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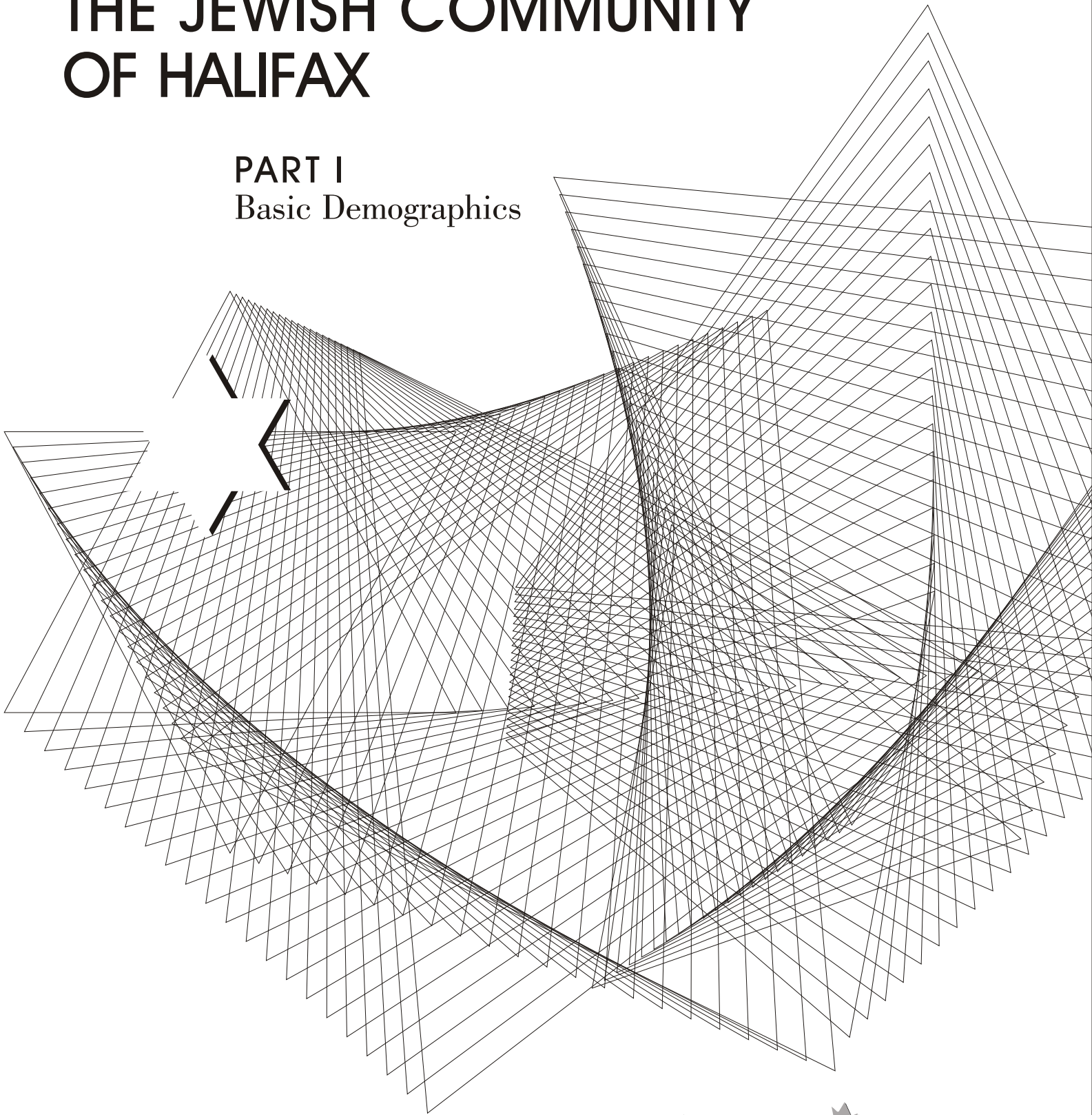
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# 2001 Census Analysis Series **THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF HALIFAX**

## **PART I** Basic Demographics



By Charles Shahrar  
November, 2003



UIA Federations Canada  
מגבית הפדרציות היהודיות בקנדה

**2001 Census Analysis**  
**The Jewish Community of Halifax**

**Part 1**  
**Basic Demographics**

**By**  
**Charles Shahr**

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## Highlights of Results

- The Jewish population of Halifax was 1,985 in 2001. Jews comprised 0.6% of the total Halifax population.
- Between 1991 and 2001 the Jewish community grew by 210 people, or 11.8%. The rate of growth of the community has slowed somewhat in the last decade.
- Halifax has the eleventh largest Jewish community in Canada. The Halifax Jewish community is growing at a faster rate than the national Jewish population.
- Regarding the age distribution of the Halifax Jewish community, the 15-24 year cohort has increased markedly in the last decade. There were 350 in this age group in 2001, compared to 230 in 1991.
- The 45-64 age group has also increased dramatically since 1991. There were 600 individuals in this cohort in 2001, compared to 275 in 1991.
- The median age of the Halifax Jewish community (41.1 years) is somewhat older than that of the Canadian Jewish population (40.2 years).
- The size of the Jewish community's population ranks thirteenth among ethnic groups in Halifax. The top five ethnic groups include British, Canadian, French, German, and Aboriginal affiliations.
- Jews rank sixth in size among religious groups. The top five religious affiliations include Protestants, Catholics, non-specified Christians, Muslims, and Christian Orthodox.
- 71.3% of Jews in Nova Scotia reside in the Halifax Census Metropolitan Area. The Halifax Jewish community comprises 50.5% of the Jewish population in the Atlantic Provinces.

