

2022-2023

SOUTH JERSEY JEWISH COMMUNITY TRACKER



Jewish Federation
of Southern New Jersey
& OUR FAMILY OF AGENCIES

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RESOURCES

JEWISH FEDERATION CONTACT INFORMATION

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For questions about the Community Tracker, please contact Moriah Benjoseph Nassau at mbenjoseph@jfedsnj.org.

GLOSSARY & REFERENCES

THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY (JFSNJ) - The Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey and our family of agencies supports those in need, enhances Jewish life, and ensures the continuity of a vibrant Jewish community locally, in Israel, and around the world.

JEWISH FEDERATION AGENCIES

- Katz Jewish Community Center (JCC)
- Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC)
- Jewish Community Properties (JCP)
- Jewish Community Voice (JCV or The Voice)
- Jewish Family & Children's Service (JFCS)
- Jewish Senior Housing and Healthcare Service (JSHHS)
- JFed Security, LLC

JEWISH FEDERATION SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS -

(local foundations that support JFSNJ as part of their charter)

- Jewish Women's Foundation (JWF)
- Raymond & Gertrude R. Saltzman Foundation
- Jewish Community Foundation, Inc. (JCF)

COMMUNITY TRACKER – A report created by JFSNJ solely based on responses from surveys emailed to synagogues, day schools, emergent organizations, and Jewish Federation agencies and supporting organizations. The tracker is designed to foster conversation with the organized Jewish community of Southern New Jersey about trends, opportunities, patterns, and needs so that we can plan collectively.

DAY SCHOOLS – Schools designed to provide children with Jewish and secular education.
Ages: K-8 and high school.

SUPPLEMENTAL SCHOOLS – Schools providing children with Jewish education after public, day, or private school studies. Ages: K-12.

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTERS (ECC) – Early childhood education programs serving preschool and kindergarten children.

AREAS OF IMPACT – JFSNJ programs and services fall into five Areas of Impact: Older Adults, Special Needs, Global Connections, Community Engagement, and Family & Youth. Our Areas of Impact allow us to prioritize, fundraise, and leverage resources to capacity.

HELPFUL LINKS

jewishsouthjersey.org/welcomeleadership – A resource link for new leadership. Information on programs and services that are available to local organizations including more about the Federation and our family of agencies, grants and financial awards that are available, and marketing opportunities to promote upcoming events.

jlink-snj.org – Connect with our Jewish community programs and events through our video library and virtual live events.

jewishsouthjersey.org/reports – A link to the Community Tracker and other relevant materials.

BACKGROUND

The Community Tracker, conducted by the Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey (JFSNJ), asks qualitative and quantitative questions to describe our community. In our sixth year, the information outlined in this summary is based solely on the information supplied by the organizations that responded to the survey. Data collection is done annually.

While the effects of the pandemic are certainly still felt, the data shows an apparent uptick in membership and engagement across the Jewish community. We are hopeful that this trend will continue as we face the challenges of responding to life post-pandemic and making difficult choices to support the safety and well-being of our community. JFSNJ will continue to innovate, support community initiatives, and facilitate opportunities to strengthen our Jewish community.

INVITED ORGANIZATIONS & RESPONSE RATE



SYNAGOGUES

Of the 14 synagogues invited (Chabad of Camden & Burlington Counties has two locations), there were nine respondents, a decrease from 11 respondents in the prior year.

Highlighted synagogues responded:

- **Adath Emanu-El**
- **Chabad Lubavitch of Camden and Burlington Counties**
- Chabad Gloucester
- **Congregation B'nai Tikvah Beth Israel (CBTBI)**
- **Congregation Beth El**
- **Congregation Beth Tikvah**
- **Congregation Kol Ami**
- **Congregation Sons of Israel**
- **Temple Har Zion**
- Nafshenu
- **Temple Beth Sholom (TBS)**
- Temple Sinai of Cinnaminson
- Torah Links
- Young Israel of Cherry Hill



DAY SCHOOLS

Day schools had a 100% response rate for the second consecutive year.

