Jewish Community Study Deep Dive: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in the Jewish Community
Workshop on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in the Jewish Community

by

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SIMON ANALYTICS

Jan 2021
Data Source

- 2018-19 Greater Denver Jewish Community Study
- Funded by Rose Community Foundation, Jay & Rose Phillips Family Foundation of Colorado, and Sturm Family Foundation
- Sample sources: consumer data list, org lists
- Conducted online and by phone
- 2 Phases: Aug-Dec 2018 and Jun-Jul 2019
- 2,507 Jewish households responded
JEWS OF COLOR
5,400 (1,600 to 10,800 with 95% confidence interval) Jewish By Religion adults in the Greater Denver area are “Other Non-Hispanic.”

### Jewish By Religion Adults

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>% of All Adults</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>CI: Low</th>
<th>CI: High</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Denver</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White, Non-Hispanic</td>
<td>3.8 (2.2,5.8)</td>
<td>12,700</td>
<td>7,200</td>
<td>19,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Non-Hispanic</td>
<td>0.9 (0.3,1.9)</td>
<td>2,100</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>4,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outlying Denver</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White, Non-Hispanic</td>
<td>2.2 (1.5,2.9)</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>21,000</td>
<td>40,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Non-Hispanic</td>
<td>0.7 (0.2,1.4)</td>
<td>3,300</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>6,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Race: Brandeis JBR Methodology

About 9 out of 10 Jewish People By Religion identify as white.

Now, some questions about race. Which describes your race? Select all that apply.
18% of Jewish people live in a household where there is at least one adult or child who identifies as “another racial identity” - represents ~8,800 households.

Definition of Jewish: Considers themselves to be Jewish in any way AND have at least one Jewish parent, or were raised Jewish, or converted to Judaism

Now, some questions about race. Which describes your race? Select all that apply. Which describes your spouse or partner’s race? Select all that apply. Are any of the children in your household...?
### Subgroups More Likely to be Another Racial Identity: Behaviors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>% of Jewish Adults</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Learned about Judaism from adult ed class</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister/priest performed wedding</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participate in adult classes</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attended Chabad (past year)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HH has some who has converted</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteered for only Jewish org (past year)</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donated $100-$500 to Jewish charity (past year)</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend Jewish religious services weekly or more</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lit Shabbat candles</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservative</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Used Jewish dating app</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Othodox</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immersed</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend Jewish religious services 1-2x/mo - 3x/yr</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Took a Jewish class in past year</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALL JEWISH ADULTS</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HOW TO READ CHART:**
30% of Jewish adults who learned about Judaism from an adult ed class live in a household in which an adult or child identifies as another racial identity.
Subgroups More Likely to be Another Racial Identity: Attitudes

Respondent/Spouse/Child has “Another Racial Identity”

% of Jewish Adults

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attitude</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interfaith couple feel somewhat comfortable at events</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very interested in learning about Judaism</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very important asked to donate by someone they know</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other obstacles to participating in Jewish life</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feel disconnected from Jewish community bec. too far</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very important to donate as part of being Jewish</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feel somewhat disconnected from local Jewish community</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALL JEWISH ADULTS</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HOW TO READ CHART:
26% of Jewish adults who are very interested in learning about Judaism live in a household in which an adult or child identifies as another racial identity.
Subgroups More Likely to be Another Racial Identity: Demographics

**Respondent/Spouse/Child has “Another Racial Identity”**

% of Jewish Adults

- Respondent is LGBTQ: 34%
- Mother is Jewish: 33%
- N&E Metro: 28%
- HH wealth <$100k: 24%
- Someone in hh has other serious mental health issue: 24%
- Skipped rent, mortgage, utility payment (past year): 23%
- Age 35-49: 21%
- Someone in hh has difficulty finding job (past year): 20%
- Raised in no particular religion: 20%
- Cost prevent from belonging to synagogue: 19%
- **ALL JEWISH ADULTS**: 18%

**HOW TO READ CHART:**
34% of Jewish adults who identify as LGBTQ live in a household in which an adult or child identifies as another racial identity.
### Respondent/Spouse/Child has “Another Racial Identity”

**% of Jewish Adults**

- Child in hh is adopted (n=34)
  - 36%

- HH has child participated in Jewish teen prog/youth grp
  - 29%

- HH has child that has attended Jewish overnight camp
  - 27%

- Child participated in program/class at JCC
  - 25%

- Child at Jewish Day School
  - 25%

- Child age 6-12
  - 23%

- Cost prevent from sending child to Jewish school
  - 21%

- Cost prevent from sending child to Jewish overnight camp
  - 20%

- Program not geared to age/family situation
  - 20%

- Child in hh had/will have Bar/Bat Mitzvah
  - 20%

- Cost prevent from going to/sending child to Israel
  - 19%

- ALL RESPONDENTS
  - 18%

**HOW TO READ CHART:**

36% of Jewish adults who have a child who is adopted live in a household in which an adult or child identifies as another racial identity.
Participation in Programs for Jews of Color

Only 4% of Jews of Color have participated in a program in the Jewish community specifically for Jews of Color.

