

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



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Brandeis

COHEN CENTER FOR
MODERN JEWISH STUDIES
STEINHARDT SOCIAL
RESEARCH INSTITUTE





Jewish Community Study

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2022 Jewish Community Study

The 2022 Delaware Jewish Community Study is a snapshot of the population of Jewish Delaware and the Brandywine Valley. The study will help us understand our strengths, needs, and potential by answering questions about the size and composition of our community, as well as the ways we engage Jewishly. It will form the basis of many critical policy discussions over the coming months and years to make better and more informed decisions about the strategies we choose to keep our community vibrant.

The 2022 Delaware Jewish Community Study was made possible through the generous support of the Jewish Federation of Delaware’s Jewish Fund for the Future and the Mandel Foundation. A Steering Committee, carefully chosen to reflect our diverse synagogues, Jewish institutions, and geography, offered input throughout the process

The Study was prepared by a highly experienced, well-trained, and independent professional team from Brandeis University’s Maurice and Marilyn Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies (CMJS). The Cohen Center is also the home of the Steinhardt Social Research Institute (SSRI). They have collectively completed more than 25 studies in other local Jewish communities.

This executive summary includes highlights and key trends that our community leadership and researchers have identified. The complete data set and information, which will be in the public domain, will be analyzed in the years ahead to help our Jewish community take a data-driven approach to build community.

We are confident the information revealed through this study will help us strengthen and enhance connections to Jewish life in our community, in Israel and around the world.

L’ Shalom,



Russ Silberglied
Board Chair



Seth Katzen
President & Chief Executive Officer

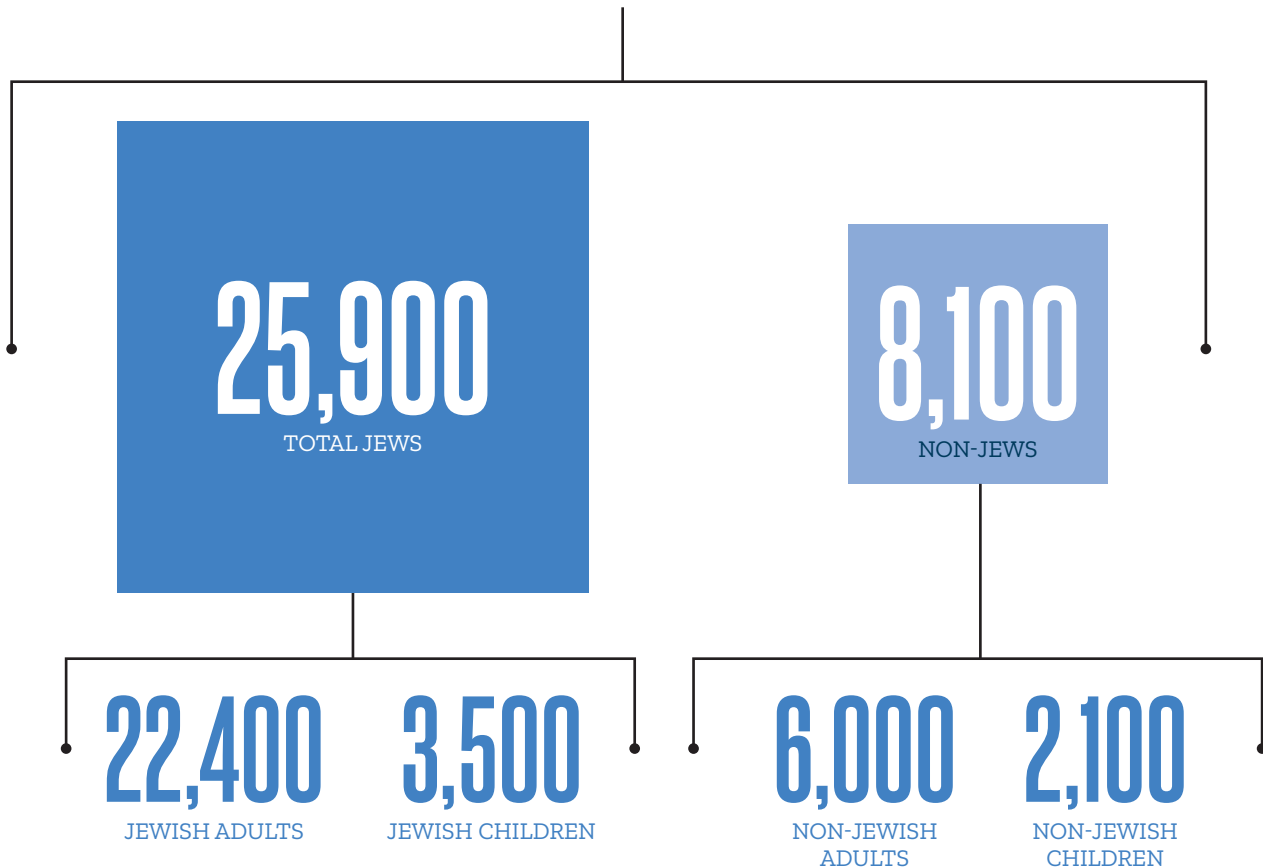
2022 COMMUNITY STUDY OF JEWISH DELAWARE & THE BRANDYWINE VALLEY	
CO-CHAIRS	
Richard A. Levine	Leslie Newman
STEERING COMMITTEE	
Susan Aaronson	Robin Karol-Eng
Rabbi Michael Beals	Cindy Konowitz
Paul Fine	Michael Longwill
Jennifer Goldstein	Jesse Miller
Danny Haas	Gina Schoenberg
Jack Jacobs	William Wagner
Arlene Johnson	
PROFESSIONAL STAFF	
Seth J. Katzen	Hilary Stiebel



