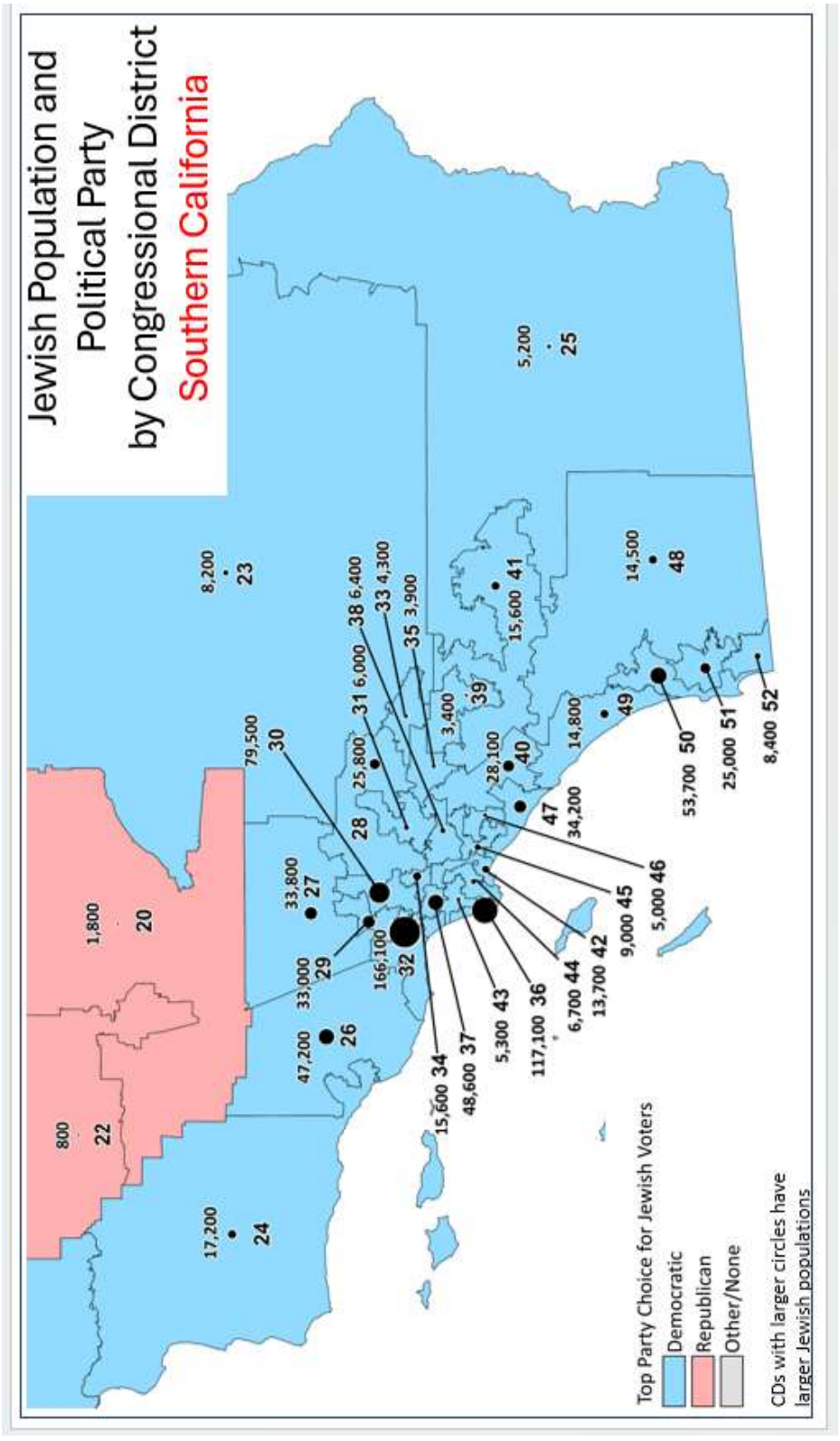
Table 8: Congressional Districts with 20,000+ Jewish population			
State	CD	Jewish Population	Percentage Jewish
NY	12	181,000	23.3%
NY	9	172,000	22.1%
CA	32	166,100	21.9%
NY	10	164,000	21.1%
NY	17	147,500	19.0%
NY	3	128,000	16.5%
CA	36	117,100	15.4%
NY	4	112,000	14.4%
NJ	4	111,600	14.4%
FL	23	111,400	14.5%
FL	22	108,100	14.0%
NJ	5	100,200	13.0%
NY	7	100,000	12.9%
MD	8	95,500	12.4%
NY	8	89,000	11.5%
IL	10	88,300	11.7%
IL	9	87,500	11.6%
FL	24	80,200	10.4%
MA	4	79,800	10.2%
CA	30	79,500	10.5%
NY	18	75,800	9.8%
NJ	11	74,300	9.6%
NY	16	74,000	9.5%
NJ	12	72,300	9.3%
AZ	1	67,900	8.5%
FL	25	67,400	8.8%
MD	2	62,100	8.1%
NJ	3	60,300	7.8%
NY	1	60,000	7.7%
MA	5	58,000	7.4%
DC	delegate	57,300	8.3%
OH	11	57,300	7.3%
CA	11	57,200	7.5%
NY	11	55,000	7.1%
PA	4	54,300	7.1%
NY	6	54,000	7.0%
IL	5	53,800	7.1%

Table 8: Congressional Districts with 20,000+ Jewish population			
State	CD	Jewish Population	Percentage Jewish
CA	50	53,700	7.1%
PA	3	53,000	6.9%
VA	8	53,000	6.8%
MI	11	52,100	6.7%
CA	37	48,600	6.4%
FL	21	48,600	6.3%
PA	1	47,900	6.3%
CA	26	47,200	6.2%
NV	3	47,100	6.1%
NY	13	47,000	6.0%
CA	10	46,600	6.1%
CA	2	45,800	6.0%
PA	5	45,100	5.9%
CT	4	44,000	6.1%
CA	12	43,000	5.7%
VA	11	42,600	5.4%
CA	16	41,600	5.5%
FL	20	41,100	5.3%
MA	7	39,500	5.1%
MA	8	36,100	4.6%
CA	47	34,200	4.5%
CA	27	33,800	4.4%
MA	6	33,800	4.3%
NJ	1	33,400	4.3%
CA	29	33,000	4.4%
PA	12	32,400	4.2%
GA	7	32,200	4.2%
CO	2	31,400	4.4%
MO	1	31,200	4.1%
NY	2	31,000	4.0%
NY	5	31,000	4.0%
NJ	7	30,300	3.9%
CT	3	29,000	4.0%
CO	1	28,800	4.0%
CA	15	28,700	3.8%
FL	27	28,600	3.7%
MD	7	28,500	3.7%

Table 8: Congressional Districts with 20,000+ Jewish population			
State	CD	Jewish Population	Percentage Jewish
NY	19	28,300	3.6%
WA	7	28,300	3.7%
CA	40	28,100	3.7%
CT	1	27,800	3.9%
CA	17	27,000	3.6%
TX	24	26,900	3.5%
IL	7	26,600	3.5%
MD	3	26,100	3.4%
PA	2	26,100	3.4%
CA	28	25,800	3.4%
GA	5	25,500	3.3%
MO	2	25,200	3.3%
NY	20	25,100	3.2%
CA	51	25,000	3.3%
MN	5	25,000	3.5%
MA	2	24,900	3.2%
OH	1	24,600	3.1%
VA	10	24,400	3.1%
PA	6	24,200	3.2%
NJ	6	23,100	3.0%
CA	19	23,000	3.0%
CT	5	23,000	3.2%
NY	15	23,000	3.0%
FL	17	22,800	3.0%
OR	1	22,500	3.2%
MI	6	22,200	2.9%
FL	5	22,100	2.9%
FL	7	21,800	2.8%
AZ	6	21,100	2.7%
GA	6	21,100	2.8%
GA	11	20,800	2.7%
NY	25	20,100	2.6%
OH	3	20,000	2.5%
TX	37	20,000	2.6%
Source: Authors			



Map 4: New York Area CDs



Map 5: Southern California CDs

Section 5: Changes in the Size and Geographic Distribution of the Jewish Population, 1980-2024

This section examines changes in the geographic distribution of the Jewish population from 1980-2024 (**Maps 6, 7, and 8**).[35] For additional information about the geographic distribution of American Jews over time, see the previous editions of the *AJYB* and de Lange (1984), Gilbert (1985), Friesel (1990), Marcus (1990), Barnavi (1992), Gilbert (1995), Sheskin (1997), Ahituv (2003), and Rebhun (2011).

5.1 National Level Changes

Overall, the data reveal an increase of 1,778,755 (30%) Jews, from 1980-2024, from 5.921 million in 1980 to 7.700 million in 2024 (**Table 9**). However, this increase in the estimate is not entirely due to *actual* growth in the Jewish population. In some cases, persons who might not have claimed a Jewish identity 40 years ago do so now.

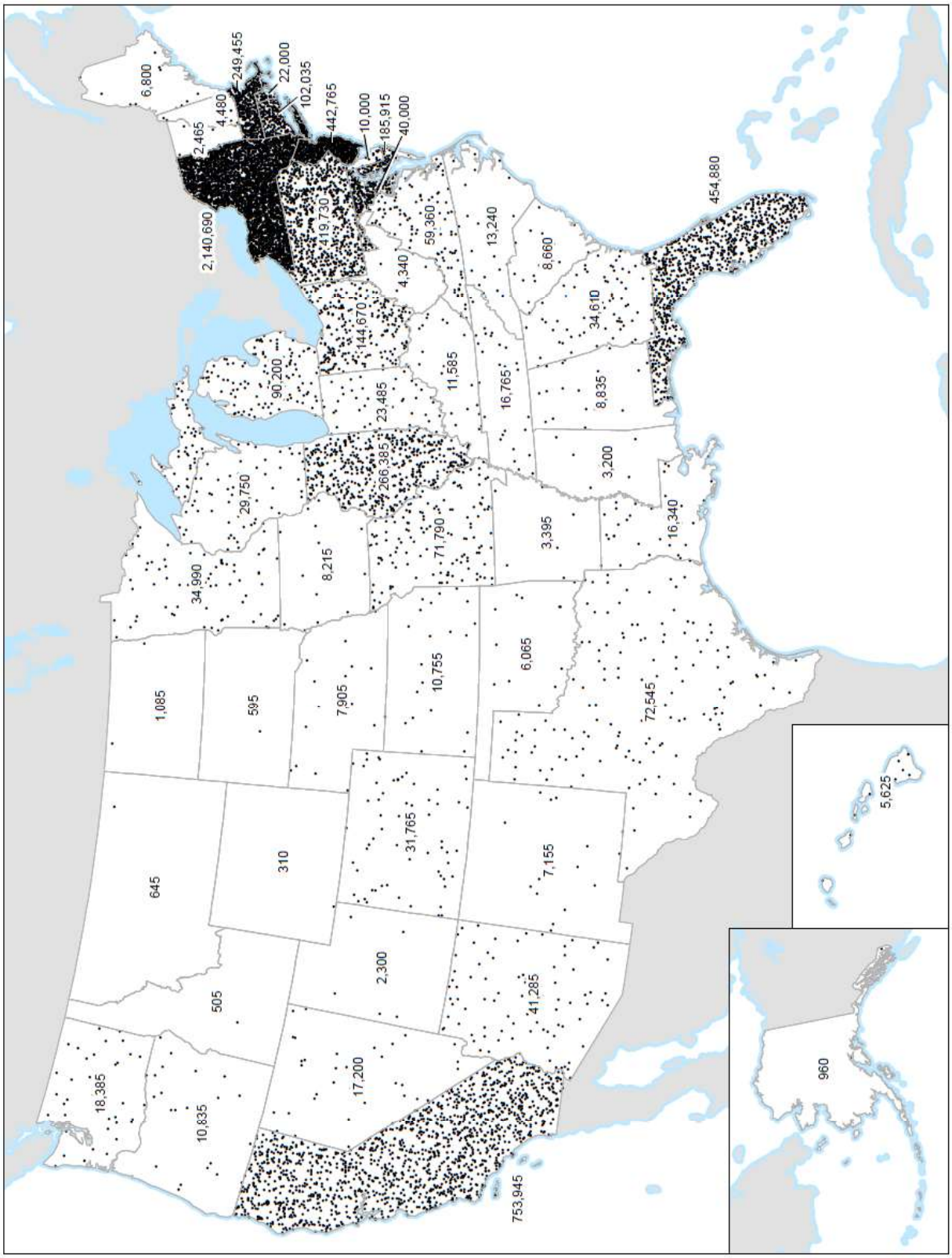
More importantly, some of the increase is almost certainly due to changes in the methodology used to make the estimates. The new methodology "found" numerous locales with Jewish populations that were unknown to the AJYB author in 1980. In addition, local Jewish community studies have improved, and the Internet and our new Multimethod DJN-Guided methodology has allowed us to find Jewish communities of which we were unaware in 1980.

