

The 2005 Detroit Jewish Population Study



REPORT ON OLDER ADULTS

JEWISH FEDERATION OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT

On behalf of the Combined Boards of the Jewish Federation and United Jewish Foundation, we are very pleased to present this *Report on Older Adults* of the comprehensive 2005 Detroit Jewish Population Study. The last population study was conducted in 1989. Since then, many changes have occurred in the social and demographic characteristics of our community. Some of these changes reflect developments in the American Jewish population generally, while others are particular to Metropolitan Detroit. Our Population Study confirms that we are a very generous, deeply rooted Jewish community involved in Jewish activities, with a strong sense of affiliation and identification with Israel. It also reveals that we have fewer Jews living here than in 1989 and that we are an aging community with an out-migration of younger adults. All of these findings present both challenges and opportunities for all of us.

The Study serves as an indispensable tool for addressing these challenges and opportunities, by providing us with important data that will assist the Federation, local agencies and area synagogues in setting their agenda and in advancing major planning and service initiatives. It will also assist the Federation in raising the necessary resources to support human welfare, Jewish education, and cultural services required by the Jewish community both locally and overseas. A number of specific follow up studies are being planned based on the data.

We were most fortunate to have Ira Sheskin, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Geography and Regional Studies and Director of the Jewish Demography Project of the Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies at the University of Miami as the Study Director. Using state-of-the-art methodology, Dr. Sheskin brought his expertise having done 37 similar studies. We are confident that the greatest possible degree of reliability and accuracy has been attained.

This *Report on Older Adults*, written by Linda Blumberg, Planning Director of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, is a summary of the Population Study results on older adults. The Study reveals that a quarter of the Jewish community is age 65+ and the numbers will continue to grow. It is incumbent upon the Federation to help address the present and future needs of our Jewish elderly. These demographic data will serve as a basis for Federation's policy-making moving forward and inform its strategic planning process for older adult services for the present and future.

We wish to give special thanks to the donors of the Population Study whose support enabled it to become a reality. We also want to thank all the members of our Population Study Steering Committee and our staff, who devoted countless hours coming to meetings, giving input into the study process and questionnaire and helping with follow up activities. Please see the lists of donors on the inside front cover and the list of Committee members on the inside back cover.

This study belongs to the entire Jewish community. We urge its use by all community organizations, as together we seek to advance Jewish life and continuity, take care of our elders and other vulnerable populations and ensure the safety and survival of our brethren, locally, nationally, in Israel and around the world. May our community go from strength to strength.



Lynda Giles



Michael Stein

Population Study Co-Chairs

INTRODUCTION TO 2005 DETROIT JEWISH POPULATION STUDY

Research and planning based upon sound information have become essential components of the activities of the organized American Jewish community. More than 55 scientific community studies have been completed in American Jewish communities since 1986, covering more than 80% of American Jews. National Jewish Population Surveys (NJPS) were conducted by the Council of Jewish Federations in 1971 and 1990 and by United Jewish Communities in 2000-01.

This report will assist the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit (Jewish Federation), Jewish agencies, local synagogues, and Jewish organizations in developing the community's strengths and in designing projects and programs to address its needs. It will provide information to help the community set priorities and guide decision-making in the 21st century.

PURPOSES OF THE STUDY

Three major driving forces helped to define the need for, and the nature of, this study.

First, the 1990 and 2000-01 National Jewish Population Surveys and their reports of significant rates of intermarriage and issues of Jewish continuity have seriously impacted the agenda of the American Jewish community. Concern about Jewish continuity is as great in Detroit as in any other community. This study was designed, in part, to provide the Jewish Federation, Jewish agencies, local synagogues, and Jewish organizations with information to enable them to provide services and programs that contribute to the development of a Jewish community that will offer compelling reasons for all Jews to maintain their Jewish identity and remain active members of the community.

Second, complex decisions must be made by the Jewish Federation and its agencies. This study provides data to assist in the Jewish Federation's traditional role as a funder of social service agencies and Jewish educational programs. Questions were asked which will assist the Jewish Federation and Jewish organizations and agencies that provide, or are concerned with, social and educational services. This study finds that the population of Detroit is diverse demographically (with large numbers of both children and elderly) and, as a result, the social service network and Jewish educational programs are critical to the continuing strength of the community. This study provides the data to help fine tune this network and prioritize the services offered.

Third, while the Jewish Federation plays a central role in Jewish fund raising in Detroit, it is felt that the potential for increased giving across the community is clear. To help meet Jewish needs in Detroit, Israel, and around the world, questions were designed to collect information helpful to financial resource development.

METHODOLOGY

This study of the Detroit Jewish community consists of a Telephone Survey of 1,274 Jewish households in Detroit, a DJN Counting Project, and a Jewish Institutions Survey.

THE TELEPHONE SURVEY

The results in this report are based upon a Telephone Survey consisting of 1,274 24-minute telephone interviews. 403 interviews were conducted from a random digit dialing (RDD) sample and 871 interviews were conducted from a Distinctive Jewish Name (DJN) sample.

In RDD surveys, random telephone numbers are generated by a computer. When these random numbers were dialed, there was no guarantee that a household, let alone a Jewish household, would be reached. The introduction asked whether anyone in the household was born or raised Jewish or is currently Jewish. 64% of respondents answered this question. In total, 10,663 different numbers were dialed more than 80,200 times to obtain the 403 RDD telephone interviews.

The RDD methodology is necessary for a study to obtain results that accurately represent a population. The major advantage of this methodology is that it produces a random sample of Jewish households to be interviewed. The RDD methodology also has the advantages of generating a high survey cooperation rate (67% in Detroit) guaranteeing anonymity to respondents, and providing the ability to interview households with unpublished telephone numbers. Perhaps more importantly, the RDD methodology does not rely upon Jewish households making themselves known to the Jewish community by joining a synagogue, the Jewish Community Center, or other Jewish organizations, or by donating money to a Jewish fundraising campaign. Thus, a more accurate representation of the Jewish community should be obtained with the RDD methodology than with telephone directory methods or methods that rely upon randomly selecting households from Jewish organization mailing lists.

