

A Tale of Two “Jewish” Cities: The 2002 Phoenix and 2003 San Diego Jewish Community Studies

Ron Miller, Ph. D.

Research Director
Ukeles Associates Inc.

Associate Director
North American Jewish Data Bank

DECEMBER, 2006

PowerPoint Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the
Association for Jewish Studies

San Diego CA
December 18, 2006

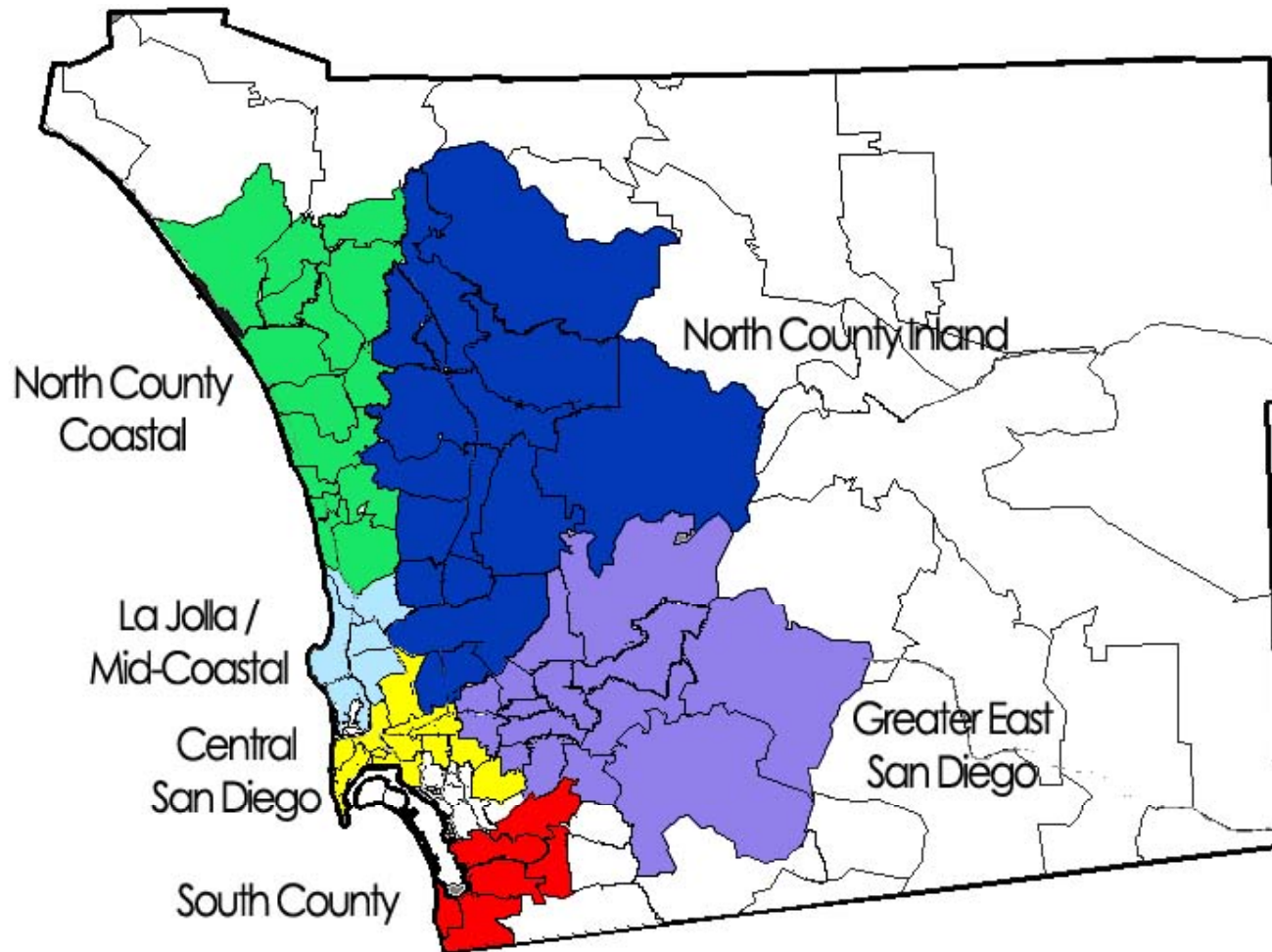
The Mandell L. Berman Institute
North American Jewish Data Bank
www.JewishDataBank.org

A Tale of Two “Jewish” Cities

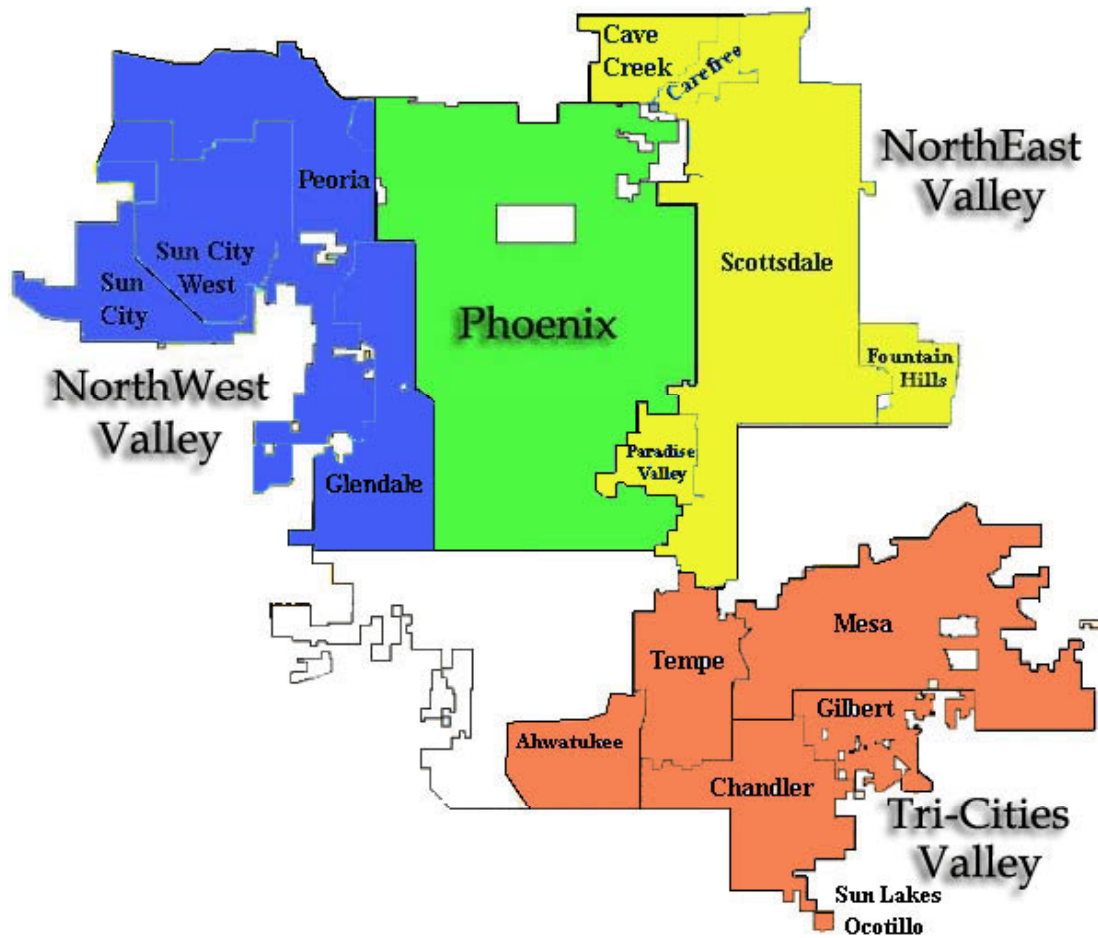
In 2002-2003, Ukeles Associates Inc. (UAI) conducted two Jewish community studies in the western region of the United States.

- The Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix sponsored the community study: interviews were completed between January and May, 2002.
- The United Jewish Federation of San Diego County sponsored the study: interviews were completed between October, 2002 and March, 2003.
- Sample design, Jewish population estimation, weighting and error calculations were provided by MSG-GENESYS Sampling Systems, while interviewing for the studies was conducted by ICR (International Communications Research).

