

Economic Precarity

Highlights:

- While most survey respondents are financially well-off, about a fourth are struggling financially (or just meeting basic expenses).
- More respondents' financials have improved over the past five years (35%) than have deteriorated (20%).
- About 30-40% of the respondents have had difficulty paying for basic expenses such as rent, utilities, or health care.
- Fewer respondents (in the 10-20% range) say their finances limited their participation in Jewish life (with travel to Israel being exception; 31% avoided traveling to Israel because of cost considerations).

How would you describe your financial situation right now? (n=402)	
	%
Living comfortably	43%
Meeting your basic expenses with a little left over for extras	26%
Just meeting your basic expenses	22%
Do not have enough to meet your basic expenses	3%
I prefer not to answer	6%
Total	100%

What best describes your financial situation today compared to five years ago? (n=397)	
	%
Much better today	11%
Somewhat better today	24%
About the same today	44%
Somewhat worse today	16%
Much worse today	4%
Total	100%

Did financial costs prevent you from doing any of the following? (n=398)	
	%
Travel to Israel	31%
Make a donation to a Jewish organization or cause	24%
Begin or continue being a member or regular participant in a synagogue, temple, minyan, or havurah	12%
Participate in a program, event, activity, or holiday celebration held by a Jewish organization or group	10%
Begin or continue being a member or regular participant in another Jewish organization	7%
Volunteer for a Jewish organization or cause	4%
Another activity in the Jewish community	2%
None of this	52%

* Multiple responses were possible; total is more than 100%

Did financial costs prevent you from doing any of the following? (n=149)	
	%
Send a child to a Jewish day camp or overnight camp	17%
Have a child participate in a teen educational trip to Israel	10%
Send a child to Jewish day care or a Jewish early childhood education program	9%
Another activity for children in the Jewish community	7%
Have a child participate in a Jewish youth group	6%
Send a child to a full-time Jewish day school	4%
Send a child to a part-time Jewish school, such as a religious or Hebrew school	3%
None of these	59%

* Multiple responses were possible; total is more than 100%

In the past year, have you ever had difficulty paying for... (n=95-110)			
	Yes	No	Total
Medical care for yourself or your family	30%	71%	100%
Rent or mortgage	38%	63%	100%
Utility bills	43%	57%	100%

In the past 5 years, which of the following, if any, have you experienced? (n=394)	
	%
Death of a family member	16%
Long-term disability or chronic illness	11%
Job loss	11%
Mental health challenge	8%
Divorce or separation from a spouse or partner	2%
Unexpected pregnancy	2%
Victim of assault or harassment	1%
Immigration status issue	1%
Substance use disorder	0%
Incarceration of yourself or a family member	0%
Another reason	8%
None of the above	51%

* Multiple responses were possible; total is more than 100%

In the past year, have you received any benefits related to... (n=126)	
	%
Medicaid	51%
Energy assistance	28%
Subsidized housing	22%
Child care assistance	6%
Unemployment	6%
Disabilities	6%
Another assistance	6%
None of the above	30%

* Multiple responses were possible; total is more than 100%

Which of the following, if any, are you currently receiving to help improve your financial situation and which would be helpful to receive? (n=91-104)				
	Currently receiving	Would be helpful to receive	Not relevant/Not interested	Total
Employment counseling or job training	5%	12%	83%	100%
Support to complete an educational degree	2%	18%	80%	100%
Affordable housing	20%	19%	61%	100%
Reliable transportation	11%	16%	74%	100%
Interest-free loans	4%	33%	63%	100%
Accommodation for disabilities	2%	12%	86%	100%
Affordable day care for children	8%	21%	71%	100%
Financial counseling	9%	28%	63%	100%
Resolving outstanding debt	5%	37%	58%	100%
Personal or family therapy	14%	24%	62%	100%
Medical care	15%	9%	76%	100%
Respite care from responsibilities as caregiver	1%	5%	94%	100%
Legal services	1%	17%	82%	100%

* Multiple responses were possible; total is more than 100%

Do you or someone in your household receive any public food assistance, such as SNAP benefits or WIC benefits?

	Overall (n=412)	Hartford (n=276)	New Haven (n=91)
	%	%	%
Yes	20%	20%	24%
No	79%	78%	74%
I don't know or prefer not to answer	2%	1%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%

In the past 3 months, have you gotten your main meal or source of food for the day from any of the following?

	Overall (n=409)	Hartford (n=275)	New Haven (n=91)
	%	%	%
A meal at someone's home (e.g., invited by a community member)	32%	33%	26%
An event at a synagogue	28%	25%	32%
A local Jewish community event or program	20%	19%	22%
Another source	3%	3%	3%
None of the above	54%	53%	56%

* Multiple responses were possible; total is more than 100%

Do you receive or utilize any of the following food assistance?

	Overall (n=409)	Hartford (n=275)	New Haven (n=91)
	%	%	%
Food pantry	12%	16%	3%
Grocery gift cards	5%	5%	2%
Gifts from family or friends	6%	5%	11%
Community or soup kitchen	0%	0%	1%
Home-delivered prepared meal through Meals on Wheels or Jewish Family Services	6%	8%	1%
Another type of private assistance (please describe):	2%	2%	2%
None of the above	77%	75%	77%