



# 2025 Greater Boston Jewish Community Study.



# Table of contents.

Introduction.....	3
The Jewish community of Greater Boston.....	5
Trends over time .....	6
Geography.....	7
Adult and household characteristics.....	9
Notes.....	16

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Conducted by: Rosov Consulting with SSRS

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

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# Introduction.

## 2025 Greater Boston Jewish Community Study

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

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

The research is based on 4,776 responses from a probability survey of a randomly selected sample of Jewish households across Greater Boston and is supported by follow-up interviews and focus groups. These reports remind us that every data point represents a real person—a life, a story, and a lived experience in our community. Readers are encouraged to approach the findings with curiosity and openness to the diverse experiences they represent. The reports present two types of data: estimates of the number of Jewish households and the people in them, and percentages describing their characteristics, attitudes, and behaviors. As with all probability-based surveys, these estimates are not exact and include a margin of error of about  $\pm 2.6$  percentage points for the full sample. For smaller groups, the margin of error is wider. Throughout the reports, estimates are rounded to whole numbers and populations to the nearest hundred, so categories may not equal the total.

To read all the reports and access a detailed explanation of the survey methodology, visit [cjp.org/CommunityStudy2025](https://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 their connection 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.



# The Jewish community of Greater Boston.

To learn about Jewish households in Greater Boston, as well as the people who live in them, this report examines the following characteristics: demographic, geographic, economic, social, and Jewish.

## Jewish households and their populations

There are an estimated 138,200 Jewish households, making up 7.7% of all households in Greater Boston. Living in those homes are 333,100 people, including 228,500 people who are Jewish and 104,600 who are not Jewish.

Jewish individuals make up 69% of the residents in Jewish households, and people who are not Jewish account for 31%. Just under half (49%) of Jewish households consist solely of people who are Jewish, while just over half (51%) include a mix of people who are and are not Jewish—a reflection of the diversity within modern Jewish homes.

## Adults and children

Jewish households are home to 333,100 people, including 277,900 adults and 55,200 children. There are 184,500 adults who are Jewish (66%) and 93,400 adults who are not Jewish (34%), as well as 44,000 children who are Jewish (80% of all children) and 11,200 who are not Jewish (20% of all children).<sup>1</sup> These residents, including those who are Jewish and not Jewish, account for 7.8% of all people living in Greater Boston. Jewish residents make up 5.4% of all people living in Greater Boston.

### Estimates of Jewish households in Greater Boston and the population living in them



Individuals in Jewish households		Adults		Children	
Jewish	228,500	Jewish	184,500	Jewish	44,000
Not Jewish	104,600	Not Jewish	93,400	Not Jewish	11,200
Total	<b>333,100</b>	Total	<b>277,900</b>	Total	<b>55,200</b>

