

Culminating a three-year process, this final report presents the results of the 1990 Jewish Population Study of Greater Columbus which was directed by the Population Study Committee of the Columbus Jewish Federation and conducted by Drs. Frank and Susan Mott, demographers.

The study is invaluable; it estimates the overall Jewish population of greater Columbus and increases our understanding of the Jewish community's demographic makeup, including characteristics, behaviors and attitudes. Additionally, information on the levels of participation in Columbus Jewish life is provided. The study assesses current use of existing services provided by the Jewish community and identifies future service needs. A comparison of the Columbus Jewish community in 1990 with our community in 1969 (last population study) is now possible as is a comparison between Columbus and other Jewish communities around the country. In short, this study documents changes, provides an accurate picture of today, and offers a basis of planning for tomorrow.

The preliminary results of this study were shared (in late 1990) with agencies, congregations and organizations. A number of them have already begun to use this information in the development of services, programs and activities, thus fulfilling a major objective of this study.

This study belongs to the entire Jewish community. We urge its use by the community as we pursue our goal of enhancing the quality of Jewish life and ensuring continuity in Columbus, Israel and around the world.

Benjamin L. Zox
President

Margey Cheses, Chairperson
Population Study Committee

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors wish to acknowledge the invaluable support of the members of the Population Study Committee. Under the able leadership of their chairperson, Margey Cheses, they provided assistance at every step of this lengthy project, from decisions concerning appropriate methodologies, to questionnaire design, to interpretation of findings. The manner in which the committee tackled problems demonstrates not only a keen awareness of the research issues, but a strong commitment to the community.

The efforts of Dr. Meryl Weissmann of the Columbus Jewish Federation, who coordinated the work of volunteers and staff at the Federation and all affiliated agencies, were extraordinary. Much of the success of this project is due to her talents as a communicator, a negotiator and an administrator. The Federation was, indeed, fortunate to have her on its staff.

The authors also wish to thank Marty Saperstein, of Saperstein Associates. The time and effort that Marty and his staff put into this project exceeded that of a mere subcontractor. The high quality of the study results attests to the superb skills of his interviewers and data processing staff. This study also benefitted from our being able to use Marty as a consultant throughout the duration of the project.

We also wish to thank Dr. Harold Himmelfarb, who was intimately involved in the early stages of this study and was a major contributor to the development of the overall survey design and sampling procedures.

This project would not have been possible without the dedication of Alan Gill, the Executive Vice President of the Columbus Jewish Federation. His concern for research excellence helped to ensure the integrity of this study.

Finally, the production of this report benefitted immensely from the exceptional programming skills of Steven R. Milstead and the superior word processing support provided by Mary Ann Hopper. Needless to say, there would have been no demographic study were it not for the more than 750 members of the community who graciously spent as much as an hour on the phone sharing a part of their lives with us.

Drs. Frank and Susan Mott

Special thanks also goes to Laura Zakin for editing this report.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Introduction	1
	Major Themes	2
CHAPTER 1	Population Study Methodology	3
CHAPTER 2	Population Size and Distribution	5
CHAPTER 3	Age Structure, Marriage and Fertility	9
CHAPTER 4	Defining The Jewish Population	13
CHAPTER 5	Mobility Implications	17
CHAPTER 6	Education and Employment	19
CHAPTER 7	Jewish Education	23
CHAPTER 8	Religious Identification	25
CHAPTER 9	Synagogue Membership	27
CHAPTER 10	Ritual Observance	33
CHAPTER 11	Other Jewish Issues	37
CHAPTER 12	Organizational Membership and Contributions	39
CHAPTER 13	Ritual Observance	43
CHAPTER 14	Comparisons and Trends	47

INTRODUCTION

This report profiles the Jewish community of greater Columbus as it enters the last decade of the twentieth century. It is based upon a sample survey designed to provide demographic, social and economic data which accurately portray the full Jewish community of Central Ohio. This includes both those Jews currently affiliated with Jewish community organizations as well as those with only a marginal, if any, linkage to the organized Jewish community.

This study was conducted with the following goals in mind: to estimate the number of Jews living in Franklin County and the surrounding area; to describe demographic, behavioral and attitudinal characteristics of this population; to determine levels of Jewish affiliation and involvement; to assess awareness and utilization of local community agencies and services and determine future service needs; and to compare the Columbus Jewish community in 1990 with other Jewish communities, as well as with Columbus in 1969, the most recent available population study.

The importance of the study lies not only in the descriptive information it has provided, but in its potential as both a short and long-term planning instrument for the community. As program and policy decisions are made by community agencies and institutions of Jewish life, population projections presented in this report should be of great value. Service needs identified in the study will be useful as new programs and services are planned. These figures will also provide important estimates for forecasting the future growth and trends of the Jewish community.

This study provides the community with the first accurate portrayal of Columbus Jewry—its past, present and immediate future. It helps to identify the key issues and challenges confronting us and to focus our efforts on developing appropriate responses in the form of services and programs.

MAJOR THEMES

1. GEOGRAPHIC DISPERSION

THE JEWISH POPULATION OF COLUMBUS IS SIGNIFICANTLY DISPERSED GEOGRAPHICALLY. Not surprisingly, the largest numbers reside in the Bexley area; however, very substantial numbers may be found in all sections of Franklin County. In fact, fully 51% of the Jewish households do not live on the east side of Columbus. The accompanying service implications are challenging, considering that the majority of Jewish community services are located in the east.

2. EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

THE COLUMBUS JEWISH POPULATION HAS ATTAINED LEVELS OF EDUCATION FAR EXCEEDING THAT OF THE OVERALL AMERICAN POPULATION, AS WELL AS OTHER JEWISH COMMUNITIES (EXCEPT WASHINGTON, D.C.) Not only is the population highly educated; over 50% of the population is professionally employed. This differs substantially from the occupational structure for the full U.S. population, which tends to be less heavily represented in the white collar professional occupations.

Another key difference lies in the rate of Jewish women in the prime working ages (25-65) who are currently working. Approximately 85% of Columbus Jewish women are employed as compared to 67% among the U.S. white population.

3. INTERMARRIAGE

A SUBSTANTIAL PROPORTION OF THE MARRIED ADULT JEWISH POPULATION IS MARRIED TO NON-JEWS. Approximately 45% of the children in these mixed marriages are being raised Jewish. Jewish men are more likely to intermarry than Jewish women and less likely to raise their children Jewish when married to a non-Jewish partner.

4. ORGANIZATIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION

APPROXIMATELY ONE-HALF OF THE JEWISH POPULATION IS AFFILIATED OR LINKED WITH A JEWISH COMMUNITY INSTITUTION. 46% of adult Jews are currently members of local synagogues. This figure is low relative to comparable Jewish communities, which is undoubtedly linked with both the relative youthfulness and the high mobility rate of our Jewish community; it is, however, above the national average. Congregational affiliation varies by age, religious identity, and area of residence. Affiliation with Jewish organizations is significantly lower than congregational affiliation, while utilization of local Jewish services ranges as high as 65% of the population.

POPULATION STUDY METHODOLOGY

1

The 1989/90 Jewish Population Study of Greater Columbus was conducted in two stages. First, approximately 12,500 households in Franklin County were randomly contacted to screen for Jewish household members. This screening was utilized to determine both the proportion of households and the proportion of the area's population that is Jewish. A household was defined as Jewish if any adult member either had a Jewish father or mother, was raised Jewish, or currently considers himself/herself as Jewish. Jewish households identified in this process were recontacted for full-length interviews regarding their background, demographic characteristics, Jewish affiliation and level of involvement and awareness, as well as use of Jewish community services. Full-length interviews were also conducted with households randomly sampled from the Federation's file.

In total, 757 households were interviewed, including 153 identified through the random dial procedure and 604 selected from the Federation's file. Interviews were conducted with Jewish adults over the age of 18. Certain information was collected for respondents only. Additional information was collected regarding individual household members, totalling 2,000 individuals.

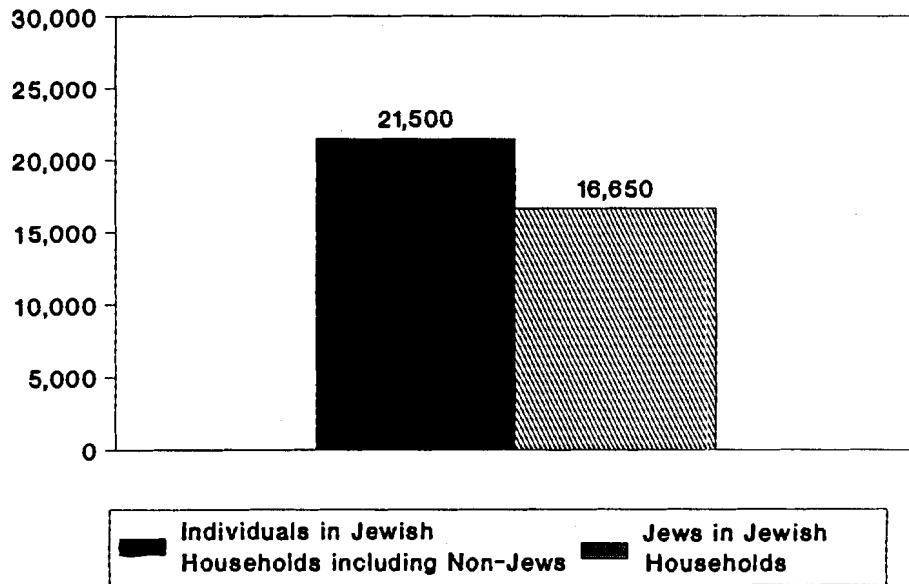
How many Jews live in the Columbus area?

Where are the Jewish households located?

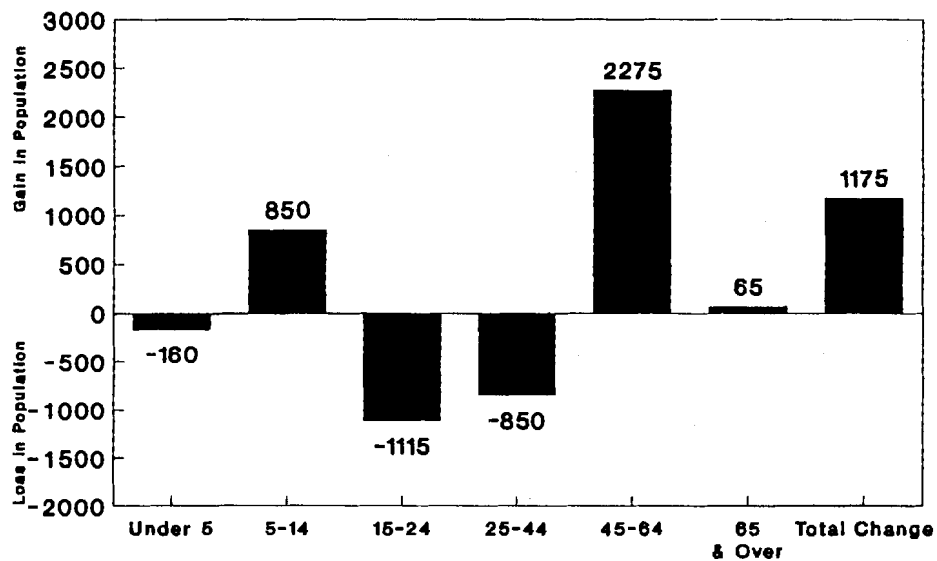
What population growth is projected over the next decade?

