Jewish Futures Project Wave 6: Methodology

Study Design and Sample Frame
This report discusses findings from the sixth wave of the Jewish Futures Project: a longitudinal study of Jewish young adults who were applicants to Birthright Israel, a program that sends Jewish young adults on a free ten-day educational trip to Israel.

The population for this wave of the study comprises eligible US applicants (both participants and nonparticipants) to Birthright Israel in the winter season of 2001-2009. The criteria for eligibility to the program for the 2001-2009 trips were: Being 18-26 years old at time of trip, being Jewish, not having participated in a peer trip to Israel or a study abroad program in Israel, and not studying in a Yeshiva, seminary or other Jewish studies program prior to applying to Birthright. The overall sample was stratified by season of application, participation, and age. Additional detailed information about the population and sampling frame of design of the study can be found in Technical Appendix A of “Beyond 10 Days” – the report on the fifth wave of the study.

Original contact information for all sample members was derived from Birthright Israel’s registration database. Contact information for both respondents and nonrespondents was repeatedly updated in the course of data collection for previous waves of this study. The likelihood that existing contact information would lead to successful contact with panel members was evaluated prior to wave 6 data collection. Individuals who were determined to have no possibility of contact were not contacted in the wave 6 study, although they are still considered nonrespondents in response rate calculations. Throughout the course of the study, some individuals refused to participate in the survey, either by indicating their preference to a caller, by sending an email to the study’s email account, or by opting out using an “opt-out” link included in all email communications. Over the six waves of data collection, 1,336 individuals have refused to participate in the survey at some point. In general, individuals who had refused in one wave of the study were not contacted in subsequent waves.

Over the six waves of the study, a number of cases that were originally included in the sample were determined to be ineligible to be part of the study because upon examination they did not meet the sample inclusion criteria. These individuals were omitted from analyses and response rate calculations.

Field Operations
Panel members received pre-notification emails explaining the study, followed by email invitations that included a unique link to complete the survey. Invitations and all further communication with panel members were tailored to describe their participation status in the study (e.g., participated in the survey in the past, etc.). As in previous waves panel members were offered a $25 Amazon.com gift certificate upon completion of the survey as an incentive to improve response rates. Reminders to complete the survey were sent to nonrespondents in 1-2 week intervals and nonrespondents were also contacted by text messages, phone and paper letters and encouraged to complete the survey. In cases where contact information was not available or unverified, Cohen Center employees searched publicly available online information and subscription-based online data services to acquire new contact information.
Data collection took place between June and December 2019.

Final dispositions and response rates

Final dispositions for each case were coded using a scheme based on AAPOR’s standard definitions for email and phone surveys. The overall response rate calculations consider all eligible sample members, even those for whom no attempt at contact was made. AAPOR Response Rate 1 (RR1) calculates response rate only including complete surveys. AAPOR Response Rate 2 (RR2) also includes partial interviews (AAPOR, 2009). The overall response rate (AAPOR RR2) was 45.1%. The final dispositions and outcome rates for Wave 6 are detailed in the table below:

Table A5. Final dispositions and outcome rates for respondent interviews Wave 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Nonparticipants</th>
<th></th>
<th>Participants</th>
<th></th>
<th>Ineligible</th>
<th></th>
<th>Overall</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interview</td>
<td>833</td>
<td>33.7%</td>
<td>1,607</td>
<td>53.2%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,440</td>
<td>41.4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partial interview</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refusal</td>
<td>748</td>
<td>30.2%</td>
<td>588</td>
<td>19.5%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,336</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noncontact</td>
<td>881</td>
<td>35.6%</td>
<td>799</td>
<td>26.5%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,680</td>
<td>28.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ineligible</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>5,887</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Column Total</td>
<td>2,474</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>3,019</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>5,887</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AAPOR Response Rate 1 44.4%
AAPOR Response Rate 2 45.1%
AAPOR Cooperation Rate 2 64.0%
AAPOR Refusal Rate 2 24.3%

AAPOR Contact Rate 2 69.4%

Weighting

Weights were calculated in order to adjust for any differences between the distribution of known characteristics of the sample and known characteristics of the frame (which were derived from the Birthright Israel registration database). These weights adjust for both differential probabilities of selection due to stratification as well as nonresponse bias with respect to participant status, round of application, age, gender, and (where available) denomination. For each of these characteristics the weights adjusted the distribution of the achieved sample to match the appropriate “target” values in the registration database.