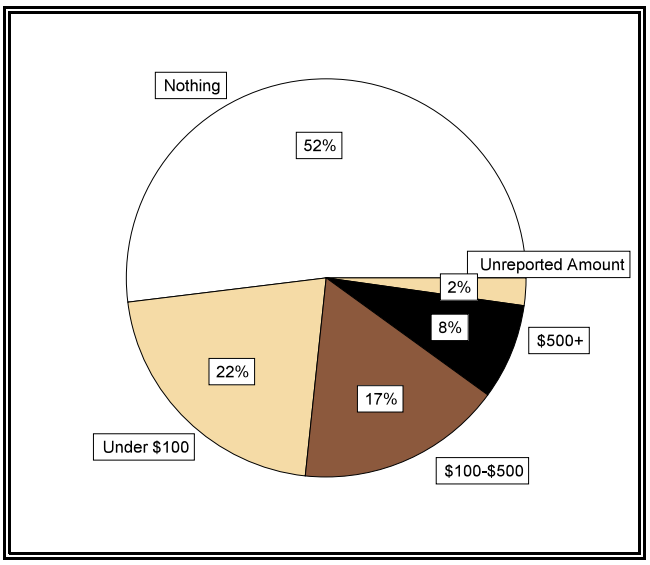
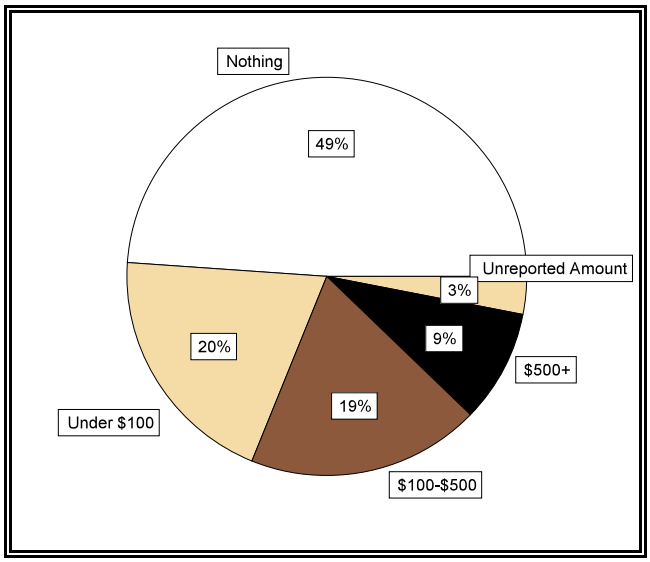
Philanthropic Profile—Overall Donations

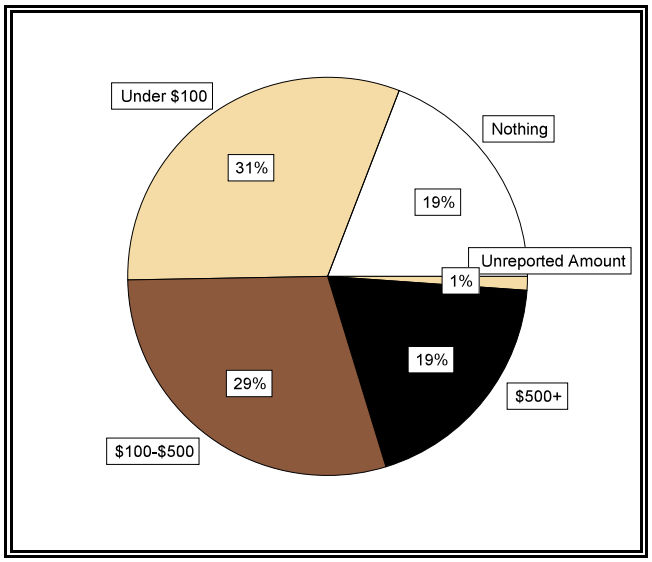
Overall, 89% of respondents in Jewish households in Rhode Island *reported* that their households donated to one or more charities, either Jewish or non-Jewish, in the past year. 48% of respondents *report*ed that their households donated to the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI) in the past year; 51%, to other Jewish charities (Jewish charities other than Jewish Federations); and 81%, to non-Jewish charities.



Donated to JFRI in the Past Year



Donated to Other Jewish Charities in the Past Year



Donated to Non-Jewish Charities in the Past Year

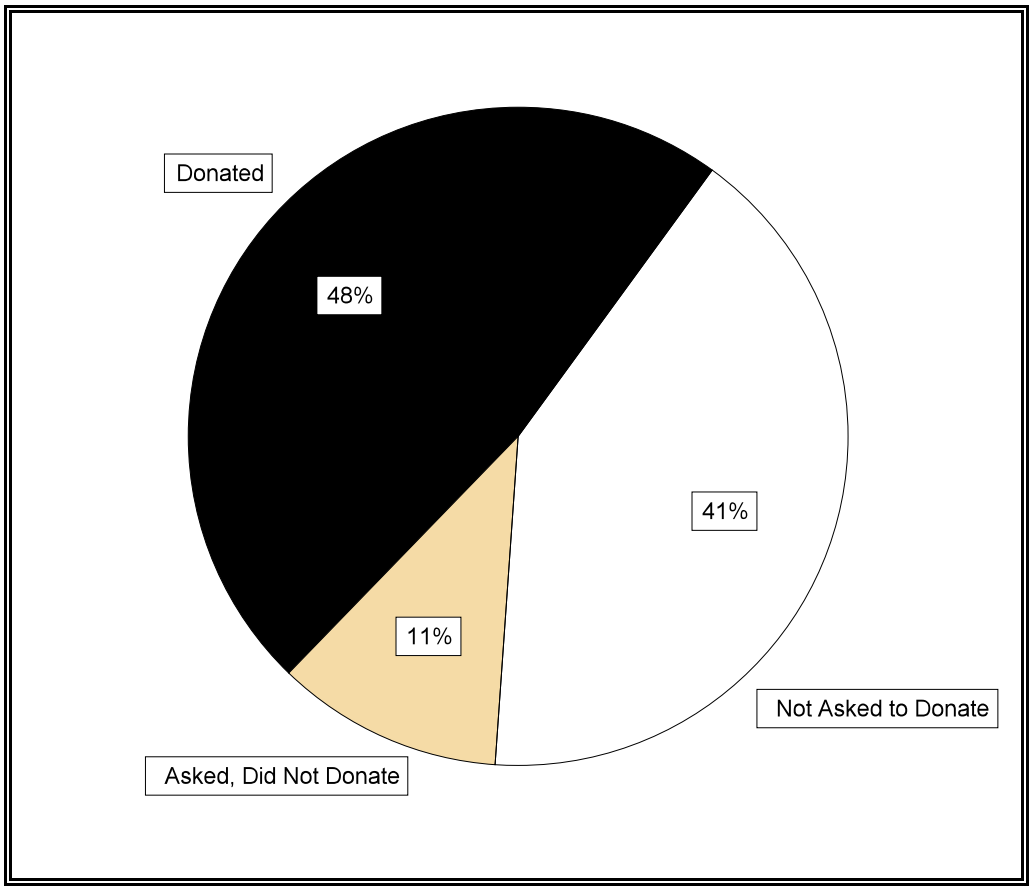
Philanthropic Profile—JFRI Donations

According to the *Jewish Federation Survey*, 33% (3,143 households) of Jewish households in Rhode Island donated to JFRI in the past year. *According to the Telephone Survey*, 48% (4,574 households) of respondents *reported* that their households donated to JFRI in the past year. Such a disparity is common in Jewish community studies.