All three indicated below were invited and replied:

- Foxman Torah Institute (FTI)
- Kellman Brown Academy (KBA)
- Politz Day School



EMERGENT JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS (EJO)

Currently, no organizations in our community align with this identity.



JEWISH FEDERATION AGENCIES & SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

Jewish Federation Family of Agencies - all replied

- Katz Jewish Community Center (JCC)
- Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC)
- Jewish Senior Housing and Healthcare Service (JSHHS)
- Jewish Community Voice (JCV or Voice)
- Jewish Family & Children's Service (JFCS)
- Jewish Community Properties (JCP)*

**not surveyed as they provide services to institutions, not people.*

Jewish Federation Supporting

Organizations & Grant Entities- all replied

- Jewish Community Foundation, Inc. (JCF)
- Raymond & Gertrude R. Saltzman Foundation
- Jewish Women's Foundation (JWF)

WHERE WE ARE

All invited organizations, which include synagogues and day schools, are located in the tri-county area serviced by JFSNJ: Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester Counties.

LOCATIONS OF JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

SYNAGOGUES

Burlington County: 5

Congregation Beth Tikvah, Adath Emanu-El, Chabad of Camden & Burlington Counties, Temple Sinai of Cinnaminson, Temple Har Zion

Camden County: 8

Congregation Kol Ami, Young Israel of Cherry Hill, Temple Beth Sholom, Nafshenu, Congregation Beth El, Torah Links of South Jersey, Congregation Sons of Israel, Chabad of Camden & Burlington Counties

Gloucester County: 2

Congregation B'nai Tikvah Beth Israel, Chabad of Gloucester County

DAY SCHOOLS

Camden County: 3

Kellman Brown Academy, Politz Day School, Foxman Torah Institute

WHO WE ARE

Data shows changes in membership from 2022-2023 and is based on self-reported numbers from each organization that responded to the survey in the spring of 2023. Not all organizations completed all questions from the survey.

SYNAGOGUE HOUSEHOLD/FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

Synagogue data from 2021 and 2022 reflect totals from the 11 synagogues that responded in three consecutive years. The data from 2023 includes the nine synagogues who responded this year. Even with fewer synagogues reporting, we see an increase.

	2021	2022	2023
Households/Families	3,475	3,560	3,978

TAKE AWAY: From last year's Community Tracker, the synagogues that answered the membership questions saw an increase of 418 household/family memberships compared to this year. We have noticed an increase year to year since COVID-19. While membership numbers are not yet what they were pre-pandemic, there were 4,321 households reported in our first Community Tracker in 2017-2018. This also indicates that synagogue membership continues to grow.

The following represents seven synagogues that have responded each year since the beginning of the Community Tracker. Again, although not back to pre-pandemic individual numbers, our synagogues continue to grow.

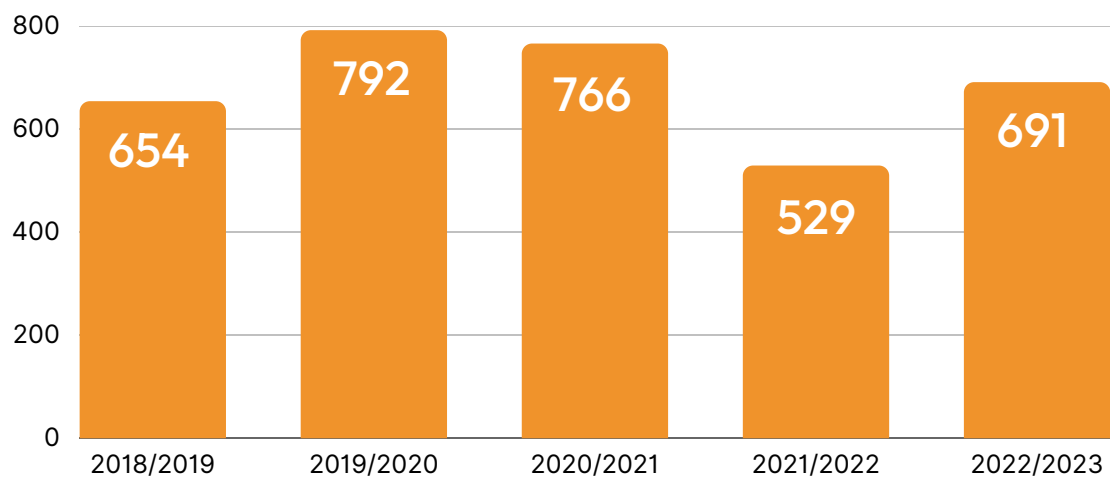
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Households	3,066	3,026	2,721	3,200
Individuals	8,284	8,353	6,706	7,166

