

2022 Delaware and Brandywine Valley Jewish Community Study

Highlights for Sussex County

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2022
COMMUNITY
STUDY *of*
JEWISH DELAWARE
& THE BRANDYWINE VALLEY



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Size of the Delaware and Brandywine Valley Jewish Community

The 2022 population estimate

Jewish individuals	25,900
Jewish households	12,600
People in Jewish households	34,000
Adults in Jewish households	
Jewish adults in Jewish households	22,400
Non-Jewish adults in Jewish households	6,000
Children in Jewish households	
Jewish children in Jewish households	3,500
Non-Jewish children in Jewish households	2,100

DEFINITIONS

Jewish households: Households with at least one Jewish adult

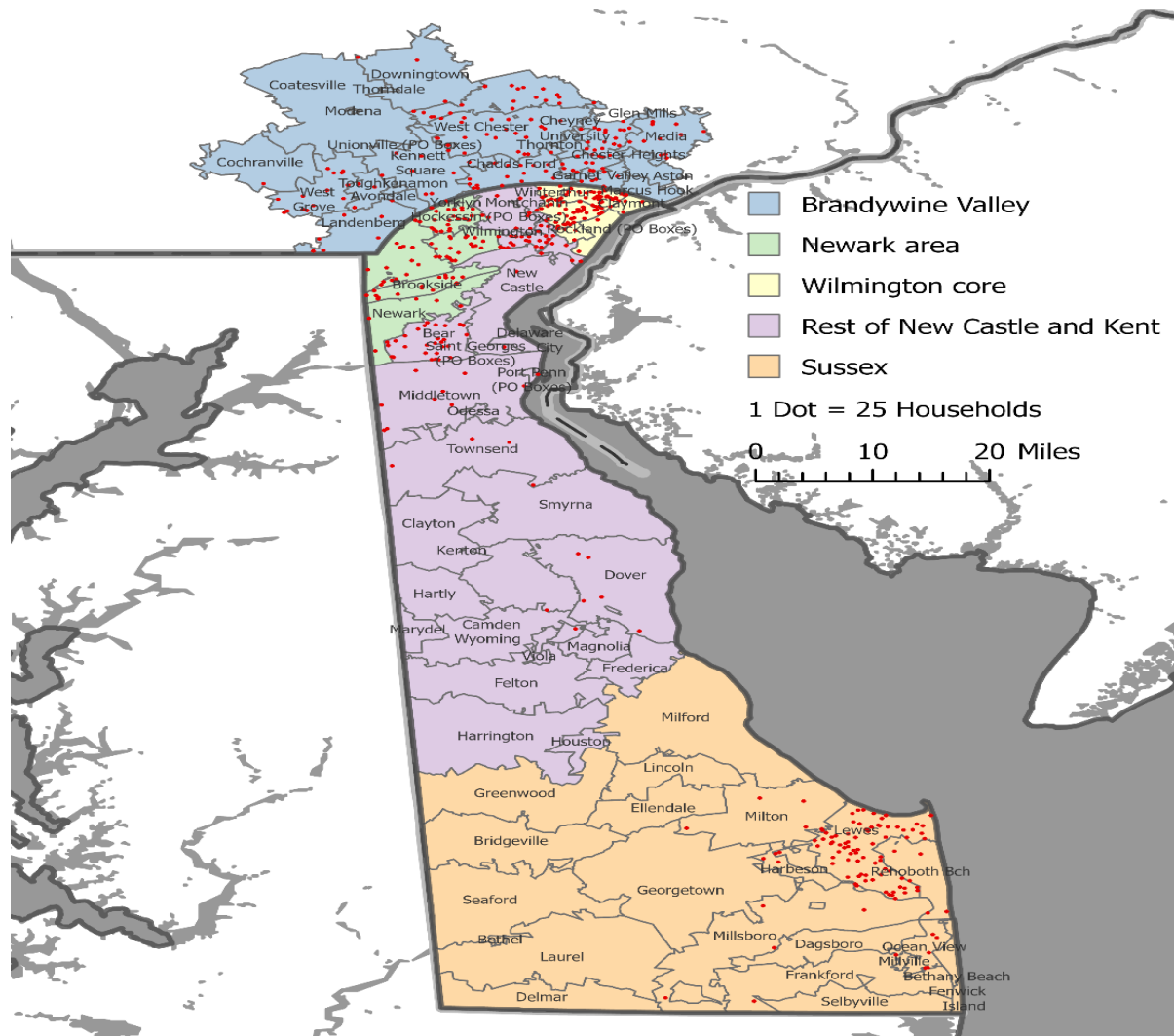
People in Jewish households: Includes non-Jewish people in Jewish households

Jewish adults: Consider themselves Jewish by religion or culturally/ethnically, AND have at least one Jewish parent, were raised Jewish, or converted
Includes Jewish and another religion

Jewish children: Considered Jewish by their parents
Includes Jewish and another religion

Note: Rounded to the nearest 100.