▶ The 41% not asked to donate to the local Jewish Federation in the past year is below average among about 25 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 48% in Wilmington, 43% in Hartford, 40% in Milwaukee, and 30% in Rochester.

▶ The percentage of households not asked to donate to JFRI in the past year decreases from 74% of households under age 35 to 23% of households age 65 and over.

▶ Of the 59% of *households asked to donate* to JFRI in the past year, 19% [11%/(48%+11%)] did not donate. The 19% is about average among about 25 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 18% in Wilmington, 15% in Milwaukee, 13% in Hartford, and 11% in Rochester.

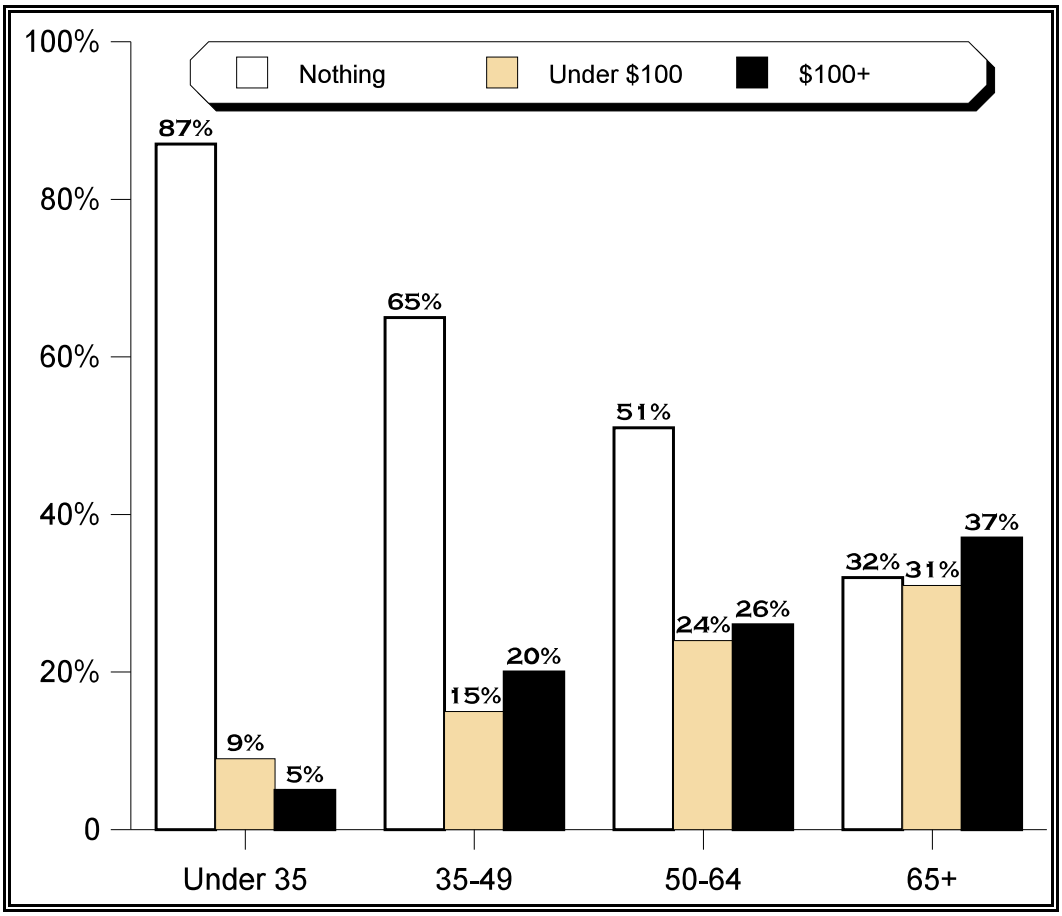


JFRI Market Segments in the Past Year

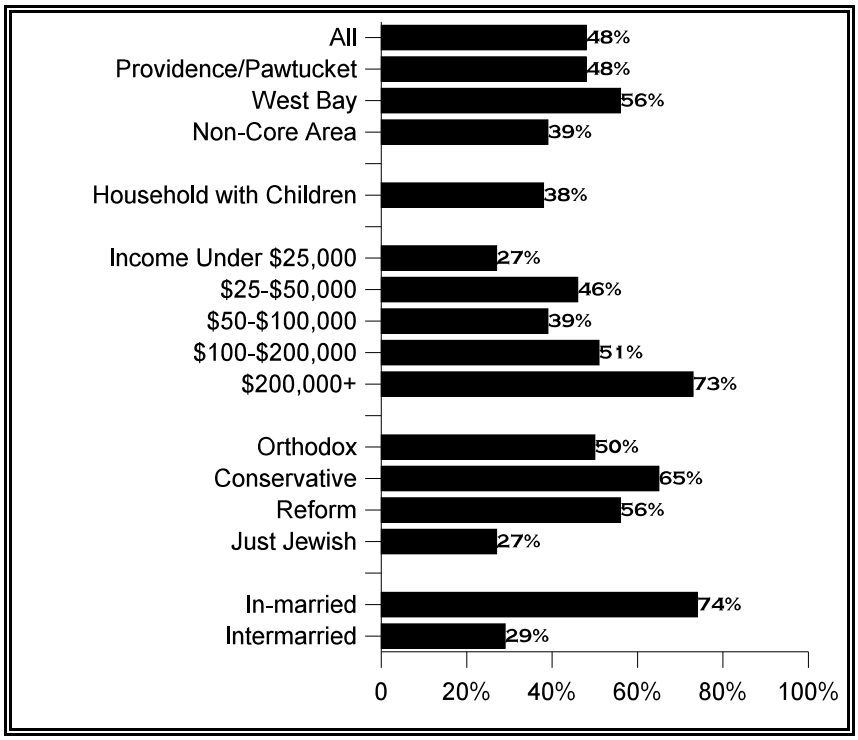
▶ The 46% of respondents who *reported the amounts* their households donated to the local Jewish Federation is about average among about 45 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 61% in Rochester, 51% in Milwaukee, 48% in Hartford, 41% in Wilmington, and 40% in Boston. The 46% compares to the 34% national figure (NJPS 1990).

