

The Changing Jewish Community: Considerations for Reform Congregations in Long Island and Queens

> Based upon data from the Jewish Community Study of New York: 2002

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UJA-Federation of New York

Union for Reform Judaism "Responding to Demographic Challenges" January 21, 2007

UJA Federation



THE CHANGING JEWISH COMMUNITY

CONSIDERATIONS FOR REFORM CONGREGATIONS IN LONG ISLAND AND QUEENS

DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES

- Population Estimates
- Demography
- Denomination Estimates

JEWISH CONNECTIONS

- Long Island Reform Jews
- Comparisons with other Eight-County Reform Jews
- Comparisons with other Long Island Jews

UJA Federation of New York

STUDY AREA



The Jewish Community Study of New York surveyed a representative sample of Jewish households and Jewish people in the eight counties that are part of UJA-Federation of New York's service area.

- Interviewing took place between March 11 and September 13, 2002.
- **4,533** interviews were conducted.

DEFINITIONS

- Jewish Persons: Adults (age 18+) who consider themselves Jewish and children being raised as Jews
- Jewish Households: Households that include one or more Jewish adults, at least 18 years old.

^{*} *Jewish Community Study of New York: 2002*, Jacob B. Ukeles and Ron Miller, Principal Investigators, UJA-Federation of New York, October 2004. Please see the *Note on Methodology* for a brief discussion of comparability between the 1991 and 2002 studies.



LONG ISLAND AND QUEENS

1,133 respondents identified their primary residence as Long Island.

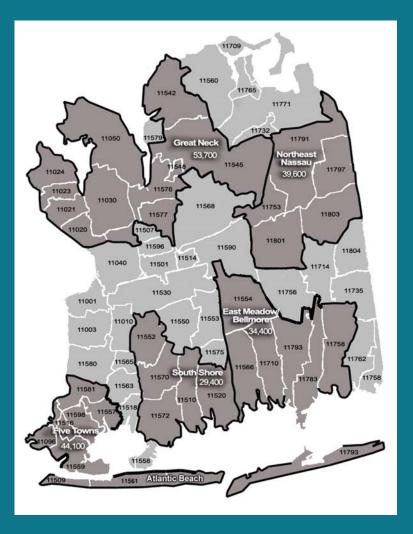
- The information on Nassau County is based on 744 interviews. The standard error range for this sample is +/- 6.1%.
- The information on Suffolk County is based on 389 interviews. The standard error range for this sample is +/- 8.6%.
- **563** respondents identified their primary residence as Queens. The standard error range for this sample is **+/- 7.2%**.

DENOMINATION

1,189 respondents identified their denomination as Reform.

400 respondents with their primary residence on Long Island identified their denomination as Reform.

PRINCIPAL AREAS OF JEWISH RESIDENCE, NASSAU COUNTY



GREAT NECK – includes Glen Cove, Glen Head, Greenvale, Great Neck, Manhasset, Port Washington, Roslyn, Roslyn Heights

NORTHEAST NASSAU – includes Hicksville, Plainview, Jericho, Syosset, Woodbury

FIVE TOWNS/ATLANTIC BEACH

includes Atlantic Beach,
Cedarhurst, Hewlett, Inwood,
Lawrence, Long Beach, Valley
Stream, and Woodmere

SOUTH SHORE – includes Baldwin, Freeport, Oceanside, Rockville Centre, West Hempstead

EAST MEADOW/BELLMORE -

includes Bellmore, East Meadow, Merrick, Massapequa, Seaford, and Wantagh



PRINCIPAL AREAS OF JEWISH RESIDENCE, SUFFOLK COUNTY

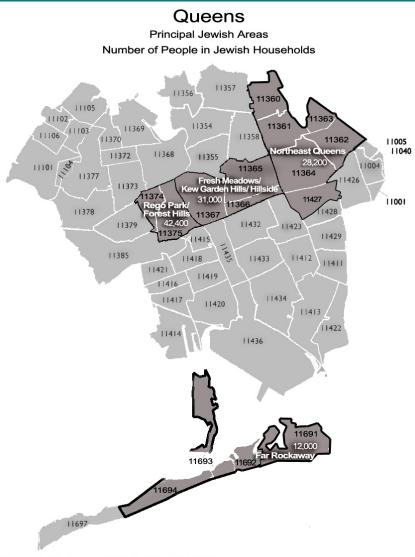


WESTERN SUFFOLK – includes Amityville, Babylon, North Babylon, West Babylon, Centerport, Cold Spring Harbor, Commack, Copiague, Deer Park, Dix Hills, Farmingdale, Greenlawn, Huntington, Huntington Station, Lindenhurst, Melville, Northport, East Northport, Wyandanch

CENTRAL SUFFOLK – includes Bay Shore, Bayport, Blue Point, Bohemia, Brentwood, Brightwaters, Centereach, Central Islip, Coram, East Islip, East Setauket, Farmingville, Hauppage, Holbrook, Holtsville, Islip, Islip Terrace, Kings Park, Lake Grove, Medford, Mount Sinai, Nesconset, Oakdale, Patchogue, Port Jefferson, Ronkonkoma, Saint James, Sayville, Selden, Smithtown, Stony Brook, West Islip, West Sayville



PRINCIPAL AREAS OF JEWISH RESIDENCE, QUEENS COUNTY



Principal Areas

FRESH MEADOWS/KEW GARDEN HILLS/HILLSIDE

NORTHEAST QUEENS -

includes Bay Terrace, Bayside, Douglaston, Hollis Hills, Little Neck, Oakland Gardens

REGO PARK/FOREST HILLS

Secondary Area THE ROCKAWAYS





UJA Federation of New York Over the past decade, the total number of Jews and Jewish households has remained the same.

