



# Multiple Streams: Diversity Within the Orthodox Jewish Community in the New York Area

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# Introduction

# Background

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- Even experienced observers of American Jewish life are inclined to see Orthodox Jews as an undifferentiated whole
- In point of fact, beneath a common label and some common elements of shared identity, lies enormous diversity in social, religious, and cultural characteristics
- Until recently, no systematic social research has been available to probe and disentangle these critical and intriguing variations
- The Jewish Community Study of New York: 2011 offers the first large-scale set of data where Orthodox respondents classify themselves into major streams of Orthodoxy.

# Purpose

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- ❑ This paper focuses on an exploration of how Jews who identify with different streams of Orthodoxy differ from each other and from those who are not Orthodox
- ❑ All of the data in this paper are drawn from the Jewish Community Study of New York: 2011, commissioned by UJA-Federation of New York, and carried out by Jewish Policy and Action Research (JPAR)\*

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\* JPAP is a strategic alliance between Ukeles Associates, Inc. and Social Science Research Solutions, Inc.

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## The Jewish Community Study of New York, 2011

# The Jewish Community Study of New York, 2011 ....

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- ... was conducted in an eight county-area:
  - ▣ New York City: the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island
  - ▣ Nassau, Suffolk, and Westchester counties
  
- ... included 5,993 interviews of which 1,074 (18%) were with Orthodox respondents.
  
- ... was a single-stage, stratified random sample.

# The Jewish Community Study of New York, 2011...

- ❑ ...included 1,302 cell phone interviews (out of a total of 5,993 interviews)
- ❑ ...had a 79% interview cooperation rate
- ❑ ... had a 32% response rate
- ❑ ....had a sampling error rate for survey responses for which all 5,993 respondents answered a question of +/- 2.0% at the 95% confidence level.



# Definitions

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## Jewish persons

- ▣ Adults (age 18+) who consider themselves Jewish or partially Jewish
- ▣ Children being raised as Jews

## Jewish households

- ▣ Households that include one or more Jewish adults, at least 18 years old.
- ▣ These Jewish households may also include non-Jewish adults and/or children who are not being raised as Jews.

## Orthodox households

- ▣ Households with a respondent who self-defines as “Orthodox.”

Orthodox respondents were asked a follow-up question:

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- ❑ Do you most closely identify with modern, Hasidic, Yeshivish or some other type of Orthodoxy?
- ❑ 95% of Orthodox respondents self-identify as modern, Yeshivish or Hasidic

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# The Jewish Population of the New York Area

# The New York area Jewish community is, by far, the largest in the United States

<b>Jewish Households</b>	694,000
<b>Jews</b>	1,538,000
<b>People Living in Jewish Households (Including Non-Jews)</b>	1,769,000

The next largest Jewish community in the USA is Los Angeles, with 247,700 Jewish households (1997 Study).

# The New York area Orthodox community is, by far, the largest in the United States

	Number
<b>Orthodox Households</b>	129,000
<b>Jews in Orthodox Households</b>	493,000

# Six out of ten New York area households identify with a religious denomination

	Number	Percent
Orthodox	129,000	19%
Reform	151,000	22%
Conservative	128,000	18%
Other Denominations (Reconstructionist, Secular- Humanist, Traditional)	25,000	4%
No Denomination	85,000	12%
No Religion	86,000	12%
Other	90,000	13%
Total	694,000	100%

Orthodox Judaism is the largest Jewish denomination in the New York area -- as measured by number of Jewish persons

	Number	Percent
Orthodox	493,000	32%
Reform	280,000	18%
Conservative	303,000	20%
Other	462,000	30%
Total	1,538,000	100%

Between 2002 and 2011, the number of Orthodox Jews in the New York area grew by 30%

	2002	2011	% change
Orthodox Jews	378,000	493,000	+30%
All Jews	1,412,000	1,538,000	+ 9%



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## Orthodox Jewish Streams in the New York Area

Modern Orthodox have the most households (55,000) ;  
 Hasidim lead in the number of Jews (239,000)

	Number of Households	Percent of all Jewish Households	Number of Jews	Percent of all Jews
Hasidic	50,000	7%	239,000	16%
Yeshivish	23,000	3%	97,000	6%
Modern Orthodox	55,000	8%	157,000	10%
Subtotal — Orthodox	129,000	19%	493,000	32%
All Others	565,000	81%	1,045,000	68%
Total	694,000	100%	1,538,000	100%

