



# National Jewish Population Survey 2000-01

## Jews in the West

A United Jewish Communities  
Presentation of Findings



## NJPS Respondents

- The NJPS 2000-01 questionnaire was administered to over 4,500 Jews in the U.S.
- This presentation is a compilation of selected findings from those interviews, comparing respondents in the four major regions of the United States: the Northeast, Midwest, South and West, and highlighting the West.



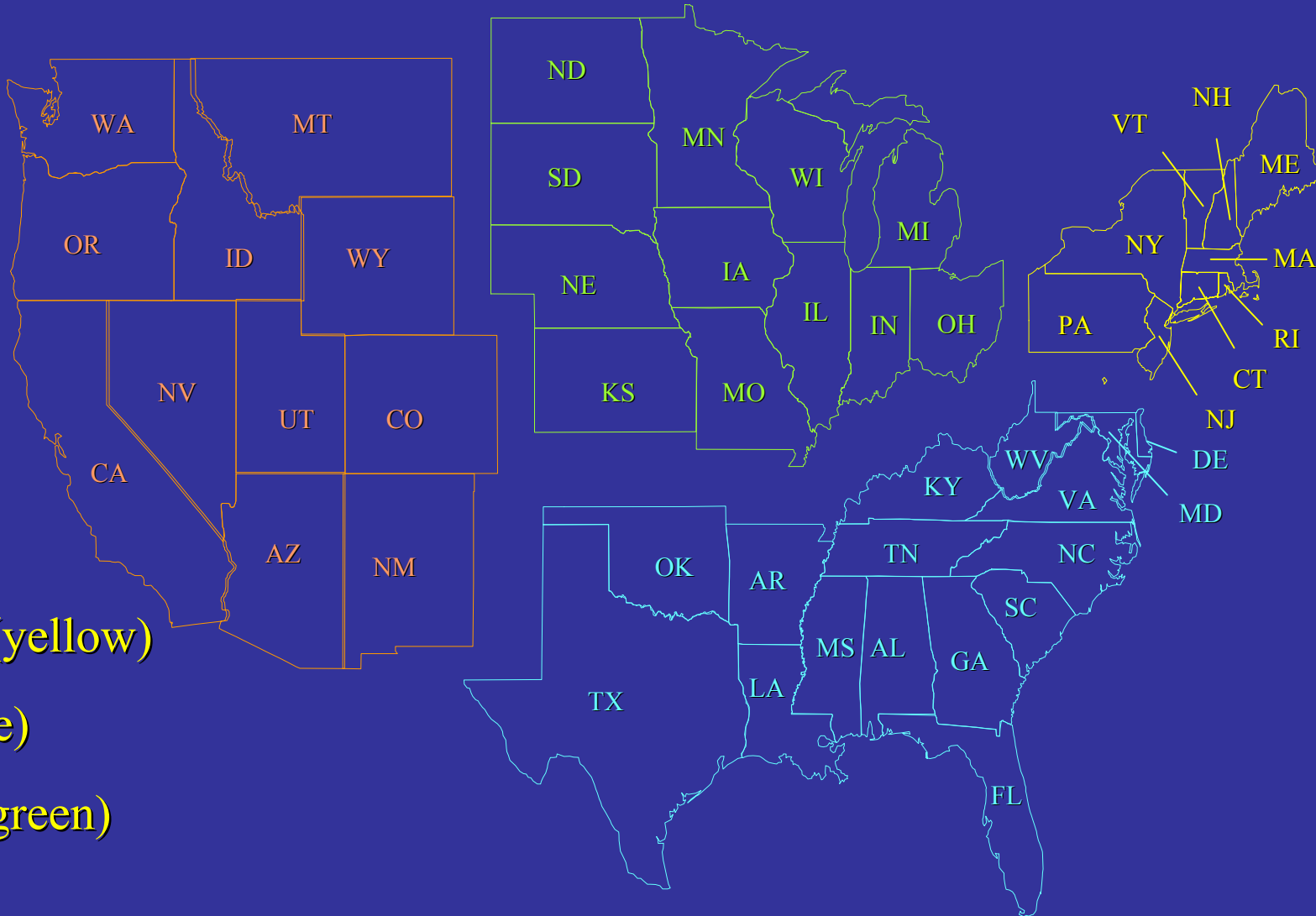
## Methodological Note

- The NJPS questionnaire was divided into long-form and short-form versions. The long-form version was administered to respondents with stronger Jewish connections (representing 4.3 million Jews, or over 80% of all U.S. Jews). The short-form version, which omitted many questions on Jewish topics, was given to respondents with Jewish connections that are not as strong (representing in total 800,000 Jews).
- Asterisks (\*) in the presentation refer to questions that appeared on the long-form questionnaire and were asked only of respondents with stronger Jewish connections.

# Regional differences



The United States is divided into four regions:



- Northeast (yellow)
- South (blue)
- Midwest (green)
- West (red)



## Regional Comparisons

- Demography
- Jewish connections
- Jewish education
- Special topics: poverty/low income, health, immigrants, elderly



## **Demography**

- Total population estimates
- Regional distributions of children, adults and households
- Variations in children, adults age 18-64 and elderly across regions
- Mobility
- Socio-economic status



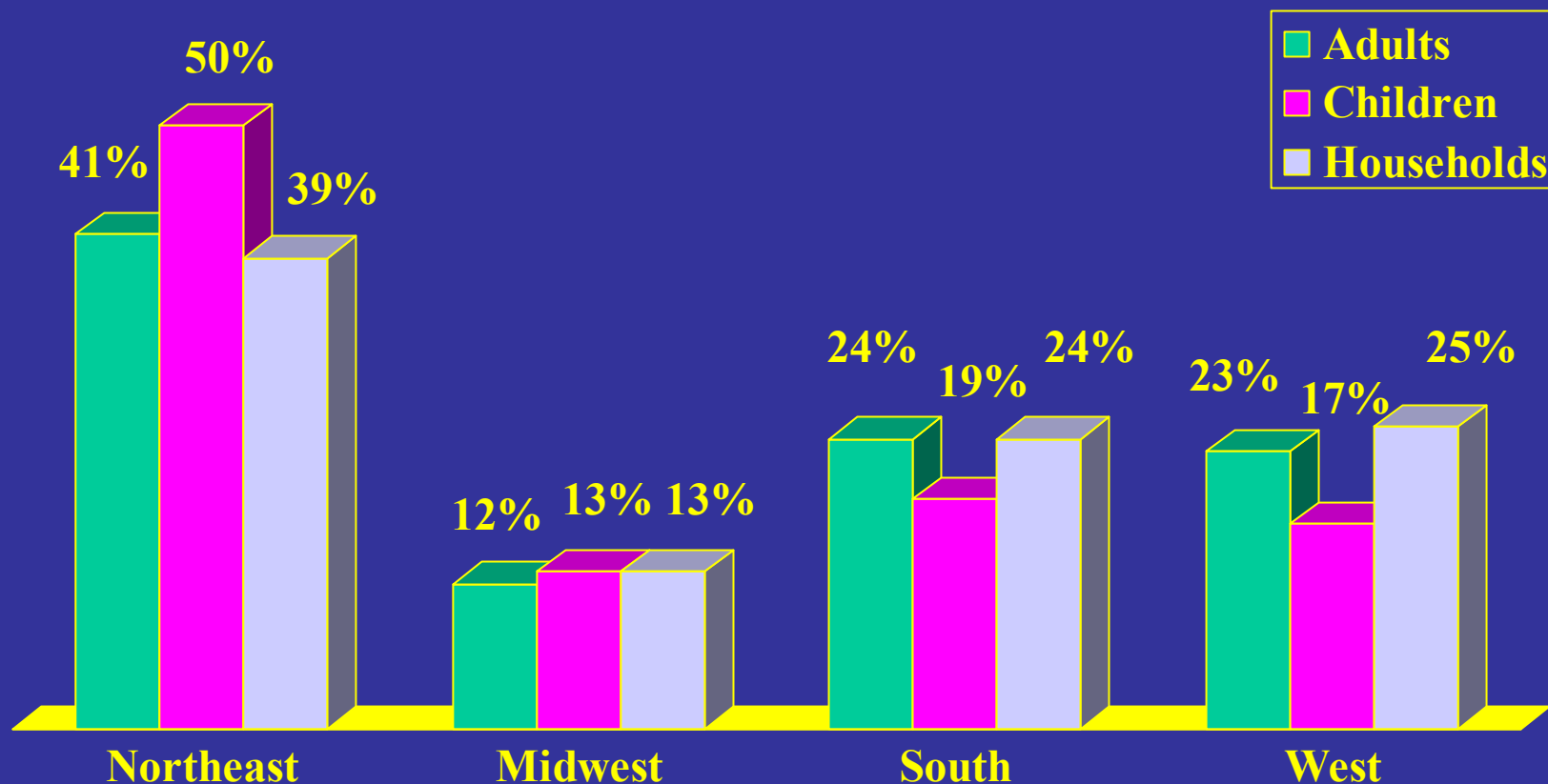
## Total Jewish population and household estimates in 2000-01 (in millions)

<b>Total Jewish population</b>	<b>5.2</b>
Adults	4.2
Children	1.0
<b>Total Jewish households<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2.9</b>
<b>Total people, Jewish and non-Jewish, in Jewish households</b>	<b>6.7</b>

<sup>1</sup> Defined as households with at least one Jewish adult



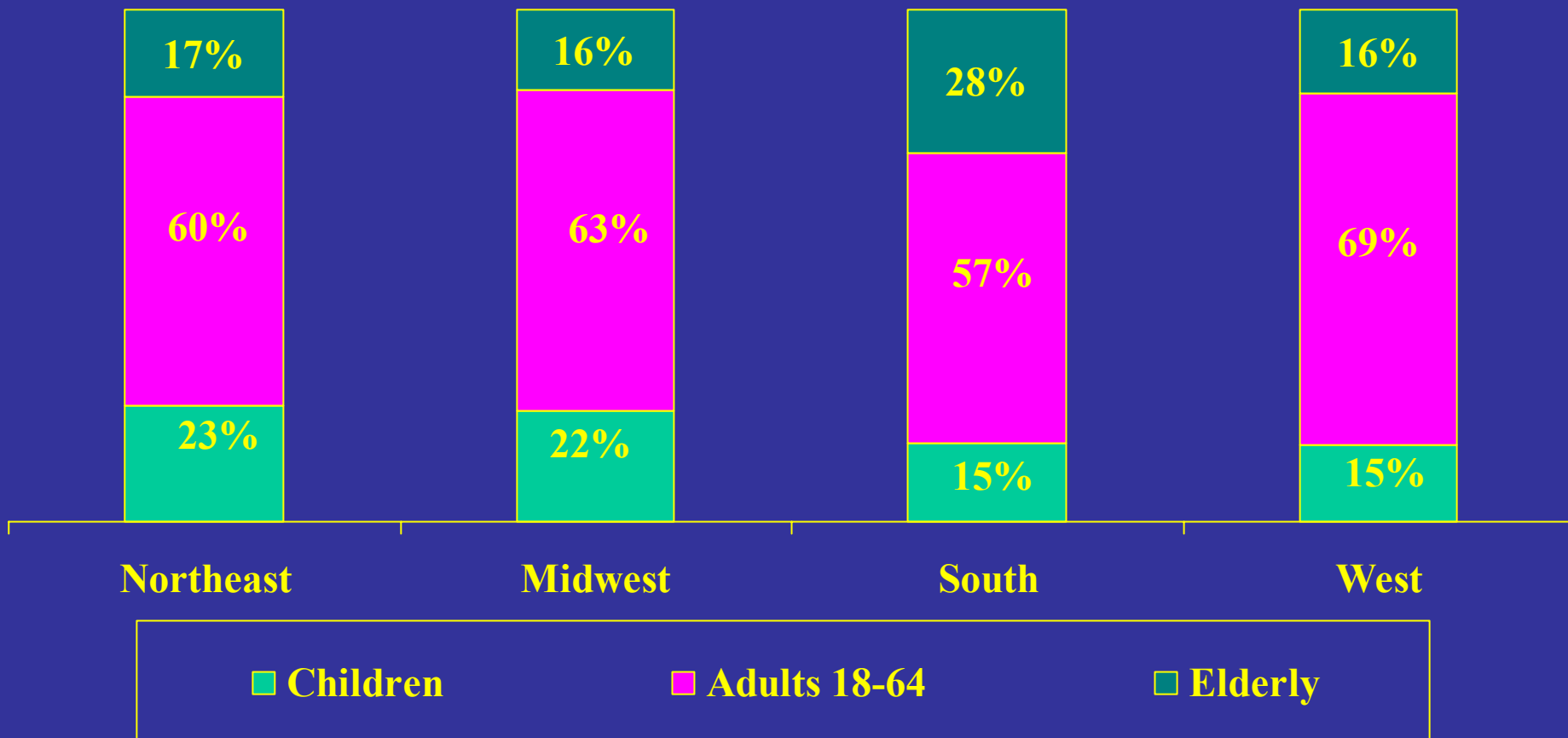
**The Jewish population is concentrated in the Northeast. Approximately equal proportions of Jews reside in the West and South, with the Midwest trailing all other regions.**





