



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/Mizrachi (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

UNDERSTANDING our SHARED VISION

ACTIVATE AND NAVIGATE
JEWISH LIFE IN GREATER HOUSTON

SHALOM Y'ALL

FRONT DOOR & COMMUNICATIONS
easy ACCESS to JEWISH LIFE

LIVE PROUDLY
and OPENLY as JEWS

JEWISH IDENTITY
CIVIC RELATIONSHIPS
COMBATTING ANTISEMITISM

BROADEN
the **BIG TENT**
INCLUSION

WELCOMING ALL VOICES

FOSTER LIFELONG
JEWISH LEARNING

EDUCATION
HANDS-ON 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

LEAD JEWISHLY
from STRENGTH
to STRENGTH

UNITE
as ONE COMMUNITY
through COLLABORATION

ORGANIZATIONS SHARING KNOWLEDGE, EXPERTISE and RESOURCES

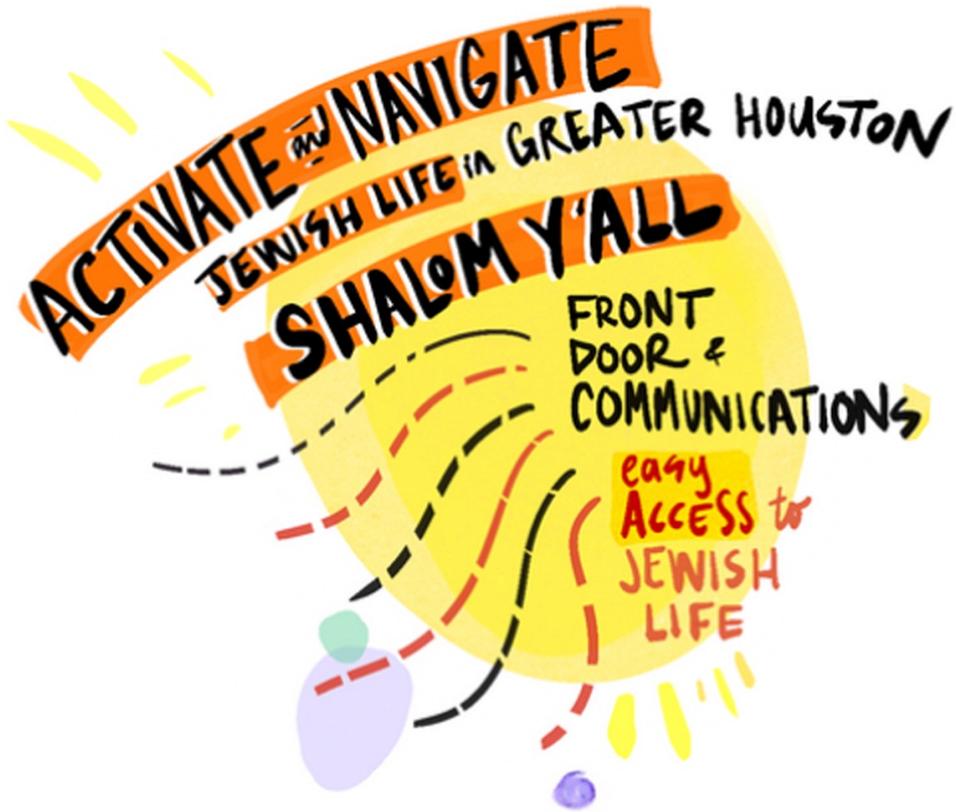
SYNERGY

HINE NI!



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

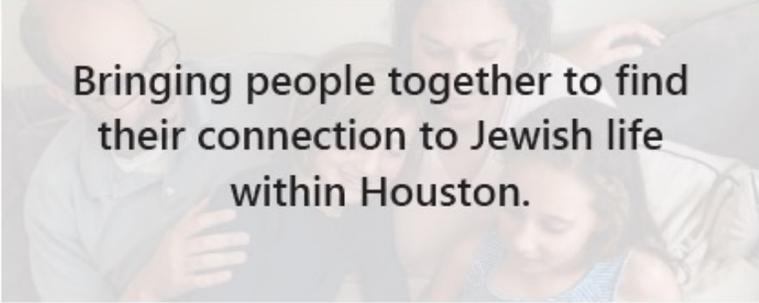
Leading Jewishly is rewarding and impactful. We grow, connect, and activate lay and professional leaders who reflect the diversity of the Greater Houston Jewish community to meet community needs. We cultivate a strong pipeline of people with leadership potential to collaborate and enrich our community 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



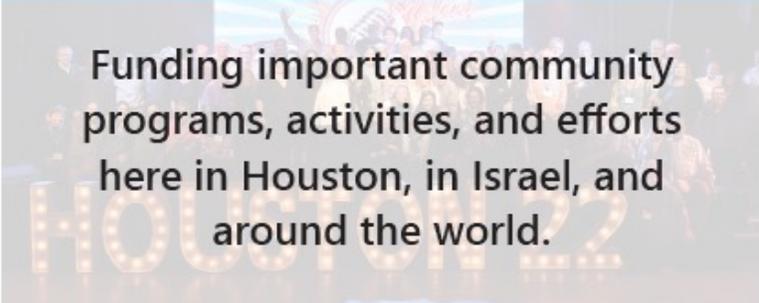
Bringing people together to find their connection to Jewish life within Houston.