- Approximately 2.3% of all households in Franklin County include at least one Jewish member.
- Approximately 16,650 Jews live in the Columbus area, with 15,600 living in Franklin County.
- About 50% of Jewish households are located in the more traditional Jewish neighborhoods—the Bexley area (31%) and the Far East Side (19%). The other 51% live in the remainder of Columbus (24% in the Northern Perimeter of Columbus and 27% in the Central North section).
- About 37% of Jewish individuals live in the 43209 zip code; about 25% live in Bexley.
- The Jewish population of Columbus has grown modestly over the past two decades, largely reflecting the fact that more people have moved in than have moved out.
- Over the next decade, it is anticipated that the Jewish population of school age and between the age of 45 and 64 will show substantial increases. The number of very young children and the size of the elderly population will probably remain stable. The population between the ages of 15 and 44 will most likely decline, reflecting the fact that the numbers in that age group at this time are substantially larger than the numbers in the next younger age group.

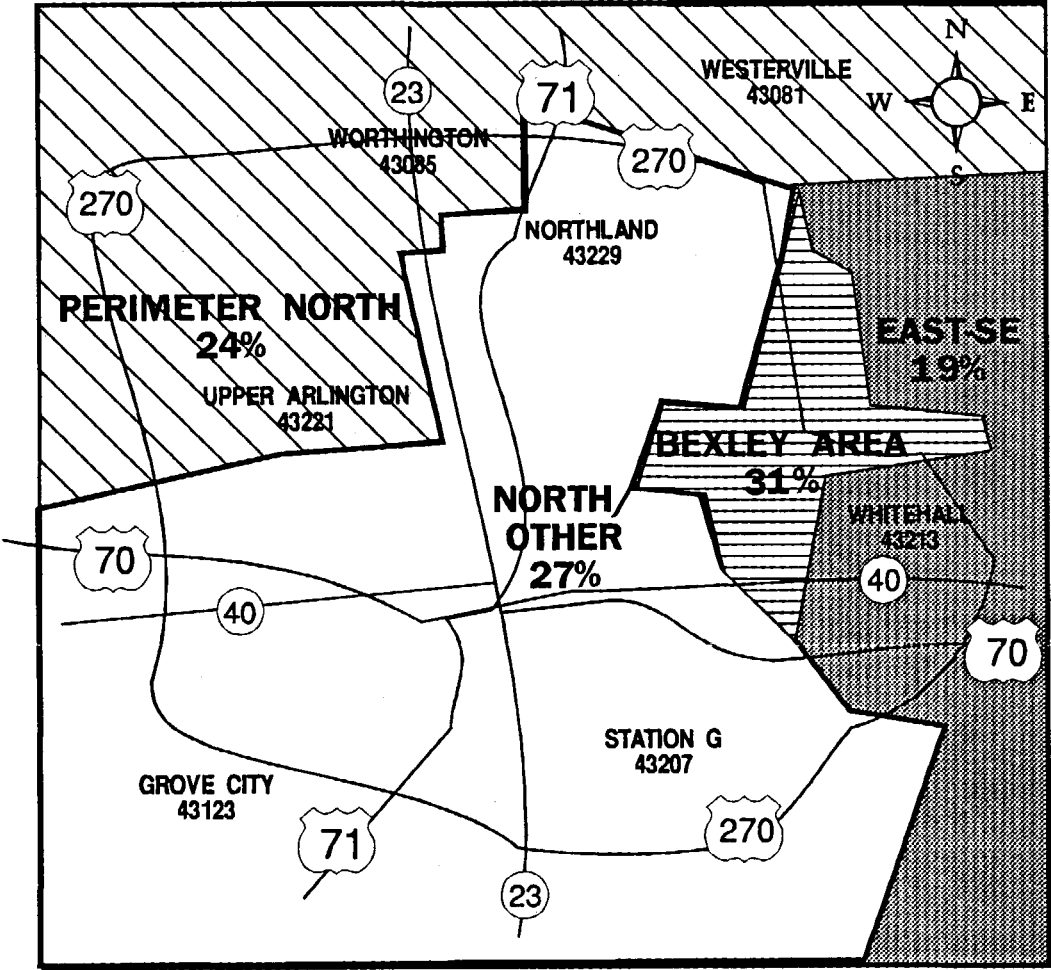
Jewish Population of Greater Columbus (8300 Households)



Projected Change in Columbus Jewish Population From 1990 to the Year 2000



Geographical Distribution of the Jewish Community of Greater Columbus



AGE STRUCTURE, MARRIAGE AND FERTILITY

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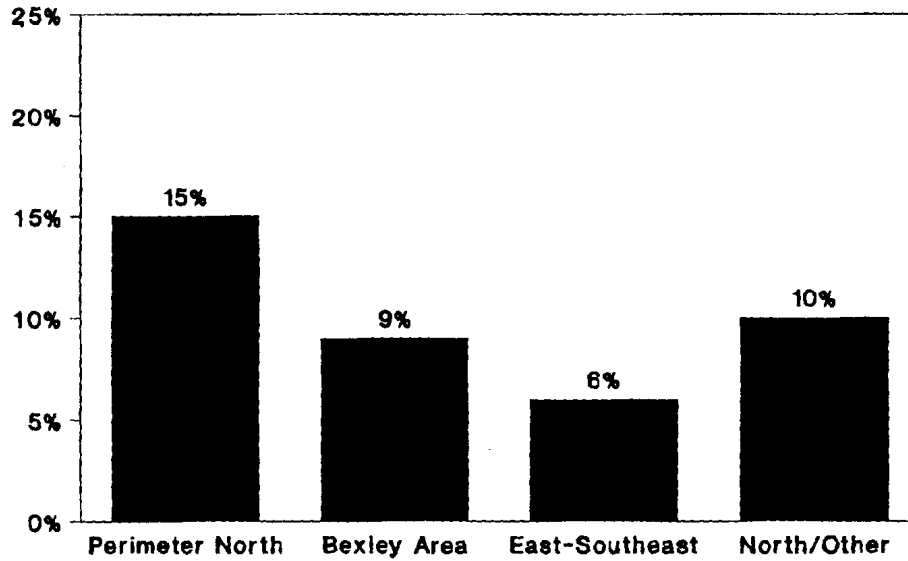
How old is the Jewish population of Columbus?

What percent is married, divorced, widowed or single?

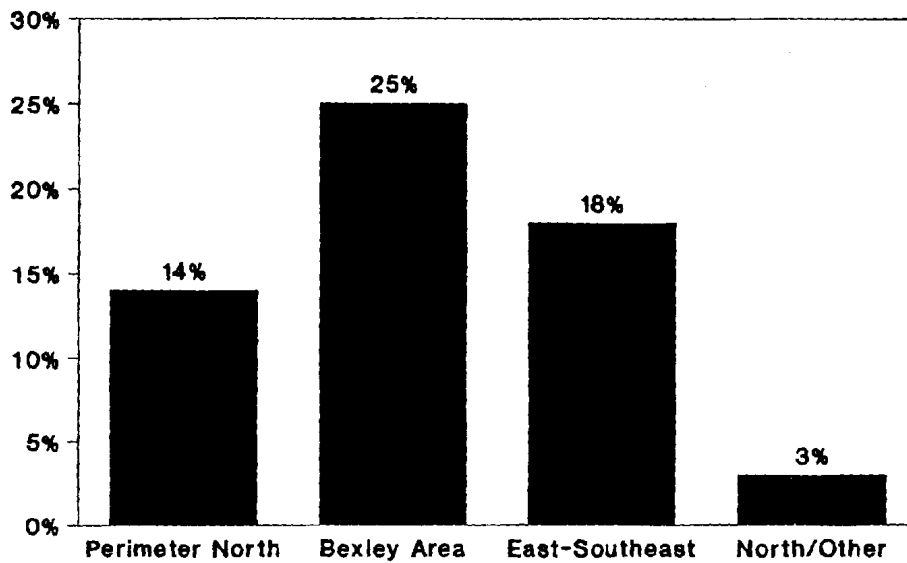
What is the fertility rate of Columbus Jews?

- The Jewish population of Columbus is young, with the dominant age group between 25-44.
- At present, the Perimeter North area of Columbus has the heaviest concentration of pre-school children and the Bexley area the largest concentration of school age children and senior citizens. The Far East of Columbus has the heaviest concentration of residents in the pre-retirement years.
- About two-thirds of the adult population are currently married, with most of the remainder never having been married. Over a third of retirement age women are widowed, compared with 9% of their male counterparts.
- On the average, Columbus Jewish women expect to have slightly over two children. Very few women expect to remain childless or have four or more children.

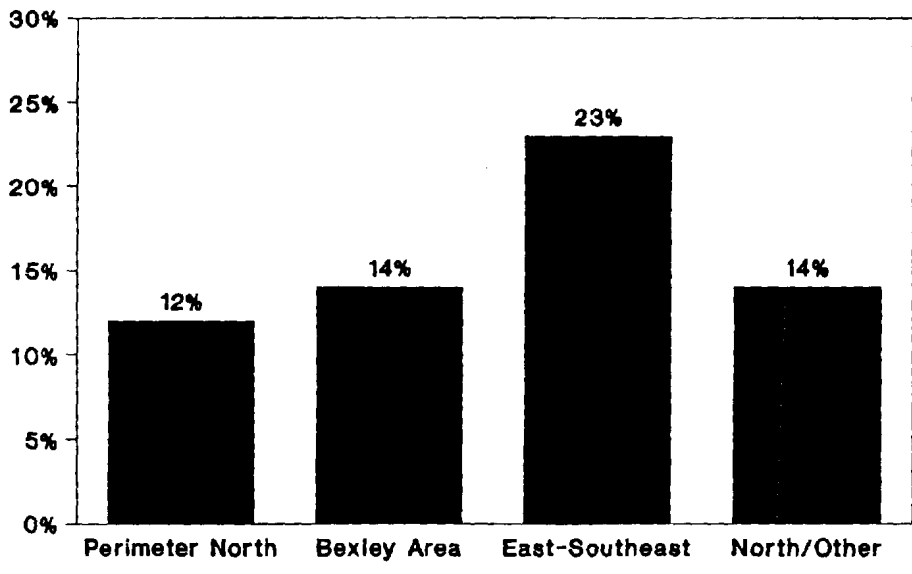
Pre-Schoolers (Under 5 Yrs. old)



