

Basic Characteristics of the Greater New York Jewish Population

THE JEWISH POPULATION of the New York area for the period 1970-71 is estimated at 1,998,000, consisting of 720,000 households considered to be Jewish in accordance with the definition of the National Jewish Population Study (NJPS).¹ The average size of the Jewish household is just below 2.8. These figures are based principally on National Jewish Population Study survey data, and materially corroborated by supplementary current research estimates.² (See Table 1.)

TABLE 1. ESTIMATE OF NEW YORK JEWISH POPULATION^a

County	Number of		Average House- hold Size	Relative Distribution (Per Cent)	
	Households	Persons		Households	Persons
Manhattan	99,300	171,000	1.72	13.8	8.6
Brooklyn	196,000	514,000	2.62	27.2	25.7
Bronx	68,000	143,000	2.10	9.4	7.1
Queens	133,000	379,000	2.85	18.5	19.0
Staten Island . . .	7,000	21,000	3.00	1.0	1.1
Westchester	50,200	165,000	3.28	7.0	8.2
Nassau-Suffolk	166,200	605,000	3.64	23.1	30.3
TOTAL . .	719,700	1,998,000	2.76	100.0	100.0

^aPopulation in households including one or more Jewish persons, taking account of estimated smaller household sizes, for households refusing to respond and/or not reachable by survey procedures.

The largest numbers of persons in Jewish households reside in Nassau-Suffolk: 605,000 in 166,200 households. While survey data do not permit a full statistical separation of Nassau from Suffolk, they suggest that of the combined Nassau-Suffolk

¹Any household including one or more Jewish or part-Jewish persons, by household respondent's self-definition, is considered Jewish for NJPS purposes.

²It may be noted that, while the total Jewish population (or, more precisely, the population in households defined as "Jewish"—not adjusting for possible non-Jewish household members) is estimated at nearly two million, it may be somewhat above or below this figure due to small variations in average household size or minor technical fluctuations in statistical variability. Since the figures are derived from sample survey data, they must be understood as representing "acceptable estimates" within ranges of variation.

Jewish population some 75 to 80 per cent reside in Nassau.

The greatest number of Jewish *households* (196,000) is found in Brooklyn. However, in view of the smaller average household size here (2.62 in Brooklyn; 3.64 in Nassau-Suffolk), the total Jewish population of Brooklyn is below that of the combined Nassau-Suffolk area (514,000, compared with 605,000).

Estimates for Manhattan are complicated by the initial high refusal rate ("persons declining to be interviewed," largely overcome by follow-ups) and by the generally greater difficulty encountered in reaching persons in this unique urban area. Here, NJPS findings reveal a very small average Jewish household: about 1.7 persons. Thus, with some 99,300 Jewish households in the area, the total Jewish population for Manhattan is estimated at 171,000. (It may be noted that among these households are numerous one-person units, at lower economic and at transient locations, which are difficult to locate for purposes of interviews.)

The Jewish population of the Bronx is estimated at 143,000 persons in 68,000 households, while that of Queens at 379,000 persons in 133,000 households.

Westchester, with 165,000 persons in some 50,200 Jewish households, is characterized by an average Jewish household size of 3.28, a figure larger than that found in the urban boroughs, but slightly below that for Nassau-Suffolk (3.64).³

The *relative* distribution of Jewish households and persons in the New York area appears in the final two columns of Table 1. If the households in the area, as defined, are regarded as constituting 100.0 per cent, 27.2 per cent of them are found in Brooklyn and 23.1 per cent in Nassau-Suffolk. Due to the differential effect of average household size, 25.7 and 30.3 per cent of Jewish persons,* respectively, are found in Brooklyn and in Nassau-Suffolk.

Manhattan accounts for 13.8 per cent of the households but for only 8.6 per cent of Jewish persons, as result of the exceptionally small average household size in this borough. Westchester accounts for 7.0 per cent of households and 8.2 per cent of persons, while the comparable figures for the Bronx are 9.4 and 7.1 per cent.

Table 2 shows the proportion of households with a specified number of members, and the average number of persons per household. In some instances these figures vary slightly from those appearing in Table 1, because the latter makes minor adjustments for the smaller average size of households that could not be reached directly by the survey.

Nearly half (47 per cent) of Manhattan households consist of only one individual. An additional 35 per cent are composed of two persons. On the other hand, in suburban areas such as Nassau-Suffolk and Westchester, four- and five-person households are the prevailing pattern. In the Bronx and in Brooklyn, the two-person household is most typical.

