

Orthodox Jewry: Community, Connection, Understanding & Orthodox Jewish Singles

SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

May 2, 2022



<http://nishmaresearch.com>



Nishma Research Orthodox Jewish communal studies are discussed at the Orthonomics podcast.

Appendix III – Survey Questionnaire

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ORTHODOX JEWRY: COMMUNITY, CONNECTION & UNDERSTANDING
AKA “The Singles Survey”) – Questionnaire Finalized February 13, 2022

* = response required; ☐ = question asked of all respondents

INTRODUCTION

This survey is aimed at the entire Orthodox community, all persons age 18+. We want to better understand the connections that people feel to the community, and what our shuls, other organizations and individuals can do to strengthen the binds among us and between us.

Within this survey there is a section of questions specifically aimed at – and focusing on the experiences of – those who identify as single. The report of findings will provide new data on the singles community and proposals to better meet their needs.

We are therefore making a special effort to get a sizable response from single individuals. You are encouraged to share this survey link with other Orthodox individuals, and especially single individuals whom you may know.

The survey takes about 8-10 minutes to complete if you are married; and about 12-15 minutes if you are a single individual. There are only a few questions (in the first section) that require a response (they are indicated by an asterisk), but we hope you will respond as fully as possible.

Nishma Research, an independent research firm with the mission of providing quality research to the Jewish community, is donating the work and resources to conduct this survey. The survey is completely confidential and anonymous. The findings will be made freely available and downloadable, and there will be instructions at the end of the survey for how you can get the full report. If you have any questions, contact Mark Trencher at mark@nishmaresearch.com.

DEMOGRAPHICS PART 1

*☐Q1. How do you identify Jewishly?

- Orthodox Jewish
- Non-Orthodox or not Jewish [Display message & terminate: Sorry, you do not qualify to take this survey. We do surveys of all of the Jewish community, but this particular survey is addressed to the Orthodox segment. You may close this web browser window or tab to exit the survey. Thank you.]

*☐Q2. Which of the following most closely describes how you identify within Orthodoxy?

- Modern or Centrist Orthodox
- Yeshivish / Litvish / Agudah
- Chasidic, including Chabad

ASK IF Q2 = MODERN OR CENTRIST ORTHODOX:

Q3. Where do you see yourself within Modern or Centrist Orthodoxy?

- “To the left” ... Liberal Modern Orthodox
- “In the center” ... Centrist Modern Orthodox
- To the right” ... More stringent (machmir) Centrist Orthodox

*☐Q4. What is your age?

- 18 to 20
- 21 to 22
- 23 to 24
- 25 to 29
- 30 to 34
- 35 to 39
- 40 to 49
- 50 to 59
- 60 to 69
- 70 or older

*☐Q5. What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Non-conforming or would rather not say

*☐Q6. What is your current marital status?

- Married
- Single
- Single, but have a fiancé or dating someone with whom I’m relatively sure I’ll get engaged
- Divorced or Separated
- Widowed
- Living with a partner

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ASK IF Q6 = DIVORCED OR SEPARATED:

Q7. At what age were you (first) separated or divorced? [NUMERIC ENTRY]

ASK IF Q6 = SINGLE, DIVORCED, SEPARATED OR WIDOWED

Q8. Have you ever been in an engagement that was broken?

- Yes
- No

Q9. In this survey, we want to explore the sense of connection felt by people in many Orthodox groups. Please check all groups below, in which you identify as a member.

- Ashkenazi
- Sephardi
- Mizrahi
- Émigré from Russia or other former Soviet state
- Jews of Color
- Latin American
- LGBTQ+
- Person with disability
- Convert to Judaism
- Recent (in the past 5 years) baal teshuvah (became Orthodox)
- Other Orthodox sub-group – Please describe [SMALL TEXT BOX]

CONNECTION TO SHUL

Q10. How often, on average, do you currently attend Shabbat morning services in shul?

- Every Shabbat, or almost every shabbat
- Two or three times a month
- Once a month
- Less than once a month, or never

Q11. How does your current Shabbat morning shul attendance compare to what it was before the pandemic? Are you attending ...

- Much less than before
- Somewhat less than before
- About the same as before
- More than before

Q12. Is there a shul that you consider to be your primary shul?

