



2025 Greater Boston Jewish Community Study.



Ages.

Table of contents.

Introduction	3
Differences in characteristics based on age	5
Understanding 18- to 29-year-olds	7
Understanding 30- to 39-year-olds	12
Understanding 40- to 64-year-olds	17
Understanding 65- to 74-year-olds	22
Understanding 75-year-olds and older	27
Conclusion	32
Notes	33

Sponsored by: Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston

Conducted by: Rosov Consulting with SSRS

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cjp.org/CommunityStudy2025

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Introduction.

2025 Greater Boston Jewish Community Study

This study is an independent research initiative sponsored by Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP). The mission of CJP is to inspire and mobilize the diverse Greater Boston Jewish community to engage in building communities of learning and action that strengthen Jewish life and improve the world.

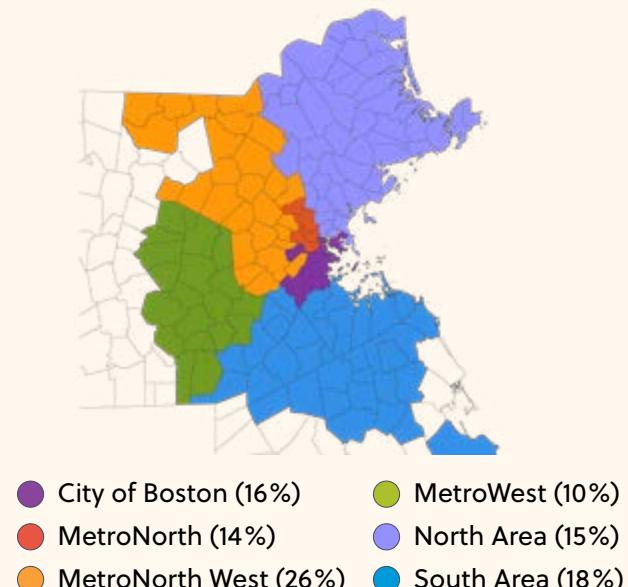
The goal of this study is to provide a transparent, fact-based picture of the community today. Conducted once every decade, this study gives the community the chance to step back and ask: Who are we today? Where are we thriving? And what does our community need to build a strong and safe future?

The research is based on 4,776 responses from a probability survey of a randomly selected sample of Jewish households across Greater Boston and is supported by follow-up interviews and focus groups. These reports remind us that every data

point represents a real person—a life, a story, and a lived experience in our community. Readers are encouraged to approach the findings with curiosity and openness to the diverse experiences they represent. The reports present two types of data: estimates of the number of Jewish households and the people in them, and percentages describing their characteristics, attitudes, and behaviors. As with all probability-based surveys, these estimates are not exact and include a margin of error of about ± 2.6 percentage points for the full sample. For smaller groups, the margin of error is wider. Throughout the reports, estimates are rounded to whole numbers and populations to the nearest hundred, so categories may not equal the total.

To read all the reports and access a detailed explanation of the survey methodology, visit cjp.org/CommunityStudy2025.

Map of Jewish households



For a detailed map, visit: cjp.org/regionalmap

Population estimates of Greater Boston

Jewish households	138,200
Individuals in Jewish households	333,100
Adults	277,900
Jewish	184,500
Not Jewish	93,400
Children	55,200
Jewish	44,000
Not Jewish	10,800
Unknown	400

Glossary

Terms used in the reports

Jewish household: A home in which one or more Jewish adults reside. All Jewish households have at least one Jewish adult living in them. About half of them are also home to one or more adults or children, or sometimes both, who are not Jewish.

Adults

- **Jewish adults:** A person who identifies as Jewish by religion, ethnicity, culture, parentage, or how they were raised, so long as they do not also identify with another monotheistic religion.
- **Adults who are not Jewish:** Adults living in Jewish households who do not identify as or consider themselves Jewish by religion, ethnicity, culture, parentage, or how they were raised.

Children

- **Jewish children:** A person ages 0-17 who is being raised Jewish by religion, or Jewish and another religion, or is considered Jewish aside from religion, including ethnically or culturally.
- **Children who are not Jewish:** Children ages 0-17 who are living in Jewish households who are not being raised Jewish by religion, or Jewish and another religion, or considered Jewish aside from religion.

Index of Jewish Connection

A system to measure how Jewish adults connect with Jewish life in Greater Boston

Contemporary Jewish life is multidimensional. There is a wide range of different and diverse ways to connect to it. To measure and categorize this diversity among Jewish adults in Greater Boston, an Index of Jewish Connection was developed and is used throughout the series of reports about the study.

The index—which is based on a statistical procedure called latent class analysis—captures the primary ways that five segments of Jewish adults connect to Jewish life in Greater Boston. It is not designed to place the groups in a hierarchy of engagement, with some doing “more” and some doing “less.”

Instead, it highlights what makes each group distinctive in how they connect in ways that are personally meaningful to Jewish life, distinctions that are reflected in the names given to the groups.



Seeking the Social - 29%

The *Seeking the Social* group is similar to *Family Focused* and, additionally, is more active in communal and organizational events, activities, and programs.



Tenuously Tethered - 27%

The *Tenuously Tethered* group is minimally involved in Jewish life, with infrequent participation in personal, home, and family-based Jewish activities or organizational events and programs.



Family Focused - 17%

The *Family Focused* group is focused on personal, home, and family-based Jewish activities and holiday observances.



Deeply Devoted - 15%

The *Deeply Devoted* group is similar to *Enthusiastically Engrossed* and, additionally, is more focused on synagogue involvement and religious observance.



Enthusiastically Engrossed - 12%

The *Enthusiastically Engrossed* group has a wide range of family, personal, home, organizational, and cultural connections to Jewish life.

Differences in characteristics based on age.

The survey results point to a known trend: Different age groups vary in demographic characteristics, social identities, Jewish connections, perspectives on Israel, thoughts on antisemitism, and views and challenges to well-being.

To show these differences among Jewish adults in Greater Boston, this report analyzes responses from the following age groups:¹

- █ 18-29 years old
- █ 30-39 years old
- █ 40-64 years old
- █ 65-74 years old
- █ 75 years old and older

Several findings stand out across these age groups:

- Younger adults, particularly those under 30, are the most diverse in terms of gender identity, sexual orientation, and race. They report relatively weak formal Jewish connections, such as synagogue membership, but seek out cultural and social experiences.
- Adults in their 30s have the highest rates of college education and full-time employment.
- The level of Jewish involvement for 30- to 39-year-olds heavily depends on whether they are raising children.
- Older adults show the strongest attachment to Jewish community and Israel, the highest rates of synagogue membership and philanthropy, and the greatest concern about antisemitism.
- Challenges to well-being, such as mental health and financial vulnerability, are most acute among younger age groups. Those challenges tend to lessen with age, though financial vulnerability resurfaces among some in the oldest group.

Key takeaways



Connection to Jewish life is deeply shaped by life stage and family structure

Having children is a major catalyst for Jewish engagement among adults under 40, with synagogue membership, participation in Jewish programs, and donations to Jewish causes significantly higher among households with children compared to those without. This pattern continues into middle age, though the gap narrows as engagement levels become more alike between people with and without children.



Jewish identity remains strong, while community connections vary by age

The majority of Jewish adults, regardless of age, say that being Jewish is important to them. However, significantly less feel connected to a Jewish community, especially younger adults.



Attachment to Israel and concern about antisemitism increases with age

Emotional attachment to Israel rises steadily as people age, with the largest gap between 18- to 29-year-olds and those 75 and older. Similarly, concern about antisemitism is lowest among young adults and highest among older adults. These generational gaps reflect differences in social identities, connection to Jewish community, and political and communal perspectives.

Understanding differences between age groups

When the characteristics of age groups differ from each other, there are two possible explanations.

Lifecycle effects

Lifecycle effects naturally happen as age groups enter new chapters of their lives. That means the characteristics of younger age groups will come to look more and more like their older counterparts as they age. For example, younger people of today are much less likely to be married and have children than older people, but their rates of being married and becoming parents will likely increase as they age and, in time, come to resemble the older age groups of today.

Cohort effects

Cohort effects occur when an age group is shaped by formative cultural, social, political, or historical experiences while growing up. Generations are a well-known example of how age cohorts may be grouped. Age group profiles reflect these experiences and will more or less remain the same over time. For example, people whose political experiences were shaped by major events and influential leaders carry the political attitudes and perspectives of that era throughout their life.

