Jewish respondents in Rhode Island were asked whether they considered themselves to be Orthodox, Conservative, Reconstructionist, Reform, or *Just Jewish*. 6% (535 households) of respondents identify as Orthodox; 30% (2,903 households), Conservative; 1% (86 households), Reconstructionist; 28% (2,703 households), Reform; and 35% (3,323 households), Just Jewish.

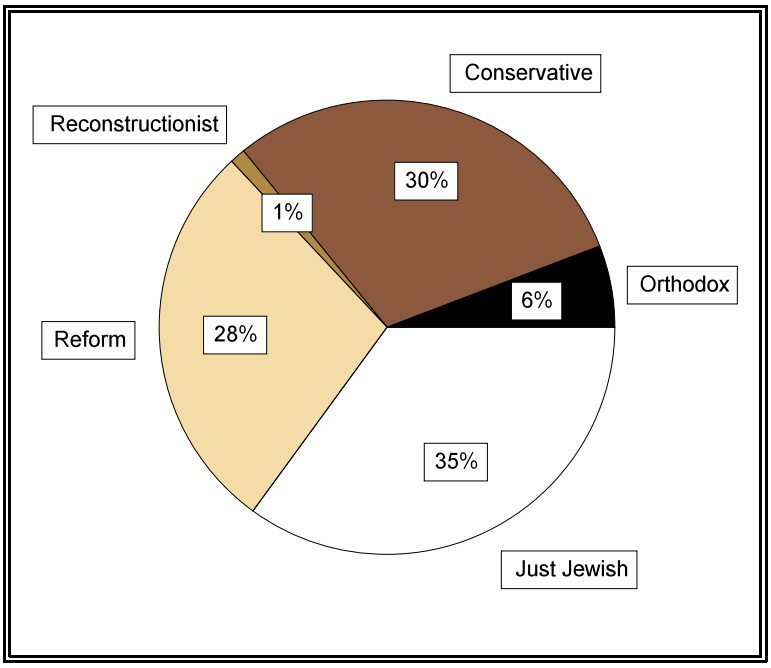
▶ The 6% Orthodox is about average among about 50 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 6% in both Rochester and Wilmington, 4% in Hartford, and 3% in both Milwaukee and Boston.

▶ The 30% Conservative is about average among about 50 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 33% in Boston, 31% in Hartford, 28% in Wilmington, and 24% in both Rochester and Milwaukee.

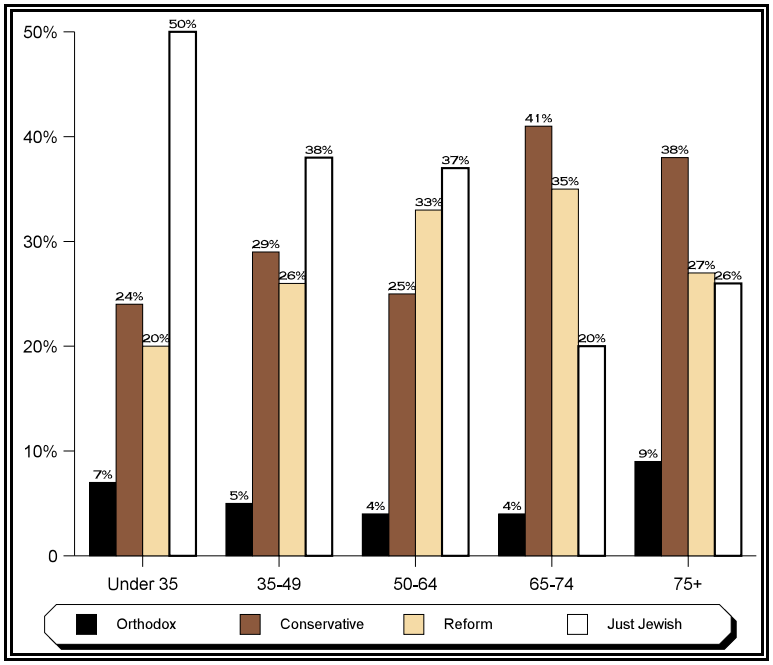
▶ The 28% Reform is well below average among about 50 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 41% in both Rochester and Boston, 39% in Milwaukee, 31% in Hartford, and 29% in Wilmington.

▶ The 35% Just Jewish is above average among about 50 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 34% in both Hartford and Milwaukee, 33% in Wilmington, 29% in Rochester, and 20% in Boston.

▶ The 6% Orthodox is the same as the 6% national figure (NJPS 1990); the 30% Conservative is just about the same as the 32% national figure; the 28% Reform is below the 36% national figure; and the 35% Just Jewish is well above the 26% national figure.



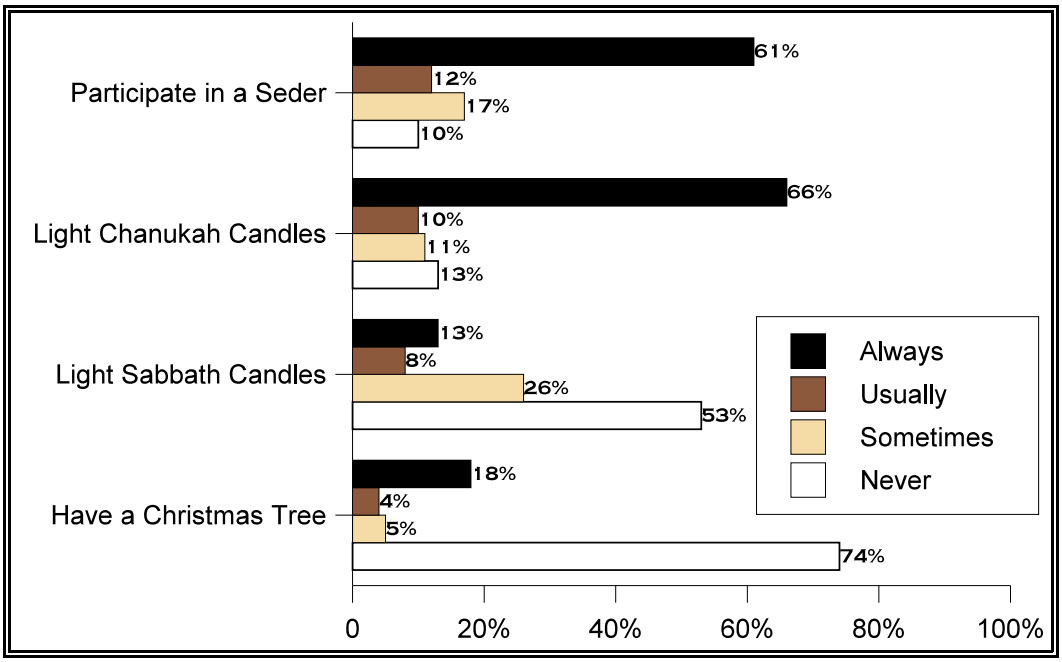
Jewish Identification (Jewish Respondents Only)



Jewish Identification by Age of Respondent (Jewish Respondents Only)

Religious Profile—Practices

Overall, 85% of Jewish households in Rhode Island contain one or more persons who observe at least one of the following religious practices: always or usually participate in a Passover Seder, always or usually light Chanukah candles, always or usually light Sabbath candles, or keep a kosher home. 89% of households are doing something Jewish in that they either ❶ observe one or more of these practices, or ❷ are members of a synagogue, the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island (JCC), or a Jewish organization, or ❸ donated to a Jewish charity in the past year.



