



# **THE FIRST-EVER SURVEY OF JEWISH CHORAL ACTIVITY IN NORTH AMERICA**

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# FIVE SURVEY GOALS

1. **Find out why singers participate** in Jewish choral activity
2. **Obtain demographic and Jewish identity information** about singers, both adults and teens in HaZamir: The International Jewish High School Choir
3. **Learn about Jewish choral activities** in synagogues and communities
4. **Identify existing Jewish choral groups** to form a national (international) data base
5. **Identify priorities** at both national and local levels

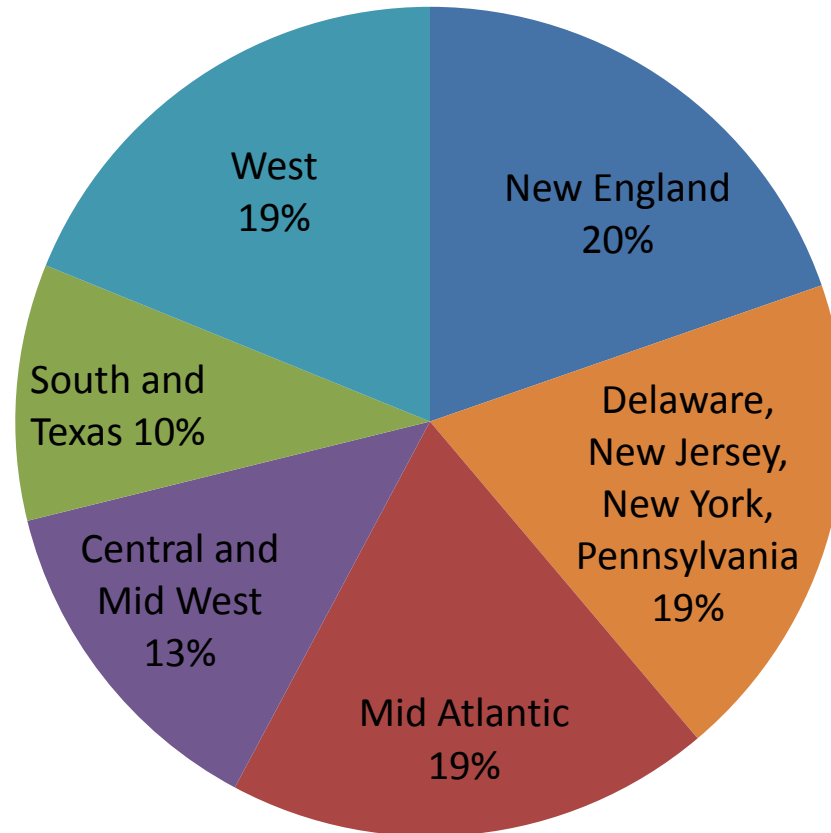
# SURVEY DISTRIBUTION

- Survey designed in March-April 2010
- Launched electronically May 2-June 14, 2010
- Link distributed via email to ZCF and Tara lists
- Link announced in cantors' newsletters, news releases, and “viral” e-mail distribution.

# OVER 2,000 RESPONDENTS!

- 1,777 singers (including 461 North American Jewish Choral Festival participants)
- 482 professionals (cantors, conductors, composers, rabbis, Jewish educators, etc.)
- 225 Jewish choral supporters (friends, family members, donors)

