

## **COMPARISONS OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES: A COMPENDIUM OF TABLES AND BAR CHARTS**

*Comparisons of Jewish Communities: A Compendium of Tables and Bar Charts* was prepared by Dr. Ira M. Sheskin for the Berman Jewish DataBank, under a grant provided by the Mandell and Madeleine Berman Foundation and with support from The Jewish Federations of North America.

The compendium is a single source of tables and bar charts designed to provide a comparative context for understanding American Jewish communities. It is intended for local Jewish communities seeking to compare themselves to others, as well as for researchers, teachers, and students of American Jewry.

Each of the 36 Sections of this compendium is available as a stand-alone PDF. A single PDF (a "portfolio of all Sections") with all content is also available.

The comparison tables and bar charts are based on local Jewish community studies archived at the DataBank ([www.jewishdatabank.org](http://www.jewishdatabank.org)). The Data Bank holds reports, questionnaires, methodological documentation and information about sponsoring organizations and researchers for each study in the compendium. From time to time, the compendium is updated with information from new local Jewish community studies.

Following social science convention, the year of each community study reflects when the survey interviews were completed, which may differ from the year the study report was issued.

The compendium also includes information from the National Jewish Population Survey 2000-01 (NJPS, [www.jewishdatabank.org/NJPS2000.asp](http://www.jewishdatabank.org/NJPS2000.asp)) and the US Census Bureau's Decennial Census and American Community Survey (ACS, [www.census.gov/acs/www/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/)).

The Appendix at the end of this section provides further information to help readers use the tables and bar charts.

For further information or inquiries, please contact the Data Bank at:  
[info@jewishdatabank.org](mailto:info@jewishdatabank.org).

**Note that this edition of *Comparisons of Jewish Communities* (Current Jewish Population Report 12) is an updated version of reports released in 2012 (Report 5) and 2013 (Report 8). It replaces the Columbus 2001 results with 2013 results, Miami 2004 results with 2014 results, and St. Louis 1995 results with 2014 results.**

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## SECTION 16 - JEWISH EDUCATION OF ADULTS

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**TABLE 1  
RECEIVED SOME FORMAL JEWISH EDUCATION AS CHILDREN  
COMMUNITY COMPARISONS**

**BASE: BORN OR RAISED JEWISH ADULTS IN JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS**

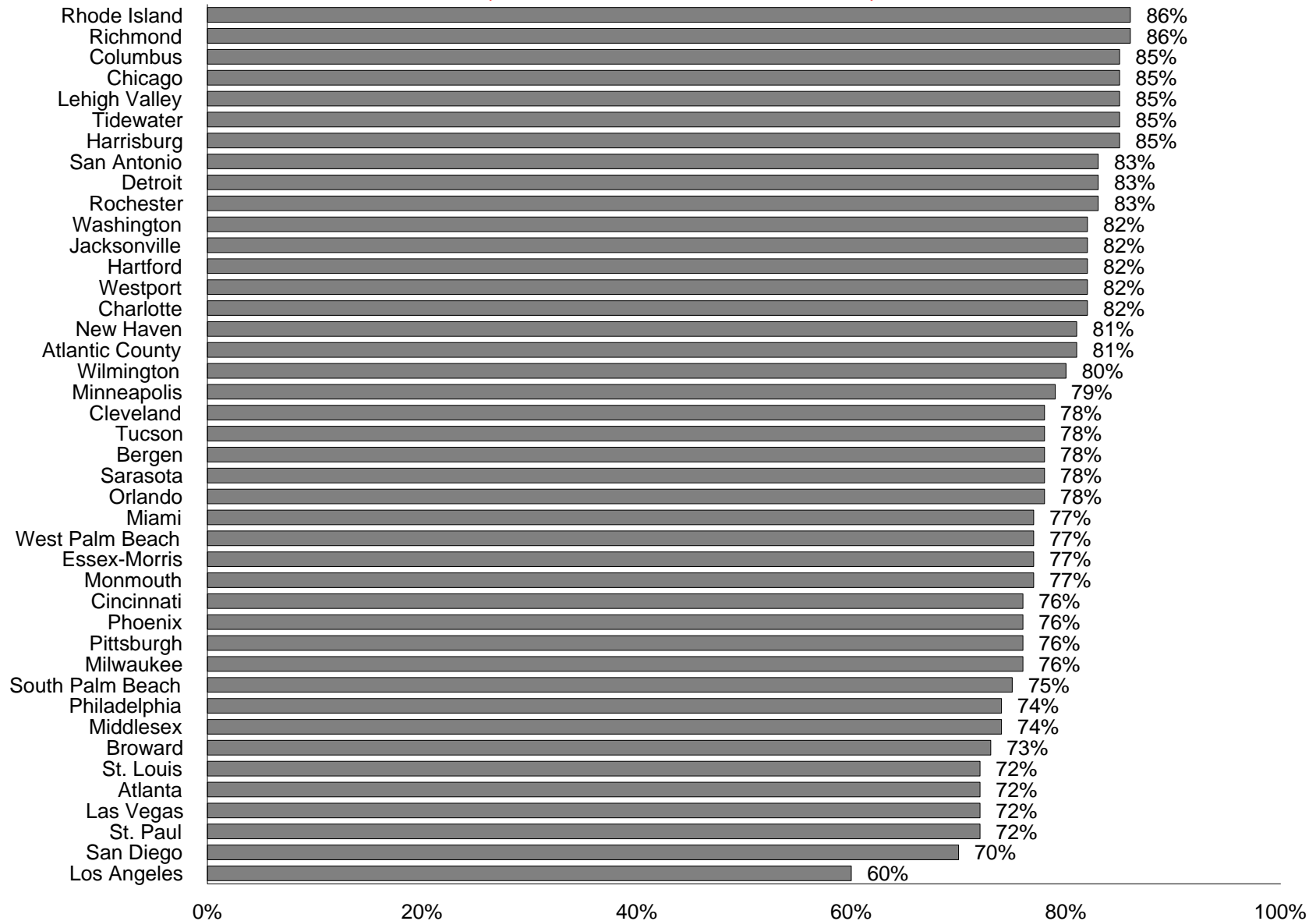
<b>Community</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>%</b>		<b>Community</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>%</b>
Rhode Island	2002	86%		Orlando	1993	78%
Richmond	1994	86%		Miami	2014	77%
Columbus	2013	85%		W Palm Beach	2005	77%
Chicago	2010	85%		Essex-Morris	1998	77%
Lehigh Valley	2007	85%		Monmouth	1997	77%
Tidewater	2001	85%		Cincinnati	2008	76%
Harrisburg	1994	85%		Phoenix	2002	76%
San Antonio	2007	83%		Pittsburgh	2002	76%
Detroit	2005	83%		Milwaukee	1996	76%
Rochester	1999	83%		S Palm Beach	2005	75%
Washington	2003	82%		Philadelphia	2009	74%
Jacksonville	2002	82%		Middlesex	2008	74%
Hartford	2000	82%		Broward	1997	73%
Westport	2000	82%		St. Louis	2014	72%
Charlotte	1997	82%		Atlanta	2006	72%
New Haven	2010	81%		Las Vegas	2005	72%
Atlantic County	2004	81%		St. Paul	2004	72%
Wilmington	1995	80%		San Diego	2003	70%
Minneapolis	2004	79%		Los Angeles	1997	60%
Cleveland	2011	78%		NJPS <sup>1</sup>	2000	73%
Tucson	2002	78%				
Bergen	2001	78%				
Sarasota	2001	78%				

<sup>1</sup> NJPS 2000 data are for the *more Jewishly-connected sample*.