JEWISH EDUCATION

This section focuses on Jewish education for youth, including supplemental/religious schools, day schools, and early childhood centers.

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTERS (ECC)

There are seven ECC in our community: Congregation Beth El ECC, Adath Emanu-El ECC, Kellman Brown Academy, Eric B. Jacobs Early Childhood Education Center (at Temple Beth Sholom), Kol Ami ECC, Politz Day School, and Sari Isdaner Early Childhood Center at the Katz JCC. Two early childhood centers are in day schools, four are in synagogues, and one is at the JCC. With the 2022 unification of Congregation M'kor Shalom and Temple Emanuel, we have one less ECC in the community moving forward.



We see an increase in the number of students attending ECC. Specifically, there is an increase of 162 total students in infant – Kindergarten this year. Also noted, the only kindergarten classes this year were in the day schools. This is most likely due to many public schools offering full-day kindergarten options.

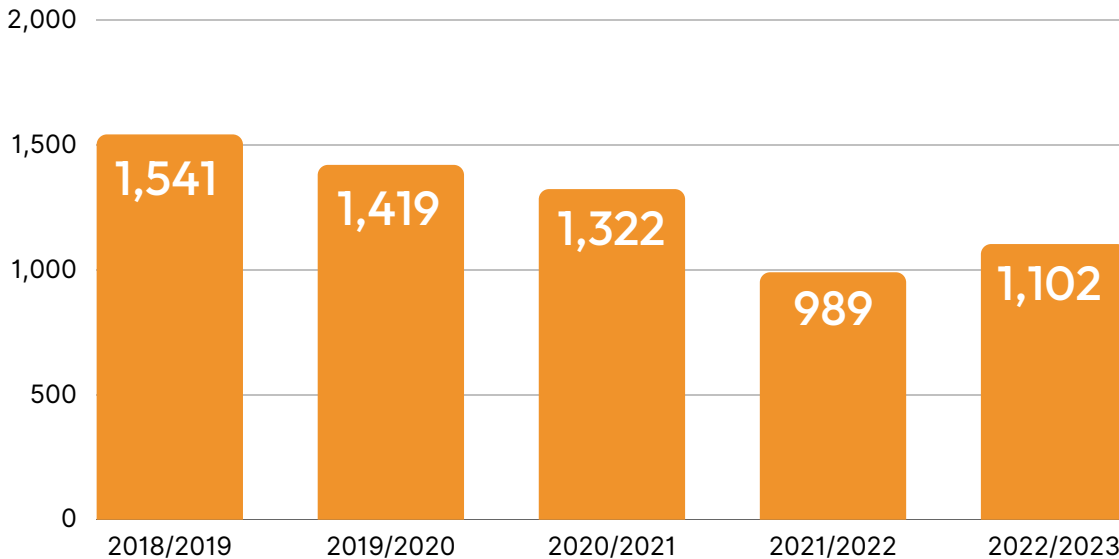
Most of the ECC in our community include non-Jewish students. Approximately 24% of ECC students are identified as non-Jewish from the five ECC that allow non-Jewish students. The two Jewish day schools do not enroll non-Jewish students. This number remained consistent in 2022-2023 and 2021-2022. In 2020, approximately 42% identified as non-Jewish. Jewish families stayed affiliated with the ECC during the pandemic, while non-Jewish families left.