# 39% OF THE SINGERS LIVE IN THE NORTHEAST



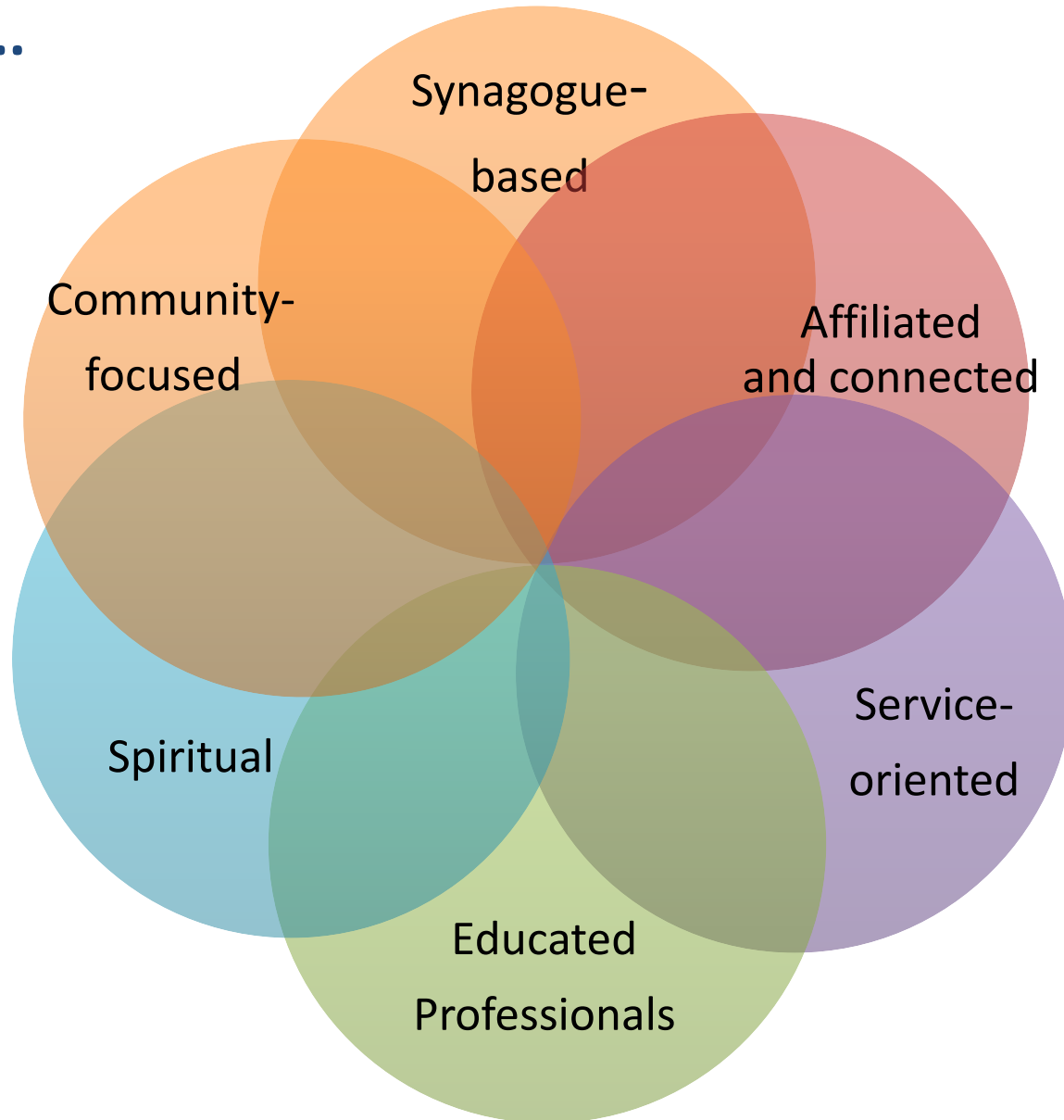
# MORE FEMALES THAN MALES

- Across all age groups, women significantly outnumber men in Jewish choral groups
- For singers over age 45, the proportion is roughly two-thirds female and one-third male
- For singers under age 45, the proportion is approximately 60% female and 40% male

# HIGHLY EDUCATED

- Education
  - 89% have at least a BA
  - 38% have MA
  - 27% have doctorates
- Extensive additional educational experience
  - Scores of survey respondents listed certificates, ordinations, and degrees beyond the conventional list of choices.

**AS A GROUP, JEWISH CHORAL SINGERS SIT AT THE CORE OF  
THE MAIN-STREAM AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY.  
THEY ARE .....**





