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U.S. Jewry 2010: Estimates of the Size and Characteristics of the Population

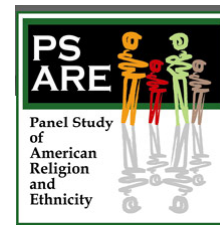
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New Paradigm

- **Utilize high quality extant data**
... from multiple national surveys that include standard questions about religious/ethnic identity
- **Synthesizes individual level data**
... while taking account of survey/design characteristics
- **Provides reliable estimate of U.S. Jewish population**
... that can be used to weight studies that describe specific characteristics of the Jewish population

Surveys



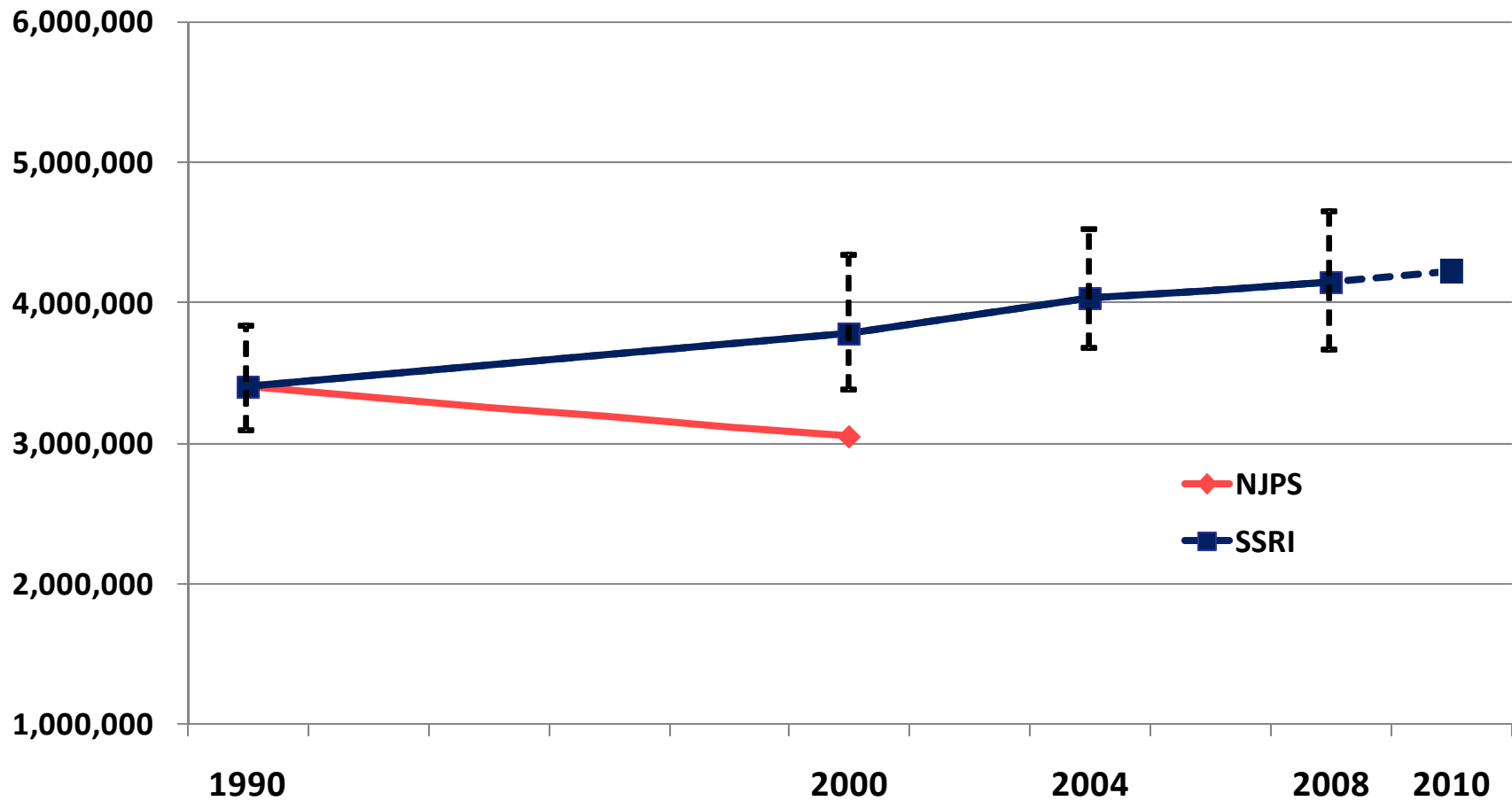
Over 150 surveys included in current database

