

February 1991

ESTIMATE AND DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY OF
JEWISH POPULATION
IN GREATER MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Conducted by Dr. Madan Capoor

For The Jewish Federation of
Greater Middlesex County

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	Introduction	1
II.	Results	1
	1. Population Estimates	1
	2. Regional Distribution of Jewish Households	3
	3. Size of Household	6
	4. Demographic Background	6
	a. Sex	6
	b. Age	7
	5. Marital Status	7
	6. Education, Employment and Income	9
	a. Education	9
	b. Employment	9
	c. Income	11
	7. Housing and Residence	12
	a. Type of Housing	12
	b. Ownership	13
	c. Years Lived in the Area	13
	d. Likelihood of Moving Out	15
	8. Characteristics of Household Members	15
	a. Living Part of the Year Outside GMC	15
	b. Not Born in U.S.A.	16
	c. Non-Jewish Persons in Jewish Households	16
	9. Needs of Younger Members of Jewish Population	17
	a. Type of Jewish School Attended	17
	b. Percent Expected to Receive Jewish Education	17
	c. Percent Expected to Attend Jewish High School	18
	d. Likelihood of Attending Rutgers	18
	e. Need Day Care	19
	10. Characteristics and Needs of Older Persons	19
	11. Disability Among the Jewish Population	21

12. Commitment to Jewish Faith	21
a. Jewish Denomination	21
b. Belong to a Synagogue/Temple	22
c. Jewish Education	23
d. Jewish Practices	23
i. Bar/Bat Mitzvah	23
ii. Passover Seder	23
iii. Fast on Yom Kippur	24
iv. Kosher Meat	24
v. Christmas Tree	24
13. Community Commitment	25
a. Belong to Jewish Organizations	25
b. Volunteer Work	26
c. Visited Israel	26
d. Contributions to Jewish Federation	27
e. Read Jewish Star	27
f. Use Jewish Services	28
14. Priorities for Jewish Action	29
a. Combating Anti-Semitism	29
b. Support Israel	29
c. Jewish Social Services	30
d. Residential Care for the Elderly	30
e. Educational Services	30
f. Recreational Services	30
g. Funds to Support Israel	31
h. Resettlement of Soviet Jews in Israel	32
Appendix A - Methodology and Caution in Interpreting the Results	33

LIST OF CHARTS

Chart I	Distribution of Jewish Population in Greater Middlesex	4
Chart II	Comparative Age Distribution of the Jewish and General Population	8
Chart III	Comparative Educational Levels Computed by Jewish Males and Females	8
Chart IV	Income of Jewish Households	10
Chart V	Number of Years Lived in Greater Middlesex	14
Chart VI	Religious Denomination	20
Chart VII	Years of Jewish Education by Sex	20

DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY OF JEWISH COMMUNITY
IN GREATER MIDDLESEX COUNTY

I. Introduction

Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County, this study was undertaken to estimate the number and characteristics of the Jews living in Greater Middlesex County which includes Middlesex County and Franklin Township located in Somerset County.

The study was conducted on the basis of a telephone survey of randomly selected households in the study area.

Detailed methodology of the survey is enclosed in Appendix A.

II. Results

1. Population Estimates

As the number of challenges to the recent census counts have shown, estimates of population, even when based on surveying each and every household, do not provide satisfactory results. For example, a sample re-check by the Census Bureau of five counties in New Jersey discovered more than three thousand persons who had been missed in the official count of the 1990 census. The problem of estimating population is further compounded when the estimates are based on a survey of a small sampling of households. In view of this, the population estimates are reported in terms of a range rather than a fixed number.

Of the 1,626 households surveyed, 156 or 9.6% were found to be Jewish. In converting this percentage of households into a percentage of general population, the relative size of the Jewish household was taken into consideration. It was found that on an average, a Jewish household was 3.3% smaller than households in the general population. Adjusting for this difference (9.6×0.033), 9.6% of Jewish households translated into 9.3% of general population living in Jewish households.

Further, the survey results showed that 5.6% of persons living in Jewish households were non-Jewish. Adjusting for this (9.3×0.056), the estimate of Jewish population was reduced to 8.8%. Allowing for a five percent plus or minus variance to account for sampling and response bias errors, based upon 714,560 as a preliminary 1990 census estimate of population in Greater Middlesex County, the estimate of Jewish population in the study area would range from a low estimate of 59,300 (8.3%) to an upper estimate of 66,500 (9.3%). In using a single number, the middle estimate of 62,900 may be used.

The following procedure was used to check the reliability of these estimates of the Jewish population. Based on the responses to the question whether re-

spondents had made a contribution to the Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County, separate estimates of the number of households making these contributions were made on the basis of the 156 respondents from the original list and 153 respondents from the JFGMC list. It should be remembered that the respondents from the original list alone were used for estimating the Jewish population. Hence, an independent estimate of households making a contribution to JFGMC based on respondents from the JFGMC list provided a check on similar estimates based on the 156 respondents from the original list. It was found that the estimate of the Jewish households making contributions to JFGMC based on the sample from the general population was only 3.3% below a similar estimate derived from the respondents from the JFGMC list. This was within the range of five percent error already allowed in the estimates of the Jewish population.

