

2021-22 STUDY OF
**JEWISH
LOUISVILLE**

Major Highlights



Jewish Heritage Fund



Jewish Federation[®]
OF LOUISVILLE

Brandeis

COHEN CENTER FOR
MODERN JEWISH STUDIES
STEINHARDT SOCIAL
RESEARCH INSTITUTE



2021-22 STUDY OF JEWISH LOUISVILLE

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The **2021-22 Study of Jewish Louisville** employed state-of-the-art research methods to create a comprehensive portrait of the present-day Jewish community in Louisville and the surrounding area.

Conducted by Brandeis University's Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies, the findings are based on data collected from 817 households that completed a survey between October 2021 and January 2022. The study is a first step in identifying communal trends, generating questions to explore, and determining strategies, programs, and policies to enhance Jewish life in Greater Louisville.

This **Major Highlights** report illustrates some of the key takeaways of the study results in brief. To view the full report and technical appendices, visit jewishlouisvillestudy.org.

DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT

12,000

Jewish adults

2,200

Jewish children

14,200

Jewish adults and children

18,300

People in Jewish households

7,100

Jewish households

Average age of all
Jewish individuals

43

46%

of Jewish adults are
under the age of

45

29%

of Jewish adults are
between the ages of
18 and 34

OF ALL JEWISH INDIVIDUALS...

♂ **52%** are male

♀ **48%** are female

⚭ **< 1%** are non-binary or another
gender identity

OF JEWISH ADULTS...