Cross-Survey Analysis Method

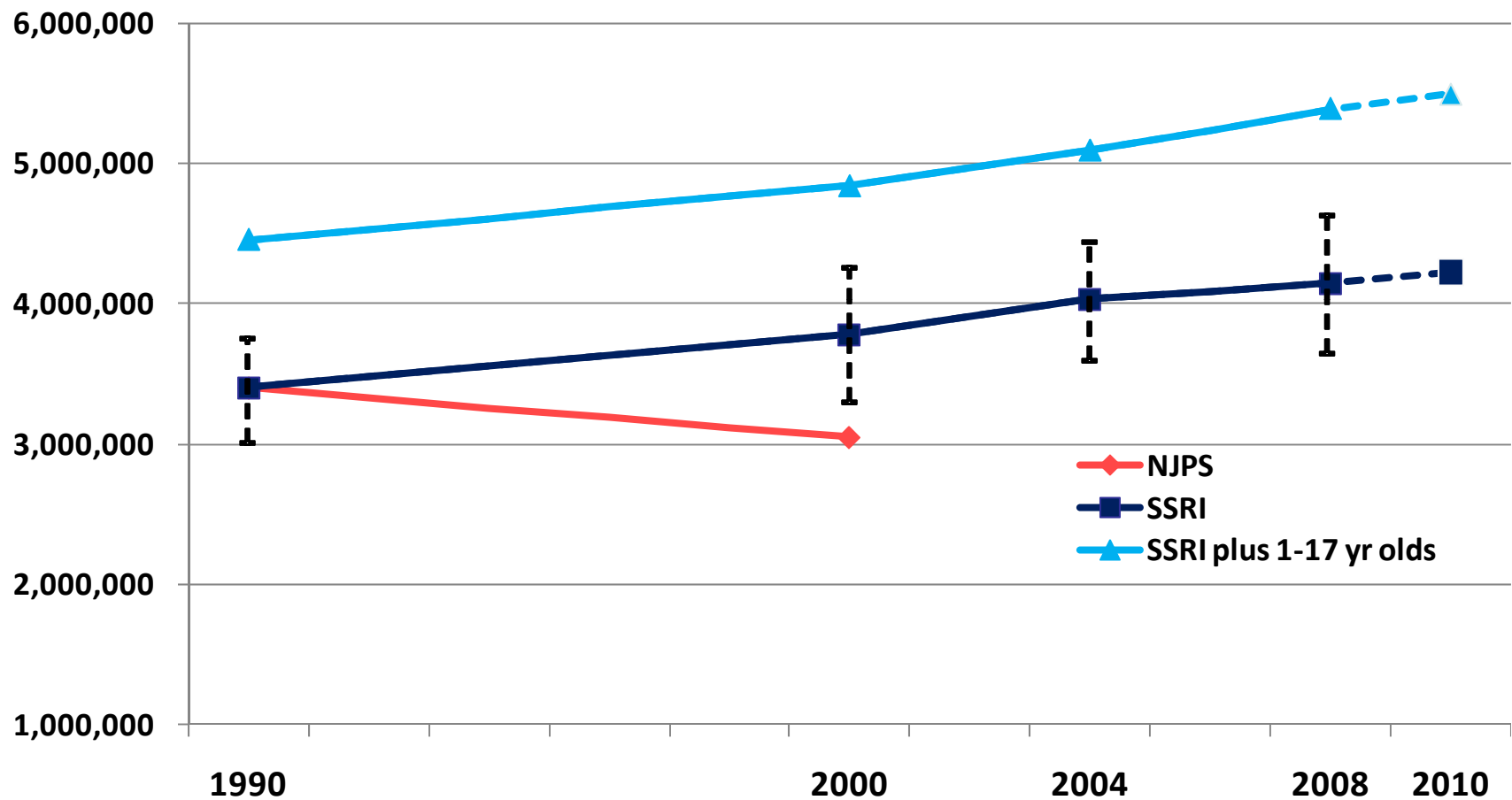
- All surveys of the U.S. adult population that assess religious and/or ethnic identification identified
- Data pooled data across surveys
- **Model survey level variance**
 - Sampling and post-stratification variables included in hierarchical models
 - Bayesian analyses with Monte Carlo simulations used to post-stratify (geographic and demographic composition)

For details, see Tighe, Livert, Barnett & Saxe (2010). Cross-survey analysis to estimate low-incidence religious groups. *Sociological Methods & Research*, 39, 56-82.

Estimates of Adult U.S. Population who Identify as Jewish by Religion -- 1990 - 2008



Estimates of U.S. Adults and Children who Identify as Jewish by Religion -- 1990 - 2010



