



Jewish Federation®
OF SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY
AND OUR FAMILY OF AGENCIES

THE **STRENGTH** OF A PEOPLE.
THE **POWER** OF COMMUNITY.

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BACKGROUND

Intended as a follow-up to the 2013 Pop Study conducted by the Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey (JFED), the Planning and Visioning Committee of JFED offered surveys to 20 synagogues, day schools and emergent Jewish religious organizations in our community during the summer of 2017. These organizations are listed below in Table A.

This was the inaugural effort of this initiative. Recognizing that there are other Jewish entities in our community, we started with a religious-based sample population. It is our intention to conduct a similar survey yearly with the possibility of expanding to additional Jewish organizations and groups. This information will be used by JFED to assist with planning for the greater community outside of its own family of agencies.

A total of 14 organizations returned their surveys. In addition to completing the survey, each organization was encouraged to meet with members of the JFED's Planning and Visioning Committee. A total of 11 respondents had meetings to further explore demographics, trends and the needs of their organizations.

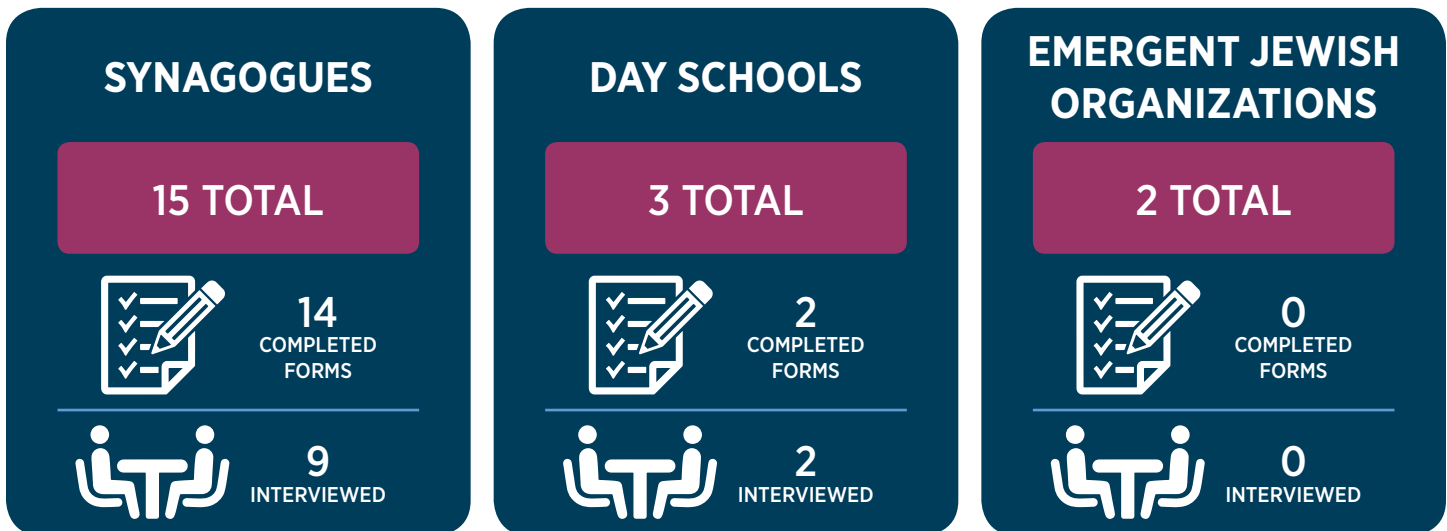
The Community Tracker asked qualitative, as well as quantitative, questions to describe our community at this time. The information set forth in this summary is based solely on the information supplied by the organizations that responded to the survey and participated in the follow-up interviews.

