# Highlights from *Jewish Community Study of New York: 2002*Manhattan



#### **OVERVIEW:**

The 291,900 individuals residing in Manhattans 154,500 Jewish households primarily live in five areas: the Upper East Side, the Upper West Side, Lower Manhattan (below 14<sup>th</sup> Street), Gramercy Park/Murray Hill, and Chelsea/Clinton. The five principal areas identified in Manhattan account for 92% of the people who live in Jewish households in the borough. The population figures for 2002 reflect a 4% decrease in the Jewish population of Manhattan since 1991. This decrease might be related to the events of 9/11 and might represent a temporary and reversible trend.

Table 1: Population and Households Estimates, Principal Areas of Jewish Residence in Manhattan, 2002

	Chelsea	Gramercy	Lower	Upper	Upper	Rest of	All of
	/ Clinton	Park/	Manhattan	East	West	Man-	Manhattan
		Murray Hill		Side	Side	hattan	
Households							
All Households (U.S. Census, 2000)	73,500	76,700	148,600	120,500	118,00	201,300	738,600
Jewish Households	17,200	22,100	26,700	38,900	37,100	12,500	154,500
Jewish Households as a	23%	29%	18%	32%	31%	6%	21%
Percent of All Households in							
the Area							
Jewish Households in Area as	11%	14%	17%	25%	24%	8%	100%
a Percent of All Jewish							
Households in Manhattan							

	Chelsea / Clinton	Gramercy Park/ Murray Hill	Lower Manhattan	Upper East Side	Upper West Side	Rest of Man- hattan	All of Manhattan
People		-					
All People (U.S. Census, 2000)	124,300	124,000	310,900	206,700	219,200	552,100	1,537,200
People in Jewish Households	31,100	37,500	52,900	73,300	71,800	25,300	291,900
People in Jewish Households as a Percent of All People in Area	25%	30%	17%	35%	33%	5%	19%
People in Jewish Households in Area as a Percent of All People in Jewish Households in Manhattan	11%	13%	18%	25%	25%	8%	100%
Jewish People							
Jews	24,600	32,500	41,100	64,700	59,400	21,000	243,000
Jews as a Percent of All People in Area	20%	26%	13%	31%	27%	4%	16%
Jews in Area as a Percent of All Jews Residing in Manhattan	10%	13%	17%	27%	24%	9%	100%
Percent Change in Number of Jews in Area 1991 – 2002	27%	-33%	-23%	-14%	-12%	n/a	-21%

## **DEMOGRAPHICS**

Manhattan has a very different demographic profile in comparison with the other boroughs and counties in the area. A considerably lower percent of Manhattan respondents are married, and a considerably higher portion have never been married. Consistent with these findings is the small proportion of children residing in Jewish households in Manhattan; only 13% are age 17 and under, in contrast to the overall eight-county rate (23%).

Table 2: Age, Marital Status, and Household Structure, Principal Areas of Jewish Residence in Manhattan, 2002

	Chelsea/	Gramercy	Lower	Upper	Upper	All of
	Clinton	Park/	Manhattan	East Side	West	Manhattan
		Murray Hill			Side	
Age Structure						
0 – 17	11%	6%	13%	14%	14%	13%
18 – 39	45%	41%	34%	31%	26%	33%
40 – 64	31%	38%	32%	35%	37%	35%
65 – 74	5%	7%	9%	12%	11%	10%
75+	8%	8%	12%	8%	11%	10%
Marital Status (Percent of All Respondents)						
Married	33%	31%	40%	43%	44%	40%
Never Married	33%	47%	33%	29%	40%	35%
Separated/Divorced	12%	13%	16%	14%	10%	13%
Widowed	7%	4%	8%	10%	5%	8%
Living Together	15%	5%	2%	4%	1%	4%
Household Structure						
Children 17 and Under in Household*	9%	8%	17%	16%	19%	15%

	Chelsea/	Gramercy	Lower	Upper	Upper	All of
	Clinton	Park/	Manhattan	East Side	West	Manhattan
		Murray Hill			Side	
No Children 17 and Under and No	70%	74%	52%	54%	49%	57%
Seniors in Household						
Senior Households with No Children	21%	18%	31%	29%	32%	28%
17 and Under						
People in Russian-Speaking Jewish						
Households						
People in Russian-speaking Jewish	3%	2%	1%	2%	6%	3%
Households as a Percent of All People						
in Jewish Households						

<sup>\*</sup>Includes some single parent and multi-generational families.

## **INCOME LEVELS AND VULNERABLE POPULATIONS**

Manhattan Jewish households are economically well off compared to the other counties.