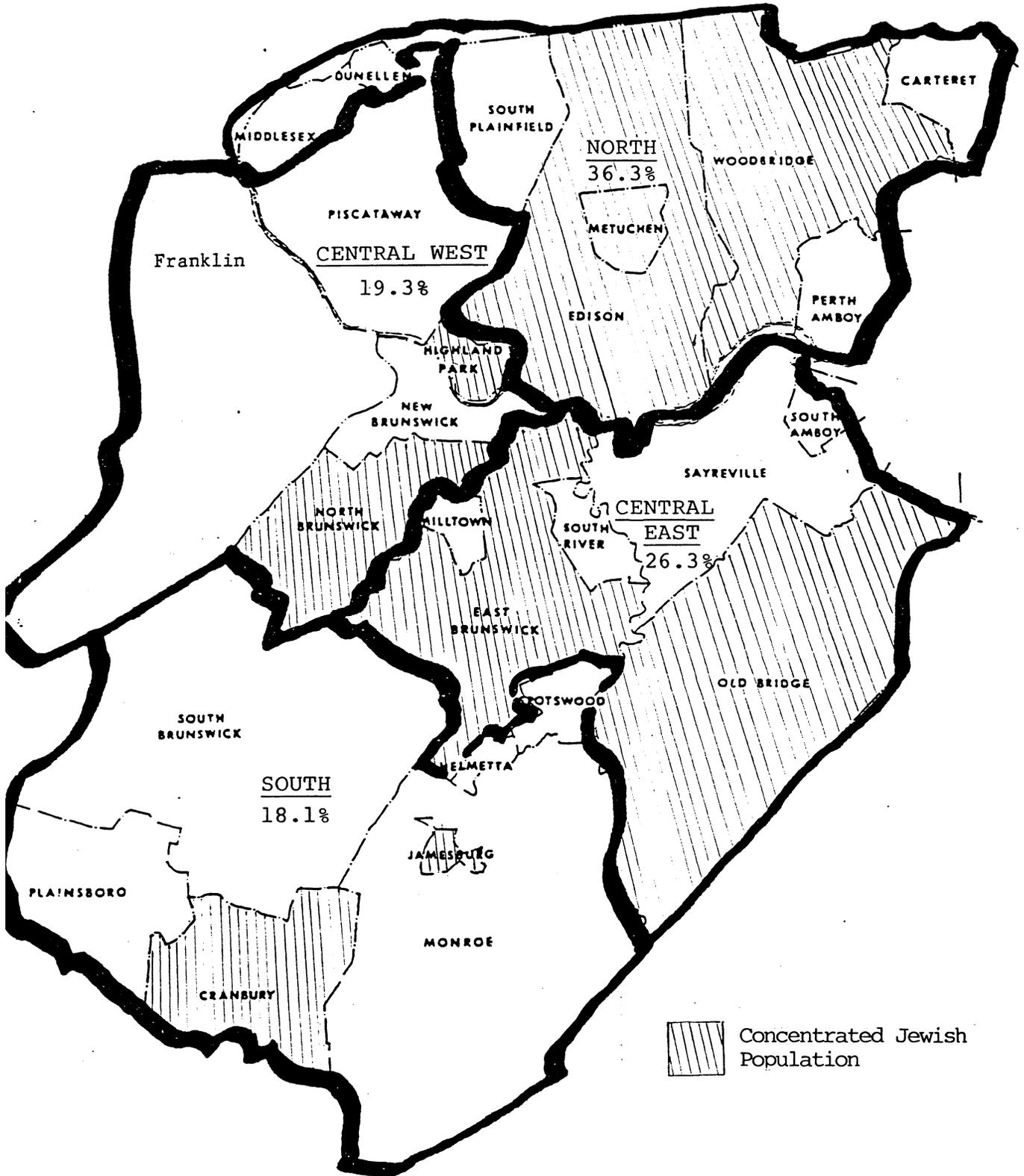
2. Regional Distribution of Jewish Households

Given the small number of respondents from individual towns in the study area, it would have been quite unreliable to estimate the distribution of Jewish households by each town. In the interest of greater reliability, distribution estimates are given by four regional areas. Towns included in these areas are listed below. Regional distribution of Jewish population in the area is presented graphically in Chart I.

CHART I

DISTRIBUTION OF JEWISH POPULATION

IN GREATER MIDDLESEX



a. North:

Consisting of Carteret, Dunellen, Edison, Metuchen, Middlesex, Perth Amboy, South Plainfield and Woodbridge.

b. Central West:

Including Franklin Park, Somerset, Highland Park, New Brunswick, North Brunswick and Piscataway.

c. Central East:

Consisting of East Brunswick, Milltown, Old Bridge, Sayreville, South Amboy, South River, and Spotswood.

d. South:

Including Cranbury, Helmetta, Jamesburg, Monroe, Plainsboro, and South Brunswick.

The largest percentage of Jewish households was found to be in the North (36.3%), with eighty percent of these households located in Edison and Woodbridge.

The next largest concentration of Jewish households was in the Central East (26.3%) with East Brunswick and Old Bridge accounting for more than 70% of these households.

Central West (19.3%) and South (18.1%) appeared to have approximately similiar percentages of the households. In the Central West, Highland Park and North Brunswick accounted for more than two-thirds of the households, while in the Southern region, Cranbury and Jamesburg seem to account for nearly 80% of the households.

Overall, the biggest concentration of Jewish households appears to be in the Edison/Metuchen/Woodbridge area.

3. Size of Household

About 10% of the households consisted of a single person; 38% were occupied by a couple; 42% of the households had three to four persons living in them; while about 10% of the households consisted of more than four persons. It appears that fewer Jewish households were occupied by a single person than what appears to be true of the general population in the country.

4. Demographic Background

a. Sex:

There appear to be more females (51.5%) than males in the Jewish population. This percentage for females is the same as in the general population in Middlesex County.

b. Age:

In terms of age, as in the general population, the greatest concentration of population (more than 40%) appears to be between the ages of 25 and 54, which includes the baby boom generation. The distribution of population in different age groups was as follows: 7.7% below six years, 9.7% between 6 and 14 years old, 6.7% between 15 and 19 years old; 12% between 18 and 24 years; 43.5% between 25 and 54 years; 11% between 55 and 64 years old; and 12.1% over 64 years old.

Overall, the age distribution of the Jewish population was quite similar to that of the general population in Middlesex County. Chart II shows a graphic comparison between the estimated age distribution of the Jewish and the general population in the area. 1990 age distribution estimates of the general population are for Middlesex County made by the Middlesex County Planning Board in 1986.

5. Marital Status

Among the Jewish adults (more than 24 years old), 81.7% were married, 3.6% were divorced or separated, 3.6% were widowed and 11.1% had never married.

