



2025 Greater Boston Jewish Community Study.



Geography.

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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.

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.
- **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.

Household composition

- **Single-generation households:** A single generation of related adults living together.
- **Multigenerational households:** Two or more generations of related adults living together. The presence of children is not considered in defining a household as multigenerational.

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.



Geography of Jewish households in Greater Boston.

This report profiles Jewish people living in each of the six regions in Greater Boston: City of Boston, MetroNorth, MetroNorth West, MetroWest, North Area, and South Area.¹

Findings show MetroNorth West has the largest number of Jewish households and Jewish residents. The City of Boston, MetroNorth, North Area, and South Area have similar numbers of Jewish households and people living in them. MetroWest has the fewest.

People living in these regions vary in their sociodemographic and Jewish connections. While most regional differences are relatively minor, some are quite pronounced, and each region has unique features that set it apart.

Of course, no region is monolithic. There is as much variation on characteristics and connections within regions as there is across them.



Key takeaways



Social identities are most diverse in urban areas

The City of Boston and MetroNorth have the highest percentages of households with individuals who identify as LGBTQIA+,² Jews of color or people of color (JPOC),³ and immigrants. Diversity of languages spoken in the home and disability representation are consistent across most regions, but somewhat more pronounced in urban areas.



Connections to Jewish life are mixed across regions

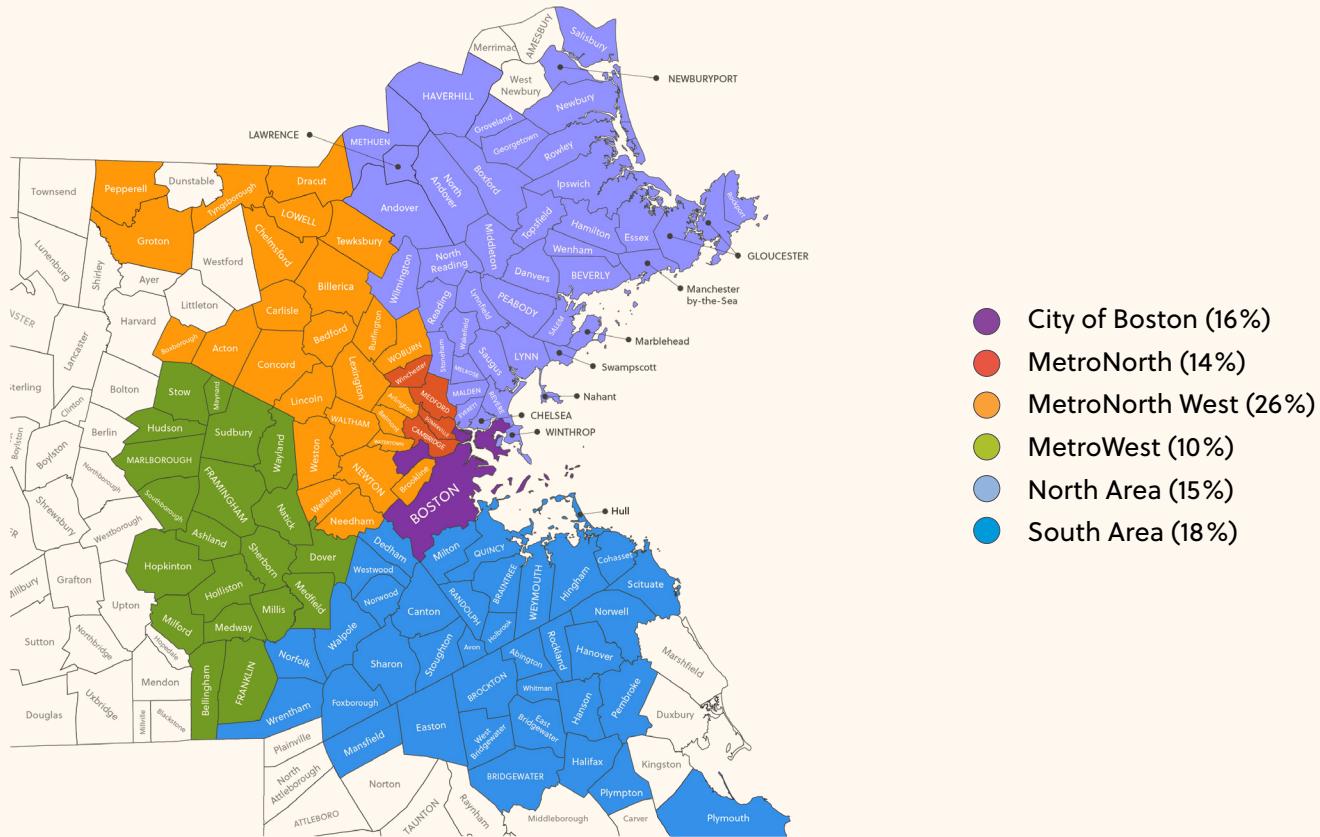
Participation in Jewish activities, events, and programs are consistent across regions. However, how households connect or participate looks different. People living in the MetroNorth West suburbs feel most connected to a local Jewish community, have the greatest awareness of Jewish events, and have the highest rates of synagogue membership and Jewish educational experiences for their children. Engagement has increased since the events of October 7, 2023⁴ for Jewish adults in all regions, but the largest shifts occurred in the suburbs.



Barriers to participation are consistent across regions

The most common barriers to communal participation include not knowing people to participate with, a lack of awareness of opportunities to participate, and a lack of interest in programming. Financial barriers, while a lower concern overall, impact enrollment in Jewish educational opportunities, especially among parents in the City of Boston and MetroNorth.

Map of Jewish households in Greater Boston



List of towns by region

City of Boston: All of the City of Boston

MetroNorth: Cambridge, Somerville, Medford, and Winchester

MetroNorth West: Acton, Arlington, Bedford, Belmont, Billerica, Boxborough, Brookline, Burlington, Carlisle, Chelmsford, Concord, Dracut, Groton, Lexington, Lowell, Needham, Newton, Pepperell, Tewksbury, Tyngsboro, Waltham, Watertown, Wellesley, Weston, and Woburn

MetroWest: Ashland, Bellingham, Dover, Framingham, Franklin, Holliston, Hopkinton, Hudson, Marlborough, Maynard, Medfield, Medway, Milford, Millis, Natick, Sherborn, Southborough, Stow, Sudbury, and Wayland

North Area: Andover, Beverly, Boxford, Byfield, Chelsea, Danvers, Essex, Everett, Georgetown, Gloucester, Groveland, Hamilton, Haverhill, Ipswich, Lawrence, Lynn, Lynnfield, Malden, Manchester, Marblehead, Melrose, Methuen, Middleton, Nahant, Newbury, Newburyport, North Andover, North Reading, Peabody, Reading, Revere, Rockport, Rowley, Salem, Salisbury, Saugus, Stoneham, Swampscoft, Topsfield, Wakefield, Wenham, Wilmington, and Winthrop

South Area: Abington, Avon, Braintree, Bridgewater, Brockton, Canton, Cohasset, Dedham, East Bridgewater, Easton, Elmwood, Foxboro, Halifax, Hanover, Hanson, Hingham, Holbrook, Hull, Mansfield, Milton, Norfolk, Norwell, Norwood, Pembroke, Plymouth, Plympton, Quincy, Randolph, Rockland, Scituate, Sharon, Stoughton, Walpole, West Bridgewater, Westwood, Weymouth, Whitman, and Wrentham

City of Boston.

The Jewish population of the City of Boston stands out for relatively young residents, a large share of single and cohabiting adults, and diverse social identities among household members, including some of the highest shares of individuals who identify as LGBTQIA+ and JPOC.

The city has the highest share of Orthodox Jews (7%) as well as Jewish day school students (45%), but it also has the highest share of secular and cultural Jews (46%). Residents with children who are not enrolled in Jewish educational experiences are among the most likely to cite the costs of tuition and fees as barriers.

In addition, residents in this region experience challenges to emotional and material well-being, including a greater than average share of adults who report feelings of loneliness, depression, or anxiety.



