



# Hineni Houston Overview

**1,221  
Participants**

**47 Listening Forums  
26 Home Gatherings  
110 Dialogue Interviews**

**More than 50  
trained Listening  
Lab Participant  
Leaders**

**8 Bold  
Aspirations for  
the Future**

# Jewish Houston Populations

We wanted to make sure we listened to all corners of Jewish Houston

## By Life Stage

- Young people: Teens, college students, young professionals
- Parents of young children, teens, empty nesters, grandparents. Day school parents and public school parents.
- Married, partnered, single
- Seniors (active, elderly, living independently and in supported living situations)

## By Houston Heritage

- New to Houston
- 1st, 2nd, 3rd or more generation Houston

## Other

- Politically left/right/other
- Socioeconomic status
- Diverse relationships with Israel

## By Place/ Jewish Participation

- Synagogue members: all denominations, including Orthodox and Chabad
- Education/youth engagement settings: day school, early childhood education, Hillels, camp, youth groups
- Legacy organizations: JCC, Jewish Family Service, Seven Acres
- Federation Jewish Professional Networks
- Federation donors, potential donors, lapsed donors
- Online gathering spots
- Social spaces: Jewish Film Festival, JCC Book Fair, ReelAbilities, business groups, parent groups

## By Identities

- LGBTQIA
- Jews of Color
- Jews by choice
- Just Jewish
- Multi-faith families
- Spanish-speaking
- Israelis, Latinx, Russian, South African, Ethiopian
- Ashkenazi/Mizrahi (Sephardi) Jews
- Individuals and families with physical disability, learning disability, health and emotional challenges

## By Geography

- Core: Meyerland, Bellaire, West University, Montrose, Heights, Galleria
- Periphery: Spring, The Woodlands, West, Memorial, Katy, South, Fort Bend, Sugar Land, Pearland, Humble, Kingwood



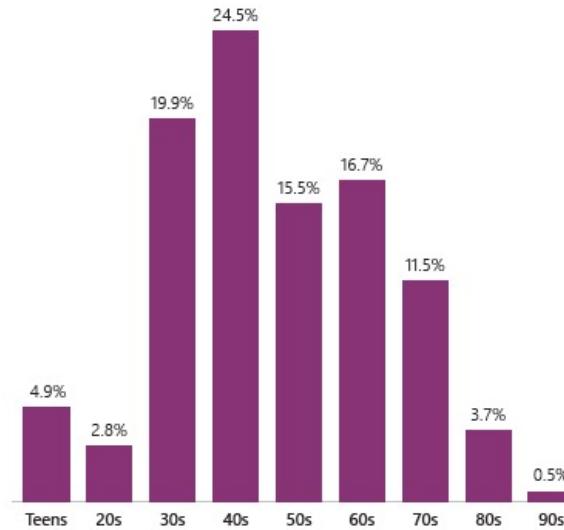


## HINENI HOUSTON LISTENING LAB

# Participant Data

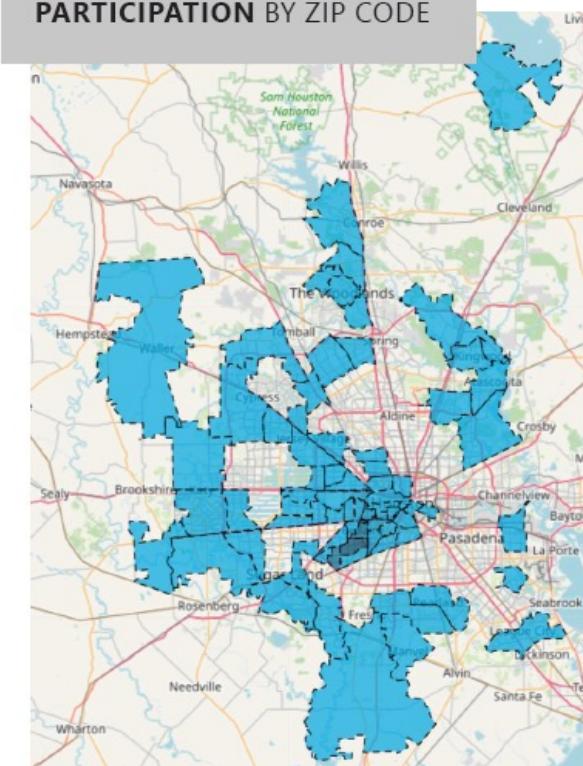


PARTICIPATION BY AGE



## Hineni Houston: Demographics

PARTICIPATION BY ZIP CODE



Hineni Houston reached broadly across our community. Thank you to those who shared their voices as a part of this process. We appreciate your gift of time and thought.