We would like to know more about the experiences of Jews of color. In the last year, have you or your family participated in any programs in the community specifically for Jews of Color?
Inclusiveness of Jewish Orgs for Jews of Color

4 in 10 Jews of Color feel synagogues, JCCs, and other organizations are very inclusive for Jews of Color.

How Inclusive are Synagogues, JCCs, Other Organizations for Jews of Color?
BASE: THOSE WHO ARE JEWISH AND A PERSON OF COLOR OR THEIR SPOUSE IS JEWISH AND A PERSON OF COLOR AND/OR HAVE CHILDREN BEING RAISED JEWISH WHO ARE PEOPLE OF COLOR

- Very Inclusive: 40%
- Somewhat Inclusive: 43%
- Not Inclusive: 17%
Felt Unwelcome as a Jew of Color

About 1 in 10 Jews of Color said they have had a specific instance when they or their family has felt unwelcome as a Jew of Color.

Specific Instance when You or Your Family Felt Unwelcome as a Jew of Color?

BASE: THOSE WHO ARE JEWISH AND A PERSON OF COLOR OR THEIR SPOUSE IS JEWISH AND A PERSON OF COLOR AND/OR HAVE CHILDREN BEING RAISED JEWISH WHO ARE PEOPLE OF COLOR

Has there ever been a specific instance when you or your family felt unwelcome as a Jew of Color?

- Yes: 12%
- No: 88%
Obstacles to Participation in Jewish Life for Jews of Color

Some obstacles to participation in Jewish life for Jews of Color are not feeling welcomed and limited programming geared towards families like theirs.

“We have a biracial family through adoption and many programs do not engage families similar to ours.”

“My children are black and Latino and the Jewish community can be isolating and not welcoming to people of color.”

“My child is interfaith and biracial and majority of activities he and my husband “stick out like a sore thumb.” It would be nice to see more get together or programming geared towards interracial and/or interfaith families.”

“There is very little diversity in the Jewish community here and not much space for Jews of Color or LGBTQ Jews to find community.”

Are there any other obstacles to participation in Jewish life that you would like to share? [IF YES] What are the other obstacles to participation in Jewish life that you would like to share?
JEWISH LGBTQ PEOPLE
Gender Identity

Less than 1% of Jewish adults identify as transgender.

63% of those age 65+, 62% of those in S Metro, and 61% of those in Aurora identify as male.

62% of those in N&E Metro and 61% of those in N&W Metro identify as female.

Now, about your gender. How do you describe yourself?
6% of Jewish adults identify as LGBQ.

Do you consider yourself to be gay, lesbian, bisexual, or queer?
## Subgroups More Likely to be LGBTQ

**LGBTQ**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of Subgroup of Jewish Adults</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Raised in other religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N&amp;E Metro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feel disconnected because feel unwelcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wealth &lt;$20k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interesting program but geared to wrong age/family situation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very interested in learning about Judaism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Someone in HH has serious mental health issue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learned about Judaism from adult ed class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It varies if comfortable at Jewish event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor/Very poor health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of close friends are Jewish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other denomination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raised Jewish and another religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have not used Jewish dating app</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caring about Israel is not important to being Jewish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not married</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income &lt;$50k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 18-34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALL JEWISH ADULTS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HOW TO READ CHART:**

25% of Jewish adults who live in the N&E Metro identify as LGBTQ.
Participation in Jewish Programs for LGBTQ People

About a quarter of Jewish LGBTQ adults have participated in Jewish LGBTQ community programming in the past year.

Participated in Jewish LGBTQ Community Programming (Past Year)

*BASE - THOSE WHO CONSIDER THEMSELVES TO BE GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, QUEER, TRANSGENDER, AND/OR DO NOT IDENTIFY AS FEMALE, MALE OR TRANSGENDER*

During the past year, did you participate in any Jewish LGBTQ community programming?
# Interest in Connecting with Others

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>No Interest</th>
<th>A Little Interest</th>
<th>Very Interested</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Connecting with other LGBTQ Jews</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecting with other Jewish LGBTQ families with children</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An LGBTQ interfaith group</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*How interested would you be in...?*
Inclusiveness of Jewish Orgs Towards LGBTQ People

About a third of LGBTQ Jewish people feel synagogues, JCCs, and other organizations are very inclusive for Jewish LGBTQ people.