# Trends over time.

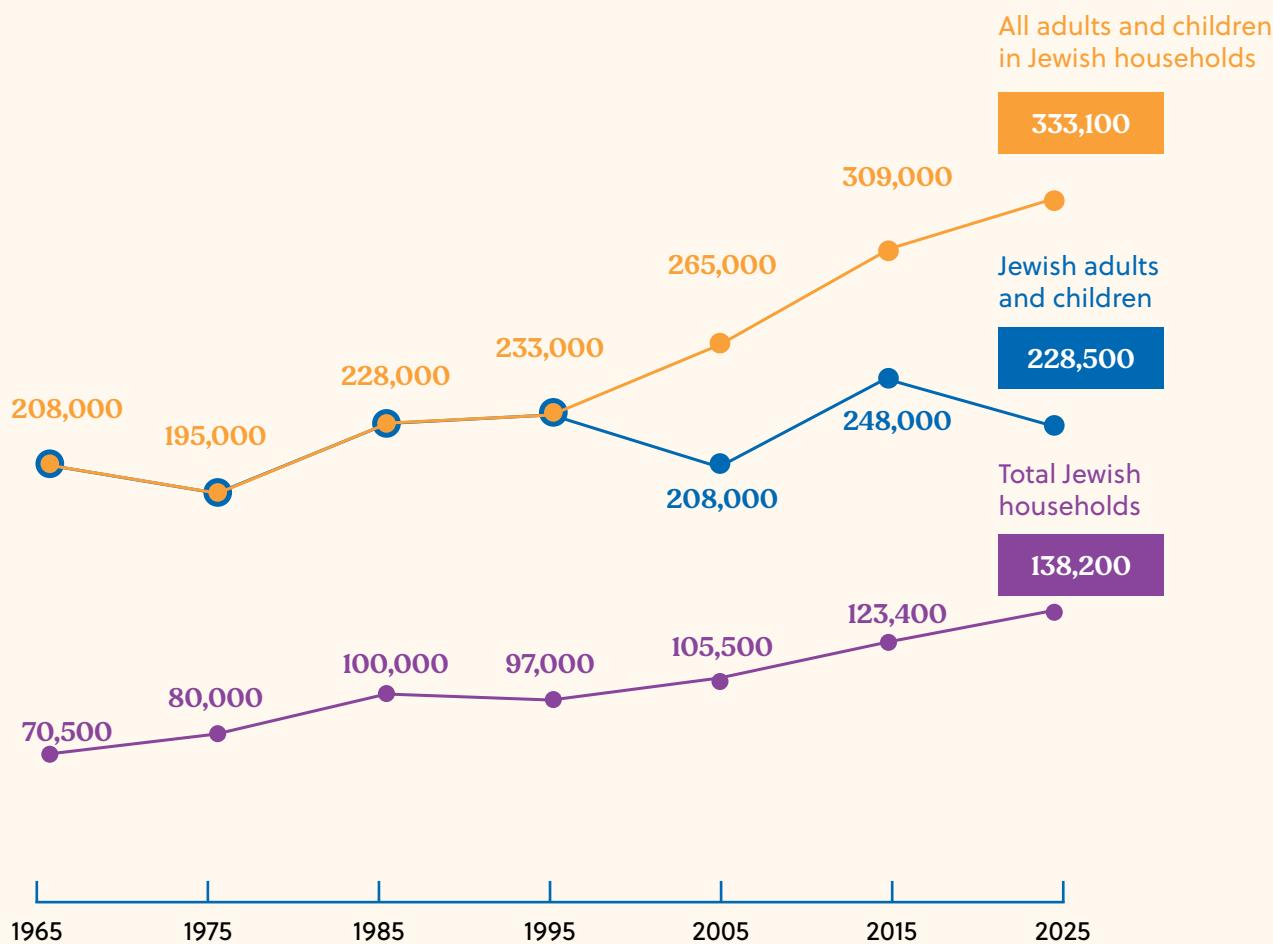
Combined Jewish Philanthropies has conducted studies of Greater Boston for more than 60 years. Over the decades, survey methods have evolved, which complicates direct comparisons between the Greater Boston of 1965 with the Greater Boston of 2025 and other years in between.

For example, surveys have used different definitions of who is considered Jewish,<sup>2</sup> covered different geographic areas,<sup>3</sup> and collected information from respondents in different ways.

Although the Jewish population of 228,500 has remained mostly unchanged over the last 60 years, findings point to significant growth in the number of Jewish households in Greater Boston and the number of adults and children living in them.

In 2005, there were an estimated 105,500 Jewish households. That number increased to 123,400 in 2015 and then to 138,200 Jewish households in 2025. The estimate reflects more Jewish people forming households with spouses and partners who are not Jewish, resulting in a growing number of what this survey defines as Jewish households. In 2005, 20% of Jewish household members were not Jewish, and today, 31% are not Jewish.

## Estimated number of Jewish households and individuals



# Geography.

For the purposes of this study, Greater Boston is divided into six regions, all of which are home to people living in Jewish households: City of Boston, MetroNorth, MetroNorth West, MetroWest, North Area, and South Area.