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# Demography

# Hasidic households are the largest in the New York-area Jewish population

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- Both Hasidic households ( average of 4.8 persons) and Yeshivish homes ( 4.1) are more than twice as large as non-Orthodox households (1.8)
- Modern Orthodox households are in-between Hasidic/Yeshivish households and non-Orthodox households (2.8)

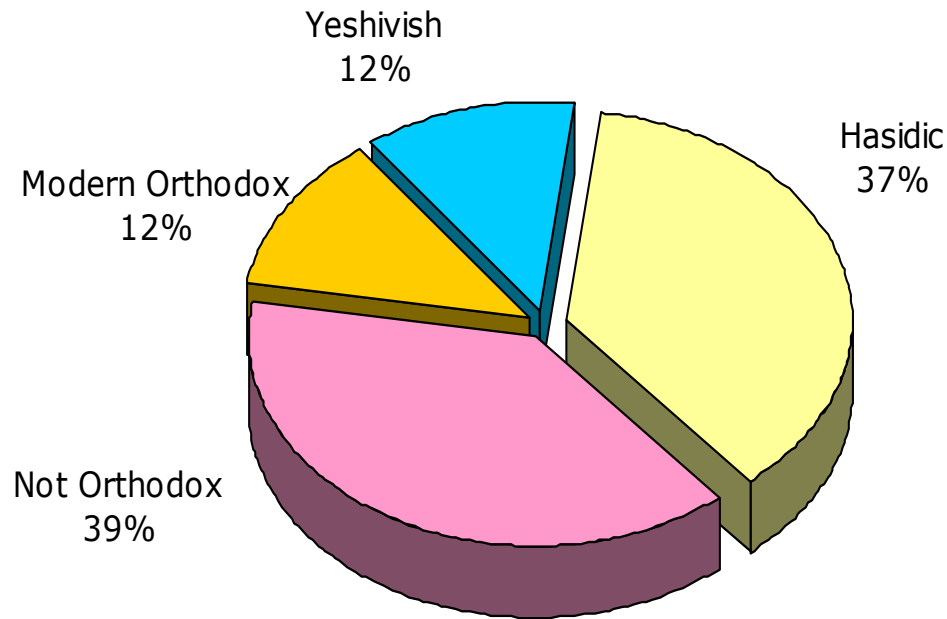
The gaps between these groups are even larger with respect to numbers of Jewish children

- On average, Hasidic households are home to 2.5 Jewish children
- Yeshivish homes average 1.6 children
- Modern Orthodox homes average 0.8 children
- Households which are not Orthodox average 0.2 children

