



National Jewish Population Survey 2000-01

Jews in the Midwest

A United Jewish Communities
Presentation of Findings



NJPS Respondents

- The NJPS 2000-01 questionnaire was administered to over 4,500 Jews in the U.S.
- This presentation is a compilation of selected findings from those interviews, comparing respondents in the four major regions of the United States: the Northeast, Midwest, South and West, and highlighting the Midwest.

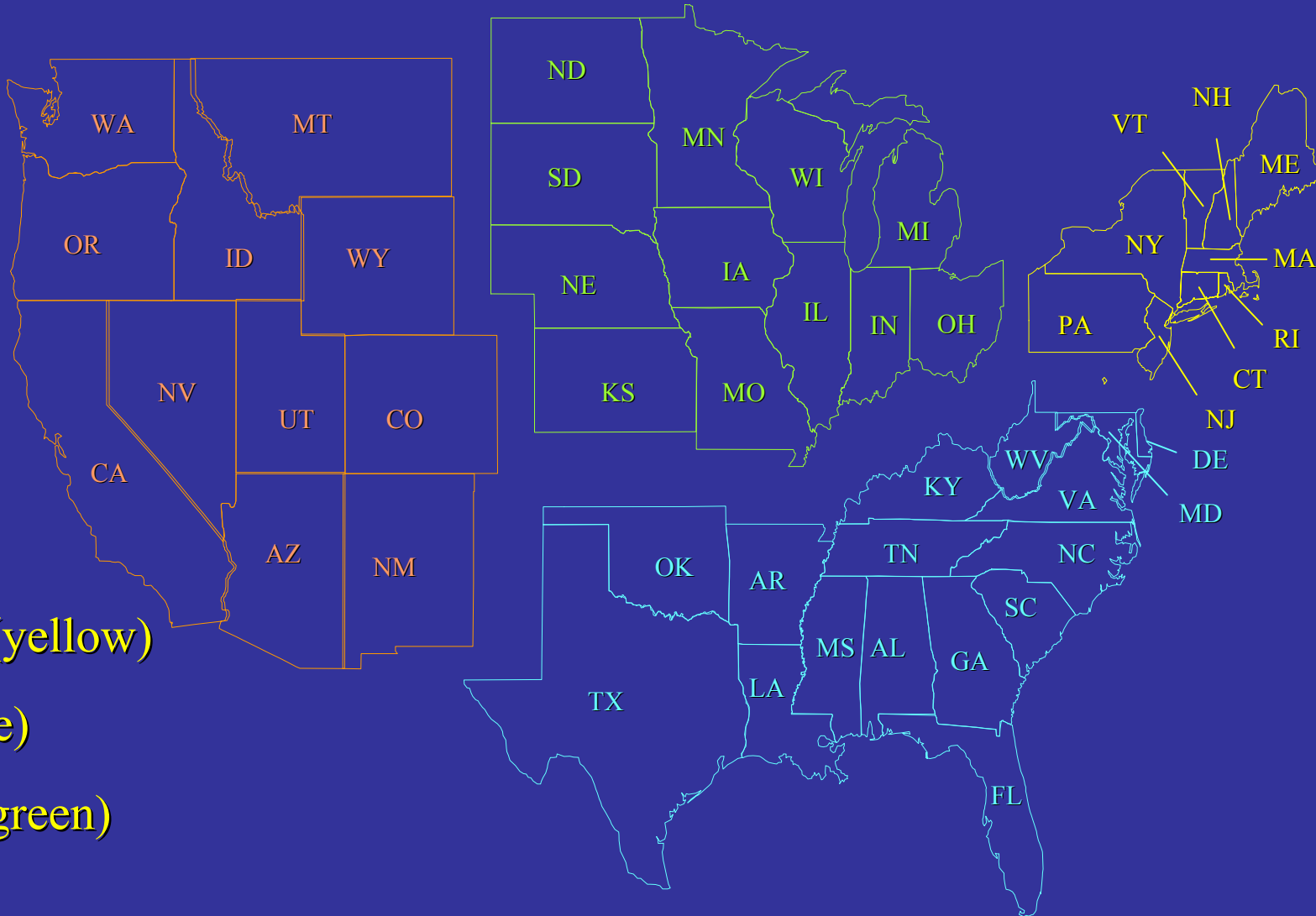


Methodological Note

- The NJPS questionnaire was divided into long-form and short-form versions. The long-form version was administered to respondents with stronger Jewish connections (representing 4.3 million Jews, or over 80% of all U.S. Jews). The short-form version, which omitted many questions on Jewish topics, was given to respondents with Jewish connections that are not as strong (representing in total 800,000 Jews).
- Asterisks (*) in the presentation refer to questions that appeared on the long-form questionnaire and were asked only of respondents with stronger Jewish connections.



The United States is divided into four regions:



- Northeast (yellow)
- South (blue)
- Midwest (green)
- West (red)



Regional Comparisons

- Demography
- Jewish connections
- Jewish education
- Special topics: poverty/low income, health, immigrants, elderly

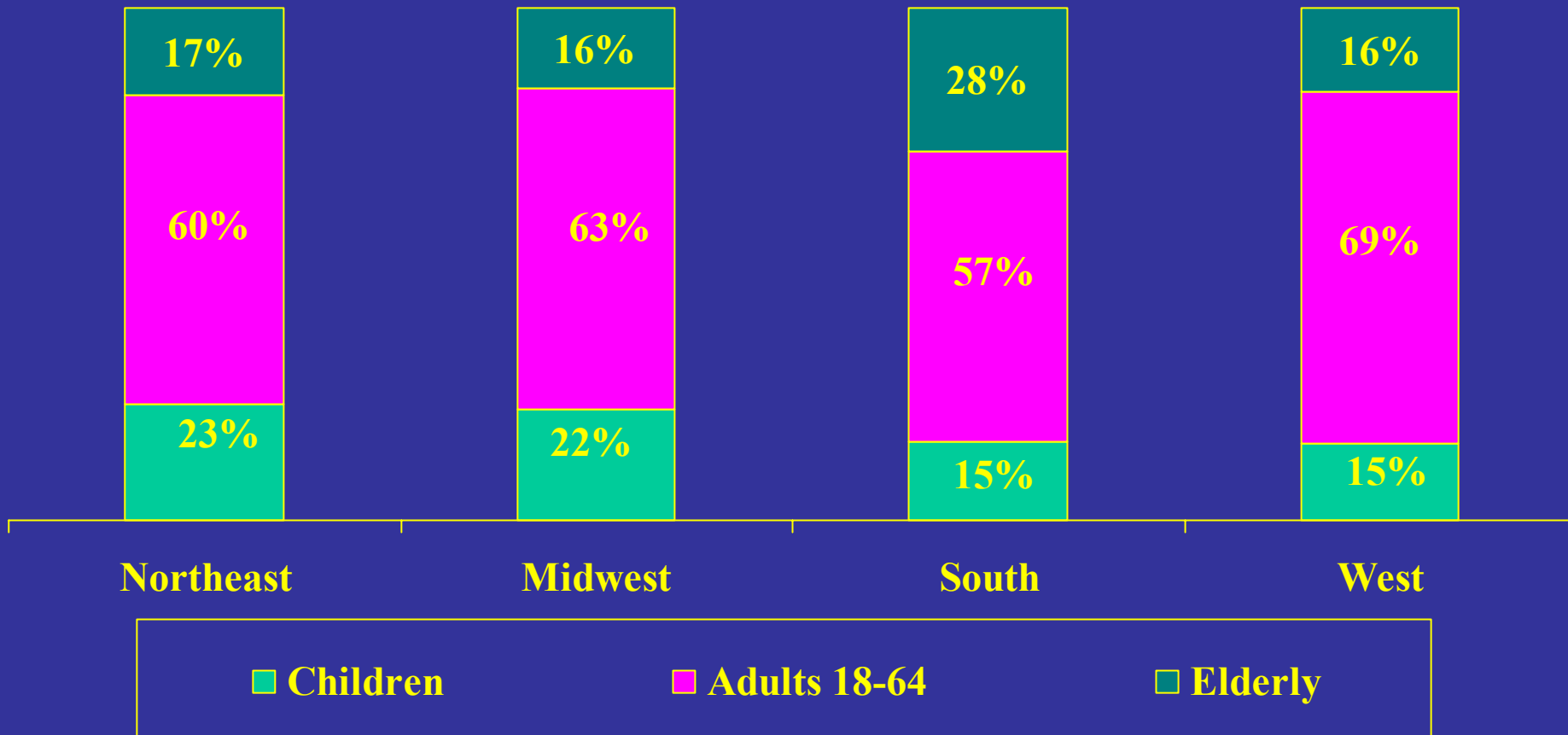


Demography

- Total population estimates
- Regional distributions of children, adults and households
- Variations in children, adults age 18-64 and elderly across regions
- Mobility
- Socio-economic status



Across regions, proportions of children, adults (age 18-64) and elderly vary. The Midwest and the Northeast have similar proportions of each age group.





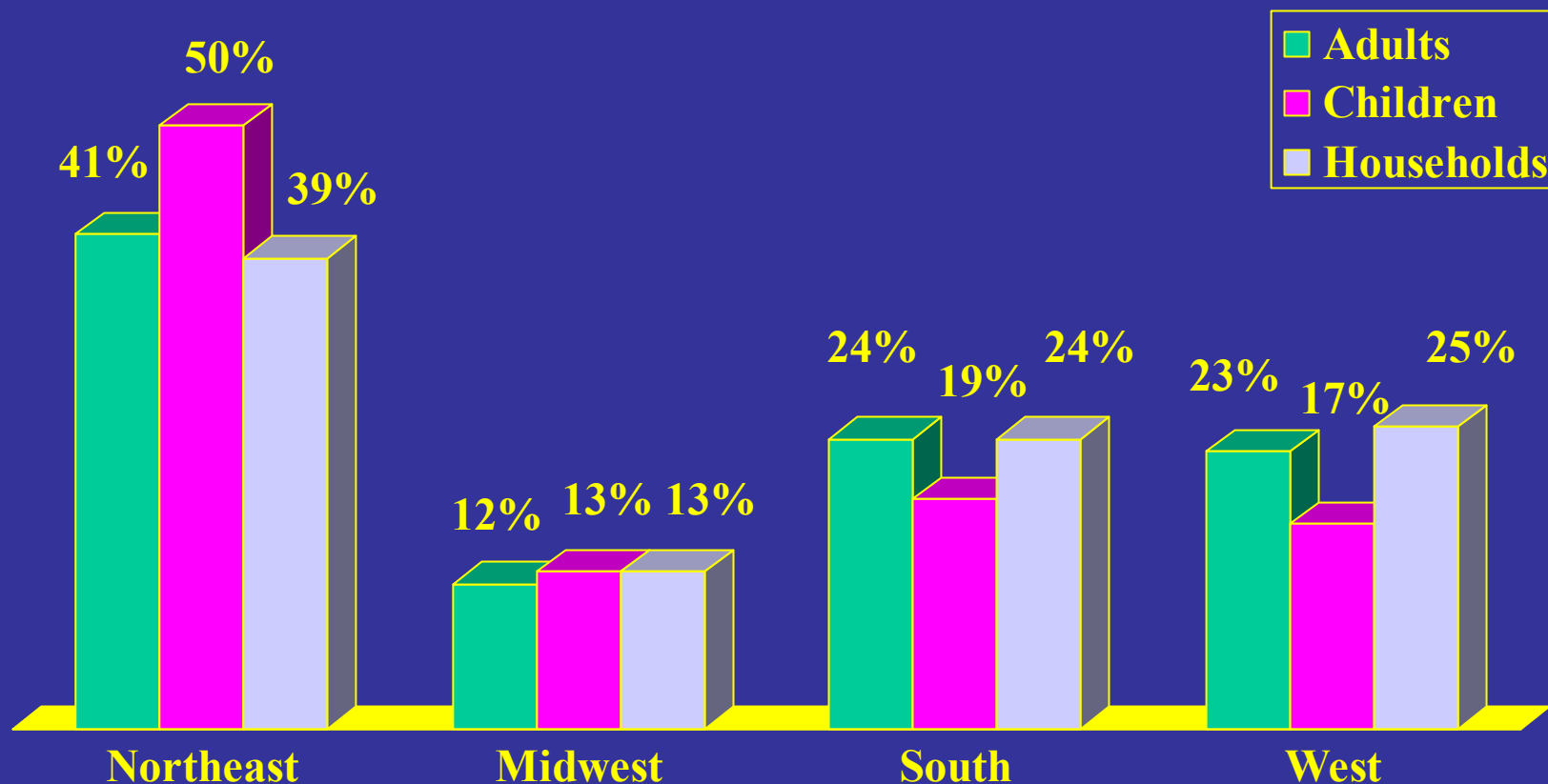
Total Jewish population and household estimates in 2000-01 (in millions)

Total Jewish population	5.2
Adults	4.2
Children	1.0
Total Jewish households¹	2.9
Total people, Jewish and non-Jewish, in Jewish households	6.7

