

Jewish Miami: A 2024 Community Study Highlights



Lily Serviansky



Scott Kaufman

We are proud to release *Jewish Miami: A 2024 Community Study*, a comprehensive report on Miami Jewish households that includes important findings and insights about our Jewish community and how we can best serve it in the years ahead.

The important findings shared here will raise new questions, including ways to effectively support the evolving needs and interests of our dynamic, highly committed, pro-Israel Jewish community today and in the future.

As has been our tradition every 10 years, the Greater Miami Jewish Federation commissioned this essential study to inform our community regarding the planning, organizing and development of programs and services for Jewish Miami. The valuable information shared here will inspire Federation's work — as well as that of agencies, schools, synagogues and other Jewish organizations — enabling us to fulfill our philanthropic and communal responsibilities to all who live, work and play here.

This report begins on the next page with Key Findings, many of which may surprise you. Indeed, Jewish Miami surpasses national averages in many areas — including our deep commitment to Jewish education and strong connections to Israel and the Jewish people. These facts should make us truly proud and ever more driven to shaping our shared destiny.

We extend our most sincere appreciation to the many people and organizations involved in the design, implementation and analysis of this comprehensive study. These include our Community Study Committee headed by Chair and Federation Board member Robert C. Gilbert and Federation Chief Planning Officer Michelle Labgold. We also thank our partners at the Maurice and Marilyn Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies (CMJS) at Brandeis University and NORC (National Opinion Research Center) at the University of Chicago, whose work was integral in making this project a reality.

The successful completion of *Jewish Miami: A 2024 Community Study* tells a powerful story about Jewish Miami and all that is possible in this place we call home. We are Jewish Miami Proud!

May we all continue to go from strength to strength.

Sincerely,

Lily Serviansky
Chair of the Board

Scott Kaufman
President & CEO

Scot Karpin



Key Findings



Miami has a vibrant, diverse Jewish community full of wonderful people. I appreciate the great opportunities for Jewish life and growth.

Miami's Jewish Community Has Grown

There are 25% more Jewish households, 31% more individuals in Jewish households*, 7% more Jewish individuals and 13% more Jewish children in Miami since 2014.

Miami's Jewish Community Is Uniquely Internationally Diverse

45% of Jewish households include at least one adult born outside the US.

Miami's Jewish Community Is Rapidly Changing Due to the Arrival of Newcomers

25% of Jewish adults are new to Miami in the last 10 years.

Miami's Jewish Population Is Older Than the National Average

The median age of adults is 59, compared to 49 nationally.

31% of Miami's Jewish population is over age 65, nearly double the national rate (16%).

Miami's Jewish Adults Overwhelmingly Feel They Belong

97% feel a sense of belonging to the Jewish people.

Jewish Connection in Miami Is Higher Than National Averages

47% of Miami Jewish adults say that being Jewish is very much part of their daily lives, compared to **27%** nationally.

Jewish Day School Enrollment Is Nearly Four Times the National Average

41% of K-12 Jewish students attend Jewish day school, compared to **11%** nationally.

Miami Jews Have an Extraordinary Connection to Israel

71% of Miami Jews have visited Israel, much higher than the 45% national average. 78% feel emotionally attached to Israel, compared to 58% nationally.

Financial Wellbeing Varies Across Miami's Jewish Community

26% of Jewish households report financial struggles, compared to 19% nationally. 14% struggled to afford food, housing or medical care in the past year.

Mental Health Challenges Are a Growing Concern, Especially for Teens/Young Adults

66% of households with teens/young adults report social or emotional challenges.

*For a full definition of households and other terms used in this study, please see Methodology on page 22.

How Miami's Jewish Community Stands Out Nationally



A Strong Sense of Jewish Identity

88% of Jewish adults in Miami view being Jewish as important, compared to **76%** nationally.

Miami Places a Stronger Emphasis on Israel

77% of Miami Jewish adults consider caring about Israel essential to being Jewish. Nationally, 45% of US Jewish adults held this view in 2020.

Local Ties Run Deep

82% of Jewish adults in Miami feel connected to the local community, compared to **72%** nationally.

Miami Enjoys Greater Ethnic Diversity

72% of Miami Jewish adults identify as white, non-Hispanic, compared to 92% nationally. 24% of Miami Jewish adults identify as white, Hispanic and another 4% identify as any other non-white racial identity, including multiracial.

