



National Jewish Population Survey 2000-01

Orthodox Jews

A United Jewish Communities
Presentation of Findings

February 2004

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 US Jews). The short-form version, which omitted many questions on Jewish topics—including current Jewish religious denominational preference and synagogue membership—was given to respondents with Jewish connections that are not as strong (representing in total 800,000 Jews).
- In this presentation, data on 1) Orthodox Jews and 2) all US synagogue members refer only to respondents with stronger Jewish connections. Data on the total US Jewish population, in contrast, refer to all respondents.



This presentation is divided into six major sections:

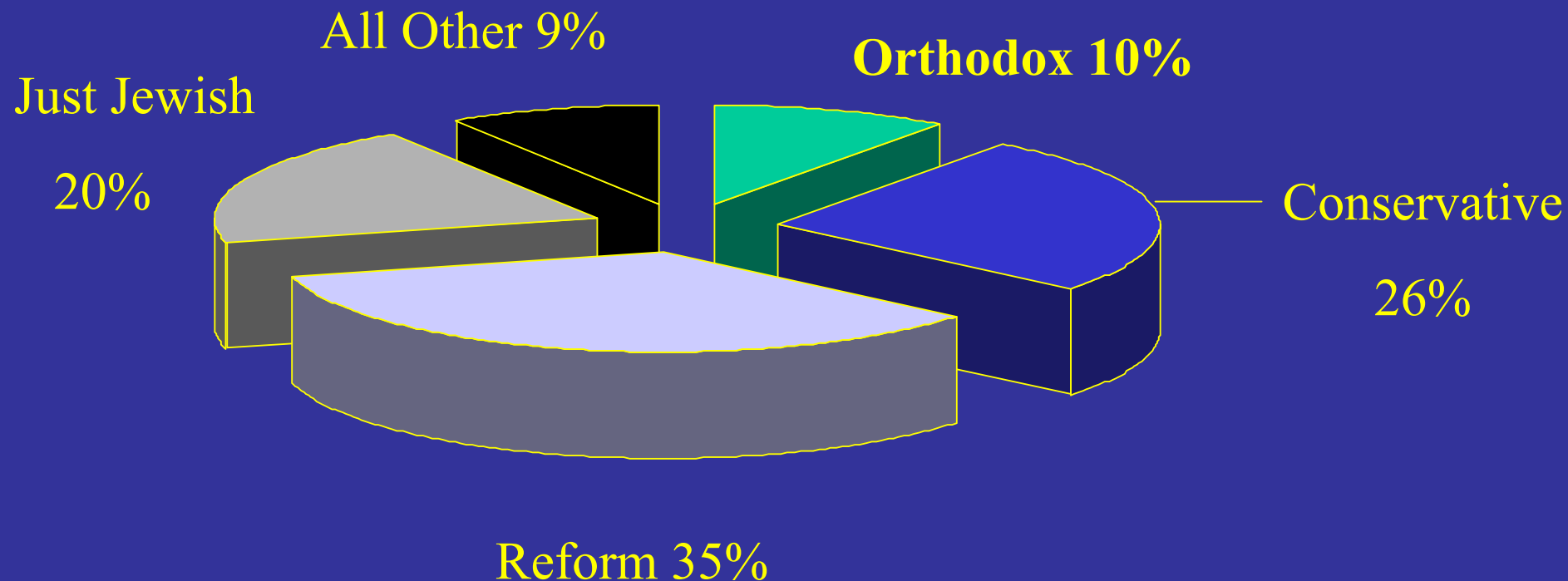
- Denominational definitions
- Orthodox Jewish population figures
- Orthodox denominational “switching”
- Demographic information on Orthodox Jews
- Jewish connections among Orthodox Jews
- Inter-marriage rates among Orthodox Jews

This presentation offers two definitions of Orthodox Jews.

The first definition includes all respondents who currently **consider** their Jewish religious denomination to be Orthodox.

Unless otherwise specified, this presentation uses the **consider** definition in its findings on Orthodox Jews.

Ten percent of American Jews **consider** themselves to be Orthodox.

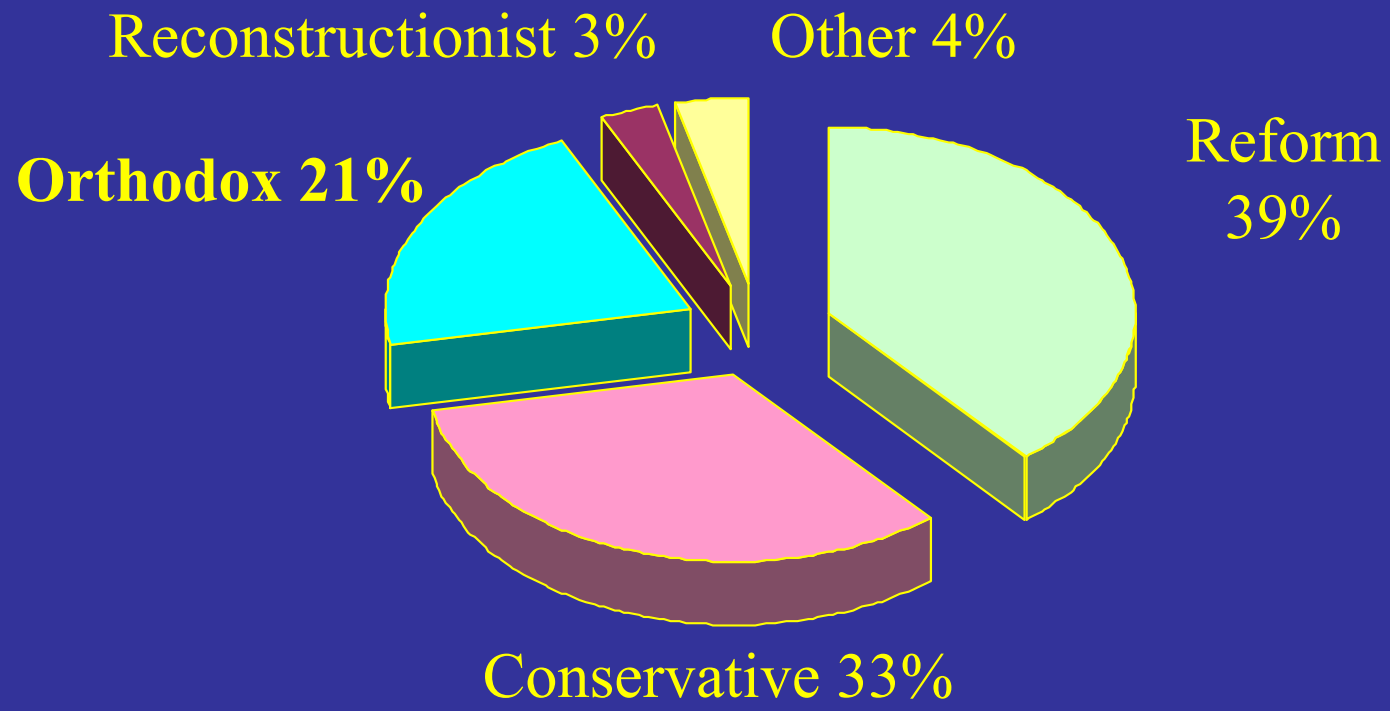




The second definition of Orthodox Jews only includes households where someone currently belongs to a synagogue or a temple.