PARTICIPATION BY RELIGIOUS IDENTITY/AFFILIATION



# UNDERSTANDING *our* **SHARED VISION**



ACTIVATE and NAVIGATE  
JEWISH LIFE in GREATER HOUSTON  
**SHALOM Y'ALL**

FRONT  
DOOR &  
COMMUNICATIONS

LIVE PROUDLY  
and OPENLY as  
JEWS

JEWISH IDENTITY

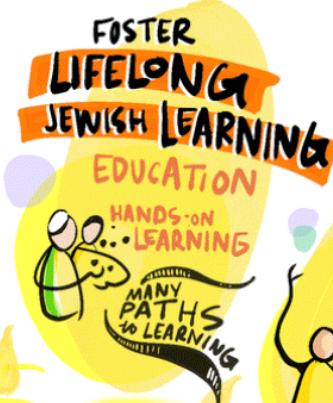
CIVIC RELATIONSHIPS

COMBATING  
ANTISEMITISM

easy  
ACCESS to  
JEWISH  
LIFE



BROADEN  
the BIG TENT  
INCLUSION



FOSTER  
LIFELONG  
JEWISH LEARNING

MANY PATHS  
to LEARNING



CONNECT  
to JEWISH EXPERIENCES  
ACROSS AGE, STAGE  
and PLACE

INNOVATIVE  
PROGRAMMING



PRIORITIZE  
AFFORDABILITY  
and ACCESS in JEWISH LIFE

COLLABORATE  
on COSTS

LEAP  
JEWISHLY  
from STRENGTH  
to STRENGTH



UNITE  
as ONE COMMUNITY  
through COLLABORATION

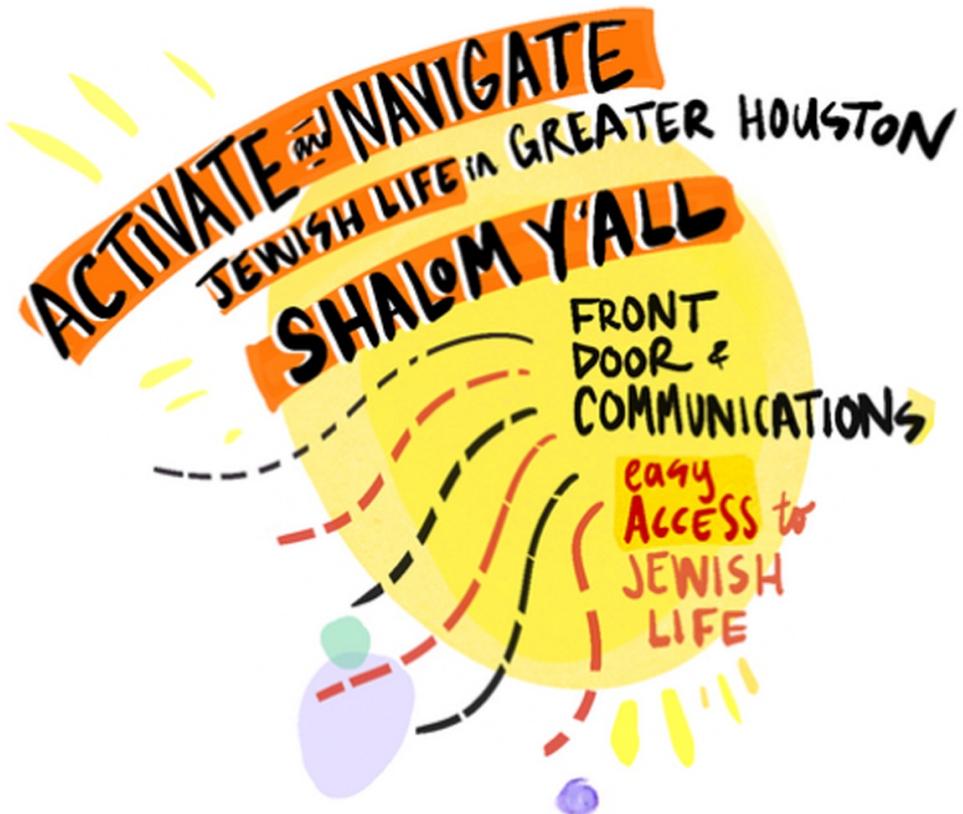
ORGANIZATIONS  
SHARING  
KNOWLEDGE,  
EXPERTISE and  
RESOURCES



SYNTHESIS

## BOLD ASPIRATIONS





## **What This Means**

Jewish Houstonians feel welcomed, informed, and empowered to easily access Jewish Life. The community has a central portal to Jewish life in Greater Houston. We increase the visibility of Jewish life in Houston. Newcomers and established Houstonians have access to human connection and centralized communication tools. We offer a network of wayfinders who help navigate the Jewish community.

## What This Means

Greater Houston's Jews live proudly, securely, and connectedly to Houston's multi-faceted community. We openly observe our faith and culture in the ways we choose, without fear of antisemitism. Institutions, homes, and persons are physically secure. The Jewish community is also a full participant in the civic and cultural life of our diverse city. Our community is constructively engaged with global Jewry and the people of Israel. We fully support Israel as the Jewish homeland and seek to create informed, yet diverse, conversations about Israel and its policies.





## What This Means

The Greater Houston Jewish community embraces its place in the most diverse, geographically spread city in the United States. We design programming that creates an ease of participation for those near and far that enhance the small town feel of Houston. We actively welcome all Jews - all levels of religious observance, race, politics, sexual orientation, ability, socioeconomic status, heritage, and stages of life. We include the voices of Jews who historically have not been heard, and we ensure our Jewish social service programs are meeting the evolving needs of the most vulnerable in our community. We strive to build a trusting, inclusive, diverse, and pluralistic culture.

## What This Means

In this community, Jewish education is valued and innovative. There are many pathways to quality Jewish learning for all ages and abilities which are offered both formally and informally.

We build bridges and connections among Jewish youth through community-wide programming. Educators are compensated generously and are well-supported with professional development. We build capacity to bring inspiring Jewish educational content to all Jews and their loved ones, fostering lifelong Jewish journeys.





## What This Means

The Greater Houston Jewish community creates innovative and collaborative programs that provide opportunities for the entire community – including niche groups of all ages, stages, and neighborhoods. We embrace gathering for spiritual, educational, and social experiences in traditional and non-traditional Jewish spaces and stand united as a supportive community that loves to come together. At our core, we are strong, inclusive, welcoming, and vibrant.

## What This Means

Jewish organizations share resources and work together to meet the needs of the entire Jewish community now and in the future. The organizations that make up the Greater Houston Jewish community work collaboratively to build energy and create synergy under the shared responsibility of supporting Jewish life. With mutual respect for each other, these organizations work together to build a scaffold of support, collaboration, and connectedness.





### **What This Means**

Community reduces financial barriers so that all Jewish individuals can afford to participate in a full and meaningful Jewish life. We offer a variety of clearly publicized, easily accessible, and confidential financial tools that are readily available to people of all incomes. Promote and prioritize Jewish philanthropy to meet the vision of an inclusive and vibrant Jewish community.

## What This Means

Leading Jewishly is rewarding and impactful. We grow, connect, and activate lay and professional leaders who reflect the diversity of the Greater Houston Jewish community to meet community needs. We cultivate a strong pipeline of people with leadership potential to collaborate and enrich our community through service to our organizations. As a community, we work together to develop leadership collaboratively and create a stronger Jewish leadership ecosystem for this generation and generations to come.



# Role of the Jewish Federation

Federation Brings our Aspiration to Life through Four Key Roles:

## 1. CONNECTOR

Bringing people together to find their connection to Jewish life within Houston.

## 2. CONVENER

Bringing our organizations together, so they can talk about how we can be a more fulsome community

## 3. FUNDER

Funding important community programs, activities, and efforts here in Houston, in Israel, and around the world.

## 4. INNOVATOR

Trying new things and taking risks to change how we collectively solve community problems and intentionally shape our future.

# Hineni Houston: Charting Our Work

The Federation is committed to working through our committee process to grow programmatic and funding efforts to meet the vision of Hineni Houston. There are areas of opportunity in each of the Bold Aspirations. We have charted where our current work reflects the Bold Aspirations, and the voices of the community will continue to inform how this work emerges and evolves in new ways.

Here is the current work of the Federation mapped to the Bold Aspirations:



## 1. Shalom Y'all: Activate and Navigate Jewish Life in Greater Houston

### What We Do

- Community Calendar and Communications  
Events listed on Federation website and key news shared via email.
- Newsletters  
For Jerome Robinson Young Adult Division (YAD) and PJ Library.

### What We Fund

- Area of Opportunity

## 2. Live Proudly and Openly as Jews

### What We Do

- Security  
Proactive security support of Houston's 75 Jewish institutions that include conducting trainings, assessing threats, and liaising with law enforcement when incidents occur.
- Public Affairs  
Connections forged around legislative issues that impact the Houston Jewish community.
- Connecting the Community with Israel  
Providing multiple trips to Israel for community members, educators, and teens (through Kehillah High). Hosting local Shlichim (Hebrew for Emissary) who culturally connect our community with Israel through experiences and events. Facilitating Partnership2gether, a program in partnership with the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) that connects Houston officially with the Israeli city Petach Tikvah.