2. CONVENER



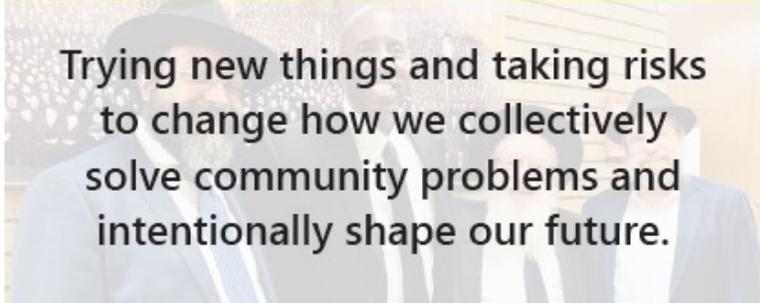
Bringing our organizations together, so they can talk about how we can be a more fulsome community

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

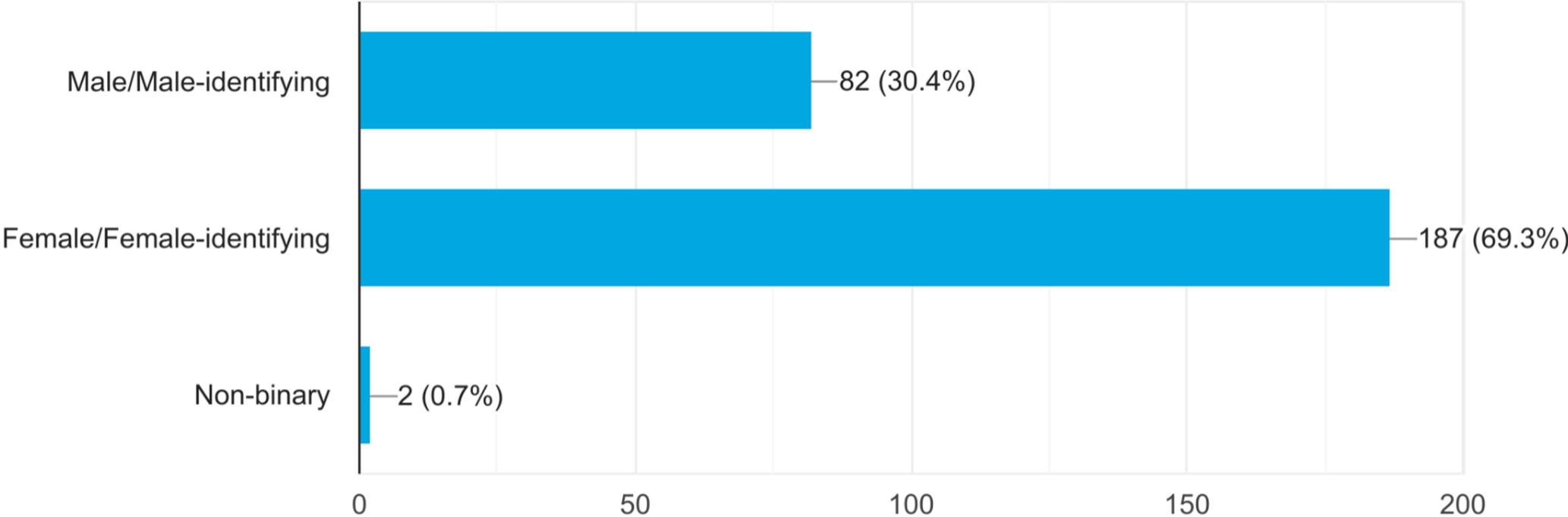
**Affordability
Communications
Education
Inclusion
Leadership**

