

INTRODUCTION

Research and planning based upon sound information have become essential components of the activities of the organized American Jewish community. More than 55 scientific community studies have been completed in American Jewish communities since 1985, covering more than 80% of American Jews. National Jewish Population Surveys (NJPS) were conducted by the Council of Jewish Federations in 1971 and 1990 and by United Jewish Communities in 2000-01.

This report will assist the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County (*Jewish Federation*), Jewish agencies, local synagogues, and Jewish organizations in developing the community's strengths and in designing projects and programs to address its needs. It will provide information to help the community set priorities and guide decision-making in the 21st century.

PURPOSES OF THE STUDY

Three major driving forces helped to define the need for, and the nature of, this study.

First, both the 1990 and 2000-01 National Jewish Population Surveys and their reports of significant rates of intermarriage and issues of Jewish continuity have seriously impacted the agenda of the American Jewish community. Concern about Jewish continuity is as great in South Palm Beach as in any other community. This study was designed, in part, to provide the Jewish Federation, Jewish agencies, local synagogues, and Jewish organizations with information to enable them to provide services and programs to contribute to the development of a Jewish community that will offer compelling reasons for all Jews to maintain their Jewish identity and remain active members of the community.

Second, complex decisions must be made by the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County and its agencies. This study provides data to assist in the Jewish Federation's traditional role as a funder of social service agencies. Questions were

asked which will assist the Jewish Federation and Jewish organizations and agencies that provide, or are concerned with, social and educational services. This study finds that the population of South Palm Beach is diverse demographically (with large numbers of both children and elderly) and, as a result, the social service network is critical to the continuing strength of the community. This study provides the data to help fine tune this network and prioritize the services offered.

Third, while the Jewish Federation plays a central role in Jewish fundraising in South Palm Beach, it is felt that the potential for increased giving across the community is clear. To help meet Jewish needs in South Palm Beach, Israel, and around the world, questions were designed to collect information helpful for financial resource development by the Jewish community.

This study of the South Palm Beach Jewish community consists of a Telephone Survey of 1,511 Jewish households and a Jewish Institutions Survey.

THE TELEPHONE SURVEY

The results in this report are based upon a Telephone Survey consisting of 1,511 20 to 25-minute telephone interviews conducted from a random digit dialing (RDD) sample. The interviewing was completed concurrently with the interviewing for a similar study conducted for the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County (West Palm Beach), for which 1,534 interviews were conducted.

In RDD surveys, random telephone numbers are generated by a computer. When these numbers were dialed, there was no guarantee that a household, let alone a Jewish household, would be reached. When a household was reached, the introduction asked whether anyone in the household was born or raised Jewish or is currently Jewish. 87% of respondents in Palm Beach County

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as a whole answered this question. In total, 70,000 different numbers were dialed more than 110,000 times to obtain the 3,045 RDD telephone interviews completed for the two studies.

The RDD methodology is necessary for a study to obtain results that accurately represent a population. The major advantage of this methodology is that it produces a random sample of Jewish households to be interviewed. The RDD methodology also has the advantages of generating a high survey cooperation rate (in Palm Beach County as a whole, 92% of eligible Jewish households agreed to be interviewed), guaranteeing anonymity to respondents, and providing the ability to interview households with unpublished telephone numbers. Perhaps more importantly, the RDD methodology does not rely upon Jewish households making themselves known to the Jewish community by joining a synagogue, Jewish Community Center, or other Jewish organization or by donating money to a Jewish fundraising campaign. Thus, a more accurate representation of the Jewish community should be obtained with the RDD methodology than with telephone directory methods or with methods that rely upon randomly selecting households from Jewish organization mailing lists.

Meetings were held in which community rabbis, Jewish agency executives and lay leadership, Jewish Federation staff, and the Demographic Study Committee contributed to the development of the questionnaire.

The Telephone Survey commenced on January 3, 2005 and continued through January 24, 2005. To facilitate contacting respondents, each telephone number was dialed up to four times: at least twice in the evening, at least once on a Sunday, and once during the day on a weekday. Interviews were conducted from 10:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. No interviewing was done on Friday evening or Saturday. The Telephone Survey was conducted from the community campus in South Palm Beach.

TELEPHONE SURVEY RELIABILITY

The sample size of 1,511 is adequate so that we can be 95% certain that the margin of error for the overall results (the results when examining all 1,511 interviews) is no greater than $\pm 2.5\%$. When results are *not* based upon the total sample size of 1,511 (for example, when results are presented for households with elderly persons), the margin of error is greater than $\pm 2.5\%$. See Chapter 2 in the *Main Report* for a detailed discussion of sample size and margin of error.