In a cross-sectional survey like this one, it can be difficult to determine whether age groups reflect lifecycle or cohort effects, or in some cases both. However, it is helpful to keep both of these explanations in mind as the age groups are presented on the following pages.



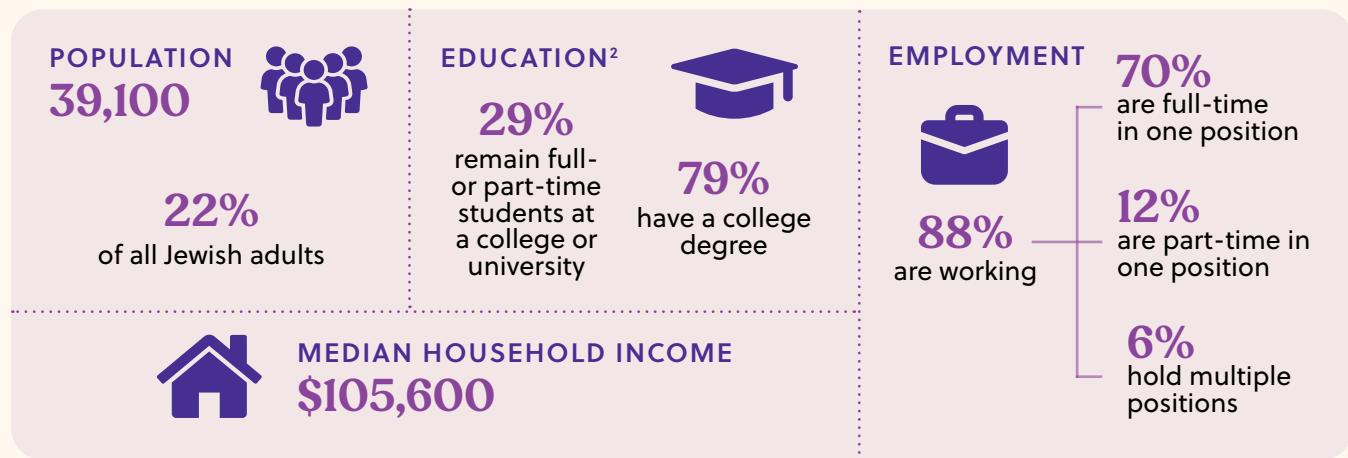
Understanding 18- to 29-year-olds.

Adults ages 18-29, the youngest group in this report, stand out as the most diverse in terms of gender identity, sexual orientation, and race and ethnicity.

This age group, predominantly made up of college students and early career professionals, have lower median household incomes compared to older adults. In addition, most are single or living with a partner.

They largely connect to Jewish life through informal cultural and social experiences rather than formal ones, such as synagogue membership. These adults are also less concerned about antisemitism and less connected to Israel than older adults.

By the numbers



Identity

This age group has the highest number of people who identify as LGBTQIA+, people with a disability (whether visible or not), and Hispanic or a race other than White. This age group has the highest share of people who are nonbinary (5%), and equal percentages of people who are female (47%) and male (47%).

LGBTQIA+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25% identify as LGBTQIA+³ 5% identify as nonbinary
Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 23% have a disability (whether visible or not) 14% have a health issue or disability that limits activities outside the home
Race and ethnicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 88% identify as White only, not Hispanic 13% identify as Hispanic or a race other than White <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5% Hispanic 8% any race other than White, not Hispanic 6% identify as a Jew of color or person of color (JPOC)⁴
Immigrants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5% are immigrants

Relationship and family status

The majority of 18- to 29-year-olds are single or living with a partner, a pattern more common in this age group than any other. Many do not have children, as is consistent with their age group and relationship status.

60% are single and have never been married

29% are living with a partner

11% are married

Among those who are married or cohabiting:

70% of their spouses and partners are not Jewish

Among those who are single and have not been married:

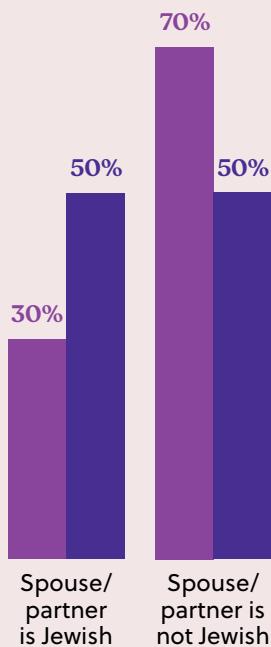
39% have a partner or significant other they do not live with

71% of their partners are not Jewish

4% have children in their households

Married or living with partner

■ 18-29 years old
■ All Jewish adults



Residence

These young adults are most concentrated in the regions of MetroNorth West (29%), the City of Boston (20%), and MetroNorth (20%). Much smaller numbers live in regions further out, including North Area (12%), South Area (10%), and MetroWest (9%).

Residence	18-29 years old	All Jewish adults
City of Boston	20%	15%
MetroNorth	20%	13%
MetroNorth West	29%	28%
MetroWest	9%	11%
North Area	12%	16%
South Area	10%	18 %



Jewish connections

Although the majority of 18- to 29-year-olds say being Jewish is important to them, a smaller percentage feel connected to a Jewish community in the town or city where they live. Synagogue membership is lower among 18- to 29-year-olds, compared to those who are older. Similar patterns are seen among those who donate or volunteer, with relatively fewer Jewish adults ages 18-29 giving their time or money to Jewish causes, compared to others.⁵

Jewish connections	18-29 years old	All Jewish adults
Volunteered for Jewish organizations or causes	41%	49%
Donated to Jewish organizations or causes	55%	66%
Someone in household is a member, or regular participant, of a synagogue	24%	31%
Feel very or somewhat connected to a Jewish community in the town or city where they live	36%	43%
Feel very or somewhat connected to the Greater Boston Jewish community	40%	45%
Say being part of a Jewish community is very or somewhat important	55%	54%
Say being Jewish is very or somewhat important to them	76%	79%

In addition, their network of Jewish friendships are the lowest share of all age groups, with 50% saying half or more of their closest friends are Jewish.

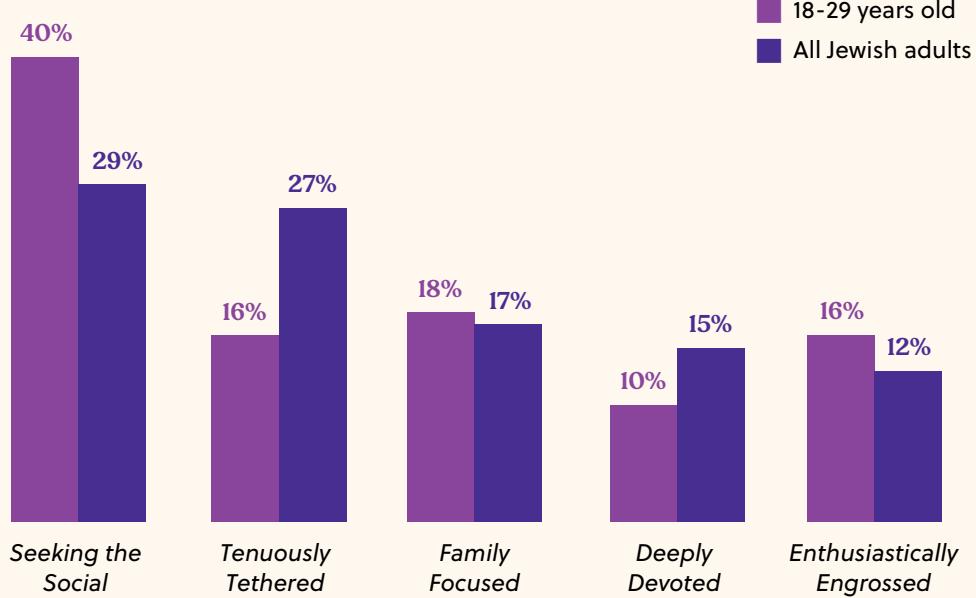
Despite these feelings about Jewish communal connections and relatively low levels of formal involvement, 73% participated in events, activities, or programs sponsored by Jewish organizations during the 12 months before the survey—the highest proportion of any age group.

Connections to Jewish culture and life outside of formal events, activities, and programs are widespread.