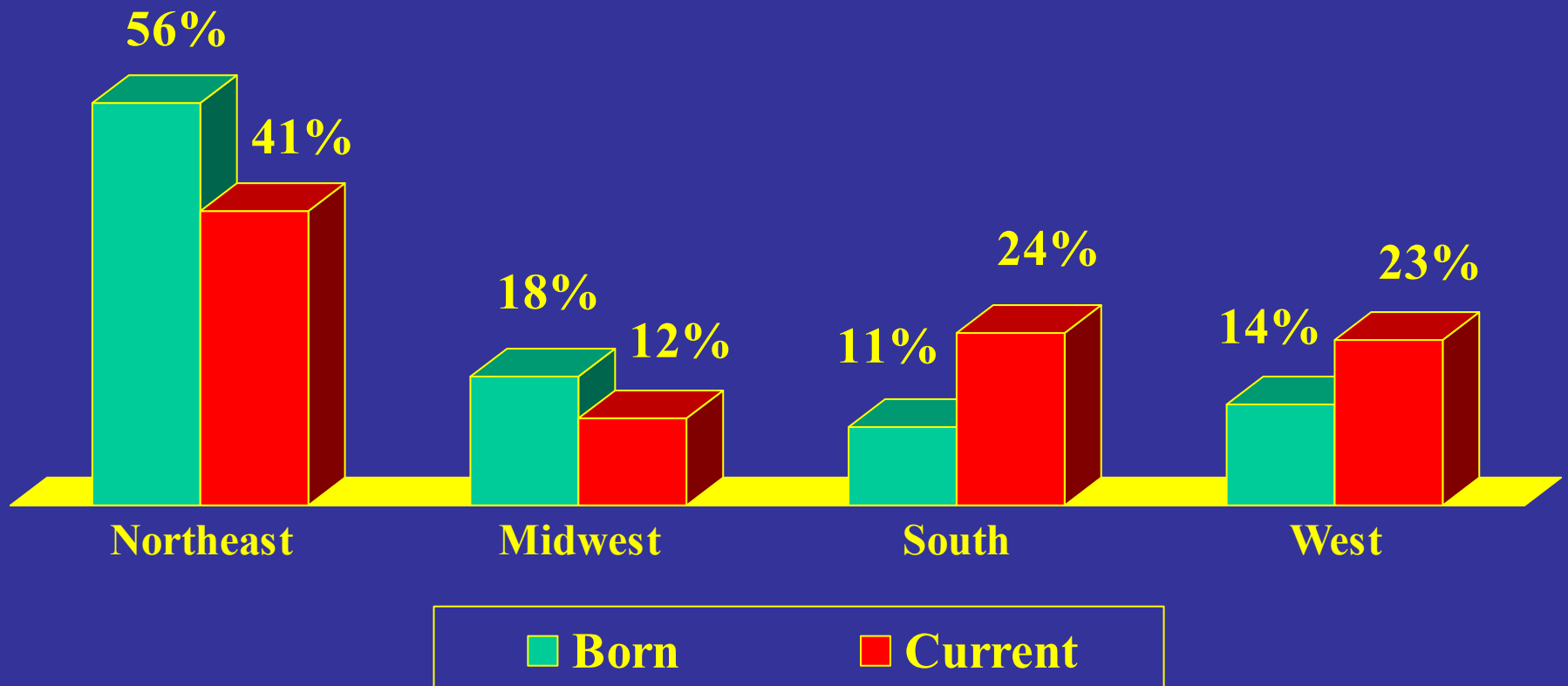


**Across regions, proportions of children, adults (age 18-64) and elderly vary. The West has the largest proportion of adults 18-64 and the smallest proportion of children (with the South).**



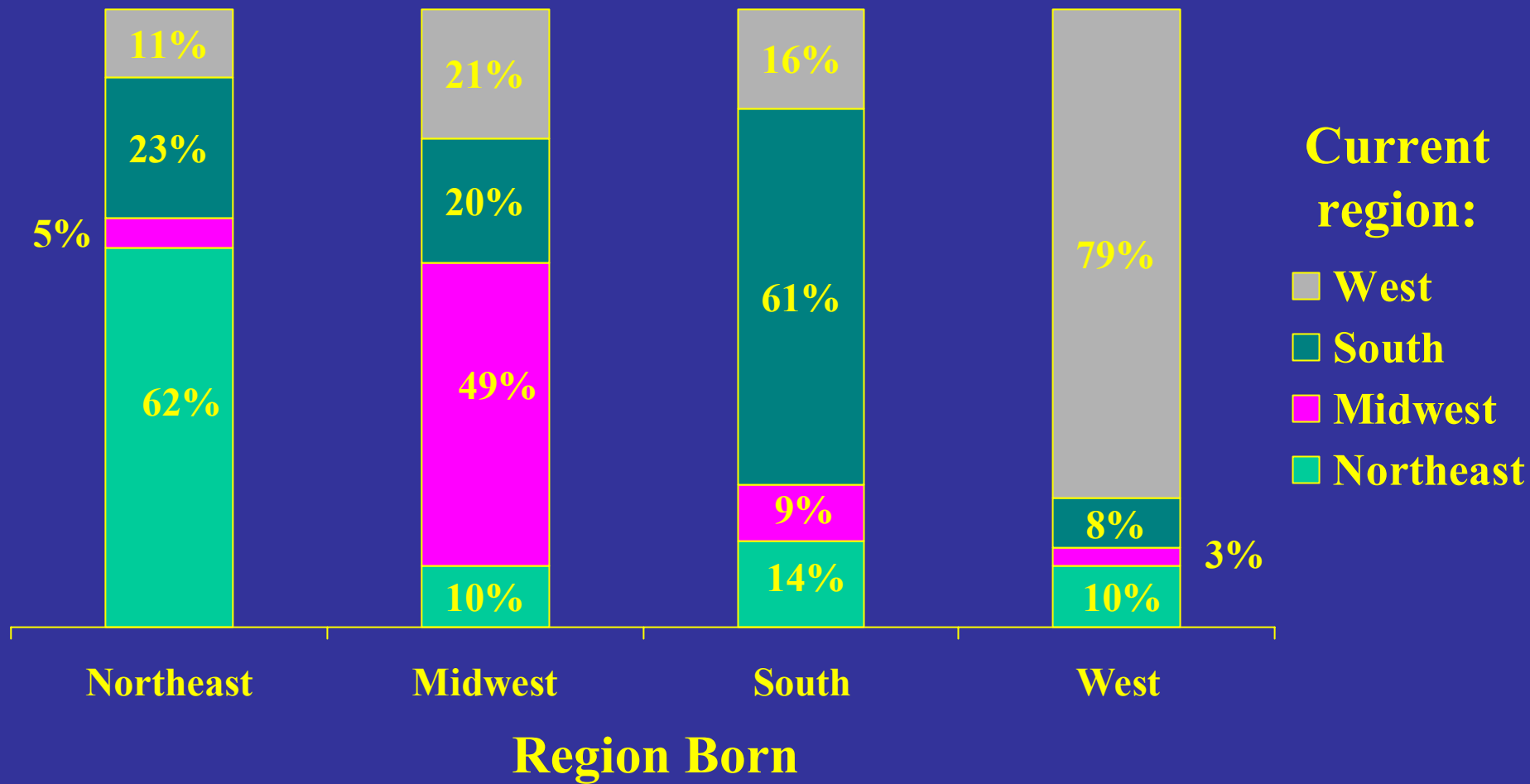


Net lifetime mobility indicates shifts in the Jewish adult population from the Northeast and Midwest into the South and West.



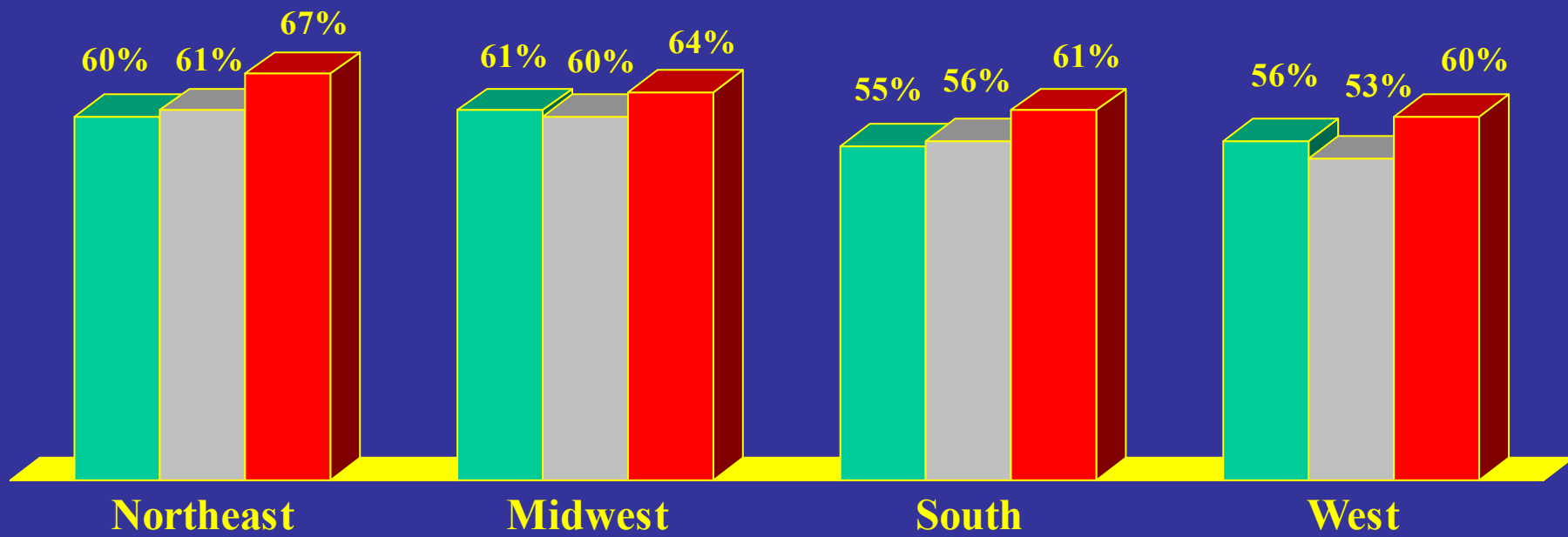


Nearly 80% of Jewish adults born in the West still live in the West, the highest rate of regional retention.





Indicators of socio-economic status are slightly higher in the Northeast and Midwest, and slightly lower in the South and West.



■ College education or higher    
 ■ Over \$50,000 household income    
 ■ Top three occupational groups

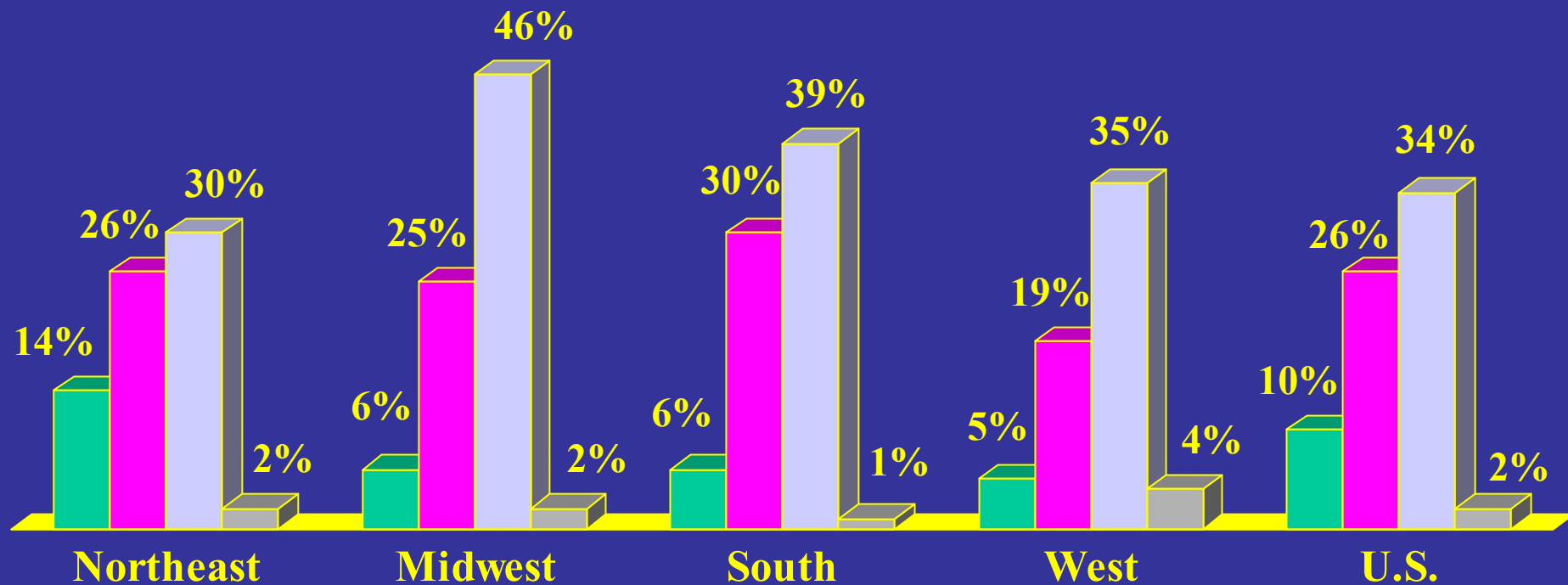


## **Jewish Connections:**

- Denominations
- Synagogues
- Rituals
- Affiliations
- Attitudes
- Philanthropy
- Intermarriage
- Israel
- Jewish media