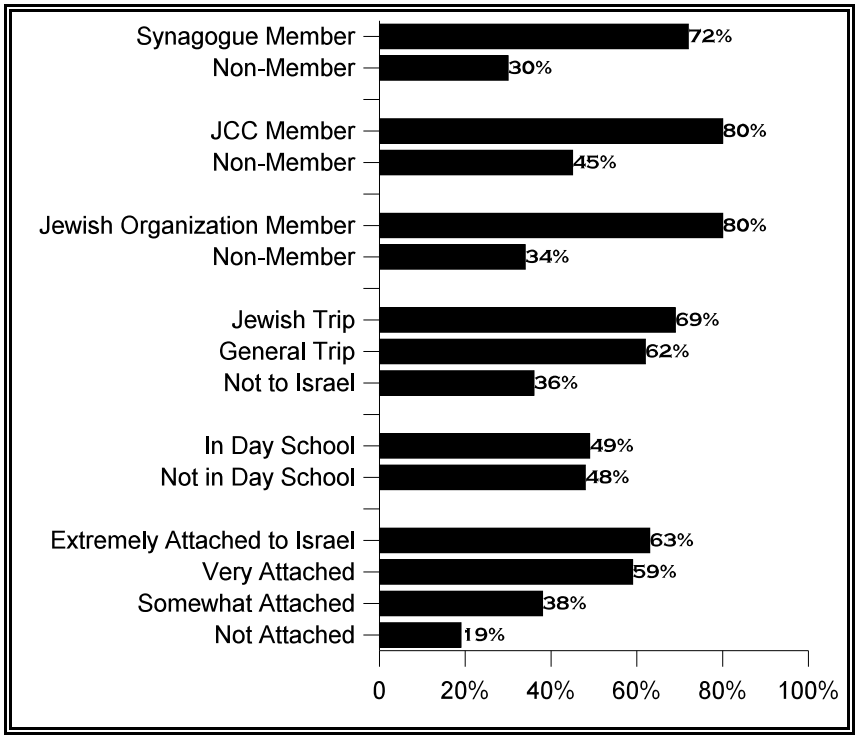
▶ 4% of *households who donated* to JFRI in the past year are under age 35, 17% are age 35-49, 32% are age 50-64, 21% are age 65-74, and 27% are age 75 and over. 26% of households who donated are elderly couple households, 22% are households with children, 17% are non-elderly couple households, and 17% are elderly single households. 4% of households who donated are in residence for 0-4 years and 81% are in residence for 20 or more years. 33% of households who donated earn an annual income under $50,000 and 15% earn $200,000 and over. 6% of Jewish respondents in households who donated identify as Orthodox; 41%, Conservative; 33%, Reform; and 20%, Just Jewish.

▶ 49% of *households who donated $100 and over* to JFRI in the past year are age 65 and over. 76% of households who donated $100 and over are synagogue members, 19% are JCC members, and 60% are Jewish organization members.



Donated to JFRI in the Past Year by Age





Donated to JFRI in the Past Year

Philanthropic Profile—JFRI Donations

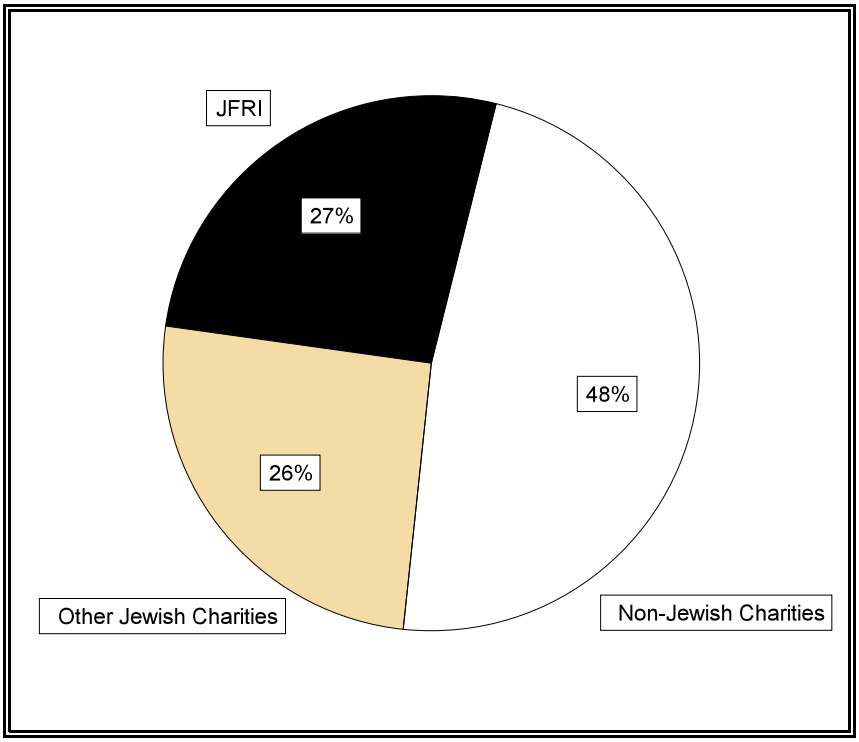
▶ Of all *charitable dollars* donated by Jewish households in the past year, 27% were donated to JFRI. The 27% is about average among about 20 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 40% in Rochester, 39% in Milwaukee, 32% in Hartford, and 29% in Wilmington.

▶ The 26% of charitable dollars donated by Jewish households to other Jewish charities in the past year is about average among about 20 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 29% in Hartford, 27% in Milwaukee, 25% in Wilmington, and 21% in Rochester.

▶ The 48% of charitable dollars donated by Jewish households to non-Jewish charities in the past year is the second highest of about 20 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 46% in Wilmington, 39% in both Rochester and Hartford, and 34% in Milwaukee.

▶ Of all charitable dollars donated by Jewish households in the past year, 52% were donated to Jewish charities (including JFRI). The 52% is the second lowest of about 20 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 67% in Milwaukee, 61% in both Rochester and Hartford, and 54% in Wilmington.

▶ Of all charitable dollars donated by Jewish households *to Jewish charities* in the past year, 51% were donated to JFRI and 49%, to other Jewish charities. The 51% donated to the local Jewish Federation is about average among about 20 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 66% in Rochester, 59% in Milwaukee, 54% in Wilmington, and 53% in Hartford.



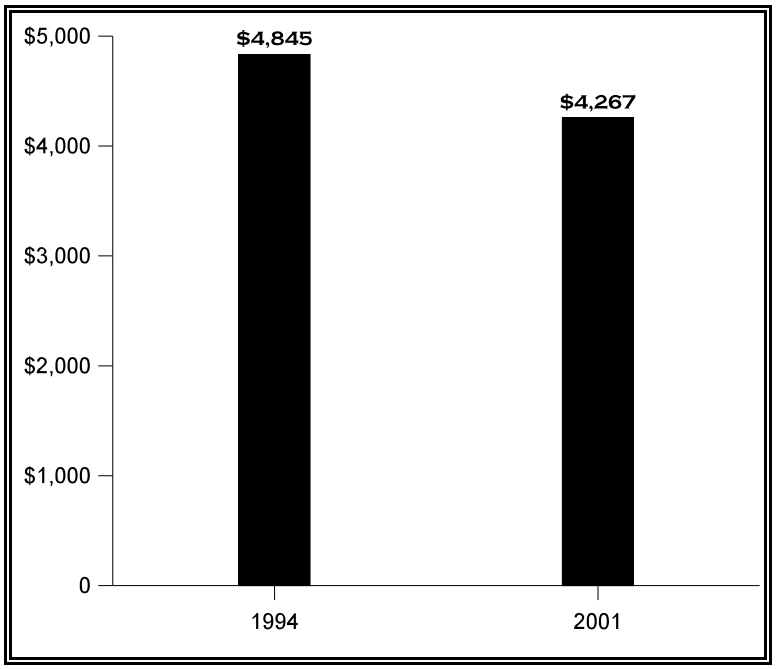
Distribution of Charitable Dollars in the Past Year

▶ *According to the Jewish Federation Survey*, the JFRI Annual Campaign decreased from $4,844,560 in 1994 (adjusted for inflation) to $4,267,012 in 2001. The average donation *per household* decreased from $489 in 1994 (adjusted for inflation) to $447 in 2001. Recall that the number of Jewish households in Rhode Island decreased by 4% from 9,900 households in 1994 to 9,550 households in 2001.