During this time, the size of the community has decreased slightly in New York City, but increased significantly in Nassau, Suffolk, and Westchester.

	New York City	Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester	Total
Jewish Households	455,000	188,000	643,000
Percent of Total Jewish Households	71%	29%	100%
Percent Change 1991 – 2002	- 6%	24%	< 1%
Jewish Persons	972,000	440,000	1,412,000
Percent of Total Jewish Persons	69%	31%	100%
Percent Change 1991 – 2002	- 5%	12%	< - 1%
People in Jewish Households	1,135,000	532.000	1,677,000
Percent of All People in Jewish Households	68%	32%	100%
Percent Change 1991 – 2002	2%	22%	7%

HOUSEHOLD & POPULATION ESTIMATES: BY COUNTY

Nassau County has the third largest Jewish population in eight-county area.

Borough/County	Number of Jewish Households	% of Jewish Households in Eight- County Area	Number of Jewish Persons	% of Jewish Persons in the Eight- County Area	People in Jewish Households	% of People in Jewish Households in the Eight- County Area
Brooklyn	171,000	27%	456,000	32%	516,600	31%
Manhattan	155,000	24%	243,000	17%	291,800	18%
Nassau County	89,000	14%	221,000	16%	252,000	15%
Queens	87,000	14%	186,000	13%	220,000	13%
Westchester County	55,000	8%	129,000	9%	152,600	9%
Suffolk County	44,000	7%	90,000	6%	127,700	8%
Bronx	24,000	4%	45,000	3%	54,300	3%
Staten Island	18,000	3%	42,000	3%	52,000	3%
Total Eight Counties	643,000*	100%*	1,412,000	100%	1,667,000	100%

*Due to rounding, numbers may not add precisely in this and subsequent tables.

The Great Neck area has the largest Jewish population on Long Island.

	Principal Areas of Jewish Residence	Jewish Households	Jewish Persons	People in Jewish Households
	Great Neck	19,000	47,900	53,700
	Five Towns/Atlantic Beach	16,700	41,400	44,100
SAU	Northeast Nassau	12,900	37,500	39,600
NASSAL	East Meadow/Bellmore	11,900	30,100	34,400
	South Shore	9,800	25,200	29,400
	Remainder, Nassau	19,100	39,400	50,700
	Central Suffolk	17,500	34,200	48,200
	Western Suffolk	15,100	36,500	47,100
SUFFOLK	Eastern Suffolk	8,500	13,400	24,300
	Remainder, Suffolk	3,200	6,100	8,000

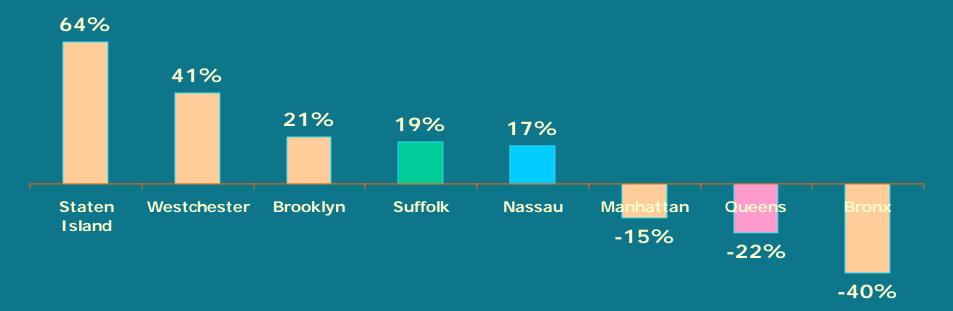
46 percent of people in Jewish households in Queens live in three principal areas.

Queens is the only county in the area where more than 50 percent of the people in Jewish households live outside of the principal Jewish areas.

Principal Areas of Jewish Residence	Jewish Households	Jewish Persons	People in Jewish Households
Rego Park/Forest Hills	19,300	39,100	42,400
Fresh Meadows/Kew Garden Hills/Hillside	10,700	28,200	31,000
Northeast Queens	12,400	24,100	28,200
Secondary Area of Jewish Residence			
The Rockaways	5,800	10,700	12,000
Remainder, Queens	38,700	83,700	106,900

Nassau and Suffolk Counties experienced fairly strong growth in the number of Jewish households from 1991 to 2002.

The Jewish population in Queens dropped dramatically.



Populaton Change, 1991 to 2002

The story of growth is more complex when you compare changes in the percent of Jewish households with changes in the percent of Jewish persons.

The difference reflects changes in the number of Jews per household.

