



2022 Cleveland Jewish Population Study

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Jewish Federation
OF CLEVELAND
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We are proud to release the 2022 Greater Cleveland Jewish Community Study. This report presents important insights into the composition, behaviors, and needs of Jewish Cleveland and how we can best support our community in the years ahead.

Jewish Cleveland, home to an estimated 93,200 individuals across 36,100 Jewish households, is a community that is stable, evolving, and deeply connected. The findings shared here, from where we live to how we live Jewishly, will spark new questions and guide the work of Federation and our community partners. Many findings will also affirm what we already know from experience: that our strength lies in our enduring commitment to one another. This shared value of connection will continue to shape our planning efforts, especially as we seek to create meaningful opportunities for newcomers to Cleveland, young adults, and those experiencing isolation.

While the release of this report took time, we have not waited to act. We have already begun addressing pressing needs—from supporting older adults, to strengthening our growing day schools, to confronting the rise in antisemitism and more. The data in this report will further sharpen our ability to meet these and future challenges, together.

It has been a privilege to witness the impact of our collective planning brought about by our 2011 study, including initiatives supporting interfaith families and those facing financial hardship, among many others. We look forward to once again partnering with our beneficiary agencies, donors, and volunteer leadership to translate the insights from the 2022 study into strategies that will ensure a vibrant Jewish Cleveland in the next decade and beyond.

We are deeply grateful to all who contributed to this study, especially the members of our Population Study Design Committee, chaired by Kim Pesses, and our research partners at NORC at the University of Chicago, and advisors from the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University. We also extend our sincere gratitude to the generous funders who made this work possible.

Sincerely,

Erika B. Rudin-Luria
President

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Introduction

This comprehensive study of the Cleveland Jewish community was commissioned by the Jewish Federation of Cleveland and conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago. The study is intended to promote an understanding of the community and aid with strategic planning, program development, and policies to support and enhance Jewish life. Specifically, the study was designed to:

- Estimate the number of Jewish adults and children in the community and the number of non-Jewish adults and children who are part of Jewish households
- Describe the community in terms of age, geographic distribution, and other sociodemographic characteristics
- Assess, to the extent possible, segments of the population such as young adults, families with children, older adults, Jews experiencing poverty and others
- Describe health and economic conditions and service needs
- Measure participation in community programs and institutional Judaism and understand reasons for participation
- Understand the multifaceted cultural, communal, and religious expressions of Judaism that constitute Jewish engagement
- Assess attitudes toward Jewish life and Israel



This study is based on survey data collected from 2,068 respondents from June to September 2022. The data presented in this report pertains exclusively to the Cleveland Jewish community. This report provides a portrait of the Cleveland Jewish community as it was in the summer of 2022, two-and-a-half years into the COVID-19 pandemic.

While comparisons across surveys provide valuable insights, it is important to note that due to methodological variations, these comparisons are inherently less precise and reliable than assessments based solely on the data from the present study.

Developed in close consultation with the Jewish Federation of Cleveland, the survey used in this study included survey items from the 2011 study of the Cleveland Jewish community, standard questions used by social scientists to study the Jewish community, and new questions tailored to obtain a better understanding of how the Jewish community was affected by and responded to the pandemic. Although some survey responses were likely to be influenced by the special circumstances of the pandemic (e.g., synagogue attendance, employment), the majority of questions were designed to provide a demographic and attitudinal portrait of the stable characteristics of the community.

Additionally, several chapters in this study report estimates of behaviors and attitudes that may have been affected by Hamas’s attack in Southern Israel on October 7, 2023, and the subsequent war that is still ongoing as this report is being compiled. It is important to remember that the data for this study reflect a snapshot in time prior to those tragic events.



DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT

Community Size Estimate

Cleveland is home to an estimated 36,100 Jewish households. These households include approximately 93,200 individuals, with 73,600 identifying as Jewish. The Jewish population constitutes 3.6% of the total population in the Cleveland area, while Jewish households comprise 4.1% of the region’s total households.

Demographic Overview

Overall, 20% of Jewish individuals in the Cleveland Jewish community are ages 18-34, 14% are ages 35-49, and 15% are ages 50-64. Thirty-two percent of Jewish individuals are ages 65 and older, including 18% between ages 65-74 and 15% ages 75 and older. Nineteen percent of Jewish individuals in Cleveland are ages 17 and younger.

Forty-one percent of the Jewish households consist solely of a couple, either married or partnered, while 24% are individuals living alone or with unrelated roommates and 23% are families with children under 18. Households with multiple generations, defined as parents and adult children (18+) of any age cohabiting, make up the remaining 12% of the households.

Seventy-nine percent of Jewish adults are either married or in a partnership. Among these individuals, 65% have a Jewish partner or spouse, while 35% have a non-Jewish partner or spouse (i.e., intermarried).