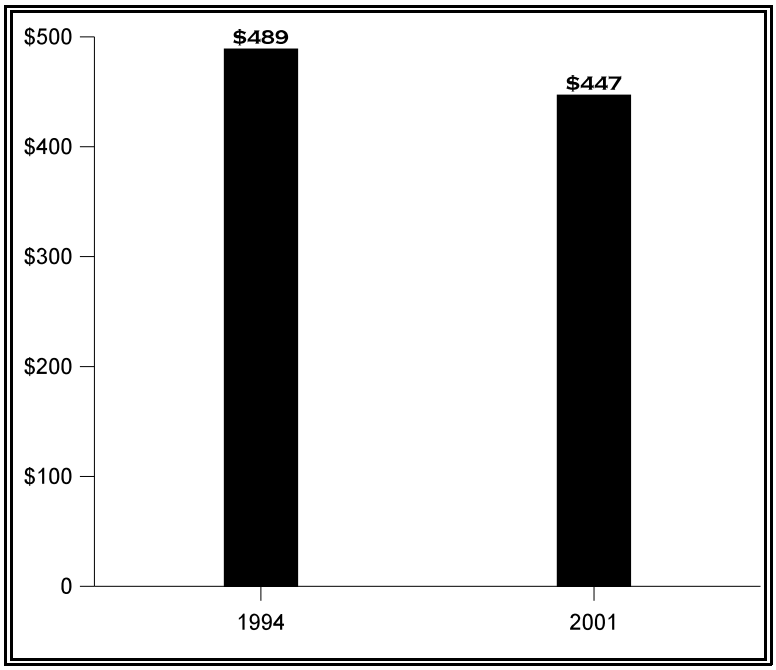
▶ The average donation per household of $447 is above average among about 45 comparison Jewish communities and compares to $779 in Milwaukee, $420 in Rochester, $404 in Hartford, $272 in Boston, and $233 in Wilmington.

▶ 4.4% of Jewish households who donated to JFRI in 2001 donated $10,000 and over. The 4.4% is the highest of about 45 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 3.6% in Milwaukee, 2.9% in Boston, 2.1% in Hartford, 2.0% in Rochester, and 1.2% in Wilmington.

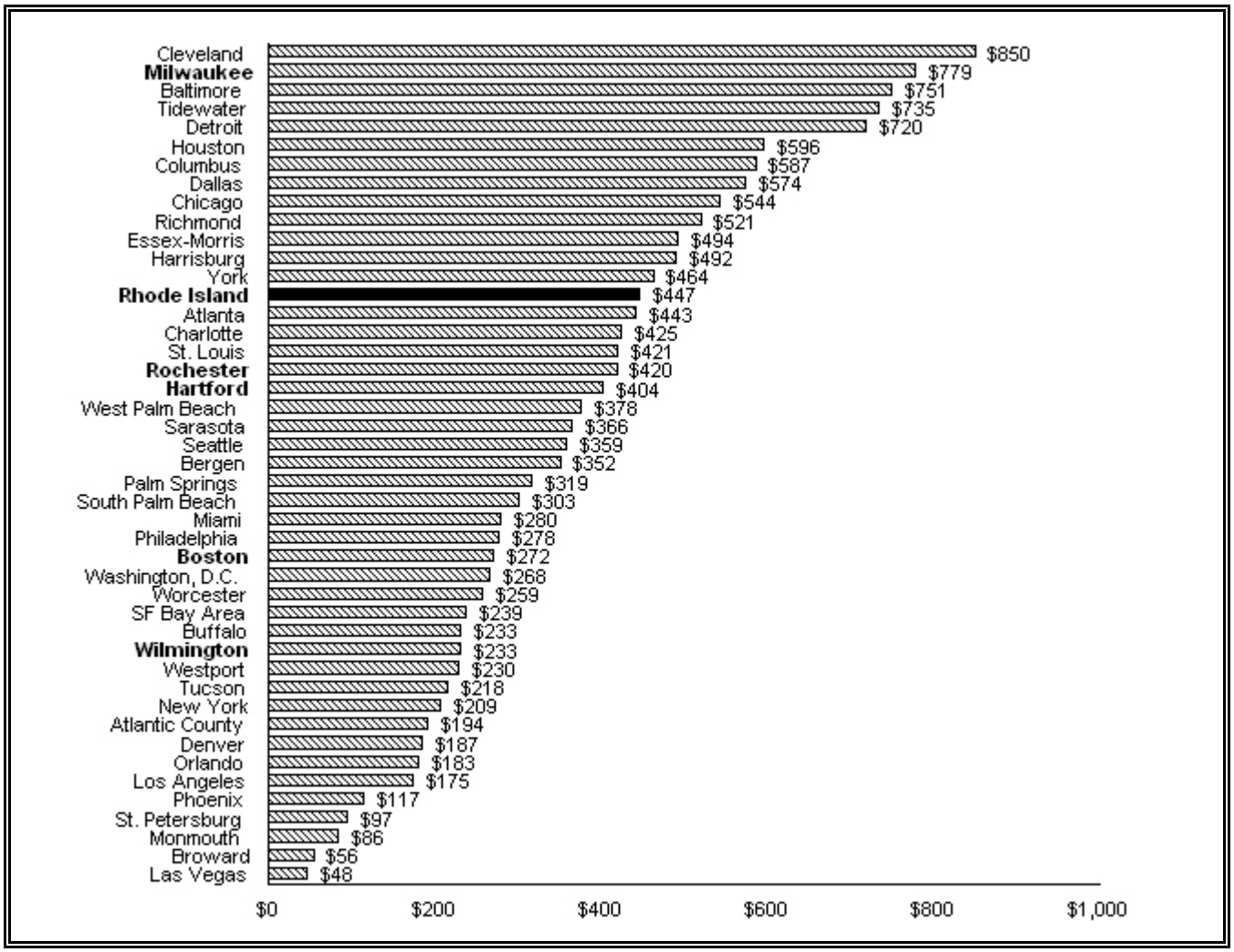
▶ 71% of all charitable dollars donated to JFRI in 2001 were derived from Jewish households who donated $10,000 and over. The 71% is the second highest of about 45 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 71% in Boston, 66% in Milwaukee, 56% in Rochester, 53% in Hartford, and 31% in Wilmington.



JFRI Annual Campaign
(Adjusted for Inflation, in thousands)



Average Donation per Household to JFRI Annual Campaign
(Adjusted for Inflation)



Average Donation per Household to the Local Jewish Federation
Comparison with Other Communities

Note: The number of Jewish households used to calculate the average donation per household is the number of households in the year of the study, while the total dollars raised in the annual campaign are generally for 2000 (2001 for Rhode Island). To the extent that the number of Jewish households in a community has changed since the year of the study, the average donation per household shown may overestimate or underestimate the per household donations in 2000.

Philanthropic Profile—Other Donations

In total, 61% of households donated to *all* Jewish charities (including JFRI) in the past year. The 61% is below average among about 40 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 75% in Rochester, 71% in Boston, 67% in both Milwaukee and Hartford, and 66% in Wilmington. The 61% compares to the 51% national figure (NJPS 1990).

