

Rabbi Experiences Today

1

Those who currently interact with a rabbi are largely satisfied, but their interactions are not occurring very frequently.

2

While many young Jews currently interact with a rabbi, 2-in-5 say it's difficult to establish a relationship with a rabbi today.

3

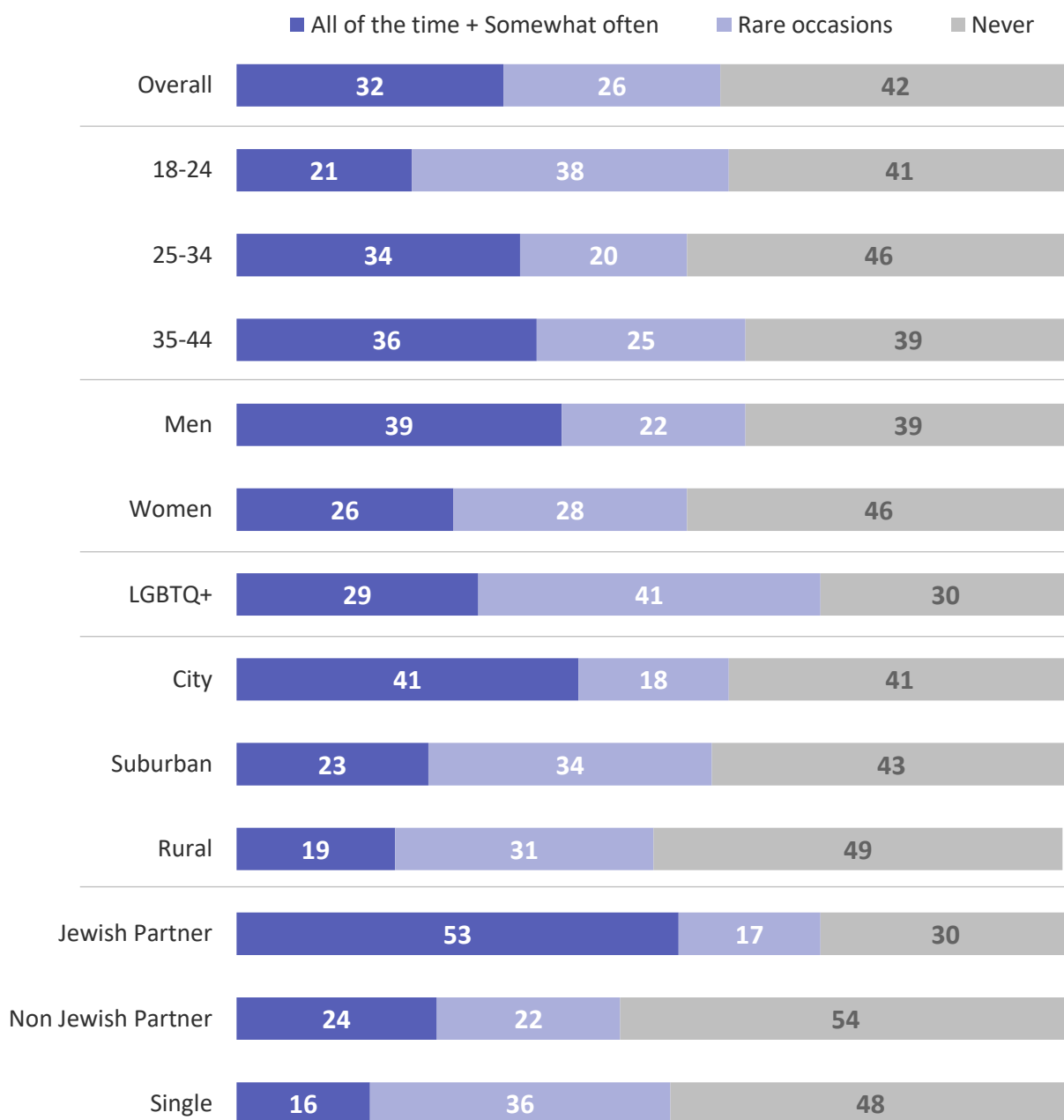
But people are largely optimistic: most of them say they've found the right rabbi for them while only a small portion say they're not interested or it's not possible.



