



National Jewish Population Survey 2000-01

Reform Jews

A UJC Presentation of Findings for
Union for Reform Judaism Board of Trustees
Denver, Colorado
June 11, 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) Reform 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:

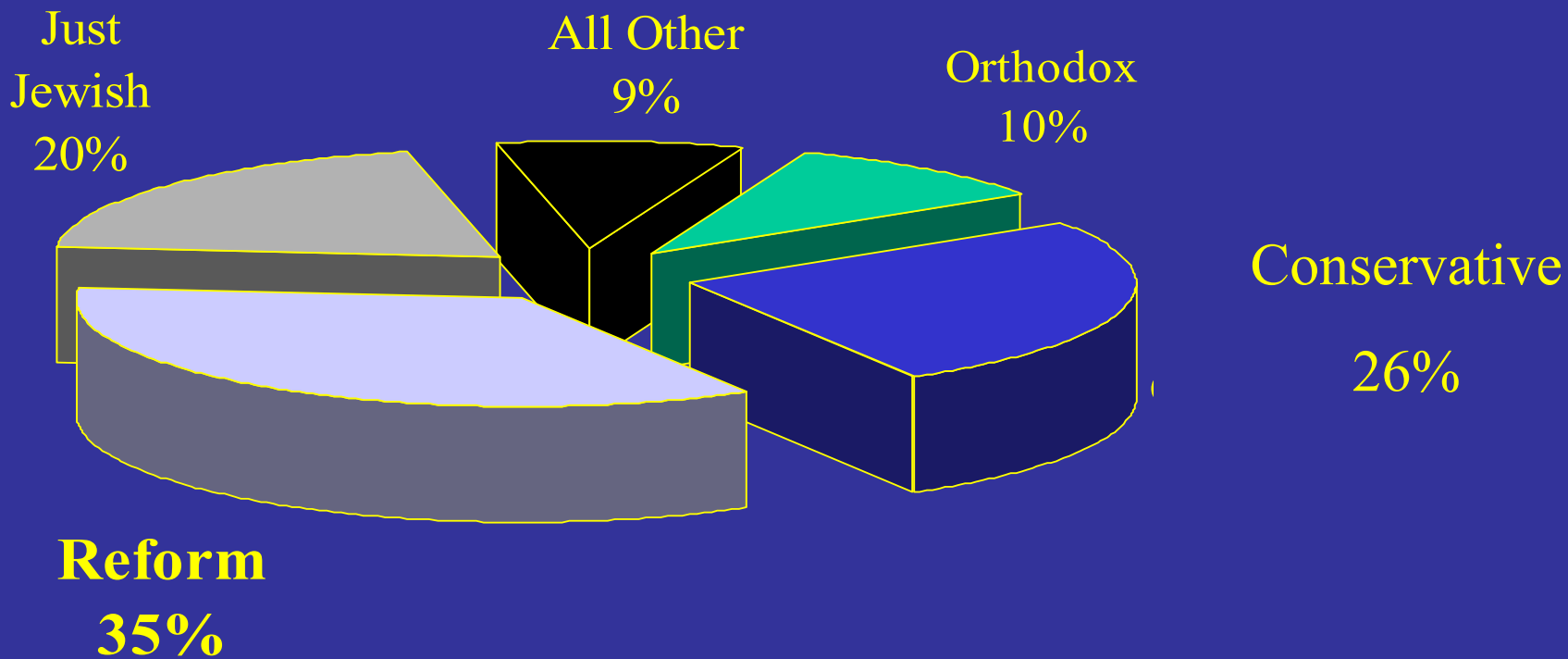
- Denominational definitions
- Reform Jewish population figures
- Reform denominational “switching”
- Demographic information on Reform Jews
- Jewish connections among Reform Jews
- Inter-marriage and Reform Jews

This presentation offers two definitions of Reform Jews.

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

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

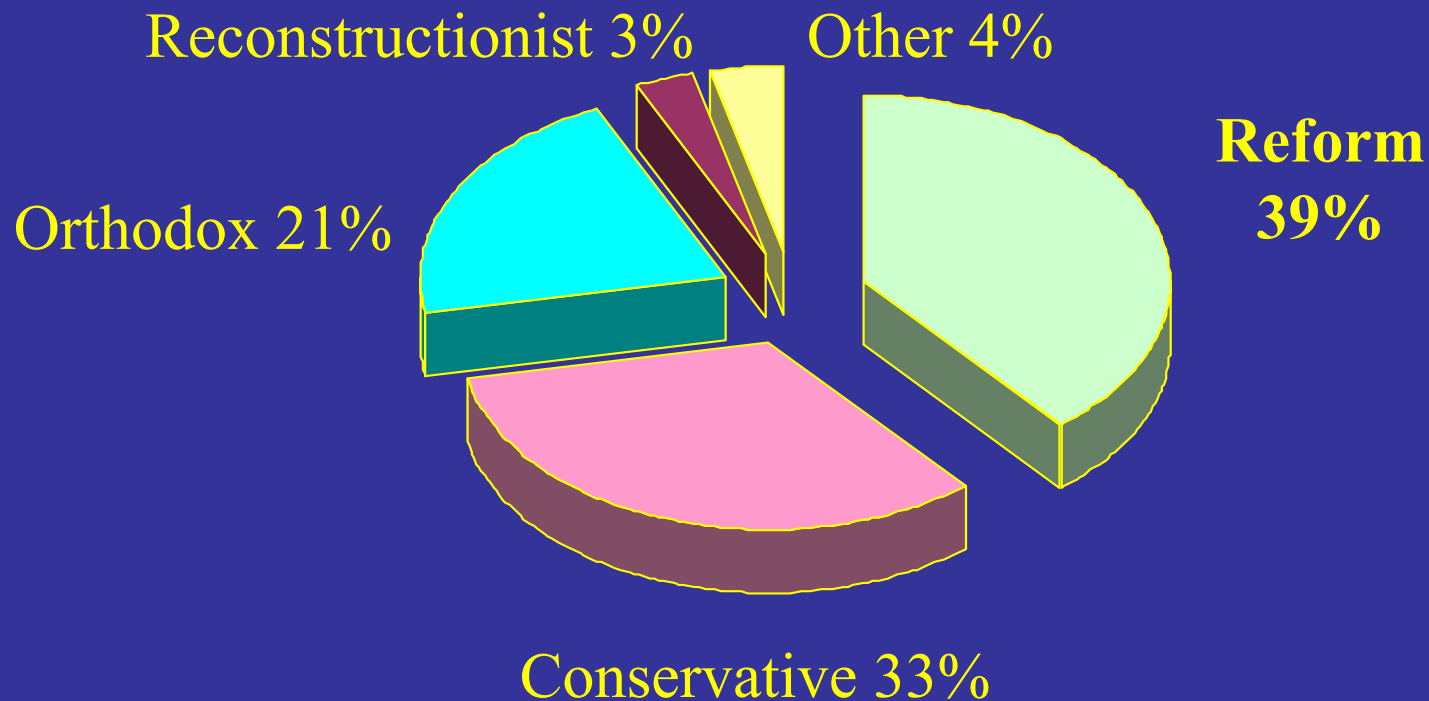
Over one-third of American Jewish adults
consider themselves to be Reform .



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

People in those households are defined as “**synagogue**” Reform.

Forty percent of American Jewish households belong to **synagogues**. Among these households, nearly four out of every ten are Reform:



Total Population, Reform Households¹

All adults (age 18 and older)	1,392,000
Jewish adults	1,140,000
All children (age 17 and younger)	322,000
Jewish children	267,000
Total population	1,714,000
Jewish population	1,407,000

1. Defined as households with an adult respondent who identifies as Reform

Total Population, “Synagogue” Reform Households¹

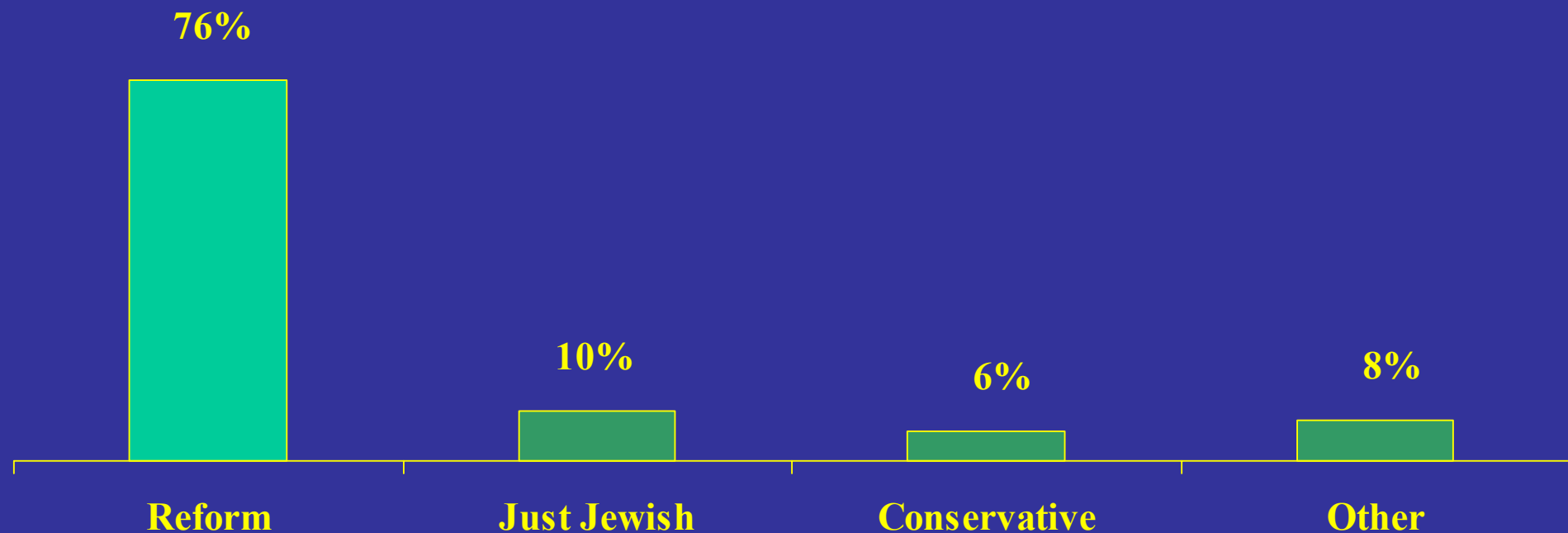
All adults (age 18 and older)	645,000
Jewish adults	559,000
All children (age 17 and younger)	199,000
Jewish children	195,000
Total population	844,000
Jewish population	754,000

1. Defined as households where someone belongs to a Reform synagogue or temple

Among current Jews who were raised Jewish, many over time have come to identify as Reform.