Table A: List of Invited Organizations

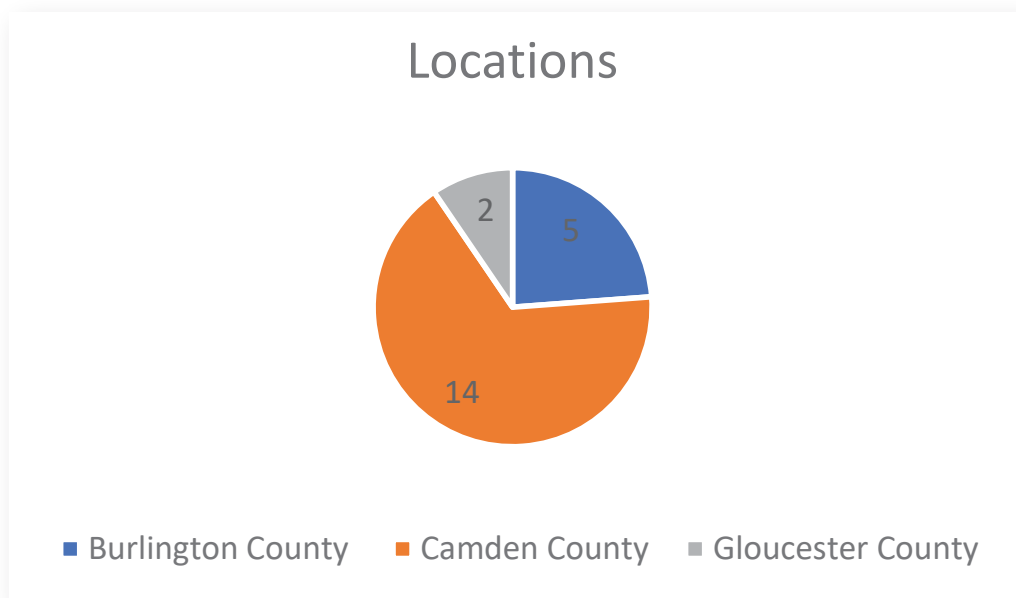
Adath Emanu_ El *+	Nafshenu
Congregation Beth El *	Congregation Ner Tamid *+
Chabad of Camden/Burlington County	Politz Day School *+
Chabad Gloucester County *+	Temple Beth Sholom *+
Congregation Beth Tikvah *+	Temple Emanuel *+
Congregation B'nai Tikvah Beth Israel *+	Temple Sinai *+
Congregation Sons of Israel *	Torah Links
Foxman Torah Institute	Young Israel
Temple Har Zion *+	*Indicates organizations that responded +indicates interview
Kellman Brown Academy *+	
Congregation M'kor Shalom *	

OVERVIEW OF PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

All responding organizations are located in the tri-county area serviced by JFED: Burlington, Camden and Gloucester Counties.



Please note, that one organization has locations in both Camden and Burlington County, thus the total of locations is 21.



COMPOSITION OF RESPONDING ORGANIZATIONS

Synagogues	Total Members	Total Families	FT Staff	PT Staff	New Members
14	8656	4321	179	222	150

These 14 synagogues reported a gain of 150 new members during the past year. These new members are categorized as follows:



Day Schools	Total Students	Total Families	FT Staff	PT Staff	New Students
2 responses	323	168	33	55	64

These totals are based on all 14 organizations' self-reporting data, but not all organizations completed all the survey questions. We will encourage more organizations to participate next year to better capture an accurate snapshot of the community.

Going forward, we plan to assess the number of people who are no longer affiliated with each organization.

MEMBERSHIP AFFINITY GROUPS

Within the synagogues, there are many affinity groups. In addition to identifying groups, we were able to identify the following number of participants within each group as noted below:



Not all synagogues responded to this question. This is a representation based on the data provided by seven synagogues. We were also able to identify additional affinity groups to be included in the next survey.

JEWISH EDUCATION

Of the 20 reporting organizations, 13 offer an after school supplemental religious school program for a total of 1,541 reported students in grades K-12. Since the surveys were completed, two new supplemental schools have been established in the community.



