

FORMER SOVIET UNION SUPPLEMENT

Introduction

Our main sample yielded 35 interviews that included at least one adult member who was born in the Former Soviet Union (FSU). We conducted an additional set of interviews in order to ensure the inclusion of a sufficient number of Russian Jewish households. A supplemental sample of 2,105 records with distinctive Russian Jewish names (RJNs) was selected from the 36,824 Federation List records not selected earlier for the main survey sample. Sixteen interviews were completed with persons from this sample.¹ **Because of its modest size and the experimental nature of RJN sampling, results from these 51 Russian Jewish households should be considered exploratory and suggestive and should not be compared with the results of the main survey. The results presented here describe the Russian Jewish households interviewed and are not intended to be considered a definitive portrait of the Russian-born Jewish community in the Greater Philadelphia area. In this supplement, it is hoped that issues and questions identified in this small sample will suggest areas for future inquiry.**

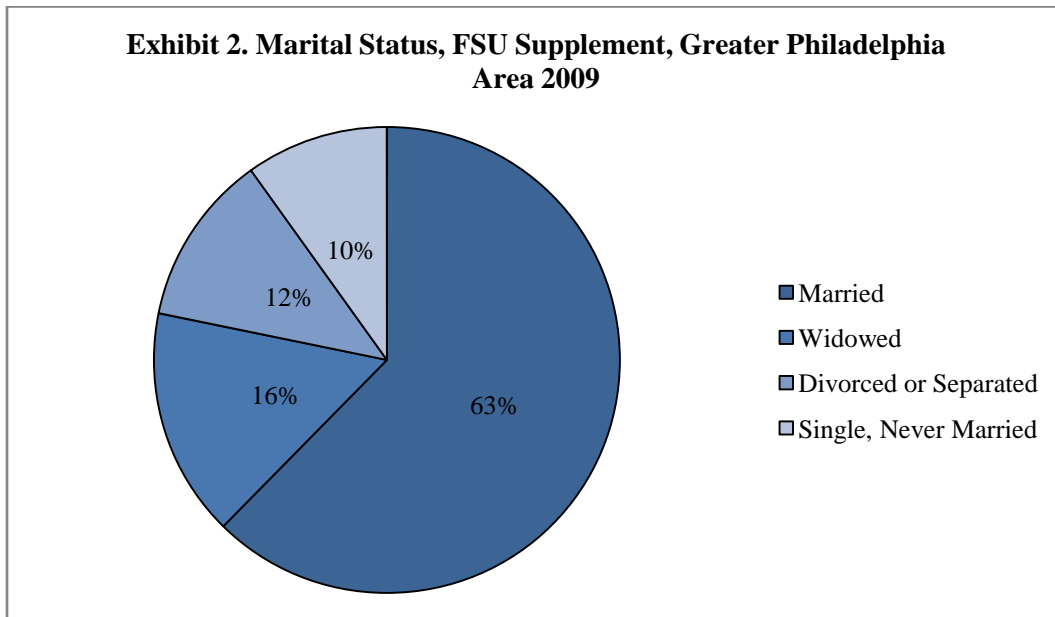
The same 2009 Greater Philadelphia survey questionnaire was used. Those households were similarly screened to verify their status as Jewish households and, also, to ensure that an adult member was born in the FSU. Details about the areas examined in the survey are fully described in the main report.

Description of Respondents

Over half of respondents [59%] were female. The median age was 54 years old. The majority [63%] were married; 3 [6%] had interfaith marriages. Of the 51 respondents, 45 [88%] identified their religion as Jewish, 4 [8%] reported no religion, 1 person refused to answer, and 1 person was not Jewish. In terms of self-identified denomination, 5 respondents [10%] identified as Orthodox, 8 [16%] as Conservative and 15 [29%] as Reform Jews (Exhibits 1, 2).