³ The number of interviews conducted in Staten Island was too small to provide detailed data of the kind reported in subsequent tables for the other boroughs/counties.

*The term "Jewish persons" is used for the sake of simplicity; technically, it denotes "persons in households defined as Jewish" by NJPS.

TABLE 2. AVERAGE JEWISH HOUSEHOLD SIZE^a BY BOROUGH/COUNTIES, NEW YORK
(Per Cent)

<i>Number of Persons</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6, up</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Average Persons per Household</i>
Manhattan	47.4	35.2	8.4	6.2	1.0	1.7	100.0	1.84
Brooklyn	13.7	43.9	16.5	17.9	5.4	2.5	100.0	2.65
Bronx	28.2	46.2	15.0	9.6	0.3	0.7	100.0	2.10
Queens	10.7	34.8	24.3	20.4	8.7	1.0	100.0	2.86
Westchester	7.2	25.8	11.2	44.7	9.9	1.2	100.0	3.28
Nassau-Suffolk	4.6	14.1	18.9	40.1	17.3	5.0	100.0	3.67

N.B. Details may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

^aJewish households responding in survey.

AGE DISTRIBUTIONS

The tables below show the percentage distributions by age categories for the several boroughs/counties of New York. In interpreting these data (and, indeed, other findings reducing the totals to a substantial number of subcategories), results are to be viewed as basic tendencies rather than precise numbers. Detailed findings are presented for the sake of completeness. Table 3 presents, in descending order, the three areas with the highest proportion of young children, children, older teenagers, young adults, and aged in the several boroughs and counties of New York. Each of the areas is considered as a unit (100.0 per cent).

Throughout, with declining birth rates, the relative proportions of young children under five years of age have declined in recent years. However, in Westchester this proportion is high: some 14 per cent of all Jewish residents. In Brooklyn the percentage is 8, followed by Queens with about 5 per cent.

TABLE 3. BOROUGHS/COUNTIES WITH HIGHEST PERCENTAGES OF SPECIFIED AGE GROUPS^a

<i>Young Children 0-4</i>	<i>Children 5-14</i>	<i>Older Teenagers 15-19</i>	<i>Young Adults 20-29</i>	<i>Aged 65 and Up</i>
Westchester (13.5)	Nassau-Suffolk (24.7)	Nassau-Suffolk (10.8)	Queens (17.9)	Bronx (33.6)
Brooklyn (8.1)	Westchester (11.2)	Westchester (10.1)	Manhattan (17.2)	Manhattan (27.2)
Queens (5.4)	Queens (11.1)	Queens (10.1)	Brooklyn (16.9)	Brooklyn (18.7)

^aEach figure shown is based on the particular borough/county's Jewish population with the specified age category taken as a per cent of that area's total population.

Children between the ages of five and 14 constitute a very significant proportion, nearly 25 per cent, of the Nassau-Suffolk Jewish population. It is high also in Westchester and Queens—some 11 per cent each. As for the older teenagers, 15 to 19, they constitute somewhat more than 10 per cent of the Jewish populations in Nassau-Suffolk, Westchester, and Queens.

For Jewish aged, the proportions are by far highest in the Bronx (near 34 per cent) and in Manhattan (slightly over 27 per cent); Brooklyn follows with 19 per cent.

In summary, it is evident that young children under five years of age and children between five and 14 constitute particularly large components of the total Jewish populations in the suburban areas, notably Westchester. In Nassau-Suffolk, where the proportion of the very young is not exceptionally high, children in the five-to-14 age category are a major segment of the total population.

TABLE 4. MANHATTAN: AGE DISTRIBUTION
(Per Cent)

<i>Age</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male & Female</i>
0-4	1.2	2.7	3.9
5-14	4.4	2.8	7.2
15-19	.5	1.7	2.2
20-29	7.5	9.7	17.2
30-44	8.2	7.9	16.1
45-59	6.5	10.2	16.7
60-64	2.3	5.1	7.4
65-up	9.4	17.8	27.2
No Response	<u>.9</u>	<u>.9</u>	<u>1.8</u>
TOTAL	41.0	58.9	100.0

N.B. Details may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

TABLE 5. BROOKLYN: AGE DISTRIBUTION
(Per Cent)