Religious Practices

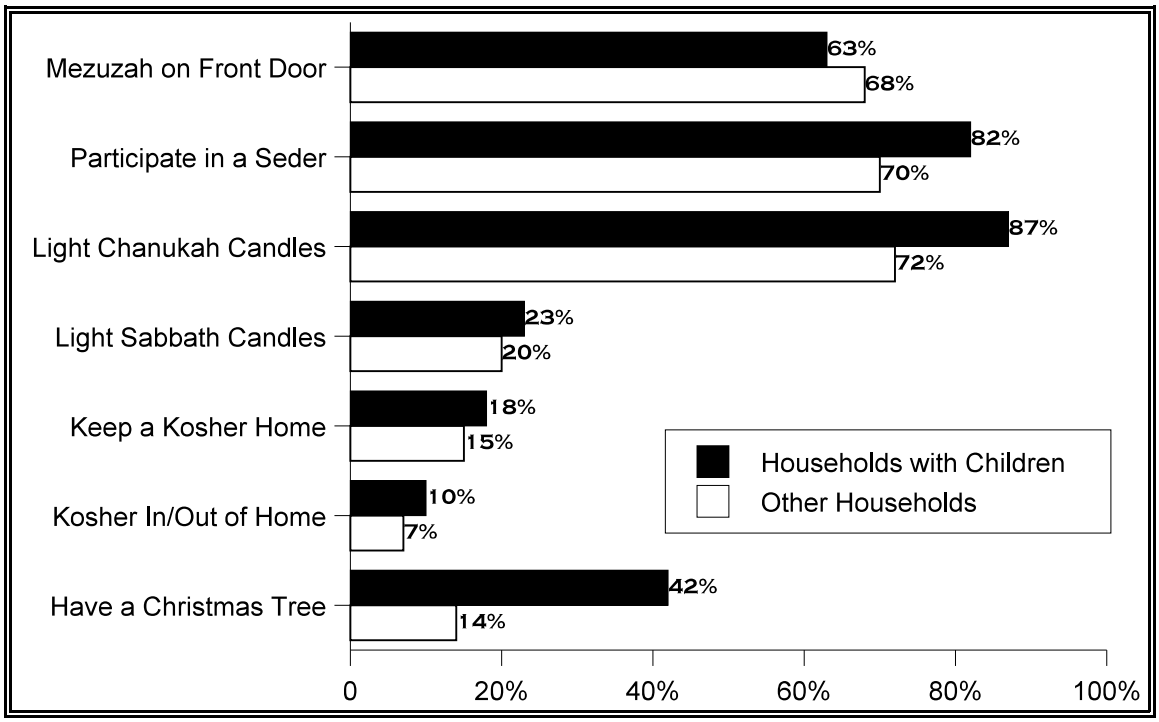
▶ Among the comparison Jewish communities shown in the *Main Report* (some of which are shown in Table 11), Rhode Island has an average percentage of households who always or usually participate in a always or usually light Chanukah candles (76%), Passover Seder (73%), have a mezuzah on the front door (67%), always or usually light Sabbath candles (21%), keep a kosher home (16%), keep kosher in and out of the home (8%), and refrain from using electricity on the Sabbath (4%).

▶ Rhode Island has an average percentage of Jewish households who always, usually, or sometimes have a Christmas tree in the home (26%). Having a Christmas tree in the home is a more common practice among younger households, households with children, the Just Jewish, and intermarried households. Of households in which everyone is currently Jewish, 7% always, usually, or sometimes have a Christmas tree in the home. In some of these households, one of the Jews is a Jew-by-Choice who is continuing a non-Jewish practice.

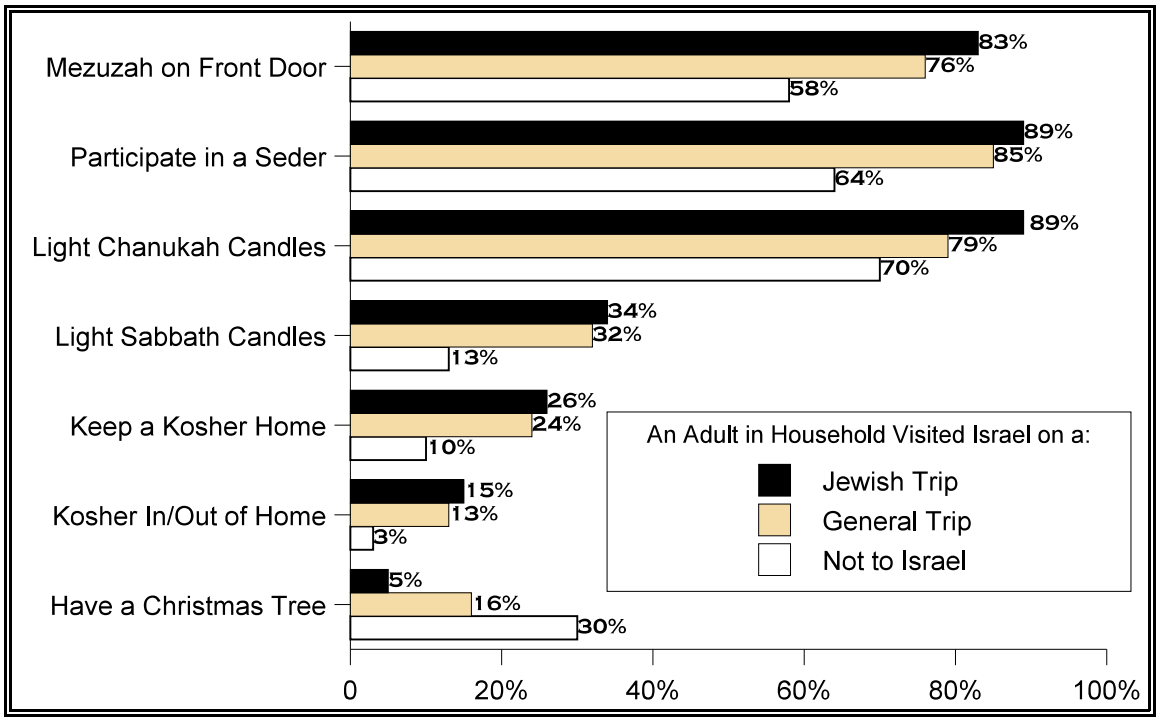
Table 11: Religious Practices Comparison with Other Communities