How Inclusive are Synagogues, JCCs, Other Organizations Towards LGBTQ People?
BASE - THOSE WHO CONSIDER THEMSELVES TO BE GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, QUEER, TRANSGENDER, AND/OR DO NOT IDENTIFY AS FEMALE, MALE OR TRANSGENDER

To what extent do you feel the Jewish community in the Greater Denver area, including synagogues, JCCs, and other organizations are inclusive towards LGBTQ Jews?
Felt Unwelcome as Jewish LGBTQ Person

Nearly a quarter of Jewish LGBTQ people said they have had a specific instance when they have felt unwelcome as a Jewish LGBTQ person.

Specific Instance when You Felt Unwelcome as an LGBTQ Jewish Person?
BASE - THOSE WHO CONSIDER THEMSELVES TO BE GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, QUEER, TRANSGENDER, AND/OR DO NOT IDENTIFY AS FEMALE, MALE OR TRANSGENDER

Has there ever been a specific instance when you felt unwelcome as an LGBTQ Jew?
Importance in Decision to Participate in Jewish Events

% of LGBTQ Jewish Adults

- Homophobia, transphobia, other oppression are not tolerated in these spaces: 90% Very Important, 10% Important, 0% Important, 0% Very Important
- Language used in communications is inclusive: 83% Very Important, 38% Important, 54% Important, 0% Very Important
- I know that other LGBTQ Jews will be there: 9% Very Important, 27% Important, 38% Very Important, 28% Important

**How important are these considerations in deciding whether to participate in events in the Jewish community?**
Obstacles to Participation in Jewish Life for LGBTQ+ Jewish People

LGBTQ+ Jewish people experience a range of obstacles to participating in Jewish life: from not feeling welcomed or accepted to hetero-centric programs to homophobia and/or transphobia to harassment.

“Relationship status—being with a non-Jew in a same-sex relationship”

“Non-queer accepting/welcoming programs. Hetero-centric programs. Queer invisibility.”

“Most everyone in the Jewish community assumes I am straight. There is nothing I know in the Jewish community here specifically inviting to or for someone not heterosexual (or cisgender for that matter). It is incumbent on me to "come out" as gay over and over again. It's a stress and a strain every time I need to stop, take a breath, and introduce this heavy topic of being gay. Because if I don't, there's *always* the assumption that I'm an eligible bachelor for some lady. Ugh. Why put myself in that situation again and again?”

“As a queer and nonbinary Jew, a welcoming community that is accepting of my full self is difficult to come by.”

“I'm queer, transgender, and polyamorous. I also have a physical disability and I'm autistic. It's difficult to find any type of space, Jewish or otherwise, that takes those things into account.”

“I'm a queer Jew. There are many spaces I cannot enter and programs I don't want to participate in because I will face homophobia or harassment for being gender non-conforming. I no longer attend services at my synagogue because of the harassment I receive.”

Are there any other obstacles to participation in Jewish life that you would like to share?

[IF YES] What are the other obstacles to participation in Jewish life that you would like to share?
DEMOGRAPHICS
Region

- Boulder
  - 26%
  - ~13k hhs

- N&W Metro
  - 20%
  - ~10k hhs

- South Metro
  - 16%
  - ~8k hhs

- N&E Metro
  - 4%
  - ~2k hhs

- Aurora
  - 5%
  - ~3k hhs

- Denver
  - 29%
  - ~15k hhs
Geographic Diversity Challenges

- Distance to and time it takes to get to synagogues, Jewish events, etc., often exacerbated by aggravation of traffic, parking issues, working parents traveling with young children.

- Transportation issues (e.g., lack of car, need to use Uber/public transit)

- Geographic-specific concerns (e.g., lack of Jewish resources in the west side of Denver, Downtown Denver, Aurora, the northwest suburbs between Denver and Boulder, and Longmont).
Age

Half of Jewish adults are under 50, and half are 50+.

“Temples are not welcoming to older adults. My husband has tried to volunteer with certain Jewish organizations but no one follows up with him. He has attended events and no one talks to him.”

“Young adult groups in Denver are really unwelcoming to new people. Activities involve alcohol. Communication is confined to Facebook. I DO NOT USE FACEBOOK.”

