

Some Major Findings from the 2016 Houston Jewish Community Study on Teenagers (Age 13-17)

Number of Teens

1. 3,200 teens live in Jewish households.
2. Of the 3,200 teens in Jewish households, 1,700 are male and 1,500 are female.
3. Of the 3,200 teens in Jewish households, 2,200 are Jewish, 300 are part Jewish, and 700 are not Jewish.
4. Given the number of children age 6-12 in Jewish households, there may be a small decline in the number of teens in the future.
5. Of the 3,200 teens
 - a. 1,110 (35%) live in the Core Area
 - b. 760 (24%) live in the North
 - c. 620 (20%) live in the West
 - d. 260 (8%) live in the Suburban Southwest
 - e. 190 (6%) live in the Southeast
 - f. 160 (5%) live in the Central City
 - g. 70 (2%) live in Memorial
6. The number of children in Jewish households age 13-17 decreased by 28% (1,235 children).

Jewish Day School Education of Teens

1. According to the Telephone Survey, 17% (400 children¹) of Jewish children age 13-17 attend a Jewish day school; 22%, a non-Jewish private school; and 61%, a public school. Jewish day schools have a 43% market share of the private school market for Jewish children age 13-17.
 - a. The 17% who **attend a Jewish day school** is above average among about 40 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 22% in Pittsburgh, 16% in St. Louis, and 7% in Minneapolis.
 - b. The 22% who **attend a non-Jewish private school** is well above average among about 40 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 16% in St. Louis, 15% in Pittsburgh, and 6% in Minneapolis.
 - c. The 61% who **attend a public school** is well below average among about 40 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 86% in Minneapolis, 68% in St. Louis, and 63% in Pittsburgh.
 - d. The 43% **market share** is about average among about 40 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 59% in Pittsburgh, 53% in Minneapolis, and 49% in St. Louis.

¹ A survey of the Jewish day schools suggest that about 485 Jewish children age 13-17 are currently enrolled in Jewish day school.

Teens Currently in Jewish Education

2. *According to the Telephone Survey*, 40% (900 children) of Jewish children age 13-17 currently attend formal Jewish education, including 24% at a supplemental school and 17% at a Jewish day school.
3. *According to the Synagogue Survey*, 516 Jewish children age 13-17 attend a supplemental school at a synagogue, of whom 1% attend at an Orthodox synagogue; 22%, at a Conservative synagogue; 78%, at a Reform synagogue, and 0%, at other synagogues.
4. *According to the Jewish Day School Survey*, 485 Jewish children age 13-17 attend a Jewish day school.
5. *According to the Jewish Institutions Survey*, in total, 1,001 Jewish children age 13-17 currently attend formal Jewish education, of whom 52% attend a supplemental school, and 48%, a Jewish day school.
6. *According to the Jewish Institutions Survey*, 46%² of Jewish children age 13-17 currently attend formal Jewish education, including 23% who attend a supplemental school; and 22%, a Jewish day school. 54% (1,199 children) of Jewish children age 13-17 do not currently attend formal Jewish education.
7. The 46% who currently attend formal Jewish education *according to the Jewish Institutions Survey* is third highest among about 35 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 34% in Minneapolis.
8. The 40% who currently attend formal Jewish education *according to the Telephone Survey* is below average among about 20 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 67% in Pittsburgh and 57% in St. Louis.

Teens Who Ever Attended Jewish Education

1. 73% of Jewish children age 13-17 have received some formal Jewish education, including 40% at a supplemental school and 33% at a Jewish day school.
2. The 73% of Jewish children **age 13-17** who have received some formal Jewish education is the fifth lowest of about 45 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 91% in both St. Louis and Pittsburgh and 76% in Minneapolis.

Teens Who Attended or Worked at a Jewish Camp

1. 8% (175 children) of Jewish children age 13-17 attended or worked at a Jewish day camp this past summer (the summer of 2015); 2%, a non-Jewish day camp; and 90% did not attend or work at a day camp.
2. 14% (300 children) of Jewish children age 13-17 attended or worked at a Jewish overnight camp this past summer (the summer of 2015); 2%, a non-Jewish overnight camp; and 85% did not attend or work at an overnight camp.