CHART II

Comparative Age Distribution Of the Jewish and General Populations

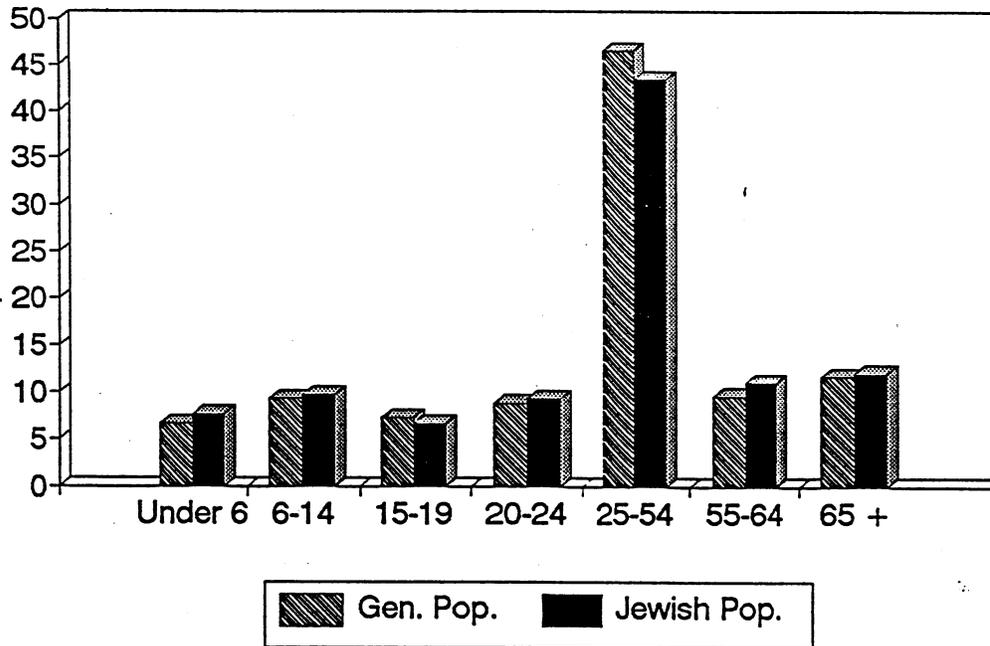
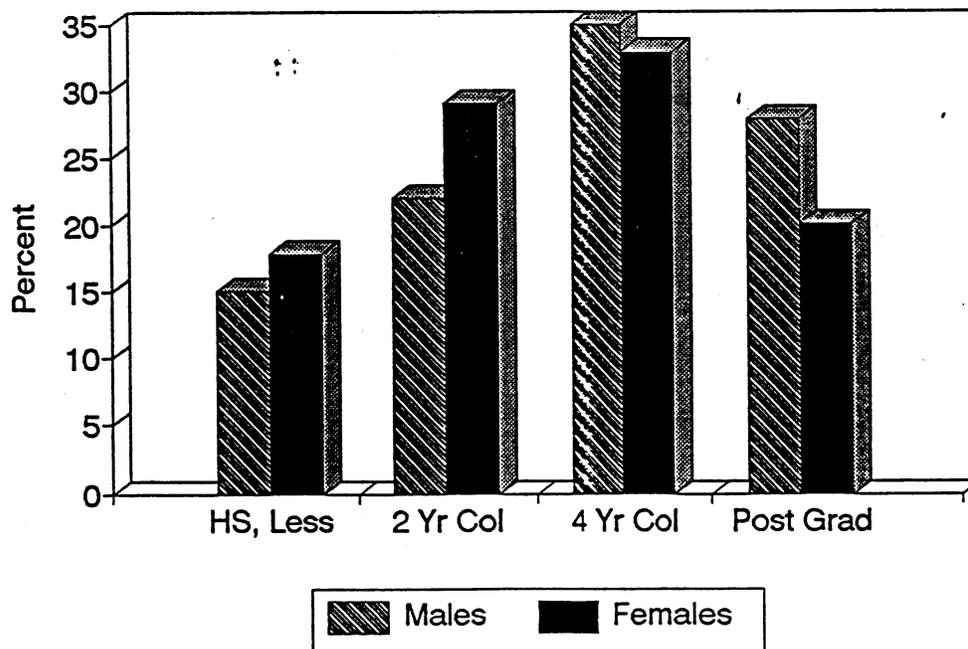


CHART III

Educational Levels Completed Jewish Males & Females (Age 19+)



. Education, Employment and Income

a. Education

Among the Jewish adults (more than 19 years old), only about two percent had less than high school education; 26.3% of males and 32.3% of females had completed high school or some college without a college degree; 9% of males and 12.4% of females had a two year degree; while 35% of males and 33% of females had a four year degree. While a slightly greater proportion of females (16.1%) than males (14.2%) had a masters degree, more of males (13.6%) than females (4%) had a professional degree or a doctorate. See Chart III.

