



# 2025 Greater Boston Jewish Community Study.



Diverse  
social groups.

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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)

*Published February 2026*

# 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.

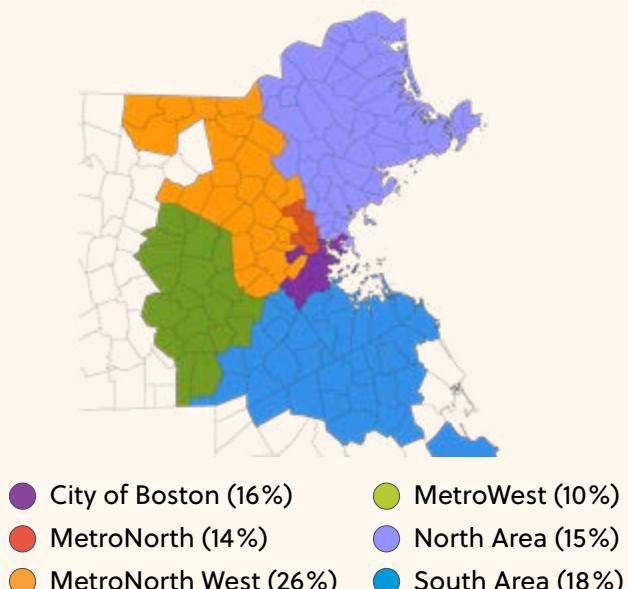
The goal of this study is to provide a transparent, fact-based picture of the community today. Conducted once every decade, this study gives the community the chance to step back and ask: Who are we today? Where are we thriving? And what does our community need to build a strong and safe future?

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 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 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.

# Diverse groups within the Greater Boston Jewish community.

This report focuses on six groups that make up small segments of the Greater Boston Jewish community. They include: LGBTQIA+ Jews, Jews of color or people of color, Jews with disabilities, Russian-speaking Jews, Israeli Jews, and Jews of Sephardic or Mizrahi heritage.

Historically, some of these groups have expressed feeling marginalized in Jewish communal life.<sup>1</sup> To elevate their visibility and specific challenges, this report examines their key demographic and Jewish characteristics, connections to the Jewish community, the extent to which groups feel welcome and included, and several measures of their well-being.<sup>2</sup>



## Key takeaways



### Diverse Jewish groups are connected to Jewish community

Most individuals in these groups say that being part of a Jewish community is important and the majority attend programs or events in the Greater Boston area.



### Most adults feel welcomed in a Jewish community but inclusion gaps remain

Across all six groups, majorities say the Greater Boston Jewish community is welcoming to them and their families. However, many of these groups say that not feeling welcome has limited their participation in the Greater Boston Jewish community and more specifically in synagogue life.



### Many experience mental health and financial challenges

Most groups experience higher than average rates of loneliness, depression, and anxiety compared with other Jewish adults, as well as greater economic vulnerability.

# A framework for measuring inclusion and belonging.

The survey included a series of questions to determine if individuals and their families felt welcome, and if so, to what degree. They were also asked how welcoming the Jewish community is to other groups.

## How we measured welcoming

The survey question below shows one example of how welcoming was measured in the survey: Overall, in your opinion, how welcoming is the Greater Boston Jewish community to... [Answers included: Not at all welcoming; A little welcoming; Somewhat welcoming; Very welcoming; Not sure]<sup>3</sup>

- a. You [or] you and your family
- b. Interfaith families
- c. People of color
- d. LGBTQIA+ people
- e. People with disabilities or special needs

Additionally, the survey also asked about factors that limit participation in Jewish communal life.<sup>4</sup> People were able to select different answers, including: "the community does not feel welcoming to people like you" or "the community is not welcoming or inclusive to your family."



# LGBTQIA+ Jews.

LGBTQIA+ Jews<sup>5</sup> in Greater Boston represent a vibrant and diverse segment of the community, with people of various ages, family structures, and Jewish affiliations. Many are younger adults, are secular or culturally Jewish, and they are more likely to be in interfaith relationships than Jewish adults overall. A higher share of LGBTQIA+ Jewish adults also report challenges to their mental health and financial well-being, compared to all Jewish adults.

## Population and demographics

### POPULATION



**13%** of Jewish adults identify as LGBTQIA+

**22,800** Jewish adults



**21%** of Jewish households include at least one individual who identifies as LGBTQIA+

**27,600** households

### MARITAL STATUS



**56%**

are married or live with a partner

**41%**

are single and have never been married

### CHILDREN



**16%**

have one or more children ages 0-17 living at home

### INTERFAITH



Interfaith relationships are more common among LGBTQIA+ Jews than other Jews in Greater Boston. Of those who are married or living with a partner:

**31%** have a Jewish spouse or partner

**69%** have a spouse or partner who is not Jewish

## Demographic characteristics

### Age

Those who identify as LGBTQIA+ Jews tend to be younger. More than a third (39%) are 18-29 years old and 31% are 30-44 years old.

Age	LGBTQIA+ Jewish adults	All Jewish adults
18-29 years old	39%	22%
30-44 years old	31%	25%
45-64 years old	22%	26%
65 years old and older	9%	27%

### Geography

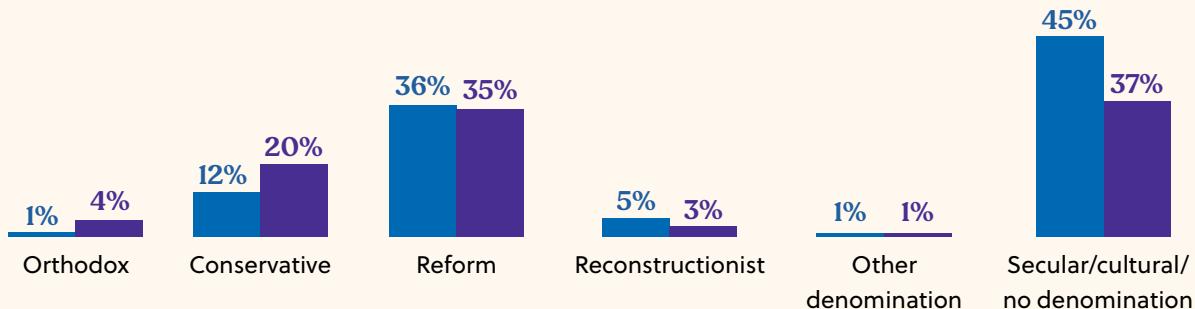
LGBTQIA+ Jews mainly live in MetroNorth West (28%), MetroNorth (25%), and the City of Boston (20%).

## Denomination

In terms of Jewish denominational affiliation, most LGBTQIA+ Jews identify as either secular or culturally Jewish (45%) or Reform (36%).