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# RECEIVED SOME FORMAL JEWISH EDUCATION AS A CHILD

(Born or Raised Jewish Adults)



**TABLE 2  
ATTENDED A JEWISH DAY SCHOOL AS CHILDREN  
COMMUNITY COMPARISONS**

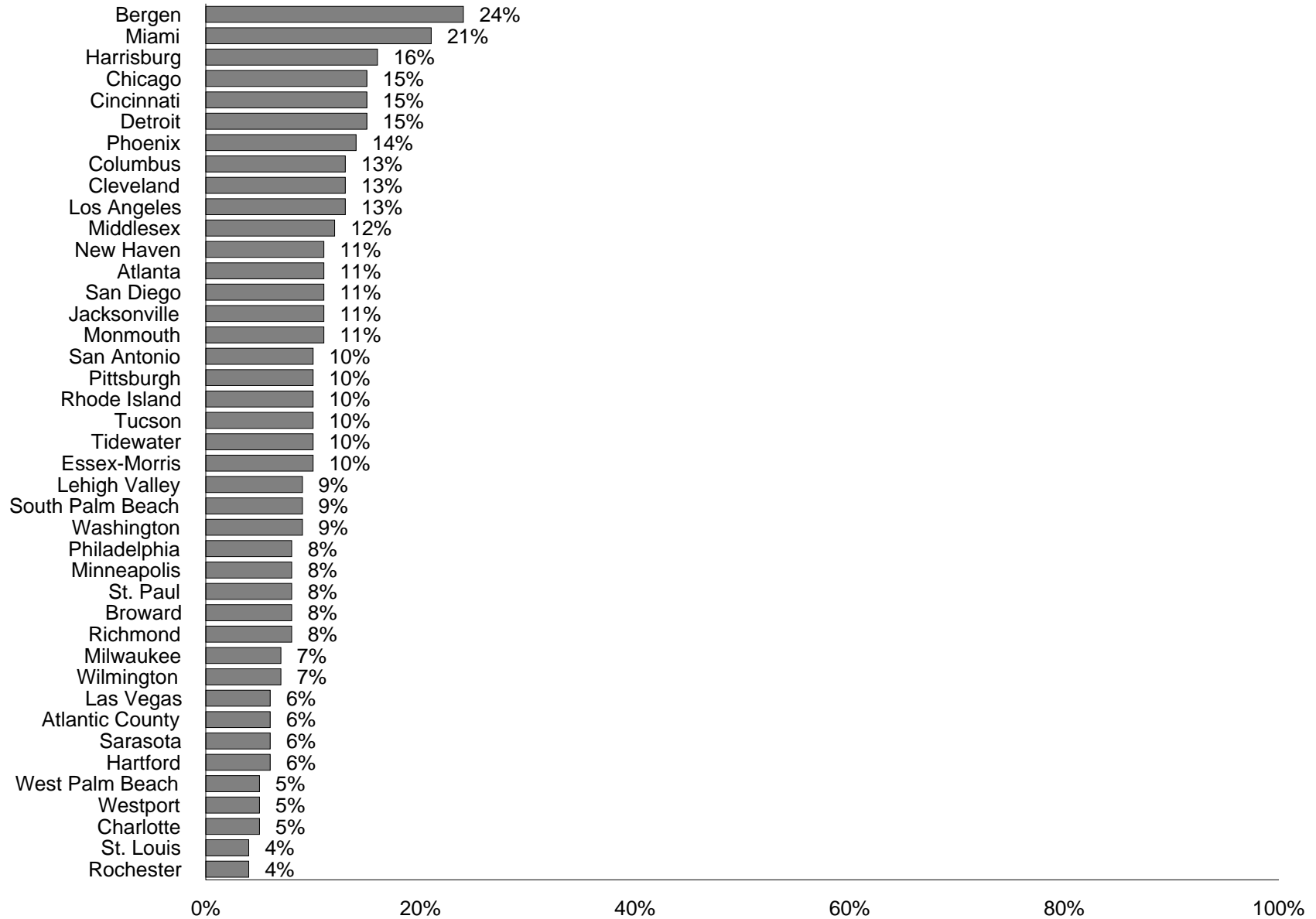
**BASE: BORN OR RAISED JEWISH ADULTS IN JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS**

<b>Community</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>%</b>		<b>Community</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>%</b>
Bergen	2001	24%		Lehigh Valley	2007	9%
Miami	2014	21%		S Palm Beach	2005	9%
Harrisburg	1994	16%		Washington	2003	9%
Chicago	2010	15%		Philadelphia	2009	8%
Cincinnati	2008	15%		Minneapolis	2004	8%
Detroit	2005	15%		St. Paul	2004	8%
Phoenix	2002	14%		Broward	1997	8%
Columbus	2013	13%		Richmond	1994	8%
Cleveland	2011	13%		Milwaukee	1996	7%
Los Angeles	1997	13%		Wilmington	1995	7%
Middlesex	2008	12%		Las Vegas	2005	6%
New Haven	2010	11%		Atlantic County	2004	6%
Atlanta	2006	11%		Sarasota	2001	6%
San Diego	2003	11%		Hartford	2000	6%
Jacksonville	2002	11%		W Palm Beach	2005	5%
Monmouth	1997	11%		Westport	2000	5%
San Antonio	2007	10%		Charlotte	1997	5%
Pittsburgh	2002	10%		St. Louis	2014	4%
Rhode Island	2002	10%		Rochester	1999	4%
Tucson	2002	10%		NJPS <sup>1</sup>	2000	12%
Tidewater	2001	10%		<sup>1</sup> NJPS 2000 data are for the <i>more Jewishly-connected sample</i> .		
Essex-Morris	1998	10%				

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# ATTENDED A JEWISH DAY SCHOOL AS CHILDREN

(Born or Raised Jewish Adults)