If the denomination of that synagogue is Orthodox, then those in that household are defined as “synagogue” **Orthodox.**

Forty percent of American Jewish households (corresponding to 46% of all American Jews) belong to **synagogues**. Among these households, more than one in five are Orthodox:



Total Population in Orthodox Homes¹

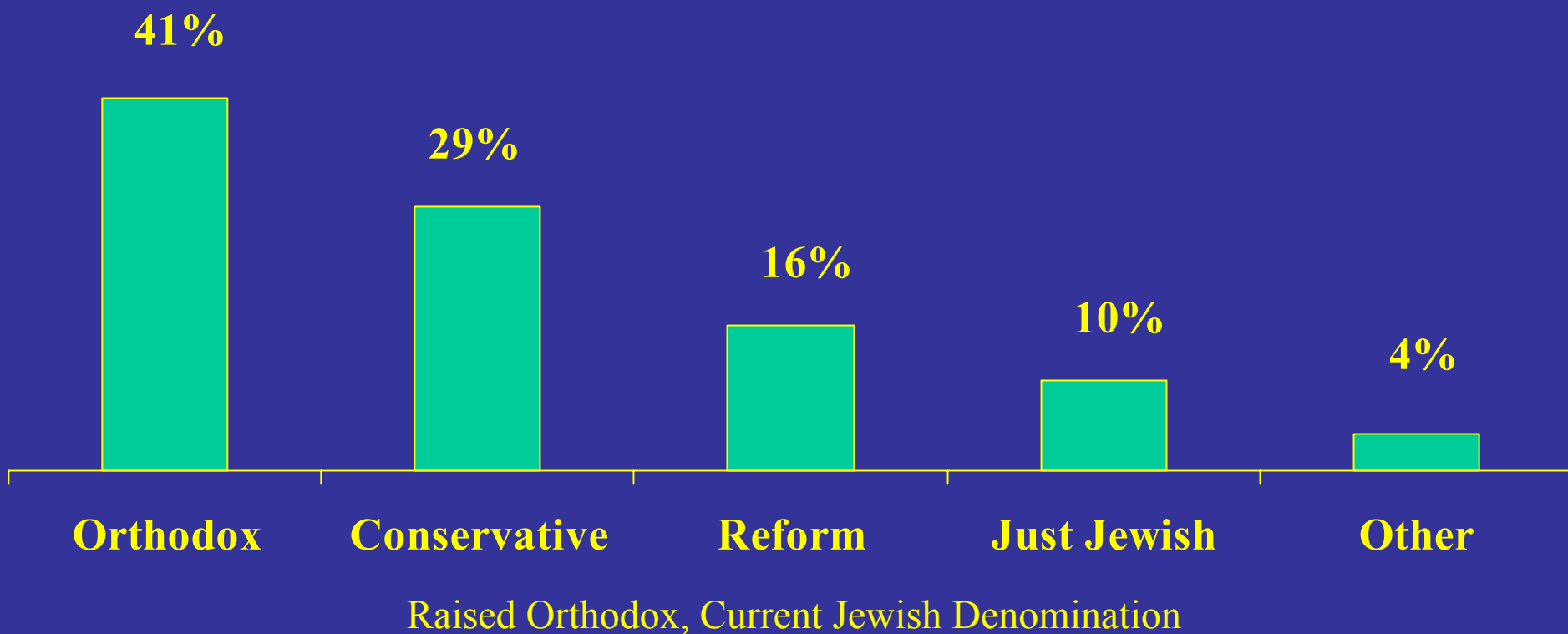
Adults (age 18 and older)	324,000
Children (age 17 and younger)	205,000
Total population in Orthodox homes	529,000

1. Defined as households with at least one adult who considers him/herself to be Orthodox

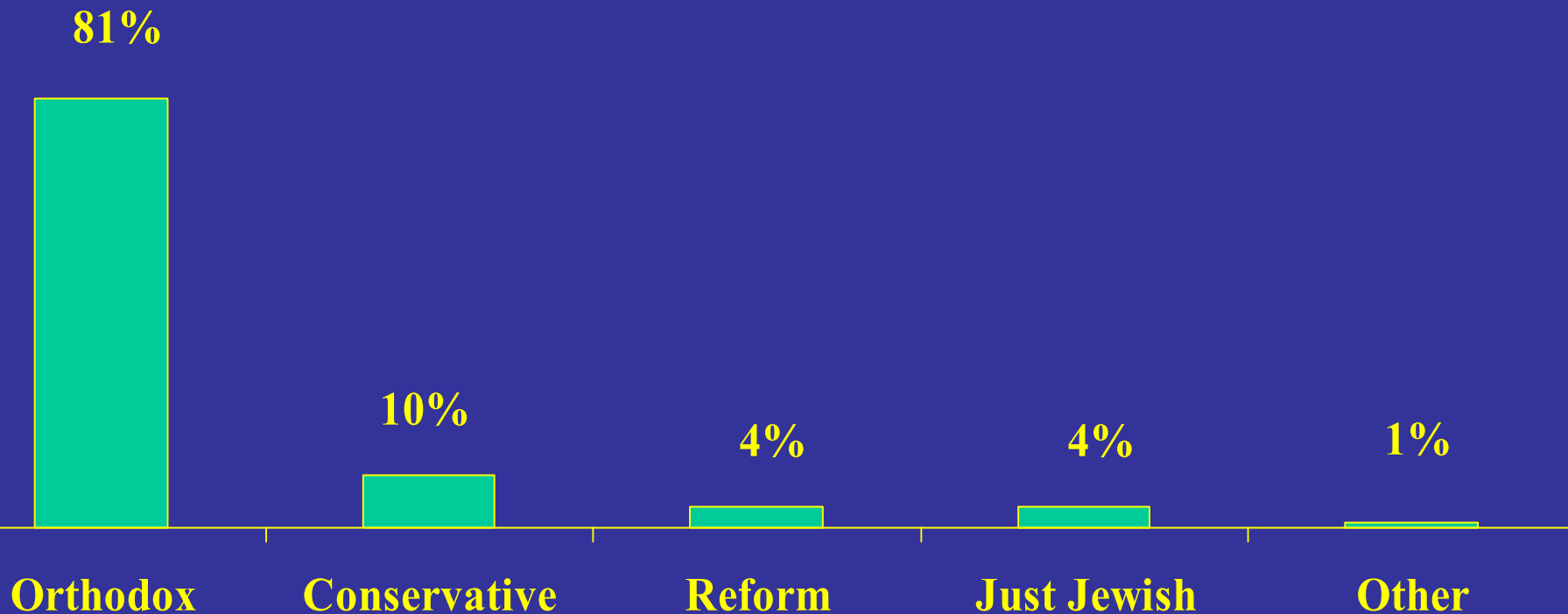
Among current Jews who were raised Jewish, identification with Orthodoxy has declined over time.