Exhibit 1. Characteristics of Respondents, FSU Supplement, Greater Philadelphia Area 2009		
	n	%
Female gender	30	59
Age (Median)	54 years old	
18-39	7	14
40-61	23	45
62+	21	41
Married	32	63
Intermarried	3	6
Jewish Religion*	45	88
Denomination*		
Orthodox	5	10
Conservative	8	16
Reform	15	29
Traditional	5	10
Secular	6	12
No Denomination/ Just Jewish	11	22

*One respondent (2%) was not asked about Jewish religion or Denomination because they did not identify as Jewish.
 Note: Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding



The majority of respondents had some college education. Specifically, 22 [43%] had a graduate degree, 17 [33%] had a Bachelor’s Degree, 3 [6%] had some college, and 9 [18%] had a high school diploma or technical certificate. Slightly more than half of respondents were working at least part time [55%].

Household composition

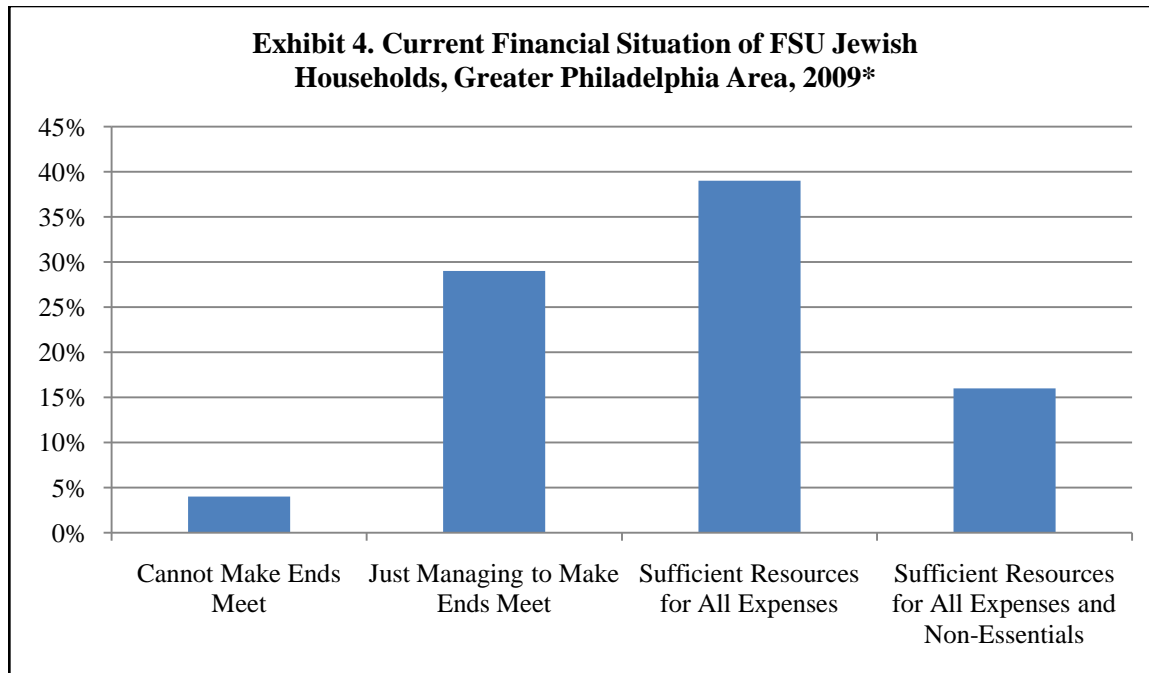
Household composition may be described as follows: 2 [4%] were single with children and 7 [14%] were single without children. Nine [18%] were married/partnered with children, and 10 [20%] were married or partnered without children. Eight [16%] were 62+ and living alone and 13[26%] were 62+ and living with others. (Household composition information was not available for 2 households [4%].) Overall, 14 households [28%] had children living in the household.

Household Income, Financial stability

Over half reported household incomes under \$50,000, with 29% reporting household incomes under \$25,000. Nine [20%] reported household incomes over \$100,000 (Exhibit 3).

Exhibit 3. Reported Annual Household Income, FSU Jewish Households, Greater Philadelphia Area 2009*	
Annual Household Income	Number (%)
< \$25,000	13 (29)
\$25,000-\$50,000	10 (22)
\$50,000-\$75,000	8 (18)
\$75,000-\$100,000	5 (11)
>\$100,000	9 (20)
Median Household Income	\$65,000
*Base: Households reporting income; refusers excluded (n=6)	

In terms of self-reported financial stability, close to-one third reported that they are just managing or cannot make ends meet [17 respondents, 33%]. Twenty [39%] have sufficient income to meet their needs, and 8 [16%] have resources for all their needs (Exhibit 4).