Geographic Distribution of the Jewish Population

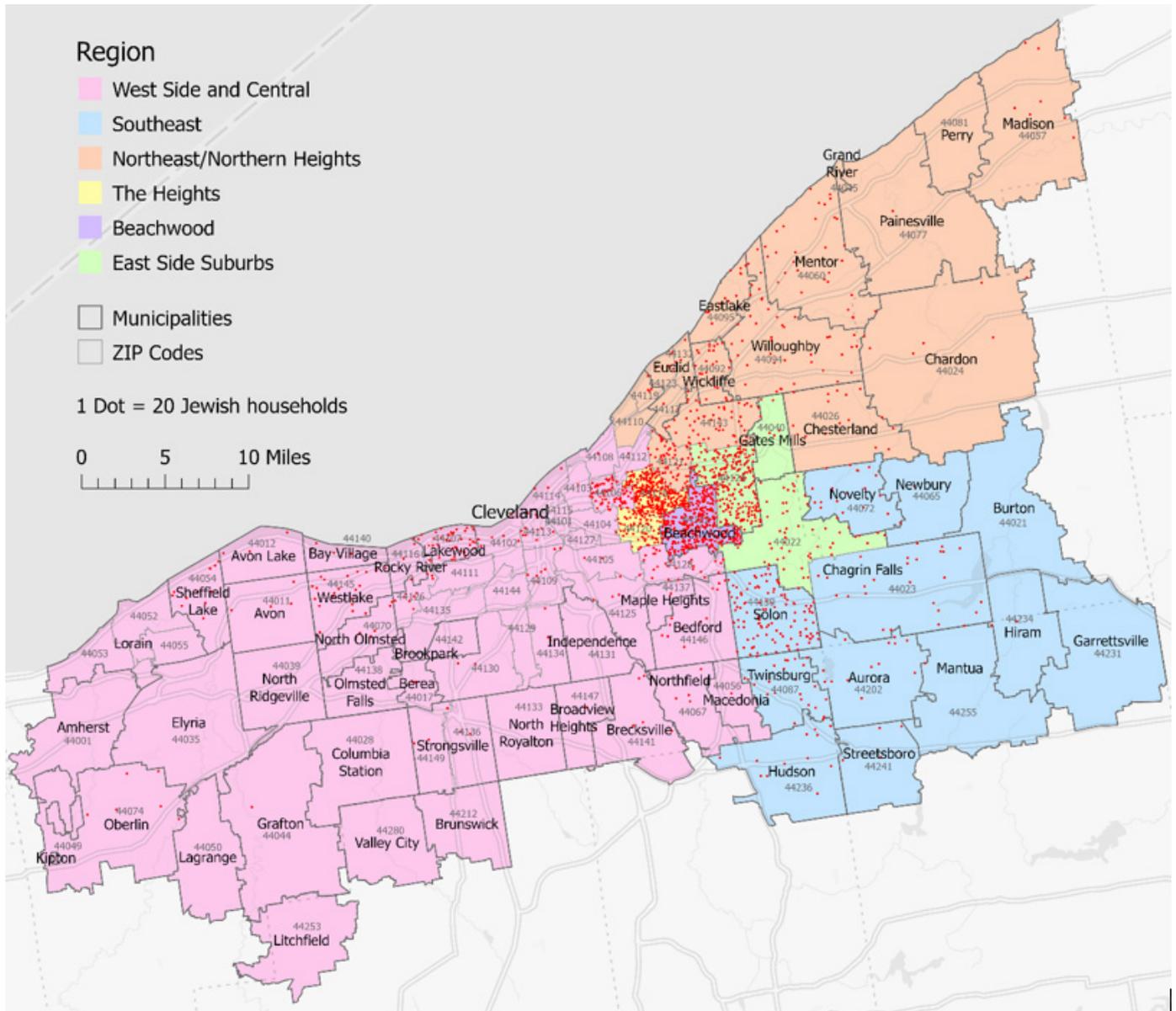
For this study, the Cleveland area is divided into six regions: Beachwood, East Side Suburbs, Northeast/Northern Heights, Southeast, The Heights, and West Side and Central. Approximately one-fifth of Jewish households (21%) are located in The Heights, while 19% are situated in Beachwood. The West Side and Central region and the East Side Suburbs each accommodate 16% of Jewish households, while a similar share resides in the Northeast/Northern Heights region (15%). The Southeast region is home to 12% of Jewish households.

Table 1.1. Cleveland Jewish community population estimates, 2022

Total Jewish households	36,100
People in Jewish households	93,200
Total Jews	73,600
Total non-Jews	19,600
Adults (age 18+)	75,400
Jewish	59,600
Non-Jewish or unknown	15,800
Children (under age 18)	17,800
Jewish	13,900
Non-Jewish or unknown	3,800

Twenty-eight percent of the Jewish children in Cleveland are residents of The Heights region. Beachwood and the Southeast region are each home to 18% of all the Jewish children in Cleveland. The Northeast/Northern Heights region houses 16% of Jewish children, while the remaining 20% are divided between the West Side and Central region (12%) and the East Side Suburbs (8%).

Figure 2.1. Geographic distribution of the Cleveland Jewish community



Among Jewish adults living in The Heights, 38% are ages 18-34 – the highest proportion of young adults of any region. The region with the largest proportion of Jewish individuals ages 35-49 is the West Side and Central region, with 30%. In the Northeast/Northern Heights, 32% of Jewish adults are in the 65-74 age range, while the East Side Suburbs have a similar share at 30%. In the East Side Suburbs, more than a quarter (27%) of Jewish adults are 75 or older, compared with 21% in the Southeast and 20% in Beachwood.

