



National Jewish Population Survey 2000-01

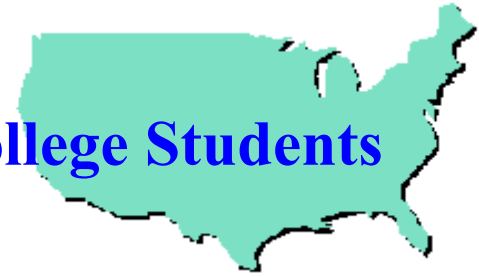
Jewish College Students

A United Jewish Communities

Presentation of Findings to

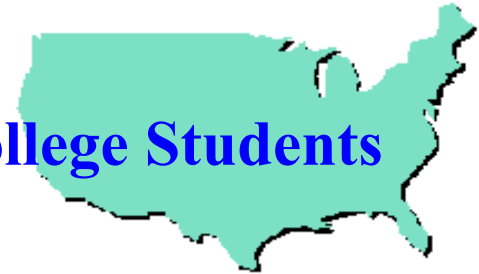
Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life

January 2004



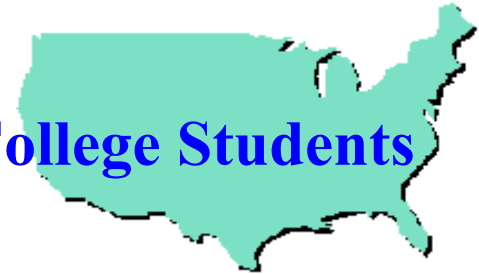
NJPS Respondents

- The NJPS 2000-01 questionnaire was administered to over 4,500 Jews in the U.S.
- Most of this presentation is a compilation of findings from NJPS interviews with 216 college (undergraduate) students age 18-29. A few slides at the beginning of the presentation also include data from interviews with 97 graduate students age 18-29, as well as 419 people age 18-29 who are not in college or graduate school.



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.



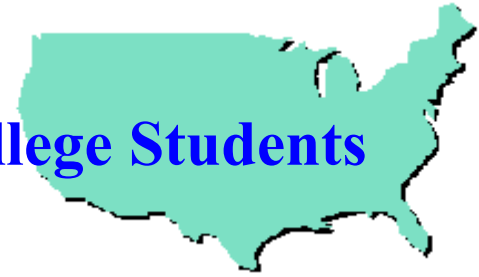
This presentation is divided into three major sections:

- **Demographic information on college and graduate students**
- **Comparisons of college students to total U.S. Jews**
- **Comparisons of college students with two born Jewish parents to college students with one born Jewish parent**



Demographic Topics

- Population base
- Region
- Place of Birth
- Gender



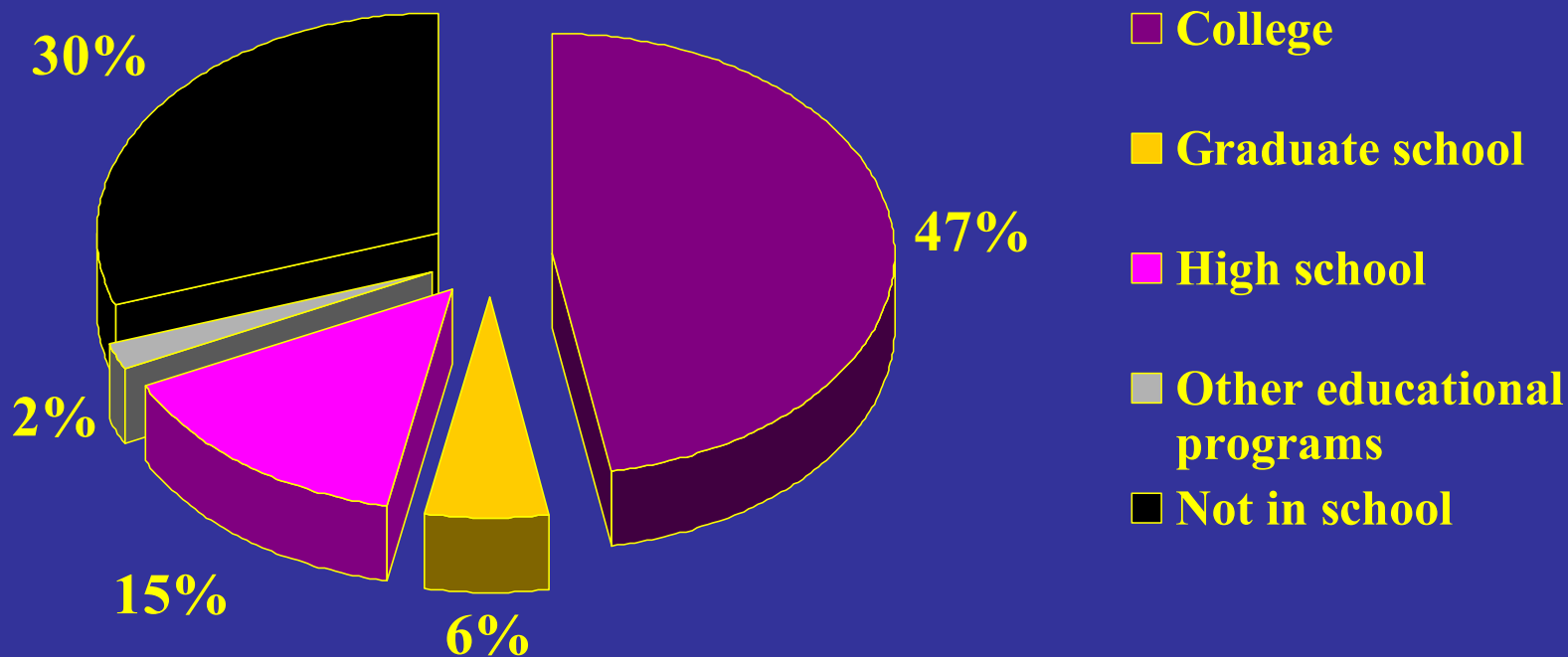
Total Jewish Population Base

Age 18-29

Age Group	College Students (Undergraduates)	Graduate Students	Not currently in college/grad school
18-24	237,200	31,100	232,600
25-29	33,800	57,500	221,500
Total	271,00	88,600	454,100



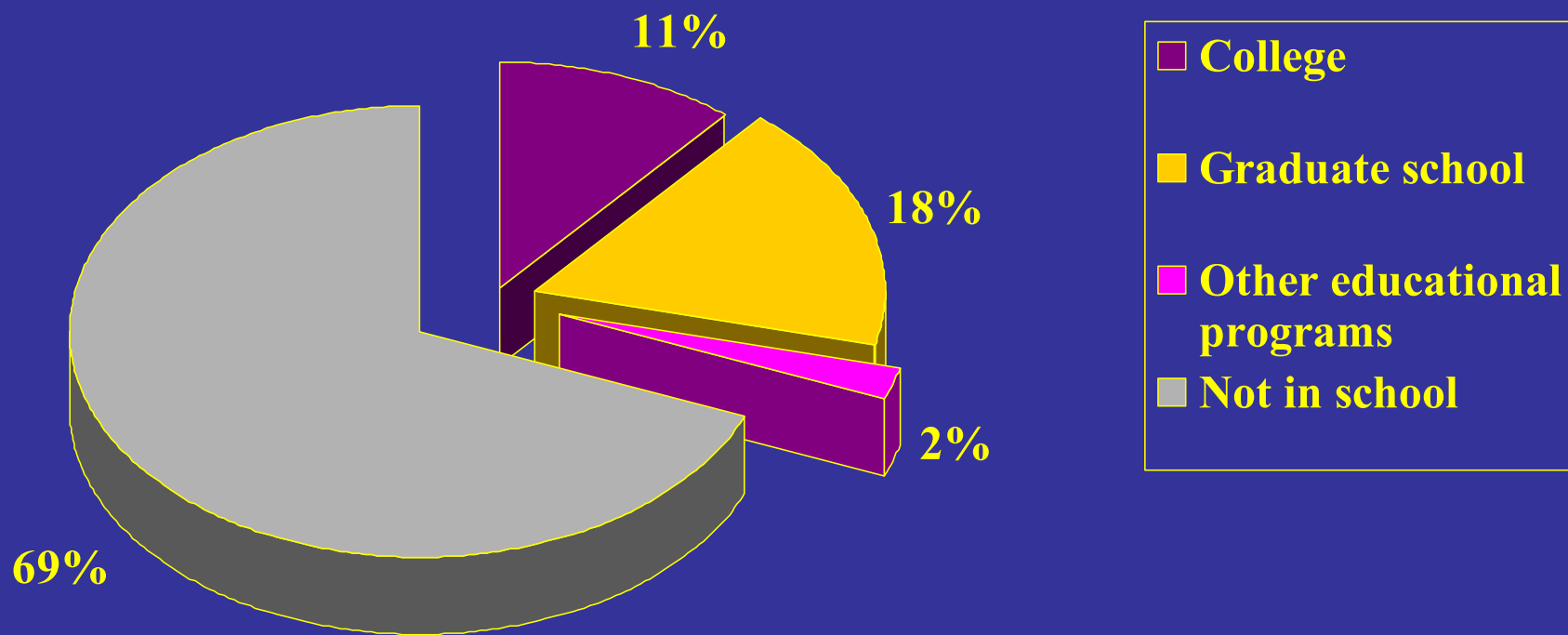
Over half (53%) of 18-24 year-olds are currently in college or graduate school.



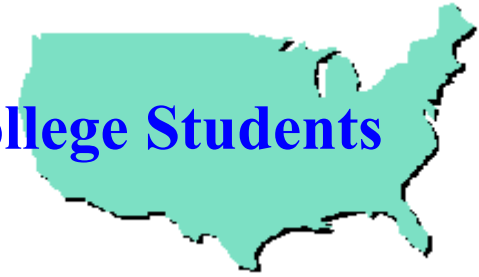
* Other educational programs include trade/vocational schools, adult or continuing education, and Judaism classes.



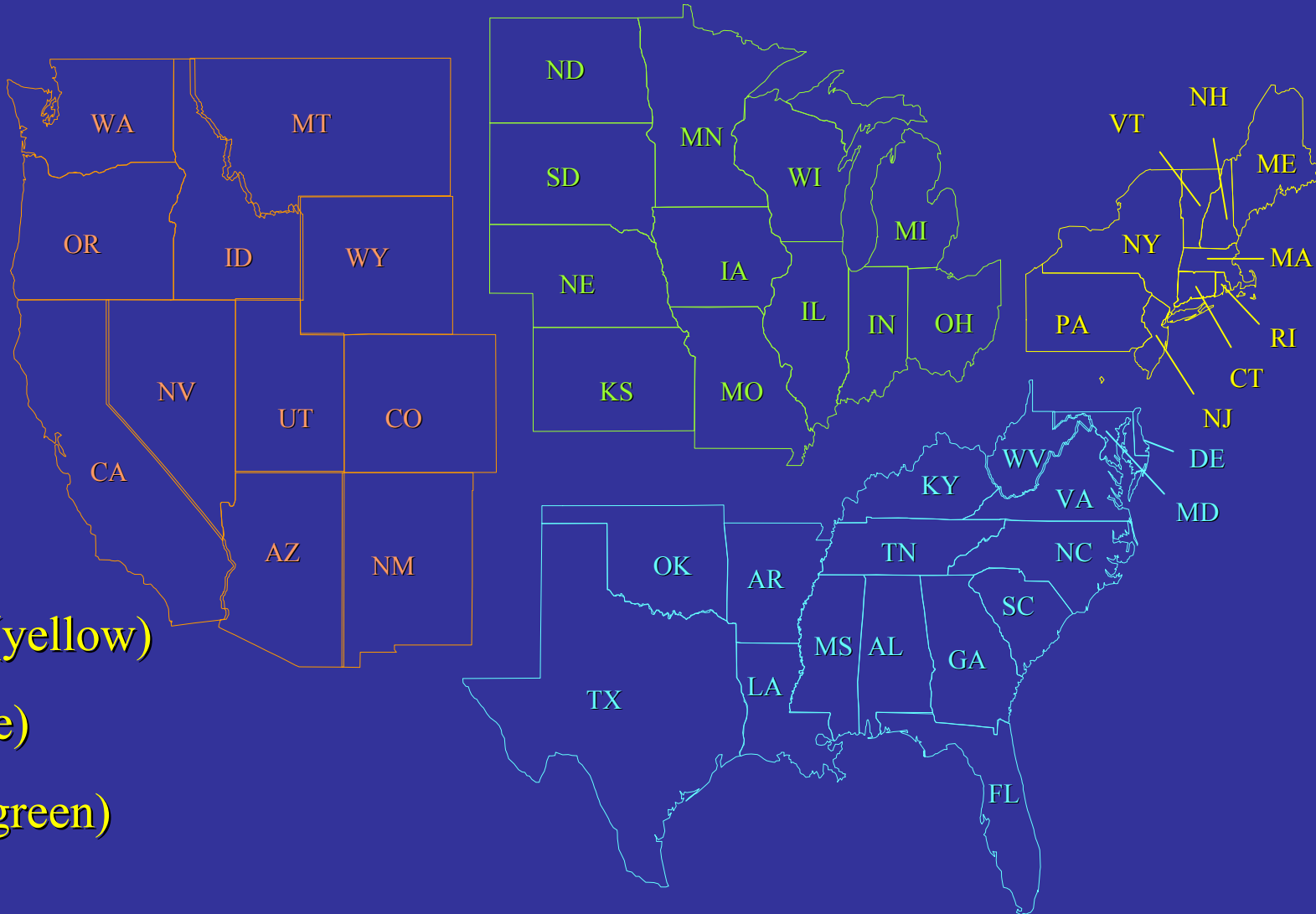
Nearly 30% of 25-29 year olds are in college or graduate school.



