



# 2025 Greater Boston Jewish Community Study.



Antisemitism.

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Sponsored by: Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston

Conducted by: Rosov Consulting with SSRS

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[cjp.org/CommunityStudy2025](http://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.

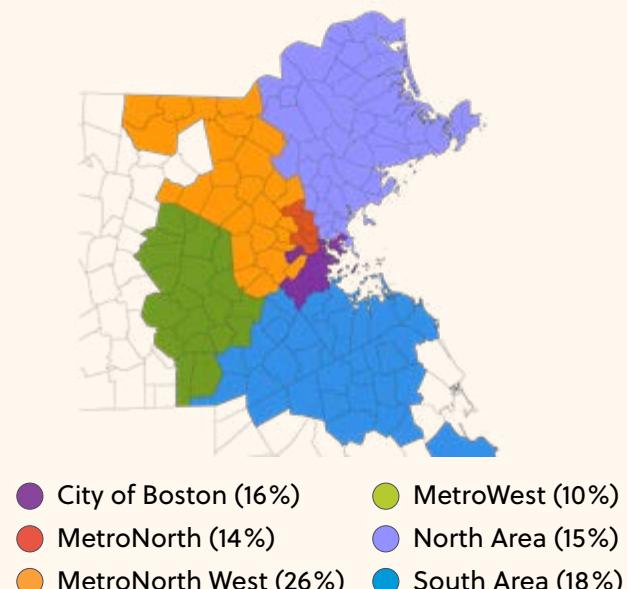
The goal of this study is to provide a transparent, fact-based picture of the community today. Conducted once every decade, this study gives the community the chance to step back and ask: Who are we today? Where are we thriving? And what does our community need to build a strong and safe future?

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  $\pm 2.6$  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](http://cjp.org/CommunityStudy2025).

## Map of Jewish households



For a detailed map, visit: [cjp.org/regionalmap](http://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 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 Jewish.
- **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.

# Experiences of antisemitism in Greater Boston.

Amid rising antisemitism, nationally and globally, Jews in Greater Boston are paying closer attention to safety issues and how their community is responding.

Using regional and demographic insights, this report explores how antisemitism is felt and managed. The findings explore the perceptions, experiences, and behaviors of Jewish adults in relation to antisemitism.

Nearly all Jews in Greater Boston are concerned about antisemitism in the U.S. and around the world, and a notable share are also worried about antisemitism closer to home. Those concerns have influenced how Jews navigate their public life, express identity, and seek support.



## Key takeaways



### Concerns for antisemitism are high

Many Jewish adults have personally experienced or witnessed antisemitism in Greater Boston, online, and on social media, and concerns remain high amid a national and global rise in antisemitism.



### Feelings of safety among Jewish adults and the support they feel from others who are not Jewish vary based on the environment and their connections to the Jewish community

Adults with deep ties to Jewish life feel safe within the community; however, they feel less safe in public and less support from people outside the community.



### Antisemitism is driving people to change their behaviors, including downplaying their Judaism

Local and global antisemitism has shaped everyday behavior. Many Jewish adults in Greater Boston have chosen to hide or downplay their Jewishness in some way. For example, some do not wear a Jewish star, or Star of David.



### Most Jews can spot antisemitism, but few know what to do next

The majority of Jewish adults in Greater Boston recognize antisemitism when they see it. However, most of them, especially those with fewer connections to Jewish life, do not know how to report antisemitism or where to turn for support.

# Concerns about antisemitism.

## Global, national, and local antisemitism

Jewish adults across Greater Boston are highly concerned about antisemitism throughout the U.S. and around the world. However, they are relatively less concerned about antisemitism in Greater Boston and in the local cities or towns where they live.

Nine in 10 Jews are very or somewhat concerned about antisemitism around the world (94%) and in the U.S. (91%).<sup>1</sup> Nearly two-thirds (65%) are very or somewhat concerned about antisemitism in Greater Boston, while less than half (42%) are very or somewhat concerned about antisemitism in the cities or towns where they live.

Concerns about global, national, and local antisemitism are partly shaped by the following: age, connections to Jewish community, and geography. Older Jews express more concern than younger Jews. For example, Jews who are 65 and older are almost seven times as likely to be very concerned about antisemitism in the Greater Boston community compared to Jews who are under 30 years old. Those who are *Deeply Devoted* or *Enthusiastically Engrossed* are more concerned than others, especially in comparison to *Tenuously Tethered*.