- Yes
- No

ASK IF Q12 HAS A PRIMARY SHUL = YES AND Q10 ATTEND = AT LAST ONCE A MONTH

Q13. Do you agree with these statements?

- I feel welcome in my shul.
- My shul cares about me.
- My shul has programs for people like me.
- I have a good relationship with my shul Rabbi and/or Rebbitzten.

Response Scale:

- Fully Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Fully Disagree

CONNECTION TO BROADER JEWISH COMMUNITY

Q14. When you think more broadly of everything that is part of your “overall Jewish community,” which of the following do you see as parts of that community? Please check all that apply.

- Local shul(s)
- Shul(s) elsewhere
- Local Orthodox organizations, such as a day school/yeshiva, Chabad House, non-profit, etc.
- Local non-Orthodox organizations, such as a school, Moishe House, JCC, Hillel, non-profit, etc.,
- Social groups, meetups, clubs, etc. that may be social and/or Jewish-themed
- Broader (e.g., national) Jewish organization(s)
- Online Jewish groups or programs, social media groups, etc.
- Individuals – Jewish friends, teachers, religious or communal leaders, etc.

Q15. Do you agree with these statements?

- I feel connected to my “overall Jewish community” (made up of the various components listed in the preceding question).
- I have a strong, active group of friends.

Response Scale:

- Fully Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Fully Disagree

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JEWISH SATISFACTION & JOY

Q16. Do you agree with these statements?

- Being an Orthodox Observant Jew is an important part of my life.
- Shabbat is a stress-free day for me.
- I am financially comfortable.
- I am happy with my family life.
- I am happy with my social life.

Response Scale:

- Fully Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Fully Disagree

OVERALL GOALS OF SINGLE INDIVIDUALS

ASK IF Q6 = SINGLE, DIVORCED, SEPARATED OR WIDOWED

Q17. What are your top personal goals over the next few years? Please check up to your top 5 goals.

[RANDOMIZE ORDER]

- Marriage
- Education
- Career
- Religious growth
- Personal growth
- Greater independence
- Financial success, stability
- Improved health
- Calmness
- Overall happiness
- Social activity, helping others
- Other – Please describe [SMALL TEXT BOX]

DATING SECTION INTRODUCTION

DISPLAY IF Q6 = SINGLE, SINGLE WITH FIANCE, DIVORCED, SEPARATED OR WIDOWED

The following questions ask about dating approaches, activities and attitudes.

If any questions are not relevant to you, just skip them.

DATING INCIDENCE

ASK IF Q6 = SINGLE, DIVORCED, SEPARATED OR WIDOWED

Q18. How much dating are you currently doing, on average?

- Three or more dates monthly
- Once or twice a month
- Less than once a month
- None, or close to none

ASK IF Q6 = SINGLE

Q19a. For how many total years have you dated? [NUMERIC ENTRY]

ASK IF Q6 = DIVORCED, SEPARATED

Q19b. For how many total years have you dated, since you became divorced or separated? [NUMERIC ENTRY]

ASK IF Q6 = WIDOWED

Q19c. For how many total years have you dated, since you became widowed? [NUMERIC ENTRY]

ASK IF Q6 = SINGLE, DIVORCED, SEPARATED OR WIDOWED

Q20. Do you think the amount of dating you do will change over the next few years?

- Will definitely be more active
- Will probably be more active
- No change
- [OMIT IF Q18 DATING = NONE OR CLOSE TO NONE] Will probably be less active
- [OMIT IF Q18 DATING = NONE OR CLOSE TO NONE] Will definitely be less active

DATING APPROACHES

ASK IF Q6 = SINGLE, SINGLE WITH FIANCE, DIVORCED, SEPARATED OR WIDOWED

Q21. To what extent over the past few years have you used the following approaches to meet people for dating?

- Jewish community events, gatherings
- Other social gatherings
- Blind dates

[Continued on next page]

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Q21. (Continued)

- Taking the initiative in approaching people, asking them out
- Shadchanim (matchmakers)
- Online Jewish dating sites or apps
- Other Jewish social media
- Online Non-Jewish dating sites or apps
- Other Non-Jewish social media

Response Scale:

- Often
- Sometimes
- Seldom
- Haven't done this

ASK IF Q6 = SINGLE, SINGLE WITH FIANCE, DIVORCED, SEPARATED OR WIDOWED

Q21a. Have you over the past few years used any other approaches to meet people for dating? [OPEN-ENDED]

ASK IF Q21 USE OF SHADCHANIM = OFTEN, SOMETIMES OR SELDOM

Q22. You indicated that you have used *shadchanim* (matchmakers). Do you recommend that people use their services?