- 81% Talk with family and friends about Jewish topics
- 71% Cook or eat traditional Jewish foods
- 62% Share Jewish culture with friends who are not Jewish
- 50% Visit synagogues and other historic Jewish sites when traveling
- 43% Study or learn about Jewish topics other than religious texts
- 42% Engage with or seek out Jewish or Israeli arts and culture, such as television, film, music, and literature

In terms of the Index of Jewish Connection, the majority of 18- to 29-year-olds are in the *Seeking the Social* group (40%), reflective of the large proportion of those who attended Jewish events, activities, and programs in the 12 months before the survey. They are followed by much smaller proportions in the other groups, including *Family Focused* (18%), *Enthusiastically Engrossed* (16%), *Tenuously Tethered* (16%), and *Deeply Devoted* (10%).

Index of Jewish Connection



Antisemitism

This age group is less concerned about antisemitism in their city or town (25% very or somewhat concerned) and in Greater Boston generally (36%). They are more likely than older age groups to feel safe as Jews when out in public (74%) and at Jewish events, activities, and programs in Jewish spaces (62%).

On the other hand, they are also more likely than older age groups to avoid certain in-person and online behaviors that would identify them as Jewish as well as events or places due to concern for their safety as Jews.

Feelings of safety

● 18-29 years old ● All Jewish adults

Concern about antisemitism in one's local city or town (% very or somewhat)

25% 42%

Concern about antisemitism in the Greater Boston area (% very or somewhat)

36% 65%

Feeling safe attending events, programs, or activities at Jewish organizations (% strongly agree)

49% 62%

Feeling safe out in public locally (% strongly agree)

68% 74%

Israel

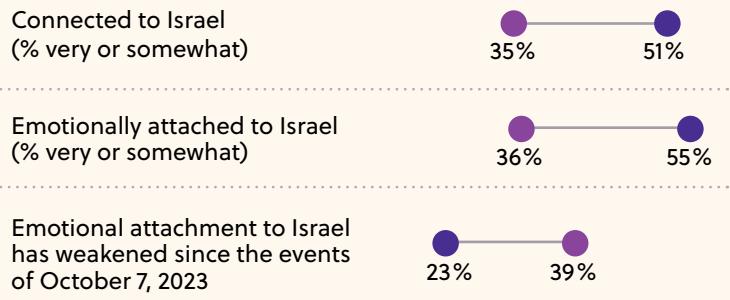
Of all age groups, 18- to 29-year-olds feel less connected to Israel. Over a third say they feel very or somewhat connected to Israel (35%) and are very or somewhat emotionally attached to Israel (36%), while 39% say their emotional attachment to Israel has weakened since the events of October 7, 2023.⁶

More than half say it is important for Israel to be the nation-state of the Jewish people (60%) and for Jewish values and traditions to make up the mainstream culture in Israel (53%).

Lastly, over a third (38%) identify as anti-Zionist, compared to 32% who identify as Zionist, and 30% who are uncommitted to either position.

Emotional attachment to Israel

● 18-29 years old ● All Jewish adults



Well-being

As a group, 18- to 29-year-olds experience many challenges to their well-being. Nearly half (43%) reported one or more service needs for themselves and other people in their household in the 12 months before the survey, driven largely by the need for mental health services (41%).

More than a quarter (28%) said they often or always felt lonely, depressed, or anxious in the month before the survey, and another 41% said they sometimes have these feelings.

Materially, 18% live in households under 250% of the federal poverty level, and 13% reported some kind of hardship in the 12 months before the survey around the inability, at some point in time, to pay for food, medical care, phone or internet service, utilities, housing, or debt.

Physical and mental well-being	18-29 years old	All Jewish adults
Reported one or more service needs	43%	38%
Mental health services needed	41%	27%
Always or often felt lonely, depressed, or anxious in the month before the survey	28%	14%

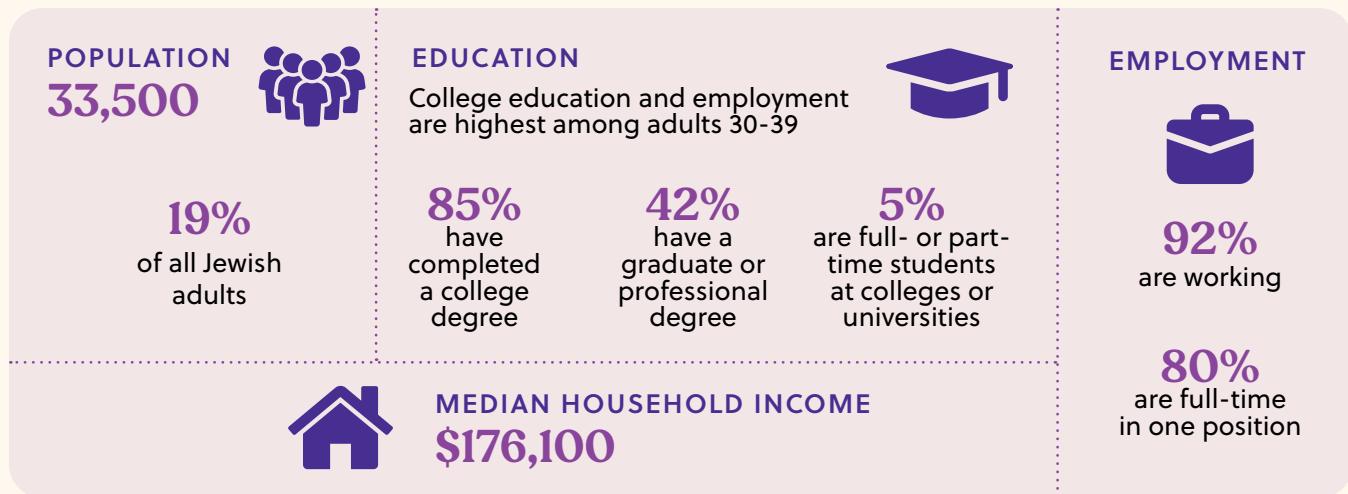
Understanding 30- to 39-year-olds.

Adults between 30-39 years old are the most likely to have attained a college degree and are working full- or part-time jobs.

This age group is predominantly made up of married and cohabiting couples, and those with children are significantly more involved with Jewish life, including synagogue participation and donations to Jewish causes.

These adults are less concerned about antisemitism, compared to older groups, and generally are more connected to Israel than their younger peers.

By the numbers



Identity

This age group has the second-highest percentage of people who identify as JPOC and people who identify as LGBTQIA+.

LGBTQIA+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18% identify as LGBTQIA+ 3% identify as nonbinary
Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10% have a disability (whether visible or not) 11% have a health issue or disability that limits activities outside the home
Race and ethnicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 92% identify as White only, not Hispanic 8% identify as Hispanic or a race other than White <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4% Hispanic 4% any race other than White, not Hispanic 4% identify as JPOC
Immigrants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10% are immigrants

Relationship and family status

The majority of 30- to 39-year-olds are married, a pattern more common in older age groups. Many do not have children in their households, but among those who do, most are under 5 years old.

19% are single and have never been married

17% are living with a partner

62% are married

Among those who are married or cohabiting:

59% of their spouses and partners are not Jewish

Among those who are single and have not been married:

16% have a partner or significant other they do not live with

59% of their partners are not Jewish

33% have children in their households

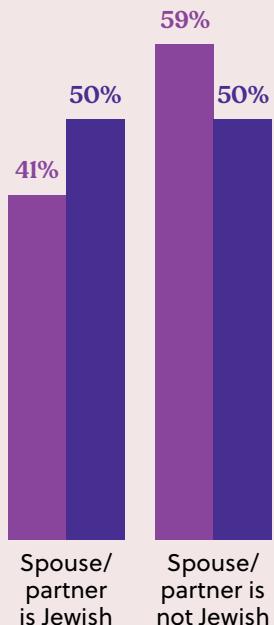
90% have children ages 0-5

32% have children ages 6-13

3% have children ages 14-17

Married or living with partner

■ 30-39 years old
■ All Jewish adults



Residence

People between 30-39 years old have begun to move to more suburban regions across Greater Boston. The majority live in the City of Boston (19%), MetroNorth (23%), and MetroNorth West (21%), but 14% live in North Area, 15% in South Area, and 8% in MetroWest.

Residence	30-39 years old	All Jewish adults
City of Boston	19%	15%
MetroNorth	23%	13%
MetroNorth West	21%	28%
MetroWest	8%	11%
North Area	14%	16%
South Area	15%	18%



Jewish connections

Although the majority of 30- to 39-year-olds say being Jewish is important to them, a smaller percentage feel connected to a Jewish community in the town or city where they live. About 60% participated in events, activities, or programs sponsored by Jewish organizations during the 12 months before the survey. Patterns indicate that synagogue membership and donating to Jewish organizations increase among couples with children.

