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# Florida Jewish Demography

Volume 7

Edited by Ira M. Sheskin, Ph.D.

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## Jewish Population of Broward County Increases Shows Geographic Shifts

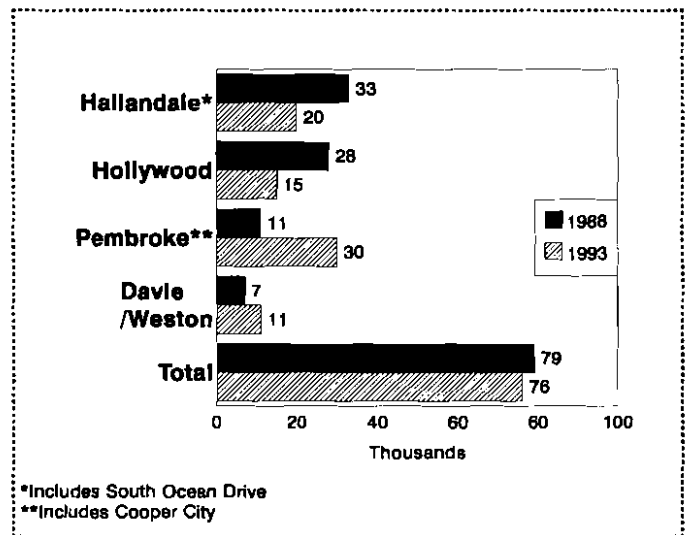
The Jewish population of Broward County increased between 1988 and 1993 by 8%, from 262,000 to 283,000. South Broward's (south of I 95) Jewish population *declined* by 4% to 76,000. North Broward increased by about 15% to 206,000 Jews. The fastest growing areas are Pembroke Pines/Cooper City and Coral Springs/Margate/Tamarac.

The most profound geographical population shift has occurred in South Broward, where Hallandale/South Ocean Drive and Hollywood declined by 13,000 each. On the other hand, Pembroke Pines/Cooper City increased by 19,000.

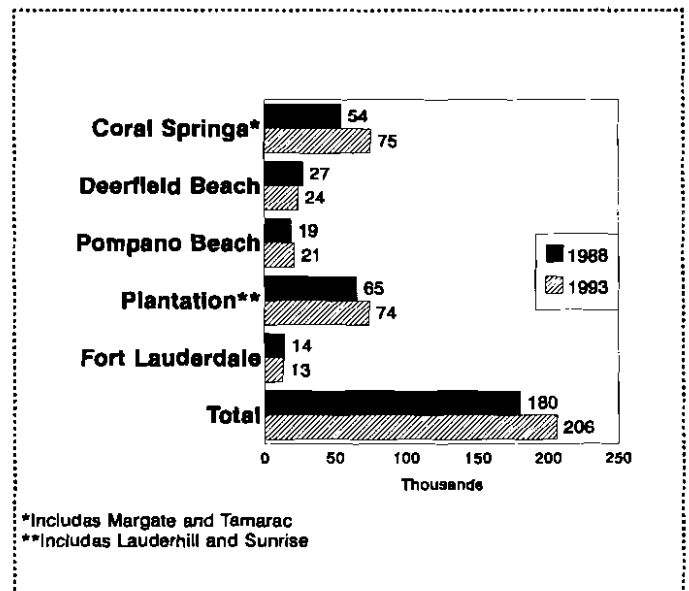
The decline in the southeastern communities is probably attributable to mortality. The 1990 Jewish Federation of South Broward Jewish Population Survey showed that 82% of the population of Hallandale, 78% of the population of South Ocean Drive, and 40% of the population of Hollywood were age 60 and over. The western area of Pembroke Pines/Cooper City and Davie/Weston have been attracting younger residents, with I 75 and the Sawgrass Expressway providing accessibility.

Coral Springs/Margate/Tamarac has grown by 21,000 in the past five years. Plantation/-Sunrise/Lauderhill has increased by about 8,600. Pompano shows a small increase, while Deerfield Beach and Fort Lauderdale show small declines.

This research was sponsored by Riverside-Gordon Memorial Chapels and conducted by Dr. Ira M. Sheskin.