## Concerns about global, national, and local antisemitism

- Not at all concerned
- Not too concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Very concerned

### Antisemitism around the world

1%



### Antisemitism in the U.S.

1%



### Antisemitism in the Greater Boston area



### Antisemitism in one's local city or town



## Concerns about antisemitism in the six regions of Greater Boston

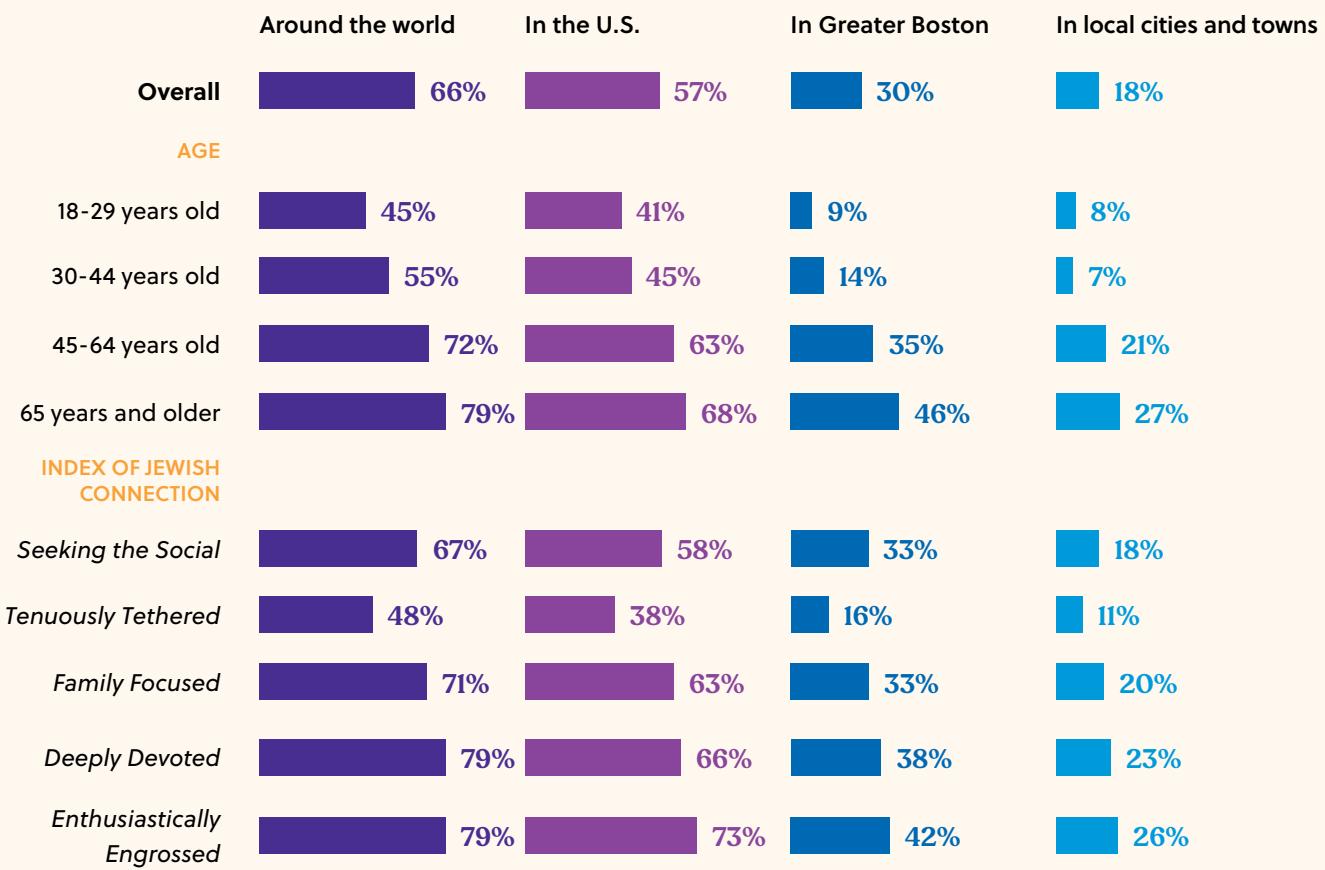
### Percentage of adults who are very concerned about antisemitism in the city or town where they live

City of Boston	15%
MetroNorth	13%
MetroNorth West	14%
MetroWest	19%
North Area	28%
South Area	23%

Concerns about antisemitism in local cities and towns tend to be lower among Jews who live in the City of Boston, MetroNorth, and MetroNorth West, though these concerns are higher among Jews who live in the North and South Areas and MetroWest.