Impact Fund Priority Areas

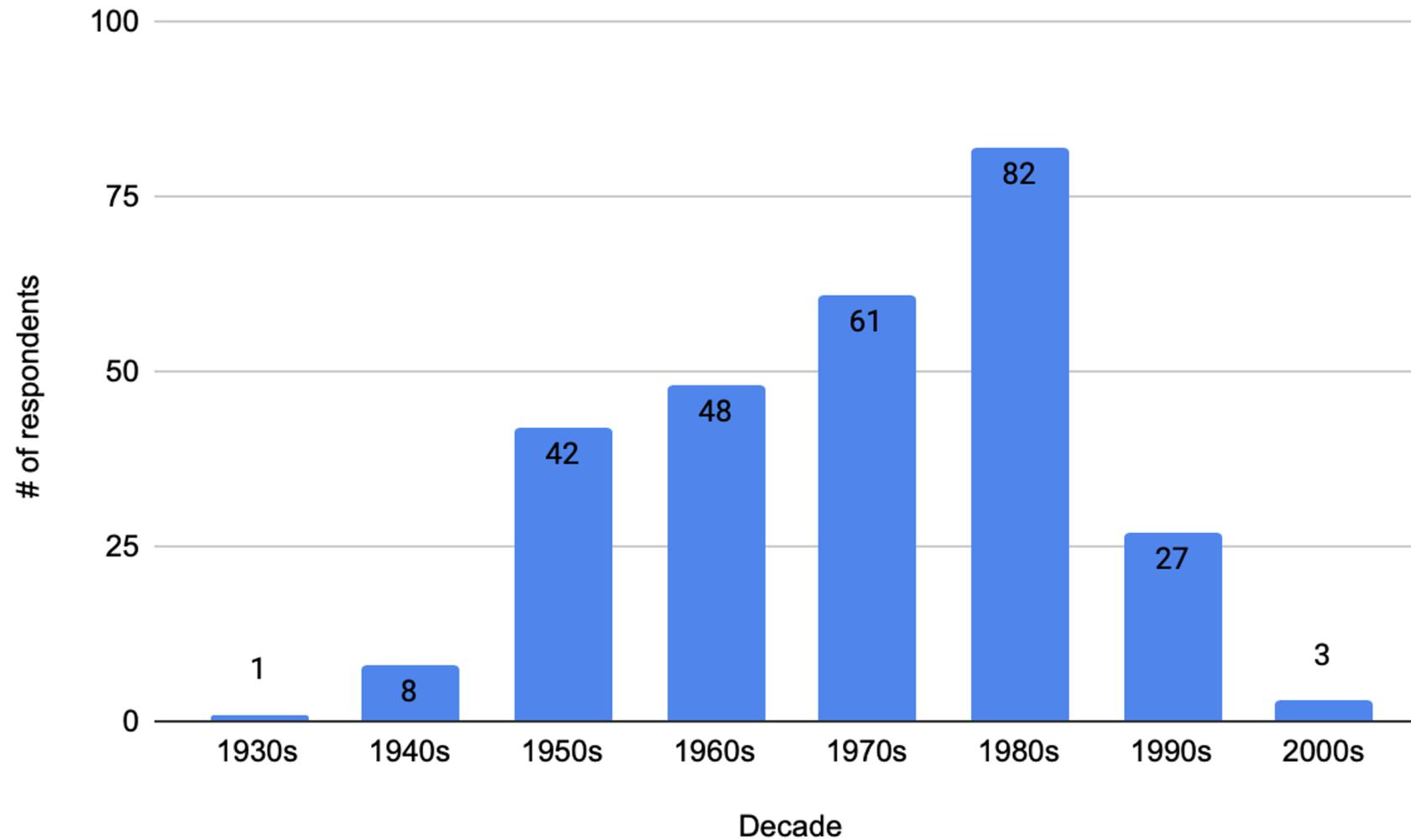
**Inclusion
Engagement
Education**

Additional Data

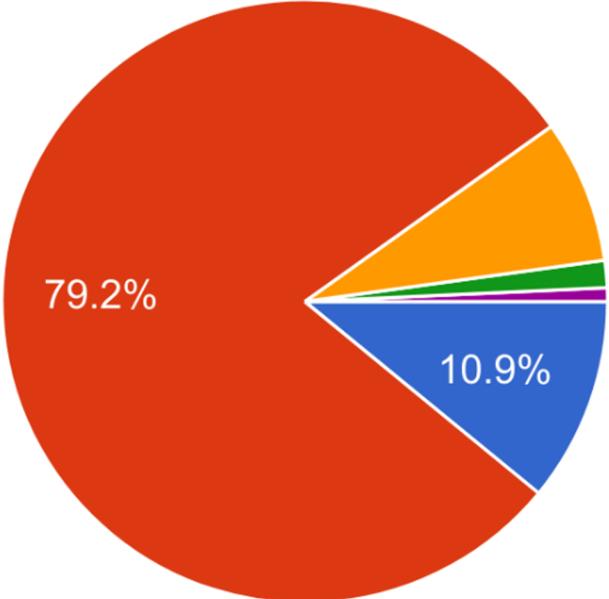
