



Jewish Summers. Jewish Future.



# OVERNIGHT JEWISH CAMP IN NORTH AMERICA 2017

HIGHLIGHTS FROM  
**FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CAMP**  
2017 OVERNIGHT CAMP CENSUS

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# ABOUT THE 2017 CAMP CENSUS

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The 2017 Camp Census portrays several important features of the nonprofit overnight Jewish camp sector in North America. The eighth annual Census was conducted by the Foundation for Jewish Camp (FJC), in partnership with JCamp180, Jewish Community Center Association (JCCA), Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), National Ramah Commission (Ramah), and Association for Independent Jewish Camps (AIJC).

This report focuses on some key measures of overnight Jewish summer camps: the campers and enrollment patterns, revenues, expenditures and more. It differentiates among camps of varying size by numbers of campers and budget, as well as denominations, movements and regions of North America.

On occasion, the text below refers to comparisons with previous censuses, implemented and reported on by JData through 2015, and conducted by Prof. Steven M. Cohen in 2016. Generally, where we could reliably estimate over-time change from previously published findings to the 2017 data set, the estimated changes were small and incremental. Out of concern for some challenges to comparability between the 2017 and earlier Census reports, and recognizing the very small changes that are readily visible, this text focuses both upon the most notable findings from 2017, drawing only occasional comparisons with the prior Census reports (particularly last year, summer 2016).

This report refers to camping “Movements.” On the Census questionnaire, camps reported their movement affiliations. Throughout this report, we have combined a few of the responses, in part, to increase the sample size in a few categories. Thus, “Orthodox” includes Agudath Israel, Bnei Akiva, Nageela, and OU/NCSY; “Zionist” includes Habonim Dror and Hashomer Hatzair; and “Young Judaea” includes Young Judaea and Canadian Young Judaea.

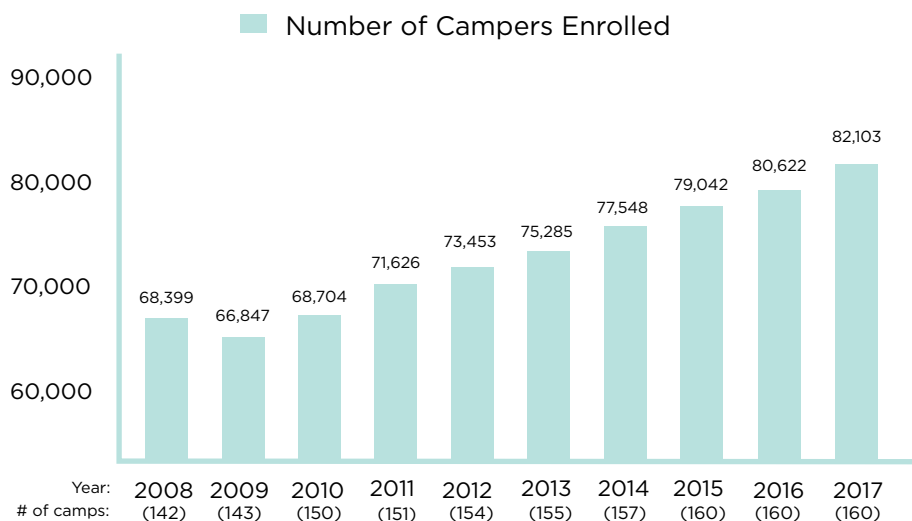
The overnight FJC network of camps included 160 camps in 2017. This is the same number of camps as in 2016. The 147 camps that completed the survey in time to be part of this analysis registered enrollment growth of 1.8% since 2016. To calculate the continental camp enrollment total, we imputed the enrollment for the non-responding camps by using their enrollment figures from 2016 (or 2015, if there was no 2016 submission). In a few instances, based on available information, we slightly adjusted these imputed estimates.



# CAMPER ENROLLMENT

**Slow, steady growth:** Once again, in 2017, the 160 nonprofit Jewish camps that are part of the Foundation for Jewish Camp network reported a total of 82,103 unique campers, as compared with 80,622 in 2016, a growth just shy of 2%.

## Camp Enrollment



In the last decade, from 2008 to 2017, we have seen a steady rise in campers, camps, and the number of campers per camp. The number of campers has grown by 20%, with the number of camps growing 13%. These signs of vitality are especially impressive in an era when most other indicators of Jewish engagement outside of Orthodoxy remain stagnant or are declining, and when the number of non-Orthodox children who identify as Jewish has declined. Nevertheless, despite all these challenges, the overnight Jewish camp sector had managed to chart slow steady growth, however measured.

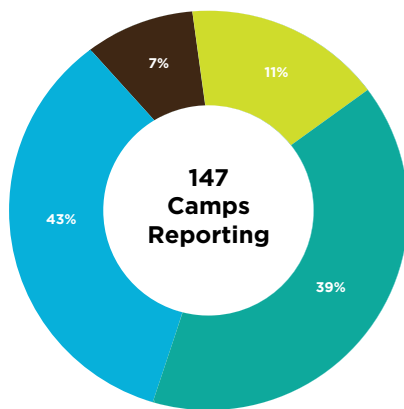
## NEW SPECIALTY CAMPS

One significant development to support growth of the field has been the introduction of 11 new specialty overnight camps since 2010. Enrollment at the eight specialty camps (Camp Zeke; Eden Village Camp; JCC Maccabi Sports; Ramah Galim in Northern California; Ramah in the Rockies; URJ 6 Points Sports Academy – NC; URJ 6 Points Sports Academy – CA; URJ 6 Points Sci-Tech Academy) which operated in 2017 served over 3,200 campers, growing 15% versus 2016, and their growth represented 40% of the overall growth of the field this year.

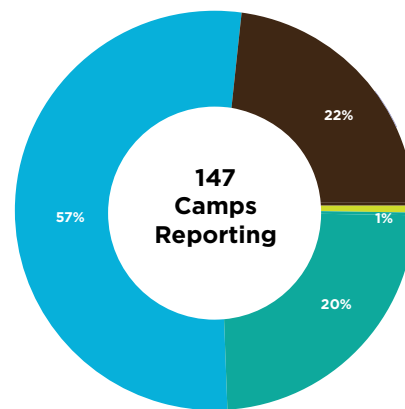


# CAMPS BY SIZE

### Unique Camps by Size of Camps



### Percentage of Campers



### Camp Size

- Under 100 (16 Camps)
- 100-399 (57 Camps)
- 400-999 (63 Camps)
- 1,000+ (10 Camps)

Since 2016, we have seen growth in camps the middle range of size (from 111 in 2016 to 120 camps between 100 and 999 in 2017), which means that several of the camps that reported under 100 campers in 2016 grew in size in 2017. There were 16 camps that reported enrollment under 100 in 2017, while 24 camps reported under 100 in 2016.

Half the camps report 400 or more campers. The number of campers is – for good arithmetic reasons – concentrated in the larger camps. About 22% of the campers attend camps of 1,000 campers or more; another 57% attend camps serving 400-999 campers; 20% are at camps with 100-399 campers and just 1% at the 16 smallest camps.

**Wide variations in revenue size:** As we also saw in 2016, the wide variation in size of camp is consistent with wide variation in revenue size. Nearly a third of the camps still report total revenue of under \$800,000 annually, with almost as many reporting revenue of \$2.5 million or more, and 39% between \$800,000 and \$2.5 million.