Seventy-one percent of Jewish adults have called the area home for 20 years or more, with 42% having spent their entire adult lives in the area. Another 5% have been residents for 15-19 years, and 6% for 10-14 years. In juxtaposition, newcomers who came to Cleveland this decade make up 18% of the population, including 7% who have resided in the area for less than five years.

Jewish Denomination and Ethnicity

Among Cleveland's Jewish adults who identify with a denomination, the largest share are Reform (33%), followed by Orthodox and Conservative at 14% each, and 2% in another denomination. Overall, 37% of Jewish adults do not identify with any denomination — slightly higher than the national figure of 32%. Compared to U.S. Jews overall, Cleveland has a higher proportion of Orthodox adults (14% vs. 9%) and a slightly smaller share of adults who identify as Conservative or Reform.

Eighty-one percent of Jewish adults in Cleveland identify as having Ashkenazi heritage, 3% as Sephardi, and 1% as Mizrahi. Less than 1% identify with another ancestry. The remaining 17% either identify with no specific Jewish ethnicity (8%) or indicate they are unaware of their Jewish ethnicity (9%).

Race and Other Identities

In Cleveland, 9% of Jewish households include at least one person who is non-white and/or Hispanic. Out of all individuals in Jewish Cleveland, 90% identify as white, non-Hispanic. Seven percent identify as non-white, non-Hispanic. Two percent consider themselves both white and Hispanic, while the remaining 1% identify both with a non-white racial identity and as Hispanic.

Nine percent of Jewish adults in Cleveland identify as LGBTQIA (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, and asexual), and in 14% of Jewish households, at least one member identifies as LGBTQIA. This individual(s) may or may not be Jewish and could be under age 18.

In Cleveland, 3% of Jewish adults are Israeli, defined by holding Israeli citizenship, and 4% of Jewish households include an Israeli citizen. Three percent of households speak Russian in their homes.

Birthplace

Fifty-four percent of Jewish adults in Cleveland were born in Northeast Ohio, and another 4% elsewhere in Ohio. Over one-third (36%) were born in the United States but outside of Ohio. An additional 7% were born outside the United States, including 3% in Russia or the Former Soviet Union and 4% in other countries such as Israel and nations in Latin America.

Parents and Grandparents

For respondents under age 75, 47% have at least one parent or in-law in Cleveland, 34% have at least one parent or in-law living outside Cleveland — with some having parents in both places — and 36% have no living parents or in-laws.

Among households where the respondent is over the age of 50, 52% have one or more grandchildren. Thirty-two percent have at least one grandchild living in the Cleveland area, while 38% have a grandchild residing outside of the Cleveland area.



JEWISH CHILDREN

Children in Jewish Households

Thirty-four percent of Jewish children in Cleveland are between the ages of 0-5, 41% are between the ages of 6-12, and 25% are between the ages of 13-17.

About two thirds of Jewish children in Cleveland (69%) are being raised by two Jewish parents, while about one quarter (28%) are being raised by intermarried parents. The remaining 4% of Jewish children are living with single parents.

Out of all children living in Jewish households, 88% are being raised Jewish or Jewish and another religion. Among children in Jewish households with two Jewish parents, 97% are acknowledged solely as Jewish by their parents. For children of intermarried parents, 38% are identified solely as Jewish. Another 22% are considered both Jewish and another religion, while 28% are being raised without a specific religious affiliation. For 12% of children in intermarried households, their parents have not determined their religious identity yet, and 1% are regarded as having a religion other than Judaism.

Jewish Education

In the 2021-22 school year, many preschool programs remained at COVID-restricted enrollment levels. Twenty-five percent of Jewish children not yet in kindergarten were enrolled in a Jewish preschool or daycare during the 2021-22 school year. Thirty-one percent were cared for at home by a babysitter or family member. Of Jewish households with children currently in grades K-12, 40% previously had at least one child enrolled in Jewish preschool or Jewish daycare.

Nearly half (47%) of Jewish students in grades K-12 attended public schools during the 2021-22 school year. Twenty-nine percent were enrolled in Jewish day schools or yeshivas, while 13% attended non-Jewish private schools. The remaining students were either homeschooled or attended a different type of school (4%), or the nature of their schooling was unknown (7%).

Sixty-one percent of Jewish K-12 students in Cleveland had some kind of Jewish educational experience during the 2021-22 school year. This includes 42% who received formal Jewish instruction—either through attendance at a Jewish day school or yeshiva (29%) or a part-time

Jewish school (15%). Twenty-seven percent of Jewish students engaged in informal Jewish education, participating in activities such as Jewish youth groups (8%), community teen programs (9%), volunteer-based Jewish programs (7%), or receiving tutoring or private classes in Hebrew or other Jewish subjects (14%).

Camping also plays a vital role in Jewish education, with 42% of Jewish K-12 students in Cleveland taking part (or planning to participate) in a Jewish summer camp in the summer of 2022. This includes involvement in Jewish day camps (28%) and Jewish overnight camps (21%).

Of the 46% of Jewish households who did not have children enrolled in Jewish education for the 2021-2022 school year or summer of 2022, 36% had children enrolled in a program previously.