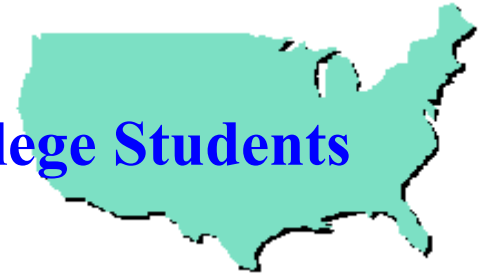
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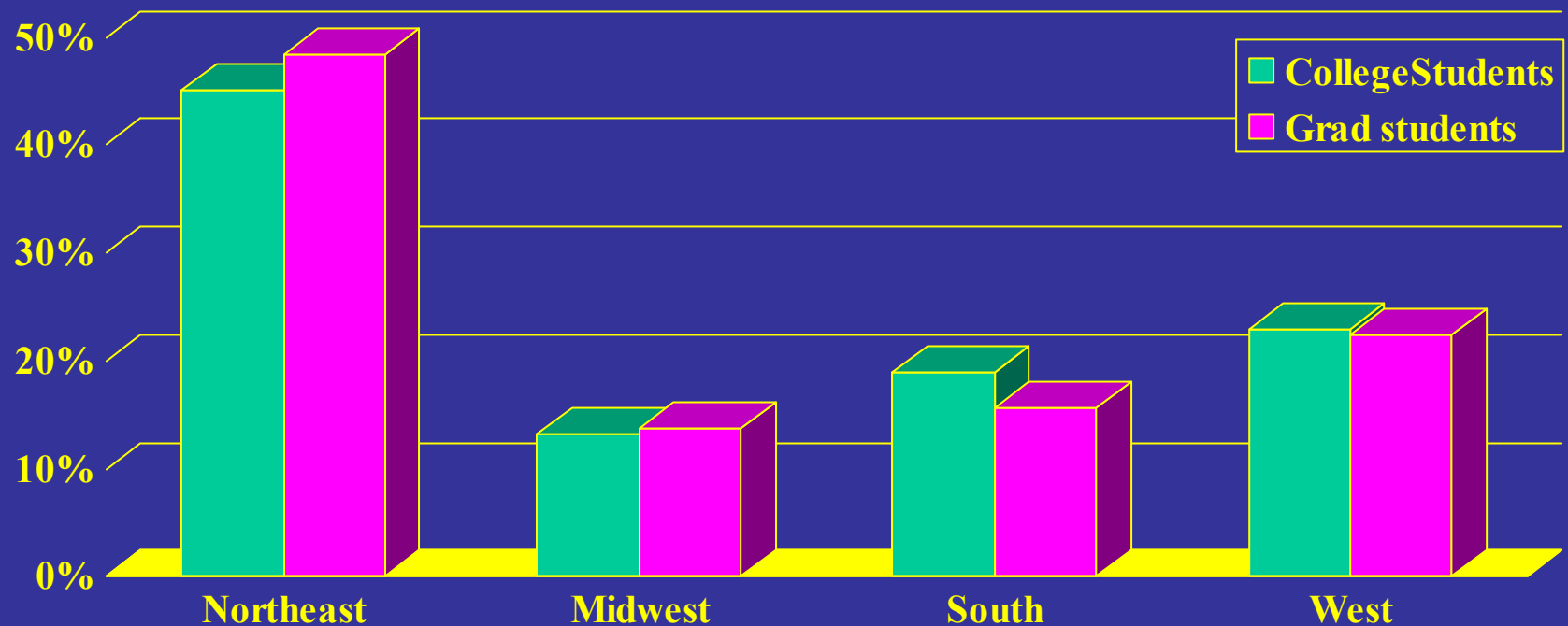
The United States is divided into four regions:



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



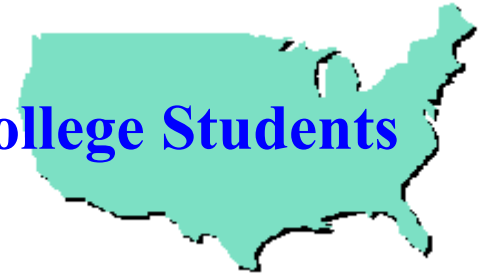
The Jewish college and graduate student population is concentrated in the Northeast, with 45% of college students and 48% of graduate students in the region.¹



¹ Based on respondents' answer to a question on the zip code of their primary residence.

**The remaining slides in this presentation
are for college students (undergraduates)
age 18-29.**

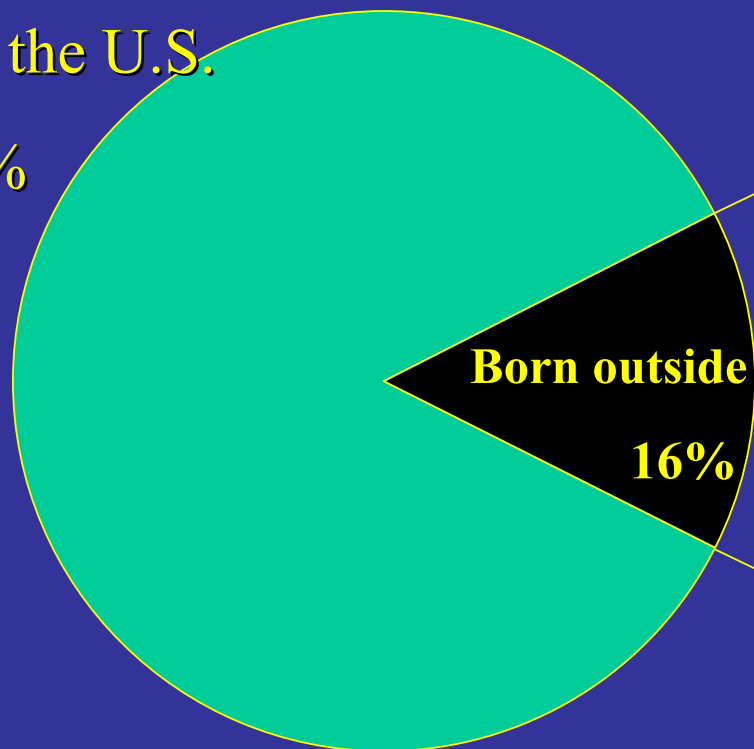
**The population estimate for this group is
271,000 people.**



Most Jewish college students were born in the US, but about one out of six was born elsewhere.

Born in the U.S.

84%



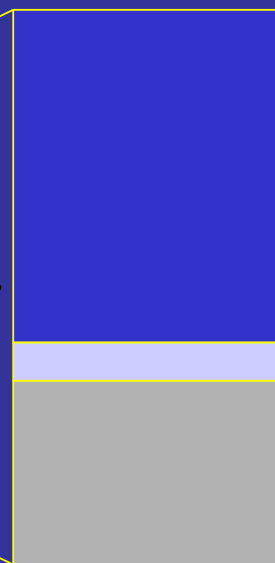
Born outside the U.S.

16%

**Former
Soviet Union
56%**

Israel 13%

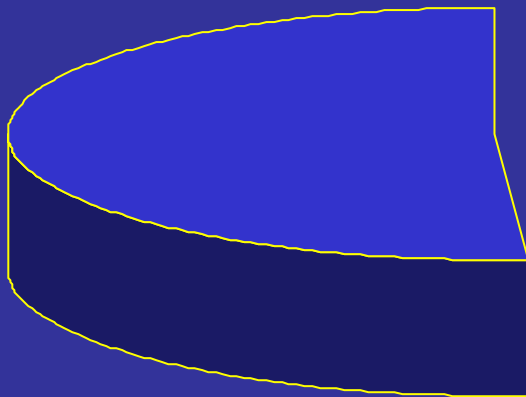
Other countries 31%



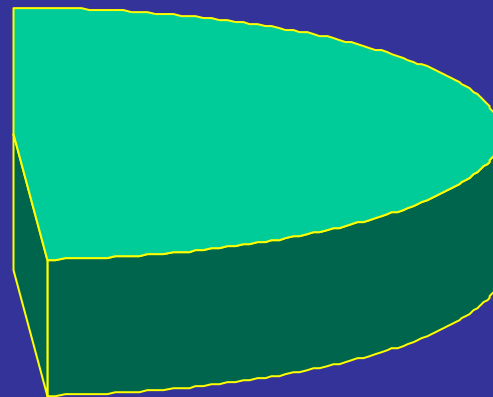


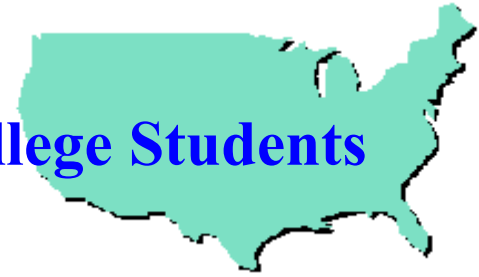
Nearly equal proportions of men and women comprise the Jewish college student population.

