

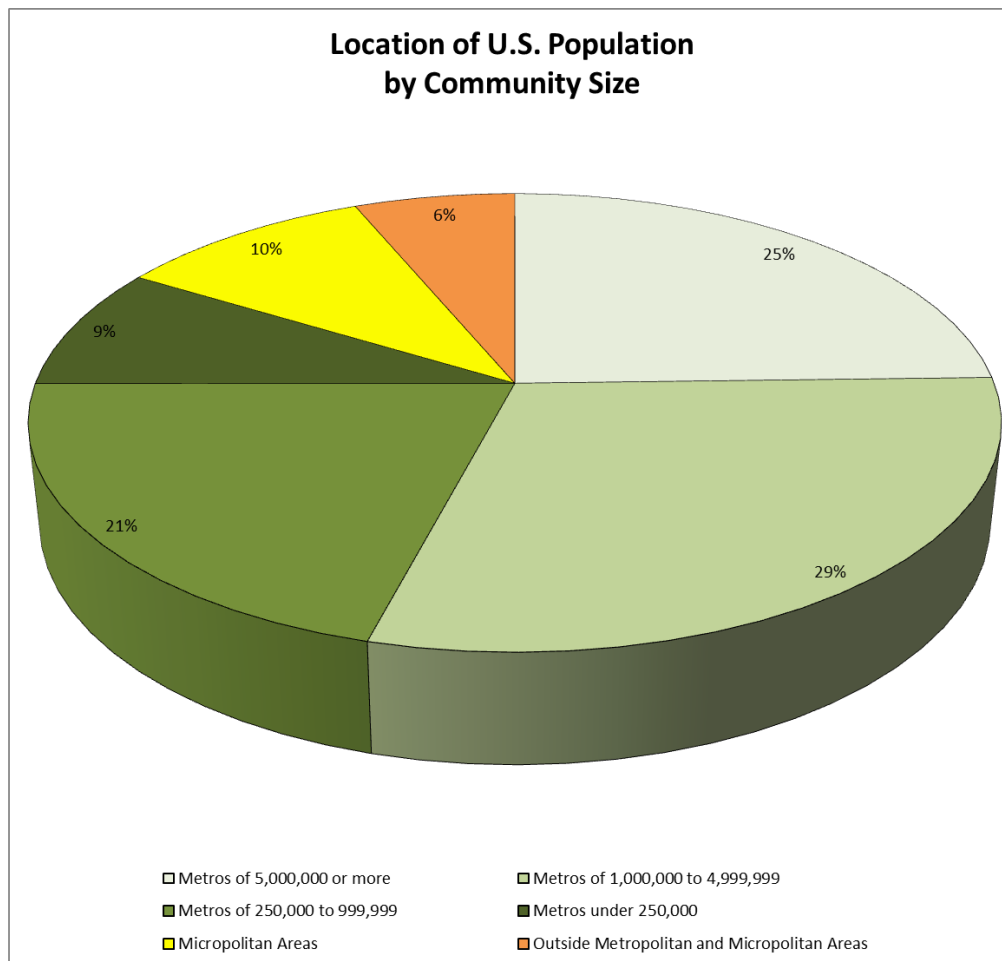
Religion Census Newsletter

August, 2017

Metropolitan Concentrations

The U.S. Census Bureau defines hundreds of metropolitan areas for easier comparison between major cities. Fully one-fourth of all Americans lived in metropolitan areas with at least five million people at the time of the 2010 census. Over half lived in metro areas of at least one million.

Metropolitan areas have a central urban area with at least 50,000 people. Since the 2000 census, the Bureau has also defined micropolitan areas, with smaller central urban areas of at least 10,000 people. Only 6% of Americans lived outside of metropolitan or micropolitan areas in 2010.