# Table of Contents

Total Population & Historical Analysis.....	3
Gender & Age Breakdowns .....	5
Comparisons with Other Ethnic Groups .....	13
Comparisons with Other Religious Affiliations .....	17
The Halifax Community in a Provincial & Regional Context.....	18
Appendix 1: The Utility of the Census .....	19
Appendix 2: The Reliability of the Census.....	21
Appendix 3: The Jewish Standard Definition.....	23
Appendix 4: The Attribution of Ethnic Origins .....	25
Appendix 5: Additional Data Tables .....	27

# Census Analysis Series

## Basic Demographics

The 2001 Census provides an important opportunity to obtain a demographic “snapshot” of the Jewish community in Halifax. This analysis is the first in a series of Census reports that examine the characteristics of the Jewish population in this city.

The Halifax Jewish community, one of the oldest in Canada, has undergone many demographic changes in recent decades. While other Jewish communities in the region have experienced population declines, as well as significant aging of their populations, the Halifax Jewish community has continued to grow.

The centrality of Halifax as a university, hospital and government town has attracted professionals to this city. The Jewish population, while still relatively small, is quite diverse; and the challenge of meeting its needs with the limited resources of the organized Jewish community, is constant.

Not only the viability but also the vitality of the Halifax Jewish community is critical. It is the largest Jewish centre east of Montreal,

and must respond to the needs of its own population, as well as those of smaller communities in Atlantic Canada

As the Halifax Jewish population continues to grow, it is vital that community leaders and planners develop an accurate demographic picture of its diverse nature. The following analysis attempts to shed further light on the dynamics of the Jewish population in this metropolitan area.

This report begins with an historical demographic perspective, followed by gender and age breakdowns. It then compares Halifax’s Jewish population with other ethnic and religious groups. Important explanations of the utility and reliability of the Census, as well as how Jewish identity is defined, are included in the Appendices. Additional data tables are then presented in the final part of this analysis.

The current report is an analysis of the Jewish community within the Halifax Census Metropolitan Area or CMA. This corresponds to the Greater Halifax Area, and includes within its parameters the suburbs

**Table 1**  
**Jewish Population of Halifax CMA**  
**Historical Summary\***

	Jewish Population	# Change From Previous Census	% Change From Previous Census
2001	1,985	+210	+11.8
1991	1,775	+310	+21.2
1981	1,465	+60	+4.3
1971	1,405	+219	+18.5
1961	1,186	+174	+17.2
1951	1,012	+225	+28.6
1941	787	+180	+29.7
1931	607	+16	+2.7
1921	591	+353	+148.3
1911	238	+120	+101.7
1901	118	--	--

\*Data previous to 1971 are based solely on the religion variable, whereas statistics cited for 1971 to 2001 are based on the Jewish Standard Definition described in Appendix 3. No figures are available for Census Metropolitan Areas before 1941. The researchers were able to construct equivalent geographic units for Censuses previous to that year.

**Table 2**  
**Jewish Population as Percentage of Total Halifax Population**  
**Historical Summary**

Census Year	Total Population	Non-Jewish Population	Jewish Population	% Jewish
2001	355,945	353,960	1,985	0.6
1991	317,630	315,855	1,775	0.6
1981	275,745	274,280	1,465	0.5
1971	222,650	221,245	1,405	0.6

and municipalities which surround the city of Halifax.

Note that anyone who expressed a Jewish affiliation, and fell within the parameters of the Jewish Standard Definition (see Appendix 3), is included in this analysis. Not included are Jews living in institutions—such as nursing homes, prisons or psychiatric facilities. This is because they were not given the long form of the Census, and hence, no data are available regarding their Jewish identification.

## **Total Population & Historical Analysis**

In 2001, the Jewish population of the Halifax CMA was 1,985 (Table 1). This figure represented a gain from 1991, when there were 1,775 Jews in this city. Between 1991 and 2001 the Jewish population increased by 210 people, or 11.8%.

The population increase between 1991 and 2001 was somewhat less pronounced than that between 1981 and 1991. In the latter decade, the community grew by 310 people or 21.2%.

Table 1 further shows that between 1971 and 1981 the gain was much less pronounced than that evident between 1981 and 1991. Between 1971 and 1981, the community experienced an increase of only 60 people or 4.3%.

In fact, the Halifax Jewish population has been increasing in size since the first Jews settled here in significant numbers at the turn of the last century. With the exception of slow growth periods between 1921 and 1931 and between 1971 and 1981, the increases have been very steady.

The figures described in Table 1, however, do not reveal the entire story. They merely represent the relative impacts of mortality, birth rate, in-migration and out-migration on the Jewish community's demographics. These interacting factors will be examined more extensively in subsequent reports.

Table 2 looks at the Jewish population relative to the total population in Halifax. It can be seen that the percentage of the Jewish population relative to the total has remained steady in the last three decades. In the 2001 Census, Jews represented 0.6% of the total population, a figure very similar or identical to the three previous Censuses.