5.2 Regional Level Changes

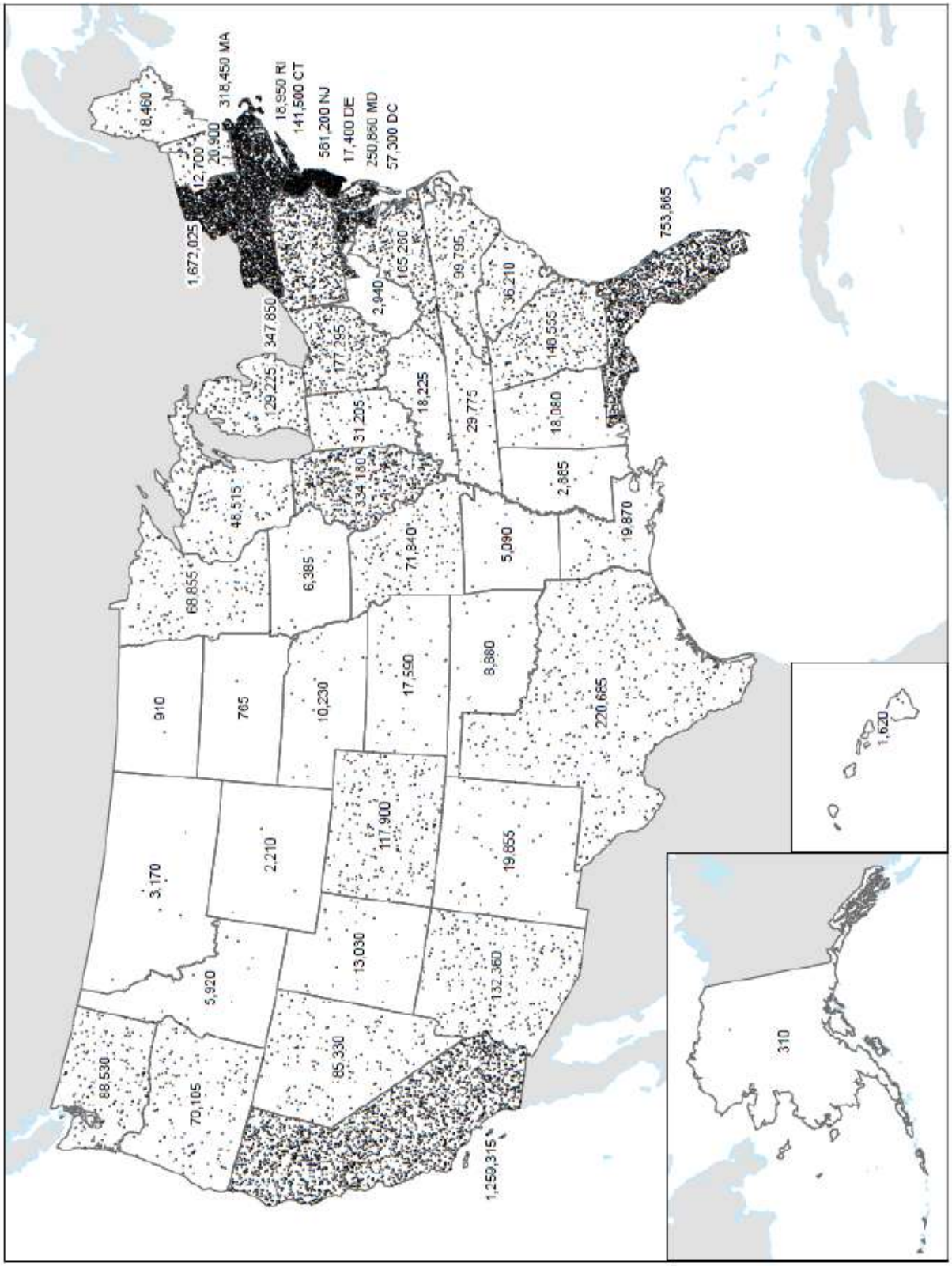
Table 9 shows the changes in the geographic distribution of Jews by Census Region and Census Division from 1980 to 2024, which, to some extent, reflects the changing geographic distribution of Americans in general. The percentage of Jews in the Northeast decreased from 57% in 1980 to 41% in 2024. The percentage of Jews in the Midwest remained the same from 1980 to 2024 (12%). The percentage of Jews in the South increased from 16% to 24%, and the percentage of Jews in the West increased from 15% to 24%. In sum, the Jewish population shifted from the Northeast to the West and the South from 1980-2024.

The final column of Table 9 shows that the number of Jews in the Northeast decreased by 8% (258,000) from 1980-2024. The number of Jews in the Midwest increased by 30% (207,000); the number of Jews in the South increased by 96% (907,000); and the number of Jews in the West increased by 104% (923,000).

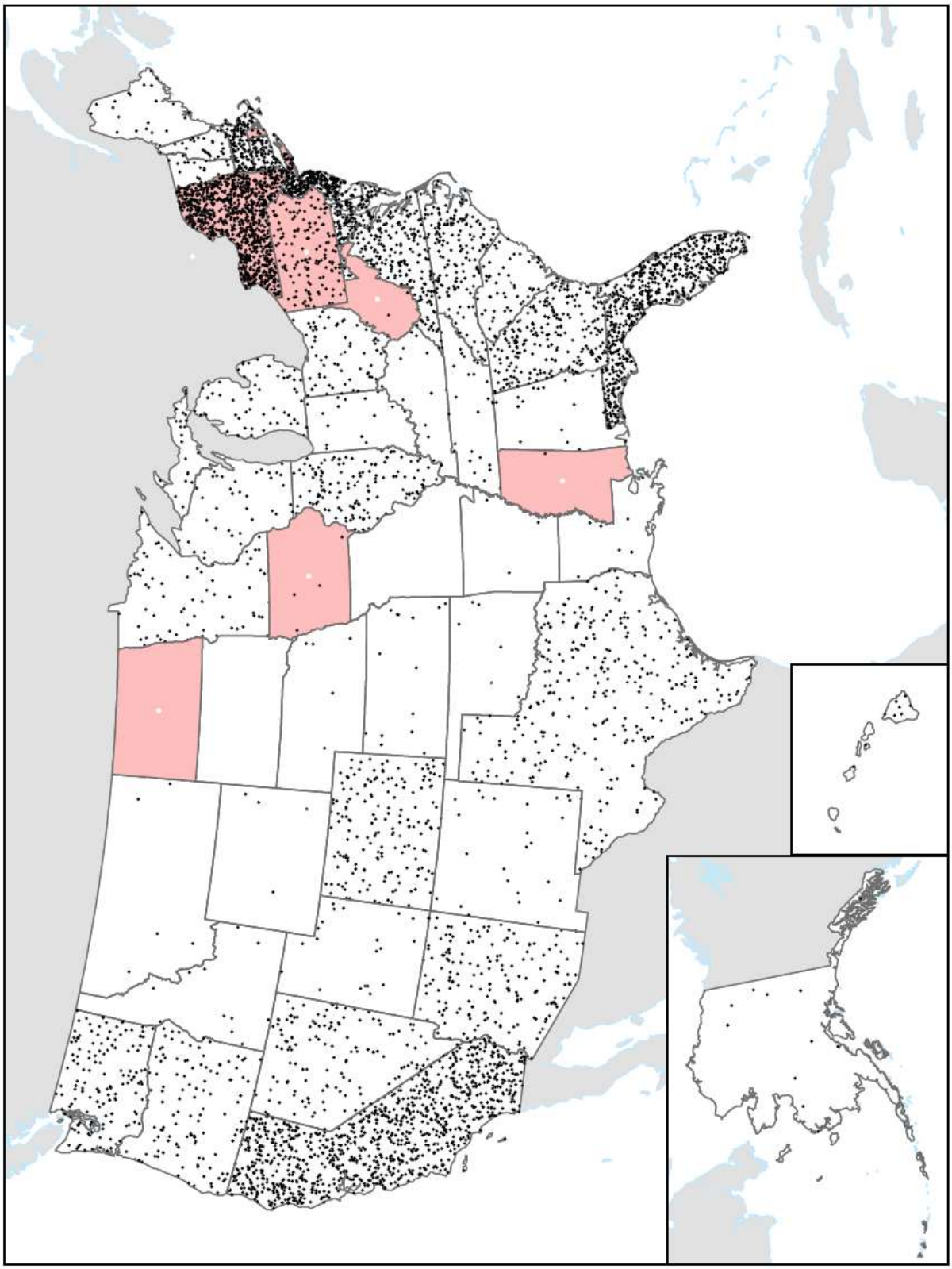
[35] For maps showing the geographic distribution of the Jewish population by state every 20 years from 1860-2020, see the 2020 *AJYB*. In examining these maps, note that the dot symbols are randomly placed within each state. Each dot represents 500 Jews.



Map 6: 1980 Jewish population, Each dot = 500 Jews



Map 7: 2024 Jewish population, Each dot = 500 Jews



Map 8: Change in Jewish population, 1980-2024, Each dot = 500 Jews

Table 9: Changes in Jewish population by census region and census division, 1980-2024					
Census region/division	1980		2024		Percentage change
	Number of Jews	Percentage distribution	Number of Jews	Percentage distribution	
Northeast	3,390,420	57.3%	3,132,045	40.7%	-7.6%
Middle Atlantic	3,003,185	50.7%	2,601,085	33.8%	-13.4%
New England	387,235	6.5%	530,960	6.9%	37.1%
Midwest	689,825	11.7%	897,160	11.7%	30.1%
East North Central	554,490	9.4%	720,485	9.4%	29.9%
West North Central	135,335	2.3%	176,675	2.3%	30.5%
South	949,735	16.0%	1,856,375	24.1%	95.5%
East South Central	40,385	0.7%	69,110	0.9%	71.1%
South Atlantic	811,005	13.7%	1,532,470	19.9%	89.0%
West South Central	98,345	1.7%	254,795	3.3%	159.1%
West	890,915	15.0%	1,814,175	23.6%	103.6%
Mountain	101,165	1.7%	379,785	4.9%	275.4%
Pacific	789,750	13.3%	1,434,390	18.6%	81.6%
Total	5,920,895	100.0%	7,699,755	100.0%	30.0%
Source: Authors					

5.3 State Level Changes

Map 8 graphically illustrates the data from **Table 10**. The shaded states are areas of population loss. At the state level, the number of Jews in New York State decreased by 469,000 (22%), from 2,141,000 in 1980 to 1,672,000 in 2024, reflecting a decrease primarily in the New York City area. The only other state showing a significant decrease is Pennsylvania (17%) (72,000).

The largest *percentage* decreases occurred in West Virginia (32%), Iowa (22%), and New York (22%).

The number of Jews in California increased by 505,000 (67%). Other states with increases over 100,000 are Florida (299,000) (66%), Texas (148,000) (204%), New Jersey (138,000) (31%), Georgia (114,000) (329%), and Virginia (106,000) (179%).

Florida's increase was mainly in the three-county South Florida area (Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties). The growth in Texas is due to increases in Dallas and Houston. The growth in Georgia is in the Atlanta area, and the growth in New Jersey is primarily due to migration out of New York, particularly of ultra-Orthodox Jews, from New York City to Ocean County and elsewhere, and the high Orthodox birthrate. The growth in Virginia is due to increases in Northern Virginia, which is part of Greater Washington.

Seven other states saw growth of 65,000 to 91,000: Arizona (91,000) (220%), Colorado (86,000) (271%), Washington (70,000) (382%), North Carolina (87,000) (654%), Massachusetts (69,000) (28%), Nevada (68,000) (396%), Illinois (68,000) (26%), and Maryland (65,000) (35%). Keep in mind again that some of the changes are due to methodological changes.

Table 10 Changes in Jewish population by state, 1980-2024				
State	1980	2024	Change	% Change
Alabama	8,835	18,080	9,245	104.6%
Alaska	960	6,530	5,570	580.2%
Arizona	41,285	132,360	91,075	220.6%
Arkansas	3,395	5,120	1,725	50.8%
California	753,945	1,259,325	505,380	67.0%
Colorado	31,765	117,910	86,145	271.2%
Connecticut	102,035	141,500	39,465	38.7%
Delaware	10,000	17,400	7,400	74.0%
District of Columbia	40,000	57,300	17,300	43.3%
Florida	454,880	753,895	299,015	65.7%
Georgia	34,610	148,625	114,015	329.4%
Hawaii	5,625	9,900	4,275	76.0%
Idaho	505	5,920	5,415	1072.3%
Illinois	266,385	334,220	67,835	25.5%
Indiana	23,485	31,230	7,745	33.0%
Iowa	8,215	6,385	-1,830	-22.3%
Kansas	10,755	17,610	6,855	63.7%
Kentucky	11,585	18,300	6,715	58.0%
Louisiana	16,340	19,915	3,575	21.9%
Maine	6,800	18,460	11,660	171.5%
Maryland	185,915	250,860	64,945	34.9%
Massachusetts	249,455	318,450	68,995	27.7%
Michigan	90,200	129,225	39,025	43.3%
Minnesota	34,990	68,855	33,865	96.8%
Mississippi	3,200	2,910	-290	-9.1%
Missouri	71,790	71,895	105	0.1%
Montana	645	3,170	2,525	391.5%
Nebraska	7,905	10,245	2,340	29.6%
Nevada	17,200	85,330	68,130	396.1%
New Hampshire	4,480	20,900	16,420	366.5%
New Jersey	442,765	581,200	138,435	31.3%
New Mexico	7,155	19,855	12,700	177.5%
New York	2,140,690	1,672,025	-468,665	-21.9%
North Carolina	13,240	99,830	86,590	654.0%
North Dakota	1,085	920	-165	-15.2%
Ohio	144,670	177,295	32,625	22.6%
Oklahoma	6,065	8,920	2,855	47.1%

Table 10 Changes in Jewish population by state, 1980-2024				
State	1980	2024	Change	% Change
Oregon	10,835	70,105	59,270	547.0%
Pennsylvania	419,730	347,860	-71,870	-17.1%
Rhode Island	22,000	18,950	-3,050	-13.9%
South Carolina	8,660	36,245	27,585	318.5%
South Dakota	595	765	170	28.6%
Tennessee	16,765	29,820	13,055	77.9%
Texas	72,545	220,840	148,295	204.4%
Utah	2,300	13,030	10,730	466.5%
Vermont	2,465	12,700	10,235	415.2%
Virginia	59,360	165,365	106,005	178.6%
Washington	18,385	88,530	70,145	381.5%
West Virginia	4,340	2,950	-1,390	-32.0%
Wisconsin	29,750	48,515	18,765	63.1%
Wyoming	310	2,210	1,900	612.9%
Total	**5,920,895**	7,699,755	1,778,860	30.0%
Source: Authors				

5.4 Urban Area and County Changes

Given the change in methodology described above, hundreds of new county estimates were added, and hundreds of existing estimates were updated. Thus, a complete accounting of the changes between the estimates in the 2023 and 2024 *AJYB*s is not provided.