POPULATION

34,000

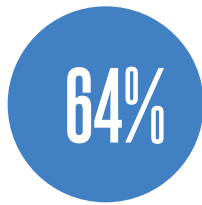
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS IN 12,600 JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS*



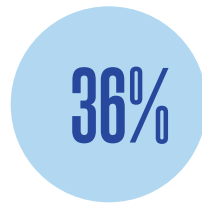
*A Jewish household is defined as including at least one Jewish adult.



JEWISH ADULTS YOUNGER THAN 64



JEWISH ADULTS 65 OR OLDER*



AVERAGE MEDIAN AGE OF ALL JEWISH INDIVIDUALS**



NATIONAL AVERAGE IS 55

	JEWISH DELAWARE/BV (%)	DELAWARE/BV (ACS 202; %)	US JEWS (PEW;%)
18-44	31	42	43
45-64	32	34	27
65-74	26	14	17
75+	10	10	13
TOTAL	100	100	100

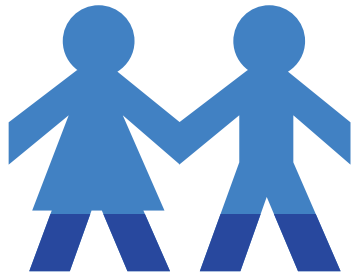
*ACS - Census Bureau's American Community Survey
 ** PEW Pew Research Center - Jewish Americans 2020



CHILDREN

5,600

There are 5,600 children living in Jewish households in Delaware and the Brandywine Valley. Of these, 3,500 (62%) are being raised Jewish in some way, either by religion, secularly or culturally, or as Jewish



17% of Jewish children are enrolled in a Jewish preschool.



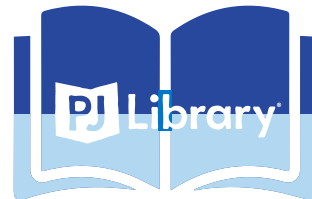
1% 19%

20% of children in grades K-12 are enrolled in some form of Jewish school.

This share includes 1% in Jewish day school and 19% in a part-time school.

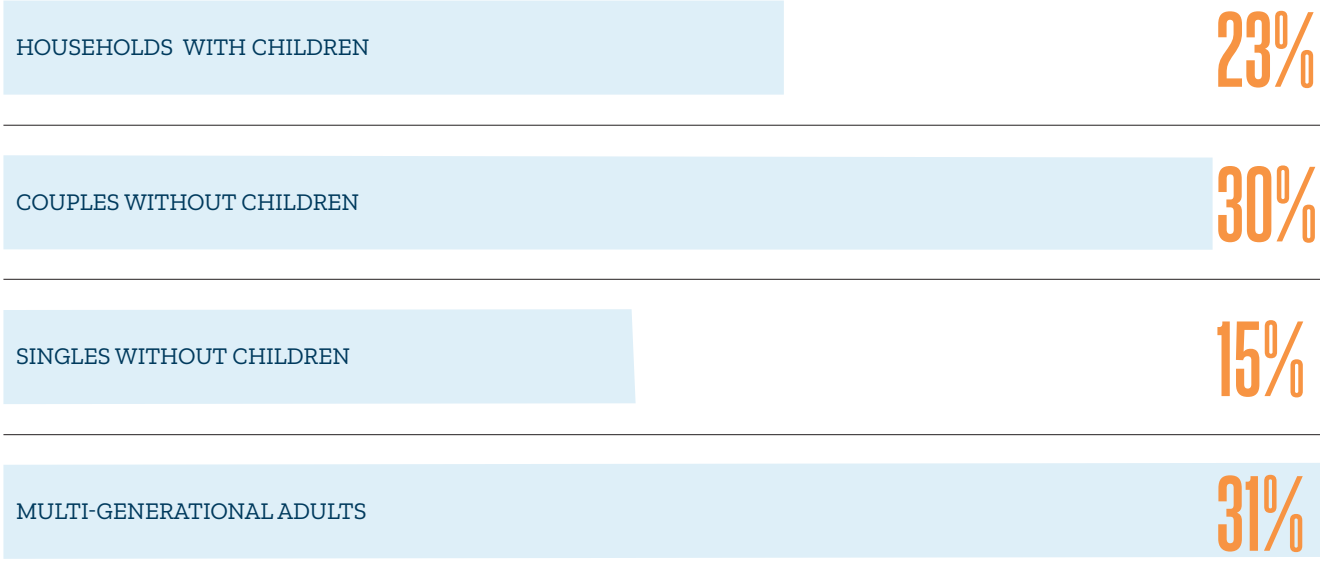


38% of Jewish children in grades K-12 participated in at least one form of informal education in the 2021-2022 academic year, which could include Jewish day or overnight camp, youth group, peer Israel trip, or Jewish tutoring or classes.