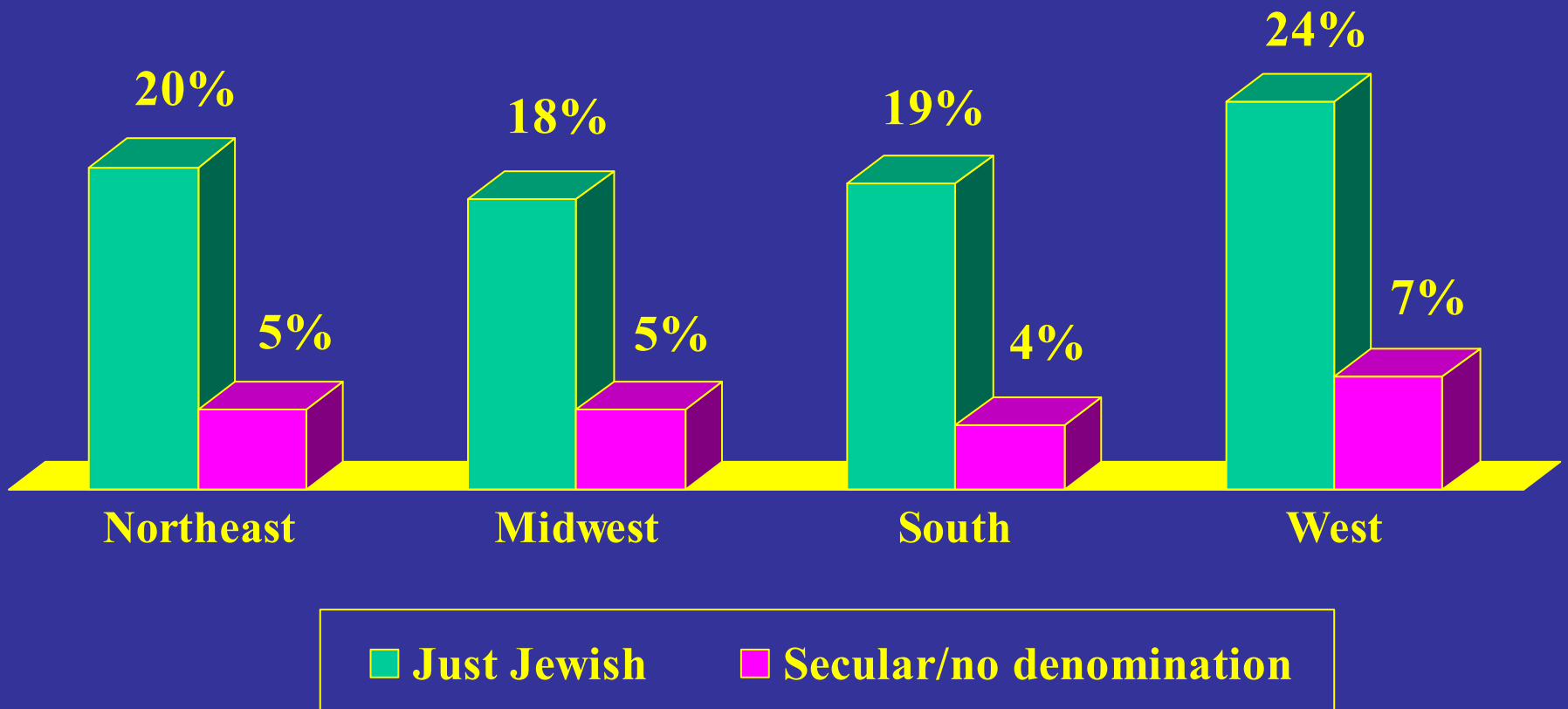


**When asked what Jewish denomination they consider themselves, proportionally more Jews reported Reform in every region, but the proportion in the West trails both the Midwest and South.\***





When asked what Jewish denomination they consider themselves, proportionally more Jews in the West than elsewhere said “Just Jewish” or secular/no denomination.\*





Forty percent of American Jewish households<sup>1</sup> belong to synagogues,\* with the West having the lowest proportion among the four regions.

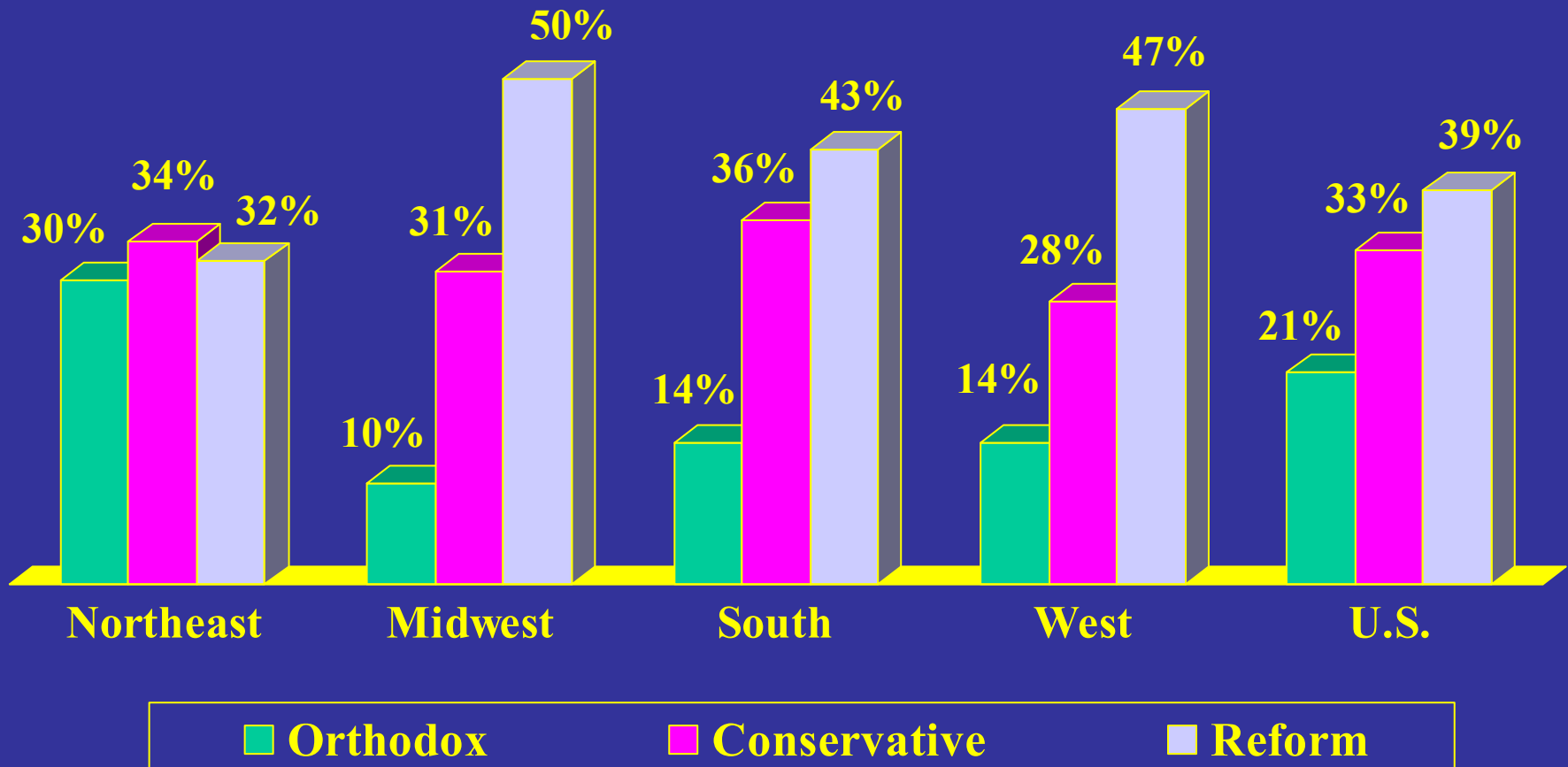


<sup>1</sup> These households contain 46% of American Jewish adults.



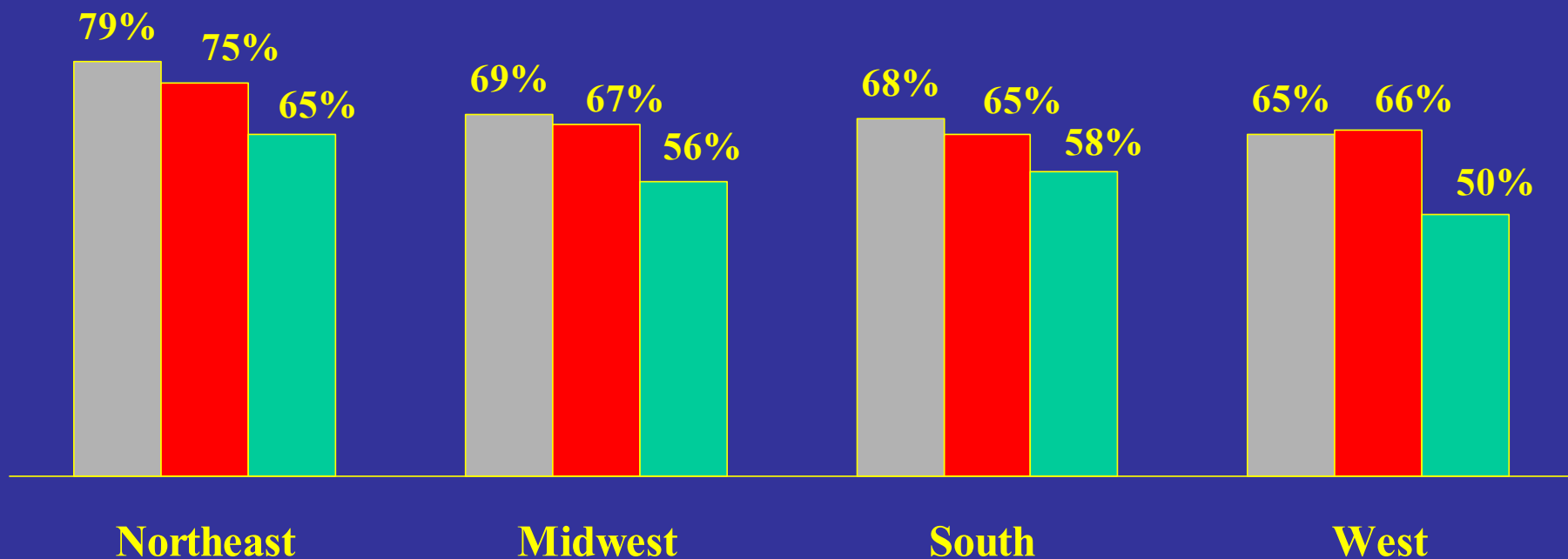


Among synagogue members,\* the highest proportion who belong to Reform synagogues are in the Midwest and West.





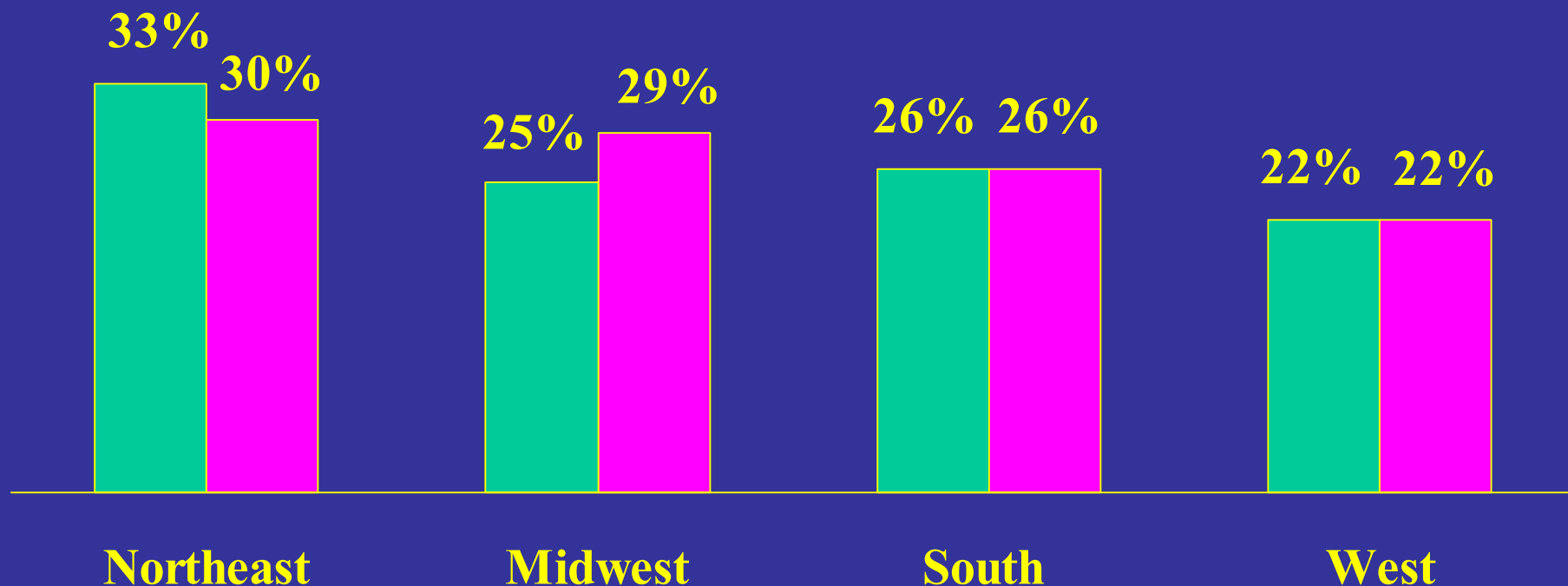
Jews in the West are less likely than other Jews to observe the most commonly practiced rituals.



■ Light Chanukah candles ■ Attend/Hold Passover Seder ■ Fast on Yom Kippur\*



Jews in the West are also less likely to observe these rituals and observances.