Population Estimates

	City of Boston
JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS	22,700 (16%)
INDIVIDUALS IN JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS	55,100 (17%)
Jewish	35,200 (15%)
Not Jewish	19,900 (19%)
ADULTS	46,100 (17%)
Jewish	26,900 (15%)
Not Jewish	19,200 (21%)
CHILDREN	9,000 (16%)
Jewish	8,300 (19%)
Not Jewish	700 (6%)
HOUSEHOLDS IN CORE AREAS	16,000
Jamaica Plain/Roslindale/West Roxbury/ parts of South End, South Boston, Back Bay, Bay Village, and the Theatre District	10,300
Allston/Brighton	5,700

Demographic characteristics	City of Boston	All Jewish adults
AGE		
18-29 years old	30%	22%
30-44 years old	30%	25%
45-64 years old	20%	26%
65 years and older	20%	27%
GENDER		
Female	52%	52%
Male	44%	46%
Nonbinary/another identity	4%	2%
EDUCATION		
Less than college degree	21%	30%
Bachelor's degree	40%	36%
Graduate/professional degree	39%	34%
EMPLOYMENT		
Employed	76%	69%
Unemployed	4%	2%
Retired	11%	17%

Reasons for living in the City of Boston

When asked why they choose to live in the City of Boston, residents selected the following answers:

- 44% Being close to work or easier commute
- 40% Being close to family or friends
- 25% Wanting to own a home rather than rent
- 23% Wanting more affordable rent or mortgage
- 22% Wanting a larger, newer, or better house or apartment

Household composition

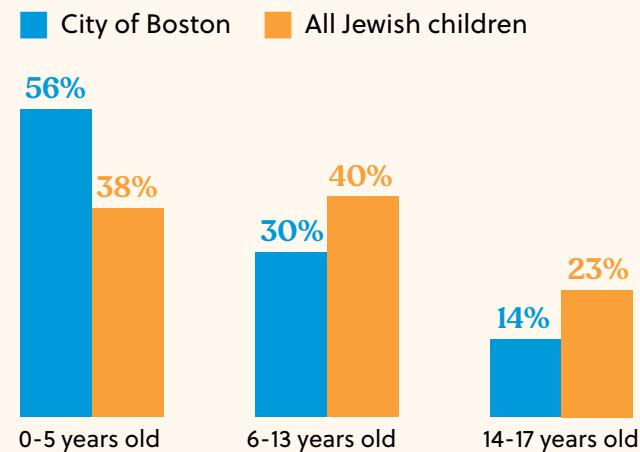
- 20% Single adults living by themselves
- 13% Shared living arrangement
- 1% Not married or partnered with children ages 0-17
- 45% Married or partnered with no children
- 21% Married or partnered with children ages 0-17
- 8% Multigenerational

Children and Jewish education

Among Jewish children in City of Boston households, more than half (56%) are 0-5 years old, the highest of any region. About 30% are 6-13 years old, and 14% are 14-17 years old.

Altogether, 42% of Jewish children in the City of Boston participated in one or more kinds of Jewish education during the 2024-2025 school year or the summer of 2024. They include: Jewish early childhood education, day school or yeshiva (a traditional Jewish educational institution), part-time school, private lessons, youth groups, summer day camps, and summer overnight camps.

Ages of children



Diverse social identities

The City of Boston is a diverse region, with higher than average percentages of households where one or more residents identify as LGBTQIA+ (28%) and JPOC (11%).

Adults and households with diverse identities

	City of Boston	All Jewish households
Households with someone with a health issue or disability	23%	25%
Households with someone who identifies as LGBTQIA+	28%	21%
Households regularly speaking languages other than English	21%	18%
Immigrants (mostly from Israel and Russian-speaking countries)	10%	10%
Households with someone who identifies as JPOC	11%	8%
Households with someone who identifies as Russian-speaking or from the former Soviet Union	5%	6%
Adults who identify as Sephardic or Mizrahi	7%	6%
Households with someone who is Israeli	5%	4%

Jewish connections and identity

Connections to local Jewish community

Four in 10 Jewish adults feel very or somewhat connected to a Jewish community in the City of Boston (39%), and a similar proportion are very or somewhat aware of Jewish events, programs, and activities in their local community (35%). A quarter of Jewish adults (27%) have become more engaged with Jewish life and community since the events of October 7, 2023, while 15% have become less engaged.

Index of Jewish Connection

The majority of City of Boston residents are are *Seeking the Social* (29%) and *Tenuously Tethered* (28%), followed by *Enthusiastically Engrossed* (16%), *Family Focused* (15%), and *Deeply Devoted* (13%).

Emotional attachment to Israel

Half (50%) of Jewish adults in the City of Boston say they are very or somewhat emotionally attached to Israel. More than a quarter (28%) say their emotional attachment to Israel has strengthened since October 7, 2023, while 31% say their emotional attachment has weakened.

Denominations

Nearly half (46%) of City of Boston residents do not identify with a Jewish denomination. The most common denominational identity is Reform (29%), followed by Conservative (15%), Orthodox (7%), and Reconstructionist (2%).

Donations and volunteerism

Nearly three quarters (74%) of Jewish adults in the City of Boston made a charitable donation in the year before the survey and close to half (44%) volunteered. Among these adults, 62% donated to a Jewish organization or cause, and 46% volunteered their time or services to a Jewish organization or cause.

Jewish friends

Nearly two-thirds (63%) of Jewish adults in the City of Boston say that half or more of their closest friends are Jewish.

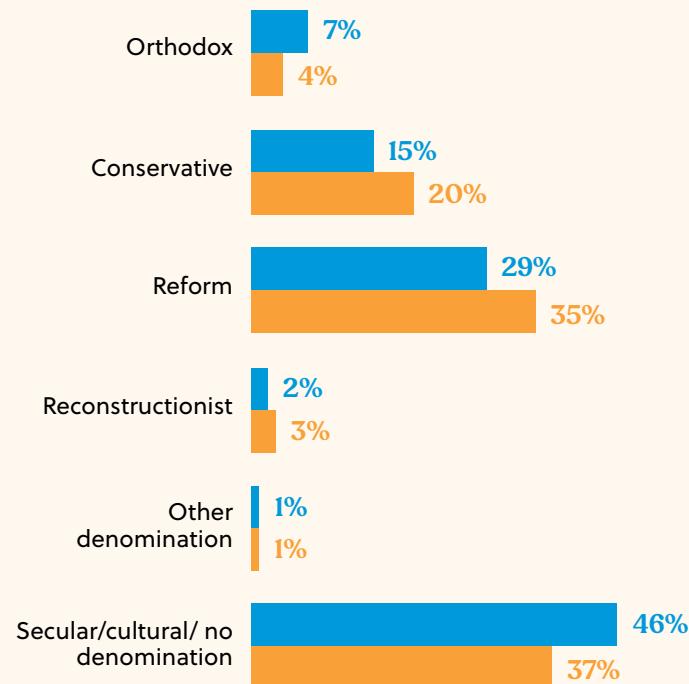
Synagogue membership

Just under a quarter (23%) of Jewish households in the City of Boston belong to or regularly participate in a synagogue, *minyan*,⁵ or other religious Jewish community.

Index of Jewish Connection	City of Boston	All Jewish adults
 <i>Seeking the Social</i>	29%	29%
 <i>Tenuously Tethered</i>	28%	27%
 <i>Family Focused</i>	15%	17%
 <i>Deeply Devoted</i>	13%	15%
 <i>Enthusiastically Engrossed</i>	16%	12%

Jewish denominations

 City of Boston  All Jewish adults



Barriers to participating in Jewish life

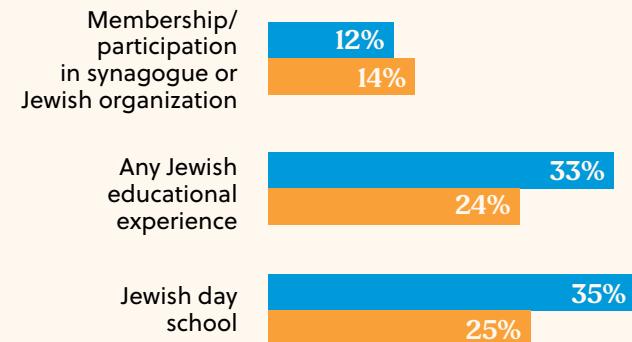
Many Jewish adults cited cost as a barrier to participation in the Greater Boston Jewish community. About 12% said cost was a barrier to joining a synagogue or other Jewish organization. Among those with children who were not enrolled in any Jewish educational program, school, or summer camp, one-third (33%) said cost was a barrier to enrollment. Just over one-third (35%) cited cost as a barrier to enrollment in a Jewish day school.

Percent who cited barriers to communal participation:



Percent who cited cost as a barrier

■ City of Boston ■ All Jewish adults



Well-being

Service needs and gaps

About four in 10 households (42%) said that someone in their home had a human service need in the past year. About 10% of households that identified a need for a service said they did not receive it.

Health-related limits on activities

A quarter of households (23%) said that someone living in them has a health issue or disability that limits their ability to work, go to school, or do other activities outside of the home.

Material well-being

One in six Jewish households in the City of Boston (17%) said they are unable or just managing to make ends meet, 16% have income below 250% of the federal poverty level, and 13% were unable to afford basic needs at some point in the 12 months before the survey.⁶

Emotional well-being

Nearly one in five Jewish adults (19%) said they felt lonely, depressed, or anxious all the time or often during the month before taking the survey.

Indicators of well-being	City of Boston	All Jewish adults
Often or always feeling lonely, depressed, or anxious ⁷	19%	14%
< 250% federal poverty level	16%	13%
Cannot or just managing to make ends meet	17%	17%

Antisemitism

Feeling safe

Two-thirds (68%) of Jewish adults in the City of Boston strongly agree that they feel safe as a Jewish person when out in public. Only about half (47%) strongly agree that they feel safe at events, programs, and activities in Jewish organizational spaces.

Concern and behavior

Four in 10 Jewish adults (41%) are very or somewhat concerned about antisemitism in the city. About 41% avoided behaviors that would identify them as Jewish as well as places and events where they felt unsafe as Jews (in the 12 months before the survey).

MetroNorth.

The Jewish population of MetroNorth stands out for the large share of unrelated adults in shared living arrangements; high education and employment levels; and diverse social identities.