## Camps by Total Revenue

	Number of Camps	Percent
Under \$800,000	43	32%
800,000 thru \$2.5 million	52	39%
\$2.5 million or more	40	30%
TOTAL	135	100

### Pluralist, Reform and Orthodox continue to be the largest camp denominations:

The Census questionnaire asked for the camps' denominational identity with the following definition and question: "Denominational identity refers to the camp's practices and not the religious backgrounds of its campers. How does your camp primarily define itself?"

In terms of both camps and campers, about a third are "Pluralist or non-denominational" this year, while about a fifth were "Pluralist or non-denominational" in 2016. This change is due to a shift in how many camps define and target their community, which may also be connected to the increase in specialty camps. Orthodox and Reform are the next largest groups, while Zionist and Conservative camps are at the smaller end of the spectrum, constituting significant growth from last year largely at the expense of "community" and "other" camp identities.

These figures can be examined next to the percent of campers attending camps associated with each denomination.

## Camps and Campers by Denominational Identity

Denomination	Number of Camps	Percentage of Camps	Percentage of Campers
Orthodox	36	25%	21%
Conservative	11	8%	10%
Reform	21	14%	18%
Zionist	12	8%	5%
Pluralist or Non-Denominational	51	35%	37%
Community	13	9%	7%
Other*	3	2%	1%
TOTAL	147	100%	100%

\*Other=Traditional, Secular, Sephardic & Reconstructionist



The Census asked a related question on movement affiliation, as mentioned in the introduction of this report. The JCCA runs the largest number of camps and serves over a quarter of all campers. Next is the URJ with 16 camps and 11% of the campers.

### Camps and Campers by Camping-Movement

	Camps	Percentage of Camps	Percentage of Campers
Orthodox	13	9%	9%
Ramah	9	6%	8%
URJ	16	11%	14%
Zionist	8	5%	2%
JCCA	25	17%	28%
Chabad	13	9%	3%
Young Judaea	9	6%	5%
AIJC	11	8%	9%
Other	43	29%	22%
TOTAL	147	100%	100%

**Concentration in the Northeast region holds steady:** Almost half of the camps and campers are in the Northeast. About a sixth of each (of camps and of campers) are found in the West. The South is the region with the smallest number of camps and, as a result, the smallest number of campers (but, as seen below, the highest utilization).

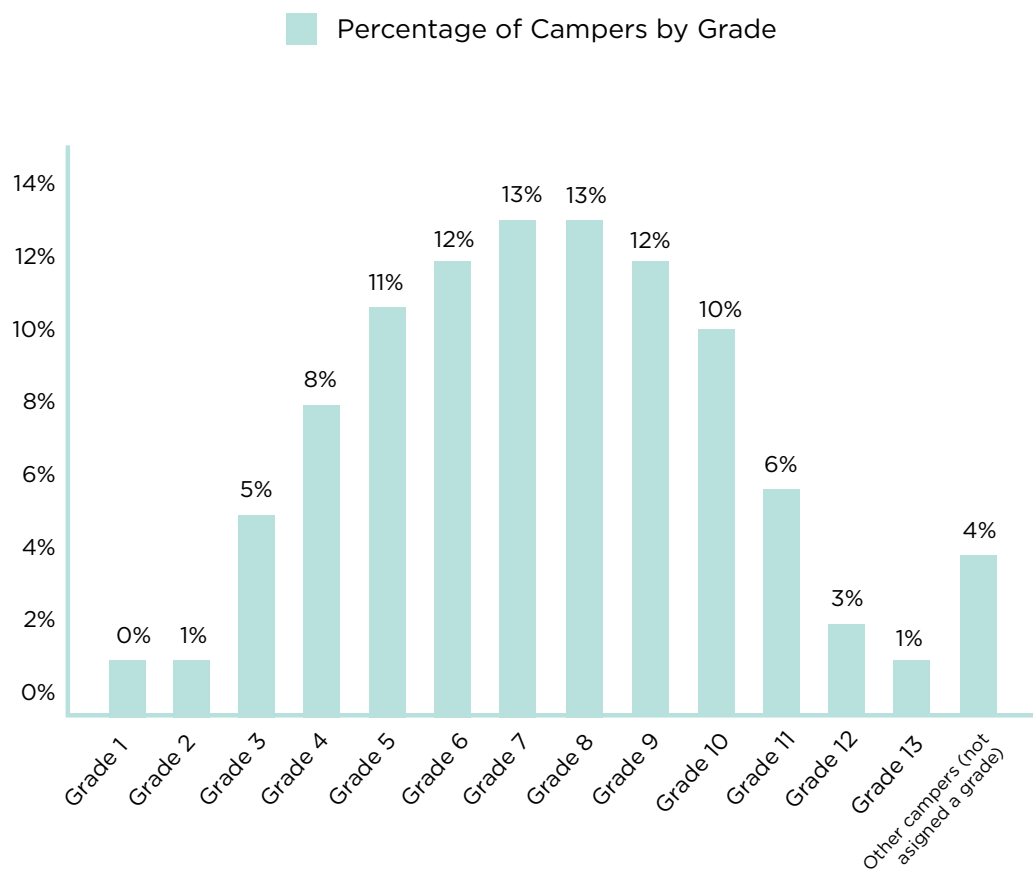
### Camps and Campers by Region

	Number of Camps	Percentage of Camps	Percentage of Campers
Northeast	66	45%	47%
Midwest	21	14%	15%
South	11	8%	10%
West	24	16%	16%
Canada	25	17%	12%
TOTAL	147	100%	100%

**Camper attendance peaks in grades 6-9:** Camper attendance rises and falls in almost symmetric fashion through the grade levels. It peaks at the point where campers are entering grades 6-9, exceeding 13% of all campers for those entering grades 7 and 8 (each). The very youngest campers are entering grades 1 and 2, rising to about 11% of all campers among those entering grade 5. This pattern is consistent with earlier studies.

## CAMPER CAPACITY

### Camper Population by Grade



**Higher utilization rates in larger camps:** We developed a capacity utilization measure that relied upon a calculation drawing upon two figures. One (the numerator) is the actual number of unique campers in a program or session. The second (the denominator) takes into account the capacity at any one season, as provided by answers to the question, “What number of campers constitutes a ‘full’ camp?” That is---how many campers could your camp accommodate at the same time (present at any one time), or how many unique camper

beds do you have?" We divide the numerator by the denominator and obtain approximate estimate of the utilization percentage (utilization-over-capacity), one that can offer us insight into comparisons across groups. Overall, we calculate that for program 1 – the most widely reported -- camps are operating at 80% capacity. The other programs (or sessions in some cases) closely approach the figure for program 1.

Program	Average Number of Campers Per Program	Capacity Utilization
Program 1	140	80%
Program 2	124	77%
Program 3	92	75%
Program 4	67	72%
Program 5	52	72%

As we have seen in previous years, the utilization-capacity quotient is lowest among the smallest camps. Those with under 400 campers who, on average, report a utilization of about 73%, with the figure climbing to 86% for the camps with 400-999 beds, and near saturation at 89% among the largest camps of 1,000 beds or more. These patterns largely replicate those found in 2016.

Size of Camp	Capacity Utilization
Under 100	76%
100-399	71%
400-999	86%
1000+	89%
Total Average	80%





The utilization rate is highest for camps with budgets of \$800,000 through \$2.5 million.