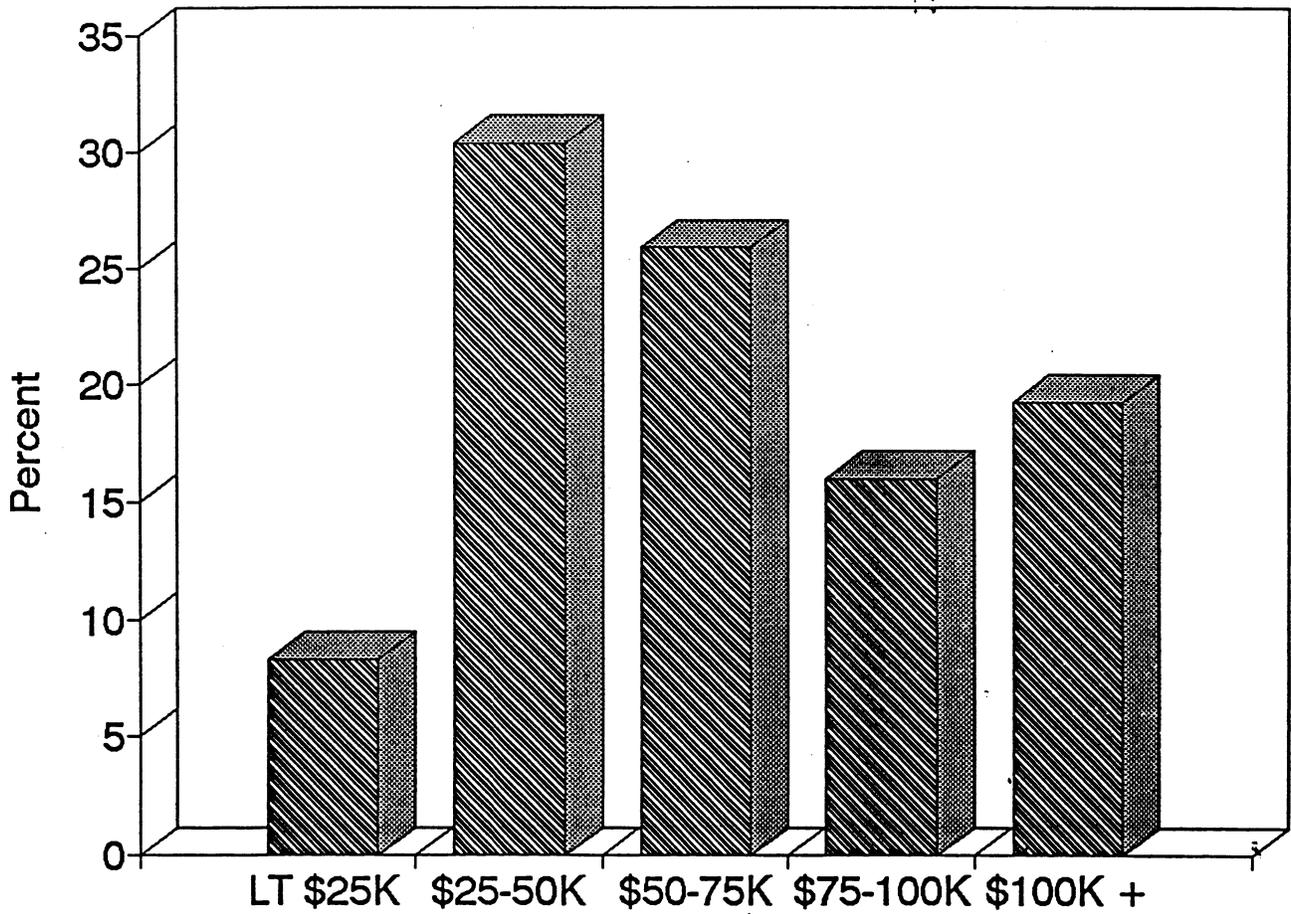
b. Employment

About 77% of the Jewish adults between the ages of 21 and 60, who were working, were employed full-time, while the remaining were working part-time.

Among the head of households, less than 4% were working in unskilled or semi-skilled jobs; 8.5% had skilled jobs (carpenters, electricians, photographers, etc.); 21.8% had white collar jobs (clerical, sales, etc.); 11.7% owned or managed small business or had a technical job; about 34% held a professional job requiring at least a four year degree (engineer, teacher, mid-level administrator, etc.); and nearly 21% owned or managed a large business or held a professional or administrative position requiring at least a masters or professional degree.

CHART IV

Income of Jewish Households



Head of households with blue color jobs were more likely to reside in Cranbury, Jamesburg, New Brunswick, Franklin/Somerset, or South Plainfield and were more likely to be Orthodox, than Conservative or Reform Jews.

c. Income

Less than 3% of the households had an income below \$12,500. However about 70 percent of the head of these households were working part-time. About 6 per cent of the households had an income between \$12,500 and \$25,000, 30 percent had an income between \$25,000 and \$50,000, 26 percent had an income between \$50,000 and \$75,000, 16 percent had an income between \$75,000 and \$100,000 and slightly more than 19 percent of the households had an income above \$100,000. On an average, the Reform households had the highest income, while the Orthodox households had the lowest income. Households with more than \$75,000 annual income were more likely to reside in East Brunswick, Edison, Old Bridge, Metuchen, Piscataway, or South Brunswick; households with an income between \$50,000 and \$75,000 were more likely to be in Franklin/Somerset, Highland Park, Jamesburg, Milltown, South Amboy, South Brunswick or

South River; while low income households (below \$25,000) were more likely to be in New Brunswick or Perth Amboy. Income levels of Jewish households is shown in Chart IV.

While higher incomes were generally associated with higher occupational status, even head of households with unskilled, semi-skilled or skilled jobs had decent family income. For example, 16% of these households had an income above \$75,000, another 16% had incomes between \$50,000 and \$75,000, 65% had incomes between \$25,000 and \$50,000, and only 8% had a family income below \$25,000.

7. Housing and Residence

a. Type of Housing

Most Jewish households (69.5%) occupied a single family home; 21.3% resided in a townhouse or a condominium; while 9.2% were in an apartment or an elderly or nursing home. A greater proportion of the households were likely to occupy an apartment or a condo/townhouse in the following towns; Cranbury, Jamesburg, Franklin/Somerset, North Brunswick and South Plainfield.

b. Ownership

Eighty nine percent of the households owned their residences, while 11% rented them. A greater proportion of the households rented their housing in Old Bridge, Perth Amboy, Franklin/Somerset, Piscataway, and Highland Park than in other towns.