**Jewish Population Changes South Broward**



**Jewish Population Changes North Broward**

# J EWS IN ORLANDO

A major demographic study was sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando in 1993 by Dr. Ira M. Sheskin. The Orlando Jewish community is unlike any other studied Florida Jewish community on a number of important dimensions. Other Florida communities include large numbers of transplanted elderly retirees from the Northeast as well as seasonal residents. In some aspects, the other communities are exurbs of the New York metropolitan area. Orlando is much more typical of a southern town with a mid-sized, assimilating Jewish population.

## geographic results

- The study found 9,044 households containing at least one person of Jewish heritage. 18,848 Jews were found, although the Jewish households in total contained 23,413 persons, including the non-Jews in the households. In part as a response to the overall growth in the metropolitan area, the Jewish population increased by 43% from 1985-1993. This growth has also come about as a result of the growth of the tourist industry.

- While more Jews live north of the Orlando Central Business District than south, mapping the distribution of Jewish households showed that Orlando, unlike all other studied Florida communities, has no identifiable Jewish neighborhoods. In addition, the current dispersed distribution shows little sign of changing: 31% of new residents are moving to North Orlando, 32% to Central Orlando, and 37% to South Orlando. These findings help to explain why the delivery of services to this community is particularly difficult, as there exists no efficient locations for Jewish agencies and organizations wishing to serve the entire community.

- Only 14% of Jews were born locally. Although more than one-third were born in the South, about half in the Northeast and only 8% in the Midwest. While this is the highest percentage of locally born Jews in any studied Florida community, it is a very low figure compared with Jewish

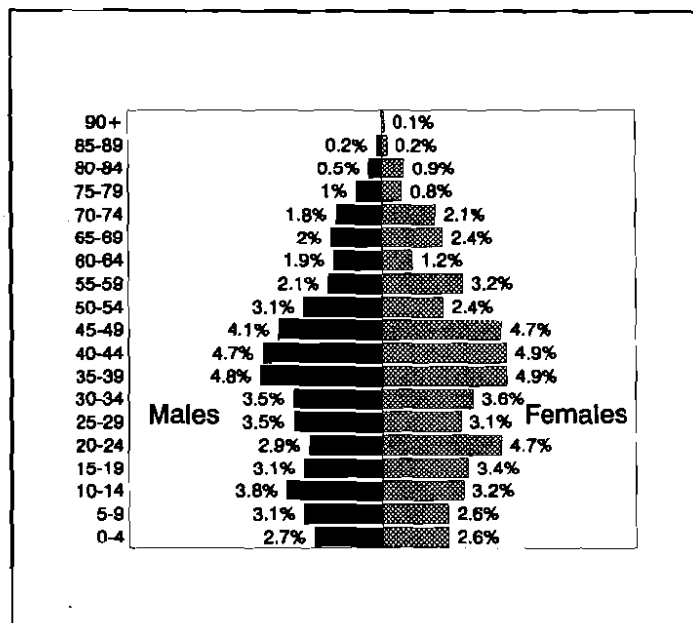
communities outside the state. In addition, about one-third of the population has moved to the area within the past five years. Two implications may be drawn from these findings. First, because a large portion of the community is not native and a large portion is of recent origin, little feeling of commitment to local institutions—both Jewish and non-Jewish—exists. The local synagogue is not the one that people “grew up in,” nor is it the one that they expect their children to join upon becoming adults. This situation in the long run acts to minimize synagogue membership as well as to minimize the commitment of members to a synagogue. Second, in the short run, we can expect to see an increase in synagogue membership and community involvement in Orlando in the near future because of the recent population growth.

## demographic results

- Only 15% of the population is age 60 and over. This compares with 67% in West Palm Beach, 63% in Sarasota, 55% in South Broward and 19% for American Jews as a whole.

- The largest percentage of Jews fall into the “baby-boom” generation, age 35-49. About one-third of households contain children.

- The average household size in Orlando (2.6) is equal to that found for all American Jews in the 1990 National Jewish Population Survey (NJPS 1990). but is much higher than the 2.0 finding for southeast Florida communities.