Total Revenue	Capacity Utilization
Under \$800,000	77%
\$800,000 thru \$2.5 million	87%
\$2.5 million or more	74%
Overall	80%

By ideological movement, the three religious denominations lead all the others, with community and Zionist camps at the low end.

Denomination	Capacity Utilization
Orthodox	89%
Conservative	80%
Reform	84%
Zionist	73%
Pluralist or Non-Denominational	76%
Community	65%
Other*	81%
Total Average	80%

*\*Other=Traditional, Secular, Sephardic & Reconstructionist*

In terms of camping movements, the Orthodox camps with 90% utilization of capacity, lead all the rest. Among those with lower levels of utilization are the Zionist camps.

Camping-Movement	% Capacity
Orthodox	90%
Ramah	82%
URJ	82%
Zionist	65%
JCCA	76%
Chabad	85%
Young Judaea	79%
AIJC	81%
Other	78%
Total Average	80%

Regionally, utilization is highest in the South and lowest in Canada.

Region	% Capacity
Northeast	82%
Midwest	77%
South	87%
West	78%
Canada	73%
Total Average	80%

These comparisons across characteristics suggest those types of camps where expansion of capacity is warranted, and those where expansion of recruitment efforts may be necessary for long-term financial success. The lower numbers could be caused by multiple factors, but those factors were not explored through the Census questionnaire.

**Bigger camps mean more opportunities for touchpoints:** The Census asked for the number of days the camp is open during various programs or sessions, as well as the number of programs or sessions offered by the camp. Below we report the average length of the first session.



We find that both measures of time utilization uniformly increase with size of camp, whether measured in terms of number of campers or revenue size—larger camps stay open longer.

Size of Camp	Average Number of Days for First Session/ Program, 2017	Sessions/Programs Offered by Camp 2017
Under 100	20	1.6
100-399	21	3.4
400-999	24	3.8
1000+	24	4.1
Total Average	22	3.4

Total Revenue	Average Number of Days for First Session/ Program, 2017	Sessions/Programs Offered by Camp 2017
Under 800,000	19	2.7
800,000 thru 2.5	21	3.4
2.5 million or more	25	4.1
Total Average	22	3.4

In terms of regional variation, the West is distinguished by the shortest sessions and the largest number of sessions or programs. The West's pattern is in line with the tendency of camps there to offer several shorter sessions throughout the summer.

Region	Average Number of Days for First Session/ Program, 2017	Sessions/Programs Offered by Camp 2017
Northeast	24	3.1
Midwest	22	3.7
South	21	3.5
West	17	4.1
Canada	23	3.3
Total Average	22	3.4



## CAMPER IDENTITY

**Variations in proportion of campers who identify as Jewish, and in interfaith (or inter-cultural) families:** Respondents report that about 91% of their campers identify as Jewish (where Jewish is defined according to the camp). This number hardly varies by camp size and revenue (as noted in the 2016 and 2015 reports), with some variation by denomination and movement. Among the movements, the highest proportions of campers identifying as Jewish are reported by Young Judaea, Ramah, Chabad and the Orthodox.

The survey also asked, “About what percentage of your campers are from interfaith families (or from families where only one parent identifies as Jewish)?”, asking the camp professionals to estimate on behalf of their camper families. According to their estimates, about 15% of the campers come from interfaith families (or as some in Canada and elsewhere may prefer: inter-cultural families). By extrapolation, about 12,000 campers who attended Jewish summer camp in 2017 came from interfaith homes.

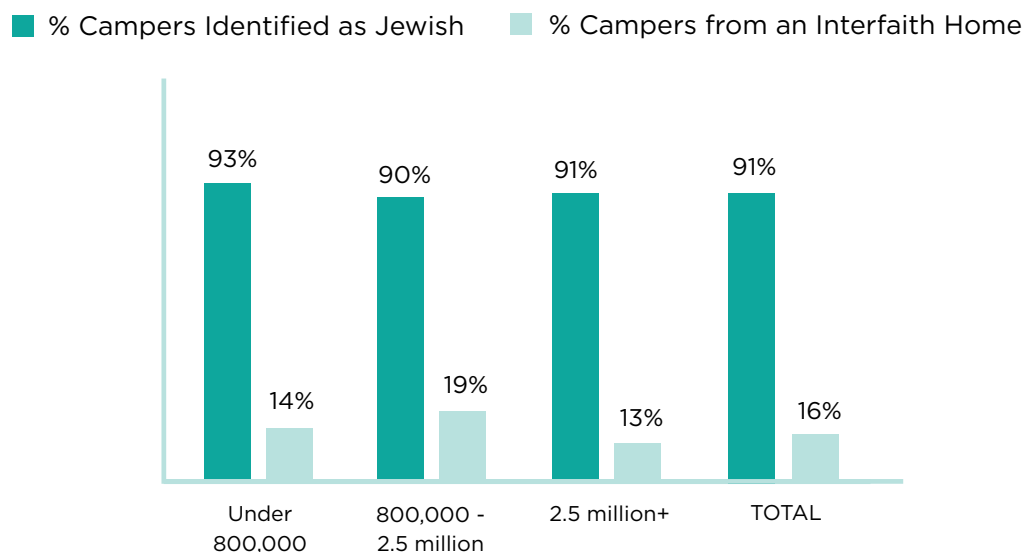
Size of Camp	Campers Identifying as Jewish Percentage	Interfaith Percentage
Under 100	96%	10%
100-399	89%	19%
400-999	92%	13%
1000+	93%	10%
TOTAL	91%	15%

The results point to wide disparities in camp attendance between the relatively high rates for children from families with two parents who identify as Jewish and the relatively low rates for children of interfaith parents who identify as Jewish. *The 2013 Pew Study: A Portrait of Jewish Life* reports that about 60% of all non-Orthodox children who identify as Jewish 18-29% come from a household where one parent identifies as Jewish, and the remainder, 40% have two parents who identify as Jewish. In contrast with this 60-40 ratio in the population, we find a 15-85 ratio among the campers, for children of one parent who identifies as Jewish vs. children of two parents who identify as Jewish. Doing the arithmetic, we can infer that households where both parents identify as Jewish send children to Jewish camp about eight times as often as interfaith parents.

*Note from Steven M. Cohen: Interfaith families are those including Jews and others. Some may be more properly identified as intercultural.*