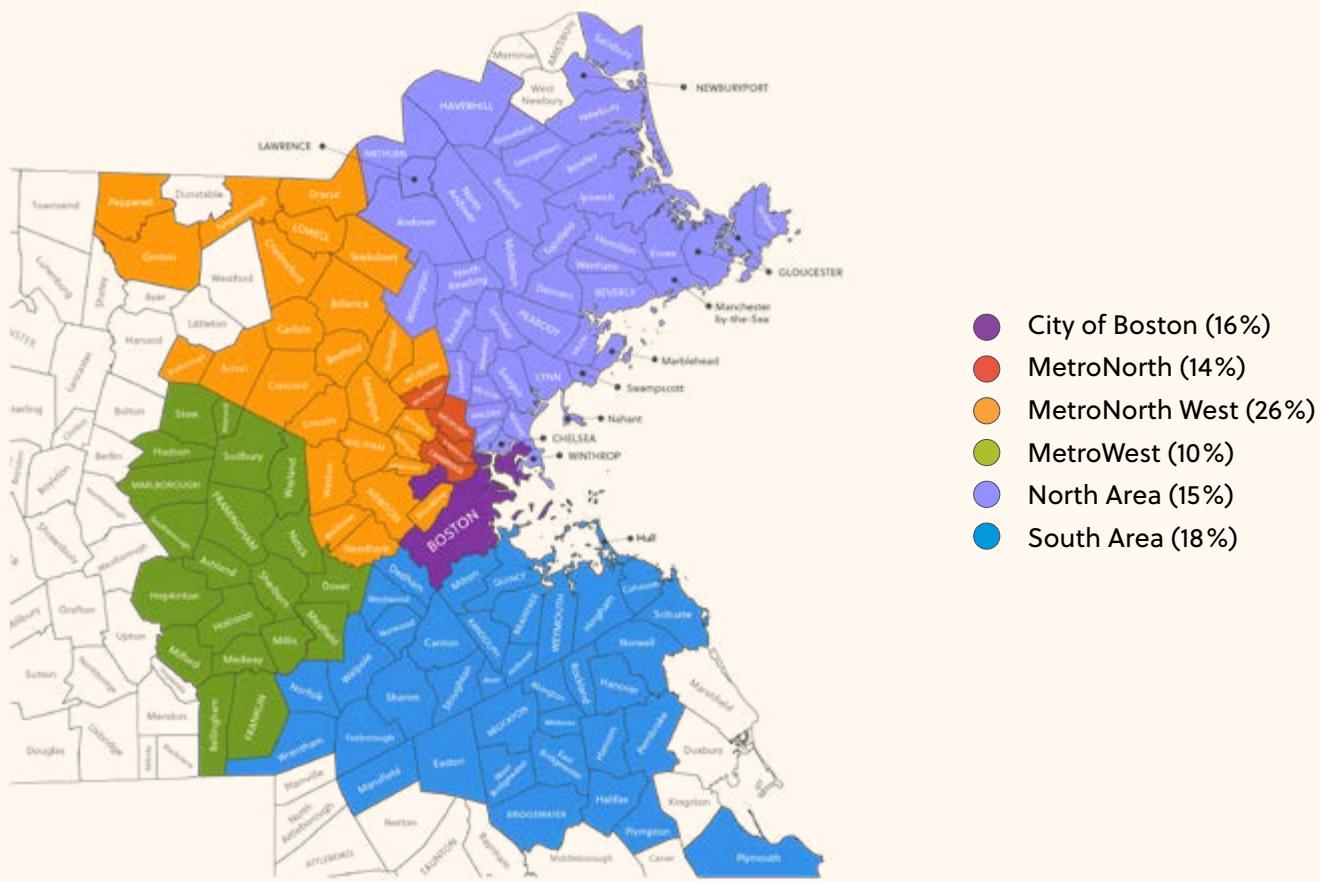
MetroNorth West has the largest number of Jewish households (26% of the total) and Jewish population (29% of the total). The City of Boston, MetroNorth, North Area, and South Area—all of which are similar in size—each account for around 15% of Jewish households as well as Jewish population. MetroWest has 10% of Jewish households and 10% of the Jewish population.

## Estimates of Jewish households and the population living in them, by region<sup>4</sup>

Area	Jewish households	Total population	Jewish population
<b>Total</b>	<b>138,200 (100%)</b>	<b>333,100 (100%)</b>	<b>228,500 (100%)</b>
City of Boston	22,700 (16%)	55,100 (17%)	35,200 (15%)
MetroNorth	18,800 (14%)	44,400 (13%)	27,900 (12%)
MetroNorth West	36,500 (26%)	91,600 (27%)	65,200 (29%)
MetroWest	13,600 (10%)	34,700 (10%)	23,500 (10%)
North Area	21,400 (15%)	51,300 (15%)	36,600 (16%)
South Area	25,300 (18%)	56,000 (17%)	40,100 (18%)



## 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, Swampscott, 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

# Adult and household characteristics.

There is no standard Jewish household. Greater Boston is diverse, home to individuals and families of all ages, backgrounds, identities, and life experiences.

Nearly a quarter (23%) of households include children, more than half (57%) of all households have two or more adults with no children who are 17 years old or younger, and one-fifth (20%) consist of single adults living by themselves.

The households can also be categorized as single-generation households or multigenerational households.

