

Florida Jewish Demography

Volume 6—Number 1

March, 1993

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Published by the Judaic Studies Program and the Geography Department, University of Miami

Jewish Population of Palm Beach County Increases!

209,000 Jews now call Palm Beach County home. About 25% of this population are snowbirds who live in Palm Beach County for 3-7 months of the year. The Jewish population has increased significantly over the past twenty years, from about 10,000 in 1970 to 209,000 in 1992. The Jewish population has grown by 129% in the past 12 years.

From 1940 to 1970, 2-3% of the population of the County was Jewish. In 1980, about 14% of the population was Jewish. By 1992, more than one in five Palm Beach County residents was Jewish.

This growth has been particularly steep in South County (Boca Raton/Delray Beach), which increased from about 1,100 Jews in 1970 to 116,000 in 1992.

The Jewish population in South County has increased by 45% in the past 4 years.

North Palm Beach County (from Boynton Beach to Jupiter) increased from 8,700 Jews in 1970 to 93,000 in 1992. There has been a 15% increase in the past 4 years.

Note that in 1970 and 1980, more Jews lived in North County than in South County. By 1988, 80,000 Jews lived in each area. By 1992, the growth in South County meant that about 55% of the Jewish population of the county lived in the South.

The Jewish community has reacted to this significant growth, building two new Jewish Community Centers and a number of new synagogues.

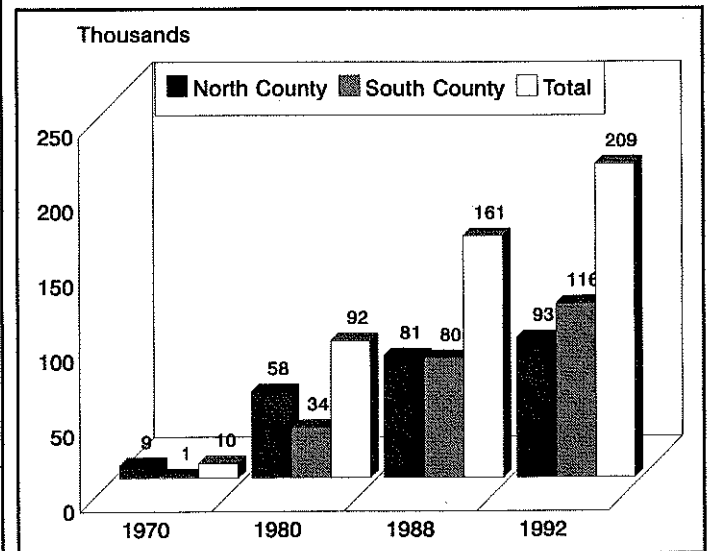
Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando Sponsors Major Demographic Study

A major demographic study of the Jewish community in Central Florida, sponsored by the Jewish Federation, has been completed under the direction of Dr. Ira M. Sheskin of the University of Miami and Executive Director Jody Harburger. The results of the study will be published in the next issue of *Florida Jewish Demography*.

Hurricane Andrew Affects South Dade Jewish Community

Hurricane Andrew has had a major impact upon the Jewish community in South Dade, causing significant damage to a number of synagogues.

While it is impossible to estimate the ultimate demographic impact, significant evidence exists to suggest that the Jewish population, which had declined from 72,000 in 1987 to 60,000 in 1990, will continue to decline.