Raised Orthodox and currently Jewish	587,000
Currently Orthodox	240,000
Currently non-Orthodox	347,000
Raised Jewish and currently Orthodox	297,000
Raised Orthodox	240,000
Raised non-Orthodox	57,000

A majority of Jews who were raised Orthodox no longer consider themselves to be Orthodox.

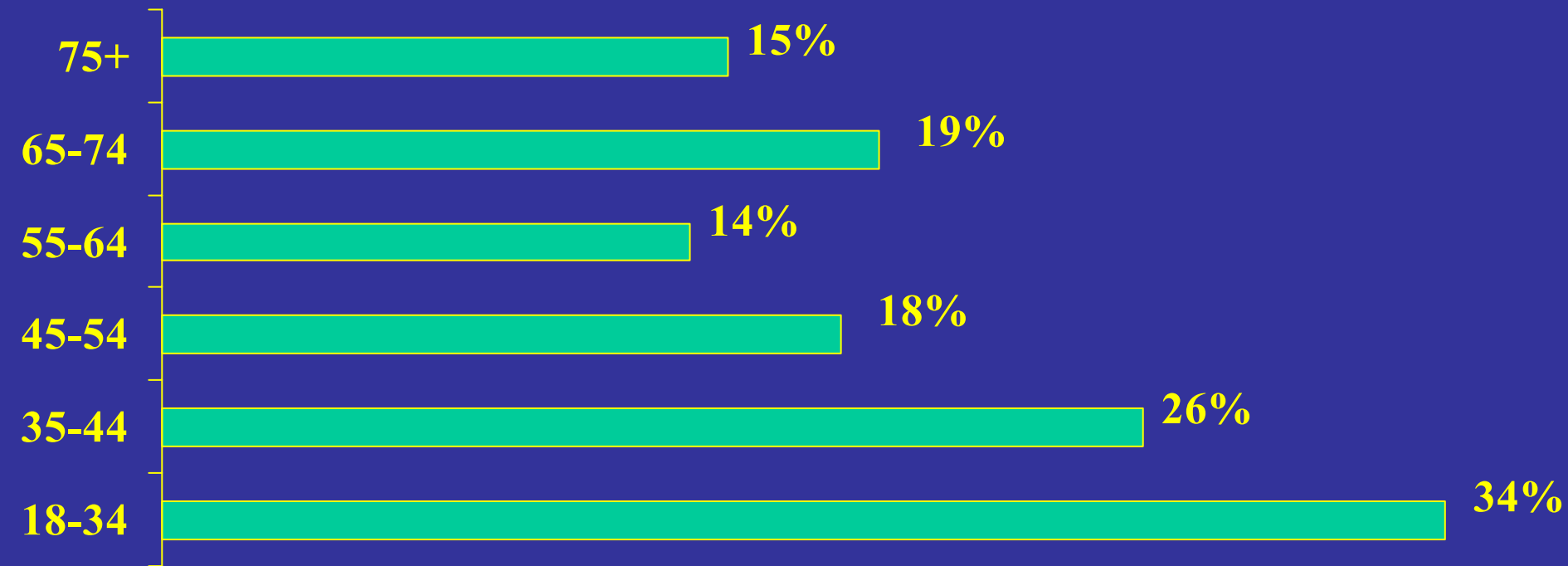


Of current Orthodox Jews who were raised Jewish, more than 4 out of 5 were raised Orthodox.



