

PEW RESEARCH CENTER
2019-2020 SURVEY OF U.S. JEWS MODE STUDY
FINAL TOPLINE
November 19, 2019-June 3, 2020
TOTAL NET JEWISH AMONG PHONE TREATMENT=903
TOTAL NET JEWISH AMONG WEB/MAIL TREATMENT=1,387

The 2020 Survey of U.S. Jews has a different research design than the 2013 survey. The 2013 study was a live telephone survey using a landline and cellphone random-digit-dial sample. The 2020 study offered online or paper response and used an address-based sample. To understand whether differences between the 2013 and 2020 estimates reflect real change in the Jewish population versus an artifact of the change in methods, Pew Research Center conducted an experiment, separate from the main survey, in which Jewish adults were randomly assigned to be interviewed using the 2013 method (live telephone) or the 2020 method (online or paper response). If the two experimental groups yielded similar estimates, that would suggest the change in mode of response does not affect the comparability of the 2013 and 2020 results. Conversely, if the experiment returned divergent results from the two groups, that would suggest readers exercise caution in comparing the 2013 and 2020 results.

The experiment used a sample source that is more efficient for reaching the Jewish population than the main study. The experiment used a listed sampling frame compiled from commercial databases linked to addresses and telephone numbers. The households in this list were determined by commercial data vendors to have a high likelihood of having a Jewish adult based on either a Jewish surname or other consumer data. To be eligible for the experiment, listed households needed to have both a mailing address and a telephone number on file. The vendor selected a random sample of those households and then randomly assigned them to respond by live telephone or by the online/paper protocol used in the 2020 main study.

This sample source was appropriate for the purpose of the experiment (because it is more efficient for reaching Jewish respondents than is random sampling) but NOT for the purpose of the main study (because the listed sample is not representative of the entire U.S. Jewish population). The aim of the experiment was solely to check for measurement differences between the two modes and not for making accurate inferences about the entire Jewish American population. While efficient, listed samples risk under-representing certain parts of the Jewish community, such as those without an identifiably Jewish name, as well as those with lower socio-economic status who have less consumer information available to commercial data vendors. For the main study, by contrast, it was imperative to use a sample source that includes all U.S. adults. Only such a general population sampling frame can support high-quality estimates about the size, attitudes and experiences of the entire Jewish American population.

The topline below shows close-ended questions that were asked in both 2013 and 2020 and that have identical or very similar wording in both studies. The results below show the difference in the answers given by Jewish respondents who participated in the mode study experiment via telephone versus online or on paper. For example, the first table below shows the difference in responses to a question about U.S. support for Israel. It shows that the RDD phone treatment gets 3 percentage points more refusals to answer the question and 3 percentage points fewer respondents saying the U.S. is not supportive enough of Israel than the web/mail treatment. For more details about the mode study experiment, see Appendix B.

ASK ALL:

ISUPP Which of the following statements come closest to your overall view of U.S. support for Israel?
[RANDOMIZE “The U.S. is too supportive of Israel” and “The U.S. is not supportive enough of Israel”; “The level of U.S. support for Israel is about right” ALWAYS LAST]

	The U.S. is too supportive of <u>Israel</u>	The U.S. is not supportive enough of <u>Israel</u>	The level of U.S. support for Israel is <u>about right</u>	No <u>answer</u>
DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)	0	-3	0	+3

ASK ALL:

COEX Do you think a way can be found for Israel and an independent Palestinian state to coexist peacefully with each other?

	Yes, can coexist <u>peacefully</u>	No, cannot coexist <u>peacefully</u>	No <u>answer</u>
DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)	-3	-2	+5

ASK ALL WHO SELF-IDENTIFY AS JEWISH:

ESSENT1 How important is each of the following to what BEING JEWISH means to you? **[SPLIT ITEMS OVER TWO SCREENS, WITH ITEMS a-e ON FIRST SCREEN AND f-j ON SECOND SCREEN; RANDOMIZE ITEMS ON EACH PAGE]**¹

	Essential part of what being Jewish <u>means to me</u>	Important, but not <u>essential</u>	Not an important part of what being Jewish <u>means to me</u>	No <u>answer</u>
a. Leading an ethical and moral life DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)	-1	+3	-1	-1
b. Working for justice and equality in society DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)	-3	+4	+1	-1
c. Observing Jewish law (halakha) DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)	+2	+8	-9	0
d. Having a good sense of humor DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)	-4	+4	+1	-1
e. Remembering the Holocaust DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)	-8	+9	0	-1

¹ Item h was not asked in 2013 so it is not shown in the table.

ESSENT1 CONTINUED ...