### Denominational affiliations

■ LGBTQIA+ Jewish adults ■ All Jewish adults



## Connection to Jewish life

### Index of Jewish Connection

LGBTQIA+ Jews in Greater Boston have varying levels of connection to Jewish life and community, ranging from *Tenuously Tethered* (27%) to *Deeply Devoted* (13%). The largest share of LGBTQIA+ Jews are *Seeking the Social* (30%).

Index of Jewish Connection	LGBTQIA+ Jewish adults	All Jewish adults
<i>Seeking the Social</i>	30%	29%
<i>Tenuously Tethered</i>	27%	27%
<i>Family Focused</i>	19%	17%
<i>Deeply Devoted</i>	13%	15%
<i>Enthusiastically Engrossed</i>	11%	12%

### Connections to Jewish community

Approximately half (51%) of LGBTQIA+ Jews in Greater Boston say that being part of a Jewish community is very or somewhat important to them. Slightly less, however, feel connected to a Jewish community.

About 40% feel very or somewhat connected to the broader Greater Boston Jewish community, while 34% feel very or somewhat connected to a Jewish community in the city or town where they live.



*I appreciate how many different points of connection exist for Jews and even for LGBT Jews. And my husband and I actually were asked to speak at our synagogue recently about our lives in the LGBT community and [that was] something I could never have imagined in a million years when I was growing up. And the degree of acceptance was just incredible.*



## Communal connection

**58%** say that half or more of their closest friends are Jewish

**24%** are part of households where they or someone else is a regular synagogue participant or member

### Participation in organized Jewish programming

**67%** have attended in-person or online events, activities, or programs sponsored by Jewish organizations in the 12 months before the survey

**56%** participate once or twice a year

**24%** participate at least once a month

## Feeling welcome

Nearly nine in 10 Jews whose households include an LGBTQIA+ person feel that the Greater Boston Jewish community is very or somewhat welcoming to them and their families (89%), and that the community is very or somewhat welcoming to LGBTQIA+ people in general (91%).<sup>6</sup> Their perceptions are similar to others in the Jewish population in Greater Boston.

“

*I think that all of my experiences have been very welcoming. There's occasionally things where I think people make a mistake. ... But I don't think that's intentional, it's just sort of an oversight.*

”

Although most LGBTQIA+ Jews report general feelings of being welcomed in the Greater Boston Jewish community, they are about twice as likely to say that feeling unwelcome has actually limited their participation in Jewish communal life (13%) compared to all Jewish adults (7%).

The same was true with regard to regular synagogue participation and membership, with LGBTQIA+ adults being twice as likely to say feeling unwelcome is a barrier to membership or participation (8%) compared to 4% of all Jewish adults.

Feeling welcome and unwelcome in Jewish communal life	LGBTQIA+ Jewish adults	All Jewish adults
<b>GREATER BOSTON JEWISH COMMUNITY IS WELCOMING...</b>		
to family	89%	87%
to LGBTQIA+ people	91%	88%
<b>FEELING UNWELCOME AS BARRIER...</b>		
to participation in the Greater Boston Jewish community	13%	7%
to membership or participation in a synagogue	8%	4%

## Well-Being

When it comes to their mental health, LGBTQIA+ Jews in Greater Boston are about twice as likely to frequently feel lonely, depressed, or anxious, compared to their Jewish peers (26% vs. 14% reported feeling this way often or all the time in the month before taking the survey).

In terms of their financial status, about one in six (16%) LGBTQIA+ Jews in Greater Boston live in households that fall under 250% of the federal poverty level, including 5% below the poverty line itself. Similarly, 20% describe their financial situation as just managing to make ends meet or cannot make ends meet. These proportions are higher than all Jewish adults in the Greater Boston Jewish community.

Physical and mental well-being	LGBTQIA+ Jewish adults	All Jewish adults
Often or always feeling lonely, depressed, or anxious	26%	14%
< 250% federal poverty level	16%	13%
Cannot or just managing to make ends meet	20%	17%

# Jews of color / People of color.

Jewish adults who identify as Jews of color or people of color (JPOC)<sup>7</sup> are mostly younger, are secular or culturally Jewish, and tend to live in urban areas. Interfaith relationships are common. Compared to other Jews in Greater Boston, a similar proportion of people in this group have children 0-17 years old living with them. A higher share also report challenges to their mental health and financial well-being.

While many value being part of a Jewish community, they report lower levels of connection to the Greater Boston Jewish community and higher rates of feeling unwelcome, compared to their peers. Their experiences underscore the importance of meaningful inclusion and the need for deeper, more authentic engagement across the community.

## How we measured race and ethnicity

To capture the diverse expressions of race and ethnicity, and the intersections with Jewish identity, the survey included several questions. First, respondents were asked questions about Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin and race based on standard questions used in the U.S. Census. In addition, the survey asked whether respondents or someone else in their household identify as a Jew of color or person of color. Respondents could select one, both, or neither.<sup>8</sup>

In this report, Jewish adults who self-identified as Jews of color or as people of color—or with both identities—are described as JPOC. Those who reported that someone in their household identifies as a Jew or person of color were classified as having JPOC households.

## Population and demographics



**2%** of Jewish adults in Greater Boston identify as JPOC



**8%** of all Jewish households include at least one individual who identifies as JPOC

**4,400** adults

**10,500** households

### MARITAL STATUS



**68%**  
are married or live  
with a partner

**32%**  
are single and  
have never been  
married

### CHILDREN



**15%**  
have one or more children  
ages 0-17 living at home

### INTERFAITH



Interfaith relationships are more common among JPOC than other Jews in Greater Boston. Of those who are married or living with a partner:

**37%** have a Jewish spouse or partner

**63%** have a spouse or partner who is not Jewish

# Demographic characteristics

## Age

Those who identify as JPOC tend to be younger. More than a third (35%) are 18-29 years old, and 34% are 30-44 years old.

Age	JPOC	All Jewish adults
18-29 years old	35%	22%
30-44 years old	34%	25%
45-64 years old	15%	26%
65 years old and older	16%	27%

## Geography

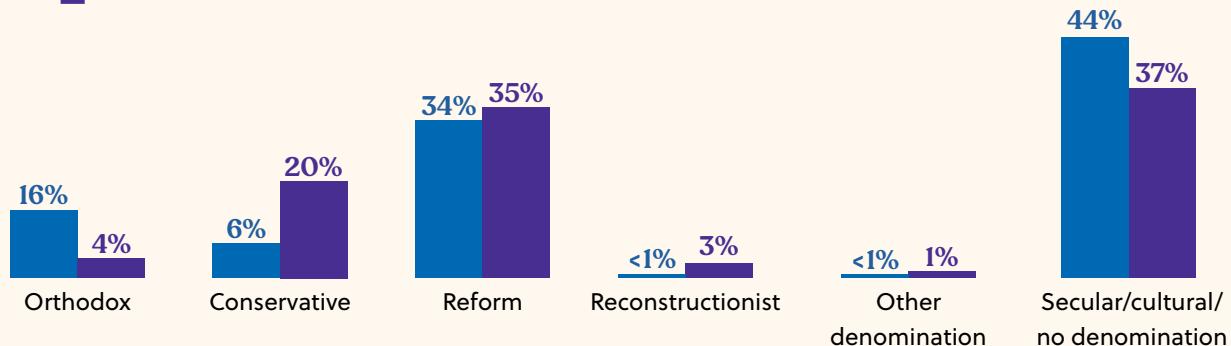
Most JPOC live in the City of Boston (34%), followed by MetroNorth (27%) and MetroNorth West (23%).