Women
51%



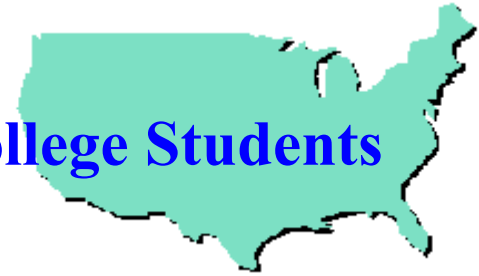
Men
49%



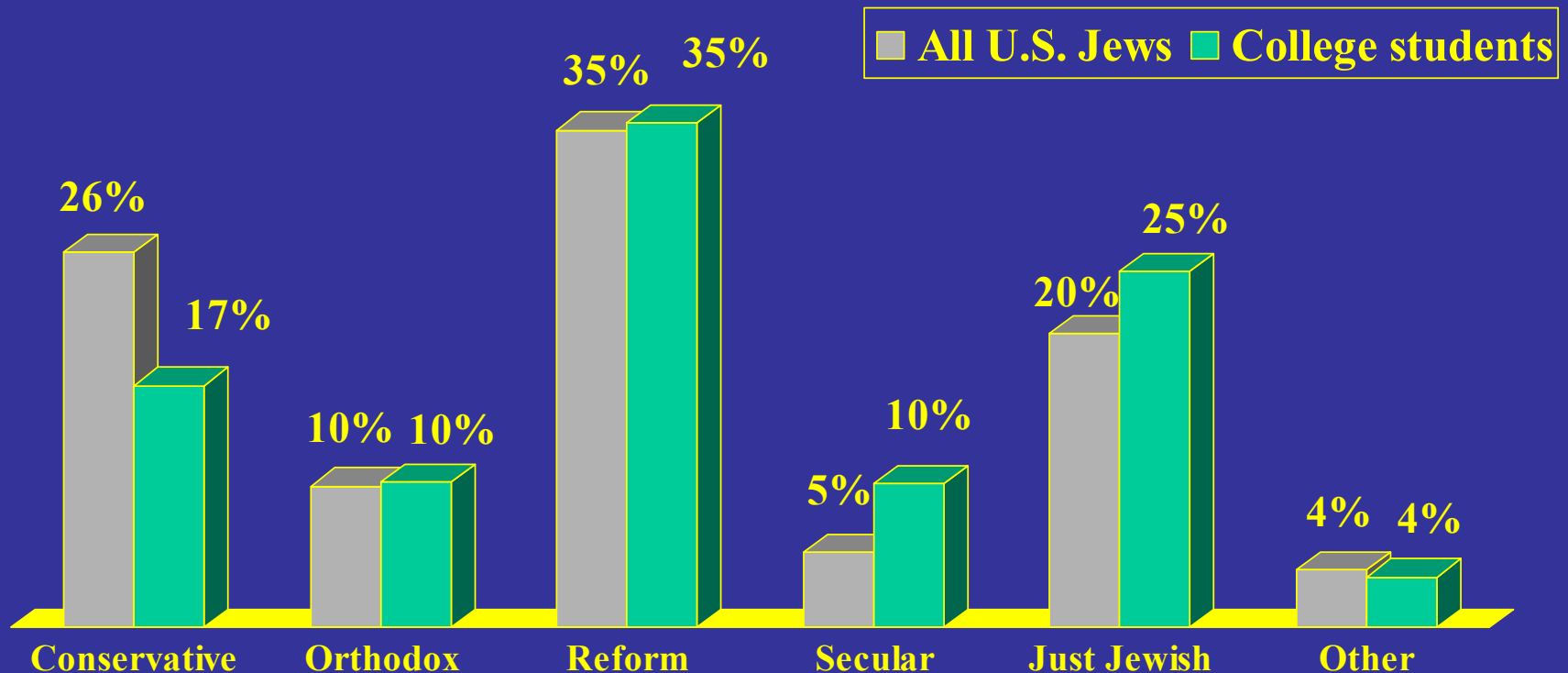


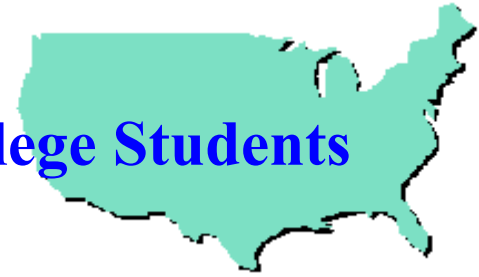
Comparing Jewish college students to all U.S. Jews

- Denominations
- Rituals/Observances
- Religious service attendance
- Additional forms of Jewish engagement
- Attitudes about Judaism and Jewish peoplehood
- Politics
- Perceptions and experiences of anti-Semitism

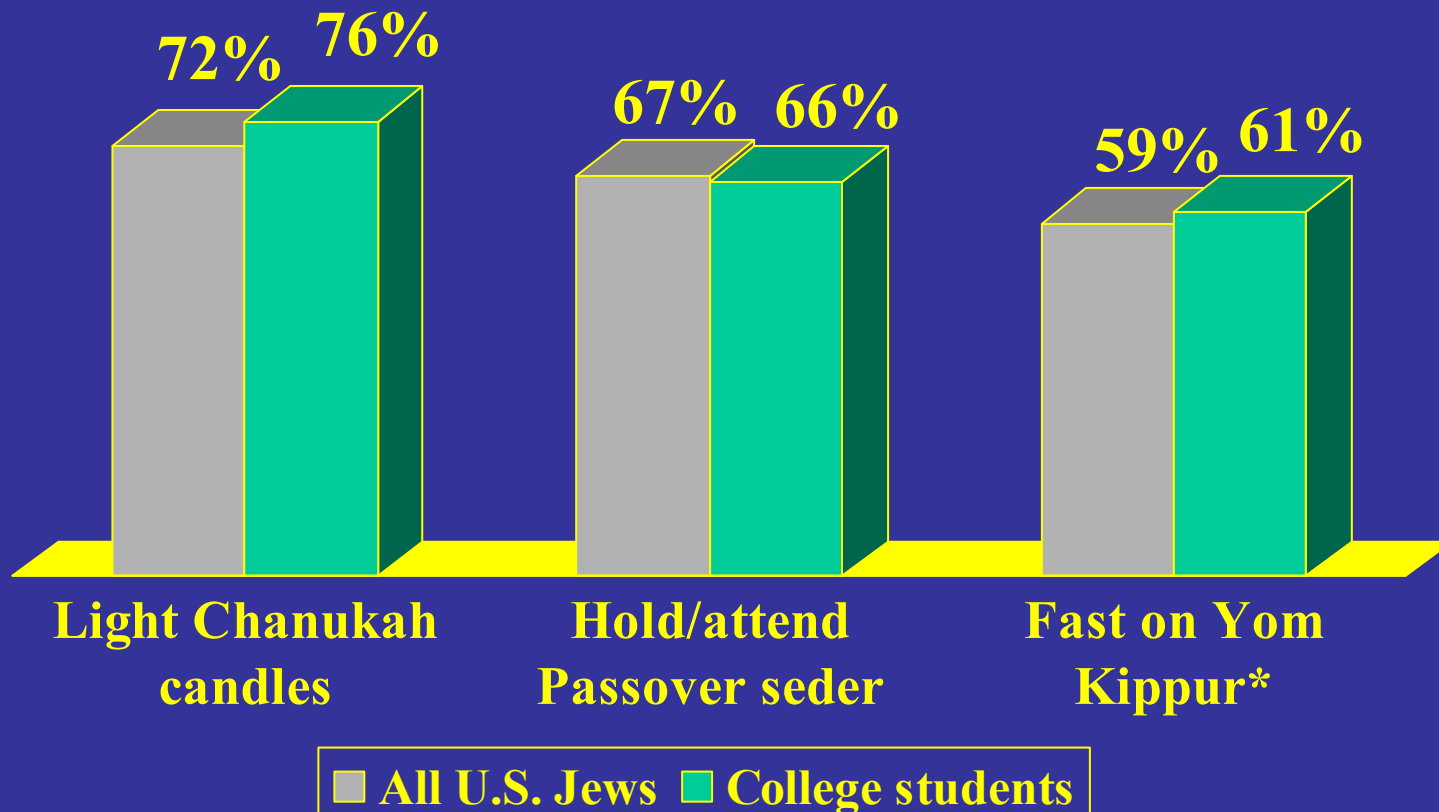


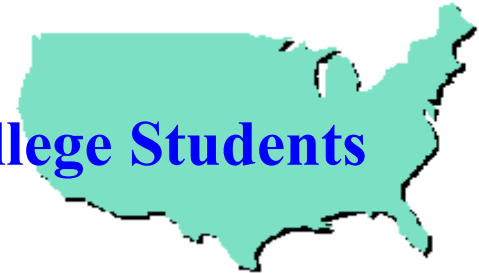
Regarding Jewish religious denominations*, college students are less likely than all U.S. Jews to identify as Conservative, and they are more likely to say they are secular or “just Jewish.”



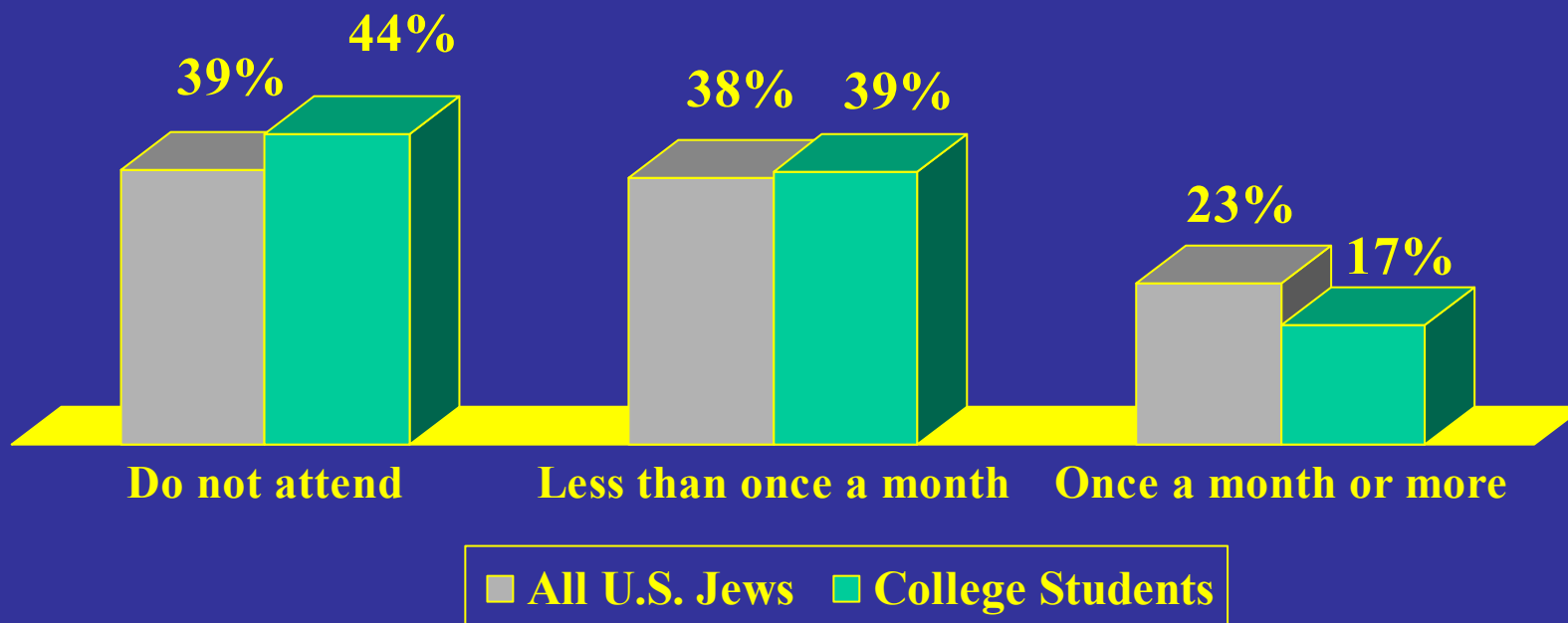


Most American Jews, including college students, observe a number of important Jewish holidays and rituals.