### What We Fund

- University Life Support  
Hillels and Chabads at the University of Texas, Texas A&M, and Houston (Rice and University of Houston).
- BByO  
A Jewish teen movement intended to build the identity of Jewish teens and offer leadership development programs.
- Birthright Israel  
Allows Jewish young adults to experience Israel.
- Moishe House  
Provides young adults with the opportunity to live together and build community.
- NCSY Jewish Student Union  
Clubs for Jewish student in non-Jewish schools.

## 3. Broaden the Big Tent

### What We Do

- PJ Library Community Connectors  
Conducting outreach to families with children in suburban areas of Houston to keep them connected with Judaism and Jewish community.
- Honeymoon Israel  
A program that connects multi-faith couples with Israel and Judaism.
- Matan  
Utilizing an outside group to conduct an assessment of special needs and opportunities for Jewish schools (Pre-K through grade 12) to better serve students with disabilities and their families.

### What We Fund

- Friendship Circle  
Supporting families with loved ones who have special needs.
- Celebration Company at the Alexander JFS  
Provides training and job connection to individuals with disabilities.
- Area of Opportunity

## 4. Foster Lifelong Jewish Learning

### What We Do

- Yom Limmud  
Host yearly a Jewish day of learning for the community.
- Early Childhood Teacher Degree Program  
Provides forgivable loans to educators seeking advanced degrees.
- Professional Development for Teachers  
Provide trainings for teachers at all day and congregational schools.
- Networks for All Schools  
Educators from 38 Jewish day and congregational schools participate in conversations, information and resource sharing, and problem solving.

### What We Fund

- Day School Support  
Financial support provided to each of Houston's Jewish Day Schools based on enrollment numbers.
- Kehillah High  
Collaborative high school program and learning for students continuing Jewish studies after confirmation.
- Financial Support for Early Childhood Programs  
Provide childcare and early exposure to Jewish life for young families in our community.
- Area of Opportunity

## 5. Connect to Jewish Experiences Across Age, Stage, and Place

### What We Do

- Israel Experiences  
Providing multiple trips to Israel for community members, educators, and teens (through Kehillah High).
- PJ Library  
Provides families with small children with monthly mailed access to Jewish books and music as well as planned community activities.
- Jewish Professional Networks  
Networking groups for professionals to connect & share ideas.

### What We Fund

- J Support  
General support for the Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center so it can provide community programs.
- Maccabi Games  
Specified an allocation to support the Maccabi Games at the J.
- Seven Acres  
Provide general support for Seven Acres Senior Care Services to help it care for the elderly in our community.

## 6. Unite as One Community Through Collaboration

### What We Do

- Collaborative Networks

Fourteen (14) Collaborative Networks sharing best practices and resources across organizations throughout the community.

### What We Fund

- Core Support for Key Jewish Institutions

These include the Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center, Joan and Stanford Alexander Jewish Family Service, and Seven Acres Jewish Senior Care Services.

- Area of Opportunity

## 7. Prioritize Affordability and Access in Jewish Life

### What We Do

- Camps and Israel Travel Scholarships

Provide scholarships to keep people connected to Jewish experiences.

- Marvin Barish Right Start

Provides tuition vouchers for families enrolling their first child in a Jewish early childhood program

### What We Fund

- Elder Care Support and Financial Hardship Assistance

Help the vulnerable in our community through the support of Alexander JFS Promise of Hope (impoverished persons), Holocaust Survivor Support, and Case Management as well as Seven Acres, and ERJCC Senior Services (including JRide).

- Disaster Relief

As needed, provide leadership and support for those impacted by manmade and natural disasters.

- Area of Opportunity

## 8. Lead Jewishly from Strength to Strength

### What We Do

- Jerome Robinson Family Young Adult Division (YAD)

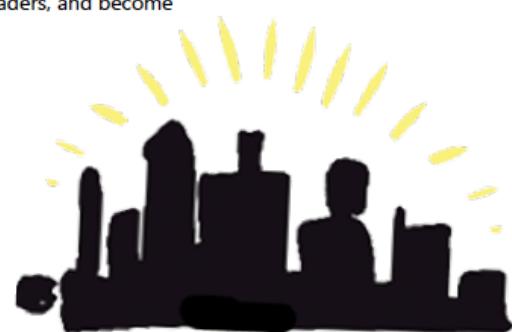
Provide social connections and leadership opportunities for Houston-area Jewish young adults.

- FED U

A leadership cohort specifically cultivated to learn about the Jewish community, develop as leaders, and become volunteers for Jewish institutions.

### What We Fund

- Area of Opportunity



# **Next Steps**

## **Committees & Impact Fund**

### **Hineni Committees**

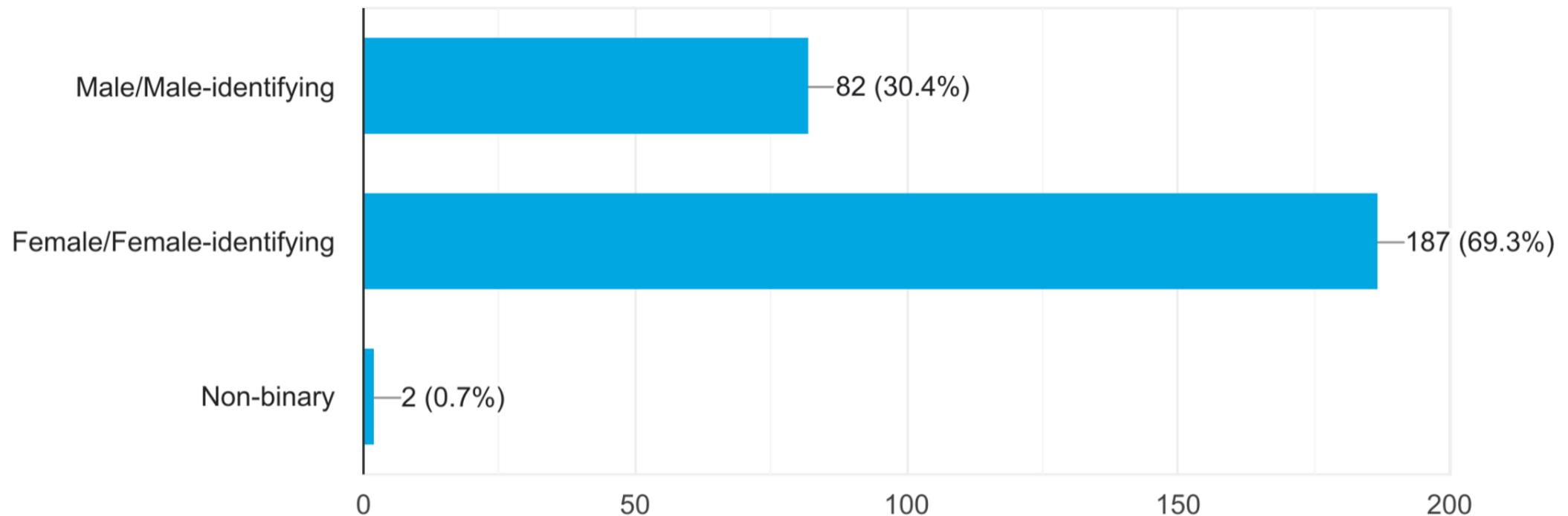
Affordability  
Communications  
Education  
Inclusion  
Leadership