¹ Defined as households with at least one Jewish adult

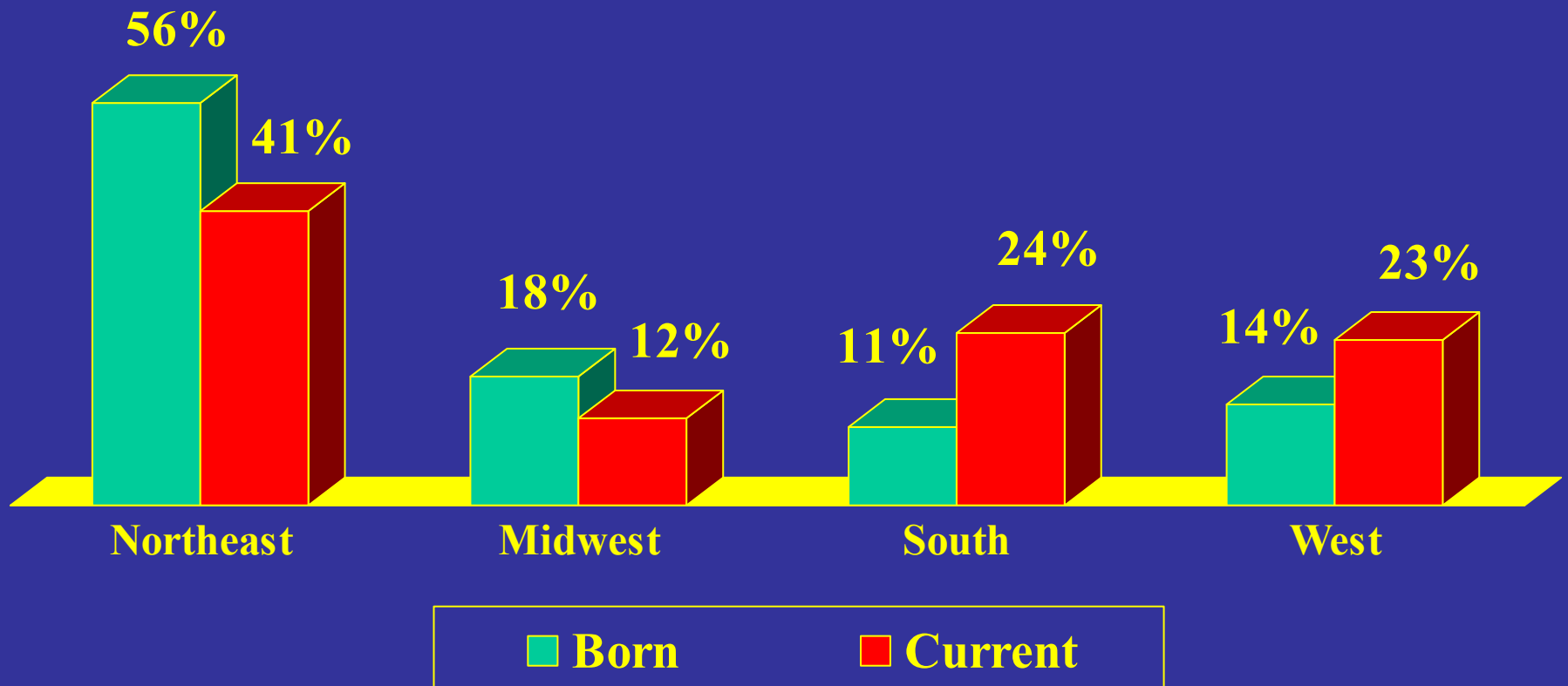


The Jewish population is concentrated in the Northeast. Approximately equal proportions of Jews reside in the West and South, with the Midwest trailing all other regions.





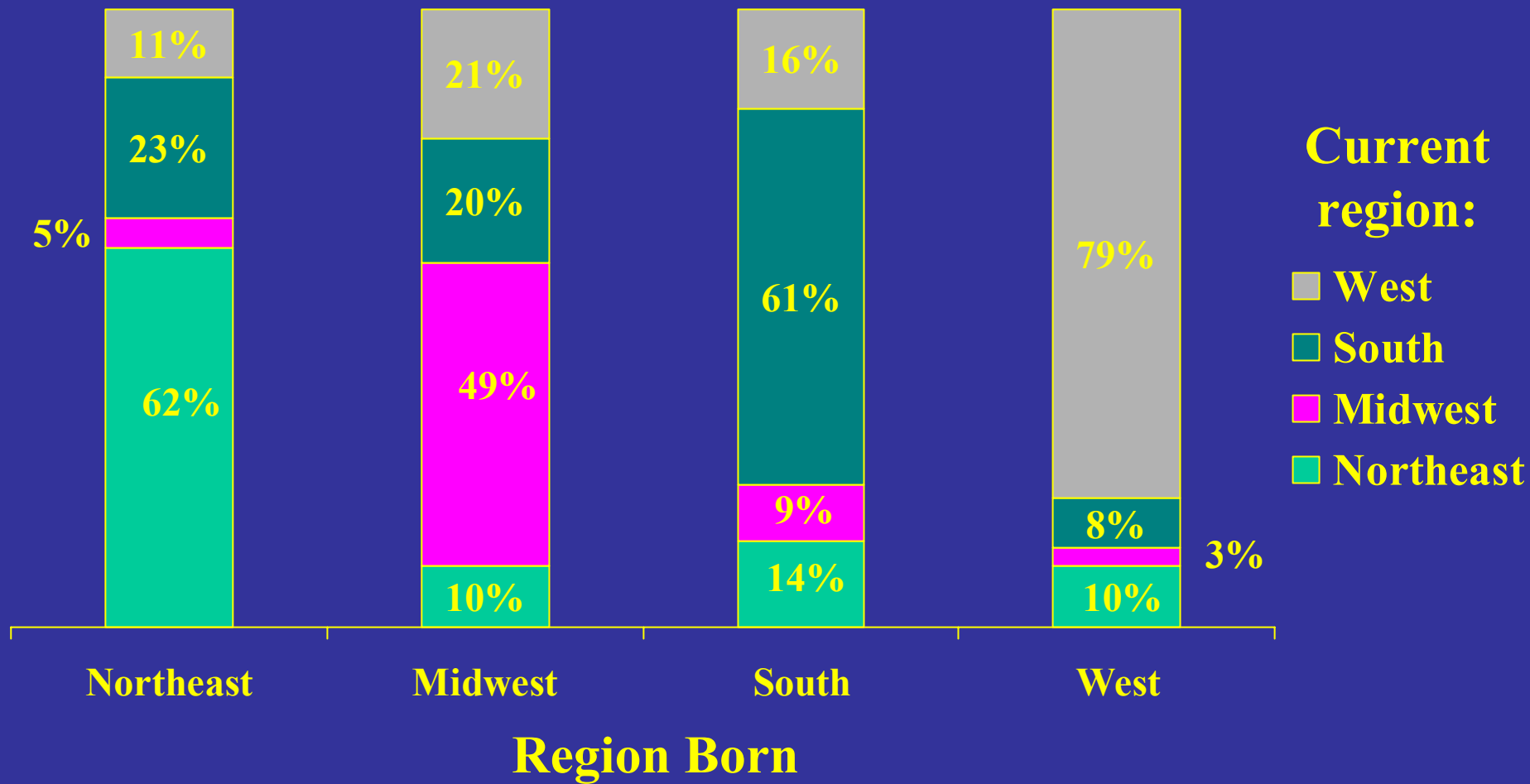
Net lifetime mobility indicates shifts in the Jewish adult population from the Northeast and Midwest into the South and West.



Regional differences

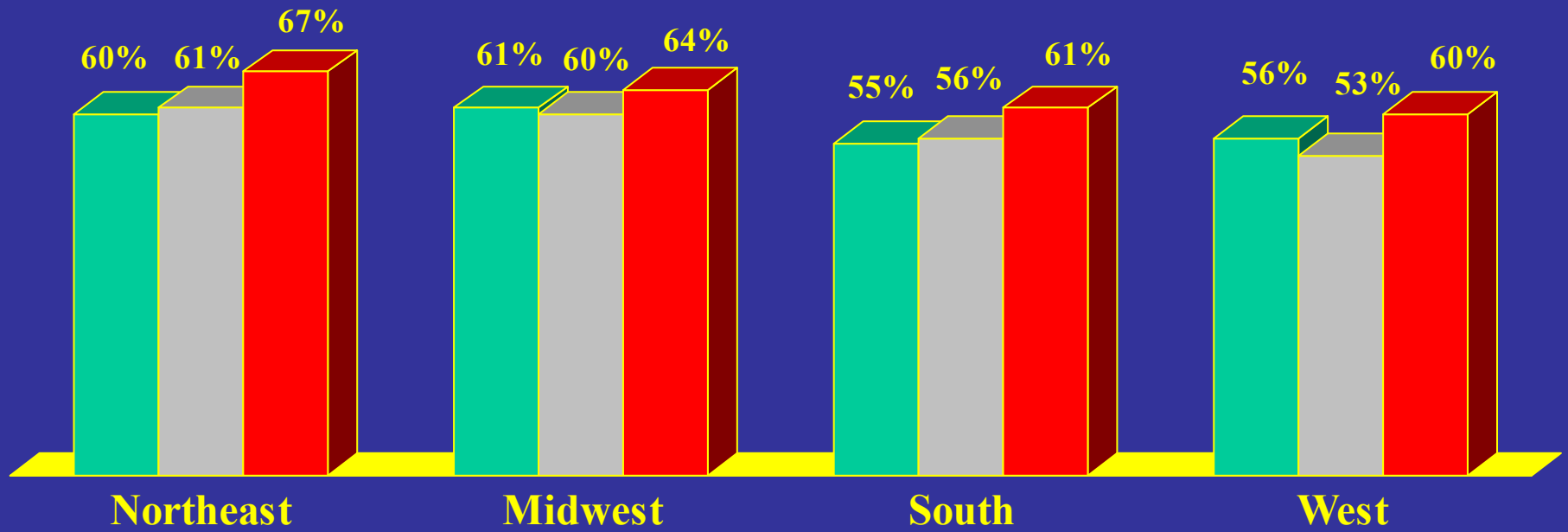


Nearly 80% of Jewish adults born in the West still live in the West, the highest rate of regional retention.





Indicators of socio-economic status are slightly higher in the Northeast and Midwest, and slightly lower in the South and West.



■ College education or higher
 ■ Over \$50,000 household income
 ■ Top three occupational groups

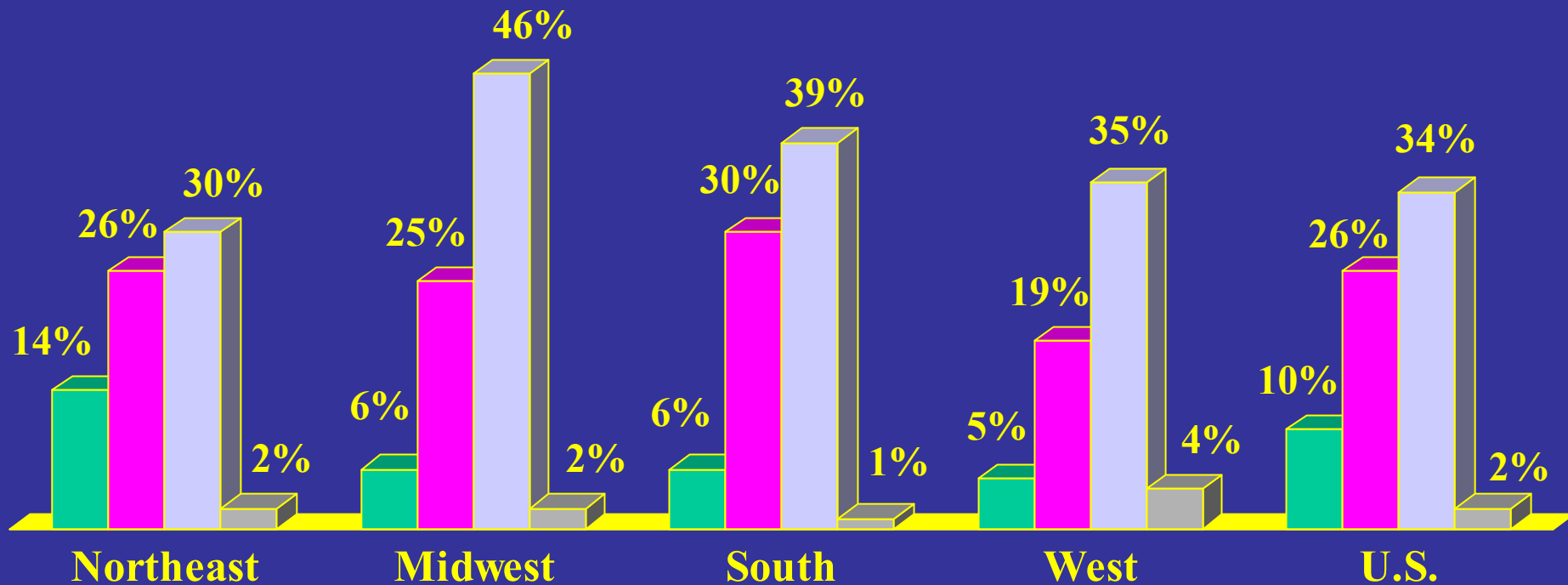


Jewish Connections:

- Denominations
- Synagogues
- Rituals
- Affiliations
- Attitudes
- Philanthropy
- Inter-marriage
- Israel
- Jewish media

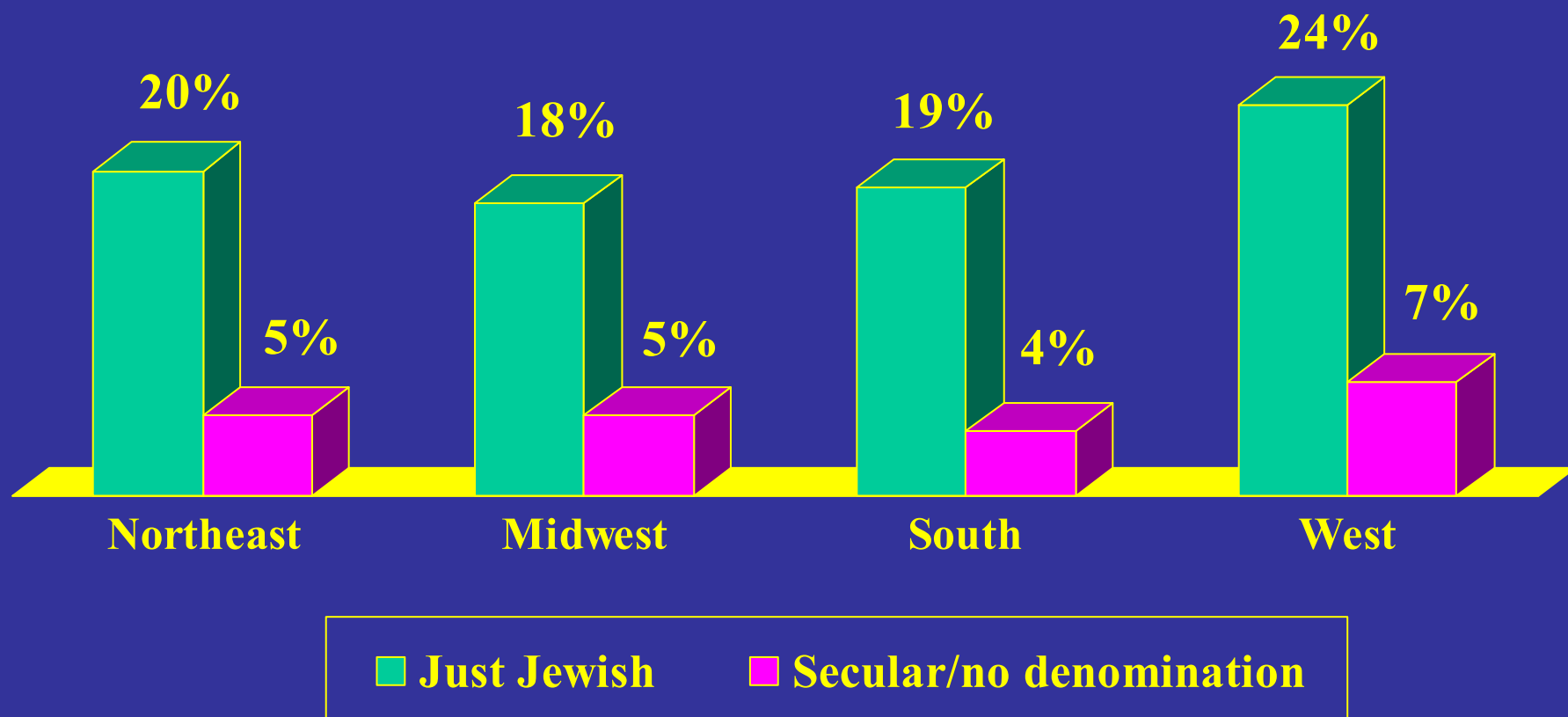


When asked what Jewish denomination they consider themselves, proportionally more Jews reported Reform in every region, with the highest proportion in the Midwest.*