San Diego County: Geographic Sub-Communities



Greater Phoenix: Geographic Sub-Communities



A Brief Presentation

This brief PowerPoint presentation seeks to:

- Review and summarize several themes that emerged in these studies;
- To present the data in the context of several other western Jewish community studies that had already been completed before 2002-2003;
- To compare "Jewish connections" data on San Diego and Phoenix, and other western Jewish communities, with western regional data from the National Jewish Population Study;
- To offer some thoughts on Jewish community life in the western USA, as they relate to "Jewish" Phoenix and "Jewish" San Diego.

Fascinating Methodology (oxymoron?)

Both the Phoenix and San Diego Jewish community studies used the same sampling design.

Interviews were conducted with randomly selected respondents from two electronically unduplicated, independent, complementary sampling frames which represented all telephone households in each community:

- A Jewish community List, typically provided by the federations, designed to represent all Jewish households “known” to the local Jewish community, and
- A residual RDD (random digit dialing) designed to represent all other households in the local communities, including “unknown” Jewish households.

More Fascinating Methodology

In Phoenix, of the 793 usable interviews completed with Jewish household respondents (from over 59,000 random telephone numbers dialed), 564 interviews were completed from the List frame, 229 from the residual RDD frame.

In San Diego, 1,080 interviews were completed (over 93,000 different random telephone numbers dialed); 549 List interviews and 531 residual RDD.

The weighted data files adjust for this disproportionate sampling:

- Phoenix: 23% of the weighted HH total came from the List frame, 77% from the residual RDD frame;
- San Diego: 22% of the weighted HH total came from the List frame, 78% from the residual RDD frame.

Screenener

S1. RESPONDENT:

- **Do you consider yourself to be Jewish or non-Jewish?**
 - *Jewish
 - *Jewish and Something Else
 - Not Sure (Probe – often continue and review afterwards)
 - Non-Jewish (Ask S2)

S2. IF RESPONDENT IS NOT JEWISH:

- **Is there anyone else in the household who considers himself or herself to be Jewish?**
 - *Yes
 - *Jewish and Something Else
 - Not sure if person considers self Jewish (Probe ...)
 - No. no one Jewish (Ask Jewish "origin" and telephone lines)

Definitions

JEWISH PERSONS

- **Adults (age 18+) who consider themselves Jewish, or (a few) Jewish and “something else.”**
- **Children being raised as Jews or Jewish and “something else.”**

JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS

- **Households that include one or more Jewish adults, at least 18 years old.**

PEOPLE LIVING IN JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS INCLUDE:

- **Jews, and**
- **Non-Jews: non-Jewish adults, and children who are not being raised as Jews.**

Jewish Household and Population Estimates

Both Greater Phoenix and Greater San Diego include over 80,000 Jewish persons, and well over 100,000 people, including non-Jews.

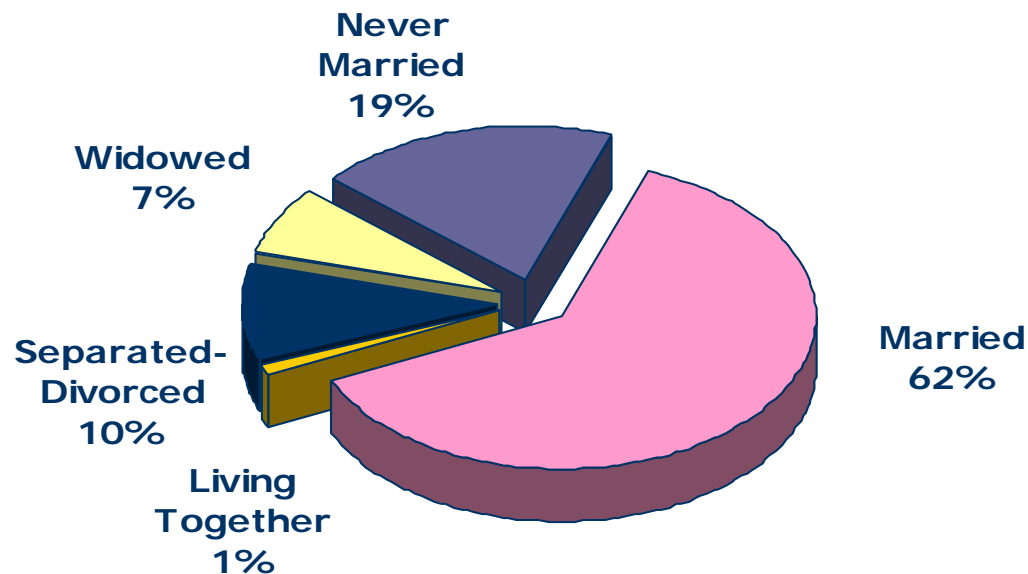
Jewish HH represent just over 4% of all Phoenix and San Diego HH.

	Phoenix	San Diego
Jewish Households	44,000	46,000
Jewish Persons	82,900	89,000
All People in Jewish Households (including non-Jews)	106,900	118,000

Demographic Similarities, Differences

62% of Greater Phoenix Jewish respondents were married; 19% reported that they had never married.

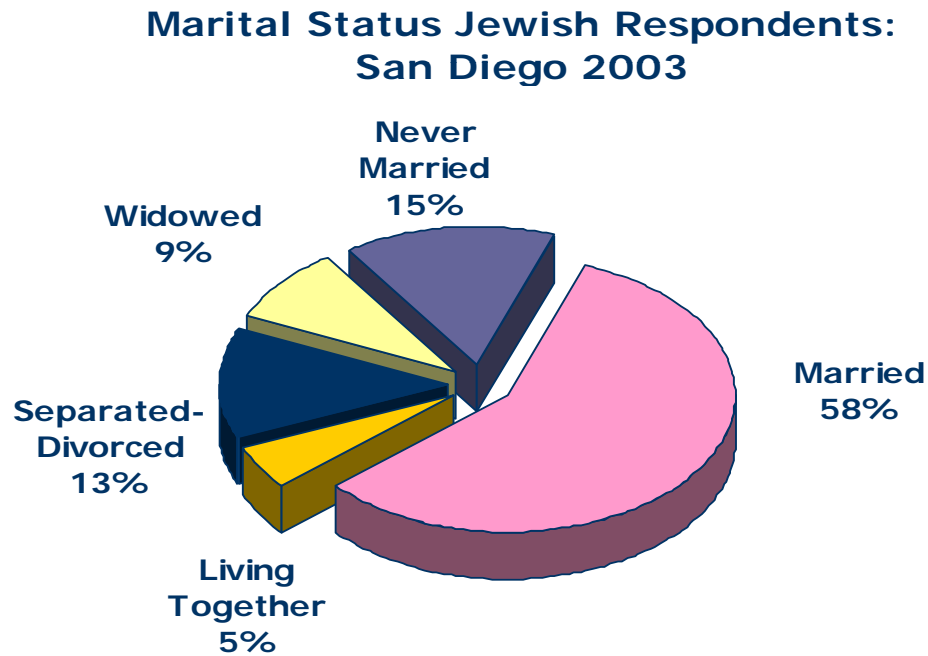
**Marital Status Jewish Respondents:
Phoenix 2002**



Demographic Similarities, Differences

San Diego: 58% married, 15% never married.

NJPS 2001, Western USA: 52% married, remainder US: 61%.

