

NJPS 1970-71:

The National Jewish Population Study (NJPS) 1970-71 data file is based upon in-person interviews with 5,790 respondents during 1970 and 1971 across the United States. The study was directed by Dr. Fred Massarik of the University of California at Los Angeles. Dr. Bernard Lazerwitz of the Public Opinion Survey Unit at the University of Missouri was responsible for the sample design and the initial computations of population estimates. Dr. Morris Axelrod of the Arizona State University was responsible for field supervision and data processing.

Sampling

The sample was stratified using the following criteria:

1. The entire United States was divided into primary sampling units, which consisted of a whole county or a group of contiguous counties.
2. As far as possible, each primary sampling unit contained a known Jewish community.
3. All primary sampling units without a known Jewish community were grouped into the “no known Jewish population” stratum.
4. Primary sampling units with Jewish communities were assigned Jewish population estimates based on the information provided by Alvin Chenkin of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds.
5. Primary sampling units with estimated populations of more than 40,000 Jews were brought into the survey. A few primary sampling units of lower population were brought into the sample because of the importance of their Jewish communities.
6. Other primary sampling units were grouped together until a stratum of approximately 40,000 Jews was reached. As far as possible, such strata were formed of primary sampling units within in the same state or within a contiguous group of states. Also, as far as possible the strata contained Jewish communities with approximately the same estimated Jewish population estimates.

Counties in the “no known Jews” stratum were sampled with equal probabilities, with a total of 14 such counties being sampled. There were 18 primary sampling units that just represented themselves and 20 primary sampling units representing themselves and other units.

Among the sampling units with Jewish communities, a random sample of households represented on Jewish federation lists (scrubbed of ineligible or duplicate addresses), supplemented by an area probability sample of households not on federation lists. Within the area probability sample, Jewish population estimates derived from distinctive Jewish names were developed to sub-divide this sample into post codes or census tracts with

high, medium and low Jewish populations. Among the high and medium Jewish population areas, randomly selected blocks were then selected from within the substratum, with differential sampling rates based on the appearance of each block. The New York sample was entirely area-probability based, as there existed no list that covered all Jews in the New York area.

Definition of Jewishness

Four questions were used in the screening process to identify Jewishly-connected households:

1. Was (person) born Jewish?
2. Is (person) Jewish now?
3. Was (person's) father born Jewish?
4. Was (person's) mother born Jewish?

A “yes” to any of these four questions, the household was qualified for further interviewing. Once a household was qualified, any adult respondent who knew the required information was interviewed as to family characteristics and individual behavioral items. One Jewish adult was then selected at random from among all Jewish adults in the household, and only that adult was asked the attitude and behavioral questions found in Section 1 of the survey instrument. The interview averaged 90 minutes in length. Adults were defined as persons of 21 years of age or older. Members of the family who were away temporarily were assigned to the household if they were in some form of group quarters or an institutional setting. Family members living in group quarters or an institutional setting for a lengthy or indefinite period were not regarded as members of the household.

Population Estimate

The study estimates approximately 1,950,000 Jewish households in the United States containing 5,800,000 people, 5,370,000 of whom were classified as core Jews. These estimates do not include the estimated 50,000 institutionalized Jews.

Working with the datafile

The datafile is organized by strata (VAR002), household within strata (VAR003) and individual within household (VAR004). In practical terms, this means that the number of valid cases is not the sample size. Rather, the number of valid households should be used as the sample size for tests of significance (VVAR350, explained below, generates the appropriate *n*). Because of the clustering effect of multiple cases drawn from the same PSU, analyses should be conducted using programs that can account for clustering, such as Stata, SUDDAN and WESVAR. Due to the complex sampling scheme, users of this datafile should use weights for any analysis. A detailed description of weighting procedures can be found in the methodology report. The weight that should be used are VAR350, weights for household units or VVAR350, a weight constructed by the Data

Bank in 2004 that sums to the number of households that participated in NJPS 1970-71, thereby avoiding excess statistical power.¹ No respondent weight is available.

NJPS 1970-71 was tied in with studies of local communities. Some households in the NJPS datafile only participated in local surveys. Users interested in NJPS data should therefore eliminate the households that only participated in the local surveys, by selecting on sample status (VAR349): VAR349 = 1 or VAR349 = 3.