*12% of respondents (n=6) answered 'don't know'.

Immigration, Geography and Mobility

All 51 of the respondents were born in what has become known as the FSU.² The majority [57%] immigrated to the United States between 1990 and 2000. Nineteen [38%] immigrated to the United States before 1990³ (Exhibit 5).

Exhibit 5. Decade of Respondent Immigration to United States, FSU Respondents, Greater Philadelphia Area, 2009		
Date of Immigration to United States	n	%
Before 1970	1	2
1970 to 1979	8	16
1980 to 1989	10	20
1990 to 1999	29	57
2000 to 2009	2	4

Note: 2% (n=1) of respondents did not give immigration data.

Before moving to the Greater Philadelphia area, 39 respondents [76%] lived in the Former Soviet Union (Exhibit 6).

Exhibit 6. Place of Prior Residence of FSU Respondents in Jewish Households, Greater Philadelphia Area, 2009		
Place Of Previous Residence	n	%
United States	9	18
• Other Pennsylvania	4	8
• Other States	5	10
Outside of the United States	41	80
• Former Soviet Union	39	76
• Israel	1	2
• Other	1	2

Note: 2% (n=1) of respondents did not give immigration data.

Only 9 respondents provided information about the length of tenure in the Greater Philadelphia area. However, all respondents provided information about the length of tenure at their current address. Almost half [47%] reported living at their current address between 10 and 19 years (Exhibit 7).

Exhibit 7. Tenure at Current Address, FSU Respondents, Greater Philadelphia Area, 2009		
Tenure at Current Address	n	%
0-9 Years	19	37
10-19 Years	24	47
20-29 Years	8	16

The largest group of FSU respondents [45%] surveyed resides in Northeast Philadelphia. Twenty respondents [39%] reside within the area of the Bucks Kehillah (Exhibit 8).

Exhibit 8. Current Residence of Persons in Jewish FSU Households, by Kehillah and Northeast, Greater Philadelphia Area, 2009		
Kehillah	n	%
Bucks Kehillah	20	39
Old York Road Kehillah	3	6
Northeast Philadelphia ⁴	23	45
Other	5	10

Jewish Affiliation and Identity

Jewish affiliation and identity questions sought to understand both the formal and informal connections of Jewish households. In this sample, 19 [37%] reported belonging to a synagogue.⁵ Nine [18%] reported that financial cost prevented them from belonging to a temple or synagogue.

Looking at attendance at religious services in the past year, 21 [41%] reported attending Jewish religious services *only* on the High Holidays and 11 [22%] reported *never* attending Jewish religious services in past 12 months.

Exhibit 9 describes the percent of FSU sample households who *always or usually* observed or participated in each ritual activity. Sixteen households [31%] always or usually light Sabbath candles on Friday night. Thirty seven [73%] reported that they always or usually participate in a Passover Seder. Thirty-one [61%] reported that they always or usually fast on Yom Kippur. Thirty-seven [73%] always or usually light Hanukkah candles. Ten [20%] reported that they kept a Kosher home.