Gender Identity of Respondents



Age of Respondents by Decade

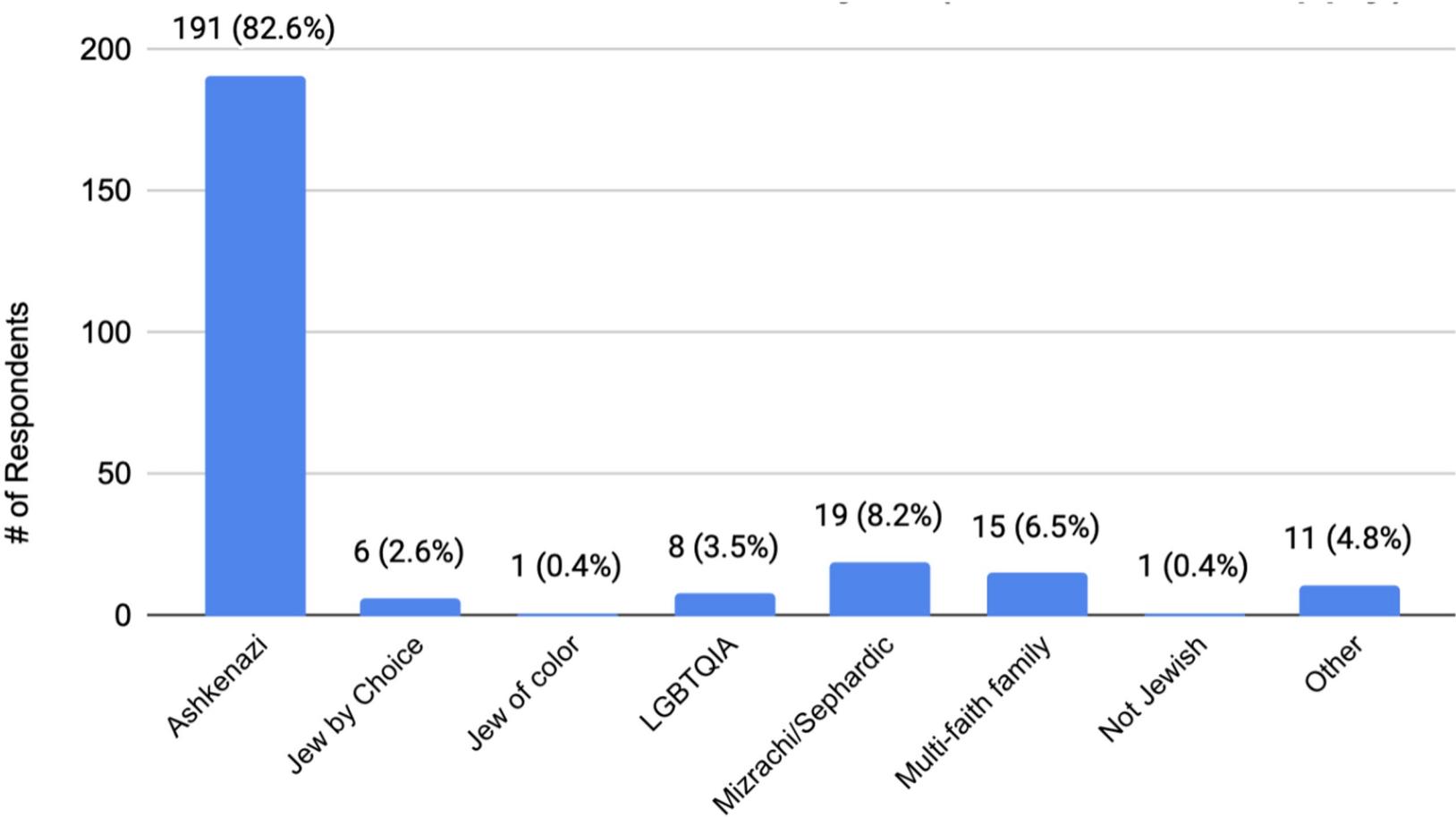


Marital Status

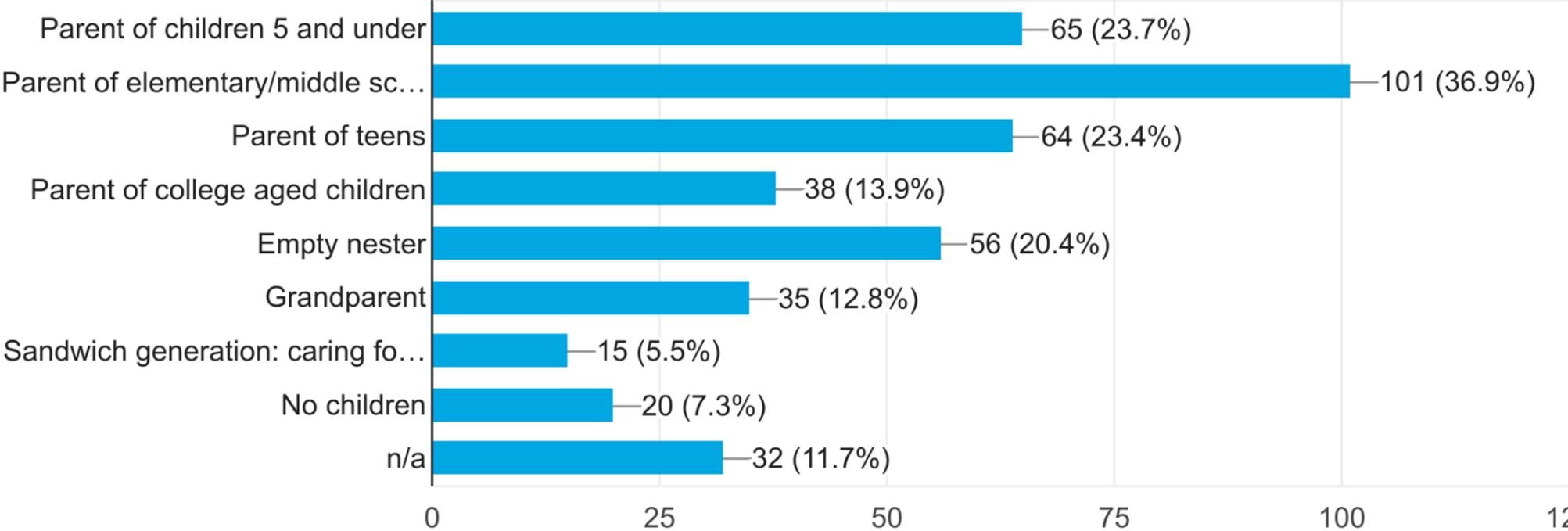