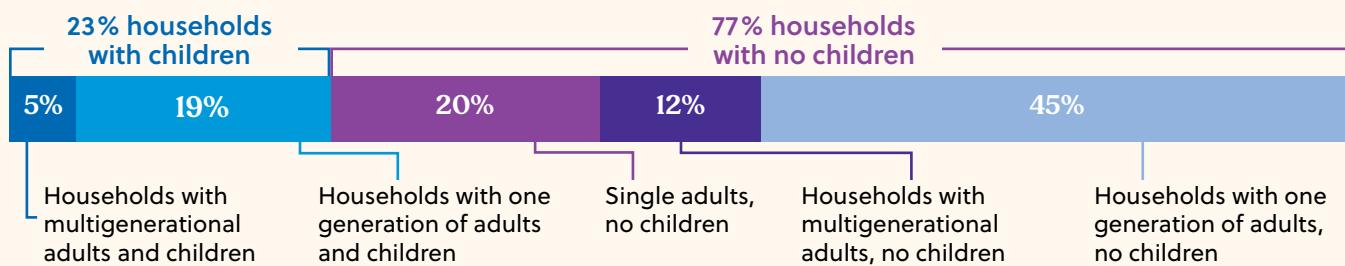
Among the 23% of households that include children between 0-17 years old, most are

single-generation households (19%). Some (5%) are multigenerational. The multigenerational households with children typically include parents, their young adult children who are 18 or older, and siblings who are 17 or younger.

Among the 57% of households made up of two or more adults with no children, most are single-generation households (45%). There are some multigenerational households (12%), which largely consist of parents and their young adult children.

A smaller number of multigenerational households are comprised of elderly parents living with their older adult children. And a very small number of multigenerational households have three generations of related adults living together.

## Jewish household composition

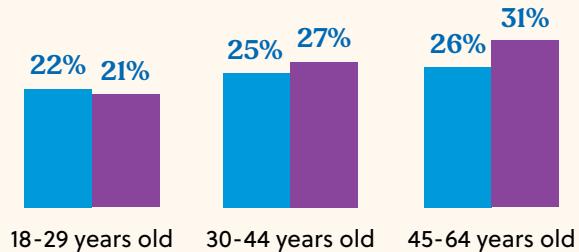


## Age

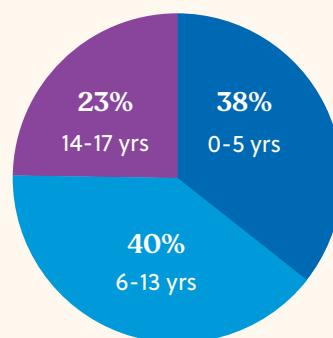
Jewish adults skew slightly older than the total adult population in Greater Boston.<sup>5</sup> The median age of both Jewish and all adults in Greater Boston is 47. Among Jewish children, 38% are 5 years old or younger, 40% are 6-13 years old, and 23% are 14-17 years old.

### Ages of Jewish adults and all adults

■ Jewish adults ■ All adults in Greater Boston



### Ages of Jewish children



## Gender

Among Jewish adults, 52% identify as female, 46% identify as male, 2% identify as nonbinary, and less than 0.5% identify in another way.

