

Success with Jewish DNA – Presentation Handout

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Understanding Jewish DNA

Jewish DNA testing faces unique challenges, primarily due to **endogamy**—generations of marriage within the same community. This causes increased shared DNA, measured in centimorgans (cM), resulting in complicated relationship predictions.

Types of DNA Tests

- **Autosomal DNA:** Inherited from all family lines, standard in consumer DNA tests.
- **Y-DNA:** Male-specific, inherited father to son, identifies paternal lineage.
- **Mitochondrial DNA (Mt-DNA):** Inherited mother to child, identifies maternal lineage.

DNA Testing Companies

- AncestryDNA
- 23andMe
- MyHeritage
- FamilyTreeDNA
- Living DNA
- GEDmatch

Resources

- **Shared cM Project on DNA Painter:** www.dnainter.com/tools/sharedcmv4
- **Lara Diamond's Ashkenazic DNA survey:** larasgenealogy.blogspot.com/2022/08/ashkenazic-shared-dna-survey-august.html
- **Video about Endogamy Autocluster** - <https://youtu.be/tEiwn4NgHPs>

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Endogamy

- Generations of marriage only within a specific population group.
- **Pedigree Collapse:** cousins marrying cousins.
- **Multiple relations:** double cousins, ¾ siblings, etc.
- Elevated shared DNA makes relationships seem closer than they are.

Ways to Use Your Jewish DNA Results

1. Confirming the Paper Trail
2. Test a Hypothesis
3. Expand your Family Tree

Tips for Overcoming Endogamy

- Look at longest shared segments:
 - <10 cM = Low confidence
 - 10-20 cM = Medium confidence
 - 20-30 cM = High confidence
 - 30 cM = Very strong confidence
- Average length of segments – 10cM or higher
- Shared match cM comparison