Miami Has a Higher Percentage of Jews Who Identify as Orthodox

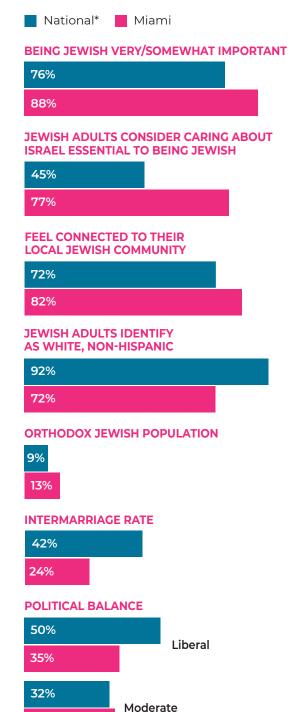
13% of Miami Jewish adults identify as Orthodox, compared to **9%** nationally.

Miami Has a Lower Intermarriage Rate

The percent of married Jewish adults with a non-Jewish spouse is 24%, which is significantly lower than the national average of 42%.

Miami's Jewish Population Is More Politically Balanced

35% of Miami Jewish adults identify as liberal, compared to 50% nationally; 34% identify as moderate, compared to 32% nationally and 32% as conservative, compared to 15% nationally.



*Comparisons to national data are drawn from the Pew Research Center's 2020 study, *Jewish Americans in 2020*, or the Brandeis Combined Dataset (CDS), which compiles 25 local Jewish community studies conducted between 2015-2023.

Conservative

34%

15%

32%

Demographic Snapshot



number of Jewish households.

73%
of Jewish
households own
their home.

53%

live in a multi-family building such as an apartment, high-rise or condo.

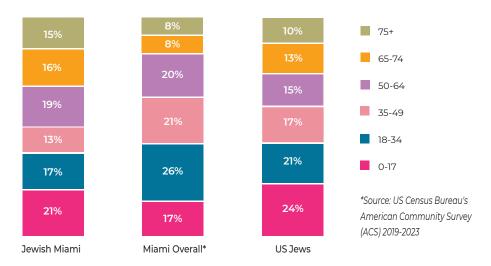
There Are Approximately 69,700 Jewish Households in the Miami Jewish Community

They include **170,300** individuals, of whom **130,100** are Jewish. The Jewish population comprises **5%** of Miami-Dade County and Jewish households make up **8%** of all households.

CHANGE IN COMMUNITY SIZE 2014-2024

	2024	2014	% Change
Jewish households	69,700	55,700	25%
People in Jewish households	170,300	129,700	31%
Jewish individuals	130,100	122,150	7 %
Jewish adults	103,900	98,900	5%
Jewish children	26,200	23,250	13%

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF JEWISH INDIVIDUALS AND OVERALL POPULATION %



The Jewish Population in Miami Is Older Than Jews Nationally

The median age of Jewish adults is 59, compared to 49 nationally with 31% over 65 versus 23% nationally.

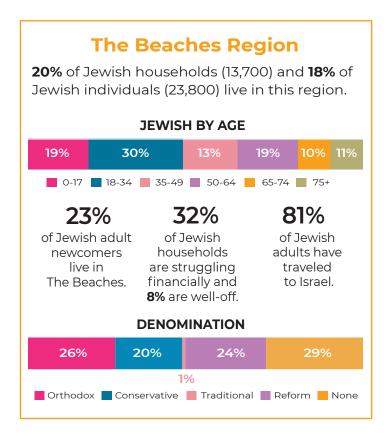


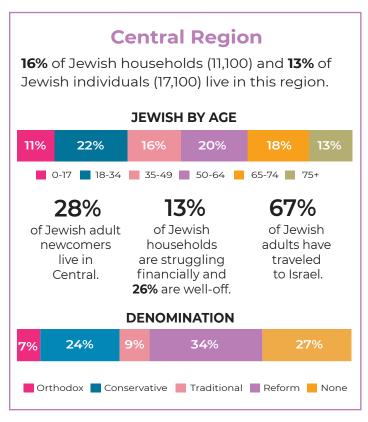
Miami is a large community with many Jews who share a strong sense of identity, creating an environment that feels safe, close-knit and distinctly Jewish.