The only new local Jewish community study this year was in New York. The New York estimate declined from 1,538,000 (Cohen et al. 2011) to 1,372,000, a decrease of about 11%. This decrease was almost certainly due to a change in the definition of a Jew in New York. In addition, all estimates for the Chasidic communities in New York and New Jersey were revised using the American Community Survey.

Section 6: Atlas of U.S. Jewish Communities, 2024

This section presents maps showing the approximate Jewish population of the 3,143 U.S. counties. The Appendix should be viewed in conjunction with the maps, as they provide additional information.

Counties with 100 or more Jews are shaded with dark green, and counties with fewer than 100 Jews (or no Jews) are shown in light green. In the descriptions, the Jewish population of each state is provided in parentheses following the state name. The rankings are based on the Jewish populations of Jewish Federation Service Areas (**Table 5**). The Jewish population of counties and communities is given without seasonal residents, except where seasonal residents constitute a high percentage of the Jewish population. Seasonal residents are included in the rankings of communities among all American Jewish communities.

6.1 New England (**Map 9**)

Connecticut (141,500)

- The three largest counties are Fairfield (55,000) (Bridgeport-Danbury-Greenwich-Norwalk-Stamford), Hartford (33,200), and New Haven (30,000).
- **Hartford** (Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford) (32,800) is the largest CT Jewish community, accounts for 23% of CT's Jews, and is the 39th largest U.S. Jewish community.
- **Southern Fairfield County** (Jewish Federation of Greater Fairfield County) (24,450) is the 2nd largest CT Jewish community and accounts for 17% of CT's Jews.
- **New Haven** (Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven) (23,500) is the 3rd largest CT Jewish community and accounts for 17% of CT Jews.
- Western Connecticut (Jewish Federation of Western Connecticut) (13,000) is the 4th largest CT Jewish community and accounts for 9% of CT Jews.
- **Stamford-New Canaan-Darien** (United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien) (12,000) is the 5th largest CT Jewish community, and accounts for 8% of CT Jews.

Maine (18,460, plus 1,350 seasonal Jews)

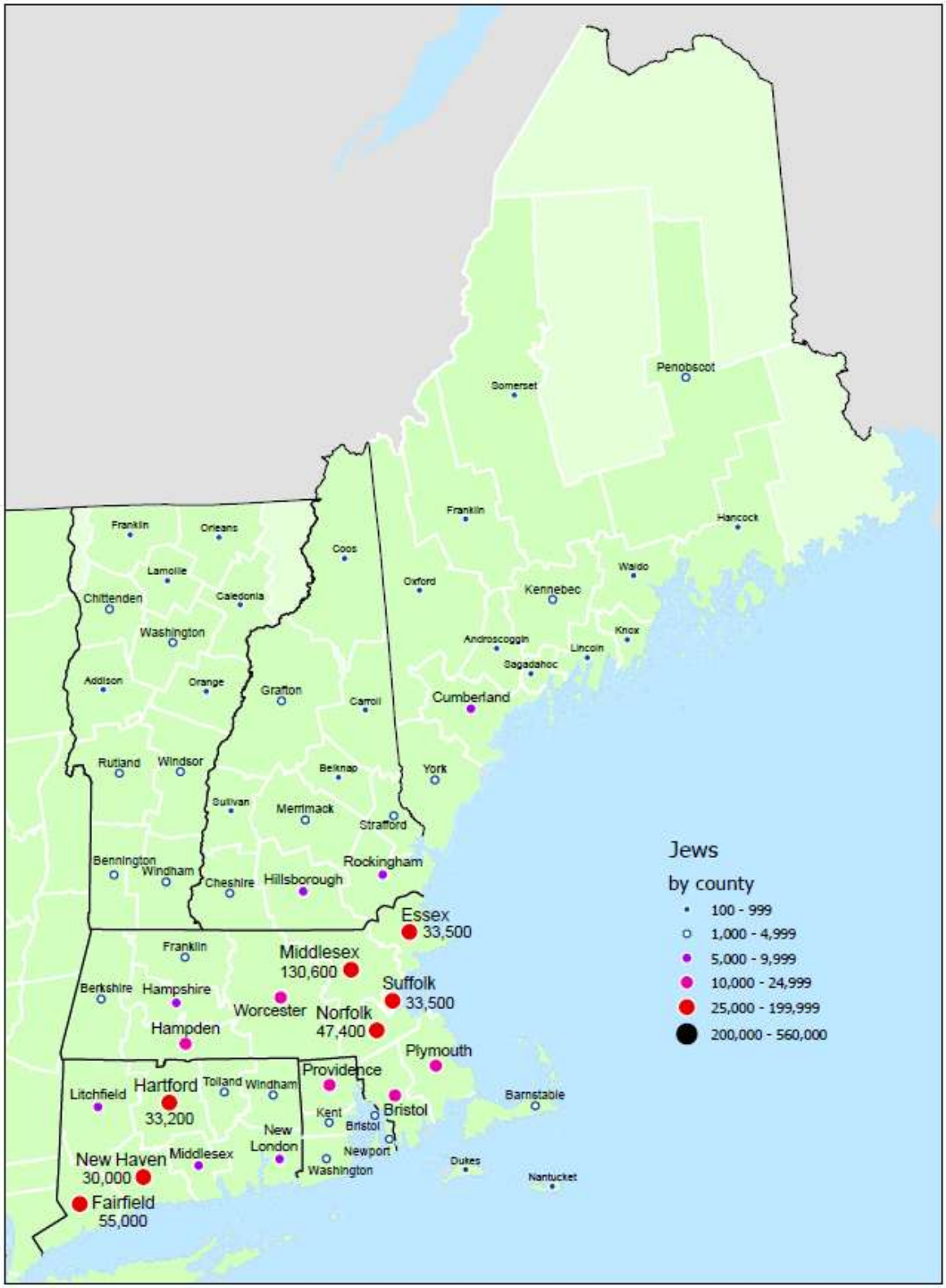
- The 2 largest counties are Cumberland (9,000) and York (2,800, plus 500 seasonal Jews). Both are in the Portland area.
- **Portland** (Jewish Community Alliance of Southern Maine) (11,800) is the largest ME Jewish community and accounts for 64% of ME's Jews.

Massachusetts (318,450)

- The 4 largest counties are Middlesex (130,600), Norfolk (47,400), Suffolk (33,500), and Essex (33,500). All are in the Boston area.
- **Boston** (Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston) (248,000) is the largest MA Jewish community and accounts for 78% of MA's Jews and is the 6th largest U.S. Jewish community.
- **Springfield** (Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts) (21,900) is the 2nd largest MA Jewish community and accounts for 7% of MA's Jews.
- **Worceste**r (Jewish Federation of Central Massachusetts) (16,000) is the 3rd largest MA Jewish community and accounts for 5% of MA's Jews.

New Hampshire (20,900, plus 1,050 seasonal Jews)

- The 2 largest counties are Hillsborough (6,100) (Manchester-Nashua) and Rockingham (6,000) (Exeter-Portsmouth-Salem). Both are in the southern part of the state.
- New Hampshire (Jewish Federation of New Hampshire) has a statewide Jewish Federation.



Map 9: New England

Rhode Island (18,950)

- The largest county is Providence (11,650)
- Rhode Island (Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island) has a statewide Jewish Federation.
- For more information on Rhode Island Jews, see Goodman and Smith (2004)

Vermont (12,700, plus 2,650 seasonal Jews)

- The largest county is Chittenden (3,500, plus 1,000 seasonal Jews)
- Vermont *has no Jewish Federation.*

6.2 Middle Atlantic (**Maps 10 and 11**)

New Jersey (581,200, plus 27,700 seasonal Jews)

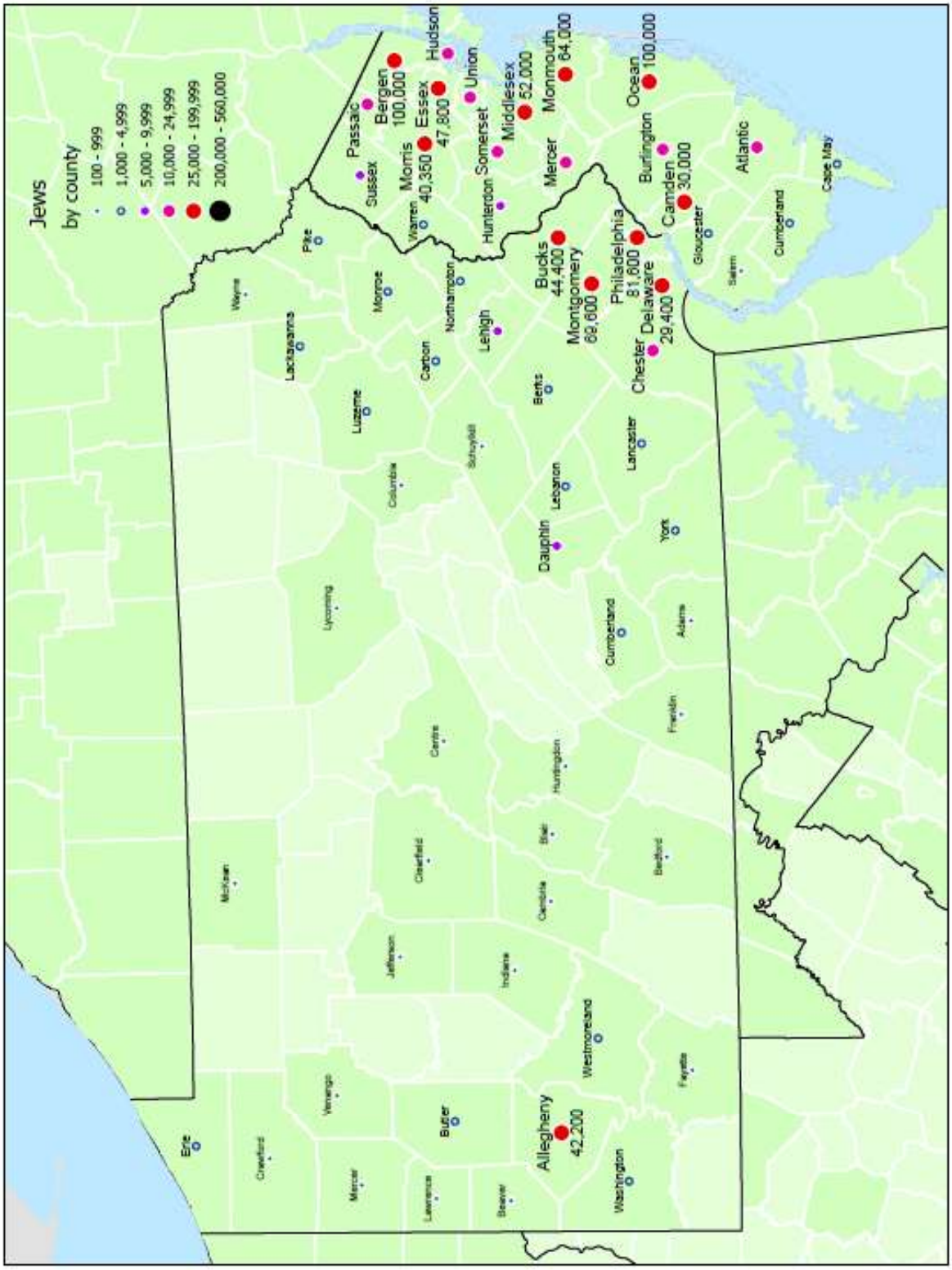
- The 6 largest counties are Ocean (100,000, plus 13,500 seasonal Jews) (Lakewood), Bergen (100,000) (Fort Lee-Hackensack), Monmouth (64,000, plus 6,000 seasonal Jews) (Deal-Long Branch), Middlesex (52,000) (New Brunswick), Morris (40,350) (Morristown), and Camden (30,000) (Cherry Hill).
- **Northern New Jersey** (Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey) (126,000) is the largest NJ Jewish community, accounts for 22% of NJ's Jews, and is the 12th largest U.S. Jewish community.
- **MetroWest** (Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ) (122,000) is the 2nd largest NJ Jewish community, accounts for 21% of NJ's Jews, and is the 14th largest U.S. Jewish community.
- **Middlesex & Monmouth Counties** (Jewish Federation in the Heart of New Jersey) (116,000, plus 6,000 seasonal Jews) is the 3rd largest NJ Jewish community, accounts for 20% of NJ Jews, and is the 15th largest U.S. Jewish community.
- **Ocean County** (Jewish Federation of Ocean County) (100,000, plus 13,500 seasonal Jews) is the 4th largest NJ Jewish community, accounts for 17% of NJ Jews, and is the 16th largest U.S. Jewish community. Of the 100,000 Jews, 92% live in Lakewood, as do all 13,500 seasonal Jews.
- **Southern New Jersey** (Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey) (50,700) is the 5th largest NJ Jewish community, accounts for 9% of NJ Jews, and is the 32nd largest U.S. Jewish community.
- **West Central New Jersey** (Jewish Federation of West-Central New Jersey) (19,100) is the 6th largest NJ Jewish community and accounts for 3% of NJ Jews.
- Princeton (Jewish Federation of Princeton Mercer Bucks) (18,000) is the 7th largest NJ Jewish community and accounts for 3% of NJ Jews.
- **Atlantic and Cape May Counties** (Jewish Federation of Atlantic and Cape May Counties) (11,300, plus 8,200 seasonal Jews) is the 8th largest NJ Jewish community and accounts for 2% of NJ Jews.