	<u>Essential part of what being Jewish means to me</u>	<u>Important, but not essential</u>	<u>Not an important part of what being Jewish means to me</u>	<u>No answer</u>
f. Caring about Israel DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)	-5	+7	-1	-1
g. Being part of a Jewish community DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)	-5	+6	0	-1
i. Being intellectually curious DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)	-6	+8	-2	-1
j. Eating traditional Jewish foods DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)	-7	0	+9	-2

ASK ALL:

JFRIEND How many of your close friends are Jewish?

	<u>All of them</u>	<u>Most of them</u>	<u>Some of them</u>	<u>Hardly any of them</u>	<u>None of them</u>	<u>Not sure</u>	<u>No answer</u>
DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)	-1	+3	+3	-4	-1	0	-1

ASK ALL:

JMAIN To you personally, is being Jewish mainly a matter of...

	<u>Religion</u>	<u>Ancestry</u>	<u>Culture</u>	<u>Some combination</u>	<u>No answer</u>
DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)	-8	-4	-9	+22	-1

ASK ALL:

DONATE In the past 12 months, did you make a financial donation to any Jewish charity or cause, such as a synagogue, Jewish school or a group supporting Israel?

	<u>Yes, made a donation</u>	<u>No, did not make a donation</u>	<u>No answer</u>
DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)	+3	-2	0

ASK ALL:

ATTISR How emotionally attached are you to Israel?

	<u>Very attached</u>	<u>Somewhat attached</u>	<u>Not too attached</u>	<u>Not at all attached</u>	<u>No answer</u>
DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)	+9	-2	-4	-1	-1

ASK ALL:VSTISR How many times, if ever, have you been to Israel?²

	<u>Never</u>	<u>Once</u>	<u>More than once</u>	<u>Lived in Israel</u>	<u>No answer</u>
DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)	0	-2	+3	0	-1

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF PEACE1/PEACE2**ASK ALL:**

PEACE1 Do you think the current Israeli government is making a sincere effort to bring about a peace settlement with the Palestinians, or don't you think so?

	<u>Yes, making a sincere effort</u>	<u>No, don't think so</u>	<u>No answer</u>
DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)	-3	-2	+5

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF PEACE1/PEACE2**ASK ALL:**

PEACE2 Do you think the current Palestinian leadership is making a sincere effort to bring about a peace settlement with Israel, or don't you think so?

	<u>Yes, making a sincere effort</u>	<u>No, don't think so</u>	<u>No answer</u>
DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)	+1	-6	+5

ASK ALL:

ANTIS1 Please indicate whether each of the following things has happened to you IN THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS. **[RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>Yes, has happened</u>	<u>No, has not happened</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Have you been called offensive names because you are Jewish/of your Jewish background			
DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)	-4	+5	-1

² The 2013 Survey of U.S. Jews included 2 questions. The first asked, "Have you ever been to Israel, or not?" The follow up question asked those who said they have been to Israel, "Have you been to Israel once or more than once?"

ASK ALL WHO SELF-IDENTIFY AS JEWISH:

BRANCH Thinking about Jewish religious denominations, do you consider yourself to be...

ASK IF ORTHODOX:ORTHTYPE Do you consider yourself to be... ³**SUMMARY TABLE, BASED ON TOTAL**

	DIFFERENCE (PHONE - <u>WEB/MAIL</u>)
Reform	-1
Conservative	-2
Orthodox	+4
Haredi	+1
Modern Orthodox	+2
Other Orthodox	0
No answer	0
No particular denomination	+1
Other denomination	-1
No answer	-1

ASK ALL:

ATTEND1 Aside from special occasions like weddings, funerals and bar mitzvahs, how often do you attend Jewish religious services at a synagogue, temple, minyan or havurah?

	DIFFERENCE (PHONE - <u>WEB/MAIL</u>)
More than once a week	+4
Once a week	+3
Once or twice a month	+5
A few times a year, such as for High Holidays	-3
Seldom	-4
Never	-3
No answer	-1

ASK ALL:

ATTEND2 And aside from special occasions like weddings and funerals, how often do you attend non-Jewish religious services?

	DIFFERENCE (PHONE - <u>WEB/MAIL</u>)
More than once a week	0
Once a week	0
Once or twice a month	+1
A few times a year	+1
Seldom	+3
Never	-3
No answer	0

³ In the 2013 study the response options were, "Modern Orthodox," "Hasidic," "Yeshivish," or "some other type of Orthodox?"

ASK ALL:

RELIMP How important is religion in your life?

	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not too important</u>	<u>Not at all important</u>	<u>No answer</u>
DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)	+10	-3	-2	-4	-1

ASK ALL WHO SELF-IDENTIFY AS JEWISH

JEWIMP How important is being Jewish in your life?