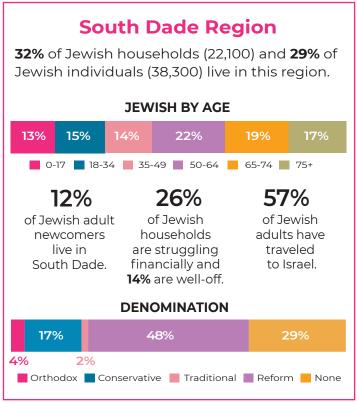


Geographic North Dade The Beaches **Regions** 33% of Miami 20% of Miami **Jewish Households Jewish Households** North Dade Core East 21% North Beach 2% North Dade Core West 7% Middle Beach 12% North Dade Other 5% South Beach 6% **North Dade** The Beaches **Central South Dade** Central 16% of Miami Jewish Households **South Dade** 32% of Miami **Jewish Households** South Dade NE 12% East Kendall 9% West Kendall 11%

North Dade Region 33% of Jewish households (22,800) and 39% of Jewish individuals (50,800) live in this region. **JEWISH BY AGE** 30% 9% 0-17 18-34 35-49 50-64 65-74 75+ **37**% 30% 82% of Jewish adult of Jewish of Jewish households adults have newcomers live in are struggling traveled financially and North Dade. to Israel. 15% are well-off. DENOMINATION 30% 19% 21% 22% Orthodox Conservative Traditional Reform None



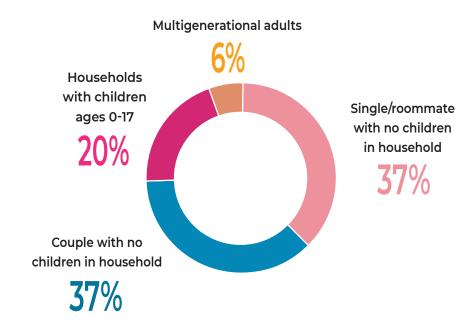




Miami Jewish Households

Compared to the US Jewish community, Miami has fewer households with minor children and more households with adults living alone or with roommates.

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION



7 in 5
Miami Jewish
households
include a minor
child under
age 18.

77%
of Jewish
children in
Miami are living
with single
parents.

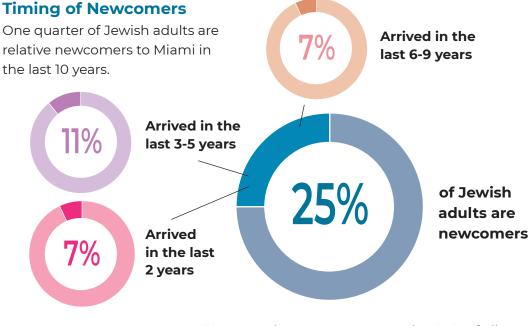
Miami's Jewish community is highly educated with 80% of Jewish adults holding at least a bachelor's degree, compared to 58% nationally. This includes 62% with a graduate or professional degree, exceeding the 28% national average for advanced degrees.

27% of Jewish adults in Miami are descendants of Holocaust Survivors.

-66

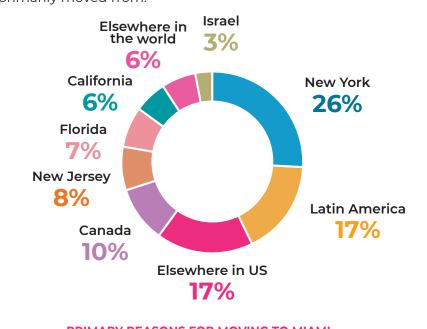
I take pride in the fact that I live in a community with a sizable Jewish population here in Miami-Dade and that my daughters grew up in an environment where they had plenty of Jewish friends and a synagogue where they felt at home and could get involved.

Newcomers to Miami



of Miami's
Jewish
newcomers
are from
Latin America:
Argentina 8%
Colombia 4%
Venezuela 3%
Other 2%

Newcomers are younger — 52% are under age 40, compared to 25% of all Miami Jewish adults. Nearly one third (31%) of Jewish adult newcomers have minor children. Newcomers who have lived in Miami for less than 10 years primarily moved from:



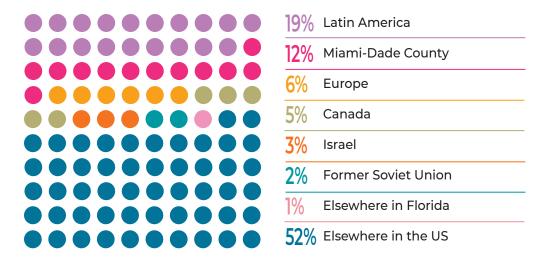


Diversity

International Diversity

Miami's Jewish community is one of the most internationally diverse in the US. 19% of Jewish adults were born in Latin America and 3% were born in Israel. Overall, 26% identify as part of the Latin American Jewish community and 19% of Jewish adults identify with the Israeli-American community, shaping Miami's distinct Jewish identity.