# HOW CHORAL SINGERS COMPARE WITH NJPS 2000-01 RESPONDENTS

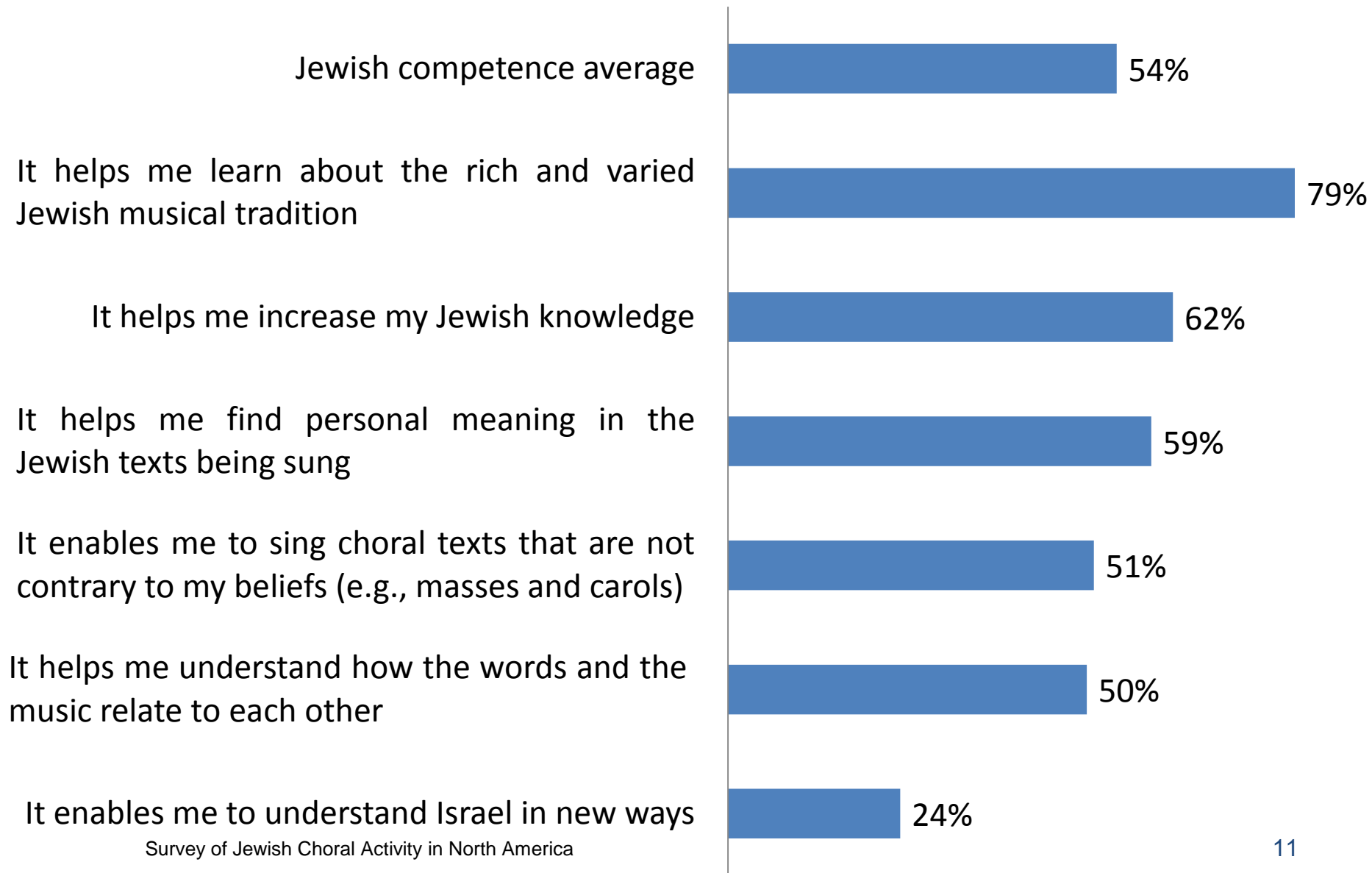
	NJPS 2000-01	Jewish Choral Survey
MA, PhD, or Professional degree	25%	62%
Most friends are Jewish	52%	68%
Attend Jewish lectures	47%	71%
Volunteer under Jewish auspices	25%	73%
Jewish giving (independent of Federation)	41%	73%
Regard being Jewish as “Very Important”	74%	84%
Belong to synagogue	46%	88%