**Table 3**  
**Halifax & Canadian Jewish Populations**  
**Historical Summary**

Census Year	Halifax Jewish Population	Canadian Jewish Population	% of Cdn Jewish Population	Ranking Among Cdn Jewish Communities
2001	1,985	370,520	0.5	11
1991	1,775	358,055	0.5	12
1981	1,465	313,865	0.5	11
1971	1,405	286,555	0.5	11

**Table 4**  
**Gender Breakdowns**  
**Halifax & Canadian Jewish Populations**

	Halifax Jewish Population		Canadian Jewish Population	
	#	%	#	%
Males	955	48.1	182,910	49.4
Females	1,030	51.9	187,610	50.6
Total	1,985	100.0	370,520	100.0

The growth rate of the total Halifax population has been increasing at a slower pace than that of the Jewish population. For instance, between 1981 and 2001 the growth rate for the total Halifax population was 29.1%, whereas the Halifax Jewish community grew by 35.5%.

Table 3 compares Halifax's Jewish population to the Canadian Jewish population. In 2001, Halifax's Jewish community was the eleventh largest in Canada, and comprised 0.5% of the country's Jewish population.

Calculations reveal that between 1981 and 2001 the Canadian Jewish population increased by 18.1%, whereas the Halifax Jewish population grew by 35.5%. In short, the Halifax Jewish community is growing at a faster rate than the Jewish population in Canada as a whole.

Jewish centres across Canada with comparable sizes to the Halifax community (1,985) include those in Victoria (2,595), London (2,290) and Windsor (1,525).

## **Gender & Age Breakdowns**

According to Table 4, there is a slightly higher proportion of females than males in Halifax's Jewish community. More than fifty percent (51.9%) of the Jewish population is female and 48.1% is male.

A slight discrepancy in the gender breakdown is also apparent for the Jewish population of Canada, but it is not as marked as that for the Halifax Jewish community. Females comprise 50.6% of the Canadian Jewish population, whereas males comprise 49.4%.

Table 5 examines age breakdowns for Halifax Jews, non-Jews and their totals. The Jewish population has a somewhat lower proportion of children 0-14 years of age than the total Halifax population (13.4% and 18.6% respectively).

On the other hand, the Jewish population has a somewhat higher proportion of those 15-24 years of age than the total population (17.6% and 13.8% respectively).

In the economically productive age group of 25-44, the discrepancy between the two populations is particularly marked. About

**Table 5**  
**Age Breakdowns for Jews & Non-Jews**  
**Halifax CMA**

	Total		Jews		Non-Jews	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
0-14	66,090	18.6	265	13.4	65,825	18.6
15-24	49,205	13.8	350	17.6	48,855	13.8
25-44	118,090	33.2	455	22.9	117,635	33.2
45-64	85,155	23.9	600	30.2	84,555	23.9
65+	37,410	10.5	315	15.9	37,095	10.5
Total	355,950	100.0	1,985	100.0	353,965	100.0

**Table 6**  
**Age Breakdowns**  
**Halifax & Canadian Jewish Populations**

	Halifax Jewish Population		Canadian Jewish Population	
	#	%	#	%
0-14	265	13.4	71,590	19.3
15-24	350	17.6	48,430	13.1
25-44	455	22.9	90,510	24.4
45-64	600	30.2	98,115	26.5
65+	315	15.9	61,875	16.7
Total	1,985	100.0	370,520	100.0

23% of Jews fall into this age cohort, whereas 33.2% of the total Halifax population is represented here.

The picture reverses for the 45-64 year cohort. The Halifax Jewish community has a larger proportion for this age group (30.2%) than the total population (23.9%).

Finally, a comparison of the two age distributions shows that the Jewish community has a higher proportion of seniors (15.9%) than the total Halifax population (10.5%).

All in all, there is a somewhat higher percentage of Halifax Jews at the older end of the age distribution (45+ years) than in the total population: 46.1% of Halifax Jews are 45+ years, compared to 34.4% of the overall Halifax population.

Table 6 compares the age distributions of the Halifax and Canadian Jewish populations. It is evident that there is a much smaller proportion of children 0-14 years of age among the Halifax Jewish community than for Canada's Jewish population (13.4% and 19.3% respectively).

For the 15-24 year cohort, the picture reverses. The Halifax Jewish community has a much higher proportion than the national Jewish community (17.6% and 13.1% respectively).

In terms of the 25-44 year cohort, the Halifax and national Jewish populations have similar percentages. The Halifax community has a higher proportion of those 45-64 years than the Canadian Jewish population (30.2% and 26.5% respectively).

Finally, there are similar percentages of elderly (65+) among the Halifax and Canadian Jewish populations (15.9% and 16.7% respectively).

In summary, it is evident that the Halifax Jewish community's age distribution is more similar to that of the Canadian Jewish population than to the distribution of the overall Halifax population.

Table 7 is an historical summary of age breakdowns for Halifax's Jewish community. A number of interesting findings can be gleaned from this table. First, the number of those between 0-14 years of age has decreased since the 1991 Census. In 2001 there were 265 children

**Table 7**  
**Age by Census Year**  
**Halifax Jewish Community**

	2001		1991		1981		1971	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
0-14	265	13.4	390	22.0	350	23.8	250	17.9
15-24	350	17.6	230	13.0	155	10.5	300	21.4
25-44	455	22.9	555	31.4	575	39.1	325	23.2
45-64	600	30.2	275	15.5	265	18.0	380	27.1
65+	315	15.9	320	18.1	125	8.5	145	10.4
Total	1,985	100.0	1,770	100.0	1,470	100.0	1,400	100.0

under 15 years, compared to 390 in 1991, and 350 in 1981.