- Single
- Married/partnered
- Divorced
- Widowed
- Something else

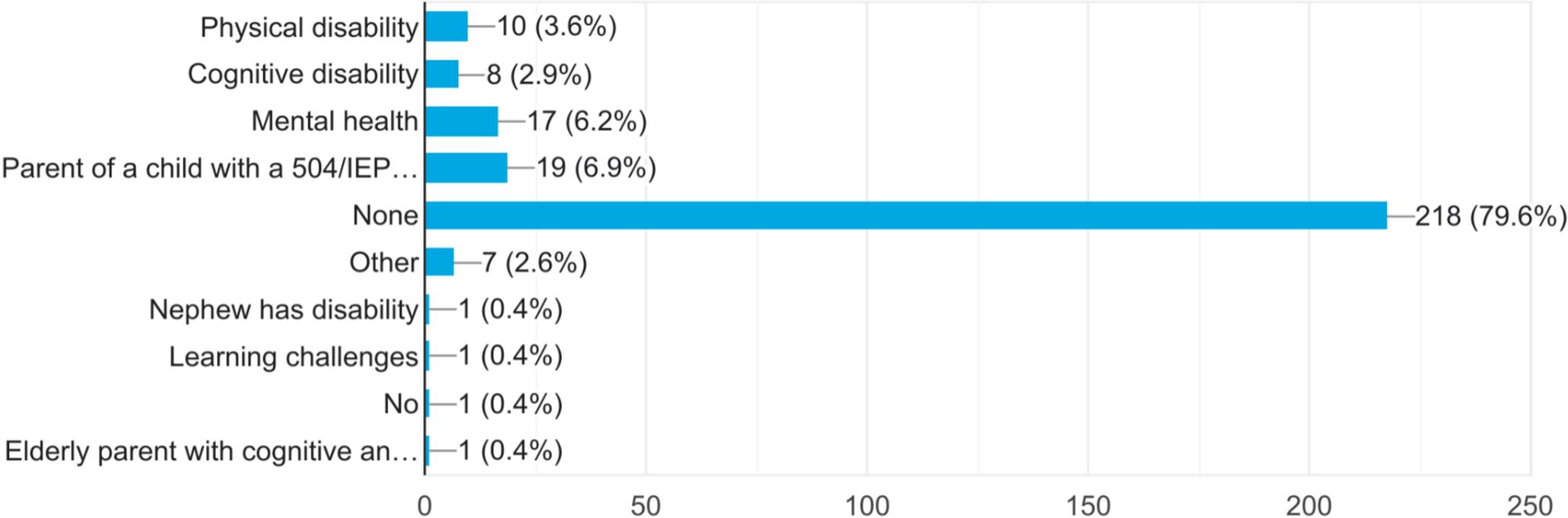
Identities/Communities That Describe You