Over half of young Jews currently interact with a rabbi, but not very frequently, representing plenty of opportunity for increased engagement

58% of young Jews currently interact with a rabbi, with 32% interacting often or all the time. Younger Jews (18–24-year-olds) may have access to a rabbi in college while 35–44-year-olds often do as they begin to have families, but there is an opportunity with the middle age group of 25–34-year-olds, particularly 25–29-year-olds, who interact with rabbis less often. Further, young Jews in suburban and rural areas, those who are single and those who are in interfaith relationships interact with rabbis much less frequently today, representing an opportunity for engagement.

How often do you interact with a rabbi today?

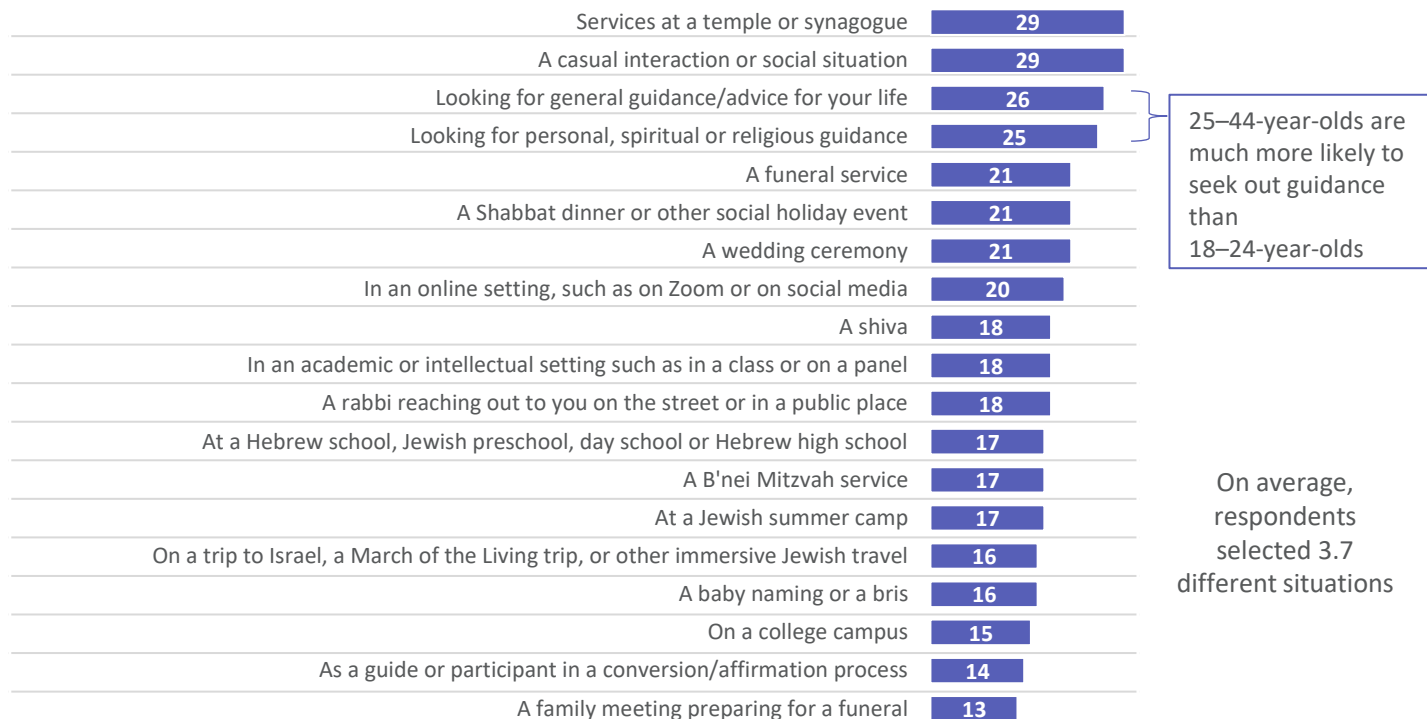


Interactions with rabbis today take place in a variety of formal and more casual settings, and satisfaction with these rabbi relationships is high

Overall, the most common situations for young Jews to interact with a rabbi are tied between services and casual/social interactions. Young people interact with rabbis in a number of different settings, with respondents on average selecting nearly 4 different situations where they tend to interact with a rabbi.

In which of the following situations do you tend to interact with that rabbi?

