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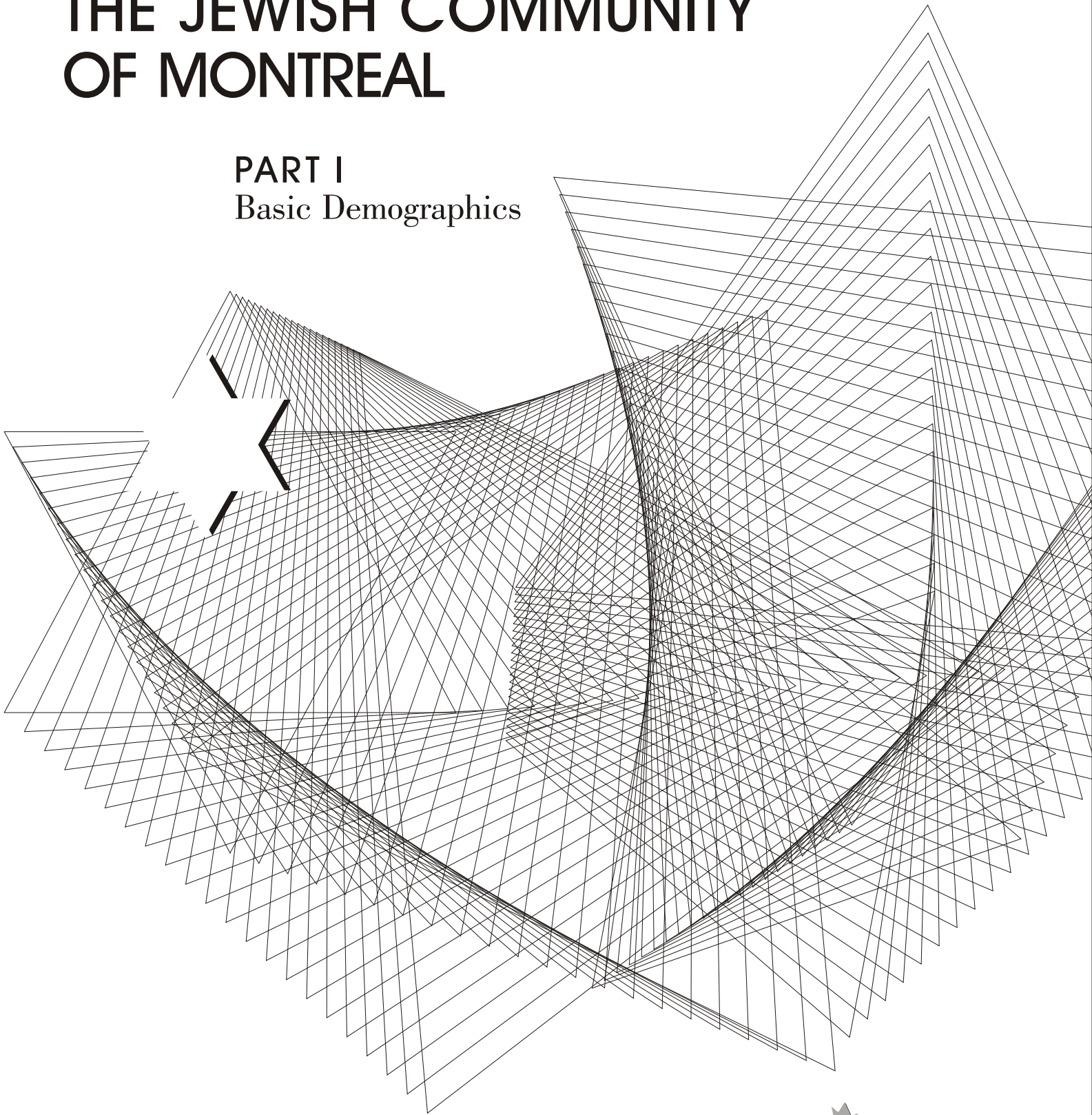
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# 2001 Census Analysis Series **THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF MONTREAL**

## **PART I** Basic Demographics



By Charles Shahr  
November, 2003



UIA Federations Canada  
מגבית הפרציות היהודיות בקנדה

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

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

**By**  
**Charles Shahr**

UIA Federations Canada would like to thank the following members of the 2001 Census Analysis “Professional Advisory Committee” for their expert assistance throughout this project. Their technical and conceptual knowledge was an invaluable resource for the researchers involved in this effort.