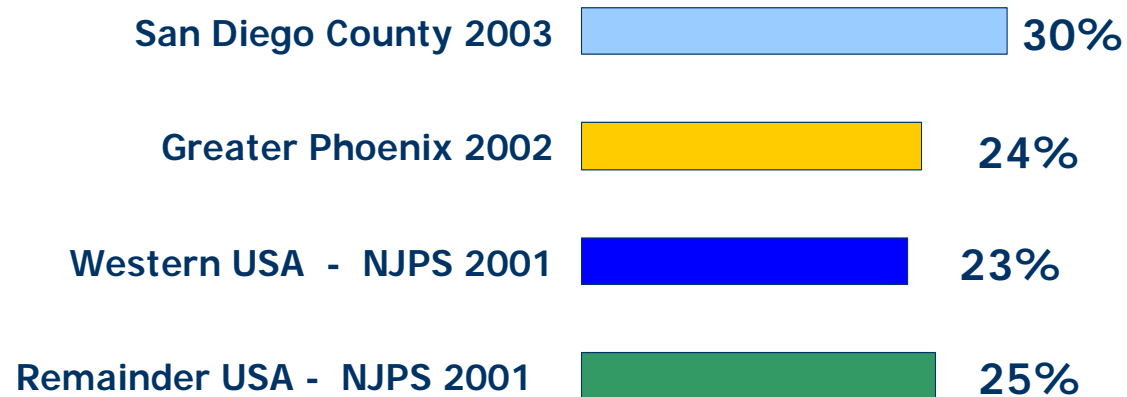


All NJPS Western US data presented are based on the author’s reanalysis of the NJPS data file, focusing on Jewish HH in which a Jew with “stronger” connections resides – more or less equivalent to the Jewish household definition used in the UAI Phoenix and San Diego studies, and the 1990 “Core Jew” designation. Household data analysis for NJPS used the household weight variables, not the Jewish respondent weight, so data will not typically match NJPS reports.

Demography

San Diego County Jewish households are slightly more likely to include a child.... but(next slides)

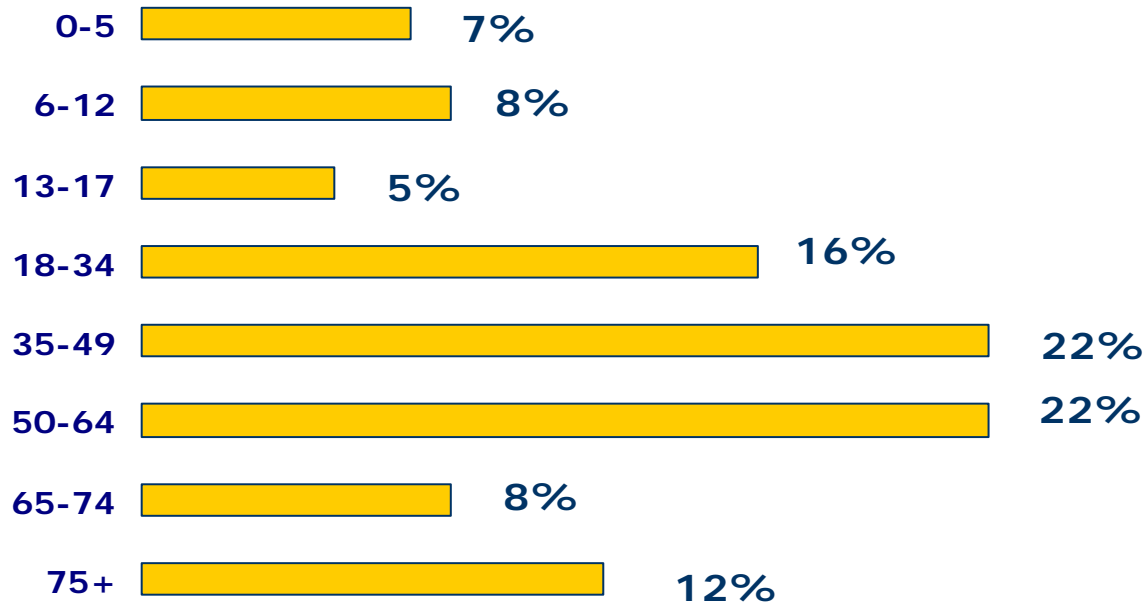
Percent of Households With Children Ages 0-17



Demography

But ... 20% of all people in Jewish HH in both Phoenix and San Diego are children. Phoenix seniors = 20% also.

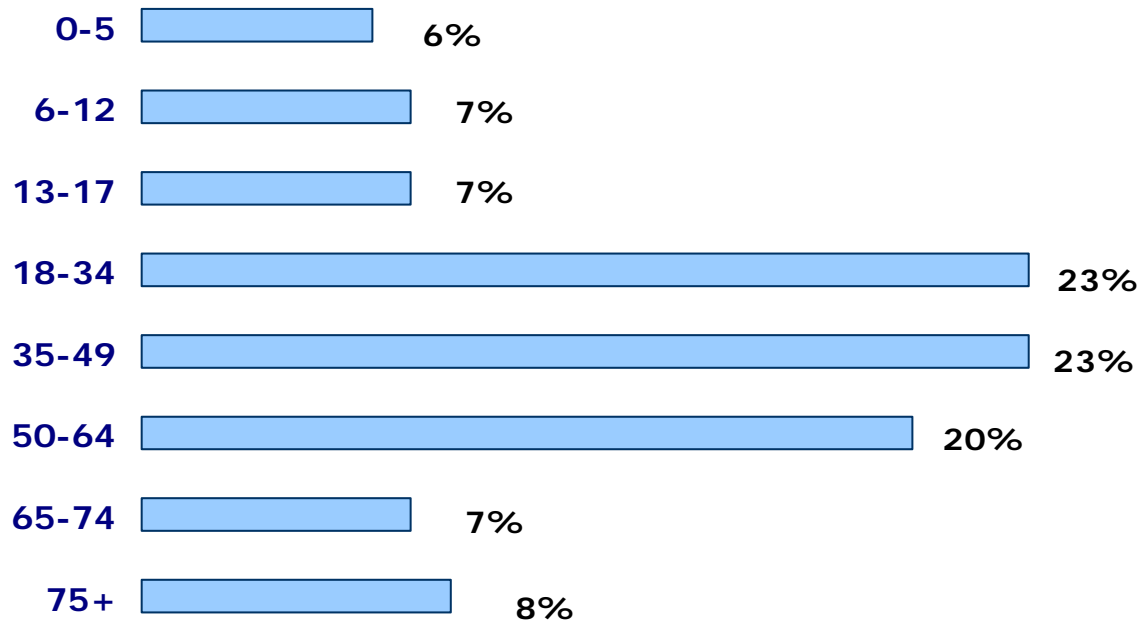
**All People Living in Jewish Households:
Greater Phoenix 2002**



Demography

In San Diego County, 20% of all people in Jewish households are children, but only 15% are seniors.

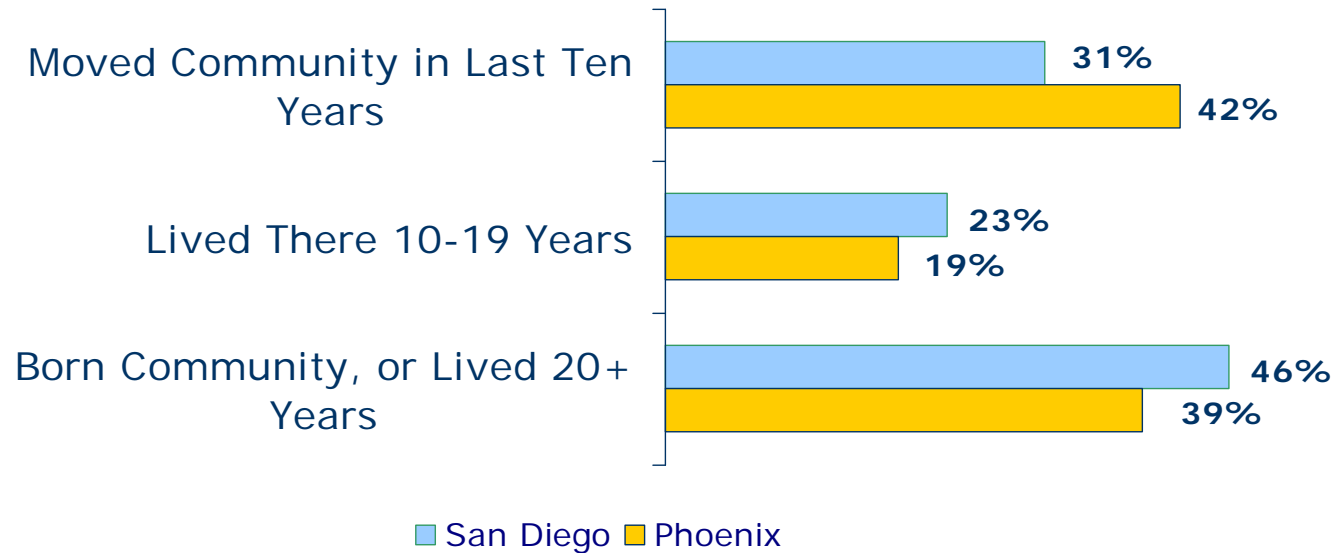
**All People Living in Jewish Households:
San Diego County, 2003**



Demography

Both communities have had high percentages of newcomers over the ten years preceding their survey.