% of Jewish Adults

- 18-34: 27%
- 35-49: 23%
- 50-64: 28%
- 65-74: 15%
- 75+: 7%
- 75+: 7%

Approximate counts:
- 65-74: ~11k adults
- 50-64: ~20k adults
- 35-49: ~19k adults
- 18-34: ~17k adults
- 75+: ~5k adults
Children

About 3 in 10 Jewish households have children under 18.

Presence of Children in Household
% of Jewish Households

- Yes: 29%
- No: 71%

~15k hhs

“Unlikely to bring my children with me since it would be unwelcome.”

~36k hhs

“Left synagogue after a year because I was not welcomed without having a family.”

“Hostile attitudes toward small children in synagogue.”

“I've attended many Shabbats, carnivals, holiday events, and it is not warm and inviting. It is exclusive. It feels like unless you fit this certain Jewish mom/parent mold, you're not welcome.”
A quarter of Jewish adults have lived in Greater Denver for less than 10 years. About 3 in 10 have lived in the area for 30+ years.

“If you're not from Denver, it's very hard to "break in." If you didn't raise your children there, it's very hard to "break in."
## Household Income & Wealth (% of Jewish Households)

### Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>% of Jewish Households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt; $25K</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25K-$49K</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50K-$74K</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75K-$99K</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100K-$149K</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$150K-$199K</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$200K-$500K</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over $500k</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefer not to say</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### HH Wealth

#### HH Wealth: Income of <$5K

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HH Wealth</th>
<th>% of Jewish Households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt; $5K</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$5K-$20K</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$20K-$40K</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$40K-$75K</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75K-$100K</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100K-$150K</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$150K-$250K</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$250K-$500K</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### HH Wealth: Income of $1M-$2M

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HH Wealth</th>
<th>% of Jewish Households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$500K-$1M</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1M-$2M</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2M-$3M</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$3M-$4M</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$4M-$5M</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$5M-$10M</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over $10M</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefer not to say</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**“Events are often too cliquey and predicated on social, wealth, or other related status.”**

What best reflects your household’s total income in [2018/2019]? What best reflects your estimate of your total wealth?
Physical & Mental Health

Overall Health

% of Jewish Adults

- Very Good: 57%
- Good: 35%
- Fair: 8%
- Poor/Very Poor: 1%

You/Member of HH have...

% of Households

- Anxiety or stress: 61%
- Depression: 30%
- A serious chronic physical illness: 22%
- Relationship issues: 19%
- A child who needed help with a learning disability [Of those with children in HH]: 14%
- Other serious mental health issues: 7%
- An eating disorder: 4%

“One of our children with special needs not welcome at [organization].”

Would you say that in general your health is...?

In the past twelve months, did [you/you or any member of your household] have...?
RELIGION
Religious Diversity

Two-thirds of Jewish adults are Jewish By Religion. About a quarter are Jewish Not By Religion. 1 in 10 have multiple religions.

Type of Jewish Person

% of Jewish Adults

- Jewish By Religion: 66%
- Jewish Not By Religion: 23%
- Jewish People of Multiple Religions: 10%
- Jewish People of Multiple Religions: 10%

~7.5k adults
~17k adults
~48k adults
~3,000 hhs have someone who has converted/is in process of converting

“As a convert, I found the community regards me with suspicion rather than welcome. That’s made my integration into the community difficult.”

Jewish Not By Religion: self-identify as Jewish but say their religion is no religion (e.g., atheist, agnostic)
Denominational Diversity

Over half of Jewish adults affiliate with a denomination, with Reform being the largest.

Denomination
% of Jewish Adults

- Orthodox: 3%
- Conservative: 12%
- Reform: 28%
- Other: 10%
- No denomination: 46%

“Other” examples: Reconstructionist, Renewal

~33k adults
~8.4k adults
~20k adults
~7.4k adults
~2.4k adults

“My father is Jewish but I was not raised Jewish. People aren’t always terribly welcoming and question why I’m there quite a bit.”

“Made several attempts to connect with Jewish congregations and have not felt welcome or connected. I have stopped participating. My family has been rejected by the rabbis when seeking support for naming ceremonies and membership because we weren’t considered Jewish enough.”
Synagogue Members and Non-Members

16% of Jewish households in Greater Denver pay dues to a Jewish congregation. Of the 84% who do not, many seek and participate in Jewish life – from holiday celebrations to Jewish education to attendance at Jewish institutions.