	Percent Change 1991 – 2002				
Borough	Jewish Households	Jewish Persons	People in Jewish Households		
Staten Island	64%	27%	41%		
Westchester County	41%	40%	47%		
Brooklyn	21%	23%	31%		
Suffolk County	19%	-8%	10%		
Nassau County	17%	9%	16%		
Manhattan	- 15%	- 21%	- 14%		
Queens	- 22%	- 20%	- 14%		
Bronx	- 40%	- 45%	- 40%		

CHANGES IN HOUSEHOLD & POPULATION ESTIMATES: LONG ISLAND AND QUEENS

On Long Island, Five Towns/ Atlantic Beach and Northeast Nassau have experienced the greatest growth since 1991.

In Queens, Northeast Queens had the most significant decrease in Jewish population.

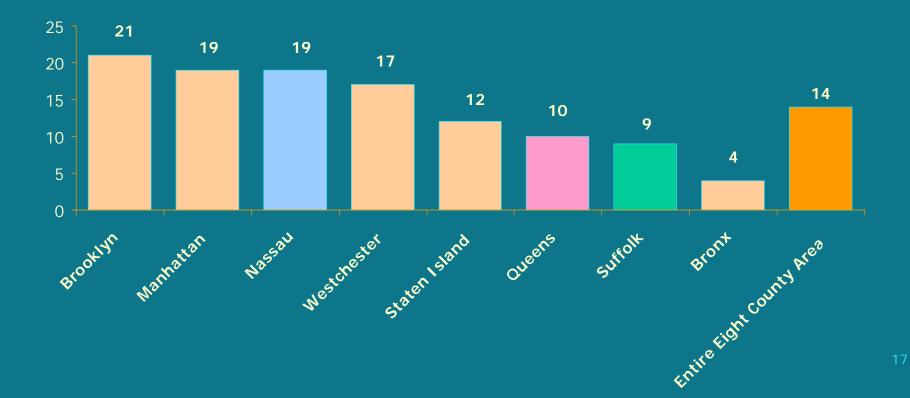
	Percent Change 1991 – 2002				
Principal Areas of Jewish Residence	Jewish Households	People in Jewish Households			
Nassau – Entire County	18%	16%			
Great Neck	32%	28%			
Five Towns/Atlantic Beach	40%	24%			
Northeast Nassau	40%	38%			
East Meadow/Bellmore	28%	17%			
South Shore	4%	13%			
Suffolk – Entire County	20%	10%			
Central Suffolk	11%	-6%			
Western Suffolk	11%	14%			
Queens – Entire County	-22	-14			
Rego Park/Forest Hills	+/- <1%	3%			
Fresh Meadows/Kew Garden Hills/Hillside	-31%	-24%			
Northeast Queens	-46%	-47%			

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In Brooklyn, Manhattan and Nassau, about one in five residents are people in Jewish households.

The Bronx, Suffolk, and Queens have the lowest Jewish density.

People in Jewish Households in the County as a Percent of all People in the County



There is significant variation between areas in the density of the Jewish population.

40 37 40 35 19 33 35 30 22 25 18 19 20 16 15 12 11 10 9 9 8 10 6 0 Kew Remainder, Nassau Remainder, Queens Five Towns / Atlantic Beach Rego Park / Forest Hills **Great Neck Northeast Nassau Northeast Queens** Nassau County South Shore East Meadow / Bellmore Eastern Suffolk Western Suffolk **Queens County** Suffolk County **Central Suffolk** Remainder, Suffolk Garden Hills / Hillside Freash Meadows /

People in Jewish Households in the Area as a Percent of all People in the Area People in Jewish households are becoming a larger percentage of the total population in much of Nassau County and parts of Suffolk. "Jewish density" is declining in Queens.

(Areas that experienced more than 10 percent change are listed.)

People in Jewish Households as a Percent of All People in This Area					
Principal Areas of Jewish Residence	1991	2002	Percent Change from 1991 to 2002		
Northeast Nassau	26%	35%	35%		
East Meadow/Bellmore	13%	16%	23%		
Great Neck	29%	35%	21%		
Five Towns/Atlantic Beach	34%	40%	18%		
Nassau, Entire County	17%	19%	12%		
Western Suffolk	10%	11%	10%		
Central Suffolk	9%	8%	-11%		
Queens, Entire County	13%	10%	-23%		
Fresh Meadows/Kew Garden Hills/Hillside	49%	33%	- 33%		
Northeast Queens	44%	22%	- 50%		





DEMOGRAPHY



The Suburban Counties' Jewish population differs from that of New York City in the following categories:

- Rate of growth
- Household structure
- Economic status
- The Russian-speaking Jewish community

Age by County and Area of Residence, 2002

Principal Areas of Jewish Residence	0 - 17	18 - 39	40 - 64	65 - 74	75+	Total
Nassau – Entire County	23%	21%	38%	10%	9%	100%
Great Neck	27%	19%	37%	10%	7%	100%
Five Towns/Atlantic Beach	20%	21%	34%	11%	14%	100%
Northeast Nassau	25%	21%	39%	11%	5%	100%
East Meadow/Bellmore	25%	17%	41%	8%	9%	100%
South Shore	21%	23%	41%	8%	7%	100%
Suffolk – Entire County	24%	27%	37%	7%	5%	100%
Central Suffolk	22%	27%	39%	8%	5%	100%
Western Suffolk	27%	26%	39%	5%	3%	100%
Queens – Entire County	21%	24%	29%	11%	15%	100%
Rego Park/Forest Hills	15%	26%	36%	13%	10%	100%
Fresh Meadows/Kew Garden Hills/Hillside	24%	28%	28%	8%	12%	100%
Northeast Queens	17%	23%	34%	9%	17%	100%

The Five Towns area is the only Jewish population center on Long Island a smaller percentage of households with children than the eight-county average.