		Percentage *Yes*		Percentage *Always/Usually*			
Community	**Year**	**Mezuzah on Front Door**	**Kosher Home**	**Passover Seder**	**Chanukah Candles**	**Sabbath Candles**	**Xmas Tree**
Rhode Island	**2002**	**67%**	**16%**	**73%**	**76%**	**21%**	**22%**
Boston	1995	NA	11%	82%	85%	23%	NA
Hartford	2000	72%	17%	78%	78%	25%	16%
Milwaukee	1996	62%	13%	77%	70%	24%	18%
Rochester	1999	68%	20%	78%	80%	28%	16%
Wilmington	1995	60%	12%	74%	74%	19%	21%
Atlanta	1996	61%	9%	76%	74%	21%	18%
Baltimore	1999	NA	22%	85%	79%	36%	NA
Bergen	2001	76%	29%	85%	83%	32%	12%
Charlotte	1997	57%	8%	69%	73%	17%	27%
Denver	1997	NA	13%	62%	63%	27%	NA
Jacksonville	2002	64%	10%	63%	68%	24%	17%
Las Vegas	1995	NA	NA	67%	73%	21%	22%
Los Angeles	1997	63%	NA	74%	71%	26%	13%
Monmouth	1997	81%	26%	86%	87%	25%	11%
New York	1991	NA	27% *	75%	70%	24%	14%
Philadelphia	1997	NA	17%	74%	71%	20%	NA
Richmond	1994	64%	10%	73%	71%	20%	21%
Seattle	2000	41%	5%	NA	NA	14%	NA
St. Louis	1995	76%	9% *	77%	72%	24%	15%
Tidewater	2001	68%	10%	75%	77%	22%	22%
Tucson	2002	58%	11%	61%	68%	17%	18%
Westport	2000	62%	6%	79%	78%	17%	21%
Broward	1997	79%	16%	75%	74%	21%	10%
Miami	1994	76%	20%	77%	73%	29%	7%
Sarasota	2001	69%	6%	69%	65%	17%	12%
South Palm Beach	1995	84%	17%	79%	78%	23%	3%
West Palm Beach	1999	81%	12%	79%	75%	17%	6%
NJPS [1]	1990	NA	NA	60%	57%	16%	28%

* Question was asked about *keeping two sets of dishes* in the home.
[1] NJPS is the National Jewish Population Survey.



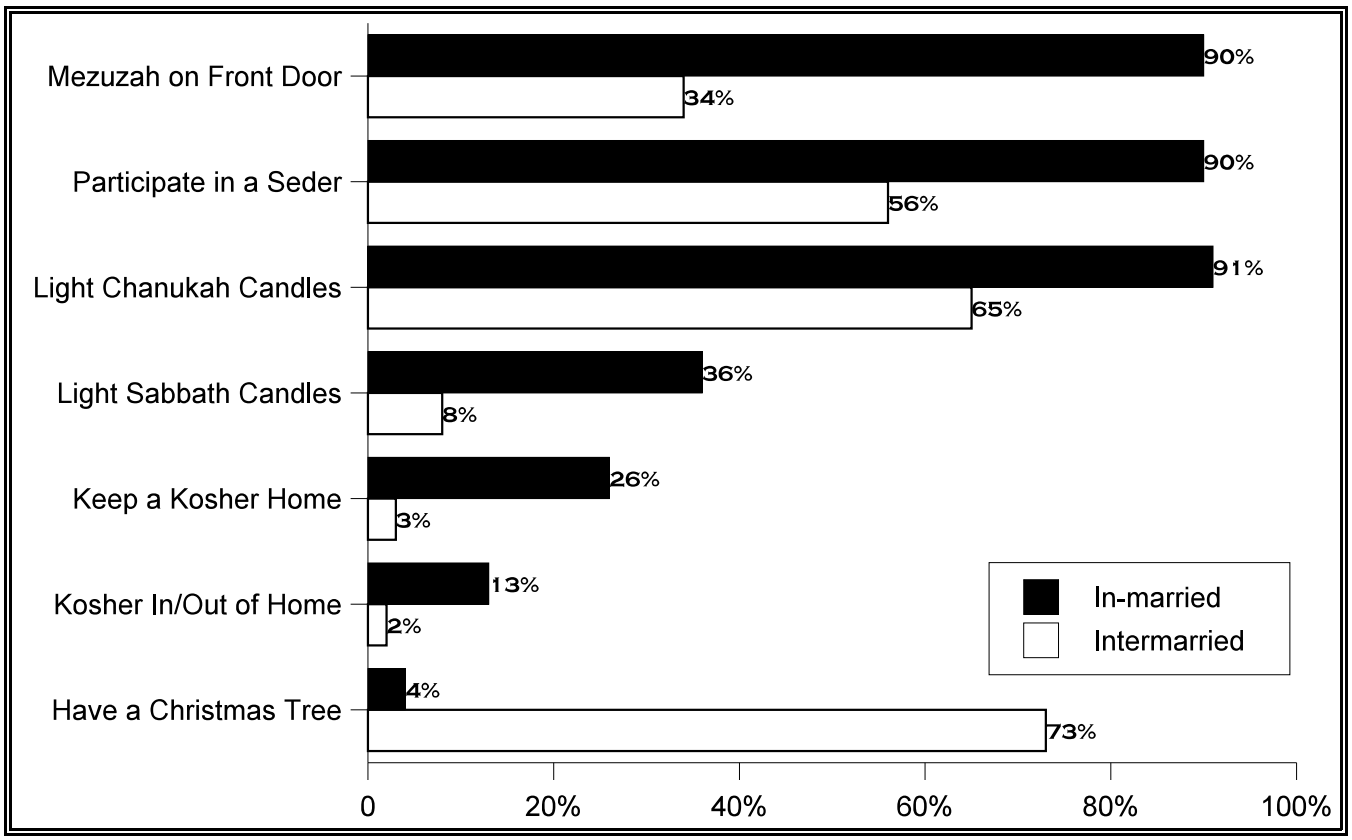
Religious Practices in Households with Children (Always + Usually *or* Yes)