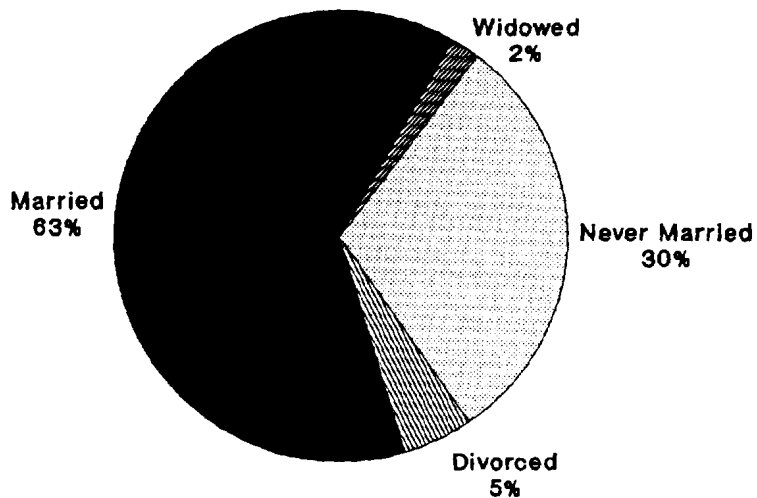
School Age Children (5-17 Yrs. Old)



Pre-Seniors (Age 45-64)



Distribution of Population By Marital Status



DEFINING THE JEWISH POPULATION

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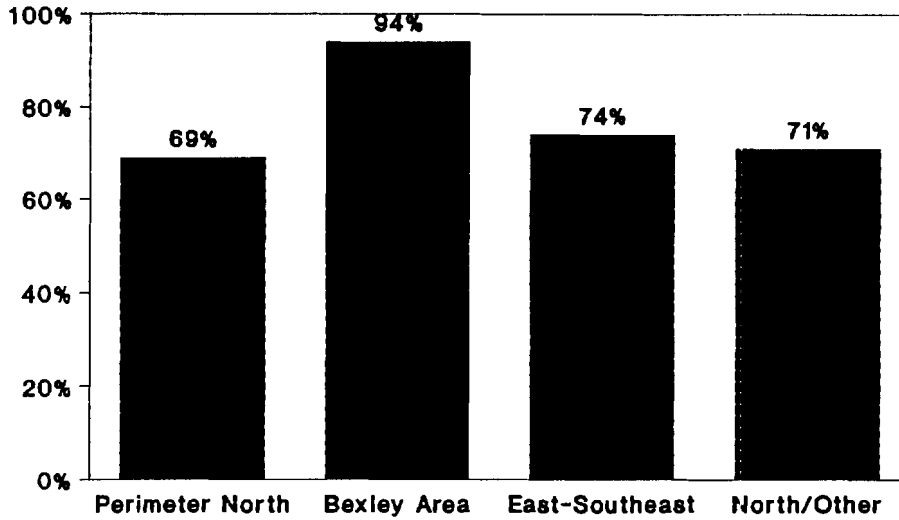
What percentage of individuals living in Jewish households are Jewish?

What is the rate of intermarriage in the Columbus area?

Are children in households identified as Jewish being raised Jewish?

- Approximately four of every five adults living in Jewish households (households containing at least one Jew) are in fact "Jewish."
- In almost all cases, an individual identified as Jewish by any definition is Jewish by all definitions. (This includes having a Jewish mother or father, being raised Jewish and considering oneself Jewish.)
- Approximately 45% of currently married Jewish respondents indicate that their spouse is not Jewish. About 40% of the husbands of Jewish women and 50% of the wives of Jewish men are not Jewish.
- Three-quarters of all children in Jewish households are being raised Jewish. Only 44% of children of mixed marriages are being raised Jewish.
- Well over 90% of all individuals in Jewish households in the Bexley area are Jewish, compared with 70 to 75% for the other areas of Columbus.
- A majority of the Columbus Jewish population have a close relative who has intermarried.

Percent of Population in Jewish Households That is Jewish*

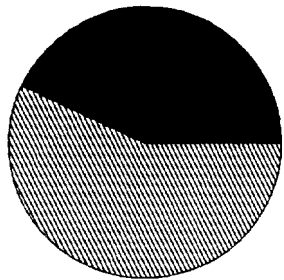


* Raised Jewish, Currently Jewish, Mother or Father Jewish

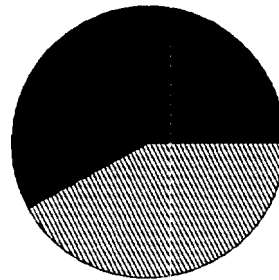
Intermarriage Rates

Female Respondents

Male Respondents



61% of Husbands Consider Themselves Jewish

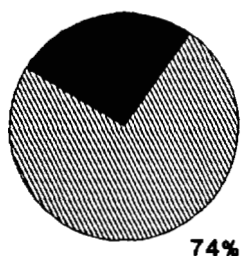


48% of Wives Consider Themselves Jewish

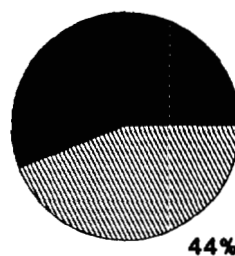
Approximately 45% of Survey Respondents are Married to a Non-Jew

Percent of Children Being Raised Jewish

All Households

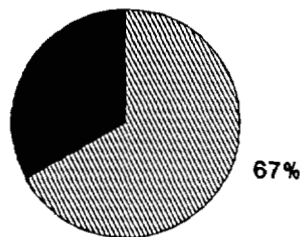


Inter-Married Households



Percent of Children from Inter-Marriages Being Raised Jewish

Wife Jewish, Husband Not



Husband Jewish, Wife Not



What percentage of the Columbus Jewish population was born locally?

How mobile is the Jewish community?

What is the size of the average Jewish household?

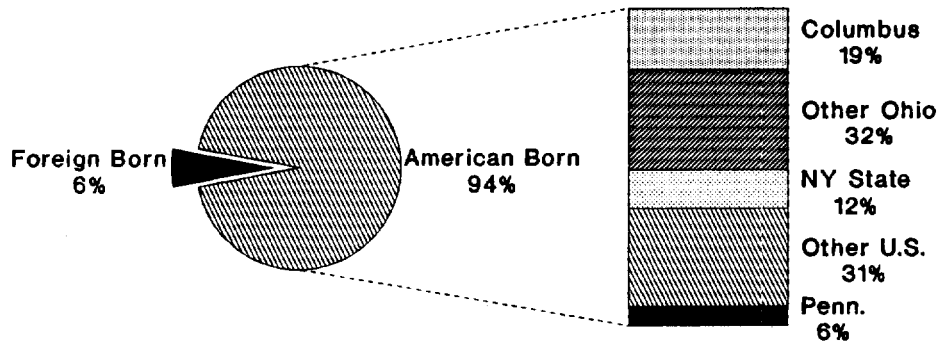
■ Only 6% of the Columbus Jewish population is foreign-born. In comparison, 39% of the Jewish respondents have at least one parent who is foreign-born. About 50% of the population was born in Ohio and 20% in Columbus. The percentage of those locally born is very low compared to other Jewish communities around the country.

■ There are major variations between the different Columbus areas in the percentages that were born locally, ranging from 38% in the Bexley area to 9% in the Perimeter North.

■ Approximately one of three respondents indicates that a move is very likely within the next three years, but most of these moves are anticipated to be local.

■ The average Jewish household in Columbus includes about 2.6 people, comparable to many other Jewish communities.

Place of Birth



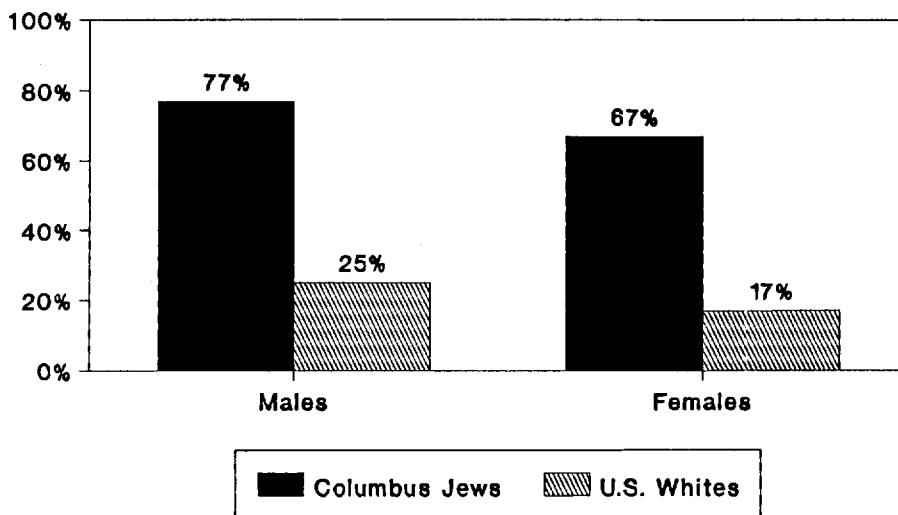
What is the education level of the adult Jewish population?
What percent of adults are employed? In which occupations?

■ Over 70% of the adult Jewish population has a college degree and 40% has at least one year of graduate training. This makes Columbus among the most highly educated Jewish communities in the country.

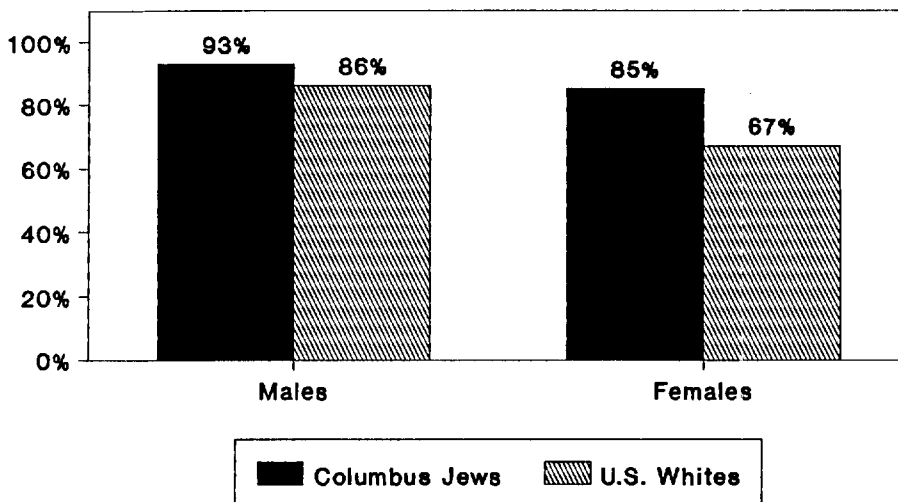
■ Overall, 88% of adult men and 72% of adult women are employed. In the prime working ages of 25 to 64, 93% of men and 85% of women are employed. The employment rate of Jewish women is well above the national average of all American working women. In addition, about two thirds of these employed women are working full-time.

■ Over half of the employed population work in a professional or technical occupation. Over 25% of all workers are self-employed or working in a family business.