After the completion of the RDD Telephone Survey, an additional 871 telephone interviews were conducted from households with a DJN listed in the current CD telephone directory. This greatly facilitated the project: on average, one RDD interview was completed every three hours; one DJN interview was completed every 72 minutes.

The RDD sample was compared to the DJN sample on a number of key variables. It was found (using chi-square tests) that these two samples differed significantly on several key variables. Appropriate weighting factors were applied to correct the demographic bias introduced by DJN sampling. With these weighting factors applied, no statistically significant differences were seen between the RDD and DJN samples on any of the key variables.

Meetings were held in which community rabbis, Jewish agency executives and lay leadership, and Jewish Federation staff, and the Detroit Jewish Population Study Steering Committee contributed to the development of the questionnaire.

The field work was conducted by International Communications Research (ICR), a market research firm in Media, PA. ICR conducted the 1990 National Jewish Population Survey as well as more than ten other local Jewish community studies.

The Telephone Survey was conducted in November and December 2005. To facilitate contacting respondents, each telephone number was dialed at least ten times. Interviews were conducted from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. No interviewing was done on Friday evening or Saturday. The Telephone Survey was conducted from the offices of ICR in Media, PA.

The reader may notice small differences in the percentages and numbers of households and persons in this report from the percentages and numbers of households and persons in the Main and Summary Reports from this Study. The reported differences are due to rounding.

2005 DETROIT JEWISH POPULATION STUDY REPORT ON OLDER ADULTS

The Jewish Elderly: A Communal Responsibility and Priority

Helping older adults to maintain their independence and age with dignity is one of the highest priorities of the Federation. The results of the 2005 Detroit Jewish Population Study reveal that 24% (18,486) (compared to 17% in 1989 – 17,850) of the 78,000 people living in Jewish households are 65+. While the 1989 estimate of 105,000 people in Jewish households is now considered somewhat high, the dramatic difference in the older adult population lays with the percentage age 65+ of the total population, and in the percentages and numbers age 75+ (14% - 10,920 in 2005 compared to about 6% - 6,360 in 1989) and 85+ (4.4% - 3,432 in 2005 compared to about 1% - 1,000 in 1989).

The Detroit Jewish community has the largest percentage of older adults outside the Sunbelt retirement communities. Detroit has a declining and aging Jewish population who will require increased services as time goes on to be able to age in place and live independently in the community. The aging of the Detroit Jewish population and the projected increase in both the proportion of Jewish elderly and the number of those age 75+ and age 85+ create new opportunities and challenges for the Jewish communal system, as well as for many Jewish families. The following is a summary of what the 2005 Detroit Population Study reveals about the metropolitan Detroit Jewish older adult (65+) population. These demographic data will serve as a basis for Federation's policy-making moving forward and inform its strategic planning process for older adult services for the present and future.

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF JEWISH OLDER ADULTS

The Population Study determined that there are:

- 78,000 persons living in 30,000 Jewish households plus 500 Jews in institutions for a total of 78,500 persons in the Jewish community:
71,500 Jews + 6,500 non-Jews in Jewish households + 500 Jews in institutions
71,500 Jews + 500 Jews in institutions = 72,000 Jews
- 88% of households have lived here 20+ years. For those 65+, the percentage increases to 97% of households.
- The total number of persons in Jewish households has been declining since the 1989 survey.

Table 1

Year	Persons in Jewish Households
1989	105,000
1999	84,500
2005	78,000
Core Area	60,700
Non-Core Area	17,300
Jews Living in Institutions	500

- Since 1999 there has been a 12% decrease in Jewish households in the Core area and a 10% increase in the Non-Core area. The age distribution within each geographic area is:

Table 2

Households	Core Area	Non-Core Area
65+	21% (12,990)	31% (5,380)
75+	13% (7,588)	19% (3,201)
85+	3% (1,760)	9% (1,609)

- 59% (17,700) of households in which the respondent is age 50 and over have an adult child in the Detroit area. This percentage increases to 72% for households in which the respondent is age 65 and over. The presence of adult children in the area suggests that many older adults will have a local support system as they age.

- **Comparisons Of Detroit Jewish Older Adults Demographics***

Table 3

Households	2005 Detroit Study	2004 Oakland County	2004 All Americans	2000 NJPS**	1989 Detroit Study
Base: Persons in Jewish Households					
65+	24%	11%	12%	16%	17%
75+	14%	6%	6%	8%	6%
Base: All Persons 65+ in Jewish Households					
65-74	41%	N/A	53%	50%	N/A
75-84	41%	N/A	36%	40%	N/A
85+	19%	N/A	11%	9%	N/A

*These percentages do not include nursing home residents who do not have their own phone number.

**NJPS throughout the document refers to the 2000 National Jewish Population Study conducted by United Jewish Communities.

- **Age Distribution Of Pre-Older And Older Jewish Adults**

Table 4

Age	# Persons in Jewish households	# Jews
All	78,000	72,000
50-54	8% (5,928)	7% (5,291)
55-59	9% (6,006)	8% (5,506)
60-64	7% (5,382)	7% (5,148)
65-69	5% (3,900)	5% (3,861)
70-74	5% (3,588)	5% (3,504)
75-79	5% (3,978)	6% (3,933)
80-84	5% (3,510)	5% (3,432)
85-89	3% (2,574)	4% (2,574)
90+	1% (702)	1% (702)
50-64	22% (17,316)	22% (15,945)
65+	24% (18,486)	25% (17,875)
75+	14% (10,920)	15% (10,582)
85+	4% (3,276)	5% (3,218)

- 58,700 persons are of voting age

- **Median Age Persons in Jewish Households**

Table 5

	Persons in Jewish Households			Jews and Non-Jews		Jews Only	
	Detroit 1989	Detroit 2005	2000 NJPS	2004 Oakland County	2004 All Americans	Jews	2000 NJPS
Median Age	41	47	39	38.5	36.2	48	42

Core area median age: 45

Non-Core area median age: 53

97% of older adults 65+ in Jewish households are Jewish.