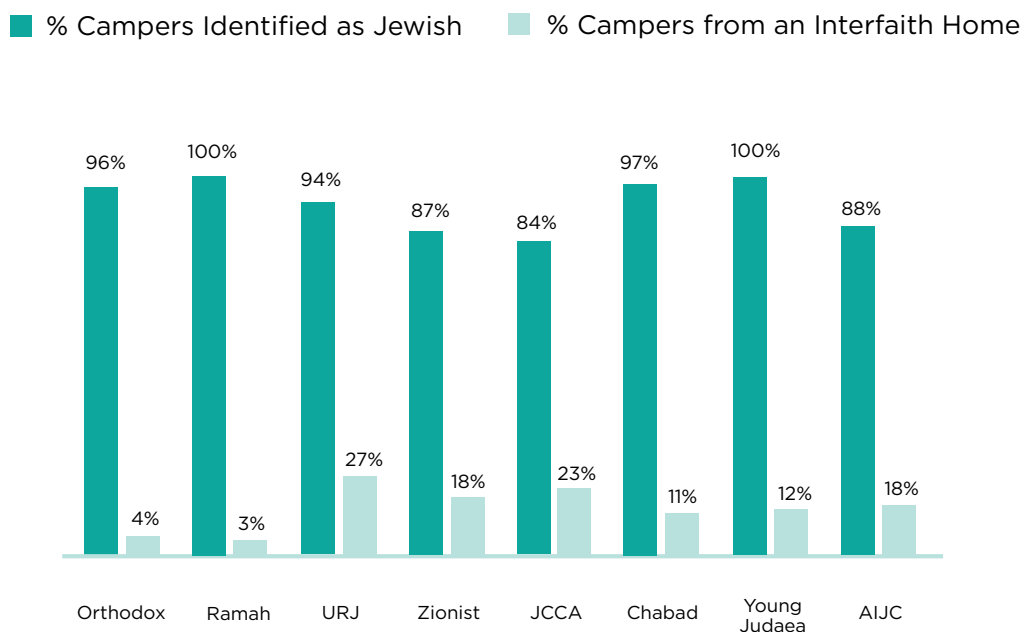


## Percentage of Campers Identified as Jewish and Interfaith by Camp Revenue



The real driver of variation is the numbers of children with one parent who identifies as Jewish and one who does not. The interfaith numbers are near zero for the Orthodox and Conservative camps, and just 11% for the Chabad camps, consistent with the larger population characteristics of the adults associated with these movements. In contrast, about a quarter of the campers in Reform and a fifth in Zionist camps come from interfaith homes.

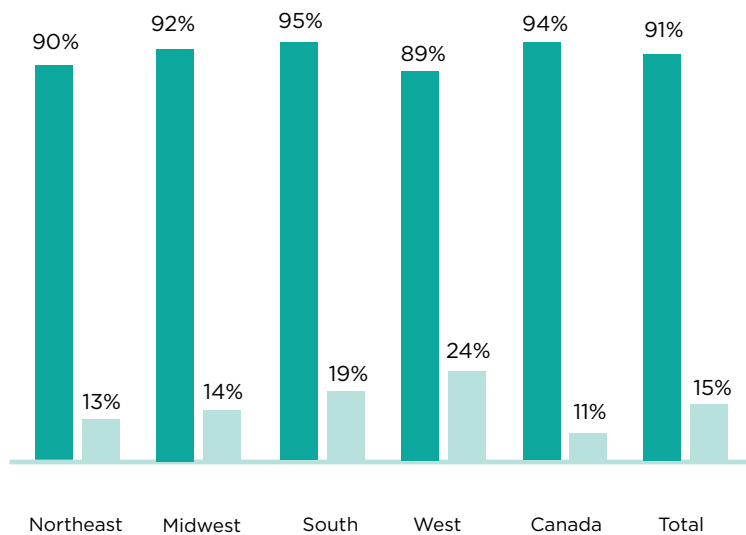
## Percentage of Campers Identified as Jewish and Interfaith by Movement



Campers from interfaith homes are relatively less numerous in the Northeast, Midwest and Canada, but higher in the South (19%) highest in the West (24%), reflecting the regional variations in the larger population. In the Pew study, we find that among respondents identifying as Jewish with children 10-17 at home, intermarriage rates are just 28% in the East and 30% in the Midwest, but 57% in the South and 58% in the West. In other words, the regional contours in intermarriage rates in Pew more or less parallel those for the regional variations in children of interfaith marriages in the camper population.

### Percentage of Campers Identified as Jewish and Interfaith by Region

■ % Campers Identified as Jewish    ■ % Campers from an Interfaith Home



## GENDER VARIATION

The Census asked camps to share numbers of campers by the gender the campers identified as or the gender the campers were bunked. The distribution averages were 52.5% identified as female and 47.5% identified as male. The proportions hardly vary by grade of campers, or by movement or denomination. On a regional basis, the Midwest stands out as a region with a higher proportion of campers identified as female, or in female identified bunks.



## Identified as Female Percent by Region

Region	Identified as Female Percent
Northeast	53
Midwest	56
South	51
West	50
Canada	52
TOTAL	53

In another departure from uniformity, the smallest camps also report higher levels of campers identified as female than the medium to large size camps:

## Identified as Female Percent by Size of Camp

Size of camp	Identified as Female Percent
Under 100	61
100-399	50
400-999	52
1000 or more	53
TOTAL	53

## CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

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**Serving children with disabilities:** A large majority of camps (85 out of the 147 responding) report serving over 3,400 children with disabilities, or over 4% of the total camper population - with growth keeping inline with campers growth overall, but significantly below the percent in Jewish population of 15-20%.



In terms of size, the camps serving children with disabilities are found at all levels of camper totals and size of revenue with five camps exclusively serving children with disabilities. The vast majority report providing for full inclusion of campers with disabilities (represented by “Full” on the table below). Geographically, the full inclusion camps are located heavily in the Northeast, with others spread around the continent. The Reform and JCCA affiliated camps offer relatively large number of fully inclusive environments, as do the Orthodox camps. Ramah camps have opted for separate programs within the camps.

### Inclusion Level of Campers with Disabilities

Size of Camp	Partial	Full	Camps with Only Campers with Disabilities	TOTAL COUNT
Under 100	1	7	-	8
100-399	3	20	2	25
400-999	5	34	2	41
1000+	4	6	1	11
TOTAL	12	67	5	85

Camping-Movement	Partial	Full	Camps with Only Campers with Disabilities	TOTAL COUNT
Orthodox	-	4	-	4
Ramah	5	4	-	9
URJ	2	11	-	13
Zionist	-	1	-	1
JCCA	4	12	1	17
Chabad	1	6	-	7
Young Judaea	-	3	-	3
AIJC	-	8	-	8
Other	1	18	4	23
TOTAL	13	67	5	85





Region	Partial	Full	Camps with Only Campers with Disabilities	TOTAL COUNT
Northeast	6	26	4	36
Midwest	2	10	-	12
South	1	10	-	11
West	2	16	-	18
Canada	2	5	1	8
TOTAL	13	67	5	85

Denomination	Partial	Full	Camps with Only Campers with Disabilities	TOTAL COUNT
Orthodox	2	13	3	18
Conservative	5	5	-	10
Reform	2	15	-	17
Zionist	-	3	-	3
Pluralist	4	22	1	27
Community	-	8	1	9
Other*	-	1	-	1
TOTAL	13	67	5	85

\*Other=Traditional, Secular, Sephardic & Reconstructionist

## STAFF

**Thousands of staff members throughout North America:** The 147 responding camps employ over 700 year-round full-time staff, over 300 year-round part-time staff, and more than 21,000 summer only paid staff (including over 12,000 college-age counselors), in addition to volunteers during the summer. This total of 21,385 staff members is consistent with the number of staff reported in earlier years.

As expected, the average number of staff in all categories rises with size of camp, measured by campers or by revenue. On average, camps employ 3.3 staff members in all (full-time & part-time, year-round and summer only) for every unique camper.



Size of Camp	Total Full-Time Staff 2017	Total Part-Time Staff 2017	Total Summer Paid Staff 2017
Under 100	24	29	320
100-399	182	119	5,066
400-999	397	144	12,072
1000+	112	38	3,927
TOTAL	715	330	21,385

Total Revenue	Total Full-Time Staff 2017	Total Part-Time Staff 2017	Total Summer Paid Staff 2017
Under 800,000	87	80	2,582
800,000 thru 2.5 million	221	102	5,927
2.5 million or more	342	123	9,937
TOTAL*	650	305	18,446

\*Not all camps reported their revenue. Hence, the totals fall below those reported in the other tables in this series.