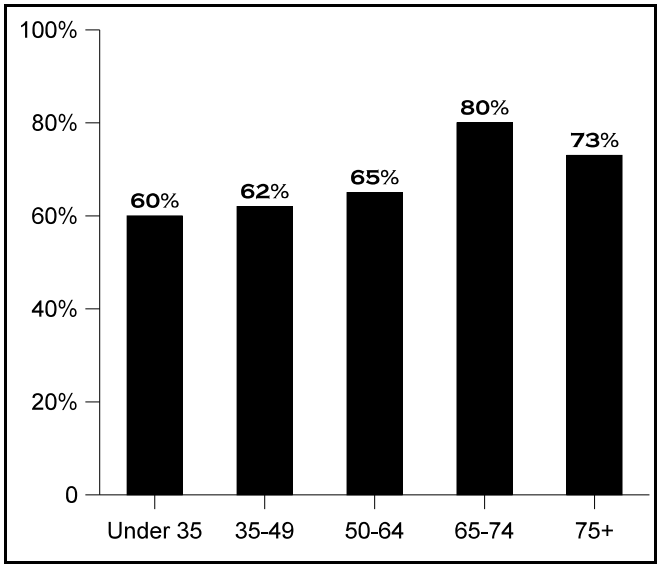
Religious Practices by Trips to Israel (Always + Usually *or* Yes)

Religious Profile—Practices

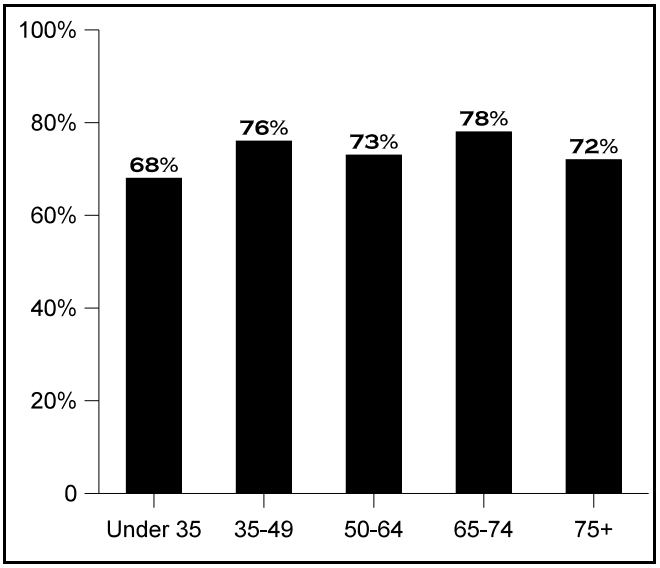
▶ Intermarried households are much less likely to observe Jewish religious practices than are in-married households. Conversionary in-married households are *much* closer in practice to in-married households than to intermarried households. The sample size for conversionary in-married households is too small to include the results in the bar chart below. (See the Introduction section of this report for definitions of the terms in-marriage, conversionary in-marriage, and intermarriage.)



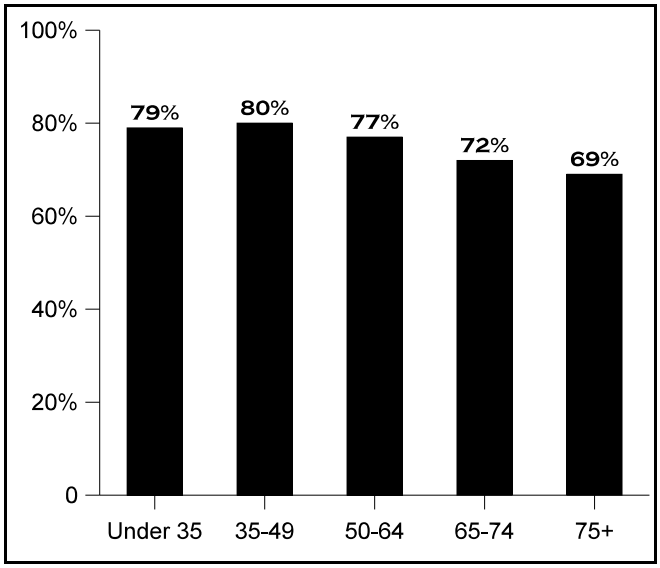
Religious Practices by Type of Marriage (Always + Usually *or* Yes)



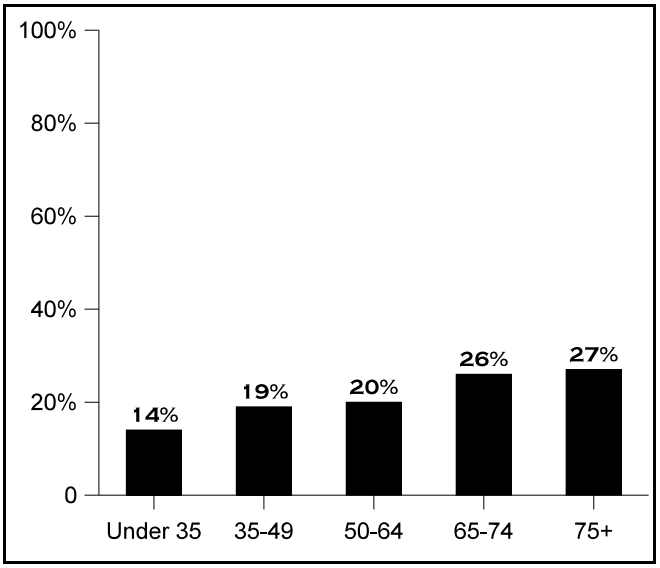
Mezuzah on Front Door



Participate in a Seder
(Always + Usually)

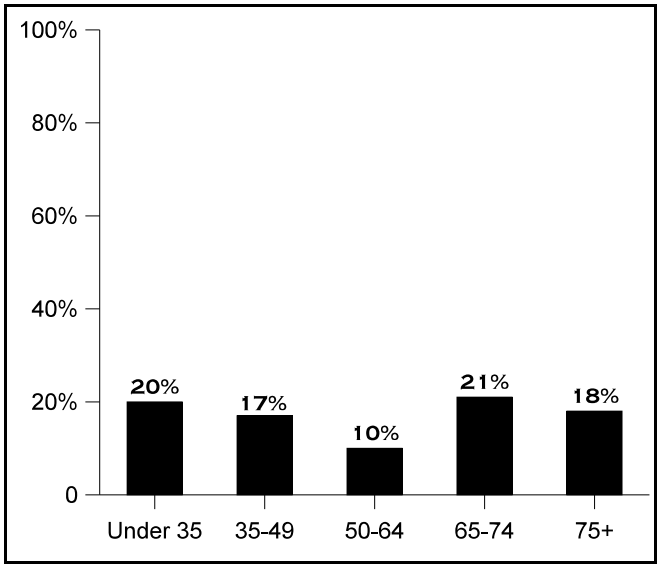


Light Chanukah Candles
(Always + Usually)