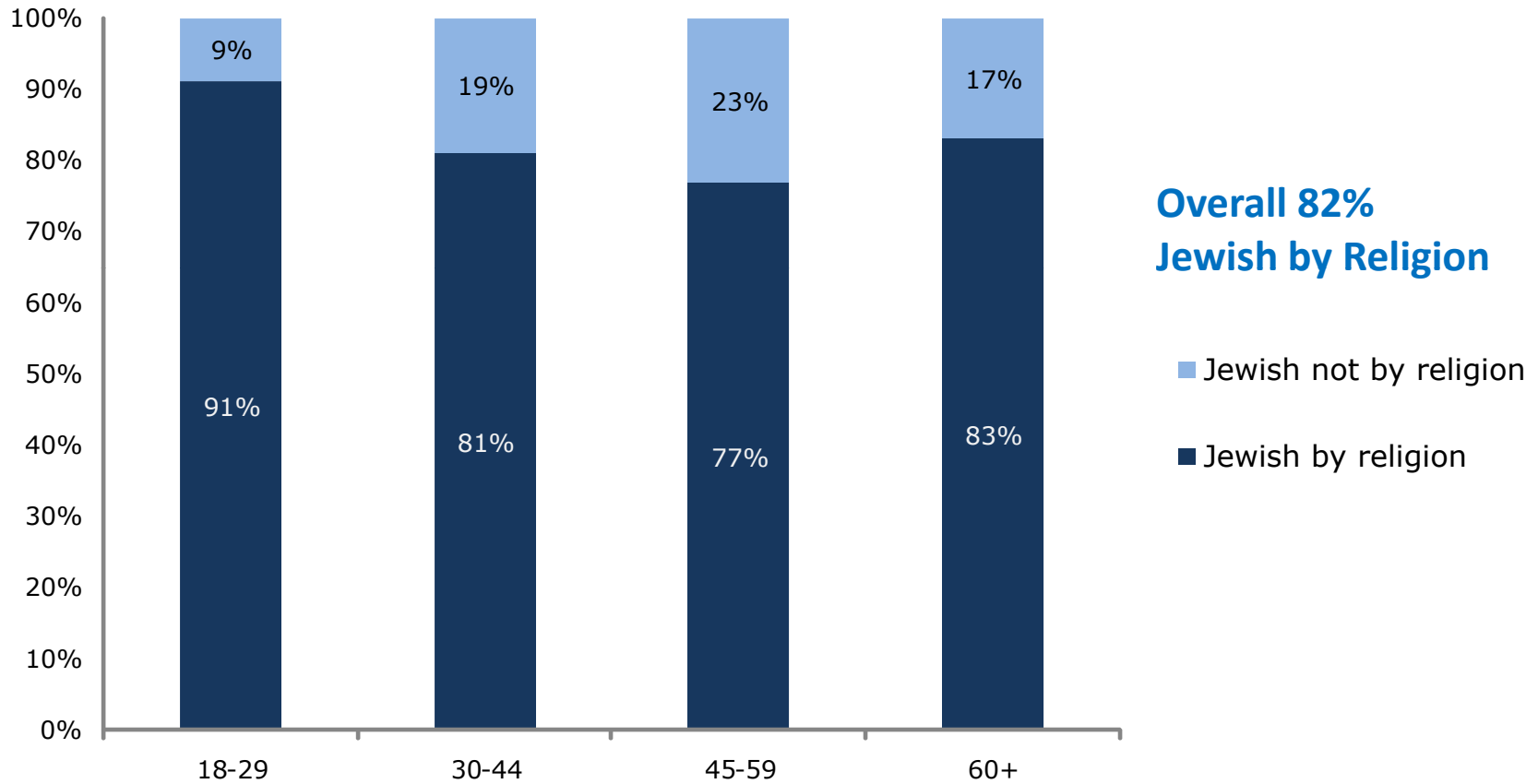
Jewish Specific Characteristics of U.S. Population Knowledge Networks Panel

- **Nationally representative online panel**
 - c. 50,000 US residents age 13 and older
 - c. 1,400 with some Jewish affiliation
- **Selected with RDD and address based sampling (ABS)**
 - Includes panelists who do not otherwise have online access
 - AAPOR considers RDD/ABS procedure superior
- **Panel surveyed in June, July and December, 2010**
 - 80%+ response rate
 - Preliminary weights applied from cross-survey analysis

Methodological details: See Technical Appendices, Sasson et al., *Still Connected: American Jewish Attitudes about Israel*, August, 2010. <http://www.brandeis.edu/cmjs/noteworthy/still.connected.html>.

