

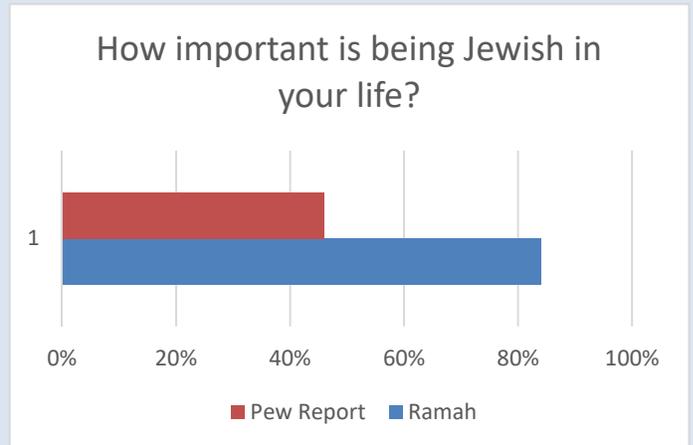
The Alumni of Ramah Camps – a portrait of Jewish engagement

In 2016, National Ramah commissioned a survey of its alumni by social scientists who study the American Jewish Community. The survey was conducted by emailing 45,000 invitations to alumni, parents, donors, and other members of the community spanning all Ramah camps. Over 9,500 people responded to the survey. Of the completed surveys, 6,407 were from alumni (Ramah campers, staff members, or both). This comprehensive Ramah Alumni Survey powerfully demonstrates that Ramah alumni have deep long-term engagement in Jewish life and a network of lifelong Jewish friends.

An analysis of the survey data compares the responses of Ramah alumni to respondents to the 2013 Pew study of Jewish Americans, and found that Ramah alumni have much higher rates of Jewish involvement across many key dimensions of Jewish life, such as feeling committed to being Jewish, connection to Israel, and participation in synagogue life. An analysis of the data showed that Camp Ramah has been critical to building a committed and connected core of Conservative and other Jews in North America and Israel. Key findings include:

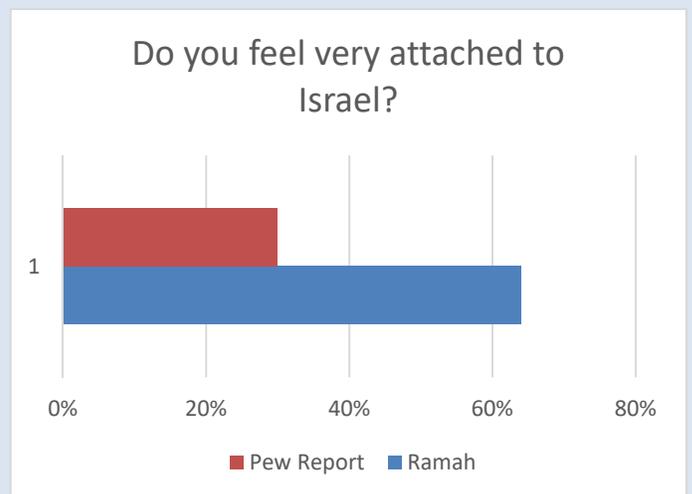
Importance of Being Jewish

The Ramah alumni who responded to the survey are almost twice as likely as U.S. Jews overall to say that being Jewish is “very important” in their lives.



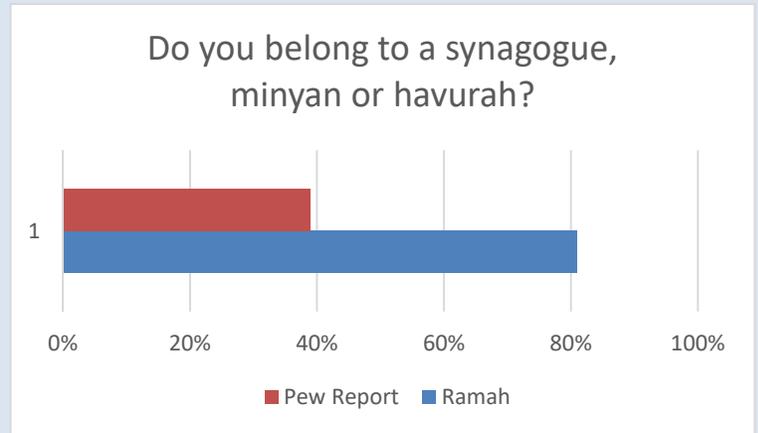
Connection to Israel

Compared to U.S. Jews overall, Ramah survey respondents are more than twice as likely to say that they are very attached to Israel. Almost all respondents (96%) have been to Israel, compared to less than half of U.S. Jews overall.



Participation in Synagogue Life

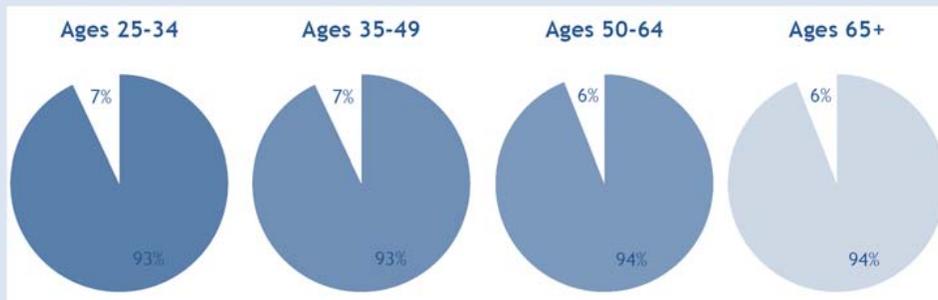
The percentage of survey respondents who belong to a synagogue, minyan, or havurah is more than twice that of U.S. Jews overall. Of those who belong to a congregation, approximately 70% belong to a Conservative, Masorti, or Traditional Egalitarian congregation. Moreover, Ramah fosters a high comfort level with Jewish prayer. Numerous respondents indicated that in the last year, they had taken on some kind of liturgical leadership activity requiring a high level of skill (chanting Torah, leading services, etc.).



In-marriage

Almost all Ramah alumni (94%) who responded to the survey are married to Jews, compared to just over half of U.S. Jews overall (56%). In contrast to U.S. Jews overall, where the rate of in-marriage has decreased over time, Ramah alumni of all ages have the same rate of in-marriage.

Percentage of Ramah alumni in-married



These strong statistics demonstrate a powerful connection between the Ramah experience and deeper Jewish engagement, and indicate Camp Ramah to be one of the brightest lights to illuminate the future of our Jewish communities.