JEWISH INSTITUTIONS SURVEY

Brief surveys were administered to the synagogues in South Palm Beach, the Jewish Community Center, the Jewish day schools, and the Jewish Federation. These surveys primarily collected information on membership levels and enrollments in various programs.

USE OF THIS REPORT

Readers are cautioned that not all data that justify the statements contained in this *Summary Report* are reproduced herein. See the *Main Report* for a more complete presentation of the results.

Demographic data are easily misunderstood. The data in the text, tables, and graphs in this report should be examined carefully. The most common error in interpretation occurs when readers do not concentrate on the *nature of the denominator* (or base) *used in calculating a percentage*. As an example, note that this study reports that 34% of *persons in Jewish households in West Boca* are age 65 and over. Yet, 8% of *persons age 65 and over* live in West Boca.

Another common error is to interpret results in terms of the number of *households* when results are shown in terms of the number of *persons*, or vice versa.

The careful reader will notice small differences in the percentages and numbers of households and persons shown in various parts of this report. In the tables, not all columns and rows add up precisely. In some cases, the reported percentages in the text, tables, and graphs do not sum to 100%. The differences are due to rounding error.

DEFINITIONS

Jewish Person

A *Jewish person* is any person who was born Jewish, was raised Jewish, or currently considers himself/herself Jewish (*irrespective* of formal conversion). Whether a person was born Jewish, was raised Jewish, or currently considers himself/herself Jewish is based on self-definition. A person who was born Jewish or raised Jewish (excluding any such person who has formally converted to another religion or who regularly attends religious services of another religion [*irrespective* of formal conversion to another religion]) but currently considers himself/herself to be secular, agnostic, atheist, non-practicing, non-religious, non-observant, nothing, no religion, or a non-Western religion is considered to be Jewish. Adults (but not children) who consider themselves *part Jewish* are considered to be Jewish. Persons who consider themselves Messianic are not considered to be Jewish.

● **Jewish Household**

A *Jewish household* is any household containing a Jewish person. See Chapter 2 in the *Main Report* for the definition of eligible Jewish households.

● **Persons in Jewish Households**

Persons in Jewish households are any persons (both Jewish and non-Jewish) living in a Jewish household. Some results in this report are shown for persons in Jewish households, while other results are shown only for Jewish persons or only for non-Jewish persons in Jewish households.

Children who are temporarily away at school are included as persons in Jewish households. Paid non-Jewish employees living in a Jewish household are not included as persons in Jewish households. Paid Jewish employees living in a Jewish household are included as persons in Jewish households.

● **Person of Jewish Background (PJB)**

A *person of Jewish background* is ① any person who was not raised Jewish (although he/she may have been born Jewish) and does not currently consider himself/herself Jewish but who had a Jewish great grandparent, a Jewish grandparent, or a Jewish parent, or ② any person who was born or raised Jewish but who has formally converted to another religion or who regularly attends religious services of another religion (*irrespective* of formal conversion to another religion).

● **Jew-by-Choice**

For adults, a *Jew-by-Choice* is an adult who was not born or raised Jewish, but currently considers himself/herself Jewish (*irrespective* of formal conversion). For children, a *Jew-by-Choice* is a child who was not born Jewish but is being raised Jewish.

● **Born or Raised Jewish Adult**

A *born or raised Jewish adult* is any Jewish person age 18 or over who was born or raised Jewish. Thus, Jews-by-Choice and persons of Jewish background are not included as born or raised Jewish adults.

● **Respondent**

The *respondent* is the person in a Jewish household who was queried in the Telephone Survey. Some questions in the Telephone Survey were asked of the respondent only, while other questions were asked of the respondent about the household or about other persons in the household. Some results in this report are shown for respondents only. Some results are shown for all respondents, while

other results are shown only for Jewish respondents. See Chapter 2 in the *Main Report* for the definition of eligible respondents.

● **Head of Household**

In most cases, the respondent is the *head of household*. In cases in which the respondent is not Jewish, the Jewish spouse (or partner or significant other), parent, or other Jewish adult was designated as the head of household.

In households in which the respondent is an adult child, an elderly relative, or another member of the household who is clearly not the head of household, a head of household was designated at random from the husband and wife in the household or the single parent was designated as the head of household.