Percent of Households with Children Age 17 and Younger

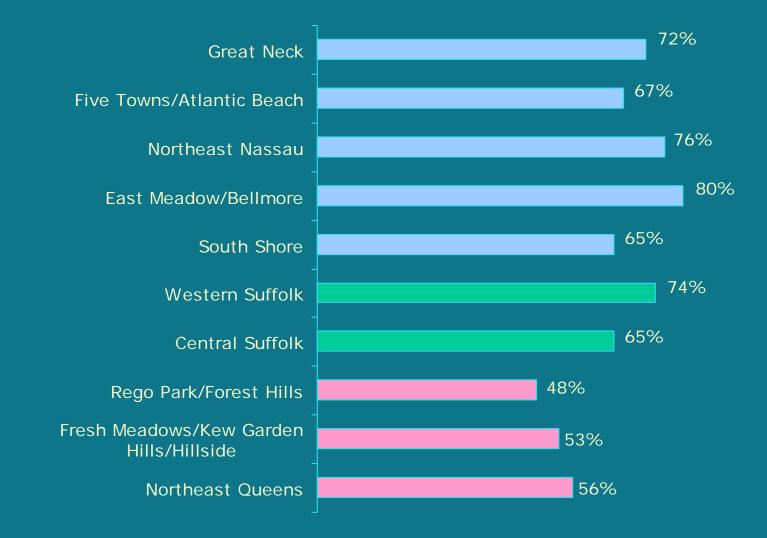
70% of survey respondents living in Long Island were married at the time that they were interviewed.

Never-married Jewish singles are concentrated in Manhattan.

	Married	Living Together	Separated or Divorced	Widowed	Never Married
Entire Eight- County Area	57%	2%	9%	12%	20%
Long Island	70%	1%	6%	10%	13%

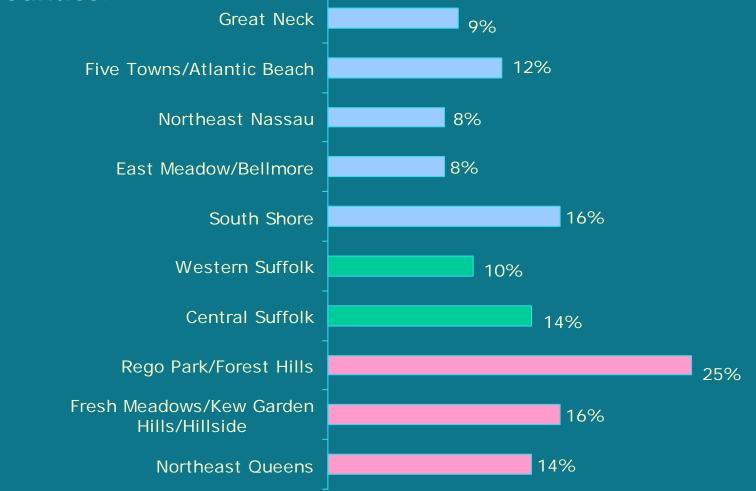


On Long Island, East Meadow/Bellmore respondents have the highest marriage rates.





Rego Park/Forest Hills and South Shore have the highest percent of single, never-married households within these counties.



73 percent of Jewish adults living in the eight-county New York area were born in the United States, 6 percent in Nassau, Suffolk, or Westchester.

Nearly 80 percent of Jewish adults living in Nassau and Suffolk were born in the Eight-County New York area, but over one third of Jewish adults in Queens are foreign-born.

Place of Birth	Percent of All Jewish Adults, Eight-County	Percent of All Jewish Adults, Nassau County	Percent of All Jewish Adults, Suffolk County	Percent of All Jewish Adults, Queens
New York City	52%	66%	52%	52%
Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester Counties	6%	13%	26%	2%
Other New York State	2%	2%	3%	3%
Other U.S.	13%	7%	13%	6%
Born Outside U.S.	27%	12%	6%	37%
Total*	100%	100%	100%	100%

DEMOGRAPHY: THE RUSSIAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY

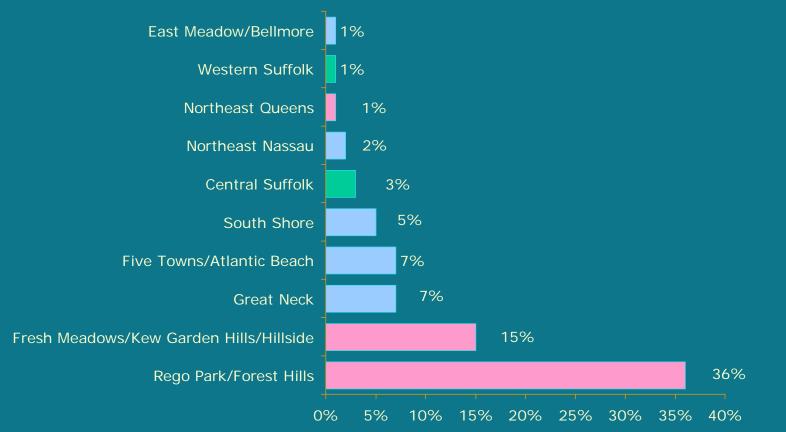
Less than 10% of the Russian-speaking Jewish community lives in the Suburban Counties.