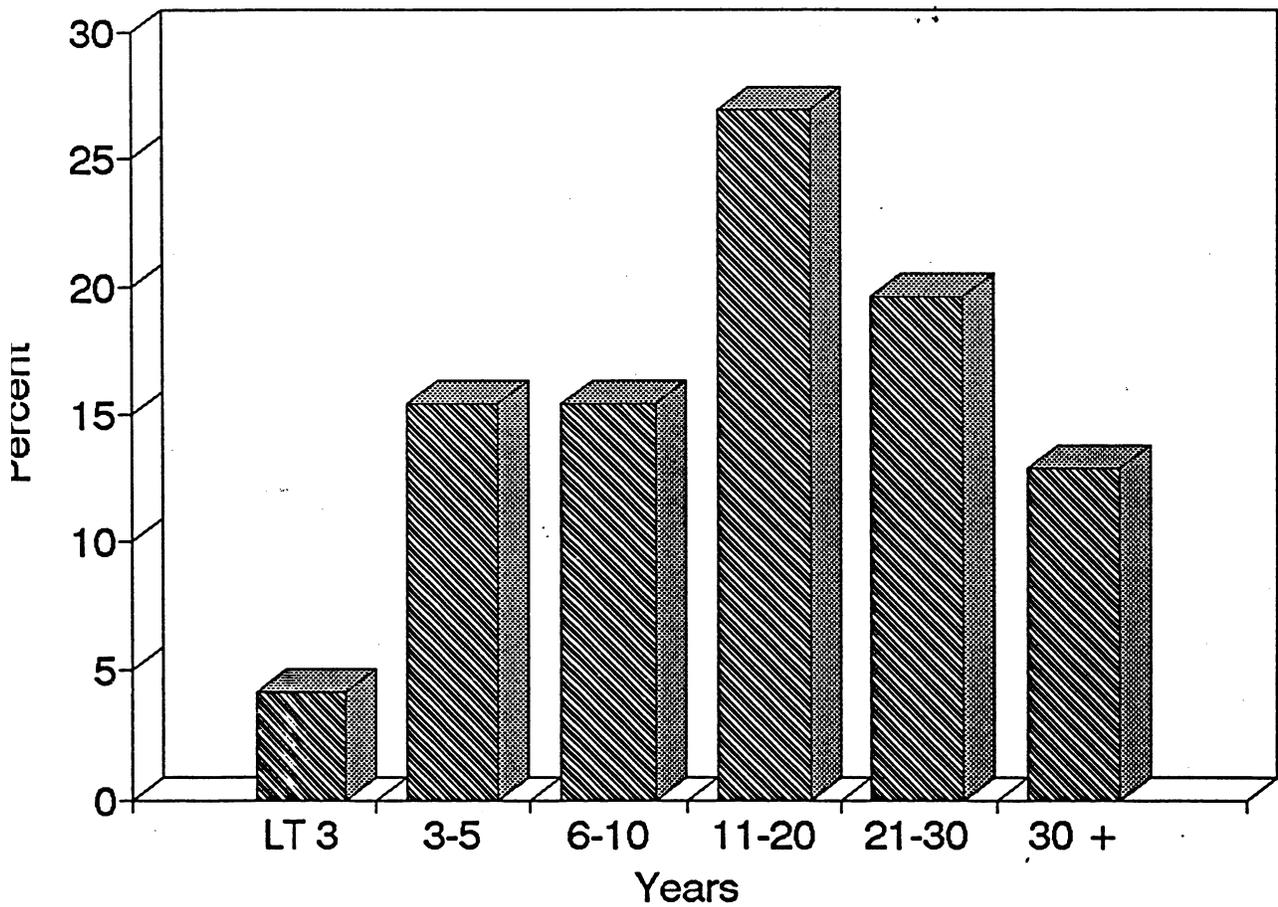
c. Years Lived in the Area

About 4% of the households had moved into Greater Middlesex County in the last two years; 15.4% had lived in the area from three to five years; another 15.4% had lived in the area between 6 and 10 years; 26.9% had resided in the area between 11 and 20 years; 19.6% had lived from 21 to 30 years; and 12.9 had resided in the area for more than thirty years. More than five percent of the respondents refused to answer this question. Years of residence in Grater Middlesex County are shown in Chart V.

A greater proportion of the households in Cranbury, Franklin/Somerset, Jamesburg, North Brunswick, and South Brunswick were likely to have moved into the area during the last five years; while more of the households in East Brunswick, Metuchen, Milltown, South Amboy, Piscataway and Woodbridge were likely to have lived in the area for more than fifteen years.

CHART V

Years Lived in Greater Middlesex



d. Likelihood of Moving Out

No more than five percent (5.4%) of the households were likely to move out of the area; 11.5% indicated that it was somewhat likely; while the majority (73.4%) of the households indicated no likelihood of moving out of the area. More than 9% refused to answer this question.

Respondents from the following towns indicated a greater likelihood of moving out than those from other towns; Franklin/Somerset, Metuchen, New Brunswick, Old Bridge, South Plainfield, and South River.

8. Characteristics of Household Members

a. Living Part of the Year Outside GMC

About 6% of the persons living in Jewish households live part of the year outside Greater Middlesex County. More than one percent (1.2%) spend 1 to 2 months a year away from the area; another 1.2% live away 3 to 4 months; 2.1% are away 5 to 6 months; while 1.5% spend more than 6 months in a year away from home.

b. Persons Not Born in USA

More than 7 percent (7.2%) of those living in the Jewish households were not born in U.S.A. Most of them were born in Eastern Europe (35.1%), East/West Germany (18.9%) or Soviet Union (16.2%). Another 16.2 percent were born in Israel, while 5.4% were born in Canada. About 8% were born in other countries.

More than 19% of those not born in the U.S. came to U.S.A. before World War II started. About 27% came between 1940 and 1960; about 36% came during the sixties and seventies, while about 18% came during the last ten years.

c. Non-Jewish Persons in Jewish Households

Almost 6% of the persons living in Jewish households were non-Jewish who had not converted to Judaism. Most of them were Catholics (55%); about 16% were Protestants; about 10% did not subscribe to any religion, while 19% refused to disclose their religion. In addition, about one percent of the household members were non-Jewish who had converted to Judaism; 90% of them converted from Catholicism, while 10% from the Protestant religion.

9. Needs of Younger Members of Jewish Population

a. Type of Jewish School Attended by Children under 18 Years Old.

About 21.5% of the Jewish population was under 18 years of age. Of these about two-thirds had attended a Jewish school at some time; 25% had attended a day school, Yeshiva or other full-time school; 34% had attended an afternoon school, Talmud Torah, or other Jewish school meeting more than once a week; and 6.5% had attended Sunday school, or one-day a week program. Information was not provided for about one-third of the children.

Almost all children coming from the Orthodox families were likely to attend Jewish day school.

While children from the Conservative and Reform families were more likely to attend Jewish school in the afternoon.

b. Percent Expected to Receive Jewish Education

About 90% of the children who had not already received Jewish education were expected to receive it. All children in the Orthodox families were expected to receive Jewish education while children in 85% of the Conservative and 72% of the

Reform households were expected to receive Jewish education. A greater proportion of the children in households headed by persons with professional jobs requiring four or more years of college education or with semi-skilled or skilled jobs were likely to receive Jewish education than those in households headed by persons with clerical or technical jobs requiring two years or less of college education.

c. Percent Expected to Attend Jewish High School.