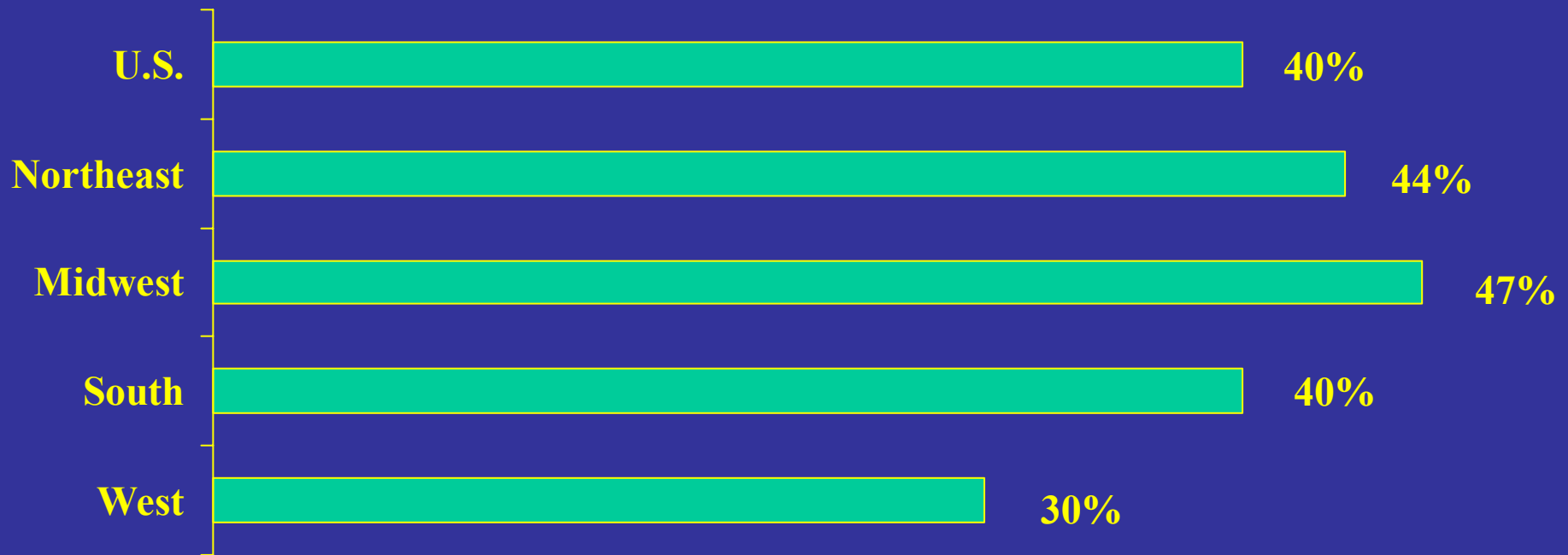


When asked what Jewish denomination they consider themselves, proportionally more Jews in the West than elsewhere said “Just Jewish” or secular/no denomination.*





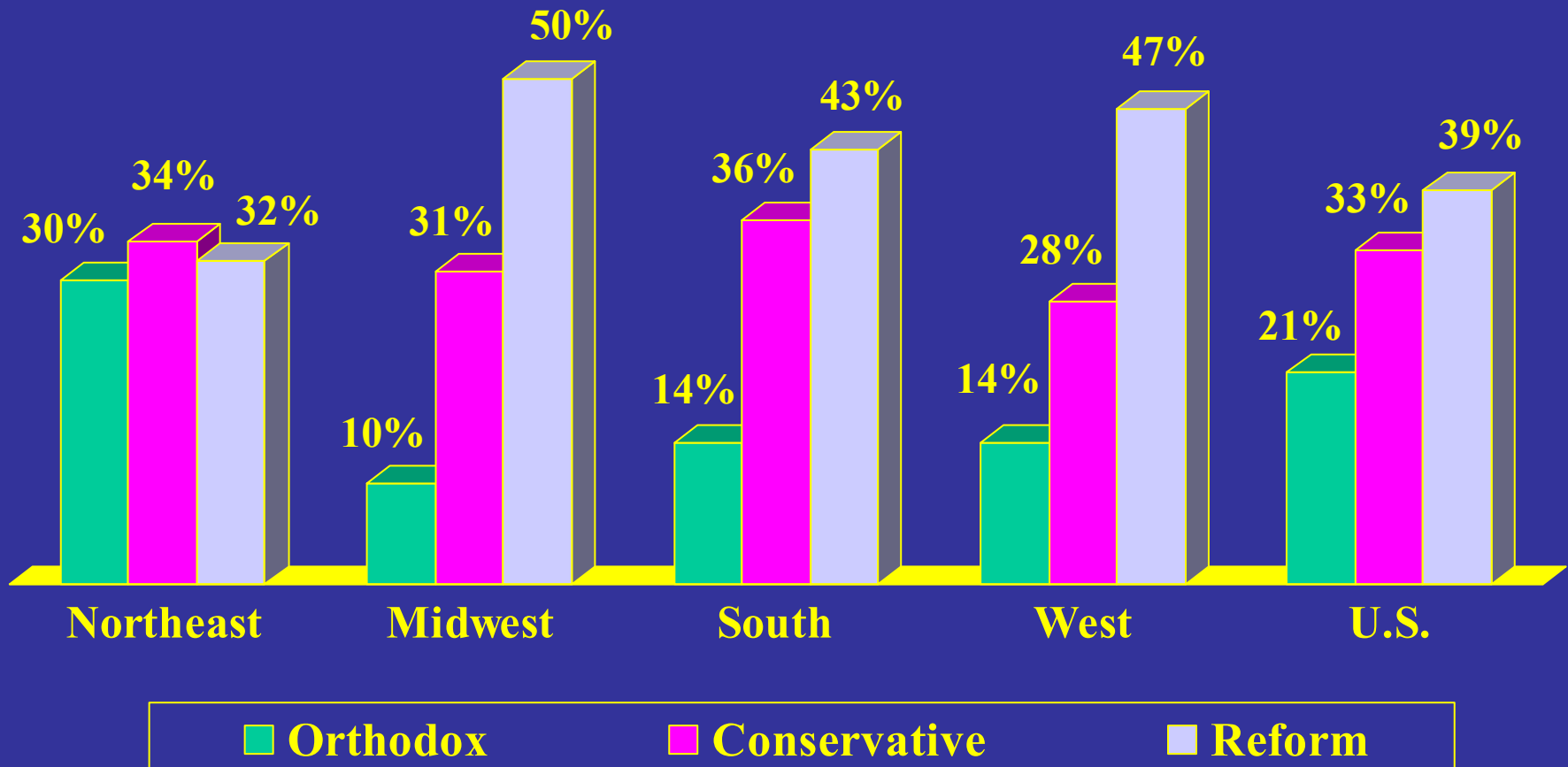
Forty percent of American Jewish households¹ belong to synagogues,* with the Midwest having the highest proportion among the four regions.



¹ These households contain 46% of American Jewish adults.

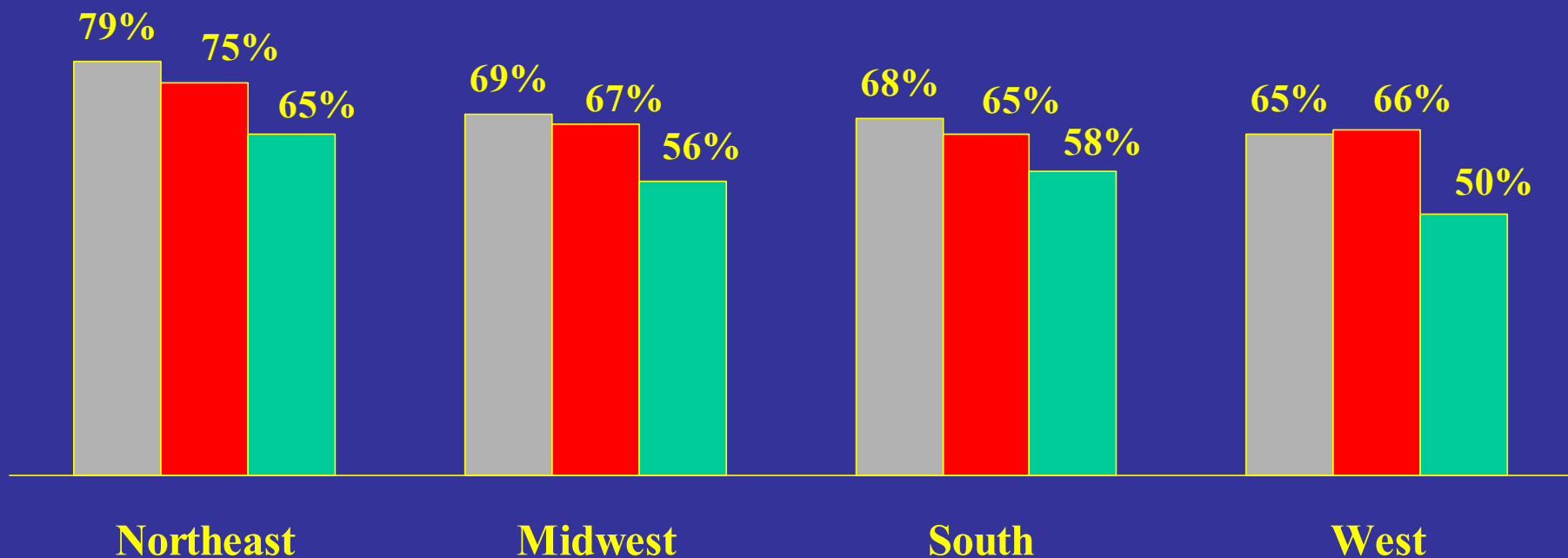


Among synagogue members,* the highest proportion who belong to Reform synagogues are in the Midwest and West.





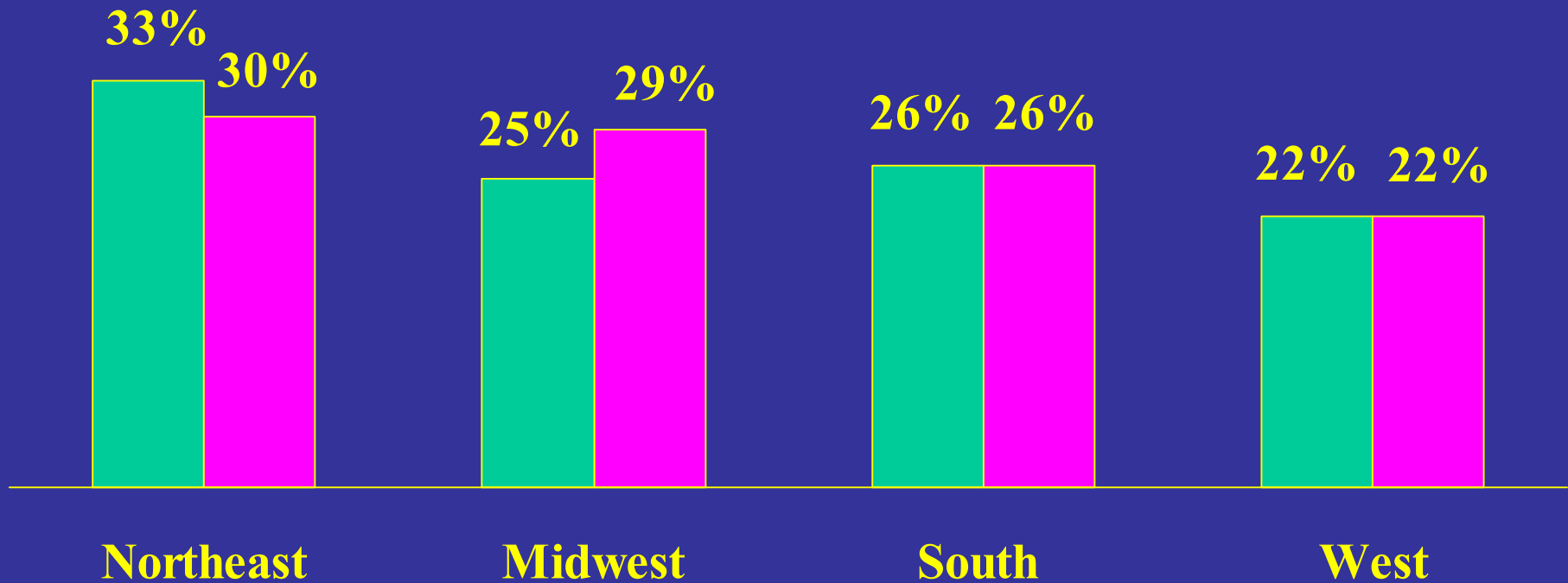
Jews in the Midwest and South are about equally likely to observe the most commonly practiced rituals, with both trailing the Northeast and slightly ahead of the West.