(Asked of the 58% who interact with a rabbi currently)

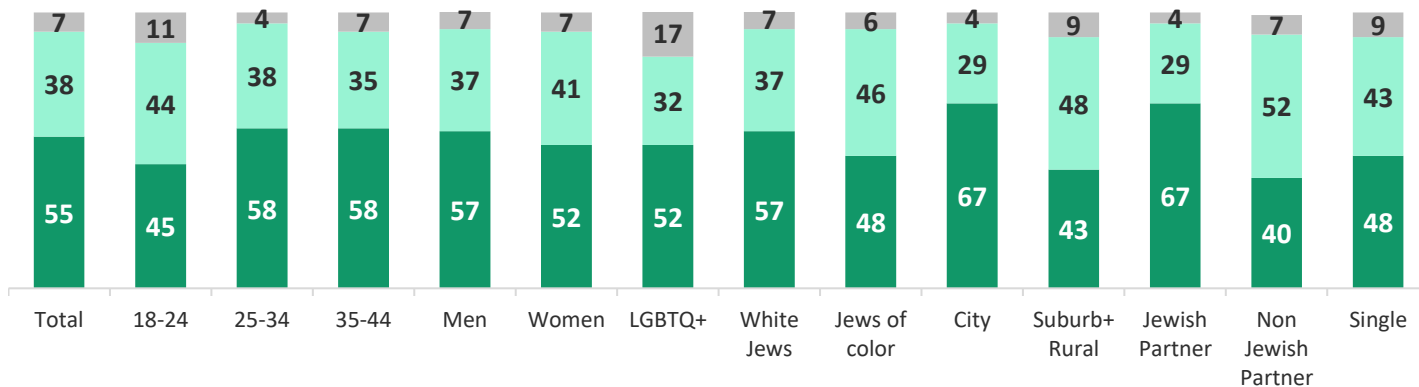


Those who do interact with a rabbi today are extremely satisfied. Nearly all are satisfied (93%) with a high number, 55%, saying they are “very satisfied.” However, 18-24-year-old Jews, LGBTQ+ Jews, Jews of color, suburban and rural Jews and those in interfaith relationships are less satisfied than others, indicating room for improvement.

Thinking about the rabbi you interact with most often today, in general, how satisfied are you with this rabbi?

(Asked of those who interact with a rabbi currently)

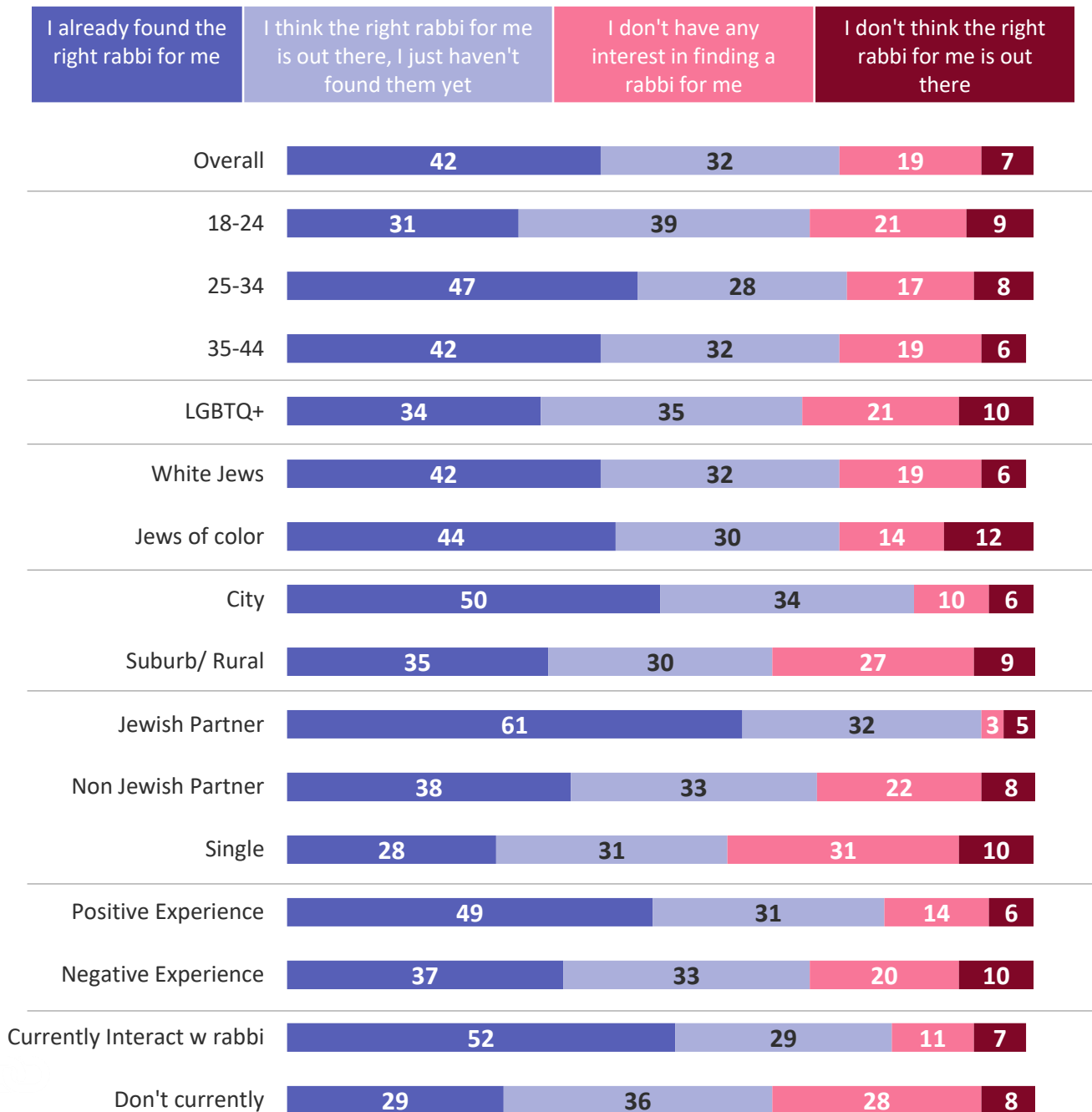
Very satisfied Somewhat satisfied Dissatisfied