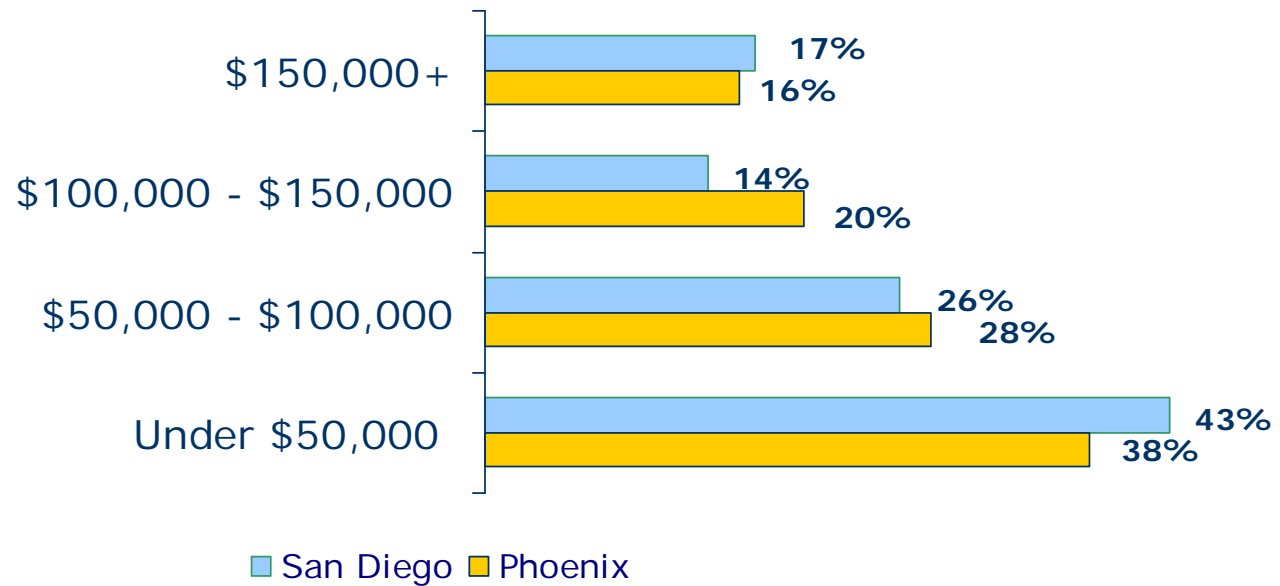
Newcomers and Old-Timers:
San Diego and Phoenix Jewish Households



Demography

Income Patterns Are Also Similar.

**Annual Household Income:
San Diego and Phoenix Jewish Households**



Jewish Connections

According to the UJC Special Report for NJPS 2000-01, "Jews in the West," Jews in the Western USA are less likely to:

- Be congregation members
- Observe the most commonly practiced Jewish rituals
- Donate to Jewish federations
- Yada, yada, yada

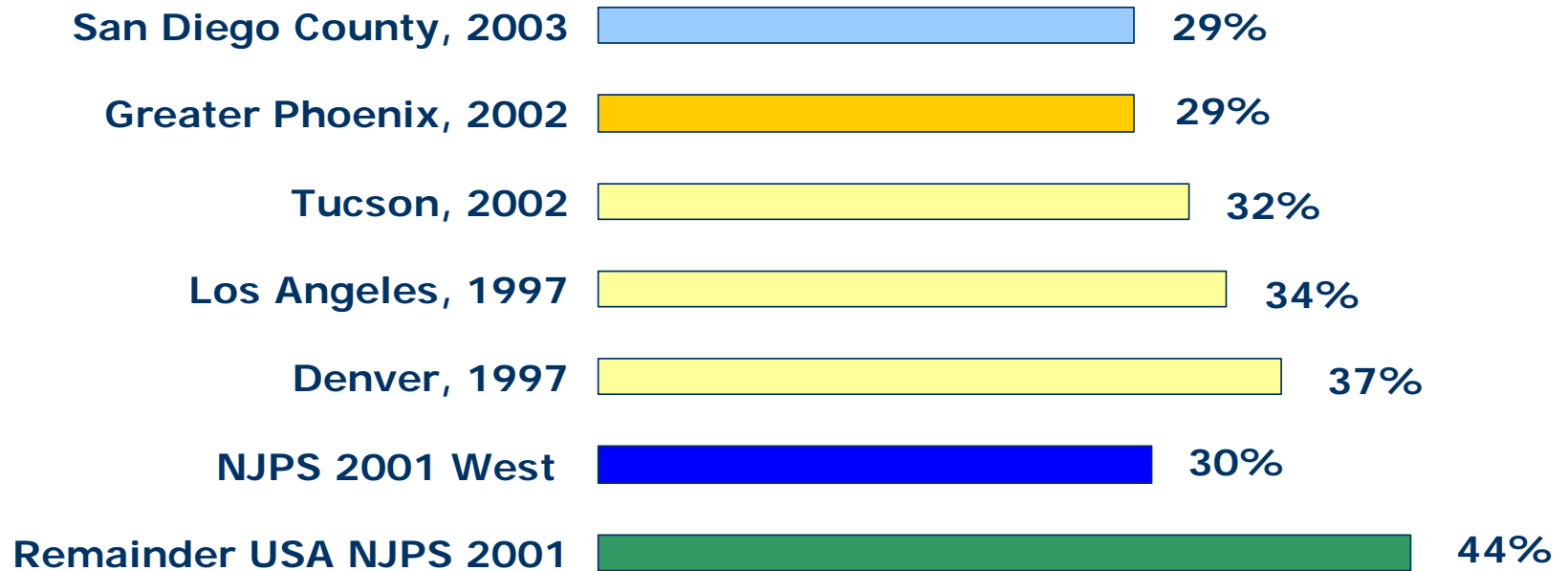
They are more likely:

- To be intermarried... etc.

Jewish Connections: Do They Belong?

Congregation membership in both Phoenix and San Diego is at the lower end of the range for Western US Jewish communities.

**% of Jewish Households in Key Western Jewish Communities
Which Belong to a Synagogue or Temple**

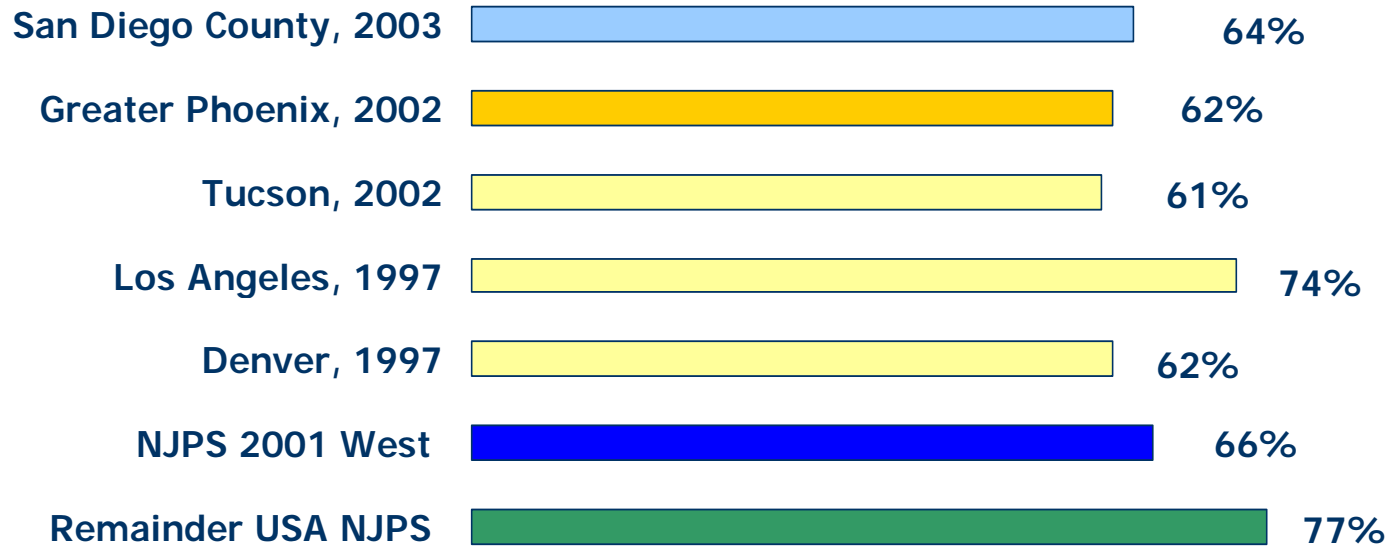


In all comparison charts, NJPS data presented only for households which have "stronger" Jewish connections.