**Jewish Population Growth
Palm Beach County**

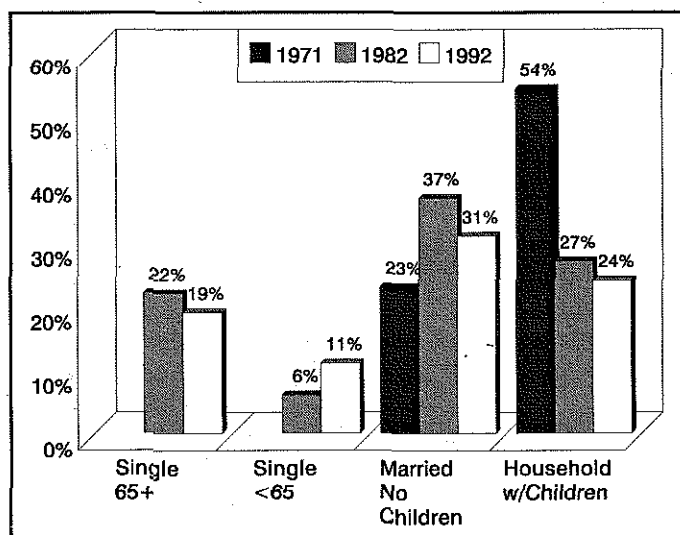
Jews in Dade County

Greater Miami Jewish Federation Completes Survey of Jews in Dade County

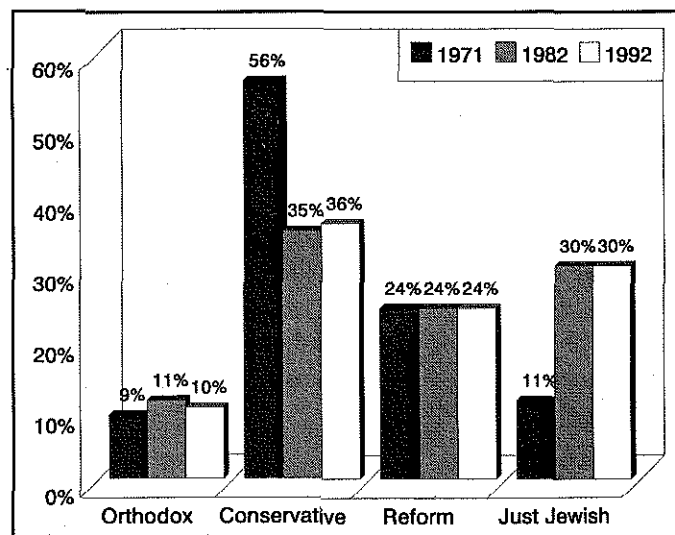
A telephone survey of Jews in Dade County was completed in April, 1992 for the Greater Miami Jewish Federation by Strategy Research Corporation and Dr. Ira M. Sheskin, University of Miami. The study produced the first demographic portrait of the Jewish population of Dade County since 1982.

- Approximately 13% of Jewish households reside in zip 33160 in North Dade; another 10%, in zip code 33162. About one in three households live in either 33160, 33162, or 33179 in North Dade.
- Only 3.8% (3,437 households) of households contain a Hispanic Jew.
- Overall, 44% (35,453 households) of Jewish households in Dade County live in single family homes, 40% (36,453 households), in high rises of four stories or more and 16%, in townhouses.
- About 3% (2,713 households) of households are here 3-7 months (part-year households) and 97%, 8-12 months.
- 11% (10,040 households) of all households have moved *into* Dade County within the past 5 years. Another 9% have arrived during the past 5-9 years. 30% have been here for 10-19 years, and 50% (45,136 households), for 20 or more years.

- The percentage of long-term residents in Dade County (50% for 20 or more years) is higher than in any comparison Jewish community and is much higher than in places like West Palm Beach (8%), South Broward (16%), and Washington, DC (12%).
- Compared with the 1982 GMJF demographic study, the survey respondents are about five years younger. The most important change is that the percentage of respondents in the 35-49 age category has increased from 12% to 26%, while the percentage age 65+ has declined from 50% to 42%.
- The average household size is 2.3. The percentage of single-person households (30%) is higher than any comparison Jewish community, except South Broward (31%). It compares to 23% in Washington, DC, 22% in San Francisco and 23% in Boston. Household size is highest in South Dade (average of 2.6) and North Dade (2.4) and lowest on The Beaches (1.7).
- The most common household type is households with children at home (24%, 21,347 households). 19% (16,915 households) are single elderly and 20% (17,639 households) are married-elderly. About 11% (9,949 households) are single non-elderly and 12% (10,764 households) are married non-elderly.