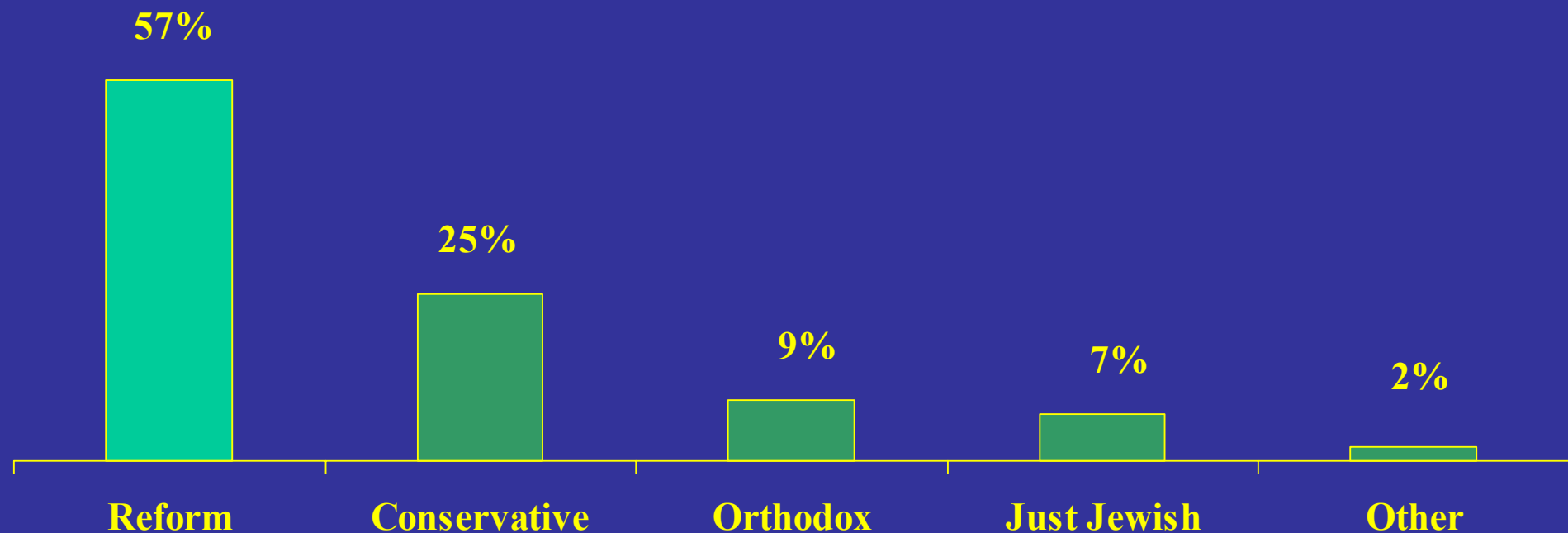
Raised Reform, currently Jewish	772,000
Currently Reform	585,000
Currently non-Reform	187,000
Raised Jewish, currently Reform	1,032,000
Raised Reform	585,000
Raised non-Reform	447,000

More than three quarters of current Jews who were raised Reform still consider themselves to be Reform.



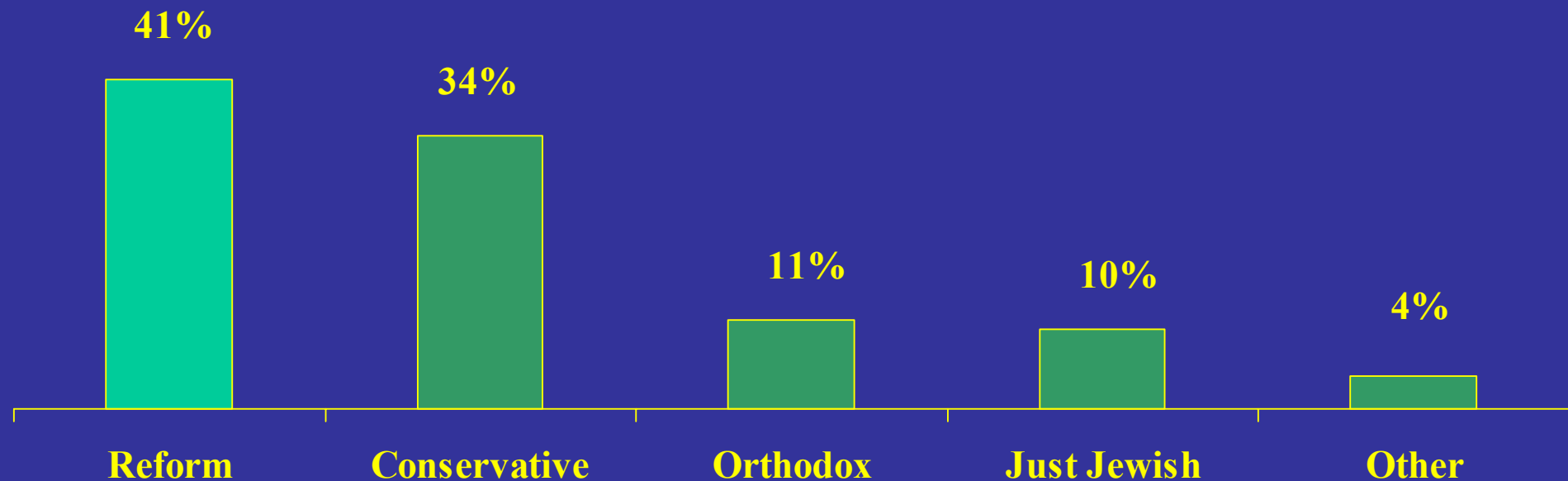
Raised Reform, Current Jewish Denomination

Of current Reform Jews who were raised Jewish, fewer than 6 in 10 were raised Reform.



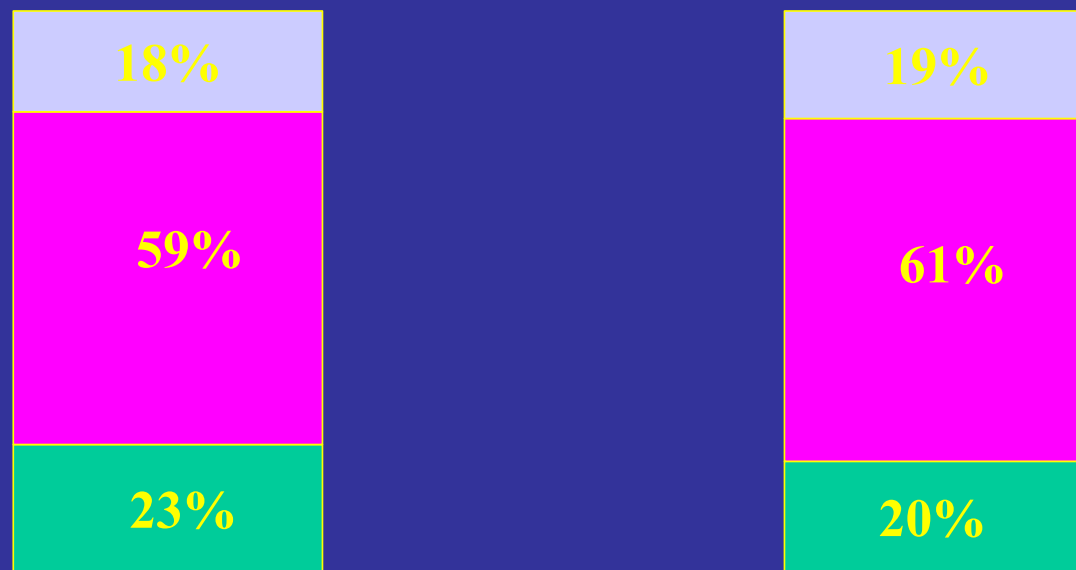
Current Reform, Jewish Denomination Raised

Of current “synagogue” Reform Jews who were raised Jewish, only 4 in 10 were raised Reform.



Current Reform, Jewish Denomination Raised

The total Reform Jewish population is slightly younger than the total US Jewish population.