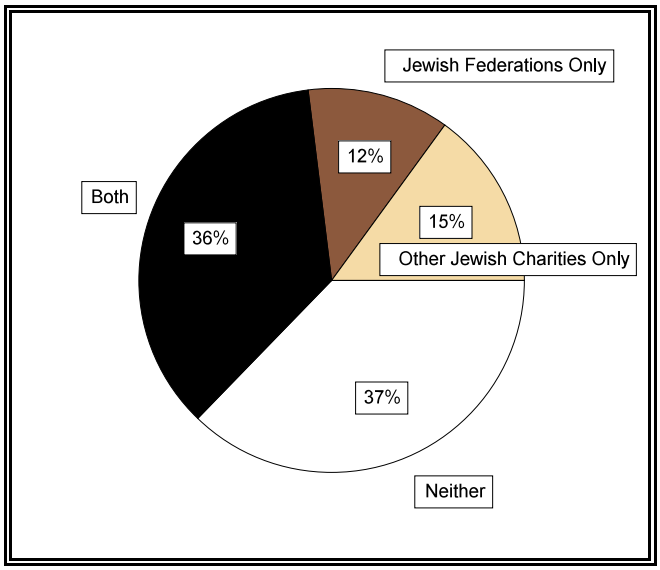
▶ The 49% of respondents who *reported the amounts* their households donated to other Jewish charities in the past year is about average among about 20 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 60% in Rochester, 55% in both Hartford and Milwaukee, and 50% in Wilmington.

▶ The 36% who donated to both Jewish Federations and other Jewish charities in the past year is about average among about 20 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 48% in Rochester, 41% in Milwaukee, 39% in Hartford, and 32% in Wilmington.

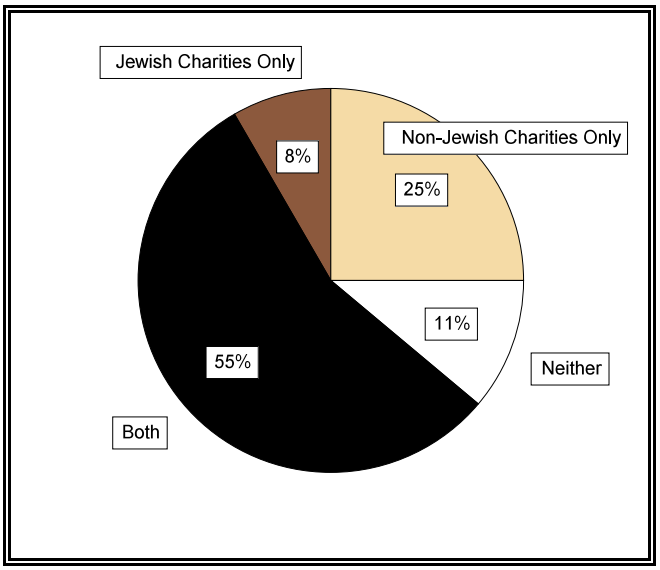
▶ The 15% who donated to other Jewish charities, but not to Jewish Federations in the past year is about average among about 35 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 31% in Boston, 20% in Wilmington, 19% in Hartford, 16% in Milwaukee, and 14% in Rochester.

▶ The 79% of respondents who *reported the amounts* their households donated to non-Jewish charities in the past year is about average among about 40 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 89% in Wilmington, 84% in Rochester, 83% in Hartford, and 79% in Milwaukee. The 79% compares to the 67% national figure (NJPS 1990).

▶ The 55% who donated to both Jewish and non-Jewish charities in the past year is about average among about 30 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 65% in Rochester, 61% in Milwaukee, 60% in Hartford, and 58% in Wilmington.



Other Jewish Charities/Jewish Federations Donations Overlap in the Past Year

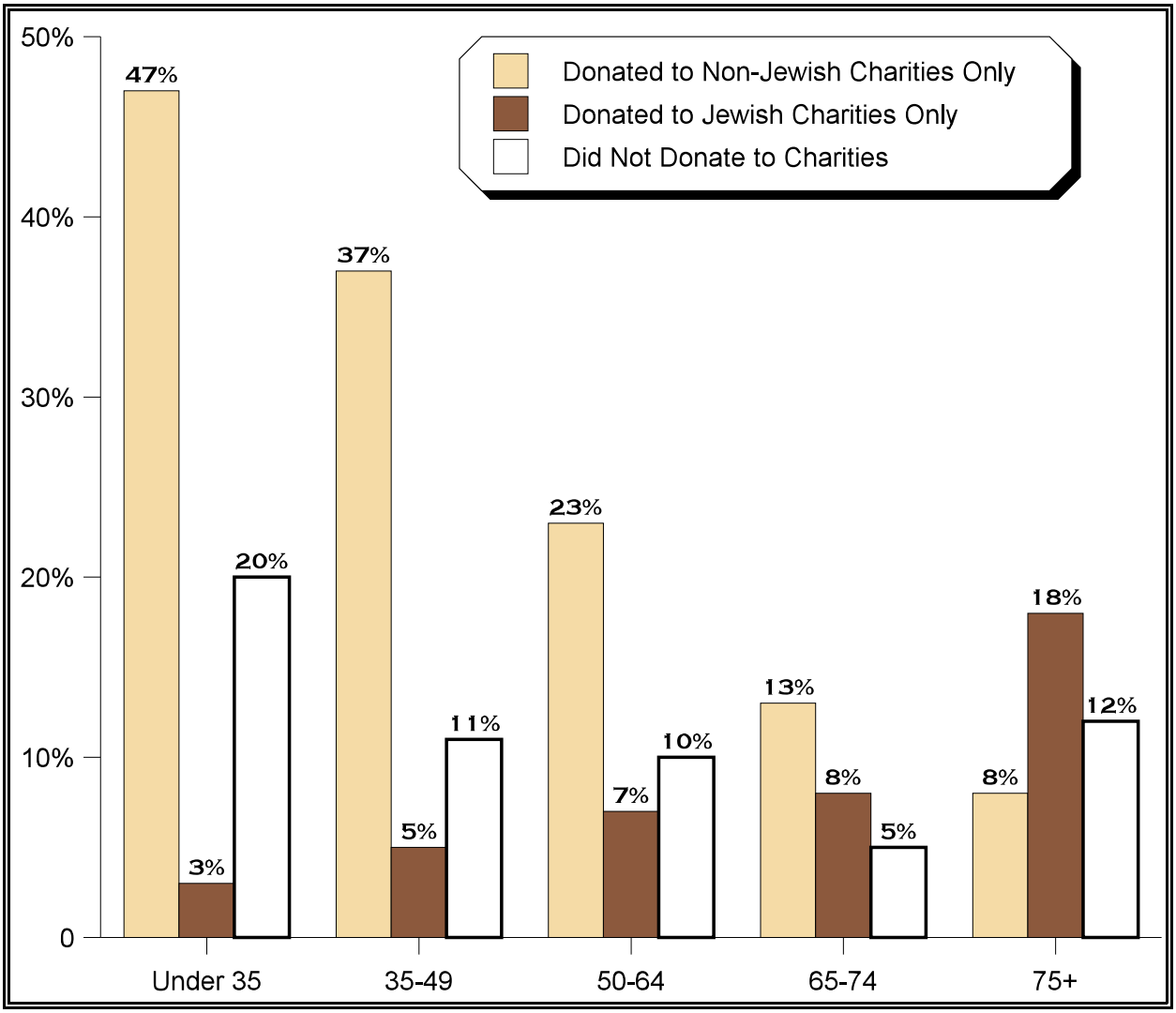


Non-Jewish/Jewish Charities Donations Overlap in the Past Year

▶ The 25% who donated to non-Jewish charities, but not to Jewish charities in the past year is about average among about 30 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 31% in Wilmington, 24% in Hartford, and 19% in both Rochester and Milwaukee.