Dr. Jonathan Berkowitz, Vancouver, BC

Dr. Jay Brodbar, Toronto, ON

Prof. Leo Davids, Toronto, ON

Mr. Colin Geitzler, Aylmer, QC

Ms. Jean Gerber, Vancouver, BC

Dr. Gustave Goldmann, Ottawa, ON

Dr. Jack Jedwab, Montreal, QC

Prof. Marty Lockshin, Toronto, ON

Mr. Greg Mason, Winnipeg, MB

Dr. Sheva Medjuck, Halifax, NS

Prof. Alan Moscovitch, Ottawa, ON

Prof. Morton Weinfeld, Montreal, QC

Dr. Morty Yalovsky, Montreal, QC

UIA Federations Canada would also like to thank Réal Lortie and Marc Pagé of Statistics Canada for their expertise and meticulous attention to detail. Without their assistance this report would not be possible.

The researchers would like to express appreciation to Freda Ginsberg for her careful review of this document.

Finally, a special acknowledgment is extended to Lioudmila Medvedtchenko for her diligent work in the extraction and verification of statistical data.

All data in this report are adapted from:  
Statistics Canada, special order tabulations for UIA Federations Canada, CO-561.

## Highlights of Results

- The Jewish population of Montreal was 92,970 in 2001. Jews comprised 2.8% of the total Montreal population.
- Between 1991 and 2001 the Jewish community diminished by 8,435 people, or 8.3%. This loss was larger than that experienced in previous decades.
- Montreal has the second largest Jewish community in Canada, and about a quarter (25.1%) of the country's Jewish population.
- The Jewish community has a much larger proportion of seniors (21.6%) than that in Montreal's total population (12.2%).
- The 25-44 year cohort has decreased markedly in the last decade for the Montreal Jewish community. In 2001, there were 20,045 individuals in this age group, compared to 26,085 in 1991.
- The median age of the Montreal Jewish community (41.8 years) is somewhat older than that of the Canadian Jewish population (40.2 years).
- The size of the Jewish community's population ranks seventh among ethnic groups in Montreal, having a smaller representation than the Canadian, French, Italian, British, Arab or Caribbean communities.
- Jews rank fifth in size among religious groups. Catholics are the largest group, followed by Protestants, Muslims and Christian Orthodox.
- A very significant proportion (98.2%) of the Jewish population in Quebec resides in the Montreal Census Metropolitan Area.

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# Census Analysis Series

## Basic Demographics

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

This report is considered particularly timely given the emerging realities facing Montreal’s Jewish population. Without a doubt, this community has undergone numerous changes over the last three decades. The social, political and economic climate in Quebec has presented many challenges, and the community has had to adapt.

A particular challenge has been the issue of demographic continuity. Recent population losses have led to a renewed emphasis on unity among the varied segments of the community. Another challenge has been the increasing numbers of elderly in the population, and the question of looking after the poor and other vulnerable segments. Finally, the issue of assisting recent

immigrants has been reinforced as a communal agenda.

It is clear that Montreal’s Jewish population is unique in North America. It is a close-knit, multi-cultural community, with a long history of Jewish philanthropy and a well-established system of communal organizations.

The following analysis attempts to shed further light on the nature and 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 Montreal’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.

**Table 1**  
**Jewish & Non-Jewish Populations**  
**Montreal CMA**

	#	%
Jewish	92,970	2.8
Non-Jewish	3,287,670	97.2
Total	3,380,640	100.0

**Table 2**  
**Jewish Population of Montreal CMA**  
**Historical Summary\***

	Jewish Population	# Change From Previous Census	% Change From Previous Census
2001	92,970	-8,435	-8.3
1991	101,405	-2,360	-2.3
1981	103,765	-8,255	-7.4
1971	112,020	+9,296	+8.3
1961	102,724	+21,895	+21.3
1951	80,829	+17,251	+27.1
1941	63,578	+5,806	+10.0
1931	57,772	+12,044	+26.3
1921	45,728	+17,188	+60.2
1911	28,540	+21,624	+312.7
1901	6,916	--	--

\*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.

The current report examines the Jewish community within the Montreal Census Metropolitan Area or CMA. This corresponds to the Greater Montreal Area, and includes within its parameters Laval, and the North and South Shores.

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 Montreal CMA was 92,970 (Table 1). Jews comprised 2.8% of Montreal's total population of 3,380,640.

The Jewish population figure for 2001 represented a loss from 1991, when there were 101,405 Jews here. Between 1991 and 2001 the Jewish population declined by 8,435 people, or 8.3% (Table 2).

The population losses between 1991 and 2001 were more profound than between 1981 and 1991. In the latter decade, the community declined by 2,360 people or 2.3%. Current losses are 3.5x more pronounced.

The current decline is also significant when one considers that between 1971 and 1981 the community experienced a loss of 8,255 people or 7.4%. The loss between 1991 and 2001 is slightly more dramatic, and suggests that in terms of demographic continuity, the community is still experiencing significant downward pressures.

The decade spanning 1971 to 1981 marked the first time that the Jewish population began decreasing in size since the community began to swell at the turn of the last century. Particularly large increases were realized between 1901 and 1931, as well as between 1945 and 1971. In the 1930's, restricted Jewish immigration to Canada slowed the growth experienced in previous decades.