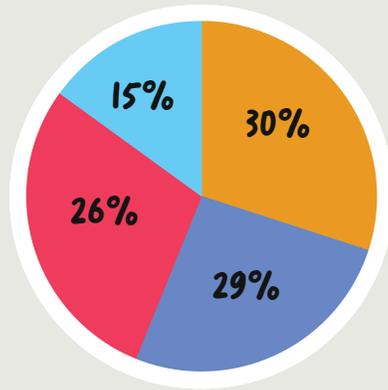
6% identify as LGBTQ

3% grew up in Russian-speaking
households

3% identify as Hispanic or with
another non-white racial group

1% are Israeli citizens

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION



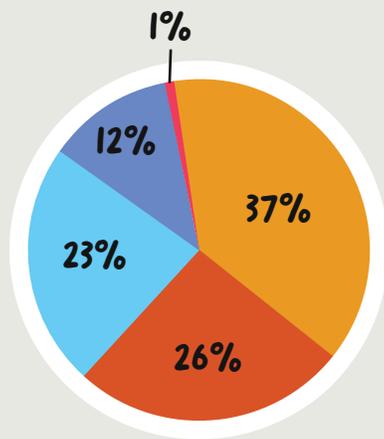
Couple without children at home

Households with minor children

Singles without children at home

Multigenerational/other

DENOMINATION



None

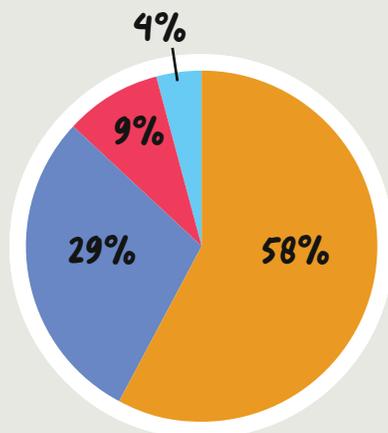
Reform

Conservative

Other denominations

Orthodox

POLITICAL LEANINGS



Liberal

Moderate

Conservative

Preferred not to answer

GEOGRAPHY & RESIDENCE

46%

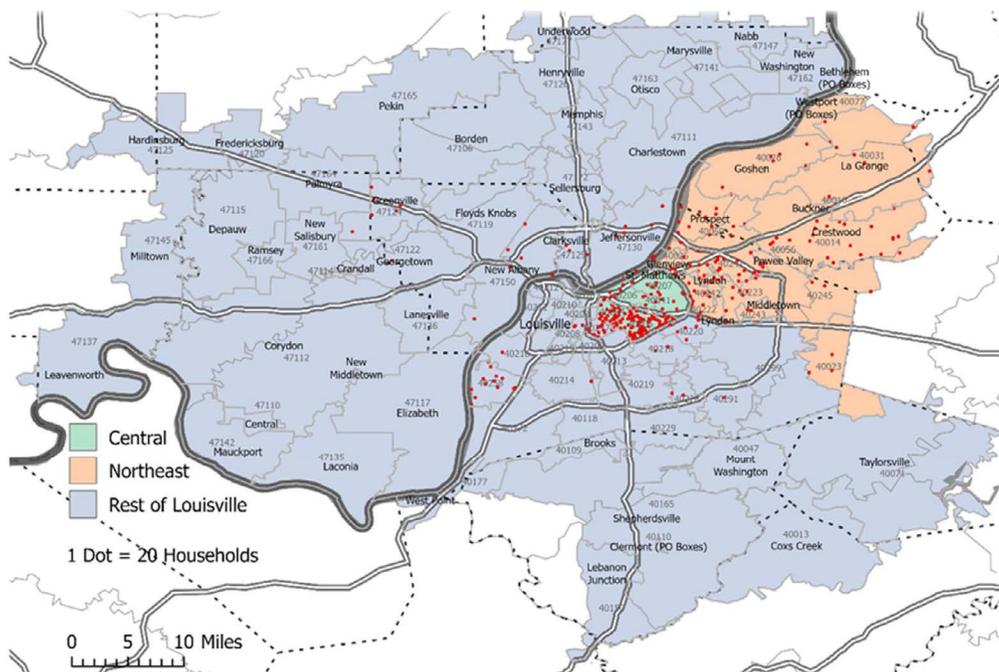
Almost half of Jewish households are in the **center** of the city

27%

27% of Jewish households are in the **northeast region** of the city

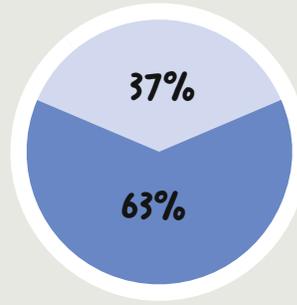
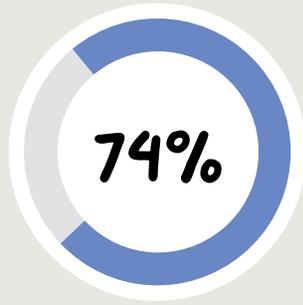
27%

27% of Jewish households are in the **remainder of the Louisville area**



MARRIAGE & CHILDREN

74% of Jewish adults are married



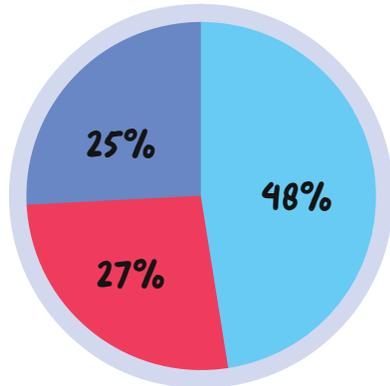
- Intermarried
- Inmarried

THERE ARE 3,300 CHILDREN WHO LIVE IN JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS

67% are being raised Jewish in some way



PARENTS OF JEWISH CHILDREN ARE...



- Inmarried
- Intermarried
- Single

83% of **inmarried** parents are raising their children Jewish



50% of **intermarried** parents are raising their children Jewish



EDUCATION

OF AGE-ELIGIBLE CHILDREN

20% attended Jewish preschool



14% attended part-time Jewish K-12 school



25% received any form of Jewish education



JEWISH ACTIVITY

OF AGE-ELIGIBLE CHILDREN

42% have had a Bar or Bat Mitzvah ceremony



18% received books from PJ Library



7% attended Jewish summer camp



FINANCIAL WELL-BEING



14% of households say they **cannot** make ends meet or are **just managing to make ends meet**.



61% of Jewish adults in Louisville have attained at least a **bachelor's degree**.



6% were unable to buy all the **household food** they needed sometime in the last 3 years.



9% of households were unable pay for **medical care or medicine** sometime in the last 3 years.

..... IN THE YEAR PRIOR TO THE SURVEY DUE TO FINANCIAL REASONS... ..