**TABLE 3  
ATTENDED OR WORKED AT A JEWISH OVERNIGHT CAMP AS CHILDREN  
COMMUNITY COMPARISONS**

**BASE: BORN OR RAISED JEWISH ADULTS IN JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS**

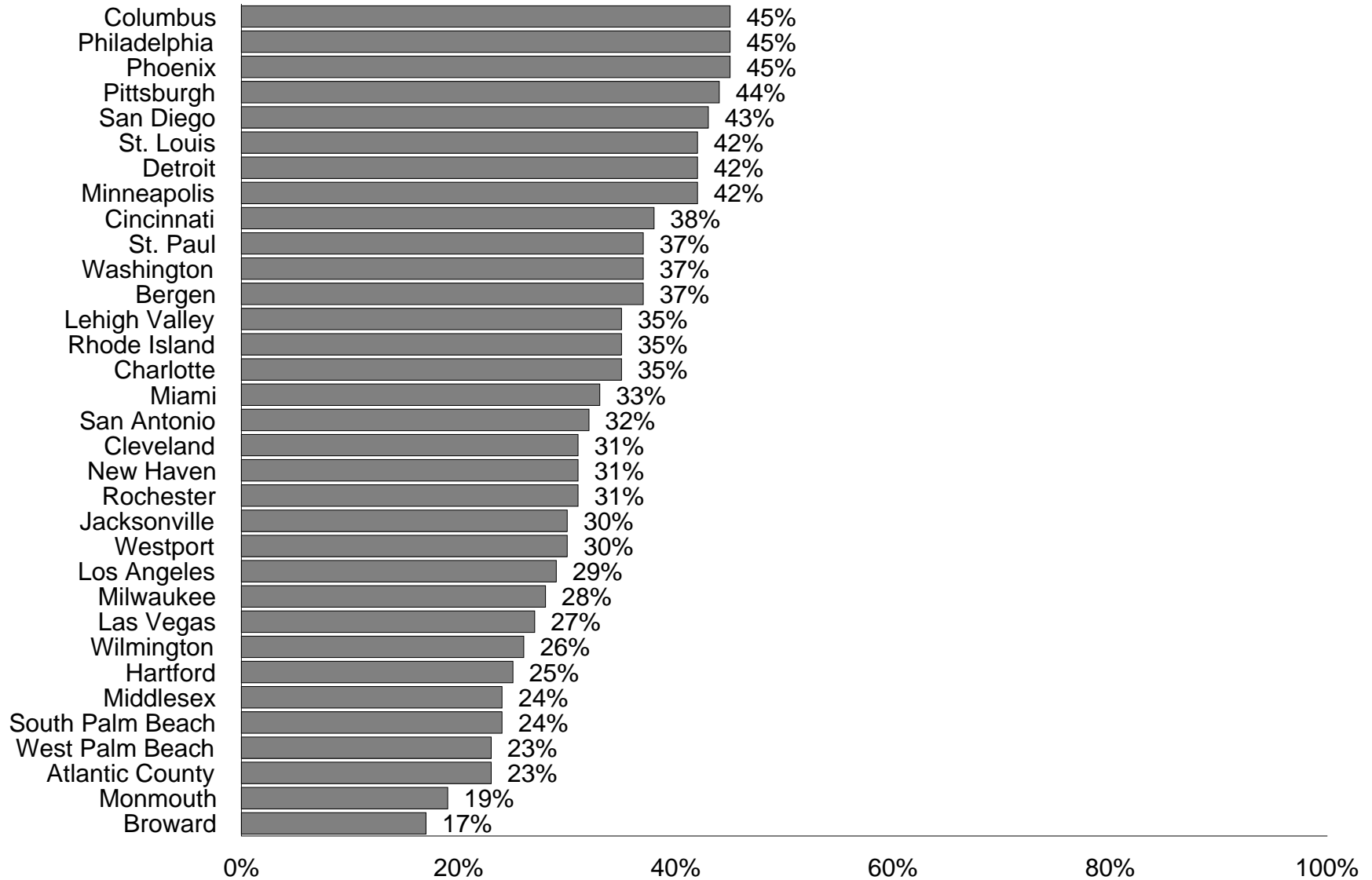
<b>Community</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>%</b>		<b>Community</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>%</b>
Columbus	2013	45%		New Haven	2010	31%
Philadelphia	2009	45%		Rochester	1999	31%
Phoenix	2002	45%		Jacksonville	2002	30%
Pittsburgh	2002	44%		Westport	2000	30%
San Diego	2003	43%		Los Angeles	1997	29%
St. Louis	2014	42%		Milwaukee	1996	28%
Detroit	2005	42%		Las Vegas	2005	27%
Minneapolis	2004	42%		Wilmington	1995	26%
Cincinnati	2008	38%		Hartford	2000	25%
St. Paul	2004	37%		Middlesex	2008	24%
Washington	2003	37%		S Palm Beach	2005	24%
Bergen	2001	37%		W Palm Beach	2005	23%
Lehigh Valley	2007	35%		Atlantic County	2004	23%
Rhode Island	2002	35%		Monmouth	1997	19%
Charlotte	1997	35%		Broward	1997	17%
Miami	2014	33%		NJPS <sup>1</sup>	2000	31%
San Antonio	2007	32%				
Cleveland	2011	31%				

<sup>1</sup> NJPS 2000 data are for the *more Jewishly-connected sample*.

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# ATTENDED OR WORKED AT A JEWISH OVERNIGHT CAMP AS CHILDREN

(Born or Raised Jewish Adults)





**TABLE 4**  
**PARTICIPATED IN A JEWISH YOUTH GROUP AS TEENAGERS**  
**COMMUNITY COMPARISONS**

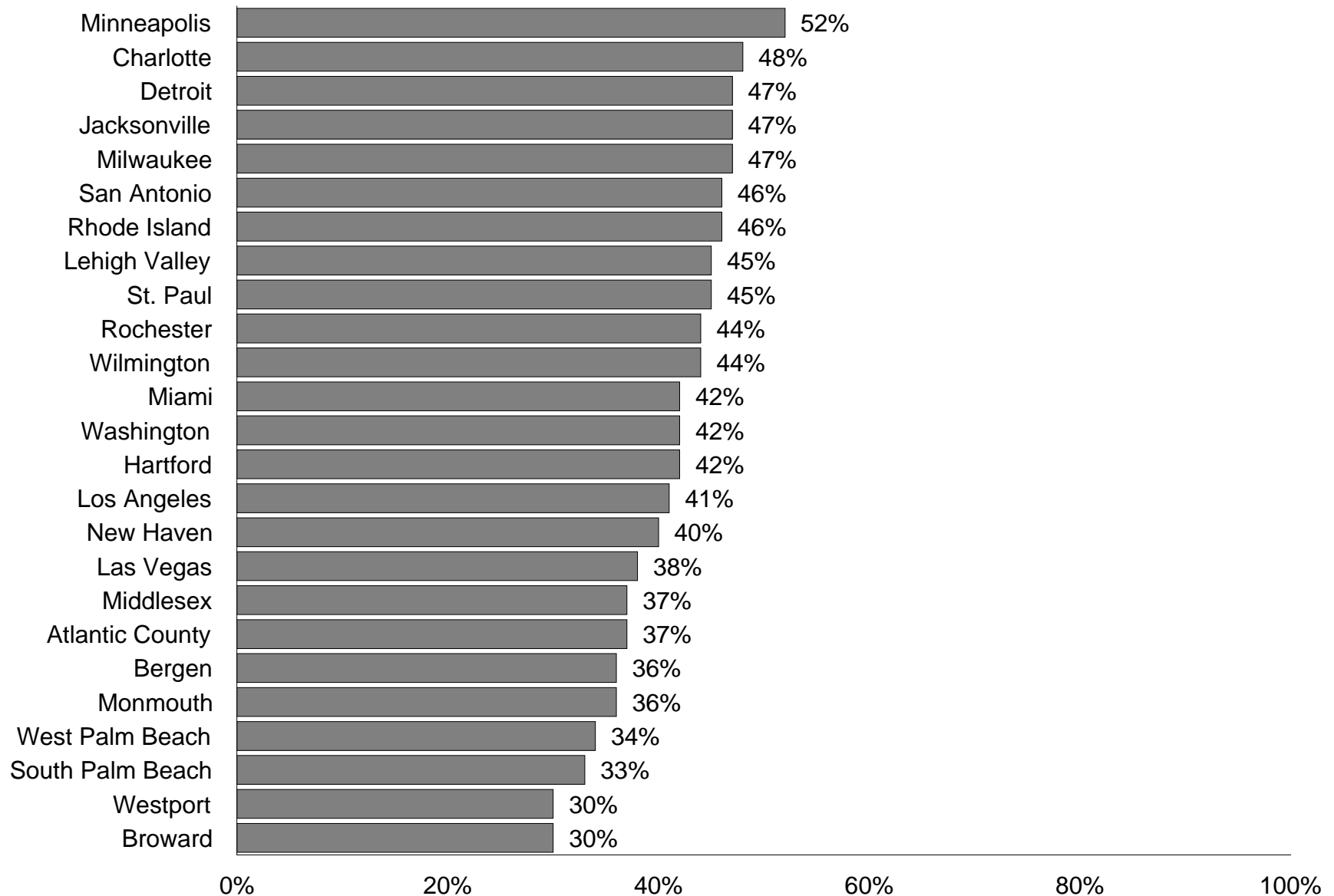
**BASE: BORN OR RAISED JEWISH ADULTS IN JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS**