BIRTHPLACE FOR ALL JEWISH ADULTS IN MIAMI



A Global Community — **36**% of Miami's Jewish adults were born outside the US, reflecting a rich international presence.

Strong Latin American Roots — **24%** of Miami Jewish households identify as part of the Latin American Jewish community.

Israeli-American Influence — **23**% of Miami Jewish households include someone who considers themselves part of the Israeli-American community.

Russian-Speaking Jews — **6%** of Miami Jewish households include someone who considers themselves part of the Russian-speaking Jewish community.

Among the Miami-Dade Jewish community's strengths are the many immigrant Jews here.



of Jewish households include at least one adult born outside the US.

Diversity

(continued)



Miami's Jewish population includes

18%

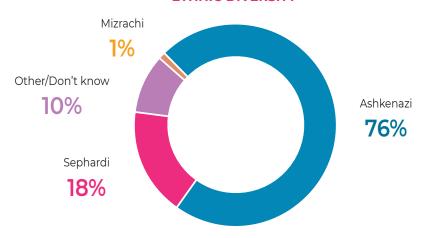
Sephardic Jews, compared to just 6% nationwide.



3%

of Jewish individuals consider themselves to be a person of color.

ETHNIC DIVERSITY



Note: Total exceeds 100 because respondents could select multiple responses.

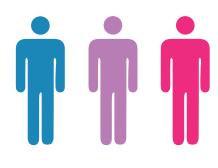
Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation

7% of Miami Jewish adults identify as LGBTQ+, **12%** of households include someone who is LGBTQ+ and **7%** of households include a transgender individual.

Political Diversity

Out of every three Miami Jews, there is one liberal, one moderate and one conservative.

POLITICAL DIVERSITY OF MIAMI JEWISH ADULTS



35% identify as liberal

34% identify as moderate

32% identify as conservative

Engagement and Ritual Life

In Miami,
the category
Traditional was
added to recognize
that this is the
preferred category
for many Miami
Jews, particularly
those born outside
the US who did
not grow up with
the standard
US Jewish
denominations.

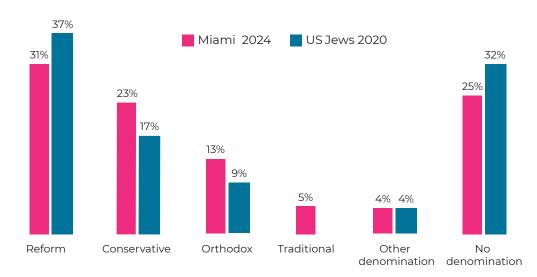


Jewish Engagement

A significant portion of Miami's Jewish adults engages in ritual and communal Jewish life, whether through synagogue membership, holiday celebrations or involvement in Jewish organizations. *Shabbat* and holiday observance are widespread with Miami Jews participating at higher rates than the national average.

31% of Miami Jews identify as Reform Jews, **23%** as Conservative Jews and **13%** as Orthodox Jews — a higher proportion than the **9%** national average. A unique **5%** identify as Traditional Jews.

DENOMINATIONS OF JEWISH ADULTS IN MIAMI AND THE US



JEWISH MIAMI BEHAVIORS

Jewish identity is deeply valued in Miami with 67% of Jewish adults saying being Jewish is very important to them, compared to 42% nationally.

Daily Jewish engagement is significantly higher in Miami as 47% feel that being Jewish is a core part of their daily life, nearly double the 27% national rate.

Synagogue membership aligns with national trends with 35% of Jewish households belonging to a congregation.

f	4	Light Chanukah candles	82 %
		Attend or hold a Passover seder	81%
		Have a <i>mezuzah</i> on their front door	73 %
)		Light Shabbat candles	61 %
		Fast during Yom Kippur	56 %
	6	Eat a special meal on Shabbat	52 %
	$\sqrt{\chi}$	Keep any kosher practices	43%

Engagement and Ritual Life

(continued)



Understanding the types of Jewish engagement and the demographics of community members can lead to the development of strategies for connecting with diverse segments of the community based on their interests and needs.