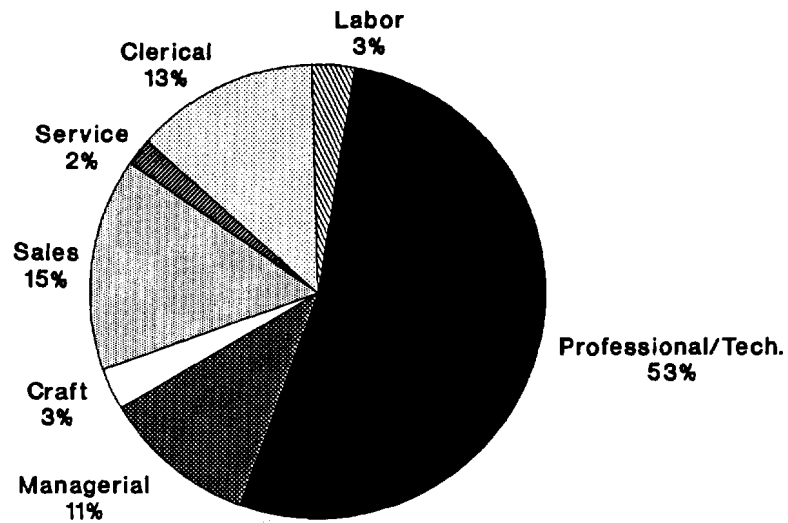
Higher Education % of Population 25-64 with College Degree



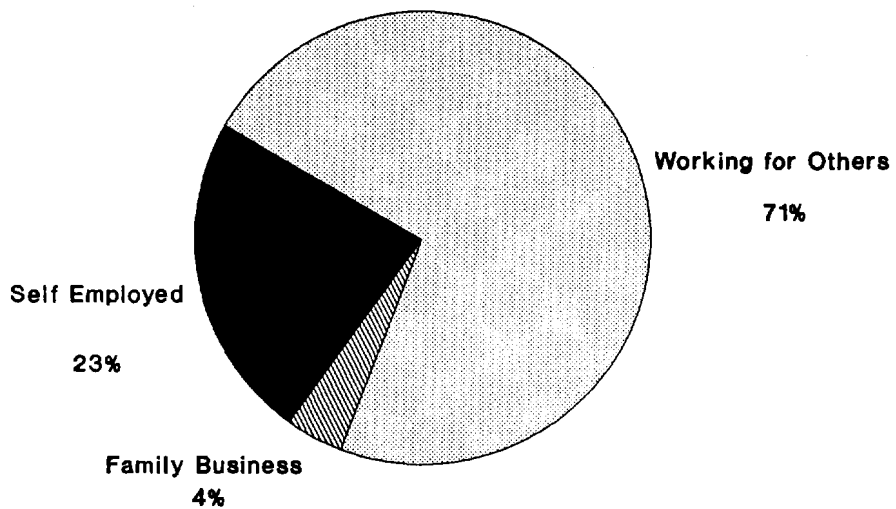
Employment % of Population 25-64 Yrs. Old Which is Employed



Occupational Distribution



Type of Employer



JEWISH EDUCATION

7

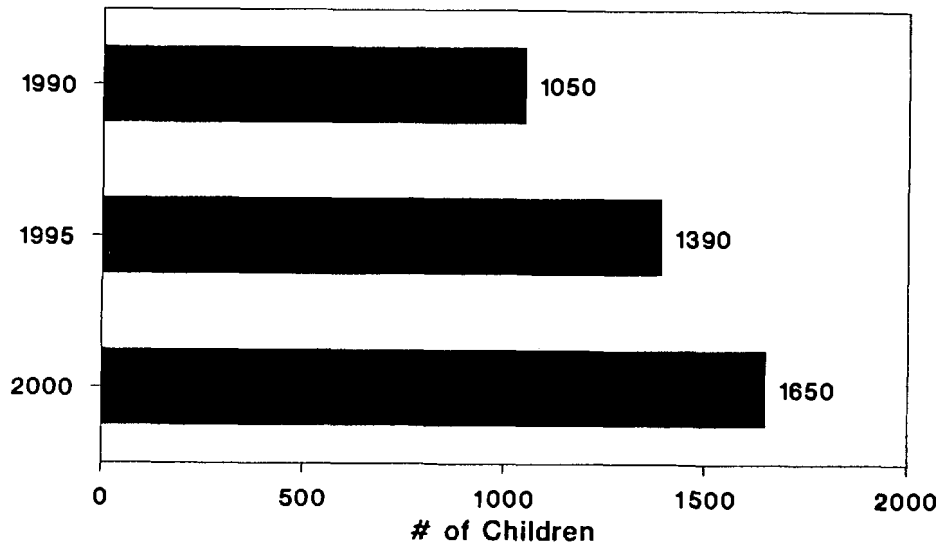
What percent of Jewish adults in Columbus received a Jewish education while they were growing up?

What percent of children being raised Jewish are receiving a Jewish education?

Is there community interest in Hebrew day school education?

- About 80% of the Jewish population have had some Jewish education and about 80% of the children who are being raised Jewish are receiving a Jewish education.
- Men are more likely to have received a formal Jewish education than women. Additionally, men are likely to have received a more intensive Jewish education.
- 80% of the men and 11% of the women are Bar and Bat Mitzvahs. About 40% of the men and almost 55% of the women have been confirmed.
- About 20% feel it is very likely that they would send their child to a Hebrew day school if it could be tailored to their specifications.

Children Ages 5-17 Receiving Jewish Education



RELIGIOUS IDENTIFICATION

8

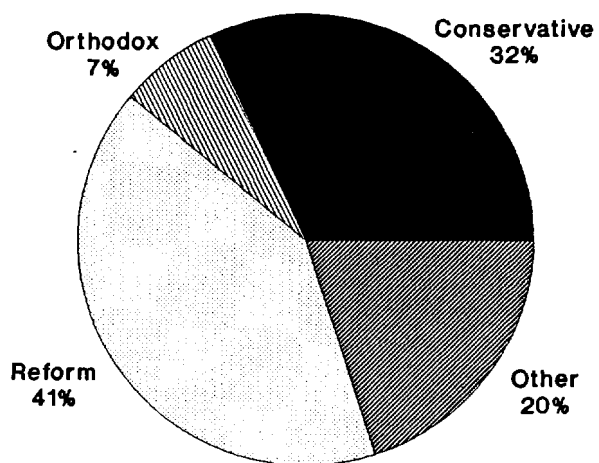
How do Columbus Jews affiliate denominationally?

How were Columbus Jews raised?

■ 7% of the community consider themselves Orthodox, 32% Conservative, and 41% Reform. 21% consider themselves Jewish but refuse more specific identification.

■ About 21% were raised Orthodox, 35% Conservative and 33% Reform.

Religious Denomination



SYNAGOGUE MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE

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What percent of Jewish households belong to a synagogue?

What demographic characteristics impact upon synagogue affiliation?

How often do Columbus Jews attend services?

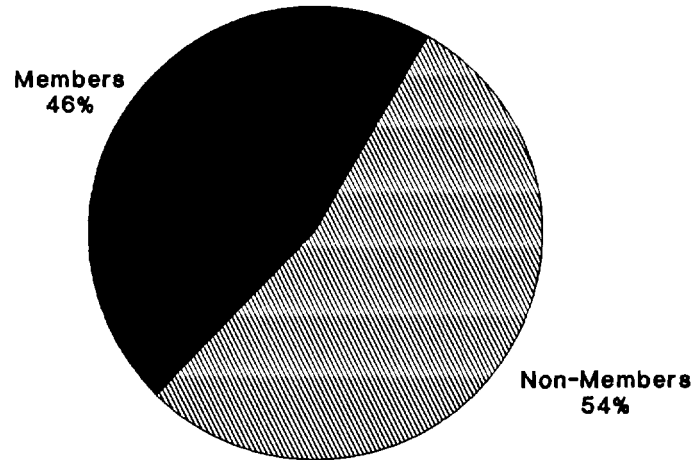
How do Columbus Jews view the role of the synagogue?

- 46% of households and about 50% of the population belongs to a synagogue. About 80% of Bexley area households and 68% of East-Southeast households belong to a synagogue, compared with less than 30% for the rest of Columbus.
- Respondents between the ages of 45 and 64 are most likely to be synagogue members; this is partly related to the life cycle stage of the respondents. The lowest levels of synagogue affiliation are at the young adult age when family and community ties tend to be weaker.
- Synagogue affiliation is affected by denomination, geography, life cycle stage and size of family. Orthodox Jews are most likely to belong to a synagogue (89% as compared to 62% for the Conservative and 43% for the Reform), as are Bexley residents (80%). Never married respondents are less likely to belong to synagogues, while widowed or divorced respondents are most likely. Larger families are also more likely to affiliate.
- Almost 90% of adults (or their families) have been members of a synagogue at some time during their lives.
- About one-third of all synagogue members belong to Beth Shalom or Temple Israel, 25% to Tifereth Israel, 19% to Agudas Achim and smaller percentages to the other synagogues in the community.
- Synagogue membership is more diverse than is suggested by the synagogues' formal religious associations.
- Synagogue membership patterns are defined to a large degree by area of residence: a majority of synagogue members living in the east affiliate with synagogues in the east. Over one-half of all synagogue members living in the Perimeter North belong to Beth Tikvah.
- About 20% of the Jewish community attend services at least monthly; about 40% of the Orthodox attend at least weekly. Older respondents are inclined to attend more frequently.

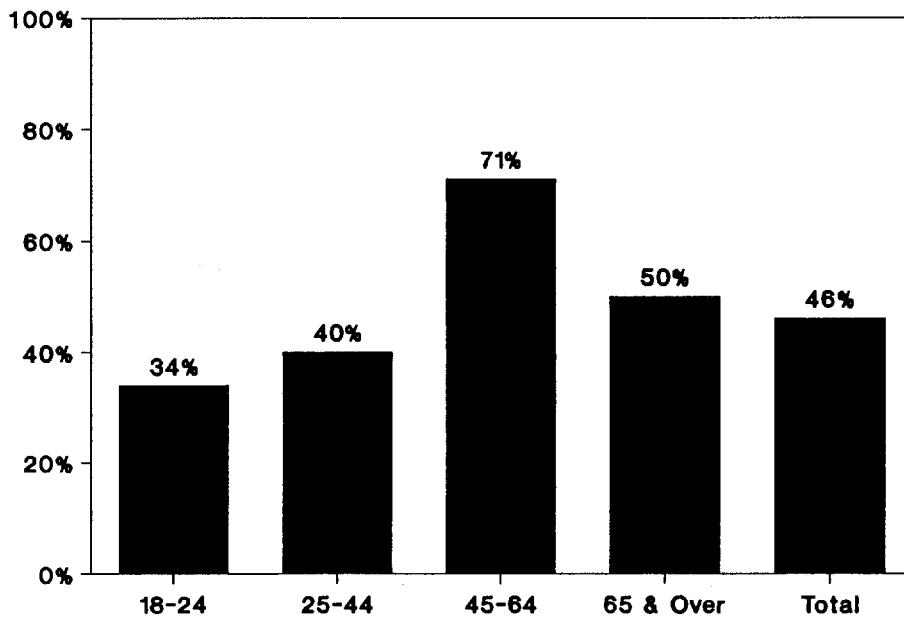
SYNAGOGUE MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE

- The role of the synagogue is viewed as multi-faceted, including conducting a religious school, providing emotional support in times of crisis, providing youth services and encouraging religious feelings among members.
- The primary reason for not belonging to a synagogue is philosophical; the respondent felt that Columbus synagogues do not meet his/her philosophical or religious needs.