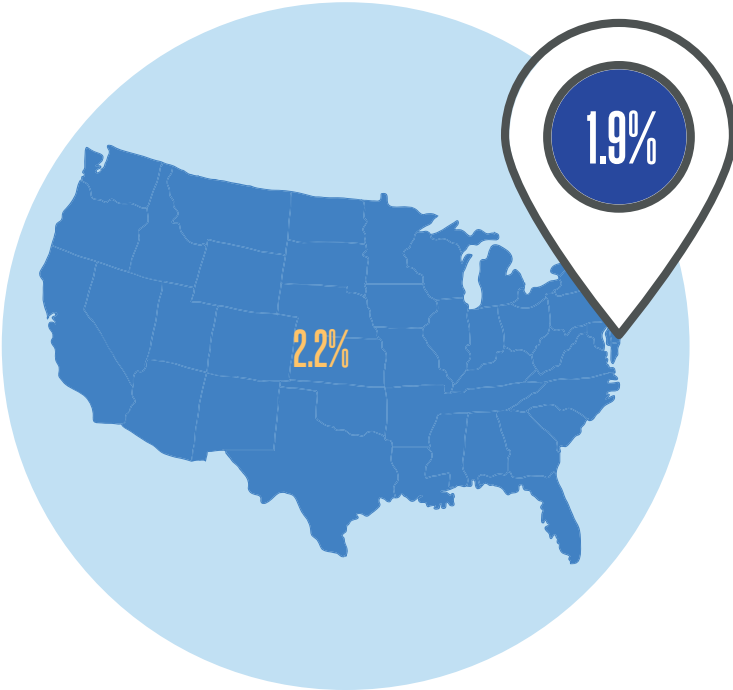


36% of children between ages 0-12 have received books and materials from PJ Library.

HOUSEHOLDS



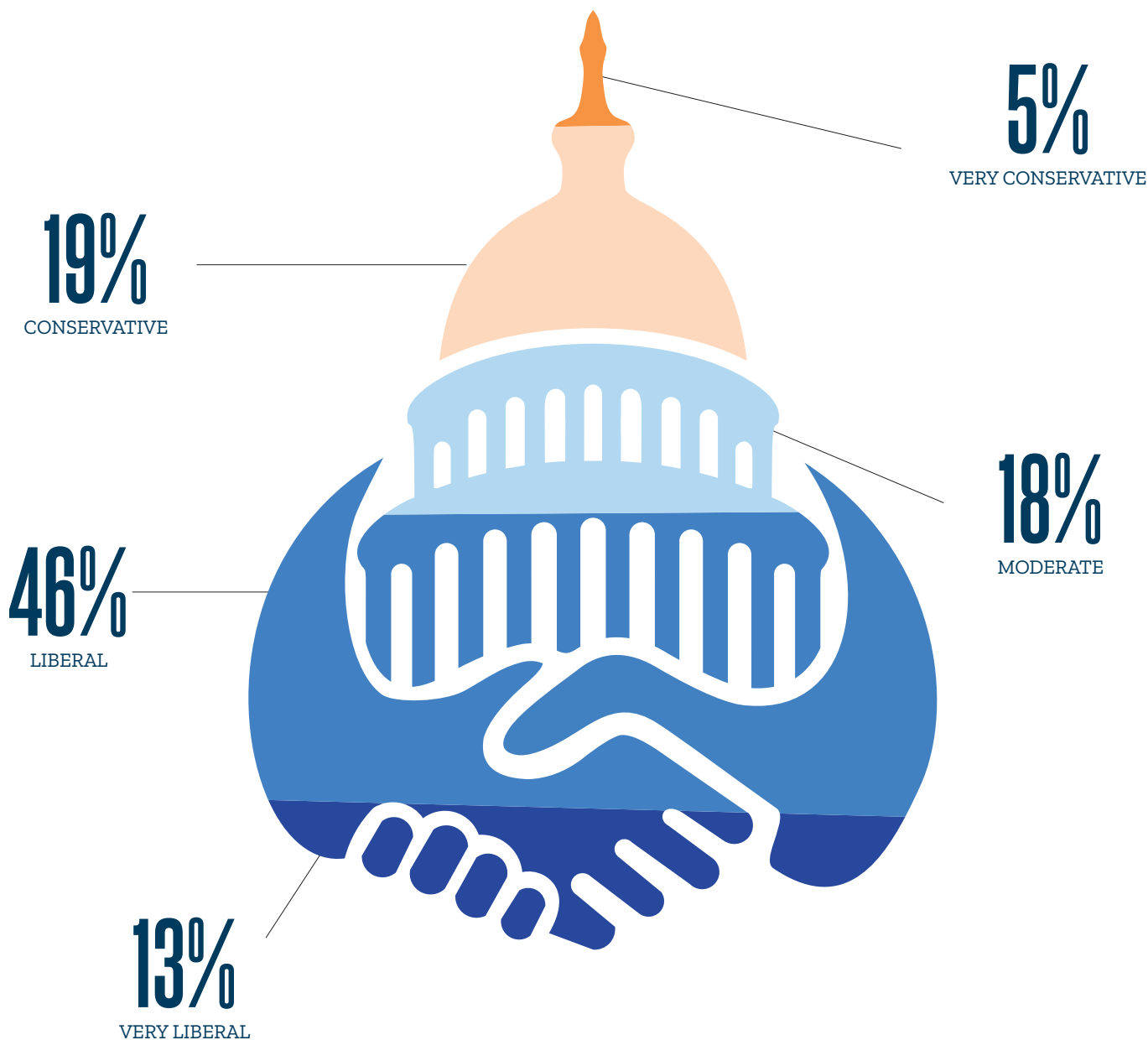
7%
OF JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS
INCLUDE SOMEONE,
JEWISH OR NOT JEWISH,
WHO IS LGBTQ+