	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not too important</u>	<u>Not at all important</u>	<u>No answer</u>
DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)	+9	-3	-3	-1	-1

ASK IF BELIEVE IN GOD:⁴GISR Which comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?⁵**SUMMARY TABLE, BASED ON TOTAL**

	<u>God gave the land that is now Israel to the Jewish people</u>	<u>God did not literally give the land that is now Israel to the Jewish people</u>	<u>Does not believe in God/higher power</u>	<u>No answer</u>
DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)	+2	-4	-1	+2

ASK ALL:

MEMSYN1 Is anyone in your household currently a member of a Jewish congregation, such as a synagogue, temple, havurah or minyan?

ASK IF MEMBER OF A JEWISH CONGREGATION:

MEMSYN2 And is that you or someone else in your household?

SUMMARY TABLE, BASED ON TOTAL

	<u>DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)</u>
Yes	+5
I am a member	+6
I am not a member, but someone else in the household is a member	0
No answer	-1
No	-4
No answer	-1

⁴ This filter is based off a question not shown in this topline. See the [questionnaire](#) for the full set of questions asked in the survey.

⁵ The 2013 survey asked a modified question, "Some people believe God gave the land that is now Israel to the Jewish people. Other people do not believe this to be literally true. Which comes closer to your view?". The question was also filtered on a different version of questions asking about belief in God.

ASK ALL:KOSHER Do you keep kosher in your home?⁶

	Yes, I keep kosher and I separate meat <u>and dairy</u>	Yes, I keep kosher and I am vegetarian or <u>vegan</u>	No, I do not <u>keep kosher</u>	No <u>answer</u>
DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)	+5	0	-4	-1

ASK ALL:

SEDER Last Passover, did you hold or attend a Seder?

	Yes, held or <u>attended a Seder</u>	No, did not hold or <u>attend a Seder</u>	<u>No answer</u>
DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)	+4	-3	-1

ASK ALL:

YMKPPR During the last Yom Kippur, did you fast?

	Yes, all <u>day</u>	Yes, part <u>of the day</u>	No, did <u>not fast</u>	No, could not fast due to health problems, age, pregnancy or <u>nursing</u>	No <u>answer</u>
DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)	+2	0	-2	+1	-1

ASK ALL:

CHRELIGMOD Thinking about WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD, in what religion were you raised, if any?

	DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)
Jewish	+1
NET Part Jewish	-1
Jewish and Christian	-1
Jewish and non-Christian	0
Jewish and no religion	0
Jewish and something else/unclear	0
NET Christian	0
Protestant	0
Catholic	0
Orthodox Christian	0
Other Christian	0
NET Unaffiliated	+1
Atheist	-1
Agnostic	0
Nothing in particular	+1
NET Other religion	0
No answer	0

⁶ In 2013, this question was part of a battery and the response options were, "Yes," "No," "Other/depends/partially".

ASK IF NOT RAISED JEWISH BY RELIGION:

RJASIDE ASIDE from religion, would you say you were raised Jewish in any way (for example ethnically, culturally or because of your family's background)?⁷

SUMMARY TABLE, BASED ON TOTAL

	NET Raised Jewish/partly Jewish by <u>religion</u>	Yes, was raised Jewish aside <u>from religion</u>	No, was not raised_Jewish by religion or aside from <u>religion</u>	<u>No answer</u>
DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)	0	+2	-1	0

ASK ALL:

JPARENTS Which, if either, of your parents was Jewish?

	<u>Mother</u>	<u>Father</u>	<u>Both</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>No answer</u>
DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)	0	-1	+2	0	0	0

ASK IF RAISED JEWISH:

CHDENOM1 Now thinking about Jewish religious denominations, were you raised...

ASK IF RAISED ORTHODOX:

CHDENOM2 Were you raised...?

SUMMARY TABLE, BASED ON TOTAL

	DIFFERENCE (PHONE - <u>WEB/MAIL</u>)
Reform	0
Conservative	-2
Orthodox	+1
Hasidic or Chabad	0
Modern or Centrist Orthodox	+2
Yeshivish, Litvish or Agudah	+1
Other Orthodox	-1
No answer	0
No particular denomination	+3
Other denomination	0
No answer	0
Not raised Jewish	-2

⁷ In 2013 this question was worded, "Aside from religion, would you say you were raised Jewish or partially Jewish, or not?" The response options were "Yes," "Yes, partially Jewish (includes "half Jewish")," "No, were not."