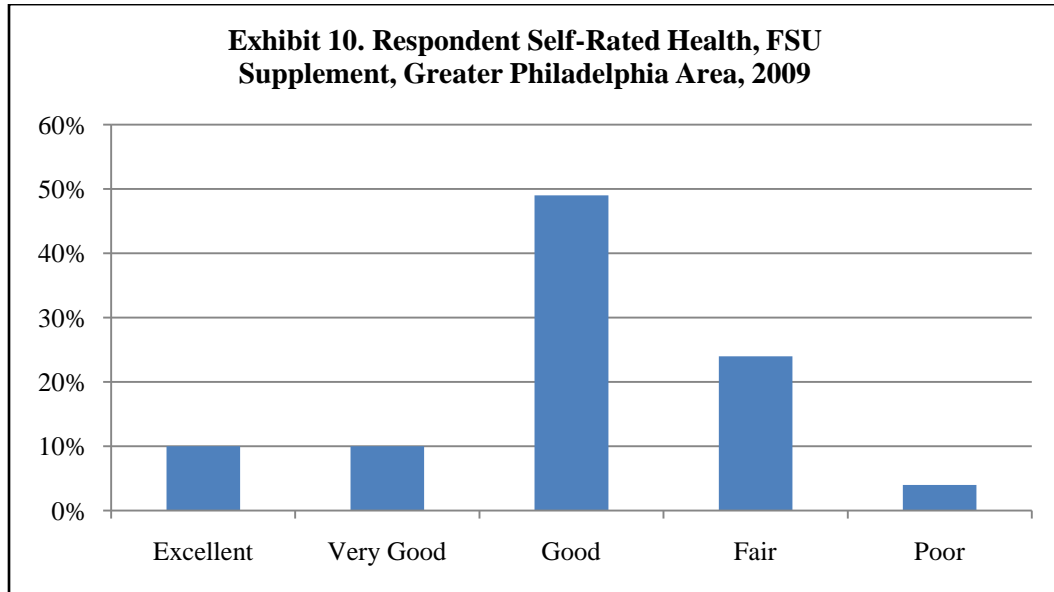
Exhibit 9. Jewish Ritual Observance, FSU Supplement, Greater Philadelphia Area, 2009		
Jewish Ritual Activity	Percent of Households which Always/ Usually Observe Jewish Rituals	
	n	%
Light Sabbath Candles	16	31
Participate in a Passover Seder	37	73
Fast on Yom Kippur	31	61
Light Hanukkah Candles	37	73
Keep Kosher Inside the Home*	10	20

*The percentage includes households that reported keeping Kosher, but had made dietary changes.

Responses to the importance of being Jewish, the importance of being part of the local Jewish community and attachment to Israel, yielded a range of responses. Forty [80%] reported that being Jewish was *very important* to them. However, 16 [32%] reported that being part of the local Jewish community was *very important* to them. Attachment to Israel was high in this sample, with 37 [74%] reporting that they were *very emotionally attached* to Israel.

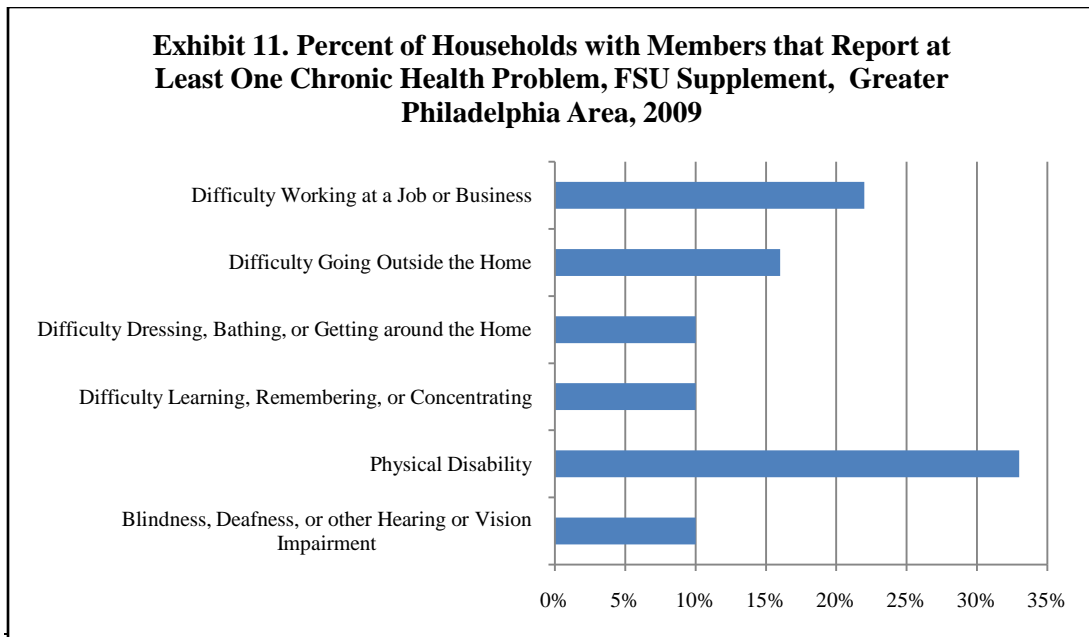
Health and Social Service Needs

The majority of respondents reported their health as good to excellent. Ten respondents [20%] reported their health as excellent to very good. Twenty five [49%] reported their health as good; 14 [27%] reported their health to be fair to poor (Exhibit 10).