Reform

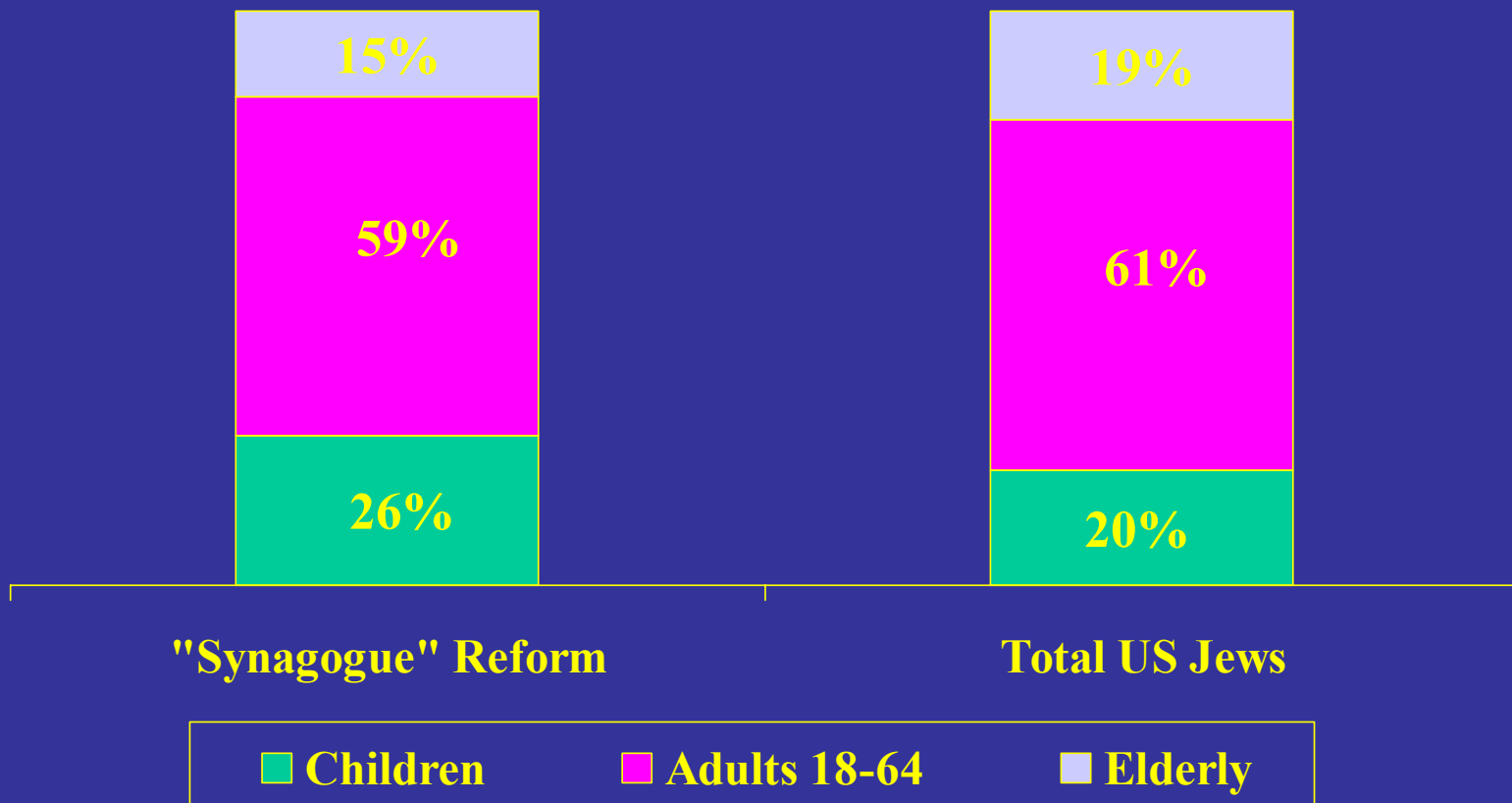
Total US Jews

 Children

 Adults 18-64

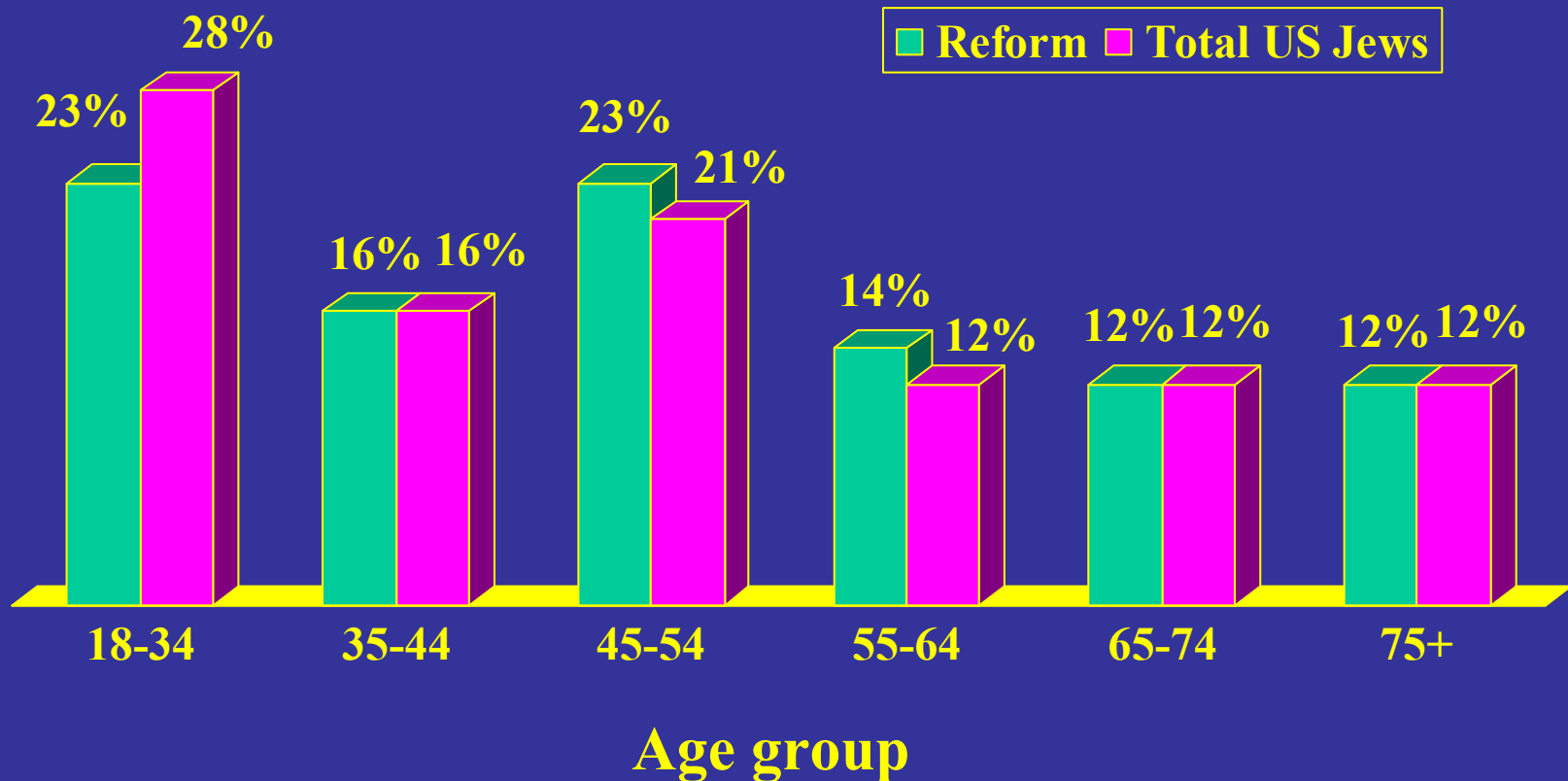
 Elderly

Among Reform synagogue members, there are proportionally more children and fewer elderly adults.



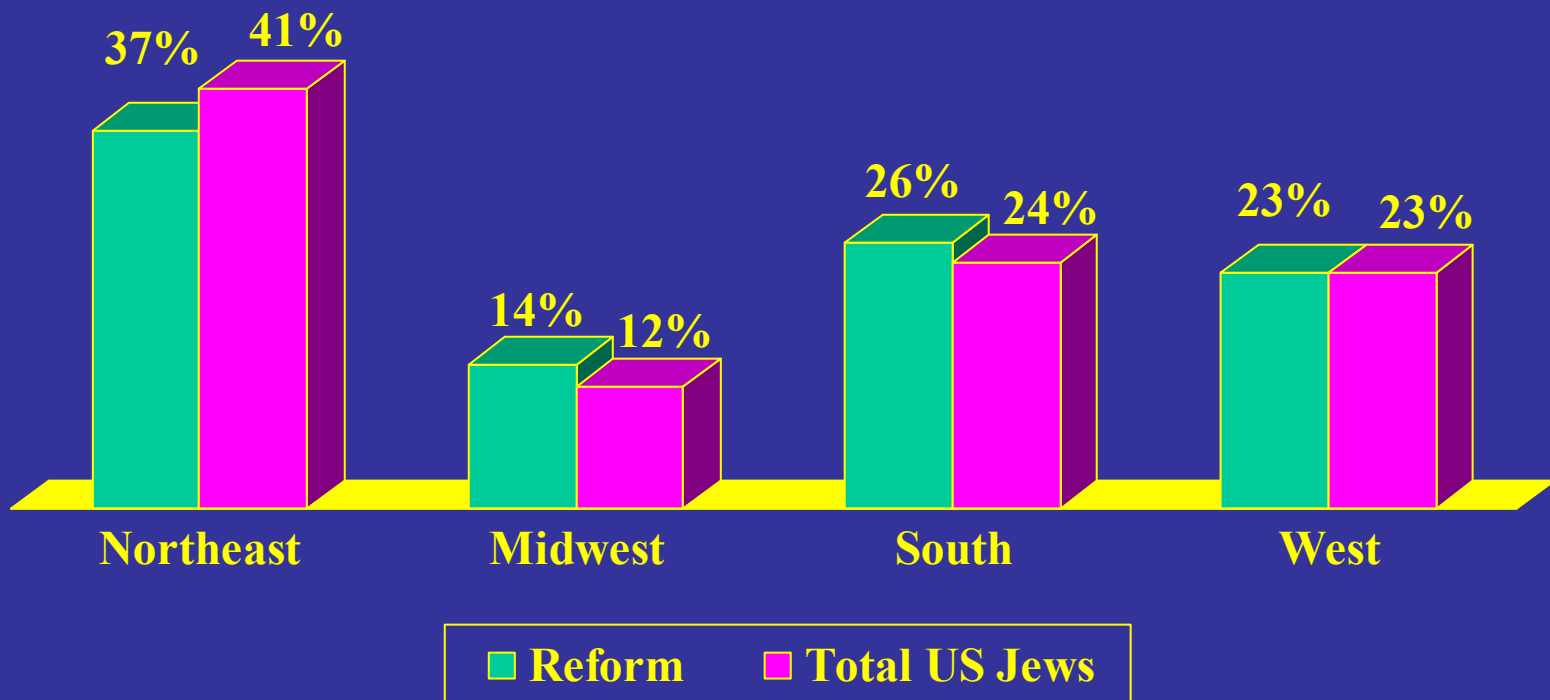


There are slightly more middle-aged Reform adults and fewer young adults, relative to all US Jews.

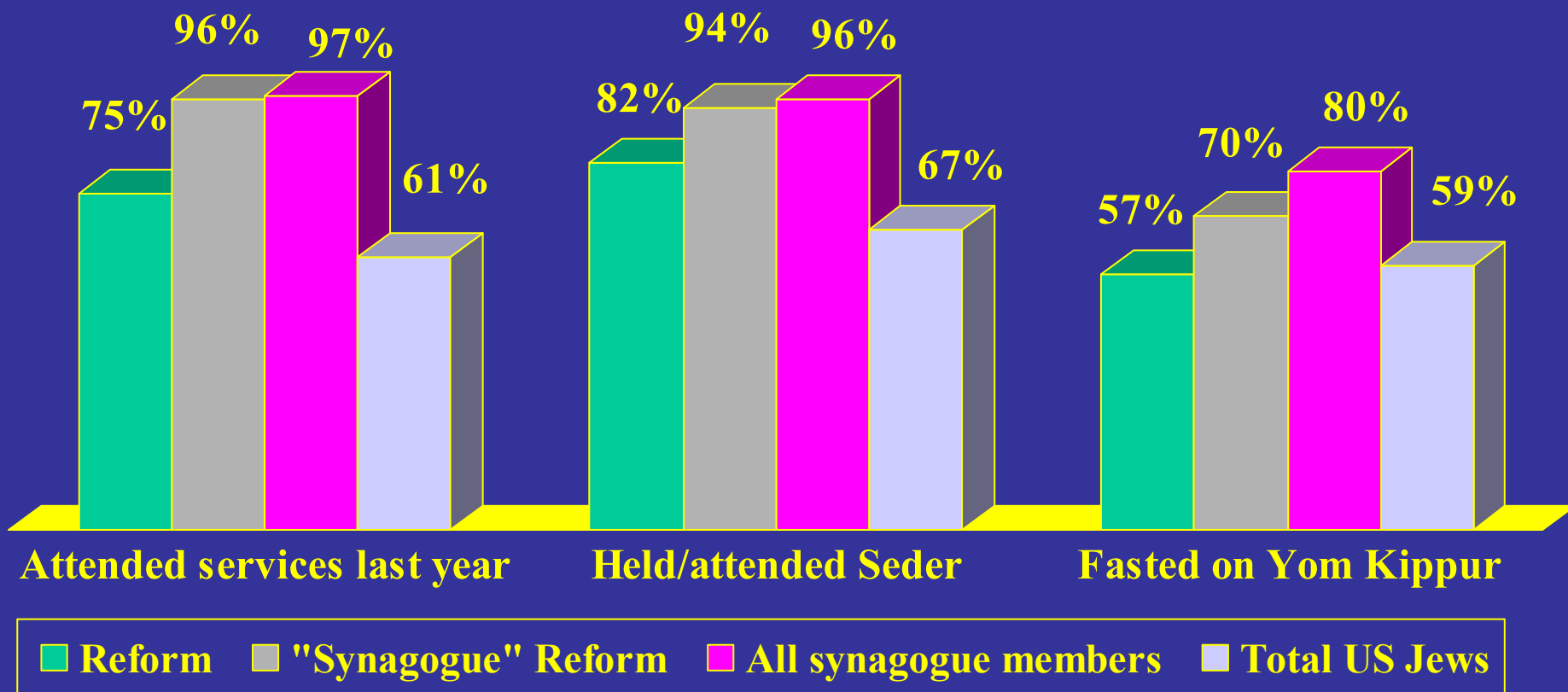




Reform adults are similar to the overall US Jewish population in regional distribution.