# Three out of five Jewish children in the New York area live in Orthodox homes

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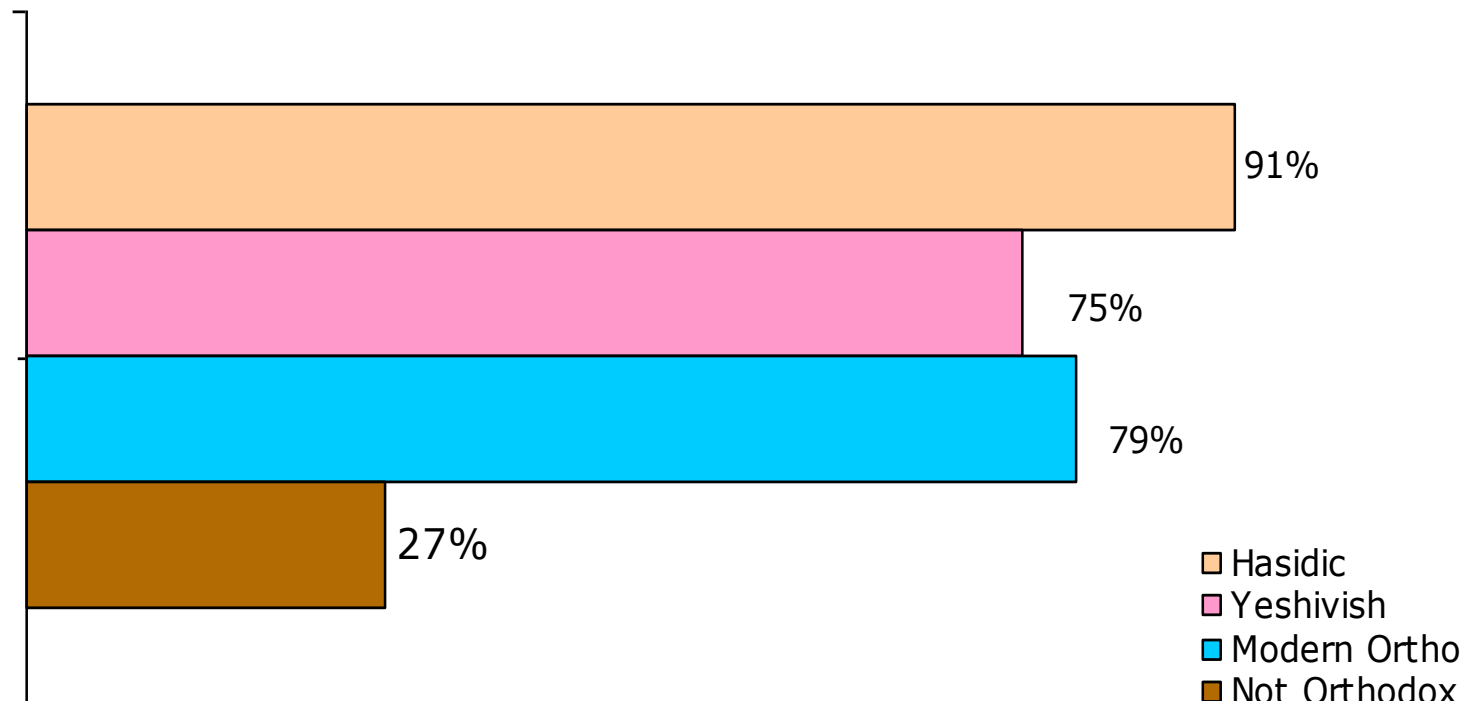
## Numbers of Jewish Children by Orthodox Type



# 85% of Orthodox young adults are married compared with 27% of young adults who are not Orthodox

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% of 18 to 34 year olds who are married



More than half of all Hasidic adults are under 35 compared with a fifth of those not Orthodox

Age	Hasidic	Yeshivish	Modern Orthodox	Not Orthodox
18-34	58%	40%	30%	18%
35-64	37%	45%	47%	50%
65 and over	5%	15%	23%	32%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%



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# Geography

# Hasidic households are the most geographically concentrated of any Orthodox type

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Hasidic	Yeshivish	Modern Orthodox	Not Orthodox
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Brooklyn (94%)</li><li>• All other counties (6%)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Brooklyn (71%)</li><li>• Queens (17%)</li><li>• All other counties (12%)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Brooklyn (27%)</li><li>• Manhattan (21%)</li><li>• Queens (17%)</li><li>• Nassau (14%)</li><li>• All other counties (21%)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Manhattan (25%)</li><li>• Brooklyn (21%)</li><li>• Queens (15%)</li><li>• Nassau (15%)</li><li>• All other counties (24%)</li></ul>

Brooklyn is home to the vast majority of Hasidic & Yeshivish households; modern Orthodox households and those not Orthodox are most likely to live in the rest of NYC

	Hasidic	Yeshivish	Modern Orthodox	Not Orthodox
Brooklyn	94%	71%	27%	22%
Rest of NYC	3%	22%	49%	47%
Suburbs	3%	7%	25%	32%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

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# Synagogue Attendance

The vast majority of Hasidic and Yeshivish men attend synagogue daily; as do 36% of Modern Orthodox men

Synagogue Attendance	Men			
	Hasidic	Yeshivish	Modern Orthodox	Not Orthodox
Not At All/Infrequent	1%	8%	25%	69%
Several times a yr. to several times a month	2%	0%	10%	21%
Once or several times a week	15%	10%	29%	9%
Daily	82%	82%	36%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

# Hasidic, Yeshivish and Modern Orthodox women are most likely to attend synagogue once a week

Synagogue Attendance	Women			
	Hasidic	Yeshivish	Modern Orthodox	Not Orthodox
Not At All/Infrequent	23%	22%	28%	68%
Several times a yr. to several times a month	32%	25%	27%	25%
Once or several times a week	36%	38%	43%	7%
Daily	10%	15%	2%	<1%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