● **Part-Year Households, Full-Year Households, and Visitor Households**

Part-year households are Jewish households who live in the study area for 3-7 months of the year.

Full-year households are Jewish households who live in the study area for 8-12 months of the year.

Visitor households are Jewish households who live in the study area for less than three months of the year. Visitor households were not interviewed and are not included in the estimate of the Jewish population of the study area.

● **Age of Head of Household and Age of Respondent**

Data are shown for the *age of head of household* when examining questions in which the head of household is instrumental in making a household decision (such as synagogue membership or charitable donations). Data are shown for the *age of respondent* when examining questions in which the respondent is expressing an opinion (such as the perception of anti-Semitism) and questions asked of the respondent only (such as synagogue attendance).

● **Children in Jewish Households and Jewish Children**

Children in Jewish households are any persons age 0-17 (both Jewish and non-Jewish) living in a Jewish household. *Jewish children* are any persons age 0-17 living in a Jewish household who are identified by the respondent as being raised Jewish. Children who are being raised both Jewish and in another religion are not considered to be Jewish children. Some results in this report are shown for children in Jewish households or Jewish households with children, while other results are shown only for Jewish children or households with Jewish children.

● **Sephardic Households and Israeli Households**

Sephardic households are Jewish households in which an adult considers himself/herself Sephardic.

Israeli households are Jewish households in which an adult considers himself/herself Israeli.

● **Age Groups**

Except as otherwise specified in this report, *children* refers to persons age 0-17, *teenagers* refers to persons age 13-17, *adults* refers to persons age 18 and over, *non-elderly* refers to adults under age 65, and *elderly* refers to adults age 65 and over.

● **Household Structure**

Household with children refers to Jewish households containing children (either Jewish or non-Jewish) age 0-17 at home. *Household with only adult children* refers to households containing children (either Jewish or non-Jewish) age 18-29 (unless otherwise specified) at home and no children (either Jewish or non-Jewish) age 0-17 at home. *Non-elderly couple household* refers to two-person households containing a married couple in which the head of household is age 18-64. *Non-elderly single household* refers to one-person households containing a person age 18-64. *Elderly*

couple household refers to two-person households containing a married couple in which the head of household is age 65 or over. *Elderly single household* refers to one-person households containing a person age 65 or over.

● Jewish Identification

Except as otherwise specified, results reported for Orthodox, Conservative, Reconstructionist, Reform, and *Just Jewish* groups refer to the respondent's self-identification, not the denomination of synagogue membership. In cases in which the respondent is not Jewish, the Jewish identification is that of the Jewish spouse (or partner or significant other), parent, or other Jewish adult as reported by the non-Jewish respondent (in a *proxy* fashion).

● Types of Marriage

❶ **In-marriage:** An *in-marriage* is a marriage in which both spouses were born or raised Jewish and currently consider themselves Jewish.

❷ **Conversionary In-marriage:** A *conversionary in-marriage* is a marriage in which one spouse was born or raised Jewish and currently considers himself/herself Jewish and the other spouse was not born or raised Jewish but currently considers himself/herself Jewish (*irrespective* of formal conversion) (Jew-by-Choice).

❸ **Intermarriage:** An *intermarriage* is a marriage in which one spouse was born or raised Jewish and currently considers himself/herself Jewish and the other spouse was not born or raised Jewish and does not currently consider himself/herself Jewish.

● Jewish Organization

A *Jewish organization* is a Jewish organization other than a synagogue or Jewish Community Center. In querying whether anyone in the household is a member of a Jewish organization, respondents were given the examples of B'nai B'rith and Hadassah.

● Jewish and General Trips to Israel

❶ **Jewish Trip:** A *Jewish trip* to Israel is a trip sponsored by a Jewish group, such as a Jewish Federation, synagogue, or Jewish organization. Households containing Israelis or members who lived or studied in Israel are reported as households in which a member visited Israel on a Jewish trip. Households containing members who visited Israel on both a Jewish trip and a general trip are reported under *Jewish Trip*.

❷ **General Trip:** A *general trip* to Israel is either a trip sponsored by a non-Jewish group or commercial company or a trip in which one visits Israel on one's own.

● Jewish Federation Market Segments in the Past Year

Respondents were asked whether their households donated to the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County (*Jewish Federation*) in the past year. If their households did not donate, the respondents were asked whether the Jewish Federation contacted them in the past year for the purpose of asking their households to donate. From these two questions, three *Jewish Federation market segments* are developed:

❶ **Donated to Federation:** Includes households who reported that they donated to the Jewish Federation in the past year.