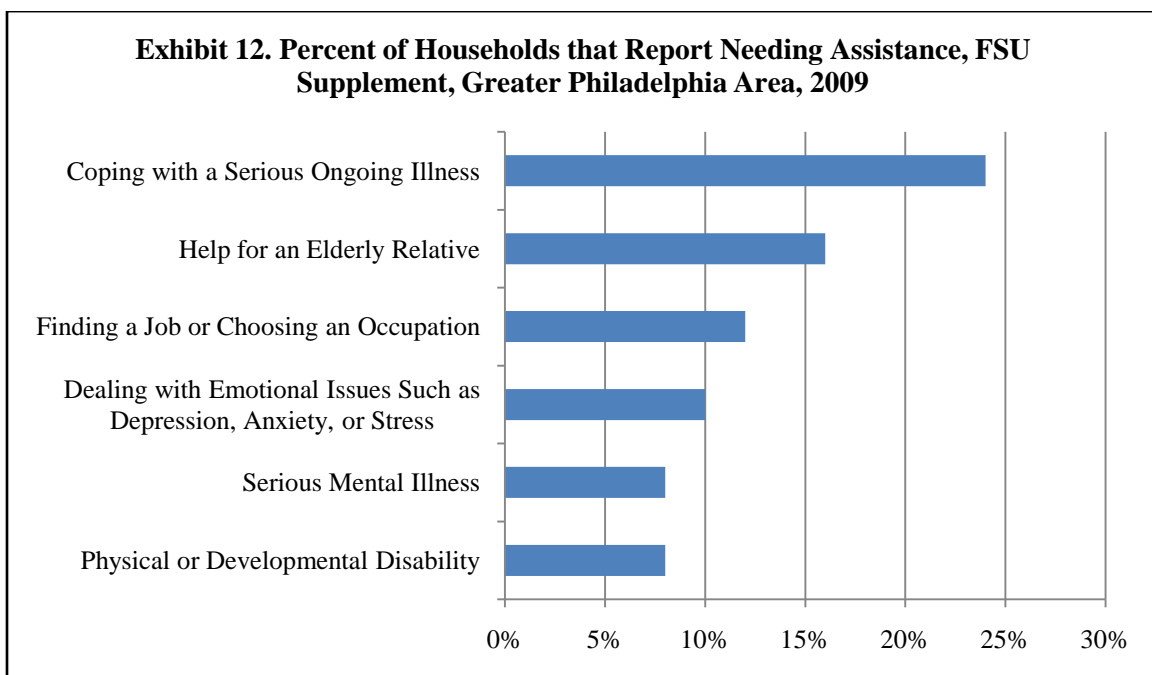
Thirteen households [26%] are involved in organizing care for aging family member and 5 respondents [10%] say they need help themselves.

We asked respondents if someone in the household had a health condition that lasted at least six months. Seventeen [33%] reported that someone in the household had a condition that substantially limited one or more basic physical activities; 5 [10%] reported a hearing or vision impairment, 5 [10%] reported difficulty learning, remembering, or concentrating; and 5 [10%] reported difficulty with dressing, bathing or getting around inside the home. Additionally, because of a chronic condition, eight respondents [16%] reported that someone in the household had difficulty going outside the home alone and 11 [22%] with difficulty working at job or business (Exhibit 11).