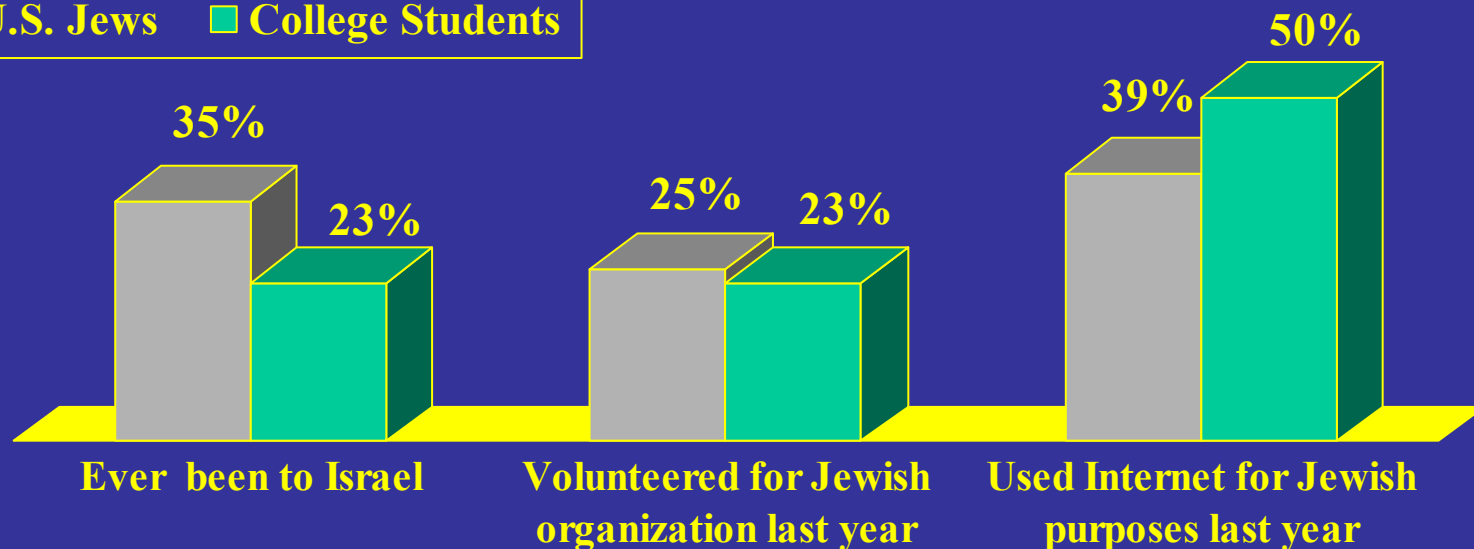
College students attend religious services* less often than all U.S. Jews do, but the difference is modest.



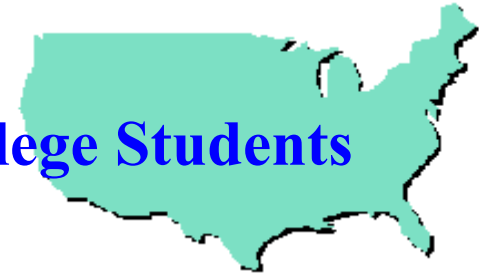


College students are less likely to have been to Israel,¹ about as likely to volunteer for a Jewish organization,* and more likely to use the Internet for Jewish purposes.*

■ All U.S. Jews ■ College Students



¹ The differences in rates of travel to Israel are likely due to age. College students, by virtue of being younger, have had less time to travel to Israel than other Jewish adults.



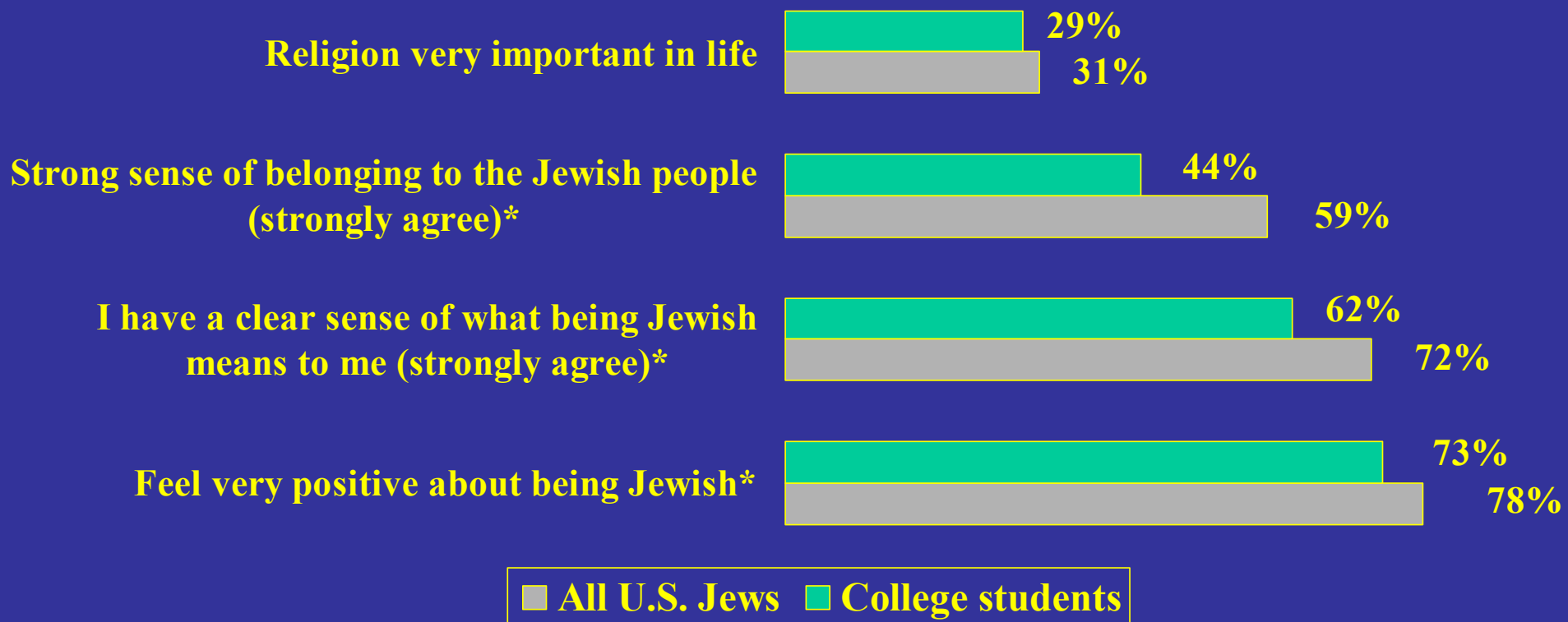
Jewish college students' have less intense feelings about Jewish peoplehood than all U.S. Jews.

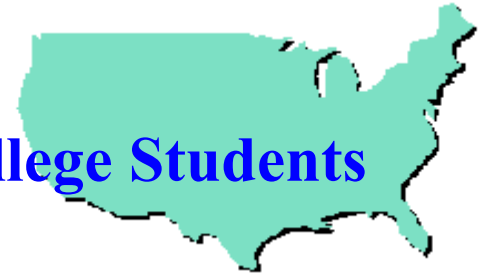


■ All U.S. Jews ■ College students

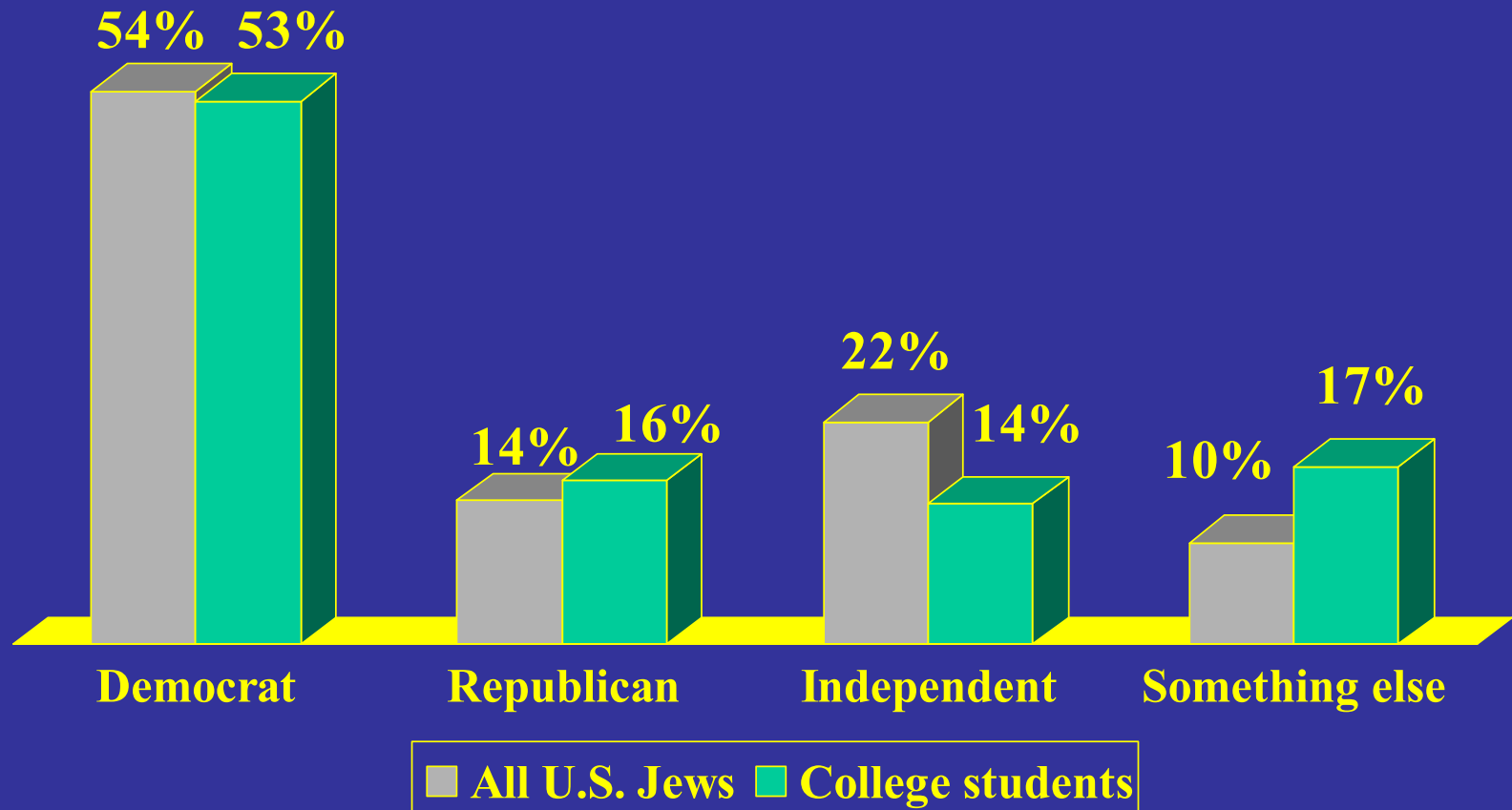


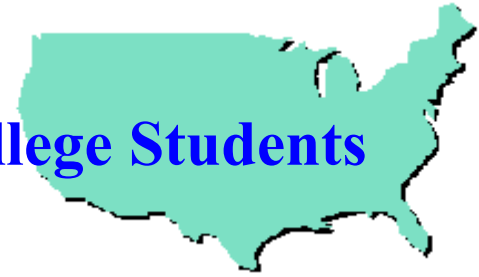
The same discrepancy between Jewish college students and all U.S. Jews is evident in these measures of attitudes toward Judaism and Jewish peoplehood.