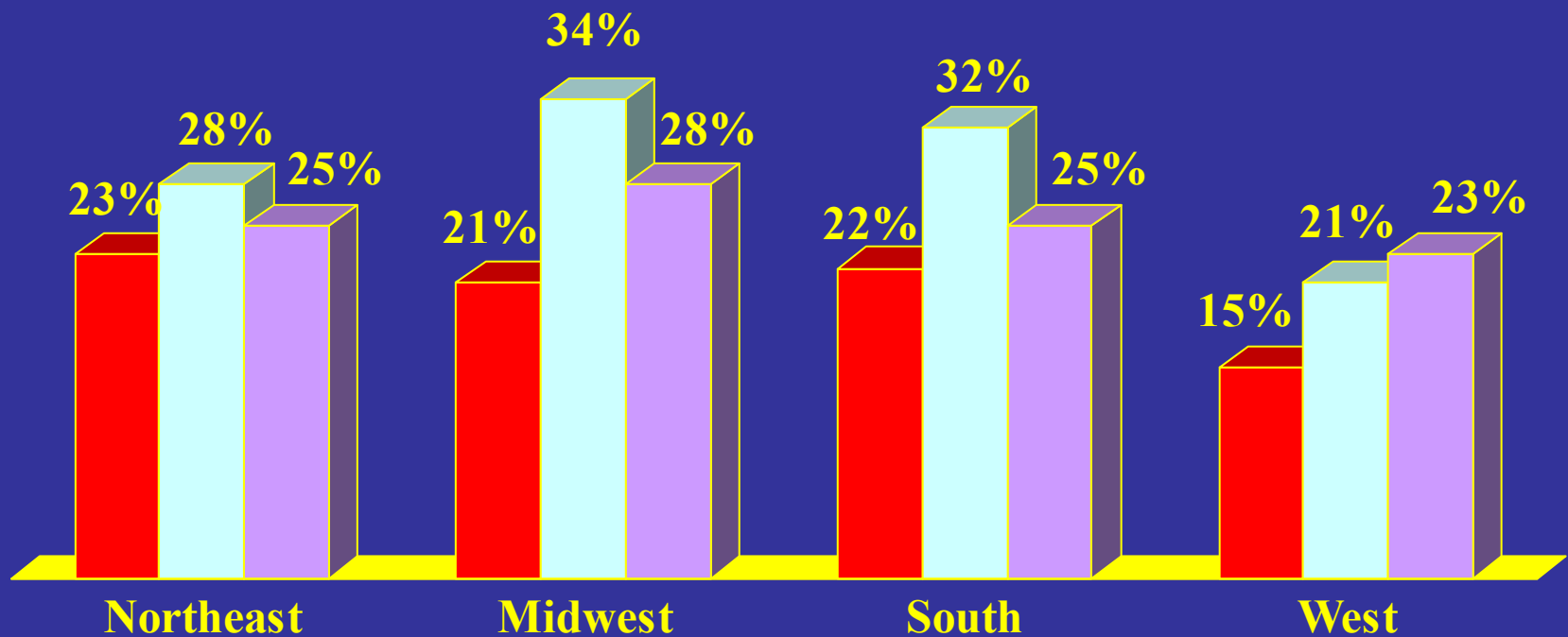


■ Light Shabbat candles\*

■ Synagogue attendance monthly or more\*



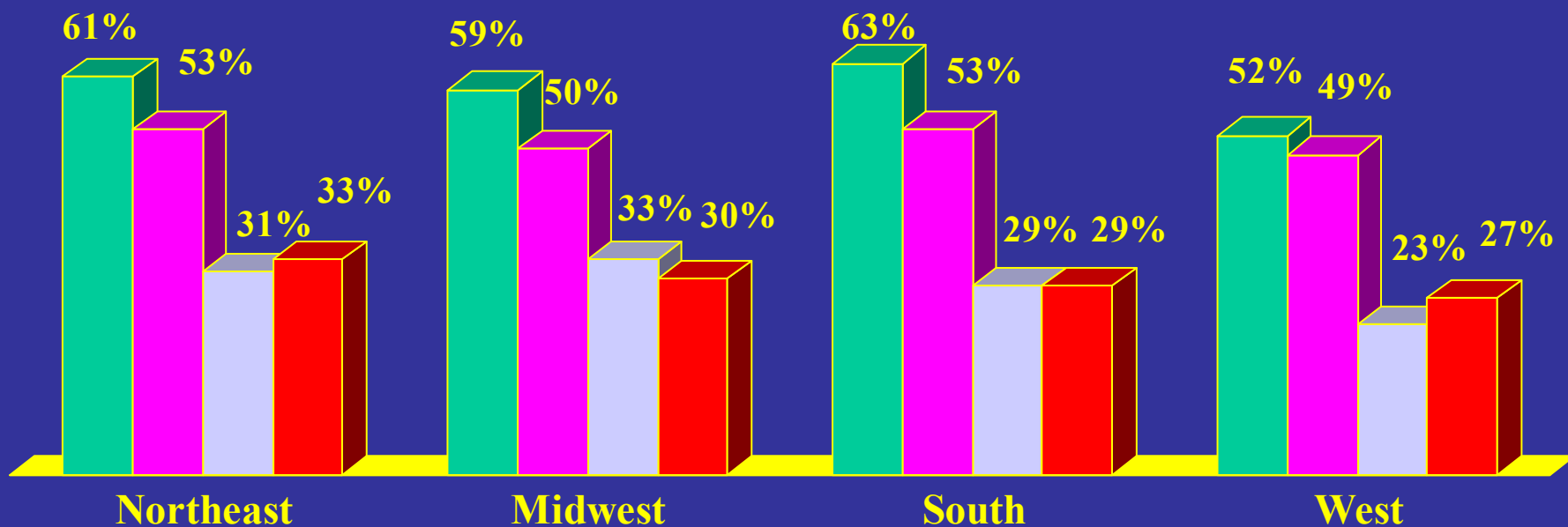
In general, rates of affiliation with JCCs and other Jewish organizations and volunteering for Jewish organizations are lowest in the West.



■ Belong to JCC\*    ■ Belong to other Jewish organization\*    ■ Volunteer under Jewish auspices\*



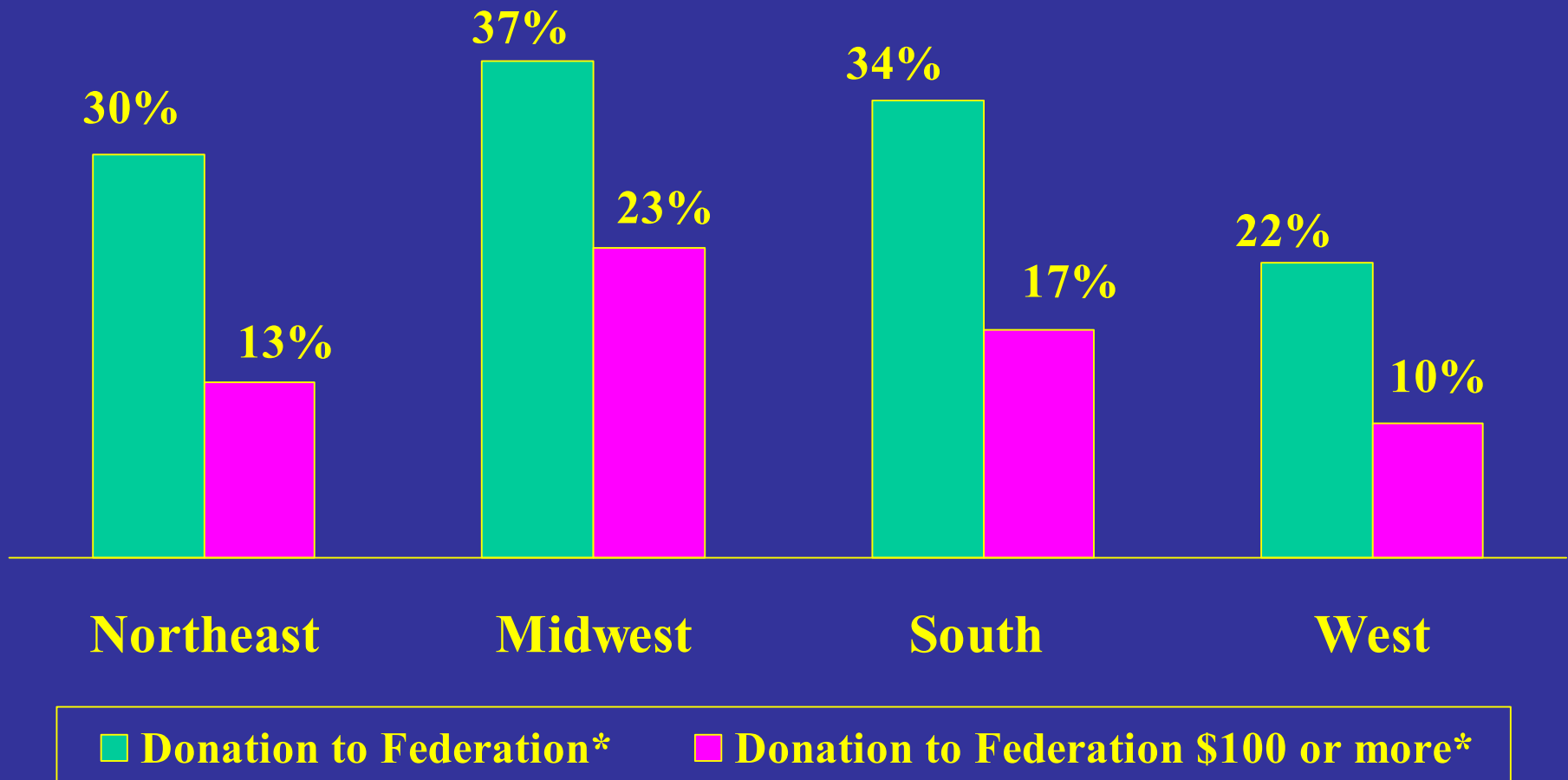
American Jews vary in whether they “strongly agree” with the following statements, with somewhat lower scores in the West than elsewhere.



- Strong sense of belonging to the Jewish people\*
- Regard being Jewish as very important\*
- Jews have greater responsibility to other Jews than to non-Jews\*
- Special responsibility to take care of Jews in need\*