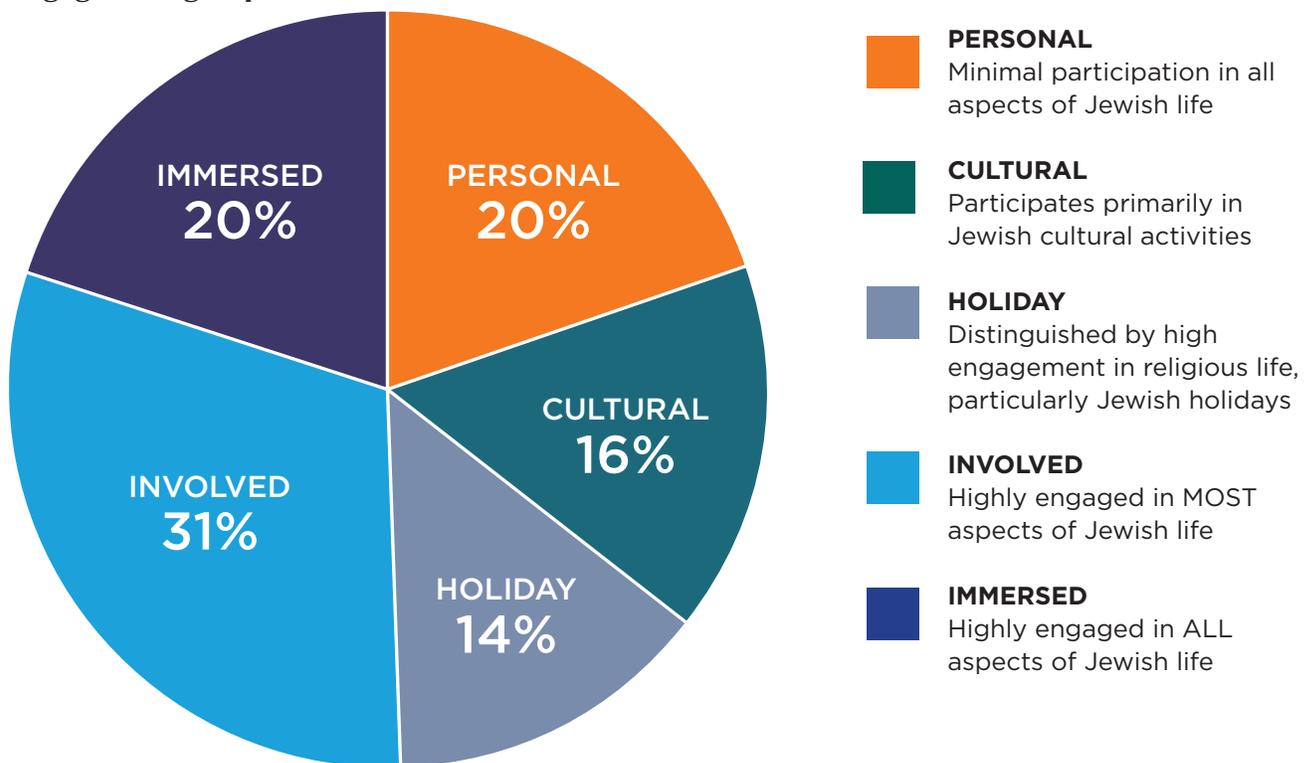


Jewish Engagement

This study introduces a new way to categorize multiple dimensions of Jewish engagement that is designed to expand the understanding of Jewish life beyond ritual involvement. We define Jewish engagement as participation in any aspect of Jewish life, including ritual activities, cultural activities, and involvement with Jewish organizations. In contrast, Jewish denomination focuses primarily on ritual behavior.

The Index of Jewish Engagement, a set of statistically derived categories specifically developed to reflect the Cleveland Jewish community, captures multiple dimensions of Jewish life. It is based on behavior rather than on self-identification.

Figure 3.1. Engagement groups



The Index illustrates and clarifies the diversity of Jewish engagement within denominational groups. While Jewish denomination correlates with Jewish engagement, the two constructs are not equivalent. For example, the 88% of Orthodox Jewish adults are classified as Immersed, but only 59% of the Immersed group identify as Orthodox.

More than half of the youngest age group (18-34) falls into the Involved (29%) or Immersed (31%) categories, with a limited presence in the Personal group (8%). In contrast, for the oldest age group (75+), over half are in the Personal (22%) or Cultural (37%) groups, one quarter (26%) are in the Involved group, with the remaining falling into the Immersed (8%) and Holiday (7%) groups. A greater share of parents of minor children are in the Immersed group (43%) compared to adults without minor children (14%).

In Beachwood, 70% of Jewish adults belong to either the Immersed group (34%) or the Involved group (36%). In The Heights, 54% of Jewish adults also fall into these two groups, with 34% in the Immersed group and 20% in the Involved group. In the West Side and Central region, a smaller but still considerable share, 38% of Jewish adults, belong to the Immersed group (4%) or the Involved group (34%).