## Concerns about global, national, and local antisemitism

Percentage of adults who are very concerned

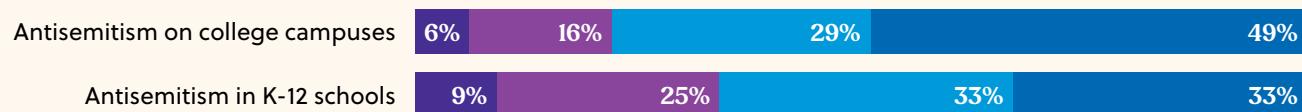


# Antisemitism in educational institutions.

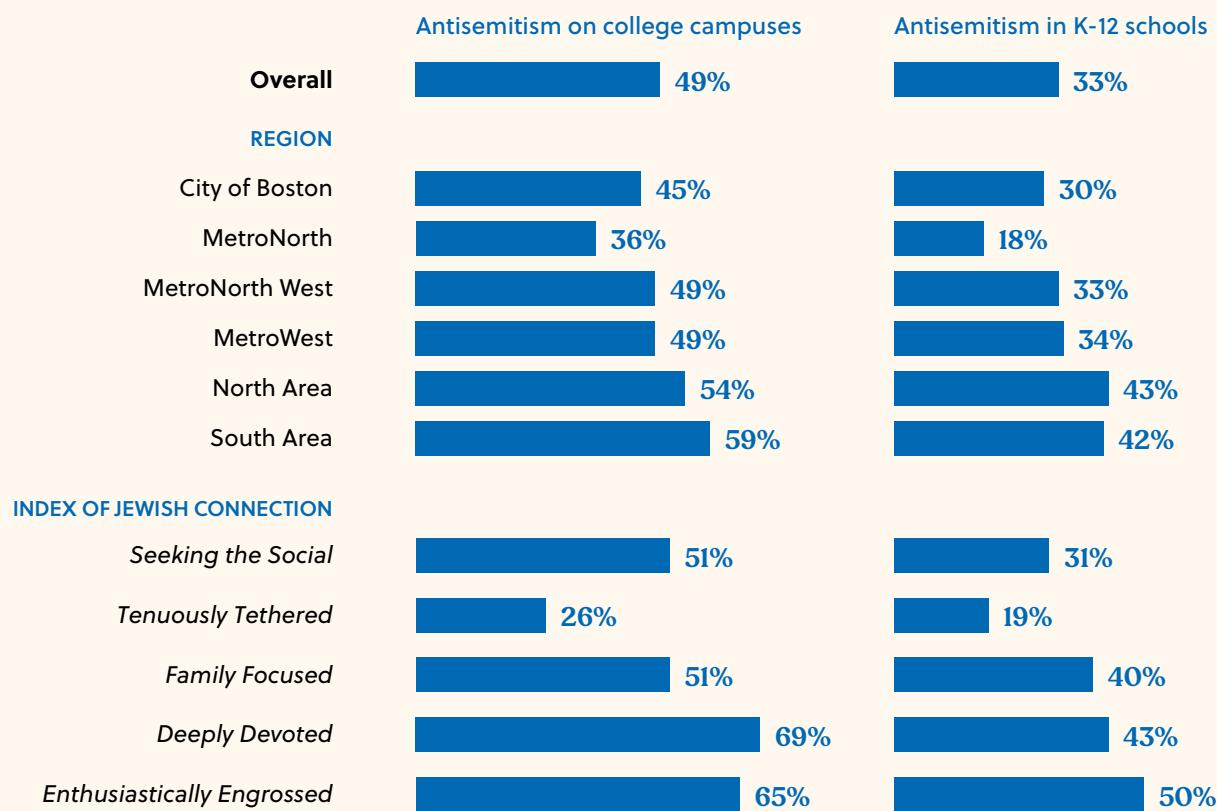
Amid a nationwide uptick in antisemitism, Greater Boston is one of many communities to express concern for students.<sup>2</sup> Three quarters (78%) of Jews in Greater Boston are very or somewhat concerned about antisemitism on college campuses, while two-thirds (66%) are very or somewhat concerned about antisemitism in K-12 schools.

## Concerns about antisemitism in educational institutions

■ Not at all concerned ■ Not too concerned ■ Somewhat concerned ■ Very concerned



## Percentage of adults who are very concerned



Concerns about antisemitism in educational institutions tend to be higher among older Jews, those who are *Deeply Devoted* or *Enthusiastically Engrossed*, and Jews residing in the South and North Areas.