Overall, optimism is high among young Jews about finding the right rabbi for them – many have already found that person and only about 1 in 4 have no interest or believe the right rabbi doesn't exist.

Encouragingly, a plurality of young Jews have already found the right rabbi for them, including more than half of those who currently interact with a rabbi. While many have already found the right rabbi for them, others, including 32% of young Jews overall, are optimistic that the right rabbi for them is out there. Jews of color, LGBTQ+ Jews, suburban and rural Jews and those who have had a negative rabbi experience tend to be more pessimistic about whether the right rabbi for them is out there.

Which statement do you agree with most?

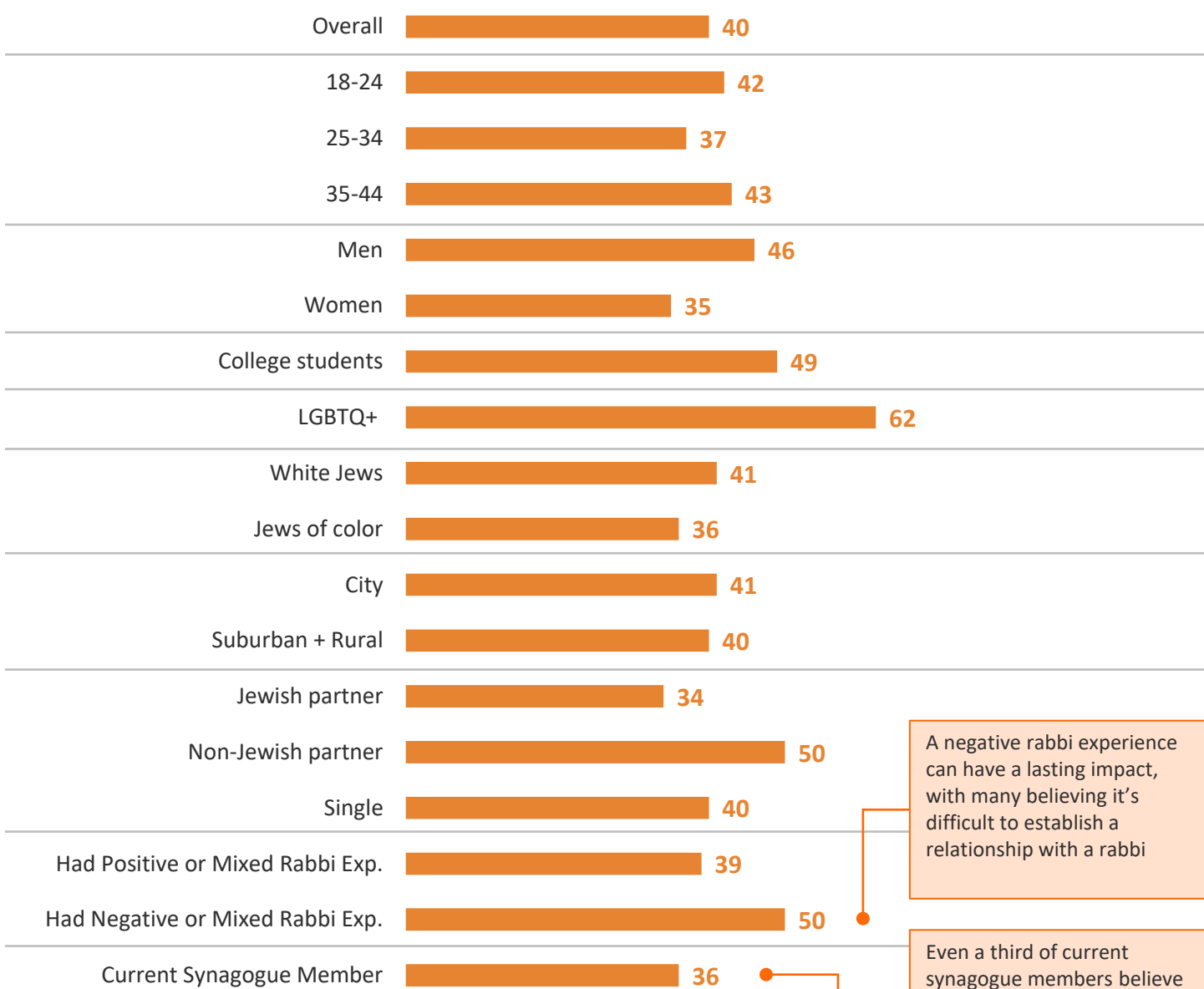


While many young Jews have a relationship with a rabbi, 2 in 5 acknowledge that it's difficult to develop a relationship with one