- **Age Distribution By Sex – % Persons In Jewish Households 65+**

Table 6

Age 65+	2005 Detroit Study	2004 Oakland County	2004 All Americans
Male	45%	48%	43%
Female	55%	52%	57%

- **Persons in Jewish Households by Age and Sex**

Table 7

Age	Male	Female
All (age 0+)	47% (36,660)	53% (41,340)
65-74	5% (3,510)	5% (4,056)
75-84	5% (3,666)	5% (3,822)
85+	2% (1,170)	3% (2,262)

- **Household Structure – Older Adults**

Table 8

Structure	Elderly Couple	Elderly Single
Number	4,590	6,810
Age 65-74	8%	6%
Age 75+	7%	17%
% Total Jewish households	15%	23%
Geographic Area Where Older Adults Live		

Structure	Elderly Couple	Elderly Single
Core Area	16%	19%
Non-Core Area	14%	33%

- **Households with Adults Living Alone**

Table 9

Households	Male	Female	Total
65+	1,980 (29%)	4,830 (71%)	6,810 (100%)
65-74	330 (19%)	1,380 (81%)	1,710 (100%)
75+	1,650 (32%)	3,450 (68%)	5,100 (100%)

- **Marital Status of Adults in Jewish Households**

Table 10

Age	Married	Single	Married Male	Single Male	Married Female	Single Female
65+	55% (10,167)	45% (8,319)	71% (5,926)	29% (2,420)	42% (4,259)	58% (5,881)
65-74	70% (5,296)	30% (2,270)	83% (2,913)	17% (597)	58% (2,352)	42% (1,703)
75+	45% (4,914)	55% (6,006)	62% (2,998)	38% (1,838)	31% (1,886)	69% (4,198)

12% of adults in Jewish households are currently widowed. Adult females (17%) are more likely to be widowed than adult males (6%). The percentage is higher for adults age 75+ (47%) and who are female age 65-74 (27%) and age 75+ (61%)
For adults age 75+, 61% of females are widowed, compared to 28% of males.

The above demographics reveal an increasingly aging Jewish population in Metropolitan Detroit. There are more women than men in all age brackets 65+. As the population ages, there is a higher percentage of single elderly households (6,810) with the majority being female (4,830). This raises concerns about social isolation. There are a large number of adults in Jewish households age 75+ (14% - 10,920) and with the increase in age, there is generally a concomitant increase in the need for support services. The tables at the end of this monograph indicate that the largest percentage of Jewish older adults live in West Bloomfield (26%), followed by Farmington (18.5%), Southfield (11.7%), Bloomfield Hills (7.1%) and Oak Park (6.3%).

EDUCATION

- **Secular Education**

Table 11

Age	Four Year College Degree Only	Graduate Degree	Four Year College Degree or Higher
All age 25+	31%	31%	63%
65+	19%	24%	43%
Males 65+	22%	32%	54%
Females 65+	17%	17%	33%
75+	20%	16%	36%
Males 75+	24%	22%	46%
Females 75+	16%	12%	29%

- According to the 2000 US Census, 15% of all Americans age 65+ have a four-year college degree or higher compared to 43% of the Jewish population in Metropolitan Detroit.

- **Jewish Education**

Table 12

Age	Formal Jewish Education as a Child of Adults born or raised Jewish	Synagogue School as a Child of Adults born or raised Jewish	Day School as a Child of Adults born or raised Jewish	Attended Adult Jewish Education in Past Year: Households
65+	74% (12,940)	65%	7%	38% (4,751)
65-74	78% (5,520)	69%	7%	41% (1,903)
75+	71% (7,390)	62%	7%	36% (2,830)
Elderly Couple	N/A	N/A	N/A	44% (2,020)
Elderly Single	N/A	N/A	N/A	33% (2,247)

Jewish older adults tend to be well educated. A quarter of those age 65+ have graduate degrees. Older adult males compared to females are more likely to be college educated and have advanced degrees. This has implications for the types of programs in which older adults would be interested and for Jewish communal agencies that can tap their knowledge base for the benefit of the community.

About 74% of those age 65+ have had some type of formal Jewish education, with the majority of those having attended a synagogue school. Over 1/3 have continued to pursue some type of Jewish education as older adults, with 38% of respondents attending a Jewish education program/class in the past year. The percentage is lower

for elderly single households than elderly couples, perhaps indicating more difficulty accessing programs due to perhaps transportation, cost and/or health issues.

EMPLOYMENT

Table 13

Age	Employed Full Time	Employed Part Time	Retired
All Adults	41%	17%	24%
65+	13%	16%	65%
75+	7%	12%	75%
Males 65+	20%	18%	61%
Males 75+	11%	17%	72%
Females 65+	7%	14%	68%
Females 75+	3%	8%	77%

24% of all adults are retired which is consistent with there being a large older adult Jewish population. 2/3 of older adults are retired. Only 13% work full time, with more men than women working. The statistics indicate a large cohort of retired adults who may be interested in fitness and wellness programs, social and recreational activities and/or educational opportunities. Many could also potentially become volunteers for Jewish communal programs and/or lend their expertise as consultants to the Jewish agencies.

HOUSING VALUE and ANNUAL INCOME

Table 14

Household	Median Housing Value (for those who own a home)	Median Annual Income	Low Income Under \$25,000 Households	Poverty Level Households
All	\$300,000	\$85,000	17% (5,070)	1.6% (480)
65+	\$250,000	\$41,000	37% (4,414)	1.7% (237) households with older adults
65-74	\$269,000	\$67,000	18% (791)	N/A
75+	\$235,000	\$27,000	48% (3,617)	N/A
Elderly Couple	\$297,000	\$86,000	15% (689)	N/A
Elderly Single	\$205,000	\$24,000	54% (3,677)	N/A

- According to the 2000 US Census adjusted to 2004 dollars, the median annual income for all American ages 65-74 is \$36,000 and for those ages 75+, it is \$25,000.