About 21% of the children were expected to attend a Jewish high school in the future. More of the children from Orthodox families (87%) were likely to attend a Jewish high school than children from Conservative (26%) or Reform (13%) families.

d. Likelihood of Attending Rutgers

About 8.5% of the children were very likely and 24.4% were somewhat likely to attend Rutgers. More children from the Conservative families (22%) were likely to attend Rutgers than those from the Reform families (11%). Very few of the children from the Orthodox families were likely to attend Rutgers.

e. Need Day Care Program

About 30% of the children under six years old were enrolled in a daycare program. None of these children came from an Orthodox Jewish family.

It appears that about 12% of the under 6 years old children who were not attending daycare needed daycare. In other words, about 8.5 percent of all children who are under 6 years old need daycare but for some reason they are not enrolled in a daycare program.

10. Characteristics and Needs of Older (over 60) Persons

It was reported that almost all the persons over 60 years old could leave home unassisted.

About 92% of these older persons had access to a car, and 82% of them could drive at night.

About 51% of those over 60 years old had participated in an organized social or recreational program during the previous 6 months.

More of the older people living in the following towns indicated so than those living in other areas; Cranbury, East Brunswick, Edison, New Brunswick and Woodbridge.

CHART VI

Jewish Denominations

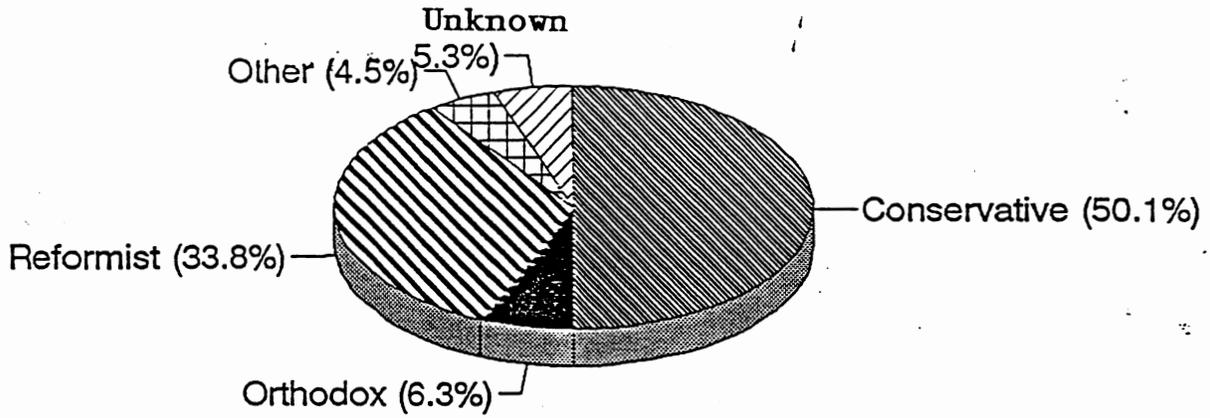
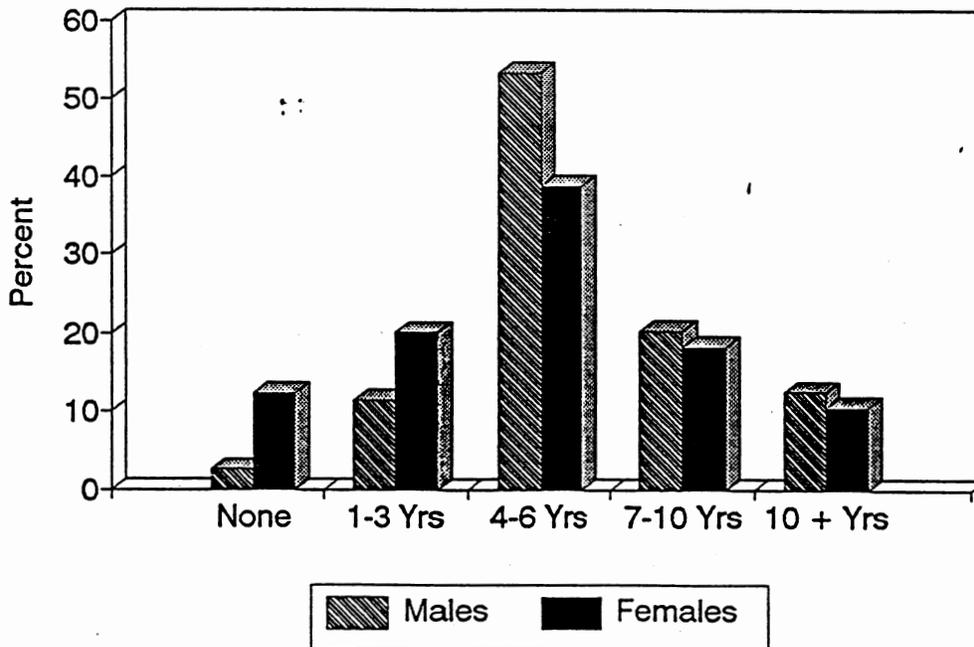


CHART VII

Years of Jewish Education

Jewish Male & Female Adults (Age 19+)



About 68% of the older people had a family relative living in the area on whom they could rely upon for assistance or care. More of the older persons living in the following towns indicated that they did not have a family living in the area; Cranbury, New Brunswick, East Brunswick, Edison, Metuchen, Perth Amboy, and South Brunswick.

11. Disability Among the Jewish Population

It was reported that about 1.5 percent of the Jewish population, same as in the general population in the county, suffered from some kind of permanent disability which limited their daily activities or that required special assistance. The disabilities related to mobility(43%), visual(14%), hearing(21%) and other sort(21%).

12. Commitment to Jewish Faith

a. Jewish Denomination

About 50% of the Jewish households were found to be of Conservative persuasion, about 34% were Reform, slightly more than 6% (6.3%) Orthodox, and about 1% Reconstructionist. More than 3% cited other persuasions, while about 5% refused to provide this information. The breakdown of Jewish

population by religious denomination is shown in Chart VI.