Seeking Help of Assistance for Health and Social Service Needs

In the past 12 months, 12 respondents [24%] reported that someone in the household sought help in coping with a serious ongoing physical illness, 5 [10%] sought help dealing with depression, anxiety, stress, an eating disorder or emotional or relationship issues, and 4 [8%] sought help for someone in household with serious mental illness. Another 4 [8%] sought help for assistance related to physical or developmental disability for adult and 1 person [2%] reported that they sought related to an adult with a drug or alcohol problem. In terms of social services, 8 [16%] sought help for an elderly relative, and 6 [12%] sought help in finding a job or choosing an occupation (Exhibit 12).



Health Risk Factors

Health risk factors are of high interest to Federation and important in identifying vulnerable households. In the past year, 3 households [6%] in the FSU sample had to cut the size of meals, 7 [14%] reported that financial cost prevented someone in their household from obtaining medical care and 12 households [24%] received food stamps (Exhibit 13).

Exhibit 13. Percent of Households Reporting Specific Health Risk Factors, FSU Supplement, Greater Philadelphia Area, 2009	
Risk Factor	Total FSU Households Reporting Yes %
In the past 12 months, have you had to cut the size of your meals or skip meals for financial reasons?	6
In the past 5 years, has financial cost prevented you or your family from obtaining medical or counseling services?	14
Do you or anyone in your house receive food stamps?	24

Future Concerns

Respondents were asked about future concerns related to being able to live independently and being able to care for parents or relatives. Twenty-eight percent of respondents reported being very concerned about being able to live independently and 39% reported being very concerned about being able to take care of parents or relatives. Similar percentages of the sample were not really concerned about either (Exhibit 14).

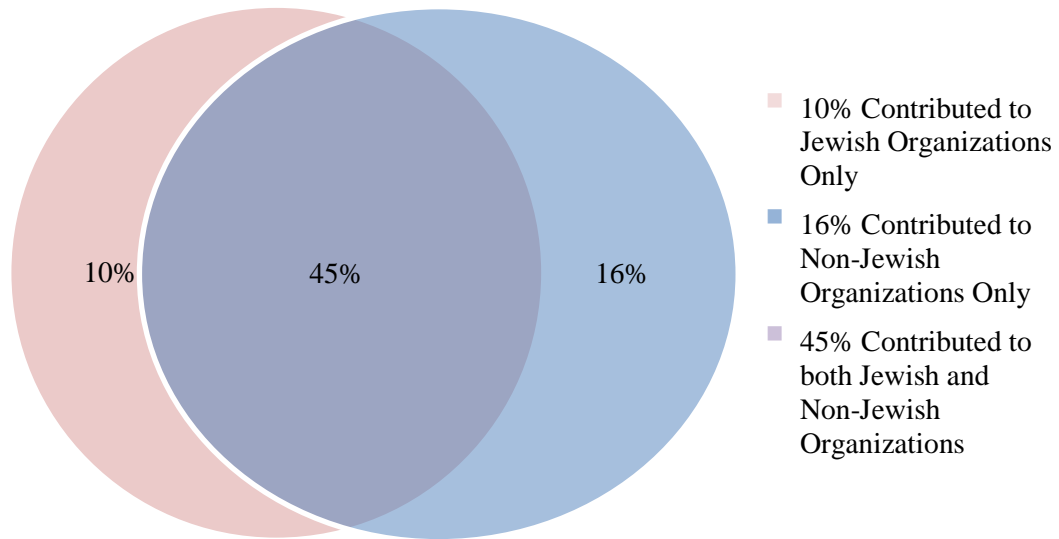
Exhibit 13. Other Social Concerns Within the Jewish Population, FSU Supplement, Greater Philadelphia Area, 2009			
	Very Concerned %	Somewhat Concerned %	Not Really Concerned %
Being Able to Live Independently in Later Life	28	39	28
Being Able to Take Care of Parents or Relatives who Need Help	39	24	37

Note: Total does not equal 100% because 3 respondents [6%] reported don't know or refused to answer