Jewish connections	30-39 years old	All Jewish adults
Volunteered for Jewish organizations or causes	37%	49%
Donated to Jewish organizations or causes	53%	66%
Someone in household is a member, or regular participant, of a synagogue	23%	31%
Feel very or somewhat connected to a Jewish community in the town or city where they live	33%	43%
Feel very or somewhat connected to the Greater Boston Jewish community	36%	45%
Say being part of a Jewish community is very or somewhat important	48%	54%
Say being Jewish is very or somewhat important to them	70%	79%

Friendships

Networks of Jewish friendship increase just slightly compared to 18- to 29-year-olds, with 54% saying half or more of their close friends are Jewish. Personal Jewish activities are still common among 30- to 39-year-olds, with similar top choices as their younger counterparts, including:

- 72% Talk with friends and family about Jewish topics
- 70% Cook or eat traditional Jewish foods
- 60% Share Jewish culture and holidays with friends who are not Jewish

Children

Among adults ages 30-39, Jewish connections begin to change, largely influenced by whether they have children, drawing them closer to Jewish life and community.

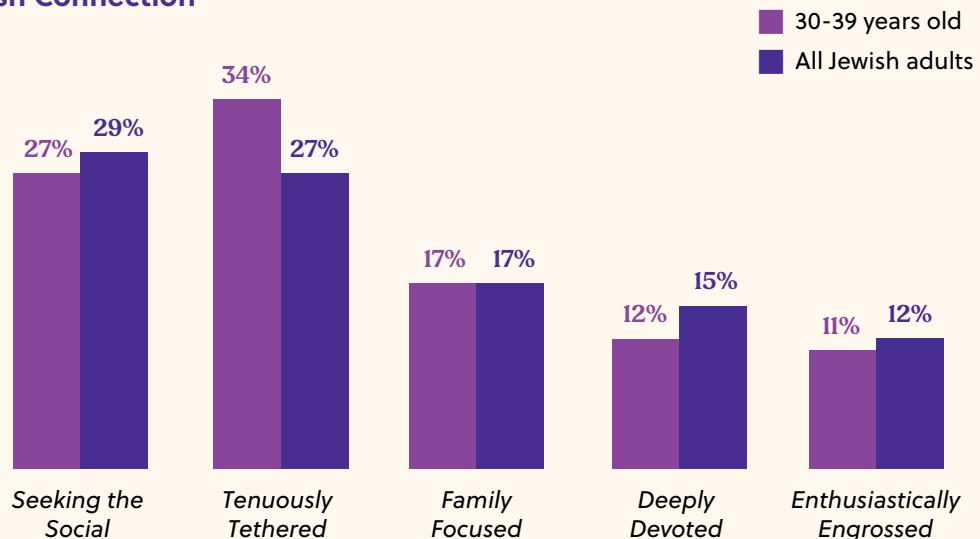
For those without children, 12% are members or regular participants in synagogues, and 53% attended an event, activity, or program sponsored by a Jewish organization in the 12 months before the survey.

However, among those with children, synagogue membership or regular participation jumps to 44%, and participation in a Jewish event, activity, or program increases to 74%.

Similarly, 42% of those who do not have children are *Tenuously Tethered* and 17% are either *Enthusiastically Engrossed* (10%) or *Deeply Devoted* (7%). Among those with children, 17% are *Tenuously Tethered*, and one in three are either *Enthusiastically Engrossed* (11%) or *Deeply Devoted* (21%).

Donations are also affected by whether or not adults in this age group have children: among those who donated, 43% of people without children donated to a Jewish cause or organization last year, compared to 71% of people with children.

Index of Jewish Connection



Antisemitism

Compared to those younger than them, this age group expresses similar but slightly increased concerns about antisemitism in their cities and towns (26% very or somewhat concerned) and across Greater Boston more broadly (43%). However, they remain far less concerned about antisemitism than older age groups.

Like their younger counterparts, more than seven in 10 of those in their 30s (71%) strongly agree they feel safe as Jews when out in public, but just 50% strongly agree they feel safe in Jewish spaces.

About one-third (35%), less than their younger counterparts, have avoided behaviors that identify them as Jewish or going to events or places out of concern for their safety as Jews.

Feelings of safety

● 30-39 years old ● All Jewish adults

Concern about antisemitism in one's local city or town (% very or somewhat)

26% 42%

Concern about antisemitism in the Greater Boston area (% very or somewhat)

43% 65%

Feeling safe attending events, programs, or activities at Jewish organizations (% strongly agree)

49% 50%

Feeling safe out in public locally (% strongly agree)

68% 71%

Israel

This age group is more connected to Israel than younger adults. About four in 10 people feel very or somewhat connected to Israel (39%) and very or somewhat emotionally attached to Israel (44%).

In addition, two-thirds (66%) say it is important for Israel to be the nation-state of the Jewish people, and 61% say it is important for Jewish values and traditions to make up the mainstream culture in Israel.

A different pattern emerges compared to those under 30, close to half (45%) consider themselves Zionist and 24% consider themselves anti-Zionist, while 31% are uncommitted.

At the same time, the share who say their emotional attachment to Israel has weakened since October 7, 2023, (36%) remains more than those who say their emotional attachment to Israel has strengthened (28%).

Emotional attachment to Israel

● 30-39 years old ● All Jewish adults

Connected to Israel
(% very or somewhat)

39% 51%

Emotionally attached to Israel
(% very or somewhat)

44% 55%

Emotional attachment to Israel
has weakened since the events
of October 7, 2023

23% 36%

Well-being

In some respects, Jewish adults in their 30s have modestly improved well-being compared to younger adults. Fewer reported feeling lonely, depressed, or anxious most or all of the time in the month before the survey (19%), living under 250% of the federal poverty level (5%), and experiencing material hardships at some point in time in the 12 months before the survey around the inability to pay for food, medical care, phone or internet service, utilities, housing, or debt (11%).

Close to half (45%) still reported needing one or more service for themselves and other household members in the 12 months before the survey, driven largely by the need for mental health services (40%).

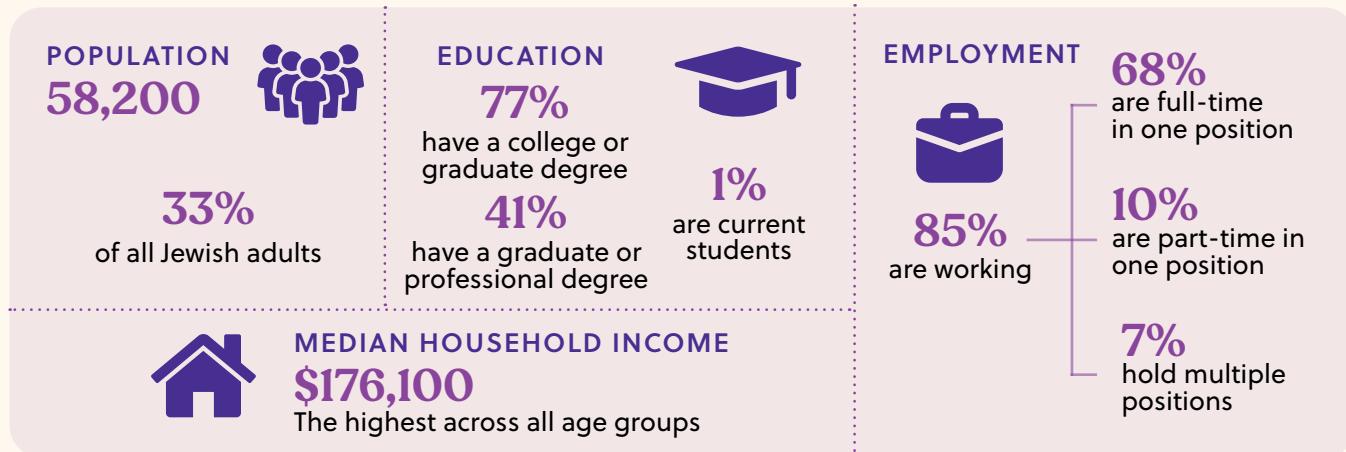
Physical and mental well-being	30-39 years old	All Jewish adults
Reported one or more service needs	45%	38%
Mental health services needed	40%	27%
Always or often felt lonely, depressed, or anxious in the month before the survey	19%	14%

Understanding 40- to 64-year-olds.