Russian- Speaking	New York City	Suburban Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester	Eight-County Total	Percent of Eight-County Total that is in New York City
Jewish Households	87,000	5,000	92,000	94%
Jewish Persons in Jewish Households	186,000	16,000	202,000	92%
All People in Jewish Households	205,000	18,000	223,000	92%

DEMOGRAPHY: THE RUSSIAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY

The Russian-speaking Jewish community is about one fifth of New York City's Jewish community, but only 4 percent of Jewish Nassau, and 2 percent of Jewish Suffolk.

> Percent of People in Jewish Households Who Are in Russian Speaking Jewish Households



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40 percent of Jewish respondents on Long Island and one quarter in Queens identify themselves as Reform.

Denomination	Eight-County Total	Nassau County	Suffolk County	Queens
Orthodox	19%	11%	3%	20%
Conservative	26%	35%	29%	32%
Reform	29%	39%	41%	25%
Nondenominational – "Just Jewish"	15%	11%	14%	15%
Secular & No Religion	10%	4%	8%	7%
Miscellaneous Answers	1%	1%	5%	< 1%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Since 1991, the percentage of Jewish respondents identifying themselves as Orthodox has grown significantly, as has those who consider themselves "Just Jewish" or Secular.

Denomination	Eight-County Total	Nassau County	Suffolk County	Queens		
ORTHODOX						
1991	13%	5%	2%	12%		
2002	19%	11%	3%	20%		
Rate of Growth 1991 to 2002	46%	120%	50%	67%		
OTHER (Just Jewish, Secular, Miscellaneous)						
1991	17%	14%	29%	19%		
2002	26%	16%	27%	22%		
Rate of Growth 1991 to 2002	53%	14%	-7%	16%		

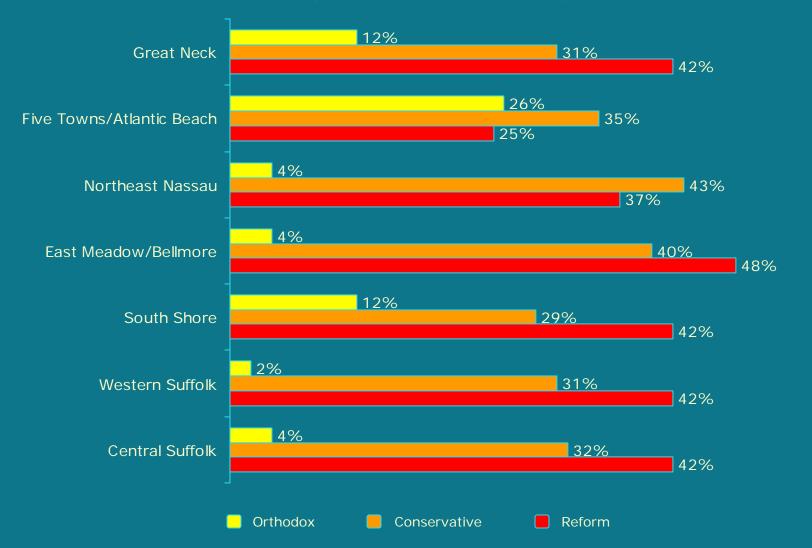
CHANGES IN DENOMINATIONAL IDENTIFICATION

Suffolk is the only place where there was an increase in the percentage of respondents identifying themselves as Reform.

Denomination	Eight-County Total	Nassau County	Suffolk County	Queens		
REFORM						
1991	36%	42%	39%	28%		
2002	29%	39%	41%	25%		
Rate of Growth 1991 to 2002	-19%	-7%	5%	-11%		
CONSERVATIVE						
1991	34%	40%	31%	41%		
2002	26%	35%	29%	32%		
Rate of Growth 1991 to 2002	-24%	-13%	-6%	-22%		

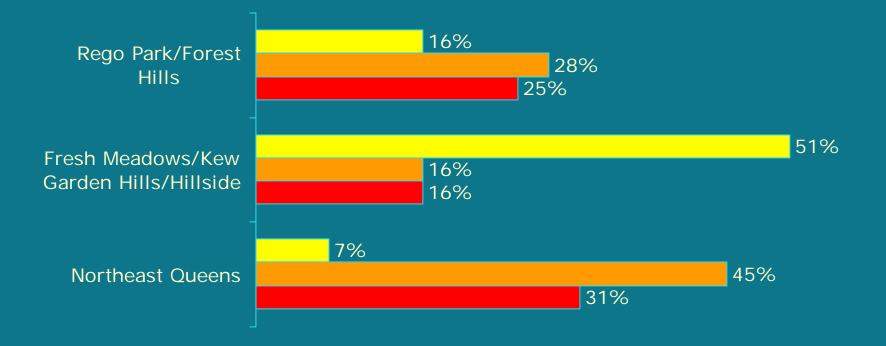
DENOMINATIONAL IDENTIFICATION: LONG ISLAND

In five of the seven principal Jewish areas on Long Island, more respondents self-identify as Reform than any other denomination.