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# Israel and Other Jewish Connections

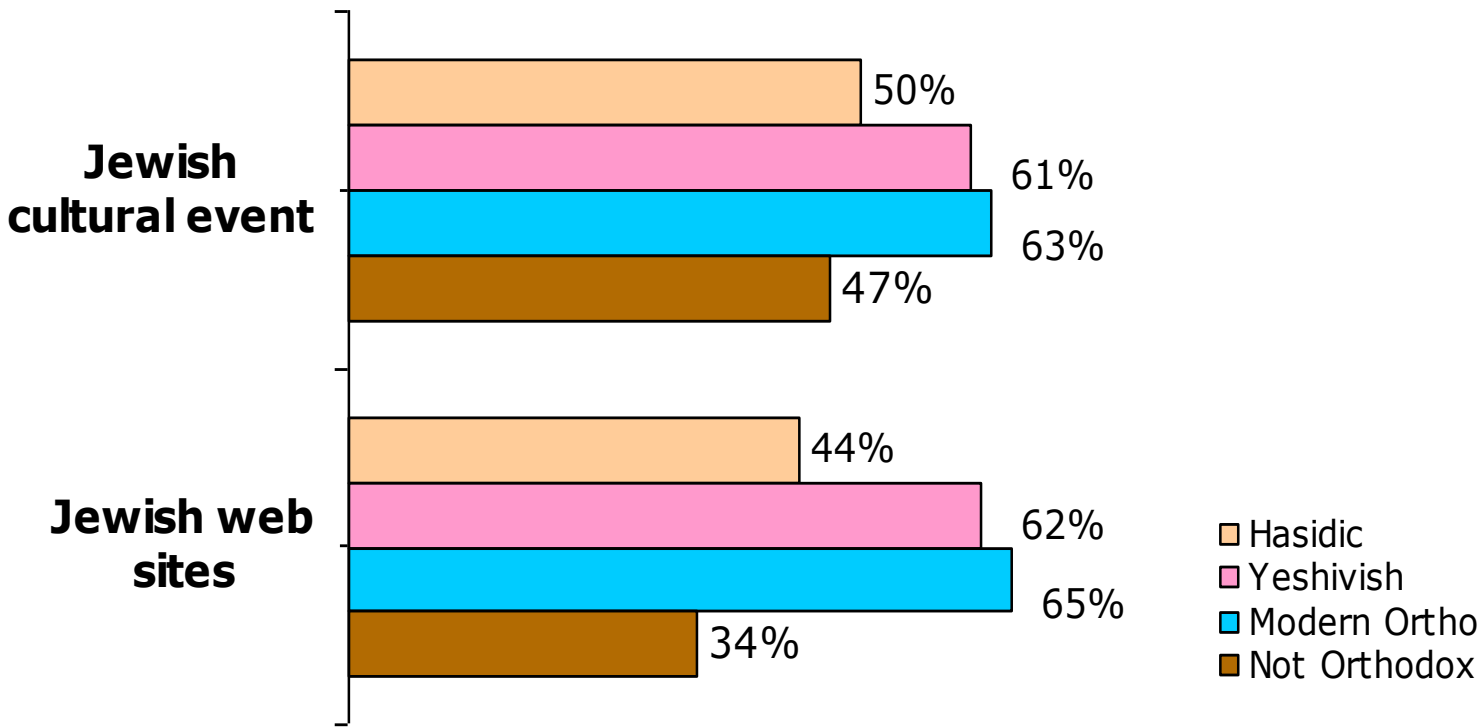
# Yeshivish & Modern Orthodox respondents have the strongest attachments to Israel

	Hasidic	Yeshivish	Modern Orthodox	Not Orthodox
Very attached to Israel	56%	82%	75%	38%
“Very strong” feeling of belonging to Jewish people	99%	97%	80%	42%
Lived in Israel or been to Israel	75%	88%	77%	41%



# Modern Orthodox and Yeshivish households are the most likely to access Jewish web sites and cultural events

**% of Respondents taking part in a Jewish cultural event within the past year or currently accessing Jewish web sites:**

