

HISTORICAL ESTIMATES OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH POPULATION: 1660-2000

Just as the first issue of the *American Jewish Year Book* in 1899 provided historical estimates of the American Jewish population, so too we offer them. The following table is based on data provided by Sarna (2004), who drew on resources from Marcus (1990) and Diamond (1977).

Year	Estimated Number of Jews (Low-high)	Jews as a Percentage of Total Population
1660	50	---
1700	200-300	---
1776	1,000-2,500	.04-.10
1790	1,300-3,000	.03-.08
1800	2,500	.04
1820	2,650-3,000	.03
1830	4,000-6,000	.03-.05
1840	15,000	.09
1850	50,000	.22
1860	125,000-200,000	.40-.63
1880	230,000-300,000	.46-.60
1890	400,000-475,000	.64-.75
1900	938,000-1,058,000	1.23-1.39
1910	1,508,000-2,044,000	1.63-2.22
1920	3,300,000-3,600,000	3.12-3.41
1930	4,228,000-4,400,000	3.44-3.58
1940	4,771,000-4,831,000	3.63-3.68
1950	4,500,000-5,000,000	2.98-3.31
1960	5,367,000-5,531,000	2.99-3.08
1970	5,370,000-6,000,000	2.64-2.95
1980	5,500,000-5,921,000	2.42-2.61
1990	5,515,000-5,981,000	2.24-2.43
2000	5,340,000-6,155,000	1.90-2.20

Sources: Jonathan D. Sarna (2004). *American Judaism* (New Haven: Yale University Press).

**ESTIMATES OF THE JEWISH POPULATION FOR STATES
AND CONTINENTAL TERRITORIES OF THE UNITED STATES, 1899**

The following estimates by State are given, being based with a few modifications on the tables of Mr. D. Sulzberger:

State	Population	State	Population
Alabama	6,000	Missouri	35,000
Arizona	2,000	Montana	2,500
Arkansas	4,000	Nebraska	2,000
California	35,000	Nevada	2,500
Colorado	10,500	New Hampshire	1,000
Connecticut	6,000	New Jersey	25,000
N. and S. Dakota	3,500	New Mexico	2,000
Delaware	3,000	New York	400,000
District of Columbia	3,500	North Carolina	12,000
Florida	2,500	Ohio	50,000
Georgia	7,000	Oregon	6,000
Idaho	2,000	Pennsylvania	95,000
Illinois	95,000	Rhode Island	3,500
Indiana	25,000	South Carolina	8,000
Iowa	5,000	Tennessee	15,000
Kansas	3,500	Texas	15,000
Kentucky	12,000	Utah	5,000
Louisiana	20,000	Vermont	1,000
Maine	5,000	Virginia	18,000
Maryland	35,000	Washington	2,800
Massachusetts	20,000	West Virginia	6,000
Michigan	9,000	Wisconsin	10,000
Minnesota	6,000	Wyoming	1,000
Mississippi	5,000	Total	1,043,800

Source: *American Jewish Year Book* (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1899): 284.

TABLE 1
JEWISH POPULATION IN THE UNITED STATES, 2010 BY STATE

State	Number of Jews	Total Population *	Percentage Jewish
Alabama	8,900	4,708,708	0.2%
Alaska	6,200	698,473	0.9%
Arizona	106,400	6,595,778	1.6%
Arkansas	1,725	2,889,450	0.1%
California	1,219,740	36,961,664	3.3%
Colorado	90,120	5,024,748	1.8%
Connecticut	119,280	3,518,288	3.4%
Delaware	15,100	885,122	1.7%
Washington, D.C.	28,000	599,657	4.7%
Florida	613,235	18,537,969	3.3%
Georgia	127,670	9,829,211	1.3%
Hawai'i	8,280	1,295,178	0.6%
Idaho	1,625	1,545,801	0.1%
Illinois	278,420	12,910,409	2.2%
Indiana	17,420	6,423,113	0.3%
Iowa	6,190	3,007,856	0.2%
Kansas	17,875	2,818,747	0.6%
Kentucky	11,350	4,314,113	0.3%
Louisiana	10,675	4,492,076	0.2%
Maine	13,915	1,318,301	1.1%
Maryland	241,050	5,699,478	4.2%
Massachusetts	282,455	6,593,587	4.3%
Michigan	87,270	9,969,727	0.9%
Minnesota	46,685	5,266,214	0.9%
Mississippi	1,550	2,951,996	0.1%
Missouri	59,200	5,987,580	1.0%
Montana	1,350	974,989	0.1%
Nebraska	6,850	1,796,619	0.4%
Nevada	74,400	2,643,085	2.8%
New Hampshire	10,170	1,324,575	0.8%
New Jersey	504,500	8,707,739	5.8%
New Mexico	11,250	2,009,671	0.6%
New York	1,624,720	19,541,453	8.3%
North Carolina	29,810	9,380,884	0.3%
North Dakota	400	646,844	0.1%
Ohio	148,355	11,542,645	1.3%
Oklahoma	4,500	3,687,050	0.1%
Oregon	48,350	3,825,657	1.3%
Pennsylvania	295,050	12,604,767	2.3%
Rhode Island	18,750	1,053,209	1.8%
South Carolina	11,245	4,561,242	0.2%
South Dakota	395	812,383	0.0%
Tennessee	19,550	6,296,254	0.3%
Texas	130,170	24,782,302	0.5%
Utah	5,000	2,784,572	0.2%
Vermont	5,385	621,760	0.9%
Virginia	97,790	7,882,590	1.2%
Washington	43,835	6,664,195	0.7%
West Virginia	2,335	1,819,777	0.1%
Wisconsin	28,330	5,654,774	0.5%
Wyoming	1,000	544,270	0.2%
Total	6,543,820	307,006,550	2.1%
* Source: Population Finder at www.census.gov			

TABLE 2 JEWISH POPULATION IN THE UNITED STATES, 2010 BY REGION					
Region	Total Population		Jewish Population		Percentage Distribution
	Number	Percentage Distribution	Number	Percentage Distribution	
Northeast	55,283,679	18.0%	2,874,225	43.9%	
Middle Atlantic	40,853,959	13.3%	2,424,270	37.0%	
New England	14,429,720	4.7%	449,955	6.9%	
Midwest	66,836,911	21.8%	697,390	10.7%	
East North Central	46,500,668	15.1%	559,795	8.6%	
West North Central	20,336,243	6.6%	137,595	2.1%	
South	113,317,879	36.9%	1,354,655	20.7%	
East South Central	18,271,071	6.0%	41,350	0.6%	
South Atlantic	59,195,930	19.3%	1,166,235	17.8%	
West South Central	35,850,878	11.7%	147,070	2.2%	
West	71,568,081	23.3%	1,617,550	24.7%	
Mountain	22,122,914	7.2%	291,145	4.4%	
Pacific	49,445,167	16.1%	1,326,405	20.3%	
Total	307,006,550	100.0%	6,543,820	100.0%	