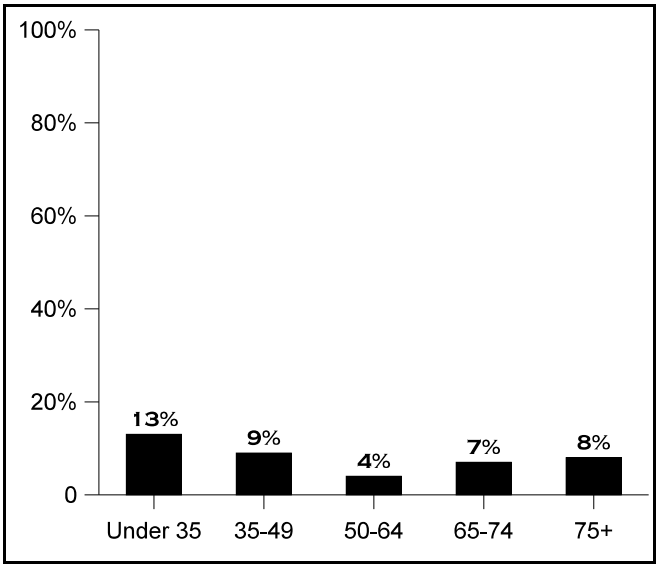


Light Sabbath Candles
(Always + Usually)

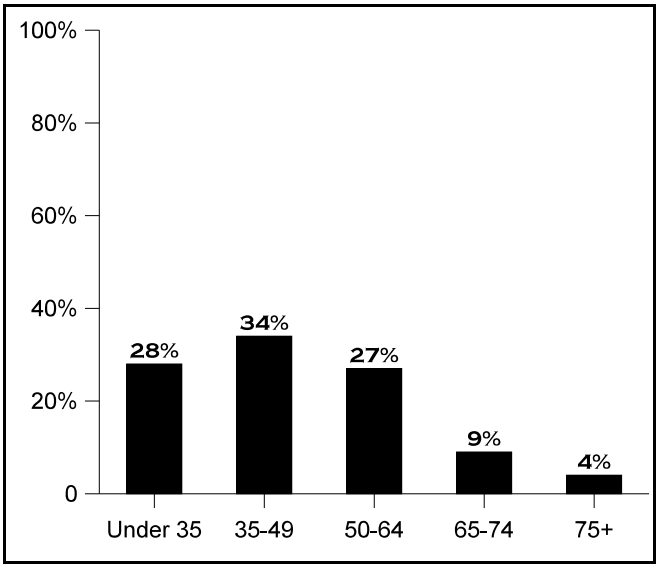
Religious Practices by Age of Head of Household (I)



Keep a Kosher Home



Kosher In/Out of Home
(Respondents Only)



Have a Christmas Tree
(Always + Usually)

Religious Practices by Age of Head of Household (II)

Overall, 29% of Jewish respondents in Rhode Island never attend synagogue services (or only attend for *special occasions*, such as weddings and B'nai Mitzvah). The 29% is about average among about 40 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 29% in Wilmington, 27% in Hartford, 26% in Milwaukee, and 24% in Rochester. The 29% compares to the 35% national figure (NJPS 1990).

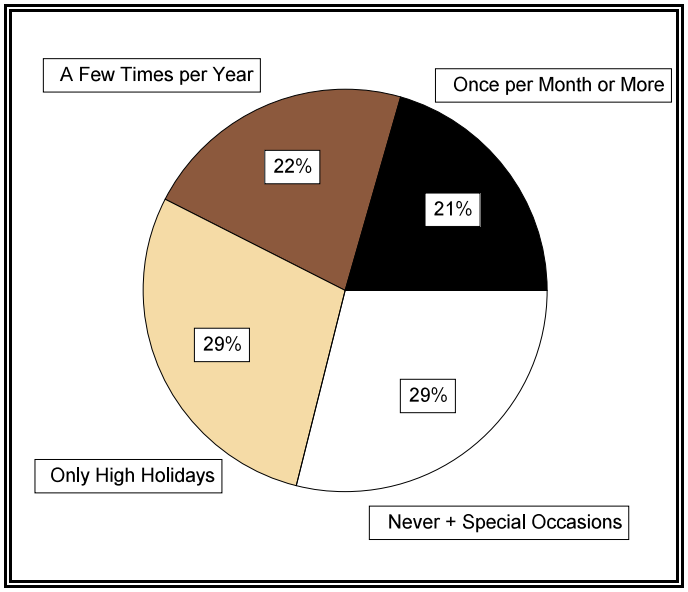
▶ The 21% who attend services once per month or more is about average among about 40 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 27% in Hartford, 26% in Rochester, 25% in Milwaukee, and 21% in Wilmington. The 21% compares to the 21% national figure (NJPS 1990).

▶ The 23% of respondents under age 35 who attend services once per month or more is above average among about 30 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 22% in Rochester, 16% in Hartford, and 15% in both Milwaukee and Wilmington.

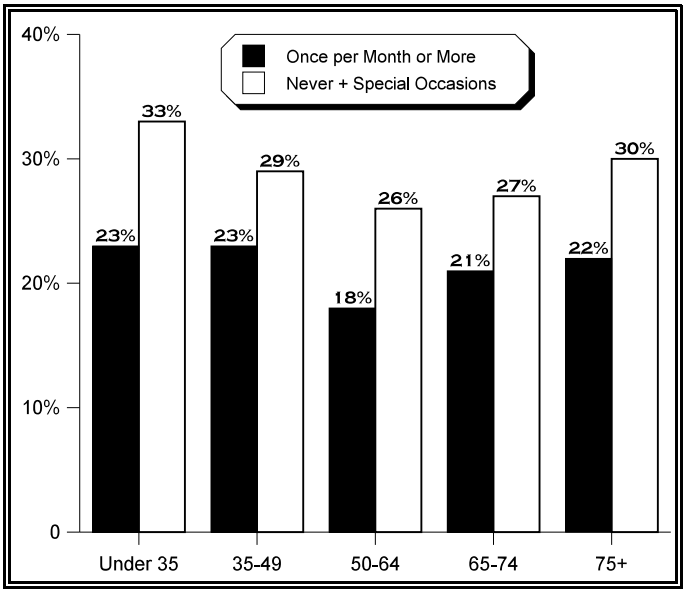
▶ 54% of respondents in synagogue non-member households attend synagogue services at least once per year (other than for special occasions).