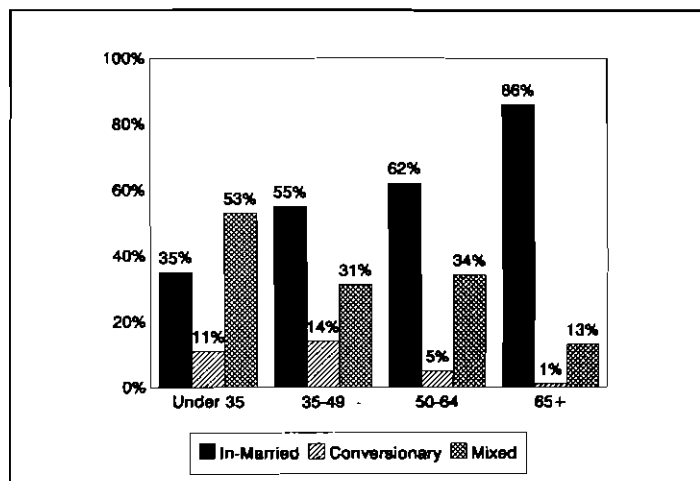


Age Pyramid

- Orlando has one of the highest percentages of single, never married adults (22%) of any American Jewish community.

- 51% of adults have a college degree, versus 20% of the US population. Gender differences remain, with 23% of men having a graduate degree versus 13% of women.

- The median income for Jewish households was about \$46,000 compared to \$27,000 for all US households.



**Intermarriage by Age**

### Religiosity

- In Orlando, 2% are Orthodox, 33% are Conservative, 30% are Reform, and 35% are Just Jewish. The lack of a significant local infrastructure for an Orthodox lifestyle has meant that this area has not attracted Orthodox Jews.

- In Orlando, 64% always light Chanukah candles, 59% have a mezuzah on the front door, 54% always attend a Seder, 9% light Sabbath candles, 6% keep a kosher home, and 3% keep kosher in and out of the home. Except for the lighting of Chanukah candles all these measures are lower than found in the NJPS 1990 study.

- The percentage never attending services is higher in Orlando than in most American Jewish communities (34%). Attendance at services on a regular basis (once per month or more) in Orlando (21%) is about equal to the 1990 NJPS finding (22%). This figure can be compared with Sarasota-Manatee (24%), West Palm Beach (31%), South

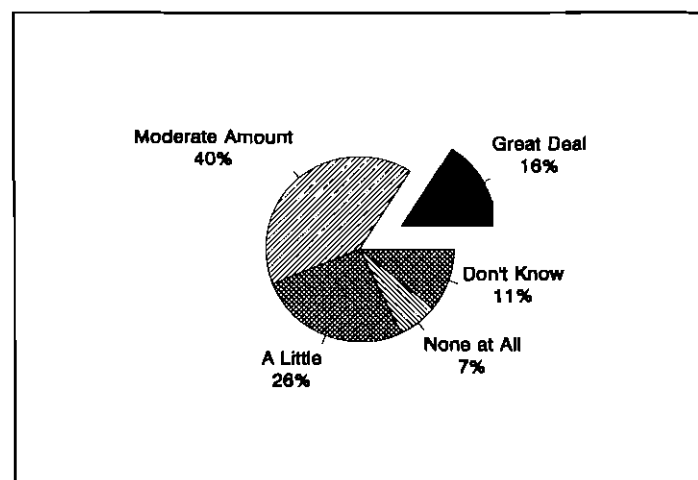
Broward (19%), and Miami (17%). One of the reasons for the relatively high rate of synagogue service attendance on a regular basis in Orlando is geography. There are no Jewish neighborhoods nor geographic concentrations of Jews in Orlando. Thus, those who wish to establish a Jewish social network and to associate with other Jews on a regular basis must do so by regular participation in a Jewish institution.

- Orlando is close to the national average on synagogue membership (34% in Orlando, versus 39% nationally), organizational membership (30% versus 27%), and JCC membership (17% for both).

- A somewhat higher percentage of households in Orlando (34%) have had at least one household member visit Israel than is the case for Jewish households nationwide (26%). On the other hand, the percentage in Sarasota-Manatee (53%), South Broward (52%), Miami (45%), and West Palm Beach (45%) is considerably higher. That the Orlando percentage is higher than the national percentage may reflect differences in income. That the Orlando percentage is much lower than the other Florida communities doubtlessly reflects the age differences.