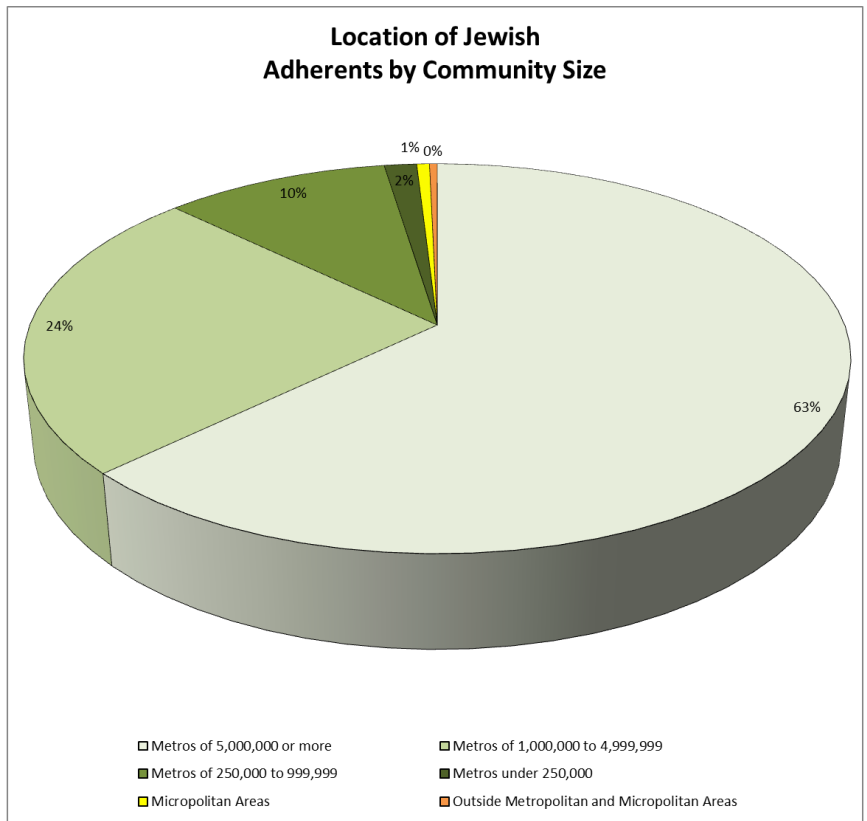


All these areas are defined by county boundaries. *Because the US Religion Census collects data at the county level, it is very easy to include religious comparisons when considering metropolitan area data.

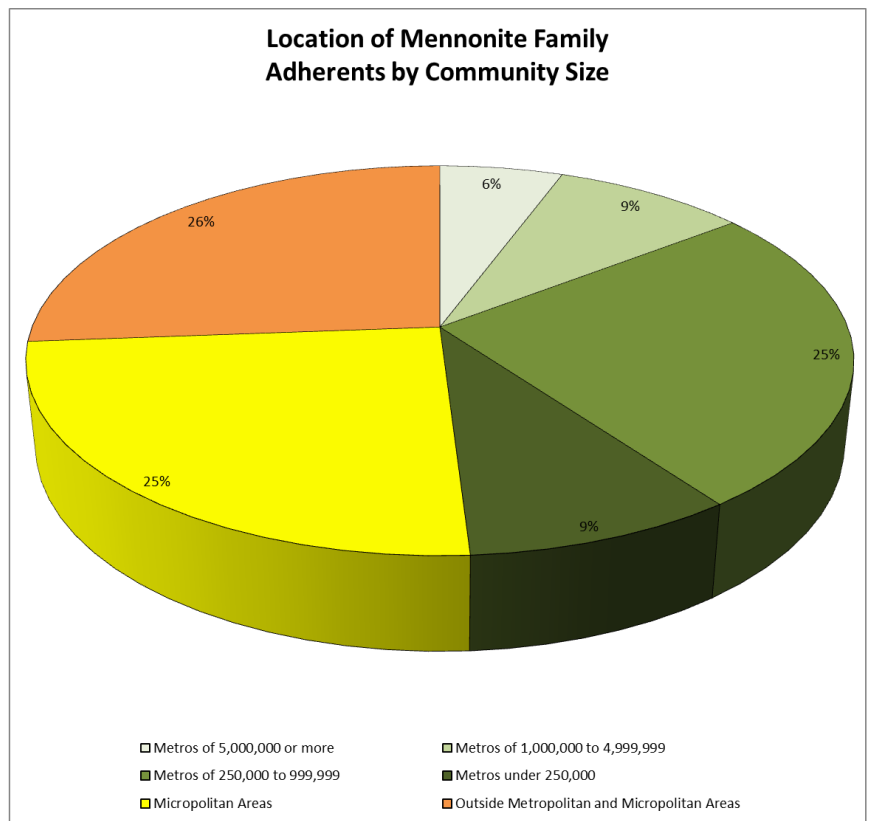
The results can be very revealing.