² The 46% who currently attend formal Jewish education *according to the Jewish Institutions Survey* is within the margin of error of the 40% *according to the Telephone Survey*.

Jewish Teenage Youth Group

1. *According to the Telephone Survey*, 34% (750 children) of Jewish children age 13-17 in Houston regularly participate in a Jewish teenage youth group.
2. *According to the Synagogue Survey*, 272 Jewish children age 13-17 participate in a Jewish teenage youth group at a synagogue, of whom 37% participate at an Orthodox synagogue; 17% participate at a Conservative synagogue, and 47%, at a Reform synagogue.
3. *According to the Jewish Institutions Survey*, 415 Jewish children age 13-17 participate in an independent Jewish teenage youth group (BBYO).
4. *According to the Jewish Institutions Survey*, in total, 687 Jewish children age 13-17 participate in a Jewish teenage youth group, of whom 40% participate in a synagogue youth group and 60%, in an independent youth group.
5. *According to the Jewish Institutions Survey*, 31%³ of Jewish children age 13-17 participate in a Jewish teenage youth group.
6. The 31% who participate in a Jewish teenage youth group *according to the Jewish Institutions Survey* is about average among about 30 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 67% in Minneapolis.

Israel

1. A total of 13% of households with Jewish children age 13-17 have sent a Jewish child to Israel: 2% on a Jewish trip and 11%, on a general trip.

³ The 31% who participate in a Jewish teenage youth group *according to the Jewish Institutions Survey* is within the margin of error of the 34% *according to the Telephone Survey*.

For the 2,600 Households with Jewish or Part Jewish Teens

1. 13% of households with teens are Israeli households.
2. 13% of households with teens are Hispanic households.
3. 59% of households earn an annual income of **\$100,000 and over**.
4. 1% of households are **low income households** (earned under \$25,000 in 2015).
5. 6% of households with teens are Orthodox; 13%, Conservative; 1%, Reconstructionist; 53%, Reform; and 27%, Just Jewish.
6. 67% of households have a **mezuzah** on the front door.
7. 83% of households always/usually participate in a **Passover Seder**.
8. 80% of households always/usually light **Chanukah candles**.
9. 21% of households always/usually light **Sabbath candles**.
10. 5% of households keep a **kosher home**.
11. 3% of respondents keep **kosher in and out of the home**.
12. 2% of respondents refrain from using **electricity on the Sabbath**.
13. 57% of households always/usually/sometimes have a **Christmas tree** in the home.
14. 27% of Jewish respondents attend synagogue services **once per month or more**.
15. 27% of Jewish respondents **never** attend synagogue services (or attend only for special occasions).
16. 37% of *married couples* in Jewish households are in-married; 9% are conversionary in-married; and 53% are **intermarried**.
17. 40% of households *reported* **synagogue membership**.
18. 17% of households participated in activities organized by Chabad in the past year.
19. 16% of households are current **members of the Jewish Community Center**.
20. 35% of households **participated in or attended a program at, or sponsored by, a JCC** in the past year.
21. 23% of households are current **members of a Jewish organization** other than a synagogue or JCC.
22. 47% of households are **associated** with the Jewish community in that someone in the household is a member of a synagogue, a JCC, or a Jewish organization.
23. 55% of households contain a member who visited Israel.
24. 27% of households contain a member who visited Israel on a **Jewish trip** and 28%, on a **general trip**.
25. *According to the Telephone Survey*, 36% of households **donated to JFGH** in the past year, 55% were not asked to donate, and 9% were asked but did not donate.
26. 68% of households **donated to Any Jewish Charity** (Any Jewish Federation and Other Jewish Charities) in the past year.

Source: Sheskin, Ira M. *The 2016 Jewish Federation of Greater Houston Population Study: A Portrait of Jewish Houston* (2017) (Houston: The Jewish Federation of Greater Houston).
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