**Changes in Household Structure
Dade County**



**Changes in Jewish Identification
Dade County**

Jews in Dade County

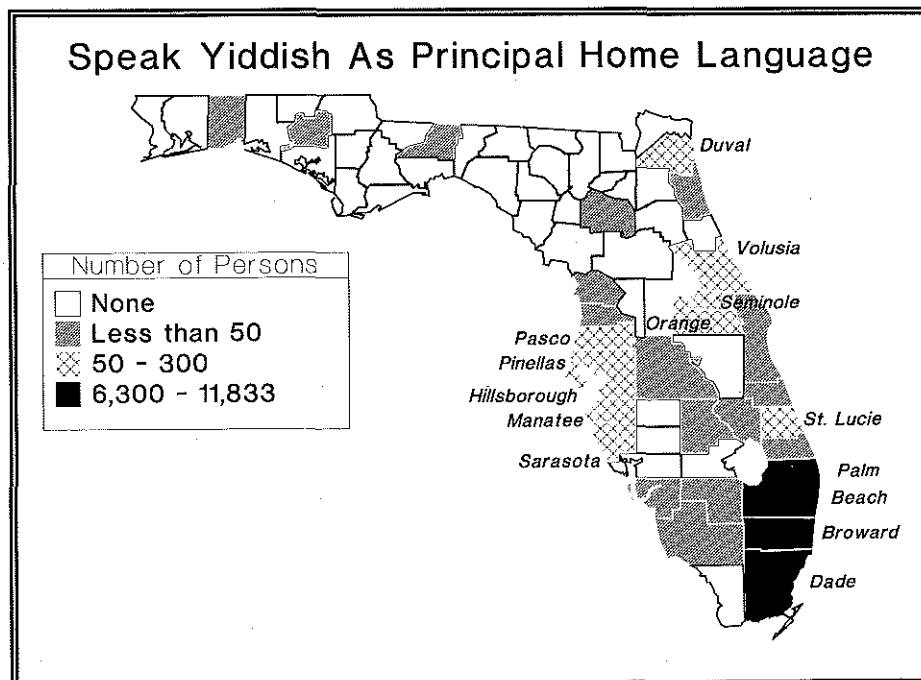
- 59% of households (53,277 households) contain a currently married respondent, versus 61% in 1982 and 67% in 1971.
- 10% (9,045 households) consider themselves Orthodox; 36% (32,654 households), Conservative; 24% (21,618 households), Reform; and 30% (27,136 households), "Just Jewish."
- 20% on The Beaches are Orthodox, 10% in North Dade, and less than 1% in South Dade. Conservative Jews form 30%-40% in each of the three regions. Reform Jews constitute 30% in South Dade, but only 23% in North Dade and 19% in The Beaches. By age, some evidence exists for a growing young Orthodox population; 16% under age 35 responded that they were "Orthodox."
- 10% of currently married couples involve one person who is Jewish and one person who is not

(termed an "intermarriage"). Thus, 90% of married couples involve two Jews (termed an "inmarriage"). There are about 5,168 households in Dade County containing intermarried couples. The percentage of intermarried couples is almost double the percentage of ten years ago. It has risen significantly for the 65-74 age group. Intermarriage reaches about 25% for those under age 35. These rates are significantly lower than the national averages.

- 44% (40,071 households) of households indicate current synagogue membership.
- 48% of respondents (43,056 households) report having made at least one trip to Israel. This percentage is lower in South Dade (36%) than in North Dade (50%) or The Beaches (56%).

Speakers of Yiddish

The 1990 US Census asked citizens to name the principal language spoken in the home. In Florida, 27,363 individuals named Yiddish. Of these, 25,478 (93%) live in the 3-county South Florida area: 11,833 in Broward County, 7,353 in Dade County, and 6,292 in Palm Beach County. The second area of concentration is the five-county area around Tampa/St. Petersburg, with about 885 persons (3%).



Jews in Sarasota-Manatee

Sarasota-Manatee Jewish Federation Completes Survey of Jews in Sarasota-Manatee

A demographic study has been completed for the Sarasota-Manatee Jewish Federation, under the direction of Norman Olshansky (Executive Director) and Sanford Solender, by Dr. Ira M. Sheskin of the University of Miami. The results are based upon 540 telephone interviews with randomly selected Jewish households in Sarasota and Manatee Counties.