Except for elderly couples, whose median annual income is about equal to that of all Jewish households, older adults in general have lower median incomes than the rest of the Jewish population, with a precipitous drop for elderly singles. 17% of all Jewish households have annual incomes below \$25,000, with 1.6% at or below poverty level. For households age 65+, the percentage rises to 37%, with 1.7% at or below poverty level. Over half of elderly singles are low income and the percentage rises with age.

Economic vulnerability is more common among those who are older, female (most of the elderly single households are female) and alone. This raises concerns not only about social isolation as mentioned previously, but about the ability of these older adults to have sufficient resources for everyday needs such as rent, food, utilities and medications.

SOCIAL SERVICE NEEDS

- **Jewish Agencies That Work With Older Adults**

Table 15 (The data below is for all respondents, both elderly and non-elderly.)

Familiarity	Very	Somewhat	Total
JCC *	49%	37%	86%
JAS	39%	35%	74%
JFS	35%	45%	80%
JHAS: Fleischman	35%	38%	73%
JVS	29%	45%	74%
HFLA	24%	32%	56%
JFMD	37%	44%	81%

Perception	Excellent	Good	Total
JCC	33%	50%	83%
JAS	35%	55%	90%
JFS	34%	55%	89%
JHAS: Fleischman	34%	54%	88%
JVS	35%	50%	85%
HFLA	41%	49%	90%
JFMD	35%	51%	86%

* JCC – Jewish Community Center, JAS – Jewish Apartments & Services, JFS – Jewish Family Service, JHAS – Jewish Home & Aging Services, JVS – also Jewish Vocational Service, HFLA – Hebrew Free Loan Association and JFMD – Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit

The above tables indicate, except for Hebrew Free Loan Association, that the Jewish population has good familiarity with the Jewish agencies that provide services for older adults and also with the Jewish Federation. They were most familiar with the Jewish Community Center (86%). Among those who were very/somewhat familiar with the agencies, the perceptions of them were very high, ranging from 83%-90% of respondents considering them excellent or good. This is a testament to the good work being done by the Commission on Eldercare Services' (COJES) agency network and other selected Jewish communal agencies.

- **Households With A Member Who Is Health-Limited**

Table 16

Households	Households with Health-Limited Member	Households with Member who Needs Daily Assistance
All	17% (5,130)	4% (1,200)
Elderly Couple	16% (734) (NJPS – 22%)*	3% (147) (NJPS – 12%)
Elderly Single	33% (2,220) (NJPS – 28%)	5% (341) (NJPS – 5%)

*NJPS – 2000 National Jewish Population Study

- **Percentage of Households with Health Limited Members for Income Groups**

Table 17

Income	% Households with Health Limited Members
Under \$25,000	40%
25,000 – 50,000	34%
50,000 – 100,000	16%
100,000 – 200,000	8%
200,000+	5%

- **Health Insurance**

Table 18

Households	Have Health Insurance	Lack Health Insurance	Did W/Out Essential Medical Care Due Lack Of Insurance
All	96% (28,800)	4% (1,200)	3% (900)
65-74	99% (4,352)	1% (44)	2% (88)
75+	98% (7,384)	2% (151)	4% (301)
Elderly Couple	98% (4,498)	2% (92)	1% (46)
Elderly Single	99% (6,742)	1% (68)	4% (272)

- **Need for Selected Social Services in the Past Year**

Table 19

Households	Financial Assistance	Marital, Family or Personal Counseling	Help in Coordinating Services for an Elderly or Disabled Person
All	3% (900)	10% (3,000)	11% (3,300)
Non-Elderly Couple	N/A	N/A	16% (662)
Non-Elderly Single	N/A	N/A	13% (222)
With Children	N/A	N/A	11% (974)
With Adult Children Only	N/A	N/A	20% (402)
Elderly Couple	1% (23)	5% (230)	11% (505)
Elderly Single	9% (613)	7% (477)	8% (545)

- **Need Help with Activities of Daily Living (ADL)**

Table 20

	All Jewish households	Households with Elderly Age 65+ (# elderly households)
Need help with 1+ ADLs	6%	12% (1,604)
Need help with 2+ ADLs	5%	9% (1,200)
Grocery shopping	5%	10% (1,353)
Laundry	4%	8% (1,130)
Bathing/showering	2%	4% (502)
Preparing meals	2%	3% (446)
Managing money	2%	3% (446)
Managing meds	1%	1% (195)

- **Households With Elderly – Selected Services Needed In Past Year**

Table 21

Households	In-Home Health Care	Senior Transportation	Nursing Home Care	Adult Day Care	Home Delivered Meals
All	14% (1,953)	8% (1,116)	5% (698)	3% (419)	0.2% (28)
Elderly Couple	14% (643)	5% (230)	5% (230)	0.5% (23)	0%
Elderly Single	16% (1,090)	10% (681)	6% (409)	5% (341)	0.4% (27)

In-home health care - Of the 14% (1,953) of households needing in-home care: 0.6% (84 households) did not receive in-home care; 2.3% (321 households) received in-home care from Jewish sources and 11.1% (1,548 households) from non-Jewish sources.

Senior transportation – Of the 8% (1,116) of households needing senior transportation: 2.3% (321 households) did not receive senior transportation; 2.0% (279 households) received senior transportation from Jewish sources and 3.7% (516 households) from non-Jewish sources.

Nursing home care – The 4.9% (1,896) households who needed nursing home care received the care. Respondents were not asked if they received nursing home care from a Jewish nursing home since there is no Jewish communal sponsored nursing home.

Adult day care – Of the 3% (419) of households needing adult day care, 2.1% (293 households) did not receive adult day care. All the rest (126 households) who received adult day care responded that they received it from non-Jewish sources. The sample did not include any participants of the Brown (Jewish) Adult Day Care Program, which serves about 65 Jewish households.