The 15-24 year cohort has increased significantly in the last decade. There were 350 in this cohort in 2001, compared to 230 in 1991, and 155 in 1981. Since this cohort of older teens and young adults represents the future of the community, this is a positive finding.

The 25-44 year cohort has decreased somewhat since 1991. In 2001, there were 455 individuals in this age group, compared to 555 in 1991, and 575 in 1981.

The 45-64 age group has increased very dramatically since 1991. There were 600 individuals in this cohort in 2001, compared to 275 in 1991. This bulge in the distribution represents the “baby-boomer” generation.

Finally, the number of Jewish seniors has remained relatively steady in the last decade. There were 315 seniors in 2001, compared to 320 in 1991. The baby-boomers will begin swelling the ranks of the elderly even further by the time the next Census is conducted in 2011.

Figure 1 represents an historical analysis of age trends as measured in the last four Censuses. This graph vividly illustrates the various peaks and valleys related to gains and losses within each age cohort. The reader should follow each age group in a step-wise progression, each step representing a different Census year.

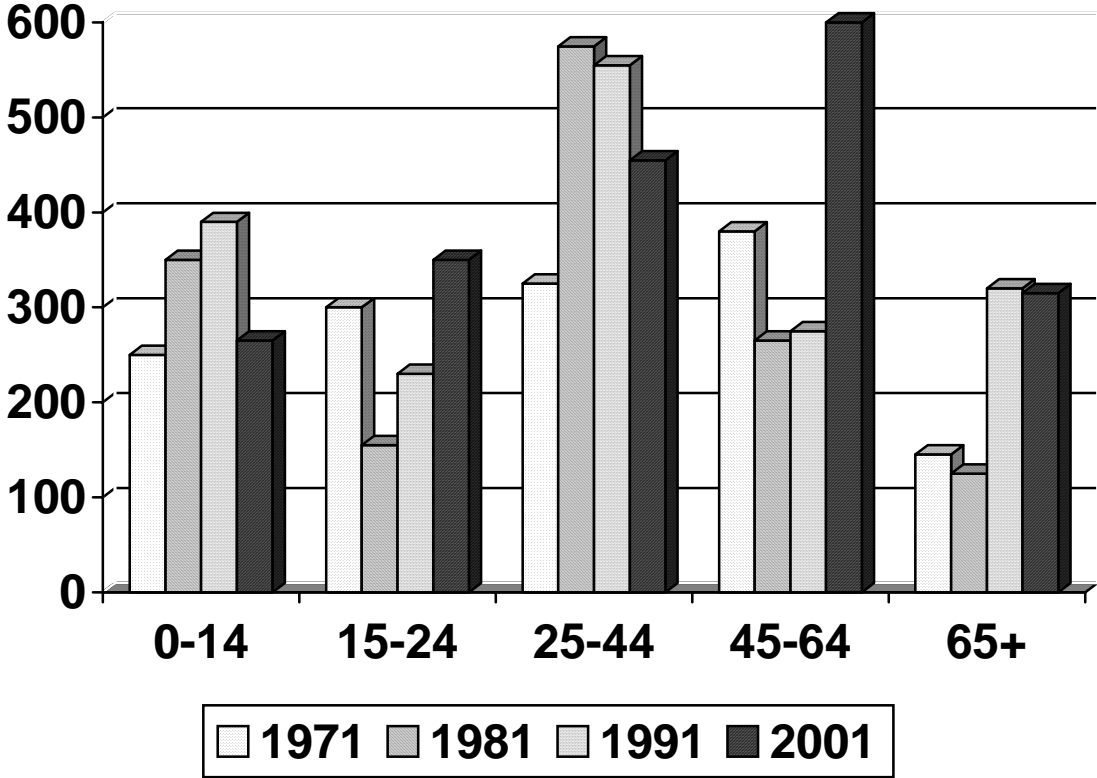
It can be seen that the 0-14 age cohort has dipped somewhat in 2001, after increasing steadily since 1971. The 15-24 cohort has increased in the last two decades, after dipping significantly in 1981.

As Figure 1 also shows, the 25-44 cohort decreased significantly between 1991 and 2001, after experiencing only a slight dip in the decade before. The 45-64 cohort has increased markedly in the last decade. This increase is the most dramatic aspect of the entire graph.

Finally, as noted in the summary of Table 7, the number of seniors (65+) has not changed in the span of the last decade. Their number have increased markedly since 1981.

The graph is also useful for anticipating general demographic trends in the coming decades. For instance, the peak in 1981 and

**Figure 1**  
**Age by Census Year**  
**Halifax Jewish Community**



1991 of the 25-44 year “baby-boomer” cohort translated into significant gains for the 45-64 cohort in 2001. This cohort simply moved into the next age range in the intervening decade. As mentioned before, this bulge will have an impact on the elderly cohort in the next Census, and will likely continue to “feed” into this cohort for at least another decade following 2011.

The 15-24 age group represents the children of the baby-boomers. It will begin to “feed” into the 25-44 age group by the 2011 Census, erasing some of the losses evident in the last Census. The 45-64 year segment will decrease in 2011 given the current dip in the 25-44 year cohort.

