

The American Jewish Population Project's estimates of the American "Jewish by religion" adult population are for the year 2015, the most recent year for which census total population data at the county level are available. The estimates are based on a set of 257 independent samples of the US adult population from 155 discreet surveys collected across the years 2008 to 2015. This includes over 280,000 respondents, of whom over 6,100 are Jewish. The surveys are nationally representative of the adult population in the United States and include a standard question about religious identification as part of the survey instrument. A subset of surveys that provide county-level geographic identifiers is used to provide estimates for single counties or groups of counties where possible.

Overall, the data synthesis yields an estimate of **4.2 million adults, or 1.8% of the total US population, identify as Jewish when asked about their religion.** Adjustments based on supplemental sources of data to account for Jewish adults who do not identify when asked about religion and for children results in an **overall population estimate of 7.16 million.**

Basis for the Estimate

We provide estimates for the total Jewish population in the United States, as well as the counts and percentages of Jewish adults by religion. The designation "Jews by religion" (JBR) refers to the categorization of adults who respond that they are Jewish when asked about their current religious affiliation. The total population counts include estimates of the number of additional Jewish adults there are who do not self-identify when asked about religion. These estimates are based on local studies where available, or on data from the Pew study *A Portrait of Jewish Americans* (Pew

Research Center, 2015). Also included are estimates of the number of children, which were derived from local studies and, where no local data were available, the Pew study. In analyses of the Pew study, children were classified as Jewish if at least one parent was Jewish and the child was being raised as Jewish (Saxe et al., 2015).

The surveys include a large number conducted by the Pew Research Center (e.g., political polls, social trends), as well as a large number of news polls such as those from *ABC News* and the *Washington Post*, *CBS News* and the *New York Times*, *Vanity Fair*, and *60 Minutes*, and large national samples from the General Social Survey, National Annenberg Election Survey, and the American National Election Surveys.

Highlights



25.6% of the US Jewish adult population is 65 years old and older



56.6% of Jewish adults are college graduates



More than 1 in 10 US adult Jews identifies as a person of color



Nearly 50% of the US adult Jewish population lives in one of three states: New York (22.7%), California (13.1%), or Florida (13.0%)

Characteristics of the Population

Jewish adults are older, with 25% aged 65 years or older compared to just 19% of US adults overall in this age group (See Table 1). Jewish adults also are more likely to be college graduates (57%) compared to US adults overall (26%). They are also

Table 1: Population Estimates for Jewish Adults by Age, Education, and Race, 2015

	US Adults		Jewish Adults						
	Population	Pct	Percentage of US Adults (CI)		Population	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Pct within US Jewish Adults (CI)	
Total All Groups	238,128,954		1.8	(1.7, 1.8)	4,241,600	4,121,100	4,364,100		
Gender									
Male	115,706,392	48.6	1.7	(1.7, 1.8)	1,994,600	1,916,400	2,076,100	47.0	(45.8, 48.3)
Female	122,422,562	51.4	1.8	(1.8, 1.9)	2,247,000	2,161,500	2,330,400	53.0	(51.7, 54.2)
Age									
18-24 years	27,780,709	11.7	1.5	(1.3, 1.6)	407,900	366,100	450,500	9.6	(8.7, 10.6)
25-34 years	42,681,119	17.9	1.6	(1.4, 1.7)	663,100	604,300	723,300	15.6	(14.4, 16.8)
35-44 years	39,535,264	16.6	1.4	(1.3, 1.5)	553,400	514,800	592,700	13.0	(12.2, 14.0)
45-54 years	42,228,044	17.7	1.7	(1.6, 1.8)	703,500	657,600	749,900	16.6	(15.6, 17.5)
55-64 years	40,141,812	16.9	2.1	(2.0, 2.2)	829,400	786,600	872,700	19.6	(18.6, 20.5)
65+ years	45,762,007	19.2	2.4	(2.3, 2.5)	1,084,400	1,029,700	1,135,800	25.6	(24.4, 26.7)
Education									
Non-College	177,523,653	74.5	1.0	(1.0, 1.1)	1,827,800	1,741,600	1,919,200	43.1	(41.7, 44.5)
College Grad	60,605,301	25.5	4.0	(3.8, 4.1)	2,413,800	2,332,500	2,494,000	56.9	(55.5, 58.3)
Race									
White, non-Hisp	154,706,444	65.0	2.4	(2.4, 2.5)	3,765,500	3,659,000	3,872,100	88.8	(87.7, 89.8)
Black, non-Hisp.	28,373,892	11.9	0.3	(0.2, 0.3)	72,000	56,000	89,100	1.7	(1.3, 2.1)
Hispanic	37,034,138	15.6	0.7	(0.6, 0.8)	263,100	221,000	306,500	6.2	(5.3, 7.1)
Other non-Hisp.	18,014,481	7.6	0.8	(0.6, 0.9)	141,100	116,900	166,300	3.3	(2.8, 3.9)

disproportionately White non-Hispanic (89% vs 65% of all adults). There are somewhat more Jewish women (53%) than Jewish men (47%).