Home delivered meals - Of the 0.2% (28) of households who said that they needed home delivered meals, all said that they did not receive home delivered meals.

- **Preference For Jewish Sponsored Adult Care Facilities (Respondents Age 40 or Over)**

Table 22

Population Group	Very Much Prefer	Somewhat Prefer	No Preference	Rather Not Use
All	62%	23%	14%	1%
50-64	65%	22%	13%	0.3%
Elderly Couple	60%	20%	18%	2%
Elderly Single	59%	26%	12%	2%

Very much prefer – Preference for Jewish sponsorship is highest among Orthodox respondents, synagogue members, JCC members, Jewish organization members, day school attendees and participants in Hillel/Chabad when in college.

- **Caregivers**

- 4% (approximately 1,000 households) are comprised of a parent living with adult children age 30 and over. It is expected that in a number of these the children are in a caregiving role for the parent(s).
- 14% (3,631) of Jewish households in which the respondent is age 40 or over have an elderly relative who does not live in the respondent’s household and

- who in some way depends upon the household for his/her care (caregiver households).
- Included in the 14% are 11% (2,937) of households in which the elderly relative lives in the Detroit area and 3% (801) of households in which the elderly relative lives outside of Detroit.
 - 38% of caregiver households care for an elderly relative who lives in a facility such as an assisted living facility (28%) or nursing home (5%).
 - Another 6% have one elderly relative in an assisted living facility and another in a nursing home.
 - 17% (1,040) of households with children in which the respondent was age 40 or over are caring for an elderly person.
 - 3% (900 households) of all households have an elderly relative who moved away from Detroit to retire and has now returned.

17% of all households report having a member who is health-limited, with 4% needing daily assistance. Among elderly single households that number increases to 33%, with 5% needing daily assistance. 40% of households with annual incomes under \$25,000 report having a member who is health-limited, as compared to only 8% with an annual income of \$100,000-\$200,000. This indicates that an increase in disability is often accompanied by a decrease in income. As a result, the community must continue to address the issue of subsidies for services and financial assistance due to concerns about those most disabled being unable to pay for everyday needs and services to help them remain as independent as possible.

Almost all older adults have some form of health insurance. This does not necessarily mean that they can afford all their health costs, especially medications.

Responding to the need for selected social services in the past year, only 3% of all households indicated a need for financial assistance, but that number rose to 9% among elderly single households which is consistent with the fact that over half of elderly single households reported an annual income under \$25,000. 10% of all households indicated a need for marital, personal or family counseling in the past year; the number of elderly couple or elderly single households reporting the same need was lower. This may not necessarily indicate that they did not need the service, as many older adults are reluctant to admit that they need counseling. 11% of all households reported needing help in coordinating services for an elderly or disabled person in the past year; the percentage was not too different for elderly couple (11%) and elderly single households (8%), but was higher for households with adult children only (20%) and non-elderly couples (16%), reflecting the need to address care issues for elderly parents or adult children with disabilities, a growing concern of aging parents.

12% of households with older adults reported that a member needed help with at least one activity of daily living (grocery shopping, laundry, bathing/showering/ meal preparation, managing money and managing medications). Grocery shopping (10%) and help with laundry (8%) were the greatest needs.

Among the selected services needed in the past year by households with older adults, the two most needed were in-home health care and senior transportation. These are consistent with the findings regarding ADLs and with the results from surveys conducted over the years by the Federation’s Commission on Jewish Eldercare Services (COJES). The need is highest among elderly single households. 16% reported needing in-home health care and 10% senior transportation. Most received the service, but not usually from Jewish agencies.

In general, there is a preference among adults age 40 and over for Jewish sponsored adult care facilities (62% very much preferred and 23% somewhat preferred). Among older adults, 60% of elderly couples very much preferred and 20% somewhat preferred Jewish sponsored adult care facilities. The percentages were about the same for elderly singles. The preference was highest among Orthodox respondents and those with community affiliations (memberships).

59% of households have an adult child living in the Detroit area. In addition to the needs of the older adults themselves, family caregivers often need support and help with information and accessing services. 14% of all households in which the respondent is age 40 or over reported that they have an elderly relative who does not live in their household and who in some way depends upon the household for his/her care. Of the 14%, relatives of 11% live in the Detroit area and of 3% elsewhere. 4% (approximately 1,000 households) are comprised of a parent living with adult children age 30 and over. It is expected that in a number of these households the children are in a caregiving role for the parent(s).

ANTI-SEMITISM

Table 23

Age	Experience With Anti-Semitism in Past Year	Perception: Great Deal/Moderate Amount of Anti-Semitism in Detroit
All	15%	61%
65+	11%	75%
65-74	14%	74%
75+	9%	76%

Older adults, while reporting less experience with anti-Semitism, perceive that a higher level of anti-Semitism exists in Detroit than younger adults. This may have to do with past experiences and historical perspective.

JEWISH CONNECTIVITY

- **Jewish Identification**

Table 24

Households	Orthodox	Conservative	Reform	Just Jewish
All	11% (3,300)	28% (8,400)	36% (10,800)	18% (5,400)
65+	10% (1,250)	32% (4,001)	32% (4,001)	19% (2,376)
65-74	7% (325)	34% (1,578)	41% (1,903)	16% (743)
75+	11% (865)	31% (2,438)	27% (2,123)	21% (1,651)

- **Jewish Practice**

Table 25

Households	Have Mezzuzah on front door	Always/Usually Participate in Passover Seder	Always/Usually Light Chanukah Candles	Always/Usually Light Shabbat Candles	Keep Kosher
All	77%	82%	77%	29%	22%
65+	73%	78%	67%	24%	19%
65-74	80%	88%	75%	28%	22%
75+	70%	72%	61%	21%	17%

- **Synagogue Attendance (At Least One Person In Household Attends Synagogue...)**

Table 26

Households	Once or more per month	Only on High Holidays	Never except for special occasions
All	28%	24%	22%
65+	24%	22%	29%
65-74	31%	21%	19%
75+	20%	23%	34%
Elderly Couple	32%	19%	21%
Elderly Single	17%	24%	36%

Note: Special occasions include weddings, b'nai mitzvah ceremonies, etc.