## Denomination

In terms of Jewish denominational affiliation, most JPOC identify as either Reform (34%) or secular or culturally Jewish (44%).

### Denominational affiliations

■ JPOC ■ All Jewish adults



## Connection to Jewish life

### Index of Jewish Connection

JPOC in Greater Boston have varying levels of connection to Jewish life and community, with the largest shares being *Seeking the Social* (27%) and *Family Focused* (22%).

Index of Jewish Connection	JPOC	All Jewish adults
Seeking the Social	27%	29%
Tenuously Tethered	18%	27%
Family Focused	22%	17%
Deeply Devoted	11%	15%
Enthusiastically Engrossed	22%	12%

## Connections to Jewish community

Nearly two-thirds (63%) of JPOC in Greater Boston report that being part of a Jewish community is very or somewhat important to them.

Significantly fewer people, however, feel connected to a Jewish community. Among JPOC, 31% feel very or somewhat connected to the Greater Boston Jewish community, while 34% feel very or somewhat connected to a Jewish community in the city or town where they live. JPOC feel less connected to the Greater Boston Jewish community and their local Jewish community than other Jews in Greater Boston.

## Communal connection

**57%** say that half or more of their closest friends are Jewish

**22%** are part of households where they or someone else is a regular synagogue participant or member

### Participation in organized Jewish programming

**77%** have attended in-person or online events, activities, or programs sponsored by Jewish organizations in the 12 months before the survey

48% → participate once or twice a year

20% → participate once a month

## Feeling welcome

Three quarters of Jews whose households include someone who identifies as JPOC feel that the Greater Boston Jewish community is very or somewhat welcoming to them and their families (75%), and that the community is very or somewhat welcoming to people of color in general (78%).<sup>9</sup> Their perceptions are somewhat lower than those of other Jews in Greater Boston.

Although most adults who identify as JPOC report that they generally feel welcomed by the Greater Boston Jewish community, a significant portion also say that feeling unwelcome limits their communal participation. In a separate question about specific factors that have limited their involvement in the Jewish community, 30% indicated that one barrier is the perception that the community does not feel welcoming to people like them. This gap between generally positive feelings and the experiences of exclusion may reflect how individuals feel welcomed in principle but also sometimes encounter behaviors, norms, or structures that limit their full participation.

“

*I would say initially, [I felt] definitely welcome, but it feels superficial after a while and I don't know if it's necessarily because of race. I'm not going to say it is. I hope not. But some people are extremely kind and welcoming. They say, 'Hi, good to see you. How's everything?' But I have noticed that, when rubber hits the road, when you're asking them something that you need assistance with or something like that or just in trying to have a more meaningful connection ... it's a lot harder.*

”

Among those whose households include JPOC and who have chosen not to become members of or regular participants in a synagogue, 26% said they feel synagogues are not welcoming or inclusive of their family.

Feeling welcome and unwelcome in Jewish communal life	JPOC	All Jewish adults
<b>GREATER BOSTON JEWISH COMMUNITY IS WELCOMING...</b>		
to family	75%	87%
to JPOC	78%	88%
<b>FEELING UNWELCOME AS BARRIER...</b>		
to participation in the Greater Boston Jewish community	30%	7%
to membership or participation in a synagogue	26%	4%

## Well-Being

When it comes to their mental health, JPOC in Greater Boston are more than twice as likely to frequently feel lonely, depressed, or anxious, compared to their Jewish peers (38% vs. 14% reported feeling this way often or all the time in the month before taking the survey).

About 12% live in households that fall under 250% of the federal poverty level, including 10% below the poverty line itself. Over a quarter (28%) describe their financial situation as just managing to make ends meet or cannot make ends meet. These proportions are substantially higher than others in the Greater Boston Jewish community.

Physical and mental well-being	JPOC	All Jewish adults
Often or always feeling lonely, depressed, or anxious	38%	14%
< 250% federal poverty level	12%	13%
Cannot or just managing to make ends meet	28%	17%

# Jews with disabilities.

Jews with disabilities (whether visible or not) span all age groups and include individuals with physical, mental health, developmental, and chronic health conditions. They are geographically dispersed across Greater Boston and represent a significant portion of Jewish households.

Although many feel welcomed by the Jewish community, accessibility remains a key concern. A higher share also report challenges to their mental health and financial well-being, and most report that they do not know where to find help in the Jewish community. Their experiences emphasize the importance of inclusive design, awareness of invisible disabilities, and proactive accommodations to ensure full participation in Jewish life.

## Population and demographics



**12%** of Jewish adults in Greater Boston identify as having a disability

**21,400** adults

**29,400** households



**25%** of Jewish households include someone who has a disability or health issues.  
Among these households:

**52%** have chronic physical health issues

**44%** have persistent mental health issues

**26%** have physical disabilities

**8%** have developmental disabilities

### MARITAL STATUS



**46%**

are married or live with a partner

**39%**

are single and have never been married

### CHILDREN



**13%**

have one or more children ages 0-17 living at home

### INTERFAITH



Interfaith relationships among Jews with disabilities are similar to other Jews in Greater Boston. Of those who are married or living with a partner:

**48%** have a Jewish spouse or partner

**52%** have a spouse or partner who is not Jewish

## Demographic characteristics

### Age

Mostly, the prevalence of disabilities is evenly distributed across age groups, though disabilities are slightly more common among 18- to 29-year-olds (29%).

Age	Jewish adults with a disability	All Jewish adults
18-29 years old	29%	22%
30-44 years old	24%	25%
45-64 years old	25%	26%
65 years old and older	22%	27%

### Geography

Similar proportions of individuals with disabilities live in MetroNorth West (23%), City of Boston (20%), MetroNorth (20%), and South Area (20%).

### Connection to Jewish life

#### Index of Jewish Connection

In terms of Jewish connectivity, those with disabilities are most commonly *Seeking the Social* (34%), reflecting the overall population.