Among Jewish adults in Cleveland who received any form of formal or informal Jewish education during childhood, 30% are in the Involved group and 25% are in the Immersed group. Among those with formal education, 83% of those who attended day school are in the Immersed (64%) or Involved (19%) group and 48% of those who attended part time Jewish school are in the Immersed (16%) or Involved (32%) group.

Attitudes About Being Jewish

The survey inquired about the elements of Jewish life respondents considered important or essential to being Jewish. The majority of Jewish adults in Cleveland concur that remembering

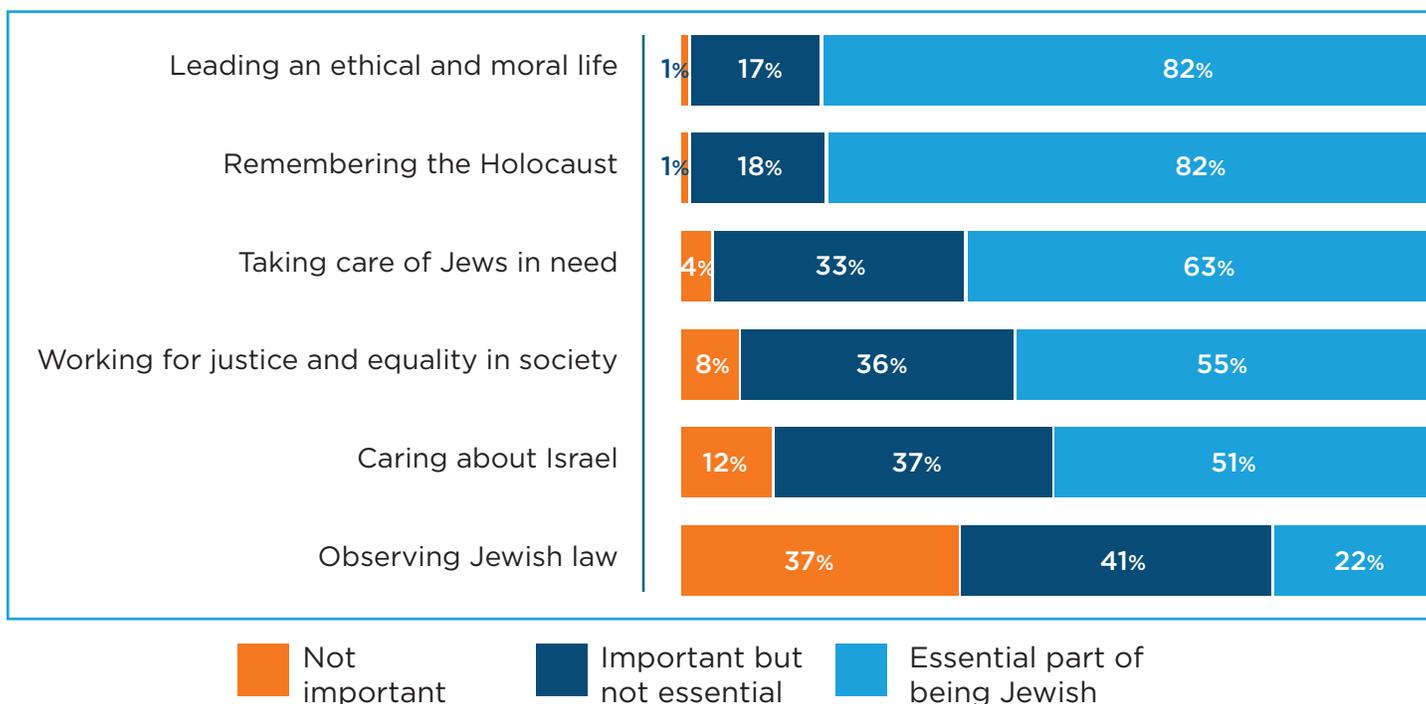


Figure 4.1 Importance of what being Jewish means (% of Jewish adults)

the Holocaust and leading an ethical and moral life (82% each) are essential aspects of being Jewish. Additionally, substantial proportions of Jewish adults expressed agreement that attending to the needs of Jews in distress (63%), advocating for justice and equality in society (55%), and expressing concern for Israel (51%) are also essential components of Jewish identity.

Congregation Membership

In Cleveland, 38% of Jewish households report that they are affiliated with a Jewish congregation, whether a synagogue, an independent minyan or havurah, Chabad, or another Jewish worship community; these households include 46% of Jewish adults in Cleveland. Nationally, 35% of Jewish households have a member associated with a Jewish congregation.

Congregation membership is highest among Jewish households in Beachwood (55%), the East Side Suburbs (47%), and The Heights (38%).

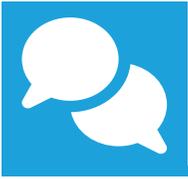
Jewish Ritual

Sixty-five percent of Jewish adults in Cleveland attended services at least once in the year prior to survey (2021-2022), whether in person or online, including 41% of Jewish adults who are not presently members of a congregation. Twenty-seven percent of Jewish adults in Cleveland attended services at least once a month, and approximately half attended services during the High Holidays in 2021. More Jewish adults ages 18-34 and 50-64 attended services monthly or more, compared to other age groups.