MetroNorth has the second highest share of Jewish adults who identify as secular or cultural Jews. Those with children not participating in Jewish educational experiences are among the most likely to report the costs of tuition and fees as barriers to enrollment. In addition, Jews in this region report the highest levels of human service needs for someone in their household and the highest proportion of adults experiencing mental health challenges. Residents are the least emotionally attached to Israel, and their levels of attachment have declined the most since the events of October 7, 2023. They are also less concerned about antisemitism and feel safer than Jews elsewhere.



Population Estimates

	MetroNorth
JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS	18,800 (14%)
INDIVIDUALS IN JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS	44,400 (13%)
Jewish	27,900 (12%)
Not Jewish	16,500 (16%)
ADULTS	39,800 (14%)
Jewish	23,900 (13%)
Not Jewish	15,900 (17%)
CHILDREN	4,600 (8%)
Jewish	4,000 (9%)
Not Jewish	600 (6%)
HOUSEHOLDS IN CORE AREAS	18,400
Cambridge/Somerville	16,500
Medford ⁸	1,900

Demographic characteristics

	MetroNorth	All Jewish adults
AGE		
18-29 years old	34%	22%
30-44 years old	38%	25%
45-64 years old	17%	26%
65 years and older	12%	27%
GENDER		
Female	54%	52%
Male	43%	46%
Nonbinary/another identity	4%	2%
EDUCATION		
Less than college degree	17%	30%
Bachelor's degree	43%	36%
Graduate/professional degree	40%	34%
EMPLOYMENT		
Employed	82%	69%
Unemployed	5%	2%
Retired	6%	17%

Reasons for living in MetroNorth

When asked why they choose to live in MetroNorth, residents selected the following answers:

- 53% Being close to work or easier commute
- 38% Being close to family or friends
- 25% Wanting a larger, newer, or better house or apartment
- 23% Wanting to own a home rather than rent
- 18% Wanting more affordable rent or mortgage

Household composition

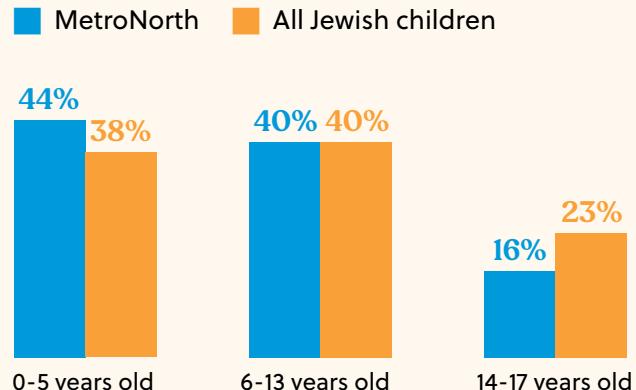
- 17% Single adults living by themselves
- 20% Shared living arrangement
- 1% Not married or partnered with children ages 0-17
- 50% Married or partnered with no children
- 13% Married or partnered with children ages 0-17
- 7% Multigenerational

Children and Jewish education

Among Jewish children in MetroNorth households, a little under half (44%) are 0-5 years old, 40% are 6-13 years old, and 16% are 14-17 years old.

Approximately 37% of Jewish children in MetroNorth participated in one or more kinds of Jewish education during the 2024-2025 school year or the summer of 2024. They include: Jewish early childhood education, day school or *yeshiva*, part-time school, private lessons, youth groups, summer day camps, and summer overnight camps.

Ages of children



Diverse social identities

MetroNorth is home to higher than average percentages of households in which one or more people identify as LGBTQIA+ (38%) and regularly speak a language other than English (29%).

Adults and households with diverse identities

	Metro-North	All Jewish households
Households with someone with a health issue or disability	26%	25%
Households with someone who identifies as LGBTQIA+	38%	21%
Households regularly speaking languages other than English	29%	18%
Immigrants (mostly from Israel and Russian-speaking countries)	7%	10%
Households with someone who identifies as JPOC	10%	8%
Households with someone who identifies as Russian-speaking or from the former Soviet Union	3%	6%
Adults who identify as Sephardic or Mizrahi	9%	6%
Households with someone who is Israeli	6%	4%

Jewish connections and identity

Connections to local Jewish community

Four in 10 Jewish adults feel very or somewhat connected to a Jewish community in MetroNorth (39%), and a similar proportion are very or somewhat aware of Jewish events, programs, and activities in their local community (40%). About one in six Jewish adults (18%) have become more engaged with Jewish life and community since the events of October 7, 2023, while 13% have become less engaged.

Index of Jewish Connection

The majority of MetroNorth residents are *Seeking the Social* (31%) and *Tenuously Tethered* (29%), followed by *Deeply Devoted* (18%), *Family Focused* (13%) and *Enthusiastically Engrossed* (11%).

Emotional attachment to Israel

Less than half (47%) of Jewish adults in MetroNorth said they are very or somewhat emotionally attached to Israel. One in five (20%) say their emotional attachment to Israel has strengthened since October 7, 2023, while 42% say their emotional attachment has weakened.

Denominations

Four in 10 (41%) MetroNorth residents do not identify with a Jewish denomination. The most common denominational identity is Reform (25%), followed by Conservative (22%), Reconstructionist (5%), and Orthodox (5%).

Donations and volunteerism

More than three quarters (78%) of Jewish adults in the MetroNorth made a charitable donation in the year before the survey and over half (53%) volunteered. Among these adults, 53% donated to a Jewish organization or cause, and 38% volunteered their time or services to a Jewish organization or cause.

Jewish friends

Close to two-thirds (63%) of Jewish adults in MetroNorth say that half or more of their closest friends are Jewish.

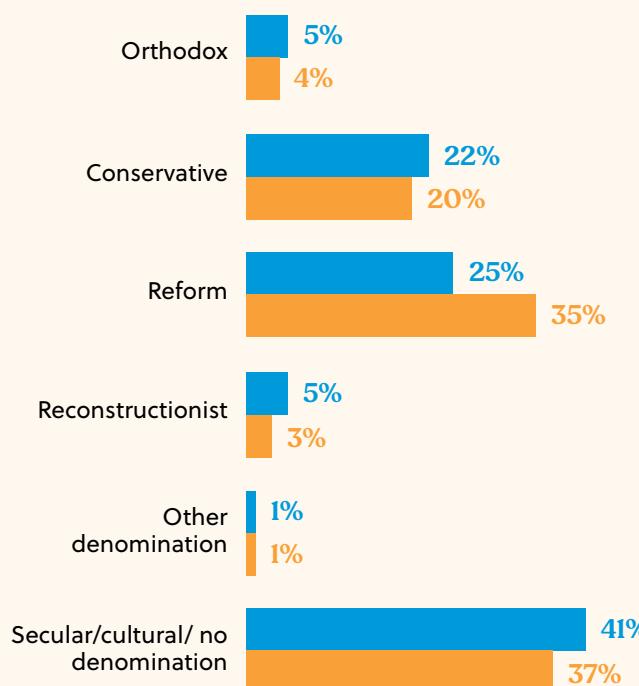
Synagogue membership

More than one-fifth (21%) of Jewish households in MetroNorth belong to or regularly participate in a synagogue, *minyan*, or other religious Jewish community.

Index of Jewish Connection	Metro-North	All Jewish adults
 <i>Seeking the Social</i>	31%	29%
 <i>Tenuously Tethered</i>	29%	27%
 <i>Family Focused</i>	13%	17%
 <i>Deeply Devoted</i>	18%	15%
 <i>Enthusiastically Engrossed</i>	11%	12%

Jewish denominations

 MetroNorth  All Jewish adults



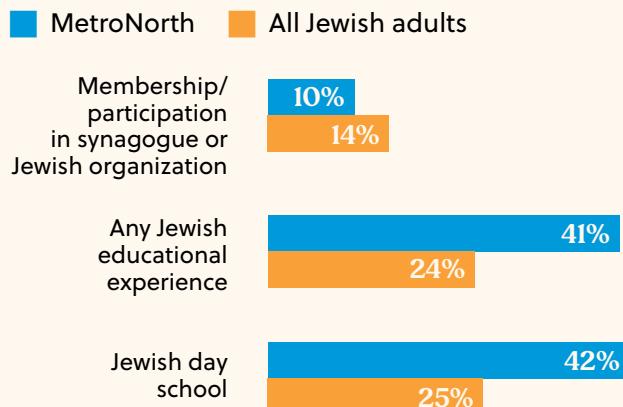
Barriers to participating in Jewish life

Many Jewish adults cited cost as a barrier to participation in the Greater Boston Jewish community. About 10% said cost was a barrier to joining a synagogue or other Jewish organization. Among those with children who were not enrolled in any Jewish educational program, school, or summer camp, 41% said cost was a barrier to enrollment. A similar proportion (42%) cited cost as a barrier to enrollment in a Jewish day school.

Percent who cited barriers to communal participation



Percent who cited cost as a barrier



Well-being

Service needs and gaps

Half of Jewish households (51%) said that someone in their home had a human service need in the past year. About 7% of households that identified a need for a service said they did not receive it.

Health-related limits on activities

A quarter of households (26%) said that someone living in them has a health issue or disability that limits their ability to work, go to school, or do other activities outside the home.

Material well-being

One in seven (14%) Jewish households in MetroNorth said they are unable or just managing to make ends meet, 10% have income below 250% of the federal poverty level, and 13% were unable to afford basic needs at some point in the 12 months before the survey.

Emotional well-being

One in five Jewish adults (20%) said they felt lonely, depressed, or anxious all the time or often during the month before taking the survey.