- **Intermarriage rate –Couples**

Table 27

Couples	In-Married	Conversionary In-Married	Intermarried
All	76% (14,366)	8% (1,512)	16% (3,024)*
65+	83% (4,023)	8 (388)	10% (485)

Couples	In-Married	Conversionary In-Married	Intermarried
65-74	80% (2,073)	9% (233)	10% (259)
75+	86% (1,940)	4% (90)	10% (226)

*National intermarriage rate is 47% according to 2000 NJPS.

- **Jewish Cultural Connections**

Table 28

Households	Read a Book Other than the Bible this Past Year because It Had Jewish Content	Attended a Theater, Music or Dance Program this Past Year because It Had Jewish Content
All	50%	43%
65+	47%	47%
65-74	55%	52%
75+	42%	43%

- **Israel**

Table 29

Households	Member Visited Israel	Extremely/Very Attached to Israel	Not Attached
All	58% (17,400)	56%	12%
Elderly Couple	69% (3,167)	70%	4%
Elderly Single	47% (3,200)	51%	14%
65+	N/A	59%	10%
65-74	N/A	63%	7%
75+	N/A	57%	11%

- **Read *Detroit Jewish News***

Table 30

Households	Respondent always/usually reads the <i>Detroit Jewish News</i>
All	57% (17,100)
65+	59% (7,377)
65-74	61% (2,831)
75+	58% (4,560)
Elderly Couple	75% (3,443)
Elderly Single	48% (3,269)

- Use of Internet for Jewish-Related Information in Past Year

Table 31

Households	For Jewish-Related Information	For Local Jewish-Related Information	Visited Jewish Federation Website
All	50%	30%	12%
Under 35	77%	38%	25%
35-49	70%	46%	17%
50-64	60%	38%	16%
65+	29%	14%	5%
65-74	41%	21%	9%
75+	22%	10%	3%
Elderly Couple	44%	21%	7%
Elderly Single	21%	9%	4%

- Memberships

Table 32

Households	Synagogue Membership	JCC Membership	JCC Participation	Jewish Organization Membership Other than JCC or Synagogue
All	50% (15,000)	15% (4,500)	45% (13,500)	36% (10,800)
65+	39% (4,653)	13% (1,551)	47% (5,608)	40% (4,772)
65-74	49% (2,154)	10% (440)	54% (2,374)	41% (1,802)
75+	33% (2,486)	14% (1,055)	43% (3,240)	39% (2,939)
Elderly Couple	54% (2,479)	16% (734)	49% (2,249)	57% (2,616)
Elderly Single	27% (1,839)	10% (681)	44% (2,996)	28% (1,907)

- Associated with the Jewish Community, Feel a Part of the Jewish Community, and Overall Involvement in Jewish Activity*

Table 33

Households	Associated with the Jewish Community	Feel Part of the Detroit Jewish Community (Very Much/Somewhat)	Overall Involvement in Jewish Activity
All	64% (19,200)	79% (23,700)	96% (28,800)
65+	60% (7,159)	79% (9,878)	94% (11,215)
65-74	61% (2,681)	83% (3,852)	97% (4,264)
75+	59% (4,446)	78% (6,133)	93% (7,007)
Elderly Couple	79% (3,626)	87% (3,993)	99% (4,544)
Elderly Single	45% (3,065)	75% (5,108)	92% (6,265)

* Definitions:

Associated with the Jewish Community (Synagogue, JCC and/or Jewish Organization Member)

Overall Involvement in Jewish Activity: Associated with the Jewish Community (Member of a Synagogue, JCC or Jewish Organization), Practice (Always/Usually Participate in a Passover Seder, Light Chanukah Candles, Light Sabbath Candles or Keep a Kosher Home), Attend Synagogue Services at Least Once a Year (Other Than for Special Occasions) and/or Donated to a Jewish Charity in the Past Year.

• **Philanthropic Behavior In The Past Year –Households Reported Donated To**

Table 34

Households	Jewish Federation	Other Jewish Charities	Non-Jewish Charities
All	55% (16,500) 30% gave \$100+ 8% gave \$1000+	68% (20,400) 48% gave \$100+ 14% gave \$1000+	85% (25,500) 53% gave \$100+ 13% gave \$1000+
65+	64% (7,636) 33% gave \$100+ 9% gave \$1000+	65% (7,755) 39% gave \$100+ 11% gave \$1000+	84% (10,022) 42% gave \$100+ 8% gave \$1000+
65-74	62% (2,726) 36% gave \$100+ 10% gave \$1000+	66% (2,901) 51% gave \$100+ 17% gave \$1000+	90% (3,956) 53% gave \$100+ 12% gave \$1000+
75+	66% (4,973) 31% gave \$100+ 7% gave \$1000+	65% (4,898) 31% gave \$100+ 8% gave \$1000+	80% (6,028) 35% gave \$100+ 6% gave \$1000+
Elderly Couple	75% (3,443) 46% gave \$100+ 18% gave \$1000+	80% (3,672) 56% gave \$100+ 22% gave \$1000+	89% (4,085) 52% gave \$100+ 15% gave \$1000+
Elderly Single	58% (3,950) 24% gave \$100+ 2% gave \$1000+	55% (3,746) 25% gave \$100+ 4% gave \$1000+	79% (5,380) 32% gave \$100+ 3% gave \$1000+

• **Donated to a Charity Over the Internet in the Past Year**

Table 35

Households	Donated to Charity Over the Internet
All	17% (5,100)
65+	5% (597)
65-74	11% (484)
75+	2% (151)

- **Volunteered In Past Year**

Table 36

Households	Jewish Organization	Non-Jewish Organization
All	42% (12,600)	37% (11,100)
65+	33% (4,126)	25% (3,126)
65-74	38% (1,764)	35% (1,624)
75+	31% (2,438)	20% (1,573)

The majority of Jewish older adults identify themselves as either Conservative or Reform (32% for each). 9% identify as Orthodox and 19% as Just Jewish.