Approximately half of Jewish adults (54%) in Cleveland observed Shabbat by lighting candles or having a special meal in the past year (2021-2022). A higher percentage of Jewish adults in Beachwood and The Heights observed Shabbat weekly or almost every week compared to those in other regions. In contrast, those living in the West Side and Central and the Northeast/Northern Heights regions reported that they observe Shabbat less frequently than residents in other areas.

The majority of Jewish adults in Cleveland celebrate Jewish holidays and engage in at least some Jewish rituals. Eighty-one percent of Jewish adults lit Hanukkah candles in 2022. Nearly three quarters of Jewish adults (73%) either attended or hosted a Passover seder in spring 2022. More than half (54%) fasted on Yom Kippur in 2022, and 40% adhere to at least some of the laws of kashrut. Among Jewish adults not affiliated with a congregation, 38% observed a fast on Yom Kippur, compared to 81% of members.





CONNECTIONS AND CONCERNS

Community Connections

In Cleveland, a feeling of connection to the Jewish people was almost universal—98% expressed this feeling, with more than half saying they felt it “a great deal.”

Nearly three-quarters (72%) of Jewish adults said being part of the local Jewish community was very or somewhat important, and 84% felt connected to it, including 30% who felt very connected. Younger adults placed the highest level of importance on their connection to community, with 81% of those ages 18–34 valuing this connection, compared to 69% of ages 35–49, 77% of 50–64, 67% of 65–74, and 72% of those 75+.

Sense of connection to the local community was high across the board, with more than 82% of adults under 74 and 77% of those 75+ feeling a sense of belonging to the community. Among interfaith households, a majority (58%) said it was important to be connected, and even more (74%) reported a sense of belonging to the local community.

Connection to Israel

As noted in the introduction, this survey was completed in 2022 and the reported behaviors and attitudes may have been affected by Hamas’s attack in Southern Israel on October 7, 2023, and the subsequent war that is still ongoing as this report is being compiled. It is important to remember that the data for this study reflect a snapshot in time prior to those tragic events.

Among Jewish adults in Cleveland, two-thirds (66%) are emotionally attached to Israel, with 36% somewhat attached and 30% very attached. The remaining 36% feel not too attached (23%) or not at all attached (11%).

Travel and emotional connection to Israel are linked. Among Jewish adults in Cleveland who have never visited Israel, over half (57%) say they are not at all attached to Israel (27%) or not too attached (30%). Conversely, individuals who have visited Israel multiple times or have resided there exhibit much higher levels of attachment, with majorities from both groups indicating that they feel very attached to Israel.

In the summer of 2022, 62% of Jewish adults in Cleveland reported that they have visited Israel at least once. This includes 26% who have visited once, 22% who have visited between two and five times, 7% who have visited six or more times, and 7% who have previously resided in Israel.

Concerns about Antisemitism

As noted in the Connection to Israel section above, this survey was completed in 2022, offering a snapshot before the events of October 7, 2023, the subsequent war, and the recent global rise in antisemitism.

In 2022, 72% of Jewish adults in Cleveland were very concerned about antisemitism worldwide, and 63% were very concerned about antisemitism within the United States. However, there was a lower level of concern related to antisemitism specifically in Cleveland, with 43% being very concerned.

Among the Jewish engagement groups, members of the Cultural (79%) and Involved (72%) groups were most likely to be very concerned about antisemitism in the United States, while the Personal group exhibits the lowest proportion who were very concerned (51%).

FINANCIAL, HEALTH, AND SOCIAL SERVICE NEEDS

Economic Well-Being

Seventy-three percent of Jewish adults in Cleveland have either a bachelor’s degree (30%) or a postgraduate degree (43%).

Of Jewish adults in Cleveland who are not currently in high school, most (57%) are engaged in the workforce. Among the 43% not currently employed, the majority (36%) are retired.