<b>Community</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>%</b>		<b>Community</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>%</b>
Minneapolis	2004	52%		Los Angeles	1997	41%
Charlotte	1997	48%		New Haven	2010	40%
Detroit	2005	47%		Las Vegas	2005	38%
Jacksonville	2002	47%		Middlesex	2008	37%
Milwaukee	1996	47%		Atlantic County	2004	37%
San Antonio	2007	46%		Bergen	2001	36%
Rhode Island	2002	46%		Monmouth	1997	36%
Lehigh Valley	2007	45%		W Palm Beach	2005	34%
St. Paul	2004	45%		S Palm Beach	2005	33%
Rochester	1999	44%		Westport	2000	30%
Wilmington	1995	44%		Broward	1997	30%
Miami	2014	42%		NJPS <sup>1</sup>	2000	38%
Washington	2003	42%		<sup>1</sup> NJPS 2000 data are for the <i>more Jewishly-connected sample</i> .		
Hartford	2000	42%				

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# PARTICIPATED IN A JEWISH TEENAGE YOUTH GROUP AS TEENAGERS

(Born or Raised Jewish Adults)



**TABLE 5  
PARTICIPATED IN HILLEL/CHABAD WHILE IN COLLEGE  
(EXCLUDING HIGH HOLIDAYS)  
COMMUNITY COMPARISONS**

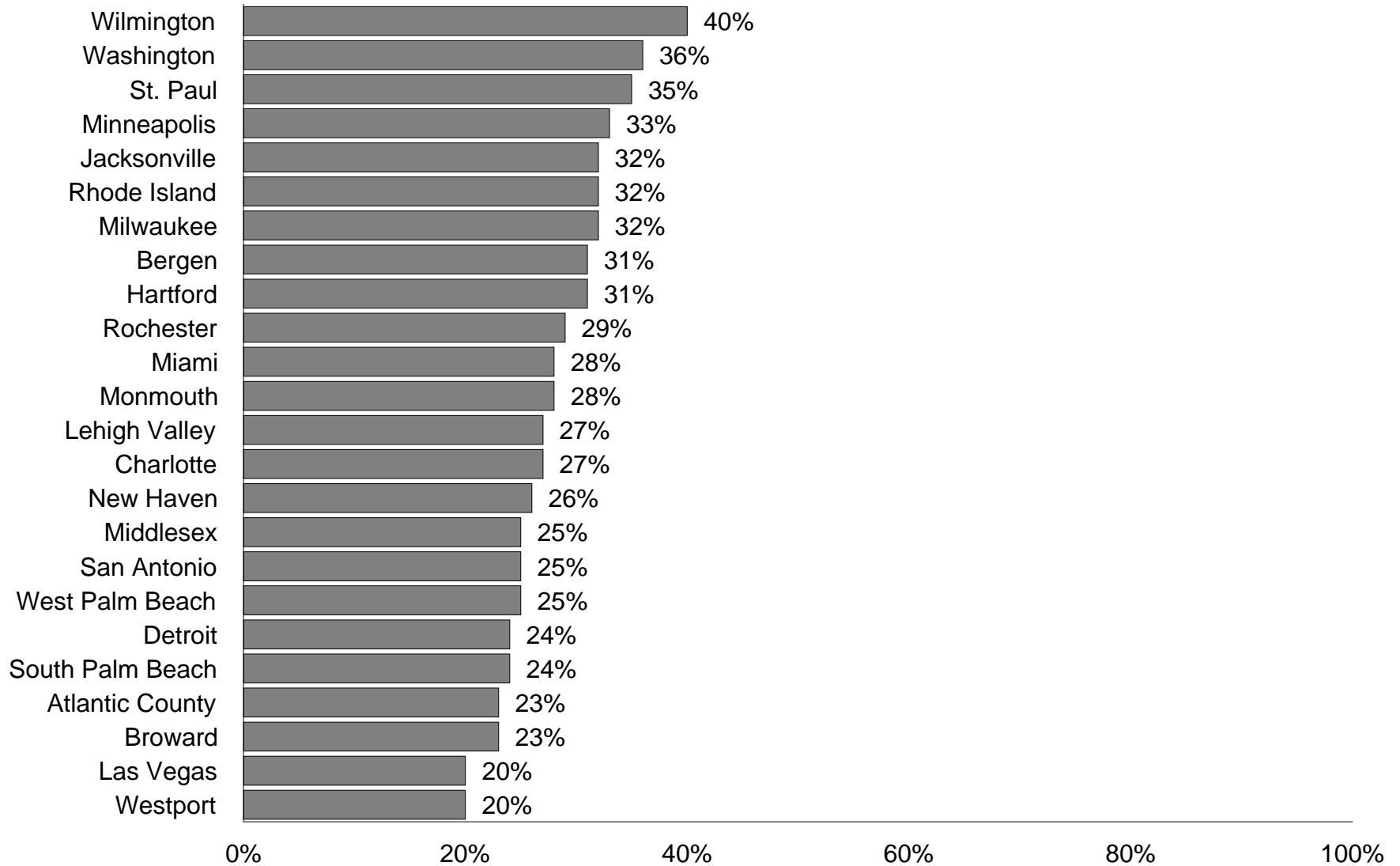
**BASE: BORN OR RAISED JEWISH ADULTS (WHO ATTENDED COLLEGE)  
IN JEWISH HOUSEHOLDS**

<b>Community</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>%</b>		<b>Community</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>%</b>
Wilmington	1995	40%		New Haven	2010	26%
Washington	2003	36%		Middlesex	2008	25%
St. Paul	2004	35%		San Antonio	2007	25%
Minneapolis	2004	33%		W Palm Beach	2005	25%
Jacksonville	2002	32%		Detroit	2005	24%
Rhode Island	2002	32%		S Palm Beach	2005	24%
Milwaukee	1996	32%		Atlantic County	2004	23%
Bergen	2001	31%		Broward	1997	23%
Hartford	2000	31%		Las Vegas	2005	20%
Rochester	1999	29%		Westport	2000	20%
Miami	2014	28%		NJPS <sup>1</sup>	2000	30%
Monmouth	1997	28%				
Lehigh Valley	2007	27%		<sup>1</sup> NJPS 2000 data are for the <i>more Jewishly-connected sample</i> .		
Charlotte	1997	27%				

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# PARTICIPATED IN HILLEL/CHABAD WHILE IN COLLEGE (EXCLUDING HIGH HOLIDAYS)

(Born or Raised Jewish Adults Who Attended College)