Camping-Movement	Total Full-Time Staff 2017	Total Part-Time Staff 2017	Total Summer Paid Staff 2017
Orthodox	45	33	2,702
Ramah	69	36	2,312
URJ	137	52	2,604
Zionist	18	17	433
JCCA	149	58	3,433
Chabad	22	34	673
Young Judaea	37	11	911
AIJC	65	19	2,076
Other	173	70	6,241
TOTAL	715	330	21,385



Denomination	Total Full-Time Staff 2017	Total Part-Time Staff 2017	Total Summer Paid Staff 2017
Orthodox	111	77	6,576
Conservative	80	47	2,429
Reform	149	55	3,002
Zionist	41	22	966
Pluralist or Non-Denominational	262	105	6,827
Community	60	20	1,358
Other*	12	4	227
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>21,385</b>

\*Other = Traditional, Secular, Sephardic & Reconstructionist

Region	Total Full-Time Staff 2017	Total Part-Time Staff 2017	Total Summer Paid Staff 2017
Northeast	308	135	11,319
Midwest	103	77	3,136
South	75	28	1,868
West	163	50	2,402
Canada	66	40	2,660
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>21,385</b>

### Percent of Staff Who Identify as Jewish

Responding to the question, “Approximately what percentage of this summer’s staff members identify as Jewish?”, over two thirds of camps report that 90% of their summer staff so identify. In fact, almost a third report that all their summer staff identify as Jewish:



## Proportions of Summer Staff Who Identify as Jewish

	Percent
100%	31
90-99%	36
80-89%	13
70-79%	10
60-69%	7
50-59%	3
TOTAL	100

Overall, about 90% of summer camp staff identify as Jewish. We find minor variations in this measure by region. By size, the smallest camps (under 100 campers) report the highest average of summer staff members who identify as Jewish. Perhaps the most interesting pertinent results are the variations by denomination. Here we find what must be regarded as an expected and familiar variation by religious denomination with Orthodox reporting the highest levels (99%), followed by Conservative (94%) and then Reform (85%). The Zionist camps are the only other category reporting very high proportions of summer staff members who identify as Jewish (96% on average).

## Average Percent of Summer Staff Identifying as Jewish by Denomination of Camp

Denomination of Camp	Average Percent
Orthodox	99
Conservative	94
Reform	85
Zionist	96
Pluralist	84
Community	87
Other	85
TOTAL	90



# CAMP REVENUE AND TUITION

**Revenue components behave as expected:** The tables below represent the average revenue numbers submitted by the respondents, answering differently worded questions than were used in 2016. As noted through the tables below, average amounts for various components of camp revenue are strongly tied to the number of campers, much as might be expected.

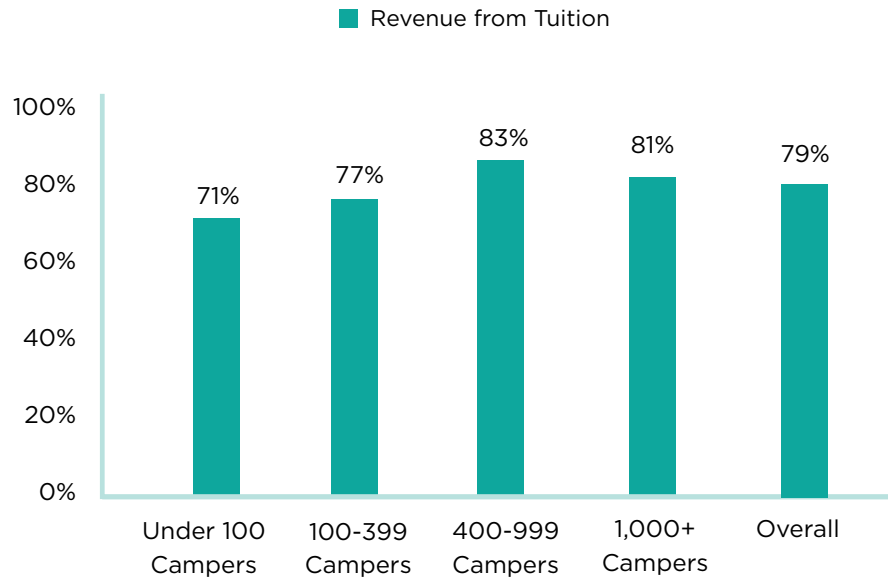
Size of Camp	Average Federation Annual Support	Average Annual Fund	Average Scholarship Fund	Average One Happy Camper Revenue	Average Tuition for Current Camp Year	Average Off-Season/ Special Programming/ Event	Average Rental Income	Average Miscellaneous	Average Tuition Revenue (Gross Revenue)
Under 100	500	28,100	9,300	2,600	111,500	54,300	28,100	3,900	237,900
100-399	21,500	32,200	40,800	15,400	856,800	30,400	54,400	35,100	1,069,700
400-999	26,700	143,000	67,100	27,000	2,329,400	84,400	129,900	50,300	2,654,300
1000+	49,300	149,400	227,000	29,000	5,304,300	330,700	115,500	92,500	6,534,600
TOTAL AVERAGES	23,500	88,000	61,800	20,100	1,663,500	77,000	88,700	42,400	1,993,700

Total Revenue	Average Federation Annual Support	Average Annual Fund	Average Scholarship Fund	Average One Happy Camper Revenue	Average Tuition for Current Camp Year	Average Off-Season/ Special Programming/ Event	Average Rental Income	Average Miscellaneous	Average Tuition Revenue (Gross Revenue)
Under 800,000	11,700	20,300	33,700	7,800	265,800	27,600	33,700	12,500	368,000
800,000 thru 2.5 million	15,600	42,600	41,600	20,500	1,320,700	31,100	57,600	39,000	1,567,400
2.5 million or more	52,300	241,800	133,700	37,700	3,410,700	209,000	210,400	92,000	4,295,500
TOTAL AVERAGES	25,200	94,500	66,400	21,600	1,663,500	82,700	95,300	45,800	1,993,700

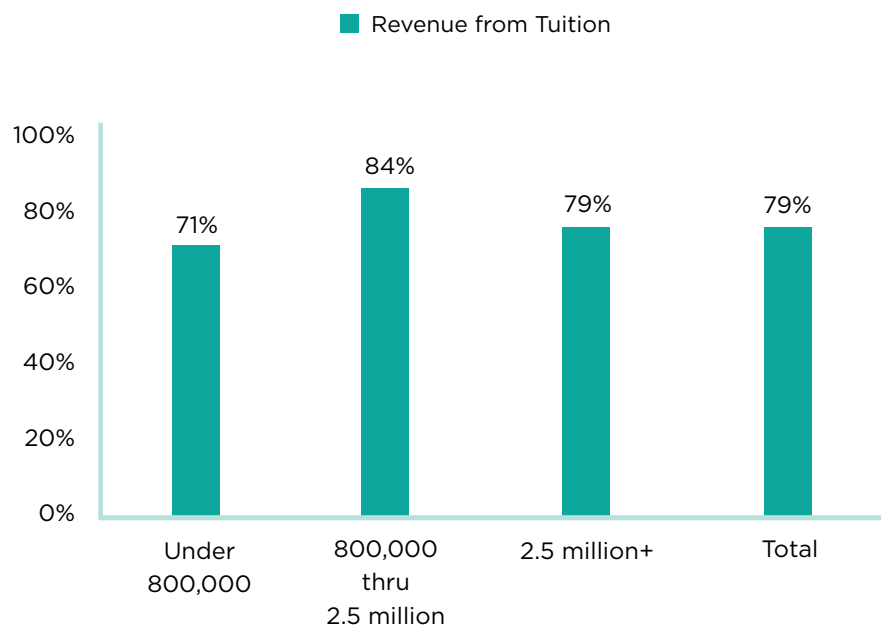


**Tuition + fundraising: How is camp revenue created?** Tuition is the largest component (79%) of revenue, as we learned by the 126 camps that shared this data.