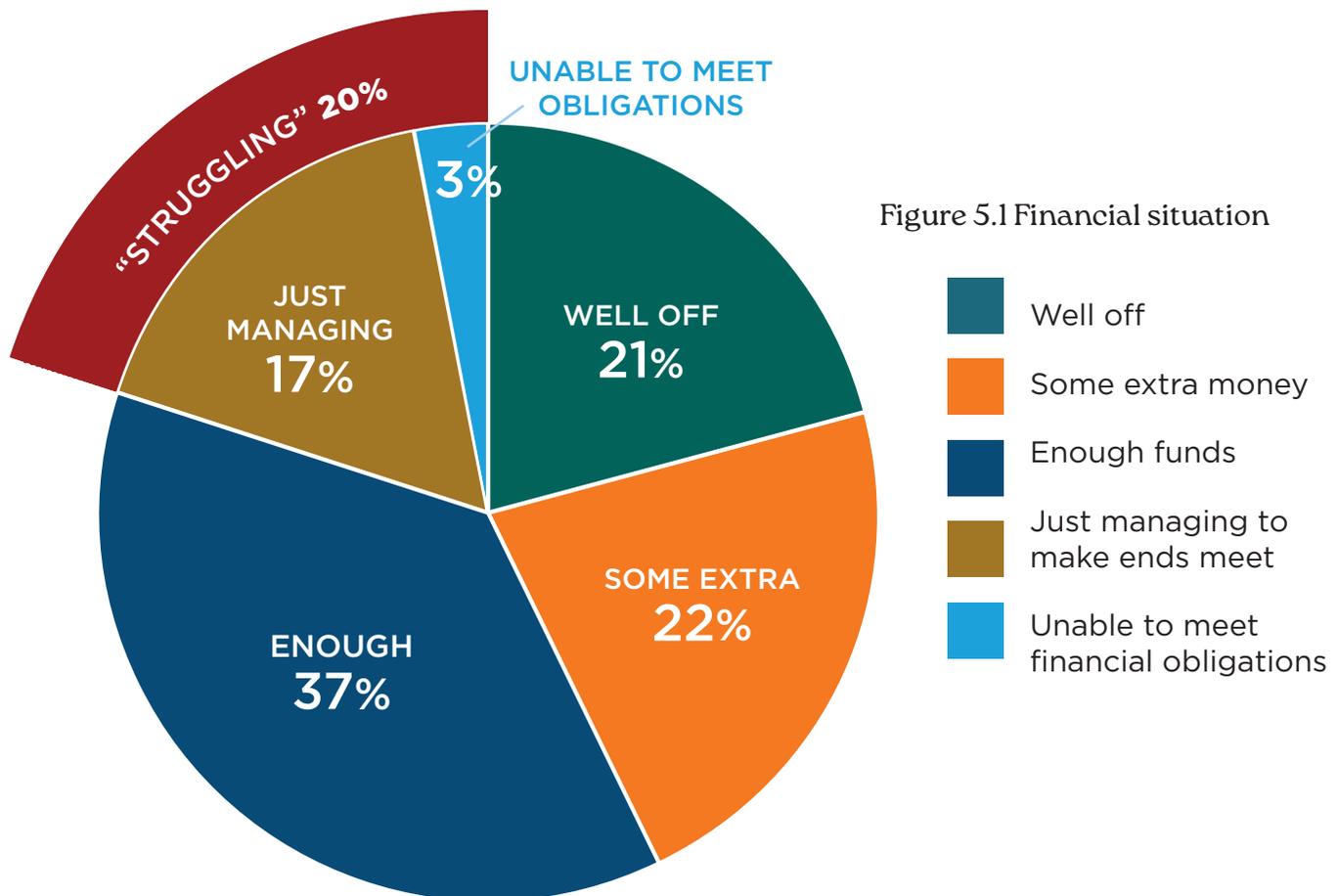


Figure 5.1 Financial situation

Financial vulnerability is highest in Jewish households with members ages 18–34, with 42% describing themselves as struggling, compared to 11% of those with adults ages 35–49, 22% for those ages 50–64, 14% for those ages 65–74 and 21% for adults ages 75 and older. Twenty-eight percent of households with a minor child report that they are struggling, compared to 18% in households without a minor child. More households in the West Side and Central (30%) and Northeast/Northern Heights (27%) regions report that they are struggling compared to The Heights (18%), East Side Suburbs (16%), Southeast (15%) and Beachwood (13%).

Regarding income-based financial status, 18% of Jewish households in Cleveland said they earn less than \$50,000 annually, while 8% have an income of \$300,000 or more. However, 26% of households opted not to disclose their income. Among those withholding income information, 21% report that they are struggling, 27% have enough funds, 24% have a little extra, and 35% are well off.

Forty-eight percent of adults with children ages 17 and younger feel either not at all (18%) or not too confident (30%) about their ability to finance their children’s college education. Twenty-four percent of Jewish adults are not at all (7%) or not too confident (17%) in their capacity to maintain current savings and investments. Twenty-one percent of Jewish adults in Cleveland with children younger than age five have concerns about paying for preschool or daycare.

Economic Vulnerability

In all, 20% of Jewish households in Cleveland are below 250% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). 11% of Jewish households in Cleveland are below 150% FPL.

Fifteen percent of Jewish households in Cleveland lacked funds for at least one necessity in the past three years, including 14% who had this experience within the past three years before 2022. Eleven percent of Jewish households with children younger than age 10 had trouble paying for childcare in the past three years.

Ten percent of all Jewish households in Cleveland receive some form of public assistance. These benefits include food assistance (5%); Ohio Works First, SSI or SSDI (3%); CHIP or Medicaid (3%); home energy or utility assistance (1%); unemployment assistance (1%); or subsidized housing (<1%).

Among financially struggling households, a substantial proportion—35%—receive public benefits.

Nine percent of Jewish households in Cleveland lack the ability to fully cover an unforeseen \$400 emergency expense using cash, funds available in a bank account, or a credit card, and an additional 5% of households could not cover an unexpected \$1,000 emergency expense.

Nearly all Jewish households in Beachwood (93%) and the East Side Suburbs (93%) can fully cover an unforeseen \$1,000 emergency expense. In contrast, only 79% of households in the West Side and Central region could cover such an expense.



Twenty-seven percent of Jewish households in Cleveland reported that financial cost prevented them from participating in various aspects of Jewish life over the past five years. Among households with children ages 17 and under, 41% encountered financial barriers that impeded their participation in Jewish communal activities. Specifically, 19% of households were unable to afford sending a child to Jewish day or overnight camp, 15% faced obstacles in visiting Israel or sending their child there, 13% encountered difficulties in joining a synagogue or maintaining their membership, and among households with children ages 4 to 17, 10% struggled to enroll their child in Hebrew or Sunday school.