New York (1,672,025)

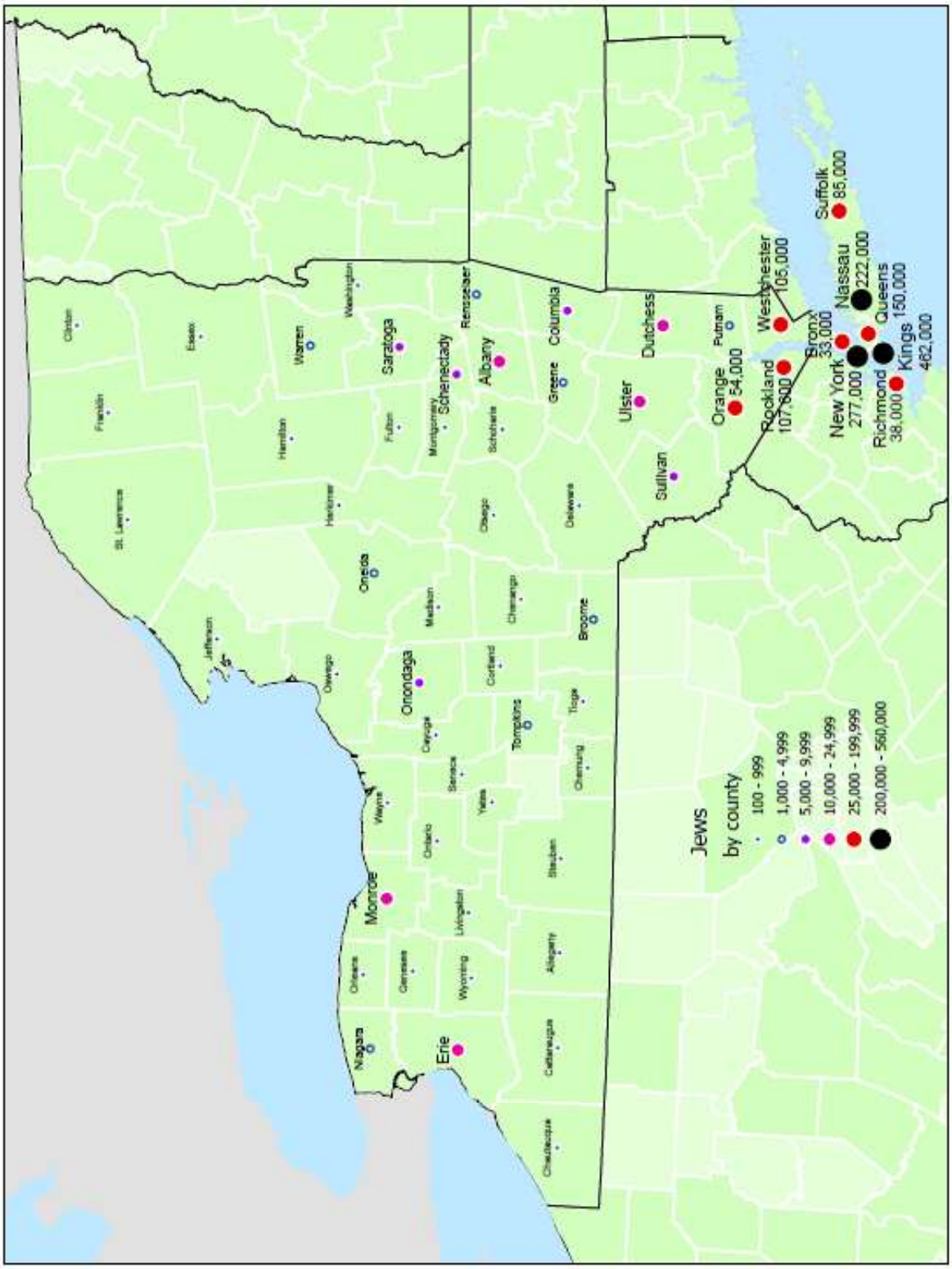
- The 10 largest counties are Kings (462,000) (Brooklyn), New York (277,000) (Manhattan), Nassau (222,000), Queens (150,000), Rockland (107,600), Westchester (105,000), Suffolk (85,000), Orange (54,000) (Woodbury), Richmond (38,000) (Staten Island), and The Bronx (33,000). All are in the New York Metropolitan area.
- For more information on Brooklyn Jews, see Abramovitch and Galvin (2002).
- **The New York Metropolitan Area** (UJA-Federation of New York) (1,372,000) is the largest NY Jewish community, accounts for 82% of NY's Jews, and is the largest U.S. Jewish community.
- **Rockland County** (Jewish Federation and Foundation of Rockland County) (109,900) is the 2nd largest NY Jewish community, accounts for 7% of NY's Jews, and is the 17th largest U.S. Jewish community.
- **Orange County** (Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County, New York) (54,000) is the 3rd largest NY Jewish community, accounts for 3% of NY's Jews, and is the 30th largest U.S. Jewish community. The 54,000 estimate of Jews in Orange County includes 42,000 for Kiryas Joel (Town of Palm Tree).
- **Albany** (Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York) (36,000) is the 4th largest NY Jewish community, accounts for 2% of NY's Jews, and is the 37th largest U.S. Jewish community.
- **Rochester** (Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester) (19,000) is the 5th largest NY Jewish community and accounts for 1% of NY's Jews.
- **Poughkeepsie** (Jewish Federation of Dutchess County) (16,900) is the 6th sixth largest NY Jewish community and accounts for 1% of NY's Jews.
- **Buffalo** (Buffalo Jewish Federation) (13,400) is the seventh largest NY Jewish community and accounts for 1% of NY's Jews.
- **Syracuse** (Jewish Federation of Central New York) (10,300) is the 8th largest NY Jewish community and accounts for less than 1% of NY's Jews.

Pennsylvania (347,850)

- The 6 largest counties are Philadelphia (81,600), Montgomery (69,600), Bucks (44,400), Allegheny (42,200), Delaware (29,400), and Chester (22,500). All are in the Philadelphia area, except Allegheny (Pittsburgh).
- **Philadelphia** (Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia) (247,500) is the largest PA Jewish community, accounts for 71% of PA's Jews, and is the 7th largest U.S. Jewish community.
- **Pittsburgh** (Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh) (49,200) is the 2nd largest PA Jewish community, accounts for 14% of PA's Jews, and is the 34th largest U.S. Jewish community.
- **Lehigh Valley** (Jewish Federation of the Lehigh Valley) (11,300) is the 3rd largest PA Jewish community and accounts for 3% of PA's Jews.



Map 10: New Jersey and Pennsylvania



Map 11: New York

6.3 Midwest—Part 1 (**Map 12**)

Illinois (334,180)

- The 3 largest counties are Cook (227,400), Lake (64,900), and DuPage (14,400). All are in the Chicago area.
- **Chicago** (Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago) (319,600) is the largest IL Jewish community, accounts for 96% of IL's Jews, and is the 3rd largest U.S. Jewish community.

Indiana (31,205)

- The 2 largest counties are Marion (9,200) and Hamilton (8,700). Both are in the Indianapolis area.
- **Indianapolis** (Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis) (17,900) is the largest IN Jewish community and accounts for 57% of IN's Jews.
- **St. Joseph Valley** (Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley) (4,800, including 2,500 in MI) is the 2nd largest IN Jewish community and accounts for 7% of IN's Jews.
- **Gary-Northwest Indiana** (Jewish Federation of Northwest Indiana) (3,900) is the 3rd largest IN Jewish community and accounts for 12% of IN's Jews.

Kentucky (18,300)

- The largest county is Jefferson (12,600) (Louisville).
- L**ouisville** (Jewish Federation of Louisville) (13,800, including 550 Jews in IN) is the largest KY Jewish community and accounts for 73% of KY's Jews.
- (KY is not a midwestern state but is presented here because it fits on the map.)
- (https://www.isjl.org/kentucky-encyclopedia.html)

Michigan (129,225)

- The 3 largest counties are Oakland (64,050) (Detroit), Washtenaw (20,000, plus 2,000 seasonal) (Ann Arbor), and Wayne (10,000) (Detroit).
- **Detroit** (Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit) (78,050) is the largest MI Jewish community, accounts for 60% of MI's Jews, and is the 24th largest U.S. Jewish community.
- **Ann Arbor** (Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor) (20,000, plus 2,000 seasonal Jews) is the 2nd largest MI Jewish community and accounts for 15% of MI's Jews.

Ohio (177,295)

- The 3 largest counties are Cuyahoga (69,900) (Cleveland), Hamilton (23,750) (Cincinnati), and Franklin (22,200) (Columbus).
- **Cleveland** (Jewish Federation of Cleveland) (80,800) is the largest OH Jewish community, accounts for 46% of OH's Jews, and is the 22nd largest U.S. Jewish community.



Map 12: Midwest-Part 1

- **Cincinnati** (Jewish Federation of Cincinnati) (32,100) is the 2nd largest OH Jewish community, accounts for 18% of OH's Jews, and is the 40th largest U.S. Jewish community.
- **Columbus** (JewishColumbus) (25,500) is the 3rd largest OH Jewish community, accounts for 14% of OH's Jews, and is the 49th largest U.S. Jewish community.

Wisconsin (48,515)

- The 2 largest counties are Milwaukee (20,200) and Dane (10,000, plus 2,000 seasonal Jews) (Madison).
- **Milwaukee** (Milwaukee Jewish Federation) (25,800) is the largest WI Jewish community, accounts for 53% of WI's Jews, and is the 48th largest U.S. Jewish community.

West Virginia (2,950) (**Map 12 and Map 14**).

- The largest county is Kanawha (1,000) (Charleston).
- **Charleston** (Federated Jewish Charities of Charleston) (1,000) is the largest WV Jewish community and accounts for 34% of WV's Jews.

6.4 Midwest-Part 2 (**Map 13**)

Iowa (6,385)

- The 2 largest counties are Polk (2,600) (Des Moines) and Johnson (1,000) (Coralville-Iowa City).
- **Des Moines-Ames** (Jewish Federation of Greater De Moines) (3,000) is the largest IA Jewish community and accounts for 47% of IA's Jews
- See Bloom (2000) for an account of Jews in Postville (Allamakee County).

Kansas (17,610)

- The largest county is Johnson (15,150) (Kansas City).
- **Kansas City** (Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City) (22,100, including 6,700 in MO) is the largest KS Jewish community and accounts for 87% of KS's Jews.

Minnesota (68,855)

- The 2 largest counties are Hennepin (40,950) (Minneapolis) and Ramsey (12,500) (St. Paul).
- **Minneapolis** (Minneapolis Jewish Federation) (42,800) is the largest MN Jewish community, accounts for 62% of MN's Jews, and is the 35th largest U.S. Jewish community.
- **St. Paul** (St. Paul Jewish Federation) (22,000) is the 2nd largest MN Jewish community and accounts for 32% of MN's Jews.

Missouri (71,895)

- The 3 largest counties are St. Louis County (50,050), St. Charles (5,900), and St. Louis City (5,150). All three are in the St. Louis area.

- **St. Louis** (Jewish Federation of St. Louis) (61,100) is the largest MO Jewish community, accounts for 85% of MO's Jews, and is the 28th largest U.S. Jewish community.
- **Kansas City** (Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City) (22,100, including 15,400 Jews in KS) is the 2nd largest MO Jewish community and accounts for 9% of MO's Jews.
- For more information on Missouri Jews, see Ioannides (2023).