We have three local day schools. Of the two reporting schools, 323 students are enrolled, thus **a total of 1,863 students are enrolled in a Jewish educational program in grades k-12.**

Of the 20 reporting organizations, seven offer Early Childhood Centers with a total of 506 children ages 0 to 5. In addition, the JCC manages an Early Childhood Center, and it is the largest Early Childhood Center in the community with 233 children.



A total of 739 children are enrolled in a Jewish Early Childhood Center.

Not all students attending a Jewish Early Childhood Center are Jewish. On average, 30% are not Jewish.

The following trends were identified based on interviews with 11 organizations. We have selected the themes most often identified by those who were interviewed and which we believe have a potential community impact.

- Among synagogues, the most-repeated observation is the ongoing challenge of keeping children engaged in religious school. The main competition for engagement is conflicts with other activities and the distraction of cell phone use.
- The number of non-Jewish children in Jewish ECCs is growing each year.
- Difficulty in disciplining poorly behaved children in the schools.
- There is a need for transportation for seniors ranging from attending synagogue to doctors' appointments and shopping.
- Growing special needs population and challenges to provide appropriate services.
- Among the synagogues, there has been sharing of strategies for offering appealing inclusive services for the special needs community.
- Increasing number of interfaith families who are seeking connections.
- Increasing number of individuals identifying as LGBTQ and seeking support.
- Teen engagement and singles programming continue to be a focus for the community.
- Working collaboratively with local and national organizations to connect constituents to Israel through education, advocacy training and programming.
- Competition among organizations for attendees at programs, including fundraisers, due to over-programming in the community.
- Increasing costs to maintain buildings.

STEPS FORWARD FOR ACTION

JFED, working in our capacity as community convener, plans to leverage this initiative to strengthen our community. The interviews opened channels of dialogue, and allowed us the opportunity to reach out to the entire community identifying areas where we can collaborate and add greater value. The organizations surveyed appreciate learning about grant opportunities and having their events and programs promoted through JFED marketing efforts. JFED's Fed Flash has increased advertising for area organizations, including promoting events. It is our intent that this report will also offer organizations the opportunity to be more playful based on data collected on a regular basis.

CURRENT PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

- **Educational Support** JFED's Center for Impact & Innovation runs a professional development program focused on the use of cellphones in public schools and has compiled school practices for review and use by the school directors.
- **Special Needs** JFED's South Jersey Jewish Abilities Alliance assists families in finding the programs and services they need for their loved ones with different abilities, strengthening their connection and enabling them to more fully participate in their communities. This program resulted from the Jewish Federation Community Shark Tank, an innovative grant opportunity run by JFED in 2016 to fund new community programs. JFED will offer Shark Tank again in 2018 and all organizations are encouraged to submit new program ideas.
- **Global Connection** JFED plans to bring a shaliach to South Jersey in 2018 to build connections between Israel and our local community.
- **Interfaith** JFED's Center for Impact & Innovation has a grant from the Jewish Community Foundation to partner with Interfaith Families, a Philadelphia based organization, to offer support in our community. JFED is forming a committee to determine what type of services/workshops should be offered.
- **LGBTQ** JFCS and JCC's Project Rainbow offers a supportive and inviting environment for teens who identify as LGBTQ and their allies. There are approximately six programs each year reaching participants from various synagogues.
- **Seniors** S-Uber, a program designed to educate seniors on how to use a cell phone to leverage Uber was funded as part of the Community Shark Tank program. There is a need to grow this program to benefit more seniors.
- **Collaboration** Combining purchasing power for products and services has been successful, and there are more untapped opportunities for organizations to purchase together. The President's Council continues to address this issue.



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856.751.9500 | jewishsouthjersey.org

Harold R. Isdaner Building | Weinberg Community Campus
1301 Springdale Road, Suite 200 | Cherry Hill, NJ 08003