Adults between 40-64 years old are the largest age group profiled in this report. Most have college degrees and work full time. Their median household income is the highest among all age groups. This age group is predominantly made up of married couples, with 37% raising children in their household.

Compared to their younger peers, connections to formal Jewish life are stronger among 40- to 64-year-olds, particularly their synagogue involvement and tendency to make donations to Jewish organizations. These adults are also more concerned about antisemitism and have stronger connections to Israel, compared to younger groups.

By the numbers



Identity

This age group has the highest percentage of immigrants and slightly less people who identify as Hispanic or a race other than White. The percentage of residents who identify as LGBTQIA+ drops significantly in this age group compared to younger groups.

LGBTQIA+	<ul style="list-style-type: none">11% identify as LGBTQIA+<1% identify as nonbinary
Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">10% identify as having a disability (whether visible or not)6% have a health issue or disability that limits activities outside the home
Race and ethnicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">94% identify as White only, not Hispanic6% identify as Hispanic or a race other than White<ul style="list-style-type: none">2% Hispanic4% any race other than White, not Hispanic2% identify as JPOC
Immigrants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">13% are immigrants

Relationship and family status

The majority of 40- to 64-year-olds are married, a pattern more common in older age groups. Many do not have children in their households, but among those who do, most are between 14-17 years old.

11% remain single and have never been married

6% are living with a partner

71% are married

9% are divorced or separated

2% are widowed

Among those who are married or cohabiting:

52% of their spouses and partners are not Jewish

Among those who are single and have not been married:

19% have a partner or significant other they do not live with

74% of their partners are not Jewish

37% have children in their households

21% have children ages 0-5

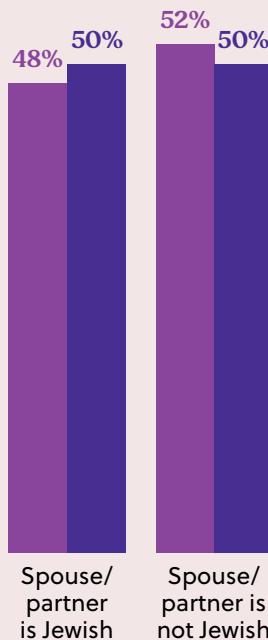
58% have children ages 6-13

49% have children ages 14-17

Married or living with partner

■ 40-64 years old

■ All Jewish adults



Residence

Adults ages 40-64 are spread more evenly across Greater Boston than younger groups, with the largest share in MetroNorth West (31%), followed by North Area (18%), South Area (18%), and MetroWest (13%). Far fewer live in the City of Boston (12%) and MetroNorth (9%) compared to young adults, reflecting migration to suburban areas typical of this life stage.

Residence	40-64 years old	All Jewish adults
City of Boston	12%	15%
MetroNorth	9%	13%
MetroNorth West	31%	28%
MetroWest	13%	11%
North Area	18%	16%
South Area	18%	18%



Jewish connections

Like their younger peers, there is a discrepancy between the percentage of 40- to 64-year-olds who say being Jewish is important to them and those who feel connected to a local Jewish community. This age group has similar rate of connections with formal Jewish involvement, such as synagogue membership and donating to Jewish organizations. Nearly two-thirds (64%) of this age group participated in events, activities, or programs sponsored by Jewish organizations during the 12 months before the survey.

Jewish connections	40-64 years old	All Jewish adults
Volunteered for Jewish organizations or causes	52%	49%
Donated to Jewish organizations or causes	66%	66%
Someone in household is a member, or regular participant, of a synagogue	35%	31%
Feel very or somewhat connected to a Jewish community in the town or city where they live	44%	43%
Feel very or somewhat connected to the Greater Boston Jewish community	45%	45%
Say being part of a Jewish community is very or somewhat important	53%	54%
Say being Jewish is very or somewhat important to them	79%	79%

The pattern of participation in personal Jewish practices outside of formal events, activities, and programs is similar to younger adults ages 18-29, including widespread rates of those who often or sometimes:

- 75% Cook or eat traditional Jewish foods
- 74% Talk with family and friends about Jewish topics
- 59% Share Jewish culture or holidays with non-Jewish friends
- 53% Visit synagogues and historical Jewish sites when traveling
- 42% Study or learn about Jewish topics other than religious texts

Friendships

Jewish friendship networks strengthen further in this group, with 63% reporting half or more of their closest friends are Jewish.

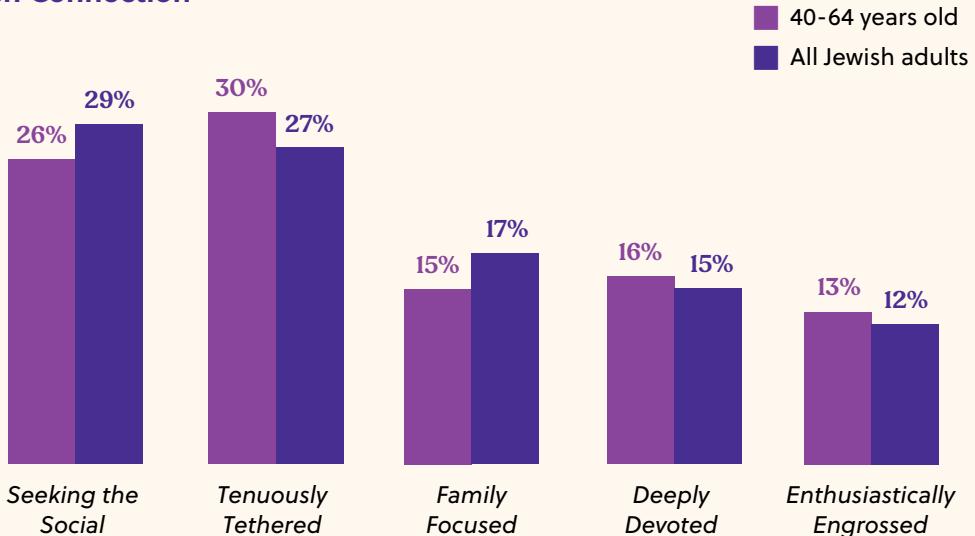
Jewish organizations

Overall levels of formal connections to Jewish organizations increase compared to those under age 40, with more than a third (35%) living in a household with synagogue membership. Additionally, more than half (66%) donated to Jewish causes and 52% volunteered for Jewish organizations or causes in the 12 months before the survey.

Children

Having children at home continues to differentiate the Jewish connections of adults in this cohort, but less so compared to the adults ages 30-39. For example, 40- to 64-year-olds with children are more likely than those without to be synagogue members (42% vs. 31%), to attend Jewish events, activities or programs (72% vs. 59%), and to be either *Enthusiastically Engrossed* or *Deeply Devoted* (34% to 27%), but those gaps are less than among their younger counterparts. In contrast, just about equal proportions of those with children (64%) and those without (68%) donated to Jewish causes or organizations in the 12 months before the survey.

Index of Jewish Connection



40-64 YEAR OLDS

Antisemitism

Concerns about antisemitism jump considerably among 40- to 64-year-olds compared to younger adults. Nearly three-quarters (73%) are very or somewhat concerned about antisemitism in Greater Boston, and half (49%) are very or somewhat concerned about antisemitism in the city or town where they live.

Most strongly agree they feel safe as Jews in public (64%), but less than half (43%) strongly agree they feel safe in Jewish organizational spaces. Close to four in 10 (38%) report avoiding behaviors that might identify them as Jewish or going to events or places in response to concern for their safety as Jews.

Feelings of safety

● 40-64 years old ● All Jewish adults

Concern about antisemitism in one's local city or town (% very or somewhat)

42% 49%

Concern about antisemitism in the Greater Boston area (% very or somewhat)

65% 73%

Feeling safe attending events, programs, or activities at Jewish organizations (% strongly agree)

43% 49%

Feeling safe out in public locally (% strongly agree)

64% 68%

Israel

Connections to Israel are stronger in this group than among younger adults. More than half report feeling very or somewhat connected to Israel (54%) and very or somewhat emotionally attached to it (57%).

Twice as many people in this age cohort say their attachments to Israel have become stronger since October 7, 2023, (34%) than weaker (17%).

A strong majority say it is important for Israel to be the nation-state of the Jewish people (83%) and for Jewish values and traditions to shape Israel's mainstream culture (77%). Half identity as Zionist (50%), 12% as anti-Zionist, and 38% are uncommitted to either position.