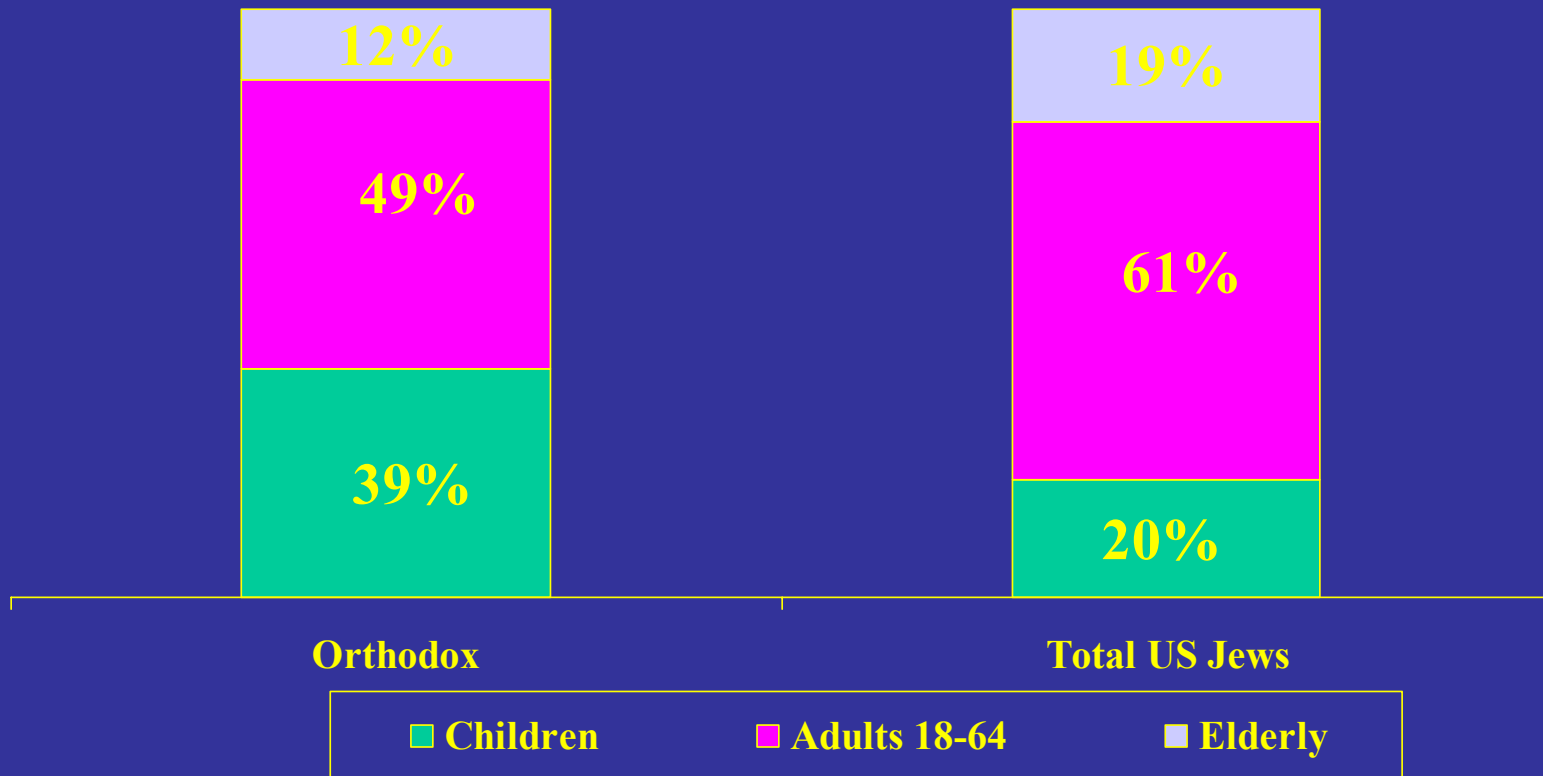
Currently Orthodox, Jewish Denomination Raised

Among younger Jewish adults who are **synagogue** members, Orthodoxy is capturing a growing market share.



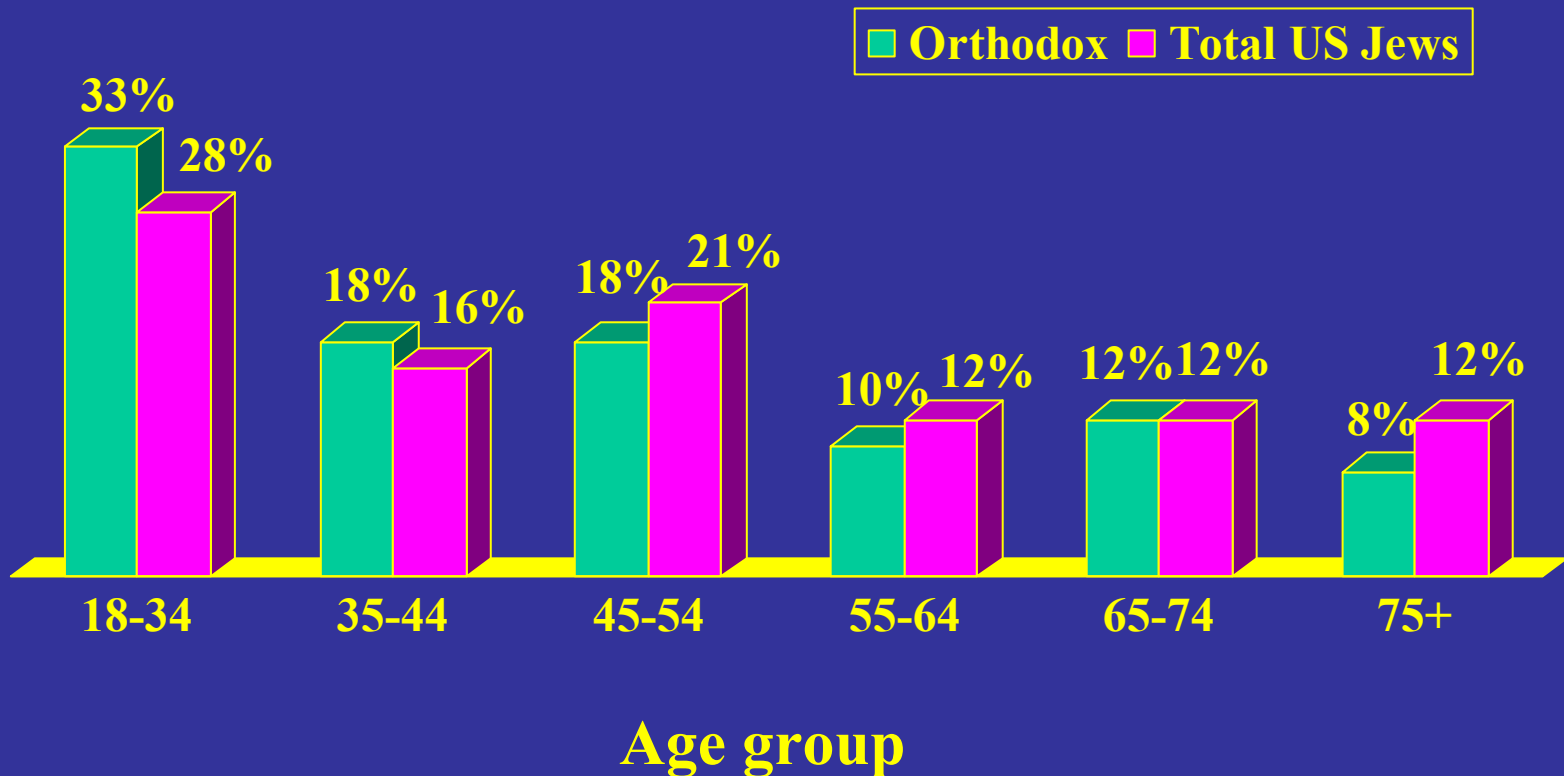
Percent belonging to an Orthodox synagogue among all synagogue members, by age group

The total Orthodox population is dramatically younger than the total Jewish population