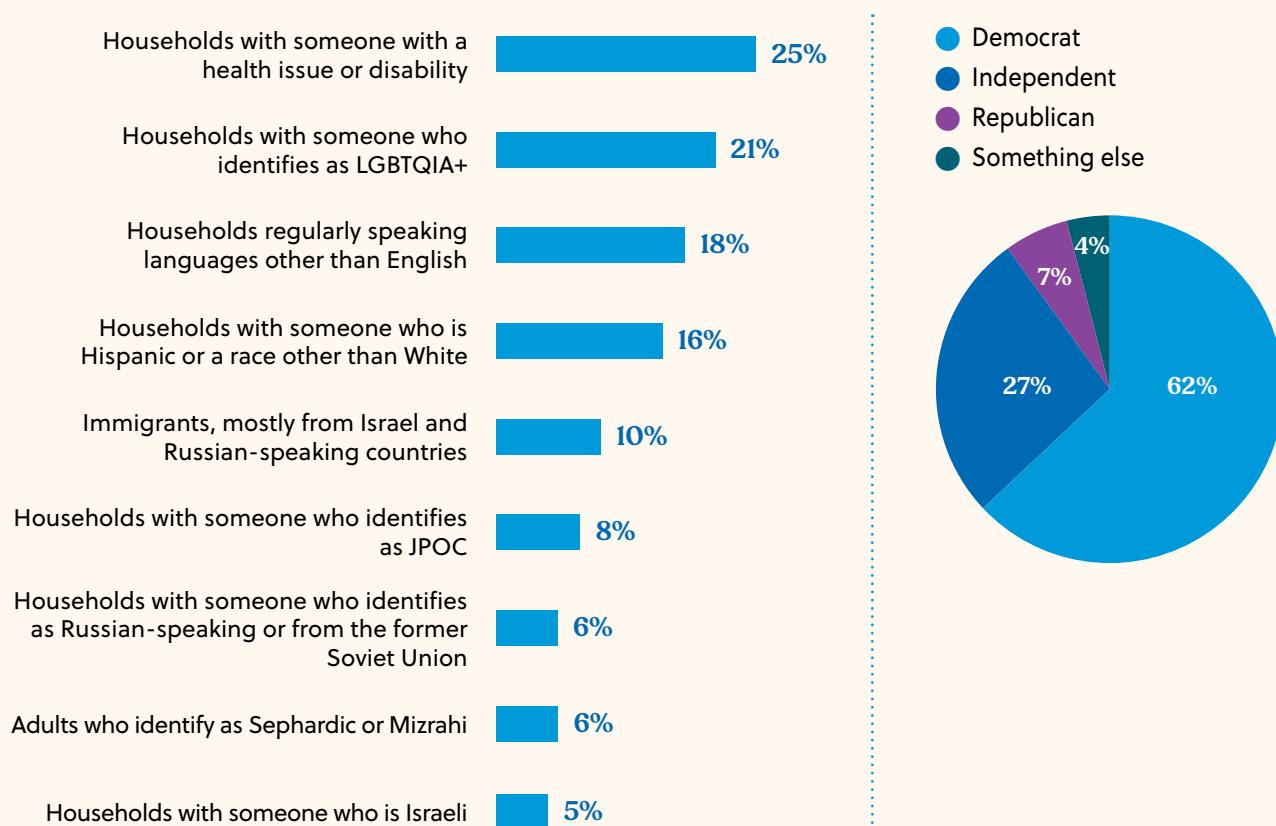
## Identity

The Jewish population of Greater Boston contains multitudes. Many languages are spoken, with 18% of households regularly speaking languages other than English, primarily Hebrew, Spanish, and Russian. Immigrants, mostly from Israel and Russian-speaking countries, represent 10% of Jewish adults. Another 6% identify as Sephardic or Mizrahi.

Respondents also shared their political affiliations. The majority of Jewish adults are Democrats (62%), followed by a notable portion of Independents (27%), and a smaller percentage of Republicans (7%).

The survey also asked about other aspects of identity. Results show that 25% of households have at least one person with a disability,<sup>6</sup> 21% of households have at least one person who identifies as LGBTQIA+,<sup>7</sup> 16% of households include someone who is Hispanic or a race other than White, and 8% of households have at least one person who identifies as a Jew of color or person of color (JPOC).<sup>8</sup>

### Identities of Jewish adults and households



Israeli Jews include individuals who are Israeli citizens, as well as those who were born or raised in Israel. Respondents who reported that someone in the household was an Israeli citizen were asked how many individuals in the household are Israeli. In some cases, the attribution of which household member is an Israeli citizen is unknown and may apply to either adults or children. However, not all household members were asked if they were born or raised in Israel, so the estimate likely undercounts the total number of children or other adults in the household.