### **Impact Fund Priority Areas**

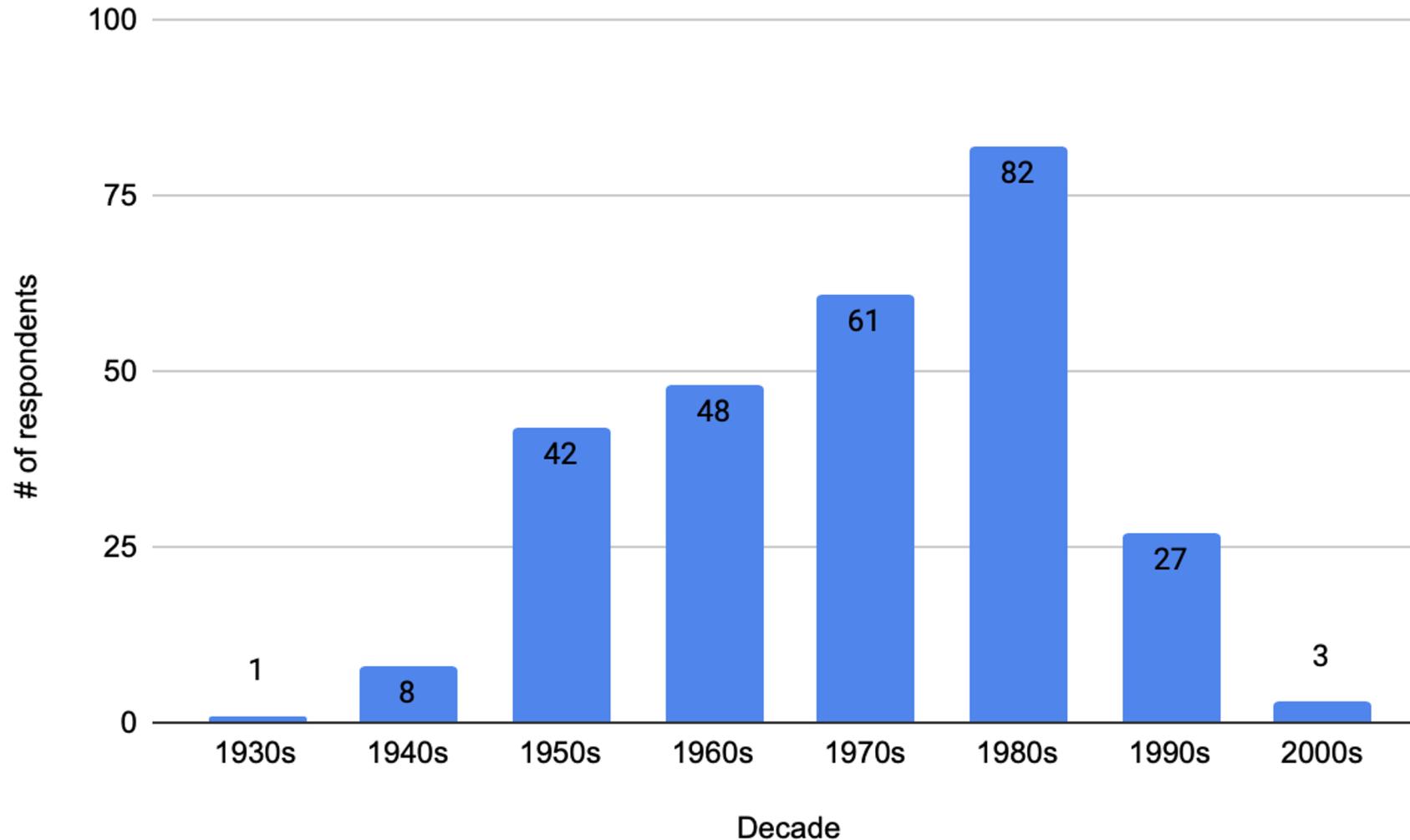
Inclusion  
Engagement  
Education

# Additional Data

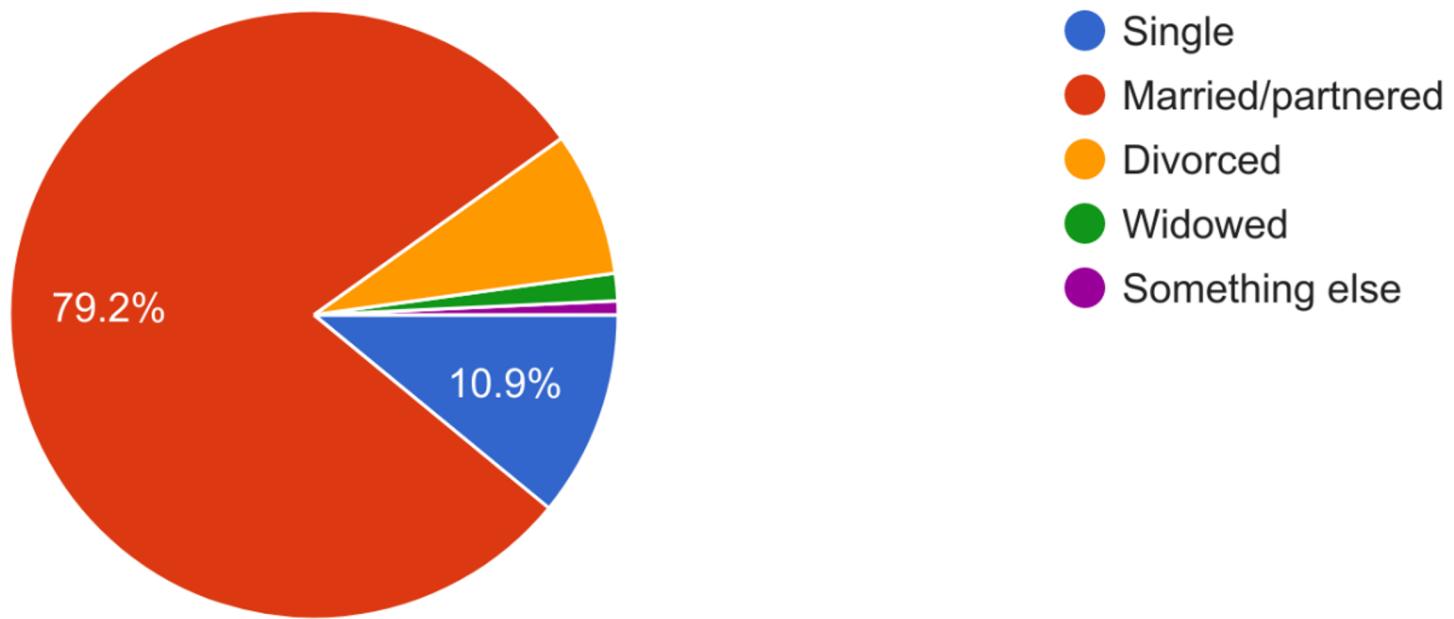
# Gender Identity of Respondents