ASK ALL:**SCHOOL**When you were growing up, how many years, if any, did you...⁸

	<u>0</u>	<u>1-3 years</u>	<u>4-6 years</u>	<u>7 years or more</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Attend a full-time Jewish school, such as a yeshiva or Jewish day school? DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)	-6	0	+1	+2	+2
b. Participate in some other kind of formal Jewish educational program, such as Hebrew school or Sunday school? DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)	+3	-4	-1	+2	0
c. Attend a summer camp with Jewish content? DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)	-1	-4	+2	+1	+2

ASK ALL:**MITZVAH**

Did you have a bar or bat mitzvah when you were young?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No answer</u>
DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)	+1	-1	0

ASK ALL:**MARITAL**

Which of these best describes you?

	<u>DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)</u>
Married	-2
Living with a partner	0
Divorced	-1
Separated	0
Widowed	0
Never been married	+3
No answer	0

⁸ In the 2013 study these questions were not part of a battery. Respondents were also able to specify the number of years they attended each.

ASK IF MARRIED:

MYEAR In what year did you and your spouse get married?

SUMMARY TABLE, BASED ON TOTAL MARRIED

	DIFFERENCE (PHONE - <u>WEB/MAIL</u>)
Before 1970	-1
1970-1979	-1
1980-1989	+2
1990-1999	+4
2000-2009	-2
2010-2020	-2
No answer	-1

ASK IF MARRIED OR LIVING WITH A PARTNER:

SPRELIG What is your spouse or partner's religion, if any?

ASK IF MARRIED OR LIVING WITH A PARTNER AND SPOUSE/PARTNER IS NOT JEWISH BY RELIGION:SPASIDE ASIDE from religion, does your spouse or partner consider themselves Jewish in any way (for example ethnically, culturally or because of their family's background)?⁹**ASK IF MARRIED OR LIVING WITH A PARTNER:**

SPRAISED Did your spouse or partner have a Jewish parent or was your spouse or partner raised Jewish?

SUMMARY TABLE, BASED ON TOTAL MARRIED OR LIVING WITH A PARTNER

	DIFFERENCE (PHONE - <u>WEB/MAIL</u>)
Spouse/partner Jewish by religion	+4
Spouse/partner Jew of no religion	-1
Spouse/partner Jewish background	-1
Spouse/partner Jewish affinity	+1
Spouse/partner not Jewish in any way	-4

ASK IF MARRIED OR LIVING WITH A PARTNER:

SPAGE How old is your spouse or partner?

	<u>18-29</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>50-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	<u>No answer</u>
DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)	+1	-3	+2	0	+1

ASK IF MARRIED OR LIVING WITH A PARTNER:

SPSEX Is your spouse or partner male or female?

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>No answer</u>
DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)	-1	+1	0

⁹ In 2013 this question was worded, "Aside from religion, does your spouse or partner consider themselves Jewish or partially Jewish, or not?" The response options were "Yes," "Yes, partially Jewish (includes "half Jewish")," "No, do not."

ASK IF RESPONDENT HAS BEEN TO ISRAEL AND IS YOUNGER THAN 46:

BIRTHRIGHT1 Did you ever participate in a Birthright Israel trip?

SUMMARY TABLE, BASED ON TOTAL

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No answer</u>	<u>Has not been to Israel or is 46 or older</u>
DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)	-1	-2	0	+2

ASK ALL:

INCOMEMOD Last year, what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes?

	<u>DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)</u>
Less than \$30,000	+1
\$30,000 to less than \$75,000	0
\$75,000 and above	-11
No answer	+10

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a...

ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY=3 or 4) OR REFUSED (PARTY=refused)

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to...

SUMMARY TABLE, BASED ON TOTAL

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Something else</u>	<u>No answer</u>	<u>NET Rep/Lean Rep.</u>	<u>NET Dem/Lean Dem.</u>
DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)	-3	0	+3	+2	-1	-3	+3

ASK ALL:IDEO In general, would you describe your political views as... **[RANDOMLY REVERSE ORDER OF RESPONSES]**

	<u>Very conservative</u>	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Moderate</u>	<u>Liberal</u>	<u>Very liberal</u>	<u>No answer</u>
DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)	0	-2	+2	+1	-1	0

ASK ALL:

E3 Are you now employed full-time, part-time or not employed?

ASK IF NOT EMPLOYED:

E4 Are you currently looking for work, or not?

SUMMARY TABLE, BASED ON TOTAL

	DIFFERENCE (PHONE - <u>WEB/MAIL</u>)
Employed full-time	-6
Employed part-time	+1
Not employed	+6
Yes, looking for work	0
No, not looking for work	+7
No answer	0
No answer	-1

ASK ALL:

FERT How many children have you ever had? Please count all your biological children who were born alive at any time in your life.

	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4+</u>	<u>No answer</u>
DIFFERENCE (PHONE - WEB/MAIL)	+5	0	-2	-1	-1	0