The Jewish population comprises 1.9% of the total individuals in Delaware as compared to approximately 2.2% of the population of the United States.

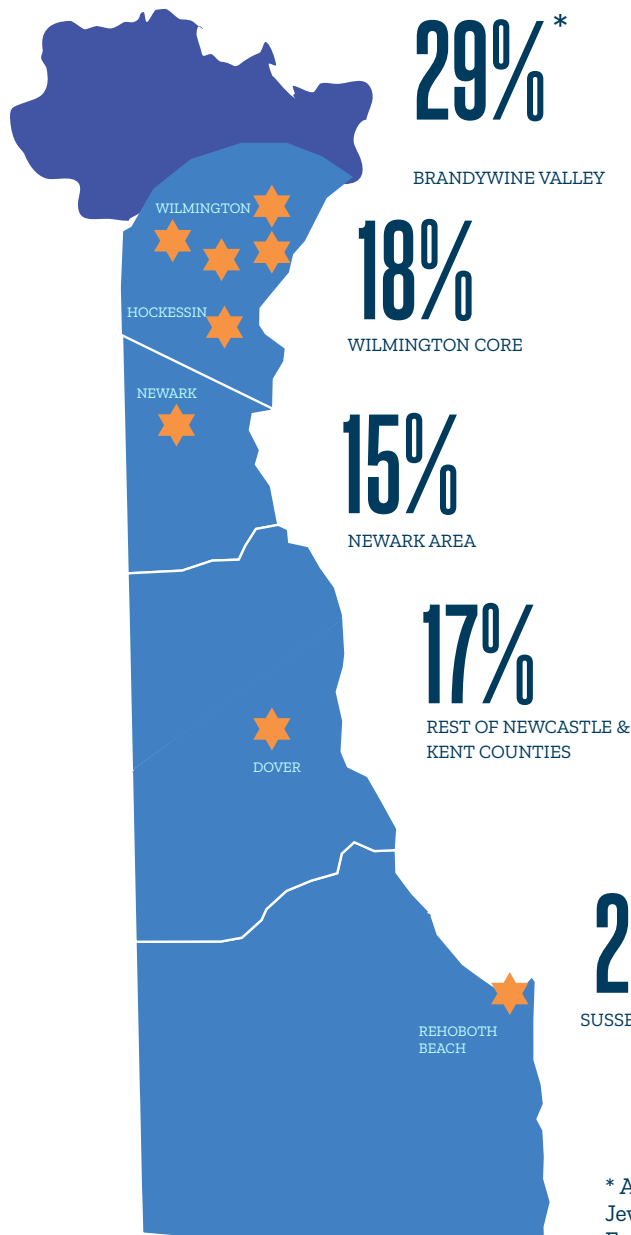


POLITICAL VIEWS





GEOGRAPHY



HOUSEHOLDS

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

BRANDYWINE VALLEY	29%
WILMINGTON CORE	18%
NEWARK AREA	15%
REST OF NEWCASTLE & KENT COUNTIES	17%
SUSSEX COUNTY	21%

DELAWARE SYNAGOGUES

NEW CASTLE COUNTY

- ADAS KODESCH SHEL EMETH
- CHABAD OF DELAWARE
- COMMUNITY HAVURAH/HOCKESSIN
- CONGREGATION BETH EMETH
- CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM
- TEMPLE BETH EL/NEWARK

KENT COUNTY

- CONGREGATION BETH SHOLOM/DOVER

SUSSEX COUNTY

- SEASIDE JEWISH COMMUNITY/REHOBOTH BEACH

* A number of Jewish households in the Brandywine Valley participate in Jewish synagogues and organizations outside of the service area of Jewish Federation of Delaware.

RELIGIOUS LIFE

31%

31% of households are affiliated with a local Jewish Congregation which is slightly lower than the national average of 35%.