Where do Jewish households live in Delaware and the Brandywine Valley?



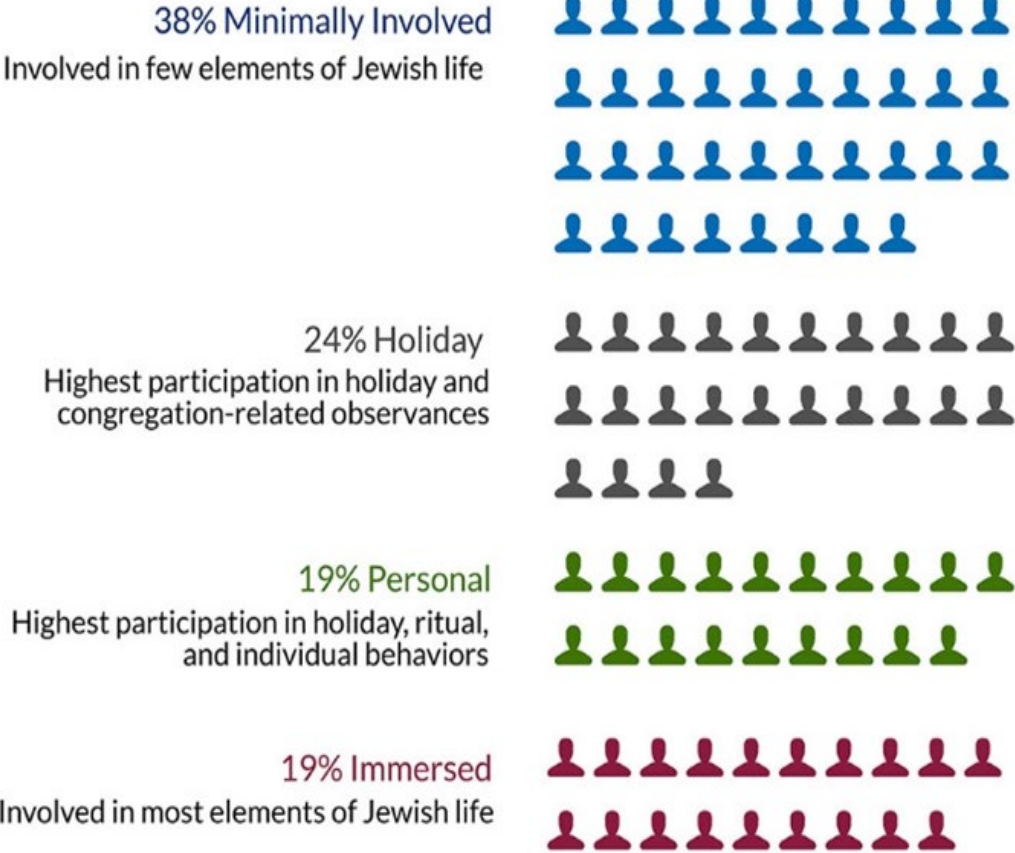
Jewish households are fairly evenly distributed across the five key regions of Delaware and Brandywine Valley

	Jewish households (%)	Jewish individuals (%)
Newark area	15	13
Wilmington core	18	16
Rest of New Castle and Kent Counties	17	18
Sussex County	21	18
Brandywine Valley	29	35

Index of Jewish Engagement

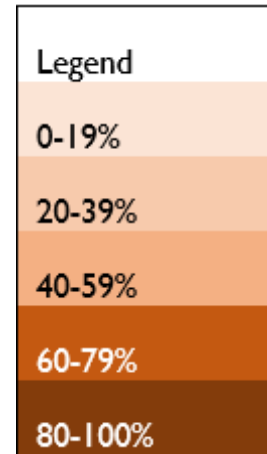
Nearly all Jewish adults are engaged in some aspects of Jewish life

- Captures multiple dimensions of Jewish life: ritual, cultural, individual activities, and organization involvement
- Statistically derived categories specifically developed for Delaware and Brandywine Valley
- Based on behavior rather than on self-identification