Focus on

# **THE BENEFITS OF JEWISH CHORAL SINGING**

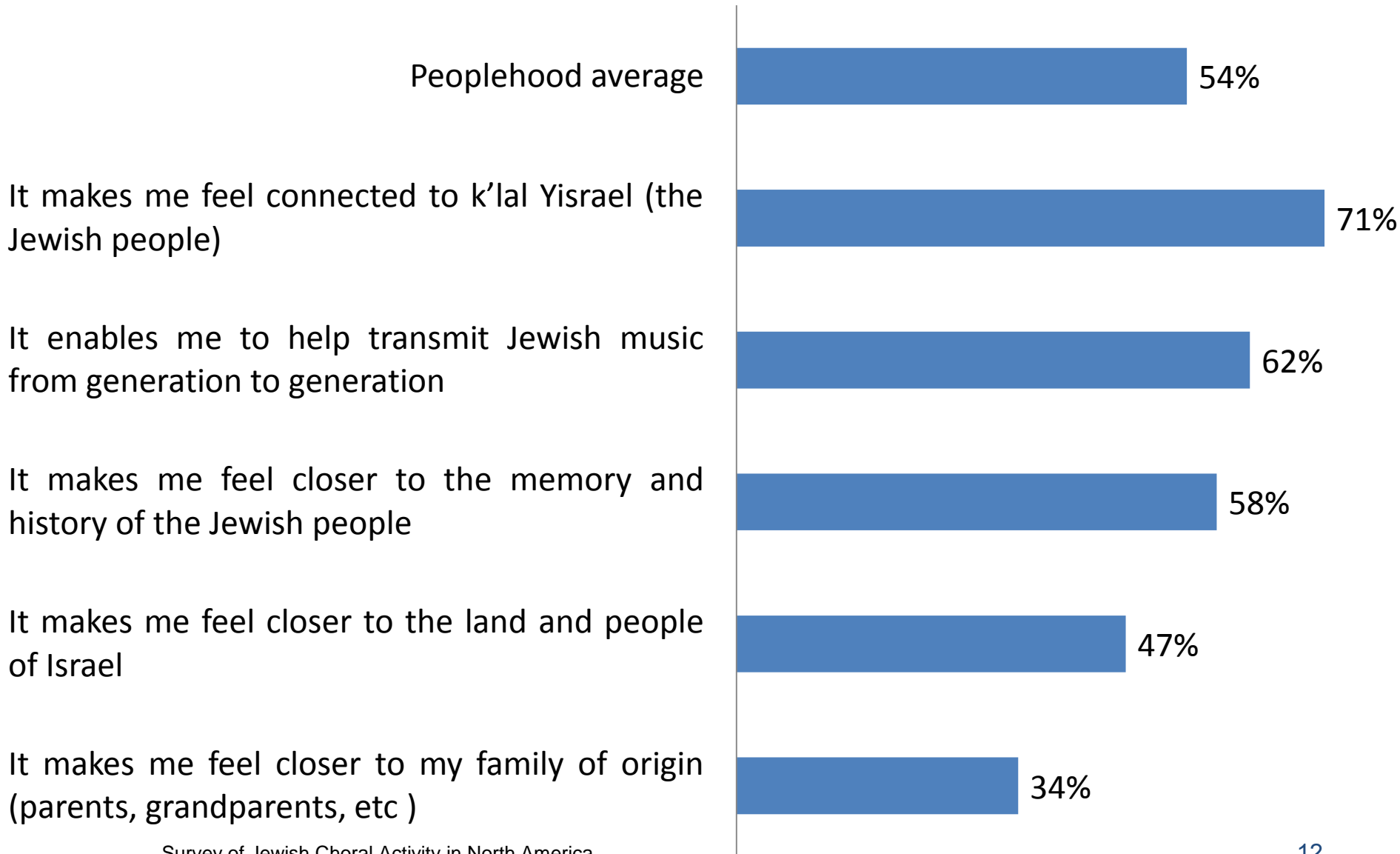
# Jewish Competence

Answer = "Mostly" or "Clearly describes my experience"



