The Berman Jewish DataBank
A Project of Berman Jewish House of North America

The Berman Jewish DataBank (BJDB) is the central repository of social scientific studies of North American Jewry. The DataBank’s primary functions are to (1) acquire, archive, and disseminate quantitative data sets and reports, both contemporary and historical, and (2) encourage utilization of the archive. Our goal is to aid in understanding North American Jewish communities and to improve the quality and utilization of research conducted about North American Jewry.

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Sources:
- Pew Research Center 2013 (adults only)
- American Jewish Year Book 2017
- Recent Estimates of American Jews:
  - American Jewish Identity Survey 2008: 5,200,000-5,400,000
  - North American Jewish Data Bank (aggregate) 2011: 6,588,000

Demographics
- Jewish adults 18-64: 75%
- Jewish adults 65+: 24%

Highest Degree Attained
- Bachelor’s Degree: 32%
- Graduate Degree: 31%

Intermarriage
- Married individuals who are intermarried: 44%
- % of intermarried individuals with at least one child living in household: 41%

Belonging, Believing and Behavior
- Denominational Preference (“consider self”):
  - Orthodox: 10%
  - Conservative: 18%
  - Reform: 35%
  - Other denomination: 6%
  - No denomination: 30%

Ritual Behavior
- Attends synagogue/temple a few times a year or more often: 59%
- Participated in Seder last year: 70%
- Fasted all/part of Yom Kippur in past year: 53%
- Always/Usually lights Shabbat candles: 23%
- Keeps kosher in home: 22%

Philanthropic Giving in Past Year & Israel
- Financial donation to Jewish Charity: 56%
- Been to Israel: 43%
- Very/somewhat emotionally attached to Israel: 69%

Pocket Demographics 2.0:
US Jewish Population

Northeastern States*
Number of Jewish Persons: 3,070,795

Midwestern States*
Number of Jewish Persons: 734,980

Southern States*
Number of Jewish Persons: 1,502,455

Western States*
Number of Jewish Persons: 1,617,245
Midwestern Regional Data**

**Pew Research Center 2013 (adults only) rounded**

Married Individuals who are Intermarried: 49%
% of Intermarried Individuals with at Least One Child Living in Household: 33%

**Denominational Preference –**
Orthodox: 6%
Conservative: 15%
Reform: 43%
No Denomination: 28%

Synagogue Member: 36%

**Ritual Behavior:**
Always/Usually Lights Shabbat Candles: 25%
Keeps Kosher at Home: 23%

**Philanthropic Giving in Past Year and Israel:**
Gave to Jewish Charity: 62%
Visited Israel: 41%

Western Regional Data**

**Pew Research Center 2013 (adults only) rounded**

Married Individuals who are Intermarried: 60%
% of Intermarried Individuals with at Least One Child Living in Household: 31%

**Denominational Preference –**
Orthodox: 2%
Conservative: 14%
Reform: 35%
No Denomination: 42%

Synagogue Member: 24%

**Ritual Behavior:**
Always/Usually Lights Shabbat Candles: 17%
Keeps Kosher at Home: 13%

**Philanthropic Giving in Past Year and Israel:**
Gave to Jewish Charity: 41%
Visited Israel: 34%

Top 52 American Jewish Metropolitan Areas by Jewish Federation Service Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Community</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Jewish Pop.</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Community</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Jewish Pop.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>New York</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>13,546,000</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Dallas</td>
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<td>IL</td>
<td>2,918,000</td>
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<td>Southern NJ</td>
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<td>56,700</td>
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<td>Houston</td>
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<td>Portland</td>
<td>OR</td>
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<td>TX</td>
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<td>CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Detroit</td>
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<td>72,000</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>Detroit</td>
<td>MI</td>
<td>20,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: American Jewish Year Book 2017, Spring 2018. Estimates rounded to the nearest hundred. The “Top 52” Jewish Metropolitan areas are usually defined by the local community and do not necessarily correspond to any government or other official definitions; Florida communities include part-year residents.

Historical American Jewish Population Estimates

Who Counts as a Jew:
Representing about 2% of the total US population, American Jews are a “rare population.” Therefore, each study has presented researchers with unique and interesting challenges. Variations among the estimates presented here are the result of different definitions and methodologies, as well as the spurs under which a given study was conducted.

Northeastern Regional Data**

**Pew Research Center 2013 (adults only) rounded**

Married Individuals who are Intermarried: 37%
% of Intermarried Individuals with at Least One Child Living in Household: 50%

**Denominational Preference –**
Orthodox: 18%
Conservative: 18%
Reform: 30%
No Denomination: 28%

Synagogue Member: 32%

**Ritual Behavior:**
Always/Usually Lights Shabbat Candles: 29%
Keeps Kosher at Home: 27%

**Philanthropic Giving in Past Year and Israel:**
Gave to Jewish Charity: 60%
Visited Israel: 47%

Southern Regional Data**

**Pew Research Center 2013 (adults only) rounded**

Married Individuals who are Intermarried: 44%
% of Intermarried Individuals with at Least One Child Living in Household: 40%

**Denominational Preference –**
Orthodox: 4%
Conservative: 23%
Reform: 43%
No Denomination: 23%

Synagogue Member: 32%

**Ritual Behavior:**
Always/Usually Lights Shabbat Candles: 16%
Keeps Kosher at Home: 21%

**Philanthropic Giving in Past Year and Israel:**
Gave to Jewish Charity: 61%
Visited Israel: 45%