■ Light Chanukah candles ■ Attend/Hold Passover Seder ■ Fast on Yom Kippur*



A similar regional ordering is evident on these ritual observances.

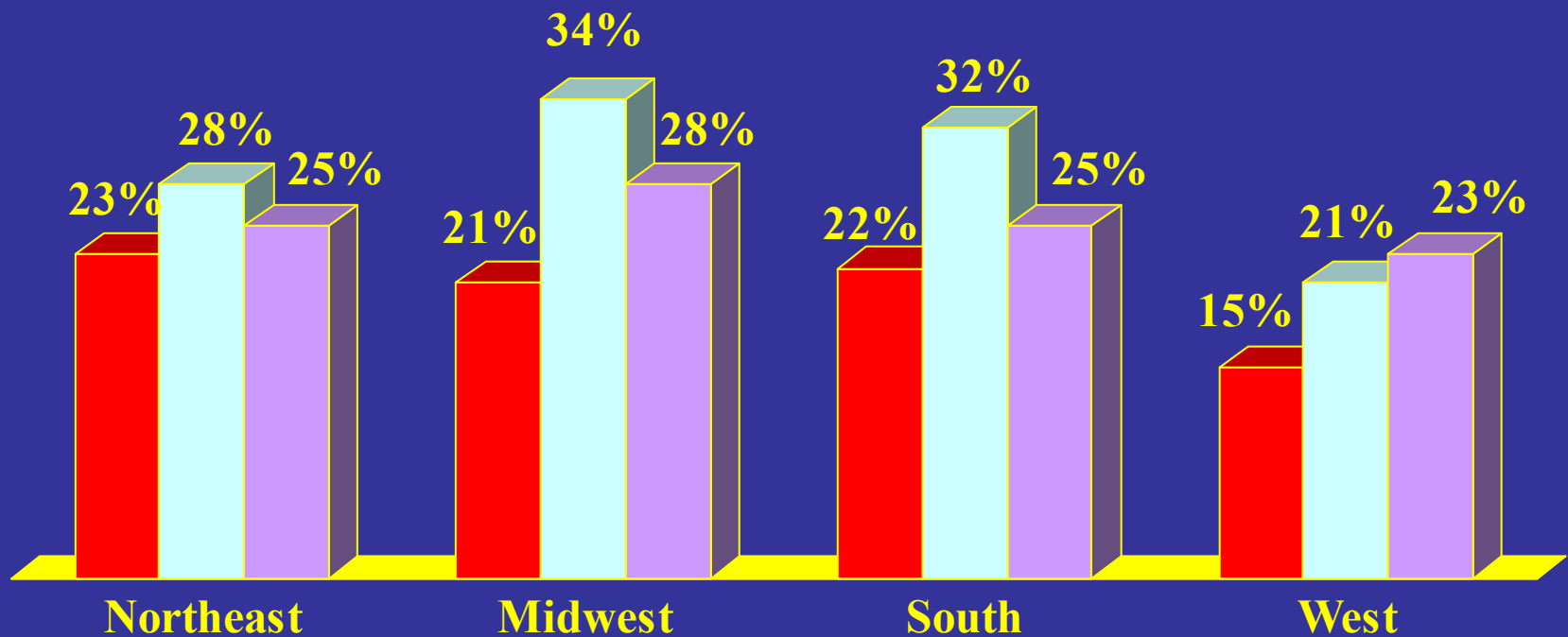


■ Light Shabbat candles*

■ Synagogue attendance monthly or more*



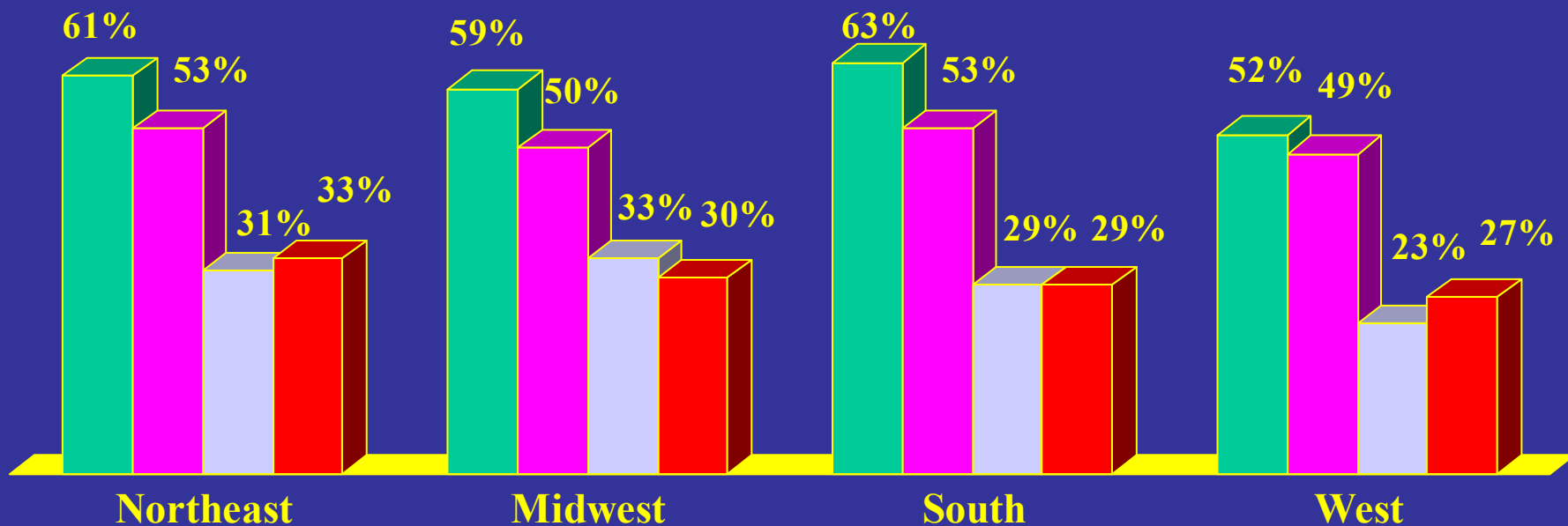
Jews in the Midwest affiliate with communal organizations and volunteer under Jewish auspices at relatively high rates.



■ Belong to JCC*
 ■ Belong to other Jewish organization*
 ■ Volunteer under Jewish auspices*



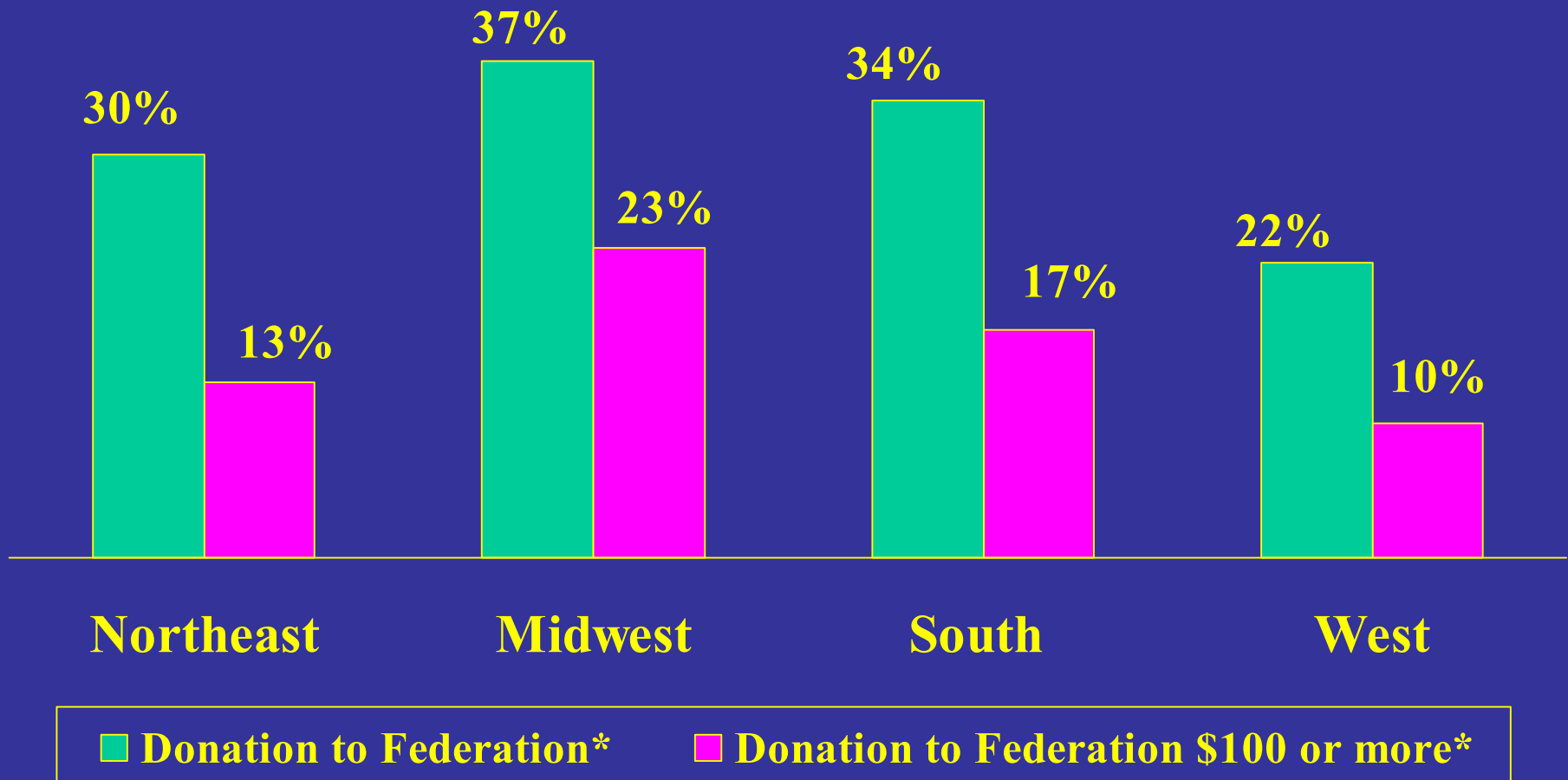
American Jews vary in whether they “strongly agree” with the following statements.



- Strong sense of belonging to the Jewish people*
- Regard being Jewish as very important*
- Jews have greater responsibility to other Jews than to non-Jews*
- Special responsibility to take care of Jews in need*

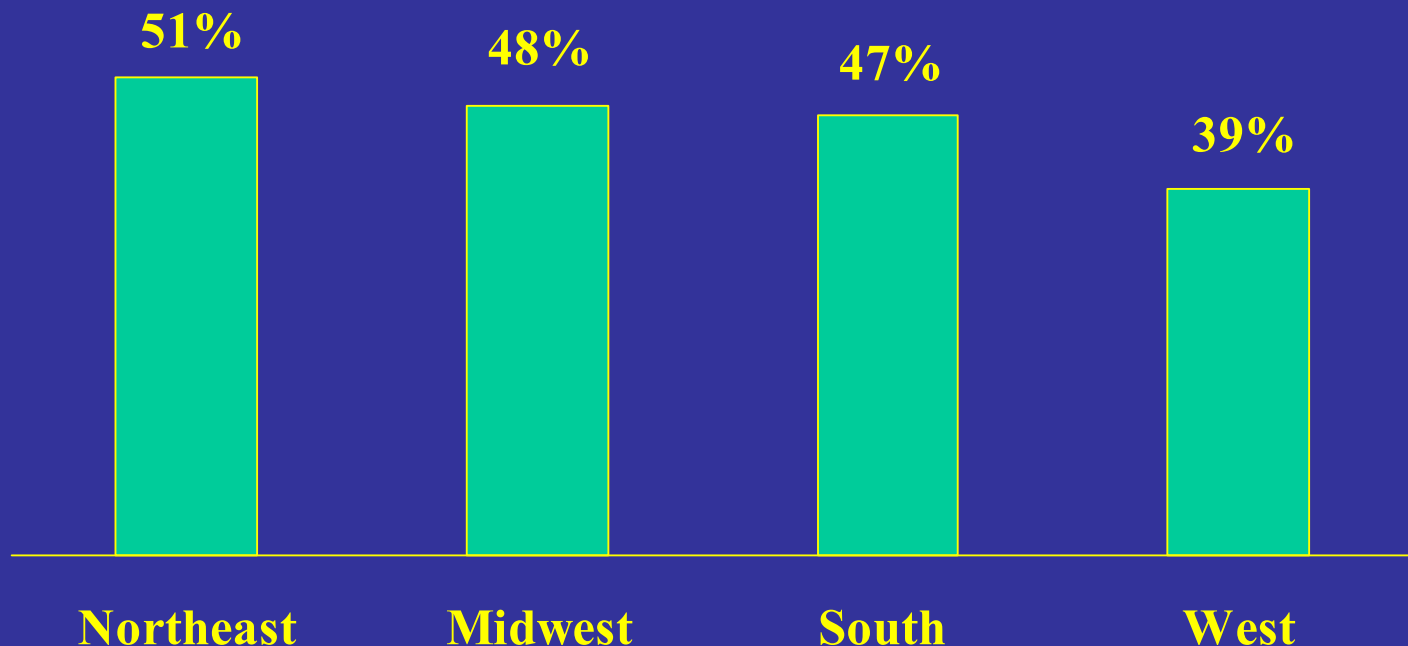


Jews in the Midwest donate more frequently to Federation than do Jews in other regions.