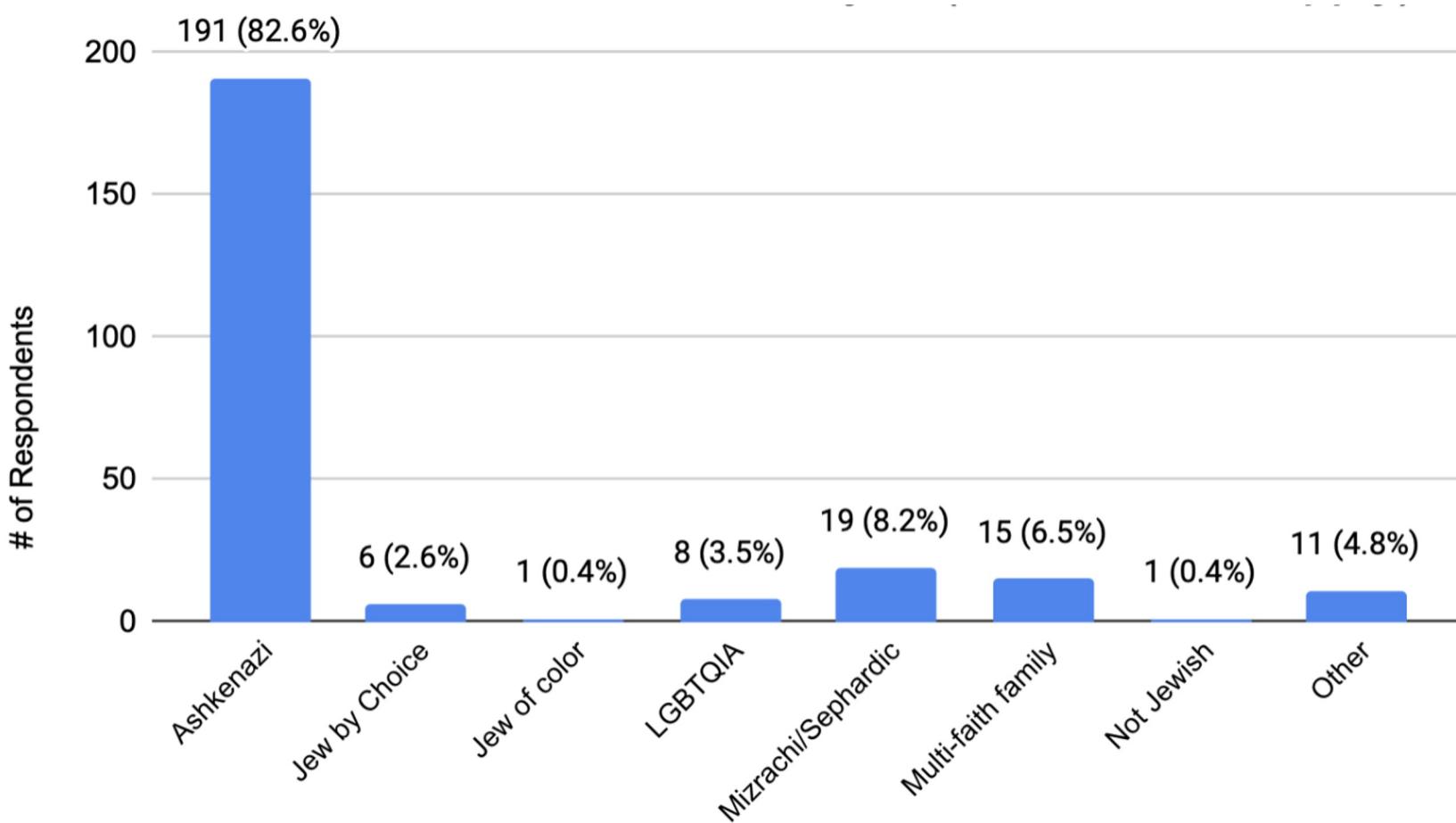
# Age of Respondents by Decade



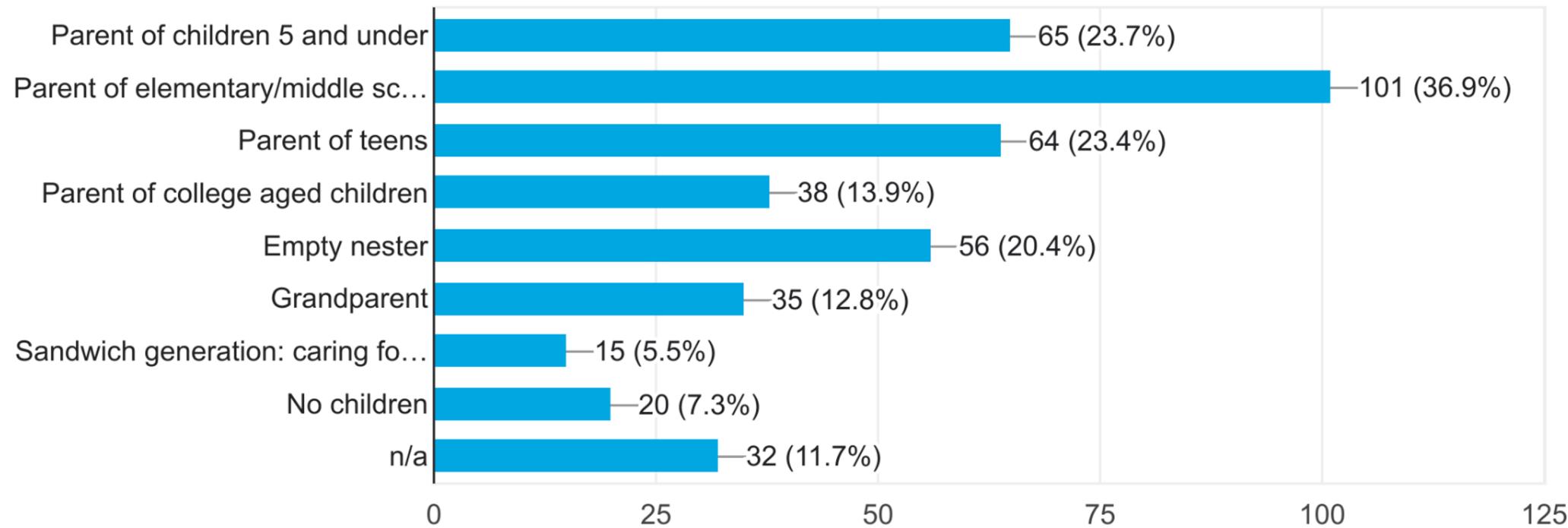
# Marital Status



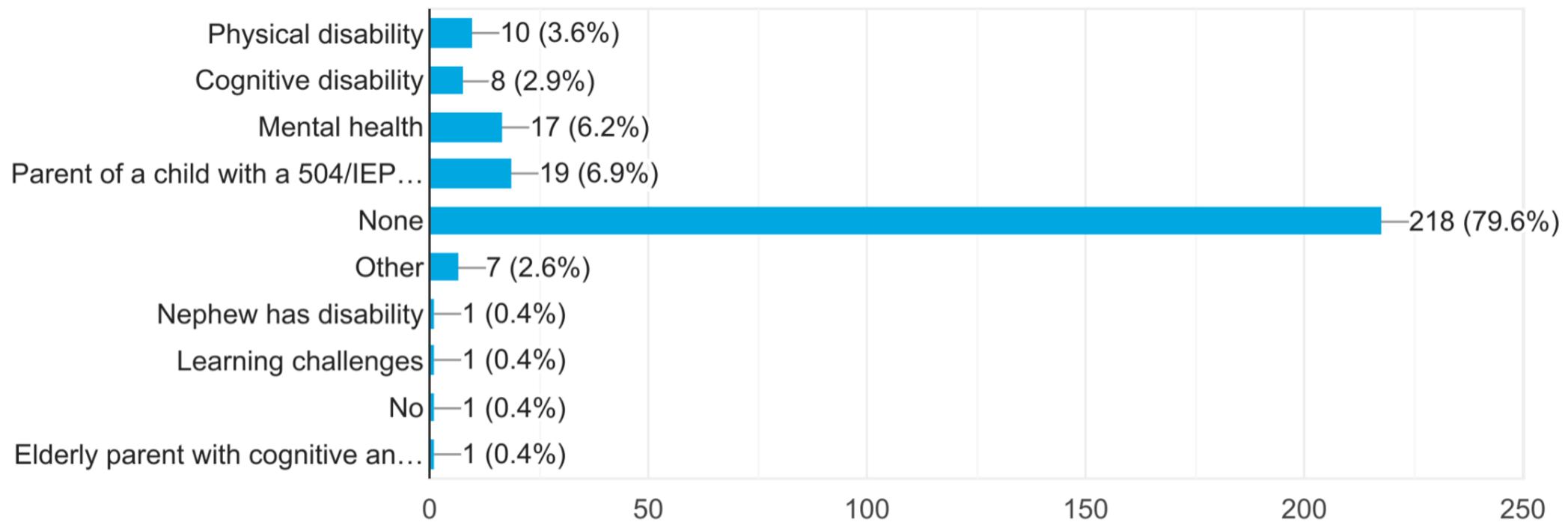
