

Detached Grandparents — 21% of the nationally representative sample



Who are they?

Neither Jewishly engaged themselves nor interested in passing on Jewish practices to their grandkids, most Detached Grandparents report satisfying overall family relationships. However, their level of interaction with their grandchildren is more modest than other groups (except Wistful Grandparents).

“My level of exhaustion directly influences how much I am willing to do things to influence my grandchildren. I work full time and my husband has Alzheimer’s.”

Family Relationships:

Detached Grandparents have a modest level of interaction with their grandchildren and families when compared to the other groups. Only Wistful Grandparents consistently have fewer interactions. A third report health issues that impact on their ability to grandparent - marginally higher than Wistful Grandparents. They are the most likely to report household incomes below \$75,000 and have the fewest grandchildren under the age of five. Despite all of these factors, ¼ report involvement in day-time caretaking responsibilities.

Jewish Life:

This grandparent group has largely chosen to opt out of Jewish life. Although their Jewish upbringing was nearly identical to Wistful and Secular Grandparents, as adults they are disconnected from Judaism on multiple measures. Of all groups, they have the lowest participation rate in Jewish communal life; slightly over 1 in 10 are synagogue-goers. 43% of Detached Grandparents have spouses or partners of another faith, and they are the most likely to have children whose spouses or partners do not identify as Jewish (84%).

In the past year, Detached Grandparents are the least likely group to have done a number of Jewish activities with their grandchild.

Similarly, their interest in passing on these concepts and practices to their grandchild is lower than any other group:

- Celebrating Shabbat
- Appreciating Jewish arts and culture
- Cooking and baking Jewish holiday foods
- A connection to the State of Israel
- Donating to tzedakah
- Connecting Jewish values to everyday life
- Being spiritually connected

Detached Grandparents report significantly higher “never” scores for their grandchild’s parents on a range of Jewish choices and behaviors and are statistically more likely to report “none of these” for their grandchild’s participation in a wide range of Jewish education options. The absence of a shared religious tradition may also contribute to less engagement with their grandchildren.

Key statements they are *less* likely to agree strongly with include:

- It is important to me to transmit Jewish values to my grandchild.
- I want my grandchild to have a strong connection to Judaism.
- I want my grandchild to be interested in doing Jewish activities.
- It is important to me that my grandchild marry a Jewish partner.
- Being Jewish is an important part of my life.

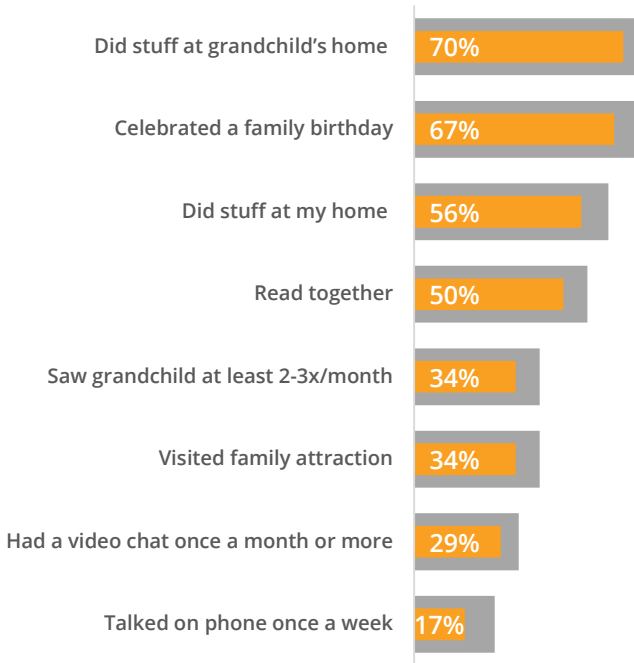
Opportunities for Engagement:

Although Detached Grandparents do not choose to connect Jewishly with their grandchildren, they share many of the same activities with their grandchildren as other grandparents groups-although almost always at a lower level (except for Wistful Grandparents). Like Joyful, Faithful and Secular Grandparents, some play a caretaker role which should be acknowledged and supported with appreciation by the Jewish community. Despite their lower overall engagement compared to other grandparents, 2/3’s of Detached Grandparents agree strongly/somewhat that “I wish I could be more involved in my grandchild’s life.” Probing this issue and better understanding what is behind it may help more grandparents to find ways to make the time they do have with their grandchildren as rewarding as possible.

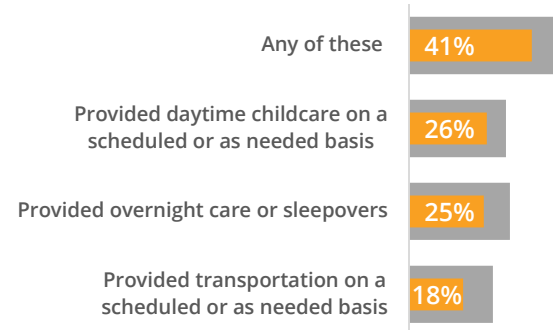
Detached (n=212)

Total Sample (n=1,017)

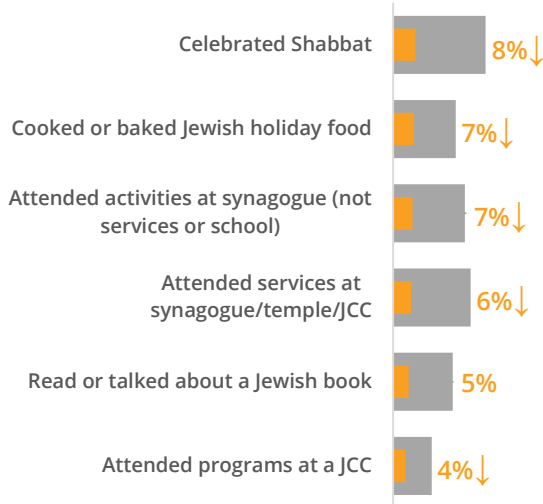
Secular Activities Done with Grandchild - Past Year



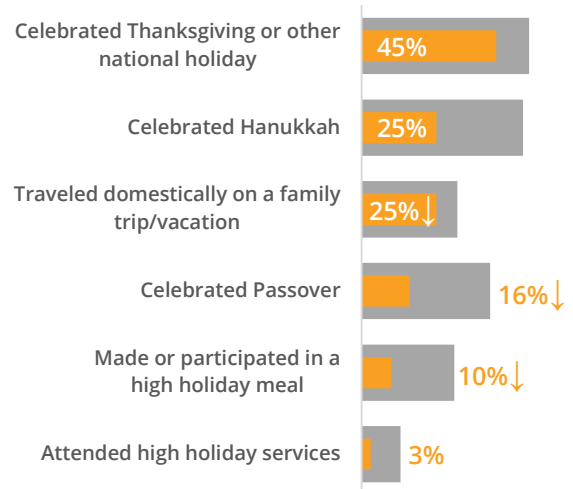
Family Support



Jewish Activities Done with Grandchild - Past Year



Activities Done with Grandchild - Past 3 Years



↑ indicates that the % is significantly higher than all of the other groups

↓ indicates that the % is significantly lower than all of the other groups

Passing on Concepts & Values to Grandchild (% very interested)