County-Level Estimates

The county estimates are based on 215 of the 257 total samples that included county-level data. Large counties were analyzed independently, smaller counties were pooled to create estimates for the county group. The estimates include 202 counties and county groups. The five counties with the highest Jewish population are Los Angeles County CA, Kings County NY, New York County NY, Palm Beach County, FL and Broward County, FL. In Los Angeles County, 3.8% of adults identify as Jewish when asked about religion, which corresponds to an adult population of 287,400. The total Jewish population, which includes an adjustment for children and for Jewish adults who do not identify by religion as Jewish, is estimated to be over 473,000. (Adjustments were made based on analysis of data from the Pew survey of Jewish Americans and local Jewish study data where available.) Kings and New York Counties in NY

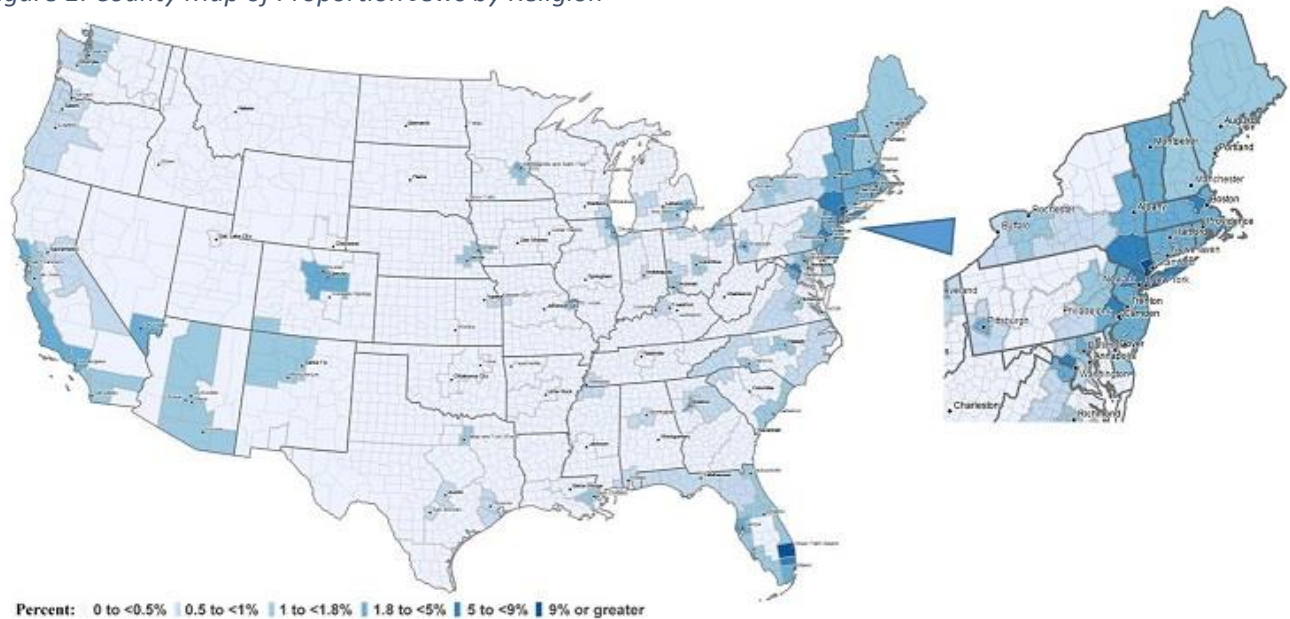
have larger proportions of the adult population who identify as Jewish when asked about religion (12% and 15%, respectively), compared to 3.8% in LA. This corresponds to nearly 200,000 adults in NY County and 227,000 in Kings County with total Jewish population estimated to be 278,000 and 397,000 respectively.

Table 2: Top 5 Counties by Jewish Population

County	% JBR Adults	# JBR Adults	Total Jewish Pop*
Los Angeles County, CA	3.7	288,600	475,200
Brooklyn, NY	11.4	228,300	432,000
Manhattan, NY	14.6	196,200	289,600
Palm Beach County, FL	13.7	153,800	209,400
Broward County, FL	7.9	116,300	172,700

*Includes adjustment for children and other Jewish adults

Figure 1: County Map of Proportion Jews by Religion



One new feature of the current estimates is the inclusion of estimates by metropolitan area. The metropolitan-area estimates are based on the core based statistical areas (CBSA) included in the sample data. Metropolitan areas are based on the largest urban center and surrounding areas. Metropolitan area definitions include areas defined as metro areas, micro areas, and outlying geographic areas not connected to urban centers. Estimates are provided for the top 40 major metropolitan areas. The remaining metropolitan areas were grouped within states when sample sizes were too small (less than approximately 1,500 total respondents) to estimate reliably. Metropolitan, micropolitan and outlying areas were grouped into a total of 160 clusters.

The top five metropolitan areas are New York, Miami, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Boston.

Table 3: Top 5 Metro Areas by Jewish Population

Metro-Area	% JBR	# JBR	Total Jewish Pop*
New York-N. New Jersey -Long Island, NY-NJ-PA			
Area Within NY	8.4	870,600	1,490,400
Area Within NJ/PA	5.0	257,200	396,700
Miami-Ft Lauderdale- West Palm Beach, FL	8.1	381,000	557,600
Los Angeles-Long Beach- Anaheim, CA	3.2	324,500	564,100
Chicago-Naperville- Elgin, IL-IN-WI	2.9	187,400	344,400
Boston-Cambridge- Newton, MA-NH	5.0	165,700	270,500

*Includes adjustment for children and other Jewish adults

References:

- Pew Research Center. (2013). *A portrait of Jewish Americans*. Washington, DC: Pew Research Center's Religion and Public Life Project.
- Saxe, Leonard, Theodore Sasson, and Janet Krasner Aronson. "Pew's Portrait of American Jewry: A Reassessment of the Assimilation Narrative." In *American Jewish Year Book 2014*, edited by Arnold Dashefsky and Ira Sheskin, 71-81. New York: Springer, 2015.