Nebraska (10,245)
- The largest county is Douglas (8,600) (Omaha).
- **Omaha** (Jewish Federation of Omaha) (8,800) is the largest NE Jewish community and accounts for 86% of NE's Jews.

North Dakota (920)
- The largest county is Cass (400) (Fargo).
- North Dakota *has no Jewish Federation.*

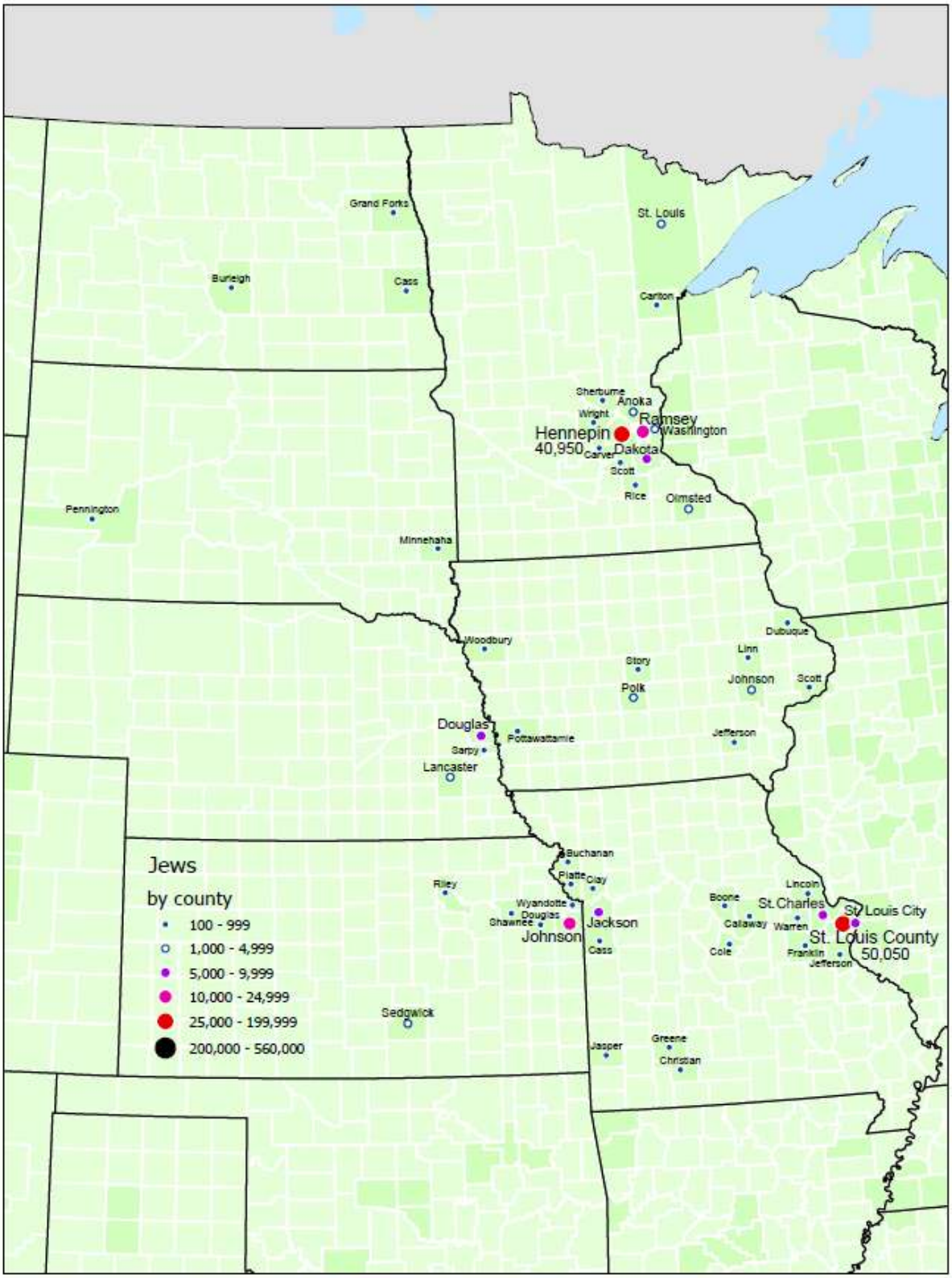
South Dakota (765)
- The largest county is Minnehaha (400) (Sioux Falls).
- South Dakota *has no Jewish Federation.*

6.5 South—Part 1 (**Map 14**)
For additional information on some of these states, see https://www.isjl.org/encyclopedia-of-southern-jewish-communities.html.

Delaware (17,400)
- The largest county is New Castle (11,500) (Wilmington).
- Delaware (Jewish Federation of Delaware) has a statewide Jewish Federation (26,500). [The Jewish Federation of Delaware also serves the Brandywine Valley in Chester, PA (which is also served by the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia)]. Adding the 9,100 Jews in the Brandywine Valley makes the Jewish Federation of Delaware service area the 46th largest U.S. Jewish community.

District of Columbia/Greater Washington, DC (57,300)
- DC (part of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington) has 57,300 Jews. (With the 116,800 in MD and the 121,400 in Northern Virginia, the 295,000 in Greater Washington DC is the 5th largest U.S. Jewish community.)

Maryland (250,860)
- The 4 largest counties are Montgomery (105,400) (Washington), Baltimore County (65,200), Baltimore City (24,600), Howard (18,700) (Columbia), Prince George's (11,400), and Anne Arundel (9,000) (Annapolis).



Map 13: Midwest-Part 2

- **The Maryland portion of Greater Washington DC** (part of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington) (116,800) is the largest MD Jewish community and accounts for 47% of MD's Jews. (With the 121,400 in VA and the 57,300 in DC, the 295,000 Jews in Greater Washington is the 5th largest U.S. Jewish community.)
- **Baltimore** (The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore) (94,550) is the 2nd largest MD Jewish community, accounts for 38% of MD's Jews, and is the 20th largest U.S. Jewish community.

Virginia (165,365)

- The 5 largest counties are Fairfax (62,200), Alexandria City (16,400), Arlington (15,200), Loudon (14,200), and Prince William (9,000). All five are in the Washington, DC area.
- The **Northern Virginia portion of Greater Washington DC** (part of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington) (121,400) is the largest VA Jewish community and accounts for 73% of VA's Jews. (With the 116,800 in MD and the 57,300 in DC, the 295,000 Jews in Greater Washington DC is the 5th largest U.S. Jewish community.)
- **Richmond** (Jewish Community Federation of Richmond) (15,245) is the 2nd largest VA Jewish community and accounts for 9% of VA's Jews.
- **Norfolk** (United Jewish Federation of Tidewater) (11,925) is the 3rd largest VA Jewish community and accounts for 7% of VA's Jews.
- (https://www.isjl.org/virginia-encyclopedia.html)

West Virginia (2,950) (**Map 12 and Map 14**).

- The largest county is Kanawha (1,000) (Charleston).
- **Charleston** (Federated Jewish Charities of Charleston) (1,000) is the largest WV Jewish community and accounts for 34% of WV's Jews.

6.6 South Part 2 (**Map 15**)

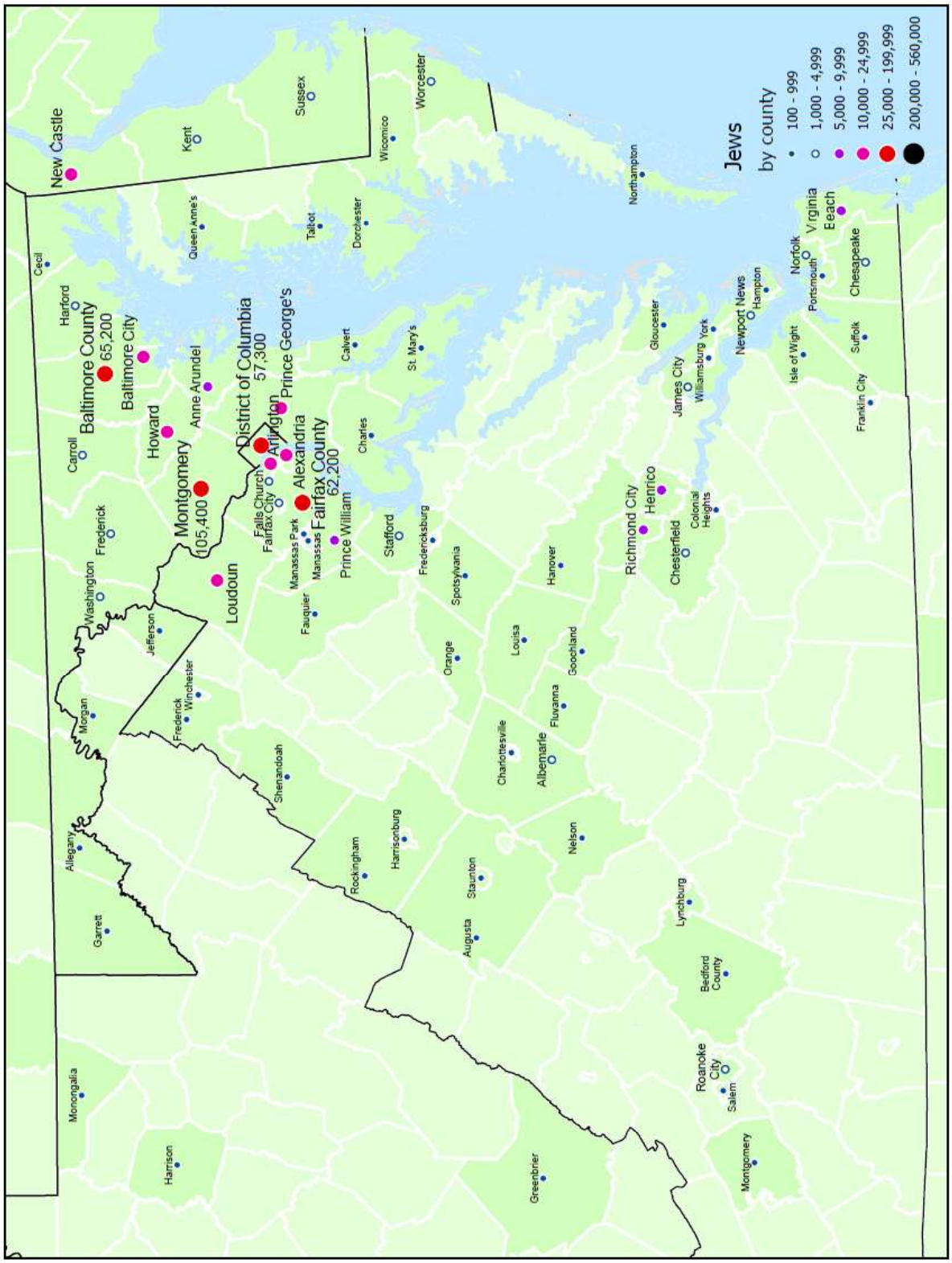
For additional information on all these states, see https://www.isjl.org/encyclopedia-of-southern-jewish-communities.html.

Alabama (18,080)

- The largest county is Jefferson (7,000) (Birmingham).
- **Birmingham** (Birmingham Jewish Federation) (8,600) is the largest AL Jewish community and accounts for 48% of AL's Jews.

Georgia (148,625)

- The 4 largest counties are Fulton (50,900), DeKalb (30,000), Cobb (22,100), and Gwinnett (11,700). All four are in the Atlanta area.
- **Atlanta** (Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta) (132,100) is the largest GA Jewish community, accounts for 89% of GA's Jews, and is the 10th largest U.S. Jewish community.