- Orlando has the highest percentage who have experience anti-Semitism in the local area in the past year of any American Jewish community.

- For copies of the report, call Federation at 407-645-5933.



**Perception of Anti-Semitism in Orlando**

## Jewish Population in Florida

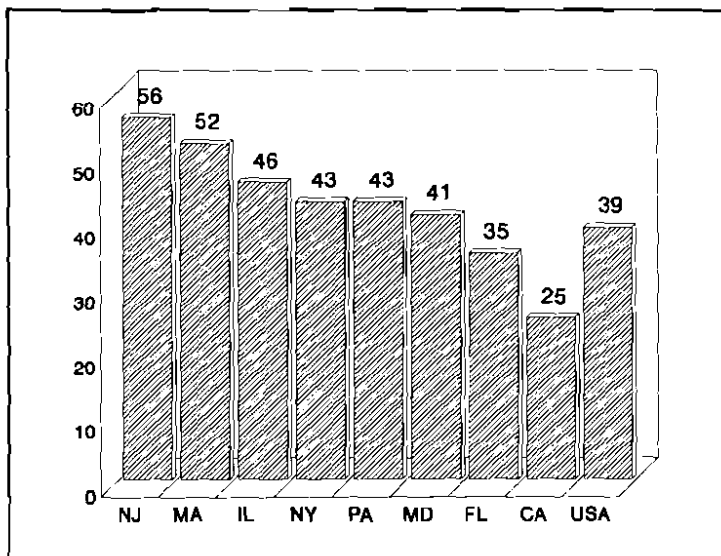
### Revised from the 1993 American Jewish Yearbook

Brevard . . . . . 3,750	Orlando . . . . . 18,850	Southeast Florida**
Crystal River . . . . . 100	Pasco County . . . . . 1,000	Dade County (1990) . . . 202,000
Daytona Beach . . . . . 2,500	Pensacola . . . . . 775	South Broward (1993)
Fort Pierce . . . . . 500	Port Charlotte/Punta Gorda . 400	(Hollywood) . . . . . 75,575
Gainesville . . . . . 1,600	St. Petersburg/ Clearwater) . . . . . 9,500	North Broward (1993)
Jacksonville . . . . . 7,300	Sarasota . . . . . 16,400*	(Fort Lauderdale) . . . . 206,424
Key West . . . . . 500	Stuart - Port St. Lucie . . . 3,000	South Palm Beach (1992)
Lakeland (Winter Haven) . . . 800	Tallahassee . . . . . 1,640	(Boca Raton/ Delray Beach) . . . . . 116,000
Lee County (Fort Myers) . . . 5,000	Tampa . . . . . 13,000	Palm Beach (1993)
Naples . . . . . 2,500	Vero Beach . . . . . 300	(Boynton to Jupiter) . . . 93,000
Ocala . . . . . 500		
	<b>Total . . . . . 89,915</b>	<b>Total SE Florida . . . . . 693,000</b>
*Sarasota total includes 4,350 part-year residents.		<b>Total Florida . . . . . 782,915</b>
** Includes part-year residents (about 3% in Dade County, 11% in Broward County, and 23% in Palm Beach County).		

## Three Florida Demographic Studies Now in Progress

Recognizing the importance of the types of data presented in this publication, three Jewish Federations in Florida are currently involved in demographic studies. The **Greater Miami Jewish Federation** completed 1,200 interviews throughout Dade County in February, 1994. This is the first demographic study of the Miami Jewish population since 1982. The **Jewish Federation of Pinellas County** (St. Petersburg/Clearwater) completed 600 interviews in March of 1994. This is the first Jewish demographic study ever conducted in Pinellas County. The **Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County** is doing a brief update to its 1987 demographic study in May of 1994. Dr. Ira M. Sheskin (University of Miami) is conducting all three studies. The results from all 3 studies will be available sometime in the Fall of 1994.

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



**Synagogue Membership**

Of the eight states with the most Jewish population, Florida has the second lowest percentage of households claiming synagogue membership in the 1990 NJPS. The low percentage of households with children present and the relatively short lengths of residence in Florida contribute to this trend.

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*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. E-MAIL: CR8TKG9F@UMIAMIVM. FAX: 305-435-5566.*

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