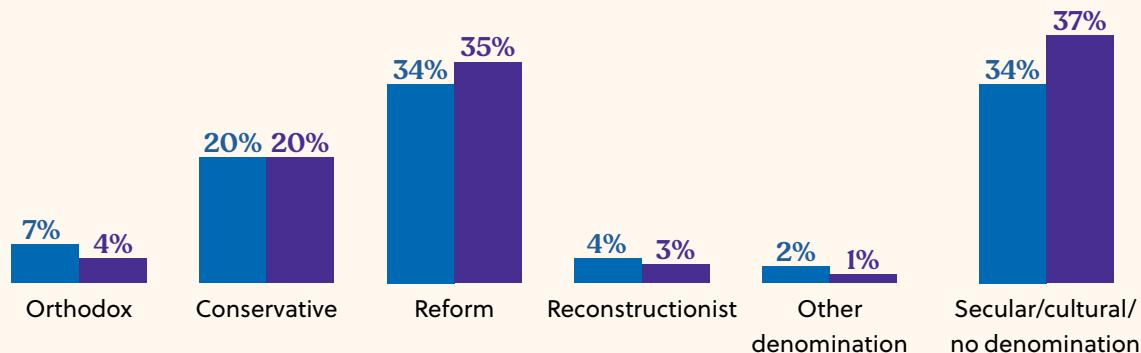
Index of Jewish Connection	Jewish adults with a disability	All Jewish adults
 <i>Seeking the Social</i>	34%	29%
 <i>Tenuously Tethered</i>	23%	27%
 <i>Family Focused</i>	17%	17%
 <i>Deeply Devoted</i>	13%	15%
 <i>Enthusiastically Engrossed</i>	14%	12%

### Denomination

People with disabilities most commonly identify as Reform (34%) or secular or culturally Jewish (34%).

#### Denominational affiliations

 Jewish adults with a disability  All Jewish adults



## Connections to Jewish community

Six in 10 Jews with disabilities (60%) report that being part of a Jewish community is very or somewhat important to them. Slightly less, however, feel connected to a Jewish community. Among Jews with disabilities, 45% feel very or somewhat connected to the Greater Boston Jewish community, while 41% feel very or somewhat connected to a Jewish community in the city or town where they live. The extent of feeling connected to a Jewish community, either regionally or locally, among Jews with disabilities is similar to that of other Jews in Greater Boston.

### Communal connection

**68%** say that half or more of their closest friends are Jewish

**29%** are part of households where they or someone else is a regular synagogue participant or member

#### Participation in organized Jewish programming

**69%** have attended in-person or online events, activities, or programs sponsored by Jewish organizations in the 12 months before the survey

**53%** participate only once or twice a year

**20%** participate at least once a month



## Feeling welcome

Eight in 10 Jews whose households include someone with a disability feel that the Greater Boston Jewish community is very or somewhat welcoming to them and their families (83%), and that the community is very or somewhat welcoming to people with disabilities in general (81%).<sup>10</sup>

When asked whether specific factors have limited their participation in the Greater Boston Jewish community, 17% of Jews with disabilities indicated that the community does not feel welcoming to people like them.

Among Jews with disabilities who are not synagogue members or participants, 11% cited the lack of inclusivity as part of their reason.

In follow-up interviews, people with disabilities offered detailed snapshots of both positive and negative experiences in Jewish spaces. They advocated for particular attention to accommodating disabilities that are less visible, more stigmatized, or both.

“

*My friend in a wheelchair and I went [to a special event held in a synagogue]. They made sure that there was sufficient disability parking close by. They made sure that there were ramps available so she could actually do things. They pointed out to her specifically where the accessible bathroom was, so that she knew where it was, and someone took her. They made sure that everyone used microphones. It was just a really welcoming event and much appreciated.*

*Disability guides would be extraordinarily helpful for the different organizations, especially synagogues, for them to have it and make it very available and overt, whether it's on the website or not. Very few of the organizations that I've seen actually take disabilities seriously enough to have it [visible] as in, okay, this is how we're approaching different types of disabilities. If we don't have something, let us know and we'll figure out what it is that you're trying to do so that we can meet the need.*

”

*It's not just mobility. It's not just visual. It's not just hearing. It's the hidden disabilities. It's the embarrassing disabilities, it could be that someone learns differently. In the online services that I helped produce, we actually address ADHD and ADD for adults, which is a very real and significant disability. How do we do that? We make sure that nothing jumps on the screen, so when we display words and things like that, everything is fixed in point and where it is on the screen, so a person doesn't see things shifting. ... It makes a huge difference.*

Feeling welcome and unwelcome in Jewish communal life	Jewish adults with a disability	All Jewish adults
<b>GREATER BOSTON JEWISH COMMUNITY IS WELCOMING...</b>		
to family	83%	87%
to people with disabilities	81%	88%
<b>FEELING UNWELCOME AS BARRIER...</b>		
to participation in the Greater Boston Jewish community	17%	7%
to membership or participation in a synagogue	11%	4%

## Well-Being

Less than half of Jews with disabilities in Greater Boston feel that in a time of need, they know where to find help in the Jewish community (48%), and that they have a group of people in the Jewish community they can rely on (48%).

A third of Jews with disabilities indicated they are aware of how Jewish organizations and groups can help them with mental health and physical health challenges (34% and 32%, respectively).

When it comes to their mental health, Jews with disabilities in Greater Boston are nearly four times as likely to frequently feel lonely, depressed, or anxious, compared to their Jewish peers (42% vs. 14% reported feeling this way often or all the time in the month before the survey).

In terms of financial health, a third (34%) live in households that fall under 250% of the federal poverty level, including 15% below the poverty line itself. Similarly, 39% describe their financial situation as just managing to make ends meet or cannot make ends meet. These proportions are substantially higher compared to other Jews in Greater Boston.