Emotional attachment to Israel

● 40-64 years old ● All Jewish adults

Connected to Israel
(% very or somewhat)



51% 54%

Emotionally attached to Israel
(% very or somewhat)



55% 57%

Emotional attachment to Israel
has weakened since the events
of October 7, 2023



17% 23%

Well-being

About one in 10 live below 250% of the federal poverty level (11%), and 12% reported material hardships at some point in the 12 months before the survey around the inability to pay for food, medical care, phone or internet service, utilities, housing, or debt.

Close to half (45%) reported a service need in the 12 months before the survey, including 31% who reported a need for mental health services for an adult, and 10% who reported a need for mental health, behavioral or developmental services for children, the highest of any age group.

Emotional well-being is somewhat stronger than among younger adults, with fewer reporting consistent feelings of loneliness, depression, or anxiety in the month before the survey (16%).

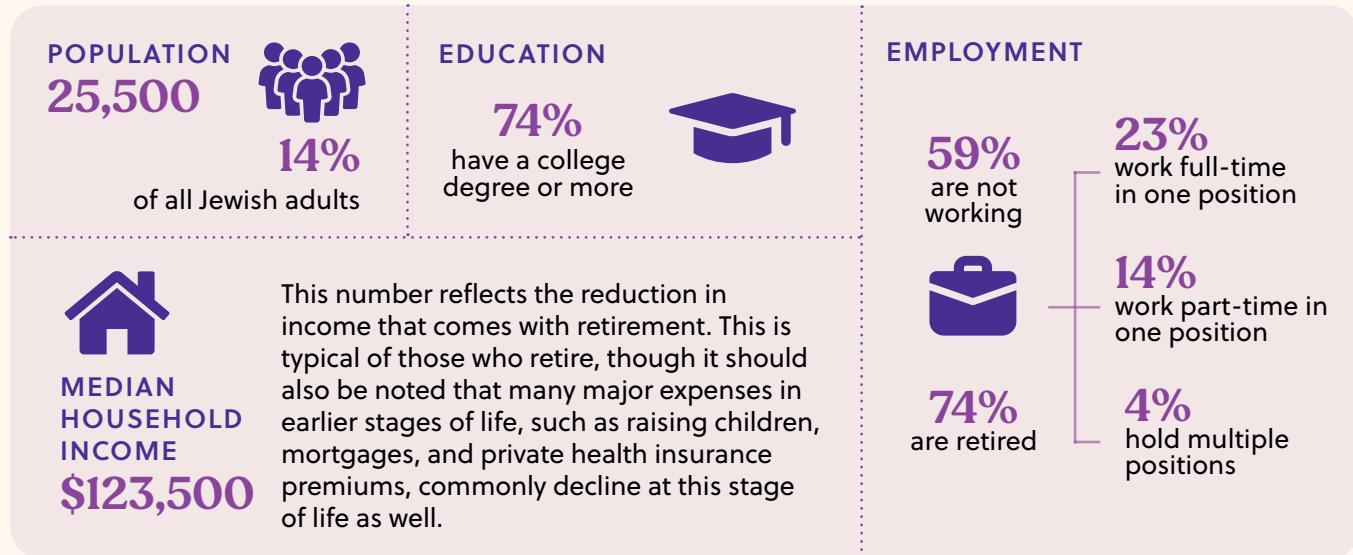
Physical and mental well-being	40-64 years old	All Jewish adults
Reported one or more service needs	45%	38%
Mental health services needed	31%	27%
Always or often felt lonely, depressed, or anxious in the month before the survey	16%	14%

Understanding 65- to 74-year-olds.

Adults between 65-74 years old make up the smallest group profiled in this report. Most or nearly all are retired, which explains the drop in median household income compared to 40- to 64-year-olds.

This age group is predominantly made up of married couples, and almost none of them have children living in their household. Connections to formal Jewish life are strong, particularly their tendency to make donations to Jewish organizations. These adults are very concerned about antisemitism and have strong connections to Israel.

By the numbers



Identity

This age group has less diversity than the younger age groups, with fewer people who identify as LGBTQIA+ and Hispanic or a race other than White.

LGBTQIA+	<ul style="list-style-type: none">6% identify as LGBTQIA+<1% identify as nonbinary
Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">6% identify as having a disability (whether visible or not)10% have a health issue or disability that limits activities outside the home
Race and ethnicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">98% identify as White only, not Hispanic2% identify as Hispanic or a race other than White<ul style="list-style-type: none">1% Hispanic1% any race other than White, not Hispanic2% identify as JPOC
Immigrants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9% are immigrants

Relationship and family status

The majority of 65- to 74-year-olds are married, a pattern more common in older age groups. Almost no couples have children living in their household.

8% are single and have never been married

5% are living with a partner

74% are married

10% are divorced or separated

4% are widowed

Among those who are married or cohabiting:

43% of their spouses or partners are not Jewish, which is less than younger cohorts

Among those who are single and have not been married:

13% have a partner or significant other they do not live with

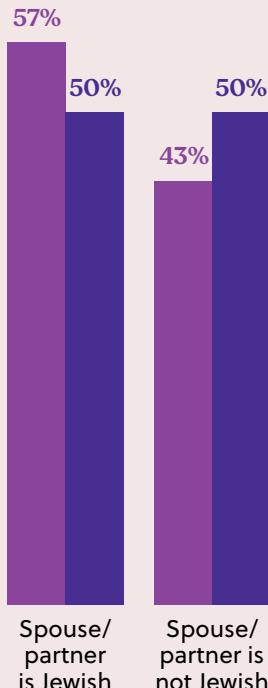
44% of their partners are not Jewish

3% have children in their households

Married or living with partner

■ 65-74 years old

■ All Jewish adults



Residence

Adults 65-74 are also spread more evenly across Greater Boston than younger groups, with the largest share in MetroNorth West (31%), followed by 25% in South Area—more than among 40- to 64-year-olds—16% in North Area, 13% in the City of Boston, and 10% in MetroWest. Just 6% live in MetroNorth, which is less than 40- to 64-year-olds.

Residence	65-74 years old	All Jewish adults
City of Boston	13%	15%
MetroNorth	6%	13%
MetroNorth West	31%	28%
MetroWest	10%	11%
North Area	16%	16%
South Area	25%	18%



Jewish connections

Of all age groups, 65- to 74-year-olds are more likely to say being Jewish is important to them. About half feel connected to a Jewish community in the city or town where they live. This age group has comparable connections with formal Jewish involvement to all Jewish adults, such as synagogue membership and donating to Jewish organizations. Nearly two-thirds (63%) of this age group participated in events, activities, or programs sponsored by Jewish organizations during the 12 months before the survey.

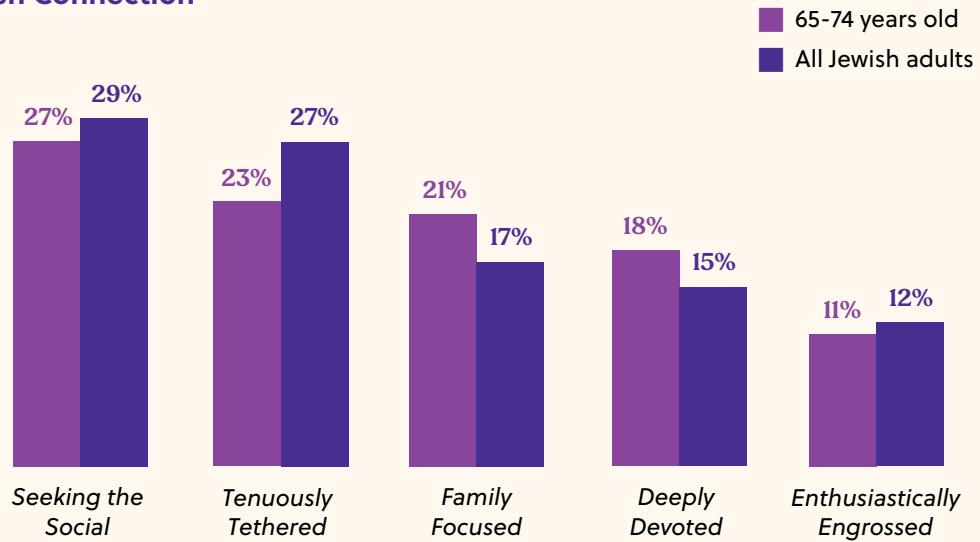
Jewish connections	65-74 years old	All Jewish adults
Volunteered for Jewish organizations or causes	51%	49%
Donated to Jewish organizations or causes	73%	66%
Someone in household is a member, or regular participant, of a synagogue	34%	31%
Feel very or somewhat connected to a Jewish community in the town or city where they live	46%	43%
Feel very or somewhat connected to the Greater Boston Jewish community	49%	45%
Say being part of a Jewish community is very or somewhat important	55%	54%
Say being Jewish is very or somewhat important to them	84%	79%

Three quarters (75%) say half or more of their closest friends are Jewish. The top types of personal Jewish practices include often or sometimes:

- 78% Talk with family and friends about Jewish topics
- 78% Cook or eat traditional Jewish foods
- 62% Visit synagogues and other historical Jewish sites when traveling
- 61% Share Jewish culture or holidays with non-Jewish friends
- 45% Seek out newspapers, publications, and podcasts with Jewish or Israeli content

In terms of the Index of Jewish Connection, this age group closely mirrors the overall Jewish adult population.