Pay Dues to Synagogue?
% of Jewish Households

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

% of Respondents Who Did Activity in Past Year

Base: Those who do not pay dues to a Jewish congregation

- Read about Jewish topics: 68%
- Attended JCC, synagogue, or Chabad: 61%
- Celebrated Shabbat/Holiday...: 59%
- Attended a Seder: 52%
- Visited a Jewish website: 47%
- Attended synagogue: 42%
- Gave to a Jewish charity: 34%
- Lit Shabbat candles: 30%
- Took a Jewish class: 18%
- Participated in Jewish social action group: 17%

HOWEVER...
Feeling Disconnected

7 out of 10 feel somewhat/very disconnected to any type of Jewish community. Though irrelevance is the top reason for feeling disconnected, a large percentage feel they do not belong and/or are unwelcome. In addition to geographic proximity issues, there are concerns about exclusion of Non-Jewish people and/or lack of Jewish knowledge.

**Reasons for Feeling Disconnected**

*Base: Those who do not pay dues to a Jewish congregation and feel disconnected from Jewish community*

- Not relevant to life right now: 74%
- Feels does not belong: 50%
- Not enough time: 46%
- Too far from Jewish community: 23%
- Do not want to exclude Non-Jews: 18%
- Uncomfortable w/ connection w/ Israel: 15%
- Lack of Jewish knowledge: 14%
- Feels unwelcome: 13%
INTERFAITH FAMILIES
Among Greater Denver Jewish households, more than half (56%) are interfaith. Only about 3 out of 10 interfaith families feel very comfortable at Jewish events.

**Comfort attending events/activities sponsored by Jewish congregations, groups, other organizations?**

- **Very comfortable:** 31%
- **Somewhat comfortable:** 40%
- **Somewhat uncomfortable:** 17%
- **Very uncomfortable:** 2%
- **It depends, varies:** 8%
- **Do not think of ourselves as interfaith or intercultural:** 2%

Approximately 29,000 households are represented in the survey.
What Makes Interfaith Families Feel Comfortable/Uncomfortable

Makes you Feel Welcome/Comfortable at Jewish Events

- Host acknowledges & welcomes people who are not Jewish: 90%
- Explain Jewish rituals: 87%
- Events are culturally but not religiously Jewish: 80%

Makes you Feel Unwelcome/Uncomfortable at Jewish Events

- Hearing interfaith marriage talked about as a problem: 51%
- Not understanding Hebrew: 28%
- Not understanding what’s going on: 28%
- Feeling spouse/partner is being pressured to convert: 20%
- Something else: 16%
Subgroups More Likely to Be Interfaith: Religion

**Interfaith**

% of Subgroup of Jewish Households

- **Atheist/Agnostic**
  - Personal Engagement Group: 82%
  - Never attend Jewish religious services: 74%
  - Attend non-Jewish religious services a few times/yr or more: 72%
  - Raised Christian/Atheist/Agnostic/Other/No Particular Religion: 71%
  - Feel disconnected from Jewish community bec. feel don't belong: 70%
  - Feel disconnected bec. lack of Jewish knowledge: 70%
  - Feel very disconnected from local Jewish community: 68%
  - Minimally Involved Engagement Group: 68%
  - Feel disconnected bec. do not want to exclude non-Jews: 67%
  - Jewish Not By Religion: 66%
  - Have Parents/In-laws in Denver Area: 66%
  - Some/Hardly any/No close Jewish friends: 63%
  - Jews of Multiple Religions: 63%
  - Feel disconnected from Jewish community bec. feel don't belong: 61%
  - No denomination: 61%
  - ALL JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS: 56%

**HOW TO READ CHART:**

82% of Jewish atheist/agnostic hhs are interfaith.
Subgroups More Likely to Be Interfaith: Demographics

**Interfaith**

% of Subgroup of Jewish Households

- Donated $2,500+ to non-Jewish charities (past year) 74%
- Adult or child in hh is another racial identity 74%
- Someone in HH has serious mental health issue 73%
- Have income $100K+ 69%
- LGBTQ 69%
- Have children in hh 68%
- N&W Metro 68%
- Have Parents/In-laws in Denver Area 66%
- Not asked to donate by Jewish org 65%
- Someone in hh has depression 65%
- Age 50-64 64%
- 4-year degree 63%
- Those who donated to non-Jewish orgs only 63%
- Health is fair 62%
- Lived in area 20-29 years 62%
- Work full or part time 62%
- Have some extra money or are well off 62%
- N&E Metro 61%
- Age 35-49 60%
- ALL JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS 56%

HOW TO READ CHART: 69% of LGBTQ hhs are interfaith.
Obstacles to Participation in Jewish Life

Interfaith-related Issues

Feeling unwelcome, uncomfortable, judged, unsupported, rejected, excluded and/or like an outsider cause many Interfaith couples and families to not participate in Jewish life or to participate less than they would like. Some are turned off to Jewish life by Rabbis refusing to marry Interfaith couples, requiring conversion, etc.