Geographic Results

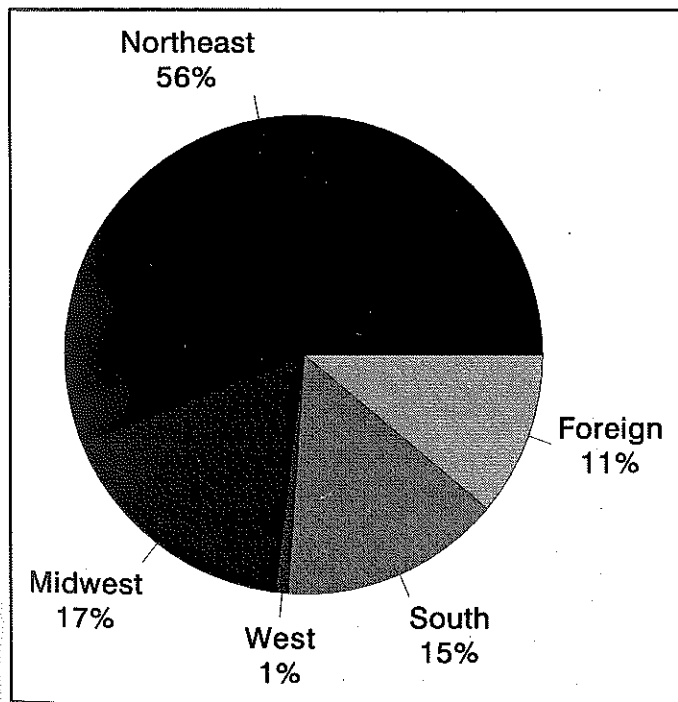
- About 16,400 persons reside in Jewish households in Sarasota-Manatee. About 19% are snowbirds (who spend 3-7 months in Florida). This compares with 5% in Miami, 10% in South Broward, and 23% in West Palm Beach.
- 66% of the Jewish population reside on Sarasota, 16% in Longboat Key, 10% in Bradenton and 8% in Venice. While the two-county area is less than 3% Jewish, 25% of the full-year population of Longboat Key is Jewish.
- The Jewish community grew by 6,200 during the 1980s. Over the past 7 years, significant growth has occurred in Sarasota and Longboat Key, but little

growth occurred in Bradenton or Venice.

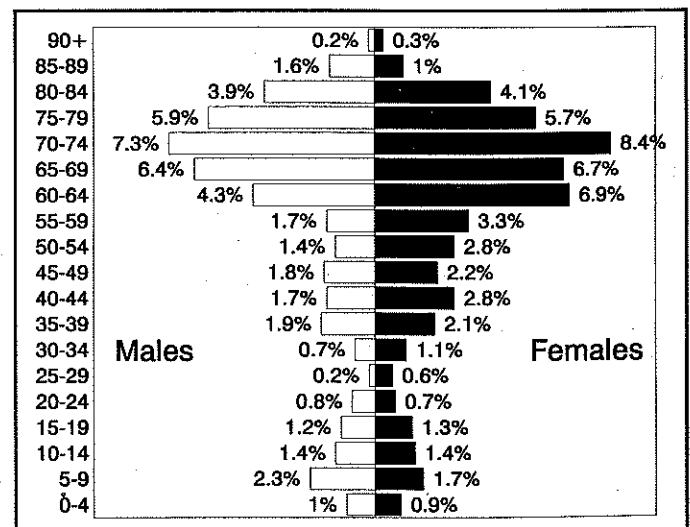
- 37% moved to Sarasota from New York or New Jersey, versus 64% for West Palm Beach, and 44% for South Broward. 17% moved to Sarasota from the Midwest, versus 9% for West Palm Beach, and 10% for South Broward.
- 23% of current Jewish residents have moved to the area in the past 5 years. Recent migrants include an increasing proportion of families with children.

Demographic Results

- Only about 11% of the Jewish population are children, while 63% are age 60 and over. Of all Jewish communities in the US, only Palm Beach County has a higher percentage of elderly residents (76% in South Palm Beach and 67% in West Palm Beach). (South Broward is 55% elderly.)
- In Longboat Key, 89% are age 60 and over.
- The average household size is only 2.0. In addition, 57% of households contain a married couple with no children and 17% are single elderly living alone. Only 11% of households contain married couples with children under age 18.
- The median household income for snowbirds is \$82,000, versus only \$44,300 for full-time residents. Snowbirds are also more likely to join synagogues than full-time residents.



Place of Birth
Sarasota-Manatee



Age Distribution
Sarasota-Manatee

Jews in Sarasota-Manatee

- Overall, median income is \$47,500, versus \$31,000 in West Palm Beach, and \$36,700 in South Broward.