- Strongly recommend
- Somewhat recommend
- Do not recommend

ASK IF Q22 IS ANSWERED

Q22a. Why do you say that? [OPEN-ENDED]

ASK IF Q18 CURRENT DATING = LESS THAN ONCE A MONTH, OR MORE; OR Q20 AMOUNT OF DATING CHANGE = MORE ACTIVE

Q23. Which of the following approaches do you plan to most rely on over the next year or two? Please check up to your top three preferred approaches.

- Jewish community events, gatherings
- Other social gatherings
- Blind dates
- Taking the initiative in approaching people, asking them out
- Shadchanim (matchmakers)
- Online Jewish dating sites or apps
- Other Jewish social media
- Online Non-Jewish dating sites or apps
- Other Non-Jewish social media
- Other(s) – Please describe [SMALL TEXT BOX]

ASK IF Q6 = SINGLE, SINGLE WITH FIANCE, DIVORCED, SEPARATED OR WIDOWED

Q24. What would you say about the amount of investigation that some people do before dating or setting up people with dates, i.e., looking into family, background, personal details, etc.? Is there ...

- Too much investigation
- An appropriate level
- Not enough investigation

ASK IF Q24 IS ANSWERED

Q24a. Is there anything you would add on this? [OPEN-ENDED]

Q25. How involved should parents be in their children's dating, e.g., by advising, networking, supporting, helping find dates, etc.?

- Very involved
- Somewhat involved
- Minimally involved
- Not involved

ASK IF Q25 IS ANSWERED

Q25a. Is there anything you would add relating to this? [OPEN-ENDED]

WHAT YOU SEEK IN A DATING PARTNER / POTENTIAL SPOUSE

ASK IF Q18 CURRENT DATING = LESS THAN ONCE A MONTH, OR MORE;
OR Q20 AMOUNT OF DATING CHANGE = MORE ACTIVE
[Q26 WAS SPLIT INTO TWO QUESTIONS DUE TO ITS LENGTH]

Q26. When you consider whether or not to go out with a person, or whether to continue dating a person, how important to you are the following factors?

[RANDOMIZE ORDER]

- A feeling of love
- Accepting me as I am
- Activities of interest, hobbies, leisure
- Age, relative to my age
- Ambition
- Calmness
- Compassion, kindness
- Family, background
- Financial situation, income

[Continued on next page]

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Q26. (Continued)

- Flexibility, attitude of compromise % partnership
- Generosity
- *Hashkafa* (overall worldview and guiding philosophy)
- Honesty
- Humble, not a braggart
- Intelligence
- Not bossy
- Physical appearance, looks, attraction
- Plans for family size
- Profession
- Respectful of others
- Secular education
- The source of the recommendation
- Where the person lives
- Zionism, consideration of making aliyah

Response Scale:

- Absolute “Must Have”
- Pretty Important
- Somewhat Important
- Slightly Important
- Not really important to me

OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF DATING

Q27. Looking at the current Orthodox world “dating system” – its processes, resources, how we go about things, etc. – how effective is it in helping people find spouses? Please rate the current dating system on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 = the current system is totally not working, to 10 = the current system is working extremely well. Please drag the slider to the appropriate position on the scale.

ADVICE AND FINAL THOUGHTS

Q28. What is the most important advice, if any, you would offer to people who are dating? [OPEN-ENDED]

ASK IF Q6 = SINGLE, DIVORCED, SEPARATED OR WIDOWED

Q29. What do you think are the main factors holding you back from finding a spouse? [OPEN-ENDED]

Q30. What suggestions do you have for shuls or Orthodox community organizations regarding actions or programs they could undertake to better address the needs of single individuals? [OPEN-ENDED]

DEMOGRAPHICS: PART 2

Q31. What is the highest level of schooling you have completed?