Jewish Connections: Passover Seders

About 2-out-of 3 Greater Phoenix and San Diego County Jewish households report that a household member always/usually attends a Passover Seder. NJPS estimates for the western US are similar.

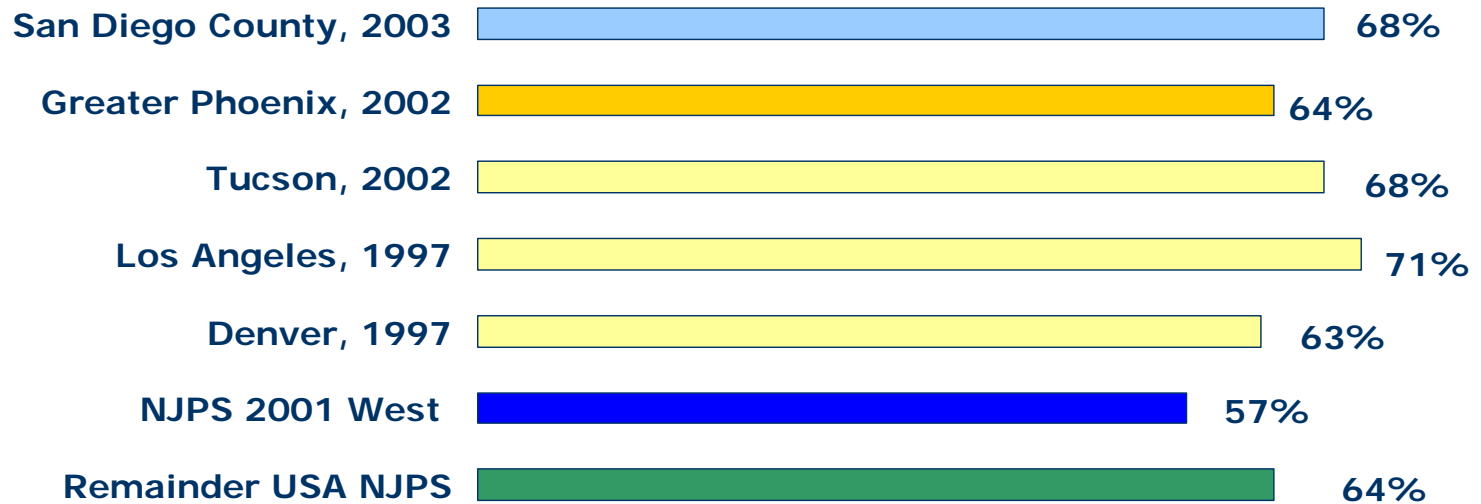
% of Households Reporting a Member Always/ Usually Attends a Seder



Jewish Connections: Chanukah Candles

Lighting Chanukah candles is reported at similar, but slightly higher rates to Seder attendance; two-thirds of all Jewish households participate on a regular basis.

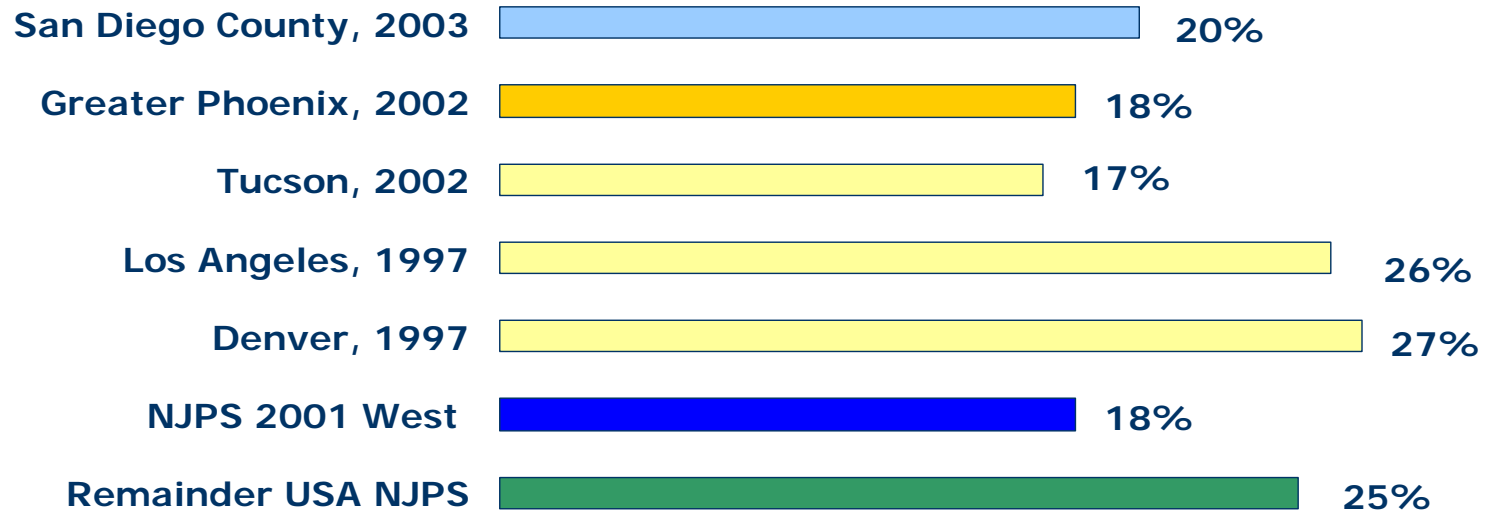
% of Households Reporting A Member Always/Usually Lights Chanukah Candles



Jewish Connections: Shabbat Candles

Lighting Shabbat candles is reported at much lower rates: 20% of San Diego Jewish households, 18% in Greater Phoenix - but consistent with overall western Jewish NJPS data.

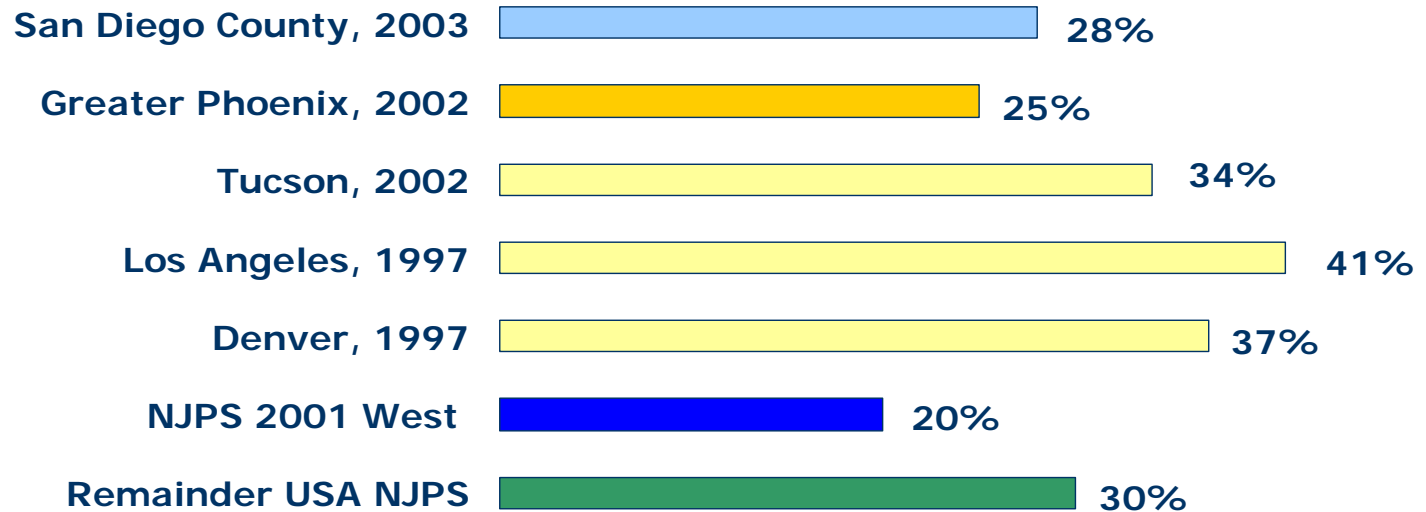
% of Households Reporting A Member Always/Usually Lights Shabbat Candles



Jewish Connections: Federation Gift

Federation contribution rates: 28% of San Diego Jewish households, 25% in Greater Phoenix. But, NJPS West was only 20%.