Index of Jewish Engagement

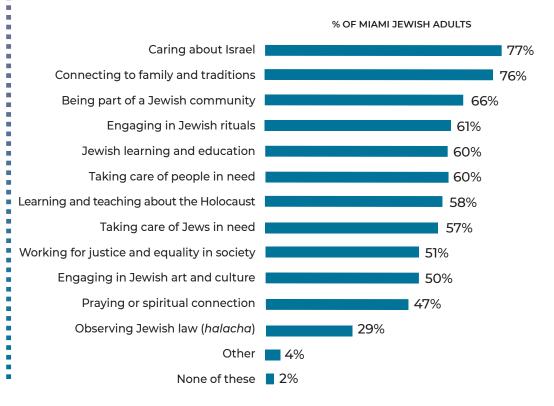
The Index of Jewish Engagement identifies five patterns of Jewish involvement in the Miami Jewish community based on a statistical analysis of a wide range of reported Jewish behaviors, including ritual, organizational and individual activities. Because it is based on behaviors, the Index of Jewish Engagement can be more informative than using self-ascribed labels such as denomination, which vary in meaning among individuals. These patterns were labeled by the study team as Occasional, Holiday, Communal, Ritual and Personal.

MANUSELVICUENCA CEMENT COCUDO

MIAMI JEWISH ENGAGEMENT GROUPS			
JEWISH ENGAGEMENT			
OCCASIONAL	Connected to some aspects of being Jewish. About half light <i>Chanukah</i> candles and have a <i>seder</i>		
HOLIDAY	Celebrate most Jewish holidays such as <i>Chanukah</i> , Passover and High Holidays		
COMMUNAL	Belong to and participate in organizations and congregations, celebrate <i>Shabbat</i> monthly		
RITUAL	Primarily participate in ritual and religious life, observe <i>Shabbat</i> and attend services weekly, belong to congregations but not other organizations		
PERSONAL	Participate primarily in <i>Shabbat</i> dinners and home-based activities, little organization activity		

MOST ESSENTIAL ASPECTS OF BEING JEWISH

home-based activities, little organization activity



Children and Jewish Education

Jewish households with children in Miami reflect diverse family structures and religious affiliations. **20%** of Jewish households include a minor child and among them, **90%** of children are considered Jewish by their parents. The majority (**75%**) are raised by two Jewish parents. Notably, **46%** of Jewish children in Miami live in Orthodox households.

CHILDREN IN JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS

Number

All Children (%)

26,200	90%
24,600	84%
1,300	4%
400	1%
3,000	10%
29,200	100%
	24,600 1,300 400 3,000

Total does not add up due to rounding

In Miami's intermarried households, **51%** of children are raised exclusively Jewish, **24%** are raised as both Jewish and another religion, **18%** have no religious identity and **8%** are being raised exclusively in a non-Jewish religion.

MIAMI JEWISH CHILDREN AGE DISTRIBUTION

0-5	6-12	13-17
38%	38%	24%
(10,100)	(9,900)	(6,300)

Education

Jewish education in Miami demonstrates strong early engagement and higher rates of full-time Jewish schooling, compared to national trends.

Early Jewish Education Starts Strong — 45% of Jewish preschool-age children attend Jewish early childhood programs, more than double the 20% national average. Of children enrolled in any early childhood program, 83% are in Jewish early childhood programs.

High Jewish Day School Enrollment — **41%** of K-12 Jewish students attend Jewish day school, nearly quadruple the **11%** national average.

Low Part-Time Jewish School Enrollment — Only **7%** of Miami's Jewish students attend part-time Jewish school, compared to **15%** nationally.

Strong Jewish Camp Participation — In Miami, **41%** of Jewish K-12 students attended either Jewish day or overnight camp in summer 2023.

13% growth in the number of Jewish children in Miami.

Children and Jewish Education

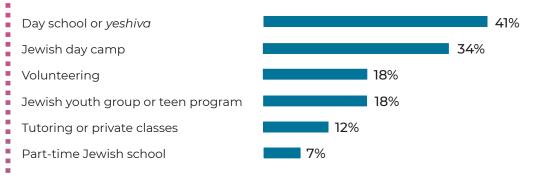
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46% of Jewish teens ages 12+ have traveled to Israel.

60%

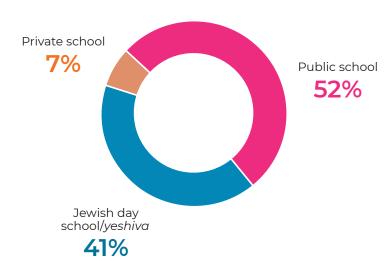
of age-eligible
Jewish children
have celebrated a
bar/bat mitzvah
and an additional
18% plan to have
one in the future.