▶ The 8% who donated to Jewish charities, but not to non-Jewish charities in the past year is about average among about 30 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 9% in Rochester, 8% in Wilmington, and 7% in both Hartford and Milwaukee.

▶ The 89% of households who donated to all charities (either Jewish or non-Jewish) in the past year is about average among about 30 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 97% in Wilmington, 94% in Rochester, 91% in Hartford, and 87% in Milwaukee. The 89% compares to the 77% national figure (NJPS 1990).



Donated to Charities in the Past Year by Age

Philanthropic Profile—Wills

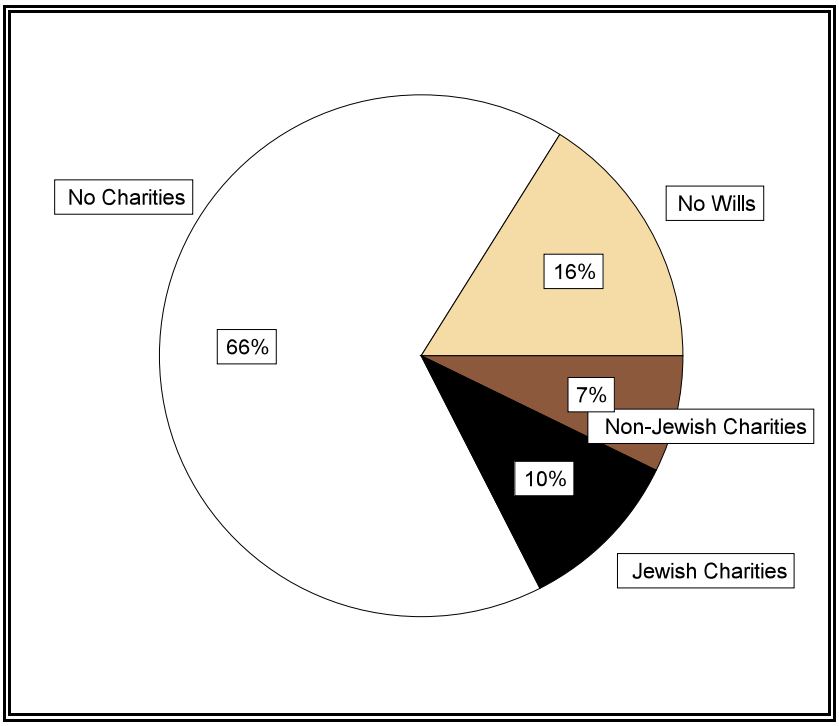
Respondents age 50 and over in Jewish households in Rhode Island were asked whether they have wills and, if so, whether the wills contain any charitable provisions. 16% of respondents do not have wills; 66% have wills that contain no charitable provisions; 10% have wills that contain provisions for Jewish charities; and 7% have wills that contain provisions for non-Jewish charities. (The 5% of respondents who have wills that contain provisions for both Jewish and non-Jewish charities are reported as having wills that contain provisions for Jewish charities.)

▶ The 10% who have wills that contain provisions for Jewish charities is about average among about 20 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 19% in Milwaukee, 16% in Rochester, 12% in Hartford, and 9% in Wilmington.

▶ The percentage of respondents who have wills that contain provisions for Jewish charities increases from 5% of respondents age 50-64 to 14% of respondents age 65 and over.

▶ 14% of both Conservative Jews and Reform Jews and 11% of Orthodox Jews have wills that contain provisions for Jewish charities, compared to 2% of the Just Jewish.

▶ 3% of respondents in households who did not donate and 7% of respondents in households who donated under $100 to the Jewish Federation in the past year have wills that contain provisions for Jewish charities, compared to 21% of respondents in households who donated $100 and over.

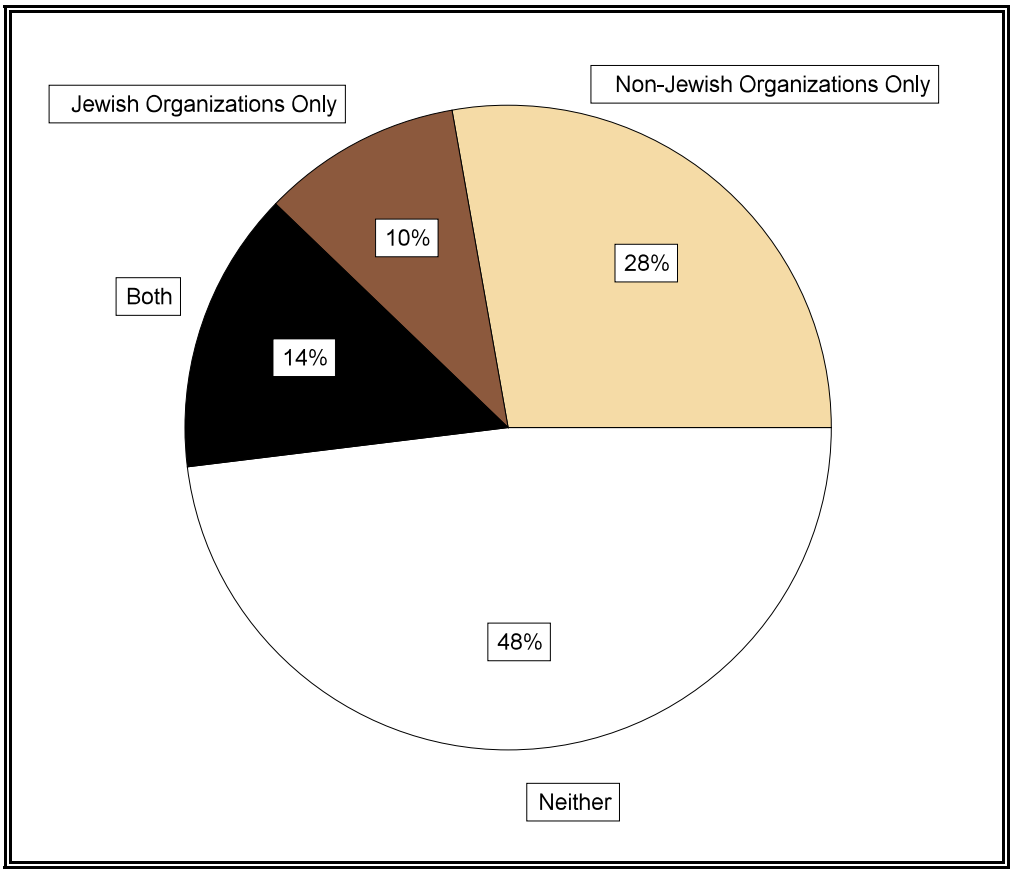


Wills That Contain Charitable Provisions
(Respondents Age 50 and Over Only)