# Identities/Communities That Describe You



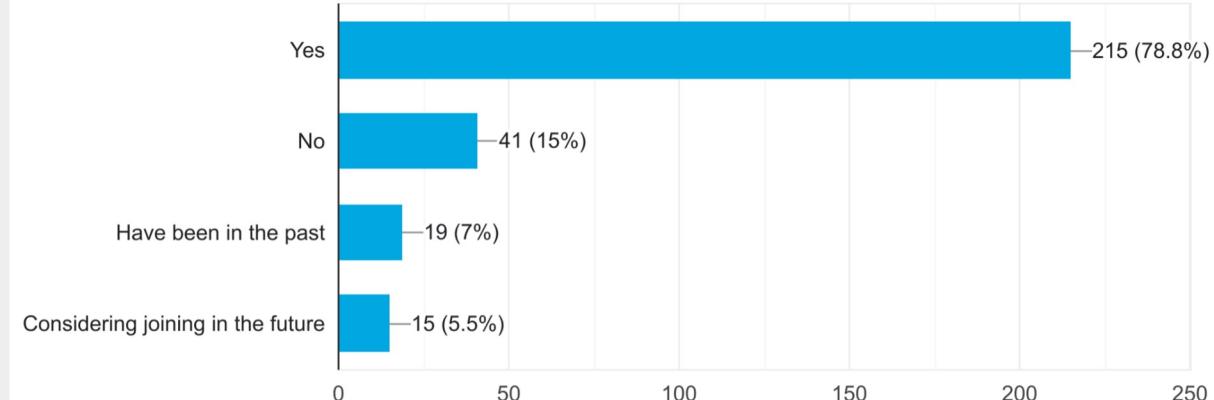
# Parenting status



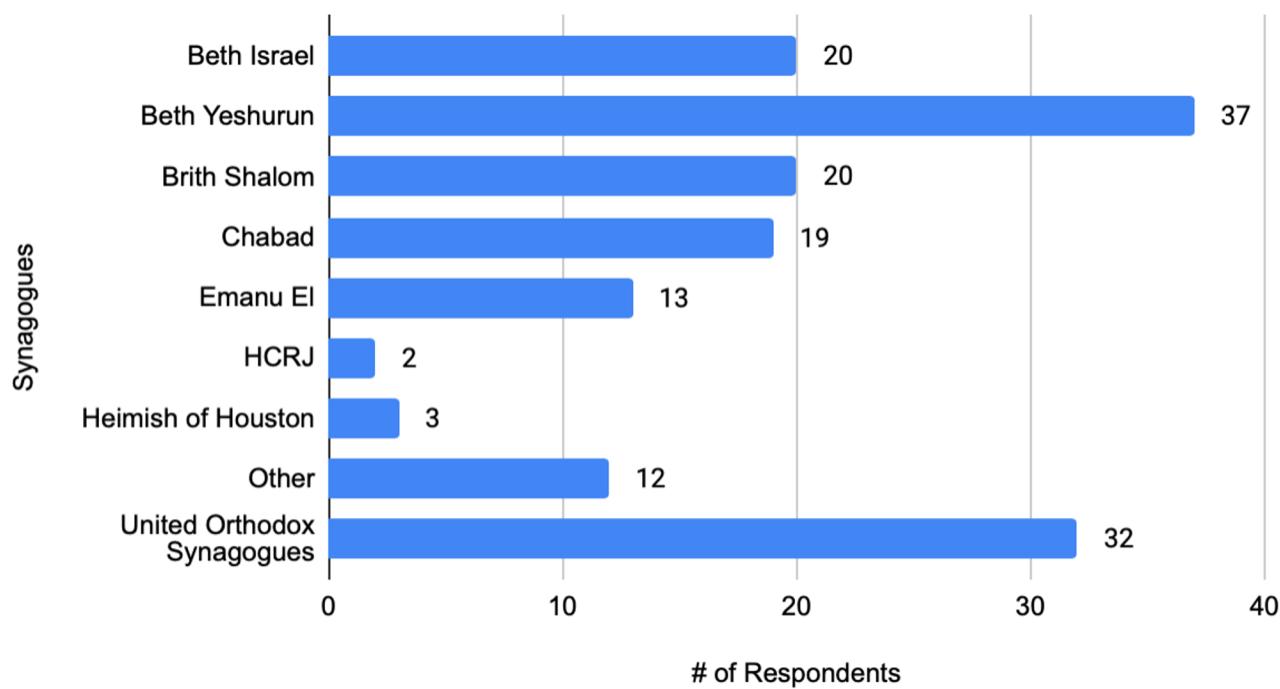
# Do you or does someone in your family that you care for have special needs?