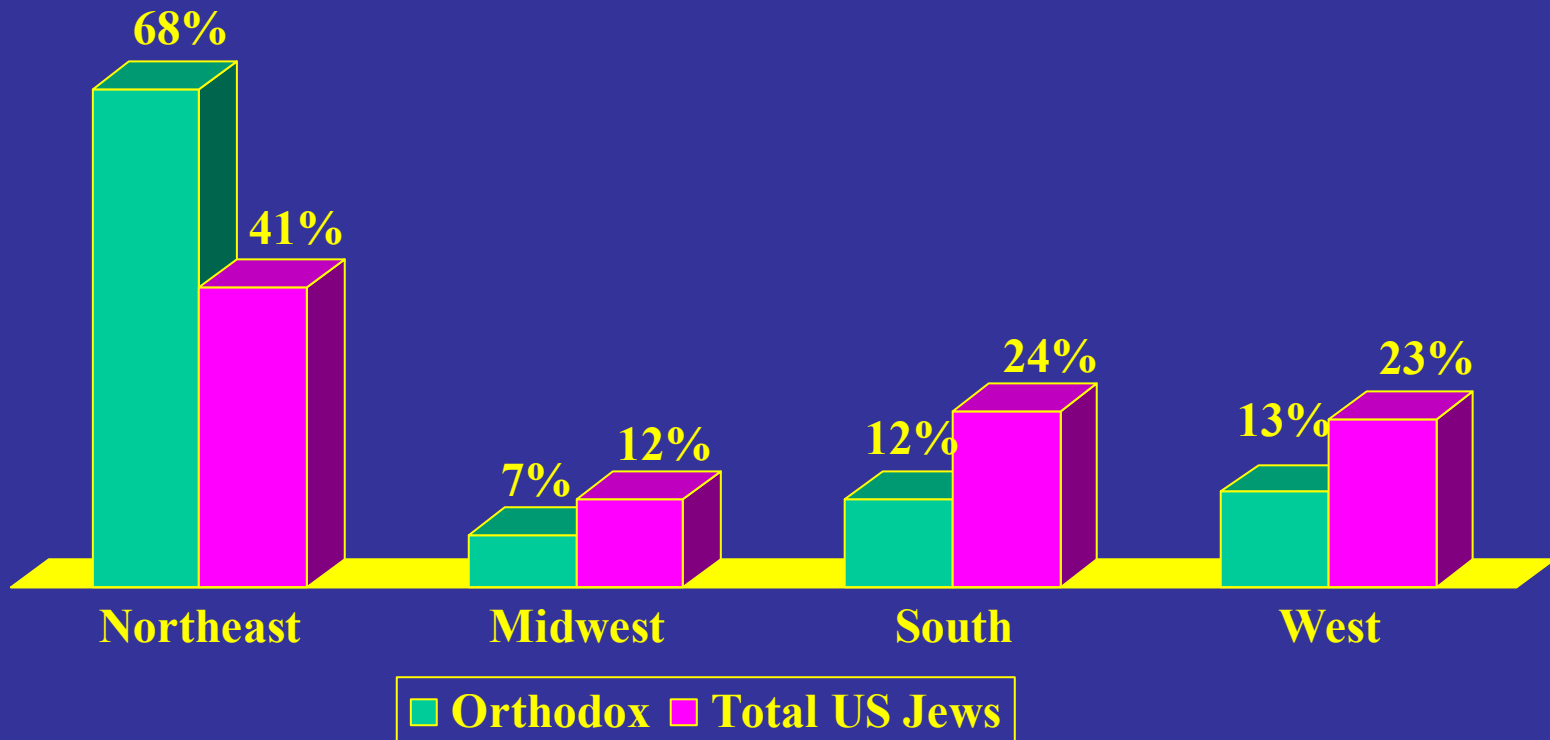


More than half of all Orthodox adults are age 44 or younger.