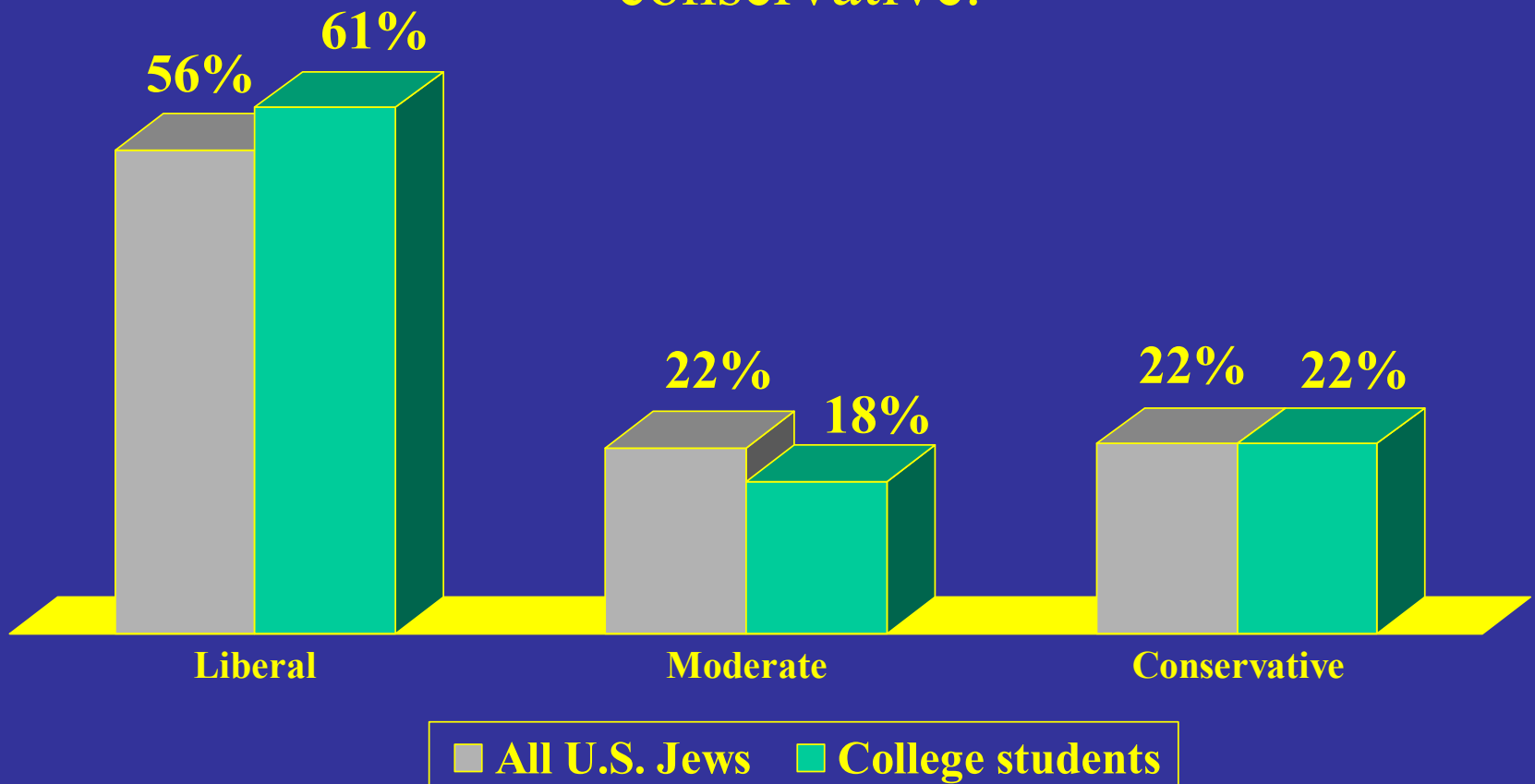


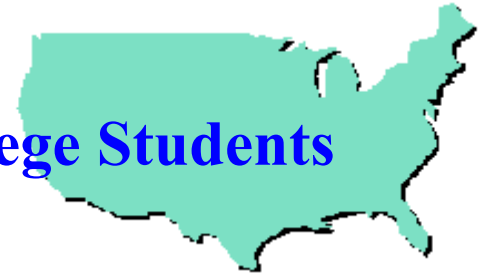
College students and all U.S. Jews are more likely to identify as Democrats than as Republicans, independents, or something else.



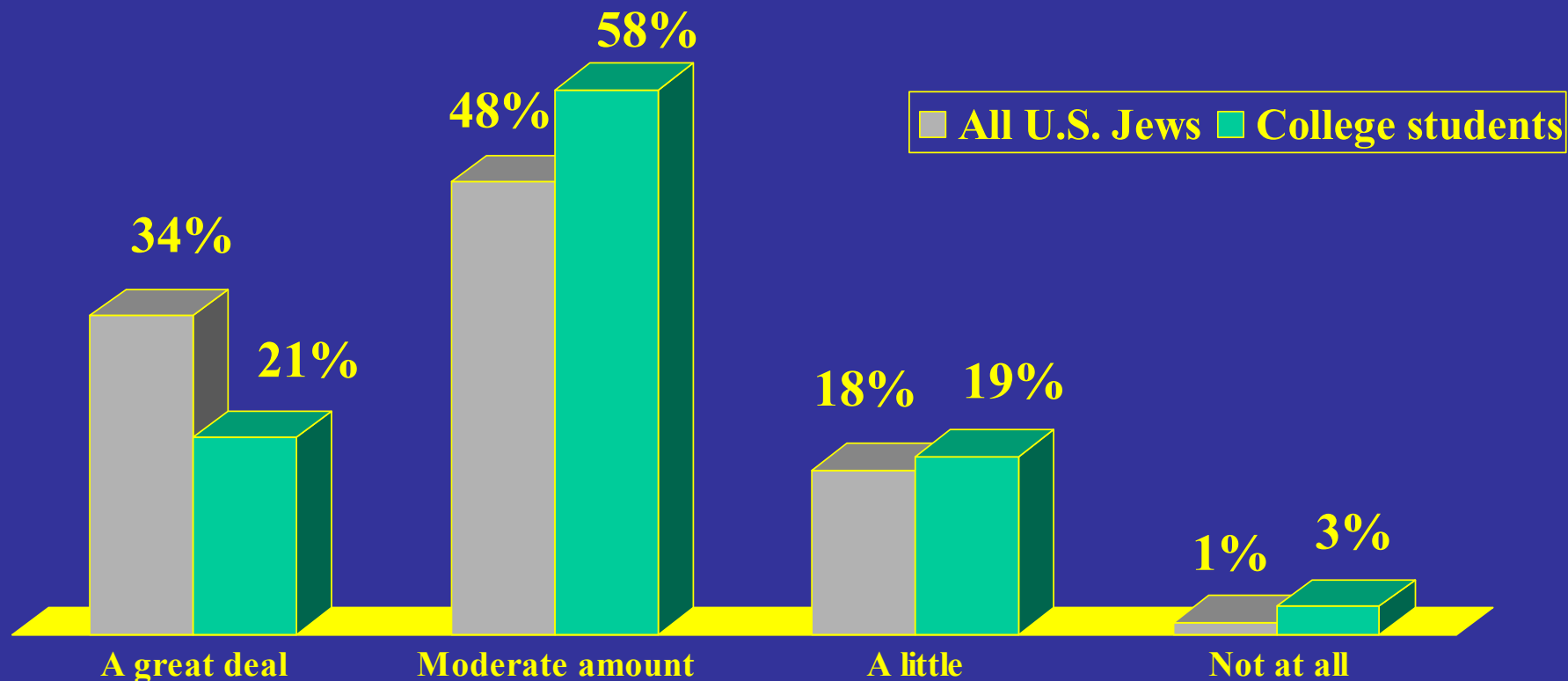


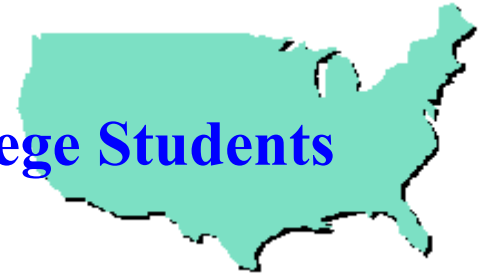
Similarly, college and all U.S. Jews are more likely to say they are politically liberal than either moderate or conservative.



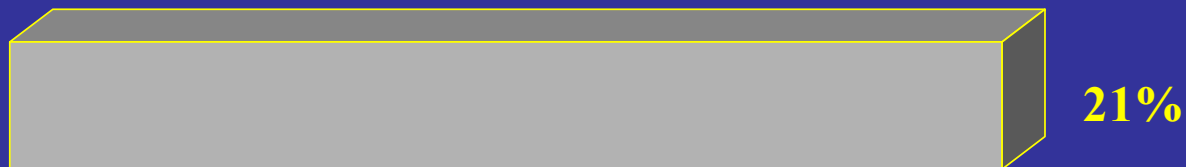
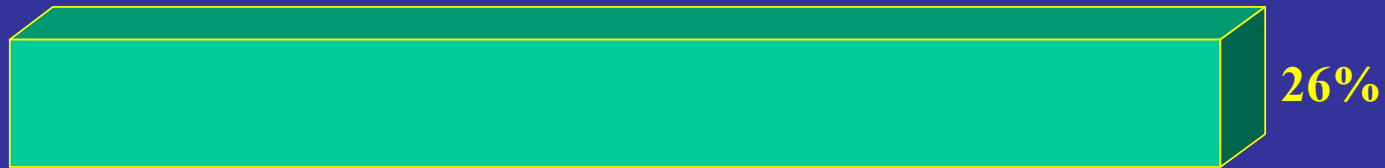


College students perceive slightly less anti-Semitism in the United States than all U.S. Jews do, but most Jews perceive a moderate or great deal of anti-Semitism.*

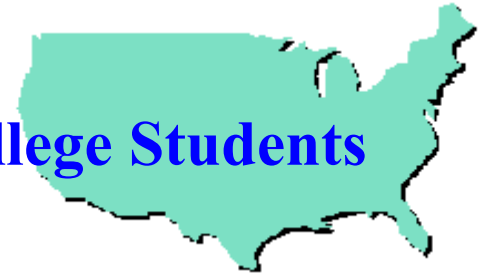




Over one-quarter of Jewish college students reported they personally experienced anti-Semitism in the year before the survey, slightly more than all U.S. Jews.

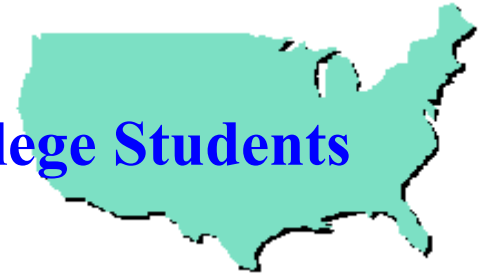


■ All U.S. Jews ■ College students



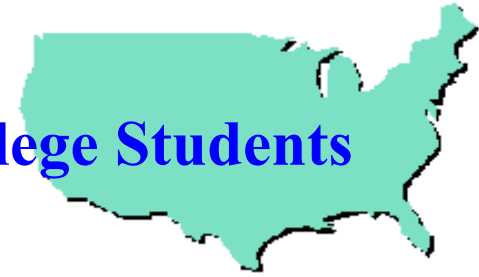
Comparing college students with two born Jewish parents to college students with one born Jewish parent

- Denominations
- Religious service attendance
- College Jewish activities
- Attitudes toward Jewish peoplehood and Judaism
- Jewish friends
- Dating and future spouses



Methodological Note

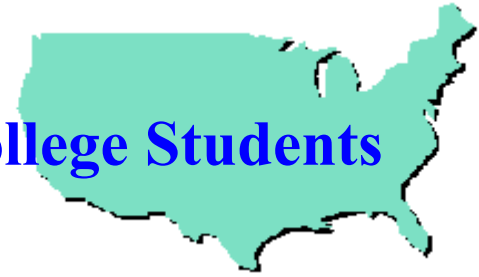
NJPS asked respondents about the “born Jewish” status of their mother and father. The survey did not ask about formal conversions or informal switching to Judaism among parents who were not born Jewish. As a result, this presentation uses the available data to differentiate between students with one and two born Jewish parents, without precluding the possibility that parents who were not born Jewish may have formally converted or informally switched to Judaism.