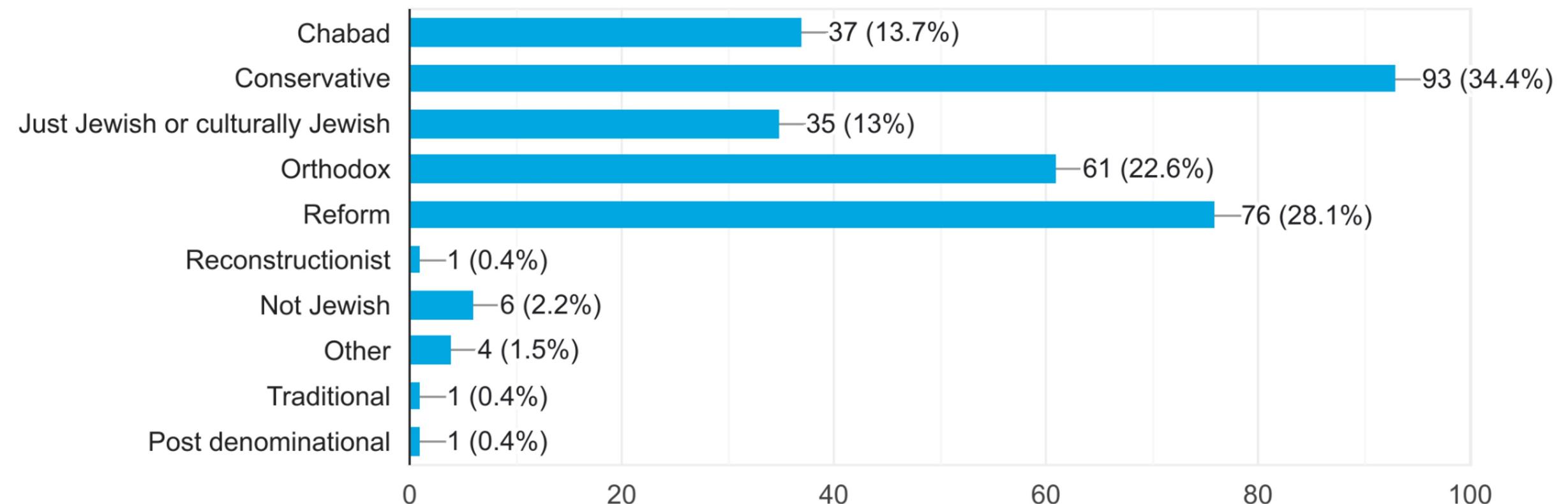
## Synagogue Membership: (273 respondents)



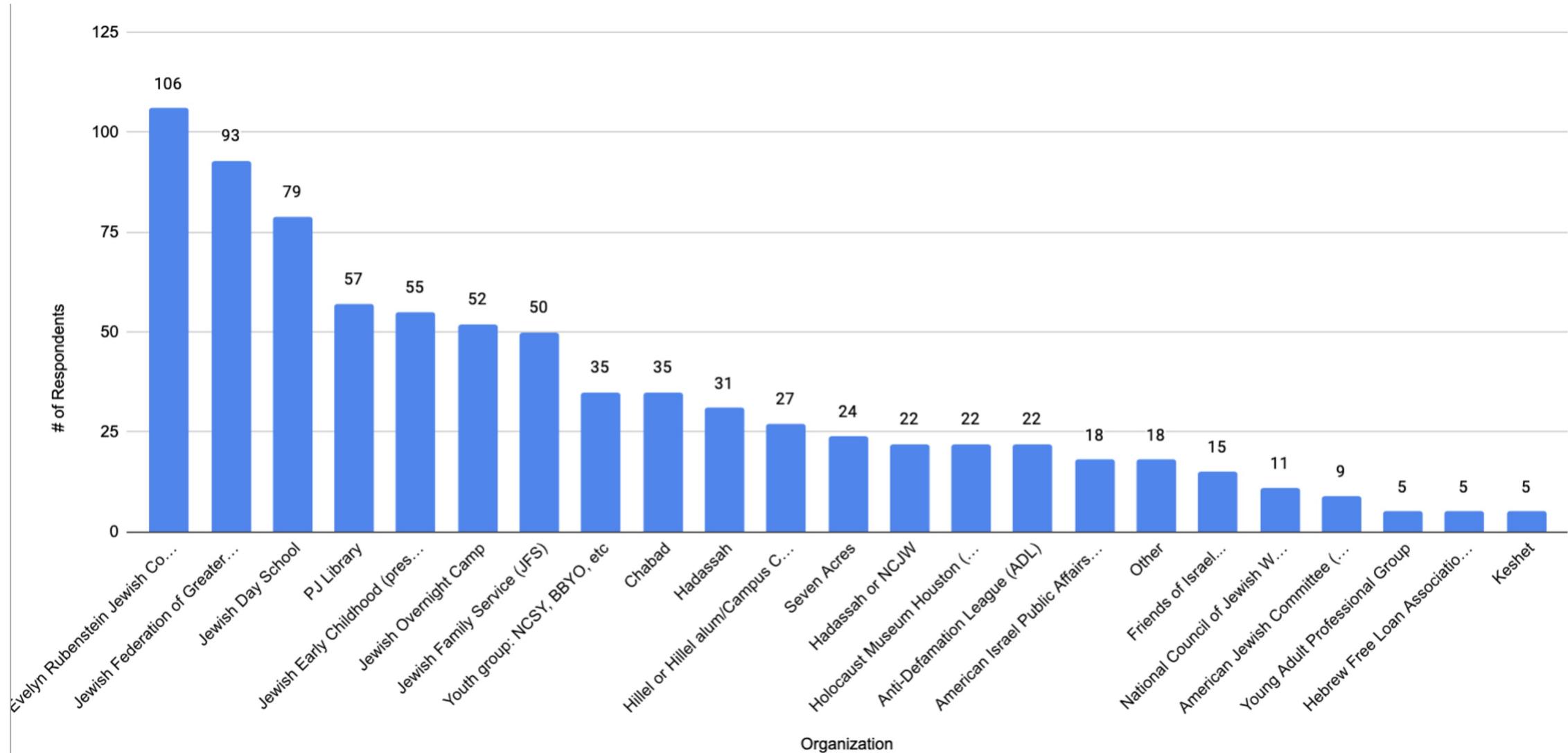
## And where? (158 respondents)