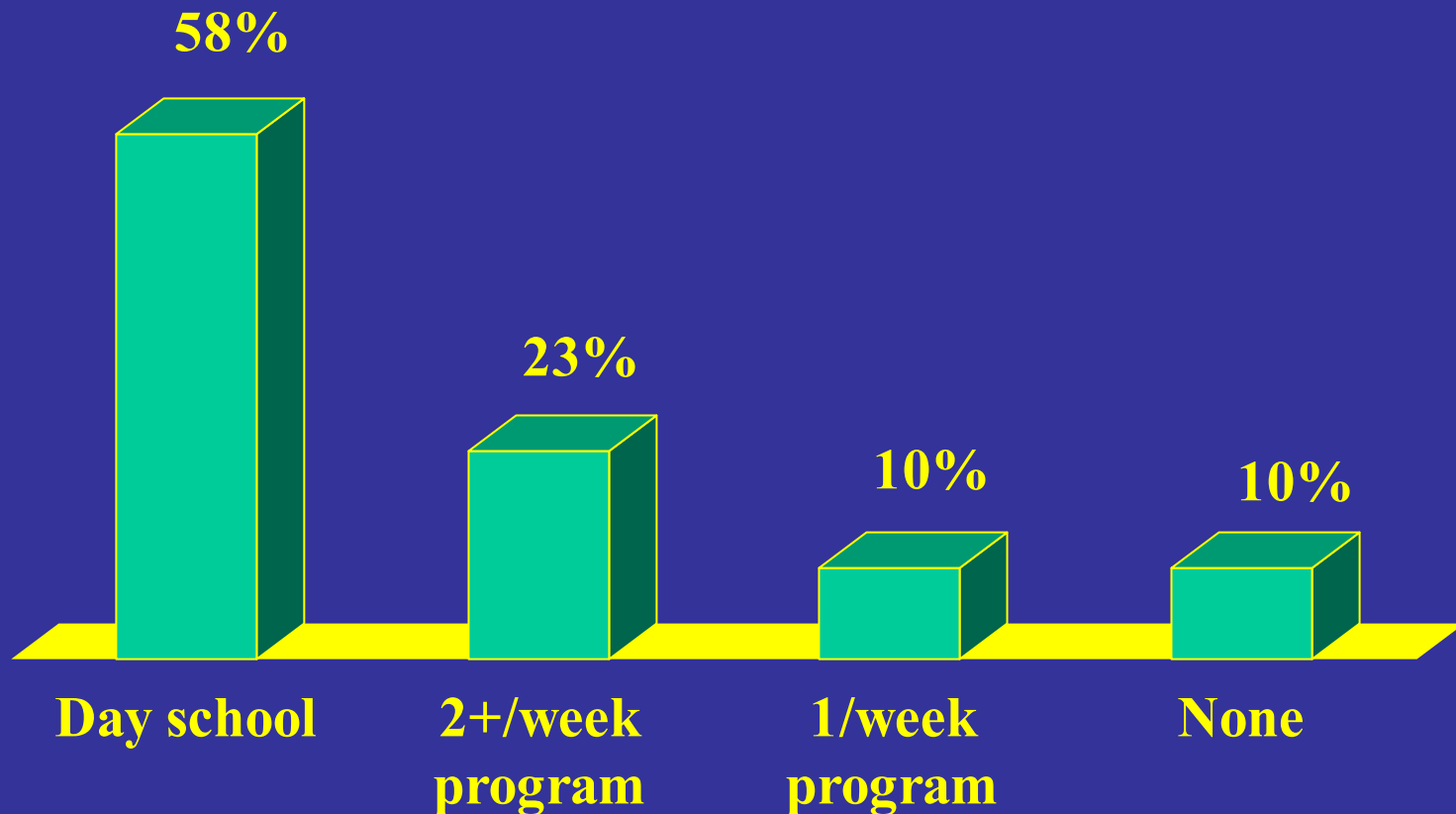


Orthodox adults are disproportionately concentrated in the Northeast.



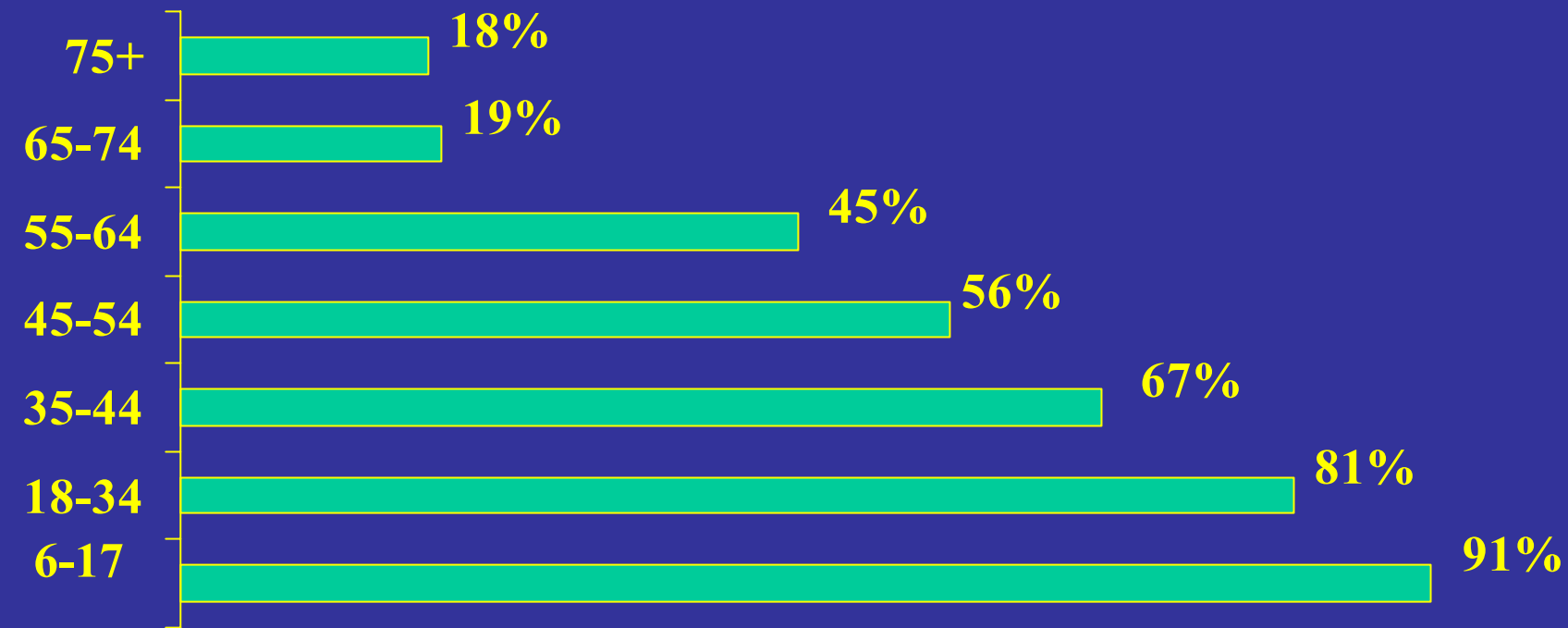


Over half of Orthodox adults who were raised Jewish attended Jewish day school when growing up.