Concerns about antisemitism at universities are higher among those who are not currently studying or living on college campuses. About one-third (34%) of Jewish college students<sup>3</sup> are very concerned about antisemitism on campuses, while nearly half (48%) of all other Jewish adults in Greater Boston are similarly concerned.

# Jewish safety in Greater Boston.

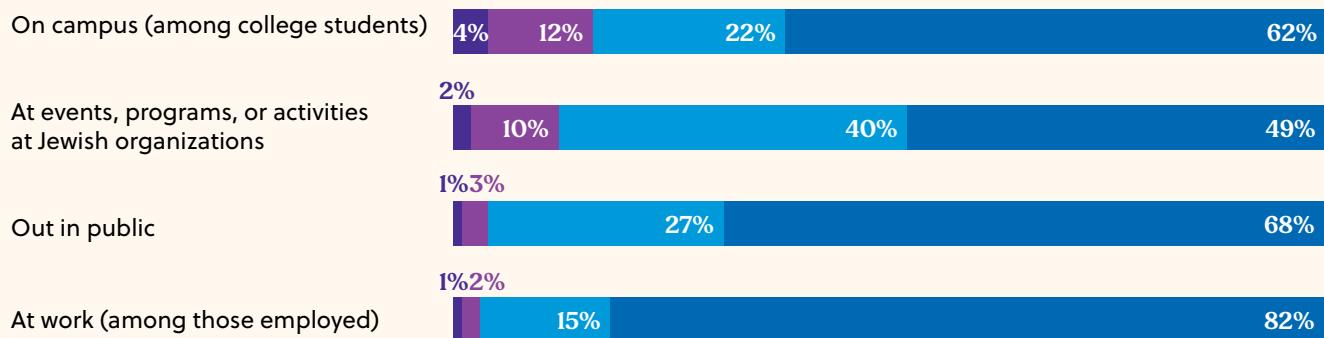
Jews vary in how safe they feel in different environments. More than 80% of Jews who are working strongly agree that they feel safe at their workplace, 68% of all Jewish adults strongly agree that they feel safe when out in public, and 62% of Jewish college students strongly agree that they feel safe on their campuses.

Only half (49%) of all Jewish adults strongly agree that they feel safe attending events, programs, or activities at Jewish organizations. Just over half of Jewish adults (55%) strongly agree that they feel supported by communities and friends who are not Jewish.

## Feelings of Jewish safety in Greater Boston

■ Strongly disagree ■ Somewhat disagree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Strongly agree

I feel safe...



While the majority of adults strongly agree they feel safe, many others only somewhat agree, suggesting some feelings of uncertainty.

Some Jewish adults made clear: They do not feel safe in various places. Close to one in seven Jewish adults overall (14%) feel unsafe either at work, out in public, at Jewish organizations, or on campus. The two places where Jews feel least safe are college campuses and Jewish organizations.

In a follow-up interview, a community member acknowledged not always feeling safe hosting Jewish events in their own home:

