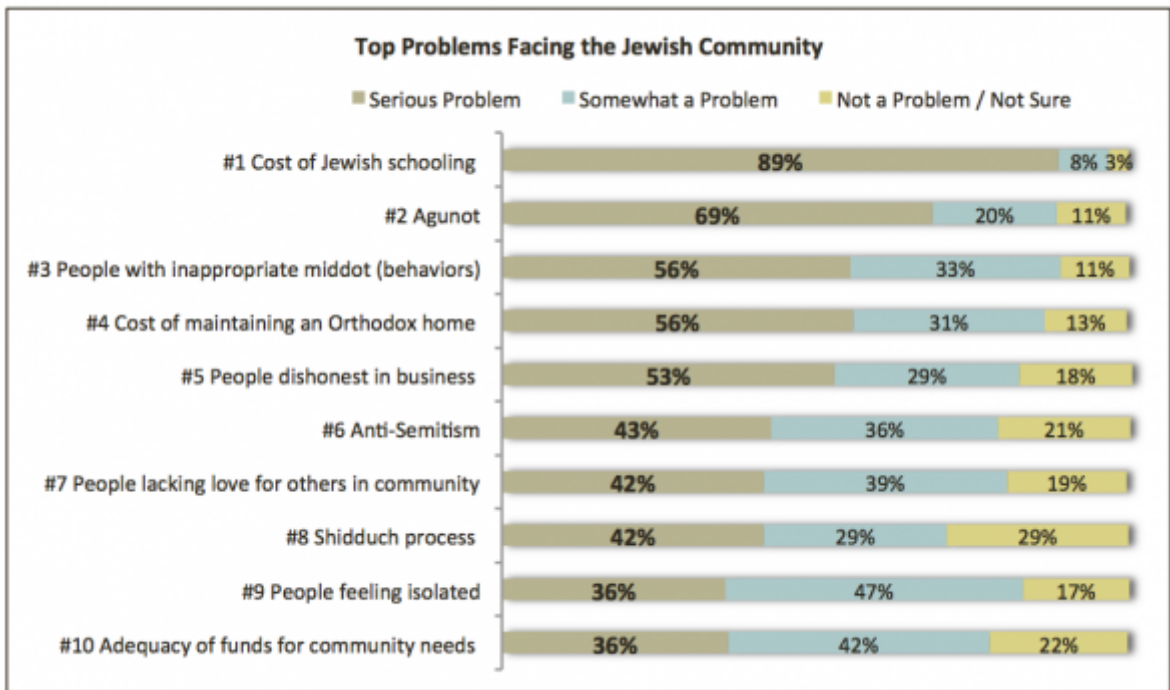


# Survey says: Finances Seen as Biggest Problem in Modern Orthodox Community

SEPTEMBER 28, 2017 By EJP 1 COMMENT



Report screenshot

According to a just released, first-of-its-kind, survey of the American Modern Orthodox community, it should come as no surprise that finances are seen as the biggest problem facing the community today. By a wide margin, the cost of Jewish schooling ranks as the

#1 problem. Also among the top 10 are the cost of maintaining a Jewish home and the *Shidduch* process.

Additionally, 53% of respondents believe that women in their Orthodox community should have the opportunity for expanded roles in the clergy. The percentage agreeing fully is higher among women (43%) than men (31%), and much higher among women age 18-34 (52%).

Other findings include:

- There are strong levels of belief, observance and a very powerful sense of community ... and overall religious observance is becoming *stronger*.
- Levels of Shabbat observance are very high, and respondents greatly value Shabbat for the family connectedness it fosters and for providing a needed break from day-to-day activities.
- Shuls are vibrant and well-attended centers of prayer, learning and community.
- There is a strong focus on Jewish education, both for children – including very high Jewish day school enrollment, a key driver of Jewish continuity – and for adults.
- There is much interest in and study of Jewish topics, and desires to explore an array of topics relating to Torah study as well as Judaism in the modern world.
- There is great value seen in education (61% achieve post-graduate or professional degrees, with commensurately high family incomes) and in participating in society.
- There is much satisfaction and joy in seeing the transmission of Jewish values and practices to children and grandchildren.
- There are strong emotional and activist connections in support of Israel.
- There has been growth in opportunities for women leadership in communal roles, as well as Torah teaching, study and scholarship.

***The Nishma Research Profile of American Modern Orthodox Jews [summary report](#) is available on eJP for download.***