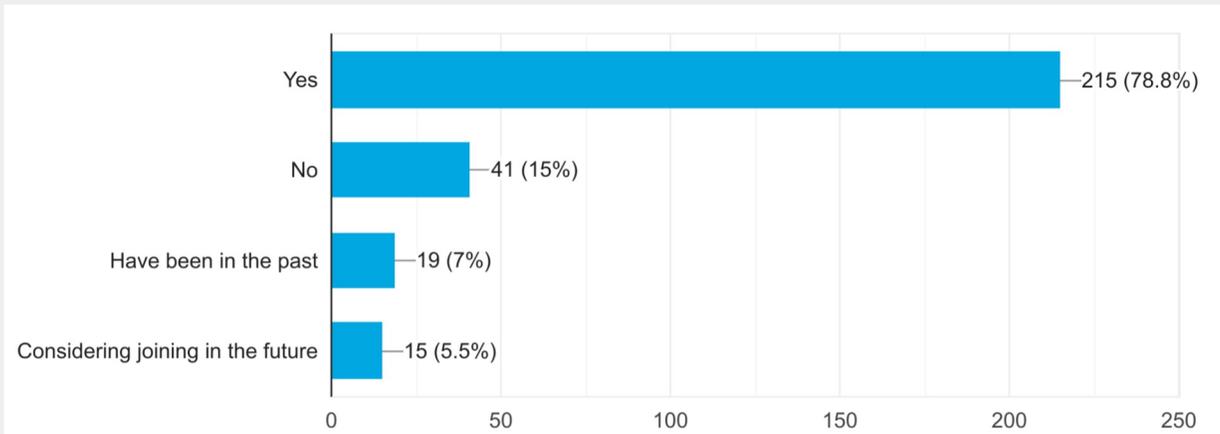
Parenting status



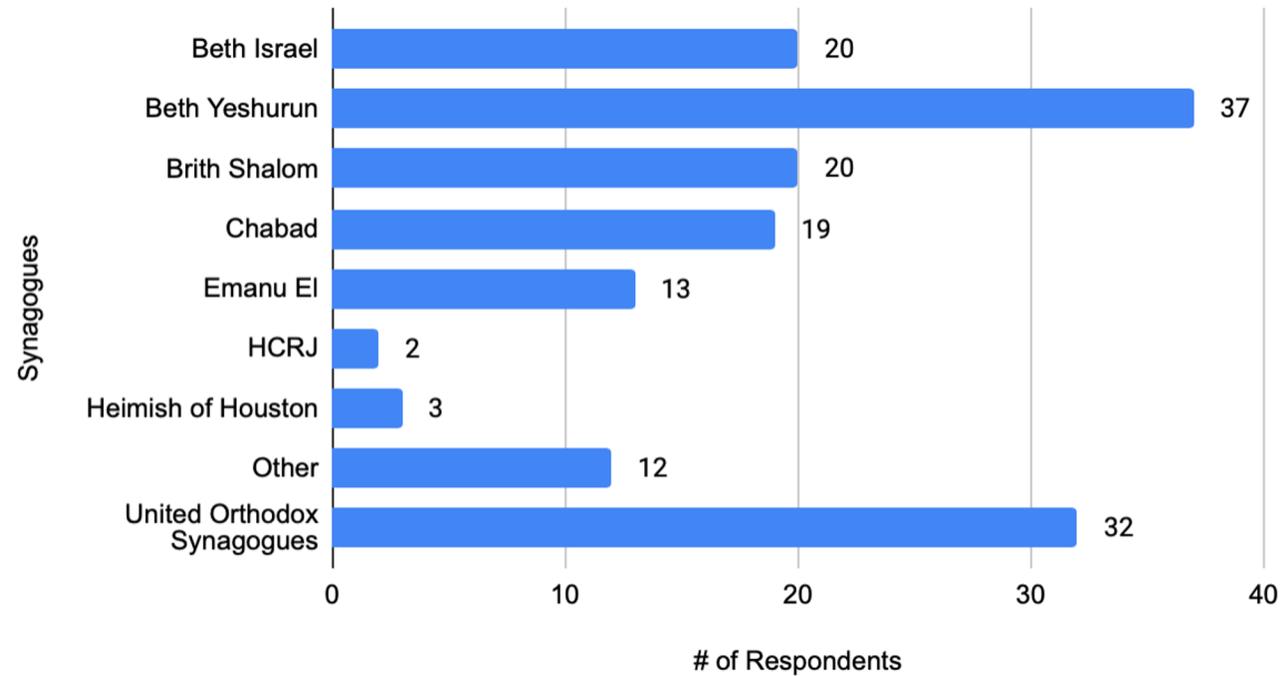
Do you or does someone in your family that you care for have special needs?



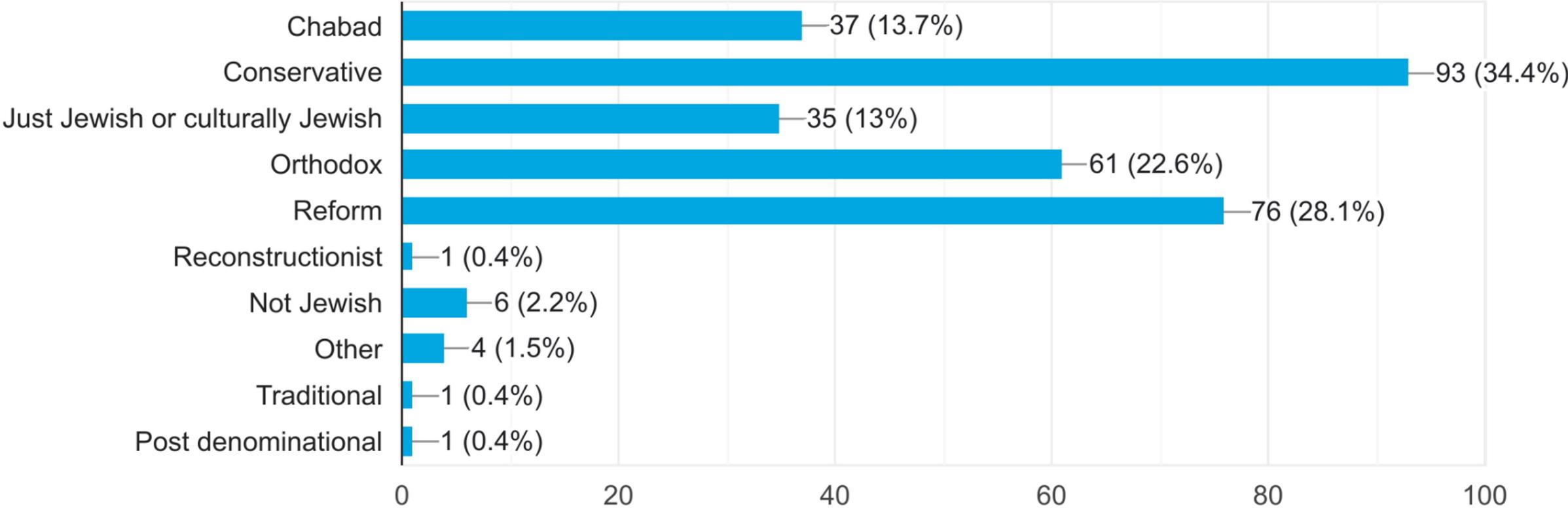
Synagogue Membership: (273 respondents)