DENOMINATIONAL IDENTIFICATION: QUEENS

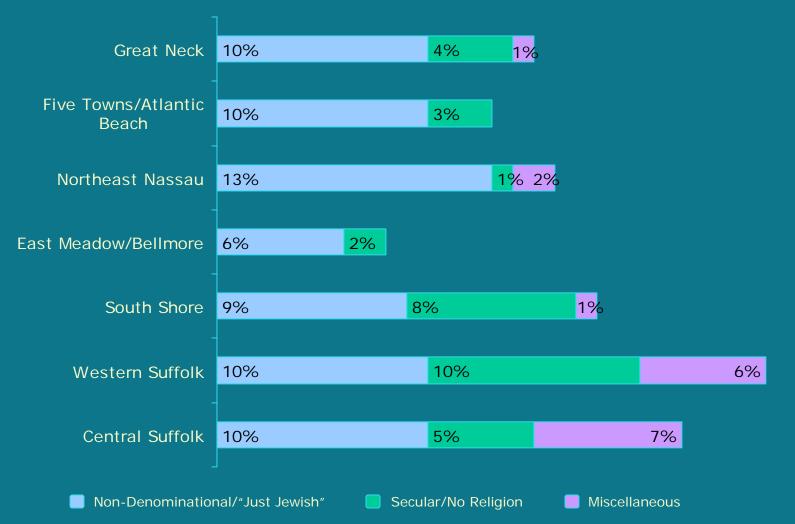
Among those who identify with a denomination, Northeast Queens is the area with the largest percentage that selfidentify as Reform.



Conservative

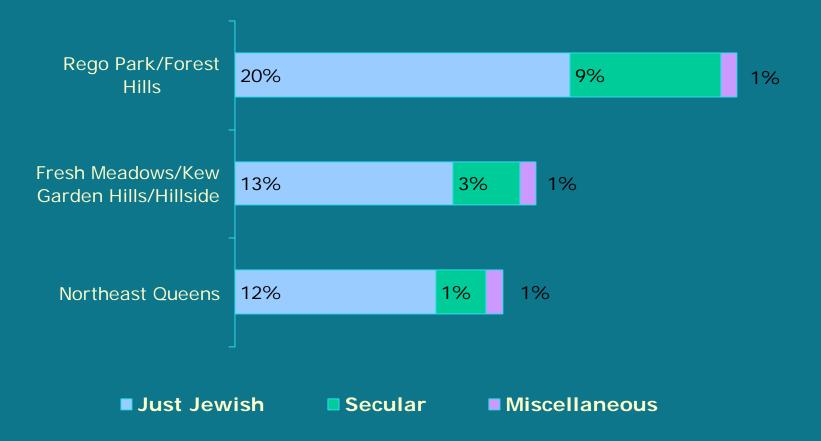
NON-DENOMINATIONAL IDENTIFICATION: LONG ISLAND

Northeast Nassau, South Shore, and both Suffolk areas have the largest proportions that do not identify with a denomination or are secular.



NON-DENOMINATIONAL IDENTIFICATION: QUEENS

Rego Park/Forest Hills has the largest proportions that do not identify with a denomination or are secular.



POPULATION ESTIMATES: LONG ISLAND AND QUEENS, DENOMINATIONAL IDENTIFICATION REFORM

Principal Areas of Jewish Residence	Jewish Households	Jewish Persons	People in Jewish Households
Nassau – Entire County	34,400	82,400	93,900
Great Neck	7,700	16,700	18,800
Five Towns/Atlantic Beach	4,400	8,300	9,200
Northeast Nassau	5,000	16,600	18,000
East Meadow/Bellmore	5,900	16,000	18,500
South Shore	4,000	8,500	11,400
Remainder, Nassau County	7,400	16,200	18,000
Suffolk – Entire County	18,200	37,700	57,300
Central Suffolk	7,100	13,500	19,300
Western Suffolk	6,300	16,100	21,400
Remainder, Suffolk County	4,800	8,100	16,600
Queens – Entire County	22,100	39,600	48,700
Rego Park/Forest Hills	4,900	8,800	10,100
Fresh Meadows/Kew Garden Hills/Hillside	1,800	3,000	3,400
Northeast Queens	4,100	6,800	8,900
Remainder, Queens	11,300	20,900	26,300



JEWISH CONNECTIONS

UJA Federation of New York Households of Reform respondents on Long Island are more likely to belong to a synagogue or another Jewish organization than Reform-identified households across the full eight-county area.

Jewish Affiliation Status of Household	All Eight- County Reform Households	Reform Households on Long Island	All Nassau Jewish Households	All Suffolk Jewish Households
Belongs to a Synagogue	37%	46%	56%	36%
Belongs to Other Jewish Organization (including JCC)	17%	23%	33%	16%

JEWISH CONNECTIONS: ATTENDING RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Long Island Reform households report more frequent synagogue attendance on average than Reformidentified households across the eight-county area.