The Detroit Jewish community is very rooted. 88% of all respondents have lived here 20 or more years; among those age 65+, the percentage increases to 97%. This is reflected in the fact that the Jewish community has a high level of Jewish connectivity and association. Jewish older adults reflect the patterns in the community at large. 73% of households age 65+ (all households - 77%) have a mezzuzah on their front doors and 79% (all households 82%) always/usually participate in a Passover seder.

Young older adults (age 65-74) had a higher attendance at a theatrical, music or dance program in the past year because it had Jewish content than adults age 75+. This may have more to do with cost, lack of transportation, or social isolation, as many 75+ are single, than lack of interest.

In general, the intermarriage rate for the Detroit Jewish population is low, only 16% of marriages are intermarriages. Not unexpected, the intermarriage rate among older adult couples is even lower, 10%.

Synagogue attendance (attending synagogue one or more times per month) is higher among elderly couples (32%) than elderly singles (17%). 28% of all Jewish households attend synagogue one or more times per month. 21% of elderly couples (22% for all households) never attend synagogue (except for special occasions) compared to 36% of elderly singles. This raises the question of whether elderly singles do not attend due to lack of transportation, health issues and/or a feeling of “not fitting in.”

Synagogue membership among all Jewish households is 50%. Among older adult households age 65+, synagogue membership drops to 39%. It is higher for adults age 65-74 (49%) than for adults age 75+ (33%) and higher for elderly couples (54%) than for elderly singles (27%). This raises similar questions to synagogue attendance. Is this due to a lack of transportation, health issues or feeling that synagogues are not “older adult” friendly and/or is it due to the cost of belonging to a synagogue?

15% of all households report JCC membership. The percentage is similar for households age 65+ (13%) and households age 75+ (14%). However, whereas 45% of households report participation in a JCC program/activity in the past year, that

percentage rises to 54% for households age 65-74 and is similar for those age 75+ and elderly single households.

36% of households report belonging to a Jewish organization other than the JCC or a synagogue. That percentage increases to 40% of households age 65+ and is highest among elderly couple households (57%). As expected, it is less among those age 75+ (39%). This may be due to difficulty attending meetings and programs or the cost of belonging.

The Population Study examined: 1) association with the Jewish community (defined as synagogue, JCC and/or Jewish organization member; 2) feeling a part of the Detroit Jewish community; and 3) overall involvement in Jewish activity defined as associated with the Jewish community (member of a synagogue, JCC and/or Jewish organization), participation in Jewish practices (always/usually participate in a Passover seder, light Chanukah candles and/or light Sabbath candles and/or keep a kosher home), attend synagogue services at least once a year (other than for special occasions) and/or donated to a Jewish charity in the past year. 64% of all Jewish households were associated with the Jewish community; 79% felt a part of the Jewish community and 96% had some involvement in Jewish activity as measured by the Study. The percentages for these variables for older adult households were also high and were the highest among elderly couples: 79% were associated with the Jewish community, 87% felt part of the Jewish community and 99% were involved in Jewish activity. Among elderly single households, the percentage associated with the Jewish community dropped significantly to 45%, although 75% felt themselves to be very much/somewhat a part of the Jewish community and 92% had some level of involvement in Jewish activity. These results continue to highlight a concern, illustrated above regarding memberships and synagogue attendance, about connecting older adult Jewish singles to the Jewish community.

56% of all Jewish households have at least one member who is extremely/very attached to Israel and 58% have at least one member who has visited Israel. The percentages are even higher among elderly couples, 69% have visited Israel and 70% are extremely/very attached to Israel. Among elderly singles, the percentages, although high, drop to 47% having visited Israel and 51% who are extremely/very attached to Israel.

Older adults stay connected to the community by reading the Detroit Jewish News. 59% age 65+ always/usually read the Detroit Jewish News. Among elderly couples, the percentage rises to 75% and drops to 48% among elderly single households. Since the percentage of older adults using the Internet for Jewish related information tends to be lower than for the younger adult population, the Detroit Jewish News appears to be a good way to communicate with many older adults. However, the use of the Internet by older adults is increasing as indicated by the fact that 41% of those age 65-74 used the Internet in the past year for Jewish-related information, compared to 22% for those age 75+.

Many younger adults are in caregiving roles or are concerned about their aging relatives. The Internet should be utilized by the Jewish communal agencies to communicate their message and information about programs and services.

Members of the Jewish community are very philanthropic. 55% reported donating to the Jewish Federation, 68% to other Jewish charities and 85% to non-Jewish charities in the past year. Giving to the Federation and to other charities increases with age, especially among elderly couples: 75% reported giving in the past year to the Jewish Federation, 80% to other Jewish charities and 89% to non-Jewish charities. While fewer and the level of donation was less, 58% of elderly single households still reported donating in the past year to the Jewish Federation, 55% to other Jewish charities and 79% to non-Jewish charities. Donations over the Internet were fewer for older adult households, 5% vs. 17% for all.

Engagement in the Jewish community is also reflected by the level of volunteerism. Volunteerism brings benefits not only for the organizations/persons receiving the help, but also for the volunteer. 42% of Jewish households reported that in the past year they volunteered for Jewish organizations and 37% for non-Jewish organizations. 38% of households age 65-74 volunteered for Jewish organizations and 35% for non-Jewish organizations. The percentages drop, as expected, for those age 75+, to 31% for Jewish organizations and 20% for non-Jewish. About 1/3 of older adults volunteered in the past year. This is important to keep in mind when seeking ways to reduce isolation and increase sense of self-worth.