The chart below shows data from a previous Jewish education census of our local community in 2004 and compares it to our current enrollment since we began the Community Tracker.

	2004	2018/2017	2019/2018	2020/2019	2021/2020	2022/2023
Supplemental/ Day School	3,407	1,777	1,727	1,560	1,236	1,389
ECC	987	739	792	766	529	691
Total	4,394	2,516	2,519	2,326	1,765	2,080

SUPPLEMENTAL SCHOOLS

There are eight supplemental schools included in the 2022/2023 results, all of which participated in the Community Tracker survey: Chabad, Temple Beth Shalom Rabbi Albert and Sarah Lewis Religious School, Temple Sinai Religious School, Congregation B'nai Tikvah Beth Israel, Congregation Beth Tikvah, Kol Ami Religious School, Adath Emanu-El Religious School and Congregation Beth El Religious School. With the 2022 unification of Congregation M'kor Shalom and Temple Emanuel, we have one less supplemental school in the community. All supplemental schools we surveyed are affiliated with a synagogue.



One school did not report its student population in last year's survey and is included in this year's data. However, even when we remove the one school, there is an increase of 62 students, as opposed to an increase of 113 students seen in this chart, which indicates schools are seeing an increase in students.

Special Needs Education at Supplemental Schools:



156

students with special needs benefited from the Saltzman Foundation Jewish Inclusion Grants, which equals approximately 14% of the overall supplemental school student population.

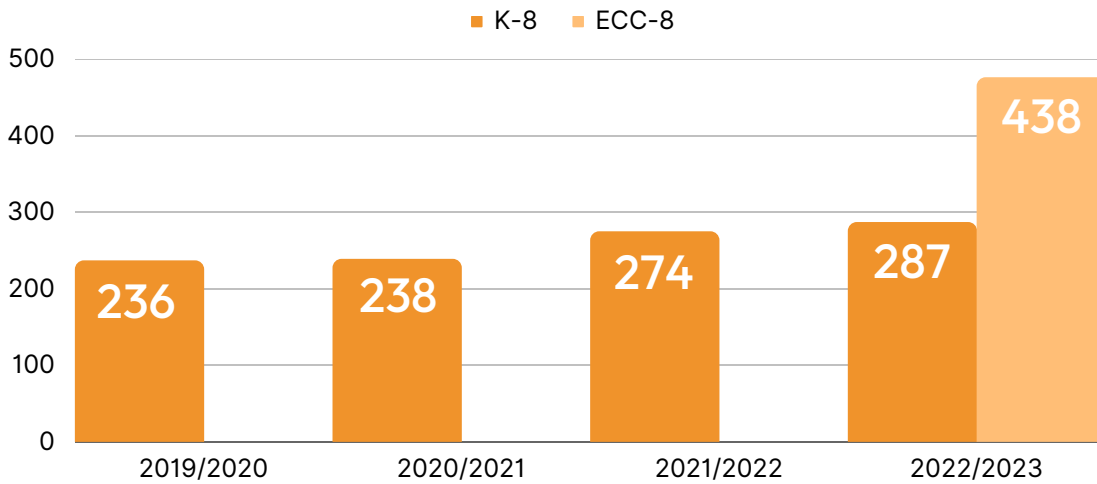


20

students with special needs celebrated B'nai Mitzvahs this year.

DAY SCHOOLS

Our community has two day schools (Kellman Brown Academy and Politz Day School) that offer grades K-8 and early childhood programs and one high school (Foxman Torah Institute) for grades 9-12.