4

FOUR DISTINCT PATTERNS OF BEHAVIOR EMERGE FROM THE DATA

MINIMALLY INVOLVED

(Involvement in few aspects of Jewish life)

38%

HOLIDAY

(High level of participation in holiday services)

24%

PERSONAL

(High involvement in holiday ritual but not service attendance)

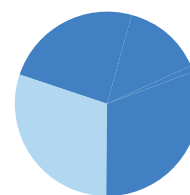
19%

IMMERSED

(High involvement in most aspects of Jewish life)

19%

FOR JEWISH ADULTS IN A TYPICAL YEAR:



71% ATTEND A SEDER



84% LIGHT HANUKKAH CANDLES

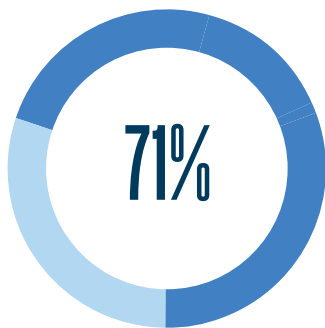


21% KEEP KOSHER AT ANY LEVEL

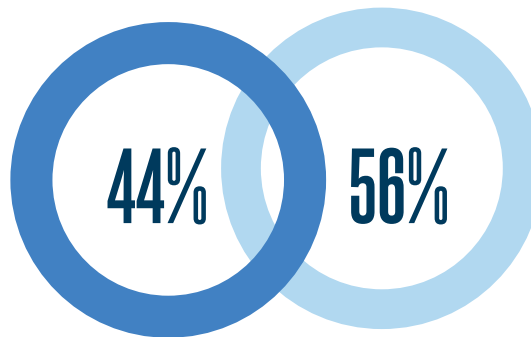


INTERMARRIAGE

HOUSEHOLDS

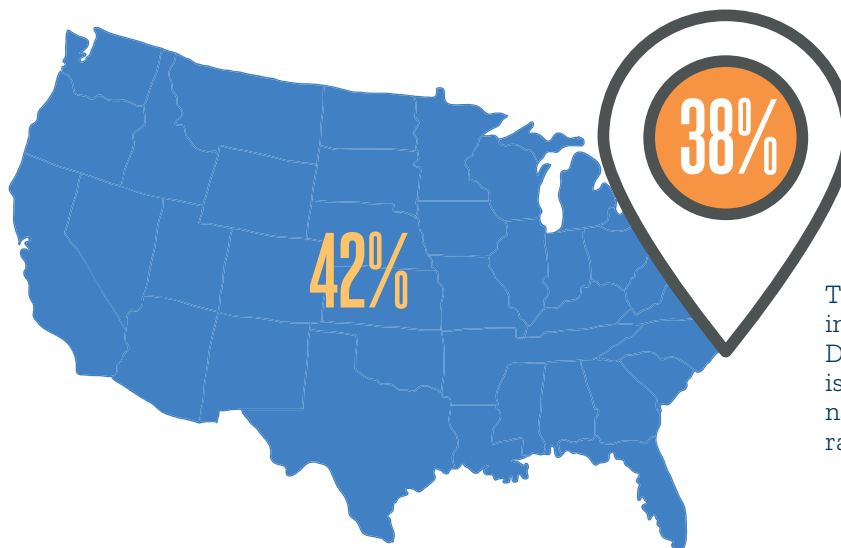


71% of Jewish households include a couple who is married, engaged or partnered.



Of these couples, 44% are inmarried* (married to a Jewish person) and 56% are intermarried**.

INDIVIDUALS



The individual intermarriage rate in Delaware is 38%, which is slightly below than the national intermarriage rate of 42% (Pew, 2020).

* Inmarried: Two partners currently Jewish
** Intermarried: One partner currently Jewish



ISRAEL

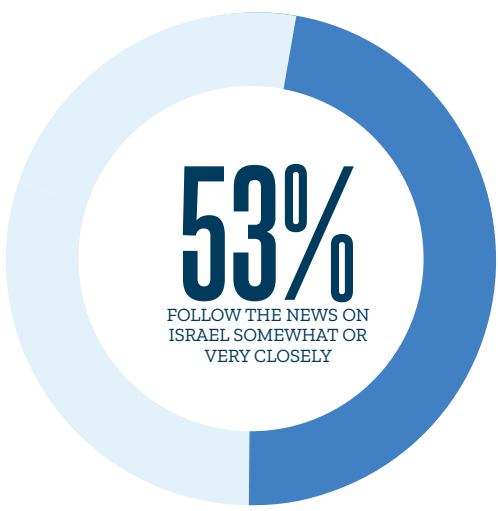
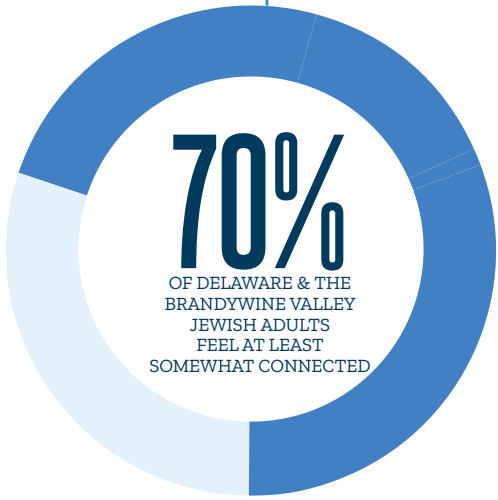
47%
of adults have been to
Israel at least once.