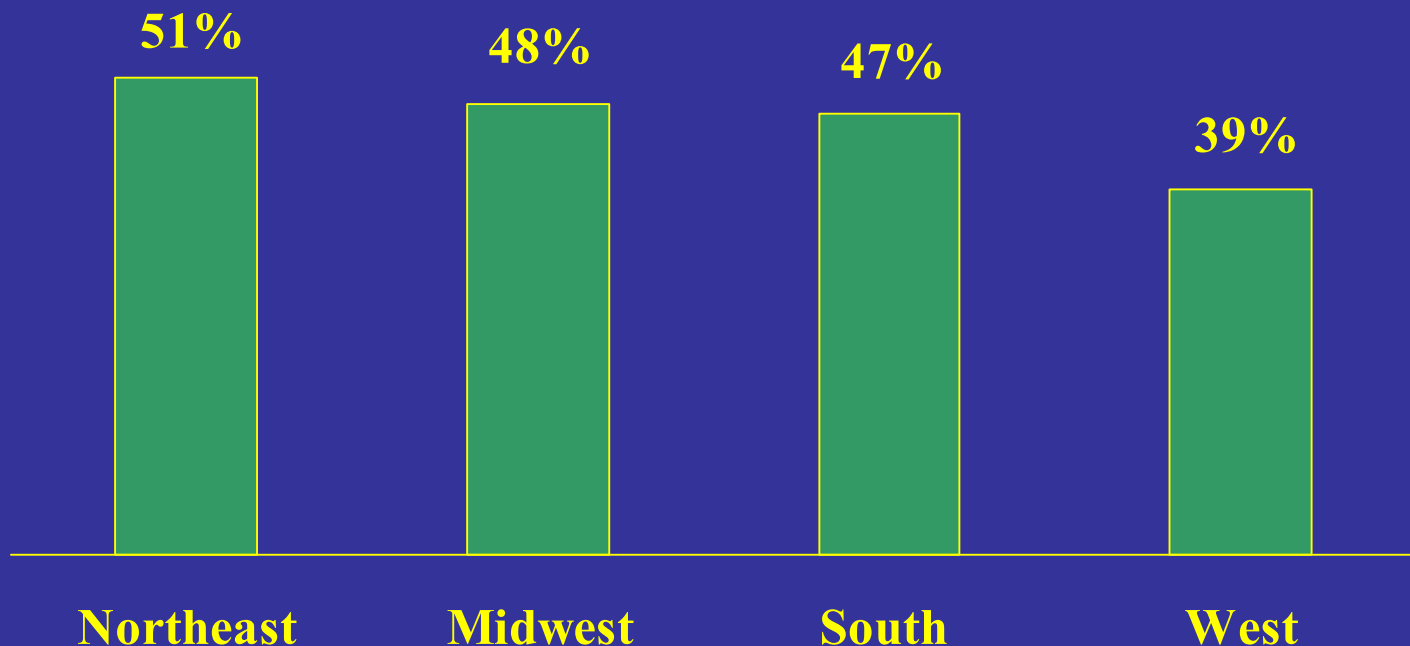


**Jews in the West donate less frequently to Federation than do Jews in other regions.**





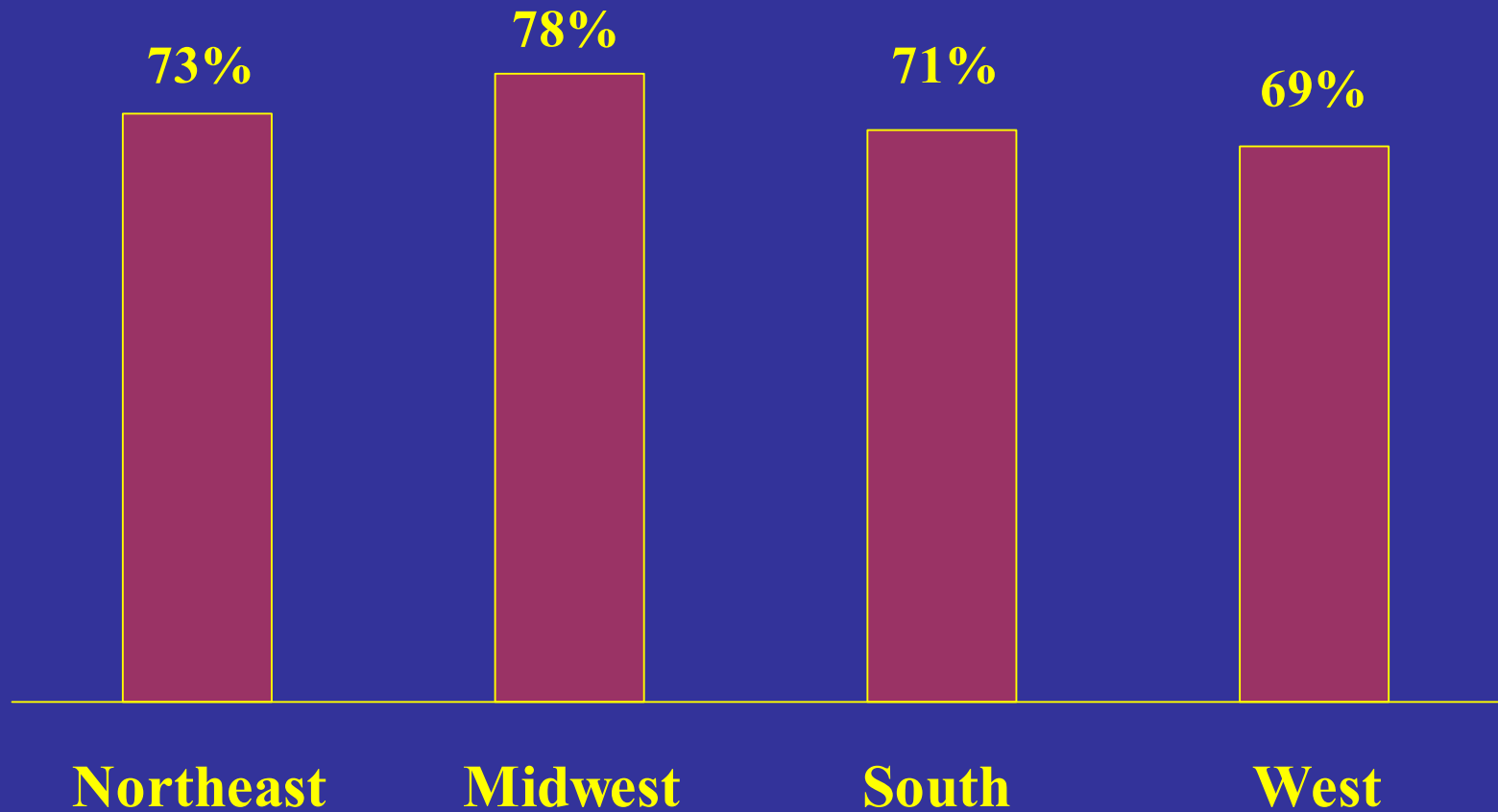
Jews in the West donate to all Jewish causes, including Federation, less frequently than Jews in other regions.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Donation to any Jewish charity assumes no donation to Federation among less engaged population.



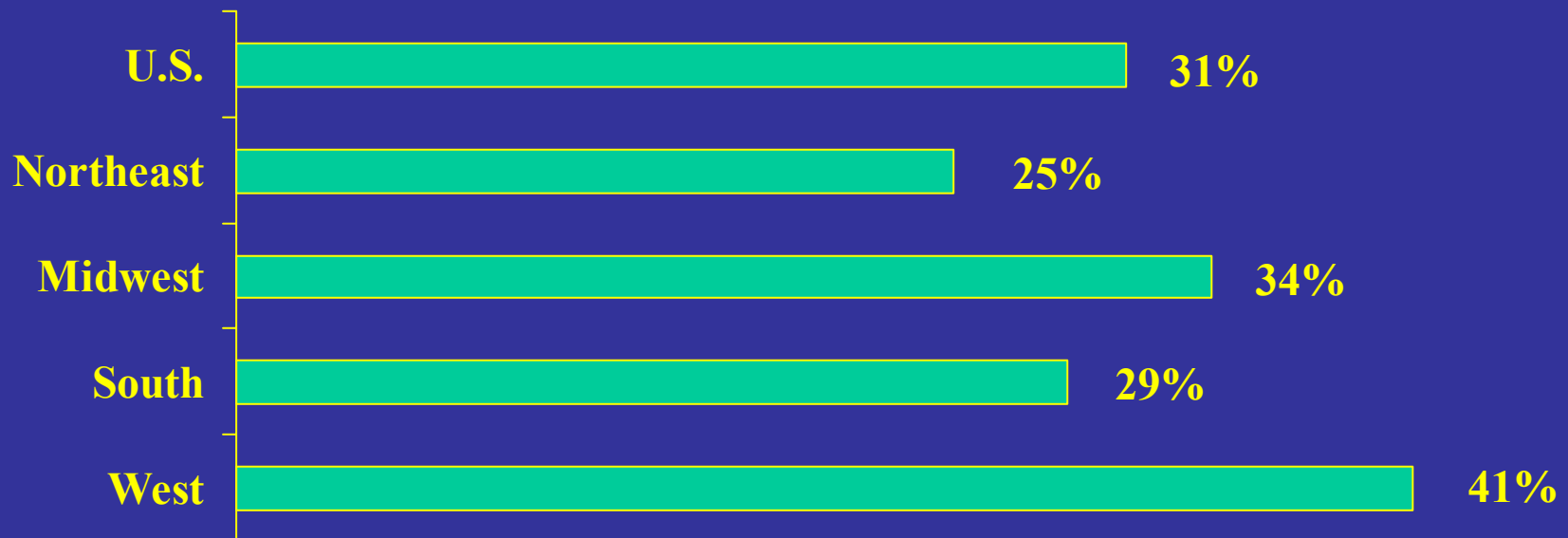
**Rates of giving to all causes – Jewish and non-Jewish together – are highest in the Midwest and lowest in the West region.**







Among all American Jews who are married, 31% are married to someone who is not Jewish. Intermarriage rates are lowest in the Northeast and highest in the West.



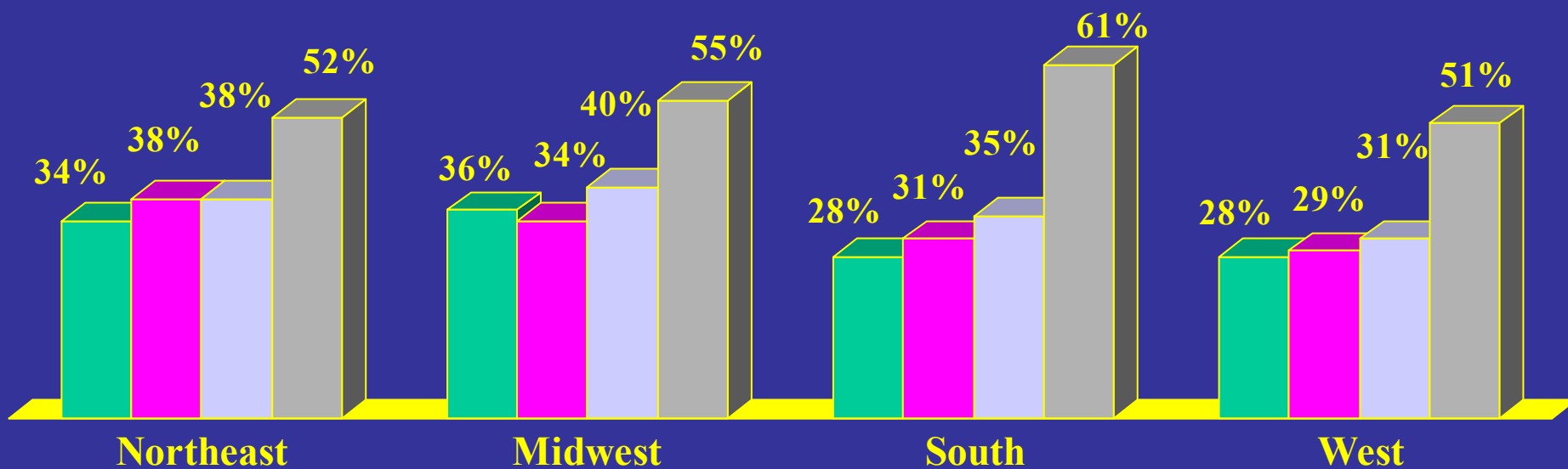


Among Jewish adults, 35% have been to Israel. The highest rate of travel to Israel is in the Northeast; the lowest rates are in the Midwest and West.





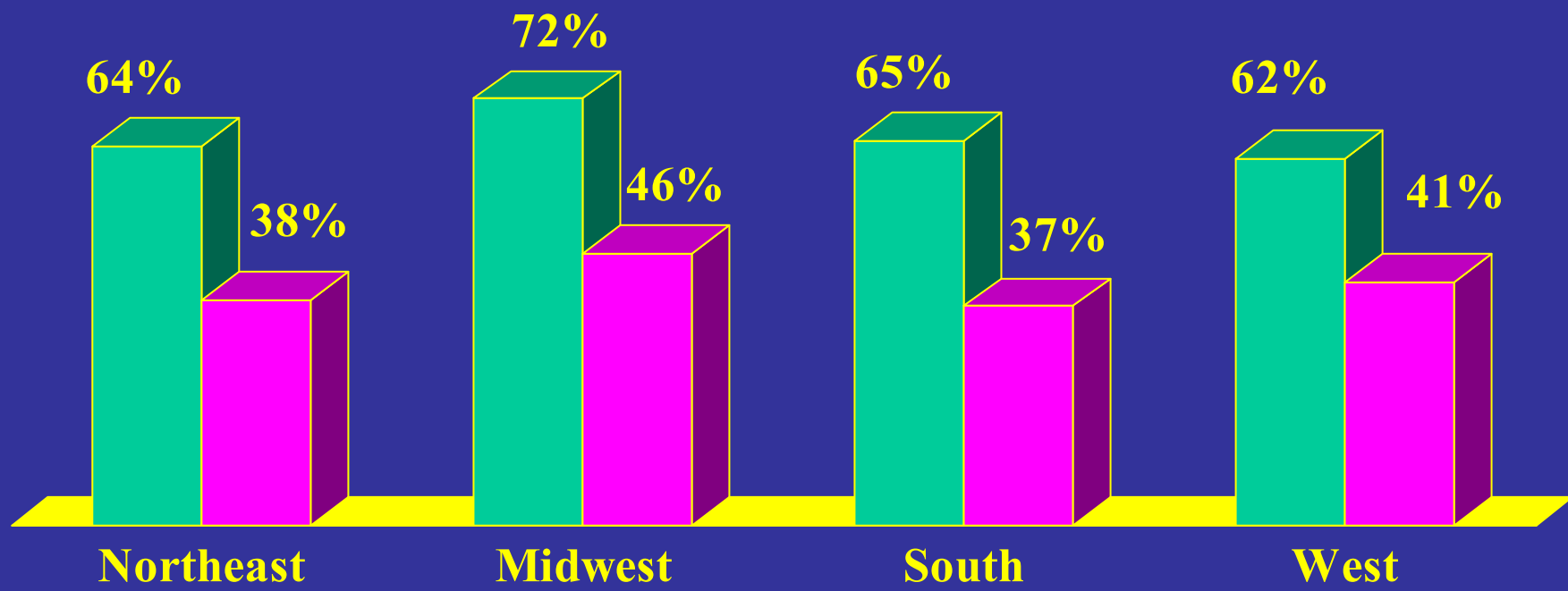
In all four regions, Jews have multiple attitudinal connections to Israel, with attitudes in the West slightly weaker.



- Very emotionally attached to Israel\*
- Very familiar with social and political situation
- US and Israeli Jews share common destiny: strongly agree\*
- Israel needs financial support of US Jews: strongly agree\*



Using the Internet for Jewish purposes\* is highest in the Midwest, followed by the West.