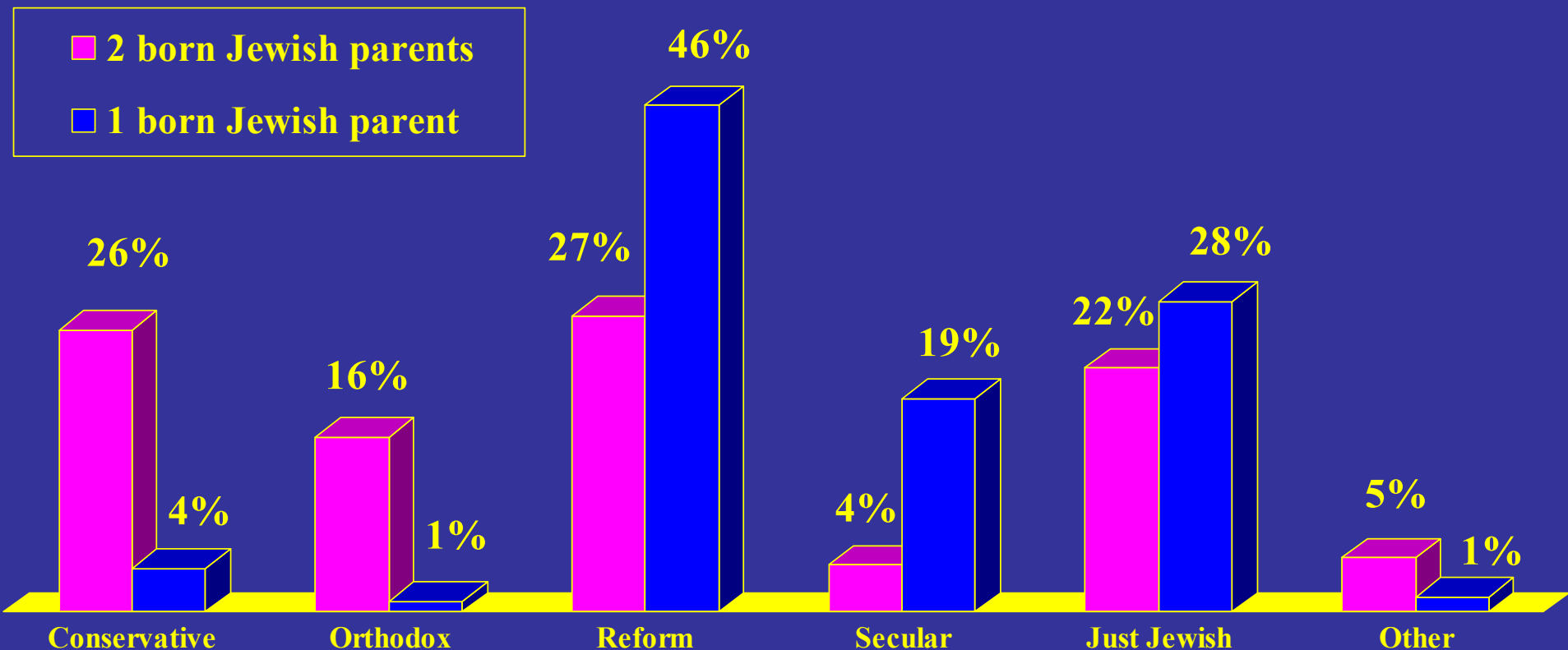
Nearly as many Jewish college students have one born Jewish parent as have two born Jewish parents.

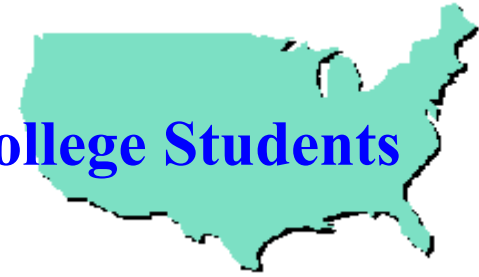
Two born Jewish parents	48%
One born Jewish parent	45%
Neither parent born Jewish or no information on parents' born Jewish status	7%

Note: All slides following this slide exclude the 7% of students with no born Jewish parents or for whom there is no information on parents' born Jewish status.

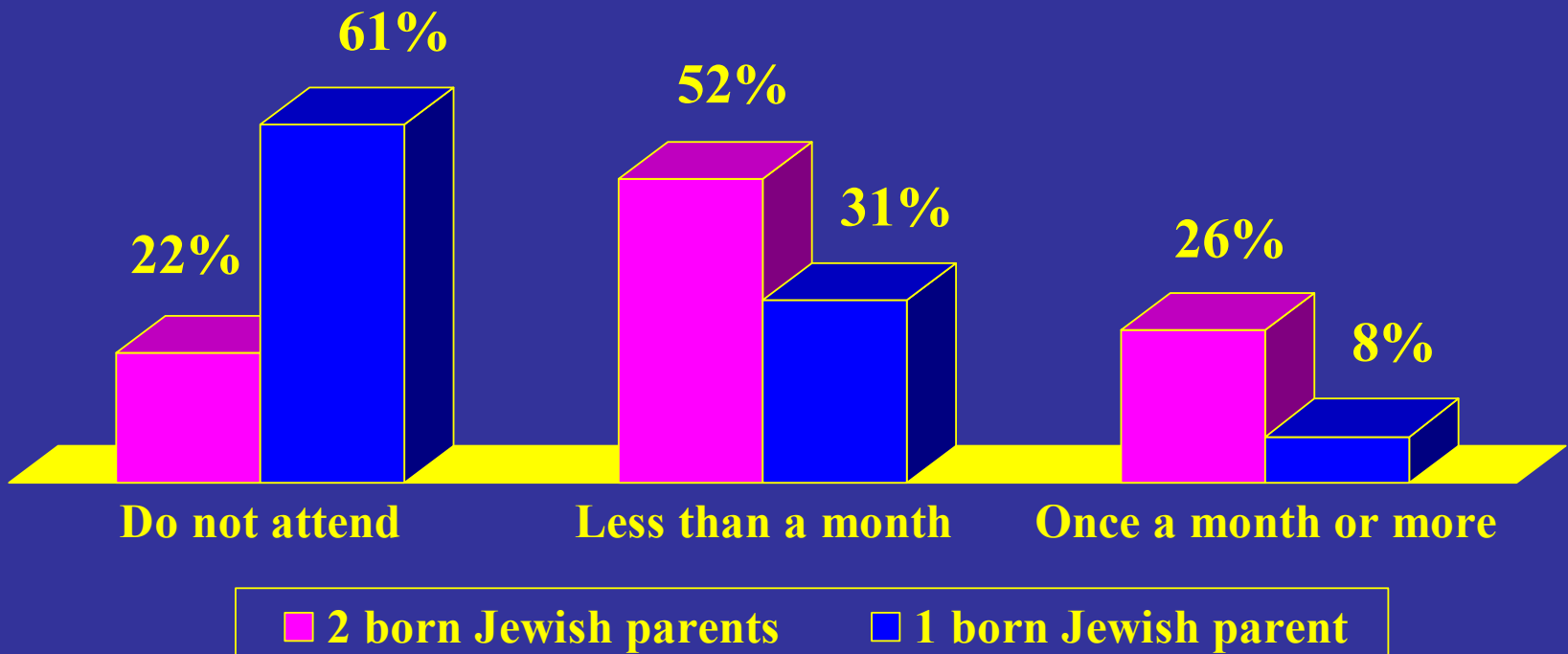


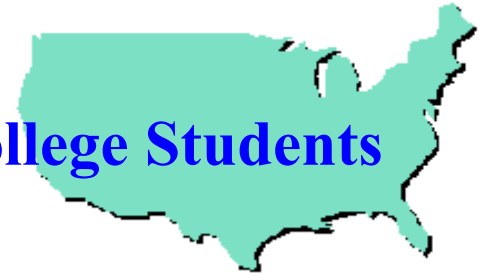
Regarding Jewish religious denominations, students with two born Jewish parents are more likely to identify as Conservative and Orthodox than students with one born Jewish parent.*



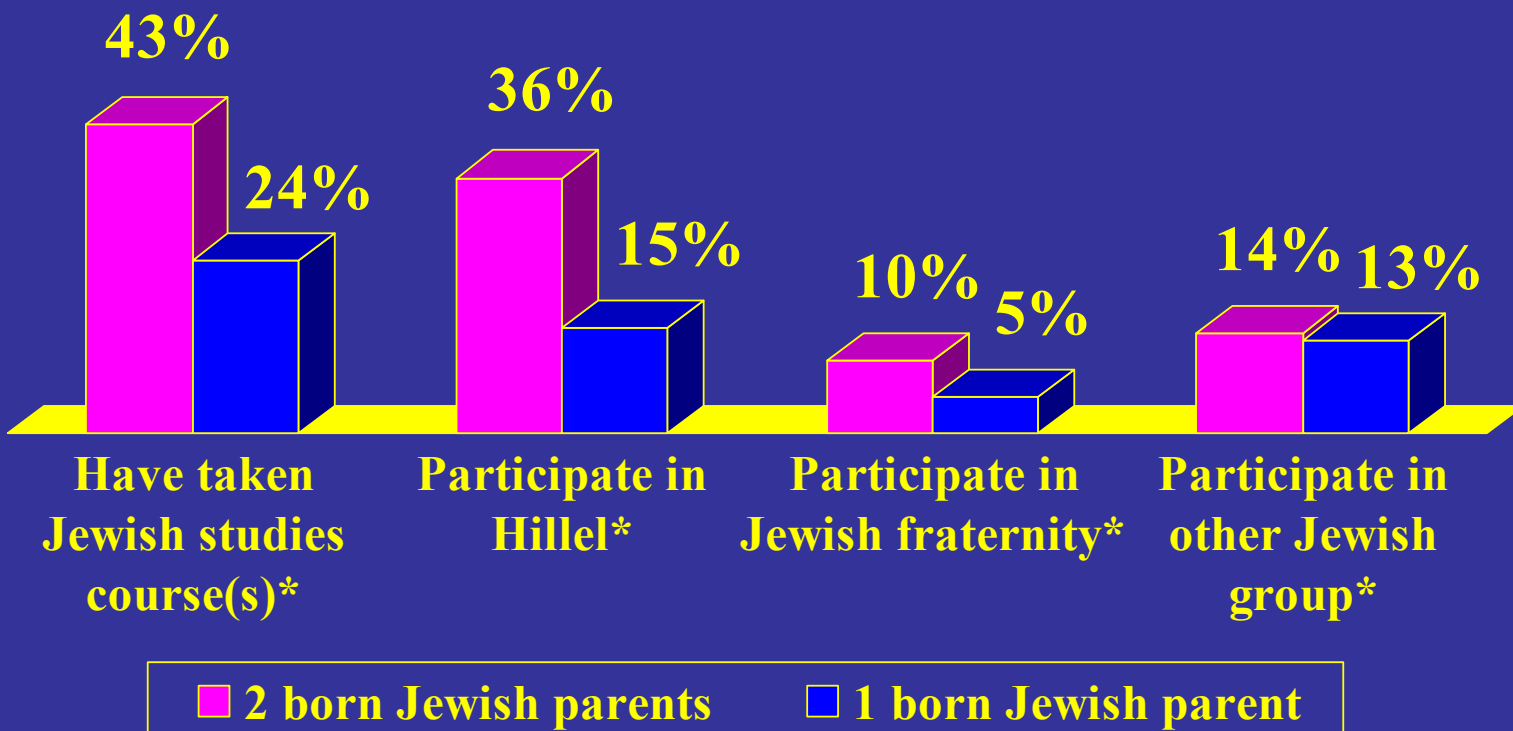


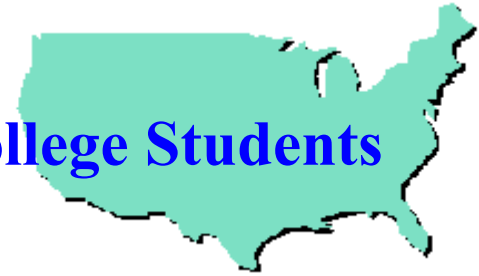
Students with two born Jewish parents attend Jewish religious services* more often than students with one born Jewish parent.