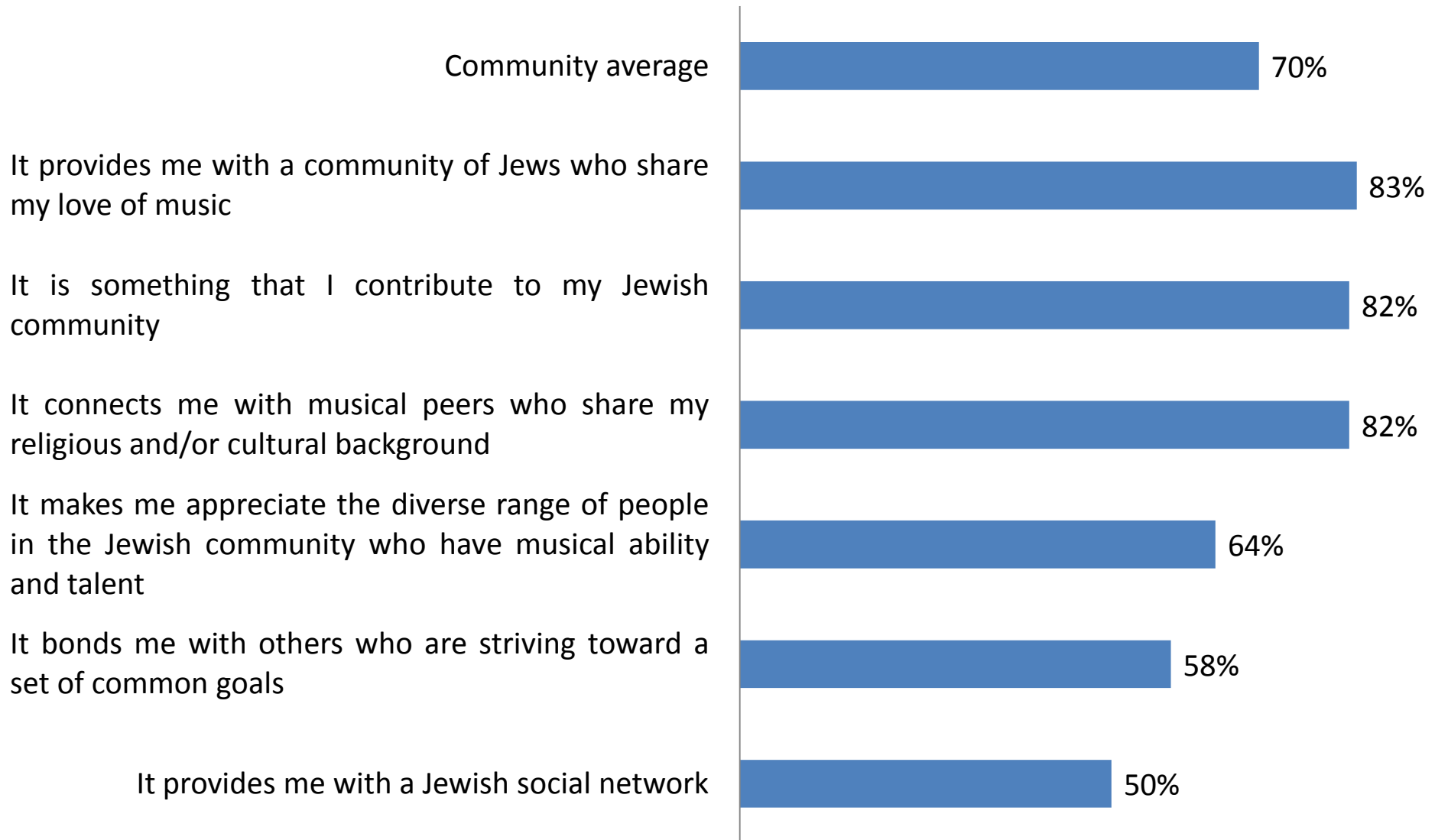
# Peoplehood

Answer = "Mostly" or "Clearly describes my experience"