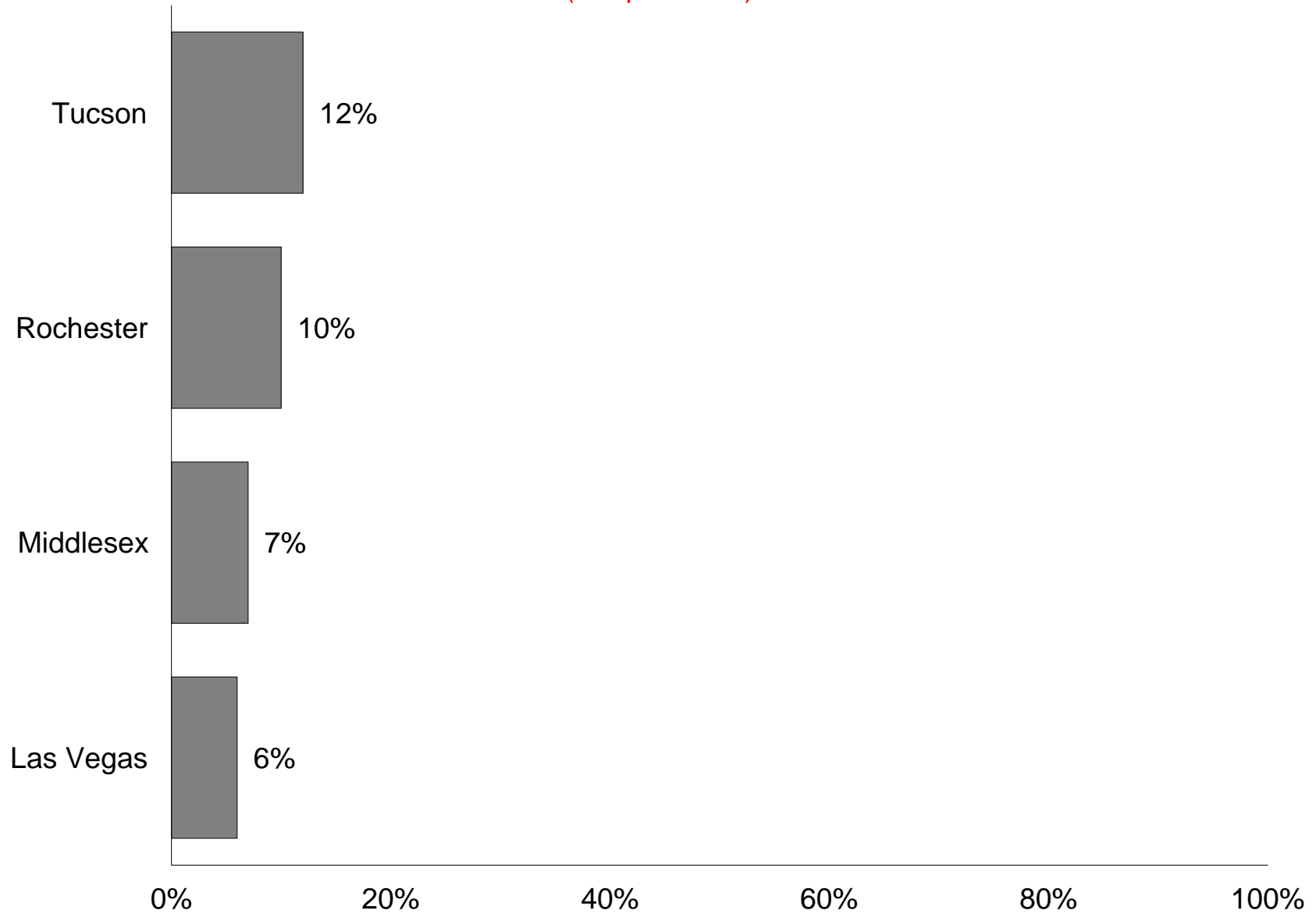
**TABLE 6**  
**FAMILIARITY WITH THE LOCAL HILLEL**  
**COMMUNITY COMPARISONS**

**BASE: RESPONDENTS**

<b>Community</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b><i>Very Familiar</i></b>	<b>Somewhat Familiar</b>	<b>Not at All Familiar</b>
Tucson	2002	12%	40	49
Rochester	1999	10%	27	64
Middlesex	2008	7%	26	67
Las Vegas	2005	6%	20	74