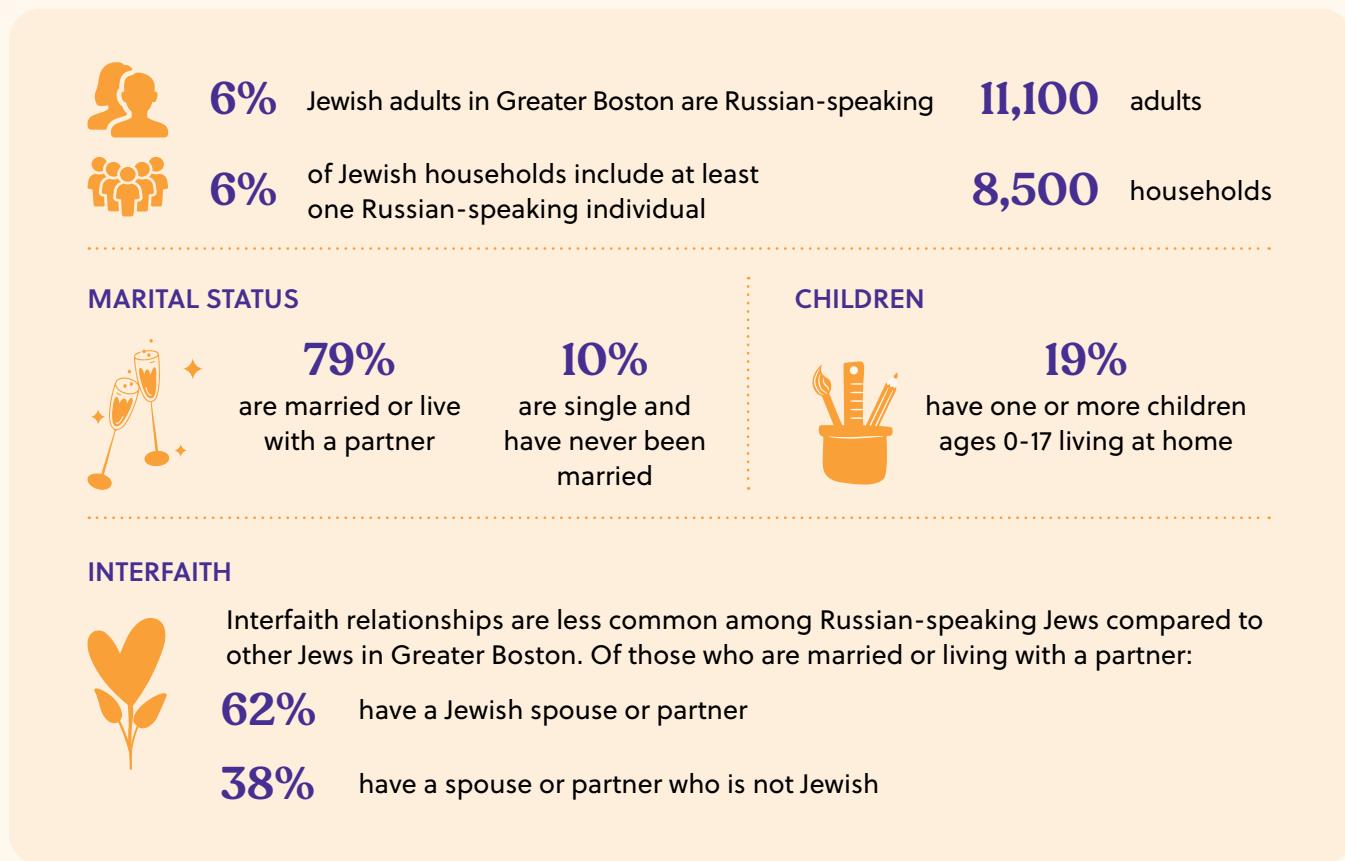
Physical and mental well-being	Jewish adults with a disability	All Jewish adults
Often or always feeling lonely, depressed, or anxious	42%	14%
< 250% federal poverty level	34%	13%
Cannot or just managing to make ends meet	39%	17%

# Russian-speaking Jews.

Russian-speaking Jews in Greater Boston include immigrants from the former Soviet Union and their descendants, as well as those raised in Russian-speaking households. They tend to be middle aged or older and are more likely to be married and live in suburban areas.

This group shows relatively strong connections to Jewish identity and communal life. While they generally feel welcome, language and cultural differences can still pose barriers to participation.

## Population and demographics



## Demographic characteristics

### Age

Close to half (46%) of Russian-speaking Jews in Greater Boston are 45-64 years old.

Age	Russian-speaking Jews	All Jewish adults
18-29 years old	3%	22%
30-44 years old	24%	25%
45-64 years old	46%	26%
65 years old and older	27%	27%

## Geography

Russian-speaking Jews predominantly live in MetroNorth West (38%), with the remainder spread out across the other regions in Greater Boston.

## Connection to Jewish life

### Index of Jewish Connection

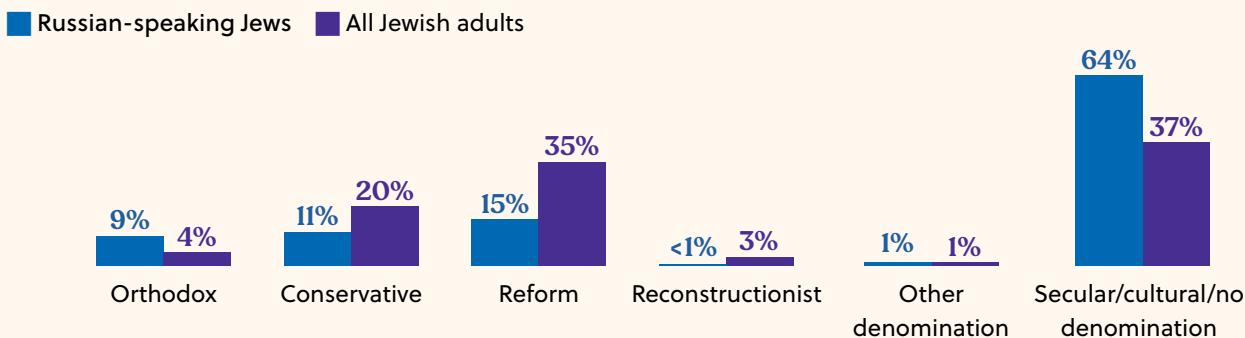
Russian-speaking Jews have varying levels of Jewish connectivity, ranging from being loosely tied to deeply immersed in Jewish communal life. Nearly a quarter (25%) are *Tenuously Tethered*, followed by *Family Focused* (22%), *Seeking the Social* (21%), and *Enthusiastically Engrossed* (19%).

Index of Jewish Connection	Russian-speaking Jews	All Jewish adults
 <i>Seeking the Social</i>	21%	29%
 <i>Tenuously Tethered</i>	25%	27%
 <i>Family Focused</i>	22%	17%
 <i>Deeply Devoted</i>	13%	15%
 <i>Enthusiastically Engrossed</i>	19%	12%

### Denomination

In terms of their Jewish denominational affiliation, most identify as secular, cultural, or with no denomination (64%).

### Denominational affiliations



### Connections to Jewish community

Two-thirds (67%) of Russian-speaking Jews in Greater Boston report that being part of a Jewish community is very or somewhat important to them. Slightly less feel connected to a Jewish community. About 52% feel very or somewhat connected to the Greater Boston Jewish community, while 46% feel very or somewhat connected to a Jewish community in the city or town where they live. Russian-speaking Jews feel slightly more connected to the Greater Boston Jewish community and their local Jewish community than other Jews in Greater Boston.

## Communal connection

**70%** say that half or more of their closest friends are Jewish

**20%** are part of households where they or someone else is a regular synagogue participant or member

### Participation in organized Jewish programming

**64%** have attended in-person or online events, activities, or programs sponsored by Jewish organizations in the 12 months before the survey

**57%** participate only once or twice a year

**14%** participate at least once a month

## Feeling welcome

Among those who say they are, or someone in their household is, a Russian-speaking Jew, 80% feel that the community is very or somewhat welcoming to them and their families.<sup>11</sup>

When asked whether specific factors have limited their participation in the Greater Boston Jewish community, 10% of Russian-speaking Jews indicated that the community does not feel welcoming to people like them.