Finally, it is likely that the 15-24 age group will not continue to grow, given that the 0-14 cohort will not “feed” into it as vigorously as it had in the decade between 1991 and 2001.

Using age breakdowns, it is possible to calculate the dependency ratio for a particular community. The dependency ratio is the proportion of children (0-14 years) and seniors (65+ years) relative to economically productive adults (15-64 years). The higher the dependency ratio of a

community, the fewer the people in their wage earning years to support children and non-working seniors.

The dependency ratio for the Halifax Jewish community is 0.41. This ratio has vacillated somewhat in the last 30 years. In 1971 the dependency ratio was 0.39, whereas in 1981 it was 0.48. The ratio peaked in 1991 at 0.67, and has gone back down significantly in 2001. It is now at approximately the same level as in 1971. The peak in 1991 was due to the large numbers of children 0-14 years and seniors.

The dependency ratio for the total Halifax population is 0.41, identical to that of the Halifax Jewish community. The dependency ratio for the Canadian Jewish population is 0.56. It is 0.54 for the Toronto Jewish community, 0.70 for the Montreal Jewish community, 0.42 for the Vancouver Jewish community, and 0.64 for the Winnipeg Jewish community.

In short, compared to other communities, the dependency ratio for the Jewish community here is rather low, suggesting the burden of looking after its economically dependent members is not as pronounced as that for

**Table 8**  
**Median Age**  
**Selected Populations by Census Year**

Census Year	Halifax Total Population	Halifax Non-Jewish Population	Halifax Jewish Population	Canadian Jewish Population
2001	36.5	36.5	41.1	40.2
1991	31.3	31.3	37.2	37.3
1981	28.1	28.1	30.4	34.6
1971	24.5	24.5	35.0	33.6

other major Jewish communities across Canada.

Table 8 looks at median ages for the Jewish, non-Jewish and total Halifax populations, as well as the Canadian Jewish population. It is clear from this table that the median age of the Jewish population in this city has been steadily increasing. It was 35.0 years in 1971, 30.4 years in 1981, 37.2 years in 1991 and 41.1 years in 2001. It is not clear why there was a dip in 1981.

The 2001 median age for the Jewish community is almost 5 years older than that of the total Halifax population. But it is interesting to note that the gap between the Jewish community's median age and that of the total Halifax population has decreased in the last decade. In 1991 it was 5.9 years, and 4.6 years in 2001. In other words, the overall Halifax population is growing older at a faster rate than the Jewish community.

Table 8 also shows that the median age of the Halifax Jewish community is somewhat older than that of the Canadian Jewish population (41.1 and 40.2 years respectively), but the difference is not that marked (0.9 years).

The difference between the median ages of the Halifax and Canadian Jewish populations has increased since 1991. In that Census, the median age for Halifax Jews was very similar to that of the Canadian Jewish community (37.2 and 37.3 years respectively). Now these populations are almost a year apart.

The median age is 41.8 years for the Montreal Jewish community, compared to 41.1 years for the Halifax Jewish community. It is 39.4 for the Toronto Jewish community, 39.4 years for the Ottawa Jewish community, and 44.5 years for the Winnipeg Jewish community.

## **Comparisons With Other Ethnic Groups**

Table 9 looks at the ethnic affiliations of the total population in the Halifax CMA. Ethnicity was a "multiple response" variable in the 2001 Census. This means that respondents could indicate more than one ethnic affiliation. To avoid double counting, a hierarchical method of assigning affiliation was employed in this analysis. This method is described fully in Appendix 4.

**Table 9**  
**Ethnic Affiliation: Halifax CMA**

	#	%
British	128,695	36.2
Canadian	91,045	25.6
French	45,895	12.9
German	34,225	9.6
Aboriginal	10,855	3.0
African	6,790	1.9
Arab	6,470	1.8
Italian	4,585	1.3
Ukrainian	3,190	0.9
Polish	3,005	0.8
Chinese	2,750	0.8
East Indian	2,175	0.6
<b>(Jewish: full definition)</b>	<b>(1,980)</b>	<b>--</b>
Greek	1,805	0.5
Russian	1,325	0.4
Portuguese	1,245	0.3
Caribbean	1,235	0.3
Spanish	1,005	0.3
Vietnamese	645	0.2
Latin American	640	0.2
American	580	0.2
Filipino	485	0.1
Japanese	440	0.1
Korean	415	0.1
Pakistani	190	0.1
All other ethnic categories	6,255	1.8
<b>Total Halifax CMA</b>	<b>355,945</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Note that the category for Jewish affiliation is described as “Jewish: full definition” in Table 9. Jewish affiliation is unique because it can refer to either an ethnic or religious identification, or both. It was felt that comparisons should be made with the full definition of “Jewishness”, so that the most inclusive attribution could be derived. A percentage wasn’t assigned to this category, however, because it overlapped with other groups (that is, some respondents may have described themselves as “Jewish and Russian” or “Jewish and Canadian”, etc.).

An examination of Table 9 reveals that British is the ethnic category with the most popular affiliation. More than a third (36.2%) of Halifax residents say their ethnic affiliation is British, or 128,695 persons. This group includes individuals of English, Irish and Scottish origins.

A significant number say they are Canadian by ethnic origin. They comprise 91,045 individuals or 25.6% of the Halifax population. More than one in ten individuals (12.9%) are of French origin. This group comprises 45,895 persons and ranks third among ethnic groups.