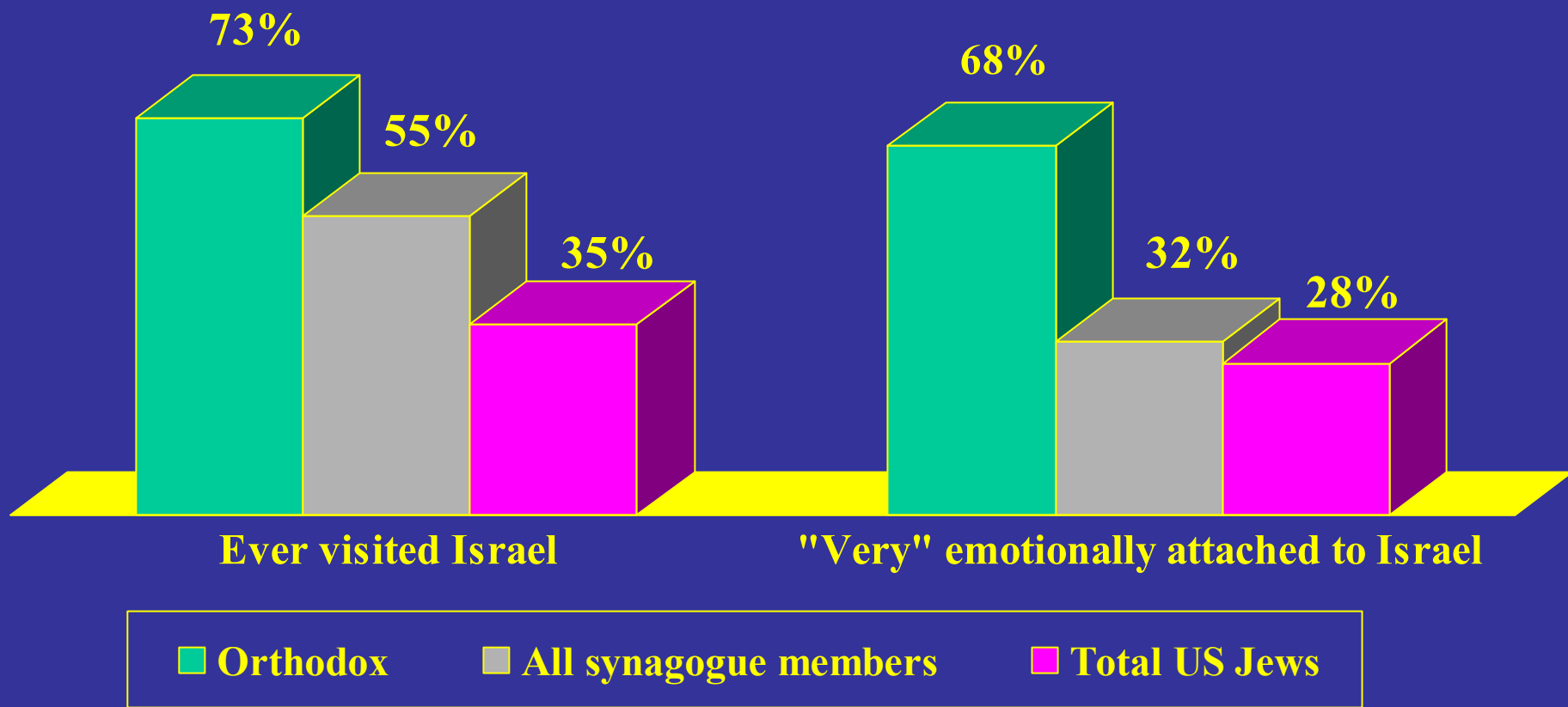
Day school education has gradually become normative for Orthodox Jews.



Percent ever attended day school, current Orthodox Jews, by age group

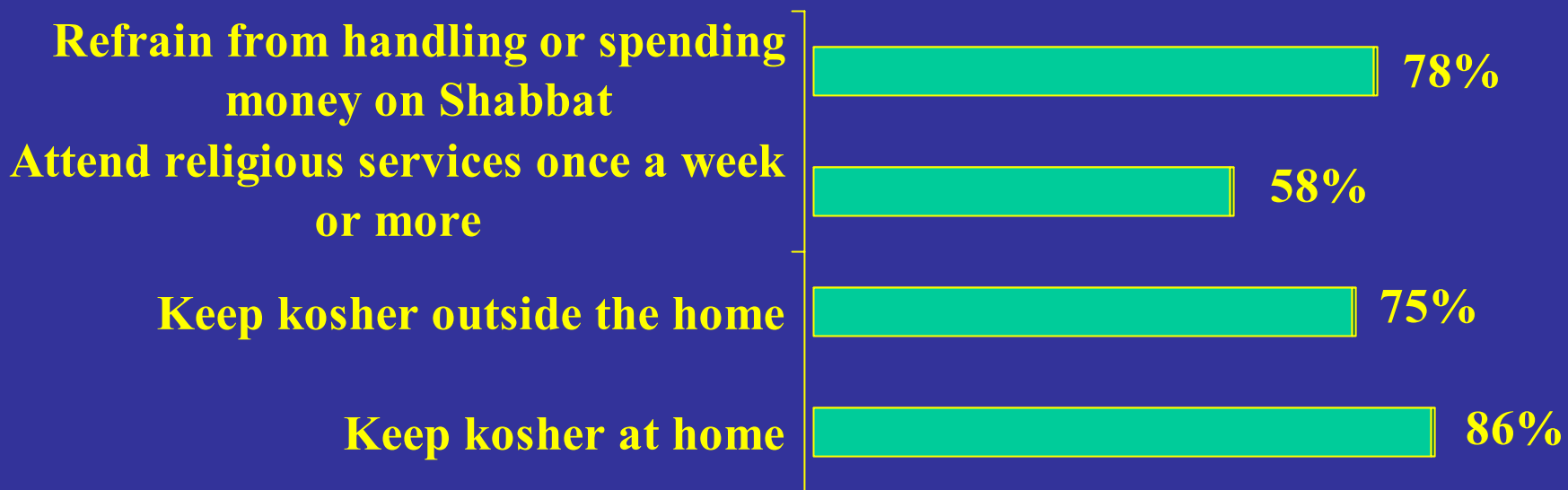


Orthodox Jewish adults have strong social and attitudinal connections to Israel.