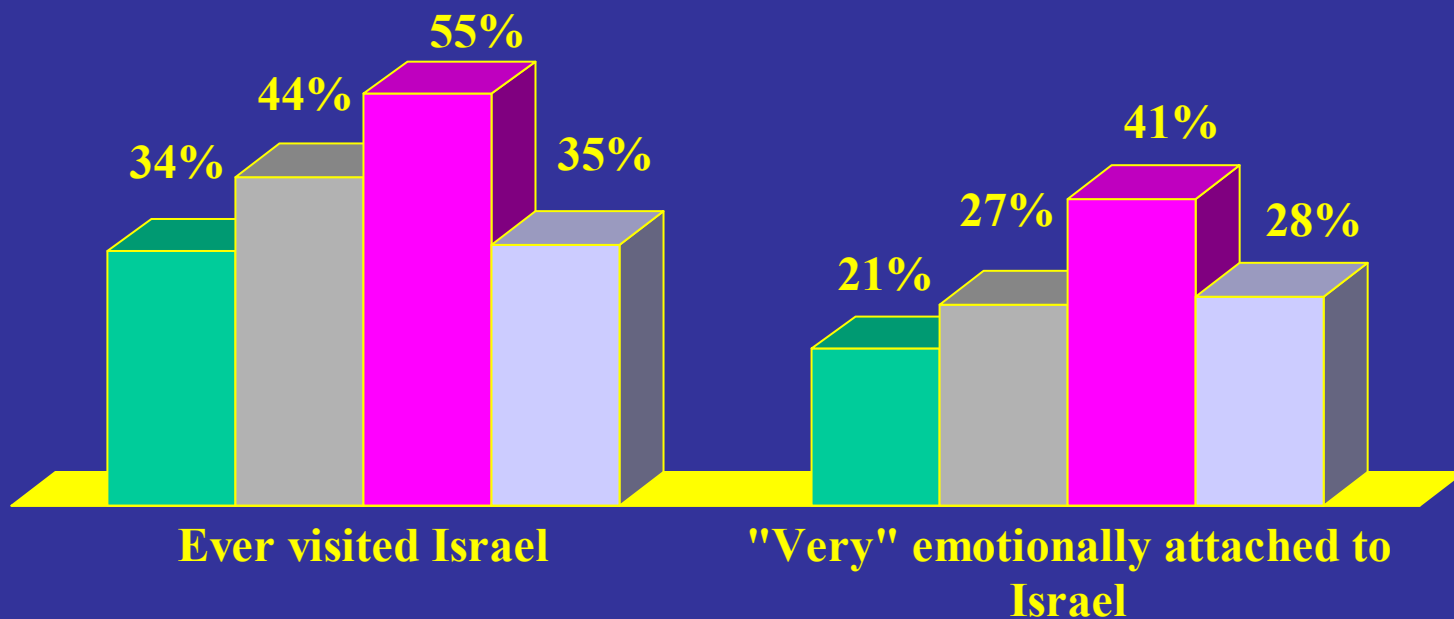


A majority of Reform adults engages in these Jewish religious behaviors.





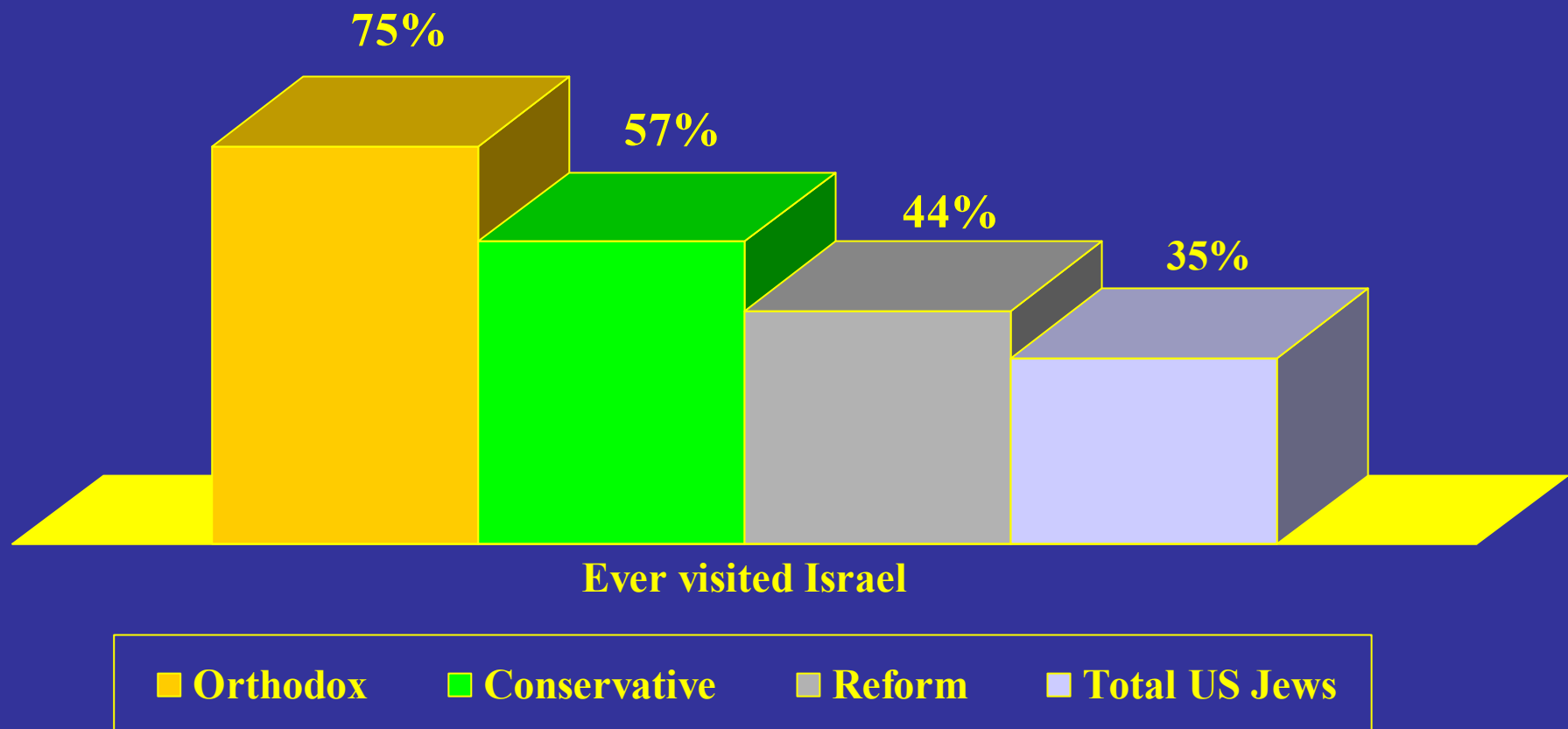
A minority of Reform adults has strong social and attitudinal connections to Israel.



■ Reform
 ■ "Synagogue" Reform
 ■ All synagogue members
 ■ Total US Jews

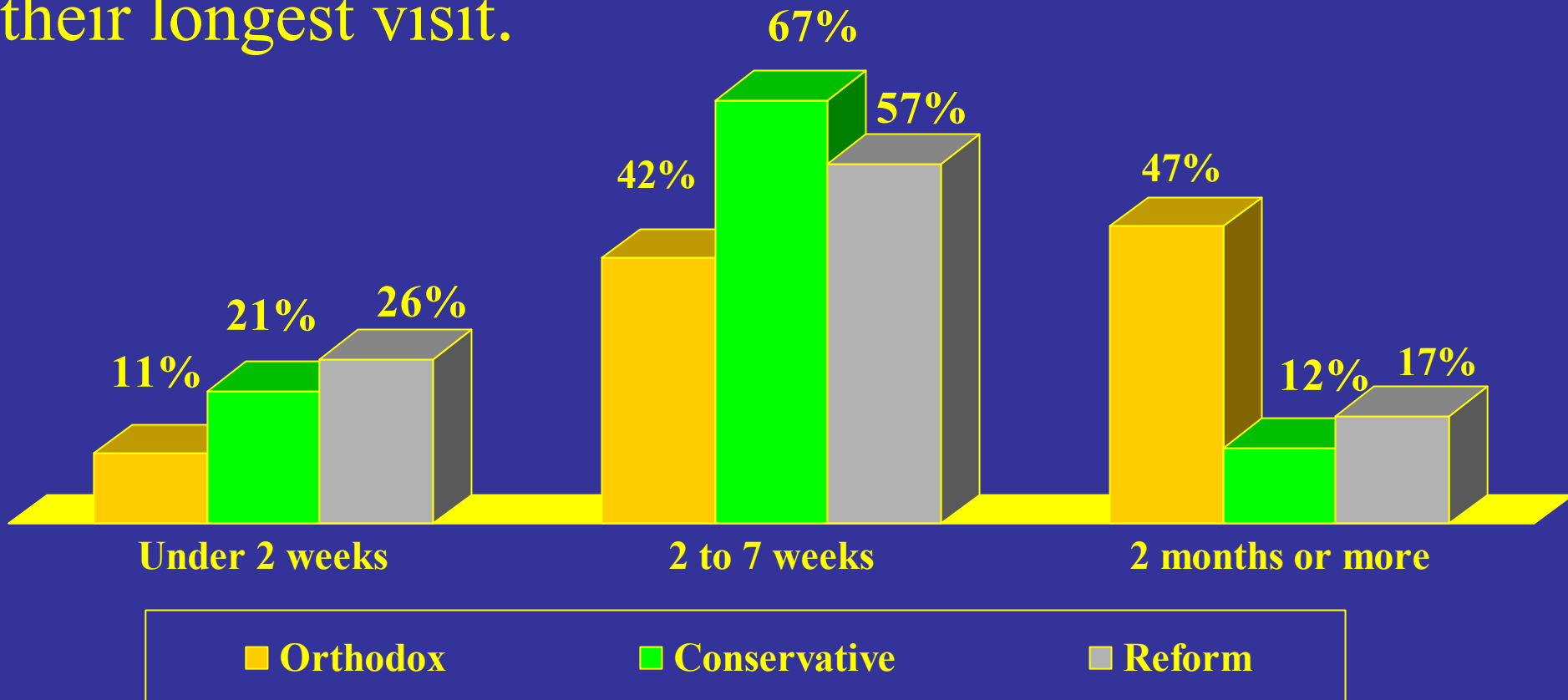


Compared to other synagogue members, fewer “synagogue” Reform Jews have visited Israel.