Another 34,225 persons claim German descent, or 9.6% of the Halifax population. There is also a significant Aboriginal population in this city (10,855 individuals).

The remaining ethnic groups number below 10,000 individuals. The African community ranks sixth, and comprises 6,790 persons. The Arabs number 6,470 people; the Italians number 4,585 people; and the Ukrainians number 3,190 people. Finally, the Polish community rounds out the ten largest ethnic groups with 3,005 individuals.

The Jewish community ranks thirteenth among ethnic groups, with a population of 1,985. As noted before, because ethnicity alone is not sufficiently inclusive to accurately describe the community, this figure is derived from a combined definition of religion and ethnicity (see Appendix 4).

In terms of median ages, the ethnic groups with the lowest figures include the Japanese (22.3 years), Latin American (25 years), Caribbean (25.4 years), Korean (25.4 years), and Arab (25.5 years) communities.

The Jewish community has the highest median age (41.1 years), followed by the

**Table 10**  
**Religious Affiliation**  
**Halifax CMA**

	#	%
Protestant	161,495	45.4
Catholic	132,565	37.2
Christian, n.i.e.	4,975	1.4
Muslim	3,070	0.9
Christian Orthodox	2,805	0.8
<b>(Jewish: full definition)</b>	<b>(1,980)</b>	<b>--</b>
Jewish: religion alone	1,575	0.4
Buddhist	1,475	0.4
Hindu	960	0.3
Para-religious groups	600	0.2
Other Eastern religions	345	0.1
Sikh	175	0.0
No religious affiliation	45,900	12.9
Total	355,940	100

Note: "Christian, n.i.e." includes individuals who identified themselves as Christian but did not report a specific denomination. The category of "No religious affiliation" comprises Agnostics, Atheists, Humanists, those with No Religion, and Other n.i.e.

British (40.7 years) and Germans (35.9 years).

Please refer to Table 15 in Appendix 5 for a complete breakdown of ethnic affiliation by median age.

## **Comparisons With Other Religious Affiliations**

Table 10 looks at religious affiliations for the Halifax CMA. Note that the figures for the Jewish Standard Definition are cited in this analysis as well, although the figures for Jewish religion alone are likewise included in the table.

It can be seen that Protestants are the largest group in this metropolitan area, representing 45.4% of the population, or 161,495 individuals. Catholics comprise the second largest group with 37.2% of the total Halifax population, or 132,565 individuals.

“Christians not included elsewhere” are the third largest group with 1.4% of the population, or 4,975 individuals. Muslims comprise the fourth largest group with 3,070 individuals, followed by the Christian Orthodox with 2,805 individuals.

Jews rank sixth among religious groups. Note that Jews were defined using both the Standard Definition (which uses religion and ethnicity) and by religion alone. Their ranking is not affected by the choice of definition, although there are obviously fewer Jews when only religion is taken into account.

It is noteworthy that 12.9% of the total population, or 45,900 persons, say they have no religious affiliation. Within this category are included people who defined themselves as agnostics, atheists, or humanists, or who affiliated with no religion at all.

A very small proportion (0.2%) of the population are involved with Para-religious groups, such as Paganism, Scientology, Rastafarian, and New Age affiliations.

The Jewish community has the highest median age (41.1 years) of any mainstream religious group in Halifax, followed by Protestants (39.3 years) and Buddhists (37.2 years). The lowest median age is found among Muslims (24.5 years). Those with no religious affiliation average 29.1 years, whereas those involved with Para-religious groups have a median age of 28 years.

Please refer to Table 16 in Appendix 5 for a complete breakdown of religious affiliation by median age.

## **The Halifax Community in a Provincial & Regional Context**

The total population of Jews in Nova Scotia is 2,785. Jews make up 0.3% of the population of this province. A significant proportion of the Jewish population in this province is located in the Halifax CMA. Specifically, 71.3% of Jews in Nova Scotia reside in Halifax.

Population figures are available for two other Jewish communities in this province. There are 235 Jews in Cape Breton and 45 Jews in Yarmouth.

The Halifax Jewish community comprises 50.5% of the Jewish population in the Atlantic Provinces. Other Jewish communities with noteworthy populations in the Atlantic Region include Fredericton with 285 Jews, Moncton with 270 Jews, St. John's with 145 Jews, and St. John with 135 Jews.

Finally, regarding provincial breakdowns, Nova Scotia has 2,785 Jews, New Brunswick has 840, Newfoundland and Labrador have 195, and Prince Edward Island has 105 Jews. The total Jewish population in Atlantic Canada is 3,925.

# Appendix 1

## The Utility of the Census

The information gleaned from the Census is useful from a number of perspectives. From a communal planning perspective, the data can be utilized to identify segments of the Jewish population at risk (economically and socially), and determine where they reside. It can also be used to examine whether, given certain demographic realities, programs or services should be established or continued.

Another application involves establishing population bases of certain segments in the community, in order to determine what percentage a service, program or philanthropic effort is reaching. For instance, knowledge of the base population of Jewish school-aged children can allow us to determine what percentages of these children attend Jewish or non-Jewish schools. It is also possible to compare base populations of the poor, single parents, etc. to the number of clients serviced by

community agencies, in order to determine what proportions of these segments specific agencies are reaching.