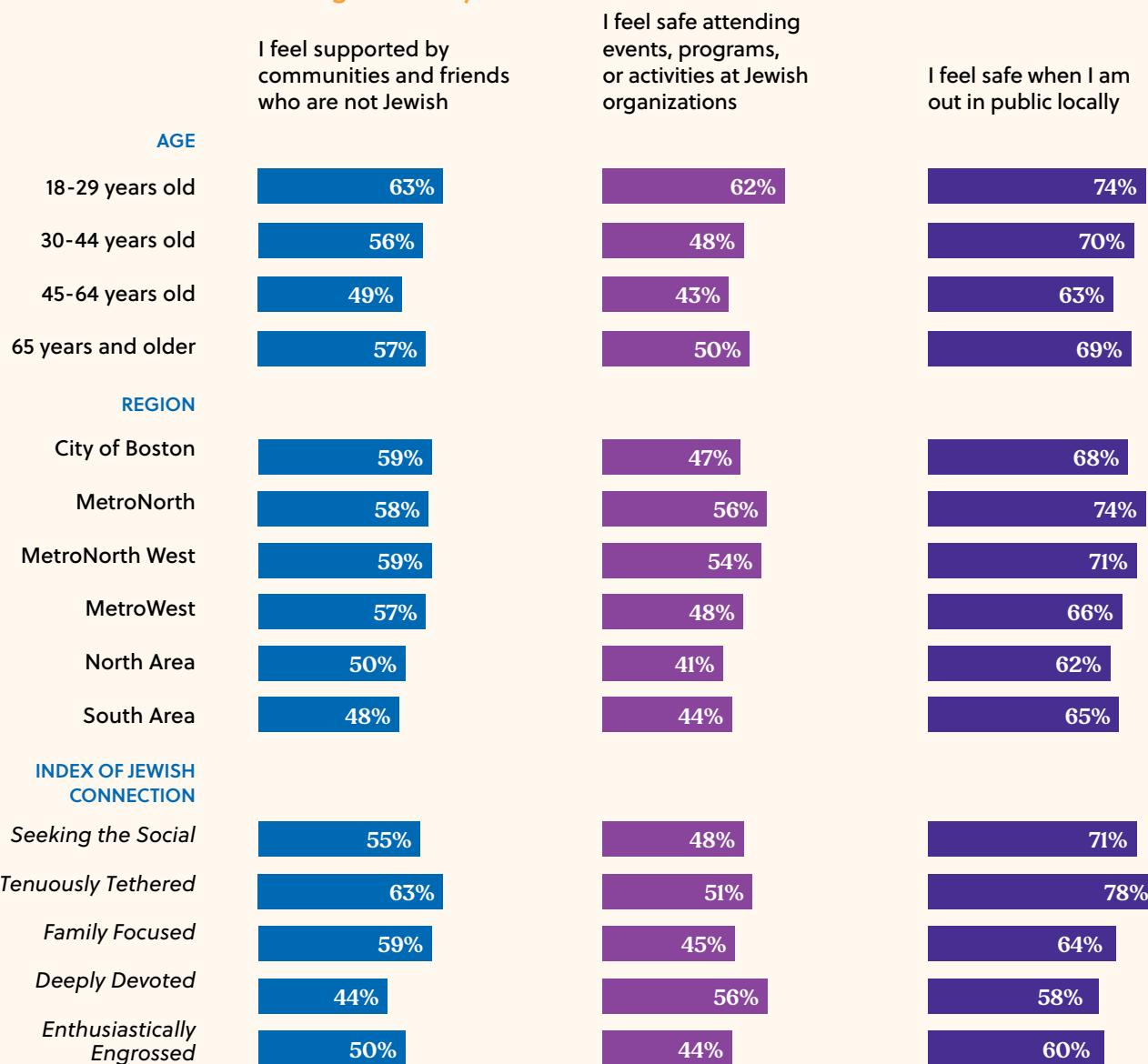
*I don't really feel safe, but I don't really know what I would do about it, and therefore I'm just going to keep living my life. But I would say I'm careful about where I go ... [and] fairly often we host Jewish events in our home, and we're very careful about who we give up the address to and just trying to keep things low key. If I felt safe, I wouldn't worry about things like that.*

Certain groups tend to feel safer than others, including those of different ages, regions, and Jewish connections. Younger Jews, those who live in the surrounding metro areas of the City of Boston, and Jews who are *Tenuously Tethered* are the most likely to feel safe as Jews when out in public and supported by communities and friends who are not Jewish. These patterns are also consistent with their lower levels of concern about antisemitism.

Jewish adults who are *Tenuously Tethered* are the most likely to feel safe as Jews when out in public (78%). They are also the most likely to feel supported by communities and friends who are not Jewish (63%). Jews who are *Deeply Devoted* are the least likely to feel safe when out in public (58%) and feel supported by communities and friends who are not Jewish (44%).

However, Jews who are *Deeply Devoted* are the most likely to feel safe at Jewish organizational events, activities, and programs (56%), more so than *Tenuously Tethered* (51%) and even *Enthusiastically Engrossed* (44%).