Index of Jewish Connection



Antisemitism

Compared to the next youngest cohort, concern about antisemitism in Greater Boston increases slightly among 65- to 74-year-olds (to 80%) but stays the same (50%) regarding local towns and cities where people live.

More than two-thirds (69%) strongly agree that they feel safe as a Jewish person when out in public, but only about half (49%) strongly agree they feel safe in Jewish organizational spaces. A third (33%) report avoiding behaviors that might identify them as Jewish or going to events or places out of concern for their safety as Jews.

Feeling of safety

● 65-74 years old ● All Jewish adults

Concern about antisemitism in one's local city or town (% very or somewhat)

42% 50%

Concern about antisemitism in the Greater Boston area (% very or somewhat)

65% 80%

Feeling safe attending events, programs, or activities at Jewish organizations (% strongly agree)

49%

Feeling safe out in public locally (% strongly agree)

68% 69%

Israel

Connections to Israel among 65- to 74-year-olds are similar to 40- to 64-year-olds. More than half report feeling very or somewhat connected to Israel (56%) and very or somewhat emotionally attached to the country (59%).

More people in this age cohort say their emotional attachments to Israel have become stronger since October 7, 2023 (30%) than weaker (20%), with half (50%) reporting their emotional attachments are the same.

A strong majority say it is important for Israel to be the nation-state of the Jewish people (91%) and for Jewish values and traditions to shape Israel's mainstream culture (83%).

Over four in 10 (43%) identify as Zionist, 13% as anti-Zionist, and 44% are uncommitted.

Emotional attachment to Israel

● 65-74 years old ● All Jewish adults

Connected to Israel
(% very or somewhat)

51% 56%

Emotionally attached to Israel
(% very or somewhat)

55% 59%

Emotional attachment to Israel
has weakened since the events
of October 7, 2023

20% 23%

Well-being

About one in 10 (11%) live below 250% of the federal poverty level, while 6% reported material hardships at some point in the 12 months before the survey when paying for food, medical care, phone or internet service, utilities, housing, or debt.

Compared to younger age groups, the need for services drops off among 65- to 74-year-olds (to 28%), primarily due to declines in the need for mental health services (to 12%) and, with very few children in their homes, needs for mental health, behavioral, or developmental services for children (to 1%).

Persistent feelings of loneliness, depression, or anxiety are much less common among adults 65–74 years old, with just 5% reporting experiencing them in the month before the survey, compared to younger adults.

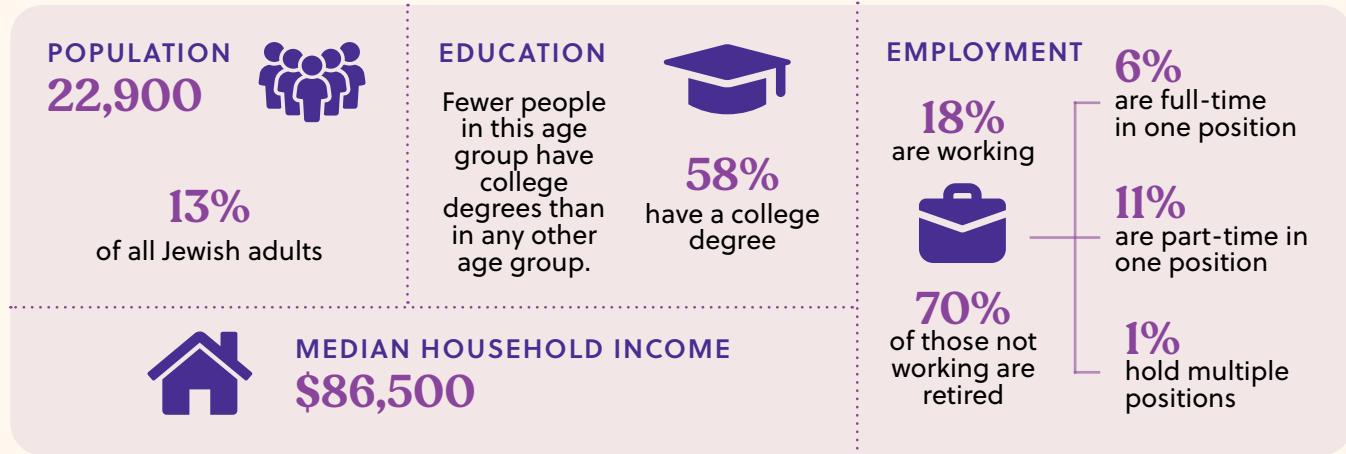
Physical and mental well-being	65-74 years old	All Jewish adults
Reported one or more service needs	28%	38%
Mental health services needed	12%	27%
Always or often felt lonely, depressed, or anxious in the month before the survey	5%	14%

Understanding 75-year-olds and older.

Almost all residents who are 75 and over are retired, which explains why they have the lowest median household income.

Most are married or widowed, and almost none of them still have children living in their household. These adults have the strongest Jewish connections, are most concerned about antisemitism, and have the strongest attachment to Israel.

By the numbers



Identity

With the exception of disabilities, this age group is similar to those who are 65-74 years old.

LGBTQIA+	<ul style="list-style-type: none">3% identify as LGBTQIA+
Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">12% identify as having a disability (whether visible or not)13% have a health issue or disability that limits activities outside the home
Race and ethnicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">99% identify as White only, not Hispanic1% identify as Hispanic or a race other than White<ul style="list-style-type: none"><1% Hispanic<1% any race other than White, not Hispanic<1% identify as JPOC
Immigrants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">10% are immigrants

Relationship and family status

The majority of those 75 years and older are married or widowed. Almost no couples have children living in their households.

5% are single and have never been married

3% are living with a partner

60% are married

11% are divorced or separated

22% are widowed

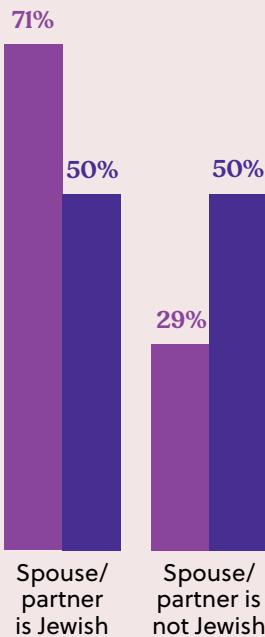
Among those not married or living with a partner:

12% have a partner or significant other they do not live with

50% of those partners are Jewish

Married or living with partner

■ 75 years and older
■ All Jewish adults



Residence

Adults are equally likely to live in the South Area (27%) and MetroNorth West (28%), but less so in the North Area (18%), MetroWest (13%), City of Boston (9%), and MetroNorth (6%). More than one in 10 (11%) live in an assisted living facility, nursing home, or independent senior living facility.

Residence	75 years and older	All Jewish adults
City of Boston	9%	15%
MetroNorth	6%	13%
MetroNorth West	28%	28%
MetroWest	13%	11%
North Area	18%	16%
South Area	27%	18%



Jewish connections

The Jewish connections of this age group are the highest, compared to all other age groups. Two-thirds (65%) of this age group participated in events, activities, or programs sponsored by Jewish organizations during the 12 months before the survey.