Map 14: South, Part 1, DC, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia

Mississippi (2,910)

- The 2 largest counties are DeSoto (500) (near Memphis, TN) and Harrison (500) (Biloxi-Gulfport).
- **Jackson** (*no Jewish Federation*) (1,100) is the largest MS Jewish community and accounts for 38% of MS's Jews.
- Mississippi *has no Jewish Federation.*

North Carolina (99,830)

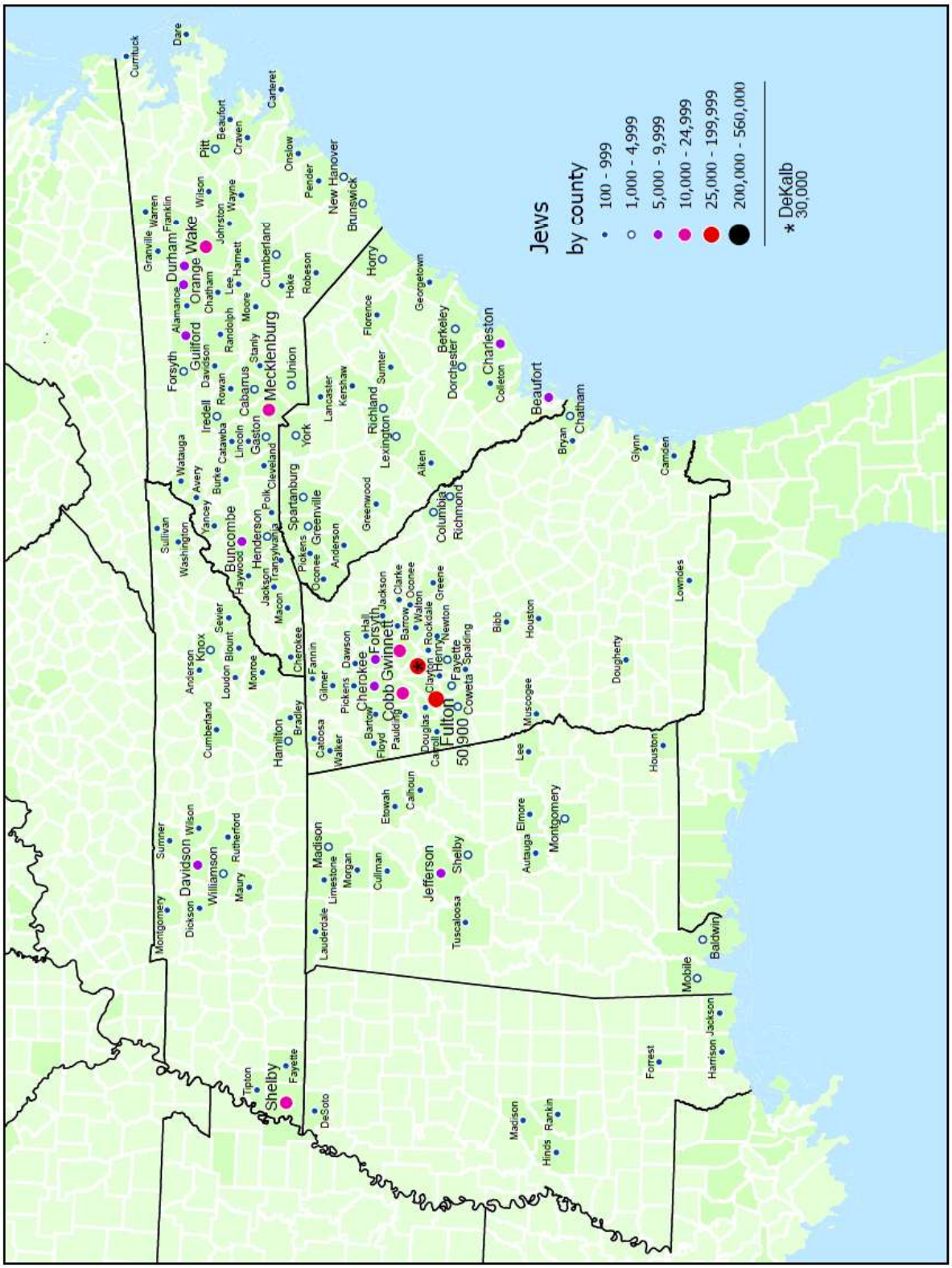
- The 5 largest counties are Mecklenburg (22,000) (Charlotte), Wake (18,000) (Raleigh-Cary), Durham (8,000) (Chapel Hill), Buncombe (7,000) (Asheville), and Guilford (6,000) (Greensboro-High Point).
- **Charlotte** (Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte) (22,000) is the largest NC Jewish community and accounts for 18% of NC's Jews.
- **Raleigh-Cary** (Jewish Federation of Greater Raleigh) (18,000) is the 2nd largest NC Jewish community and accounts for 22% of NC's Jews
- **Durham-Chapel Hill** (Jewish for Good) (13,500) is the 3rd largest NC Jewish community and accounts for 14% of NC's Jews.
- **Asheville** (*no Jewish Federation*) (9,850) is the 4th largest NC Jewish community and accounts for 10% of NC's Jews.

South Carolina (36,245)

- The 2 largest counties are Charleston (7,500) and Beaufort (6,000, plus 1,000 seasonal Jews) (Hilton Head Island).
- Charleston (Charleston Jewish Federation) (10,300) is the largest SC Jewish community and accounts for 28% of SC's Jews.

Tennessee (29,820)

- The 2 largest counties are Shelby (10,000) (Memphis) and Davidson (6,100) (Nashville).
- **Nashville** (Jewish Federation of Greater Nashville) (10,650) is the largest TN Jewish community and accounts for 36% of TN's Jews.



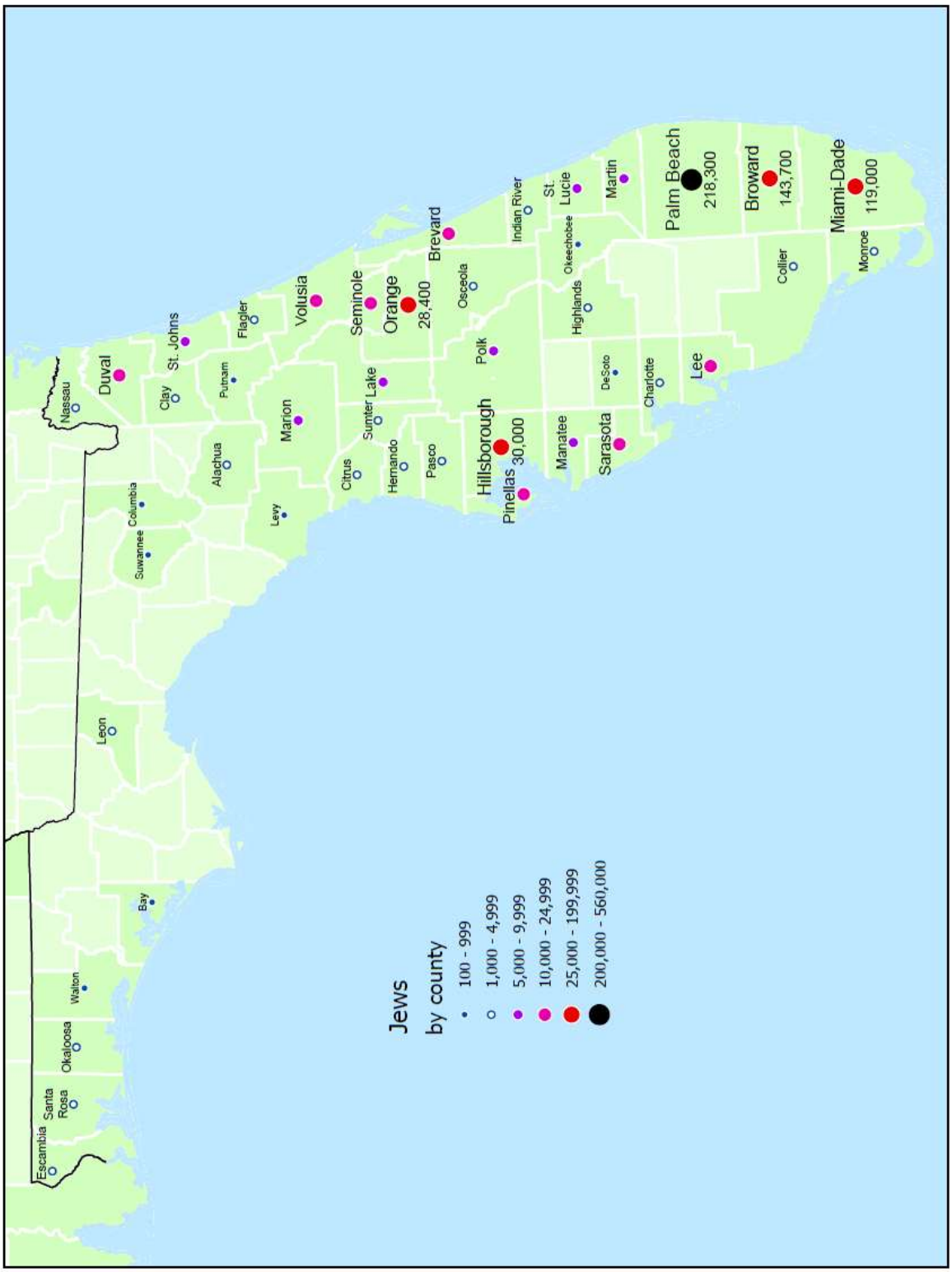
M**ap 15**: Deep South, Part 2

6.7 South Part 3 - Florida (**Map 16**)

For additional information on Florida, see https://www.isjl.org/encyclopedia-of-southern-jewish-communities.html.

Florida (753,865, plus 74,550 seasonal Jews)

- The 10 largest counties are Palm Beach (218,300, plus 45,000 seasonal Jews), Broward (143,700, plus 5,300 seasonal Jews) (Fort Lauderdale), Miami-Dade (119,000, plus 4,200 seasonal Jews), Hillsborough (30,000) (Tampa), Orange (28,400) (Orlando), Pinellas (22,050, plus 1,500 seasonal Jews) (St. Petersburg), Sarasota (18,150, plus 3,050 seasonal Jews), Duval (18,000) (Jacksonville), Lee (16,000, plus 3,000 seasonal Jews) (Fort Myers), and Seminole (16,000) (Orange).
- **Broward County** (Jewish Federation of Broward County) (143,700, plus 5,300 seasonal Jews) is the largest FL Jewish community, accounts for 19% of FL's Jews, and is the 8th largest U.S. Jewish community.
- **Miami** (Greater Miami Jewish Federation) (119,000, plus 4,200 seasonal Jews) is the 2nd largest FL Jewish community, accounts for 16% of FL's Jews, and is the 13th largest U.S. Jewish community.
- **South Palm Beach** (Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County) (113,600, plus 22,500 seasonal Jews) is the 3rd largest FL Jewish community, accounts for 15% of FL's Jews, and is the 9th largest U.S. Jewish community.
- **West Palm Beach** (Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County) (104,700, plus 22,500 seasonal Jews) is the 4th largest FL Jewish community, accounts for 14% of FL's Jews, and is the 11th largest U.S. Jewish community.
- **Orlando** (Shalom Orlando) (51,400) is the 5th largest FL Jewish community, accounts for 7% of FL's Jews, and is the 31st largest U.S. Jewish community.
- **Tampa** (Tampa Jewish Community Centers & Federation) (30,000) is the 6th largest FL Jewish community and accounts for 4% of FL's Jews.
- **Sarasota-Manatee** (Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee) (24,650, plus 4,150 seasonal Jews) is the 7th largest FL Jewish community, accounts for 3% of FL's Jews, and is the 42nd largest U.S. Jewish community.
- **St. Petersburg** (Jewish Federation of Florida's Gulf Coast) (26,500, plus 1,500 seasonal Jews) is the 8th largest FL Jewish community, accounts for 4% of FL's Jews, and is the 44th largest U.S. Jewish community.
- J**acksonville** (Jewish Federation & Foundation of Northeast Florida) (26,700, plus 100 seasonal Jews) is the 9th largest FL Jewish community, accounts for 4% of FL's Jews, and is the 45th largest U.S. Jewish community.
- **Fort Myers** (Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties) (19,150, plus 3,600 seasonal Jews) is the 10th largest FL Jewish community and accounts for 3% of FL's Jews.
- For more information on the Jews of South Florida, see Greenbaum (2005) and Zerivitz (2020).
- (https://www.isjl.org/florida-encyclopedia.html)



Map 16: South Part 3, Florida

6.8 South--Part 4 (**Map 17**)

For additional information on these states, see https://www.isjl.org/encyclopedia-of-southern-jewish-communities.html.

Arkansas (5,120)

- The largest county is Pulaski (2,300) (Little Rock).
- **Little Rock** (Jewish Federation of Arkansas) (2,425) is the largest AR Jewish community and accounts for 47% of AR's Jews.