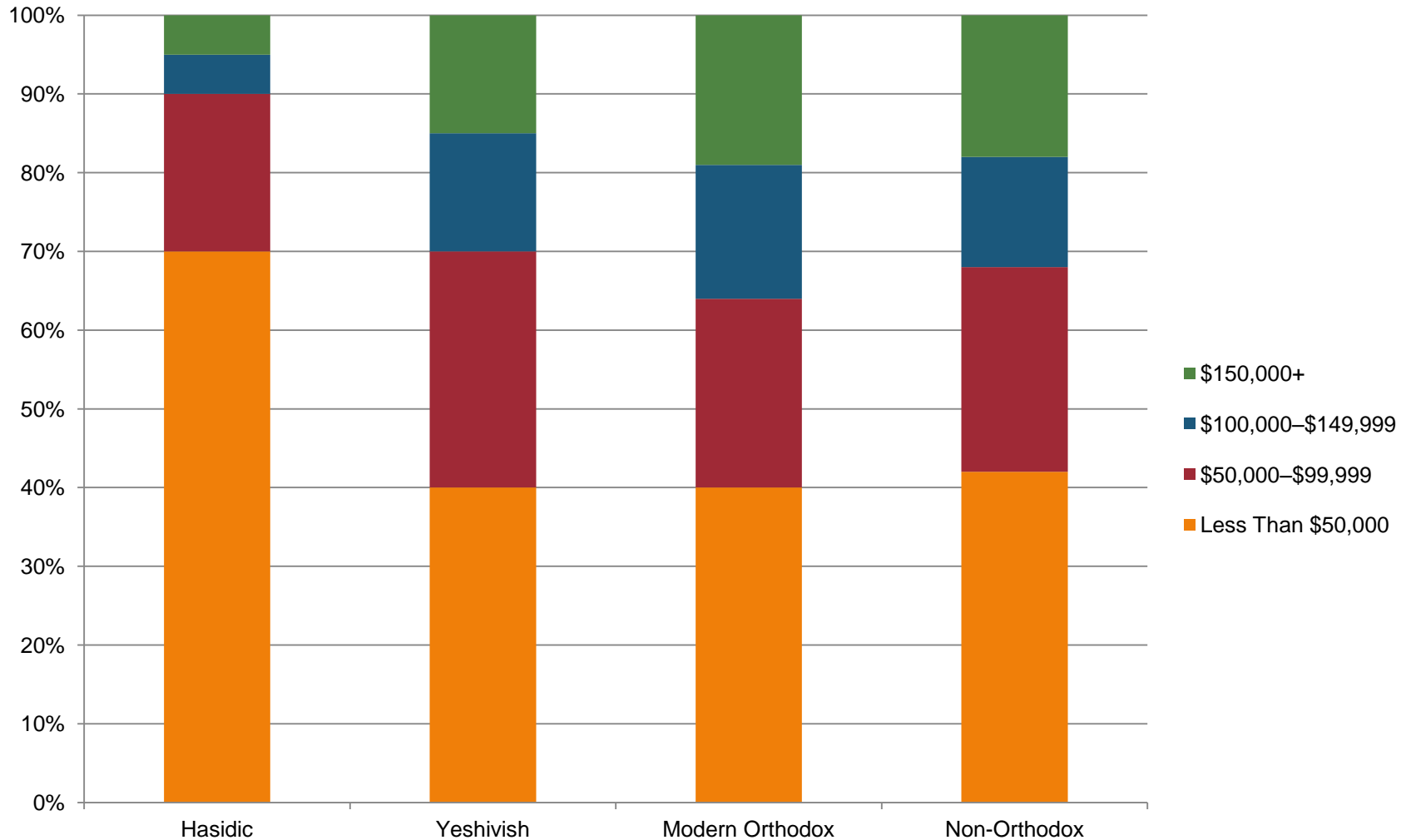


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# Income, Education, and Employment