In terms of synagogue participation, 11% of those who are not members or regular participants cited the lack of inclusivity as part of their reasoning.

Feeling welcome and unwelcome in Jewish communal life	Russian-speaking Jews	All Jewish adults
<b>GREATER BOSTON JEWISH COMMUNITY IS WELCOMING...</b>		
to family	80%	87%
<b>FEELING UNWELCOME AS BARRIER...</b>		
to participation in the Greater Boston Jewish community	10%	7%
to membership or participation in a synagogue	11%	4%

## Well-Being

About one-fifth (18%) of Russian-speaking Jews said they frequently (often or all the time) felt lonely, depressed, or anxious in the month before the survey, slightly more than other Jews in Greater Boston.

In terms of their financial health, a fifth of Russian-speaking Jews (19%) live in households that fall under 250% of the federal poverty level, including 11% below the poverty line itself. More than a quarter (26%) describe their financial situation as just managing to make ends meet or cannot make ends meet. These proportions are substantially higher than others in the Greater Boston Jewish community.

Physical and mental well-being	Russian-speaking Jews	All Jewish adults
Often or always feeling lonely, depressed, or anxious	18%	14%
< 250% federal poverty level	19%	13%
Cannot or just managing to make ends meet	26%	17%

# Israeli Jews.

Israeli Jews living in Greater Boston are primarily between 30-64 years old, many of whom are raising children. They are more likely than other groups to be married to Jewish partners and to live in suburban areas.

They tend to feel strongly connected to both the Greater Boston Jewish community and their local Jewish networks. More than half identify as secular or culturally Jewish, though they also have the highest rate of synagogue membership or participation compared to other groups.

## Population and demographics



**5%** of Jews in Greater Boston are Israeli

**9,900** adults



**5%** Jewish households include at least one Israeli

**7,500** households

### MARITAL STATUS



**73%**  
are married or live  
with a partner

**17%**  
are single and  
have never been  
married

### CHILDREN



**28%**  
have one or more children  
ages 0-17 living at home

### INTERFAITH



Interfaith relationships are less common among Israelis compared to other Jews in Greater Boston. Of those who are married or living with a partner:

**71%** have a Jewish spouse or partner

**29%** have a spouse or partner who is not Jewish

## Demographic characteristics

### Age

Nearly two-thirds (62%) of Israeli Jews in Greater Boston are between 30-64 years old.

Age	Israeli Jewish adults	All Jewish adults
18-29 years old	16%	22%
30-44 years old	26%	25%
45-64 years old	36%	26%
65 years old and older	23%	27%

## Geography

The largest shares live in MetroNorth West (38%), followed by the City of Boston (22%) and MetroNorth (21%).

## Connection to Jewish life

### Index of Jewish Connection

Israeli Jews in Greater Boston have varying levels of Jewish connection. More than a third (35%) are *Enthusiastically Engrossed*, followed by *Deeply Devoted* (20%) and *Family Focused* (20%).

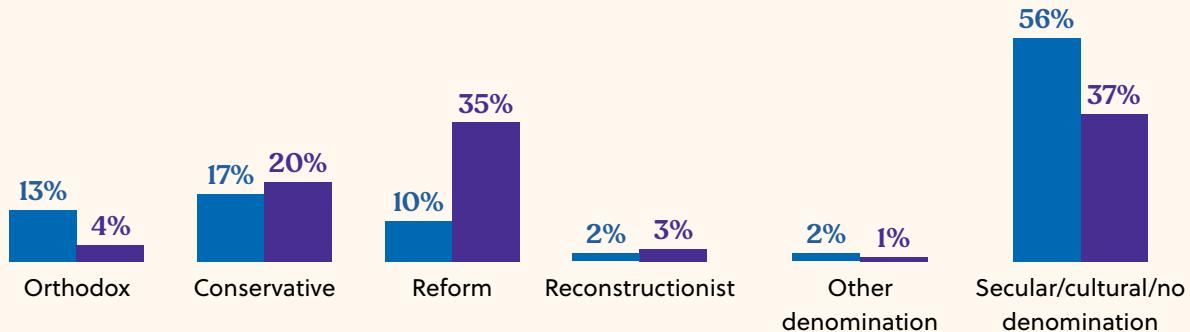
Index of Jewish Connection	Israeli Jewish adults	All Jewish adults
 <i>Seeking the Social</i>	14%	29%
 <i>Tenuously Tethered</i>	11%	27%
 <i>Family Focused</i>	20%	17%
 <i>Deeply Devoted</i>	20%	15%
 <i>Enthusiastically Engrossed</i>	35%	12%

### Denomination

In terms of their Jewish denominational affiliation, most identify as secular or culturally Jewish (56%).

### Denominational affiliations

 Israeli Jewish adults  All Jewish adults



### Connections to Jewish community

Nearly three quarters (71%) say that being part of a Jewish community is very or somewhat important to them. Nearly two-thirds (61%) feel very or somewhat connected to the Greater Boston Jewish community, while 58% feel very or somewhat connected to a Jewish community in the city or town where they live.

Israeli Jews value being part of a Jewish community and feel connected both to the Greater Boston Jewish community and their local Jewish community, more than other Jews in Greater Boston.

## Communal connection

**78%** say that half or more of their closest friends are Jewish

**36%** are part of households where they or someone else is a regular synagogue participant or member

Participation in organized Jewish programming

**73%** have attended in-person or online events, activities, or programs sponsored by Jewish organizations in the 12 months before the survey

39%      participate only once or twice a year

32%      participate at least once a month

## Feeling welcome

Among those who say they are, or someone in their household is, an Israeli Jew, 83% feel the community is very or somewhat welcoming to them and their families.<sup>12</sup> When asked whether specific factors have limited their participation in the Greater Boston Jewish community, 10% of Israeli Jews indicated that the community does not feel welcoming to people like them.

As for synagogue involvement, just 9% of those who are not members or regular participants cited the lack of inclusivity as part of their reasoning.

Feeling welcome and unwelcome in Jewish communal life	Israeli Jewish adults	All Jewish adults
<b>GREATER BOSTON JEWISH COMMUNITY IS WELCOMING...</b>		
to family	83%	87%
<b>FEELING UNWELCOME AS BARRIER...</b>		
to participation in the Greater Boston Jewish community	10%	7%
to membership or participation in a synagogue	9%	4%

## Well-Being

About a fifth (18%) of Israeli Jews said they frequently felt lonely, depressed, or anxious in the month prior to the survey. This is similar to other Jews in Greater Boston.