JEWISH ENGAGEMENT FOR JEWISH STUDENTS K-12 (%)



Among Miami Jewish parents, **59%** of those with children not yet in kindergarten plan to enroll them in a Jewish day school or *yeshiva*. This commitment strengthens as children grow older with **76%** of K-8 parents planning to send their children to Jewish high school or *yeshiva*.

JEWISH STUDENTS K-12 (%)



Choosing a Jewish day school for our children wasn't just about academics — it was about giving them a foundation of values, tradition and community.

Connections and Participation



Of nearly all Jewish adults in Miami,

97%

feel a sense of belonging to the Jewish people.

82%

feel connected to the Miami Jewish community, compared to 72% nationally.



45%

Jewish adults
ages 22-39
are involved in
Jewish organizations,
showing significantly
higher engagement
than those ages
40-54 (25%).

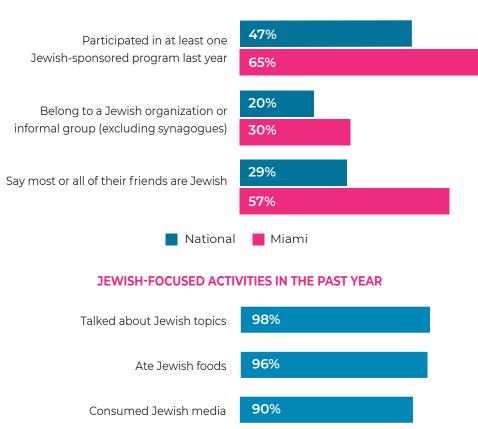
Miami's Jewish community has higher levels of connection and participation, compared to national trends with stronger Jewish social networks and higher organizational involvement. Miami also reports higher barriers to participation, particularly due to geography, cost and significant traffic and parking concerns.

Jewish Social Circles Thrive in Miami — **57%** of Jewish adults say most or all of their friends are Jewish, nearly double the **29%** national average.

More Miami Jewish Households Are Plugged in to Community Life — 30% belong to a Jewish organization or informal group (excluding synagogues), compared to just 20% nationwide.

Jewish Life in Miami Is Active and Vibrant — **65%** of Jewish adults participated in at least one Jewish-sponsored program last year, compared to just **47%** nationally.

JEWISH MIAMI ADULT PARTICIPATION



60%

Studied or learned Jewish texts

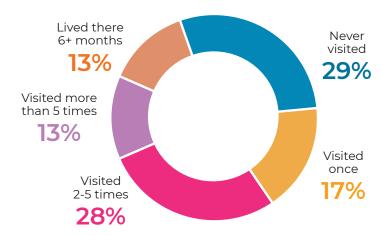
Connection to Israel

71% of Miami Jewish adults have traveled to Israel. significantly higher than 45% nationally.

95% of Miami Jewish adults engaged in some Israel-related activity following October 7.

Miami's Jewish community has the strongest connection to Israel, compared to national Jewish averages with higher travel rates, engagement and philanthropic support.

TRAVEL TO ISRAEL AMONG MIAMI JEWISH ADULTS



Israel Travel Is Highest Among Young Adults

with 85% of Jewish adults ages 22-39 having visited Israel.

Emotional Ties to Israel Are Strong as 78% of

Miami Jewish adults feel attached to Israel, higher than the **58%** national average.

Caring About Israel Is **Central to Jewish Identity**

with 77% of Miami Jews considering it essential, compared to 45% nationally.

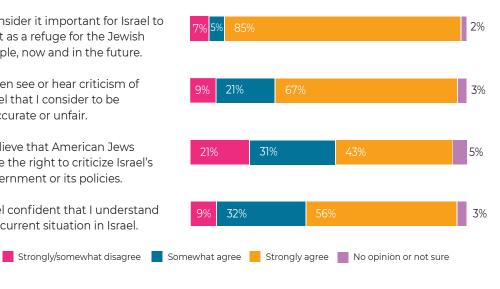
VIEWS ABOUT ISRAEL AMONG MIAMI JEWISH ADULTS

I consider it important for Israel to exist as a refuge for the Jewish people, now and in the future.

I often see or hear criticism of Israel that I consider to be inaccurate or unfair.

I believe that American Jews have the right to criticize Israel's government or its policies.

I feel confident that I understand the current situation in Israel.



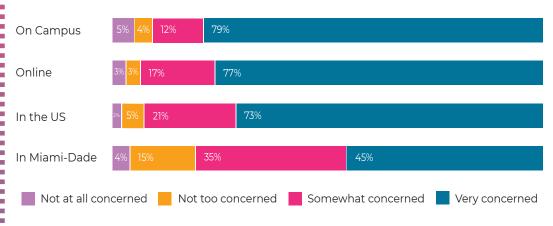


We are a strong, diverse and Zionist Jewish community that sticks together and supports our brothers and sisters in Israel.