# Seven of ten Hasidic households earn under \$50,000 per year, as contrasted with about two fifths of all others

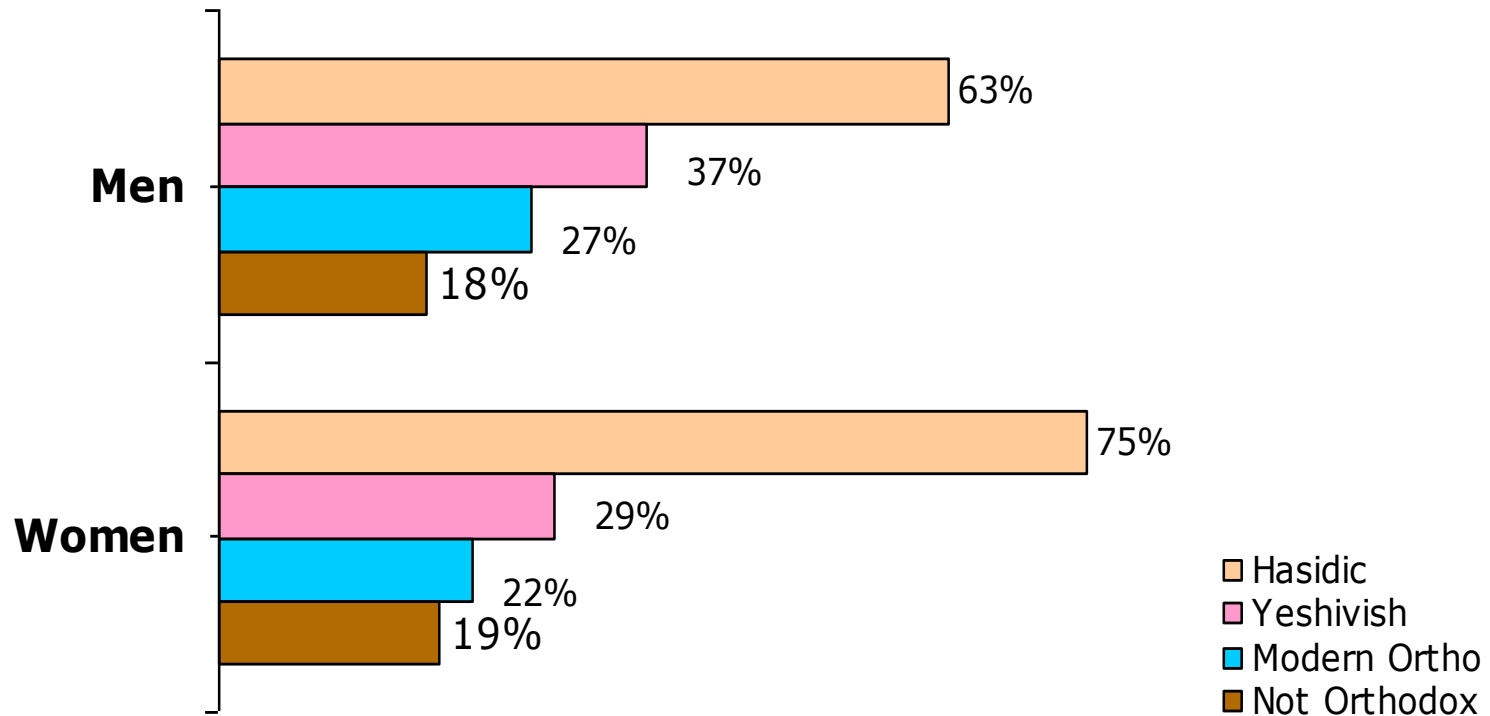
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# Hasidic men and women have the highest percentage with a low level of secular education