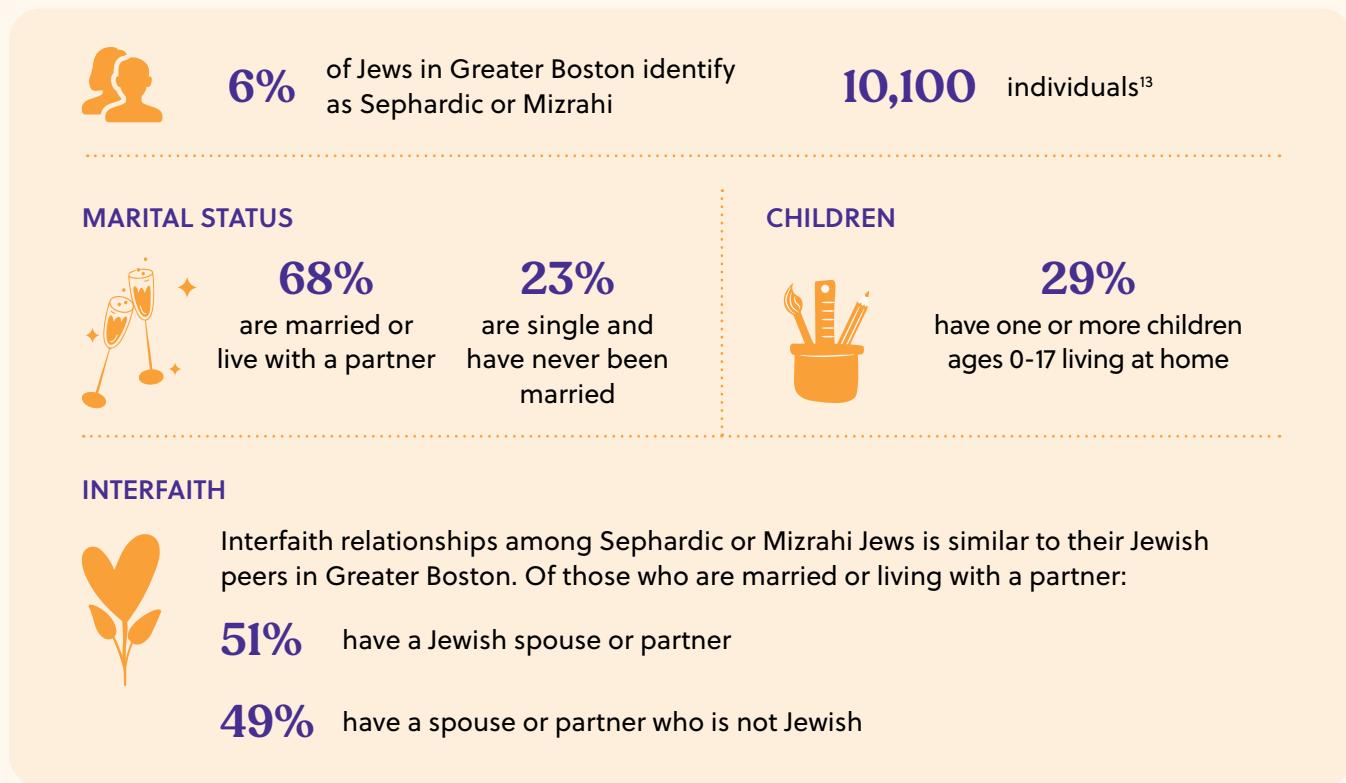
In terms of their financial health, 16% of Israeli Jews in Greater Boston live in households that fall under 250% of the federal poverty level, including 2% below the poverty line itself. More than a quarter (29%) describe their financial situation as just managing to make ends meet or cannot make ends meet. Economic vulnerability is somewhat more common among Israeli Jews compared to other Jews in Greater Boston.

Physical and mental well-being	Israeli Jewish adults	All Jewish adults
Often or always feeling lonely, depressed, or anxious	18%	14%
< 250% federal poverty level	16%	13%
Cannot or just managing to make ends meet	29%	17%

# Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews.

Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews trace their heritage to Jewish communities in the Middle East, North Africa, and parts of Southern Europe. While many feel welcome and see recognition and inclusion of their traditions, some express challenges in finding spaces that reflect their cultural practices.

## Population and demographics



## Demographic characteristics

### Age

Close to two-thirds (63%) of the Sephardic or Mizrahi Jews in Greater Boston are between 30-64 years old.

Age	Sephardic/Mizrahi adults	All Jewish adults
18-29 years old	19%	22%
30-44 years old	28%	25%
45-64 years old	35%	26%
65 years old and older	19%	27%

## Geography

Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews predominantly live in MetroNorth West (24%), MetroNorth (23%), and the City of Boston (21%).

## Connection to Jewish life

### Index of Jewish Connection

Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews have varying levels of Jewish connection, with about half as *Seeking the Social* (28%) or *Enthusiastically Engrossed* (24%).

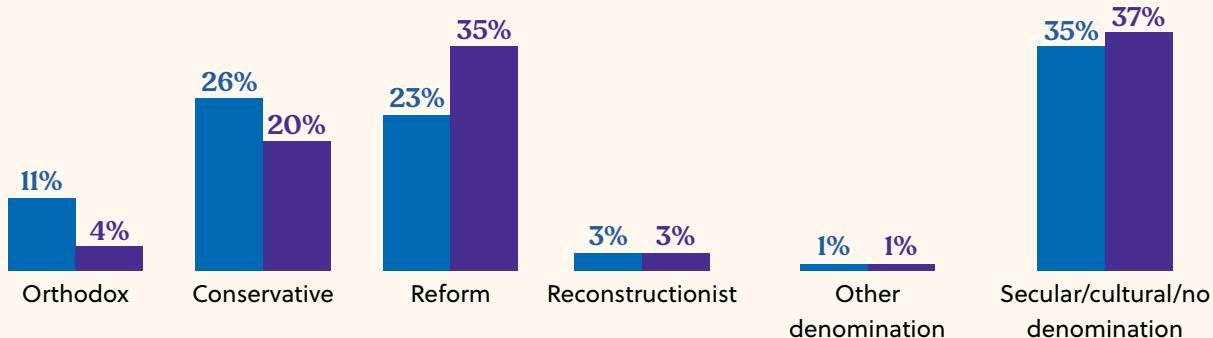
Index of Jewish Connection	Sephardic/ Mizrahi adults	All Jewish adults
 <i>Seeking the Social</i>	28%	29%
 <i>Tenuously Tethered</i>	15%	27%
 <i>Family Focused</i>	18%	17%
 <i>Deeply Devoted</i>	15%	15%
 <i>Enthusiastically Engrossed</i>	24%	12%

### Denomination

In terms of their Jewish denominational affiliation, most identify as secular or culturally Jewish (35%), Conservative (26%), or Reform (23%).