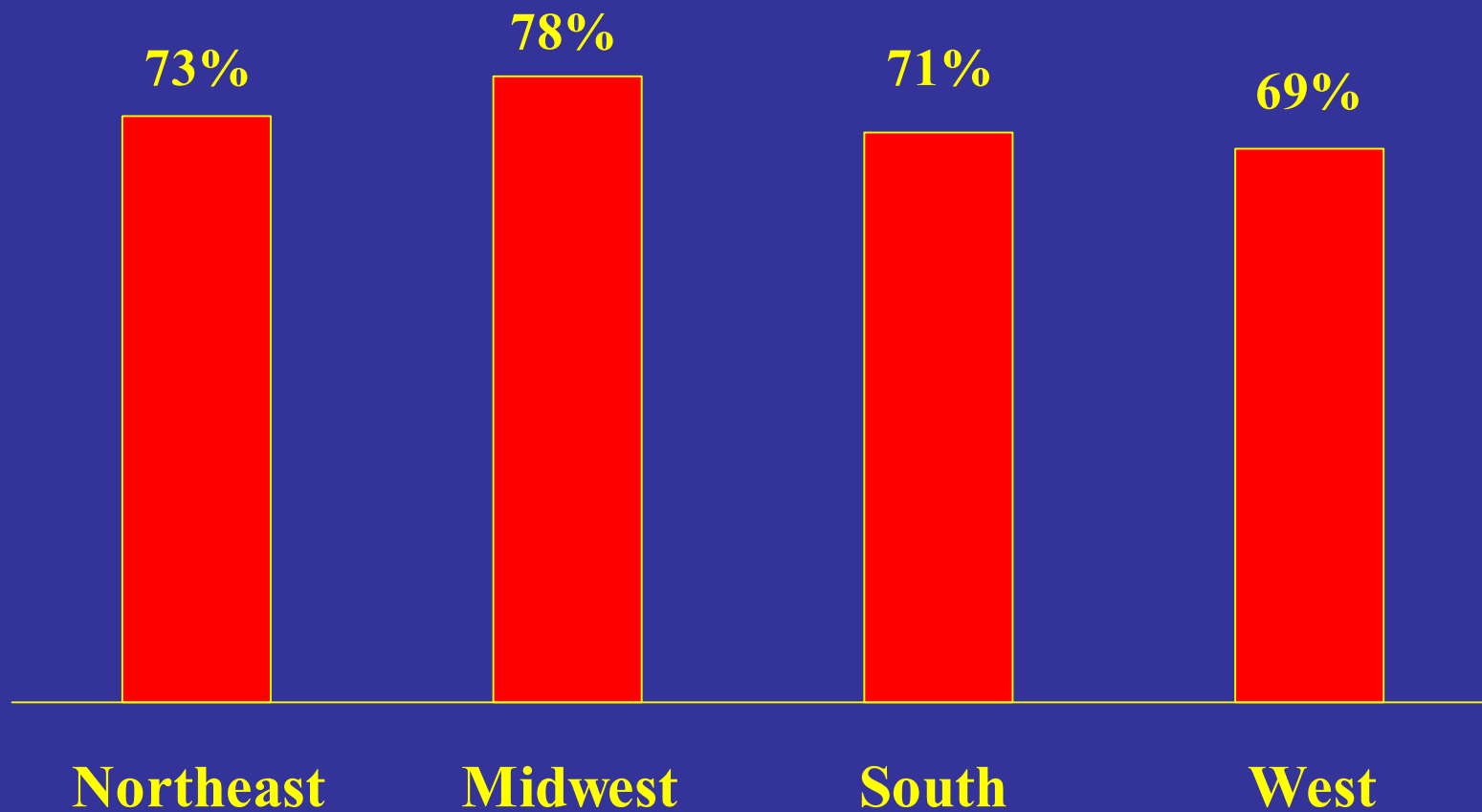
Jews in the Midwest donate to all Jewish causes, including Federation, at about the same rate as Jews in the South.¹



¹ Donation to any Jewish charity assumes no donation to Federation among less engaged population.

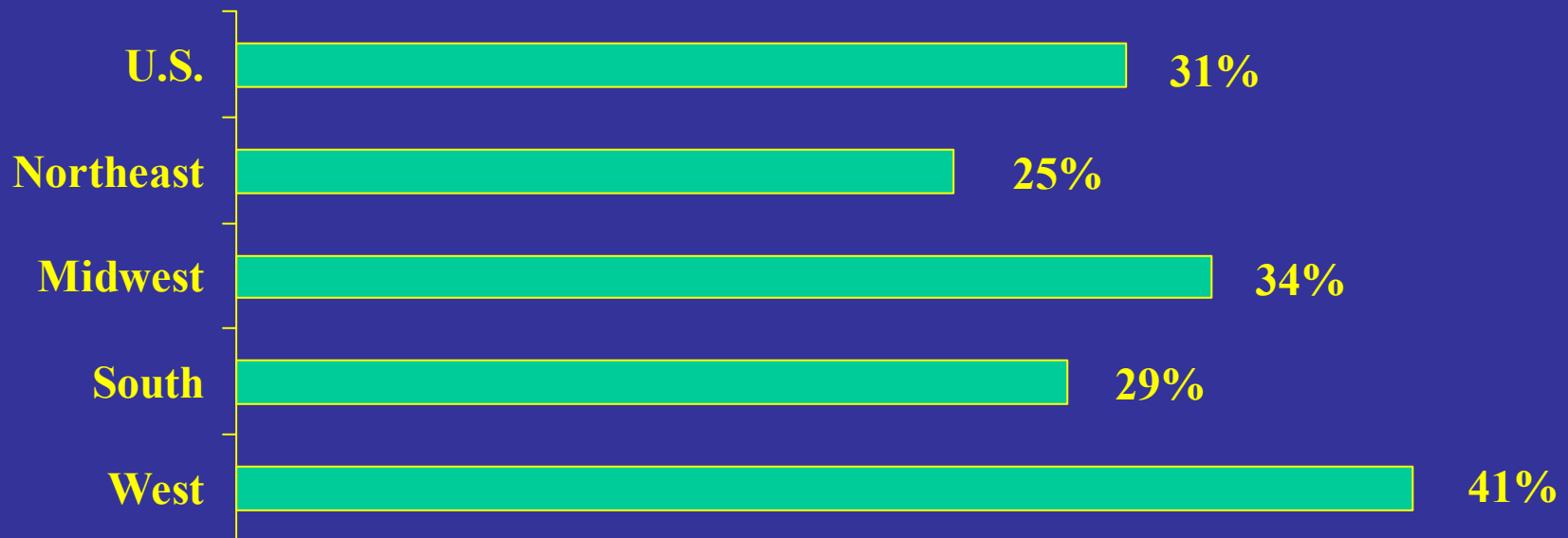


Rates of giving to all causes – Jewish and non-Jewish together – are highest in the Midwest.



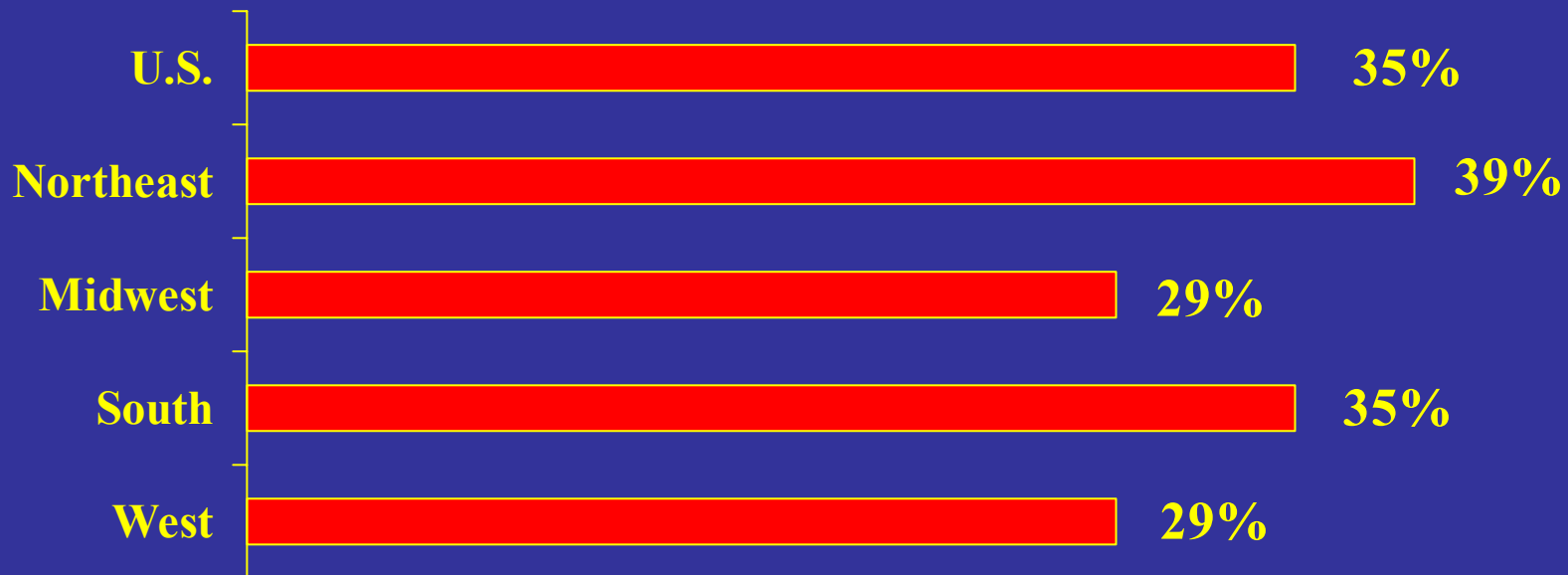


Among all American Jews who are married, 31% are married to someone who is not Jewish. Intermarriage rates are lowest in the Northeast and highest in the West.



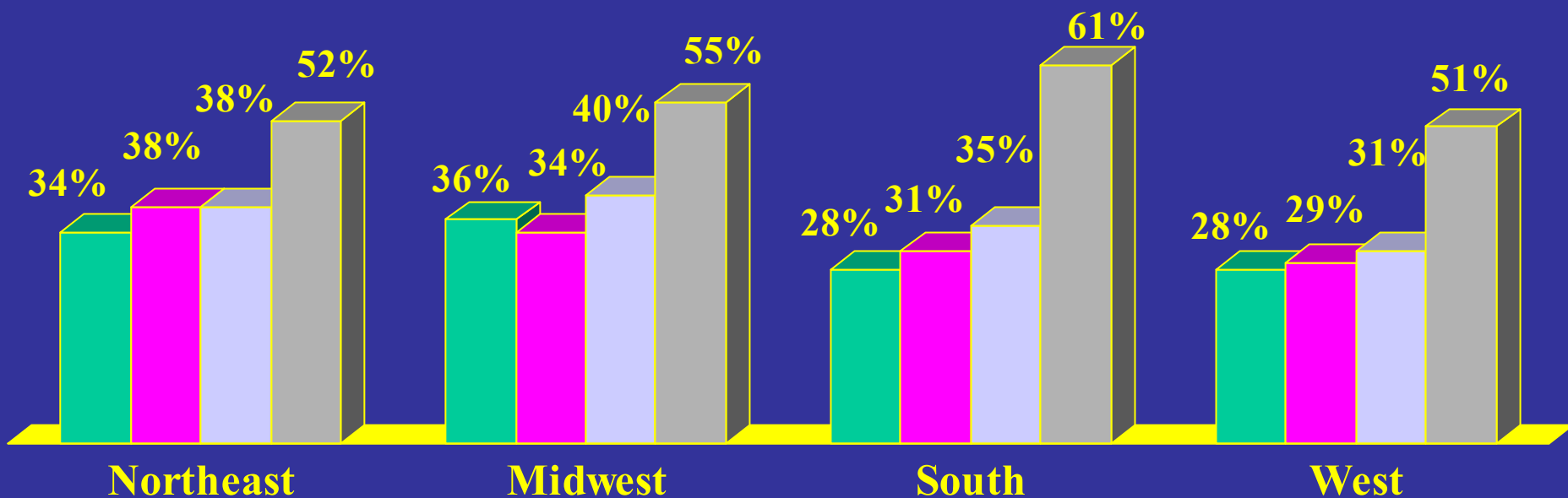


Among Jewish adults, 35% have been to Israel. The highest rate of travel to Israel is in the Northeast; the lowest rates are in the Midwest and West.





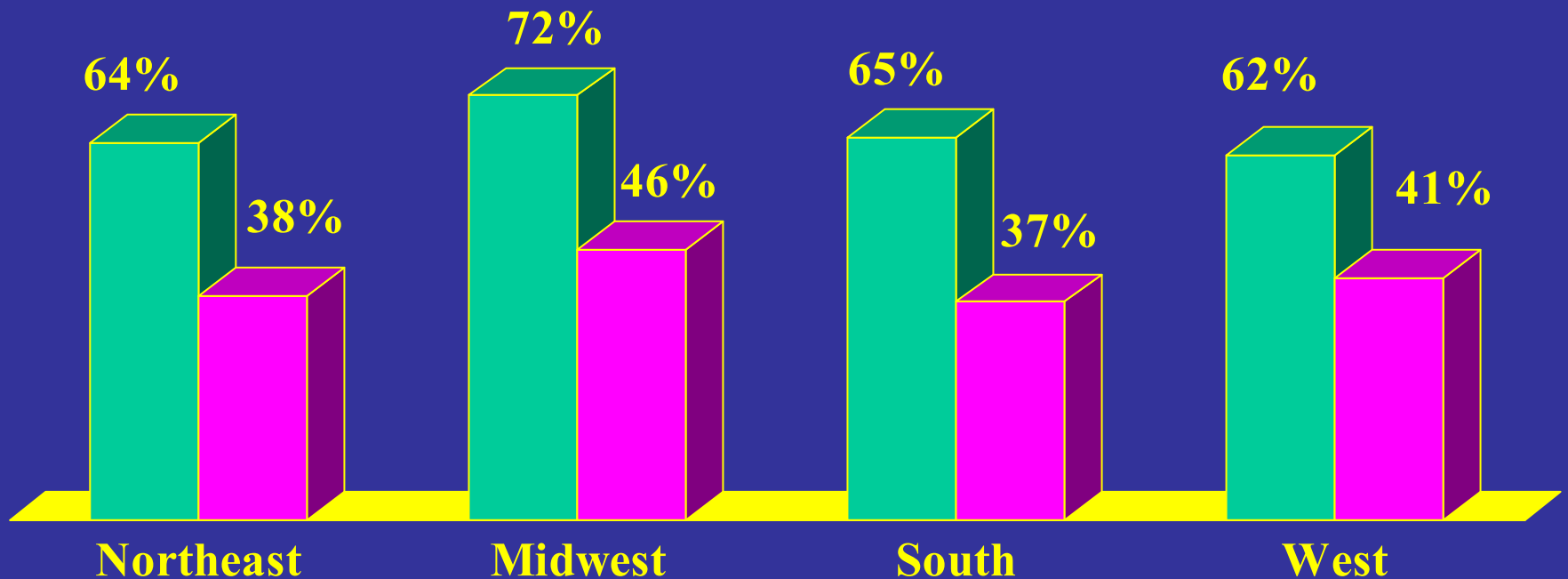
In all four regions, Jews have multiple attitudinal connections to Israel.