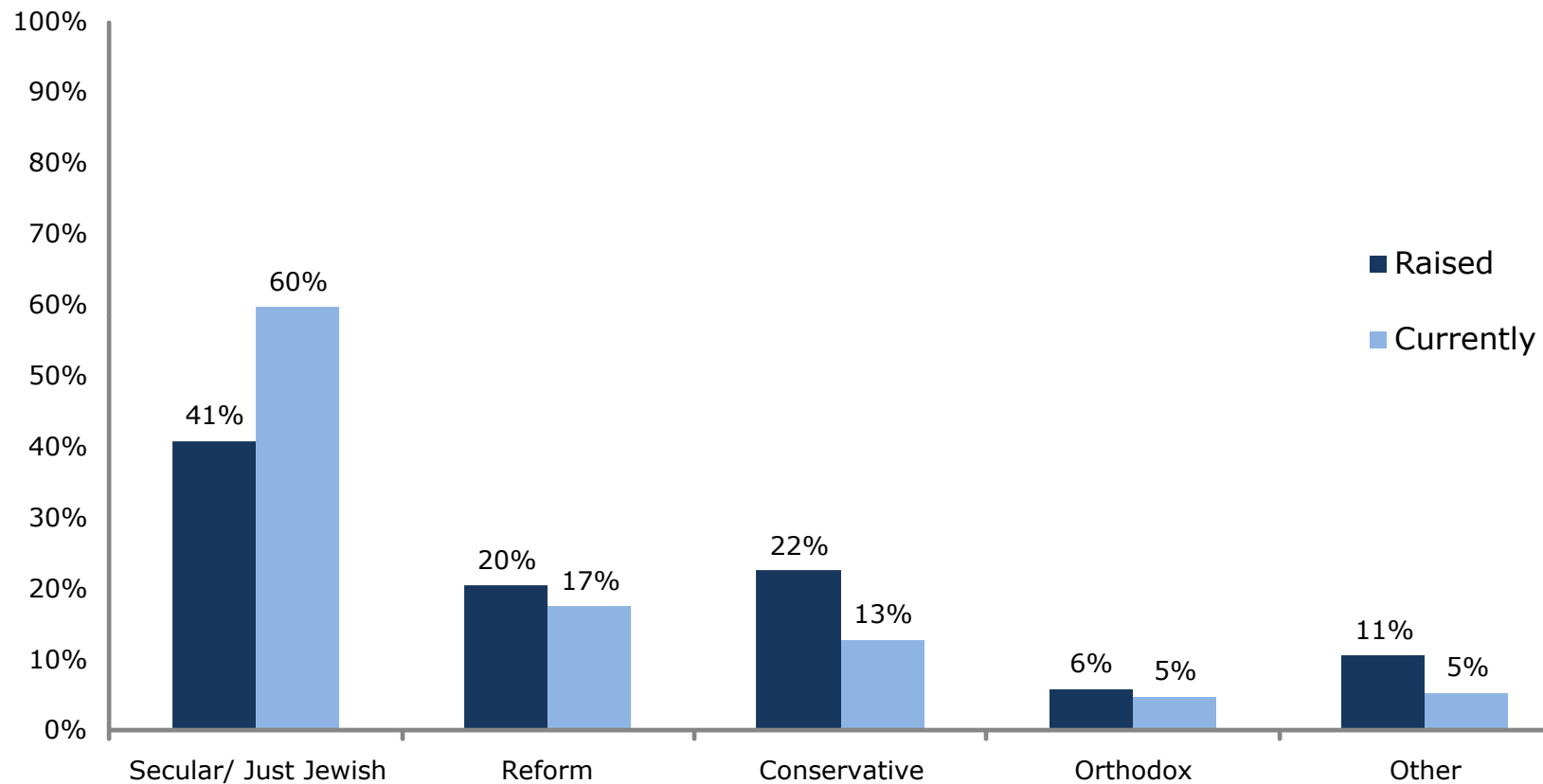


Jewish religious status by age



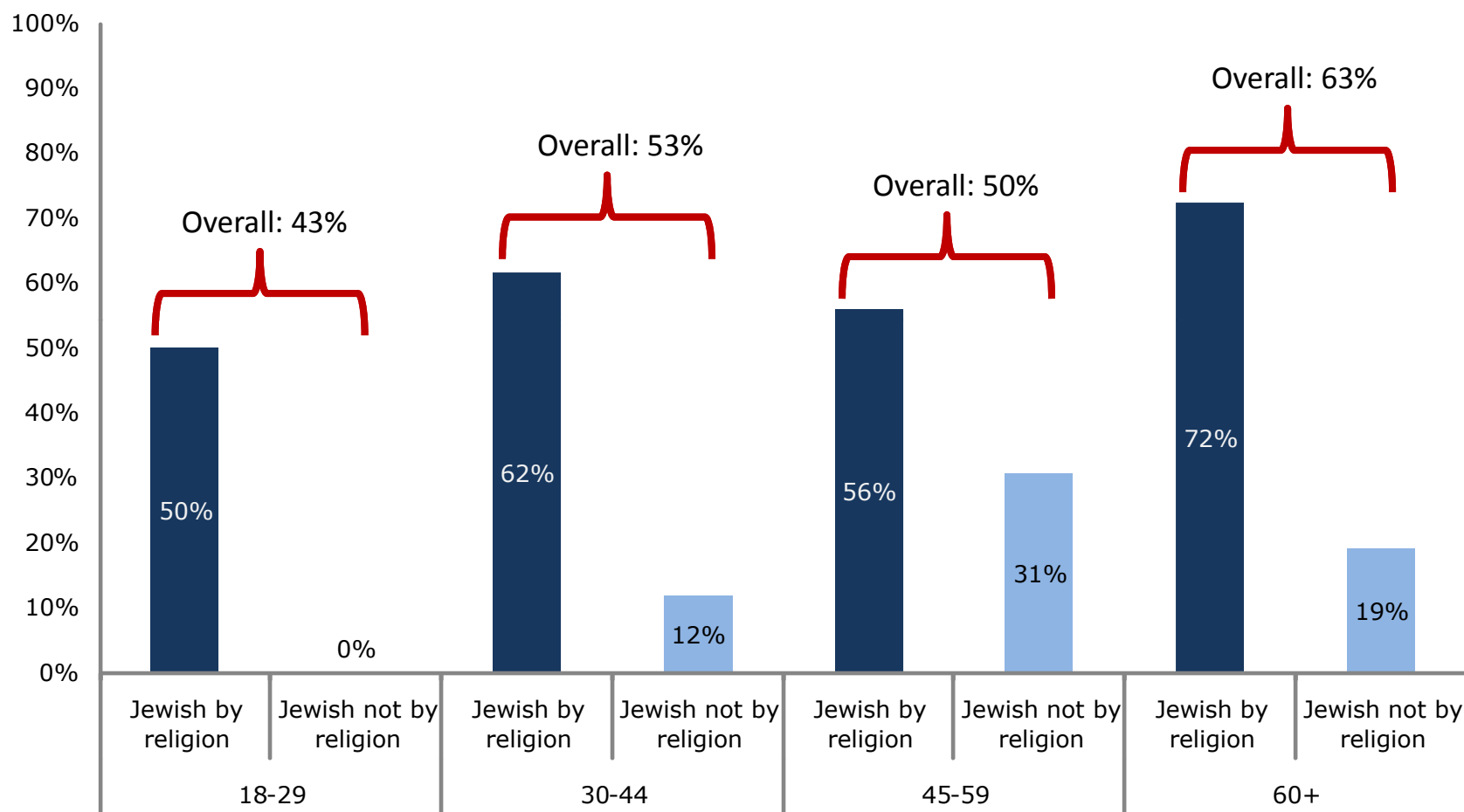
Source: Brandeis SSRI/Knowledge Networks surveys