<i>Age</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male & Female</i>
0-4	3.6	4.4	8.0
5-14	4.2	5.5	9.7
15-19	3.2	3.1	6.3
20-29	7.1	9.7	16.8
30-44	8.6	6.3	15.0
45-59	8.3	8.5	16.8
60-64	3.3	3.4	6.7
65-up	8.2	10.5	18.7
No Response	<u>.6</u>	<u>1.1</u>	<u>1.8</u>
TOTAL	47.3	52.7	100.0

N.B. Details may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

TABLE 6. BRONX: AGE DISTRIBUTION
(Per Cent)

<i>Age</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male & Female</i>
0-4	.3	.2	.5
5-14	2.5	2.7	5.2
15-19	1.4	1.9	3.3
20-29	8.1	7.1	15.2
30-44	2.5	3.0	5.5
45-50	11.2	13.9	25.1
60-64	4.3	5.1	9.4
65-up	16.5	17.1	33.6
No Response	#	2.2	2.2
TOTAL	46.8	53.1	100.0

N.B. Details may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

Less than .05 of 1 per cent.

TABLE 7. QUEENS: AGE DISTRIBUTION
(Per Cent)

<i>Age</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male & Female</i>
0-4	2.0	3.4	5.4
5-14	6.4	4.7	11.1
15-19	4.0	6.2	10.2
20-29	9.0	9.0	17.9
30-44	6.2	7.8	14.0
45-59	13.1	12.8	25.9
60-64	2.4	1.8	4.2
65-up	4.4	5.7	10.1
No Response	.4	.9	1.3
TOTAL	47.8	52.1	100.0

N.B. Details may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

TABLE 8. WESTCHESTER: AGE DISTRIBUTION
(Per Cent)

<i>Age</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male & Female</i>
0-4	7.0	6.5	13.5
5-14	6.0	5.2	11.2
15-19	4.5	5.6	10.1
20-29	5.4	7.1	12.5
30-44	10.0	10.6	20.6
45-59	10.7	10.2	20.9
60-64	2.4	2.3	4.7
65-up	3.2	2.7	5.9
No Response	<u>.1</u>	<u>.8</u>	<u>.9</u>
TOTAL	49.0	51.0	100.0

N.B. Details may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

TABLE 9. NASSAU-SUFFOLK: AGE DISTRIBUTION
(Per Cent)

<i>Age</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male & Female</i>
0-4	1.6	1.9	3.5
5-14	11.7	13.0	24.7
15-19	4.6	6.2	10.8
20-29	4.0	6.7	10.7
30-44	11.2	13.6	24.8
45-59	10.2	8.2	18.4
60-64	.7	.9	1.6
65-up	2.2	3.2	5.4
No Response	<u>.0</u>	<u>.2</u>	<u>.2</u>
TOTAL	46.1	53.8	100.0

N.B. Details may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

At the other extreme, the presence of Jewish aged primarily in the Bronx, but also in Manhattan, clearly exceeds that in all other boroughs/counties. More detailed age distributions appear in Tables 4-9.

OCCUPATION

Employment Status

The proportion of gainfully employed Jewish men and women (those 16 years old and over, in accordance with U.S. Census definition) is highest in Nassau-Suffolk and Westchester, followed in order by Manhattan, Brooklyn, and the Bronx. The percentages range from a high of approximately 55 per cent to a low of 38 per cent (Table 10).

TABLE 10. EMPLOYMENT STATUS, NEW YORK
(Per Cent)

16 Years of Age and Over

<i>Borough/County</i>	<i>Males</i>		<i>Females</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>Not</i>		<i>Not</i>		<i>Not</i>	
	<i>Employed</i>	<i>Employed^a</i>	<i>Employed</i>	<i>Employed^a</i>	<i>Employed</i>	<i>Employed^a</i>
Manhattan . .	72.2	27.8	37.0	63.0	51.1	48.9
Brooklyn	65.6	34.4	25.3	74.7	44.6	55.4
Bronx	51.8	48.2	26.1	73.9	38.1	61.9
Queens	69.8	30.2	36.2	63.8	52.5	47.5
Westchester . .	81.5	18.5	30.5	69.5	54.8	45.2
Nassau-Suffolk	75.9	24.1	38.9	61.1	55.9	44.1

N.B. Some slight differences in proportions reported elsewhere may be accounted for by response inconsistencies; viz., by persons temporarily unemployed reporting their regular employment, by retired reporting their erstwhile employment, and the like.