This includes

36%
of age-eligible Jewish
adults have been on a
Birthright Israel trip.

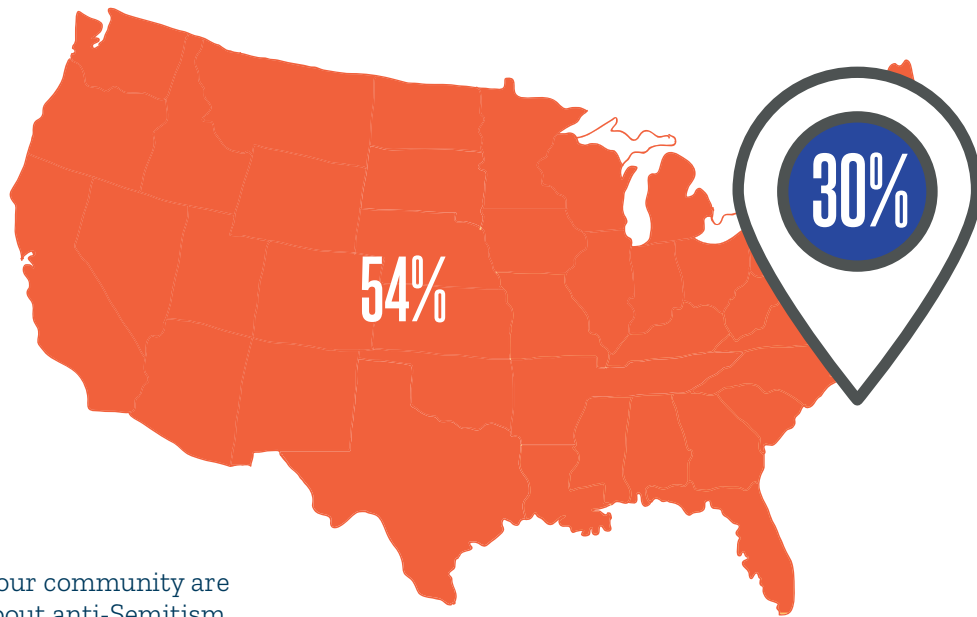


58%
The rate for US
Jewish adults is 58%
which is lower than
our community rate.





ANTI-SEMITISM



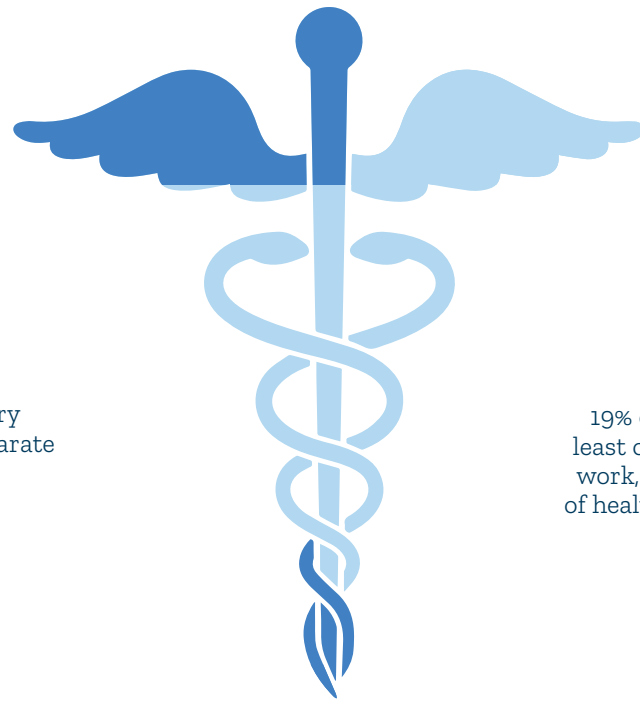
Members of our community are concerned about anti-Semitism, but that worry is directed more at the national (54%) level than at the local (30%) level.

67% of our community say they are very concerned about anti-Semitism around the world.



18% of our community said they personally experienced one or more incidents of anti-Semitism in the past year.