20% of households with children **did not enroll them** in Jewish school or camp.



14% reduced their participation in Jewish activities.



15% of all households were **unable to contribute** as much to Jewish causes as they had in the past.

HEALTH NEEDS



28% of adults said they **felt lonely** sometimes, often, or all the time during previous week.



31% of households include at least one person who is **limited in their work, school, or activities** by some sort of health issue, special need, or disability.



38% of adults said they have **no one or only a few people** they could count on in their support networks.



17% of adults felt that **emotional or mental health difficulties** hurt their ability to live their day-to-day lives sometimes, often, or all the time during the previous week.



18% of Jewish households are serving as **primary caregivers** for a relative, separate from routine childcare.



11% of households including at least one adult age 55 or older **do not have access to transportation** when needed for medical appointments, meetings, work, or daily tasks.



19% of households with at least one adult age 55 or older include someone who **needs help with daily activities** such as household chores, preparing meals, or taking stairs.

JEWISH ENGAGEMENT

The Index of Jewish Engagement focuses on Jewish behaviors—the ways in which individuals occupy and involve themselves in Jewish life in Louisville—not on self-identities. Engagement groups include people of all ages and denominational identities. Jewish adults in Louisville can be clustered into one of four groups, each with similar patterns of behavior.



PARTICIPATION WITH ORGANIZATIONS

26% of Jewish households include someone who belongs to a **synagogue, independent minyan or chavurah, Chabad, or another Jewish worship community.**

22% of households are dues-paying members of a **brick-and-mortar synagogue.**

15% of adults belong to an **informal or grassroots** Jewish group.

30% of adults belong to a Jewish organization **other than a synagogue.**

..... PARTICIPATION IN HOLIDAYS AND RITUAL



43% of Jewish adults lit shabbat candles in the past year



29% had a special meal for shabbat



79% light hanukkah candles in a typical year



57% attended or hosted a Passover seder in 2021



36% attend high holidays in 2021



25% keep any of the laws of kashrut



..... PARTICIPATION IN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



96% of Jewish adults discussed Jewish topics in the last year



86% consumed Jewish culture



77% read publications from Jewish organizations



88% ate Jewish foods



49% read or posted on social media about Jewish life



43% studied Jewish texts



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

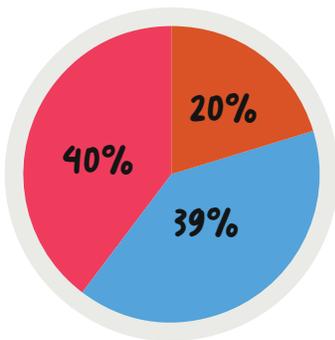
97% of adults feel at least some **sense of belonging** to the Jewish people; **48%** feel this connection **a great deal**.



83% feel at least some connection to the **local** Jewish community.



58% feel at least some connection to an **online** Jewish community.



- **20%** of adults are very satisfied with their current level of participation in the local Jewish community.
- **39%** are somewhat satisfied.
- **40%** are not too or at all satisfied.

40% of adults **under 45** are very or somewhat satisfied with their current level of participation in the Louisville Jewish community.



74% of Jewish adults ages **45 and over** are very or somewhat satisfied with their current level of participation in the Louisville Jewish community.

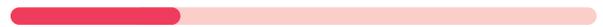


THE FOUR MOST COMMON BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION

41% Not knowing many people



29% Lack of confidence in Jewish knowledge



21% Lack of interesting activities



20% Cost



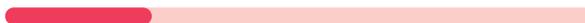
ISRAEL & ANTISEMITISM



39% of Jewish adults have been to Israel at least once.



25% of adults have traveled to Israel on a Birthright Israel trip.



80% of adults feel some sense of emotional attachment to Israel.



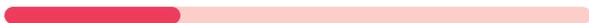
64% of adults are very concerned about antisemitism around the world.



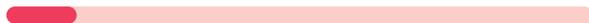
57% are very concerned about antisemitism in the United States.



30% are very concerned about antisemitism in Louisville.



12% of adults personally experienced one or more antisemitic incidents in the past year.



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