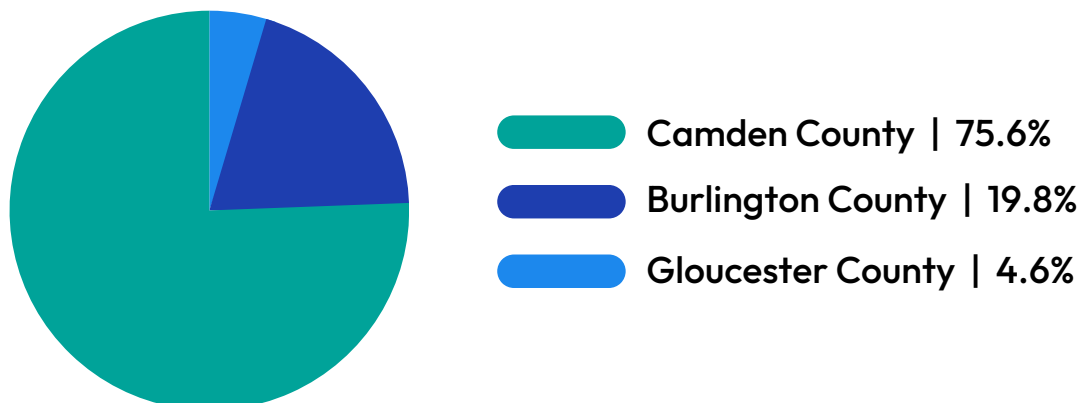


We continue to see an increase in students attending our day schools. To be transparent and not reflect the same data twice in day school and the ECC sections, we now report data to reflect ALL (476) students in the day schools AND students in grades K-8 so the differential the ECC makes can be noted.

	2021/2022	2022/2023
Day School	274 (22%)	287 (21%)
Supplemental School	989 (78%)	1,102 (79%)
Total Students	1,263	1,389

- We have 1,389 children in grades K-12 attending an institution of Jewish education in our community. (This does not account for students, particularly high schoolers, who may attend a Jewish school outside our community).
- Supplemental schools continue to be the preferred choice of Jewish education, although there has been a rise in the number of students attending day schools. Currently, 21% of the student population chooses day schools, which has grown from 10% since we started this tracker.

The distribution of student population by county:



JEWISH FEDERATION OF SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY (JFSNJ)

The Jewish Federation agencies are service providers. They work collaboratively with our synagogues and day schools, but there is always interest and opportunity to better align our efforts.

AGENCIES:

- Katz Jewish Community Center (JCC)
- Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC)
- Jewish Community Voice (JCV or The Voice)
- Jewish Family & Children's Service (JFCS)
- Jewish Senior Housing and Healthcare Service (JSHHS)

Our agencies reported a number of "touches" or engagements with community members. This term may underestimate the actual impact. For some individuals, this might be one point of engagement, whereas others may have ongoing or multiple sources for engagement.

	Households	Individuals
JCC*	7,054	14,034
JCRC	700	2,000
JCV/Voice	12,000	25,000
JFCS	651	7,534
JSHHS		448

**The JCC surpassed the number of membership units it had prior to the pandemic. The membership base continues to grow.*

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Volunteers are critical to how the Federation and our agencies maximize our impact.

22,300+ hours of service

provided by our agency volunteers from October 2022 to May 2023.

JFSNJ SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS/FUNDING

Several supporting organizations of The Jewish Federation offer grants, awards, and scholarships in our community. Below is information on all funding sources and awards for the past year.

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS:

- Jewish Community Foundation, Inc. (JCF)
- Raymond & Gertrude R. Saltzman Foundation (SF)

JEWISH FEDERATION FUNDING SOURCES:

- JFSNJ Financial Assistance for Jewish Overnight Camp & Teen Leadership
- Jewish Women's Foundation of Southern New Jersey (JWF)

2021-2022 \$3,896,508 AWARDED	2022-2023 \$3,900,386 AWARDED
62 TOTAL GRANTS AND AWARDS 36 to new organizations or programs	88 TOTAL GRANTS AND AWARDS 55 to new organizations or programs
There was a total of 145 individual awards for scholarships and financial aid for early childhood centers, day camp, and overnight camp.	There was a total of 288 individual awards for scholarships and financial aid for early childhood centers, day camp, and overnight camp.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$41,500 Overnight Camp/Teen Assistance Programs • \$347,600 Day Camps • \$611,498 Early Childhood Centers* • \$491,060 Day Schools (8 grants) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$39,389 Overnight Camp/Teen Assistance Programs • \$227,683 Day Camps • \$365,701 Early Childhood Centers* • \$466,925 Day Schools - 9 grants • \$87,000 for youth counseling services

**Our local Early Childhood Centers are partners in this program and contribute 25% of the awards*

We are grateful to the Saltzman Foundation's generosity, which awards a large percentage of these funds.