18 behaviors used to create the index

	Minimally Involved	Holiday	Personal	Immersed
Holiday Behaviors				
Attended seder, 2021	41	84	98	100
Lit Hanukkah candles, 2021	68	97	83	99
Fast on Yom Kippur, 2021	17	84	30	72
Ritual Behaviors				
Shabbat meal/candles in past year, ever	10	55	60	95
--almost always or always	2	7	18	50
Services in past year, ever	1	100	38	100
--monthly or more	0	8	0	51
Attended High Holiday services, 2021	0	100	0	98
Follow any kosher rules	1	17	20	65
Organization Behaviors				
Congregation member	0	67	27	91
Member of Jewish organization	0	22	29	26
Member of informal Jewish group	0	1	11	20
Participated in program, ever	26	92	87	99
--often	1	2	23	49
Volunteered for Jewish organization in past year	0	14	27	65
Donated to Jewish organization in past year	33	81	79	95
Individual Behaviors				
Study Jewish texts (sometimes/often)	0	16	25	68
Eat Jewish foods (often)	10	2	18	51
Read Jewish publications (sometimes/often)	12	36	82	93
Engage with Jewish-focused culture (sometimes/often)	16	31	79	99
Follow news about Israel (very closely)	3	5	11	31



Engagement group by geography

	Minimally Involved (%)	Holiday (%)	Personal (%)	Immersed (%)	Total (%)
All Jewish adults	38	24	19	19	100
Newark area	42	14	9	34	100
Wilmington core	28	14	31	27	100
Rest of New Castle and Kent Counties	56	12	21	11	100
Sussex County	38	16	12	34	100
Brandywine Valley	26	39	19	15	100

A typical table from the report

- Common set of rows across most tables show breakdown of analyzed variables by overall population of Delaware and the Brandywine Valley, engagement groups, region, age, marital status, and whether or not there are children in the household

Table 5.1. Congregation membership

	Congregation member	Delaware or Brandywine Valley congregation member
All Jewish households	31	17
Jewish engagement		
Minimally Involved	<1	<1
Holiday	62	30
Personal	25	12
Immersed	89	58
Region		
Newark area	30	24
Wilmington core	25	23
Rest of New Castle and Kent Counties	19	16
Sussex County	33	23
Brandywine Valley	40	8
Age		

A typical table from the report

Table 6.1. Jewish memberships in Delaware and the Brandywine Valley

	Jewish organizations aside from the JCC or synagogues	Informal or grassroots group	Siegel Jewish Community Center
All Jewish households	14	9	4
Region			
Newark area	16	9	1
Wilmington core	20	28	12
Rest of New Castle and Kent Counties	14	5	3
Sussex County	8	4	<1
Brandywine Valley	16	4	4

Comparison charts

Appendix B. Comparison Charts

About

The Comparison Charts provide details on various subgroups in the Delaware and Brandywine Valley Jewish community. These charts include data for all response options for all survey questions included in the study. In each section, characteristics are reported for the overall population on the top row, as well as for subgroups of the population, with each subgroup appearing in its own row.

The comparison charts can be downloaded here:

<https://www.brandeis.edu/cmjs/community-studies/delaware-report.html>

There is a separate Excel file for each topic area.

Comparison charts

2022 Delaware and Brandywine Valley Jewish Community Study

[Matthew Boxer](#), [Matthew A. Brookner](#), Adina Bankier-Karp, Alicia Chandler, [Adam Martin](#), [Raquel Magidin de Kramer](#), [Ilana Friedman](#), Matthew Feinberg, [Janet Krasner Aronson](#), and [Leonard Saxe](#)

February 2023

The *2022 Community Study of Jewish Delaware and the Brandywine Valley* is the first in-depth assessment of the size and characteristics of the Jewish community in Delaware since 1995, and the first to include a section of the Brandywine Valley in Pennsylvania. The study provides a comprehensive portrait of the community's 25,900 Jews; their families; their Jewish attitudes, affiliations, and behaviors; their health and financial well-being; and other measures of their engagement in Jewish life.

[Read the report](#)

[Read the executive summary](#)

[Read the technical appendices](#)

[Download the comparison charts](#)

[Download the public dataset](#)



