

# MYTHS AND FACTS

## about Jewish poverty in the United States

The data included below, referencing national studies as well as local research commissioned by the Jewish community, reveal significant challenges related to poverty within the Jewish community.

Compared to the volume of data on overall poverty in the US, **data on Jewish poverty is extremely limited**. As such, in certain cases below, local data is included where national data would be preferable to achieve a comprehensive understanding of the issue. The Jewish Poverty Affinity Group and its partners are committed to improving the data available, with the goal of better serving low-income Jewish individuals and families around the country.

### TAKE ACTION

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO GET INVOLVED, VISIT

<https://www.jfunders.org/poverty-affinity-group>

OR SCAN THE QR CODE →



TO REVIEW THE FULL REPORT ON JEWISH POVERTY IN THE UNITED STATES, VISIT

<https://hjweinbergfoundation.org/jewish-poverty-in-the-us>

## MYTH #1:

Jewish poverty in the United States is declining.

### FACTS:

Based on two national studies,

**16%–20%**

of Jewish households  
earn less than

**\$30,000 per year**

Sources: (1) *A Portrait of Jewish Americans*, Pew Research Center and (2) *Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion*, American Jewish Committee

From 1991 to 2011, the number of people living in **low-income Jewish households in New York City**, defined as less than 150% of the federal poverty guideline or \$33,000 for a family of four,

**DOUBLED**

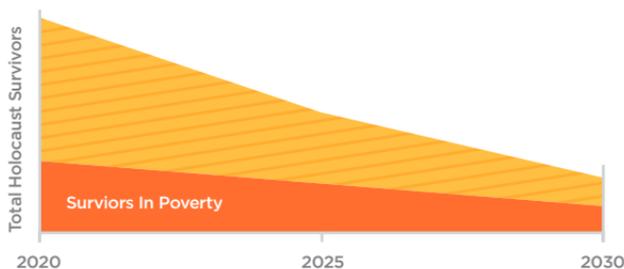
from 179,500 to 361,100

Source: *Jewish Community Study of New York: 2011 Special Report on Poverty*, UJA-Federation of New York

## MYTH #2:

Sadly, with the passage of time, the number of Holocaust survivors is diminishing. Therefore, so are the needs of survivors living in poverty.

### FACTS:



There are **80,000** survivors living in the US, and **28,000** are low-income—defined as below the federal poverty guideline or \$12,140 for an individual.

While the overall number of survivors will steadily decline as survivors age, the **number of survivors in poverty is expected to decline at a slower pace.**

Source: Claims Conference

## MYTH #3:

Jewish poverty exists almost exclusively in the Ultra-orthodox community.

### FACTS:

There are 196,100 low-income\* Jewish households in New York City, consisting of

**16%** Ultra-orthodox households

**32%** Russian speaking households (includes older adults)

**52%** Neither ultra-orthodox nor Russian speaking

Of those 196,100 households, these sub-populations have particularly high rates of poverty:

**67%** of households that include a **person with a disability**

**38%** of **single-parent** households

**30%** of households that include an **unemployed or underemployed** individual

**18%** of **older adult** households

\*Here, low-income is defined as less than 250% of the federal poverty guideline or \$55,000 for a family of four  
Source: Jewish Community Study of New York: 2011 Special Report on Poverty, UJA-Federation of New York