Indicators of well-being

	Metro-North	All Jewish adults
Often or always feeling lonely, depressed, or anxious	20%	14%
< 250% federal poverty level	10%	13%
Cannot or just managing to make ends meet	14%	17%

Antisemitism

Feeling safe

Three quarters (74%) of Jewish adults in MetroNorth strongly agree that they feel safe as a Jewish person when out in public. Just over half (56%) strongly agree that they feel safe at events, programs, and activities in Jewish organizational spaces.

Concern and behavior

Three in 10 (31%) are very or somewhat concerned about antisemitism in the city or town where they live. Nearly four in 10 (39%) avoided behaviors that would identify them as Jewish or places and events where they felt unsafe as Jews (in the 12 months before the survey).

MetroNorth West

MetroNorth West has the largest number of Jewish households and Jewish individuals of any region in Greater Boston. The region stands out for a higher share of adults who are: 45 and older; highly educated; married or partnered with children living at home; and comparatively strong connections to Jewish life, community, and Israel.

The diversity of social identities across the region largely mirrors that of the Jewish community as a whole. This region also has somewhat lower levels of economic vulnerability relative to other regions.



Population Estimates

	MetroNorth West
JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS	36,500 (26%)
INDIVIDUALS IN JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS	91,600 (28%)
Jewish	65,200 (29%)
Not Jewish	26,800 (26%)
ADULTS	74,800 (27%)
Jewish	52,100 (28%)
Not Jewish	22,700 (24%)
CHILDREN	16,800 (30%)
Jewish	13,100 (30%)
Not Jewish	3,700 (35%)
HOUSEHOLDS IN CORE AREAS	31,600
Brookline/Newton	14,700
Arlington/Belmont/Waltham/Watertown	8,200
Bedford/Burlington/Lexington/Woburn	3,100
Needham/Wellesley ⁹	2,800
Billerica/Chelmsford ¹⁰	1,900
Concord/Lincoln ¹¹	900

Demographic characteristics

	MetroNorth West	All Jewish adults
AGE		
18-29 years old	22%	22%
30-44 years old	19%	25%
45-64 years old	30%	26%
65 years and older	28%	27%
GENDER		
Female	49%	52%
Male	48%	46%
Nonbinary/another identity	3%	2%
EDUCATION		
Less than college degree	26%	30%
Bachelor's degree	35%	36%
Graduate/professional degree	40%	34%
EMPLOYMENT		
Employed	69%	69%
Unemployed	2%	2%
Retired	16%	17%

Reasons for living in MetroNorth West

When asked why they choose to live in MetroNorth West, residents selected the following answers:

- 42% Being close to family or friends
- 36% Wanting to own a home rather than rent
- 34% Being close to work or easier commute
- 26% Wanting a larger, newer, or better house or apartment
- 14% Wanting to establish own household

Household composition

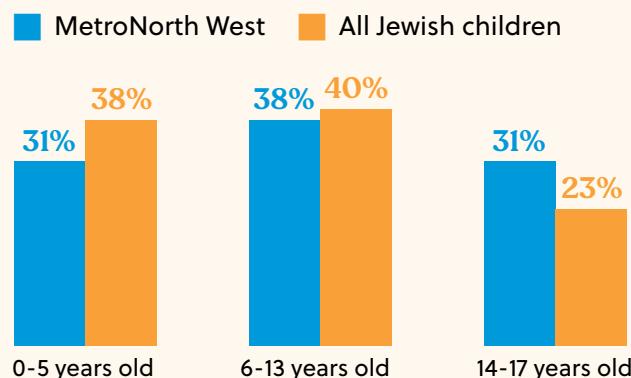
- 16% Single adults living by themselves
- 7% Shared living arrangement
- 2% Not married or partnered with children ages 0-17
- 47% Married or partnered with no children
- 28% Married or partnered with children ages 0-17
- 19% Multigenerational

Children and Jewish education

Among Jewish children in MetroNorth West households, a little under a third (31%) are 0-5 years old, 38% are 6-13 years old, and 31% are 14-17 years old.

About 42% of Jewish children in MetroNorth West participated in one or more kinds of Jewish education during the 2024-2025 school year or the summer of 2024. They include: Jewish early childhood education, day school or yeshiva, part-time school, private lessons, youth groups, summer day camps, and summer overnight camps.

Ages of children



Diverse social identities

The diversity in MetroNorth West mostly reflects that of the Greater Boston area as a whole. Among Jewish individuals in these households are people with a health issue or disability (26%), LGBTQIA+ individuals (22%), and people who regularly speak a language other than English (21%), among others.

Adults and households with diverse identities

	MetroNorth West	All Jewish households
Households with someone with a health issue or disability	26%	25%
Households with someone who identifies as LGBTQIA+	22%	21%
Households regularly speaking languages other than English	21%	18%
Immigrants (mostly from Israel and Russian-speaking countries)	14%	10%
Households with someone who identifies as JPOC	7%	8%
Households with someone who identifies as Russian-speaking or from the former Soviet Union	8%	6%
Adults who identify as Sephardic or Mizrahi	5%	6%
Households with someone who is Israeli	6%	4%

Jewish connections and identity

Connections to local Jewish community

Just under half of Jewish adults (48%) feel very or somewhat connected to a Jewish community in MetroNorth West, and a similar proportion are very or somewhat aware of Jewish events, programs, and activities in their local community (47%). A quarter of Jewish adults (25%) have become more engaged with Jewish life and community since the events of October 7, 2023, while 6% have become less engaged.

Index of Jewish Connection

MetroNorth West residents are mostly *Seeking the Social* (28%), followed roughly by the same proportions in *Tenuously Tethered* (21%), *Family Focused* (19%), *Deeply Devoted* (18%), and *Enthusiastically Engrossed* (15%).

Emotional attachment to Israel

A majority (59%) of Jewish adults in MetroNorth West say they are very or somewhat emotionally attached to Israel. More residents say their emotional attachment to Israel has strengthened (31%) than weakened (19%) since the events of October 7, 2023.

Denominations

A third of MetroNorth West residents (34%) do not identify with a Jewish denomination. The most common denominational identity is Reform (38%), followed by Conservative (20%), Orthodox (4%), and Reconstructionist (2%).

Donations and volunteerism

More than eight in 10 (86%) Jewish adults in MetroNorth West made a charitable donation in the year before the survey and about half (48%) volunteered. Among these adults, 71% donated to a Jewish organization or cause, and 56% volunteered their time or services to a Jewish organization or cause.

Jewish friends

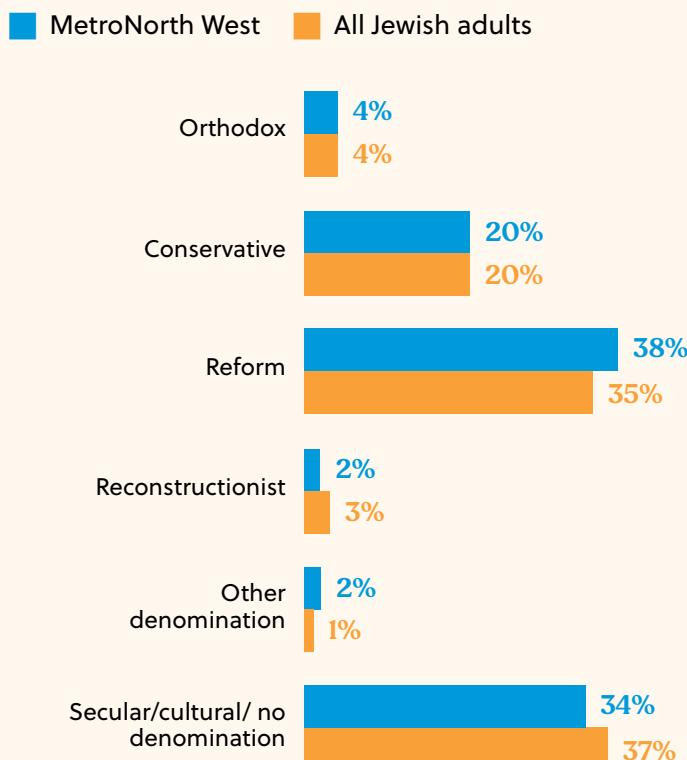
Nearly three quarters (74%) of Jewish adults in MetroNorth West say that half or more of their closest friends are Jewish.

Synagogue membership

One-third (33%) of Jewish households in MetroNorth West belong to or regularly participate in a synagogue, *minyan*, or other religious Jewish community.

Index of Jewish Connection	MetroNorth West	All Jewish adults
 <i>Seeking the Social</i>	28%	29%
 <i>Tenuously Tethered</i>	21%	27%
 <i>Family Focused</i>	19%	17%
 <i>Deeply Devoted</i>	18%	15%
 <i>Enthusiastically Engrossed</i>	15%	12%

Jewish denominations



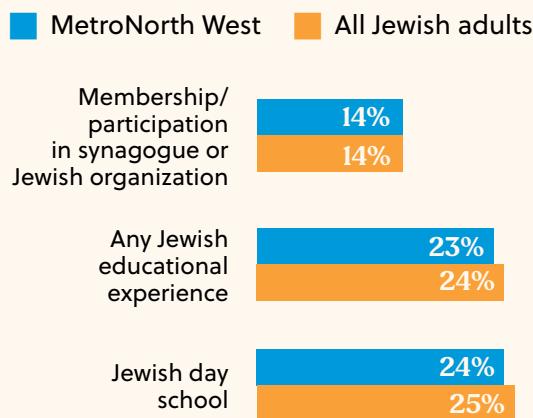
Barriers to participating in Jewish life

Many Jewish adults cited cost as a barrier to participation in the Greater Boston Jewish community. About 14% said cost was a barrier to joining a synagogue or other Jewish organization. Among those with children who were not enrolled in any Jewish educational program, school, or summer camp, 23% said cost was a barrier to enrollment. A similar proportion (24%) cited cost as a barrier to enrollment in a Jewish day school.