### Denominational affiliations

 Sephardic-Mizrahi adults  All Jewish adults



### Connections to Jewish community

Among Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews in Greater Boston, 59% report that being part of a Jewish community is very or somewhat important to them. Slightly less feel connected to a Jewish community. About 39% feel very or somewhat connected to the Greater Boston Jewish community, while 43% feel very or somewhat connected to a Jewish community in the city or town where they live. The extent of feeling connected to a Jewish community, either regionally or locally, among Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews is similar to that of other Jews in Greater Boston.

*There are Jewish spaces for sure in Boston, and there are some Sephardic spaces, but I'm from Miami, where there are many Sephardic spaces and my grandmother would always buy certain snacks and things, and I was like, 'Where can I get these?' And she was like, 'Just call Sephardic temples near you and they might cook them.' And I was like, 'I don't think they do.' And so trying to find the community [like the one] that I had where I grew up has been something that I've struggled with.*

## Communal connection

**71%** say that half or more of their closest friends are Jewish

**30%** are part of households where they or someone else is a regular synagogue participant or member

### Participation in organized Jewish programming

**72%** have attended in-person or online events, activities, or programs sponsored by Jewish organizations in the 12 months before the survey

**47%** participate once or twice a year

**28%** participate at least once a month

## Feeling welcome

Eight in 10 (80%) Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews feel the community is very or somewhat welcoming of them and their families.<sup>14</sup> When asked whether specific factors have limited their participation in the Greater Boston Jewish community, 13% of indicated that the community does not feel welcoming to people like them.

*I think on an educational level, I've seen more inclusion of Sephardic stories. I see different organizations will bring in Ethiopian or Persian or Iraqi speakers. ... I mean, I think that there is a genuine attempt in an educational aspect to put more of the non-Ashkenazi history as part of the Jewish story.*

Similarly, 8% of those who opted out of synagogue membership or regular participation cited a lack of inclusivity as part of their reason.

Feeling welcome and unwelcome in Jewish communal life	Sephardic/ Mizrahi adults	All Jewish adults
<b>GREATER BOSTON JEWISH COMMUNITY IS WELCOMING...</b>		
to family	80%	87%
<b>FEELING UNWELCOME AS BARRIER...</b>		
to participation in the Greater Boston Jewish community	13%	7%
to membership or participation in a synagogue	8%	4%

## Well-Being

A quarter (24%) of Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews in Greater Boston said they frequently (often or all the time) felt lonely, depressed, or anxious in the month before the survey. This proportion is higher than that of their Jewish peers.

In terms of their financial health, 6% of Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews in Greater Boston live in households that fall under 250% of the federal poverty level, including 5% below the poverty line itself. A fifth (22%) describe their financial situation as just managing to make ends meet or cannot make ends meet, which is slightly higher than their peers.

Physical and mental well-being	Sephardic/ Mizrahi adults	All Jewish adults
Often or always feeling lonely, depressed, or anxious	24%	14%
< 250% federal poverty level	6%	13%
Cannot or just managing to make ends meet	22%	17%

# Conclusion.

The Jewish population in Greater Boston encompasses many groups and identities. This report included six groups: LGBTQIA+ Jews; JPOC; Jews with disabilities; Russian-speaking Jews; Israeli Jews; and Sephardic or Mizrahi Jews. These groups represent important segments of the community, and while they are meaningful, they are not mutually exclusive—individuals may identify with more than one group.

Across all six groups, most people consider being part of a Jewish community important, and feelings of connection vary. Israeli Jews and Russian-speaking Jews feel the most connected to the Jewish community in Greater Boston and in the local city or town where they live, while JPOC and LGBTQIA+ Jews have lower levels of connection.

Most view the Jewish community in Greater Boston as welcoming to them and their families, with roughly eight in 10 people in each subgroup who say so. However, the sense of inclusion is uneven across groups. JPOC are most likely to report feelings of exclusion as a limiting factor in their participation in the Greater Boston Jewish community, while Israeli Jews and Russian-speaking Jews report fewest barriers to participation.

While synagogue membership tends to be higher among Israeli Jews and lower for most other groups, event participation shows a different pattern. JPOC, Israeli Jews, and Sephardi and Mizrahi Jews report higher levels of participation, whereas LGBTQIA+ Jews, Jews with disabilities, and Russian-speaking Jews participate at rates similar to Jewish adults overall.

Well-being is a cause for concern for all six groups. To varying degrees, each group reports elevated levels of financial distress compared to all Jewish adults. All groups except Israeli Jews and Russian-speaking Jews report heightened levels of mental health challenges.

Collectively, these findings reveal both progress and opportunity. While the community is broadly seen as open and accepting, gaps between the longing for Jewish connection and lived experience point to areas where inclusive programming and services could deepen belonging and well-being across Greater Boston.

## 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. Evidence comes from the following sources: *Threads of Identity: LGBTQ+ Jews of Color in the Fabric of Jewish Life, Beyond the Count: Perspectives and Lived Experiences of Jews of Color*, and *Sephardic & Mizrahi Jews in the United States: Identities, Experiences, and Communities*.
2. Jewish population and household estimates are based on the number of known individuals and households within each of the six groups, relative to all individuals and households in the Greater Boston Jewish community. All percentages mentioned in this report are rounded to the nearest tenth of a decimal. All numbers concerning Jewish individuals and households are rounded to the nearest hundred.
3. Although most survey participants shared their opinions, between a quarter to close to half chose to answer "not sure."
4. Survey respondents with age-eligible children 0 to 17 years old were asked to select the primary reasons why their child(ren) were not enrolled in Jewish educational experiences including Jewish early childhood education program, Jewish part-time school, Jewish day school, and Jewish camp. Among all adults whose children were not enrolled in one or more Jewish educational programs, about 3% said it was because the school or program was not welcoming or inclusive to their family. Insufficient sample size limits the reliability of estimates for individual diverse social groups.
5. 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."
6. These percentages are based on the number of survey respondents who selected an answer other than "not sure."
7. 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.
8. Questions about race and ethnicity asked respondents to indicate whether they identify as White; Black or African American; American Indian or Alaska Native; Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander; or another race. A separate question then asked respondents to indicate whether they are of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin, such as Argentinian, Cuban, Mexican, or Puerto Rican. 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.
9. These percentages are based on the number of survey respondents who selected an answer other than "not sure."
10. These percentages are based on the number of survey respondents who selected an answer other than "not sure."
11. These percentages are based on the number of survey respondents who selected an answer other than "not sure."
12. These percentages are based on the number of survey respondents who selected an answer other than "not sure."
13. The survey only asked respondents if they were of Sephardic or Mizrahi heritage, and it did not ask about other members of their household. Therefore, it is not possible to produce an estimate of Jewish households that include Sephardic or Mizrahi Jews.
14. These percentages are based on the number of survey respondents who selected an answer other than "not sure."