Louisiana (19,915)

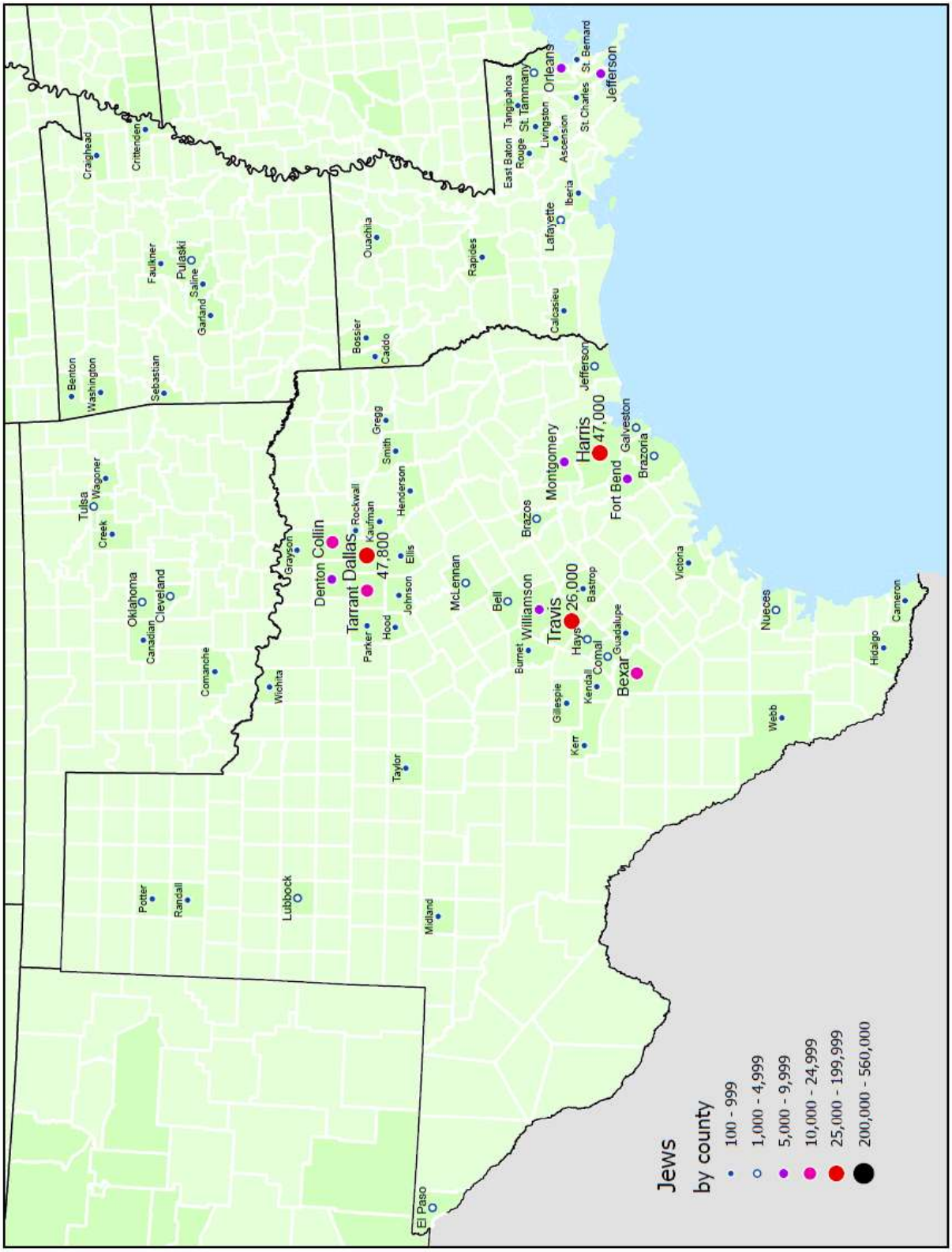
- The 2 largest parishes are Orleans (8,000) and Jefferson (5,000). Both are in the New Orleans area.
- **New Orleans** (Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans) (14,500) is the largest LA Jewish community and accounts for 73% of LA's Jews.

Oklahoma (8,920)

- The 2 largest counties are Oklahoma (3,500) (Oklahoma City) and Tulsa (3,000).
- **Oklahoma City-Norman** (Jewish Federation of Greater Oklahoma City) (4,700) is the largest OK Jewish community and accounts for 53% of OK's Jews
- **Tulsa** (Jewish Federation of Tulsa) (3,400) is the 2nd largest OK Jewish community and accounts for 38% of OK's Jews

Texas (220,840)

- The 6 largest counties are Dallas (47,800), Harris (47,000) (Houston), Travis (26,000) (Austin), Collin (16,100) (Dallas), Bexar (15,400) (San Antonio), and Tarrant (15,300) (Fort Worth).
- **Dallas (**Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas) (71,000) is the largest TX Jewish community, accounts for 32% of TX's Jews, and is the 26th largest U.S. Jewish community.
- **Houston** (Jewish Federation of Greater Houston) (50,700) is the 2nd largest TX Jewish community, accounts for 23% of TX's Jews, and is the 33rd largest U.S. Jewish community.
- **Austin** (Shalom Austin) (35,800) is the 3rd largest TX Jewish community, accounts for 16% of TX's Jews, and is the 38th largest U.S. Jewish community.
- For more information on Texas Jews, see Weiner and Roseman (2007).



Map 17: South Part 4, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana

6.9 West--Part 1 (**Map 18**)

Arizona (132,360)

- The 2 largest counties are Maricopa (98,500) (Phoenix) and Pima (23,000) (Tucson).
- **Phoenix** (Center for Jewish Philanthropy of Greater Phoenix) (99,000) is the largest AZ Jewish community, accounts for 75% of AZ's Jews, and is the 19th largest U.S. Jewish community.
- **Tucson** (Jewish Philanthropies of Southern Arizona) (25,000) is the 2nd largest AZ Jewish community, accounts for 19% of AZ's Jews, and is the 47th largest U.S. Jewish community.

Colorado (117,910)

- The 4 largest counties are Denver (28,800), Boulder (23,400), Jefferson (13,800) (Denver), and Arapahoe (13,300) (Denver).
- **Denver (**JEWISHcolorado) (90,800) is the largest CO Jewish community, accounts for 77% of CO's Jews, and is the 21st largest U.S. Jewish community.

New Mexico (19,855)

- The 2 largest counties are Bernalillo (9,000) (Albuquerque) and Santa Fe (6,000).
- **Albuquerque** (10,800) is the largest NM Jewish community and accounts for 54% of NM's Jews.
- New Mexico has no Jewish Federation

Utah (13,030)

- The largest county is Salt Lake (8,000).
- **Salt Lake City** (United Jewish Federation of Utah) (10,000) is the largest UT Jewish community and accounts for 77% of UT's Jews.

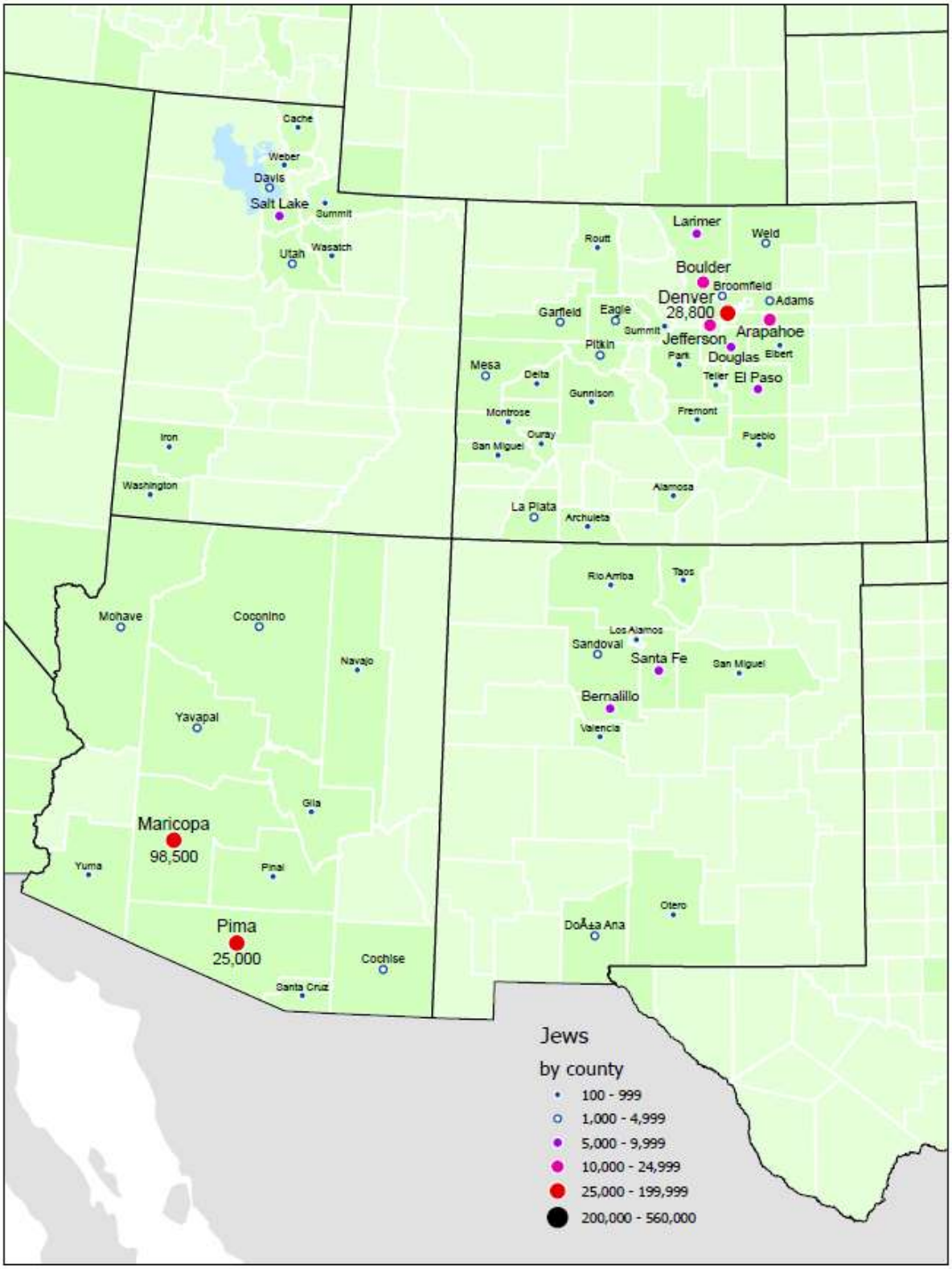
6.10 West Part 2 (**Map 19**)

Alaska (6,530)

- The largest borough is Anchorage (4,000).
- Alaska has no Jewish Federation.

California (1,259,325)

- The 15 largest counties are Los Angeles (560,700), San Diego (100,700), Orange (86,800) (Anaheim-Irvine), Santa Clara (73,200) (San Jose-San Francisco Bay Area), Alameda (63,100) (San Francisco Bay Area), San Francisco (61,500), Contra Costa (55,900) (San Francisco Bay Area), Ventura (48,400) (Thousand Oaks), Marin (37,300) (San Francisco Bay Area), San Mateo (29,700) (San Francisco Bay Area), Riverside (28,000) (Palm Springs-Riverside), San Bernardino (19,100), Santa Cruz (14,800) (San Francisco Bay Area), and Sacramento (13,000).



Map 18: West Part 1, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah

- **Los Angeles** (Jewish Federation Los Angeles) (564,700) is the largest CA Jewish community, accounts for 45% of CA's Jews, and is the 2nd largest U.S. Jewish community.
- **San Francisco Bay Area** (Jewish Community Federation & Endowment Fund) (310,300) is the 2nd largest CA Jewish community, accounts for 25% of CA's Jews, and is the 4th largest U.S. Jewish community.
- **San Diego** (Jewish Federation of San Diego County) (100,700) is the 3rd largest CA Jewish community, accounts for 8% of CA's Jews, and is the 18th largest U.S. Jewish community.
- **Orange County** (Jewish Federation of Orange County) (80,000) is the 4th largest CA Jewish community, accounts for 6% of CA's Jews, and is the 23rd largest U.S. Jewish community.
- **San Jose** (Jewish Silicon Valley) (39,400) is the 5th largest CA Jewish community, accounts for 3% of CA's Jews, and is the 36th largest U.S. Jewish community.
- **Long Beach** (Jewish Long Beach) (28,300) is the 6th largest CA Jewish community, accounts for 2% of CA's Jews, and is the 43rd largest U.S. Jewish community.
- **San Gabriel & Pomona Valleys** (Jewish Federation of the Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys) (25,000) is the 7th largest CA Jewish community, accounts for 2% of CA's Jews, and is the 50th largest U.S. Jewish community.
- **Sacramento** (Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region) (23,750) is the 8th largest CA Jewish community and accounts for 2% of CA's Jews.
- **Palm Springs** (Jewish Federation of the Desert) (23,000) is the 9th largest CA Jewish community and accounts for 2% of CA's Jews.
- For more information on California Jews, see Kahn and Dollinger (2003).

Hawaii (9,900)

- The largest county is Oahu (5,200) (Honolulu).
- Hawaii has no Jewish Federation.

Nevada (85,330)

- The 2 largest counties are Clark (72,300) (Las Vegas) and Washoe (9,000) (Reno).
- **Las Vegas** (Jewish Nevada) (72,300) is the largest NV Jewish community, accounts for 85% of NV's Jews, and is the 25th largest U.S. Jewish community.
- **Reno-Carson City** (Jewish Nevada) (11,600) is the 2nd largest NV Jewish community and accounts for 14% of NV's Jews.