Percent who cited barriers to communal participation



Percent who cited cost as a barrier



Well-being

Service needs and gaps

Less than half of Jewish households (41%) said that someone in their home had a human service need in the past year. About 7% of households that identified a need for a service said they did not receive it.

Health-related limits on activities

A quarter of households (26%) said that someone living in them has a health issue or disability that limits their ability to work, go to school, or do other activities outside the home.

Material well-being

About one in 10 Jewish households in MetroNorth West (11%) said they are unable or just managing to make ends meet, 8% have income below 250% of the federal poverty level, and 9% were unable to afford basic needs at some point in the 12 months before the survey.

Emotional well-being

About one in seven Jewish adults (15%) said they felt lonely, depressed, or anxious all the time or often during the month before taking the survey.

Indicators of well-being	MetroNorth West	All Jewish adults
Often or always feeling lonely, depressed, or anxious	15%	14%
< 250% federal poverty level	8%	13%
Cannot or just managing to make ends meet	11%	17%

Antisemitism

Feeling safe

Seven in 10 Jewish adults in MetroNorth West (71%) strongly agree that they feel safe as a Jewish person when out in public. Just over half (54%) strongly agree that they feel safe at events, programs, and activities in Jewish organizational spaces.

Concern and behavior

Four in 10 (40%) are very or somewhat concerned about antisemitism in the city or town where they live. About a third (35%) avoided behaviors that would identify them as Jewish or places and events where they felt unsafe as Jews (in the 12 months before the survey).

MetroWest.

MetroWest has the fewest Jewish households and Jewish individuals among the six regions. The region stands out for a higher share of adults 45 and older as well as married or partnered families without children between 0-17 years old living at home. The diversity of social identities is comparatively less than other regions.

MetroWest has the highest share of adults who identify as Reform Jews and the second highest share of synagogue members or participants. Additionally, emotional attachment to Israel is strong in this region.

Lack of awareness of opportunities to participate in communal events, programs, and activities is higher in this region than others. MetroWest also has somewhat lower levels of economic vulnerability, relative to other regions.



Population Estimates

	MetroWest
JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS	13,600 (10%)
INDIVIDUALS IN JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS	34,700 (10%)
Jewish	23,500 (10%)
Not Jewish	11,300 (11%)
ADULTS	29,500 (11%)
Jewish	19,800 (11%)
Not Jewish	9,700 (10%)
CHILDREN	5,200 (10%)
Jewish	3,700 (8%)
Not Jewish	1,500 (13%)
HOUSEHOLDS IN CORE AREAS	10,500
Ashland/Framingham/Marlborough/Southborough	5,900
Natick ¹²	2,900
Sudbury/Wayland ¹³	1,700

Demographic characteristics

	MetroWest	All Jewish adults
AGE		
18-29 years old	19%	22%
30-44 years old	19%	25%
45-64 years old	34%	26%
65 years and older	29%	27%
GENDER		
Female	51%	52%
Male	48%	46%
Nonbinary/another identity	1%	2%
EDUCATION		
Less than college degree	34%	30%
Bachelor's degree	35%	36%
Graduate/professional degree	31%	34%
EMPLOYMENT		
Employed	66%	69%
Unemployed	1%	2%
Retired	21%	17%

Reasons for living in MetroWest

When asked why they choose to live in MetroWest, residents selected the following answers:

- 43% Being close to family or friends
- 42% Wanting to own a home rather than rent
- 28% Being close to work or easier commute
- 25% Wanting a larger, newer, or better house or apartment
- 18% Wanting to establish own household

Household composition

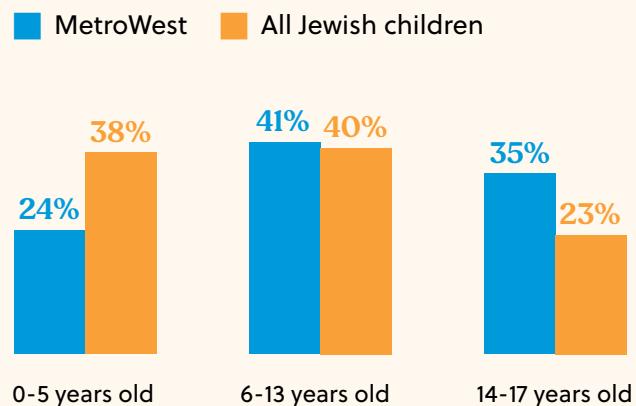
- 16% Single adults living by themselves
- 5% Shared living arrangement
- 3% Not married or partnered with children ages 0-17
- 56% Married or partnered with no children
- 20% Married or partnered with children ages 0-17
- 27% Multigenerational

Children and Jewish education

Among Jewish children in MetroWest households, nearly a quarter (24%) are 0-5 years old, 41% are 6-13 years old, and 35% are 14-17 years old.

Over half (53%) of Jewish children in MetroWest participated in one or more kinds of Jewish education during the 2024-2025 school year or the summer of 2024. They include: Jewish early childhood education, day school or *yeshiva*, part-time school, private lessons, youth groups, summer day camps, and summer overnight camps.

Ages of children



Diverse social identities

Compared to the rest of Greater Boston, MetroWest is somewhat less diverse: 23% of people have a health issue or disability that limits their activities outside the home, 15% regularly speak a language other than English, and 12% identify as LGBTQIA+.

Adults and households with diverse identities

	Metro-West	All Jewish households
Households with someone with a health issue or disability	23%	25%
Households with someone who identifies as LGBTQIA+	12%	21%
Households regularly speaking languages other than English	15%	18%
Immigrants (mostly from Israel and Russian-speaking countries)	8%	10%
Households with someone who identifies as JPOC	6%	8%
Households with someone who identifies as Russian-speaking or from the former Soviet Union	6%	6%
Adults who identify as Sephardic or Mizrahi	2%	6%
Households with someone who is Israeli	5%	4%

Jewish connections and identity

Connections to local Jewish community

More than a third (36%) feel very or somewhat connected to a Jewish community in MetroWest, and a slightly higher proportion are very or somewhat aware of Jewish events, programs, and activities in their local community (40%). A fifth of Jewish adults (20%) have become more engaged with Jewish life and community since the events of October 7, 2023, while 4% have become less engaged.

Index of Jewish Connection

The majority of MetroWest residents are *Seeking the Social* (30%) and *Tenuously Tethered* (28%), followed by *Family Focused* (20%), *Deeply Devoted* (12%), and *Enthusiastically Engrossed* (10%).

Emotional attachment to Israel

A majority (62%) of Jewish adults in MetroWest say they are very or somewhat emotionally attached to Israel. More MetroWest residents say their emotional attachment to Israel has strengthened (39%) rather than weakened (20%) since the events of October 7, 2023.

Denominations

A third of MetroWest residents (33%) do not identify with a Jewish denomination. The most common denominational identity is Reform (47%), the highest in any region, followed by Conservative (17%).

Donations and volunteerism

More than eight in 10 (86%) Jewish adults in the MetroWest made a charitable donation in the year before the survey and over half (51%) volunteered. Among these adults, 67% donated to a Jewish organization or cause, and 37% volunteered their time or services to a Jewish organization or cause.

Jewish friends

Close to two-thirds (65%) of Jewish adults in MetroWest say that half or more of their closest friends are Jewish.

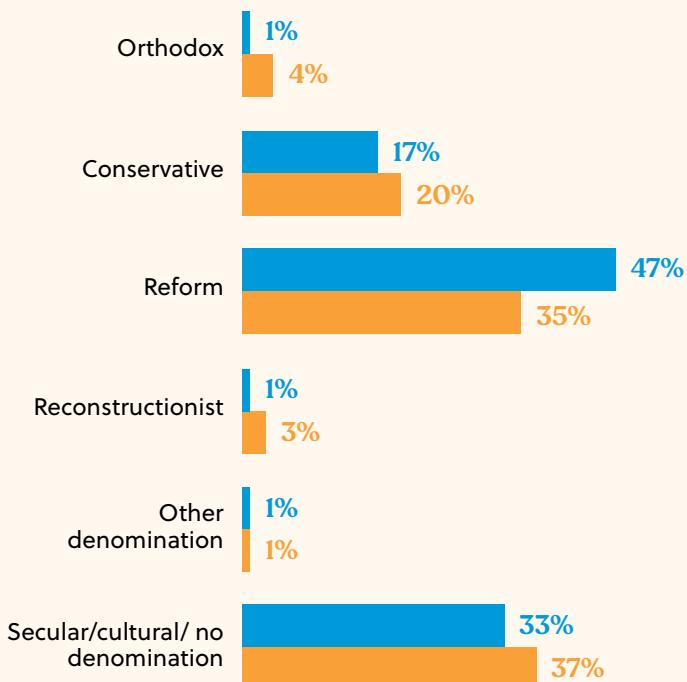
Synagogue membership

A quarter (28%) of Jewish households in MetroWest belong to or regularly participate in a synagogue, *minyan*, or other religious Jewish community.