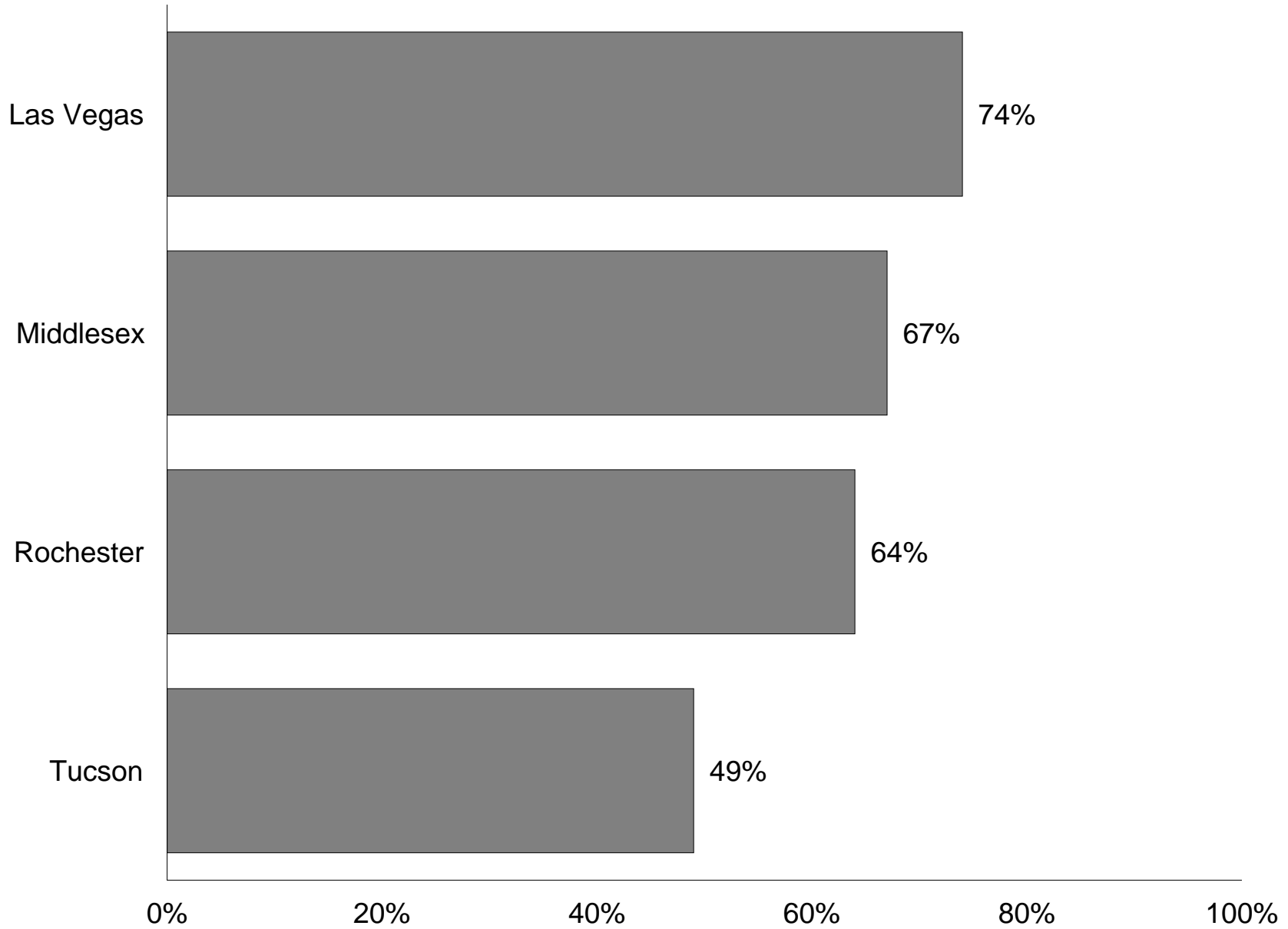
# 6

## VERY FAMILIAR WITH THE LOCAL HILLEL (Respondents)



# 7

## NOT AT ALL FAMILIAR WITH THE LOCAL HILLEL (Respondents)



**TABLE 7  
PERCEPTION OF THE LOCAL HILLEL  
COMMUNITY COMPARISONS**

**BASE: RESPONDENTS VERY/SOMEWHAT FAMILIAR WITH THE LOCAL HILLEL**

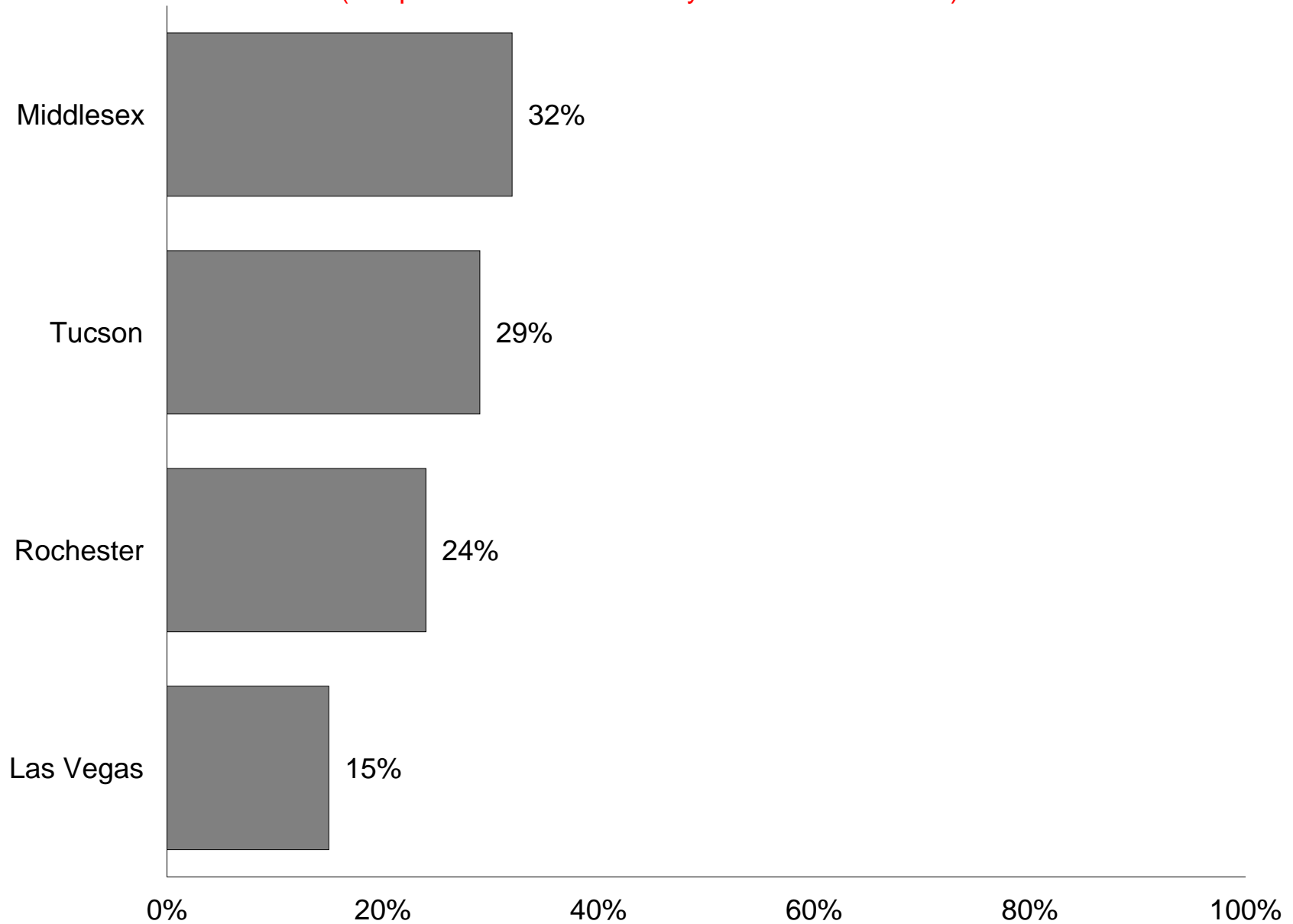
<b>Community</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b><i>Excellent</i></b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Excellent/ Good</b>
Middlesex	2008	32%	55	12	1	87%
Tucson	2002	29%	54	14	4	82%
Rochester	1999	24%	65	11	0	90%
Las Vegas	2005	15%	53	28	4	68%



# 8

## EXCELLENT PERCEPTIONS OF THE LOCAL HILLEL

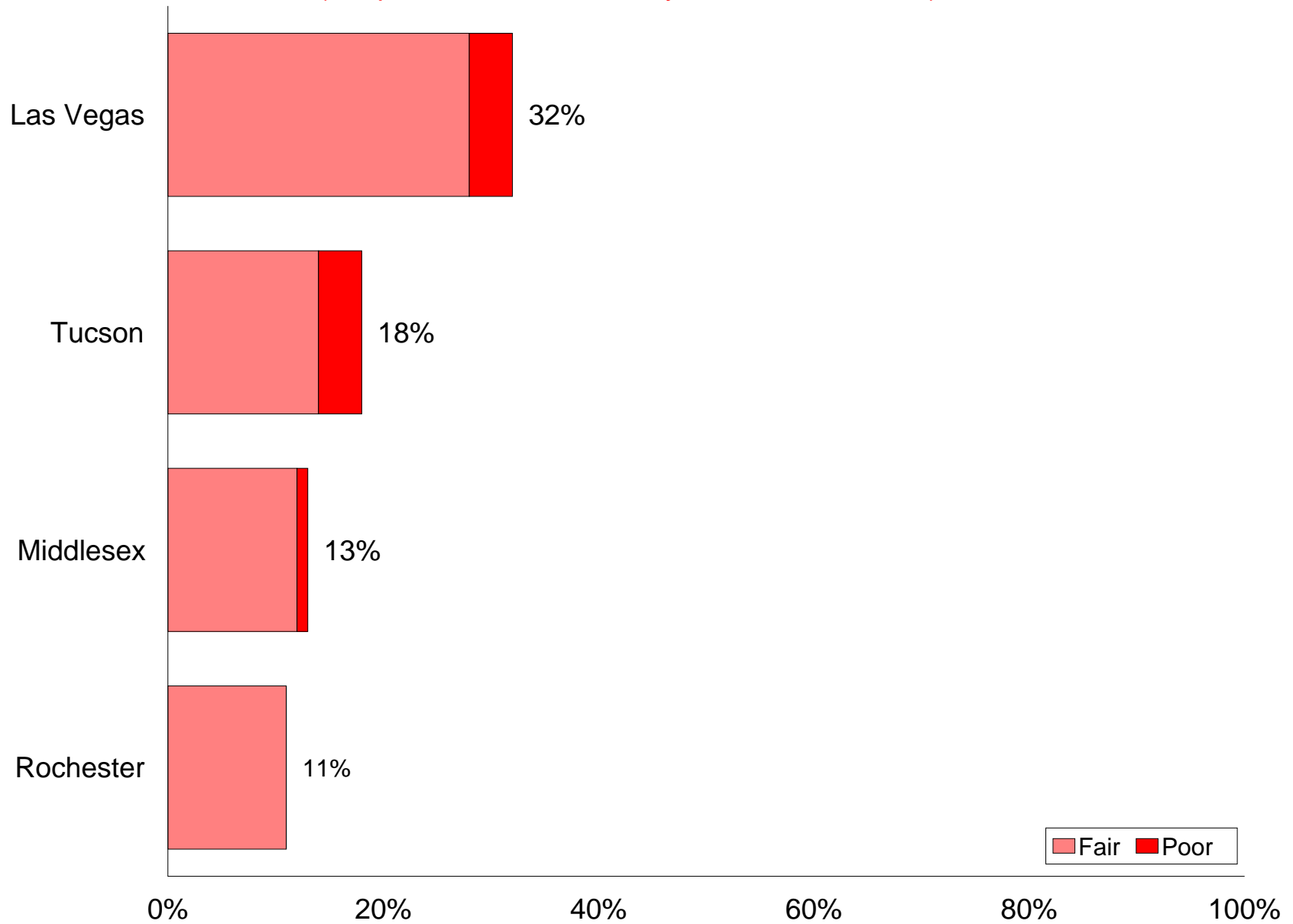
(Respondents Who Are Very/Somewhat Familiar)