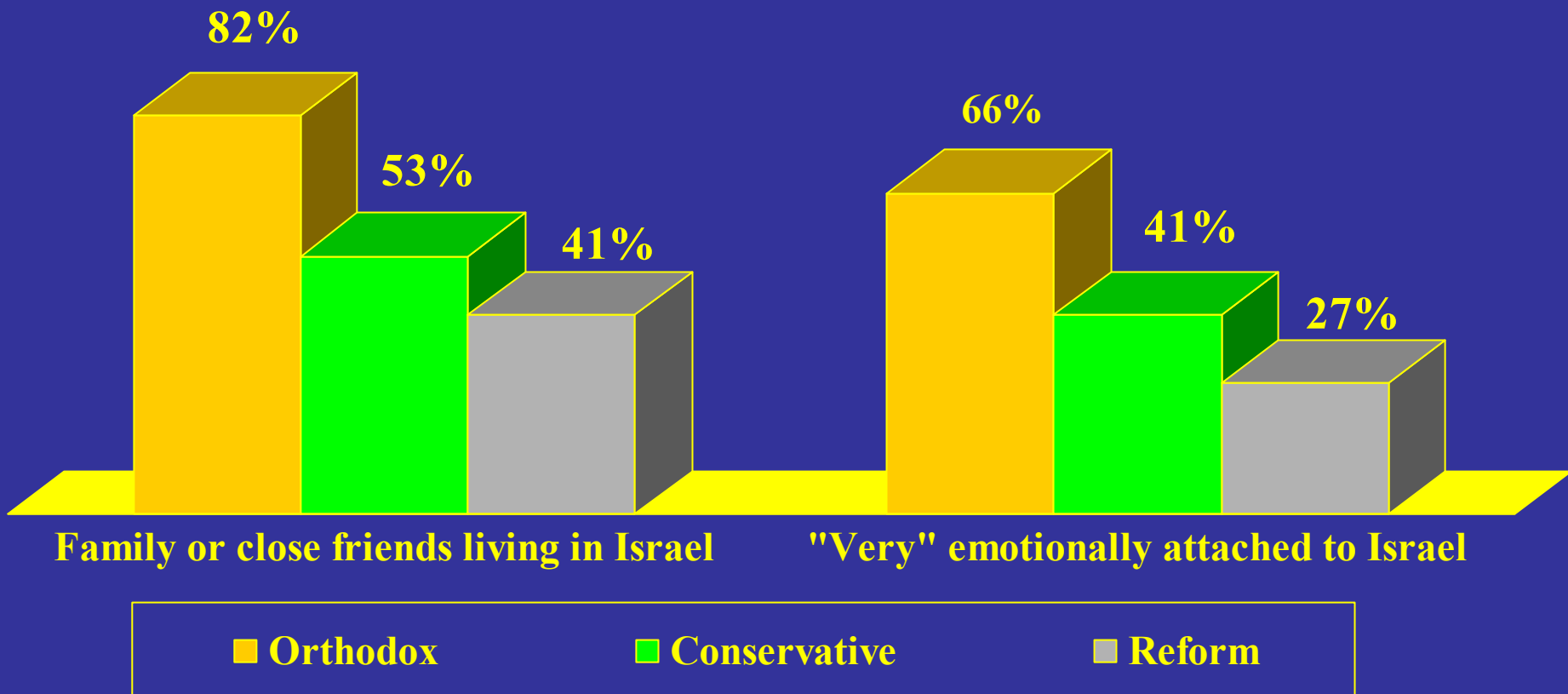


Among those who visited Israel, over one quarter of “synagogue” Reform Jews spent under 2 weeks on their longest visit.



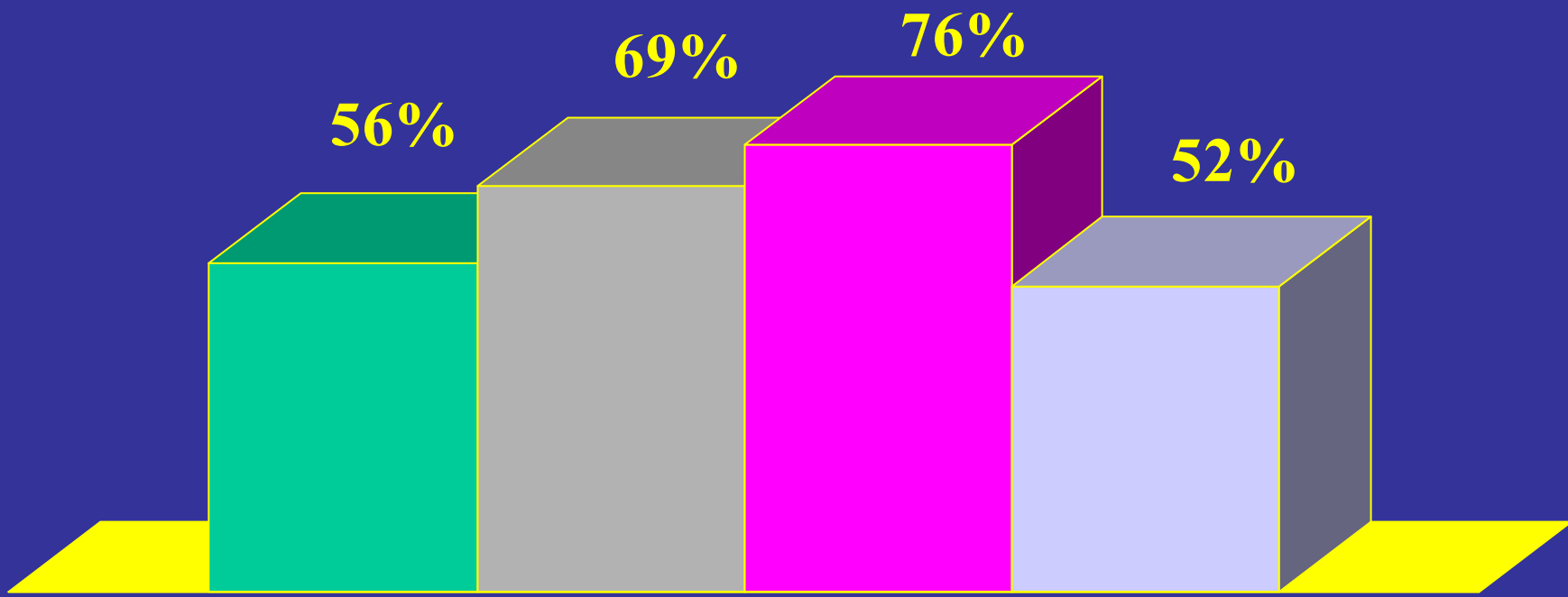


Congregants in other movements have stronger social and attitudinal connections to Israel than Reform synagogue members.





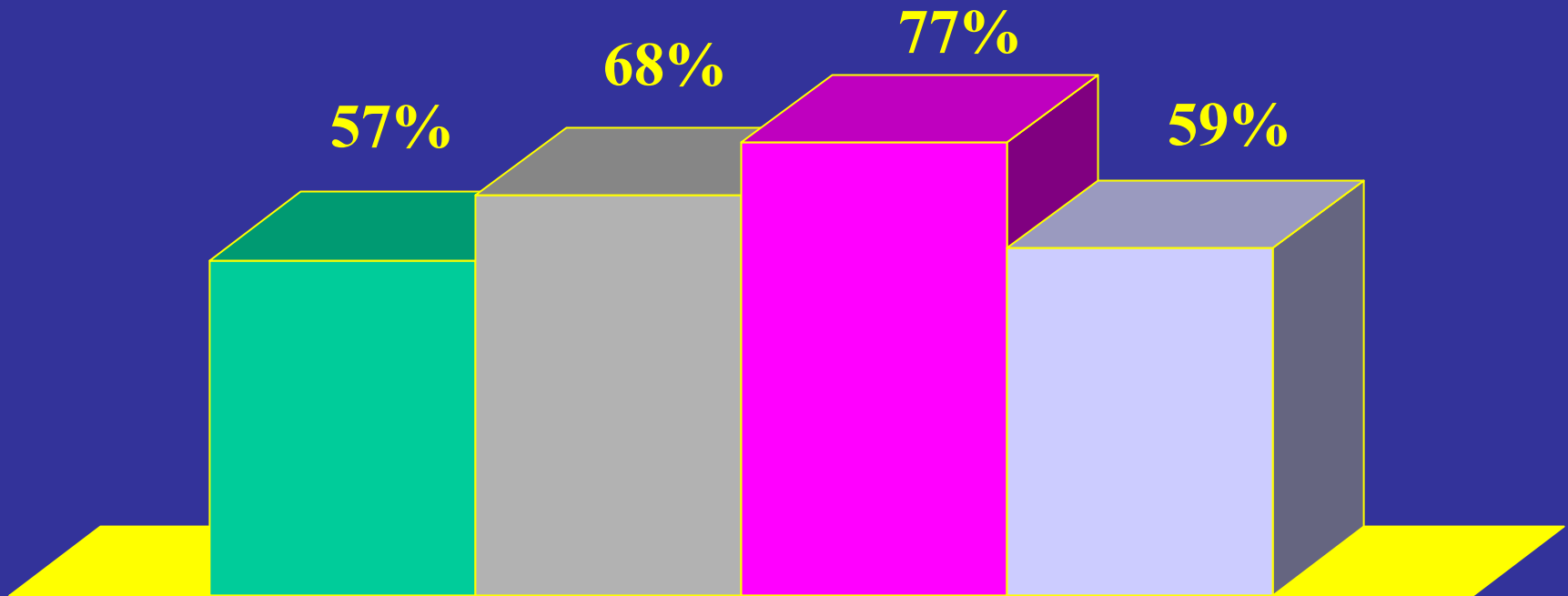
Most Reform adults report that half or more of their closest friends are Jewish.



■ Reform ■ "Synagogue" Reform ■ All synagogue members ■ Total US Jews



Most Reform adults also have a strong sense of belonging to the Jewish people.