Jewish Denomination Raised and Current



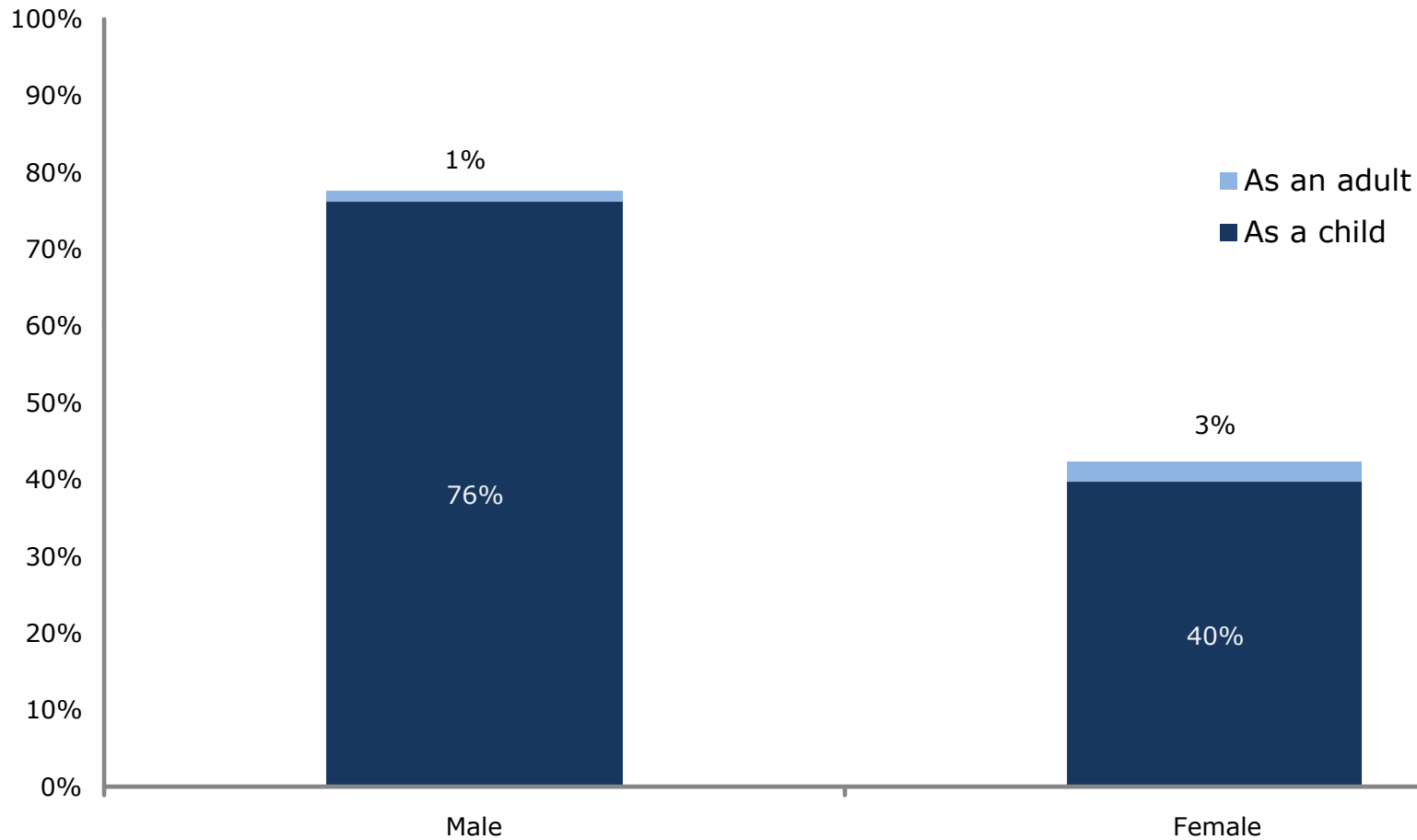
Source: Brandeis SSRI/Knowledge Networks surveys