- Very emotionally attached to Israel*
- Very familiar with social and political situation
- US and Israeli Jews share common destiny: strongly agree*
- Israel needs financial support of US Jews: strongly agree*



Reading Jewish newspapers* and using the Internet for Jewish purposes* are most common in the Midwest.



■ Read Jewish newspaper/magazine*

■ Use internet for Jewish purposes*



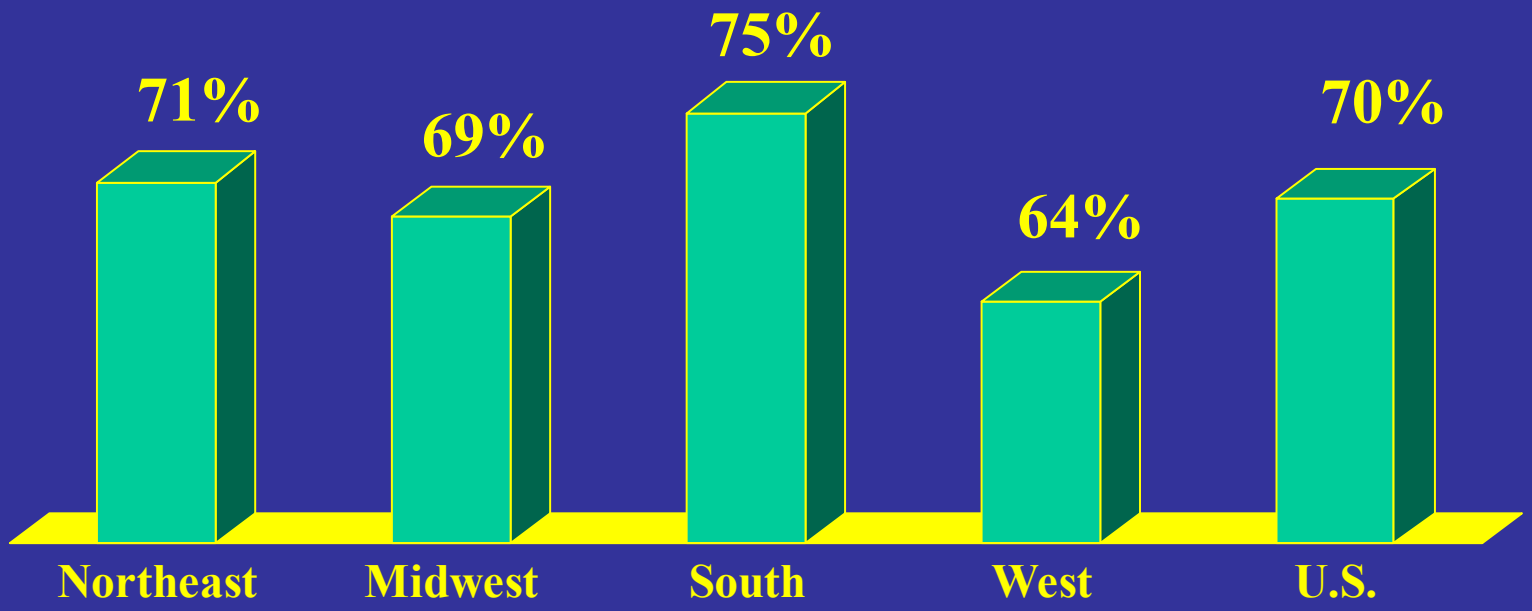
Jewish education*

- Current rates among Jewish children ages 6-17
- Types of Jewish education among Jewish children
- Comparisons of children to adults in day school enrollments
- Adult Jewish education

* Reminder: Asterisk means all education data are restricted to the Jewish population of 4.3 million with stronger Jewish connections.



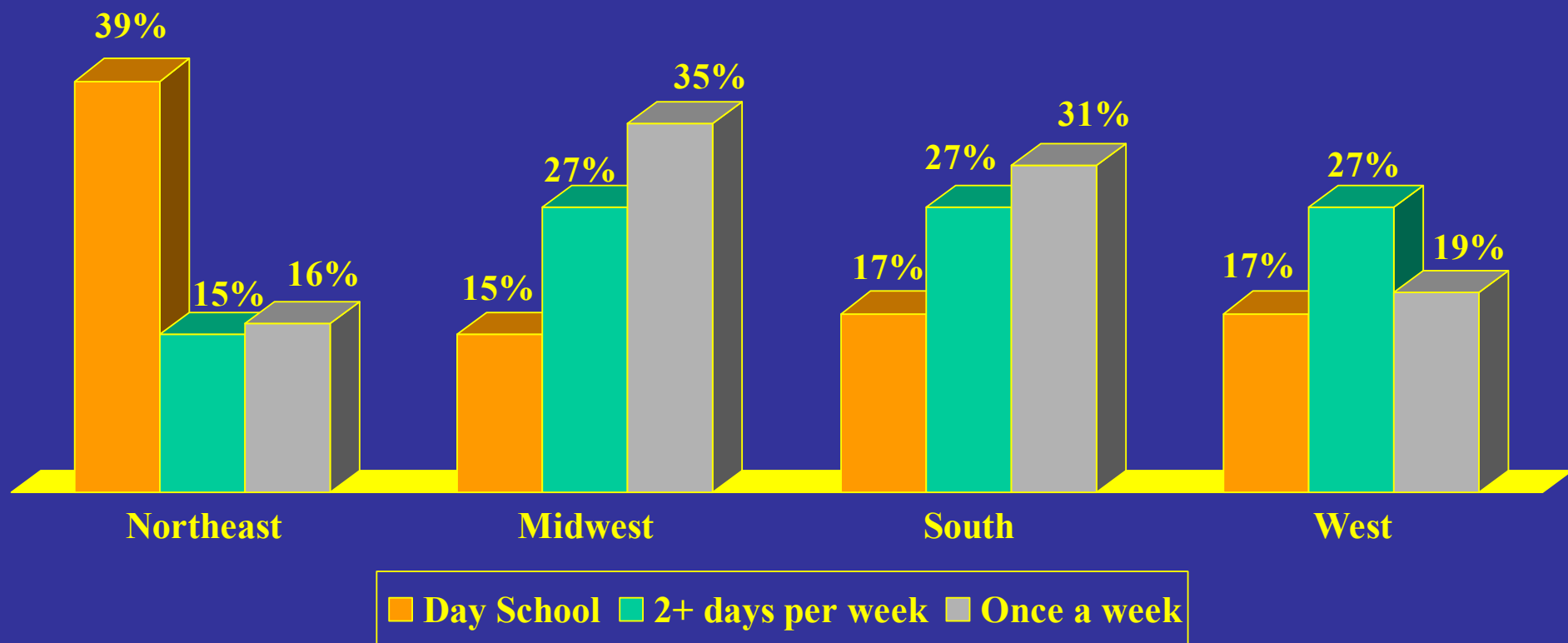
The proportion of children ages 6-17 in the Midwest receiving any kind of Jewish education in the year prior to survey is equal to the national rate.*



Note: data on children in the Midwest should be interpreted cautiously due to small number of cases.



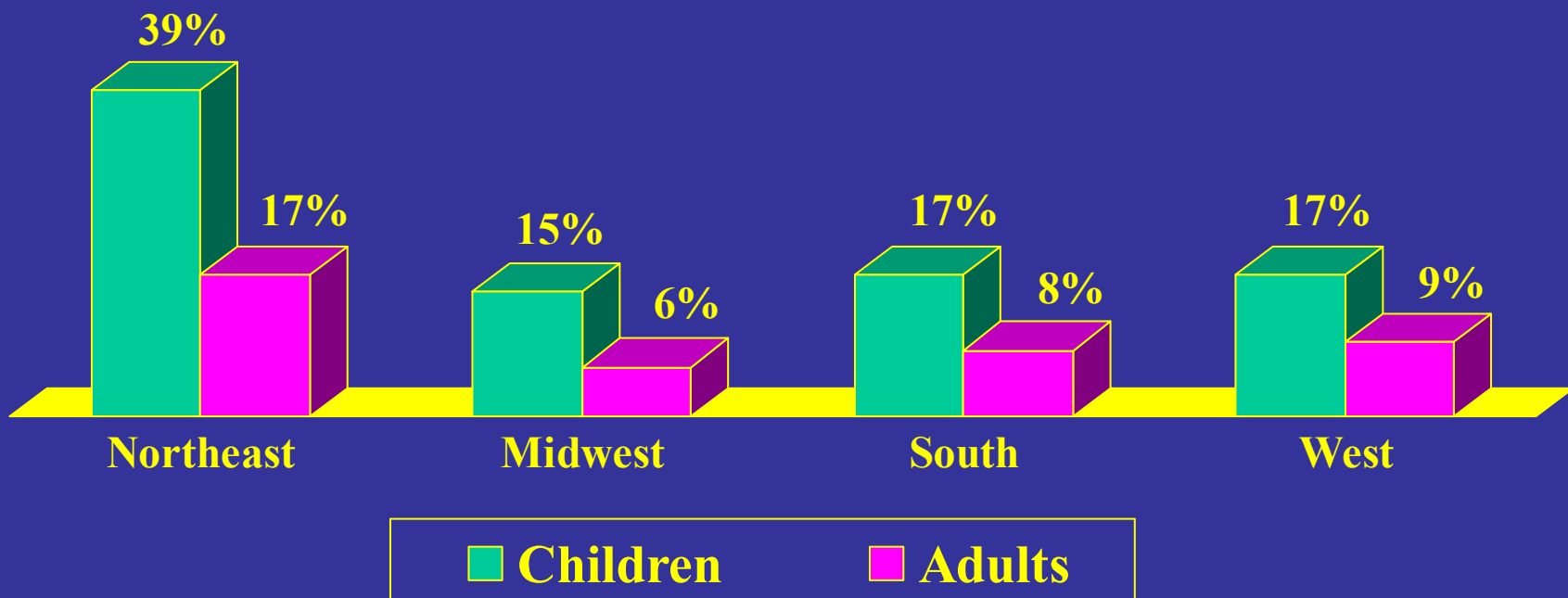
The proportion of children 6-17 in day schools* is similar in the Midwest, South and West but all three trail the Northeast.



Note: Multiple responses permitted. Data on children in the Midwest should be interpreted cautiously due to small number of cases.



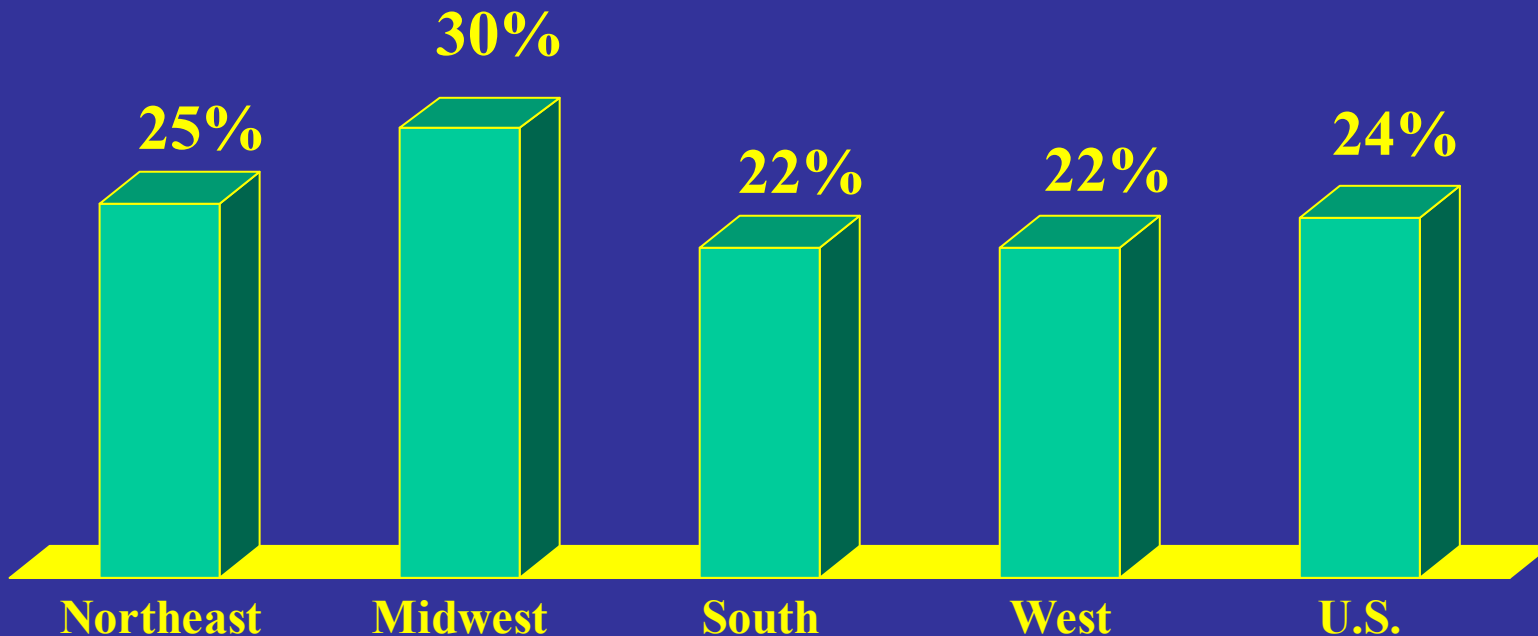
In all four regions, proportionally more Jewish children 6-17 are receiving day school education than adults did when they were growing up.*



Note: data on children in the Midwest should be interpreted cautiously due to small number of cases.