■ Read Jewish newspaper/magazine\*

■ Use internet for Jewish purposes\*



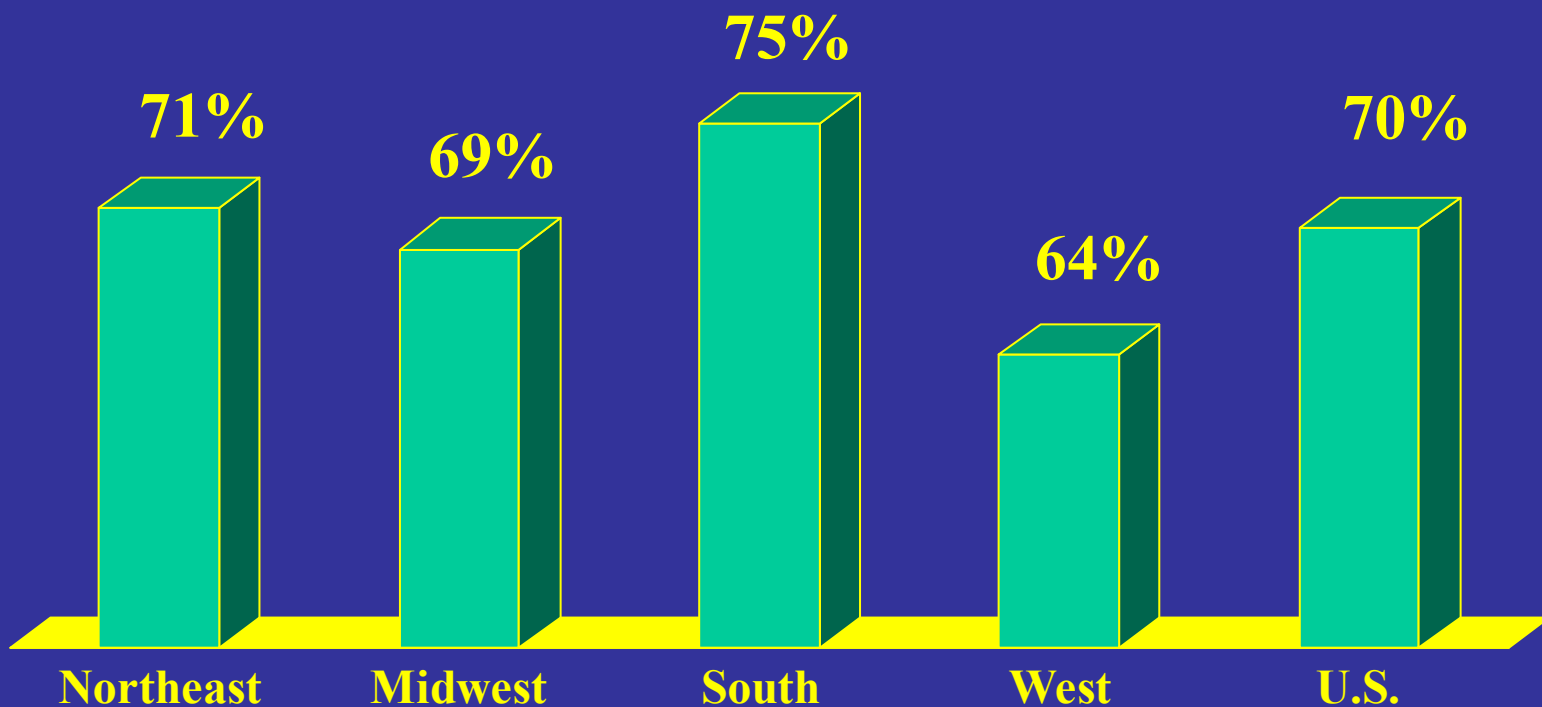
## **Jewish education\***

- Current rates among Jewish children ages 6-17
- Types of Jewish education among Jewish children
- Comparisons of children to adults in day school enrollments
- Adult Jewish education

\* Reminder: Asterisk means all education data are restricted to the Jewish population of 4.3 million with stronger Jewish connections.



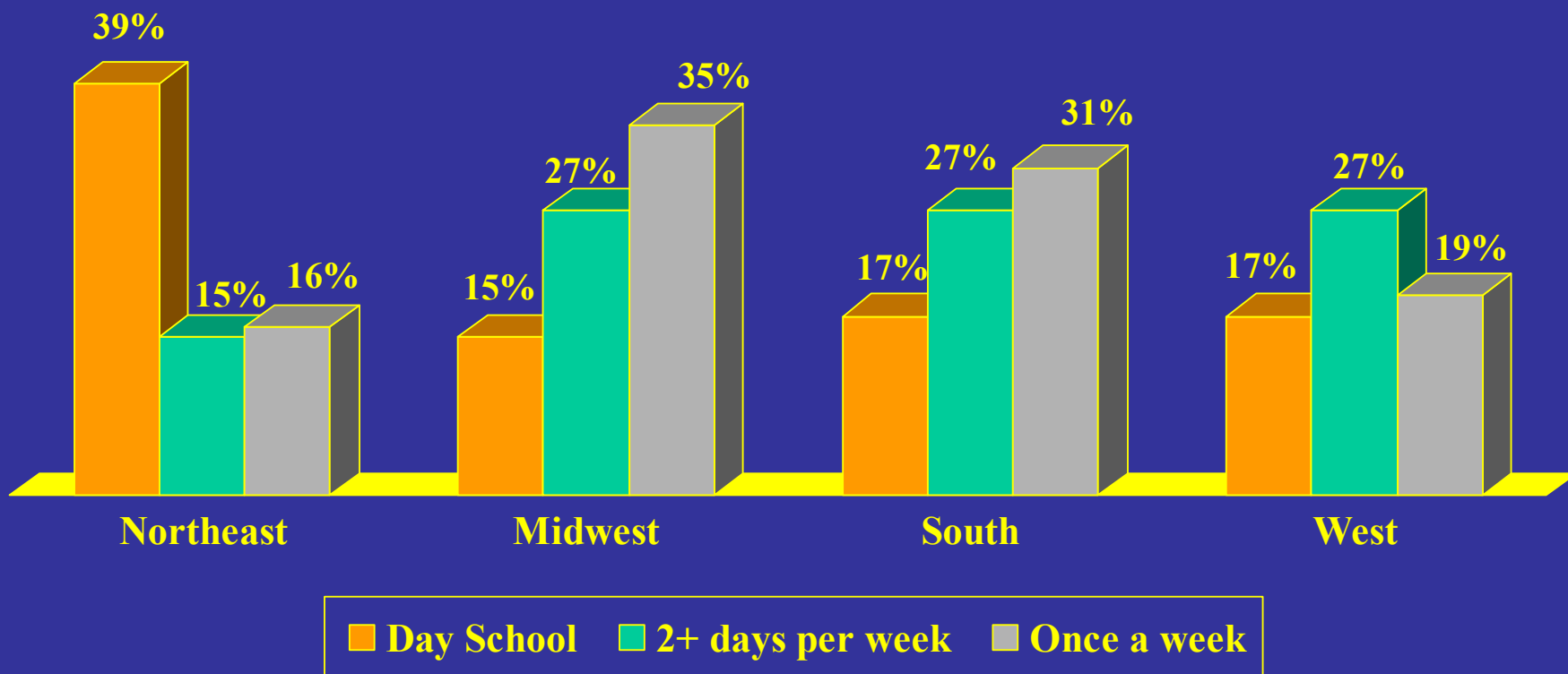
The West reports the lowest proportion of children ages 6-17 receiving any kind of Jewish education in the year prior to survey.\*



Note: data on children in the Midwest should be interpreted cautiously due to small number of cases.



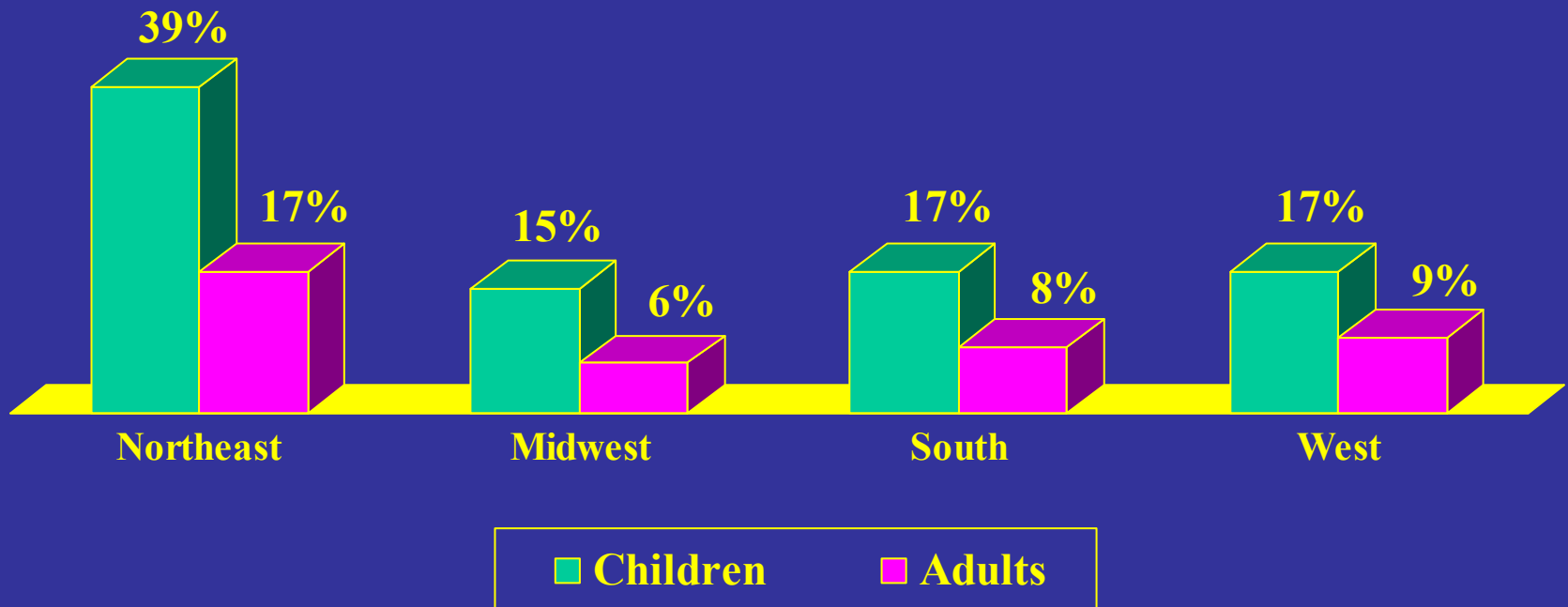
**The proportion of children 6-17 in day schools\* is similar in the West, Midwest and South, but all three trail the Northeast.**



Note: Multiple responses permitted. Data on children in the Midwest should be interpreted cautiously due to small number of cases.



In all four regions, proportionally more Jewish children 6-17 are receiving day school education than adults did when they were growing up.\*

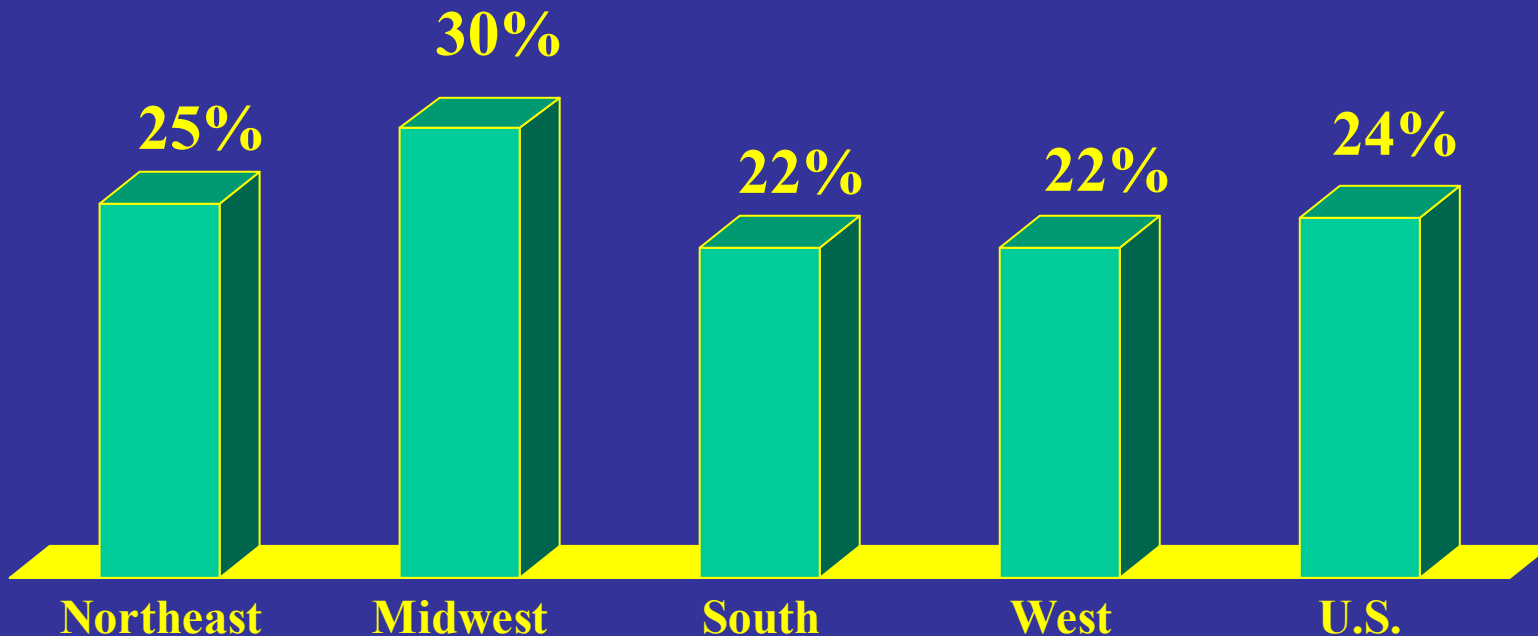


Note: data on children in the Midwest should be interpreted cautiously due to small number of cases.