Index of Jewish Connection	Metro-West	All Jewish adults
 <i>Seeking the Social</i>	30%	29%
 <i>Tenuously Tethered</i>	28%	27%
 <i>Family Focused</i>	20%	17%
 <i>Deeply Devoted</i>	12%	15%
 <i>Enthusiastically Engrossed</i>	10%	12%

Jewish denominations

 MetroWest  All Jewish adults



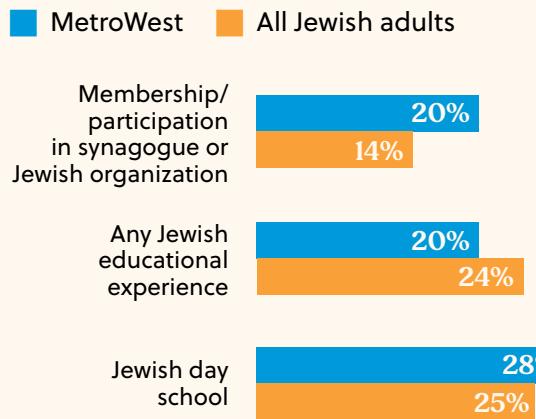
Barriers to participating in Jewish life

Many Jewish adults cited cost as a barrier to participation in the Greater Boston Jewish community. About 20% said cost was a barrier to joining a synagogue or other Jewish organization. Among those with children who were not enrolled in any Jewish educational program, school, or summer camp, 20% said cost was a barrier to enrollment. A similar proportion (28%) cited cost as a barrier to enrollment in a Jewish day school.

Percent who cited barriers to communal participation



Percent who cited cost as a barrier



Well-being

Service needs and gaps

Four in 10 Jewish households (41%) said that someone in their home had a human service need in the past year. About 7% that identified a need for a service did not receive it.

Health-related limits on activities

A quarter of households (23%) said that someone living in them has a health issue or disability that limits their ability to work, go to school, or do other activities outside the home.

Material well-being

One in five Jewish households in MetroWest (21%) said they are unable or just managing to make ends meet, 15% make an income below 250% of the federal poverty level, and 12% were unable to afford basic needs at some point in the 12 months before the survey.

Emotional well-being

One in 10 Jewish adults (10%) said they felt lonely, depressed, or anxious all the time or often during the month before taking the survey.

Indicators of well-being

Indicators of well-being	Metro-West	All Jewish adults
Often or always feeling lonely, depressed, or anxious	10%	14%
< 250% federal poverty level	15%	13%
Cannot or just managing to make ends meet	21%	17%

Antisemitism

Feeling safe

Two-thirds of Jewish adults in MetroWest (66%) strongly agree that they feel safe as a Jewish person when out in public. About half (48%) strongly agree that they feel safe at events, programs, and activities in Jewish organizational spaces.

Concern and behavior

Nearly half of Jewish adults in MetroWest (45%) are very or somewhat concerned about antisemitism in the city or town where they live. About 41% avoided behaviors that would identify them as Jewish or places and events where they felt unsafe as Jews (in the 12 months before the survey).

North Area.

The North Area stands out for a high proportion of adults 45 and older, as well as a high share of married or partnered families with children and single adults living by themselves. Fewer adults have college degrees here than in other regions, and the diversity of social identities is comparatively less than other regions.

Concerns about antisemitism locally and not feeling safe as a Jewish person in public are among the highest in this region. Additionally, other connections to Jewish life and Israel are somewhat weaker than other regions. North Area households experience slightly higher levels of economic vulnerability relative to other regions.



Population Estimates

	North Area
JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS	21,400 (15%)
INDIVIDUALS IN JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS	51,300 (15%)
Jewish	36,600 (16%)
Not Jewish	14,700 (14%)
ADULTS	40,300 (15%)
Jewish	28,800 (16%)
Not Jewish	11,500 (12%)
CHILDREN	11,000 (20%)
Jewish	7,800 (18%)
Not Jewish	3,200 (29%)
HOUSEHOLDS IN CORE AREAS	8,100
Andover/North Andover ¹⁴	4,600
Chelsea/Everett/Malden/Melrose/Revere ¹⁵	3,500

Demographic characteristics

	North Area	All Jewish adults
AGE		
18-29 years old	17%	22%
30-44 years old	23%	25%
45-64 years old	31%	26%
65 years and older	29%	27%
GENDER		
Female	50%	52%
Male	50%	46%
Nonbinary/another identity	1%	2%
EDUCATION		
Less than college degree	44%	30%
Bachelor's degree	33%	36%
Graduate/professional degree	22%	34%
EMPLOYMENT		
Employed	62%	69%
Unemployed	<1%	2%
Retired	19%	17%

Reasons for living in North Area

When asked why they choose to live in North Area, residents selected the following answers:

- 46% Being close to family or friends
- 40% Wanting to own a home rather than rent
- 23% Being close to work or easier commute
- 22% Wanting a larger, newer, or better house or apartment
- 22% Wanting a more affordable rent or mortgage

Household composition

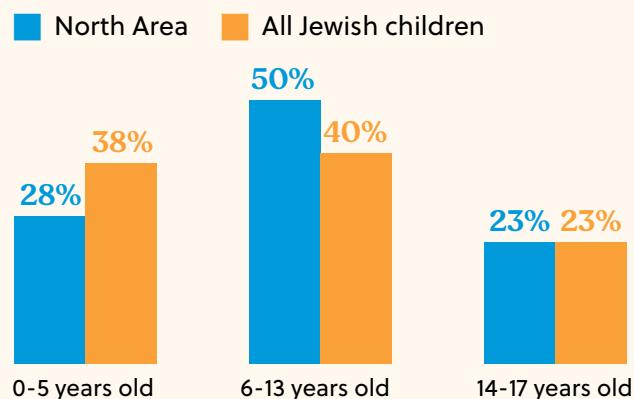
- 26% Single adults living by themselves
- 5% Shared living arrangement
- 1% Not married or partnered with children ages 0-17
- 41% Married or partnered with no children
- 28% Married or partnered with children ages 0-17
- 16% Multigenerational

Children and Jewish education

Among Jewish children in North Area households, more than a quarter (28%) are 0-5 years old, 50% are 6-13 years old, and 23% are 14-17 years old.

A third (34%) of Jewish children in the North Area participated in one or more kinds of Jewish education during the 2024-2025 school year or the summer of 2024. They include: Jewish early childhood education, day school or *yeshiva*, part-time school, private lessons, youth groups, summer day camps, and summer overnight camps.

Ages of children



Diverse social identities

The North Area is somewhat less diverse than other areas of Greater Boston. For example, in 14% of households, one or more people identify as LGBTQIA+, and 12% of households regularly speak a language other than English.

Adults and households with diverse identities

	North Area	All Jewish households
Households with someone with a health issue or disability	25%	25%
Households with someone who identifies as LGBTQIA+	14%	21%
Households regularly speaking languages other than English	12%	18%
Immigrants (mostly from Israel and Russian-speaking countries)	10%	10%
Households with someone who identifies as JPOC	5%	8%
Households with someone who identifies as Russian-speaking or from the former Soviet Union	5%	6%
Adults who identify as Sephardic or Mizrahi	6%	6%
Households with someone who is Israeli	2%	4%

Jewish connections and identity

Connections to local Jewish community

More than four in 10 (43%) feel very or somewhat connected to a Jewish community in the North Area, and a similar proportion are very or somewhat aware of Jewish events, programs, and activities in their local community (44%). Three times as many said they are more engaged (30%) than less engaged (9%) with Jewish life since the events of October 7, 2023.

Index of Jewish Connection

The majority of North Area residents are *Seeking the Social* (29%) and *Tenuously Tethered* (26%), followed by *Family Focused* (21%), *Deeply Devoted* (15%), and *Enthusiastically Engrossed* (10%).

Emotional attachment to Israel

Half (50%) of Jewish adults in the North Area say they are very or somewhat emotionally attached to Israel. More North Area residents say their emotional attachment to Israel has strengthened (39%) rather than weakened (17%) since the events of October 7, 2023.

Denominations

Nearly four in 10 North Area residents (39%) do not identify with a Jewish denomination. The most common denominational identity is Reform (37%), followed by Conservative (20%), Reconstructionist (2%) and Orthodox (1%).

Donations and volunteerism

Eight in 10 (80%) Jewish adults in the North Area made a charitable donation in the year before the survey and over one-third (38%) volunteered. Among these adults, 70% donated to a Jewish organization or cause, and 49% volunteered their time or services to a Jewish organization or cause.

Jewish friends

Just over half of Jewish adults (51%) say that half or more of their closest friends are Jewish.