4 in 10 young Jews feel it's difficult to develop a relationship with a rabbi today. Men, college students, LGBTQ+ Jews, interfaith couples and those who have had negative experiences with rabbis are more likely to believe it's difficult.

Notably, there isn't a significant difference by age, ethnicity and whether someone is currently a synagogue member in terms of their perception of how difficult it is to develop a relationship with a rabbi today. Interestingly, young Jews who live in cities, which presumably have more access to Jewish opportunities, are equally likely to say it's difficult to establish a relationship with a rabbi as those who live in more suburban and rural areas of the country.

"It's hard to develop a relationship with a rabbi today"
% who agree



A negative rabbi experience can have a lasting impact, with many believing it's difficult to establish a relationship with a rabbi

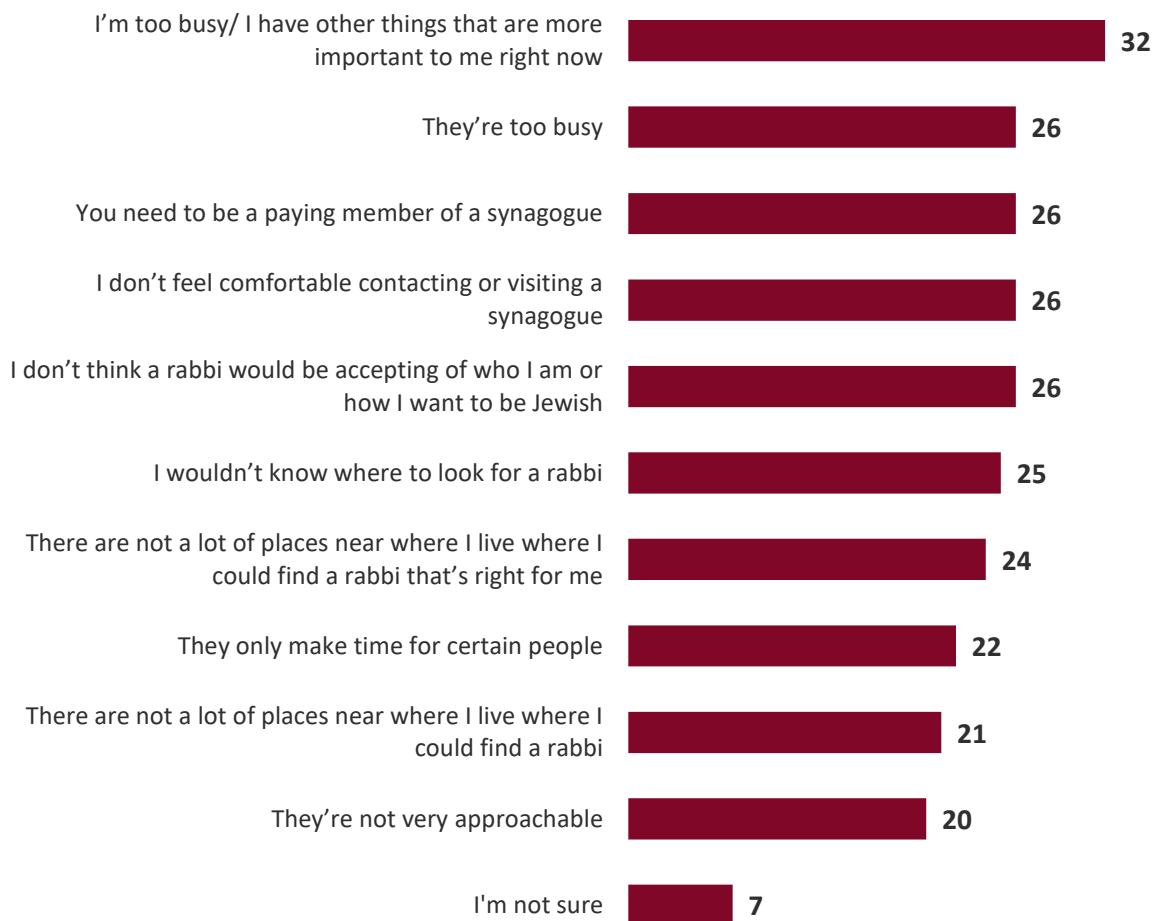
Even a third of current synagogue members believe it is difficult to establish a relationship with a rabbi