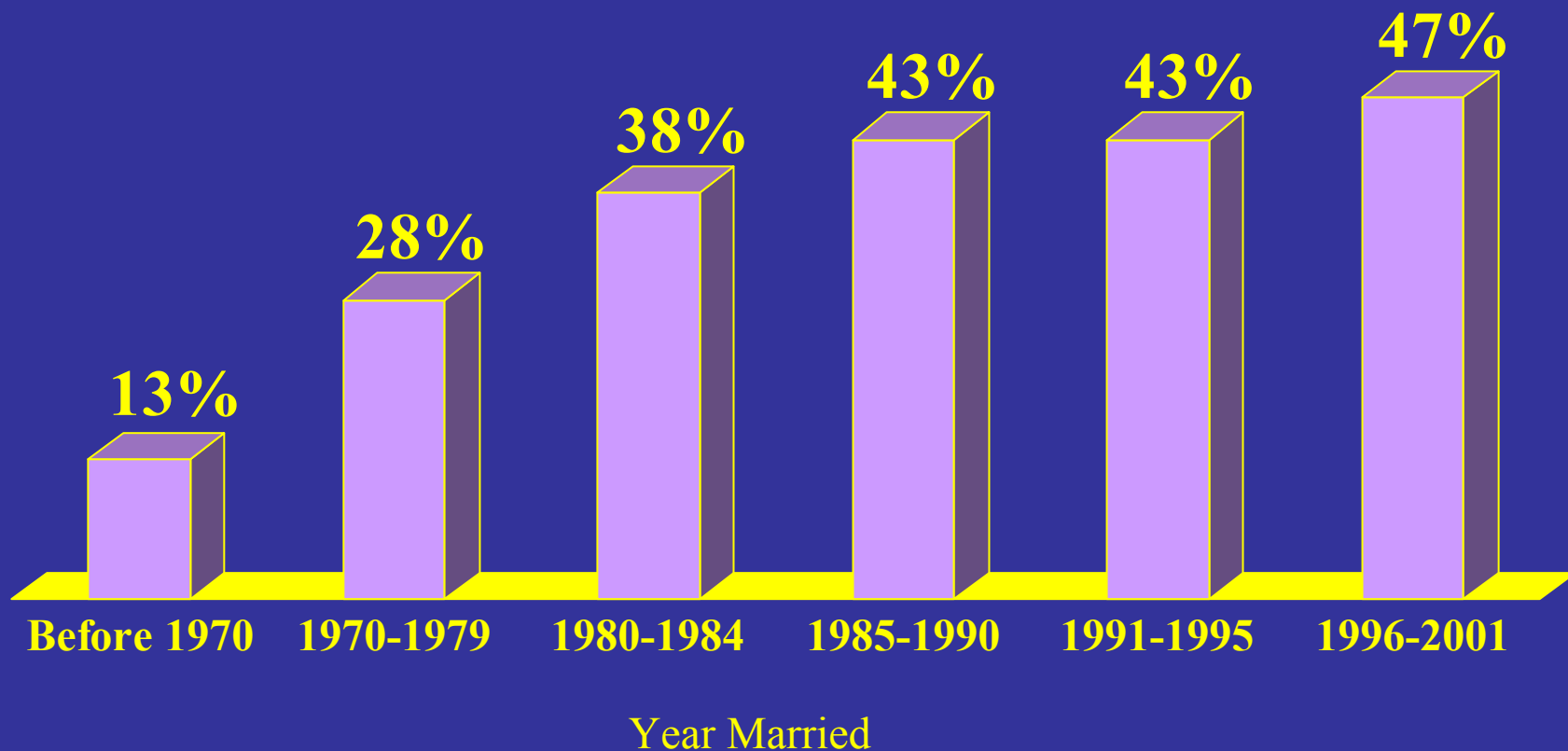
Most Orthodox Jewish adults observe the following religious rituals:



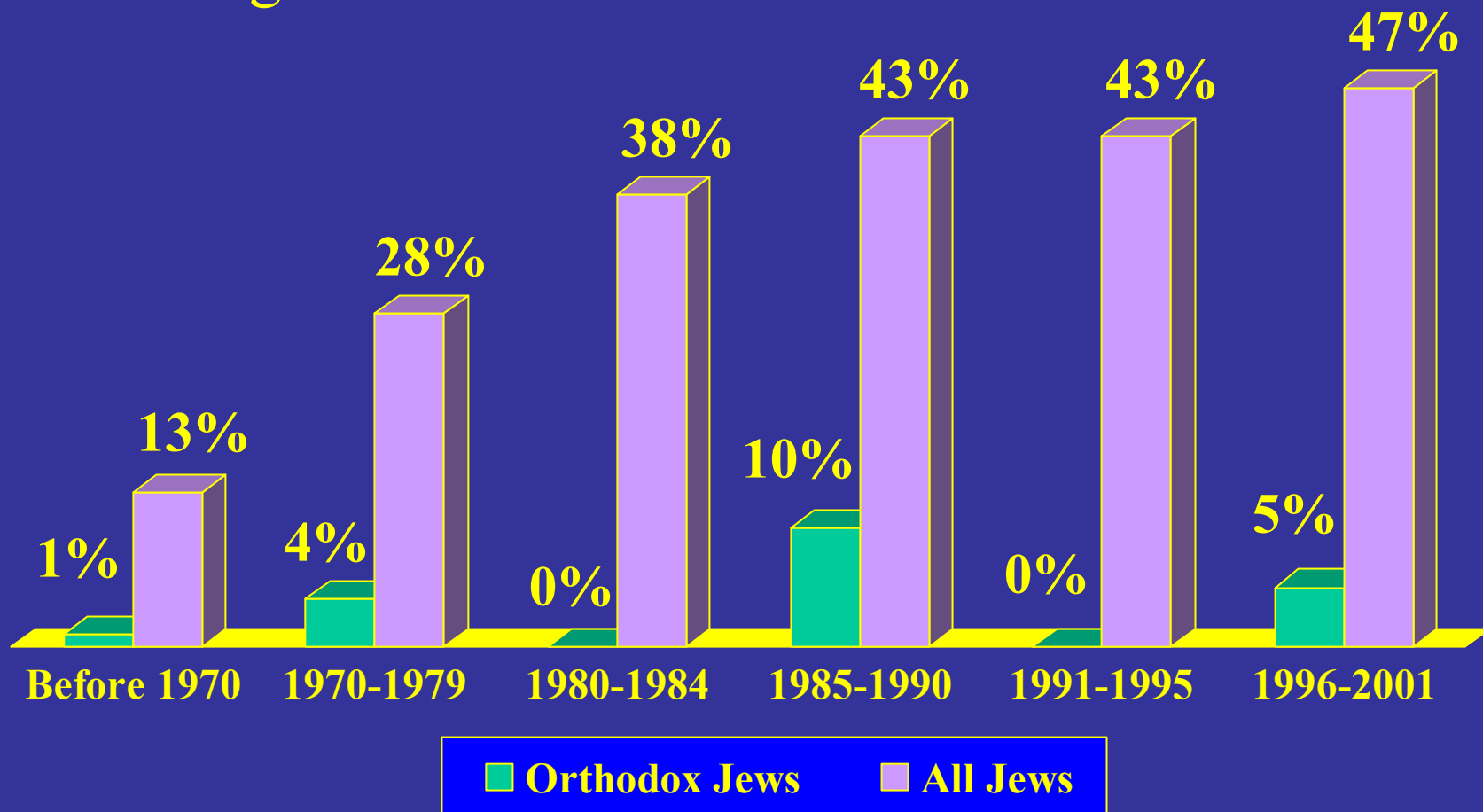
Definitions of Intermarriage

- Jews married to non-Jews are defined as intermarried.
- Jews married to Jews are defined as in-married.
- Converts to Judaism are included in the analysis.
- Intermarriage statistics exclude non-Jews married to non-Jews, even if one of them was Jewish at an earlier point in time.
- The intermarriage rate applies to individuals, not to couples.
- The intermarriage rate includes only current intact marriages.

For all American Jews, rates of intermarriage have increased since 1970, but the rate of increase has slowed since the 1980's.



Orthodox intermarriage rates remain well below general intermarriage rates.





Questions?