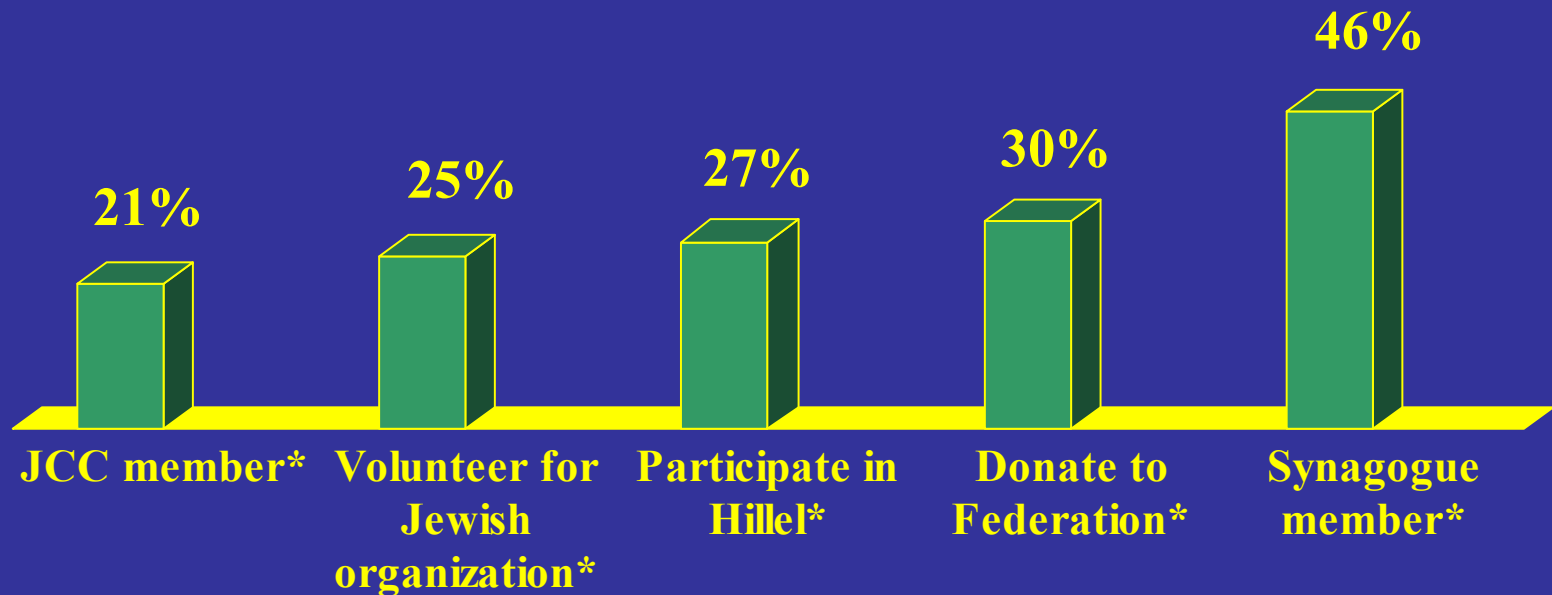


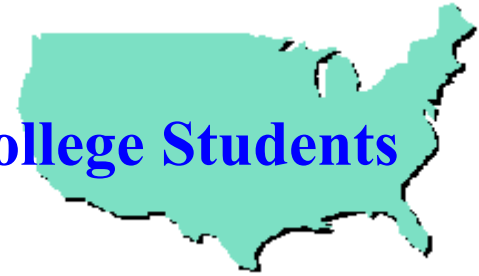
On most measures of Jewish activity in college, students with two born Jewish parents are more likely to participate than students with one born Jewish parent.



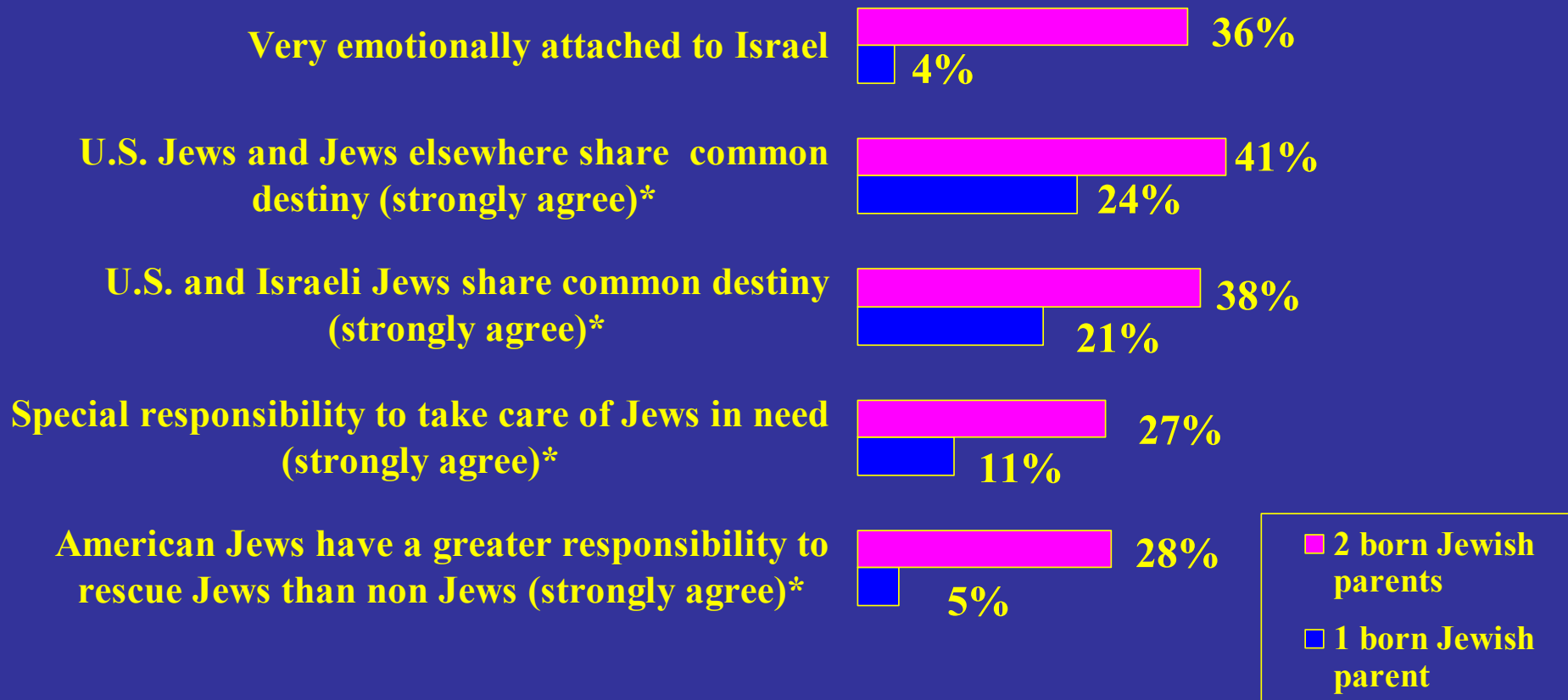


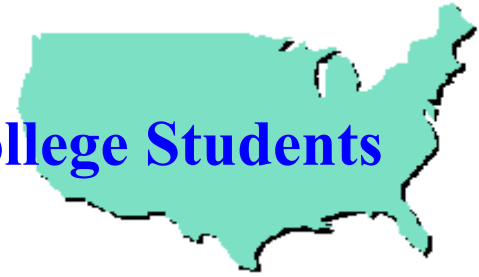
Levels of participation in Hillel among college students are similar to levels of affiliation with other types of communal institutions among all Jewish adults.





Students with two born Jewish parents have stronger feelings about Jewish peoplehood than do students with one born Jewish parent.





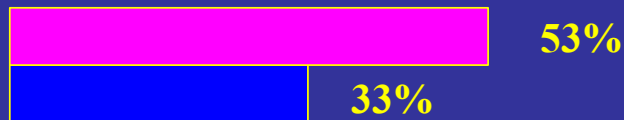
The same pattern emerges when examining these indicators of feelings about Judaism and Jewish peoplehood.