Under each category—Males, 16 and up; Females, 16 and up; Total—Employed plus Not Employed = 100 per cent.

^aIncluding student, housewife, retired, unemployed, layoff, temporarily away from job.

These figures constitute the *total* of both men and women. The proportion of gainfully employed males is, of course, significantly higher than that of women; among the latter (as a subsequent table indicates) the largest number is in the housewife category. If we examine only the figures for men, the proportion of employed is some 82 per cent in Westchester, and 76 per cent in Nassau-Suffolk. Next in order are Manhattan, with some 72 per cent; Brooklyn, with 66 per cent, and the Bronx, with 52 per cent employed.

The percentage of women in the labor force follows a somewhat different pattern. It is of interest that, in spite of the suburban character of Nassau-Suffolk, it has the

highest proportion of gainfully employed Jewish women. However, breaking the previously established order, it is Manhattan (not Westchester) that follows, with 37 per cent of Jewish women in regular employment. In turn follow Queens (36 per cent), Westchester (31 per cent), the Bronx (26 per cent), and Brooklyn (25 per cent). The findings suggest, therefore, that Nassau-Suffolk has proportionately the highest percentage of wage earners of both sexes. The conventional pattern, with the male wage earner as the sole contributor to the family income, is most prevalent in Westchester. The Bronx shows the lowest proportion of gainfully employed, if both men and women are considered. Employment of women is lowest, by a slight margin, in Brooklyn.

For Jewish household heads (Table 11), the highest proportions of employed are found in Nassau-Suffolk, Westchester, and Queens, and the lowest in the Bronx. About 80 per cent of New York Area Jewish household heads are in the labor force.

TABLE 11. LABOR FORCE STATUS, NEW YORK
(Per Cent)

Jewish Household Heads

<i>Borough/County</i>	<i>In Labor Force</i>	<i>Not In Labor Force</i>	<i>Total</i>
Manhattan . . .	68.5	31.5	100.0
Brooklyn	69.2	30.8	100.0
Bronx	51.7	48.3	100.0
Queens	85.0	15.0	100.0
Westchester . . .	89.4	10.6	100.0
Nassau-Suffolk	91.5	8.5	100.0
TOTAL	79.5	20.4	100.0

N.B. Details may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

Selected Nonemployed Populations

As one examines the reasons for *nonemployment*, significantly different conditions emerge in the several boroughs/counties (Table 12). For males, school attendance accounts for the most significant proportion of nonemployment in Nassau-Suffolk (17 per cent). This means, of course, that particularly students between the ages of 16 and 22 are a significant segment of the total Jewish population, and an important component of the nonemployed in Nassau-Suffolk. The male student percentage is also high in Westchester (11 per cent), and fairly high in Queens (10 per cent). Especially in Nassau-Suffolk and Westchester, the proportion of retired men is low—some 4 per cent. In Queens, the corresponding figure is 8 per cent. By far the highest proportion of retired males appears in the Bronx—close to 30 per cent.

TABLE 12. SELECTED NONEMPLOYED POPULATIONS, NEW YORK
(Per Cent)

Borough/County	16 Years of Age and Over				House- wife
	Males ^a		Females ^a		
	Student	Retired	Student	Retired	
Manhattan . . .	3.4	18.4	3.0	9.1	43.8
Brooklyn	9.8	17.2	4.8	7.7	51.2
Bronx	6.5	29.7	10.2	15.3	44.9
Queens	10.1	8.0	6.9	4.0	41.9
Westchester . . .	10.9	4.4	13.6	4.2	47.9
Nassau-Suffolk	17.2	4.1	10.8	1.9	39.0

^aFor each borough/county total males, 16 years old and over = 100 per cent; total females, 16 years old and over = 100 per cent.

Female student percentages are substantial in the suburban counties, Westchester and Nassau-Suffolk, (14 and 11 per cent, respectively), and almost as high in the Bronx (10 per cent). The significance of proportions of the retired among Jewish women is not the same as that for men. In the Bronx, some 15 per cent fall into this category. The percentage of Jewish women who are housewives varies within a relatively narrow range, between some 40 and 50 per cent, falling just below the range (39 per cent) in Nassau-Suffolk and slightly above it (51 per cent) in Brooklyn. Thus on balance, four to five out of every ten Jewish women (16 years of age and older) are housewives.

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