Comparatively, the following towns had a greater concentration of the Conservative families: New Brunswick, Metuchen, North Brunswick, Old Bridge, South Amboy, South Brunswick and Woodbridge. There was a greater concentration of the Orthodox families in Highland Park, Jamesburg and Perth Amboy. While the Reform families were more likely to reside in Cranbury, East Brunswick, Edison, Franklin Township, Jamesburg and Milltown.

b. Belong to a Synagogue/Temple

About 60% of the Jewish households belonged to a synagogue or a temple. Comparatively, a greater proportion of households in the following towns belonged to a synagogue; East Brunswick, Edison, Jamesburg, New Brunswick, Metuchen and Perth Amboy.

About 88% of the households had belonged to a synagogue at some time. About 24% of the households attended a synagogue only on high holidays; 35% attended several times a year or on special occasions only; about 7% attended a synagogue once a month; about 14% attended once a week or more often; while about 6% refused to provide the information.

The Orthodox Jews attended a synagogue/temple much more frequently than either the Conservative or the Reform Jews.

c. Jewish Education

Out of 70% of Jewish persons for whom the information was provided, only about 7% did not have any Jewish education. About 8% had 1-3 years of Jewish education, 46% had 4-6 years of Jewish education, while 39% had more than 6 years of Jewish education. Number of years of Jewish education by sex are shown in Chart VII.

d. Jewish Practices

i. Bar/Bat Mitzvah

Only about 44% of the respondents indicated that they had a Bar or Bat Mitzvah when they were young.

ii. Passover Seder

About 83% of the households participated in Passover Seder every year, 7.9% participated only sometimes, 4.8% never participated, while 4.5% did not provide the information.

iii. Fast on Yom Kippur

About 65% of the respondents kept a fast on Yom Kippur every year, 7.3% kept the fast sometimes, 23% did not keep the fast and 4.5% did not provide the information. The Orthodox Jews were more likely to keep a fast on Yom Kippur (86%) than either the Conservative (78%) or the Reform Jews (58%).

iv. Kosher Meat

Only about 28% of the Jewish households always used kosher meat or poultry, 37.5% used it sometimes, 28.7% never used it, 1.5% were vegetarians and 4.5% did not provide the information. While 67% of the Orthodox households always used kosher meat, 41% of the Conservative households did so and only 8% of the Reform households always used kosher meat. Generally, it was found that higher the income of the head of household, the greater the likelihood of using kosher meat.

v. Christmas Tree

About 84% of the Jewish households never had a Christmas tree in their home, 4.5% had it sometimes, while 6.3% had it every year. About 5% of the respondents did not provide the information.

As could be expected, there was a strong relationship between attending a synagogue or temple and observing the Jewish practices, e.g., the greater the frequency of attending a synagogue/temple, the greater the likelihood of keeping a fast on Yom Kippur, participating in Passover Seder, buying kosher meat and not having a Christmas tree.

13. Community Commitment

a. Belong to Jewish Organizations

One or more persons from about 50% of the Jewish households belonged to some Jewish organization. There was again a strong relationship between the frequency of attending a synagogue/temple and the likelihood of belonging to a Jewish organization. Also, households headed by a person with a college degree were more likely to belong to a Jewish organization than otherwise.

The organizations to which 50% of the Jewish households belonged were as follows:

Hadassah	20.5%
B'nai B'rith	13.6%
Jewish Federation Committee	4.5%
ORT	4.2%

YM-YWHA or Jewish Community Center	3.6%
National Council of Jewish Women	3.0%
Anti-Defamation League	2.4%
Jewish War Veterans	1.8%
American Jewish Committee	1.5%
American Jewish Congress	1.2%
American Israel Public Affairs Committee	0.3%
Others	3.6%
Don't know/refused	39.6%
Total	100.0%

b. Volunteer Work

About 41% of the households indicated that during the last year someone in the household had done volunteer work for a Jewish organization, including a synagogue.

c. Visited Israel

At least one person had visited Israel from about 45% of the households. No one had visited Israel from 27% of the households and no specific information could be obtained from 28% of the households. About 38% of the households had one or two

persons who had visited Israel, while more than two persons had visited Israel from about 7% of the families. Orthodox Jews and Jews who attended synagogue more frequently were more likely to have visited Israel. Also, higher the family income the more likely it was that a member of the family had visited Israel, except among families with income of more than \$100,000 per year.

d. Contributions to Jewish Federation

Sixty one percent of the households claimed to have contributed funds to the Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County. Twenty-seven percent of the households had not made any contribution, while about twelve percent of the households declined to provide the information.

The Conservative and the Orthodox households were more likely to make contribution to the JFGMC than the Reform households. Also, the higher the family income or the occupational status, the greater the likelihood of making a contribution to the JFGMC.

e. Read Jewish Star

About two thirds of the households appeared to read The Jewish Star; 29% did not read it and about 5% of the households did not provide the information.

More of the Conservative and Orthodox households read The Jewish Star than the Reform households, and higher the occupational status of the head of household (which goes with a higher level of education and income), the greater the likelihood that The Jewish Star was read in that household.

The Jewish Star was more often read in the North, in such towns as Edison and Metuchen, and in the South, in such towns as Cranbury and South Brunswick, than in the Central East or the Central West. However, Sayreville, East Brunswick and North Brunswick had high readership of The Jewish Star.

f. Use Jewish Services

In 26.7% of the households, one or more members of the household had made use of the Jewish Family Service of Northern Middlesex; 20.4% of the households had used the Jewish Community Center of Middlesex County in Edison; 15.1% had used the Perth Amboy YM-YWHA; 14.2% had used the Jewish Family Service of Southern Middlesex; 11% had made use of the Rabbi Pesach Raymon Yeshiva; 6.6% had used the Central N.J. Jewish Home for the Aged; 4.4% had

used the Highland Park YM-YWHA; 3.5% had used the B'nai B'rith Hillel at Rutgers; another 3.5% had used the Day School of Essex and Union in Cranford; while only 0.3% had used the Day School in East Brunswick. Many households indicated using more than one of these services or facilities, and the percentages given above reflect this.