Additionally, many users will be interested in restricting their analyses to current Jews. Three screener questions were asked to determine the person's religion: Jewish by birth (VAR013), currently Jewish (VAR014) and mother and/or father Jewish (VAR016 and VAR018). A variable (VVAR051) has been computed to take into account the screener questions (recoded variables have an additional "v" in the variable name). The coding scheme for VVAR051 is as follows:

- 1 = Born Jewish, Jewish now
- 2 = Born Jewish, not Jewish now
- 3 = Convert
- 4 = Not Jewish

Jews are selected by selecting if VVAR051 = 1 or VVAR051 = 3.

Dirty data

Illogical values may be found in most variables in the dataset. See below for an example of VAR007 (gender):

¹ The SPSS syntax used is as follows:

```
USE ALL.
COMPUTE filter_$=(VAR349 = 1 or VAR349 = 3).
VARIABLE LABEL filter_$ 'VAR349 = 1 or VAR349 = 3 (FILTER)'.
VALUE LABELS filter_$ 0 'Not Selected' 1 'Selected'.
FORMAT filter_$ (f1.0).
FILTER BY filter_$.
EXECUTE .

COMPUTE VVAR350 = VAR350 / 6.3892918825561312607944732297064 .

FREQUENCIES
  VARIABLES=vvar350
  /STATISTICS=MEAN SUM
  /ORDER= ANALYSIS .
```

VAR007 SEX OF ADULT 'FRO ADULT LIST BX'

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	0	7658	34.4	34.4	34.4
	1	6896	31.0	31.0	65.4
	2	7681	34.5	34.5	99.9
	3	4	.0	.0	99.9
	4	3	.0	.0	100.0
	5	1	.0	.0	100.0
	7	1	.0	.0	100.0
	9	8	.0	.0	100.0
	Total	22252	100.0	100.0	
Missing	System	7	.0		
Total		22259	100.0		

At this point it is unclear whether these illogical values were always present, came about due to deterioration of the original punchcards or deterioration of the magnetic tapes which the dataset was migrated to at an earlier point in time. Regardless of the genesis of this problem, users should be aware of its existence and take appropriate steps to respond, such as recoding to exclude illogical values or setting missing values to exclude out of range values.

Reports

Ten reports were issued:

- *Methodology*, Bernard Lazerwitz; approximately 49 pages, including appendices.
- *Demographic Highlights: Facts for Planning*, Alvin Chenkin (29 pages).
- *Demographic and Regional Population Counts: Facts for Planning*, Fred Massarik and Alvin Chenkin (6 pages).
- *Mobility: Facts for Planning*, Fred Massarik and Alvin Chenkin (6 pages).
- *The New York Jewish Population: Basic Demographic Characteristics*, Fred Massarik and Alvin Chenkin (37 pages). (This is a revised and expanded version of the article that appeared in the 1976 volume of the *American Jewish Year Book*.)
- *Jewish Identity: Facts for Planning*, Fred Massarik (18 pages).
- *Does Jewish Education Matter?* Geoffrey E. Bock (15 pages).
- *The Jewish Aging: Facts for Planning* (5 pages)
- *Intermarriage: Facts for Planning*, Fred Massarik (18 pages).
- *Jewish Community Services: Facts for Planning*, Fred Massarik (11 pages).

Other useful publications include

- Lazerwitz, Bernard. 1973. "The National Jewish Population Survey sample design." Pp. 47-61 in *Papers in Jewish Demography 1970*. Jerusalem: Institute of Contemporary Jewry, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
- Lazerwitz, Bernard. 1978. "Estimate of a rare population group: United States Jewish population." *Demography* 15(3): 389-394.
- Massarik, Fred and Alvin Chenkin. 1973. "United States National Jewish Population Study: A First Report." *American Jewish Year Book* 74: 264-306.
- Massarik, Fred. 1973. "The United States National Jewish Population Study: A note on concept and reality." Pp. 25-45 in *Papers in Jewish Demography 1970*. Jerusalem: Institute of Contemporary Jewry, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
- Massarik, Fred. 1974-75. "National Jewish Population Study: A New United States Estimate." *American Jewish Year Book* 75: 296-313.
- Massarik, Fred. 1976. "Basic Characteristics of the New York Jewish Population." *American Jewish Year Book* 76: 239-248.
- Massarik, Fred. 1977. "Trends in United States Jewish Education: National Jewish Population Study Findings." *American Jewish Year Book* 77: 240-250.
- Massarik, Fred. 1978. "Affiliation and Non-Affiliation in the United States Jewish Community: A Reconceptualization." *American Jewish Year Book* 78: 262-274.