Table 3: Income Levels and Vulnerable Populations, Principal Areas of Jewish Residence in Manhattan, 2002

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	Chelsea/	Gramercy	Lower	Upper	Upper	All of		
	Clinton	Park/	Manhattan	East Side	West	Manhattan		
		Murray Hill			Side			
Household Income (Percent of Households)								
Under \$35,000	24%	11%	24%	14%	17%	18%		
\$35,000 - \$99,999	31%	39%	45%	33%	38%	38%		
\$100,000 - \$149,999	17%	20%	11%	15%	18%	16%		
\$150,000 and above	29%	30%	21%	38%	27%	28%		
Subjective Assessment of Financial								
Status (Percent of Households)								
Cannot Make Ends Meet/Just	31%	26%	29%	21%	19%	25%		
Managing								
Have Enough	38%	36%	41%	34%	41%	37%		
Have Extra Money/Wealthy	31%	38%	30%	45%	40%	38%		
Poverty/Near Poverty								
Percent of Jewish Households Who	20%	6%	12%	7%	10%	11%		
Are Poor or Near Poor								
Isolated Seniors (Percent of Respondents)								
65 – 74 Living Alone	45%	12%	48%	37%	40%	38%		
75+ Living Alone	93%	60%	62%	56%	57%	62%		

#### **JEWISH CONNECTIONS**

Manhattan Jewish households are lower than other eight-county households on commonly used measures of Jewish practices. Only 30% of the households belong to a synagogue (compared to 43% overall) and only 55% report that "being Jewish is very important", compared to 65% overall. In Manhattan, 31% of marriages are intermarriages compared to 22% overall.

Table 4: Jewish Connections, Principal Areas of Jewish Residence in Manhattan, 2002

Table 4: Jewish Connections, Principal Areas of Jewish Residence in Manhattan, 2002									
	Chelsea/ Clinton	Gramercy Park/	Lower Manhattan	Upper East Side	Upper West	All of Manhattan			
		Murray Hill			Side				
Denomination									
Orthodox	8%	4%	4%	10%	14%	11%			
Conservative	23%	34%	22%	29%	25%	26%			
Reform	34%	45%	33%	42%	28%	35%			
Non-Denominational – "Just Jewish"	21%	12%	23%	9%	16%	16%			
Secular/No Religion	14%	4%	16%	8%	13%	10%			
Jewish Affiliations & Participation									
Household Belongs to a Synagogue	17%	27%	25%	38%	30%	30%			
Household Belongs to Other Jewish Organization (including JCC)	18%	14%	11%	19%	20%	16%			
Household Attended Jewish Cultural Event or Jewish Museum in the Last Year	55%	72%	70%	73%	73%	70%			
Percent of Respondents Who Have Ever Traveled to Israel	52%	57%	40%	57%	64%	55%			
Percent of Respondents Who Have Accessed Jewish Websites	57%	42%	36%	43%	50%	45%			
Feeling Connected									
Respondent Said That Being Jewish is "Very Important"	40%	64%	47%	60%	55%	55%			
Respondent Feels Part of a Jewish Community	56%	56%	52%	59%	58%	57%			
Jewish Practices									
Household Member Attends Seder	72%	70%	73%	78%	76%	75%			
Respondent Fasts on Yom Kippur	56%	60%	57%	68%	59%	62%			
Household Member Lights Shabbat Candles	11%	4%	11%	13%	17%	14%			
Keeps a Kosher Home	12%	14%	17%	15%	20%	18%			
Jewish Education (Percent of Jewish Children Ages 6-17)									
None	*	*	*	*	*	28%			
Supplementary School (Past and/or Current)	*	*	*	*	*	38%			
Day School (Past and/or Current)	*	*	*	*	*	33%			
Types of Marriages (Percent of Marriages)									
Inmarriage	48%	66%	52%	75%	55%	62%			
Conversionary Marriages	2%	<1%	12%	5%	10%	7%			
Intermarriage	50%	34%	36%	20%	35%	31%			
Philanthropy (Percent of Households)									
No Charitable Gift	11%	11%	16%	13%	9%	12%			
Non-Jewish Gifts Only	46%	37%	42%	26%	34%	36%			
Both Jewish and Non-Jewish Gifts	31%	40%	31%	47%	47%	40%			
Jewish Gifts Only	12%	12%	11%	14%	10%	12%			

<sup>\*</sup> The principal researches were able to estimate the percentage of Jewish children with no Jewish education, with supplementary school education, and with day school education on the county level. It was not feasible to estimate Jewish education for the Jewish area profiles given the smaller numbers of interviews in small areas compared with counties, particularly in Manhattan where there were relatively few households with children.