The Census can be used to examine important questions related to community continuity. For instance: the adaptation of Jewish immigrant populations; the affiliation levels of children in intermarried families; and the migration patterns of Jews across the country are among the issues that can be examined using the Census.

Finally, the Census can be used to establish demographic trends over time, by comparing the latest figures to those of previous Censuses. These comparisons provide important indications to what extent a community has changed, and where it might be headed in the coming years.



## **Appendix 2**

### **The Reliability of the Census**

The Census is a massive and complex undertaking, and although high standards are applied throughout the process, a certain level of error still characterizes the endeavor. Such errors can arise at virtually any point in the Census process, from the preparation of materials to the collection of data and the processing of information.

There are a number of principal types of errors that impact on the Census. In coverage errors, dwellings or individuals are missed, incorrectly enumerated or counted more than once. In terms of non-response errors, responses to the Census cannot be obtained from a certain number of households and/or individuals due to extended absence or other extenuating circumstances.

In response errors, the respondent misunderstands a Census question and answers incorrectly or uses the wrong response box. Processing errors occur during the coding and inputting of data.

Finally, sampling errors apply only to the long-form. Statistics based on this form are

projected from a 20% sample of households. The responses to long-form questions, when projected to represent the whole population inevitably differ from the responses that would have been obtained if these questions were asked of all households.

Statistics Canada has a number of quality control measures that ensure Census data are as reliable as possible. Representatives edit the questionnaires when they are returned, and follow up on missing information. There are also quality control measures in place during the coding and data entry stages.

Despite these controls, a number of errors and response-biases can nonetheless impact the data obtained from the Jewish population. For instance, certain segments of the Jewish community may be more reticent to answer the questions in the Census fully or accurately.

Recent immigrant populations who are suspicious of government-sponsored projects, and are wary of being identified as Jewish, may avoid indicating such an

affiliation, or may answer certain questions more cautiously.

It is possible that members of the Chassidic and Ultra-Orthodox communities are more reluctant to participate fully in the Census effort, due to specific biblical injunctions that prohibit Jews from “being counted.” It is unclear whether such restrictions have had an impact on their responses, but anecdotal evidence suggests that these communities respond adequately. For instance, the Tosh Chasidic community of Montreal, which is fairly isolated geographically from the rest of the Jewish population, has had significant representation in previous Censuses, although it is unclear as to what extent their enumeration was complete.

Finally, since both the religion and ethnicity questions are only included in the long-form of the Census, sampling error arising from projections based on a 20% enumeration of households is a factor in all Census analyses related to the Jewish community.

The level of sampling error inherent in any cell of a data table can be precisely calculated. Statistics Canada provides a table that measures these errors, and they are summarized below. Obviously, for large cell

values, the potential error due to sampling will be proportionally smaller than for smaller ones.

When using the table, the reader should consider the right column as reflective of the average level of error expected for a given cell size. Of course, some cells may reflect errors smaller or larger than the average. About ninety percent of errors will fall between  $\pm$  the average error specified below. Ten percent of errors are expected to fall outside this range.

Cell Value	Average Error
50 or less	15
100	20
200	30
500	45
1,000	65
2,000	90
5,000	140
10,000	200
20,000	280
50,000	450
100,000	630

Source for Appendix 2: 2001 Census Dictionary Reference Guide (pg. 275). Published by Statistics Canada, August 2002. Catalogue No. 92-378-XPE.

## **Appendix 3**

### **The Jewish Standard Definition**

This report uses what is known as the “Jewish Standard Definition” to distinguish who is Jewish from the rest of the population. Jim Torczyner of McGill University and the Jewish Federation of Montreal formulated this definition in 1981, using a combination of religious and ethnic identification.

According to this criterion, a Jew is defined as anyone who specified that they were:

- Jewish by religion and ethnicity.
- Jewish by religion and having another ethnicity.
- Jewish by ethnicity with no religious affiliation.

Anyone who specified another religion (Catholic, Muslim, etc.) and a Jewish ethnicity were excluded from the above definition.

Using this criterion, it is not possible to say how a person behaves “Jewishly”: for instance, whether they adhere to traditions or attend synagogue on a regular basis. However, despite this limitation, the fact that we can identify Jewish affiliation at all

is critical for using the Census as a tool to better understand our community. The Jewish Standard Definition is meant to be as inclusive as possible, reflecting the varied expressions that comprise the richness of the Jewish experience.

It is important to note that a significant change to the “Jewish Standard Definition” was implemented in the current analysis of Census data. The category of those who had “no religion and a Jewish ethnicity” was expanded to include those with “no religious affiliation and a Jewish ethnicity”.

The category of “no religious affiliation” is broader than that of “no religion” because it includes those who consider themselves as agnostics, atheists and humanists, as well as having no religion. Since it is possible to be Jewish and to have such affiliations, it was felt that this change would better reflect the broad spectrum of Jewish affiliation. Data from previous Censuses have been re-analyzed to ensure compatibility with the current criterion.



## **Appendix 4**

### **The Attribution of Ethnic Origins**

Ethnic origin was a multiple-response variable in the 2001 Census, meaning that respondents were allowed to indicate more than one ethnic affiliation. If all the multiple ethnic affiliations were included in the Census analysis the total would equal more than 100% because some people had more than one response to this question. A system was therefore devised for this analysis whereby a respondent would only be assigned one ethnic category. This system involved a hierarchy where an ethnic group would get precedence over those below it. The following order of precedence was established:

Aboriginal, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Filipino, Vietnamese, East Indian, Pakistani, Arab, African, Caribbean, Latin American, Italian, Greek, Portuguese, Russian, Ukrainian, Polish, German, Spanish, French, British, American, Canadian, Jewish, Other.