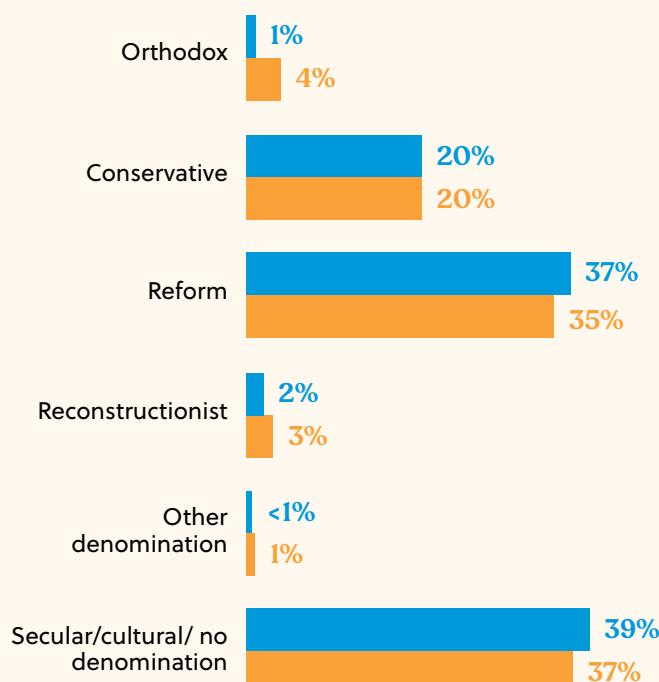
Synagogue membership

A quarter (25%) of Jewish households belong to or regularly participate in a synagogue, *minyan*, or other Jewish religious community.

Index of Jewish Connection	North Area	All Jewish adults
 <i>Seeking the Social</i>	29%	29%
 <i>Tenuously Tethered</i>	26%	27%
 <i>Family Focused</i>	21%	17%
 <i>Deeply Devoted</i>	15%	15%
 <i>Enthusiastically Engrossed</i>	10%	12%

Jewish denominations

■ North Area ■ All Jewish adults



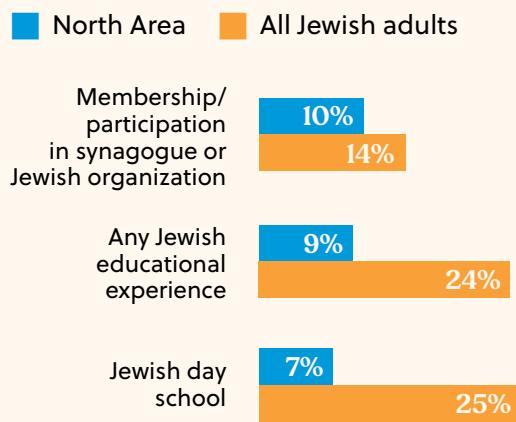
Barriers to participating in Jewish life

Many Jewish adults cited cost as a barrier to participation in the Greater Boston Jewish community. About 10% said cost was a barrier to joining a synagogue or other Jewish organization. Among those with children who were not enrolled in any Jewish educational program, school, or summer camp, 9% said cost was a barrier to enrollment. A similar proportion (7%) cited cost as a barrier to enrollment in a Jewish day school.

Percent who cited barriers to communal participation



Percent who cited cost as a barrier



Well-being

Service needs and gaps

Nearly three in 10 Jewish households (29%) said that someone in their home had a human service need in the past year. About 6% of households that identified a need for a service did not receive it.

Health-related limits on activities

A quarter of households (25%) said that someone living in them has a health issue or disability that limits their ability to work, go to school, or do other activities outside the home.

Material well-being

Nearly one in four Jewish households in the North Area (23%) said they are unable or just managing to make ends meet, 16% have income below 250% of the federal poverty level, and 12% were unable to afford basic needs at some point in the 12 months before the survey.

Emotional well-being

One in 10 Jewish adults (10%) said they felt lonely, depressed, or anxious all the time or often in the month before taking the survey.

Indicators of well-being	North Area	All Jewish adults
Often or always feeling lonely, depressed, or anxious	10%	14%
< 250% federal poverty level	16%	13%
Cannot or just managing to make ends meet	23%	17%

Antisemitism

Feeling safe

More than six in 10 Jewish adults in the North Area (62%) strongly agree they feel safe as a Jewish person when out in public. About 41% strongly agree they feel safe at events, programs, and activities in Jewish organizational spaces.

Concern and behavior

Just under half (48%) are very or somewhat concerned about antisemitism in the city or town where they live. Approximately 29% avoided behaviors that would identify them as Jewish or places and events where they felt unsafe as Jews (in the 12 months before the survey).

South Area.

The South Area stands out for a lower proportion of full-time workers and higher proportion of retirees, and a higher share of single adults living by themselves. Fewer adults who live in the South Area have college degrees and the diversity of social identities is comparatively less than in all other regions, except the North Area.

Concerns about antisemitism locally and not feeling safe as a Jewish person in public are higher here than elsewhere. Additionally, emotional attachment to Israel runs strong.

Emotional well-being among Jews in the South Area is among the strongest across the regions, but these households experience somewhat higher levels of economic vulnerability relative to other regions. Households in the South Area are also among the most likely to cite cost as a barrier to membership or participation in a synagogue or Jewish organization.



Population Estimates

	South Area
JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS	25,300 (18%)
INDIVIDUALS IN JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS	56,000 (17%)
Jewish	40,100 (18%)
Not Jewish	15,900 (15%)
ADULTS	47,400 (17%)
Jewish	32,900 (18%)
Not Jewish	14,500 (16%)
CHILDREN	8,600 (16%)
Jewish	7,200 (16%)
Not Jewish	1,400 (13%)
HOUSEHOLDS IN CORE AREAS	8,000
Canton/Sharon/Stoughton	8,000

Demographic characteristics

	South Area	All Jewish adults
AGE		
18-29 years old	12%	22%
30-44 years old	24%	25%
45-64 years old	25%	26%
65 years and older	39%	27%
GENDER		
Female	57%	52%
Male	43%	46%
Nonbinary/another identity	<1%	2%
EDUCATION		
Less than college degree	42%	30%
Bachelor's degree	33%	36%
Graduate/professional degree	26%	34%
EMPLOYMENT		
Employed	58%	69%
Unemployed	1%	2%
Retired	28%	17%

Reasons for living in South Area

When asked why they choose to live in South Area, residents selected the following answers:

- 48% Being close to family or friends
- 33% Wanting to own a home rather than rent
- 28% Being close to work or easier commute
- 24% Wanting a more affordable rent or mortgage
- 21% Wanting a larger, newer, or better house or apartment

Household composition

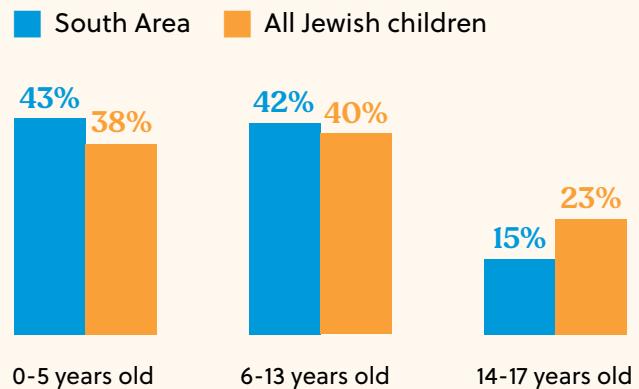
- 25% Single adults living by themselves
- 13% Shared living arrangement
- 1% Not married or partnered with children ages 0-17
- 42% Married or partnered with no children
- 19% Married or partnered with children ages 0-17
- 25% Multigenerational

Children and Jewish education

Among Jewish children in South Area households, 43% are 0-5 years old, 42% are 6-13 years old, and 15% are 14-17 years old.

Three in 10 (30%) Jewish children participated in one or more kinds of Jewish education during the 2024-2025 school year or the summer of 2024. They include: Jewish early childhood education, day school or *yeshiva*, part-time school, private lessons, youth groups, summer day camps, and summer overnight camps.

Ages of children



Diverse social identities

The South Area is somewhat less diverse than the rest of Greater Boston: 11% identify as LGBTQIA+ and 10% speak a language other than English. However, in other ways, diversity in the South Area does mirror that of the Greater Boston Jewish community.

Adults and households with diverse identities

	South Area	All Jewish households
Households with someone with a health issue or disability	24%	25%
Households with someone who identifies as LGBTQIA+	11%	21%
Households regularly speaking languages other than English	10%	18%
Immigrants (mostly from Israel and Russian-speaking countries)	8%	10%
Households with someone who identifies as JPOC	6%	8%
Households with someone who identifies as Russian-speaking or from the former Soviet Union	8%	6%
Adults who identify as Sephardic or Mizrahi	5%	6%
Households with someone who is Israeli	3%	4%

Jewish connections and identity

Connections to local Jewish community

More than four in 10 (44%) feel very or somewhat connected to a Jewish community in the South Area, and a similar proportion are very or somewhat aware of Jewish events, programs, and activities in their local community (44%). More than a fifth of Jewish adults (22%) have become more engaged with Jewish life and community since the events of October 7, 2023, while 8% have become less engaged.

Index of Jewish Connection

The majority of South Area residents are *Seeking the Social* (32%) and *Tenuously Tethered* (32%). Far fewer are *Family Focused* (15%), *Deeply Devoted* (12%), and *Enthusiastically Engrossed* (10%).

Emotional attachment to Israel

A majority (59%) of Jewish adults in the South Area are very or somewhat emotionally attached to Israel. More residents say their emotional attachment to Israel has strengthened (34%) rather than weakened (14%) since the events of October 7, 2023.