“We are an interfaith couple that don't feel like we have a home recognizing both faiths in Denver.”

“Balance being in an interfaith marriage. Lack of inclusiveness.”

“I believe having an inter-faith marriage makes my husband and I feel less welcome to Jewish Community events where we may be judged, questioned, or categorized.”

“Feeling like we're not fitting in, being an interfaith family.”

“Relationship status—being with a non-Jew in a same-sex relationship”

“Sometimes my spouse does not feel comfortable attending Jewish programs or service. He feels different.”

“My husband is Jewish and I am not. I feel like an outsider although I would like my kids to understand what it means to be Jewish.”

“My husband isn’t Jewish and has not always felt welcome in Jewish settings, particularly more traditional crowds.”

“My ex-wife tried to convert, but the rabbi insisted she go to a mikveh, which she didn’t want to do. He insisted and said that he would not support it otherwise. The first three rabbis I contacted for my son’s bris said they would not help because my wife had not fully converted, and we didn’t have a declaration of commitment to raise our children Jewish (meaning, their version of Jewish).”

“Spouse is not Jewish and not interested in conversion.”

“It is not the most welcoming to non-Jews in the worship sense.”
Obstacles to Participation

Interfaith-related Issues

“As a late twenties adult with a Jewish partner, I would like to go to religious services with him but I feel out of place and have an impression that these are typically for families with children or people who are Jewish.”

“I am Jewish and married to a non-Jew. It is difficult because I can’t participate in couples’ activities and I also cannot participate in activities for singles.”

“My son and I are almost always rejected because I am not Jewish and my son is half, actually not even because his mother is not Jewish, so he is not considered even half. It is sad for my husband because we are rejected so much, he has trouble connecting.”

“The community would have to be open to interfaith marriage, to the fact that we chose not to circumcise our boys yet still feel we are raising them in the Jewish tradition.”

“It’s very hard for my non-Jewish husband to feel welcomed. His comfort is more important to me than forcing the religion in my family. It’s very sad, frustrating and unfortunate.”

“My spouse is Jewish and states it’s very important to him, but he is apathetic about becoming involved with the community. So, I am driving it as I committed to raising our children Jewish - and I take that seriously. The obstacle is I feel I cannot make the decision about what our family’s Jewish life looks like (as I am the non-Jew and worry about disenfranchising my husband), but he is not ready/equipped to make the decision himself :) so for now we’re just dropping in.”

“My non-Jewish husband does not participate with me. Often I do not want to go alone or feel unsupported.”

“Poor support for interfaith parents. Synagogue says they are welcoming of interfaith couples, but my spouse does not feel welcome, supported or included.”

“My child is interfaith and biracial. Majority of activities he and my husband “stick out like a sore thumb.” It would be nice to see more get together or programming geared towards interracial and/or interfaith families.”

“Being the matriarch of the family, but not being raised Jewish has made it difficult to participate in Jewish life. We don’t have a lot of family nearby, especially not any who are Jewish. I feel like it is on me to figure the Jewish cultural practices out, but not sure who could help me navigate and incorporate this into our very busy lives.”

“Interfaith families have a difficult time finding programs and opportunities where they aren’t made to feel like outsiders.”

“My spouse is Jewish and states it’s very important to him, but he is apathetic about becoming involved with the community. So, I am driving it as I committed to raising our children Jewish - and I take that seriously. The obstacle is I feel I cannot make the decision about what our family’s Jewish life looks like (as I am the non-Jew and worry about disenfranchising my husband), but he is not ready/equipped to make the decision himself :) so for now we’re just dropping in.”
Obstacles to Participation
Interfaith-related Issues

“My husband is not Jewish. When our son was younger and in Hebrew School, I was disinvited from a Havurah. The excuse was my husband wouldn’t enjoy himself. I then worked for a Jewish nonprofit as a fundraiser after volunteering with the organization. I was never invited or included in any activities by any of the people I knew.”

“I feel like I do not know how to get involved in a Jewish congregation. My partner is not Jewish, so finding an environment that is easy for her to ease herself into.”

“I’m raising a Jewish son in an interfaith family I am challenged by my lack of knowledge. Would like more programming and inclusion and ways to introduce my husband to Judaism.”

“There is still some judgment from the community based on my husband not being Jewish.”