▶ 43% of respondents in synagogue member households attend services once per month or more, compared to only 5% of respondents in synagogue non-member households.

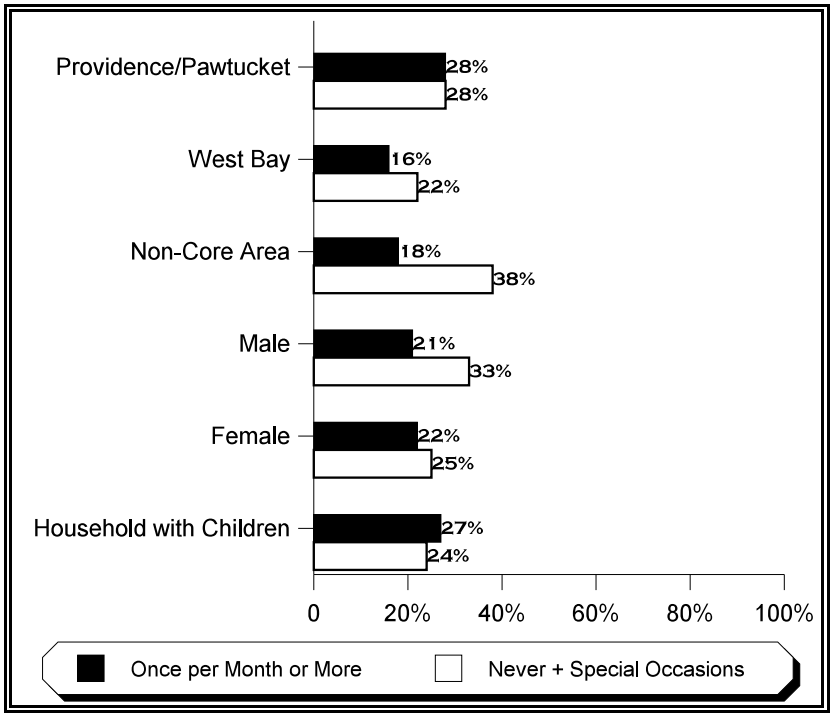
▶ Respondents in households in which an adult visited Israel on a Jewish trip (36%) and respondents in households in which an adult visited Israel on a general trip (34%) are more likely to attend services once per month or more than are respondents in households in which no adult visited Israel (12%).

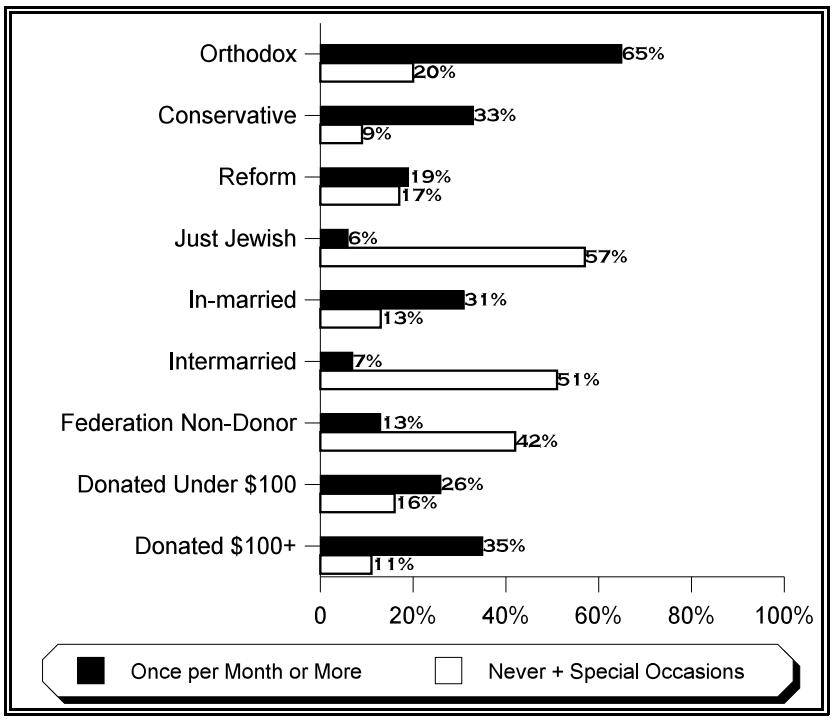


Synagogue Attendance (Jewish Respondents Only)



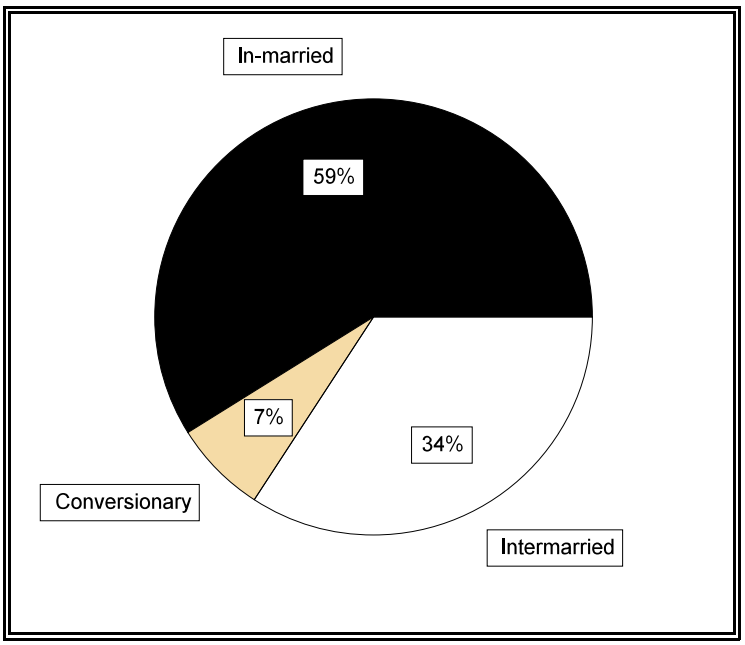
Synagogue Attendance by Age of Respondent (Jewish Respondents Only)





Synagogue Attendance by Various Population Groups
(Jewish Respondents Only)

Intermarriage has developed into one of the most important issues for the Jewish community and has clearly reached significant proportions in most American Jewish communities. As a result, intermarriage must be taken into account in local Jewish community planning. Although some intermarried couples are contributing significantly to the Jewish community, it is also clear that when measures of "Jewishness" for intermarried and in-married couples are compared in this and other community studies, intermarriage is affecting Jewish continuity.