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# FAIR/POOR PERCEPTIONS OF THE LOCAL HILLEL

(Respondents Who Are Very/Somewhat Familiar)

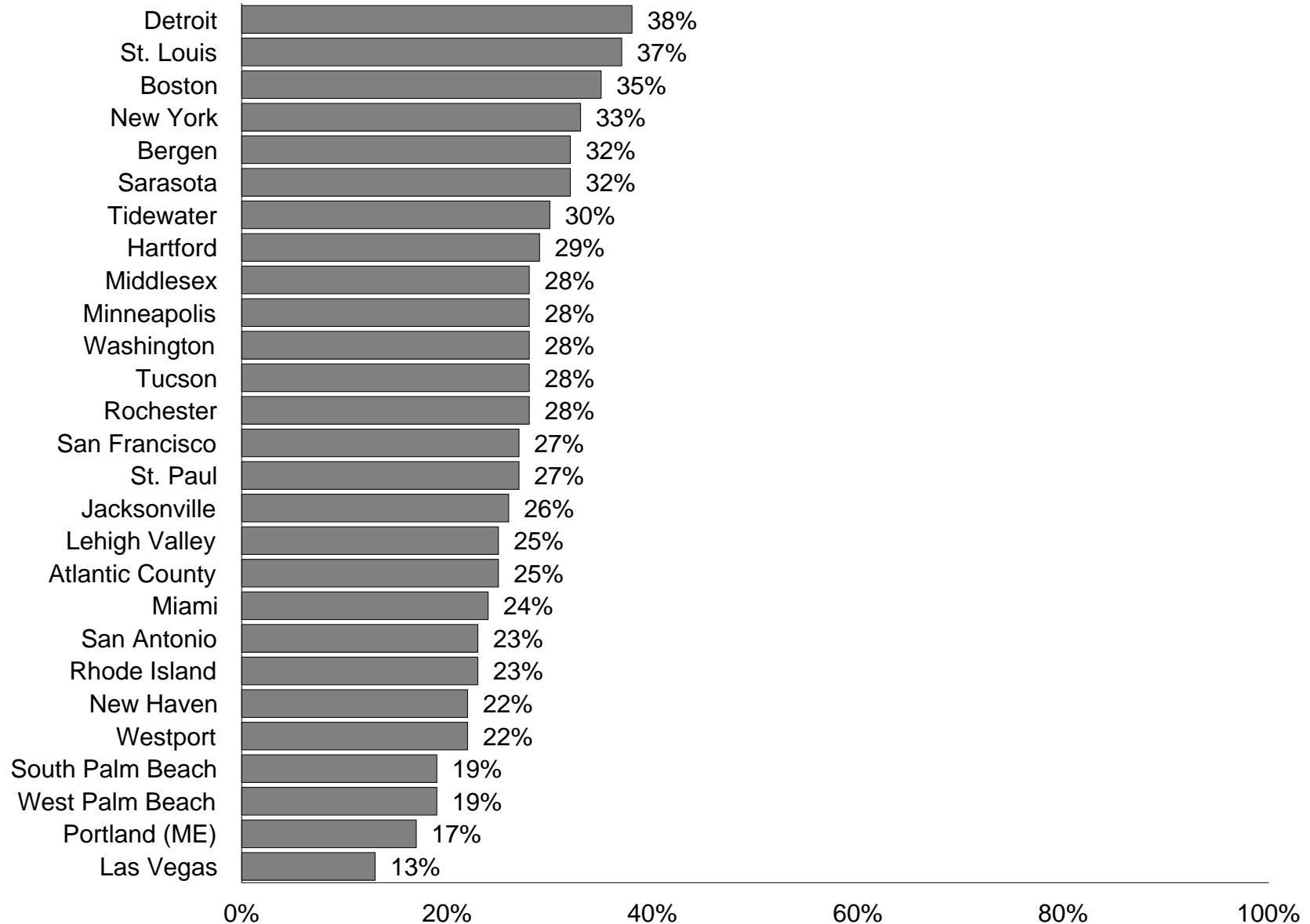


<b>TABLE 8</b> <b>ATTENDED AN ADULT JEWISH EDUCATION PROGRAM OR CLASS</b> <b>IN THE PAST YEAR</b> <b>COMMUNITY COMPARISONS</b>						
<b>BASE: JEWISH RESPONDENTS</b>						
<b>Community</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>%</b>		<b>Community</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>%</b>
Detroit	2005	38%		Jacksonville	2002	26%
St. Louis	2014	37%		Lehigh Valley	2007	25%
Boston	2005	35%		Atlantic County	2004	25%
New York	2011	33%		Miami	2014	24%
Bergen	2001	32%		San Antonio	2007	23%
Sarasota	2001	32%		Rhode Island	2002	23%
Tidewater	2001	30%		New Haven	2010	22%
Hartford	2000	29%		Westport	2000	22%
Middlesex	2008	28%		S Palm Beach	2005	19%
Minneapolis	2004	28%		W Palm Beach	2005	19%
Washington	2003	28%		Portland (ME)	2007	17%
Tucson	2002	28%		Las Vegas	2005	13%
Rochester	1999	28%		NJPS <sup>1</sup>	2000	24%
San Francisco	2004	27%		<sup>1</sup> NJPS 2000 data are for the <i>more Jewishly-connected sample</i> .		
St. Paul	2004	27%				

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# ATTENDED AN ADULT JEWISH EDUCATION PROGRAM OR CLASS IN THE PAST YEAR

(Jewish Respondents)



## COMPARISONS OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES: A COMPENDIUM OF TABLES AND BAR CHARTS

### APPENDIX

This appendix provides further information to help readers use the tables and bar charts, including rules for inclusion of local studies in the compendium, methodological issues in comparing communities, the order of communities, and tips for reading the tables and bar charts.