Inmarriage by Jewish religious status and age



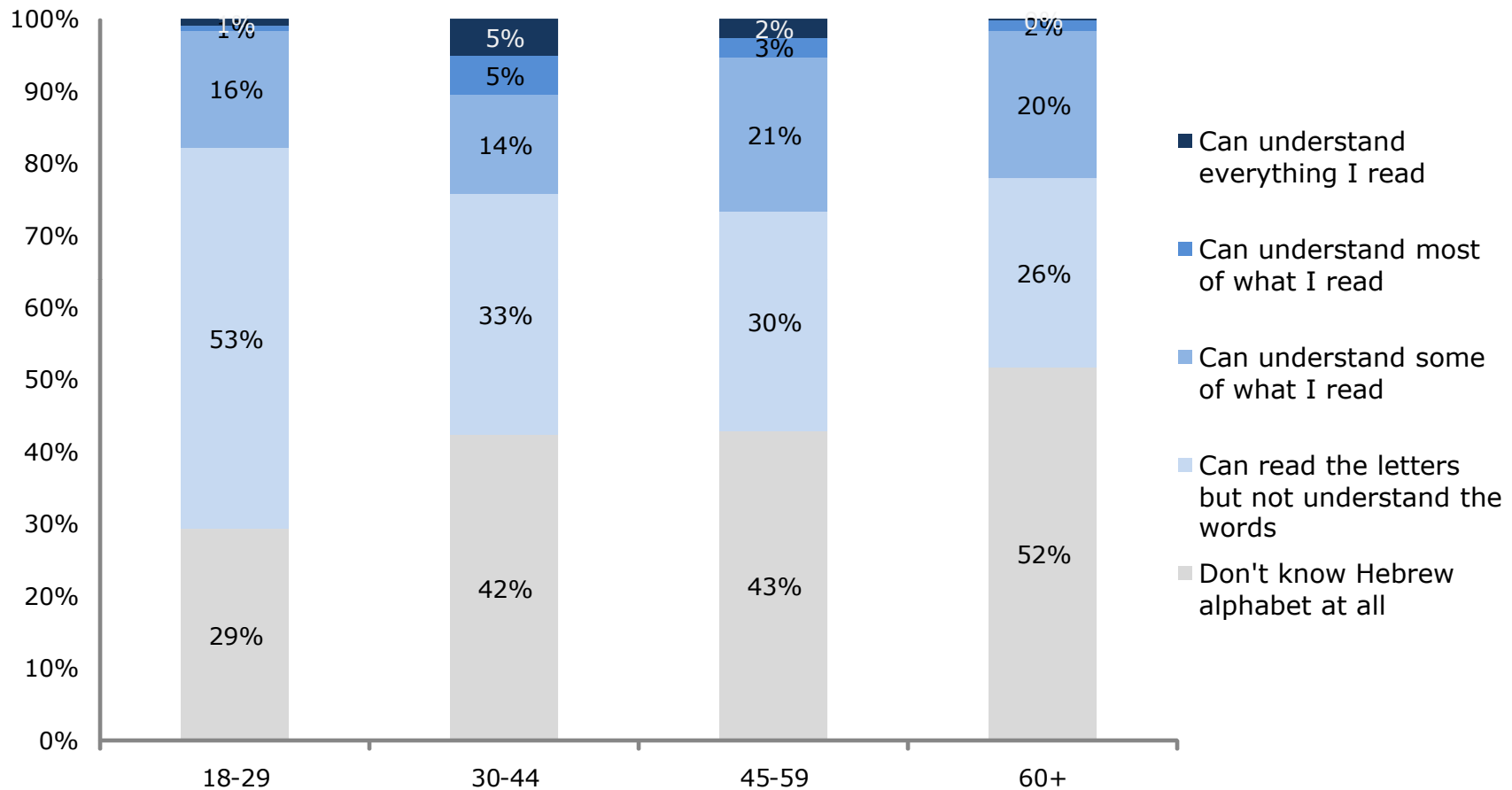
Source: Brandeis SSRI/Knowledge Networks surveys

Had a Bar/Bat Mitzvah by gender



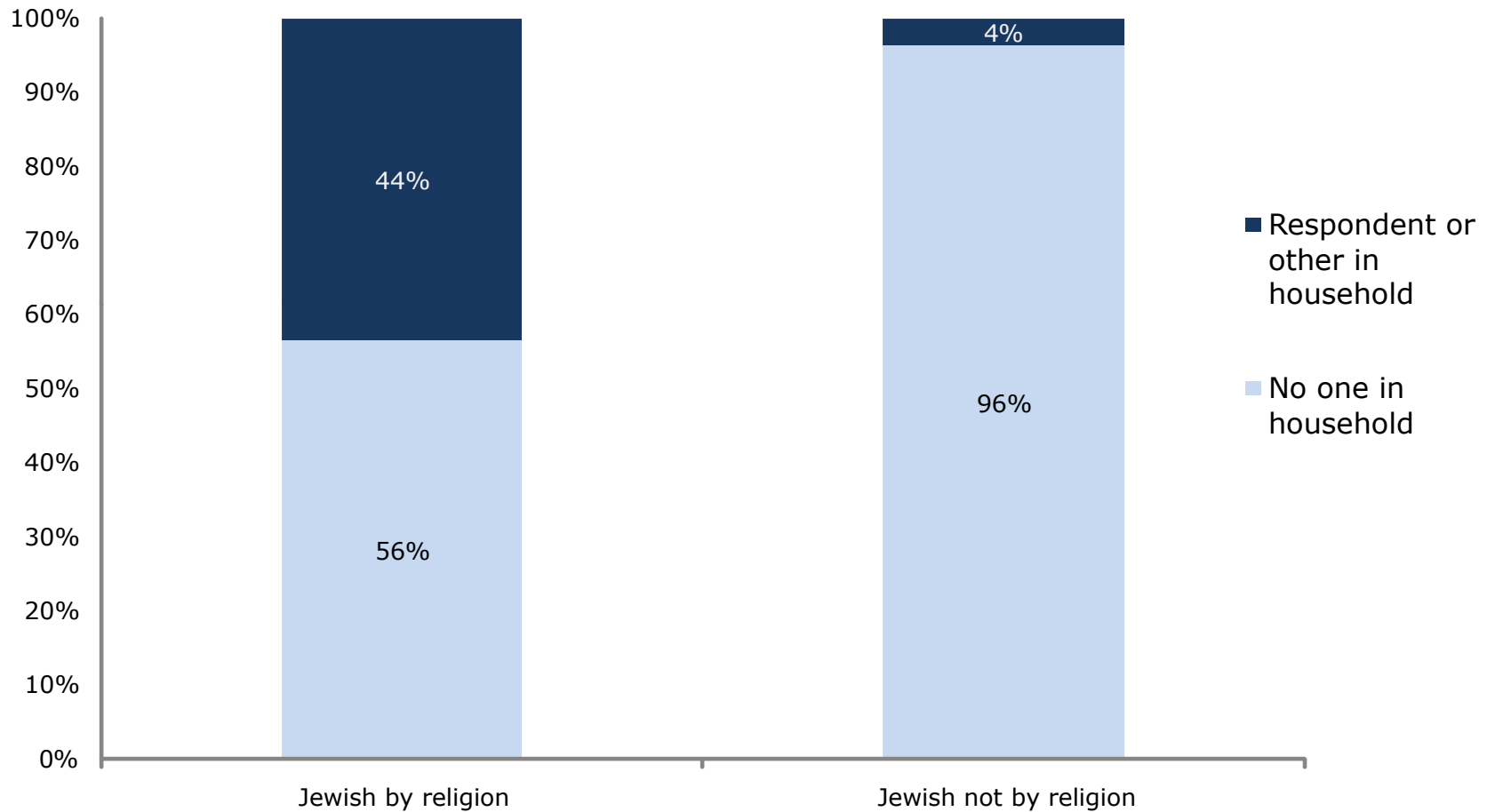
Source: Brandeis SSRI/Knowledge Networks surveys

