

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

A CENSUS OF JEWISH DAY SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES

2008-09

This census of the Jewish day schools in the United States covers the 2008-09 school year. It is a follow-up to the comprehensive studies of 1998-99 and 2003-04, both conducted by Dr. Marvin Schick and sponsored by The AVI CHAI Foundation.

The statistics in this census include grade by grade enrollments for every Jewish day school in the United States.

- There were 228,174 students in Jewish elementary and secondary schools—the four-year-old level through grade 12—in the 2008–09 school year. This represents an increase of 23,000 or 11% from 2003–04, and an increase of more than 43,000 or nearly 25% since 1998–99. There continues to be significant growth in day school enrollment.
- Orthodox day school enrollment continues to grow significantly—a 56% increase in Chassidic schools and a 34% increase in Yeshiva-world schools over the past ten years—in large part due to high fertility rates.
- Community day schools continue to demonstrate growth, both in the number of schools—98 in 2008–09 as compared to 75 in 1998–99—and enrollment, which has grown by more than 40% over the past decade. Of note is the increase in Community day high schools, which generates a significant increase in the number of students in non-Orthodox high schools.
- The difficulties facing the Conservative movement can be seen in the nearly 25% decrease in enrollment over the past ten years.
- Overall, enrollment in non-Orthodox schools is down 2.5% since 2003-04, yet is still 5% higher than it was in 1998–99.
- Outreach and immigrant schools, which tend to serve more Judaically-at-risk populations, have lost enrollment, most likely due to a diminishing pool of potential students.
- Outside of New York and New Jersey, 47% of day school students are enrolled in non-Orthodox schools.
- Five out of six day school students in the United States are in Orthodox schools.

A full report and analysis will be available in both hard copy and online in Fall 2009.

Because the data collection was conducted during the past school year, so that enrollment in all likelihood was not affected by the severe economic downturn that occurred after the school year began, additional research is being conducted early in the new school year to determine whether the economic situation has had an impact on enrollment.

TABLE 1: ENROLLMENT IN JEWISH DAY SCHOOLS, 2008-09

Classification	# of Schools	4 Yr. Olds	5 Yr. Olds	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Centrist Orthodox	72	1,271	1,447	1,340	1,357	1,249	1,241
Chabad	73	1,023	1,298	1,253	1,045	1,136	1,010
Chassidic	105	5,003	7,230	5,236	5,128	4,636	4,443
Community	98	869	1,983	1,844	1,849	1,774	1,718
Immigrant/Outreach	24	255	243	228	219	203	228
Modern Orthodox	86	1,981	2,433	2,498	2,405	2,396	2,268
Reform	17	569	666	499	552	527	539
Solomon Schechter	50	628	1,510	1,450	1,433	1,423	1,324
Special Education	33	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yeshiva	244	3,918	5,658	5,560	5,273	4,992	4,828
Total	802	15,517	22,468	19,908	19,261	18,336	17,599
Percentage of Total	-	6.801%	9.847%	8.725%	8.441%	8.036%	7.713%

TABLE 2: COMPARISON OF THE 1998-99, 2003-04 AND 2008-09 DATA

Classification	1998	% of 1998 total	2003	% of 2003 total	2008	% of 2008 total
Centrist Orthodox	20,504	11.12%	18,696	9.12%	17,650	7.74%
Chabad	7,438	4.04%	8,609	4.20%	12,296	5.39%
Chassidic	39,059	21.19%	48,446	23.63%	60,955	26.71%
Community	14,849	8.06%	17,416	8.49%	20,838	9.13%
Immigrant/Outreach	5,136	2.79%	4,823	2.35%	3,432	1.50%
Modern Orthodox	26,961	14.63%	28,720	14.01%	29,397	12.88%
Reform	4,485	2.43%	4,462	2.18%	4,569	2.00%
Solomon Schechter	17,563	9.53%	17,702	8.63%	13,223	5.80%
Special Education	695	0.38%	1,780	0.87%	1,829	0.80%
Yeshiva	47,643	25.85%	54,381	26.52%	63,985	28.04%
Total	184,333	100.00%	205,035	100.00%	228,174	100.00%

5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	Special Ed.	Total
1,176	1,172	1,172	1,075	1,326	1,288	1,277	1,209	50	17,650
998	890	878	828	569	530	488	349	1	12,296
4,375	4,128	4,104	3,846	3,673	3,164	3,171	2,818	-	60,955
1,683	1,506	1,502	1,371	1,205	1,259	1,130	1,128	17	20,838
211	250	213	264	290	290	284	254	-	3,432
2,298	2,239	2,195	2,156	1,642	1,650	1,584	1,633	19	29,397
466	324	206	180	-	-	-	-	41	4,569
1,357	1,178	1,076	973	193	248	213	217	-	13,223
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,829	1,829
4,622	4,481	4,095	4,125	4,222	4,224	4,029	3,790	168	63,985
17,186	16,168	15,441	14,818	13,120	12,653	12,176	11,398	2,125	228,174
7.532%	7.086%	6.767%	6.494%	5.750%	5.545%	5.336%	4.995%	0.931%	-

change 2003-08	% change 2003-08	change 1998-08	% change 1998-08	1998 # of Schools	2003 # of Schools	2008 # of Schools
-1,046	-5.60%	-2,854	-13.92%	80	78	72
3,687	42.83%	4,858	65.31%	44	54	73
12,509	25.82%	21,896	56.06%	81	101	105
3,422	19.65%	5,989	40.33%	75	95	98
-1,391	-28.84%	-1,704	-33.18%	31	30	24
677	2.36%	2,436	9.04%	92	87	86
107	2.40%	84	1.87%	20	19	17
-4,479	-25.30%	-4,340	-24.71%	63	57	50
187	10.51%	1,272	183.02%	18	43	33
9,604	17.66%	16,342	34.30%	172	195	244
23,277	11.35%	43,979	23.86%	676	759	802