### Jewish connections and feelings of safety



# Personal experiences of antisemitism.

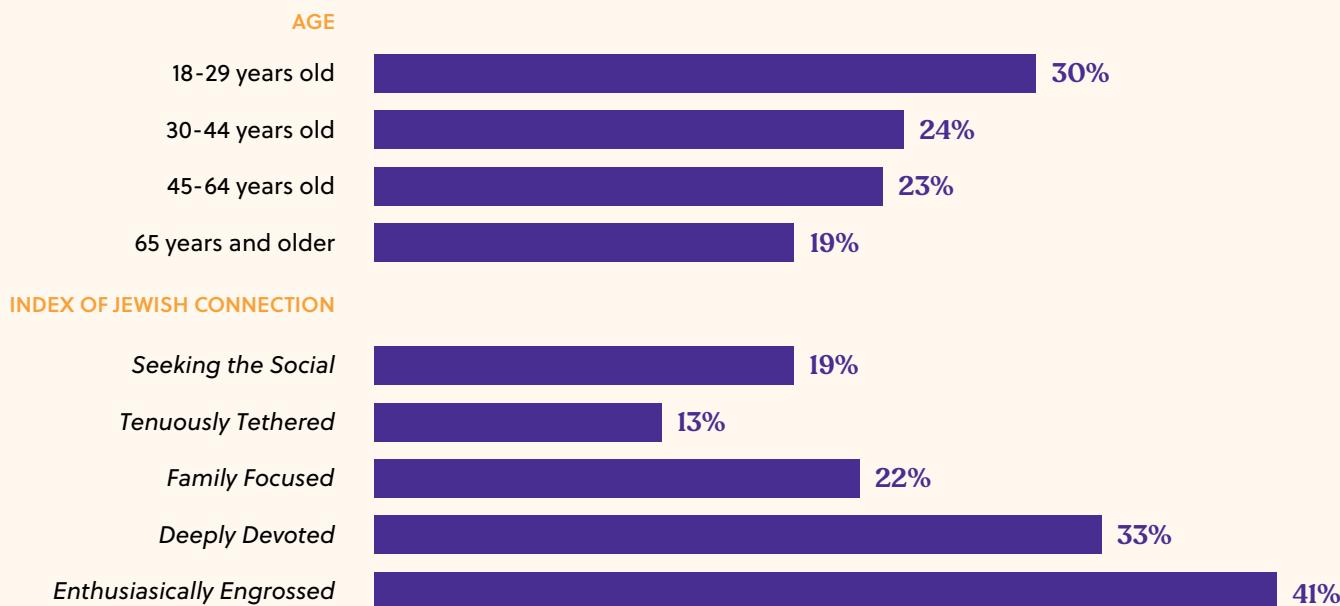
Nearly a quarter (23%) of Jews in Greater Boston personally experienced or witnessed antisemitism in the 12 months before taking the survey. Such incidents include:

- 14% Overhearing or witnessing an antisemitic remark towards someone else in person
- 8% Being the target of an antisemitic remark in person
- 8% Being made to feel unwelcome somewhere due to Jewish identity
- 4% Being the target of an antisemitic remark online
- 1% Witnessing an antisemitic physical attack on someone else
- <1% Being the target of an antisemitic physical attack

Jews who are *Enthusiastically Engrossed* report the highest number of antisemitic incidents, followed closely by those who are *Deeply Devoted*. In addition, a higher proportion of younger Jews, compared to their older peers, personally experienced or witnessed antisemitic incidents.

There are no substantial differences in reported antisemitic experiences across the six regions of Greater Boston. The percentage of Jews across the U.S. who have experienced similar incidents is estimated at about 33%, which is higher than the rate in Greater Boston, suggesting that overall, Jews in Greater Boston may experience fewer antisemitic incidents than Jews in other locations.<sup>4</sup>

## Personally experienced or witnessed an antisemitic incident



In follow-up interviews, participants described their firsthand experiences with antisemitism.

*I had a very close friend who was at my son's bris (Jewish ritual circumcision) ... who ghosted me on October 7th<sup>5</sup> and then never spoke with me again ... and told me over email, after I inquired why, that it was because I was a Zionist that he would no longer speak to me. That was deeply upsetting and that was antisemitic.*

*Luckily we haven't really experienced any firsthand antisemitism. But ... we're very up on the news and we watch all the time and ... it's scary seeing everything that's going on around the country. So luckily we haven't really had any direct experience, but it's just a scary feeling ... how much worse it's gotten the past couple years and it just doesn't seem to be getting any better.*

In addition to those who have personally experienced or witnessed antisemitism, many more have seen antisemitism content online or on social media. Three quarters (76%) have read or heard about antisemitic events or attacks in the news,<sup>6</sup> and more than half (57%) have seen antisemitic content online or on social media.

Younger Jews (18-29 years old) were notably more likely to see antisemitic content online or on social media (71%) compared to Jews ages 65 and older (47%). Jews who are *Enthusiastically Engrossed* are the most likely to read or hear about antisemitic events or attacks in the news (90%) and to see antisemitic content online or on social media (77%).



# Avoiding behaviors and activities.

Concerns about antisemitism have led some Jews in Greater Boston to avoid certain behaviors and activities. In the 12 months before the survey:

- 28% Refrained from posting content online that would identify them as Jewish or reveal their views on Jewish issues or Israel
- 23% Chose not to publicly wear, carry, or display items that might identify them as Jewish
- 15% Did not go to certain places or events out of their concern for their safety as Jews

Altogether, 37% of Greater Boston Jews avoided one of these three behaviors or activities. While the above percentages are lower than national averages—suggesting that Jews here feel safer than their Jewish peers in other cities across the U.S.<sup>7</sup>—the adverse impact of antisemitism is evident in how Jews present themselves in public and online.