Adults in the Midwest report the highest rates of participation in adult Jewish education classes in the year prior to survey.*





Special Topics

- Poverty/low income
- Health
- Immigrants
- Elderly

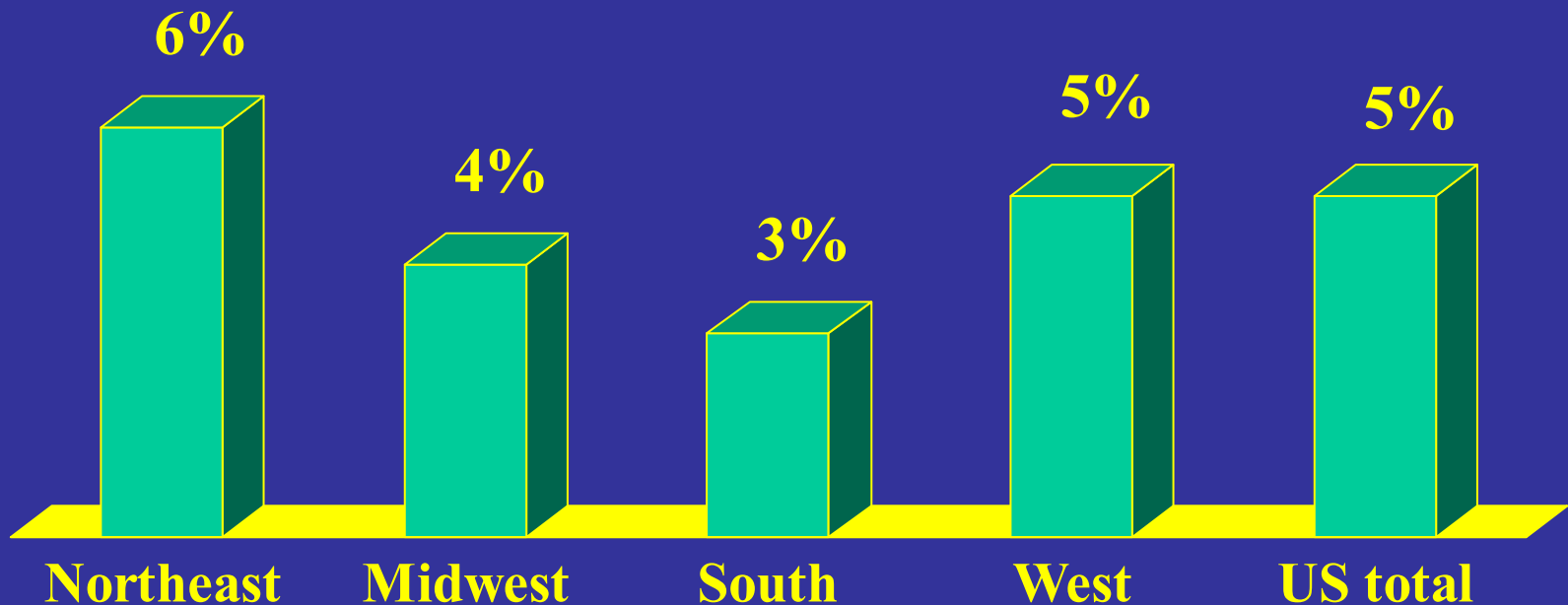


- **Poverty***: US federal government standard; combination of income and household size
- **Low income** = < \$25,000, any household size

Note: the measures of poverty and low income report the percentage of confirmed cases of all households, including those who refused to answer the question on income, thereby producing slightly conservative estimates of the incidence of these two factors.

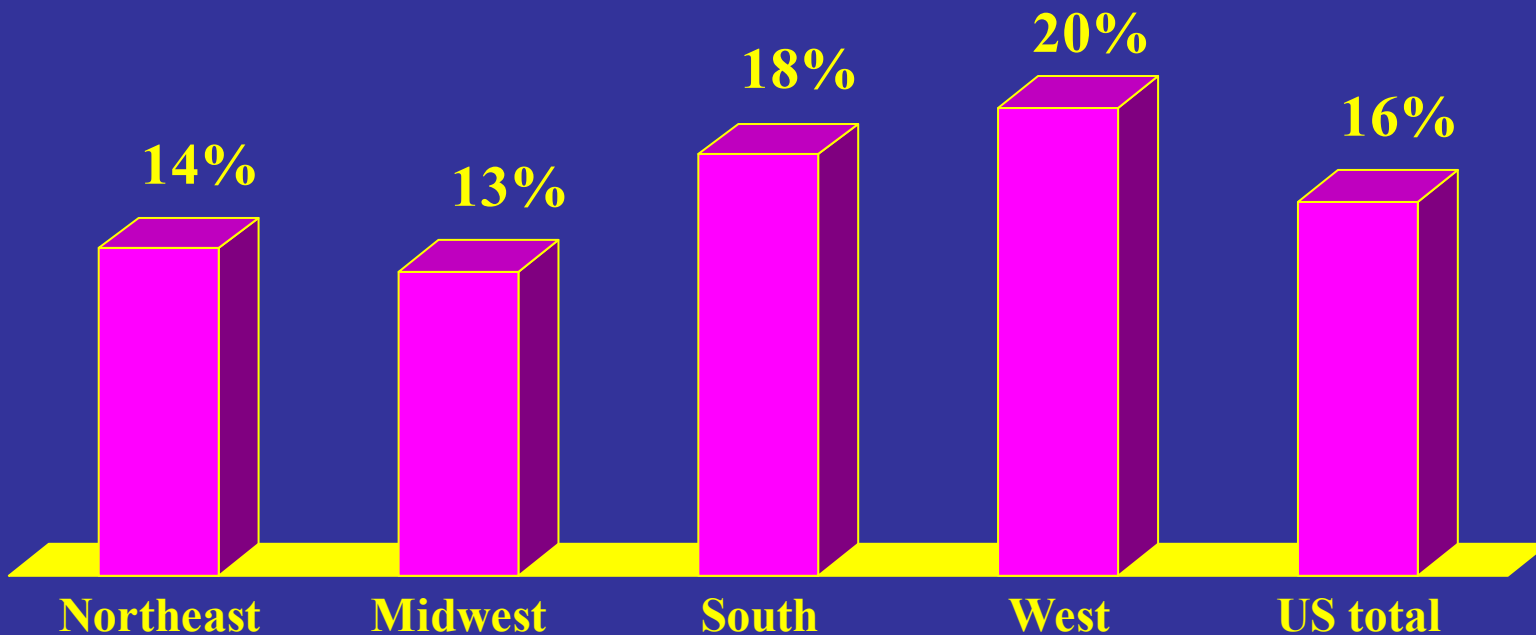


Rates of poverty* (federal government definition) among Jewish households are slightly higher in the Northeast, slightly lower in the Midwest and South, and at the national average in the West.



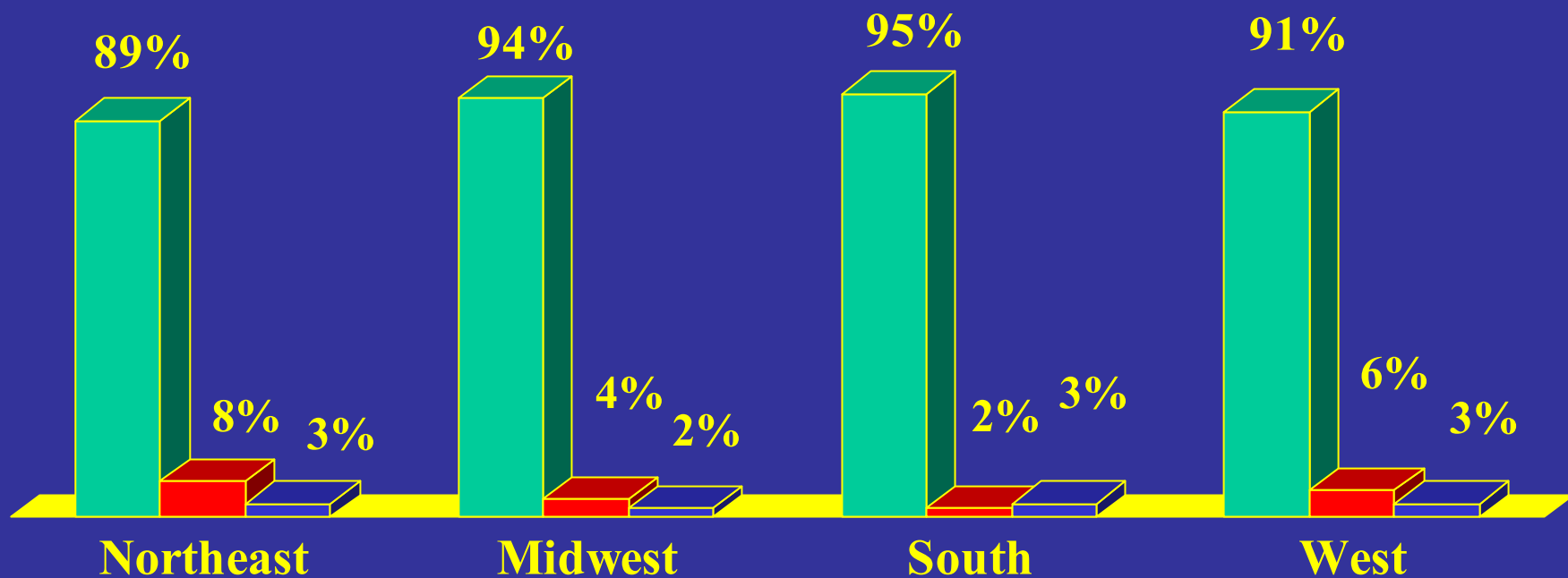


The incidence of low income (under \$25,000) is lower among Jewish households in the Northeast and Midwest than in the South and West.





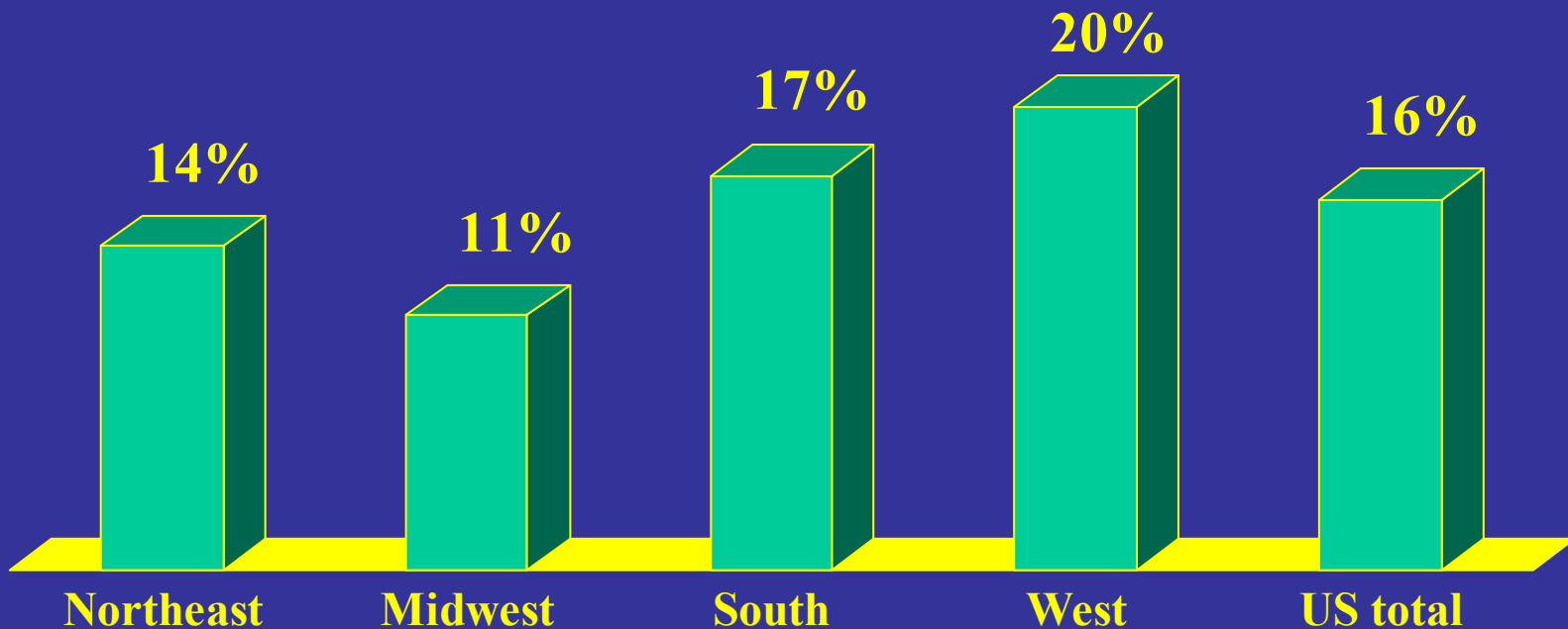
Sixteen percent of Jewish adults in the West are immigrants who have arrived since 1980, trailing only the Northeast proportionally.