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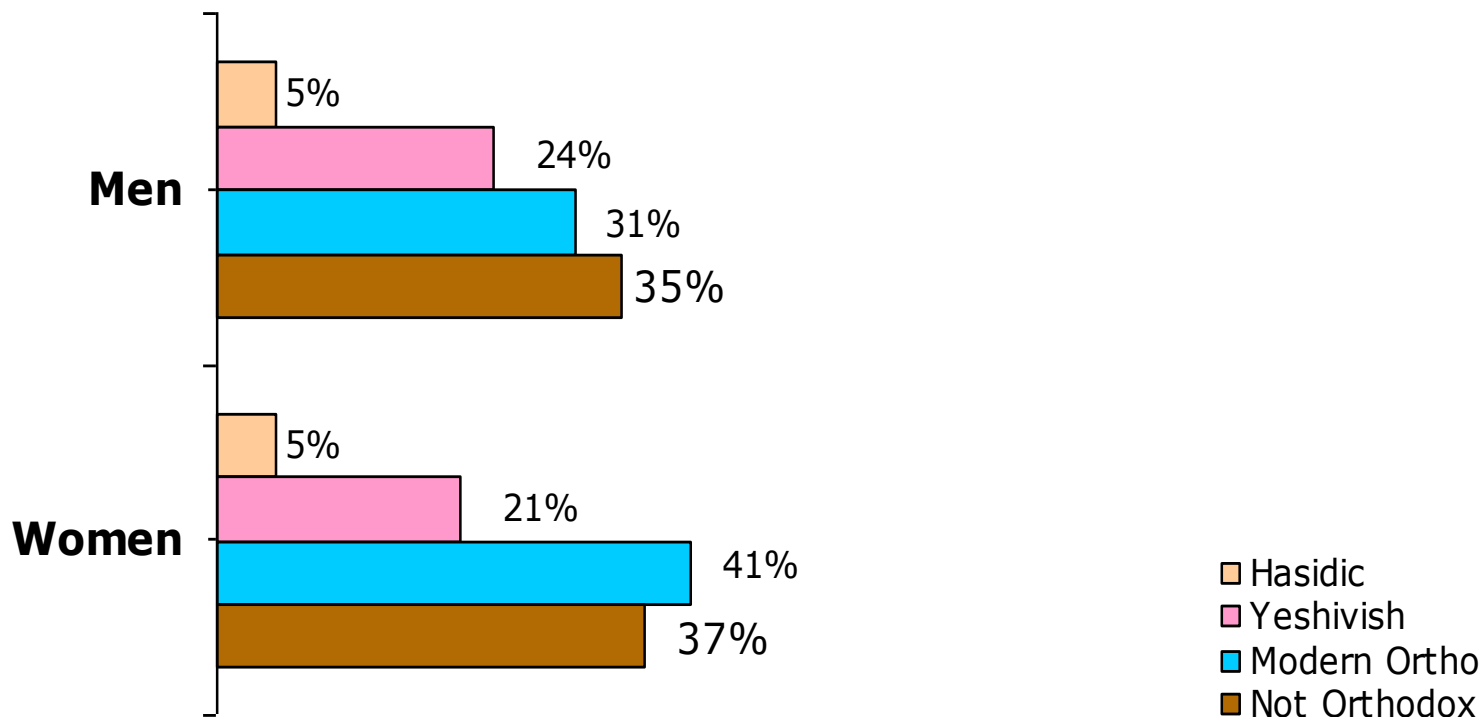
**% of Male and Female Respondents and Spouses with a high school diploma or less:**



# Hasidic men and women have the lowest percentage with a high level of secular education

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**% of Male and Female Respondents and Spouses with a Master's degree or more:**



Hasidic & Yeshivish men are much more likely to be students. All are equally likely to work full-time/self-employed

	Hasidic	Yeshivish	Modern Orthodox	Not Orthodox
Self/full	52%	46%	51%	43%
Part-time	8%	8%	3%	4%
Student	22%	15%	5%	2%
Retired	4%	8%	15%	17%
Other	15%	23%	27%	34%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%

# Hasidic & Yeshivish women are much more likely to be working part-time or to be homemakers

	Hasidic	Yeshivish	Modern Orthodox	Not Orthodox
Self/full	28%	23%	34%	33%
Part-time	21%	18%	11%	7%
Student	1%	1%	1%	1%
Homemaker	26%	18%	8%	7%
Retired	5%	19%	19%	21%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%