- Compared with many other Jewish communities, levels of secular educational attainment are very high, with 53% having attained a college degree, versus 37% in South Broward, and 43% in West Palm Beach.

- 77% of adults are married, 12% are widowed, 5% are divorced, and 6% are single, never married.
- Only 23% are employed full time; 9%, part time. 55% are retired.

Religiosity and Community Ties

- 2% identify themselves as Orthodox, 23% as Conservative, 47% as Reform, and 29% as "Just Jewish."

- 55% have a mezzuzah on their front door, 48% always light Chanukah candles, 54% always attend a Passover Seder, 9% always light Shabbat candles, 5% keep kosher at home, and 3% keep kosher outside their home. **More importantly**, 98% of households always or usually observe one of the above practices. Observance of Jewish rituals is much lower than on the east coast of Florida.

- About 30% of adults (18% of men, 40% of women) have not received any formal Jewish education.

- Only 26% of 6-17 year olds are currently enrolled in Jewish education. This compares to 25% in West Palm Beach. These rates are among the lowest of any US Jewish community that has conducted a demographic study during the past decade.

- About 43% of Jews indicate they *currently* belong to a synagogue, versus 15%-20% on the east coast.

- About 80% are members now, have been members at some point in the past (since becoming an

adult), or indicate they will join a synagogue in the future. Quality of the rabbi is the most important factor in the decision about joining a synagogue.

- 51% of households currently contain a member of a Jewish organization other than a synagogue.

- 16% of households indicate current JCC membership; 8%, in South Broward. **More importantly**, 62% of households belong to a synagogue and/or a JCC and/or a Jewish organization, compared with 53% in South Broward.

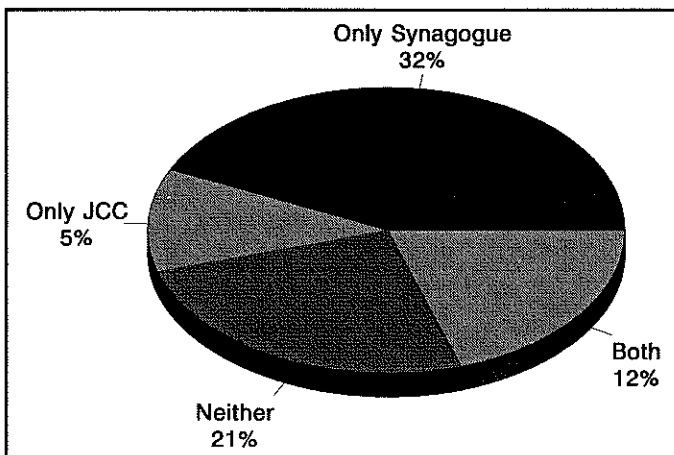
- 21% never attend services; 24% attend once per month or more. *Both* rates are among the highest in the nation.

- 78% of currently married couples involve two persons born Jewish (an "in-marriage"). In 5% of cases, the marriage involves a born Jew and a partner who has converted to Judaism. About 17% are marriages in which one partner is Jewish and the other was neither born Jewish nor has converted. While 89% of those age 65 and over are in-married, only 36% of those age 35-49 are in-married. In intermarriages, only 47% of children are being raised Jewish and the levels of Jewish religious practice are very low. The 17% intermarriage rate compares with 10% in Miami and 9% in South Broward.

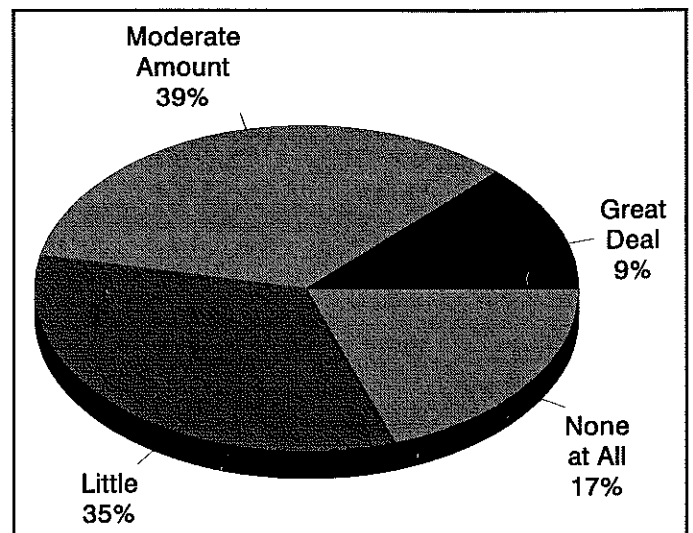
- 53% of households have had someone visit Israel, versus 52% in South Broward, 45% in Miami and West Palm Beach.