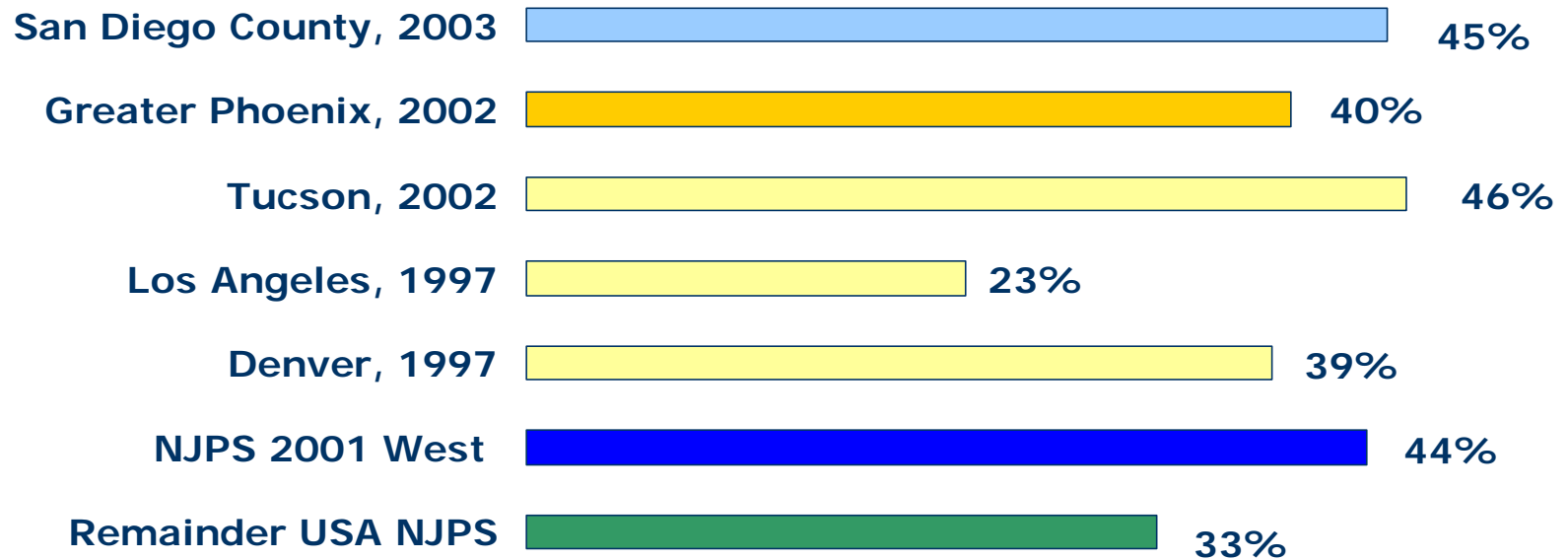
**% of Households Reporting
A Local Jewish Federation Contribution**



Jewish Connections: Intermarriage

Intermarriage rates for all currently married respondent/spouse couples are between 40% - 45% for Phoenix, San Diego and the Jewish West. The low Los Angeles intermarriage percent is atypical.

**% of Current Respondent/Spouse Marriages Which Are InterMarriages:
Western Jewish Communities and Western Region**



Intermarriage: Research Definitions

Inmarried Jewish Households

- Both spouses raised as Jews.

Conversionary Jewish Households

- Jewish adult married to spouse who was not raised as a Jew, but the spouse currently considers self Jewish (regardless of whether formal conversion occurred).

Intermarried Jewish Households

- Jewish adult married to spouse who does NOT consider self Jewish.

Numbers of Children in Intermarried Jewish Households

In Phoenix, 44% of all children reside in an intermarried Jewish household.

San Diego County: 42%.

Type of Marriage	Greater Phoenix		San Diego County	
	Number of Children	% of Children	Number of Children	% of Children
Inmarried Households	5,100	26%	7,000	30%
Conversionary Inmarried	4,100	20	2,400	10
Intermarried Households	9,200	44	10,000	42
All Other Jewish HH*	2,300	11	4,300	18
Total	20,700	100%	23,700*	100%

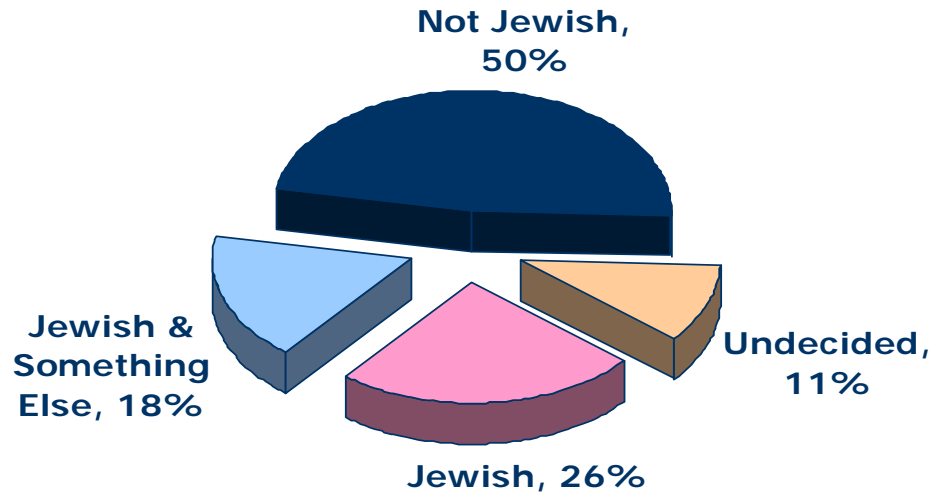
*"Other Households" can include unmarried partners, divorced, separated, widowed, and never-married households.

Intermarriage & Raising Children Jewish

Only a minority of children living in intermarried Jewish households are being raised Jewish only.

Phoenix: 26% are being raised "Jewish" only, 18% "Jewish + something else." Half are not being raised as Jews at all.

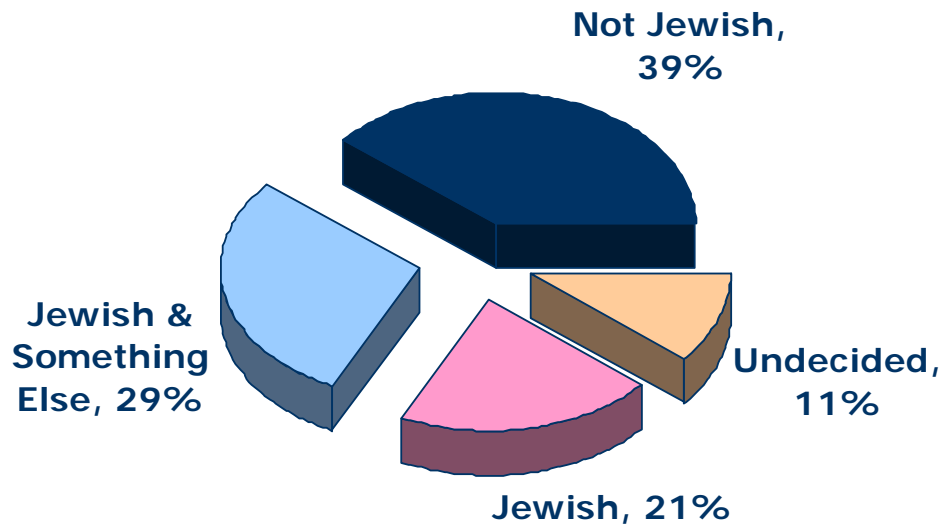
**% Children in Greater Phoenix Intermarried Households
Who Are Being Raised:**



Intermarriage & Raising Children Jewish

San Diego County: 21% are being raised "Jewish" only, 29% "Jewish + something else."