Antisemitism Concerns

Antisemitism remains a significant concern for Miami's Jewish community, impacting daily life, personal security and communal engagement.

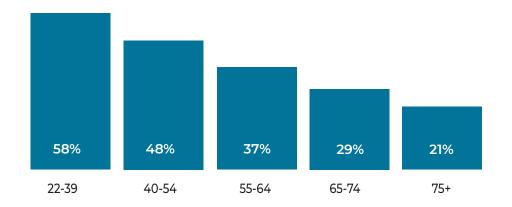
CONCERN ABOUT ANTISEMITISM AMONG MIAMI JEWISH ADULTS



Nearly one in three Jewish adults (29%) has personally experienced an antisemitic incident in the past year with the vast majority being online remarks. Younger adults ages 22-39 report higher rates of antisemitic encounters and many have adjusted their behavior in response. 58% of young adults and 48% of those ages 40-54 have avoided certain activities, such as attending events, displaying Jewish symbols or discussing Israel due to fear of antisemitism.

As a result, combating antisemitism is a top priority for Miami Jews. More than half of Jewish adults (57%) prioritize it in their philanthropy and volunteering and 40% place high importance on security in Jewish spaces.

AVOIDED ACTIVITIES OUT OF A FEAR OF ANTISEMITISM (% BY AGE GROUP)



45%
of Jewish adults
are very
concerned about
antisemitism
in Miami.



Older Jewish
adults are more
concerned about
antisemitism
in Miami,
compared
to young
Jewish adults.

Volunteerism and Philanthropy

of Jewish
households that
donated to a
Jewish
organization in the
past year gave to
an Israel-related
cause.

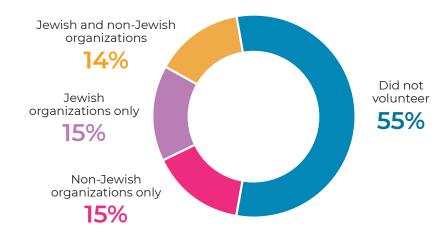
I am proud of being part of a long tradition of looking out for the individual and the community with a sense of purpose and moral compass.

Volunteerism is strong in Miami's Jewish community with participation in Jewish organizations exceeding national averages. While philanthropy is widely practiced, Miami's Jewish giving rates are slightly lower than national trends. Supporting Israel, combating antisemitism and Holocaust awareness are top philanthropic priorities in Miami.

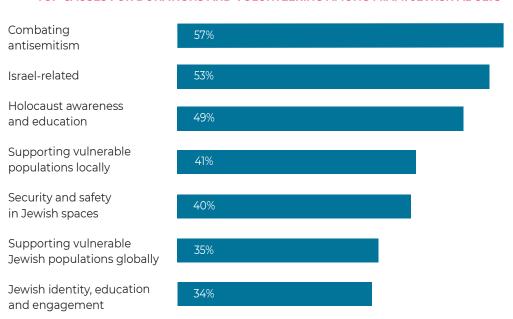
45% of Miami Jewish Adults Volunteered in the Past Year with **29%** volunteering for at least one Jewish organization. This is similar to the national rate.

66% of Jewish Households Made a Charitable Donation. This includes **49%** who have donated to at least one Jewish organization, compared to **62%** nationally.

MIAMI JEWISH ADULTS VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES



TOP CAUSES FOR DONATIONS AND VOLUNTEERING AMONG MIAMI JEWISH ADULTS



Economic Wellbeing

I think the
Miami-Dade
Jewish
community
tries to be
welcoming, but
many Jews feel
they cannot
afford to
participate.

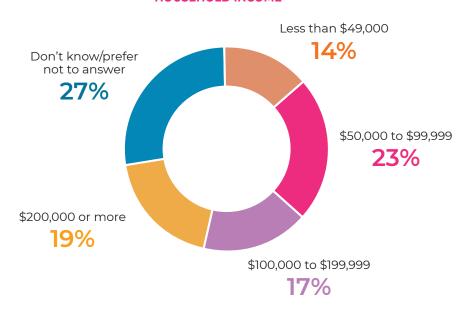


(26%) households
face financial
struggles with
young and
middle-aged adults
most affected.

Miami's Jewish community is economically disparate with 16% of households identifying as well-off, yet a larger share of residents experience economic insecurity, compared to other Jewish communities nationwide.