Denominations

A third of South Area residents (32%) do not identify with a Jewish denomination. The most common denominational identity is Reform (35%), followed by Conservative (24%), Orthodox (6%), and Reconstructionist (3%).

Donations and volunteerism

Three quarters (75%) of Jewish adults in the South Area made a charitable donation in the year before the survey and nearly four in 10 (39%) volunteered. Among these adults, 68% donated to a Jewish organization or cause, and 64% volunteered their time or services to a Jewish organization or cause.

Jewish friends

Close to two-thirds (64%) of Jewish adults in the South Area said that half or more of their closest friends are Jewish.

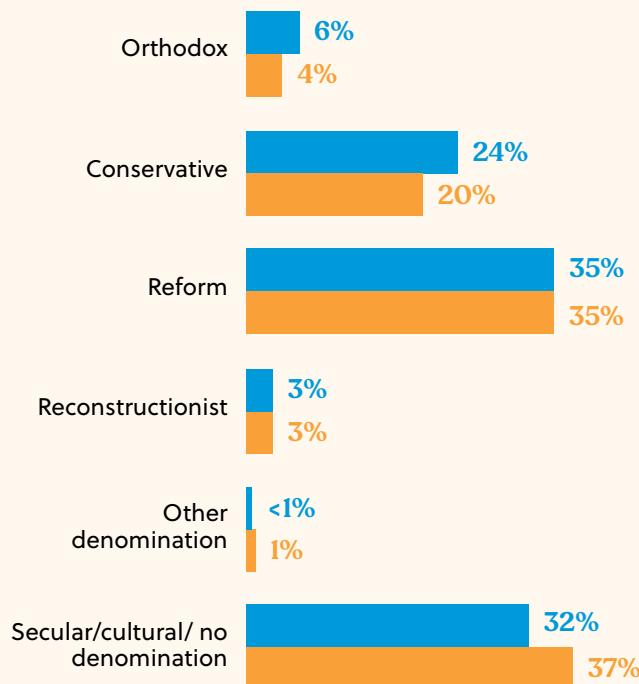
Synagogue membership

Less than a quarter (22%) of Jewish households belong to or regularly participate in a synagogue, *minyan*, or other religious Jewish community.

Index of Jewish Connection	South Area	All Jewish adults
 <i>Seeking the Social</i>	32%	29%
 <i>Tenuously Tethered</i>	32%	27%
 <i>Family Focused</i>	15%	17%
 <i>Deeply Devoted</i>	12%	15%
 <i>Enthusiastically Engrossed</i>	10%	12%

Jewish denominations

 South Area  All Jewish adults



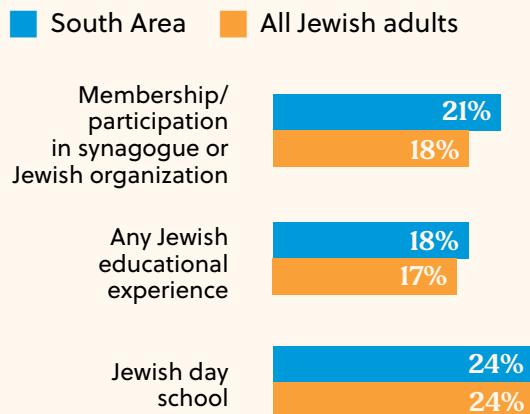
Barriers to participating in Jewish life

Many Jewish adults cited cost as a barrier to participation in the Greater Boston Jewish community. About 21% said cost was a barrier to joining a synagogue or other Jewish organization. Among those with children who were not enrolled in any Jewish educational program, school, or summer camp, 18% said cost was a barrier to enrollment. A similar proportion (24%) cited cost as a barrier to enrollment in a Jewish day school.

Percent who cited barriers to communal participation



Percent who cited cost as a barrier



Well-being

Service needs and gaps

More than four in 10 Jewish households (41%) said that someone in their home had a human service need in the past year. About 5% of households that identified a need for a service did not receive it.

Health-related limits on activities

Nearly a quarter of households (24%) said that someone living in them has a health issue or disability that limits their ability to work, go to school, or do other activities outside the home.

Material well-being

One in four Jewish households in the South Area (25%) said they are unable or just managing to make ends meet, 17% have income below 250% of the federal poverty level, and 17% were unable to afford basic needs at some point in the 12 months before the survey.

Emotional well-being

One in 10 Jewish adults (10%) said they felt lonely, depressed, or anxious all the time or often during the month before taking the survey.

Indicators of well-being	South Area	All Jewish adults
Often or always feeling lonely, depressed, or anxious	10%	14%
< 250% federal poverty level	17%	13%
Cannot or just managing to make ends meet	25%	17%

Antisemitism

Feeling safe

Nearly two-thirds of Jewish adults (65%) strongly agree that they feel safe as a Jewish person when out in public. Less than half (44%) strongly agree that they feel safe at events, programs, and activities in Jewish organizational spaces.

Concern and behavior

About half (52%) are very or somewhat concerned about antisemitism in the city or town where they live. Approximately 40% avoided behaviors that would identify them as Jewish or places and events where they felt unsafe as Jews (in the 12 months before the survey).

Conclusion.

The Greater Boston Jewish community is geographically widespread and demographically diverse, with distinct patterns of Jewish connection, social identity, and well-being across its six regions.

MetroNorth West stands out as the largest region, with comparatively strong connections to Jewish life including high rates of synagogue membership, Jewish education participation, and emotional attachment to Israel. In contrast, regions like MetroNorth and the City of Boston are younger and more socially diverse, with higher shares of LGBTQIA+ individuals, JPOC, and secular or unaffiliated Jews, and comparatively lower levels of formal Jewish connections and participation. South Area and North Area skew older and have lower educational attainment. Adults in these regions report stronger emotional attachment to Israel, and they also face higher economic vulnerability.

Across all regions, most Jewish adults feel safe and welcomed in public and communal Jewish spaces, though there are persistent concerns about antisemitism and barriers to participation, such as cost, lack of awareness, and political discomfort. While the majority of children in Jewish households are being raised Jewish and participate in some form of Jewish education, regional differences in access and affordability shape these experiences. Emotional well-being varies as well. Regions with a higher share of younger adults are more likely to report loneliness and anxiety, and regions with a greater share of older adults generally reporting greater stability.

Taken together, these findings reveal a community that is both cohesive and varied. While Jewish connection is strong in many areas, especially among suburban regions, there remains significant barriers for many across the regions. Addressing these challenges for Jewish households and families across Greater Boston will be key to strengthening Jewish life for all.

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. Since 1965, studies of the Greater Boston Jewish community have divided the geographic area into regions. The boundaries and composition of these regions have changed over time as new cities and towns have been included in the catchment area of Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP), and the names given to each region have changed as well. The current regions are similar to those used in the 2005 and 2015 Jewish community studies of Greater Boston, though new areas have been added with each study. For example, in 2015, cities and towns in the North Shore were added to CJP's catchment area. Similarly, in 2025, cities and towns in the Merrimack Valley and the town of Plymouth were added. Also important to note is that the sum of the total population and the sum of the Jewish population in this study do not equal the listed totals because they were rounded to the nearest whole number.
2. This study 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."
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. A quorum of ten Jewish adults required for certain communal prayers and rituals.
6. This percentage includes households that were unable to pay at some point within the past year for food, medicine, housing, utility bills, outstanding debt, phone or internet service, or emergency expenses. The percentage also includes those who obtained food at a food pantry, had less than three months of savings for household expenses, and were receiving government benefits for unemployment, food support, housing assistance, and subsidized day care.
7. Survey respondents were asked the following question: In the past month, how often did you feel lonely, depressed, or anxious?
8. Medford is part of a core area that includes Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Medford, Melrose, and Revere. Medford is part of the MetroNorth region and Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Melrose, and Revere are part of the North Area region.
9. Needham/Wellesley is part of a core area that includes Natick, Needham, and Wellesley. Needham and Wellesley are part of the MetroNorth West region and Natick is part of the MetroWest region.
10. Billerica/Chelmsford is part of a core area that includes Andover, North Andover, Billerica, and Chelmsford. Billerica and Chelmsford are part of the MetroNorth West region and Andover, North Andover, and Chelmsford are part of the North Area.

11. Concord/Lincoln is part of a core area that includes Concord, Lincoln, Sudbury, and Wayland. Concord and Lincoln are part of the MetroNorth West region and Sudbury and Wayland are part of the MetroWest region.
12. Natick is part of a core area that includes Natick, Needham, and Wellesley. Natick is part of the MetroWest region and Needham and Wellesley are part of the MetroNorth West.
13. Sudbury/Wayland is part of a core area that includes Concord, Lincoln, Sudbury, and Wayland. Sudbury and Wayland are part of the MetroWest region and Concord and Lincoln are part of the MetroNorth West.
14. Andover/North Andover is part of a core area that includes Andover, North Andover, Billerica, and Chelmsford. Andover and North Andover are part of the North Area and Billerica and Chelmsford are part of the MetroNorth West.
15. Chelsea/Everett/Malden/Melrose/Revere is part of a core area that includes Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Medford, Melrose, and Revere. Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Melrose, and Revere are part of the North Area region and Medford is part of the MetroNorth.