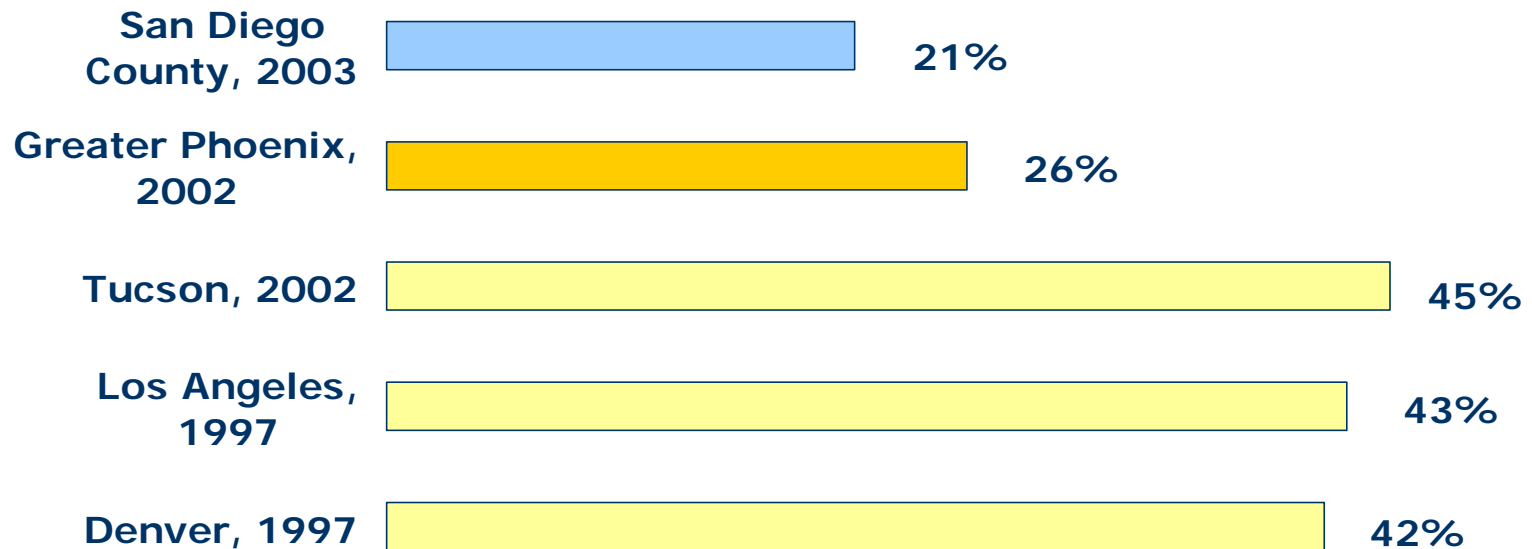
% Children in San Diego County Intermarried Households Who Are Being Raised:



Jewish Connections: Raising Children Jewish?

The low percentages of intermarried-household children raised as Jewish-only in Phoenix and San Diego appears to be atypical compared to Denver, Tucson and Los Angeles - all of which are similar to each other.

**% of Children in Intermarried Jewish Households
Who Are Being Raised Jewish Only**



A Tale of Two “Jewish” Cities

San Diego County with almost 89,000 Jews and Greater Phoenix with a Jewish population of almost 83,000 are major American Jewish communities.

Apparently growing daily, their Jewish populations exceed the Jewish populations of American cities viewed as Jewish life centers, such as the mid-eastern USA Jewish communities of Cleveland: 81,500 Jews, Detroit: 72,000 Jews, and Pittsburgh: 42,000 Jews.

Yet, the Jewish infrastructure in these western Jewish communities, although developing and expanding, is much less well developed than in their mid-eastern US counterparts.

A Tale of Two “Jewish” Cities

Jewish communal leaders in both San Diego and Phoenix can only envy the Jewish infrastructural development in Detroit, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh – as they struggle to develop their local Jewish infrastructures.

- Although on December 18, 2006, as we meet in sunny San Diego, Jews in San Diego and Phoenix certainly do not envy the weather in the older, traditional Jewish communities;
- Which, of course, is part of the reason for the growth of San Diego and Phoenix, and their Jewish populations

A Tale of Two “Jewish” Cities

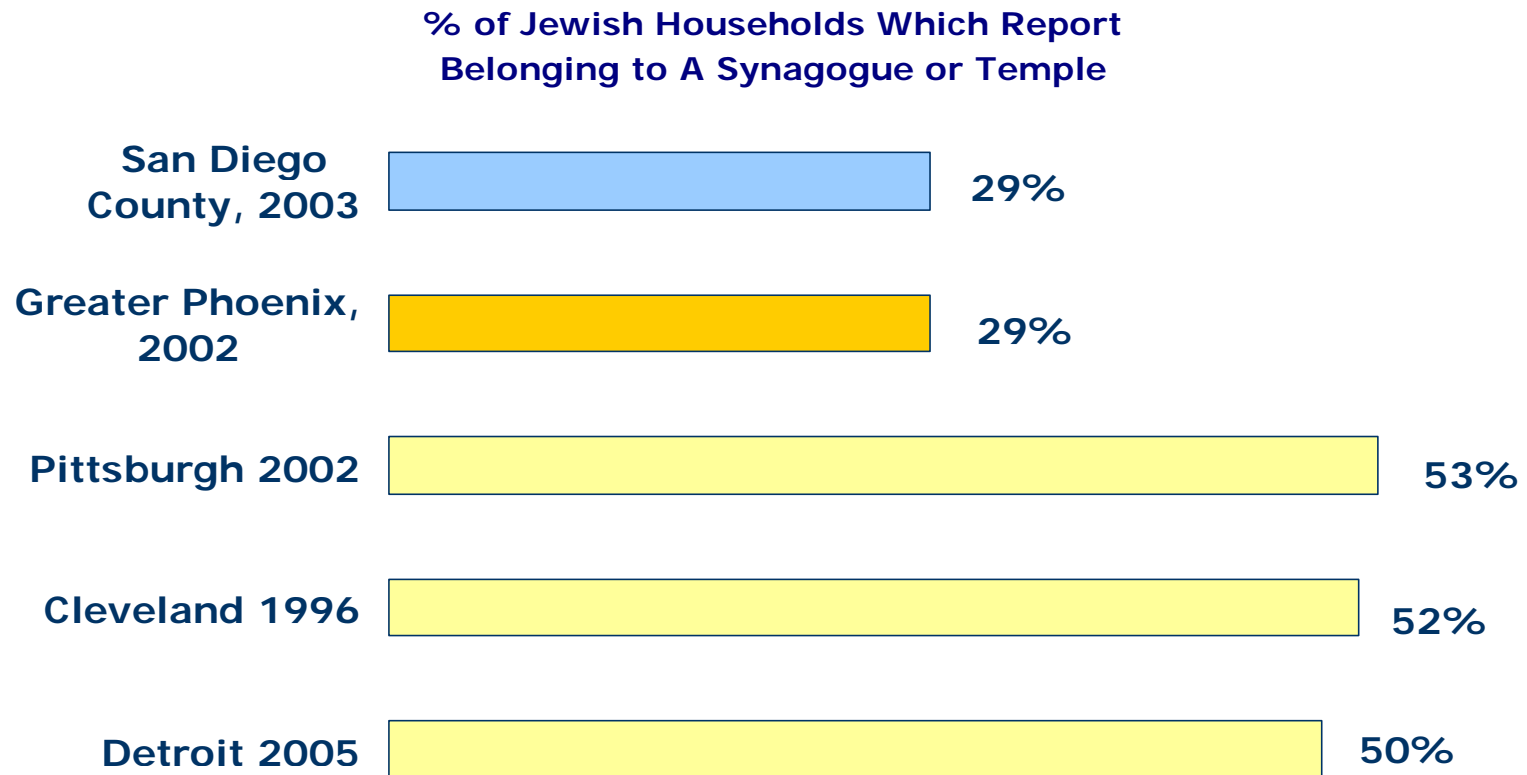
In many ways, the Jewish experience in San Diego County and Greater Phoenix reflects the lower levels of connections to Jewish life that typify the modal western Jewish experience compared to the older, and colder, mid-eastern Jewish centers:

- Relatively low rates of Jewish congregation membership, moderate levels of Passover Seder and Chanukah celebrations, low Shabbat candle lighting, high intermarriage rates ...yadayada...

