Defining Jewishness

• Religion

• Ancestry and ethnicity

• Culture

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Religious Affiliation

Reform

Conservative

Orthodox
  Modern Orthodox

Haredi
  • Misnagdic
  • Hasidic
Common Ethnic Terms

Ashkenazi (“German”)

Sephardi (“Spanish”)

Mizrahi (“Middle Eastern”)

Smaller groups:
• Italian
• Ethiopian
• Romaniote (Greek-speaking)
Jews of Color

Consciousness raised in late 1980s

A porous designation (does it include Mizrahi Jews?)

Population estimates: 6% - 15% of Jews in the US
Jewish New York: Four Waves of Immigration

- **First Wave**: Sephardic Jews in Dutch colony of New Amsterdam

- **Second Wave**: Mid-19th Century Central European German Ashkenazi Jews

- **Third Wave**: Turn-of-the-20th Century Eastern European Ashkenazi Jews

- **Fourth Wave**: Late-20th Century Post-Collapse of the Soviet Union

Essex + Hester Street Manhattan, circa 1900
City College-CUNY, the "Proletarian Harvard"

• Est. by popular referendum in 1847

• Changing city demographics, increasingly secular CCNY
  • Free tuition
  • No quotas

• CCNY majority Jewish by 1930s
Jewish Immigration to the Queens area

Russian-speaking Ashkenazi Jews: immigration from late 1960s

Jews from Iran: immigration after 1979 Islamic Revolution

Bukharan Jews from former Soviet Central Asia: immigration from 1990s