There are a number of barriers to stronger relationships with rabbis, including their time, general acceptance, the synagogue itself (comfort in approaching + dues) and knowing where to find one

Among those who believe it’s difficult to develop a relationship with a rabbi today, there are a variety of reasons why. On average, young Jews select nearly 3 different reasons. Being too busy personally is the top reason why, but there are a number of other top reasons why as well. Because many of these answer choices are grouped close together, it’s best to look at this data by subgroup, because different groups identify different barriers (see next page).

Which of the following reasons, if any, make it hard for you to develop a relationship with a rabbi today?

Asked among those who agree that it’s hard to develop a relationship with a rabbi today (40%), Multiple responses allowed



On average, respondents selected 2.6 different reasons

Barriers to deeper relationships with rabbis vary notably by subgroup – concerns about being accepted and comfort in synagogue are often cited

There are lots of different reasons why young people perceive it to be difficult to develop a relationship with a rabbi today. While many cited that they personally were too busy and it wasn't a priority, there are other top reasons that were cited as well that indicate how young Jews feel about rabbis today. Notably, many are concerned about being accepted, they feel uncomfortable going to a synagogue and some worry that rabbis won't have time for them. Knowledge about where to find a rabbi is a barrier for younger Jews and Jews of color, in particular.

Which of the following reasons, if any, make it hard for you to develop a relationship with a rabbi today?

Asked among those who agree that it's hard to develop a relationship with a rabbi today, Multiple responses allowed

Key: ■ Indicates a top reason among that group. We removed "I'm too busy" from the list because it's a top reason for most groups and that finding is not as actionable in terms of increasing engagement.

| Barrier: | Knowledge | Knowledge/ Location | Location | Acceptance | Comfort | Money | Perception | Perception |
|-------------------------|---|--|--|--|---|---|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | I wouldn't know where to look for a rabbi | There are not a lot of places near where I live where I could find a rabbi that's right for me | There are not a lot of places near where I live where I could find a rabbi | I don't think a rabbi would be accepting of <u>who I am or how I want to be Jewish</u> | I don't feel comfortable contacting or visiting a synagogue | You need to be a paying member of a synagogue | They're too busy | They're <u>not very approachable</u> |
| Total | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | |
| 18-24 | ■ | | | ■ | | | | |
| 25-34 | | ■ | | | ■ | | | |
| 35-44 | | | | | | ■ | ■ | |
| Male | | | | | | | ■ | ■ |
| Female | | ■ | | ■ | ■ | | | |
| College students | | | | ■ | | ■ | | |
| White Jews | | | | | ■ | | ■ | |
| Jews of color | ■ | | | ■ | | | | |
| LGBTQ+ | | | | ■ | ■ | | | |
| Partner is Jewish | | | ■ | | | | ■ | |
| Interfaith couple | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | |
| City | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | | |
| Suburb + Rural | | ■ | | | | | ■ | |
| Rabbi exp: pos or mixed | | | | ■ | | ■ | | |
| Rabbi exp: neg or mixed | | | | ■ | ■ | | | |