Two thirds of Miami Jewish adults are employed, similar to the national rate. 22% are retired and 10% are not working, including less than 1% of Jewish adults who receive unemployment benefits.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME



Wide Income Range — **14%** of households earn below \$50,000, including **5%** making less than \$25,000, while **19%** of households earn \$200,000 or more with **13%** surpassing \$250,000.

Impact on Jewish Life — Financial constraints shape Jewish life with 13% of households indicating limited participation in religious, educational and communal experiences.



Home Ownership and Affordability — 73% of Jewish households own their home.

68% of struggling Jewish households report their financial situation has worsened in the past five years.

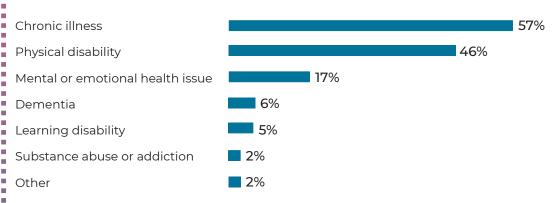
HOUSEHOLD FINANCIAL SITUATION 36% 26% 23% 16% MEII-OFF

Health Needs

Most Jewish adults in Miami report being in good health with **70%** describing their physical health as "very good" or "excellent" and **73%** saying the same about their mental health.

21% of Jewish households include someone with a chronic illness, mental health issue, special need or disability that affects daily activities, similar to the national average (22%).

SPECIFIC ISSUES IN JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS WITH HEALTH CONDITIONS



Aging and Caregiving

19% of Jewish households provide care for a close relative or friend, while 8% need caregiving support.

4% of Jewish adults over age 80 are Holocaust Survivors.

5% of Jewish households ages 65+ plan to move to an assisted-living facility or nursing home in the future.

Aging in place is the preferred choice with 84% of Jewish households ages 65-74 and 93% of those age 75+ planning to remain in their current home as they age.



of households
with teens/young
adults report
social or emotional
challenges,
especially anxiety
(41%) and academic
pressure (37%).



Health issues are more prevalent among financially struggling households.

Methodology

Jewish Miami: A 2024 Community **Study** provides a snapshot of today's Jewish population in Miami and considers trends and developments in Jewish life and engagement. In interpreting the data, it is important to bear in mind that the study represents the characteristics and views of community members at the time of the survey. Notably, the data were collected during the Israel-Hamas war that began October 7, 2023, and during ! a period of rising antisemitism in the US and worldwide. It is likely that attitudes about Israel, concerns about antisemitism and other markers of Jewish identity were influenced by these events.

This study is based on an analysis of a rich set of data collected from 2,686 eligible Miami-Dade County households between February 5 and June 14, 2024. These households were contacted by mail, email and telephone and invited to complete the survey online or by telephone.

The Greater Miami Jewish Federation commissioned *Jewish Miami: A 2024 Community Study* in partnership with local Jewish organizations and congregations. It was conducted by the Maurice and Marilyn Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies (CMJS) at Brandeis University together with NORC (National Opinion Research Center) at the University of Chicago. The study employed state-of-the-art methods to create a portrait of the characteristics, attitudes and behaviors of the Jewish community.

Due to methodological differences and variations in question wording between the present study and prior studies of the Miami Jewish community, direct comparisons should be limited in this report. The challenge in drawing direct comparisons is not unique to this study. The Pew Research Center study *Jewish Americans in 2020* drew the same conclusion regarding comparisons to their own 2013 report (see Pew, 2021, pages 11-13).

Comparisons to national data are based on the Pew Research Center's 2020 study, *Jewish Americans in 2020*, and to the Brandeis Combined Dataset (CDS) of 25 local Jewish community studies conducted between 2015-23. Comparisons should be treated with caution due to different samples and timeframe.

Definition of Jewish Households, Adults and Children

For purposes of this study, a Jewish household is defined as one that includes at least one Jewish adult. Jewish adults are defined as those who consider themselves Jewish in any way and either have a Jewish parent, were raised Jewish or converted to Judaism. Non-Jewish adults either do not consider themselves to be Jewish or do not have a Jewish background. Children are classified based on whether their parents consider them to be Jewish.

You may access the full report online at JewishMiami.org/2024communitystudy









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The Mission of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation is to mobilize human and financial resources to care for those in need, strengthen Jewish life and advance the unity, values and shared purpose of the Jewish people in Miami, in Israel and around the world.

You may access the full report online at JewishMiami.org/2024communitystudy



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