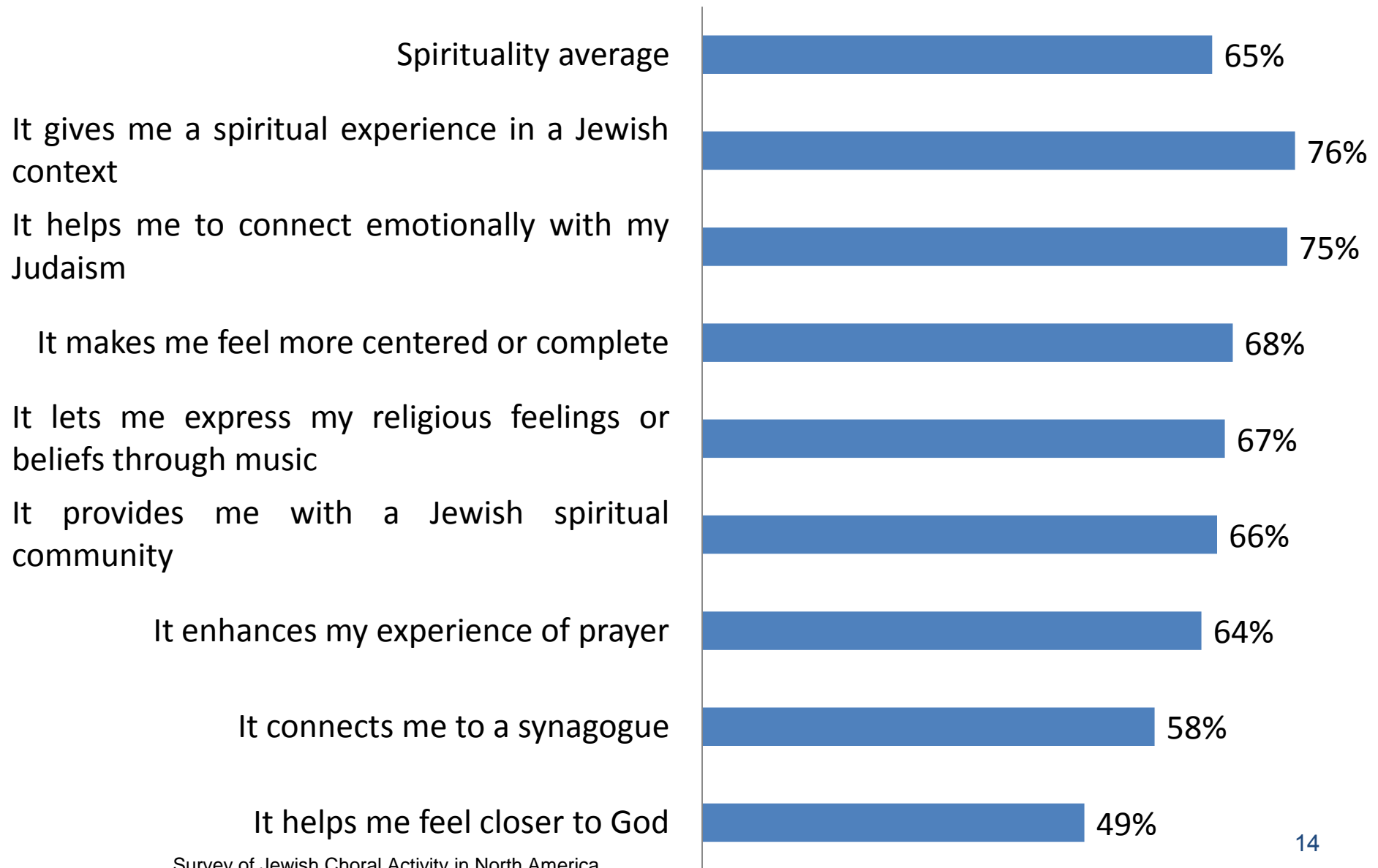
# Jewish community

Answer = "Mostly" or "Clearly describes my experience"



# Spirituality

Answer = "Mostly" or "Clearly describes my experience"



# Integration

The analysis of survey data showed that one statement about the benefits of participating in Jewish choral music stood out from the others:

**“It enables me to integrate my Jewish life with my musical life”**

This benefit was important to singers of all ages, but it was the most strongly reported benefit by singers under age 45.

# **SUMMARY AND IMPLICATIONS**



# A WELLSPRING FOR JEWISH LEADERSHIP

## **Jewish choral singers are**

- a distinctive subgroup of leadership in the contemporary American Jewish community
- spiritual, intellectual, interested in developing themselves Jewishly and in making connections with other Jews
- intrinsically group-oriented and collaborative

# A WELLSPRING FOR JEWISH LEADERSHIP

## **Jewish choral singers are also**

- accustomed to pursuing goal-centered tasks over long periods of time
- dedicated and active in diverse volunteer and community education roles

# THE PROMISE OF THE FUTURE

Jewish choral singers under age 45

- are more Jewishly educated and literate than their older counterparts
- visit Israel as much as the older singers
- are equally active participants in Jewish communal life