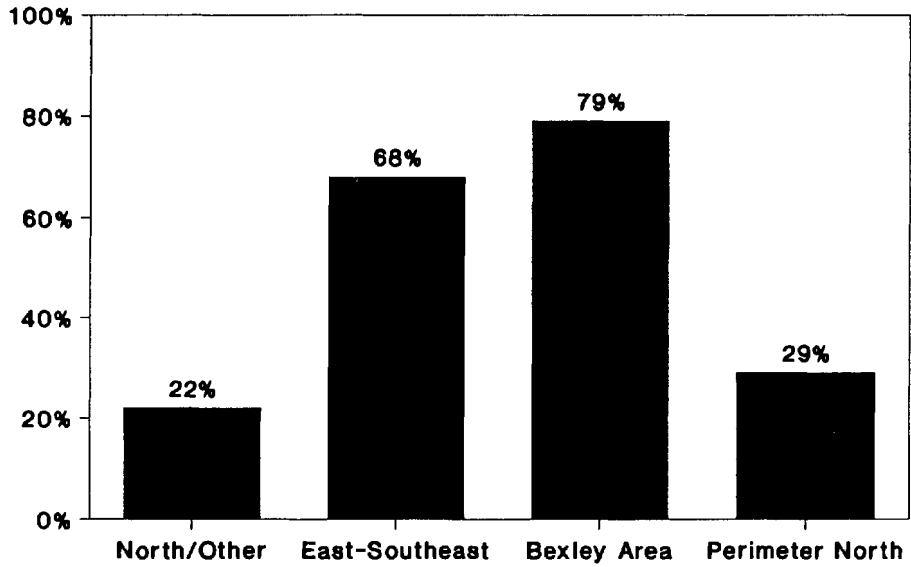
Synagogue/Temple Membership



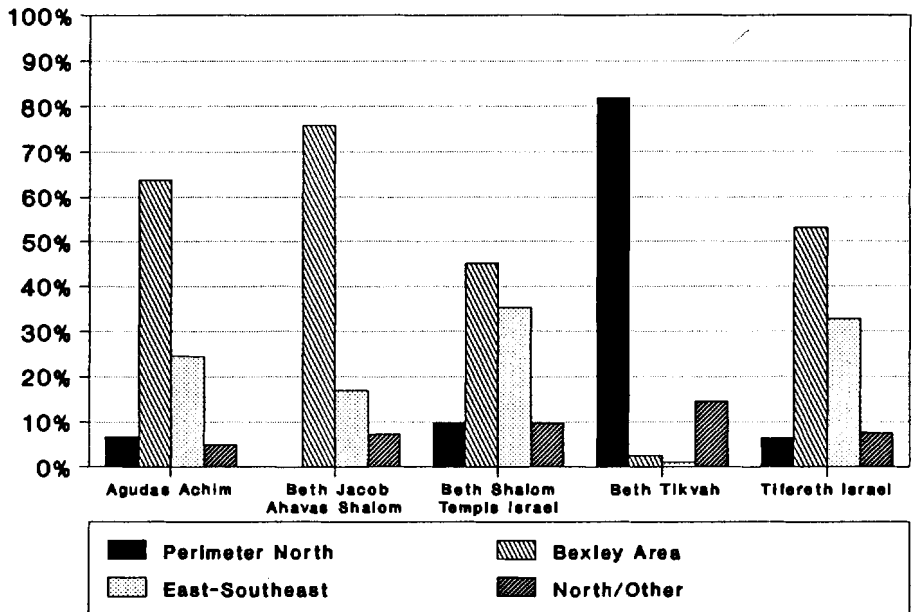
Percent Belonging to Synagogues By Age



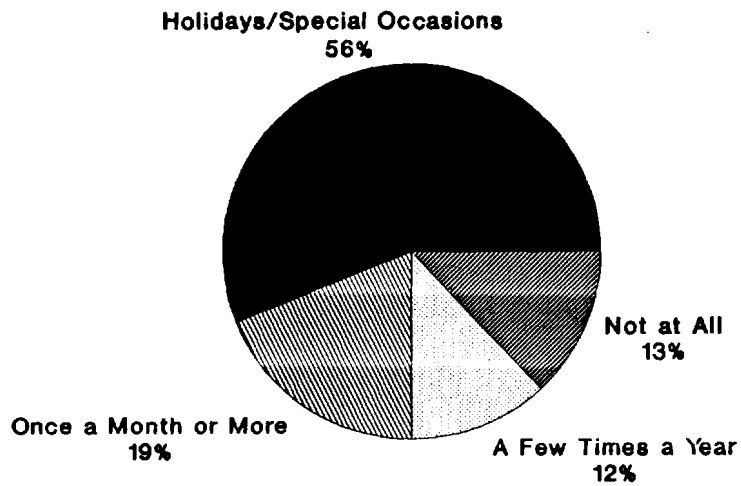
Percent Belonging to Synagogues By Zone of Residence



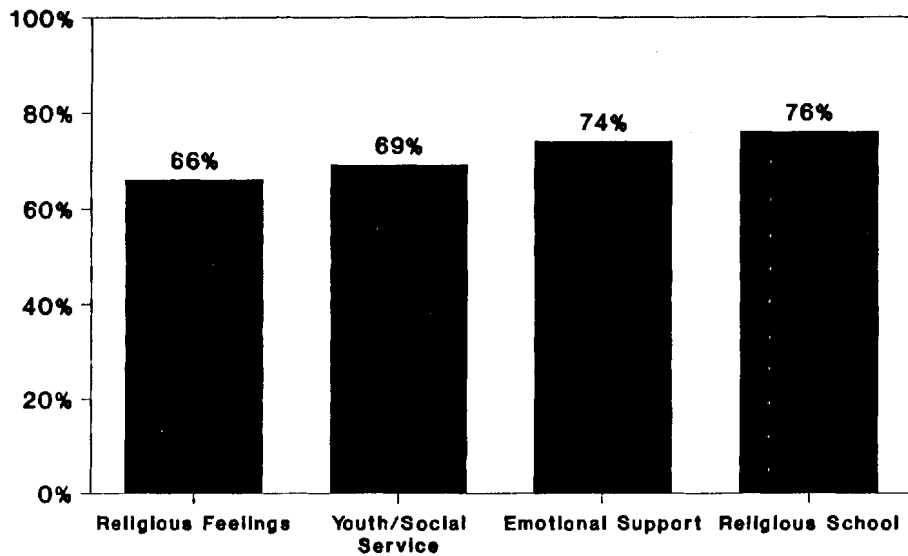
Zone of Residence of Synagogue Members



Frequency of Synagogue Attendance



Percent Rating Specific Synagogue Functions As "Very Important"



RITUAL OBSERVANCE

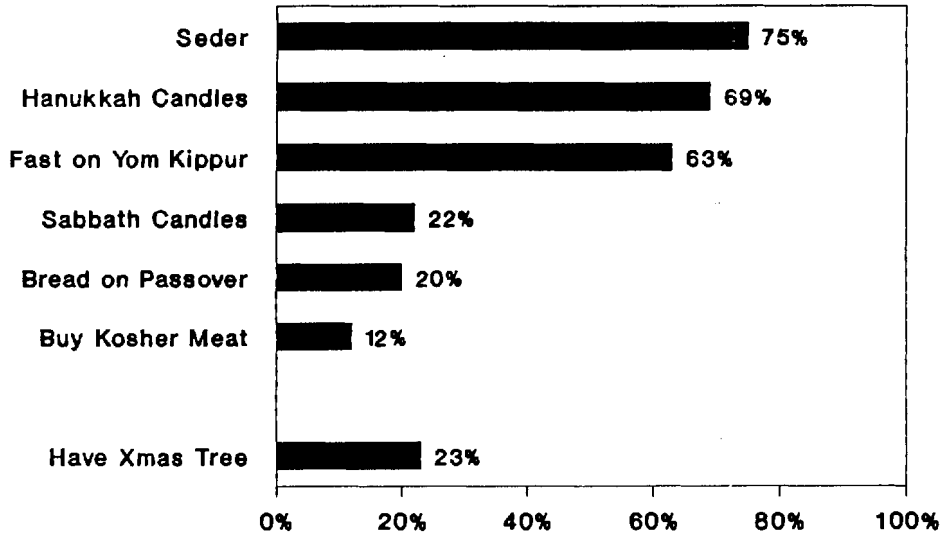
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Which rituals are observed most regularly? Which are observed least regularly?

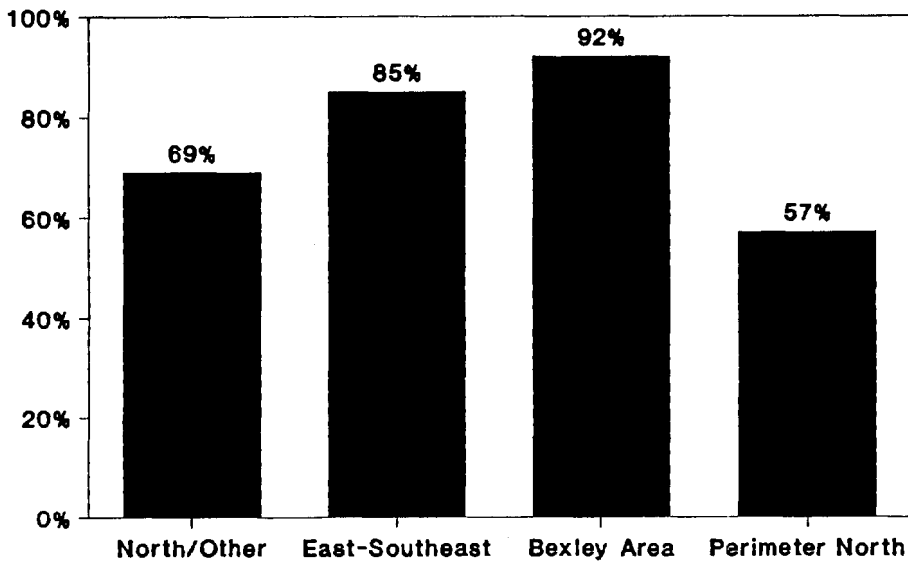
What factors affect ritual observance?

- The most regularly practiced rituals are those associated with holidays such as Passover and Hanukkah. About 75% of Jews in the community typically attend a seder, about 70% light Hanukkah candles and 63% fast on Yom Kippur.
- The least practiced rituals are those related to daily, weekly or continuing activities, such as Kashruth and lighting candles on the Sabbath. Only 12% buys Kosher meat for their homes and about 20% regularly lights candles on the Sabbath.
- Geographic variations in ritual behaviors follow the patterns evidenced for other religious behaviors, with the highest observance of ritual behaviors in the Bexley area.
- The highest level of ritual observance is found among the Orthodox.