Rather than using a strictly ethnic definition of Jewishness, comparisons between Jews and other ethnic categories were made using the Jewish Standard Definition as the criterion. This definition uses a combination of religion and ethnicity, and is more inclusive than a strictly ethnic identification of Jewishness. For instance, out of a sense of patriotism some Jews may have said their ethnic background was single-response Canadian. As such, they would not have been counted in the ethnicity-only definition.

On the other hand, some converts likely considered themselves Jews by religion, but not ethnicity. They could not be appropriately compared as Jews to other ethnic categories, and yet they would be included in the Jewish Standard Definition. In short, the issue of Jewish affiliation is a complex one and there are shortcomings associated with whatever definition is used.



## Appendix 5 Additional Data Tables

**Table 11  
Age by Gender  
Halifax Jewish Community**

	Total		Male		Female	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
0-14	265	13.4	130	13.6	135	13.1
15-24	350	17.6	175	18.3	175	17.0
25-44	455	22.9	200	20.9	255	24.8
45-64	600	30.2	290	30.4	310	30.1
65+	315	15.9	160	16.8	155	15.0
Total	1,985	100.0	955	100.0	1,030	100.0

**Table 12**  
**Age Breakdowns for Jews & Non-Jews**  
**Halifax CMA**

	Total		Jews		Non-Jews	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
0-4	19,865	5.6	60	3.0	19,805	5.6
5-14	46,225	13.0	205	10.4	46,020	13.0
15-24	49,205	13.8	350	17.7	48,855	13.8
25-34	53,900	15.1	265	13.4	53,635	15.2
35-44	64,185	18.0	185	9.4	64,000	18.1
45-54	53,275	15.0	360	18.2	52,915	14.9
55-64	31,880	9.0	240	12.2	31,640	8.9
65-74	21,285	6.0	130	6.6	21,155	6.0
75-84	12,955	3.6	150	7.6	12,805	3.6
85+	3,170	0.9	30	1.5	3,140	0.9
Total	355,945	100.0	1,975	100.0	353,970	100.0

**Table 13**  
**Age Breakdowns**  
**Halifax & Canadian Jewish Populations**

	Halifax Jewish Population		Canadian Jewish Population	
	#	%	#	%
0-4	60	3.0	21,245	5.7
5-14	205	10.4	50,345	13.6
15-24	350	17.7	48,430	13.1
25-34	265	13.4	41,005	11.1
35-44	185	9.4	49,510	13.4
45-54	360	18.2	61,170	16.5
55-64	240	12.2	36,940	10.0
65-74	130	6.6	28,560	7.7
75-84	150	7.6	25,360	6.8
85+	30	1.5	7,955	2.1
Total	1,975	100.0	370,520	100.0

**Table 14**  
**Age by Census Year**  
**Halifax Jewish Community**

	2001		1991		1981		1971	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
0-4	60	3.0	100	5.6	145	9.9	55	3.9
5-14	205	10.4	285	16.1	205	14.0	195	13.9
15-24	350	17.7	230	13.0	155	10.6	295	21.0
25-34	265	13.4	205	11.6	375	25.6	155	11.0
35-44	185	9.4	350	19.8	195	13.3	170	12.1
45-54	360	18.2	150	8.5	100	6.8	195	13.9
55-64	240	12.2	125	7.1	160	10.9	190	13.5
65-74	130	6.6	175	9.9	75	5.1	95	6.8
75-84	150	7.6	125	7.1	45	3.1	45	3.2
85+	30	1.5	25	1.4	10	0.7	10	0.7
Total	1,975	100.0	1,770	100.0	1,465	100.0	1,405	100.0

**Table 15**  
**Ethnic Affiliation by Median Age for Halifax CMA**

	Median Age
British	40.7
Canadian	34.0
French	35.5
German	35.9
Aboriginal	29.2
African	26.1
Arab	25.5
Italian	30.3
Ukrainian	29.5
Polish	31.0
Chinese	29.1
East Indian	31.3
<b>(Jewish: full definition)</b>	<b>(41.1)</b>
Greek	34.2
Russian	34.5
Portuguese	33.3
Caribbean	25.4
Spanish	32.0
Vietnamese	26.4
Latin American	25.0
American	29.2
Filipino	32.9
Japanese	22.3
Korean	25.4
Pakistani	27.2
Other Ethnic	40.4
Total	36.5

**Table 16**  
**Religious Affiliation by Median Age**  
**Halifax CMA**

	Median Age
Protestant	39.3
Catholic	36.2
Christian, n.i.e.	29.2
Muslim	24.5
Christian Orthodox	34.4
<b>(Jewish: full definition)</b>	<b>(41.1)</b>
Jewish: religion alone	45.9
Buddhist	37.2
Hindu	35.0
Para-religious groups	28.0
Other Eastern religions	47.0
Sikh	36.8
No religious affiliation	29.1
Total	36.5

Note: “Christian, n.i.e.” includes individuals who identified themselves as Christian but did not report a specific denomination. The category of “No religious affiliation” comprises Agnostics, Atheists, Humanists, those with No Religion, and Other n.i.e.