Hebrew comprehension by age



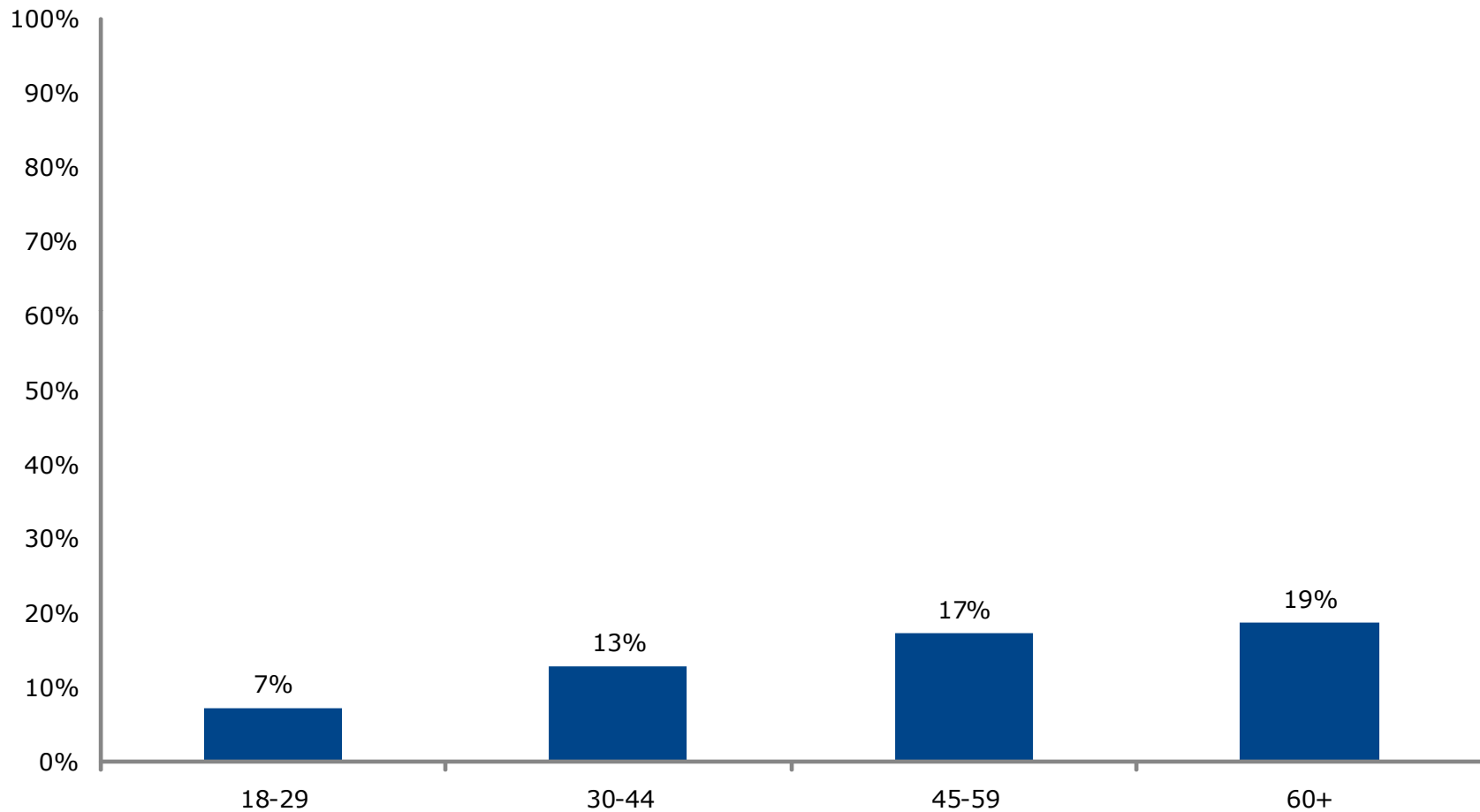
Source: Brandeis SSRI/Knowledge Networks surveys