■ Reform ■ "Synagogue" Reform ■ All synagogue members ■ Total US Jews

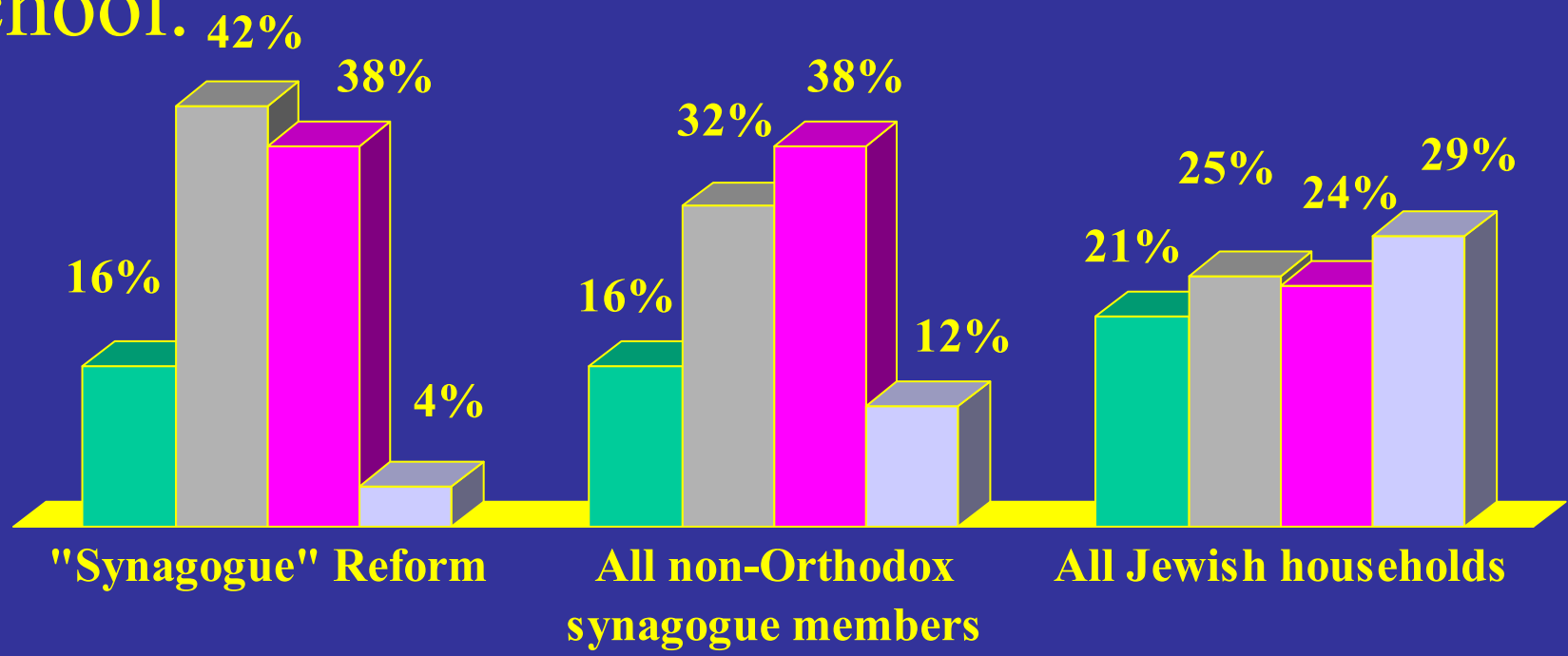


The following slide examines the proportion of children age 6-17 by current levels of enrollment in Jewish education:

- None
- One day a week supplemental
- Twice a week or more supplemental
- Day school/yeshiva



8 out of 10 children in “synagogue” Reform households attend a supplementary Jewish school.

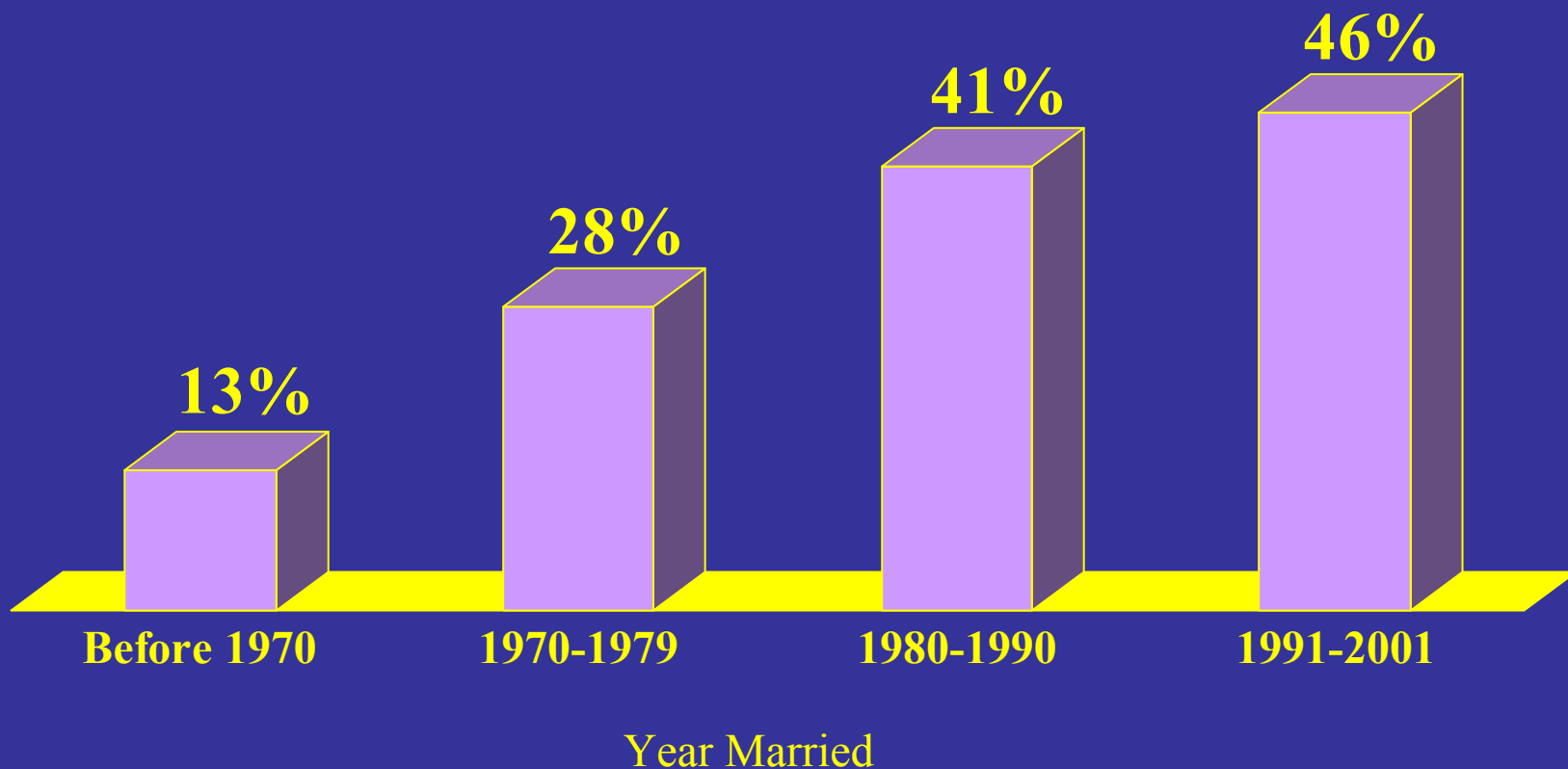


■ None
 ■ Once a week supplemental
 ■ 2+ week supplemental
 ■ Day school

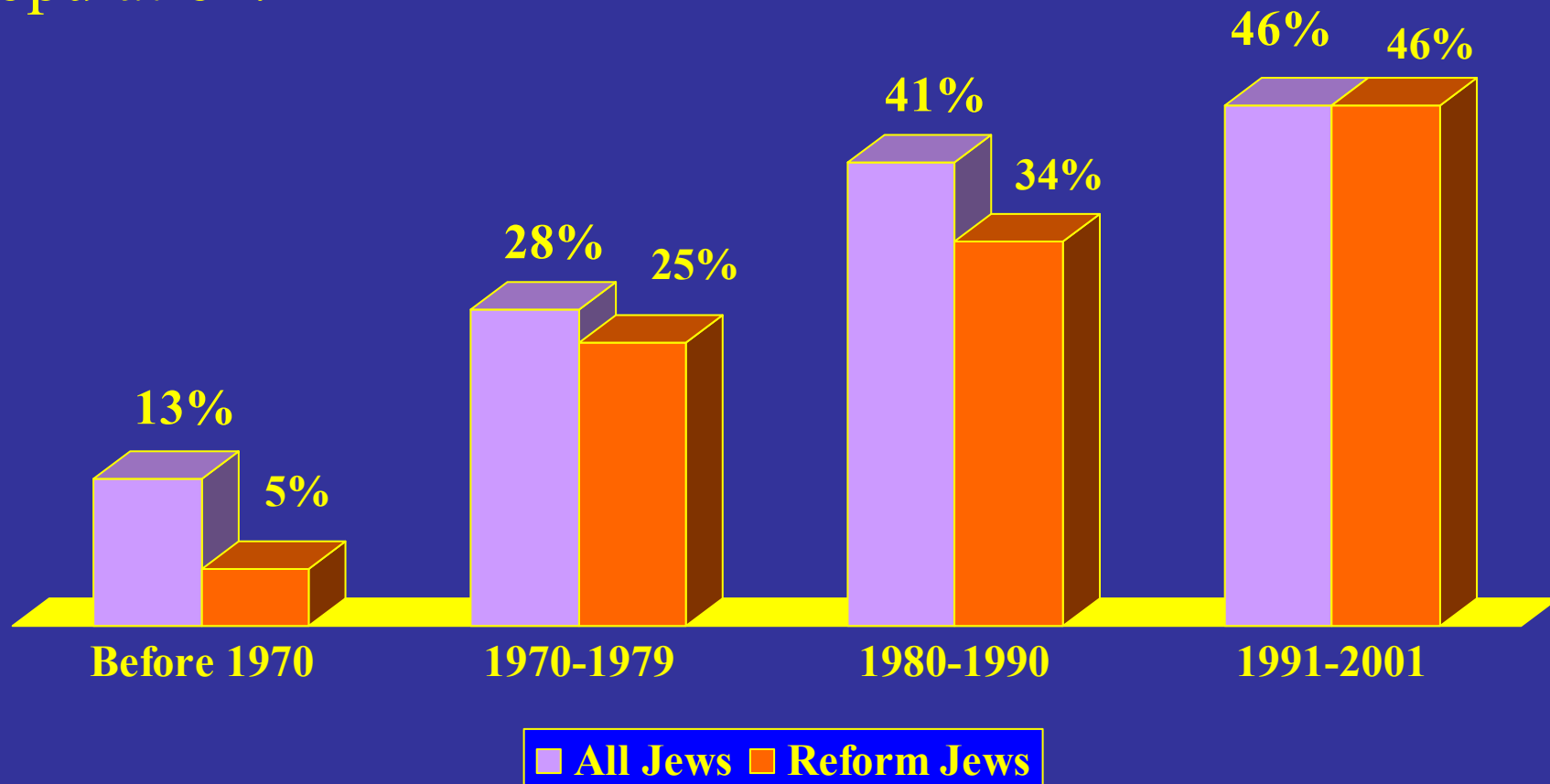
Definitions of Intermarriage

- 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.