Types of Marriage (Couples Intermarriage Rate)

Intermarriage rates may be reported based on *married couples* or *individuals*. As an illustration, imagine that two weddings occur. In wedding one, Moshe (a Jew) marries Rachel (also a Jew). In wedding two, Abraham (a Jew) marries Christine (a non-Jew). Thus, there are two married couples, one of whom is intermarried. In this illustration, the *couples intermarriage rate* is 50%. Another method of calculating an intermarriage rate, however, is to note that there are three Jews (Moshe, Rachel, and Abraham) and one of the three (Abraham) is married to a non-Jew. In this illustration, the *individual intermarriage rate* is 33%.

▶ The Rhode Island Jewish community contains 5,970 married couples. 59% (3,498 married couples) of married couples involve in-marriages between two born Jews, 7% (436 married couples) involve conversionary in-marriages, and 34% (2,036 married couples) involve intermarriages. (See the Introduction section of this report for definitions of the terms in-marriage, conversionary in-marriage, and intermarriage.)

▶ The 34% couples intermarriage rate is above average among about 50 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 33% in Wilmington, 30% in both Boston and Rochester, 28% in Milwaukee, and 23% in Hartford. The 34% compares to the 45% national figure (NJPS 1990). The *individual intermarriage rate* is 21%.

▶ The 40% of married couples in households under age 35 who are intermarried is about average among about 30 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 54% in Wilmington, 43% in Hartford, and 36% in both Rochester and Milwaukee.

▶ The 48% of married couples in households age 35-49 who are intermarried is the fifth highest of about 25 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 48% in Rochester, 41% in Wilmington, 37% in Milwaukee, and 29% in Hartford.

▶ The 37% of married couples in households age 50-64 who are intermarried is the fourth highest of about 30 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 27% in Milwaukee, 23% in Hartford, 22% in Rochester, and 18% in Wilmington.

▶ The 17% of married couples in households age 65-74 who are intermarried is above average among about 20 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 10% in both Wilmington and Hartford, 7% in Milwaukee, and 6% in Rochester.

▶ The 13% of married couples in households age 75 and over who are intermarried is about average among about 20 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 21% in Milwaukee, 12% in Hartford, 11% in Rochester, and 6% in Wilmington.

▶ 29% of married couples in West Bay and 27% of married couples in Providence/Pawtucket are intermarried, compared to 49% of married couples in the Non-Core Area.

▶ 42% of married couples in households with children are in-married, 11% are conversionary in-married, and 48% are intermarried.

▶ 0% of married couples in households in which the respondent is Orthodox are intermarried, compared to 15% of married couples in households in which the respondent is Conservative, 28% of married couples in households in which the respondent is Reform, and 63% of married couples in households in which the respondent is Just Jewish.

▶ 14% of married couples in synagogue member households are intermarried, compared to 54% of married couples in synagogue non-member households.

▶ 11% of married couples in households in which an adult visited Israel on a Jewish trip are intermarried, compared to 29% of married couples in households in which an adult visited Israel on a general trip and 46% of married couples in households in which no adult visited Israel.

▶ 8% of married couples in households in which an adult attended Jewish day school as a child are intermarried, compared to 38% of married couples in households in which no adult attended Jewish day school as a child.

▶ 56% of married couples in households who did not donate to the Jewish Federation in the past year are intermarried, compared to 23% of married couples in households who donated under $100 and 13% of married couples in households who donated $100 and over.

▶ The *couples conversion rate* is calculated by dividing the percentage of conversionary in-married couples by the total percentage of married couples involving marriages between born Jews and persons not born Jewish. In Rhode Island, the couples conversion rate is 18%. Note that no question was asked about whether a formal conversion occurred.

▶ The 18% conversion rate is below average among about 45 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 27% in Hartford, 25% in Boston, 22% in Rochester, 18% in Wilmington, and 12% in Milwaukee. The 18% compares to the 6% national figure (NJPS 1990).

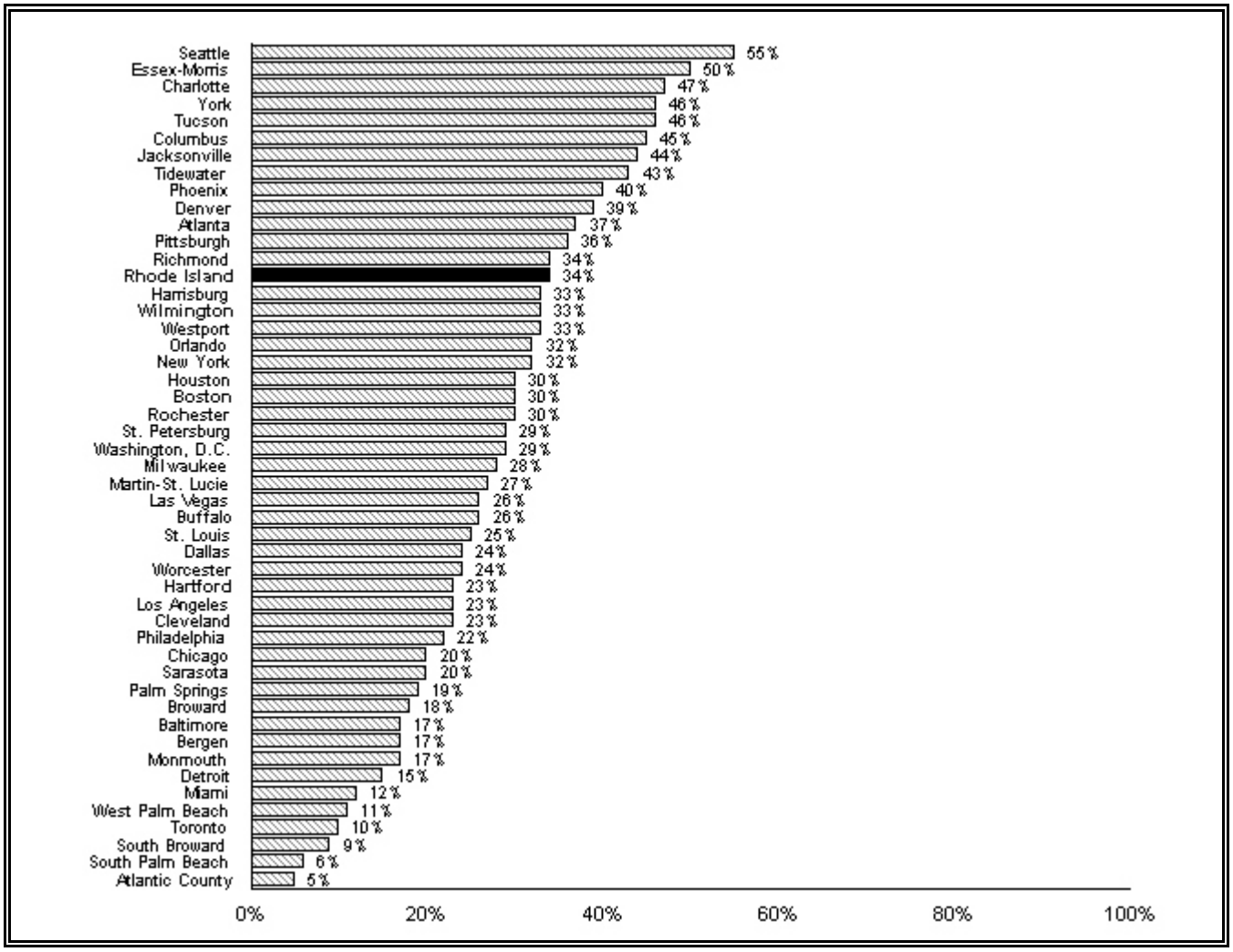
▶ 35% of children age 0-17 in intermarried households are being raised Jewish. The 35% is below average among about 35 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 59% in Hartford, 36% in both Wilmington and Milwaukee, 33% in Boston, and 32% in Rochester.