Synagogue membership by Jewish religious status



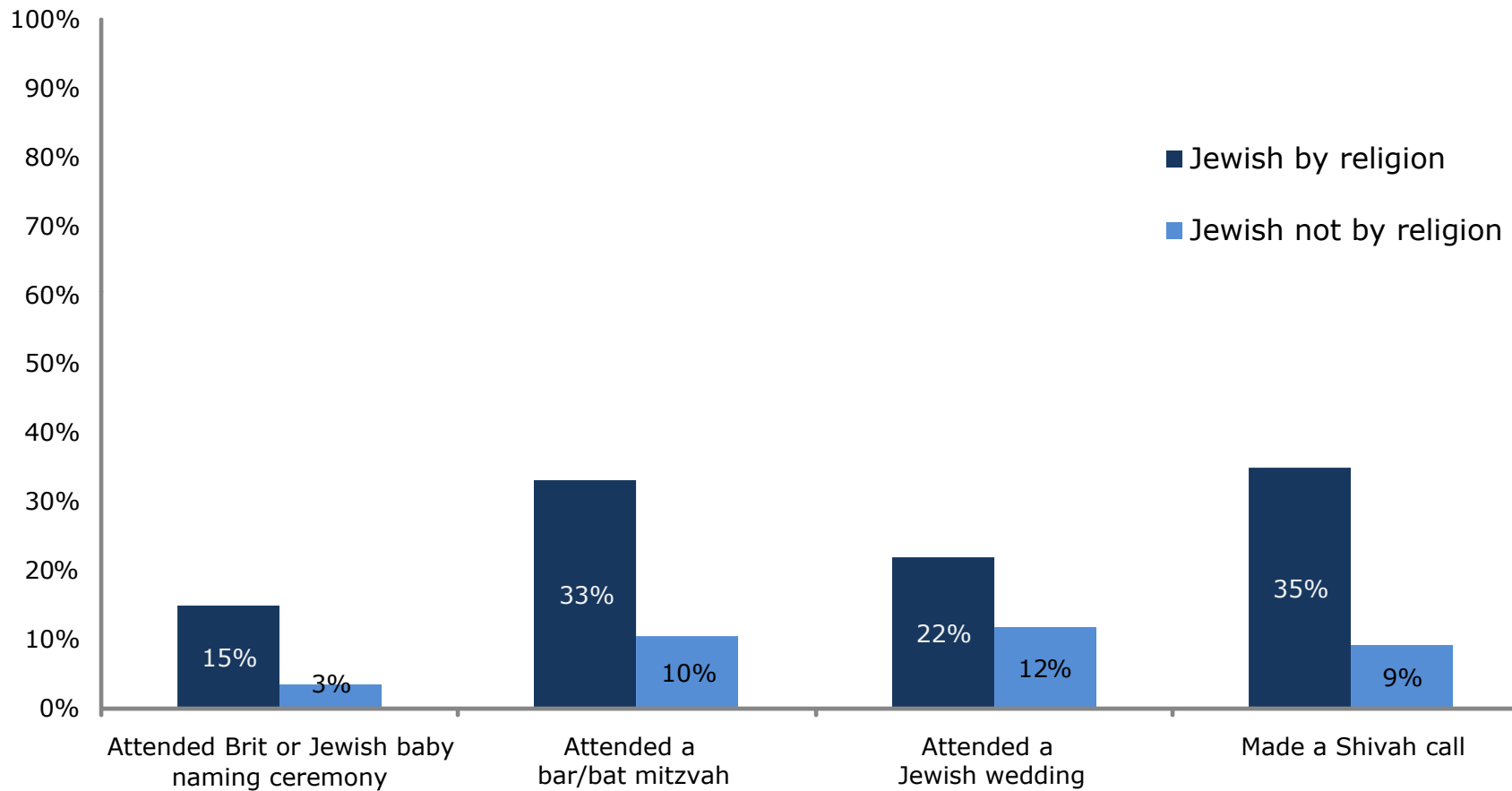
Source: Brandeis SSRI/Knowledge Networks surveys

Any synagogue honor by age in the past year



Source: Brandeis SSRI/Knowledge Networks surveys

Participated in Jewish lifecycle event in past year



Source: Brandeis SSRI/Knowledge Networks surveys

Total U.S. Jewish population estimates

	NJPS 1990	NJPS 2000	SSRI 2000	SSRI 2008	SSRI 2010
Adult Jews (18+) who identify by religion	3,399,527	3,047,568	3,780,000	4,143,000	4,225,860
Children (under 18) who identify by religion			1,055,896	1,241,828	1,266,665
Jews who identify by non-religious criteria			857,888	955,269	974,374
Total	5,500,000	5,200,082	5,693,784	6,340,097	6,466,899

“Take-Aways”

- **U.S. Jewish population significantly larger than previously estimated**
 - includes 5.5M adults and children who identify as Jewish by religion
 - includes 1M who identify as Jewish by other criteria
 - Jewish population is increasing at a rate similar to U.S. population
- **Majority of Jews uninvolved in Jewish communal life, lack education**
 - Even among those who identify “by religion,” majority do not belong to synagogues, participate in Jewish life cycle events, or have visited Israel
 - Most U.S. Jews do not understand Hebrew and many not able to read
- **Challenges**
 - How does the Jewish community respond to the interest in Jewish identification, but the lack of institutional connections among Jews
 - How to engage the millennial generation that has had the benefit of broad array of new educational programs and opportunities to engage with Israel

תודה רבה!

Sponsors

- Steinhardt Social Research Institute
- Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies
- Mandell L. and Madeleine H. Berman Foundation

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