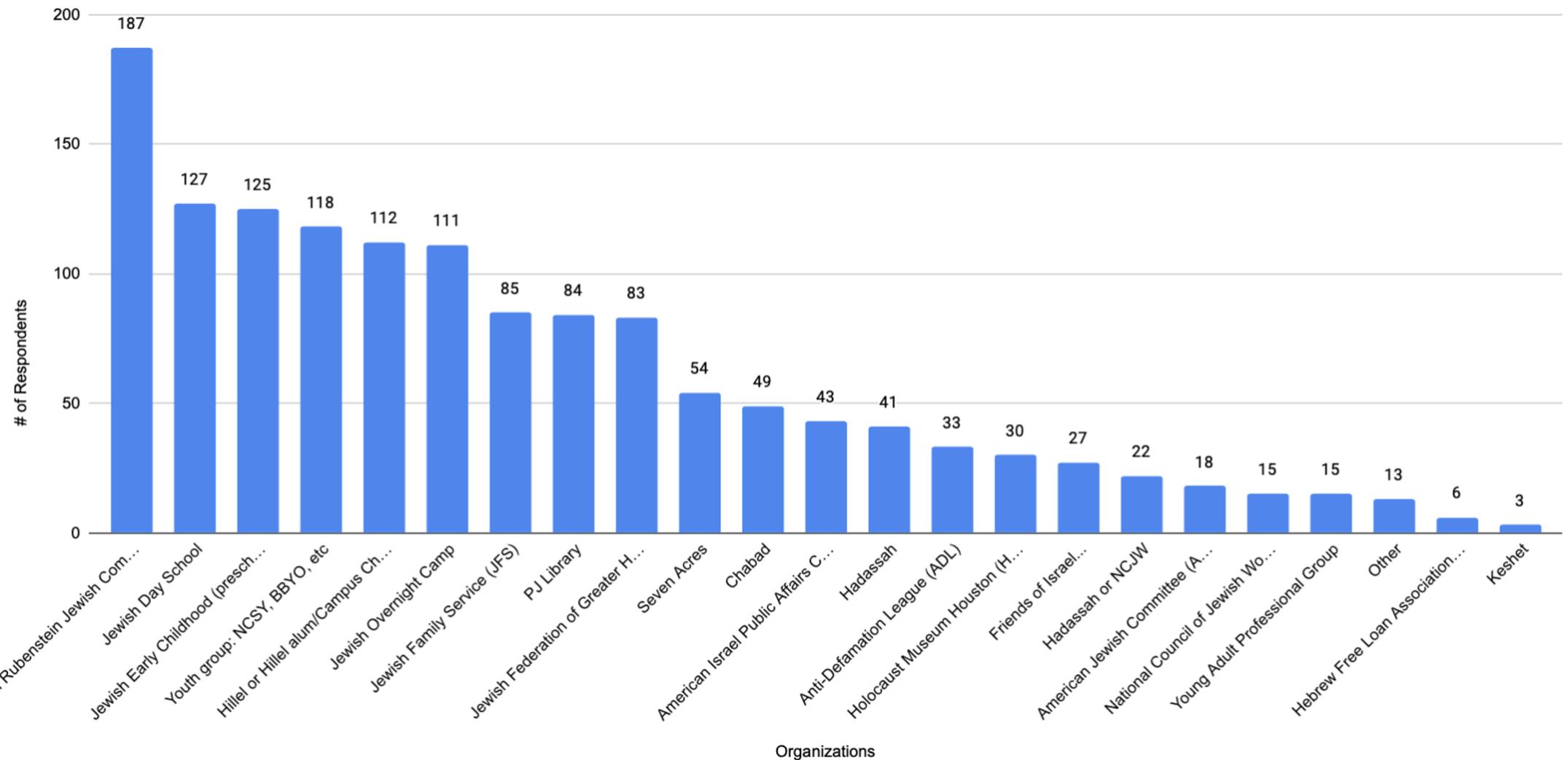
# Jewish Identity/Affiliation



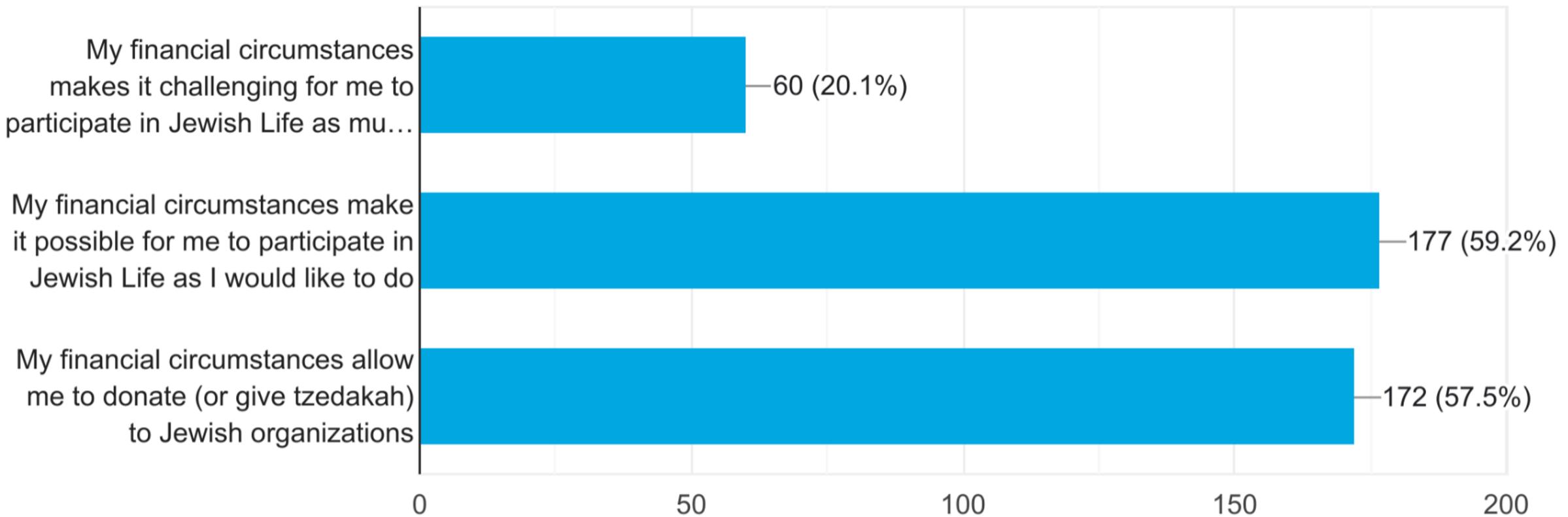
# Which of these organizations are you presently involved with or support?



Which of these organizations have you been involved with in your lifetime?  
Have you or a household member attended, affiliated with or utilized services from any of these Jewish organizations?



## Your socioeconomic status



## Where do you fall on the political spectrum?