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Comparison charts

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
1		Concerned about antisemitism in the local area				Concerned about antisemitism in the US				Concerned about antisemitism around the world				Personally been a victim of antisemitism in past year		Political Views					
2		Not at all concerned	Not too concerned	Somewhat concerned	Very concerned	Not at all concerned	Not too concerned	Somewhat concerned	Very concerned	Not at all concerned	Not too concerned	Somewhat concerned	Very concerned			No	Yes			Very liberal	Liberal
3	Overall	3	29	38	30	Overall	2	2	42	54	Overall	<1	2	31	67	Overall	82	18	Overall	12	
4	Minimally Involved	5	30	52	12	Minimally Involved	5	<1	66	29	Minimally Involved	<1	7	48	44	Minimally Involved	83	17	Minimally Involved	4	
5	Holiday	2	19	58	20	Holiday	0	2	23	75	Holiday	0	<1	22	78	Holiday	93	7	Holiday	11	
6	Personal	1	41	20	39	Personal	<1	7	32	61	Personal	0	<1	29	71	Personal	92	8	Personal	30	
7	Immersed	1	29	25	46	Immersed	<1	2	35	63	Immersed	<1	<1	14	86	Immersed	73	27	Immersed	16	
8																					
9																					
10	Newark area	13	40	27	20	Newark area	13	1	42	43	Newark area	0	13	23	64	Newark area	64	36	Newark area	11	
11	Wilmington core	2	29	32	37	Wilmington core	1	1	39	60	Wilmington core	1	2	28	69	Wilmington core	91	9	Wilmington core	10	
12	Rest of New Castle and	1	40	44	14	Rest of New Castle and	0	1	74	26	Rest of New Castle and	0	<1	46	54	Rest of New Castle and	93	7	Rest of New Castle and	5	
13	Sussex County	<1	9	27	64	Sussex County	0	1	14	85	Sussex County	0	<1	12	87	Sussex County	57	43	Sussex County	16	
14	Brandywine Valley	1	23	52	24	Brandywine Valley	0	5	32	64	Brandywine Valley	0	2	31	68	Brandywine Valley	89	11	Brandywine Valley	17	
15																					
16	18-44	5	48	41	6	18-44	5	<1	63	32	18-44	<1	5	41	53	18-44	75	25	18-44	6	
17	45-64	4	16	35	45	45-64	2	6	23	69	45-64	0	4	28	68	45-64	77	23	45-64	20	
18	65+	1	27	44	28	65+	<1	<1	47	52	65+	<1	<1	27	73	65+	95	5	65+	10	
19																					
20	Inmarried	1	21	48	30	Inmarried	<1	4	46	50	Inmarried	<1	1	43	56	Inmarried	96	4	Inmarried	14	
21	Intermarried	7	24	41	29	Intermarried	6	<1	35	59	Intermarried	0	7	14	79	Intermarried	67	33	Intermarried	7	
22	Not married	1	50	24	25	Not married	<1	1	45	53	Not married	0	0	26	74	Not married	70	30	Not married	16	
23																					
24	Not parent of minor child	4	29	43	24	Not parent of minor child	2	2	47	49	Not parent of minor child	<1	3	31	66	Not parent of minor child	86	14	Not parent of minor child	13	
25	Parent of minor child	<1	22	38	40	Parent of minor child	<1	1	22	77	Parent of minor child	<1	<1	27	72	Parent of minor child	60	40	Parent of minor child	11	
26																					
27	Not synagogue member	3	30	45	21	Not synagogue member	3	2	50	45	Not synagogue member	<1	4	37	58	Not synagogue member	80	20	Not synagogue member	10	
28	Synagogue member	2	25	33	40	Synagogue member	<1	2	28	70	Synagogue member	<1	<1	19	80	Synagogue member	85	15	Synagogue member	17	

Comparison charts

Some key findings from Sussex County not in the report

Respondent age by region

	18-44	45-64	65+
Newark area	56	30	14
Wilmington core	37	32	31
Rest of New Castle and Kent	37	14	50
Sussex County	13	37	50
Brandywine Valley	16	52	32

Education level by region

	High school diploma (or equivalent) or less	Associate or technical degree	Bachelor's degree	Graduate or professional degree (e.g. MA, MS, JD, MD, PhD)	Other
Newark area	13	26	34	26	2
Wilmington core	11	11	39	39	<1
Rest of New Castle and Kent	39	4	31	26	<1
Sussex County	9	7	42	29	13
Brandywine Valley	13	2	18	61	6

Intermarriage by region

	Inmarried	Intermarried	Not married
Newark area	20	33	48
Wilmington core	54	20	26
Rest of New Castle and Kent	49	33	18
Sussex County	28	47	25
Brandywine Valley	69	22	8

Sussex County Jews in their own words

Strengths and weaknesses of the Jewish community

Connectivity between Jewish communities in northern and southern Delaware. This might occur at some level, but is less apparent to busy families with younger children living in southern Delaware. – male

[The community] reaches a diverse group of Jews from many backgrounds. Volunteerism of many members. – female, age 71

Many members are very involved with charitable and interfaith activities. – female, age 69

Until this survey, I was unaware there was a Delaware/Brandywine Valley Jewish community organization. Frankly, I'm still not sure there is one... – male, age 70

Sussex County Jews in their own words

Satisfaction, joy, and meaning in Jewish life

Seeing our children and grandchildren (especially grandchildren) embrace Judaism and learn of our rich culture and history; celebrating holidays with them. – male, age 69

Practicing with my family, and seeing my kids learn and enjoy the traditions as their own. – female, age 36

Being able to maintain the religious and cultural traditions I experienced as a child and pass those along to my own child. – male, age 44

I believe we are basically a charitable group of people who have given much to improving the world. – female, age 91

Socializing with other Jewish people at educational and social events, i.e., book groups, film festivals. – female, age 74



THANK YOU TO

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