- High school graduate or less
- Some college
- Four-year bachelor’s degree
- Postgraduate or professional schooling/degree (e.g., master’s, doctorate, medical, law)

ASK IF Q31 = SOME COLLEGE OR MORE

Q32. Did you attend a “Jewish college” (such as Yeshiva University, Stern College, Touro, etc.) or a non-Jewish college?

- Jewish college
- Non-Jewish college
- Both

ASK IF Q6 = SINGLE, SINGLE WITH FIANCE, DIVORCED, SEPARATED OR WIDOWED

Q33. What is your personal annual gross income?

- Under \$40,000
- \$40,000 to \$69,999
- \$70,000 to \$99,999
- \$100,000 to \$139,999
- \$140,000 to \$199,999
- \$200,000 or more
- Would rather not say

Q34. Where do you live?

- United States
- Israel
- Canada
- United Kingdom
- France
- Other – Please enter [SMALL TEXT BOX]

Q35. What are the first three digits of your zip code? ___ __ _

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OPT-IN AND REQUEST RESULTS

Q36. Thank you very much for sharing your thoughts. Your response is very important to us.

- Please check here to get a summary of the survey findings.
- Please check here if you are OK with getting occasional (not often) invitations to research in the Jewish community.
- [IF Q6 = SINGLE, SINGLE WITH FIANCE ETC., DIVORCED, SEPARATED OR WIDOWED]
We may do a brief follow-up survey dealing with intimacy and sexuality. Please check here if you would like to participate in that survey.

IF ANY BOX IN Q326 IS CHECKED:

Please enter your email address. Your email will be totally confidential. It will not be used for any other purposes and will not be attached to your survey responses.

[SMALL TEXT BOX, E-MAIL FORMATTED]

SHARING OF SURVEY LINK

Feel free to share the survey link: <http://bit.ly/Nishma-Ortho-Connections>

We encourage you to share this survey with family, friends, colleagues, social media, etc., and especially with single individuals. This survey will close Sunday, March 13, at 10:00 pm Eastern Time.

You may now close this browser window or tab to exit the survey. Thank you!

END OF SURVEY

About Nishma Research

- Nishma Research was founded in 2015 with the purpose of informing the Jewish community through communal and organizational studies. “Nishma” means “we listen” – and our mission involves conducting research on topics that will promote greater listening among the diverse strands of the Jewish people.
- Nishma is a full-service research firm that supports synagogues, schools, community organizations, and other researchers. We conduct custom research, data collection, analysis, and presentations employing quantitative and qualitative research approaches. Nishma has conducted 12 communal studies and 13 proprietary studies for Jewish organizations (five shuls and eight other organizations).
- Prior communal studies include: (1) a 2016 survey of people who have left Orthodoxy (“off the *derech*”), across all segments of Modern Orthodox and Haredi Jewry; (2) a 2017 broad demographic and attitudinal profile of American Modern Orthodoxy; (3) a 2019 study of the future of Modern Orthodoxy as it confronts challenges and opportunities emanating from its interaction with secular society; (4) a 2019 study that explored the motivations, challenges and religious journeys of *Baalei Teshuvah*; (5) an early 2020 study of the political views of Orthodox Jews; (6) a mid-2020 study of the health, emotional, financial and religious impacts of the pandemic; (7) a 2020 post-election survey that identified the key issues that drove voting decisions across the Orthodox community; (8) an early 2021 study of the broad U.S. Jewish Community’s views on the pandemic and COVID-19 Vaccines; (9) a mid-2021 study co-sponsored by Chevra Hatzalah, which more deeply explored COVID-related views, particularly vaccine adoption and hesitancy in the Haredi (Hasidic and Yeshivish) communities; and (10) a late 2021 study on The Finances of Orthodoxy, which broadly explored the issue of the cost of a frum life, financial as well as attitudinal, among Modern Orthodox and Haredi Jews. In addition, a 12th communal study (“Perceptions and Actions Relating to Antisemitism Across the Orthodox Community”) is currently being prepared for release in May-June, 2022.



- Nishma Research is more a “labor of love” than a business. It has funded 80% of its studies to date, as a service to the community, and makes all communal research reports and findings available free to the public. We appreciate the opportunity to share our findings, which we have presented and discussed at 57 venues (30 shuls and 27 other venues) since 2016. Findings are also shared, with discussions with communal experts, at the Orthonomics Podcast.