❷ **Asked, Did Not Donate:** Includes households who reported that the Jewish Federation asked them to donate in the past year, but they declined to donate.

❸ **Not Asked:** Includes households who reported that they did not donate to the Jewish Federation in the past year and were not asked to donate.

"Don't know" responses were treated as negative responses.

• Donated to Jewish Federation in the Past Year

The variable *Donated to Jewish Federation in the Past Year* refers only to households who donated to the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County.

• Median

The *median* is a measure of the central tendency of a distribution. For example, if the median age is 40, then half of the population is under age 40 and half of the population is over age 40.

• Base

The *base* refers to the set of households or persons in a household to whom (or about whom) each question on the Telephone Survey was addressed. The base is the denominator used in calculating the percentages shown in the text, tables, and graphs. The base is shown either in the titles, column headings, or row labels of the tables or following the titles of the graphs. Examples of bases used in this report include Jewish Households, Persons in Jewish Households, Respondents, Adults in Jewish Households, and Jewish Children Age 0-17.

COMPARISONS WITH OTHER JEWISH COMMUNITIES

In many cases, this report compares South Palm Beach with other American Jewish communities and Toronto. The choice of comparison Jewish communities depends upon whether particular Jewish communities had recently completed studies using RDD, and whether questions had been asked in a similar manner and results reported in a manner facilitating comparison. Also, to be included in a given comparison, a community had to have asked the question of the same set of persons in a household as South Palm Beach. For example, if the question in South Palm Beach was asked of all *persons in Jewish households*, then only other communities

querying this set of persons could be included in the comparison. The comparisons of South Palm Beach with other Jewish communities should be treated with caution due to the different dates of the studies, use of different sampling methods, use of different questionnaires, and inclusion of some data with small sample sizes.

It is believed that based on the recency of the study, geographic proximity of the community to South Palm Beach, similar size of the Jewish Federation Annual Campaign, or similar population size of the community, the following communities provide particularly instructive comparisons with South Palm Beach: Broward, Miami, and West Palm Beach. See the *Main Report* for a complete listing of the comparison Jewish communities for each question.

See www.jewishdatabank.org for copies of the questionnaires and reports from many of the comparison Jewish communities.

COMPARISONS WITH NJPS 2000

The NJPS 2000 questionnaire was administered to 4,523 respondents who represent all 5.2 million American Jews estimated by the study. Of the 4,523 respondents, 4,220 respondents (representing 4.3 million *more Jewishly-connected* American Jews) received a longer 43-minute questionnaire. The other 303 respondents (representing 900,000 *less Jewishly-connected* American Jews) received a 21-minute questionnaire. The shorter questionnaire consisted of a subset of questions from the longer questionnaire, omitting many questions about Jewish identity. As a result, the NJPS 2000 results for most demographic measures presented in this report reflect all 5.2 million American Jews, while the NJPS 2000 results for most Jewish identity measures presented in this report reflect only the 4.3 million more-Jewishly-connected American Jews. Results on Jewish identity measures for the

more Jewishly-connected sample are, in most cases, more positive than they would have been had these data been collected from all respondents representing the 5.2 million American Jews. See www.jewishdatabank.org for more information on the NJPS 2000 methodology.

This researcher believes that comparisons with other Jewish communities based upon local community studies are more instructive than comparisons with NJPS 2000. In the text, NJPS 2000 results are referred to as *nationally*.

STUDY AREA

The study area includes all of the Boca Raton and Delray Beach areas. The areas of Palm Beach County from Boynton Beach to Jupiter are included in the report for the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County. See the map at the front of this report.

❶ **Boca Raton.** Includes zip codes 33428, 33431, 33432, 33433, 33434, 33486, 33487, 33496, and 33498. Includes the cities of Boca Raton and Highland Beach.

Boca Raton is subdivided into three subareas:

❷ **East Boca.** Includes zip codes 33431, 33432, 33486, and 33487. Includes much of the city of Boca Raton and all of the city of Highland Beach.

❸ **Central Boca.** Includes zip codes 33433, 33434, and 33496.

❹ **West Boca.** Includes zip codes 33428 and 33498.

❺ **Delray Beach.** Includes zip codes 33444, 33445, 33446, 33483, and 33484. Includes the city of Delray Beach.