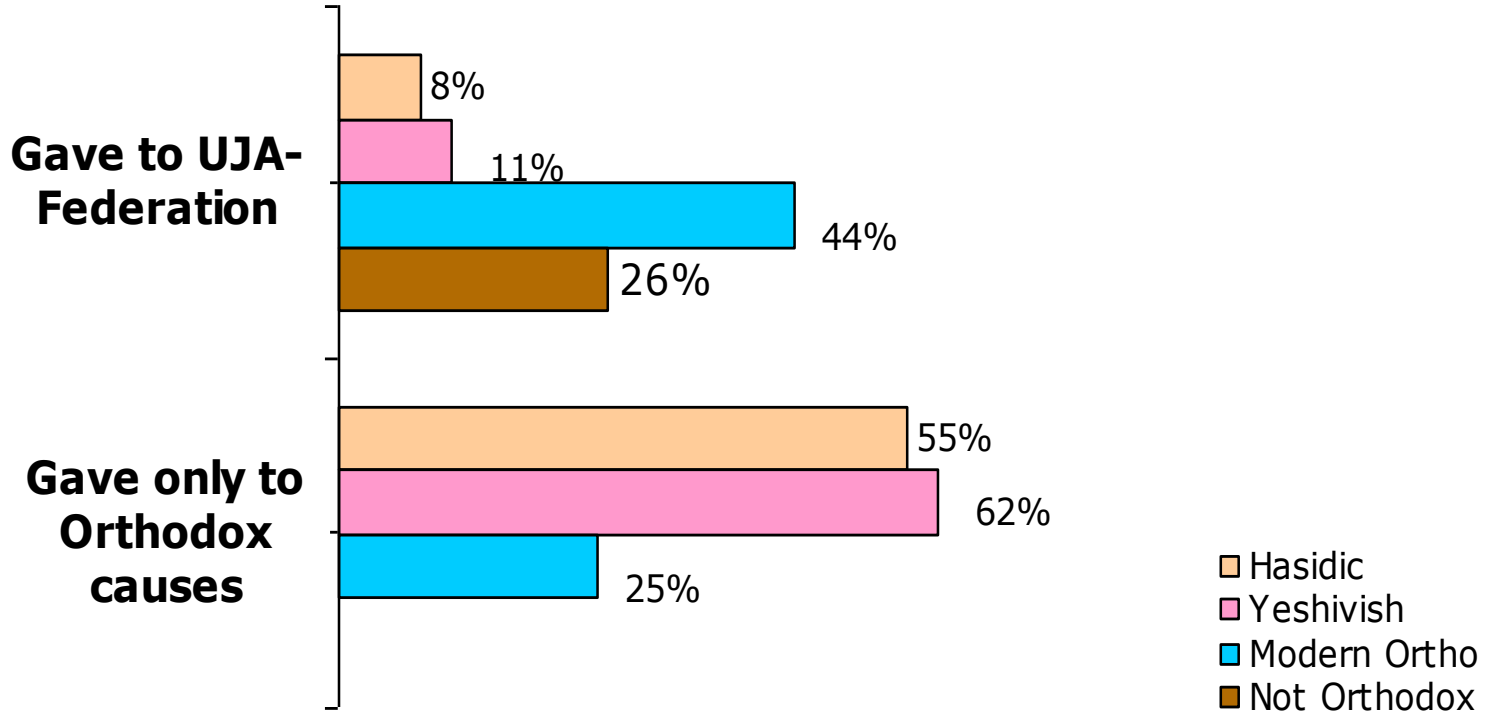
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# Philanthropy



# Modern Orthodox households are much more likely to give to UJA-Federation; much less likely to give only to Orthodox causes

**% of Respondents reporting participation**



Hasidic & Yeshivish households tend to give to Jewish charity only; Modern Orthodox give both Jewish & non-Jewish charity

	Hasidic	Yeshivish	Modern Orthodox	Not Orthodox
Jewish & non-Jewish	34%	41%	62%	43%
Jewish only	60%	50%	22%	9%
Non-Jewish only	<1%	6%	6%	28%
No Gift	6%	4%	10%	20%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

# Summary

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There are six different patterns of relationship among these streams:

1 linear traditional–modern continuum : Hasidim > Yeshivish > Modern Orthodox > non-Orthodox

- Household size, number of children, age of adults
- Low level secular education (men)

2. Haredi Effect : Hasidic=Yeshivish

- Jewish peoplehood
- Synagogue attendance (men)
- Employment (men and women)
- Giving to Jewish causes only, giving to Orthodox causes only

# Summary (cont'd)

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- 3 Modern Effect: Modern Orthodox = Non-Orthodox
  - Geographic dispersion
  - High secular education
  - Giving to UJA-Federation
  - High income
- 4 Orthodox Effect: Hasidic=Yeshivish=Modern Orthodox
  - Percent of married young adults
  - Travel to Israel
  - Synagogue attendance (women)

# Summary (cont'd)

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- 5 Shared Modern Orthodox-Yeshivish Effect
  - Attachment to Israel
  - Accessing Jewish web-sites and Jewish cultural events
- 6 Hasidic outlier
  - Low income
  - Low level of secular education (women)

# Conclusions

- **Non-Orthodox Jews are not reproducing themselves primarily because of late marriage.**
- **Hasidic Jews are facing increasing economic pressure, primarily because of low levels of secular education and large families.**
- **Orthodox Jews are increasing in number, highly engaged in Jewish life, and with differences in life style that may affect community cohesion.**