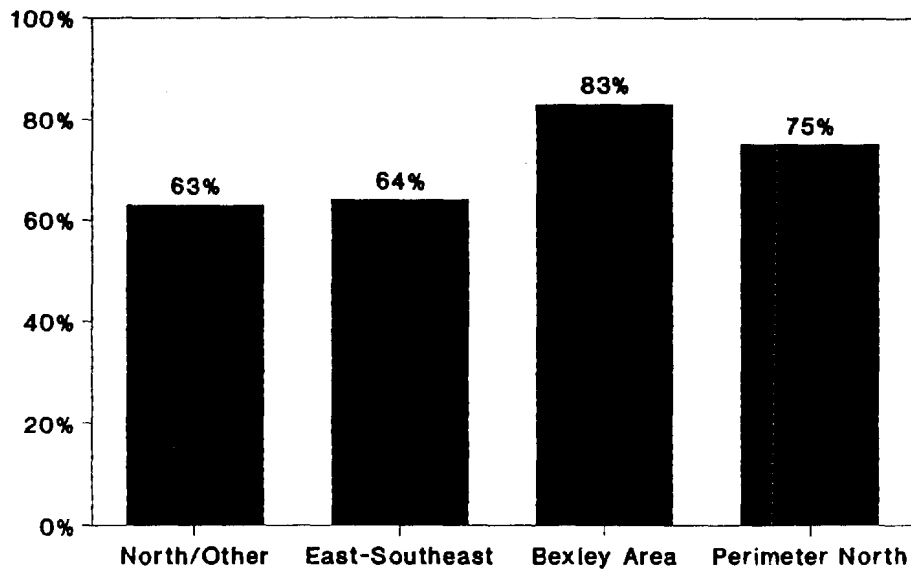
Ritual Observance (Always or Usually)



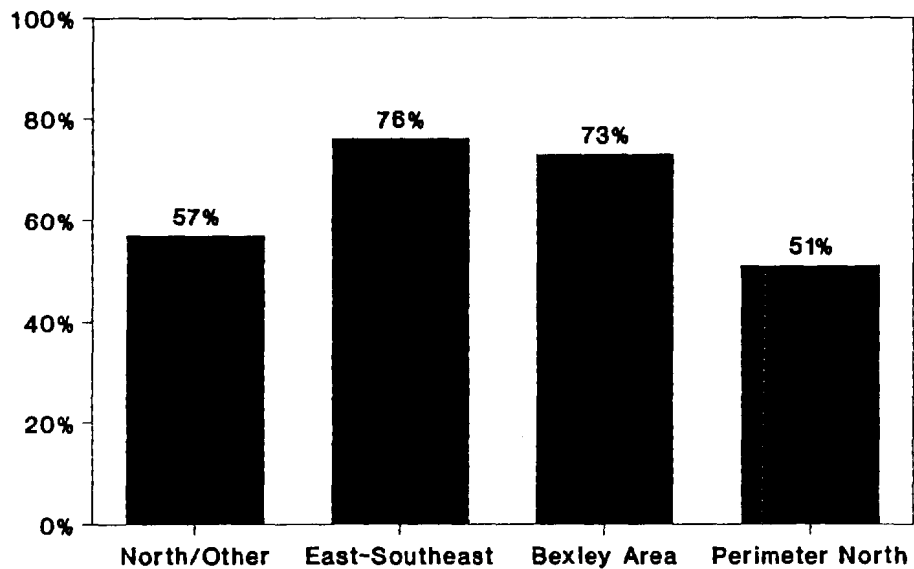
Percent "Always" or "Usually" Attending A Seder By Zone of Residence



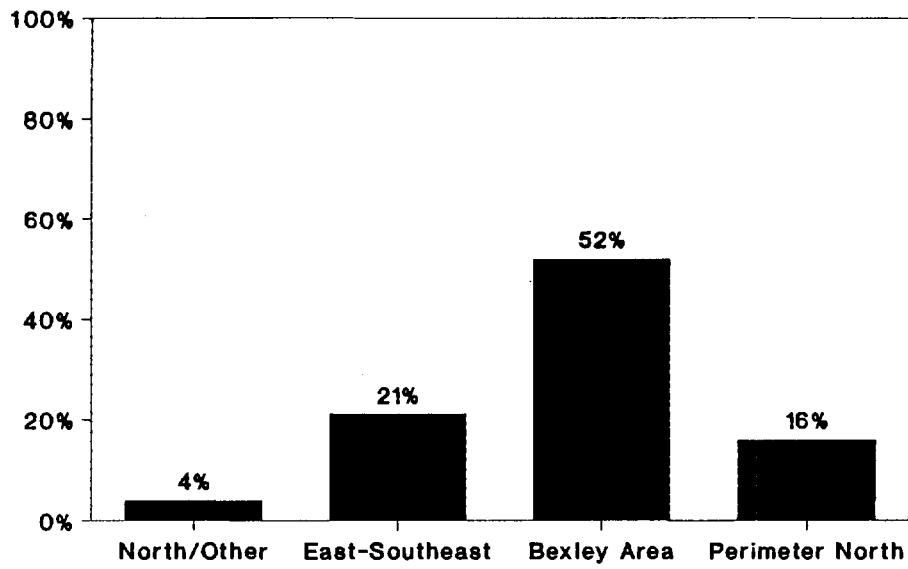
Percent "Always" or "Usually" Lighting A Hanukkah Candle By Zone of Residence



Percent "Always" or "Usually" Fasting On Yom Kippur By Zone of Residence



Percent "Always" or "Usually" Lighting Sabbath Candles By Zone of Residence



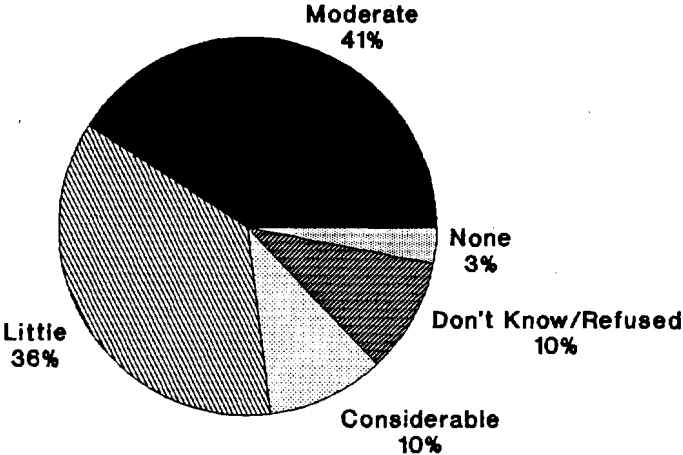
Have Columbus Jews experienced anti-Semitism? In what form?

Do Columbus Jews visit Israel?

What percent of the Jewish population read the *Ohio Jewish Chronicle*?

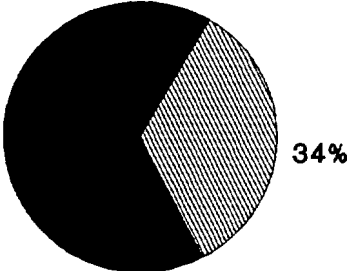
- 75% of the population feel there is little to moderate anti-Semitism in the community, but that the manifestation takes a rather benign form, such as verbal abuse and insensitivity.
- About one in seven residents alleges being discriminated against in the past three years.
- One in three respondents has visited Israel and more than one in four has a relative in Israel.
- About 43% regularly reads the *Ohio Jewish Chronicle*.

Perceived Amount of Anti-Semitism

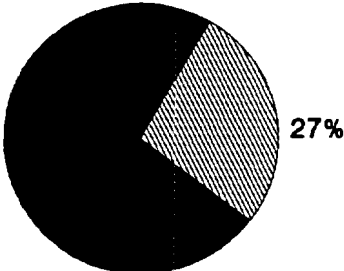


Contact with Israel

Visited Israel



Relatives in Israel



ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP AND CONTRIBUTIONS

12

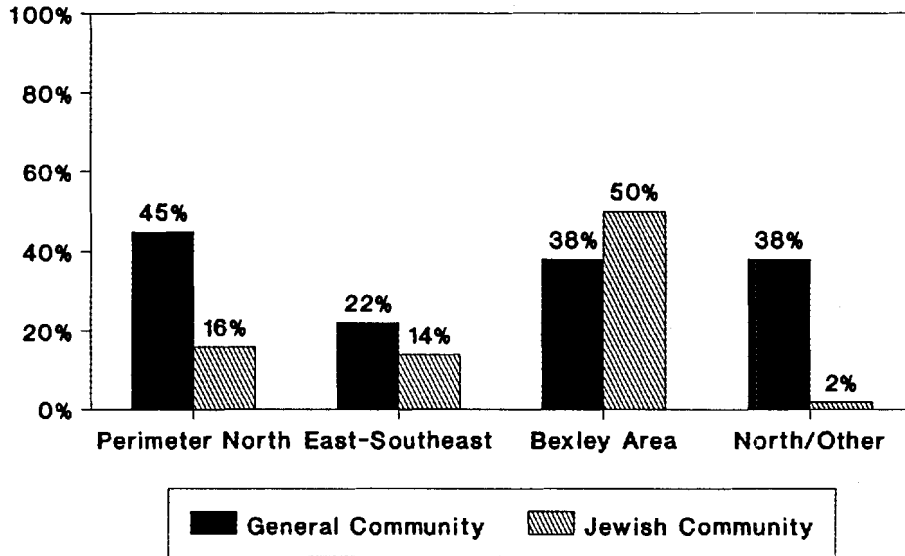
What percent of Columbus Jews volunteer in the general community? In the Jewish community?

Do Columbus Jews contribute to the Jewish CommUNITY Campaign?

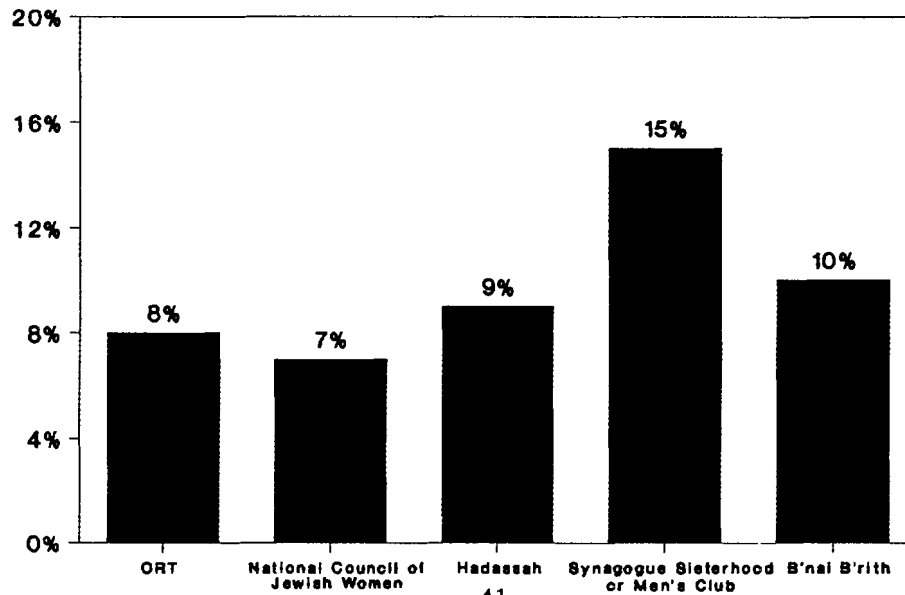
What demographic factors impact upon organizational membership and contributions?