### Revenue from Tuition by Camp Size

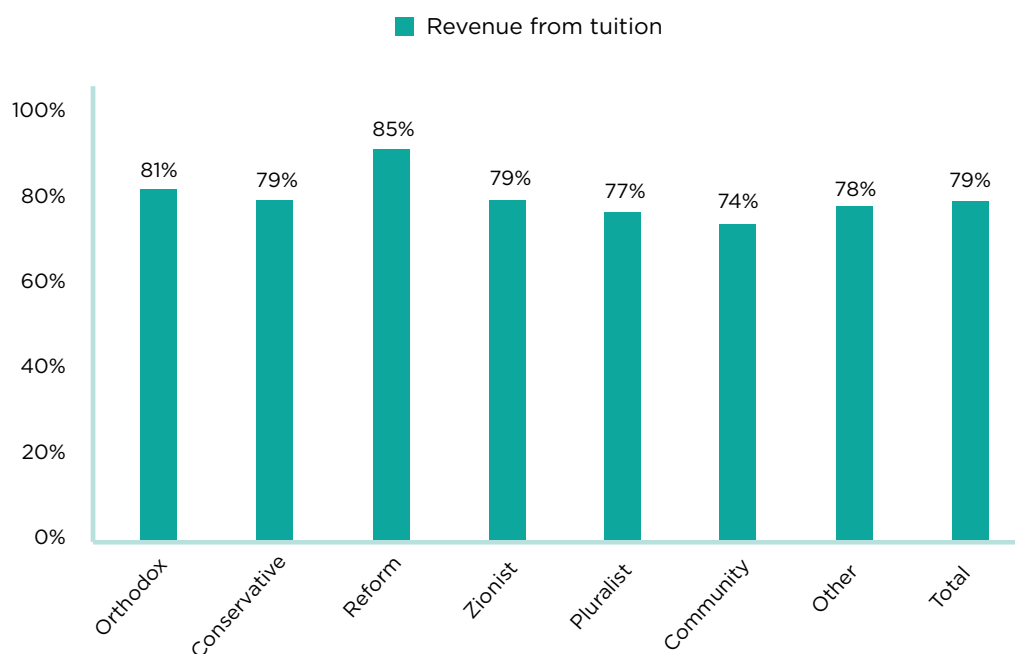


### Revenue from Tuition by Total Revenues



In general, smaller camps (by campers or revenue) rely less on tuition and more on fundraising. The Reform movement is most reliant on tuition dollars (85%). In contrast, Chabad the Orthodox camps rely more heavily on fundraising dollars.

### Revenue from Tuition by Denomination



**Weekly tuition – small variations with the Orthodox at the low end:** The Census asked each camp for its “maximum weekly tuition for its summer 2017 core program ... [excluding] charges for optional trips, programs, or other special services.” The average maximum weekly tuition works out to about \$1,208 where each of the 110 responding camps individually counts as an individual unit, or \$1,241, weighted for the number of campers. The average maximum weekly tuition from the 2016 Census was much higher (\$1,460), but 34 more (and potentially different) camps responded to this question last year (144 camps). When we look at cost next to revenue, it is important to consider that the difference between revenue and costs go directly back into the camps for scholarships or capital improvements.



Size of Camp	Summer 2017 Core Program Maximum Weekly Tuition (\$)
Under 100	1,000
100-399	1,200
400-999	1,300
1000+	1,300
TOTAL	1,200

Total Revenue	Summer 2017 Core Program Maximum Weekly Tuition (\$)
Under \$800,000	1,000
\$800,000 thru \$2.5 million	1,300
\$2.5 million or more	1,300
TOTAL	1,200

Perhaps surprisingly, average weekly tuition does not uniformly fluctuate with camper size or revenue size. Among the affiliation networks, the Orthodox reports the lowest average (\$900). Geographically, costs are lowest in the Midwest.

Denomination	Summer 2017 Core Program Maximum Weekly Tuition (\$)
Orthodox	900
Conservative	1,300
Reform	1,300
Zionist	1,200
Pluralist or Non-Denominational	1,300
Community	1,300
Other*	1,300
TOTAL	1,200

Movement	Summer 2017 Core Program Maximum Weekly Tuition (\$)
Orthodox	900
Ramah	1,300
URJ	1,300
Zionist	1,200
JCCA	1,300
Chabad	1,000
Young Judaea	1,200
AIJC	1,300
Other	1,200
TOTAL	1,200

\*Other=Traditional, Secular, Sephardic & Reconstructionist





Region	Summer 2017 Core Program Maximum Weekly Tuition (\$)
Northeast	1,200
Midwest	1,100
South	1,300
West	1,200
Canada	1,200
TOTAL	1,200

**Per Camper-Week Cost – Wide variations by movement:** We calculated an index we entitled, “Camper-Week Cost.” The denominator is the sum of all the campers multiplied by the number of weeks they attended camp. The numerator is the sum of tuition payments and all fundraising.

Total Revenue	Approx Ave Cost of a Camper-Week (\$)
Under \$800,000	800
\$800,000 thru \$2.5 million	1,100
\$2.5 million or more	1,200
TOTAL	1,000

Size of Camp	Approx Ave Cost of a Camper-Week (\$)
Under 100	900
100-399	1,100
400-999	1,000
1,000+	1,200
Total Average	1,000

The overall average amounts to \$1,000. Costs hardly vary by size or total revenues. Chabad and the Orthodox have the lowest average costs per camper-week. Ramah and URJ camps are at the high-end.



Camping Movement	Approx Ave Cost of a Camper-week (\$)
Orthodox	700
Ramah	1,400
URJ	1,400
Zionist	900
JCCA	1,200
Chabad	700
Young Judaea	1,100
AIJC	1,100
Other	900
Average	1,000

In terms of denomination, Conservative and Reform report the highest costs, more than double reported by the Orthodox.

Denomination	Approx Ave Cost of a Camper-week (\$)
Orthodox	600
Conservative	1,300
Reform	1,300
Zionist	900
Pluralist or Non-Denominational	1,100
Community	1,100
Other*	1,100
Total Average	1,000

*\*Other=Traditional, Secular, Sephardic & Reconstructionist*

Regionally, lower costs appear in Canada; the average cost in the West is higher because California is home to the camps with the highest average costs per camper-week.