HEALTH

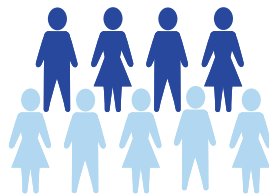


18%

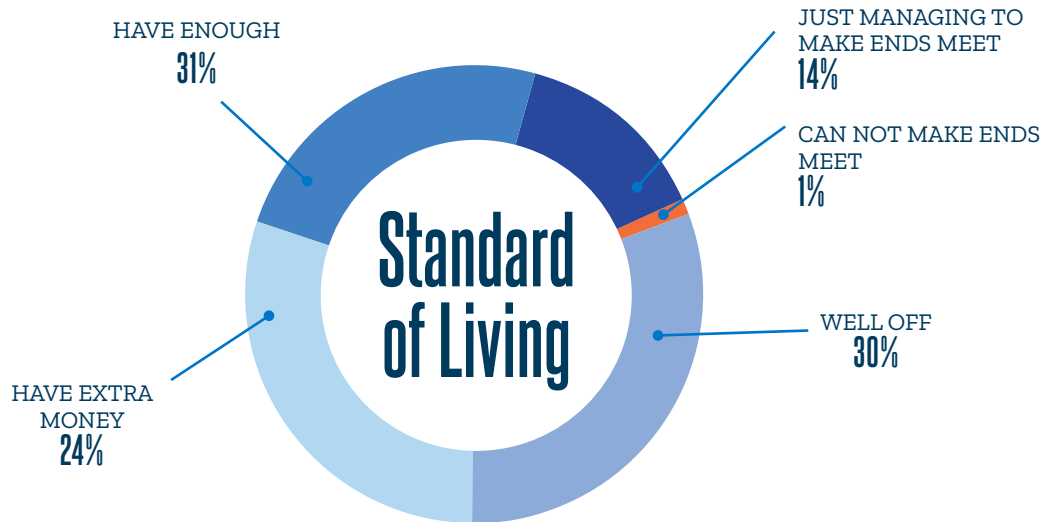
18% are serving as primary caregivers for a relative, separate from routine childcare.

19%

19% of Jewish households include at least one person who is limited in their work, school or activities by some sort of health issue, special need or disability.



58% of Jewish adults felt that emotional or mental health difficulties hurt their ability to live their day-to-day lives sometimes, often, or all the time during the previous week



- HAD TO CHANGE OR LIMIT THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN JEWISH LIFE DUE TO FINANCES 14%
- DID NOT ENROLL IN JEWISH SCHOOLS OR CAMP FOR FINANCIAL REASONS 11%



Jews in our community engage with programming offered by both Jewish and non-Jewish organizations.

67%

HAVE ATTENDED A JEWISH PROGRAM OF SOME KIND

76%

HAVE READ MATERIALS FROM A LOCAL JEWISH ORGANIZATION

7%

HAVE ATTENDED A PROGRAM AT THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF DELAWARE

Participation in informal and cultural Jewish activities, not necessarily sponsored by an organization, in the last year:

91%

ATE JEWISH FOOD, OUTSIDE OF A HOLIDAY OR SHABBAT MEAL

53%

PARTICIPATED IN ONLINE JEWISH GROUPS

91%

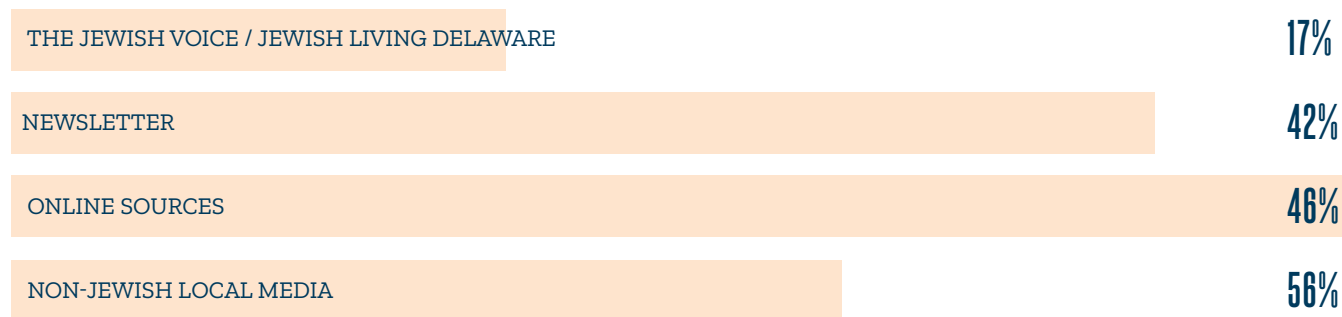
DISCUSSED JEWISH TOPICS

38%

STUDIED JEWISH TEXTS

Where do people get their information?

(Can be from multiple sources)



CAUSES

What causes/interests are important to Jewish adults in our community?
(Can be more than one)