Three comparisons with Cleveland, Detroit and Pittsburgh follow to refocus the San Diego and Phoenix Jewish experience away from just western comparisons to western and eastern comparisons.

West and East: Congregation Membership

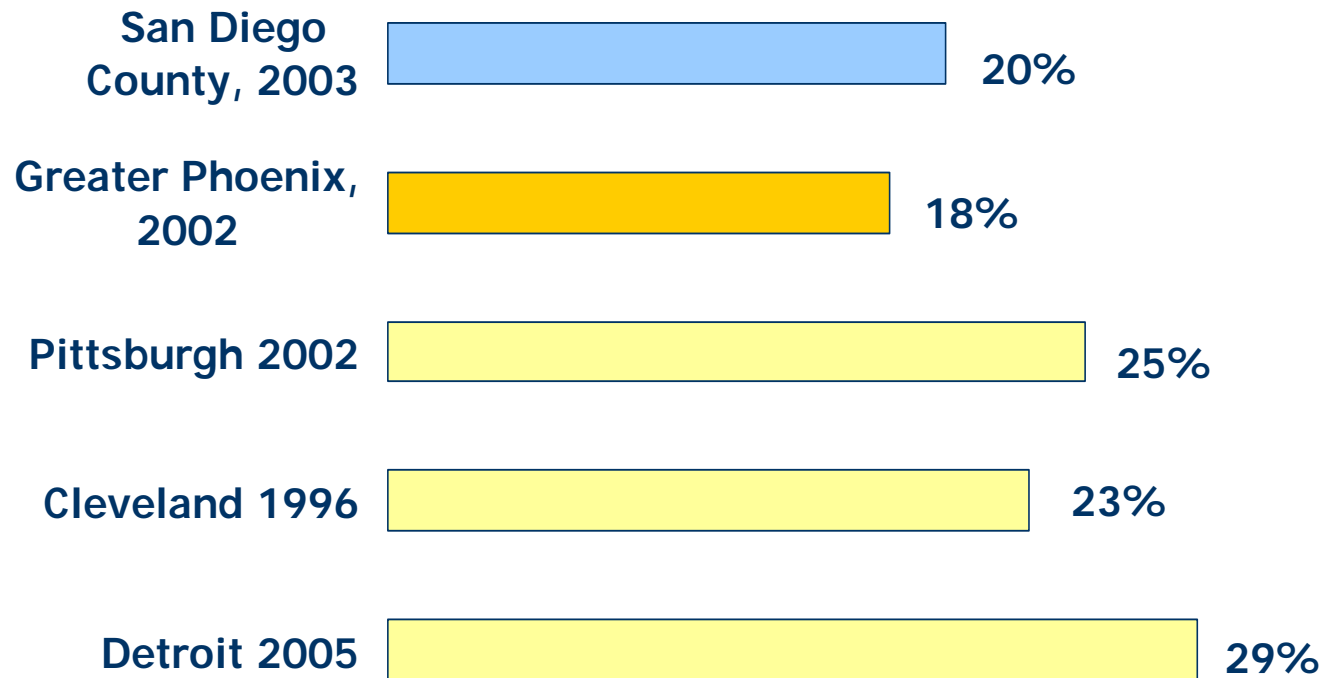
Congregation affiliation differences enormous.



West and East: Shabbat Candles

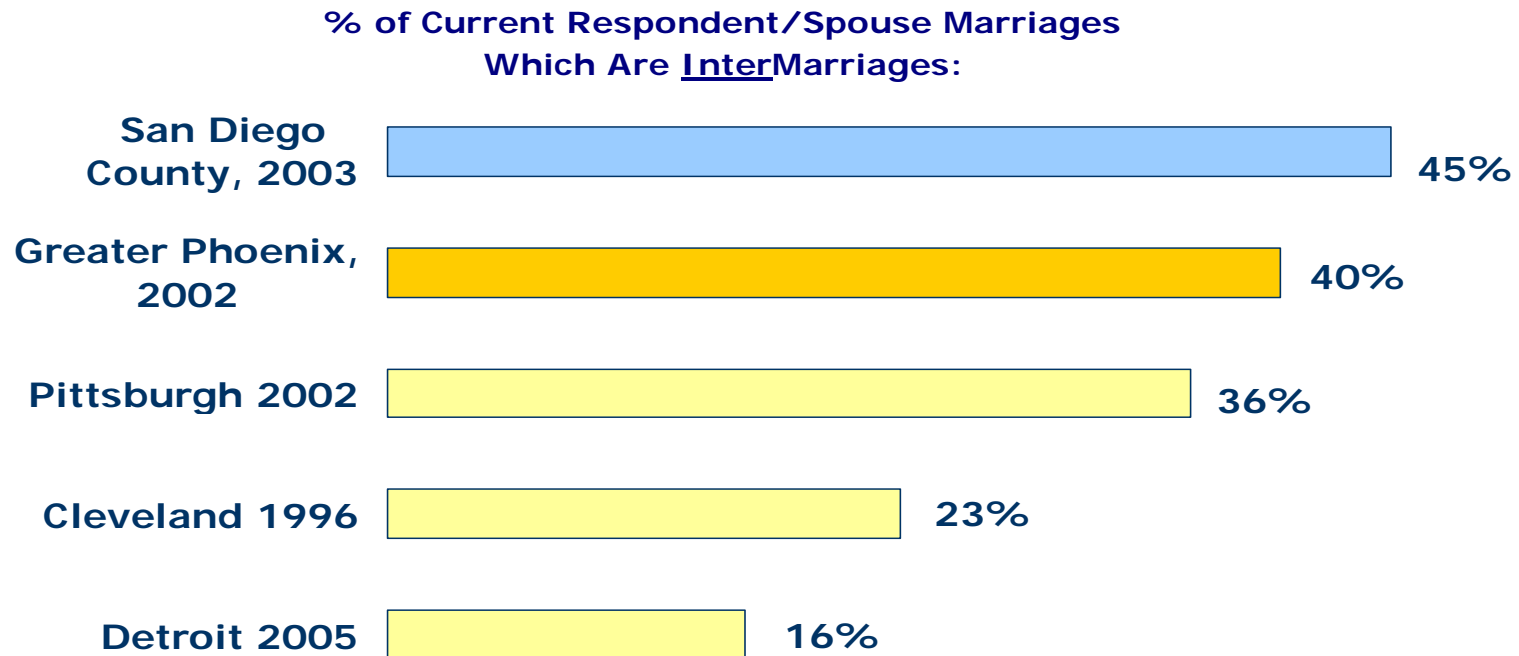
Shabbat Candle lighting differences exist, but subtle.

% of Jewish Households Which Report Always/Usually Lighting Shabbat Candles



West and East: Intermarriage

Intermarriage: San Diego and Phoenix highest, Pittsburgh just below (UAI study design focuses on finding "unknown" Jewish HH and weighting them correctly)...Cleveland, Detroit no surprise.



Jewish Reminders

In Pittsburgh's Jewish Squirrel Hill, in Cleveland's Jewish neighborhoods, in Detroit's Jewish suburbs, a "walker in the city" sees constant reminders that he/she is Jewish - - in delicatessen signs, in the availability of kosher foods in bodegas, in ubiquitous Chanukah reminders, and in countless other ways that are subliminal reminders of our religious identity.

In much of the west, in San Diego and increasingly in Phoenix, Jewish reminders are minimal or non-existent, and often only accessible by automobile, or in Los Angeles.

Without Jewish reminders, it is easy to forget.

In Phoenix, on Shea Boulevard, Scholtzky's deli (no longer there I think) used to remind me that I could have a Jewish western deli experience - gefilte fish, matzoh balls, etc.

I could also have a nova omelet ...

...with ham or bacon on the side if I wanted.

Welcome to the Jewish West!

?

?

?

Questions?

?

?

?

?

?

?

?

The Mandell L. Berman Institute
North American Jewish Data Bank
www.JewishDataBank.org



Comments !