Map 19: West Part 2, California and Nevada

6.11 West--Part 3 (**Map 20**)

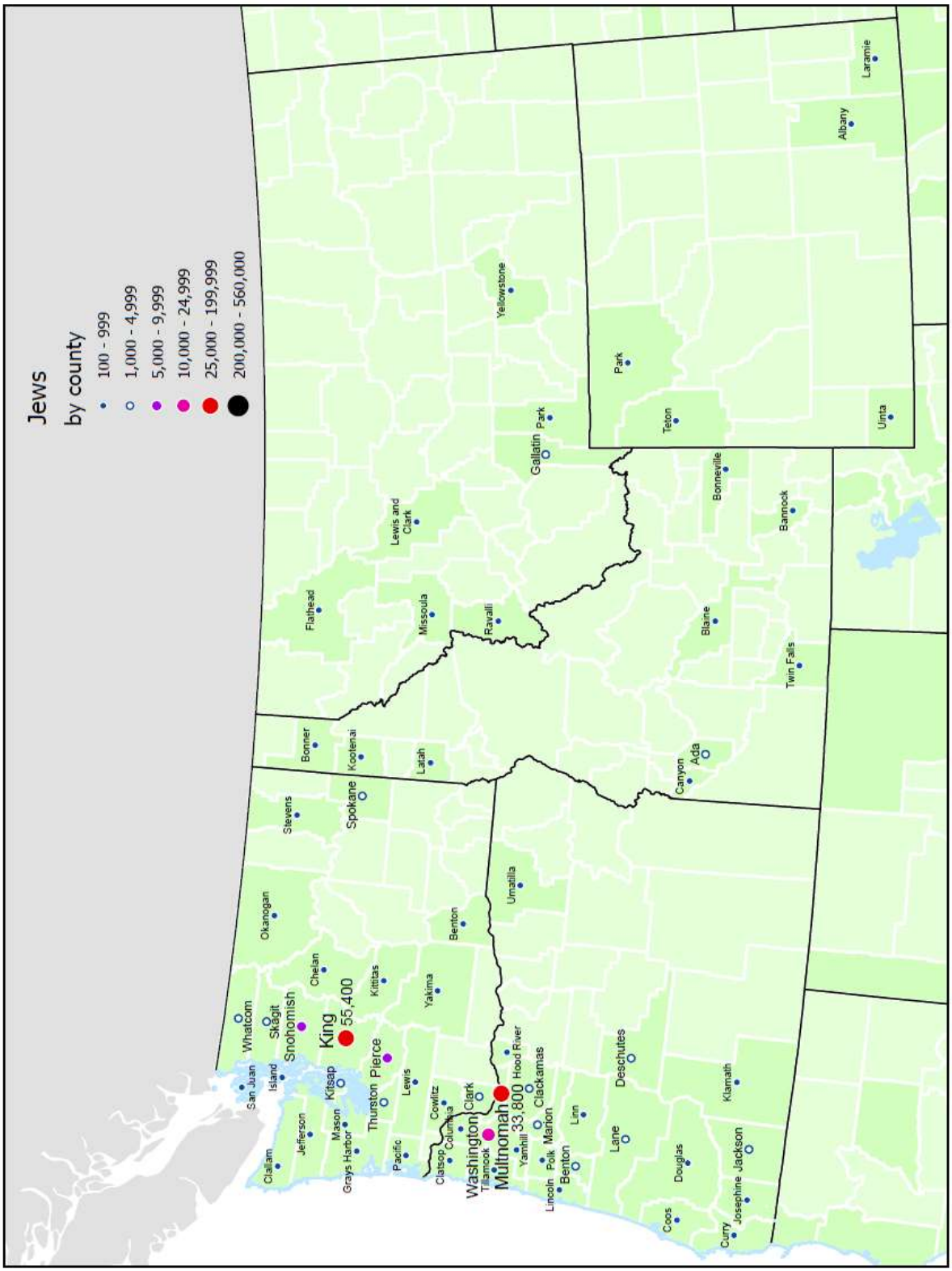
Idaho (5,920)
- The largest county is Ada (3,300) (Boise).
- Idaho has no Jewish Federation.

Montana (3,170)
- The largest county is Gallatin (1,300) (Bozeman).
- Montana has no Jewish Federation.

Oregon (70,105)
- The 2 largest counties are Multnomah (33,800) and Washington (15,100). Both are in the Portland area.
- **Portland** (Jewish Federation of Greater Portland) (56,300) is the largest OR Jewish community, accounts for 80% of OR's Jews, and is the 29th largest U.S. Jewish community.

Washington (88,530)
- The 2 largest counties are King (55,400) and Snohomish (6,500). Both are in the Seattle area.
- **Seattle** (Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle) (70,600) is the largest WA Jewish community, accounts for 80% of WA's Jews, and is the 27th largest U.S. Jewish community.

Wyoming (2,210)
- The largest county is Laramie (900) (Cheyenne).
- Wyoming has no Jewish Federation.



Map 20: West Part 3, Northwest

Section 7: Conclusion

This year, we have made significant improvements to this report:

1. The geographic scale was moved to the county level (while maintaining local Jewish community estimates).
2. The new "Multimethod DJN-Guided" estimates for communities without scientific studies have produced superior estimates for hundreds of counties.
3. We expanded our estimates from 21 MSAs and 21 CSAs to 25 for each.
4. We estimated the Jewish population for all Jewish Federation Service Areas, rather than just the communities with 20,000 or more Jews.
5. We introduced a table showing the Jewish population for the largest counties.
6. We produced Jewish population estimates and maps for the Jewish population of the 435 U.S. congressional districts.
7. We made a significant improvement to the atlas section, both in the maps and in the text.
8. We better accounted for seasonal Jews to have less double-counting.

While it might be more appropriate to provide a range of estimates for the U.S. Jewish population, our 7.7 million provides a reasonable estimate, supported by the 2020 Pew Research Center estimate of 7.5 million and the 7.6 million from the American Jewish Population Project at Brandeis. As one professional observer put it, "It's not like we have a set of estimates claiming 15 million and another claiming 3 million. That they are all between 7.5 and 7.7 million, using different methods, is quite astounding."

The problem of assessing the composition of and changes in a rare population like U.S. Jews is complicated by a shifting sense of personal identity, i.e., of how people define themselves (Dashefsky, Lazerwitz, and Tabory 2003; Dashefsky, Sheskin, and Winter 2024). Consequently, in addition to the standard demographic variables of fertility, mortality, and net migration, there are also accensions and cessations from the Jewish population based on identity shifts. The recognition of patrilineal descent by some Jewish denominations and the growth of interfaith households have posed further challenges to estimating the U.S. Jewish population.

In conclusion, we aim to provide, in a single source, the best possible national, state, regional, urban, and local-area estimates of the U.S. Jewish population, as a reference for today and a legacy for posterity. We fully recognize the subjective nature of some of our estimates. The only thing that we can guarantee is that *very few, if any, of the non-zero estimates are exactly right*! However, we assert that our development and use of the Multimethod DJN-Guided procedure yield results that more closely reflect reality than those previously published.

Acknowledgments

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1. The Jewish Electorate Institute (https://www.jewishelectorateinstitute.org/), a non-partisan, non-profit organization, for their grant to develop population estimates and demographics for the 435 congressional districts.
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4. Karen Tina Sheskin, Independent Researcher, for her quality control and careful reading of the text.
5. Rene Greene and Karen Tina Sheskin for counting 30 DJNs in each of 3,143 counties.

Appendix

We have changed the geographic scale at which many estimates are made. While we still present estimates for about 400 Jewish communities (and parts thereof), we now present estimates for 3,143 U.S. counties and county equivalents.

This Appendix presents detailed data on the U.S. Jewish population in four columns:

Date Column. This column provides the date of the latest estimate for each geographic area. For this year, since we used the new methodology described above for every geographic location, this date is 2024 for all entries. As we change estimates going forward, some of these dates will be updated.

Geographic Area Column. Generally, each state has two sections, a county section and a Jewish community section.

In the **"Counties"** section for each state, this column provides the names of hundreds of U.S. Counties with 100 or more Jews. Estimates for hundreds of additional counties with fewer than 100 Jews are found in a spreadsheet at www.jewishdatabank.org. Note that when the name of a county is relatively obscure, but many users have probably heard the names of a major city in that county, the name of that city appears in parentheses. So, in Arizona, for example, Coconino County is followed by (Flagstaff). When a Federation serves only one county, and we have no estimates for its subareas, the federation's name is in parentheses. For example, for Fresno, CA (*Jewish Federation of Central California*) is shown.

In the "**Jewish Communities"** section for each state, estimates are provided for communities that often span more than one county. The name of the Jewish Federation serving the community appears in italics. For example, under Tucson, *Jewish*

Philanthropies of Southern Arizona) appears.

Furthermore, examine the Arizona section of the Appendix. First, we present results for 11 of the 15 Arizona counties. Results for three additional counties judged to have fewer than 100 Jews are shown in the Other Counties[36] tab of the spreadsheet available at www.jewishdatabank.org. The total Jewish population estimate for these Other Counties appears in the "Other Counties" row for each state.

In addition, for Arizona, we show results for the Phoenix Jewish Community (Maricopa and Pinal Counties) and the Tucson Jewish Community (Pima County), broken down by the geographic subregions (such as the NW Valley in Phoenix) used in the local Jewish community studies conducted for each area.

When the name of a county or a community is in **bold**, it means that a scientific Jewish community study was completed (almost always by a Jewish Federation) in that community.

Many Jewish community estimates are for Jewish Federation Service Areas (JFSA). Where possible, these service areas are disaggregated into smaller geographic subareas. For example, separate estimates are provided for West Bloomfield, MI (part of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit's service area), and Boynton Beach, FL (part of the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County's service area).

# of Jews. This column shows estimates of the number of Jews in each county, Jewish community, or geographic subarea of a Jewish community, exclusive of seasonal residents.

Seasonal. For communities with available data, this column presents estimates of the number of Jews in seasonal households. Seasonal households are generally defined as households that live in a community for three to seven months of the year. Seasonal Jews are an essential component of some Jewish communities, as many join synagogues and donate to Jewish Federations in the communities where 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 seasonal populations, ***without double-counting the seasonal Jewish population in the state totals***. Note that Jews in seasonal households are reported as such in the community that is most likely their "second home."

Note that, in addition to a section for each state and DC, there are special sections for the New York Metropolitan area, Southern California, and South Florida.

Excel Spreadsheet. The Excel spreadsheet used to create this Appendix and the other tables in this report is available under National Studies on the U.S. National tab at www.jewishdatabank.org. This spreadsheet also includes information on about 300 communities in the Appendix as Other Counties, which have Jewish populations of less

[36] Counties judged to have few, if any Jews, are not included under Other Counties.

than 100 and are aggregated and shown as the last entry for many states. The spreadsheet also contains Excel versions of the other tables in this report, as well as a table showing some of the significant changes since last year's *Year Book*, and another showing the calculations for the indices of dissimilarity referenced in Section 3.4 above.

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Ira M. Sheskin is a Professor of Geography and Sustainable Development and the Director of the Jewish Demography Project at the Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies at the University of Miami. He received the Marshall Sklare Award (2023) from the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry (ASSJ).

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Dr. Sheskin has conducted over 50 major local Jewish community studies for Jewish Federations across the United States and has served as a consultant to many synagogues, Jewish day schools, Jewish agencies, nursing homes, and Jewish Community Centers nationwide.

He was a member of the National Technical Advisory Committee of the United Jewish Communities from 1988 to 2003, overseeing both the 1990 and 2000-01 National Jewish Population Surveys, and has worked with the ASSJ in various roles for nearly twenty years. He is currently the President of the ASSJ.

Along with Arnold Dashefsky, he authors the annual article on the US Jewish population, which appears on the Berman Jewish DataBank website and in the widely cited *American Jewish Year Book*.

His publications include approximately 60 monographs and books, such as *Survey Research for Geographers*, *How Jewish Communities Differ*, *Comparisons of Jewish Communities: A Compendium of Tables and Bar Charts*, and *Jewish Options*.

Arnold Dashefsky is the Doris and Simon Konover Chair of Judaic Studies, Professor of Sociology Emeritus, and founding Director of the Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life at the University of Connecticut. He received the Mandel L. Berman Service Award in 2012 and the Marshall Sklare Award in 2020, both from the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry (ASSJ). Dr. Dashefsky served as director and, more recently, as the senior academic consultant to the Berman Jewish DataBank from 2013 to 2023, after retiring as director of its predecessor organization from 2004 to 2013. He was a founding member, secretary-treasurer, vice president, and president of ASSJ. He served as editor of its journal, *Contemporary Jewry*.

His main research interests include Jewish identity, family, ethnicity, emigration, and interfaith marriage. He is also a co-editor of the *American Jewish Year Book*. Along with Ira M. Sheskin, he authors the annual article on the US Jewish population, which appears in the *American Jewish Year Book* and on the Berman Jewish DataBank website, making it a widely cited publication. He has co-authored, co-edited, and edited 18 books, including *Americans Abroad* (with Bernard Lazerwitz and Ephraim Tabory), the second edition with Karen Woodrow-Lafield, *Jewish Choices* with Bernard Lazerwitz, J. Alan Winter, and Ephraim Tabory and *Jewish Options* with Ira Sheskin and J. Alan Winter.

Joshua Comenetz is a demographics and mapping consultant with over 25 years of experience with Jewish demographics and population geography, along with a diverse background in American and international population research, mapping, and data quality assessment.

In his day job, Dr. Comenetz has been a manager at the U.S. Census Bureau for 15 years, directing projects and research on U.S. and international population and geography. He is known for expertise on ethnicity, language, and religious affiliation in international census data, and leads Census Bureau work on onomastics (people's names).

Before joining the Census Bureau, Dr. Comenetz was a geography professor at University of Florida, affiliated with the Center for Jewish Studies. He developed a nationally-unique course, Geography of the Jewish Population, and worked as consultant for non-partisan political redistricting.

Besides Jewish population and geography, Dr. Comenetz's publications cover the geography of several ethnic groups, methods for mapping population globally, international relations, and cartographic techniques. He volunteers in support of synagogue strategic planning, with a focus on demographics and surveys. His doctoral dissertation (University of Minnesota) described methods for mapping demographic data quality and he received an AB in geology from Havard.

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