Four Jewish groups** were included in the 2010 U.S. Religion Census: Conservative, Orthodox, Reconstructionist, and Reformed. Combining the reports from all these groups shows a great concentration in the largest metropolitan areas.

Fully two-thirds of all Jewish adherents*** are in metro areas with at least five million people. This is well over twice the concentration of the general population in such areas. While one in six Americans live outside metropolitan areas, only one in a hundred Jewish adherents can be found there.



Of course, not all religious groups are concentrated in major cities. The Mennonite family, which includes Amish groups, comes close to the opposite extreme. Only 6% of their adherents are in the largest metropolitan areas. In fact, more than half their adherents are outside of any metropolitan area.



The U.S. Religion Census website has such a report for every group that included adherents in 2010. The [2010 Maps and Charts link](#) includes the option to download Community Type Charts for any of these groups.

These maps may be downloaded and shared, under the condition that the citation on the map is included in any distribution.

1. Select a religious group

MEMBER CHURCHES OF THE ASSEMBLY OF CANONICAL ORTHODOX I ▼

2. Select one or more maps

To select more than one map, press and hold the Ctrl (Control) key and click on the desired maps.

----- MAP -----
Adherent 50%
Adherent Change
Adherent Quintile
Cartogram
Community Type Charts ▼

Confirm Selection

Click here to download

Instructions: After selecting a specific group, the list of maps and charts is shown. The Community Type Charts are the ones that have the ratios of adherents by metropolitan size and status. Confirm the selection, then Click the blue button to download.

Special groupings: In the drop-down list of religious groups, there are some names that are in CAPITAL LETTERS, such as in the example at the left. These indicate combinations of religious groups that have been specifically requested. If there is an additional grouping that would be helpful to you, you may request it by [contacting us](#).

**In a few states, some additional geographic units are treated as counties: parishes in Louisiana, independent cities in Maryland, Missouri, Nevada, and Virginia, and boroughs and census-defined areas in Alaska. These, along with the District of Columbia, are all considered “county equivalents” in census bureau and U.S. Religion Census reports.*

***Two Messianic Jewish groups also reported, but they are usually included in Christian counts rather than Jewish.*

****Adherents: Every participating group is asked to provide an actual count or an estimate of the number of people associated with each local congregation. This number is termed “adherents.” Ideally, adherents include all regular participants and/or all those regarding that congregation as their spiritual home. This is done because religious traditions differ in whether they would include children and regular worshippers in their normal membership counts; and some traditions do not even have a membership category.*

For specific adherent definitions for a particular group, see [Appendix A](#) on our [Methods](#) web page. For the general definition used when a group didn’t have a specific adherent figure, see page xvi of the [introductory material](#).

Every decade the US Religion Census tries to include additional religious groups, making the US Religion Census increasingly accurate. The 236 groups that took part in 2010 are listed [online](#). If you know of other faith groups that would like to participate and be included in this census effort, please [send us](#) the group's contact information or contact person.

Meanwhile, over 5,000 people visited our website in June. Several have let us know how valuable this resource is, and how they are looking forward to the 2020 update. Naturally, we hope to include information from your group in the 2020 counts.



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Published by the [Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies](#), sponsor of the U.S. Religion Census

This newsletter is intended for the following audiences:

Groups that participated in the 2010 Religion Census. The newsletter is sent to the latest contact we have for the supplier of the statistics.

Groups that are eligible to participate in the upcoming 2020 Religion Census. The newsletter is sent to the latest contact we have for the supplier of the statistics.

Members of the sponsoring agency for the Religion Census, the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies.

Those who requested to receive the newsletter through our website.