Adults in the West and South report lower rates of participation in adult Jewish education classes in the year prior to survey.\*





## Special Topics

- Poverty/low income
- Health
- Immigrants
- Elderly

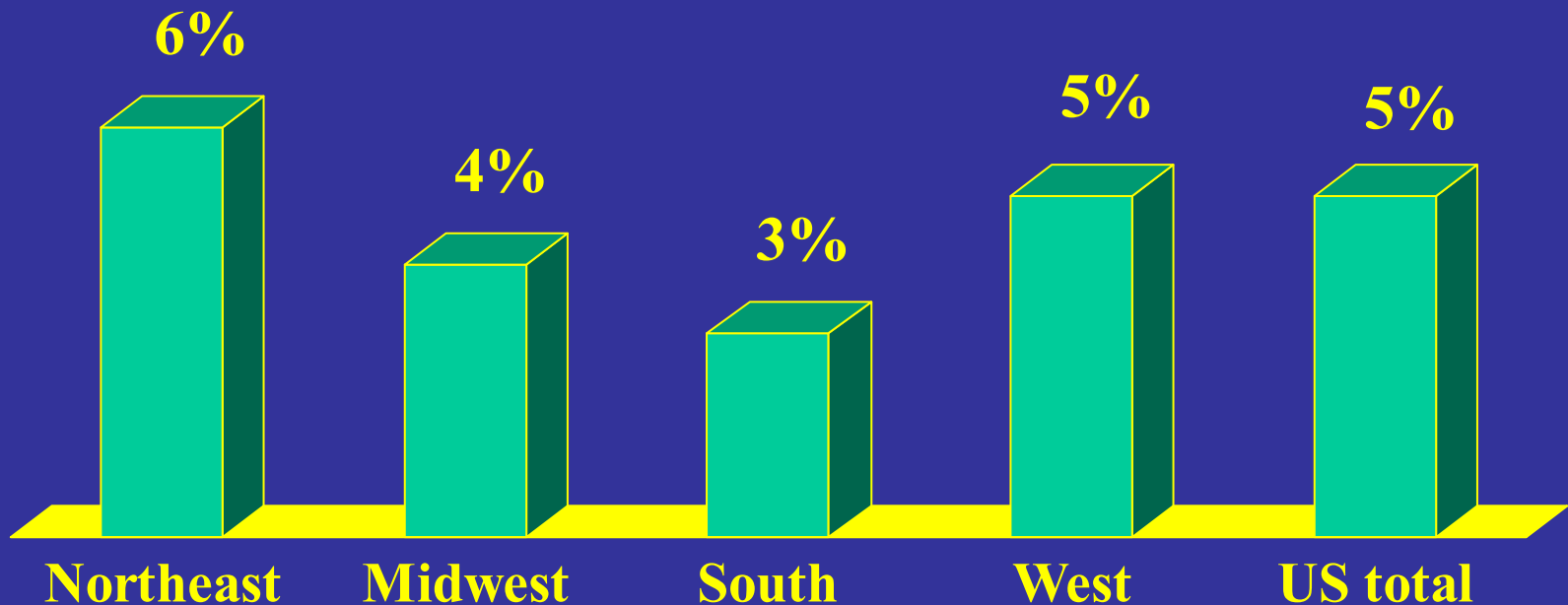


- **Poverty\***: US federal government standard; combination of income and household size
- **Low income** = < \$25,000, any household size

Note: the measures of poverty and low income report the percentage of confirmed cases of all households, including those who refused to answer the question on income, thereby producing slightly conservative estimates of the incidence of these two factors.

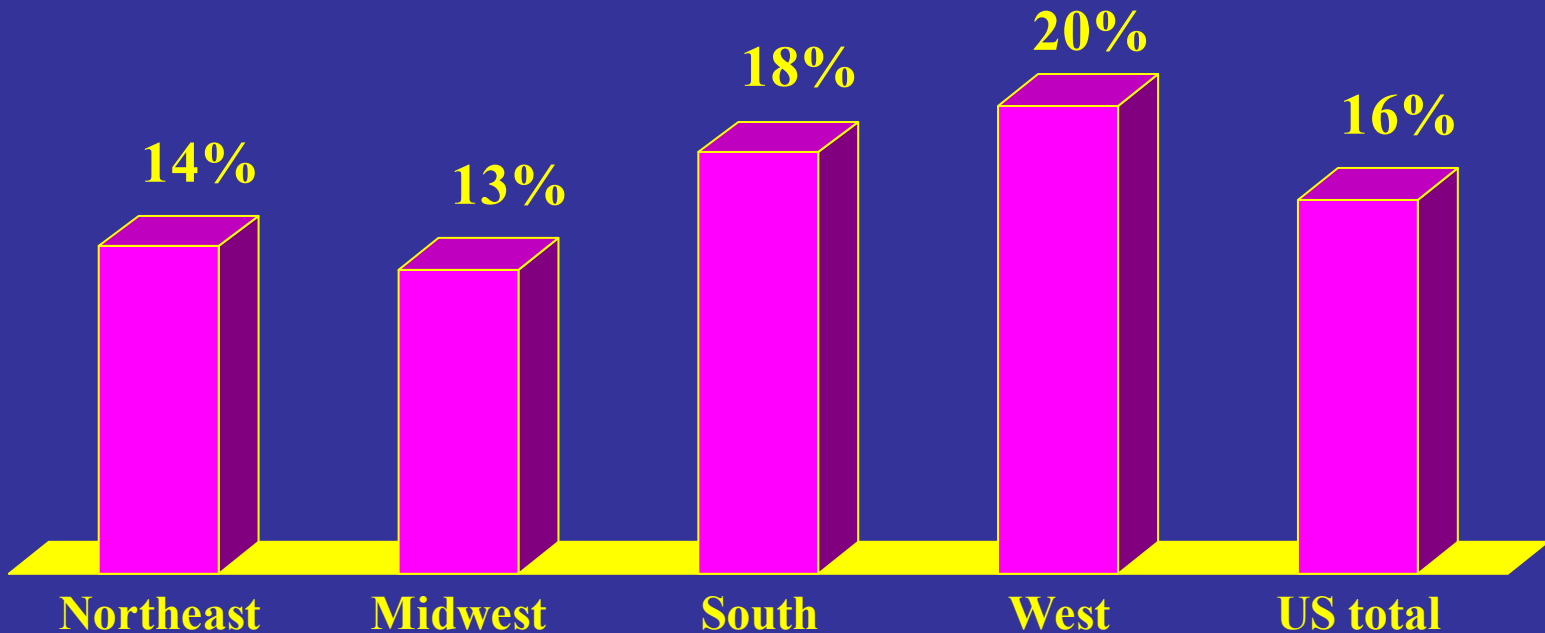


Rates of poverty\* (federal government definition) among Jewish households are slightly higher in the Northeast, slightly lower in the South and Midwest, and at the national average in the West.



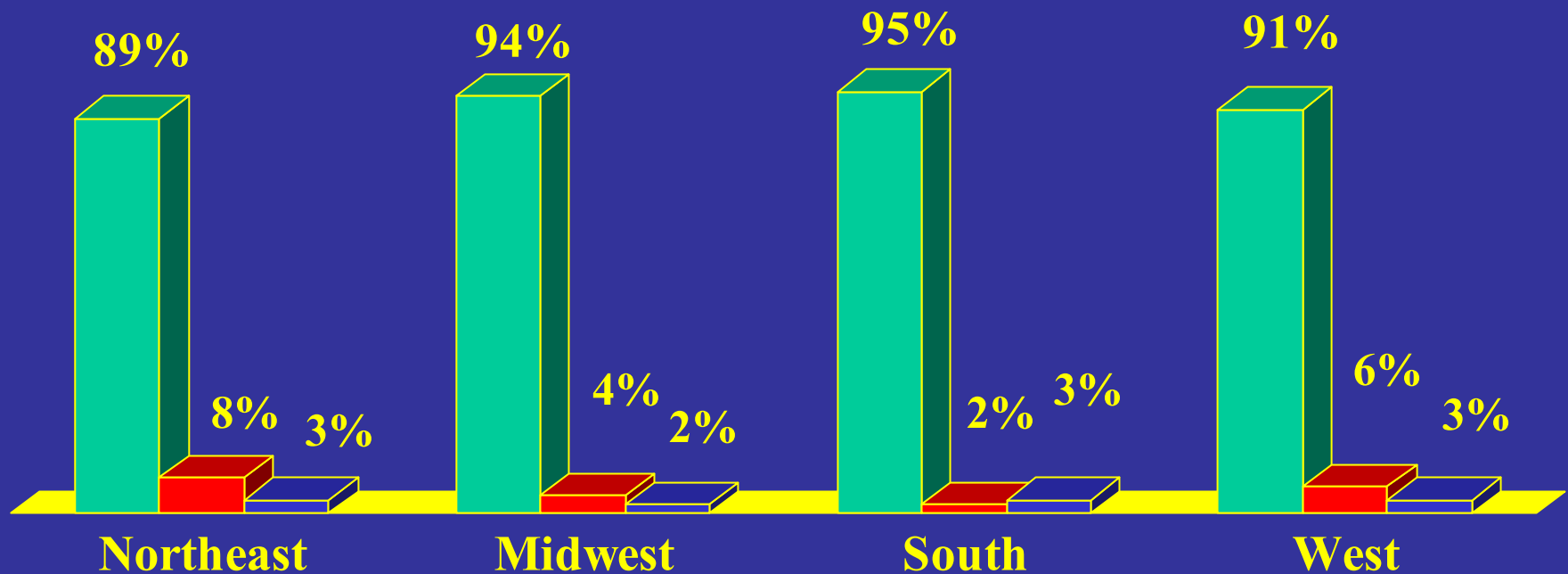


The incidence of low income (under \$25,000) is higher among Jewish households in the South and West than in the Northeast and Midwest.





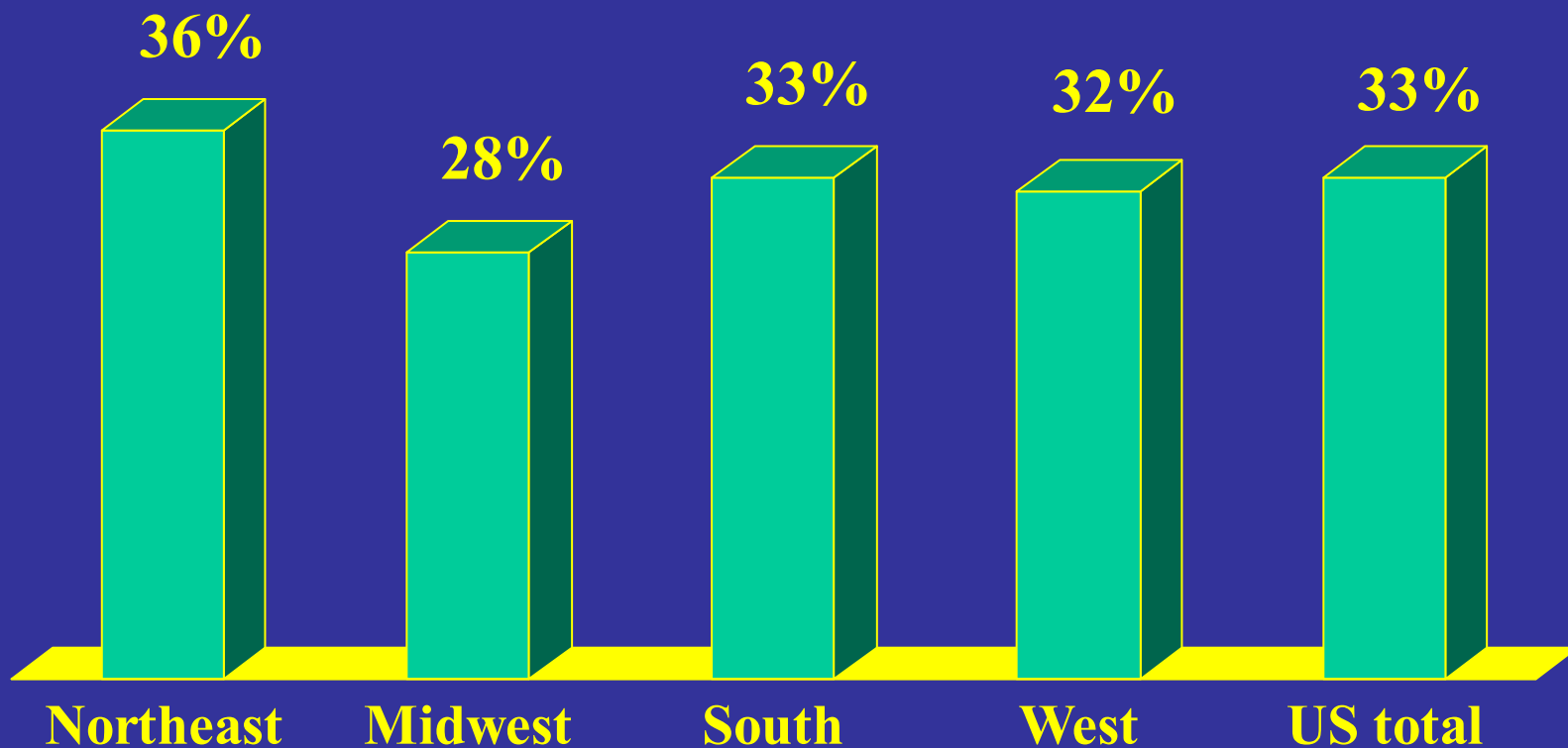
**Nine percent of Jewish adults in the West are immigrants who have arrived since 1980, trailing only the Northeast proportionally.**



- U.S. Born and immigrants (pre-1980)
- Immigrants from FSU (1980+)
- Immigrants from other countries (1980+)