- U.S. Born and immigrants (pre-1980)
- Immigrants from FSU (1980+)
- Immigrants from other countries (1980+)

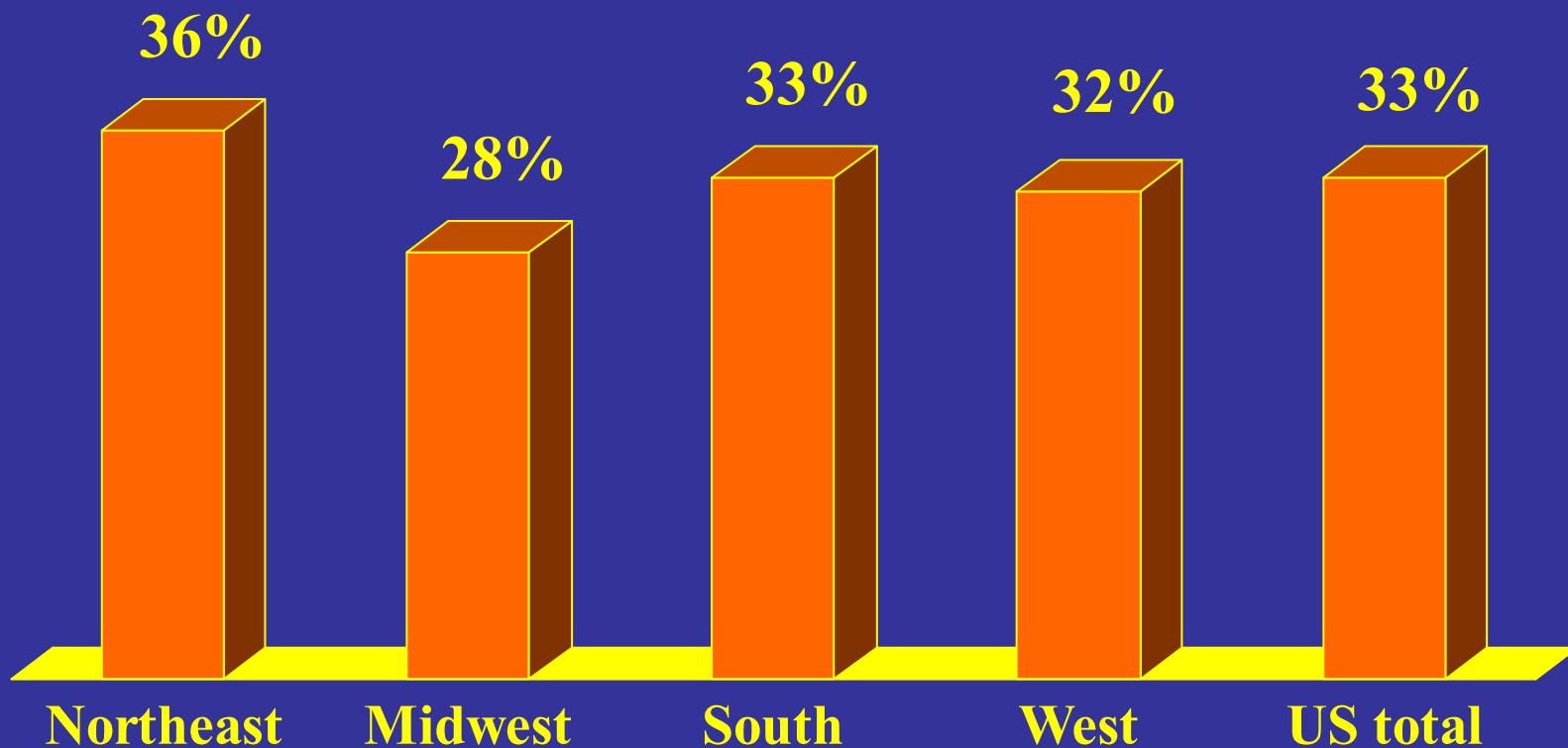


Jews in the Midwest are the least likely to report that they or another household member have a health condition that limits daily activities.



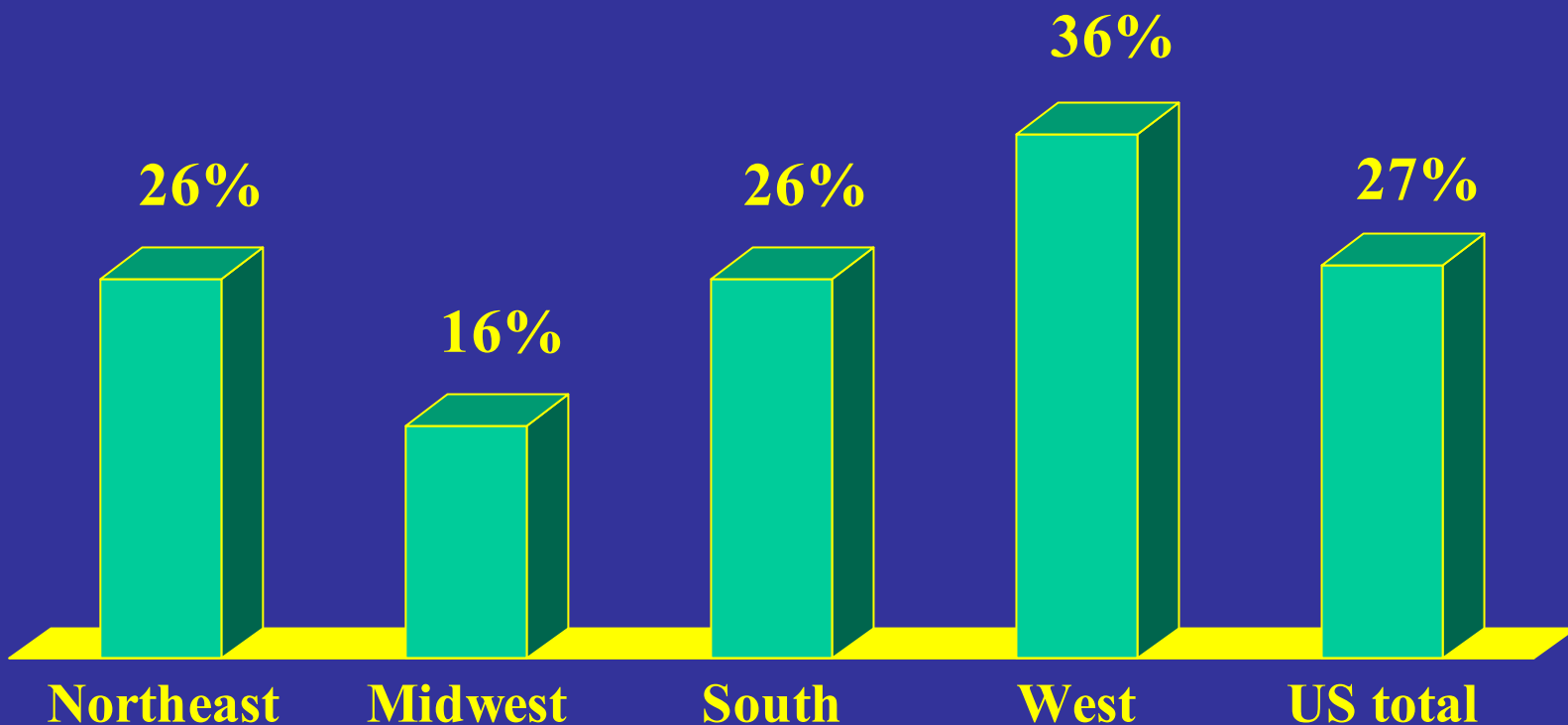


About one-third of all elderly – with small variations across the regions – live alone and are thus more vulnerable to social isolation.



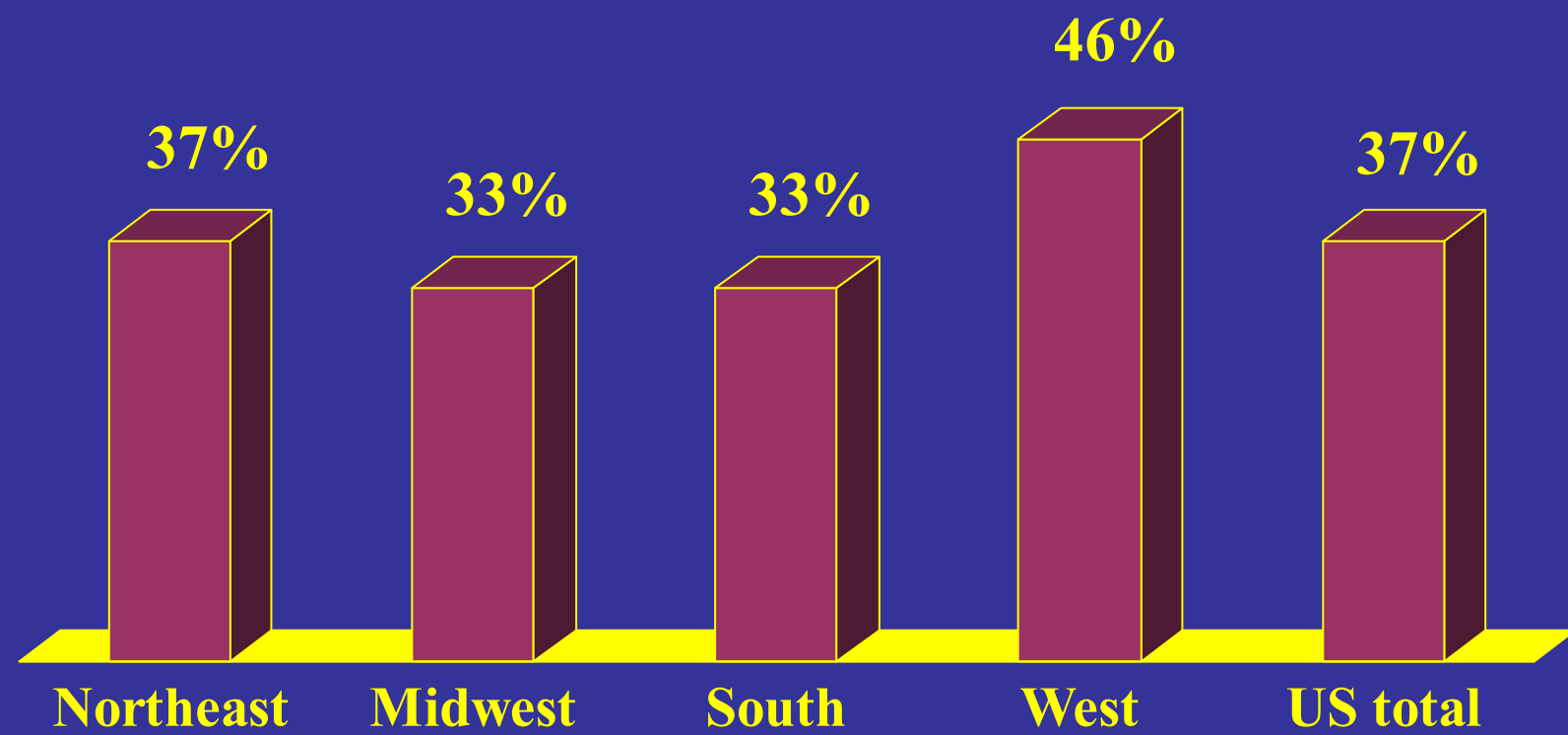


Among elderly Jews, proportionally fewer in the Midwest report that they or another household member have a health condition that limits daily activities.



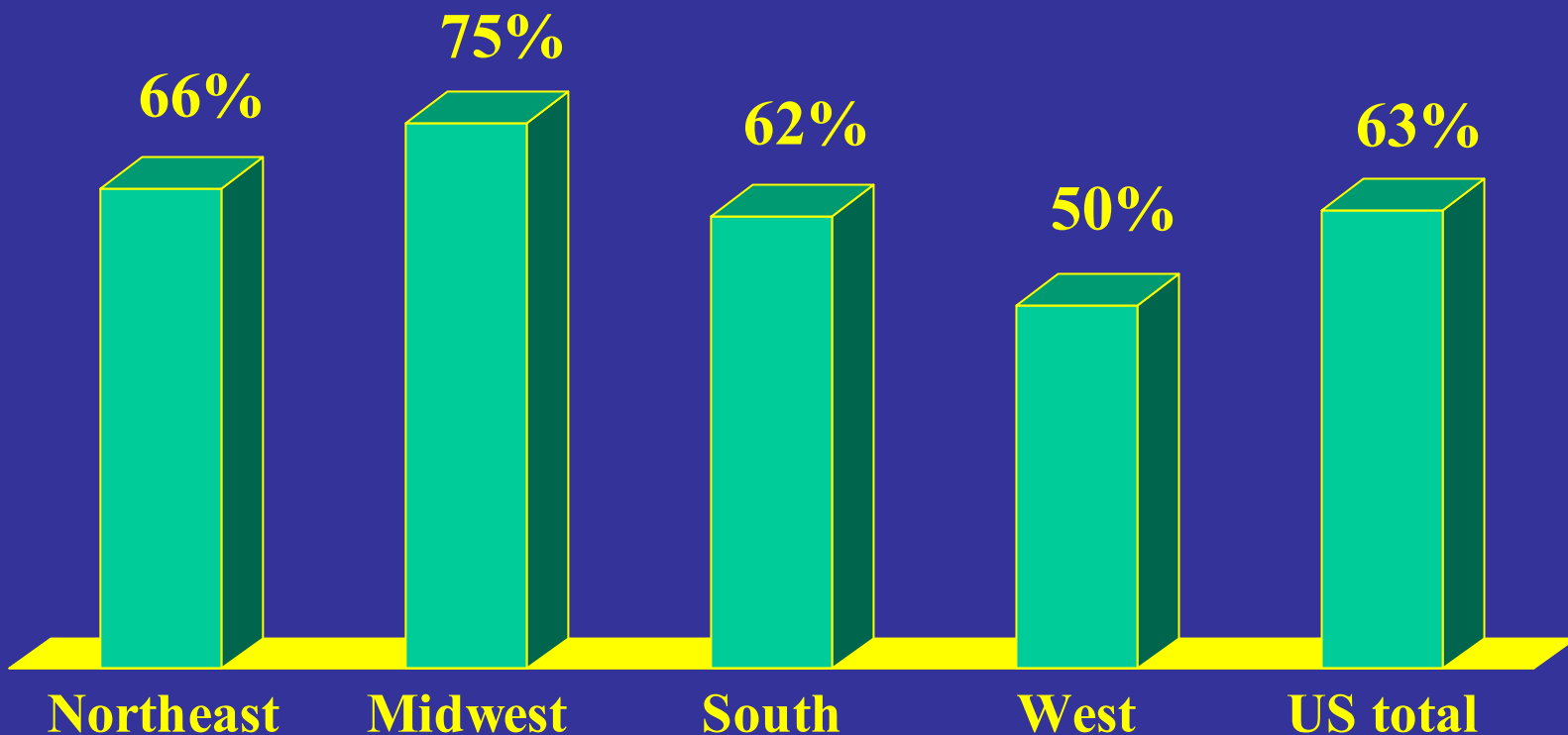


Proportionally fewer elderly Jews in the Midwest and the South report household incomes under \$25,000.





Proportionally more elderly Jews in the Midwest are affiliated* with at least one Jewish organization (synagogue, JCC or other).



Regional differences



Questions?