Frequency of Attending Religious Services	All Eight- County Reform Households	Reform Households on Long Island
Once a Month or More Often	16%	22%
A Few Times Per Year	20%	20%
High Holidays Only, Once or Twice a Year, or Only on Special Occasions	49%	43%
Not at All	15%	15%

Long Island Reform households are more likely to attend Seder and light Chanukah candles than Reformidentified households across the eight-county area.

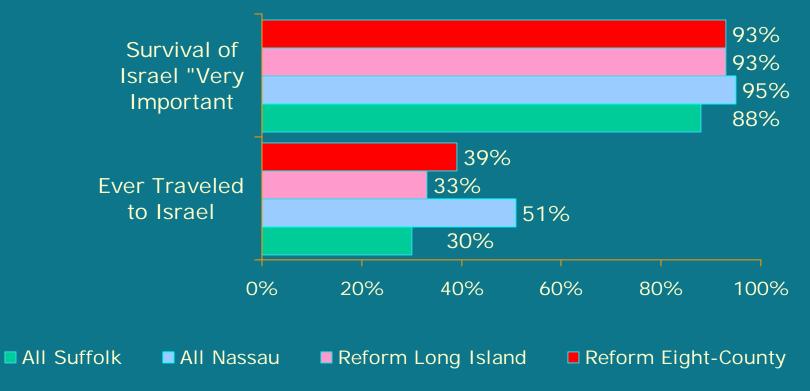
Jewish Practice Indicators*	All Eight- County Reform Households	Reform Households on Long Island	All Nassau Jewish Households	All Suffolk Jewish Households
Attends Seder	79%	88%	88%	69%
Fasts on Yom Kippur	68%	69%	78%	64%
Lights Chanukah Candles	76%	86%	87%	75%
Lights Shabbat Candles	13%	11%	28%	14%

*Always and usually combined for seder, Chanukah, Yom Kippur, and Shabbat candles.

Reform respondents on Long Island are more likely to participate in adult Jewish learning and JCC activities than Reform-identified respondents across the eightcounty area.

Jewish Practice Indicators*	All Eight- County Reform Respondents	Reform Respondents on Long Island	All Nassau Jewish Respondents	All Suffolk Jewish Respondents
Visited a Jewish Museum or Attended a Jewish Cultural Event	60%	60%	66%	54%
Participated in a JCC Activity	34%	40%	39%	30%
Visited a Jewish Website	34%	34%	41%	34%
Participated in an organized adult Jewish education program	20%	27%	34%	21%

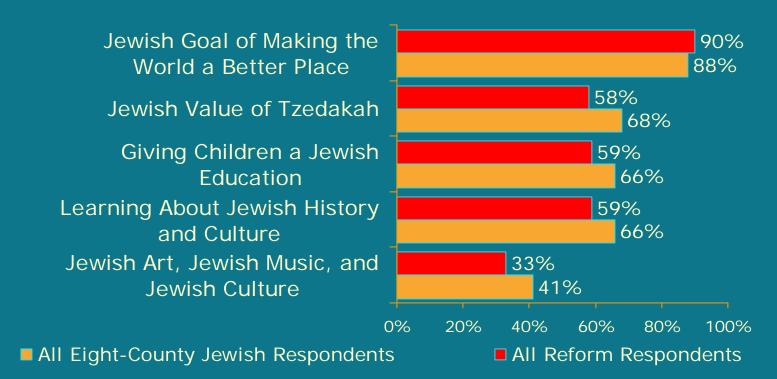
Respondents in Reform households on Long Island are less likely to have traveled to Israel than other Reform respondents in the eight-county area, but are equally likely to value the survival of the State of Israel.



Israel Travel and Values

The value of *tikkun olam* is equally valued by all respondents. Reform households are slightly less likely than all Jewish survey respondents to rate these other values as very important.

Percent of Respondents Who Say Topic is Very Important To Them



JEWISH CONNECTIONS: CONNECTION TO COMMUNITY

Many respondents in Reform and Long Island Jewish households feel part of a Jewish community even if they do not feel that being a part of a Jewish community is "very important."

	All Eight- County Reform Respondents	Reform Respondents on Long Island	All Nassau Jewish Respondents	All Suffolk Jewish Respondents
Believe it is Very Important to be Part of a Jewish Community	38%	37%	53%	33%
Feel Part of a Jewish Community	56%	60%	72%	51%

* Responses of "A lot" and "Some" combined for how much the respondents feel part of a Jewish community.