#### RULES FOR INCLUSION OF COMMUNITY STUDIES

To be included in the comparison tables and bar charts, a community study must meet the following criteria:

- ❶ The study had to include a telephone survey using random digit dialing for at least part of the sample.
- ❷ The study had to be completed since 1993. If a community completed multiple studies during this period, only the results of the most recent study are shown.
- ❸ The study had to ask the questions addressed in the tables and bar charts using wording similar to other studies and to report the results in a manner facilitating comparison. In many cases where the original results were not reported in a manner facilitating comparison, Dr. Sheskin obtained the original survey data and produced results that permit comparisons. In some cases, differences in the wording of the questions or categories used to report the results are noted in the footnotes to the tables.
- ❹ The study had to ask the questions addressed in the tables and bar charts of the same set of households or persons in a household (known as the *base*) as other studies asked. For example, a question asked only about *Jewish children in Jewish households* cannot be included in the tables and bar charts with other studies that asked the same question about *all children (both Jewish and non-Jewish) in Jewish households*. Minor differences in the set of households or persons queried are noted in the footnotes to the tables. In some cases, communities for which the base is significantly different from that used in the table are listed at the end of the table with the alternative base noted. Such communities are not included in the comparison bar charts.

## COMPARISONS AMONG COMMUNITIES: METHODOLOGICAL CONCERNS

As noted, comparisons among Jewish communities help provide an important context for understanding American Jewish communities. Nonetheless, the comparisons should be treated with caution for the following reasons:

❶ **Different Dates of the Studies.** The Jewish community studies included in the comparison tables and bar charts were completed over an extended period of time. Differences between Community A in 1993 and Community B in 2010 may be due to the temporal differences in the community studies. For example, the intermarriage rate in Community A may be lower than in Community B simply because the community study in Community A was completed 17 years earlier, when intermarriage rates generally were lower. This is an extreme example since most comparisons are between studies completed closer in time than in this illustration.

❷ **Different Sampling Methods.** Three different sampling methods generally have been used in Jewish community studies: a random digit dialing (RDD) only sample (drawn from randomly generated telephone numbers); an RDD sample combined with a Distinctive Jewish Name (DJN) sample (drawn from a telephone directory); and an RDD sample combined with a List sample (usually drawn from the local Jewish Federation mailing list). Only Jewish communities that used RDD sampling for at least part of the sample are included in the comparison tables and bar charts. Different sampling methods *may* lead to differences in survey results. See Section I - Methodology for the sampling methods and sample sizes used in each community study included in the comparison tables and bar charts.

❸ **Different Questionnaires.** A variety of questionnaires have been used in Jewish community studies. For examples, see the Jewish Survey Question Bank (<http://jewishquestions.bjpa.org/>). The survey research literature indicates that even small changes in question wording or in the sequence in which questions are asked on a telephone survey can have a significant impact upon survey results.

❹ **Small Sample Sizes.** In general, when comparing the overall results for Jewish households or persons in Jewish households among Jewish communities, the sample sizes used in the community studies are such that differences of five percentage points or more may be considered statistically significant. On the other hand, when comparing the results among Jewish communities for *population subgroups* (such as households with children or respondents under age 35), the sample sizes may be substantially smaller such that even differences of 10-15 percentage points may not be statistically significant.

❺ **Missing Data.** Researchers sometimes treat missing data and “don’t know” responses differently, leading to minor differences in reported results.

⑥ **Identifying Jewish Households.** While there is considerable agreement among researchers and policy makers about how to define Jewish households and persons, different studies may use different questions for qualifying Jewish households and respondents, and researchers may use different methods for deciding if households and persons should be considered Jewish when a particular case is ambiguous.

⑦ **Time-Specific Conditions.** Some comparisons are affected by the year in which a study was completed. This applies particularly to comparisons on economic variables such as income and philanthropy (which may be affected by the state of the economy in a given year) and variables related to Israel (which may be affected by the political situation in Israel in a given year).

### **ORDER OF COMMUNITIES IN THE COMPARISON TABLES AND BAR CHARTS**

**Tables.** Each comparison table is ordered based upon one particular data column (referred to as the *primary column* in the discussion below), in descending order of magnitude of the data. Except for those tables with only one data column, the primary column has an *italicized* heading. The choice of primary column is determined by the data thought to be most interesting. Thus, for example, the household size table is ordered by the percentage of one-person households and the employment status table is ordered by the percentage employed full time. While listing the communities in alphabetical order might simplify finding the results quickly for a particular community, such a presentation would be much less helpful in facilitating comparisons among Jewish communities.

When two or more communities show the same percentage (or number) in the primary column, three rules are followed to determine the order in which the communities are listed:

① The first rule applies when a secondary column is used to order the communities that show the same percentage in the primary column.

In some cases, when the primary column is the sum of two (or more) other columns, the communities are listed according to the community that has the higher percentage on the more “extreme” of the columns being summed. For example, if two communities show the same percentage for “always/usually,” the community with the highest “always” percentage is listed first.

In other cases, a table is ordered on a particular column, but a secondary “related” column is used to order the communities that show the same percentage in the primary column. For example, in the employment status table, if two communities show the same percentage for “full time,” the community with the highest “part time” percentage is listed first.

If the communities continue to show the same percentages after applying this rule, the process is continued using the next appropriate column.

② The second rule applies when the first rule is not applicable or does not resolve the situation, that is, the communities show the same percentages in all the data columns. In this case, the community with the most recent study is listed first.

③ The third rule applies when the first two rules do not resolve the situation, that is, the communities also have the same year of study. In this case, the communities are listed in alphabetical order.

Communities for which data are unavailable for the primary column (but are available for other columns) are listed below a thick horizontal line in the tables.

**Bar Charts.** Comparison bar charts correspond to each primary column in the comparison tables, with the data presented in the same order as it appears in the table. In addition, for tables with multiple data columns, additional bar charts are presented to correspond to those additional data columns thought to be most interesting, with the data presented in descending order of magnitude. In these additional bar charts, when two or more communities show the same percentage (or number), the community with the most recent study is listed first. If the communities also have the same year of study, the communities are listed in alphabetical order.

### READING THE TABLES AND BAR CHARTS

Demographic data are easily misunderstood. The most common error in interpretation occurs when readers do not concentrate on the *nature of the denominator (or base) used in calculating a percentage*. Thus, the base in each table and bar chart is generally shown directly below the title.

In some tables and bar charts, “don't know” responses are included in the computations, while in other tables and bar charts they are excluded. The inclusion or exclusion of “don't know” responses depends on whether “don't know” is a statement of value (generally included) or merely an inability to remember or a refusal to respond (generally excluded). In some tables and bar charts, “don't know” responses are treated as negative responses. For example, if a respondent does not know whether the household maintains a synagogue membership, a reasonable assumption is that they do not. Missing responses are excluded from the tables and bar charts.

The reader may notice small differences in the percentages between tables and bar charts due to rounding. At times, also due to rounding, the reported percentages may not sum to 100% and the reported numbers may not sum to the appropriate numerical total. However, the convention employed shows the total as 100% or the appropriate numerical total.



White numbers in black circles (❶, ❷, ❸, etc.) are used in the column headings of tables to indicate that definitions of the terms are provided in the footnotes at the bottom of the table.

Some of the footnotes in the tables are not included in the bar charts to simplify the presentation.

### **ERRORS IN THE TABLES AND BAR CHARTS**

In an undertaking like this, errors in the data are inevitable. Please bring potential errors to the attention of Ira Sheskin at [isheskin@miami.edu](mailto:isheskin@miami.edu).