CONCLUSION

The growing number of Jewish older adults presents both challenges and opportunities for the Jewish community. The data reveal that older adults constitute a significant portion of the Jewish community, approximately a quarter. The older adult population is not a homogeneous group. As illustrated above, adults age 65-74 and adults age 75+ often have very different profiles, including health needs and level of engagement in the Jewish community. Elderly couple households vary greatly from elderly single households in their level of engagement, support service needs, and income.

Many older adults are in fairly good health and want to stay active and engaged in meaningful activities and endeavors. They want services and programs that will support their active retirement.

Other older adults are experiencing chronic health problems and need services that will help them maintain their independence despite their functional disabilities. It is important to help them age in place in their homes for as long as possible. This requires the availability of a continuum of care of services and also the recognition of the economic vulnerability of many. There is an increasing need for subsidized housing options and services.

In addition, part of the communal challenge is continuing the engagement of older adults, which tends to diminish for many with age. Social isolation due to loss of family and friends, functional abilities, health and other causes is a major concern. It is important for the Jewish community agencies and organizations to find ways to keep older adults, as they age and experience various losses, connected to the Jewish community and the community-at-large.

As the population ages, it is also important to support the needs of their caregivers. This can include emotional, financial, and spiritual support. It also includes helping them find out about and access services and resources to help them in their caregiving role. They are often the next generation of older adults and the knowledge that they gain today will help them more successfully age. At the same time, they will develop a deeper connection to the Jewish community and its agencies.

Lastly, it is important to recognize that many older adults are active and engaged in the Jewish community and very philanthropic. They bring to the community a wealth of wisdom, talent, energy and resources from which all benefit. As the Detroit Jewish community faces new challenges with a decreasing younger and increasing older population, these qualities that older adults have should be tapped to help strengthen the community and address the challenges that lie ahead. Engagement of this group has the potential to benefit the entire community and will support their own well-being.

Linda Blumberg, Planning Director
Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit
December 2006

**TABLE
NUMBER OF ELDERLY BY ZIP CODE**

Zip Code	Geographic Area	Percentage	Number
48322	West Bloomfield	20.9	3,864
48334	Farmington	8.7	1,608
48237	Oak Park	6.3	1,165
48331	Farmington	5.3	980
48034	Southfield	5.2	961
48323	West Bloomfield	4.5	832
48332	Farmington	3.5	647
48302	Bloomfield Hills	3.4	629
48076	Southfield	2.6	481
48301	Bloomfield Hills	2.5	462
48233	Detroit	2.4	444
48075	Southfield	2.2	407
48152	Livonia	2.0	370
48037	Southfield	1.7	314
48025	Franklin	1.4	259
48081	Saint Clair Shores	1.3	240
48219	Detroit	1.2	222
48223	Detroit	1.2	222
48232	Detroit	1.2	222
48304	Bloomfield Hills	1.2	222
48341	Pontiac	1.2	222
48070	Huntington Woods	1.1	203
48009	Birmingham	1.0	185
48073	Royal Oak	1.0	185
48327	Waterford	1.0	185

**TABLE
NUMBER OF ELDERLY BY ZIP CODE**

Zip Code	Geographic Area	Percentage	Number
48390	Walled Lake	1.0	185
48071	Madison Heights	0.9	166
48167	Northville	0.9	166
48328	Waterford	0.9	166
48329	Waterford	0.9	166
48005	Armada	0.8	148
48205	Detroit	0.8	148
48377	Novi	0.7	129
48221	Detroit	0.6	111
48324	West Bloomfield	0.6	111
48067	Royal Oak	0.5	92
48098	Troy	0.5	92
48336	Farmington	0.5	92
48375	Novi	0.5	92
48126	Dearborn	0.4	74
48185	Westland	0.4	74
48320	Keego Harbor	0.4	74
48084	Troy	0.3	55
48203	Highland Park	0.3	55
48335	Farmington	0.3	55
48374	Novi	0.3	55
48382	Commerce Township	0.3	55
48387	Union Lake	0.3	55
48038	Clinton Township	0.2	37
48154	Livonia	0.2	37

**TABLE
NUMBER OF ELDERLY BY ZIP CODE**

Zip Code	Geographic Area	Percentage	Number
48180	Taylor	0.2	37
48207	Detroit	0.2	37
48230	Grosse Pointe	0.2	37
48238	Detroit	0.2	37
48306	Rochester	0.2	37
48309	Rochester	0.2	37
48333	Farmington	0.2	37
48381	Milford	0.2	37
48043	Mount Clemens	0.1	18
48069	Pleasant Ridge	0.1	18
48220	Ferndale	0.1	18
48326	Auburn Hills	0.1	18
48346	Clarkson	0.1	18
48462	Ortonville	0.1	18
48017	Clawson	0.0	0
48066	Roseville	0.0	0
48072	Berkley	0.0	0
48083	Troy	0.0	0
48094	Washington	0.0	0
48120	Dearborn	0.0	0
48124	Dearborn	0.0	0
48127	Dearborn Heights	0.0	0
48150	Livonia	0.0	0
48168	Northville	0.0	0
48170	Plymouth	0.0	0

**TABLE
NUMBER OF ELDERLY BY ZIP CODE**

Zip Code	Geographic Area	Percentage	Number
48178	South Lyon	0.0	0
48183	Trenton	0.0	0
48187	Canton	0.0	0
48188	Canton	0.0	0
48192	Wyandotte	0.0	0
48215	Detroit	0.0	0
48222	Detroit	0.0	0
48224	Detroit	0.0	0
48226	Detroit	0.0	0
48227	Detroit	0.0	0
48236	Grosse Pointe	0.0	0
48310	Stirling Heights	0.0	0
48315	Utica	0.0	0
48340	Pontiac	0.0	0
48348	Clarkson	0.0	0
48357	Highland	0.0	0
48360	Lake Orion	0.0	0
48386	White Lake	0.0	0
48393	Wixom	0.0	0
48455	Metamora	0.0	0
Total		100.0	18,486