Religion very important in life*



■ 2 born Jewish parents
■ 1 born Jewish parent

Strong sense of belonging to the Jewish people (strongly agree)*

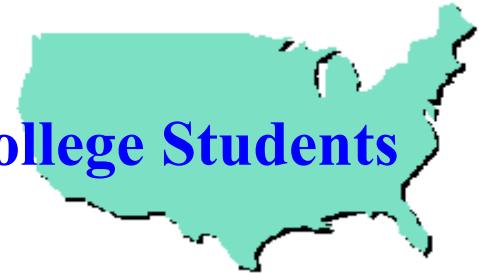


I have a clear sense of what being Jewish means to me (strongly agree)*

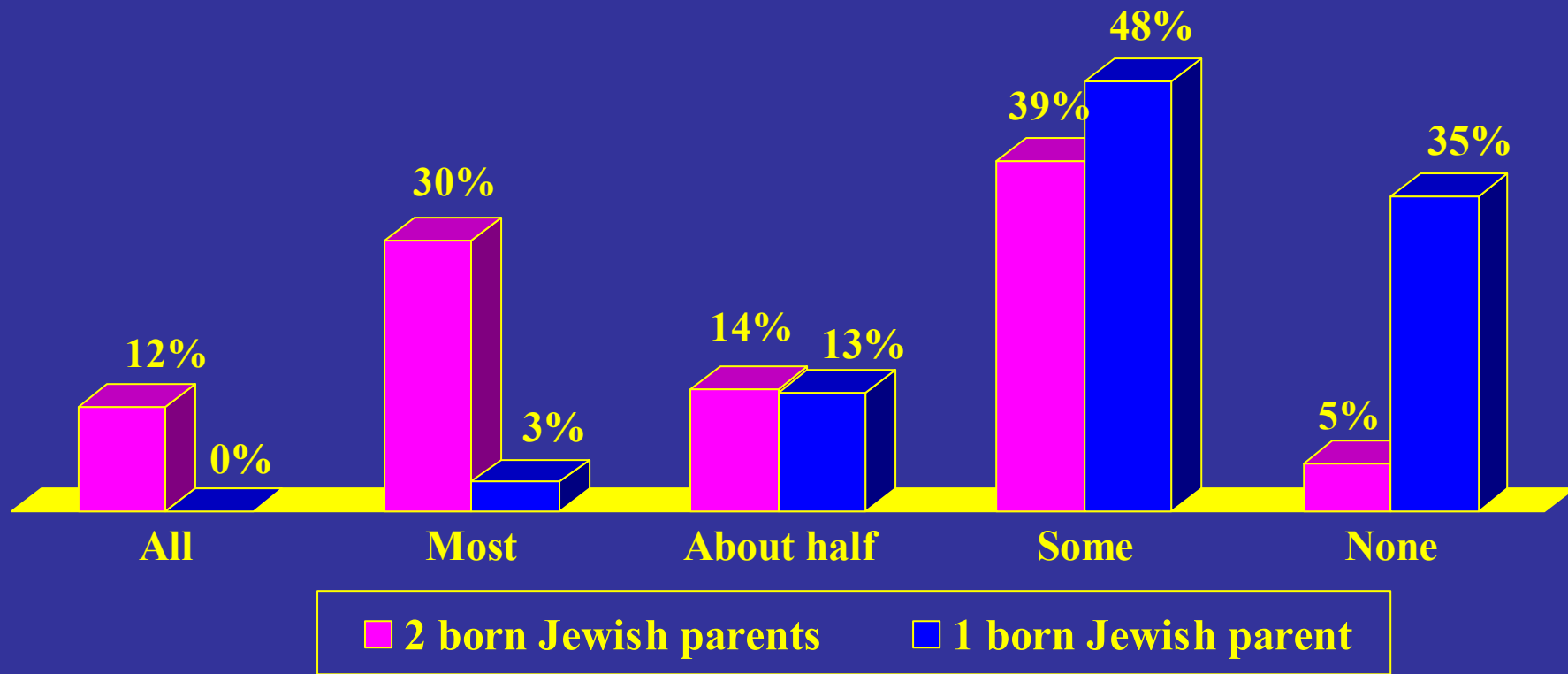


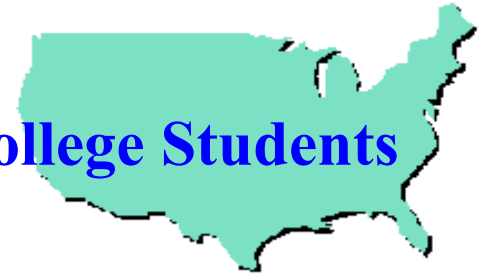
Feel very positive about being Jewish



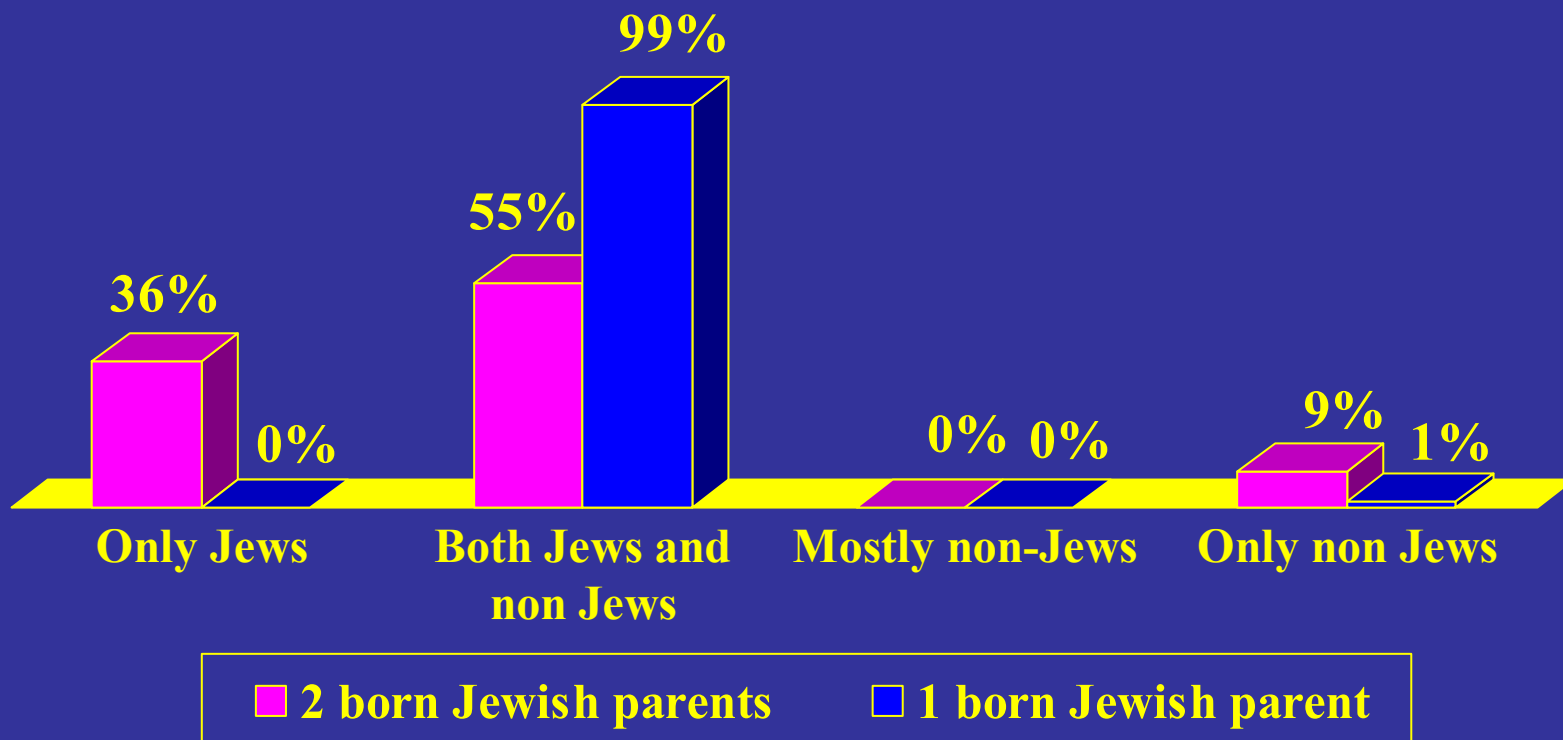


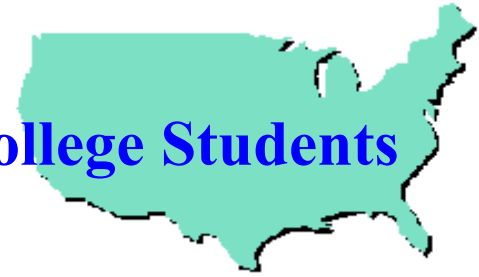
Students with two born Jewish parents have more close friends who are Jewish than students with one born Jewish parent do. Among students with two born Jewish parents, 56% report that half or more of their close friends are Jewish.



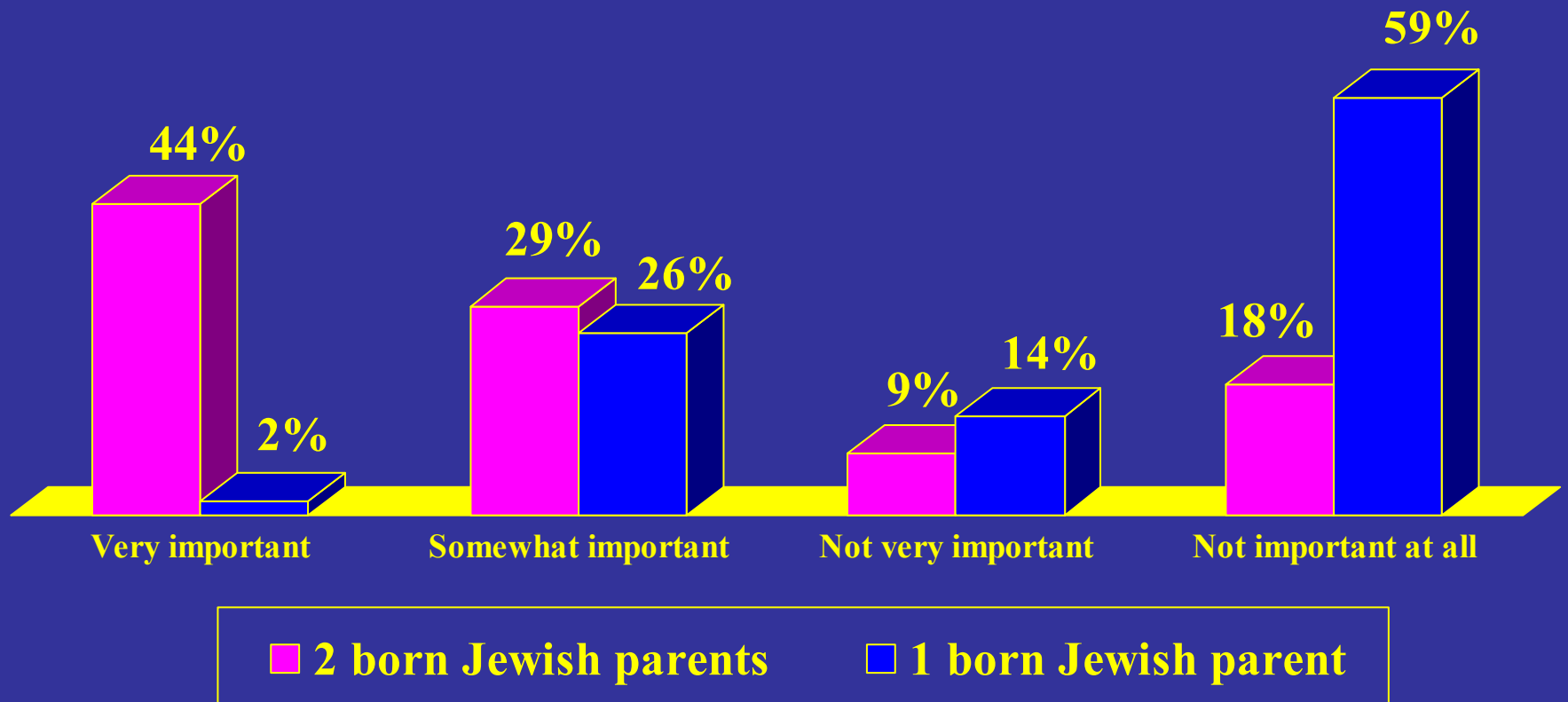


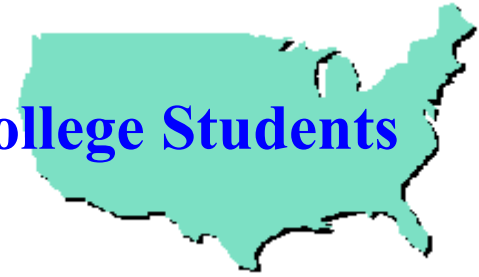
Among those who are dating,* a little over one-third of students with two born Jewish parents date only Jews, and more than half date both Jews and non-Jews.





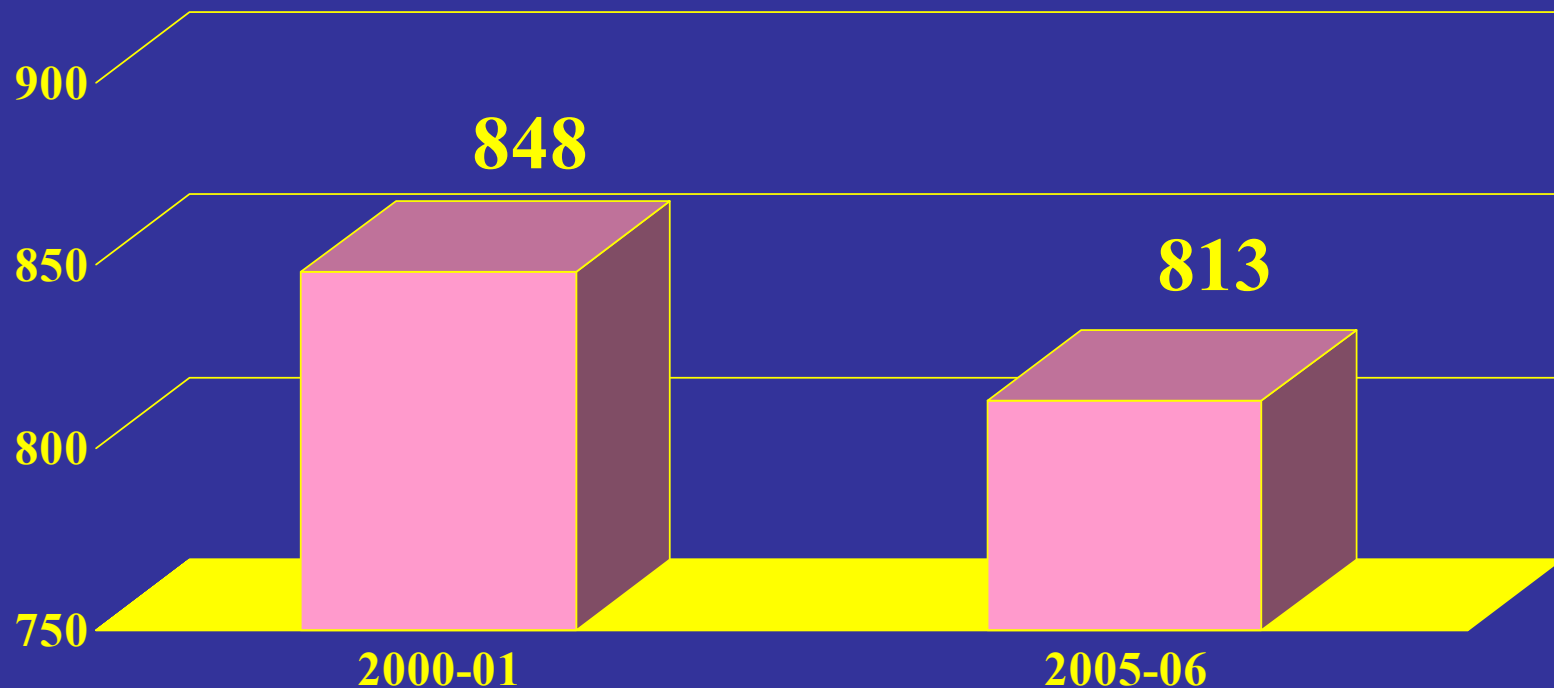
Students with two born Jewish parents are much more likely than students with one born Jewish parent to say having a Jewish spouse in the future is “very important” to them.*



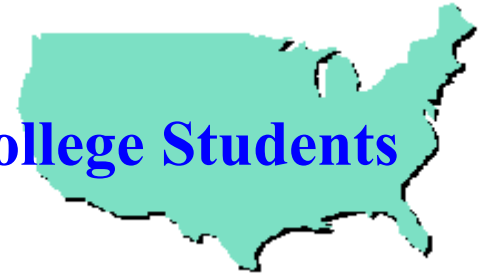


The college-age Jewish population (ages 18-29) will be about 4% smaller in 5 years than it is now.¹

Thousands



¹ Assumes no migration or mortality.



Questions?