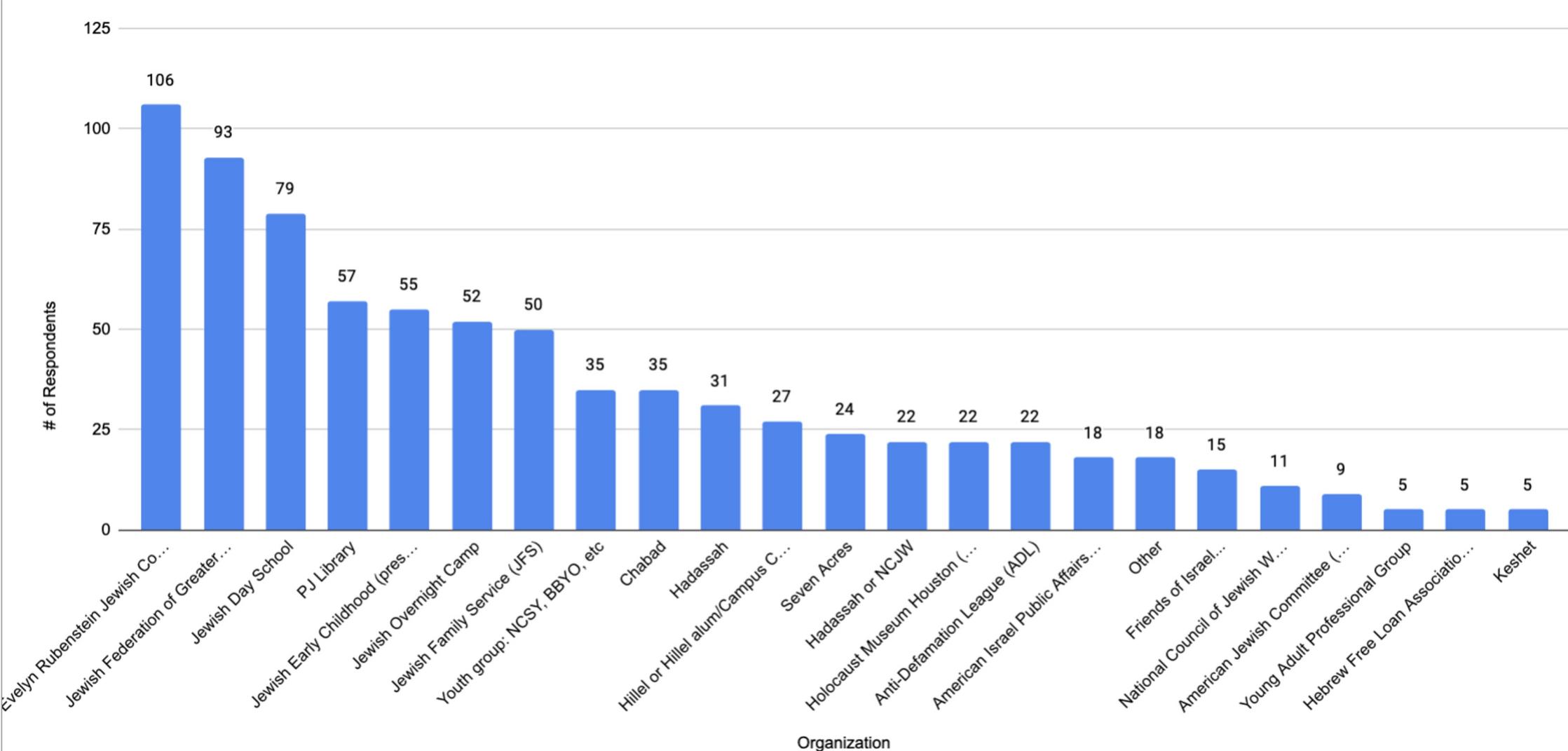
And where? (158 respondents)