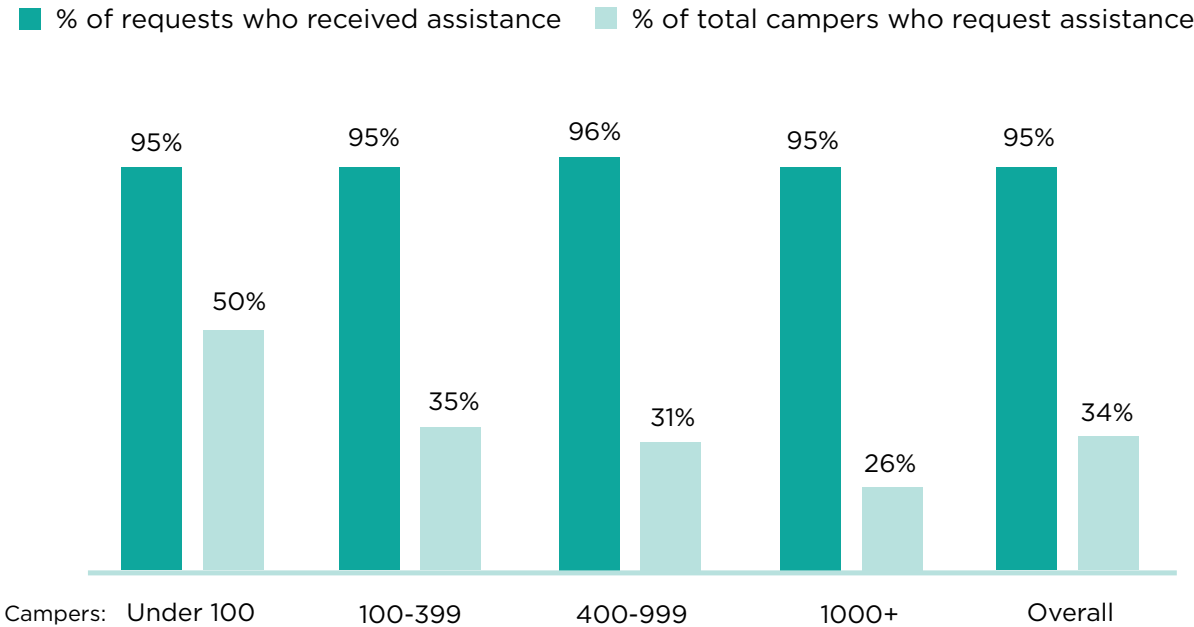


Region	Approx Ave cost of a camper-week (\$)
Northeast	1,000
Midwest	1,000
West	1,300
South	1,200
Canada	900
Total Average	1,000

## FINANCIAL AID

**Financial aid – More need in smaller camps:** The Census asked respondents to report on the number of campers who requested financial aid and the number who received it, exclusive of the One Happy Camper® program. Nearly all (94%) campers requesting aid received it in both 2016 and in 2017 (restricting the calculation to the 133 camps reporting both figures).

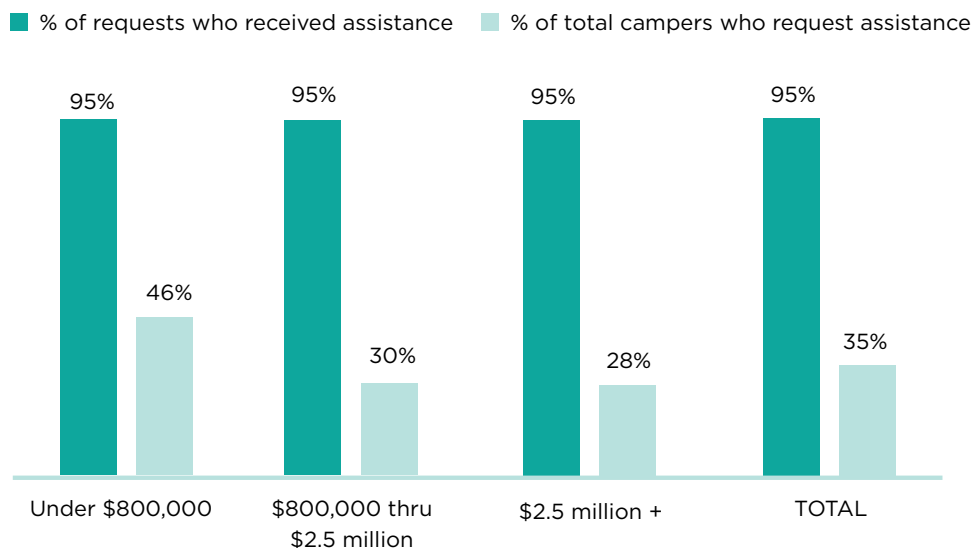
### Percentage of Campers Who Requested and Received Financial Assistance by Size of Camp



Throughout the network, 24,000 individuals or about 34% of total campers requested assistance.

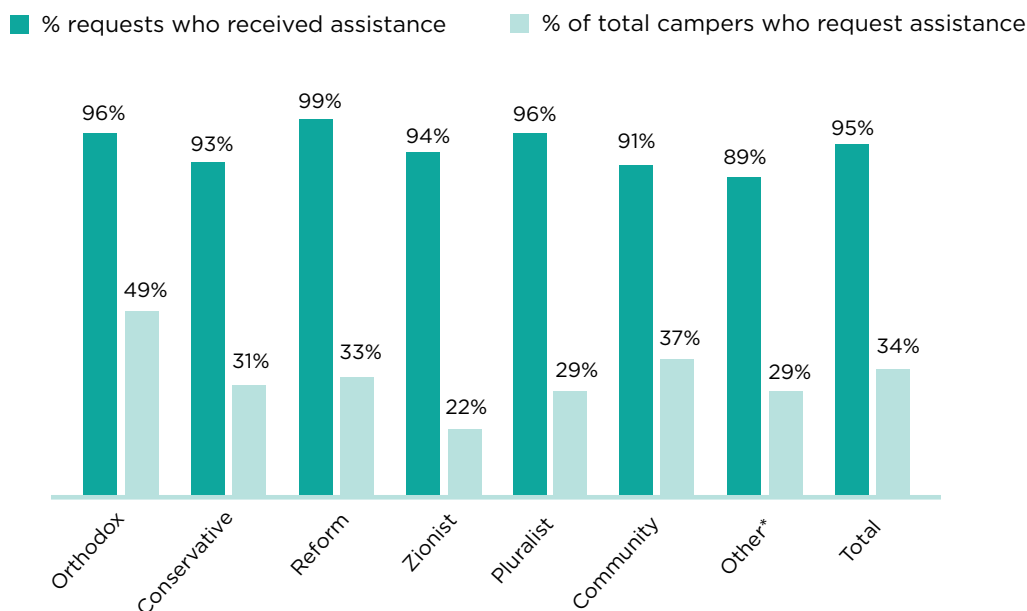


## Percentage of Campers Who Requested and Received Financial Assistance by Total Revenue



The percent “of need” (i.e., the fraction of campers requesting aid) is almost double in the smallest camps as in the larger camps, and, in parallel, far greater in camps with smaller budgets than those with larger revenue streams. Of all the movement camps, need levels are highest for Chabad, followed by the Orthodox (perhaps consistent with their higher reliance on fundraising). In contrast, Young Judaea is at the low end of the spectrum, but even so, 22% of campers requested aid. These figures are all consistent with what camps reported in 2016.