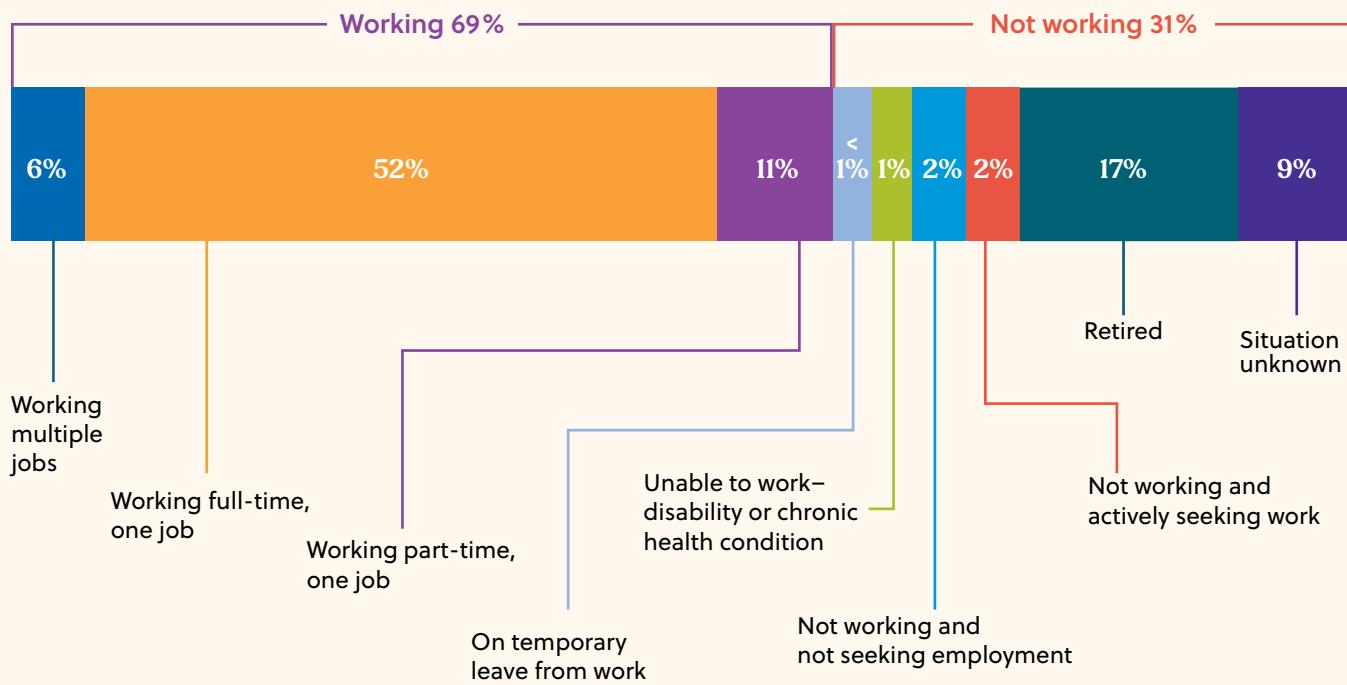
## Education and employment

Jewish adults in Greater Boston are highly educated: 70% hold an undergraduate degree, including 34% who hold graduate or professional degrees, such as Master of Business Administration (MBA) and Juris Doctor (JD).

The majority of Jewish adults are employed (69%), most of whom are working full-time in one job (52%). Smaller numbers of people work part-time in one job (11%) or juggle multiple jobs (6%).

Among the 31% of Jewish adults who are not employed, about half are retired (17%). Small percentages were not working and actively seeking work when they took the survey (2%), not working and not seeking employment (2%), unable to work (1%), or on temporary leave from work (<1%). There was also a small percentage of adults who are not employed, but whose situations were unknown (9%).<sup>9</sup>

### Employment status of Jewish adults



## Financial status

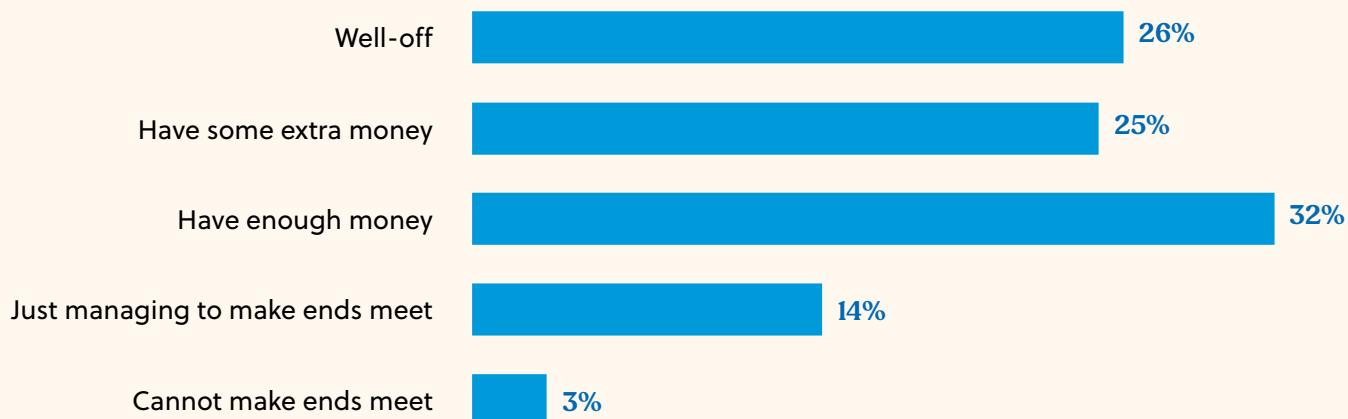
Nearly half (48%) report an annual household income of \$150,000 or more. Most Jewish households (83%) describe themselves as financially stable or secure.

### Household income



However, a sizable minority of households are grappling with financial insecurity: 17% either cannot or are just making ends meet and 13% fall under 250% of the federal poverty level, including 4% below the official poverty line itself.