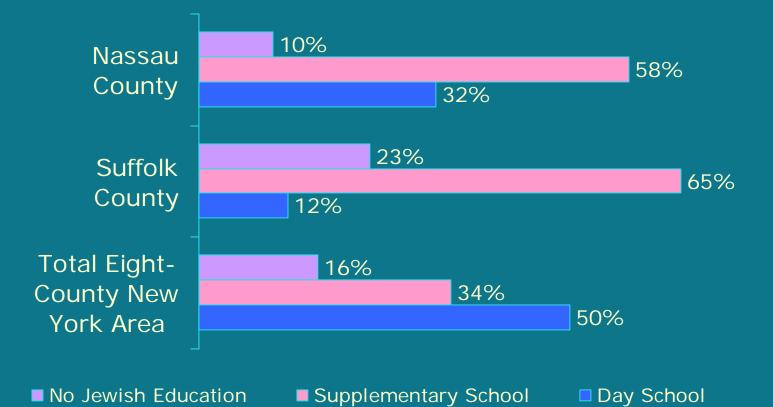
JEWISH CONNECTIONS: FORMAL JEWISH EDUCATION

For the Eight-County area as a whole, respondent denomination is strongly related to Jewish education among children ages 6 – 17.

Jewish Education of Jewish Children Ages 6 – 17	Orthodox Households	Conservative Households	Reform Households	Non- Denominational Households	Secular, No Religion Households
Current or previous Full-time Day School	97%	25%	8%	20%	8%
Current or previous Supplementary School	1	62	75	40	20
No Jewish Education	1	13	18	40	63
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

JEWISH CONNECTIONS: FORMAL JEWISH EDUCATION

Jewish Education of Children Ages 6 – 17 Being Raised Jewish or Jewish and Something Else, Long Island, 2002



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JEWISH CONNECTIONS: INFORMAL JEWISH EDUCATION

Children ages 6 – 17 in Nassau County have comparatively high rates of participation in informal Jewish educational activities

Informal Jewish Education	Eight-County Total	Nassau County	Suffolk County
Jewish Youth Group	46%	55%	31%
Summer Overnight Camp with Jewish Content	33%	37%	12%
Involved in Athletic or Other Extra- Curricular Activities at a JCC, Synagogue, or Another Jewish Setting	46%	57%	29%
Been to Israel	22%	22%	7%

Inmarried Jewish Households

• Both spouses raised as Jews.

Conversionary Jewish Households

 Jewish adult married to spouse who was not raised as a Jew, but the spouse currently considers self Jewish (regardless of whether formal conversion occurred).

Intermarried Jewish Households

Jewish adult married to spouse who does NOT consider self Jewish.



INTERMARRIAGE: CALCULATIONS

There are two ways to calculate intermarriage rates:

- For Jewish persons, and
- For marriages.



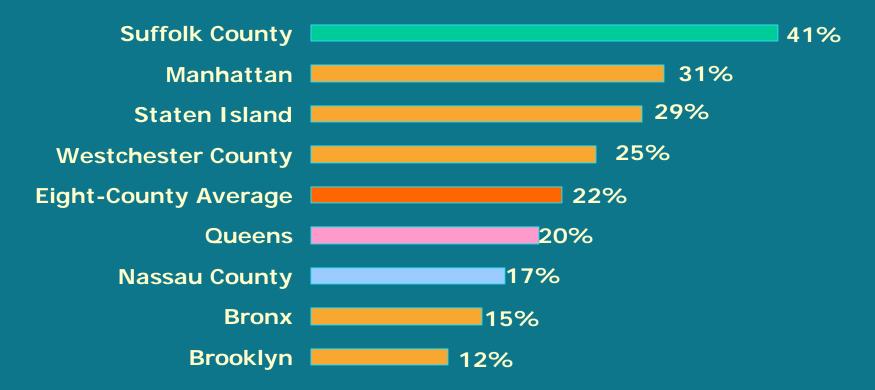
1 out of 5 Jewish <u>persons</u> is intermarried – a 20% Jewish <u>persons</u> intermarriage rate 1 out of 3 <u>couples</u> are intermarried – a 33% <u>couples</u> intermarriage rate

About one in five couples are intermarried in Reformidentified Jewish households.

Type of Marriage	Eight-County Reform Married Couples	Reform Married Couples on Long Island	All Eight- County Married Couples
Inmarriage	71%	73%	72%
Conversionary Marriage	9%	8%	7%
Intermarriage	21%	19%	22%
Total	100%	100%	100%

There are significant differences in intermarriage rates by locale. Suffolk County Jewish households are most likely to be intermarried.

Percent Intermarried Couples



Households of Reform respondents on Long Island are slightly more likely than all eight-county Reform households to contribute to charity in general and Jewish causes in particular.

Philanthropic Patterns of Household	All Eight- County Reform Households	Reform Households on Long Island	All Nassau Jewish Households	All Suffolk Jewish Households
Contribute to Charitable Causes	90%	94%	94%	91%
Contribute to Jewish Causes	55%	60%	69%	47%





NEXT STEPS...

Information from this study can be used to inform:

- Strategic Planning, to assess recalibration of services, infrastructure, and fundraising in light of population shifts.
- **Program Development**, to help better define and understand potential target populations
- Grantsmanship, to document the scope of needs

Information from this study can be obtained from:

- The Reports
 - Jewish Community Study of New York: 2002
 - Geographic Profile
 - Report on Jewish Poverty
 - Special Report on Nazi Victims in the New York Area
 - » Available at www.ujafedny.org/jewishcommunitystudy
- The Data File
 - » Available at the North American Jewish Data Bank at www.jewishdatabank.org
- Inquiries to UJA-Federation of New York
 - Address inquiries to Jennifer Rosenberg



? ? ? Questions?



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