“When I taught Hebrew School at [synagogue], I was made to feel ashamed that my husband is not Jewish.”

“It’s been my experience that other community and legacy organizations are not open to non-Jewish participants, and even critical of our lifestyle.”

“When I taught Hebrew School at [synagogue], I was made to feel ashamed that my husband is not Jewish.”

“Being an interfaith couple leads to less support for us or how we raise our children. There was an interfaith group, but it was geared towards couples without kids and then the federation dissolved it.”

“My synagogue’s welcoming (but not support) of interfaith marriage makes it a challenge to engage locally. Ritual is important to me, but ritual excludes me: my husband is not Jewish, his family is not Jewish, our local friends are not Jewish.”

“My husband is Christian and we find Jewish communities not to be very accepting of inter-faith couples. I have mentioned attending church before among folks in the Jewish community and gotten shocked, awkward reactions every time.”
RUSSIAN JEWS
Russian Jews

Nearly 1 in 10 or about 6,000 Jewish adults were born in or have a spouse, parent, or in-law born in Russia, Former Soviet Union, or Ukraine.

Born In or Have Spouse, Parent, or In-law Born In Russia/FSU/Ukraine?

- Yes: 9%
- No: 91%

16% of those who donated $2,500+ to Jewish organizations
16% of Personal Engagement Group
15% of South Metro
13% of Holiday Engagement Group
Russian Jewish Community and Events

More than half say there is an organized Russian Jewish community, but only 5% of those say they have participated in an event.

**Organized Russian Jewish Community in Greater Denver Area?**

- Yes: 56%
- No: 44%

**Participated in Event Organized by Russian Jewish Community in Past Year**

- Yes: 5%
- No: 95%

“You’re an outsider because you’re a Russian immigrant.”
Nearly 4 in 10 Jewish adults were born in or have a spouse, parent, or in-law born in Russia/FSU say some or all of their close friends are Russian Jews.
How important are these considerations in deciding whether to participate in events in the Jewish community?
ISRAELIS
Israelis

3% or about 1,800 Jewish adults were born in or have a spouse, parent, or in-law born in Israel.

Born In or Have Spouse, Parent, Or In-law Born In Israel?

- Yes: 3%
- No: 97%
About 2 in 3 say there is an organized Israeli community, and about 8 in 10 of those say they have participated in an event.

**Organized Israeli Community in Greater Denver Area?**
BASE: THOSE BORN IN OR HAVE A SPOUSE, PARENT, OR IN-LAW BORN IN ISRAEL n=41
- Yes: 63%
- No: 37%

**Participated in Event Organized by Israeli Community in Past Year**
BASE - THOSE BORN IN OR HAVE A SPOUSE, PARENT, OR IN-LAW BORN IN ISRAEL AND SAY THERE IS AN ORGANIZED ISRAELI COMMUNITY IN GREATER DENVER AREA n=20
- Yes: 78%
- No: 22%
Israeli Community and Language

Half of Jewish adults who were born in or have a spouse, parent, or in-law born in Israel say some or all of their close friends are Israeli. Half speak Hebrew or Hebrew and English.

How Many Close Friends are Israeli?
BASE: THOSE BORN IN OR HAVE A SPOUSE, PARENT, OR IN-LAW BORN IN ISRAEL n=46

- None: 17%
- Hardly Any: 34%
- Some: 30%
- All: 19%

Language Spoken at Home
BASE: THOSE BORN IN OR HAVE A SPOUSE, PARENT, OR IN-LAW BORN IN ISRAEL n=46

- English: 51%
- English & Hebrew: 26%
- Hebrew: 23%
- None: 17%
### Importance in Decision to Participate in Jewish Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>% Not at all Important</th>
<th>% Not That Important</th>
<th>% Important</th>
<th>% Very Important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Openness to different religious attitudes</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israeli cultural events</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational activities for children in Hebrew</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities in Hebrew</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities designed for secular Jews</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business networking among Israelis in the area</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BASE – THOSE BORN IN OR HAVE SPOUSE, PARENT, OR IN-LAW BORN IN ISRAEL**

*How important are these considerations in deciding whether to participate in events in the Jewish community?
Takeaways

• A very diverse Jewish community
• Doing well with inclusion for some, need to improve inclusiveness for many
• Have lots of data to help understand the size of these diverse groups, what’s important to them, and how organizations can be more inclusive.
BANNER TABLES
Banner Tables

• Additional insights based on the interests and needs of local Jewish nonprofits
• Deeper understanding of survey results by subgroups and by all survey questions
• Highlight the issues and opportunities facing the Metro Denver Jewish community
• Make the study’s findings more actionable for local Jewish organizations
RESULTS FOR JEWISH SURVEY RESPONDENTS/ADULTS: identified as ages 18+ who consider themselves to be Jewish in any way AND have at least one Jewish parent, or were raised Jewish, or converted to Judaism. OTHER TABLES SHOW RESULTS FOR HOUSEHOLDS.