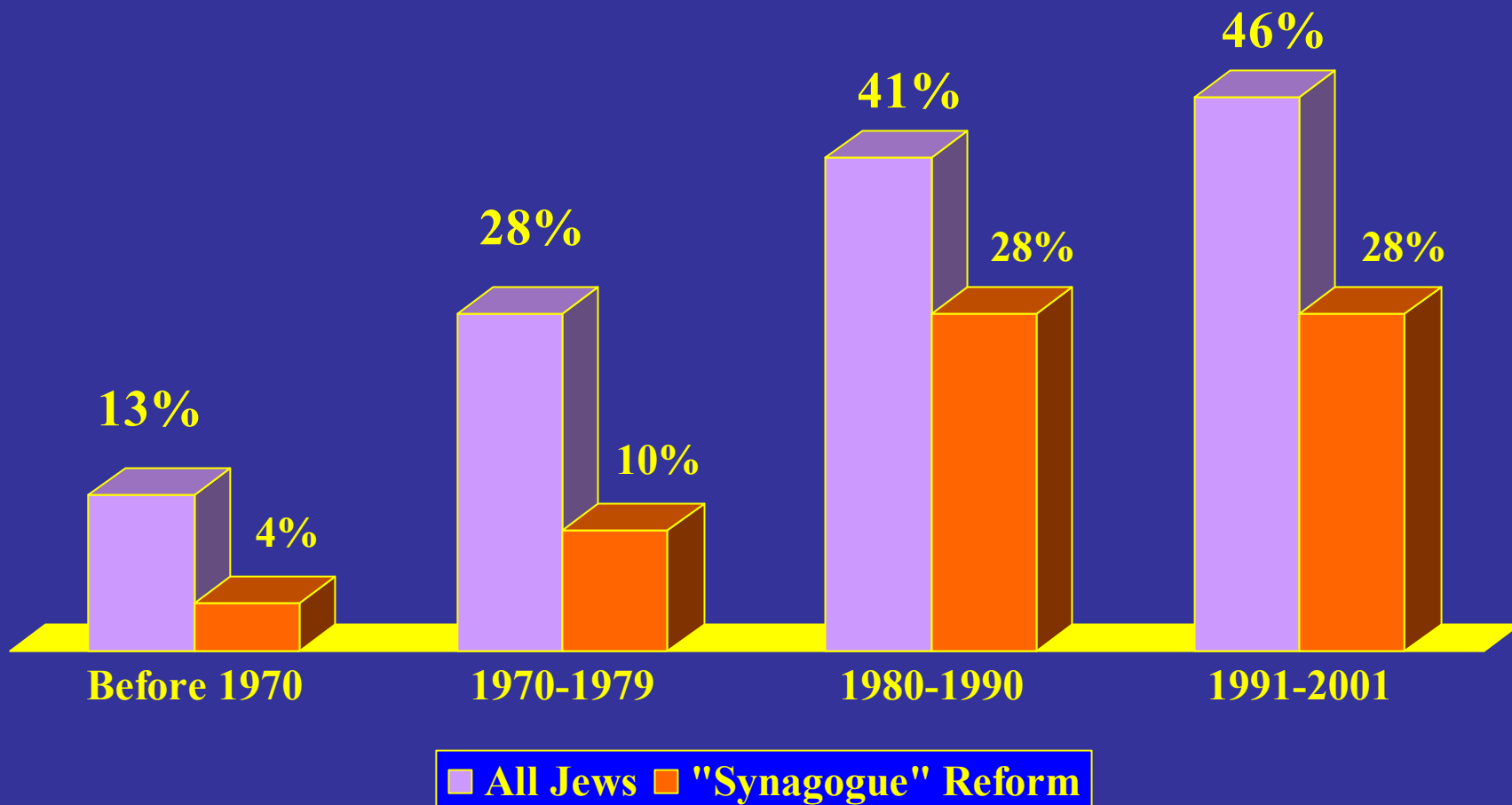
For all American Jews, rates of intermarriage have increased since 1970, but the rate of increase has slowed since the 1980's.



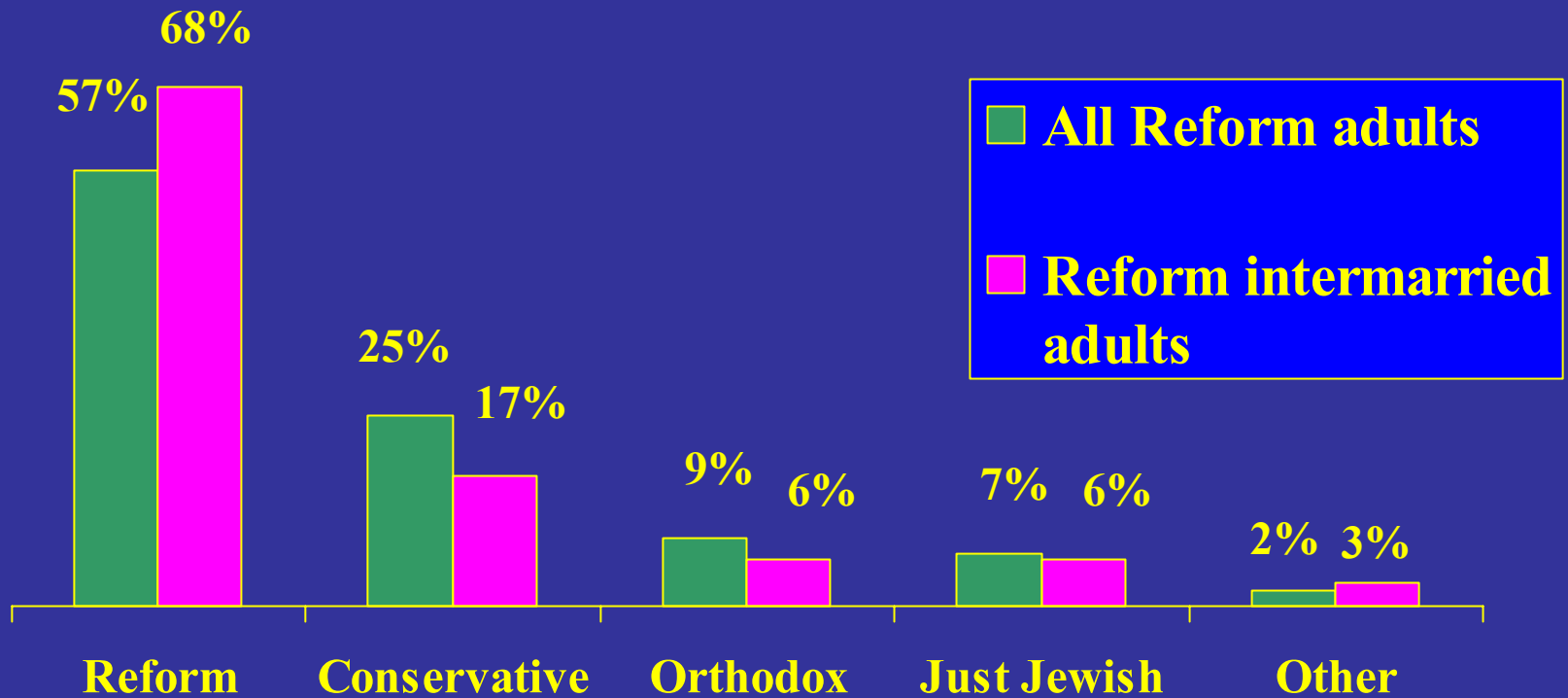
Intermarriage rates among those who consider themselves Reform mirror current rates for the total US Jewish population.



Intermarriage rates among Reform synagogue members have stabilized over the past decade.

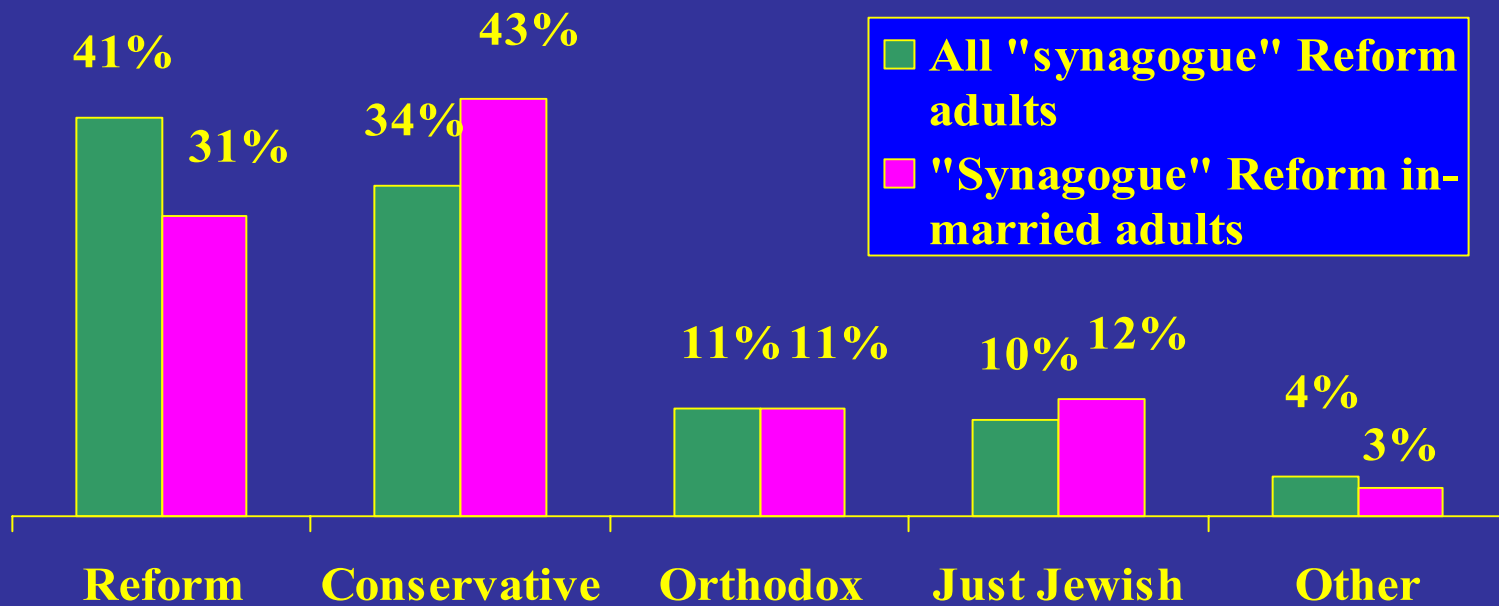


Intermarried Reform Jews are more likely to have been raised Reform than Reform adults on the whole.



Current Reform (Raised Jewish), Jewish Denomination Raised

More in-married “synagogue” Reform Jews were raised Conservative than were raised Reform.



Current “Synagogue” Reform (Raised Jewish), Jewish Denomination Raised



Among all US Jews, almost all children of in-marriages are being raised as Jews, compared with one-third of children of intermarriages.

Children of in-marriages being raised Jewish



96%

Children of intermarriages being raised Jewish



33%



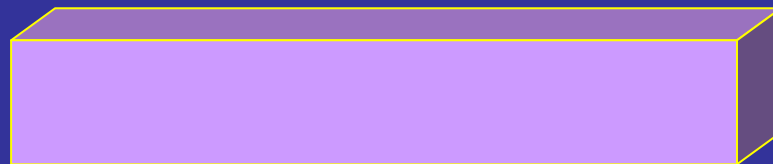
Among married Jews who consider themselves Reform, almost all children of in-marriages and two-thirds of children of intermarriages are being raised Jewish.

