

Demographic Study of the Jewish Community of Delaware & the Brandywine Valley Released

The study depicts a diverse Jewish community in the region.

Wilmington, DE – The *2022 Community Study of Jewish Delaware & the Brandywine Valley* will be presented on January 31, 2023, at 7:00pm via zoom webinar. The study’s results provide a socio-demographic portrait of the Jewish community in Delaware & the Brandywine Valley and serve as a valuable data source for local Jewish community organizations to make effective decisions, allocate resources, develop strategic priorities, support the community, and foster robust participation and outreach.

The present study estimates that 25,900 Jewish individuals live within 12,600 Jewish households in Delaware & the Brandywine Valley. The only other study of the Delaware Jewish community was conducted in 1995 and identified approximately 13,500 Jews living in 6,800 households. Notably, the 1995 study did not include the Brandywine Valley.

There were 1,605 respondents who completed the survey, and their data provides an in-depth look at the area’s Jewish population, demographic composition, philanthropy and volunteering practices, community engagement, connection to Jewish life, and more. The data also allowed for state-wide, population-based, demographic projections of the Jewish community. The results will enable local organizations and funders to better understand and meet the needs of the Jewish community, including non-Jewish family members, friends, and allies.

“The study’s results both challenge our preconceptions about Jewish life in Delaware & the Brandywine Valley and affirm the ongoing efforts of Jewish organizations in the region,” said Leslie Newman, Study Co-Chair. “We hope local institutions and the community at-large will utilize these findings to best serve our diverse Jewish community.”

The data portray a Jewish population with a broad spectrum of experiences, perspectives, philanthropic habits, denominational plurality, and community engagement. As such, these findings will support organizations and leaders in crafting nuanced and thoughtful approaches to engage, discuss, and work in service to the Jewish community.

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The Executive Summary, full study, and methodology will be made publicly available to download following the January 31st webinar at [ShalomDelaware.org/CommunityStudy](https://www.shalomdelaware.org/CommunityStudy).

The study was prepared by a highly experienced, well-trained, and independent professional team from Brandeis University's Maurice and Marilyn Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies (CMJS). The Cohen Center is also the home of the Steinhardt Social Research Institute (SSRI). They have collectively completed more than 25 studies in other local Jewish communities.

The study's research design utilized a dual-mode internet and telephone survey to reach residents. The sample was drawn randomly from the combined mailing lists of local Jewish organizations as well as a purchased listed of local households. To ensure complete coverage and correct for sampling bias, CMJS researchers matched the results to population estimates derived from the American Jewish Population Project synthesis of random digit dialing and address-based sampling surveys as well as administrative data from local organizations.

The *2022 Community Study of Jewish Delaware & the Brandywine Valley* was funded with support from Jewish Federation of Delaware's Jewish Fund for the Future, and the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Foundation.

The study design, questionnaire, and report were developed with guidance from a steering committee comprised of community leadership including co-chairs, Leslie Newman and Richard A. Levine, and members; Susan Aaronson, Rabbi Michael Beals, Paul Fine, Jennifer Goldstein, Danny Haas, Jack Jacobs, Arlene Johnson, Robin Karol-Eng, Cindy Konowitz, Michael Longwill, Jesse Miller, Gina Schoenberg, and William Wagner. The study was made possible by the Jewish community members who gave their time to participate in this study.

Matthew Boxer, PhD, the lead investigator from Brandeis University, will present the highlights of our study with an opportunity for questions and answers immediately following. To register for the webinar, go to:

<https://www.shalomdelaware.org/calendar/event/2023/01/31/2022-community-study-of-jewish-delaware-the-brandywine-valley/414796>

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