Jewish Identity/Affiliation

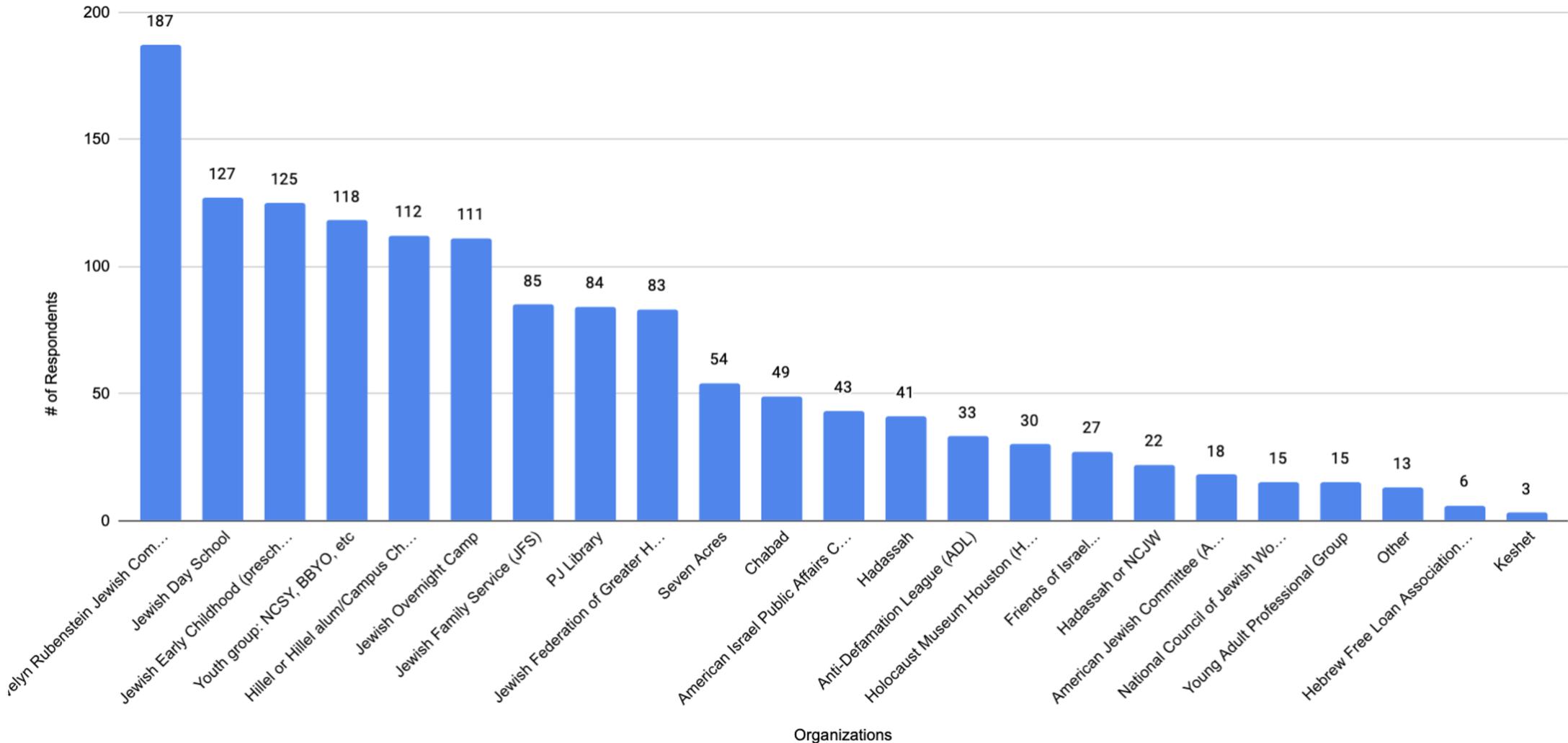


Which of these organizations are you presently involved with or support?

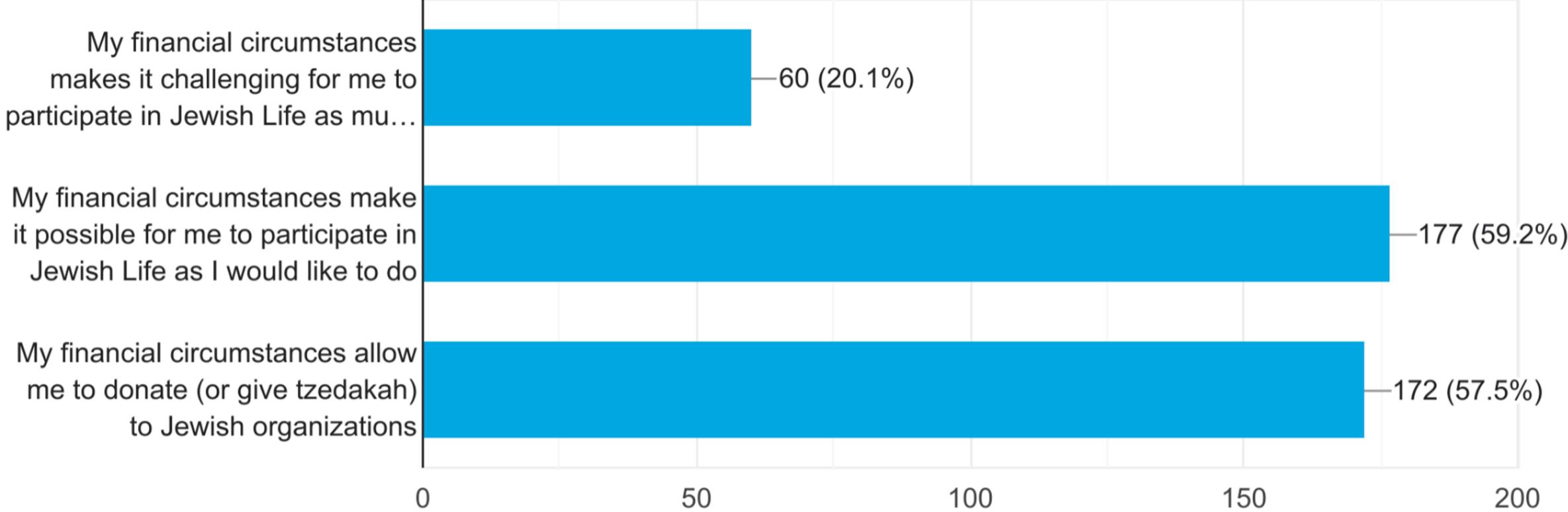


Which of these organizations have you been involved with in your lifetime?

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?