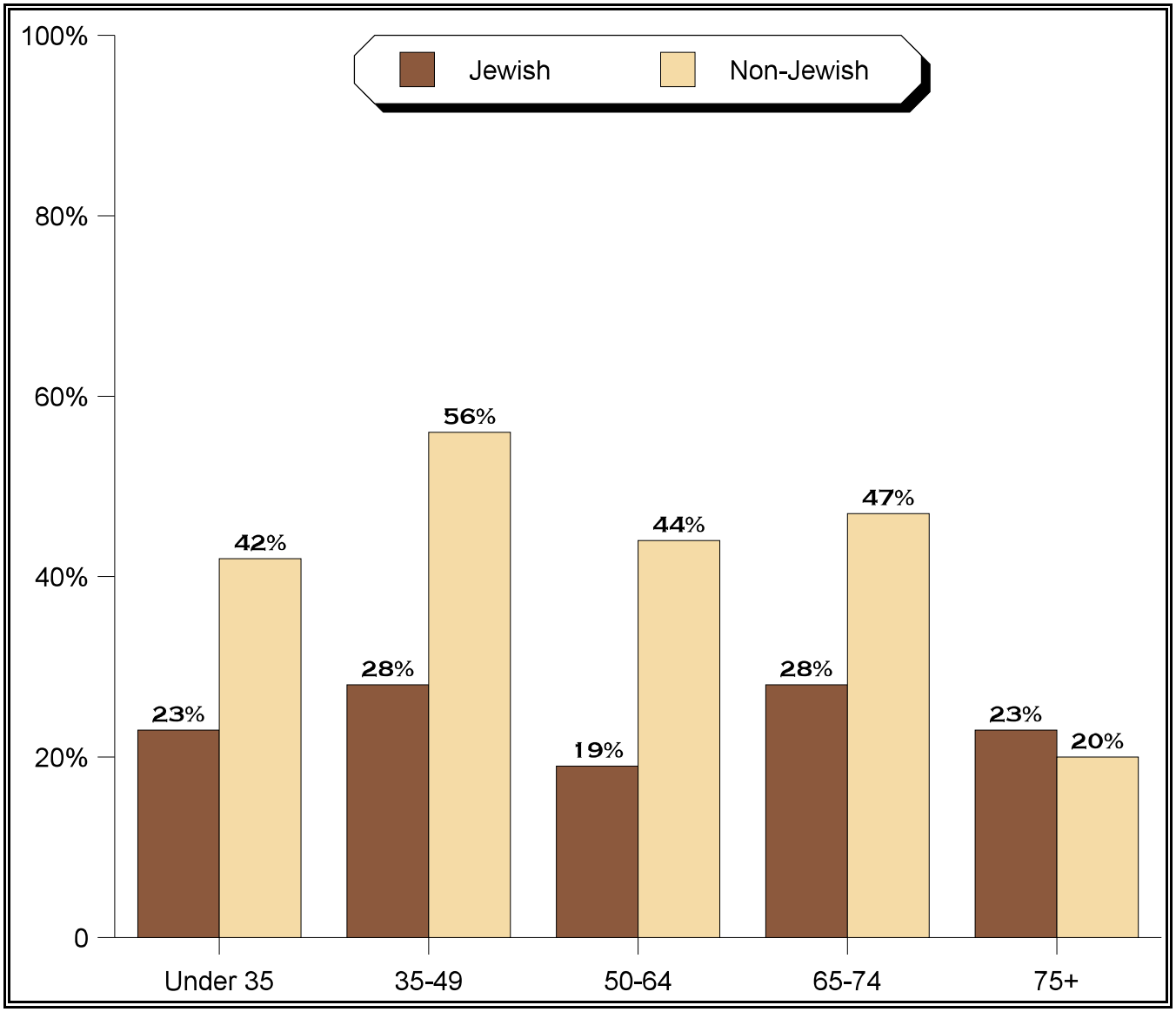
Jewish respondents in Rhode Island were asked whether they had done any "volunteer work for, or sponsored by, a synagogue, Jewish Federation, or other Jewish organization" in the past year and whether they had done any "volunteer work for, or sponsored by, any organization that is not specifically Jewish" in the past year. In total, 52% of respondents volunteered for some organization (either Jewish or non-Jewish) in the past year.

▶ The 24% who volunteered for Jewish organizations in the past year is about average among about 15 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 35% in Hartford and 24% in Boston.

▶ The 42% who volunteered for non-Jewish organizations in the past year is above average among about 15 comparison Jewish communities and compares to 45% in Hartford and 35% in Boston.



Volunteered for Jewish and Non-Jewish Organizations in the Past Year
(Jewish Respondents Only)