Charitable Contributions

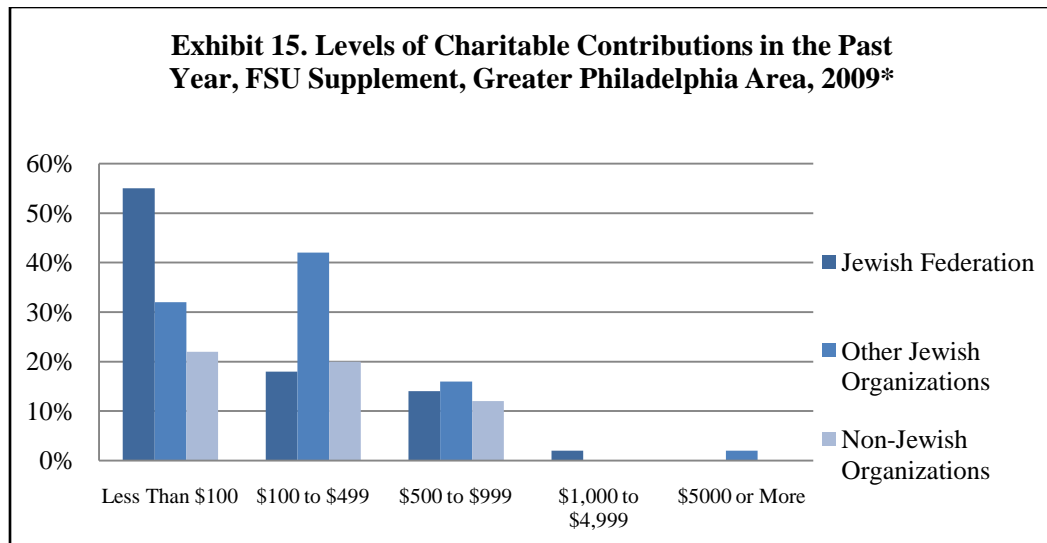
The majority of the FSU sample [71%] reported that they had made charitable contributions in the past year. Five households [10%] contributed to Jewish organizations only, 8 [16%] to non-Jewish organization only and 23 households [45%] contributed to both Jewish and non-Jewish organizations (Exhibit 14).

Exhibit 14. Contributions to Charitable Organizations in the Past Year, FSU Supplement, Greater Philadelphia Area, 2009



*29% of FSU Jewish Households did not contribute to any charitable organization.

In Exhibit 15 we break out donations to Federation, to other Jewish organizations, and to non-Jewish organizations. Twenty-two households [43%] reported that they had given to the Federation within the past 12 months. Of those households, 12 [55%] gave less than \$100; 4 [18%] donated between \$100 and \$499; 3 [14%] between \$500 and \$999 and 1 [5%] gave between \$1,000 and \$5000. The majority of households gave under \$500 to other Jewish organizations.



*Base: Only households that reported giving to a charitable organizations in past year. 9% of respondents answered don't know/refused in regards to contributions to Jewish Federation, 5% in regards to Jewish Organizations, and 10% to Non-Jewish Organizations.

¹ One interview was conducted in Russian; the remainder were conducted in English. The sample of 51 interviews was derived from these frames: 30(58.8%) Federation List; 3(5.9%) Distinctive Jewish Name List (DJN); 12 (23.5%) Listed Random Digit Dial (Listed RDD); and 6 (11.8%) Unlisted RDD (Unlisted RDD).

² One respondent indicated that they migrated in 1922. We thank Allen Glicksman, PhD for pointing out that 1922 was the year the Soviet Union came into being so that that person did not come from the former Soviet Union.

³ Eleven respondents [22%] immigrated to the United States prior to 1985, and one respondent immigrated in 1922. See note above regarding 1922 and establishment of Soviet Union. For a more detailed discussion of immigration related to the Delaware Valley, see Singer A, Vitello D, Katz M, Park D. Recent Immigration to Philadelphia: Regional Change in a Re-Emerging Gateway. Metropolitan Policy Program at the Brookings Institute, November 2008.

⁴ Zip codes contained in Northeast Philadelphia sub-geography: 19111 (1 respondent), 19115 (10 respondents), 19116 (11 respondents), and 19152 (1 respondent).

⁵ Based on the limitations of the study in terms of sampling and sample size, this percentage may be inflated and, based on Federation experience, is unlikely to reflect synagogue membership in the larger Russian Jewish households in the Greater Philadelphia area.