- About 36% of respondents volunteer in the general community and nearly 20% volunteer for Jewish organizations. On the average, they volunteer about five hours a month.
- Volunteering tends to increase with age, perhaps because of a greater attachment to the Jewish community and because of more available time.
- About one in four respondents belongs to at least one Jewish organization. Membership levels are highest for synagogue sisterhoods and men's clubs.
- About half of all Jewish adults recall being solicited to contribute to the Columbus Jewish Federation's annual Jewish CommUNITY Campaign; 80% of those who recall being asked made a contribution.
- About 40% of all respondents made a contribution to the annual Jewish CommUNITY Campaign. The reason most frequently cited for not contributing to the annual campaign was "*I wasn't contacted.*"
- The average (median) amount given annually to all Jewish philanthropies was \$205. The average amount given to non-Jewish charities was about \$220.
- Jews in the Bexley area are more likely to volunteer for Jewish organizations, to belong to at least one Jewish organization, and to contribute to the Jewish commUNITY Campaign.
- The median household income in the Jewish community is \$42,000 per year.

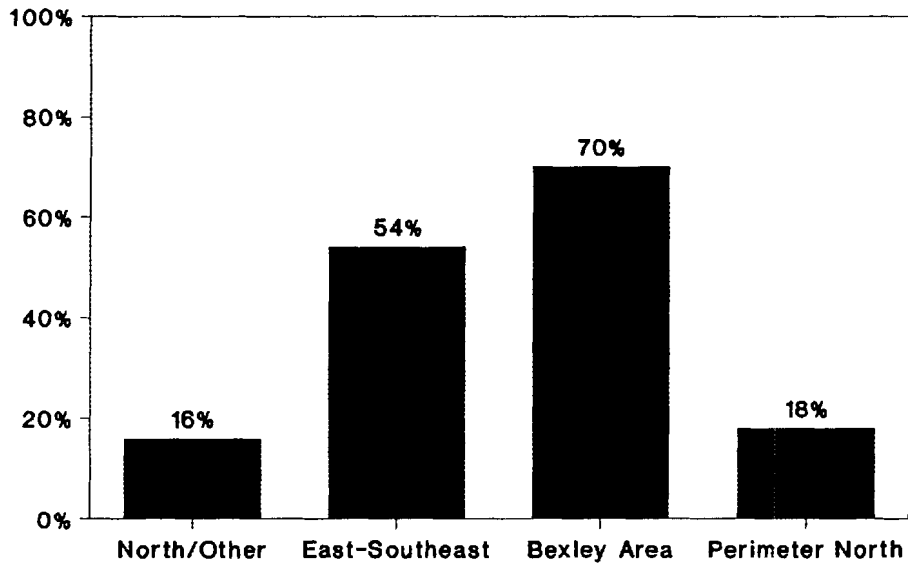
Volunteerism



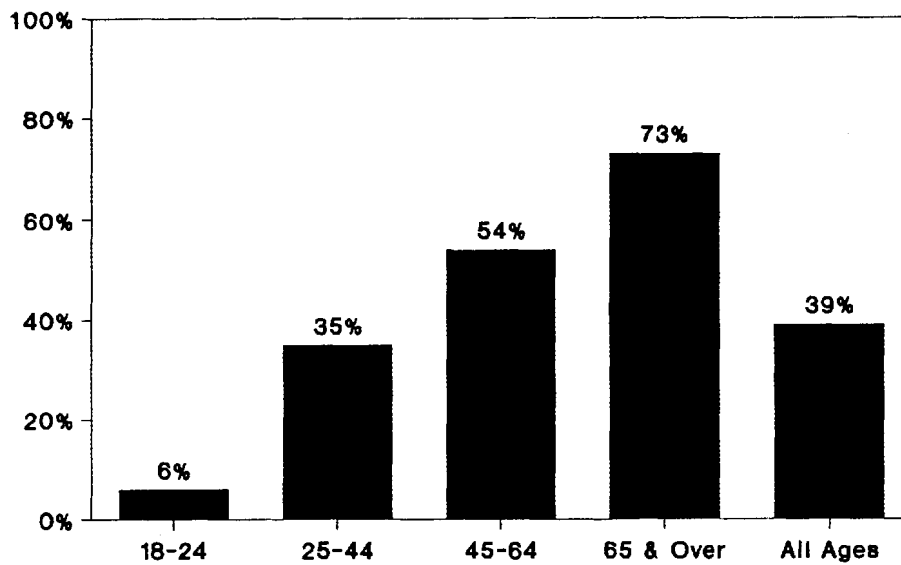
Percent Currently Belonging to Jewish Organizations



Percent Giving to the Federation By Zone of Residence



Percent Giving to the Federation By Age



What percent of the Columbus Jewish population has heard of the local Jewish agencies?

What percent utilizes these services?

Do Columbus Jews utilize Jewish pre-school and day care services? Summer camp?

Do Columbus Jews need family or job counseling services? If they obtained the needed services, were they obtained within the organized Jewish community?

What percent of respondents are single? Do they utilize Jewish singles services?

■ Virtually the entire community has heard of the Jewish Community Center and nearly two thirds have used its services.

■ Large proportions (ranging from 31-90%) of the population have also heard of Jewish Family Services, B'nai Brith Hillel, Columbus Torah Academy and Wexner Heritage Village. Utilization ranges from 4 to 35%.

■ Chief barriers to Center membership are expense (33%), distance (23%) and lack of need for services (17%).

■ A little over one-quarter of the population has a membership at the Jewish Community Center; nearly one-half of non-members have been to the Center in the past year.

■ One of every eight households has a relative who has used the Wexner Heritage Village facilities.

■ About 14% of multi-person households use pre-school services, 7% uses infant day care and 6% toddler day care. The services are received either at the Jewish Center or a non-Jewish facility. Nearly one in ten send a child to day camp and it is more likely to be Jewish in orientation.

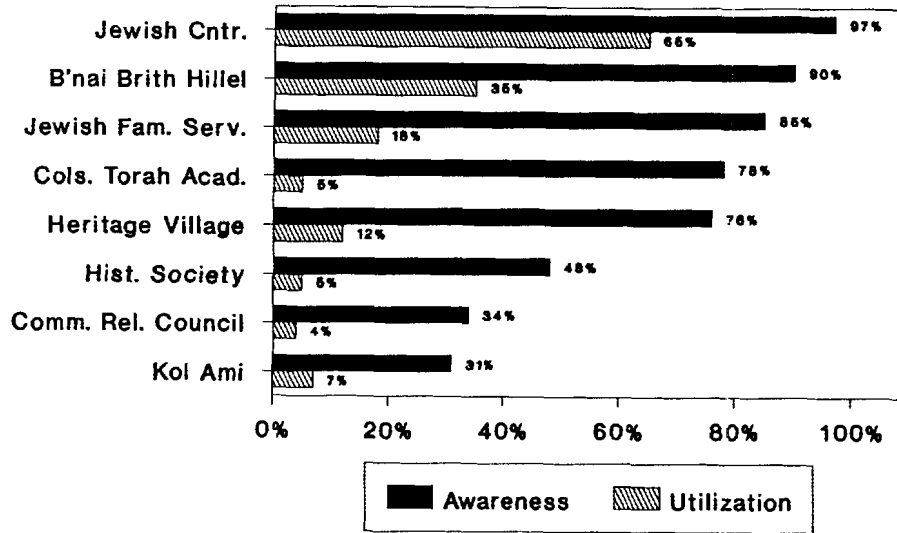
■ About one in ten have experienced a need for family or job counseling during the past year.

USE OF SERVICES

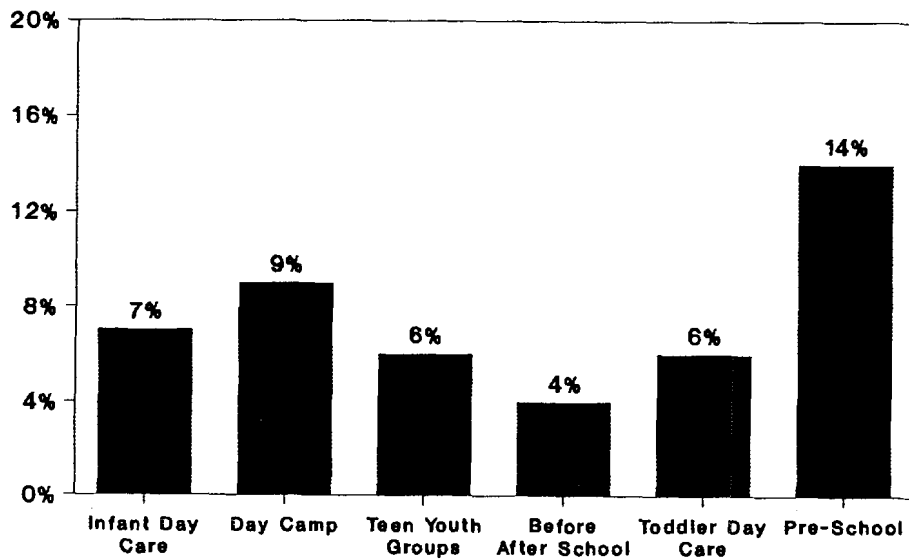
Counseling tends to be obtained from professional sources, whether Jewish or not.

- About 40% of respondents are single. One in ten of those use singles services.
- Cultural activities and recreation facilities are used by about half of the Jewish households, with the Jewish Center the dominant provider.

Awareness and Utilization of Federation Agencies



Percent of Multi-Person Households Using Selected Children's Services



How does the Columbus Jewish community compare with other American Jewish communities?

How has the Columbus Jewish community changed since 1969?

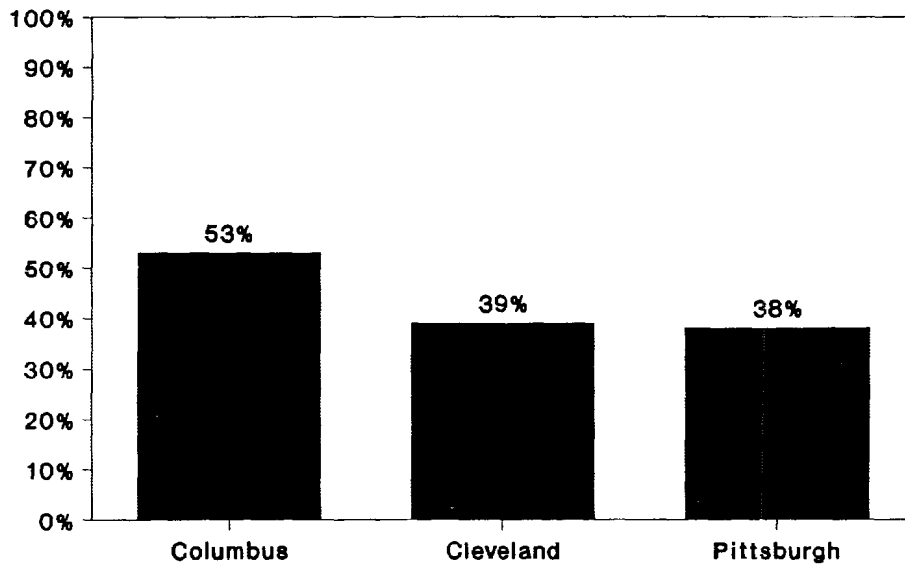
1. Compared with most other American Jewish communities, Columbus Jews:

- a) are better educated,
- b) have a higher percentage in the professions,
- c) are less likely to be born locally,
- d) are younger and
- e) are less affiliated with Jewish institutions.