14. Priorities for Jewish Action

a. Combating Anti-Semitism

Nearly all of the responding Jewish households (99%) considered it important or very important to combat anti-Semitism. About 5% of the households did not provide information on this or other questions regarding the issues and causes that need support from the Jews.

b. Support Israel

About 93% of the households supported maintaining public support for Israel. Even though support for Israel was high among all the three groups, there was greater support for Israel among the Conservative households, than among the Orthodox or the Reform households.

c. Jewish Social Services

An overwhelming majority (94.3%) of the responding households considered it important or very important to provide Jewish social services including counseling. There was nearly 100% support for this among the Orthodox households.

d. Residential Care for the Elderly

Nearly all the responding households (97.7%) supported providing residential care for Jewish elderly population.

e. Educational Services

More than 91% of the households supported the provision of Jewish educational services. There was greater support for providing educational services among the Orthodox households (100%) than among the Conservative or the Reform households.

f. Recreational Services

Comparatively, a slightly smaller percentage of the households (83.3%) supported the provision of recreational services. There was greater support of recreational services among households with an income of less than \$50,000 than among those with higher incomes. Also, there appeared to be a relatively weaker support for recreation services

among households residing in Franklin/Somerset, Jamesburg, Metuchen, Piscataway, and Woodbridge.

g. Funds to Support Israel

About 34% of the households considered it extremely important to contribute funds to support Israel, while 41.9% considered it moderately important. About 12% of the households were opposed to it; 2.6% because of the situation in Israel and 9.6% because they would prefer that their funds be used for other purposes. About 12% of the households did not provide any information.

As compared to the Orthodox and Conservative households, the Reform households were less likely to contribute funds to support Israel, largely because of the situation there.

About 17% of the Reform households were unhappy with the current situation in Israel as opposed to 4% of the Conservatives and none of the Orthodox households. Also, higher occupational status went with greater willingness to support Israel with contributions.

h. Resettlement of Soviet Jews in Israel

About 73% of the Jewish households agreed or strongly agreed that American Jews should financially support the resettlement of Soviet Jews in Israel. About 9% strongly disagreed with this, while the remaining households refused to answer the question. Comparatively, the Reform households were more likely to oppose this than either the Conservatiave or the Orthodox households. Also, greater the occupational status of the head of household, the greater was the support for resettlSoviet Jews in Israel.

Appendix A

1. Survey Methodology and Caution in Interpreting the Results

In consultation with the staff and the Executive Committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County (JFGMC), a survey questionnaire was developed. The questionnaire was tested on volunteers provided by the JFGMC.

A consulting firm was asked to draw a random sample of residential telephone numbers (excluding business and government numbers). The selected random sample consisted of 5,000 telephone numbers.

The original plan to use volunteers to conduct telephone surveys was given up due to lack of sufficient volunteers. A professional firm was contacted to conduct telephone surveys. In order to allow meaningful interpretation of survey responses, it was agreed that the survey should yield responses from at least three hundred Jewish households. However, more than sixty percent of the households selected for the survey could not be surveyed due to a variety of reasons which included non-working or business telephone numbers, language

problems, no answer or inability to reach an adult and refusal by the respondent to answer questions despite repeated calls. The originally selected 5,000 numbers were augmented about twenty percent by bumping the numbers, i.e. by calling a number immediately below or above the original number. Despite this augmented sample, the survey resulted in interviewing only 156 Jewish households.

In order to increase the number of Jewish household surveys, 670 telephone numbers were randomly selected from the list of Jewish households on the JFGMC mailing list. However, as these numbers had not been randomly selected from the general population of Greater Middlesex County, responses resulting from the survey of these numbers were used separately from the ones resulting from the original randomly selected sample of general population in the area.

For estimating the Jewish population in the study area, only 156 surveys resulting from the original sample of general population were used, while 309 surveys resulting from both the original sample and from the numbers selected from the JFGMC list

were used to estimate the characteristics of the Jewish population.

Total telephone numbers called were 6,742 (5,000 randomly selected numbers, 1,072 additional numbers resulting from bumping and 670 numbers selected from the JFGMC list). Out of these, 1,205 were found to be non-working or business numbers; 123 had language or hearing problems; 2,051 were not answered or were answered by a minor and after three call-backs were given up. Contact was made with the remaining 3,363 households. Of these, 1,584 refused to talk. These refusals presumably came from both Jewish and non-Jewish households.

Finally, 1,779 households were surveyed, of which 153 were from the JFGMC list and 1,626 were from the original random numbers representing the general population.

2. Caution in Interpreting the Results

In order to avoid misinterpretation of results, it is necessary to keep the following possible sources of errors in mind.

a. Out of 6,072 random numbers representing the general population called and 3,363 actually contacted, only 1,626 households responded. It is quite possible that due to unknown "biases" in this lack of response, the actual households surveyed may not truly represent the general population in the study area.

b. Given the likelihood that the JFGMC mailing list is not truly representative of the total Jewish population in the study area, and due to any response bias, the completed surveys of 153 households from this list may not be representative of Jewish population in Greater Middlesex County. In fact, it was found that the Jewish respondents from the Jewish Federation list were somewhat more "Jewish" than the respondents selected from the general population, e.g. they were more likely to observe the Jewish practices such as regularly attending a synagogue, participating in Passover Seder, buying kosher meat and be more active in the Jewish community. As a result, it is quite likely that the portrait of the Jewish population as it appears in this report is somewhat more "Jewish" than is true of the overall Jewish population in the study area, i.e. the Jewish population in the area is somewhat

less committed to the Jewish practices, is less active in Jewish organizations, and probably contributes less to the Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex than what the results of this study appear to show.

- c. Due to the small number of responses on which the study is based, any generalizations based on further breakdown of the sample, e.g. by age or town, are likely to be less reliable than generalizations based on the total sample. In any case, the results reported in the study in the form of percentage breakdown of responses provide a rough estimate of the characteristics, opinions and practices among the Jews in the study area. They should not be taken as a precise representation of the reality.