▶ Of the 2,924 *Jewish* children age 0-17 being raised in married households, 67% (1,949 children) are being raised in in-married households (two born Jews); 13% (385 children), in conversionary in-married households; and 20% (590 children), in intermarried households. The 20% of Jewish children being raised in intermarried households is about average among about 30 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 22% in Wilmington, 20% in Hartford, 19% in Rochester, and 17% in Milwaukee.

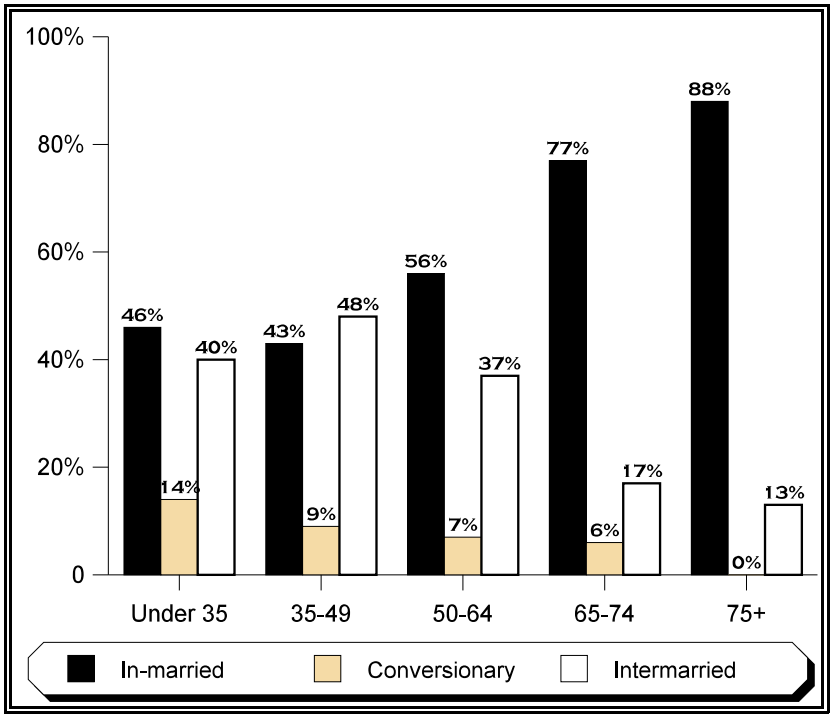
▶ 4.1% of *Jewish persons* are Jews-by-Choice. A person is defined in this study as a Jew-by-Choice if he/she was not born Jewish, but currently considers himself/herself Jewish (irrespective of formal conversion.) The 4.1% is about average among about 25 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 4.1% in Rochester, 3.1% in Hartford, 2.8% in Wilmington, and 2.3% in Milwaukee.

▶ 80% of *persons in Jewish households* are currently Jewish. The 80% is about average among about 45 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 88% in Hartford, 83% in Milwaukee, 81% in Rochester, and 79% in Wilmington.

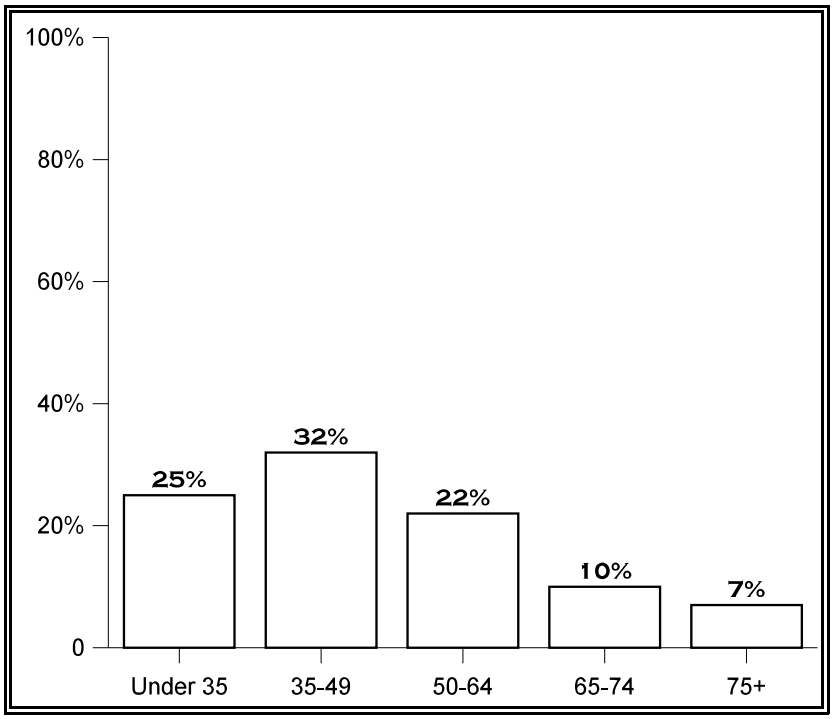
▶ Of the 62% of Jewish households in which the respondent is age 50 or over with adult children who have established their own homes and are married, 62% have intermarried children (*households with intermarried adult children*). Thus, 39% (62% of 62%) of all Jewish households in which the respondent is age 50 or over have adult children who have established their own homes *and are intermarried*. The 62% of households with intermarried adult children is about average among about ten comparison Jewish communities and compares to 58% in Hartford and 53% in Rochester.



Couples Intermarriage Rate
Comparison with Other Communities



Types of Marriage by Age of Head of Household
(Couples Intermarriage Rate)



Individual Intermarriage Rate
by Age of Head of Household (Married Jewish Persons)