### Self-reported financial situation of Jewish households



### Jewish households within 250% of the federal poverty level

< 250% federal poverty level	13%
<100% federal poverty level	4%
100-149% federal poverty level	3%
150-249% federal poverty level	6%

## Jewish denominations

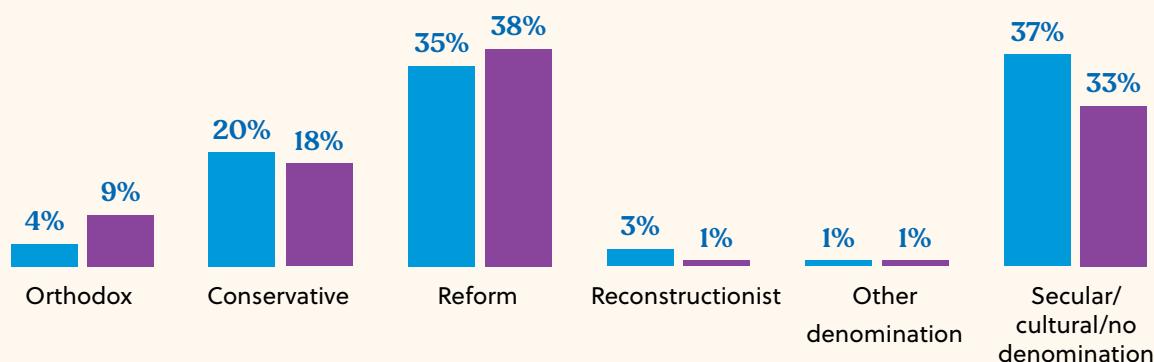
Jewish denominational identification reflects a wide range of religious beliefs and practices. The most common denominational identity among Greater Boston Jews is Reform (35%), followed by Conservative (20%), Orthodox (4%),<sup>10</sup> Reconstructionist (3%), and a small percentage (1%) identify with other denominations.<sup>11</sup>

More than one-third (37%) of Jewish adults do not identify with any particular denomination or define themselves as secular or cultural Jews.

With some small exceptions among Orthodox as well as secular and cultural Jews, Greater Boston identifies with denominations similar to the U.S. Jewish population as a whole.<sup>12</sup>

### Denominational identification

■ Greater Boston Jews ■ U.S. Jews



Identifying with a Jewish denomination is associated with the Index of Jewish Connection. Each denomination is over-represented in certain groups of the index. For example, among those who are Orthodox, 74% are *Deeply Devoted*.

### Percent of denomination that are in each group

	Seeking the Social	Tenuously Tethered	Family Focused	Deeply Devoted	Enthusiastically Engrossed	Total
Orthodox	7%	6%	5%	74%	8%	100%
Conservative	29%	6%	14%	30%	21%	100%
Reform	41%	13%	19%	12%	15%	100%
Reconstructionist	32%	10%	20%	18%	20%	100%
Other denomination	12%	5%	22%	48%	13%	100%
Secular/cultural/no denomination	24%	48%	19%	3%	7%	100%

## Interfaith relationships

Interfaith relationships are rising, though the rate is slower in Greater Boston than in the U.S. as a whole. Among Jewish adults in Greater Boston who are married or living with a partner, 50% are married to or partnered with a Jewish person, while 50% are married to or partnered with someone who does not identify as Jewish.

Married Jewish adults are more likely to have Jewish spouses (55%) than cohabiting Jewish adults are to have Jewish partners (24%). The share of married Jewish adults with Jewish spouses (55%) is similar to the greater U.S. Jewish population (58%), as reported by Pew Research Center in 2020.

When looking at married Jewish adults in Greater Boston, there is a trend: The more recent the marriage, the more likely the spouse is not Jewish. Just 18% of Jewish adults whose current marriages began before 1980 have spouses who are not Jewish. For Jewish adults whose current marriages began in 2020 or later, the percentage is significantly higher at 58%.