*“My kids are very careful—not wearing a kippah (yarmulke) in certain places. My nephews as well, when they come here ... they'll wear a baseball hat. And there's just a general sense of fear and being cautious, you know, and careful what you're posting on social media.”*

## Avoiding certain activities for safety reasons

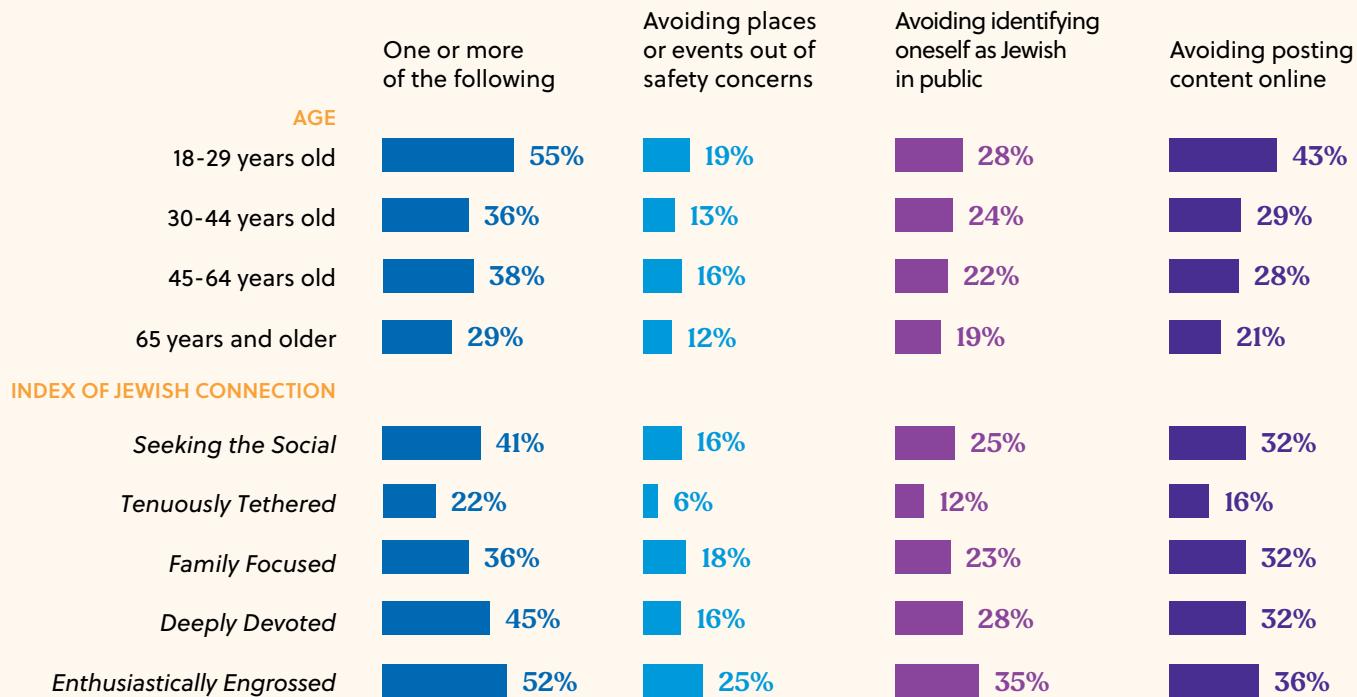


Younger Jews were the most likely to avoid these behaviors and activities, driven primarily by not posting content online that would identify them as Jewish or reveal their views on Jewish issues or Israel.

Additionally, younger Jews may be more likely than older adults to avoid posting content that identifies them as Jewish because they spend more time online. Among Jewish adults who reported using the internet almost constantly in a separate survey question, younger Jews are still more likely than their older peers to avoid posting content that could identify them as Jewish. This suggests, at least for people who are almost always online, that the kind of social media young Jews engage with may be the driver behind higher levels of avoiding content that could identify them as Jews.<sup>8</sup>

Jews in Greater Boston who are *Enthusiastically Engrossed* avoid these kinds of activities at a higher rate than their Jewish peers, even more so than those who are *Deeply Devoted*. Jews who are *Family Focused* and *Seeking the Social* refrain from them just slightly less often than the *Deeply Devoted*. Notably, Jews who are *Tenuously Tethered* are least likely to avoid these kinds of behaviors and activities, consistent with their relatively lower concerns about antisemitism.