**BASE = WHO QUESTION WAS ASKED OF**

**ALL SURVEY RESPONDENTS**

**BASE - THOSE WHO ARE JEWISH OR JEWISH AND ANOTHER RELIGION OR CONSIDER THEMSELVES JEWISH OR PARTIALLY JEWISH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age 18-34</th>
<th>35-64</th>
<th>65+</th>
<th>Not Married</th>
<th>Married</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71,270</td>
<td>35,287</td>
<td>34,184</td>
<td>18,056</td>
<td>9,652</td>
<td>15,800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SUBSETS OF RESPONDENTS**

**BASE = THOSE WHO ARE JEWISH OR JEWISH AND ANOTHER RELIGION OR CONSIDER THEMSELVES JEWISH OR PARTIALLY JEWISH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Unmarried</th>
<th>Married</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>34,184</td>
<td>13,660</td>
<td>47,844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>27,096</td>
<td>11,520</td>
<td>38,616</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**UNWEIGHTED BASE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Importance</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essential</td>
<td>34,023</td>
<td>13,920</td>
<td>47,943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Important, but not essential</td>
<td>23,702</td>
<td>9,624</td>
<td>33,326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not important</td>
<td>14,444</td>
<td>6,343</td>
<td>20,787</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

37% of those respondents without children <18 in the household said caring about Israel is essential to what being Jewish means to them. This is statistically significantly higher at the 90% level than the percentage of those with children (Column J). So, there is a 10% chance that this difference in “essential” by age is due to chance.

48% of respondents age 65+ said caring about Israel is essential to what being Jewish means to them. This is statistically significantly higher at the 95% level than the percentages of those age 18-34 and 35-64 in Columns D and E. So, there is a ≤5% chance that this difference in “essential” by age is due to chance.

33% of all respondents, representing 23,702 Jewish adults, said caring about Israel is essential to what being Jewish means to them.

**NUMBER OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>34,184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>27,096</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** While all percentages in the tables may be utilized, technically, you should only use the population estimates in the Total column which are derived from only the primary sample. The population estimates in other columns include the full sample (primary and supplemental) to be able to see characteristics of subsets of respondents; these population estimates are often close to what would be found in the primary sample alone, though not statistically correct.
Banner 1

• **Gender** (Female, Male)
• **Age Group** (18-34, 35-64, 65+)
• **Marital Status** (Inmarried, Intermarried, Not Married)
• **Presence of Children in HH** (Yes, No)
• **Age of Children in Household** (0-5, 6-12, 13-18)
• **School Type** (Jewish Day, Non-Jewish Private, Public)
• **Region** (Denver, South Metro, Boulder, N&W Metro, Aurora, N&E Metro)

• **Jewish Engagement** (Minimally Involved, Personal, Holiday, Communal, Immersed)

• **Synagogue Member** (Yes, No)

• **HH Member Attends Jewish Events But Not Synagogue Member**

• **Donated to Jewish Org** (Yes, No)

• **Amount Donated to Jewish Org** ($1-$500, $500-$2,500, $2500+)
# Margin of Error

Rules of Thumb for Margins of Error at Various Sample Sizes (Unweighted Bases)

By Fran Simon, Simon Analytics simonanalytics@gmail.com

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Size</th>
<th>90%</th>
<th>95%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>15.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>10.6</td>
<td>12.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>10.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>9.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>5.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>350</td>
<td>4.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>400</td>
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<tr>
<td>450</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td><strong>4.4</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>700</td>
<td>3.1</td>
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<td>800</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>900</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Percentage Point Margin of Error +/-**

**Confidence Level**

Note: The table is based on survey results of 50%, and therefore, include the maximum margins of error.

Margin of error decreases the further the result gets from 50% in either direction.

Example: If the survey result was 50% among 100 respondents, 90 out of 100 times conducting the survey, we would expect a result of 50% +/- 8.3 percentage points or between 41.7% and 58.3%.

Example: If the survey result was 50% among 500 respondents, 95 out of 100 times conducting the survey, we would expect a result of 50% +/- 4.4 percentage points or between 45.6% and 54.4%.
Q&A

Thank you!

Fran Simon

simonanalytics@gmail.com

720 985-6411