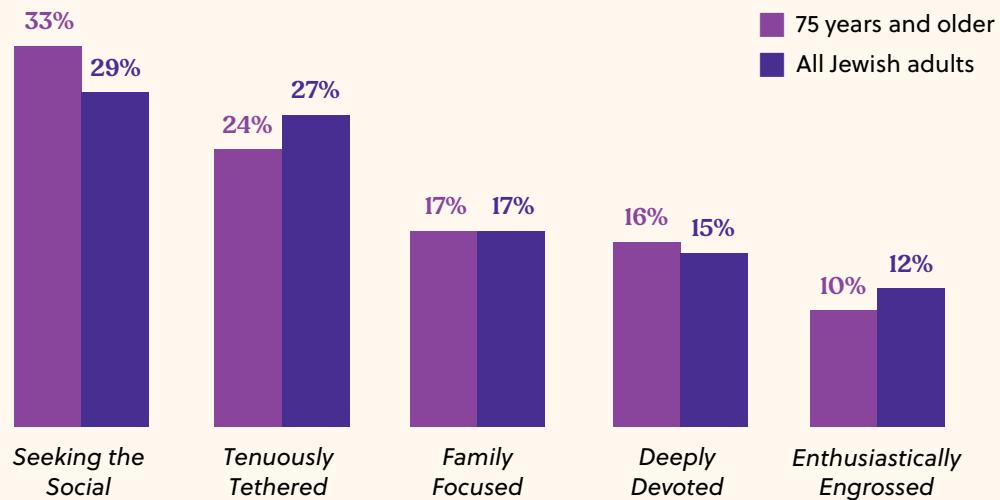
Jewish connections	75 years and older	All Jewish adults
Volunteered for Jewish organizations or causes	62%	49%
Donated to Jewish organizations or causes	80%	66%
Someone in household is a member, or regular participant, of a synagogue	35%	31%
Feel very or somewhat connected to a Jewish community in the town or city where they live	51%	43%
Feel very or somewhat connected to the Greater Boston Jewish community	57%	45%
Say being part of a Jewish community is very or somewhat important	60%	54%
Say being Jewish is very or somewhat important to them	87%	79%

About 79% say half or more of their closest friends are Jewish, which is the highest share of any age group. Their most common types of personal Jewish practices include often or sometimes:

- 77% Cook or eat traditional Jewish foods
- 76% Talk with family and friends about Jewish topics
- 58% Visit synagogues and other historical Jewish sites when traveling
- 50% Share Jewish culture and holidays with non-Jewish friends
- 46% Seek out newspapers, other publications, and podcasts with Jewish or Israeli content
- 45% Engage with Jewish and Israel arts and culture

Like 65- to 74-year-olds, this age group also closely mirrors the overall Jewish adult population with respect to the Index of Jewish Connection.

Index of Jewish Connection



Antisemitism

Adults ages 75 and older are the most concerned about antisemitism in Greater Boston (86%) and in their local city and town (53%), in particular compared to adults under 40.

Still, two-thirds (68%) strongly agree that they feel safe as a Jewish person when out in public, and half (50%) strongly agree that they feel safe in Jewish organizational spaces.

They are the least likely of all age groups (24%) to report avoiding behaviors that might identify them as Jewish or avoiding or going to events or places out of concern for their safety as Jews.⁷

Feeling of safety

● 75 years and older ● All Jewish adults

Concern about antisemitism in one's local city or town (% very or somewhat)

42% 53%

Concern about antisemitism in the Greater Boston area (% very or somewhat)

65% 86%

Feeling safe attending events, programs, or activities at Jewish organizations (% strongly agree)

49% 50%

Feeling safe out in public locally (% strongly agree)

68%

Israel

Connections to Israel among those 75 and older are the strongest of any age group. Two-thirds (68%) feel very or somewhat connected to Israel, and 70% feel very or somewhat emotionally attached to Israel.

Far more people in this age group say their emotional attachments to Israel have become stronger since October 7, 2023 (43%) than weaker (12%), with the balance (45%) reporting their emotional attachments are the same.

A strong majority say it is important for Israel to be the nation-state of the Jewish people (92%) and for Jewish values and traditions to shape Israel's mainstream culture (89%).

More than half (52%) identify as Zionist, 9% as anti-Zionist, and 38% are uncommitted.

Emotional attachment to Israel

● 75 years and older ● All Jewish adults

Connected to Israel
(% very or somewhat)

51% 68%

Emotionally attached to Israel
(% very or somewhat)

55% 70%

Emotional attachment to Israel
has weakened since the events
of October 7, 2023

12% 23%

Well-being

About one in five Jewish adults (21%) live below 250% of the federal poverty level—higher than those between 30-65 years old—but only 8% reported a material hardship at some point in the 12 months before the survey when paying for food, medical care, phone or internet service, utilities, housing, or debt.

In some cases, this may be explained by older adults living on retirement savings that they do not consider income, but which enable them to maintain economic security.

Compared to young cohorts, the need for services continues to drop off among those 75 and older (21%), again primarily due to declines in need for mental health services (5%). Just 4% reported they felt lonely, depressed, or anxious all the time or often in the month before the survey.

Physical and mental well-being	75 years and older	All Jewish adults
Reported one or more service needs	21%	38%
Mental health services needed	5%	27%
Always or often felt lonely, depressed, or anxious in the month before the survey	4%	14%

Conclusion.

The Greater Boston Jewish community displays both commonalities and sharp contrasts across age groups, reflecting both lifecycle stages and generational experiences. The profiles of age groups reveal that relationship status, the presence of children, and residential patterns vary across the cohorts.

Social identities are increasingly diverse among younger adults compared to older adults. Jewish connections across a wide range of measures—formally with Jewish organizations, within friendship networks, and with respect to Israel—are stronger, and concerns about antisemitism are more intense, among older adults.

Challenges to emotional and material well-being are most common among younger cohorts and then generally decline across age groups.

Understanding these patterns is important for ensuring the vitality and inclusivity of the Greater Boston Jewish community moving forward. By recognizing the diverse ways that people at various life stages connect to Jewish life, the community can better meet individuals where they are, strengthen opportunities for engagement and support, and address challenges to their well-being.

Did you know?

This report is part of a series of 13 reports across a range of topics that are important to the Greater Boston Jewish community. To explore insights, access additional resources, and read the other reports, visit cjp.org/CommunityStudy2025.

Notes.

1. Demographic characteristics of Jewish adults are produced using data collected from all adults in Jewish households (age, gender, race and ethnicity, LGBTQIA+ identity, and education). Other characteristics of identity and Jewish connections are reported using data reported by Jewish adults who responded to the survey.
2. Because more than 90% of 18- to 21-year-olds are enrolled in college, they were removed from the analysis of education, work, and income. They are included in all other analyses in the 18-29 ages section of this report.
3. This report uses the more inclusive acronym of LGBTQIA+. However, the survey referred to this group as LGBTQ+ and was defined in survey questions as "lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer."
4. The survey asked respondents if they or someone else in their household identify as a Jew of color or a person of color. Respondents could select one, both, or neither of the identities, and could indicate whether the identities applied to themselves only, to others, or to both themselves and others in their household. This approach draws on research and recommendations from sources such as the Jews of Color Initiative (JOCI) as well as consultation with those who have lived experience as people who identify as Jews of color, people of color, or both. In this report, Jewish respondents who self-identified as a Jew of color or as a person of color, or with both identities are described as JPOC. Similarly, households in which respondents reported one or more people identify as a Jew of color or a person of color are described as a JPOC household. As noted in "Beyond the Count" (Belzer, et al., Jews of Color Initiative, 2021) these terms may be understood as imperfect but useful ways to encompass a variety of identities and meanings.
5. Survey respondents were asked about their volunteering, donating and participation rates in the last year. For the purposes of reporting, we refer to this as the 12 months before the survey. Throughout this report, references to volunteer, donation, or participation rates reflect respondents' activities during the 12 months before the survey. The percentage of adults who donated to charitable organizations or volunteered their time excluded those who did not donate or volunteer.
6. On October 7, 2023, Hamas attacked Israel, killing more than 1,200 Israelis and other nationals living in Israel, kidnapping more than 250 people, the largest single-day massacre of Jews since the Holocaust. The Greater Boston Jewish Community Study was conducted from December 2024-April 2025, more than a year after the initial attack on October 7 and during the period of war between Hamas and Israel. While some respondents may answer questions about Israel differently if taking the survey today than they did during the original survey period, primary survey themes and patterns would likely remain the same.
7. This is true for all three behaviors the survey asked about. These include: publicly wearing, carrying, or displaying items that might identify one as Jewish; avoiding going to any places or events out of concern for safety or comfort as a Jew; and avoiding posting content online that would identify one as Jewish or reveal one's views on Jewish issues or on Israel.