### The relationship between age, connection to Jewish life, and avoiding certain activities for safety reasons



While concerns about antisemitism have led some Jews to avoid certain behaviors, others have “leaned in,” choosing to prioritize the public display of their Jewish identity.

“ I think you start to see the antisemitism that’s always been in people and how they’re really quick to say that it’s not antisemitism when it is. And I think I’ve seen that and felt it a lot more since October 7th, and feel it to be much more important to show that I am Jewish. Like, I didn’t always wear a Jewish star every day and that’s something that’s very important to me now. ”

# Recognizing and reporting antisemitism.

Most Jews in Greater Boston are able to recognize antisemitism around them and explain it to others, but they do not necessarily know how to report it or where to seek support.

Nearly three quarters (74%) feel very confident in their ability to identify antisemitism, and nearly two-thirds (63%) feel very confident in their ability to explain antisemitism to others when it occurs. Far fewer feel very confident in their ability to report antisemitism (29%) or know where they can turn to in the Jewish community for support if they are personally a target of antisemitism (24%).

## Confidence in recognizing and reporting antisemitism

■ Strongly disagree ■ Somewhat disagree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Strongly agree

I feel confident that I know where I can turn in the Jewish community for support if I am personally a target of antisemitism



I feel confident that I know how to report antisemitism when I see it



I feel confident that I can explain to others when antisemitism occurs



I feel confident that I am able to identify what antisemitism is



For Jews living in Greater Boston, there is a direct relationship between their degree of Jewish connections and their confidence in knowing where to turn for support in the Jewish community. Jews who are *Deeply Devoted* are most confident (49%), followed by *Enthusiastically Engrossed* (40%), *Seeking the Social* (24%), *Family Focused* (15%), and *Tenuously Tethered* (9%).

Regionally, Jews living in MetroNorth West are most confident in knowing where to turn to if they experience antisemitism (30%), while those living in the North Area and the City of Boston are least confident (20%, 21% respectively). There were no notable differences across age groups in regard to feeling confident about recognizing and reporting antisemitism.

# Conclusion.

The findings on antisemitism show a nuanced picture of both concern and resilience among Jews in Greater Boston. Their reactions to antisemitism are shaped in part by age, geography, and connections to the community.

While the majority of Jews in Greater Boston feel safe in their daily lives and when participating in Jewish communal activities, local and global antisemitism continues to shape their attitudes and behaviors.

Importantly, most feel confident in identifying and explaining antisemitism, but fewer feel equipped to report incidents or access community support. These gaps highlight critical opportunities for Jewish communal institutions to build stronger, more visible support systems.

## 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](https://cjp.org/CommunityStudy2025).

# Notes.

1. The findings on Jewish concerns about antisemitism in the U.S. are closely aligned with those from a 2024 study, *The State of Antisemitism in America*, which was conducted by the American Jewish Committee (AJC). The question in the AJC survey had slightly different wording: "How much of a problem, if at all, do you think antisemitism is in the United States today?" Answer options included: "A very serious problem," "somewhat of a problem," "not much of a problem," or "not a problem at all." Nationally, 54% of Jewish adults reported that antisemitism in the United States is a "very serious problem," similar to the 57% of Jewish adults in Greater Boston who reported they are "very concerned" about antisemitism in the United States.
2. This finding comes from *The State of Antisemitism in America*, a 2024 survey of American Jews conducted by the American Jewish Committee (AJC).
3. Respondents who are college and university students are included in all three sampling strata: Jewish community lists, modeled likely Jewish households, and the residual address-based sampling frame. These students may be somewhat underrepresented in the full sample, particularly among the youngest undergraduates who are more likely to live in campus dormitories, while also slightly overrepresenting older undergraduate and graduate students, such as those living in off-campus housing.
4. The national statistics come from *The State of Antisemitism in America*, a 2024 study conducted by the American Jewish Committee (AJC). The list of incidents in the AJC survey was slightly different: a physical attack, a remark in person, antisemitic vandalism or messaging, antisemitic remark or post online or through social media, or any other form of antisemitism. Nonetheless, the comparison suggests that Boston is a relatively safer place for Jews than other locations, which is in line with additional findings in the current study.
5. 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.
6. The survey question asking about the news did not specify whether it was local, national, or global news.
7. The national statistics come from *The State of Antisemitism in America*, a 2024 study conducted by the American Jewish Committee (AJC).
8. In contrast, among those who reported using the internet several times a day, their decision not to post content that could identify them as Jewish does not vary by age. There are too few people who use the internet less than several times a day for reliable analysis by age.