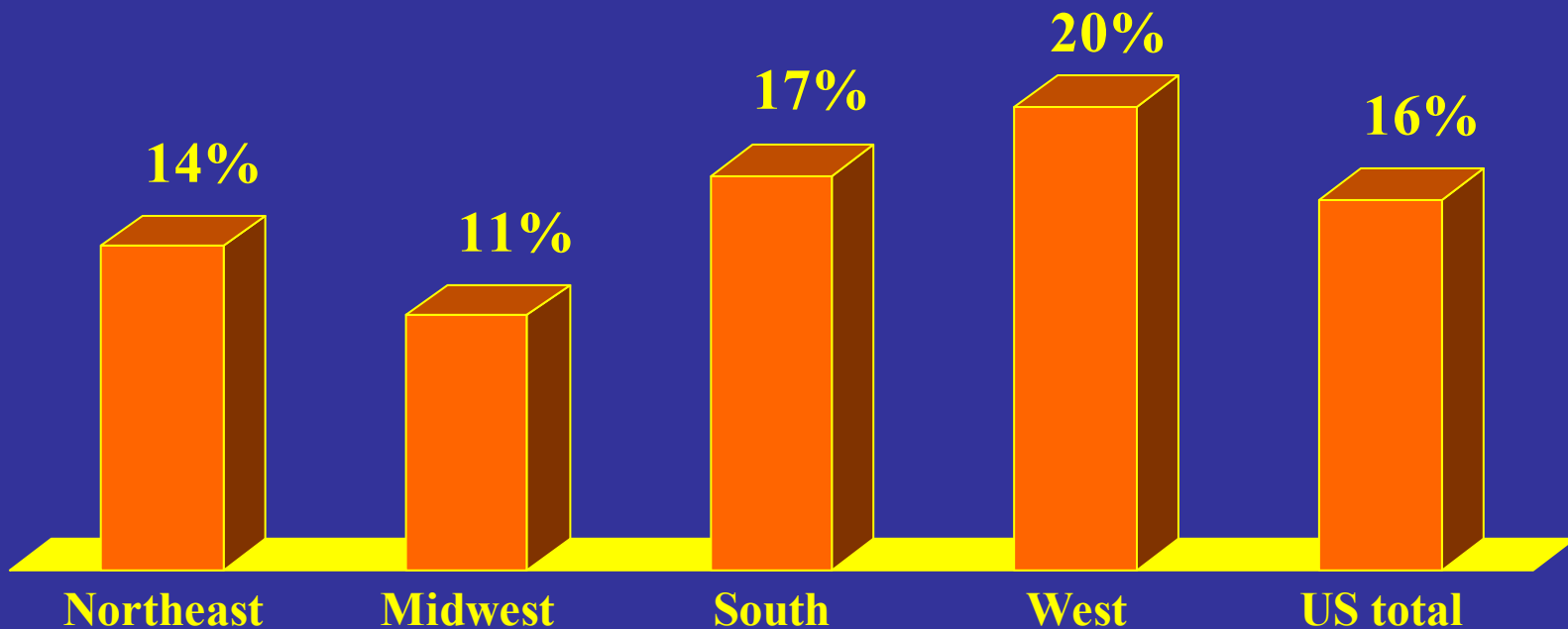


About one-third of all elderly – with small variations across the regions – live alone and are thus more vulnerable to social isolation.





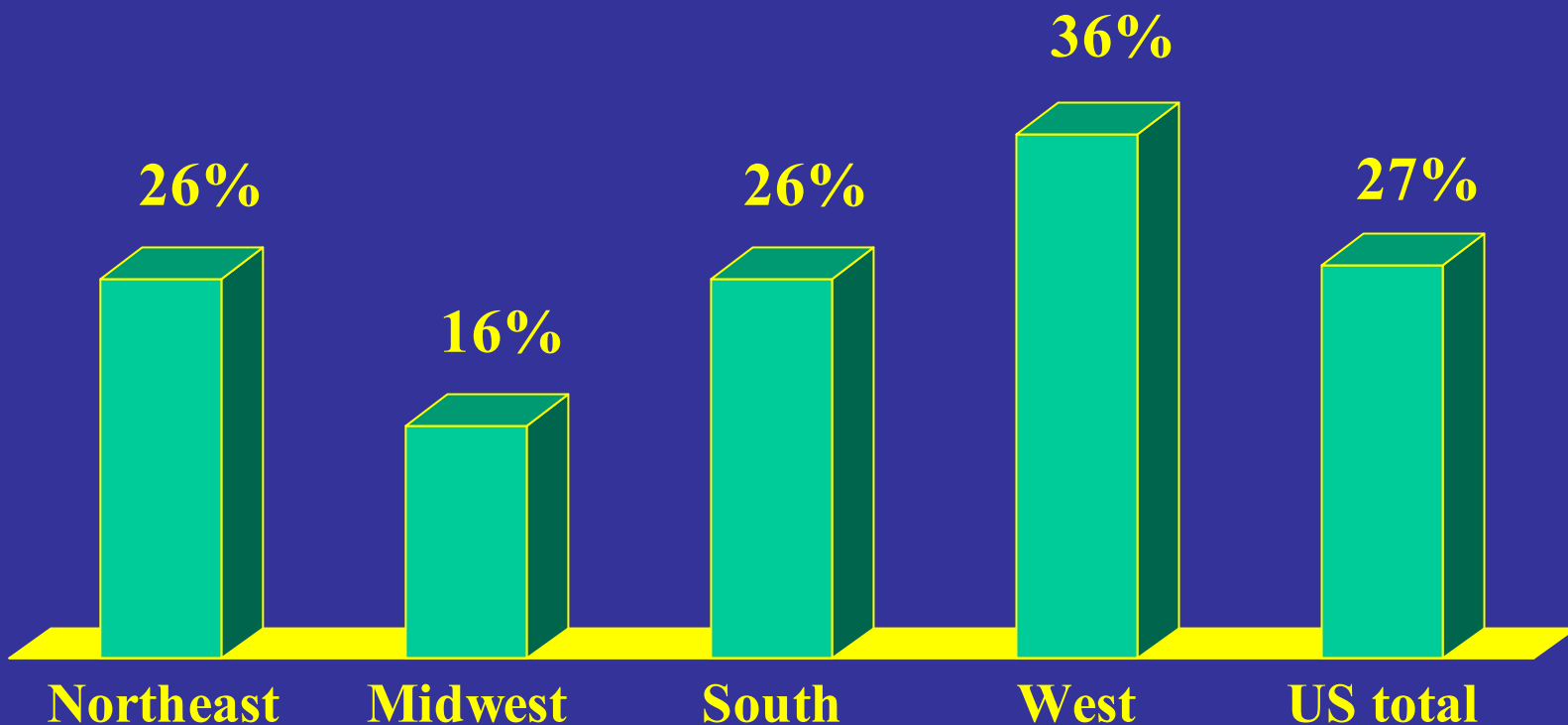
Jews in the South and West are more likely than Jews in the Northeast or Midwest to report that they or another household member have a health condition that limits daily activities.





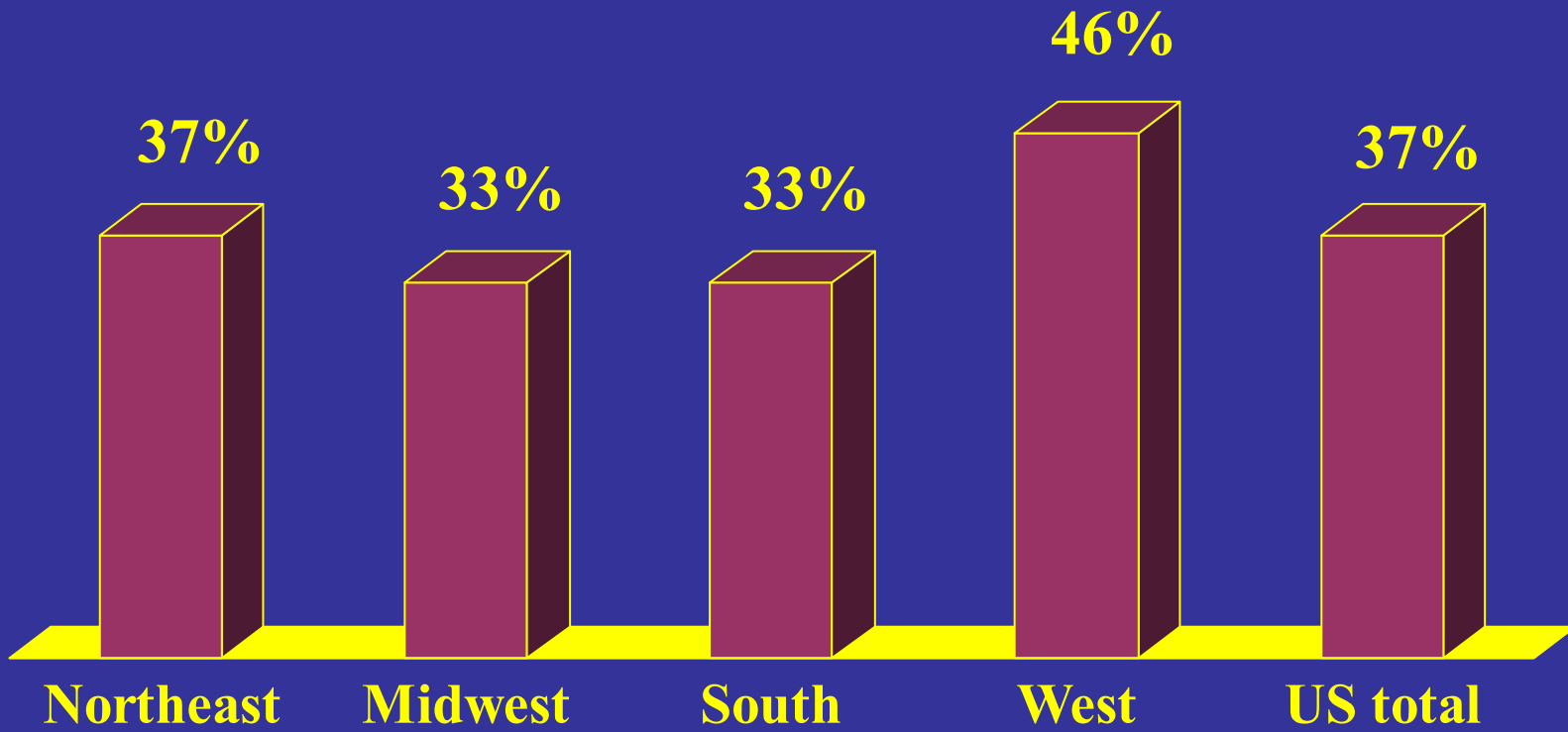


Among elderly Jews, proportionally more in the West also report that they or another household member have a health condition that limits daily activities.



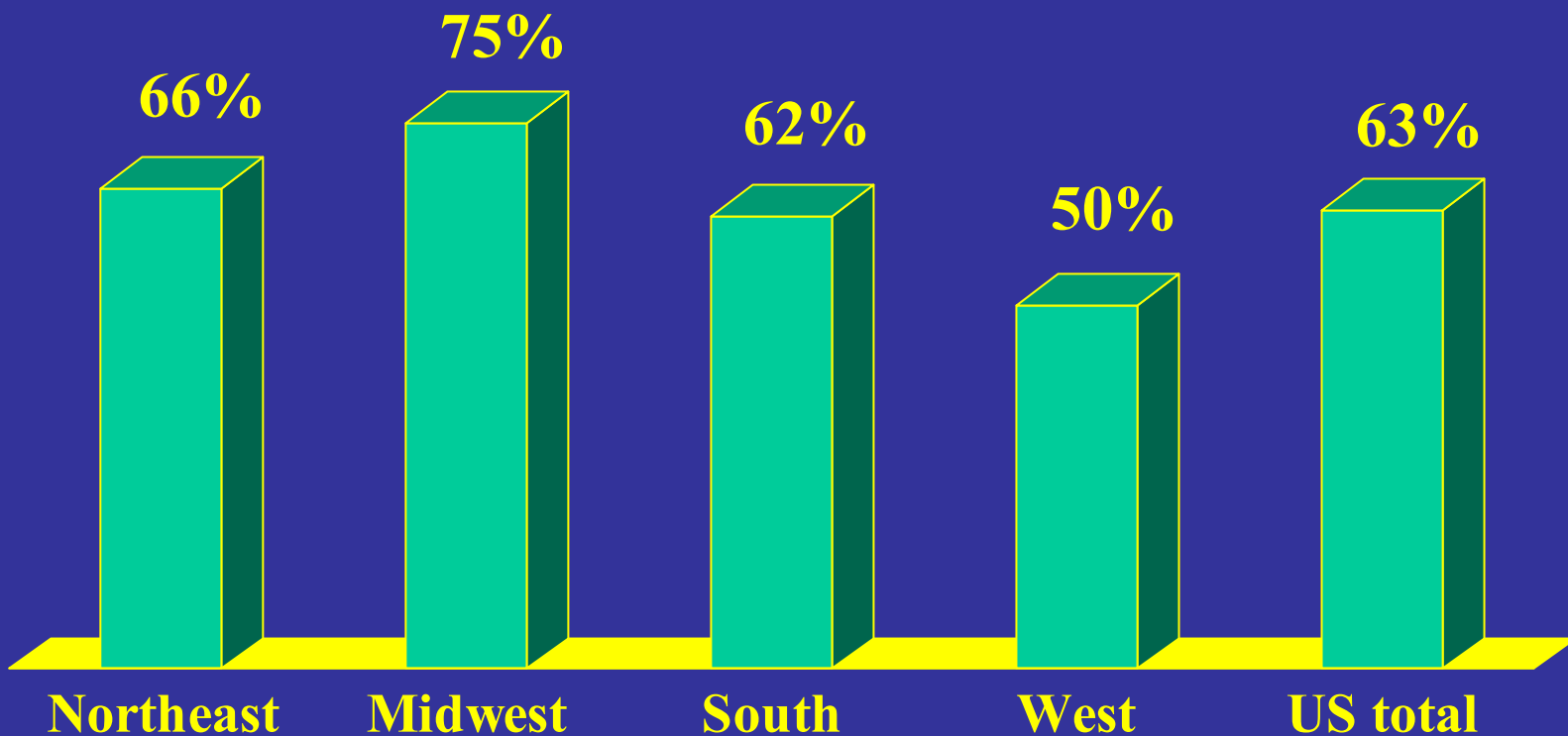


Proportionally more elderly Jews in the West report household incomes under \$25,000.





Proportionally fewer elderly Jews in the West are affiliated\* with at least one Jewish organization (synagogue, JCC or other).



**Regional differences**



**Questions?**