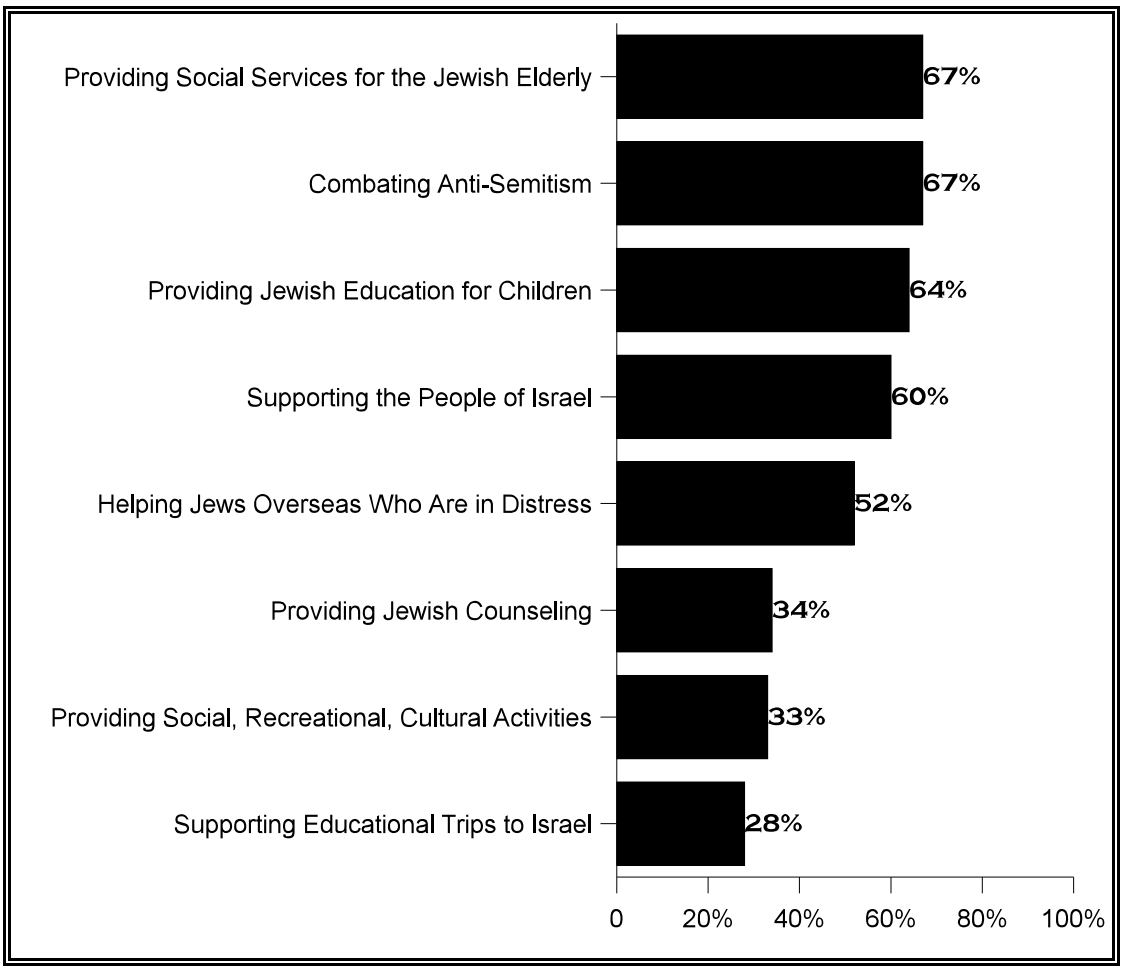


Volunteered for Jewish and Non-Jewish Organizations in the Past Year by Age
(Jewish Respondents Only)

Respondents in Jewish households in Rhode Island who donated $100 and over to either JFRI, other Jewish Federations, or other Jewish charities (Jewish charities other than Jewish Federations) in the past year were asked whether each of eight motivations is very important, somewhat important, or not at all important in their decisions to donate to a Jewish organization.

▶ All eight motivations are at least somewhat important to the majority of respondents.

▶ Compared to about ten comparison Jewish communities, the percentage of respondents who reported that each motivation is very important is generally about average, implying that these factors have the same motivational effect as in other Jewish communities. The 67% who reported that combating anti-Semitism is very important as a motivation to donate to a Jewish organization is well below average among about ten comparison Jewish communities and compares to 76% in Hartford and 75% in Rochester.

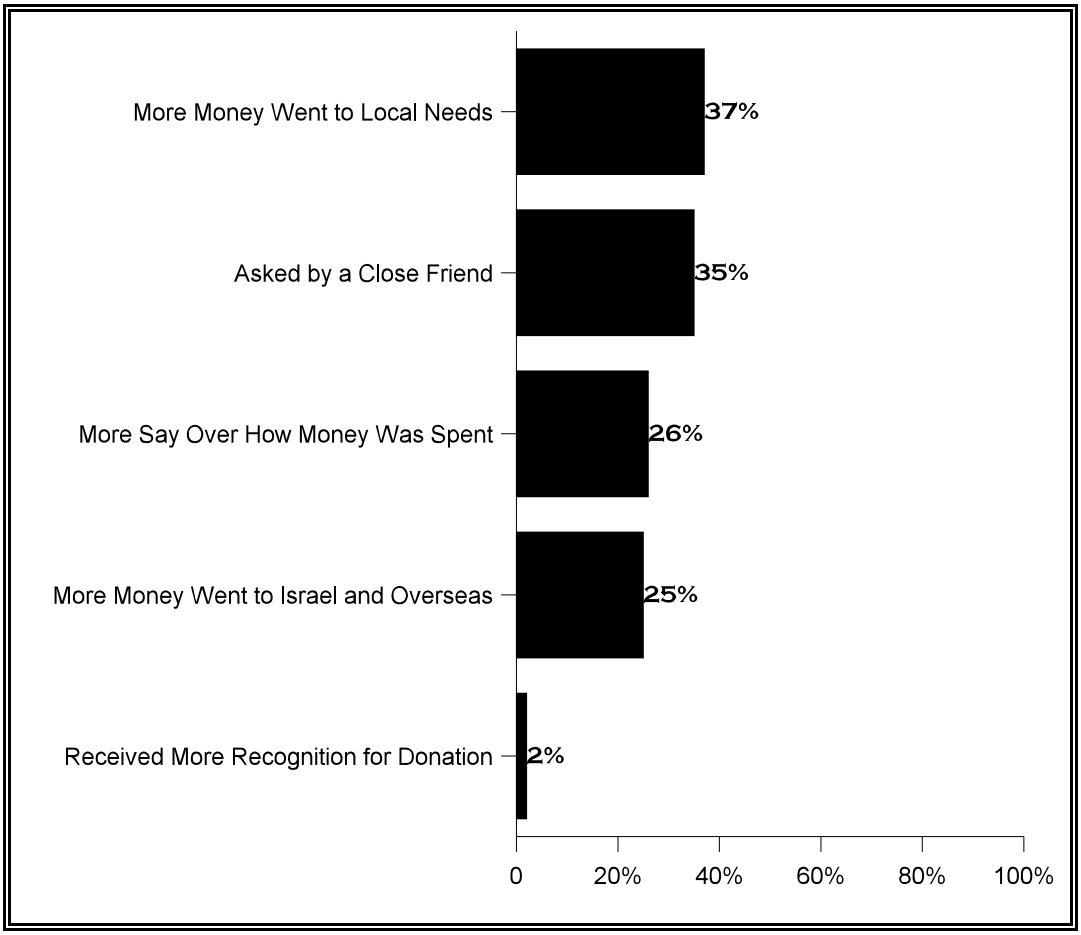


Percentage Who Reported That Each Motivation Is "Very Important"
(Respondents Only in Households Who Donated $100 and Over to Jewish Charities in the Past Year)

Respondents in Jewish households in Rhode Island who donated $100 and over to JFRI in the past year were asked whether each of five motivations would cause them to increase their donations to JFRI.

▶ 37% of respondents would increase their donations to JFRI if more of the money went to local needs and 25%, if more of the money went to needs in Israel and overseas.

▶ Being asked by a close friend would motivate 35% of respondents to increase their donations to JFRI. "Designated giving" (if [the respondent] had more say over how the money was spent) would motivate 26% of respondents to increase their donations. Only 2% of respondents would increase their donations if they received more recognition for their donation.



Percentage Who Reported That Each Motivation Would Cause Them to Increase Their Donations to JFRI
(Respondents Only in Households Who Donated $100 and Over to JFRI in the Past Year)

Acknowledgments

The author wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Sara Masri, Director of Planning and Allocations for the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. Janet Engelhart, Executive Vice President, also deserves special mention for her contributions to the project. Anna Prager, Consultant, made important contributions during the early stages of the project. I would like to thank the members of the Demographic Study Committee for their assistance.

Special thanks are also due to Drs. Sidney and Alice Goldstein. It was an honor to have two other "Jewish demographers" serve on the Committee.

My wife, Karen Tina Sheskin, M.S.Ed. (Community Counseling), deserves recognition for her assistance at all stages of the project. She added significantly to the quality of the final product with her constant attention to detail. Karen pre-interviewed the interviewing staff and helped to produce one of the best interviewing teams we have ever had.

A special thanks goes to Sarah Markowitz, who proofread the reports and made numerous analytical suggestions that have made this report superior to any I have produced in the past.

Our interviewing team also deserves special mention. Although they were remunerated, they put their hearts into the effort, recognizing the importance of this project to the Jewish community.

The most enjoyable part of my participation in this Jewish Community Study is the knowledge that I have played a role in assisting in the strengthening of an important Jewish community.

L'dor V'dor
From Generation to Generation

Ira M. Sheskin

July 2003
Tammuz 5763