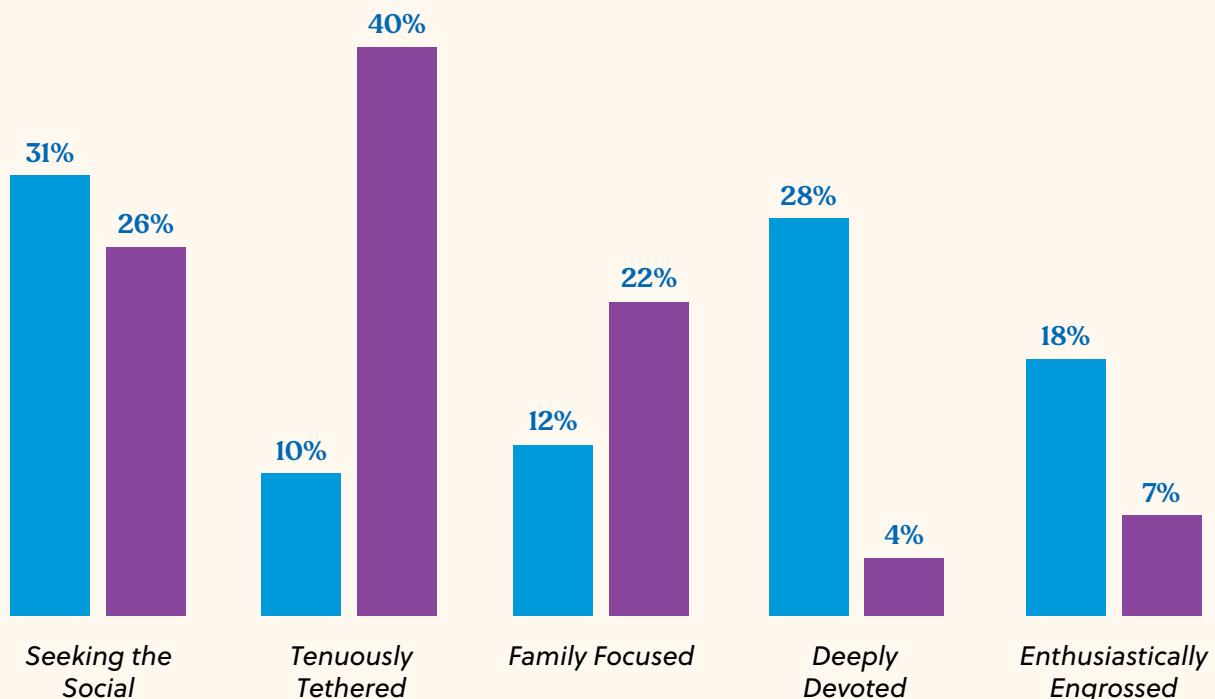
### Percent of current marriages to spouses who are Jewish and spouses who are not Jewish, by year marriage began

	Marriage began...						Overall	
	Before 1980	1980 -1989	1990 -1999	2000 -2009	2010 -2019	2020 or later		
JEWISH ADULTS IN GREATER BOSTON								
Spouse of Jewish adult is...								
Jewish	82%	58%	62%	47%	46%	42%	55%	
Not Jewish	18%	42%	38%	53%	54%	58%	45%	
U.S. JEWISH ADULTS (PEW RESEARCH CENTER 2020)								
Spouse of Jewish adult is...								
Jewish	82%	58%	63%	55%	39%	—	58%	
Not Jewish	18%	42%	37%	45%	61%	—	42%	

Interfaith relationships are associated with the Index of Jewish Connections. Jewish adults whose spouses or partners are Jewish are more likely to be *Enthusiastically Engrossed* and *Deeply Devoted* than those whose spouses or partners are not Jewish, who in turn are more likely to be *Tenuously Tethered* and *Family Focused*.

### Index of Jewish Connections

■ Jewish adults whose spouse/partner is Jewish ■ Jewish adults whose spouse/partner is not Jewish



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

# Notes.

1. For a small number of children, estimated at about 400, there is insufficient data to determine if they are being raised Jewish or not Jewish.
2. Across all studies over the last 60 years, a Jewish household has been consistently defined as a household in which at least one adult identifies as Jewish in some way. Estimates of the total Jewish population recorded from 1965-1995 included individuals who were related, even if they did not identify as Jewish. Whereas the Jewish population reported in 2005 and beyond only includes adults and children who identify as Jewish. The total number of adults and children in Jewish households is more consistently reported across all studies.
3. To sample households, earlier studies (1965-1995) used the Boston Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area, created by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. This larger geographic study area included cities and towns outside of the service area of Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP). However, as CJP's service area has expanded over time, its geographic boundaries more accurately resemble the study area in later studies.
4. The sum of Total Population and the sum of Jewish Population do not equal the listed totals because they were rounded to the nearest whole number.
5. Adults in all households were weighted to known population characteristics in the survey area from the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) 2019-2023 5-year data.
6. The survey question asked respondents "Do you/does someone else in your household have any of the following health issues or disabilities that limit work, school, or other activities outside of your home?"
7. 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."
8. 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.
9. The full paper questionnaire that was sent to respondents who completed the survey by mail did not include a follow-up question about why respondents are not working for pay. These responses are categorized as "Not working, situation unknown." The figure depicting the employment status of Jewish adults may not total 100% due to rounding.
10. The Orthodox population is varied. About half of those who identify as Orthodox say they are Modern or Centrist (2%), and 1% identify with one of several Haredi or ultra-Orthodox groups.
11. Does not include a small percentage of respondents who selected "None of the above."
12. Source: Pew Research Center, *Jewish Americans in 2020*