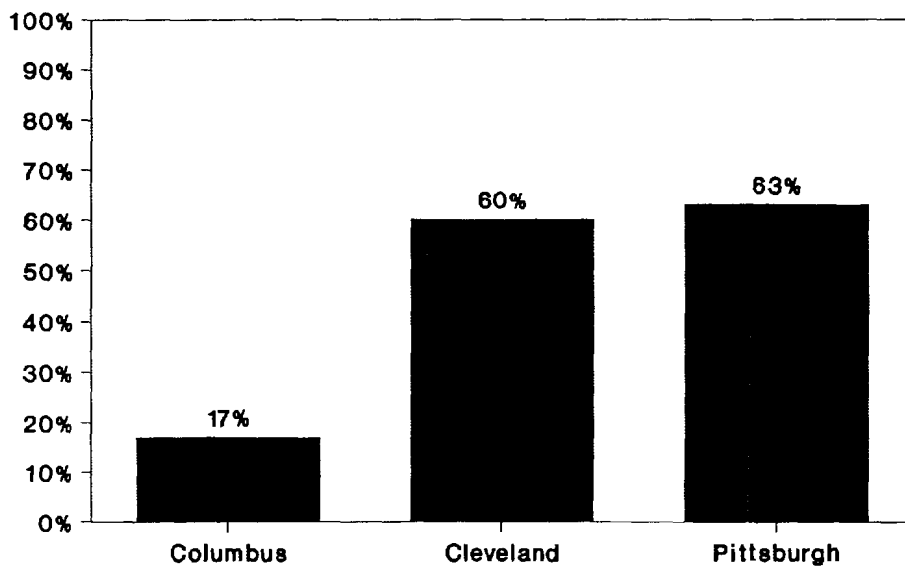
2. Compared with Columbus in the 1960s, today's population is:

- a) larger,
- b) geographically more dispersed,
- c) less Orthodox and more Reform,
- d) more U.S.-born,
- e) better educated and
- f) more likely to be working in the professions.

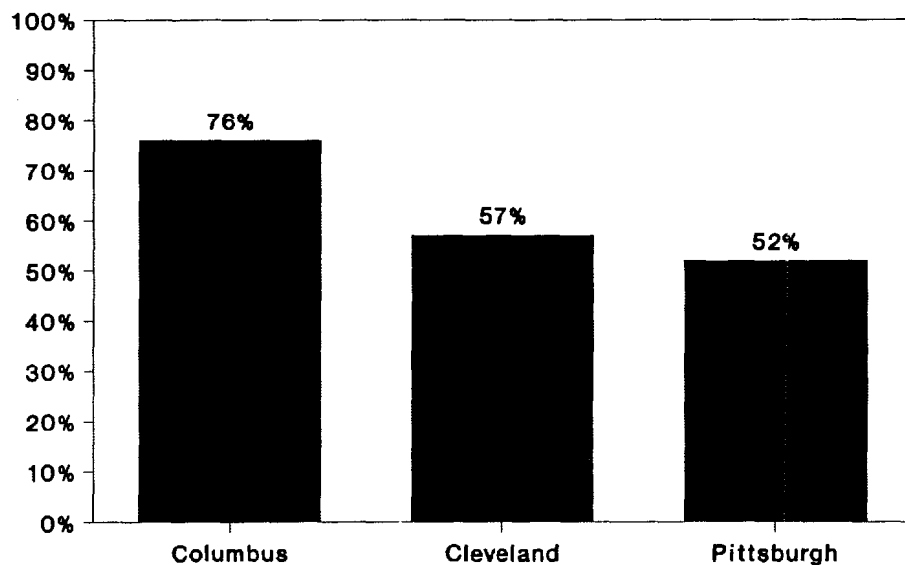
Three Midwestern Jewish Communities: % with Professional Occupations



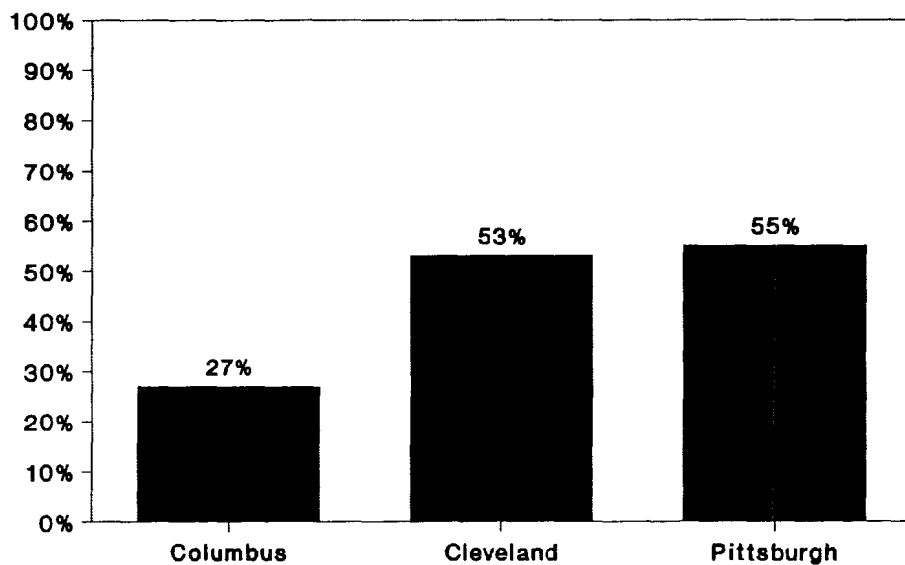
Three Midwestern Jewish Communities: % Locally Born



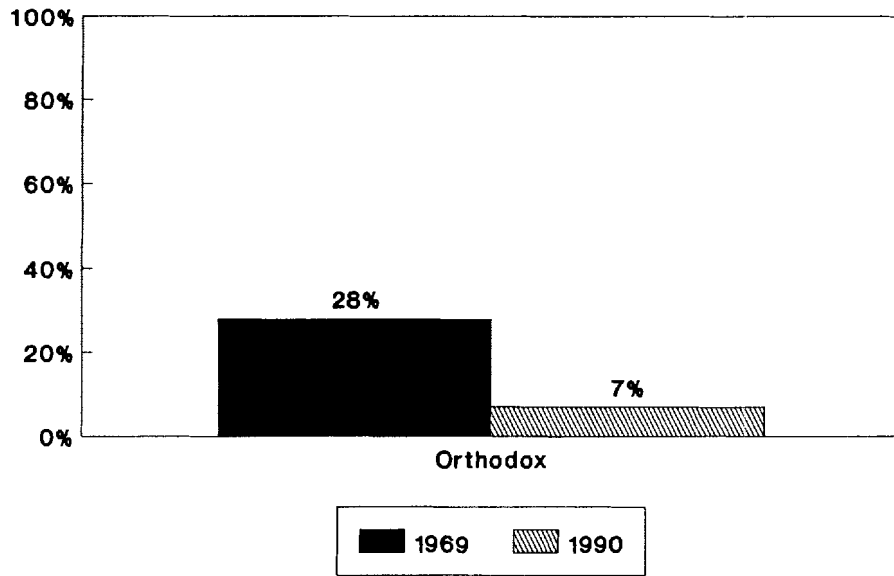
Three Midwestern Jewish Communities: % Under Age 45



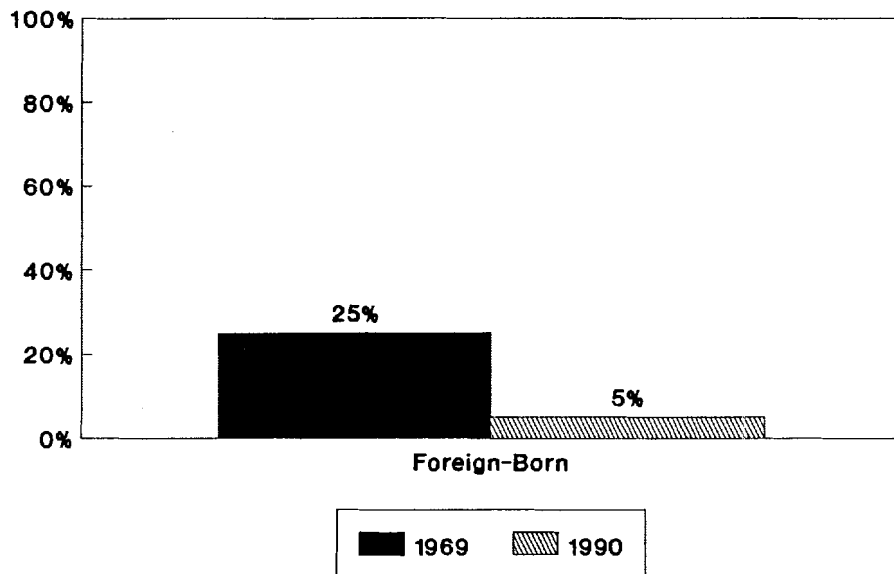
Three Midwestern Jewish Communities: % Belonging to Jewish Organizations



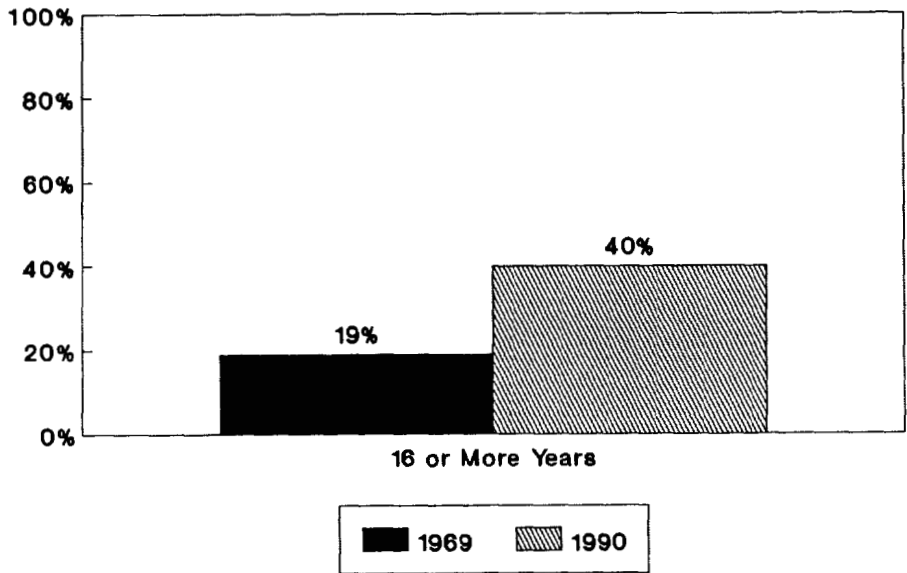
% of Columbus Jewish Community Orthodox: 1969-1990



% of Columbus Jewish Community Foreign Born: 1969-1990



% of Columbus Jewish Community with 16+ Yrs. of Education: 1969 & 1990



% of Columbus Jewish Community with Professional Occupation: 1969 & 1990