- Only 7% perceive a great deal of anti-Semitism in the Sarasota area, versus 20% in South Broward, and 19% in Miami.

Copies of the reports: call Federation (813-371-4546).



Membership Overlaps



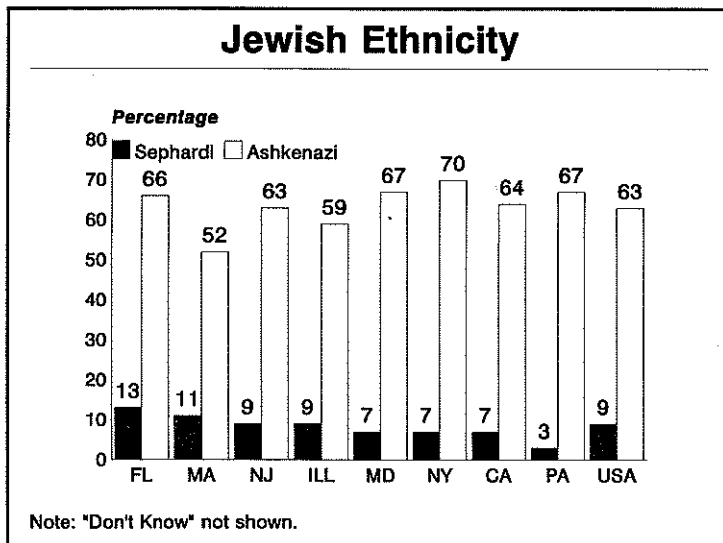
Perception of Anti-Semitism

Jewish Population in Florida

Revised from the 1992 American Jewish Yearbook

Brevard 3,750	Orlando 18,000	Southeast Florida**
Crystal River 100	Pasco County 1,000	Dade County (1990) . . . 202,000
Daytona Beach 2,500	Pensacola 775	South Broward (1990)
Fort Pierce 500	Port Charlotte/Punta Gorda 400	(Hollywood) 80,000
Gainesville 1,200	St. Petersburg/ Clearwater) 9,500	North Broward (1990)
Jacksonville 7,300	Sarasota 16,400*	(Fort Lauderdale) . . . 204,000
Key West 170	Stuart - Port St. Lucie . . . 3,000	South Palm Beach (1992)
Lakeland (Winter Haven) . . 800	Tallahassee 1,500	(Boca Raton/ Delray Beach) 116,000
Lee County (Fort Myers) . 4,000	Tampa 12,500	Palm Beach (1992)
Naples 750	Vero Beach 300	(Boynton to Jupiter) . . . 93,000
Ocala 100		
	Total 84,545	Total SE Florida 695,000
*Sarasota total includes 4,350 part-year residents. ** Includes part-year residents (about 3% in Dade County, 11% in Broward County, and 23% in Palm Beach County).		Total Florida 779,545

From the Council of Jewish Federations 1990 National Jewish Population Survey (NJPS)



Sephardic Jews are those whose origins can be traced to Spain. Many come to the US from former parts of the Ottoman Empire, where they lived for centuries after the expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492. Others come from Latin America. Ashkenazi Jews come from other parts of Europe, chiefly eastern Europe.

Note that a significant portion of the Jewish population does not know the group to which they belong. Florida has the highest percentage of Sephardic Jews of any major state.

The NJPS provides the first overall picture of the Jewish population in Florida. Future issues will contain additional results.

Sponsored and published by the Judaic Studies Program, University of Miami, to inform an interdisciplinary community of scholars, educators, and Jewish professionals in the areas of Jewish demography and geography. Address all correspondence to: Dr. Ira M. Sheskin, Editor, Florida Jewish Demography, Box 248067, Coral Gables, FL 33124.

Special Note: No issue appeared in 1992 because the Editor's home was rendered less than useful by Hurricane Andrew.