VOLUNTEERING



20%
HAVE VOLUNTEERED
WITH A JEWISH
ORGANIZATION

PHILANTHROPY

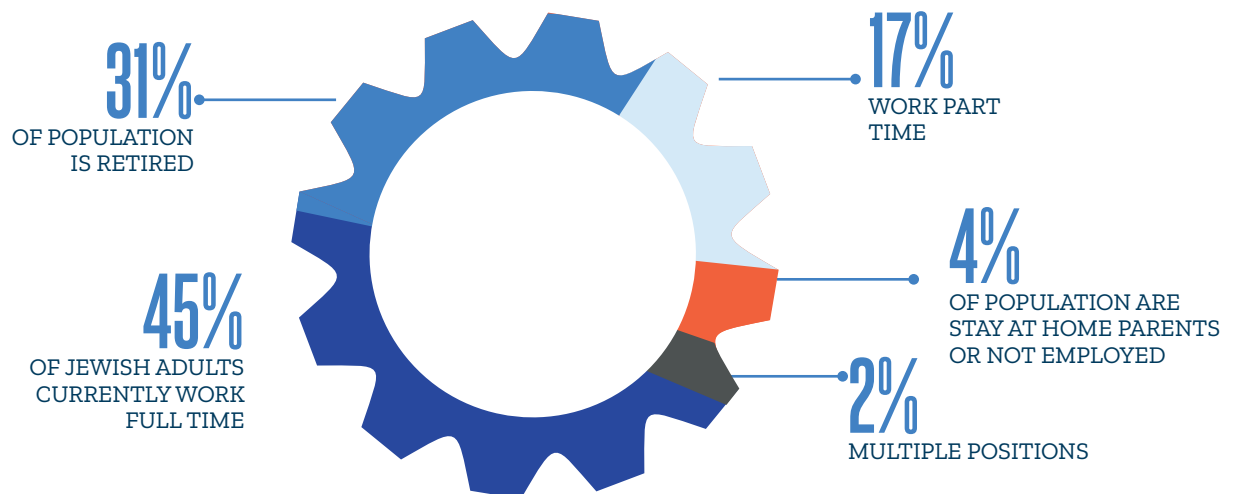
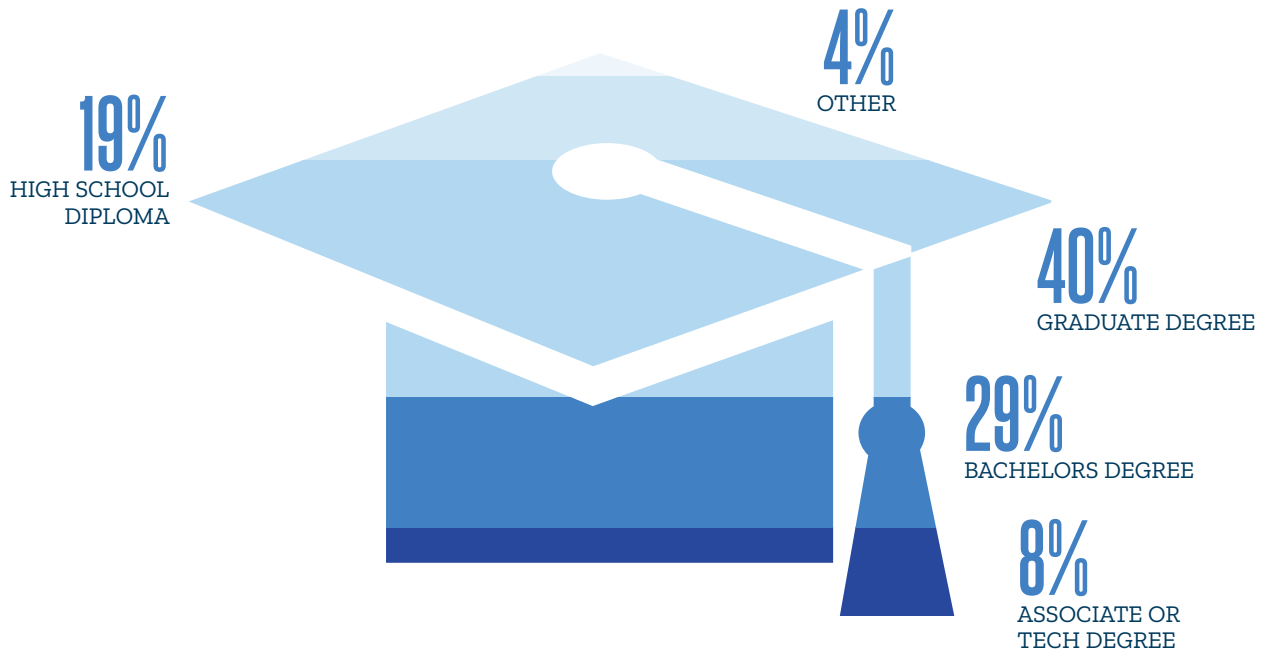


62%
OF JEWISH ADULTS HAVE
GIVEN TO A JEWISH
CHARITY



8%
DONATED TO
THE JEWISH FEDERATION
OF DELAWARE

EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT





RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

The Federation will embark on a strategic planning process in 2023 to take a deep dive into the data presented in the study. Brandeis presented the following recommendations as a jumping off point for further communal discussion:

- Promote activities across our multiple communities
- Support families in need
- Invest in Jewish education

To read the full 2022 Jewish Community Study, visit shalomdelaware.org/communitystudy.

Questions?

Contact Seth Katzen,
President and CEO
302.427.2100 or seth@shalomdel.org

WE GROW STRONGER TOGETHER

Jewish Federation of Delaware protects and enhances the well-being of Jews worldwide through the values of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world), *tzedakah* (charity and social justice) and Torah (Jewish learning).



ShalomDelaware.org
302.427.2100