



Will your grandchildren be **JEWISH?**

American Jews are facing an existential threat

The chances that American Jews will have Jewish grandchildren are becoming increasingly remote -

Why?

Rising intermarriage rates



of non-Orthodox marriages from 2005-2013 were *intermarriages*

In addition, there has been an increase in Jews that do not marry at all or marry but choose not to have children



American assimilation



of American Jews report that being Jewish is primarily a matter of *ancestry and culture*



of American Jews describe themselves as having *no religion at all*



Creativity

MUST BE USED IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE MAJORITY OF AMERICAN JEWS FROM FALLING OFF A "DEMOGRAPHIC CLIFF"

If the Jewish population trends continue, the current Non-Orthodox Jewish population in America will rapidly disappear



INTERMARRIAGE IS THE END OF JUDAISM

for almost all children of intermarried couples



of the children of **two Jewish parents marry Jews**



of the children of **intermarried couples marry Jews**



Analysis of the raw data of The Pew Report indicates that **INTERMARRIED FAMILIES ARE LESS LIKELY TO:**

- Provide any formal or informal Jewish education to their children
- Observe Jewish religious practices
- Identify as strongly with Israel
- Join a synagogue
- Contribute to Jewish charities
- Befriend other Jews

INTERMARRIAGE IS ONLY POSSIBLE

for those who actually get married



FIRST GENERATION

SECOND GENERATION

THIRD GENERATION

FOURTH GENERATION

The Future of American Jewry WILL YOUR GRANDCHILDREN BE JEWISH?

☒ = 10 PEOPLE

	SECULAR	REFORM	CONSERVATIVE	CENTRIST ORTHODOX*	HASIDIC/YESHIVA ORTHODOX
FIRST GENERATION	100	100	100	100	100
SECOND GENERATION	31	51	81	150	327
THIRD GENERATION	11	26	65	225	1039
FOURTH GENERATION	4	13	52	337	3398
INTERMARRIAGE RATE (PEW RESEARCH REPORT, 2013)	85%	79%	24%	2%	0%
AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN PER WOMAN (PEW RESEARCH REPORT, 2013)	1.45	1.73	1.82	2.96*	6.45*

INTERMARRIAGE RATE
(PEW RESEARCH REPORT, 2013)

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN PER WOMAN
(PEW RESEARCH REPORT, 2013)

Demographic trends indicate that significantly less Non-Orthodox Jews are getting married and/or having children

PERCENTAGE OF NON-ORTHODOX JEWS WHO ARE MARRIED:

AGES 25-39

AGES 40-44



Average fertility rate for ages 40-59:

2.1

4.1

1.8

1.7

1.5

General US public

Orthodox Jews

Conservative Jews

Reform Jews

Jews of No Religion

Activities that have proven to reduce all aspects of assimilation and increase Jewish continuity

JEWISH DAY SCHOOLS

The more years of attendance, the greater the success.

All research on Jewish education¹ indicates that a complete K-12 Orthodox Jewish Day School education is the most important factor in reducing assimilation and intermarriage

CAMPUS OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Create Jewish learning opportunities

including trips to Israel and bring additional resources to combat Anti-Israel and Anti-Semitic speech on campus



BIRTHRIGHT ISRAEL EXPERIENCE

Evidence² shows that for many participants, Birthright Israel improves Jewish identification and engagement:

46%
more likely to feel
connected to Israel

PARTICIPANTS WERE
51%
more likely than
non-participants to
be married to a Jew

35%
more likely to view
raising their children as
Jewish as **very important**



INTERNET AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The result of accessing websites with traditional Jewish content and engaging in Jewish social media have been shown to be an excellent source of Jewish education as well as serving as a gateway to other relationships that reduce assimilation and intermarriage

JEWISH SUMMER CAMP

A number of studies³ conducted over the past several years show clearly that the bonding experience of 'sleep away camp' creates lasting changes related to Jewish behavior and commitment



SOME OF THE PROMINENT JEWISH WEBSITES:

- Aish.com
- Chabad.org
- SimpleToRemember.com
- Shabbat.com
- GatewaysOnline.org
- PartnersInTorah.org

SOURCES AND ENDNOTES

Based on:

"Will Your Grandchildren Be Jewish? - Revisited II" - an analysis of the raw data of *The Pew Research Report* by Antony Gordon and Richard M. Horowitz

FULL REPORT ON THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES:

- aish.com/jw/s/Will-Your-Grandchildren-Be-Jews.html
- simpletoremember.com/articles/a/WillYourGrandchildrenBeJews
- issuu.com/orthodoxunion/docs/winter_2016-web

ENDNOTES:

1. **The impact of varieties of Jewish Education upon Jewish Identity: An Inter-Generational Perspective.** Brandeis University Press, 2007;
2. **"The Impact of Birthright Israel"** 2010 Update, February, 2011, Brandeis University
3. **"Camp Works"** - Foundation for Jewish Camp, 2011; **"The Jewish Learning Presence in JCC Day Camps."** JCC Research Center, March 10, 2011.

Presented by