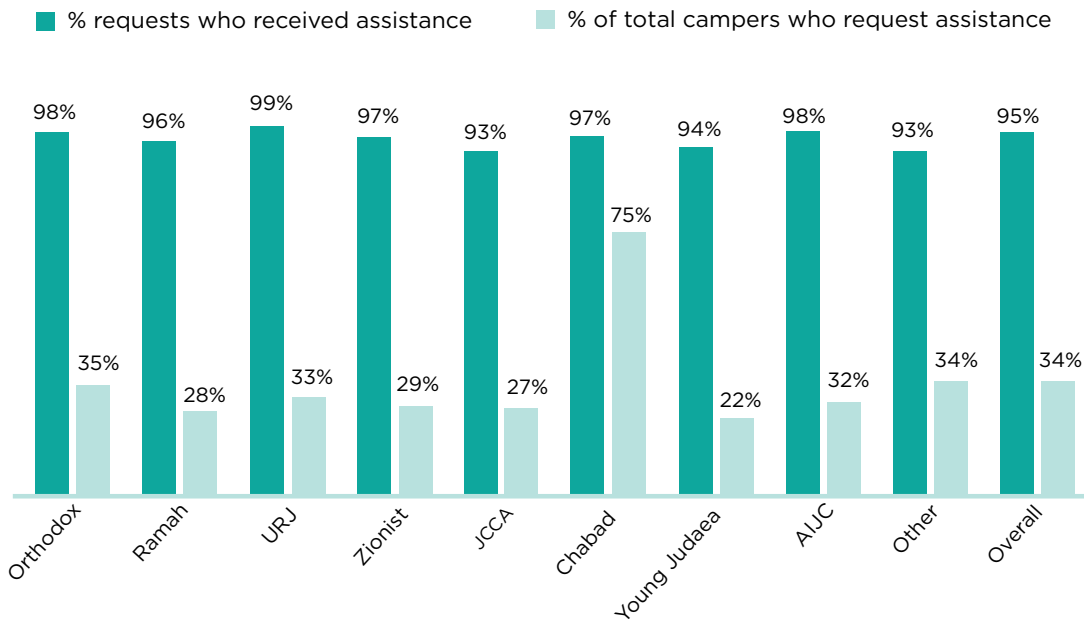
## Percentage of Campers Who Requested and Received Financial Assistance by Denomination



\*Other=Traditional, Secular, Sephardic & Reconstructionist

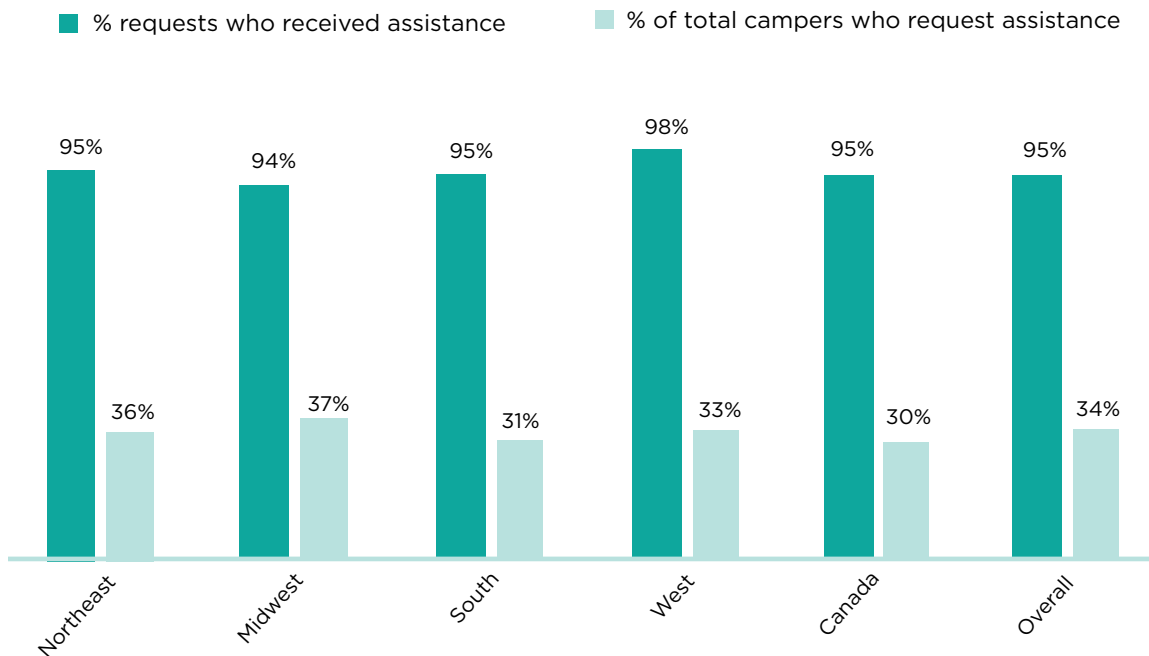


## Percentage of Campers Who Requested and Received Financial Assistance by Movement



Geographically, need levels are highest and lowest in the Northeast--highest in New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey (where the Orthodox camps are concentrated) and lowest in New England.

## Percentage of Campers Who Requested and Received Financial Assistance by Region



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Our profound thanks to the FJC Board of Directors whose support of research and data is critical to the success of the Foundation and of the field.

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Lastly, we would like to thank the 160 nonprofit Jewish overnight camps that offer over 90,000 campers and college-aged counselors transformative Jewish summer experiences, strengthening their connection to each other and their essential Jewishness.

*Please note that the usage of "interfaith marriage," "identify as Jewish," and "identify as [gender]" are language used by the Foundation for Jewish Camp. Prof. Steven M. Cohen prefers, "inter-group marriage," "in-marriage" and "Jews," respectively, in addition to "male" and "female".*

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

### **Professor Steven M. Cohen**

Steven M. Cohen is Research Professor of Jewish Social Policy at HUC-JIR, and Director of the Berman Jewish Policy Archive at Stanford University. In 1992 he made aliyah, and taught at The Hebrew University, having previously taught at Queens College, Yale, and JTS.

Among his books are *The Jew Within* (with Arnold Eisen), *Two Worlds of Judaism: The Israeli and American Experience* (with Charles Liebman), and *Sacred Strategies: Transforming Synagogues from Functional to Visionary* (with Isa Aron, Lawrence Hoffman and Ari Kelman, Isa Aron, Lawrence A. Hoffman). He was the lead researcher on the Jewish Community Study of New York: 2011, and consultant to the Pew studies of American Jews and Israeli society.

Prof. Cohen received an honorary doctorate from the Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, the Marshall Sklare Award, and a National Jewish Book Award, and served as president of the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry, 2012-16.

Married to Rabbi Marion Lev-Cohen, Steven and Marion live in Tel Aviv and New York.



# ABOUT THE FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CAMP

The key to the Jewish future is Jewish camp. We know from research – and nearly two decades’ experience – that this is where young people find Jewish role models and create enduring Jewish friendships. It’s where they forge a vital, lifelong connection to their essential Jewishness.

Suddenly, all those Shabbat song sessions and campfire stories take on new importance – and urgency. So we’re devoted to helping Jewish camps and summer programs thrive. We gather data, build new programs, provide operational support and help recruit campers. We’ve elevated camp management into a true profession. And we work to elevate Jewish camp on the cultural and philanthropic agenda.

In short, our mission is to help Jewish camps achieve their mission: to create transformative experiences – and the Jewish future.

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