As mental health continues to be a priority in our community and nation, we are beginning to track grants awarded to programs and services to address this crisis.

In addition to these awards, our JCF provides funding distributed through endowment and donor-advised funds.

Jewish Federation distributes its resources into five Areas of Impact. These Areas of Impact define our mission aligned priorities and how we serve our community, both locally and around the world.

Breakdown of grants/award funding by Areas of Impact in 2022/2023

(self-reported by each organization)

\$1,428,338	Older Adults (<i>local</i>)
\$357,750	Special Needs (<i>local</i>)
\$19,100	Global Connections
\$866,328	Community Engagement (<i>local</i>)
\$765,870	Family & Youth (<i>includes local scholarships, programs, and counseling</i>)
\$3,437,386	TOTAL AWARDS

Awards are determined by committees – there are 66 community members who sit on the committees responsible for grants distributions.

LIST OF FUNDED ORGANIZATIONS:

Overnight camper tuition assistance was provided to families attending eight camps:

Camp Poyntelle, URJ Camp Harlem, Camp Ramah in the Poconos, Yallah Israel, Ramah Seminar, Camp Dina, Camp Kolos, and Camp Beis Yaakov

All ECCs and day schools (in the form of tuition assistance)

Day Camps: JCC Camps at Medford and Camp Gan Israel

Synagogues:

Adath Emanu-El, Congregation Beth Tikvah, Congregation Kol Ami, Congregation Sons of Israel, Temple Har Zion, Young Israel, Temple Beth Sholom

Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey (JFSNJ) & our family of agencies:

JFSNJ, Katz Jewish Community Center, Jewish Community Relations Council, Jewish Family & Children's Service, Jewish Senior Housing and Healthcare Services/Lions Gate

Other: Bancroft, BBYO South Jersey, Regional Hillels, TRU Partnership, The Binyamin Chai Project

Below is the feedback we received from the responding organizations regarding community needs and opportunities:

How are the needs of your members/constituents different from the past?

- There is still a need for online/ remote programs and a growing demand for new programming content.
- JCRC's involvement with school related antisemitism incidents has increased tremendously and the need to educate parents, teachers, and administrators is in high demand.
- Food insecurity in our community is only growing. With the expiration of pandemic-related benefits from the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), rising costs are stressing family budgets more than ever. Over the last three months, more than 30 new families have reached out to us each month requesting food from our pantries.

What goals or objectives do you have that your organization could achieve with collaboration?

- Provide more opportunities for older adults socialization.
- Create infrastructure for an adult lunch program.
- Create an inclusion program to serve the growing needs of our community.
- Fundraising and development assistance.
- We would like to continue to utilize the Israeli emissaries and by working with more synagogues and agencies, feel we can have a bigger impact.
- The fight against antisemitism must be a community wide initiative that provides the community with the resources and tools to advocate and protect themselves.
- Help sustain those who are experiencing food insecurity.
- Collaboration, particularly with the Development Dept., would improve our financial picture.

What issues are you experiencing that may also be impacting others in the community?

- An increase in social and emotional challenges among young kids at camp and ECC.
- Drop in attendance at some of the larger events.
- Rise in Antisemitism.
- Need for Israel engagement. The changing nature of the American Jewish relationship with Israel.
- The mental health crisis. We provide programming to area schools, community-based organizations, and houses of worship on critical issues impacting tweens and teens. Topics include addiction awareness, youth suicide prevention, healthy relationships, and anxiety and stress.
- Ability to meet the growing needs of the older adult population in our community. 17% of the population in New Jersey is over the age of 65 years, which is an increase of 26% over the last 10 years, and the trend is expected to continue. In order to meet these needs, we must be able to expand our service provision.
- Change in the way Jews connect with and interact with the Jewish community.
- Changing demographic trends.