**Children of Reform
in-marriages being
raised Jewish**



97%

**Children of Reform
intermarriages being
raised Jewish**



65%



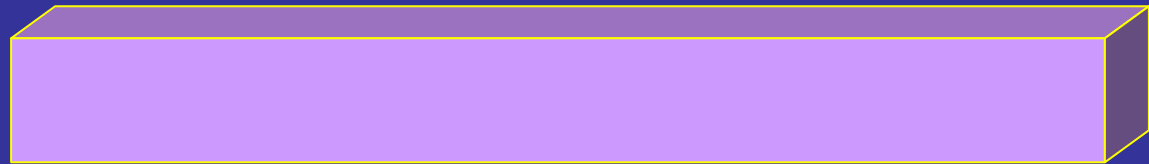
Nearly every child in a “synagogue” Reform household is being raised Jewish, irrespective of whether or not the couple is intermarried.

**Children of
"synagogue" Reform
in-marriages being
raised Jewish**



100%

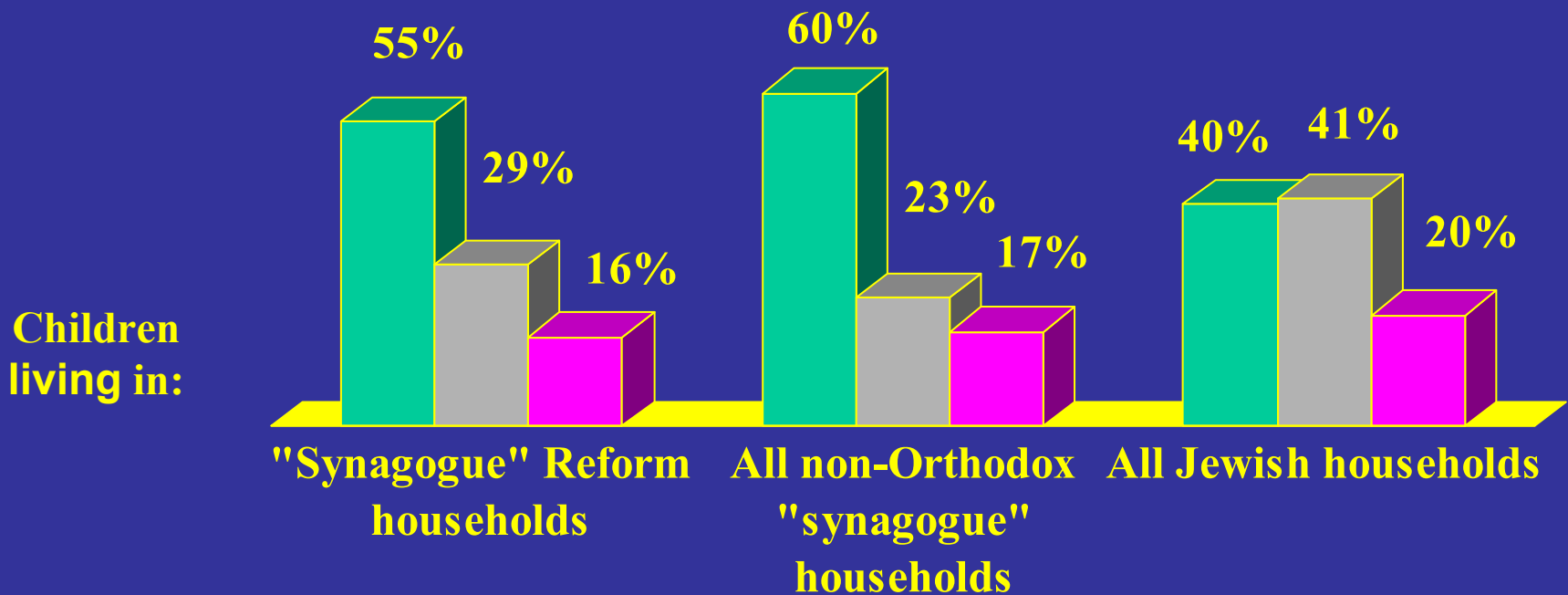
**Children of
"synagogue" Reform
intermarriages being
raised Jewish**



98%



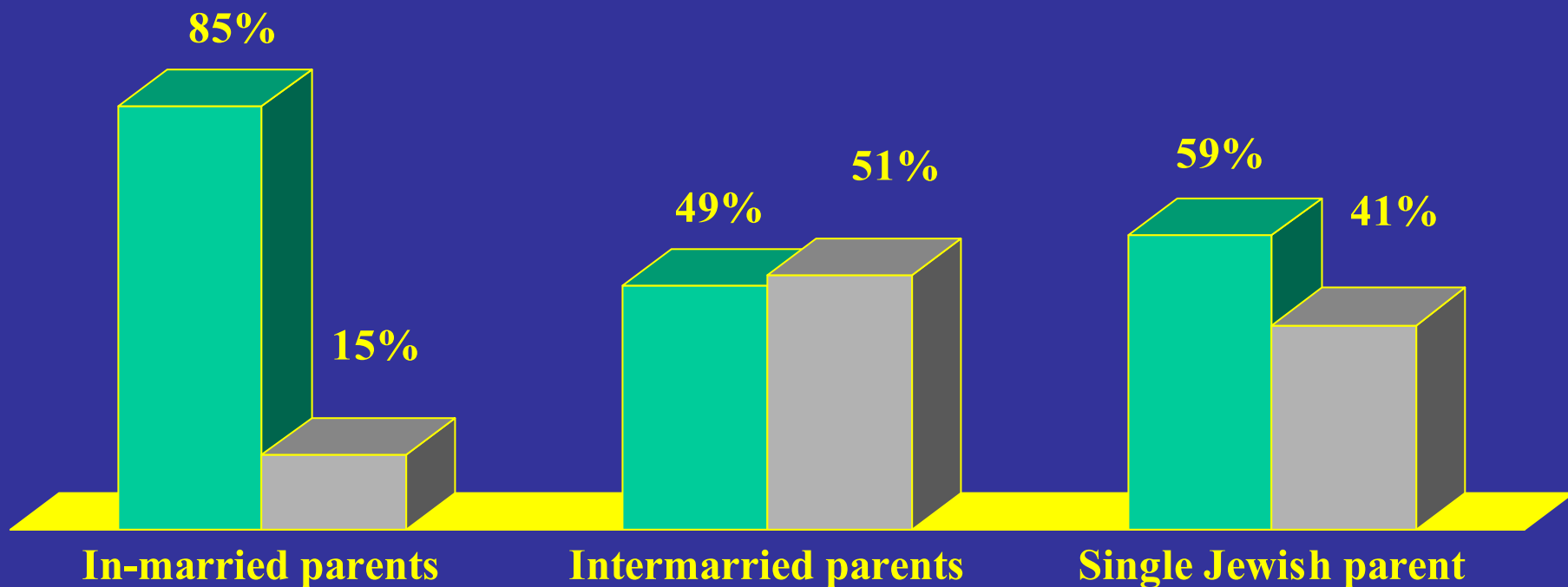
Almost half of all children in “synagogue” Reform households live in homes without in-married parents:



■ In-married parents
 ■ Intermarried parents
 ■ Single Jewish parent



Among all Jewish households, children age 6-17 with in-married parents are more likely to be currently receiving a Jewish education.

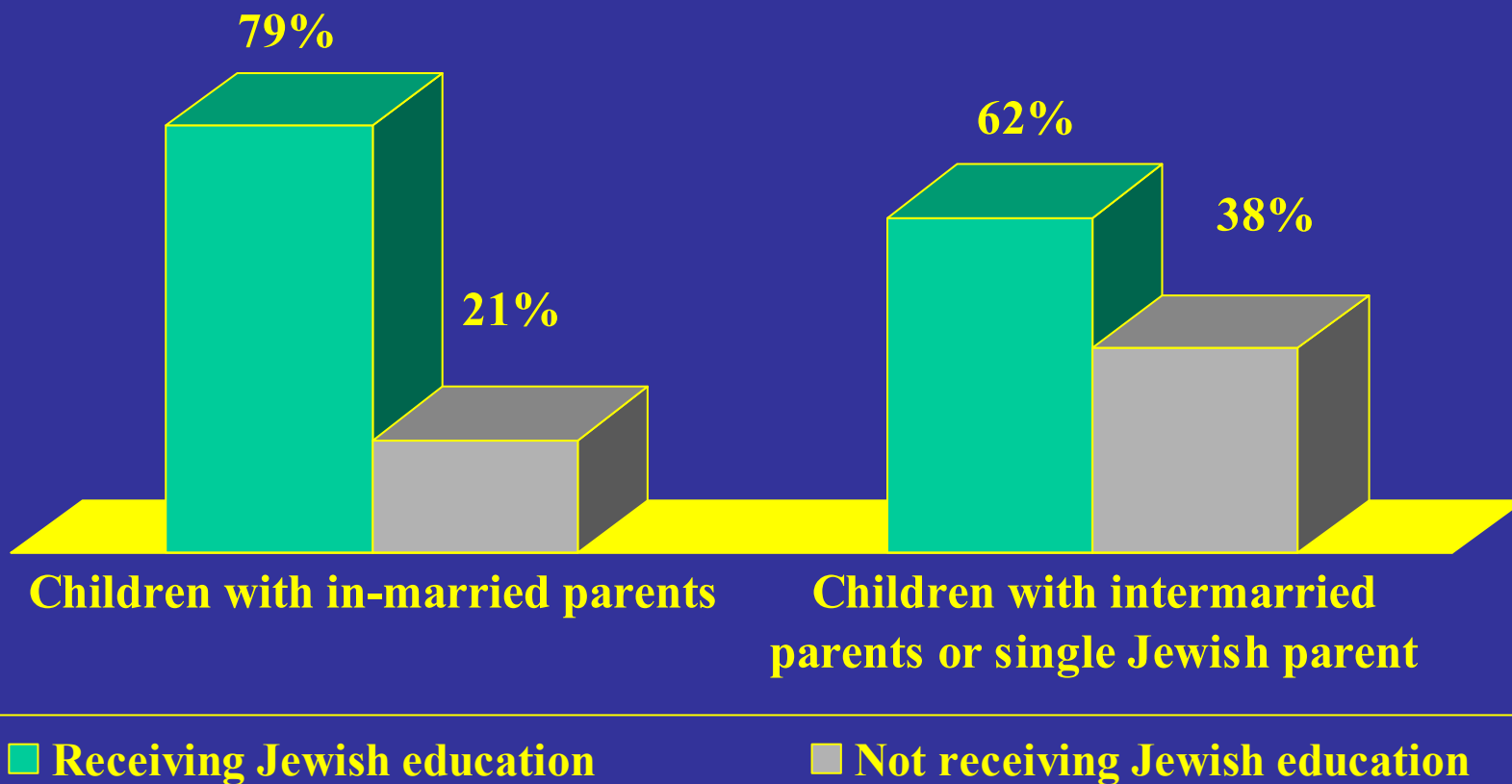


■ Receiving Jewish education

■ Not receiving Jewish education



Among children age 6-17 in “consider” Reform households, the same pattern holds for Jewish education trends:





For more information please
consult our website at

www.ujc.org/njps