Health and Well-Being

A quarter (25%) of Jewish households in Cleveland include at least one individual who has chronic health issue, disability, or special need that limits work, school, or activities. In this section, we refer to any of these conditions as “health issues.”

Twenty-four percent of Jewish households in Cleveland report an adult member with a health issue, while 18% of households with children have a child experiencing health issues. A larger percentage of households who are “struggling” financially (43%) have a family member with a health issue than households in other financial groups.

Fourteen percent of all Jewish households include someone with a chronic illness. Nine percent of Jewish households include an adult with physical disabilities, with a similar proportion that reported mental or emotional health issues.

Among Jewish households in Cleveland with children, 18% report that a child in the household has a health issue. Seven percent of all Jewish households with children report that a child is impacted by mental or emotional health issues, while a comparable percentage has a child with developmental or intellectual disabilities. Six percent of all Jewish households with children have a child facing limitations due to chronic illness.

Among all Jewish households with a health issue, 82% reported needing services to manage their health issues. Sixty-one percent stated that there was at least one service that they needed but were unable to get. Twenty-one percent reported that they were able to receive all the necessary services and 19% reported no services needed.

Of Jewish households in Cleveland that are struggling financially, 43% had a household member with a health issue. Of that group, 40% indicated that they required services, a higher number than the other financial categories. Households that were struggling financially also reported more unmet health needs (24%) than those in the other financial categories. (10-14%).

Thirteen percent of Jewish households with a person aged 65 or older have a household member who typically needs help with daily activities such as doing housework, preparing meals, dressing and undressing, taking a bath or shower, or walking up and down stairs.

In Cleveland, 28% of Jewish adults provided care or assistance in the past year (2021-2022) for a friend or family member beyond their own household who faced health challenges or disabilities. Of this group, 21% provided care for individuals aged 65 or older, while 5% cared for those under 65 years old; 3% offered care to people in both age groups.

Nineteen percent of Jewish adults have a lot of people living nearby who they can rely on, and 38% have a fair number of people. Of the group who report that they are struggling financially, 63% report that they have just a few people, or no one in their personal support network. Older adults had fewer supports as well with 49% of adults ages 75+ who had just a few people or no one, compared to about 27% of adults ages 18-34.



ORGANIZATIONS AND PHILANTHROPY

Jewish Organizations and Programs

Twenty-five percent of Jewish households reported belonging to a Jewish organization aside from a congregation. This includes 10% of households that are part of informal or grassroots groups, such as social clubs or chavurot, or Jewish book clubs, and 5% that are currently members of the Mandel JCC. A greater percentage of residents of Beachwood (39%) reported that they are currently members of Jewish organizations than residents of the West Side and Central (19%) and Southeast (19%) regions.

Overall 65% of Jewish adults in Cleveland participated in programs organized by a Jewish organization within the past year (2021-2022). The most frequently attended programs were hosted by congregations or synagogues (44%), followed by the Jewish Federation of Cleveland (25%), and the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage (22%)

Nearly all Jewish adults (95%) in Cleveland engaged in discussions on Jewish topics with family or friends in the past year, including 33% who did so a great deal. Additionally, 91% sought news about Israel, with 32% doing so a great deal. Nearly as many (90%) read Jewish articles, magazines, or newsletters, including 32% who did so a great deal, while 89% indulged in Jewish cuisine, apart from Shabbat and holiday meals, with 25% doing so a great deal.

Volunteering and Philanthropy

More than half of Jewish adults (53%) in Cleveland engaged in volunteer work over the past year, with 13% dedicating their time exclusively to Jewish organizations, 17% volunteering for or with both Jewish and non-Jewish organizations, and 22% volunteering exclusively for or with non-Jewish organizations.

Eighty-nine percent of Jewish households in Cleveland made charitable contributions in the past year (2021-2022). Among them, 60% donated to both Jewish and non-Jewish organizations, 9% contributed exclusively to Jewish organizations, and 20% gave solely to non-Jewish organizations.

A third of Jewish households (34%) made charitable donations to the Jewish Federation of Greater Cleveland, with Beachwood having the largest share of Jewish households (52%) that contributed to the Federation of any region.

Conclusion

This executive summary highlights key findings from the 2022 Cleveland Jewish Population Study and how these insights are already driving action.

Jewish Cleveland’s strength is rooted in its people, the size and diversity of its community, and the broad network of organizations, programs, and activities that support them. At the same time, the study identifies opportunities to enhance Jewish life by:

- Strengthening the social safety net, social connections and combating isolation for seniors, those facing health issues, and those facing financial distress
- Welcoming and integrating newcomers
- Expanding and enhancing Jewish educational experiences
- Engaging and supporting young adults
- Making Jewish life more financially accessible

The full report provides additional detail on these opportunities and more. Together with the extensive dataset collected, it will guide the Cleveland Jewish community over the next decade—strengthening connections, broadening participation, and ensuring programs meet the evolving needs of every household.



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For a detailed look at study findings, refer to the full report online at jewishcleveland.org/publications



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