The gains and losses described in Table 2, however, do not reveal the entire story. They merely represent the relative impacts of mortality, birth rate, in-migration and out-

**Table 3**  
**Jewish Population as Percentage of Total Montreal Population**  
**Historical Summary**

Census Year	Total Population	Non-Jewish Population	Jewish Population	% Jewish
2001	3,380,640	3,287,670	92,970	2.8
1991	3,091,115	2,989,705	101,405	3.3
1981	2,798,040	2,694,275	103,765	3.7
1971	2,743,235	2,631,220	112,020	4.1

**Table 4**  
**Montreal & Canadian Jewish Populations**  
**Historical Summary**

Census Year	Montreal Jewish Population	Canadian Jewish Population	% of Cdn Jewish Population	Ranking Among Cdn Jewish Communities
2001	92,970	370,520	25.1	2
1991	101,405	358,055	28.3	2
1981	103,765	313,865	33.1	2
1971	112,020	286,555	39.1	1

**Table 5**  
**Gender Breakdowns**  
**Montreal & Canadian Jewish Populations**

	Montreal Jewish Population		Canadian Jewish Population	
	#	%	#	%
Males	45,530	49.0	182,910	49.4
Females	47,440	51.0	187,610	50.6
Total	92,970	100.0	370,520	100.0

migration on the Jewish community's demographics. These interacting factors will be examined more extensively in subsequent reports.

Table 3 looks at the Jewish population relative to the total population in Montreal. It can be seen that the percentage of the Jewish population relative to the total has been decreasing steadily in the last three decades. In 1971, Jews comprised 4.1% of the total Montreal population, but in 2001 they decreased to 2.8%.

It is also evident from Table 3 that the total Montreal population has increased from 1981 to 2001. Calculations reveal that between 1981 and 2001 the total population of this metropolitan area increased by 20.8%. On the other hand, in those two decades the Jewish community's population has declined by 10.4%.

Table 4 compares Montreal's Jewish population to the Canadian Jewish population. It can be seen that in 1971, Montreal had the largest Jewish community in Canada. It currently ranks second behind Toronto's Jewish population. Toronto's Jewish population was 179,100 in 2001, compared to 92,970 in Montreal.

Montreal comprised about one quarter (25.1%) of the Canadian Jewish population in 2001. In 1971 it represented 39.1% of the Canadian Jewish total.

Calculations reveal that between 1981 and 2001 the Canadian Jewish population increased by 18.1%, whereas the Montreal Jewish population declined by 10.4%. It is also noteworthy, however, that between 1991 and 2001 the growth of the Canadian Jewish population slowed to a mere 3.5%.

## **Gender & Age Breakdowns**

According to Table 5, there is a slightly smaller proportion of males than females in Montreal's Jewish community. Forty-nine percent (49%) of the Jewish population is male, compared to 51% female. The longer life expectancy of female seniors largely explains this discrepancy, as will be discussed below.

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 Montreal Jewish community. Males comprise 49.4% of the Canadian Jewish population, whereas females comprise 50.6%.

**Table 6**  
**Age Breakdowns for Jews & Non-Jews**  
**Montreal CMA**

	Total		Jews		Non-Jews	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
0-14	619,430	18.3	18,195	19.6	601,235	18.3
15-24	443,075	13.1	11,795	12.7	431,285	13.1
25-44	1,070,475	31.7	20,050	21.6	1,050,425	32.0
45-64	836,695	24.7	22,835	24.6	813,855	24.8
65+	410,975	12.2	20,100	21.6	390,870	11.9
Total	3,380,650	100.0	92,975	100.0	3,287,670	100.0

**Table 7**  
**Age Breakdowns**  
**Montreal & Canadian Jewish Populations**

	Montreal Jewish Population		Canadian Jewish Population	
	#	%	#	%
0-14	18,195	19.6	71,590	19.3
15-24	11,790	12.7	48,430	13.1
25-44	20,045	21.6	90,510	24.4
45-64	22,835	24.6	98,115	26.5
65+	20,100	21.6	61,875	16.7
Total	92,965	100.0	370,520	100.0

Table 6 examines age breakdowns for Montreal Jews, non-Jews and their totals. The Jewish population has a slightly higher proportion of children 0-14 years than the total population (19.6% and 18.3% respectively). The high fertility rates among the Ultra-Orthodox community may be a contributing factor here.

The proportions of the 15-24 year cohort are comparable for the Montreal Jewish and total populations (12.7% and 13.1% respectively).

However, in the economically productive age group of 25-44, the discrepancy is marked. Only about one in five Jews (21.6%) fall into this age cohort, whereas 31.7% of the total Montreal population is represented here.

There are very similar proportions for the 45-64 year cohort for Jews and the total Montreal population (24.6% and 24.7% respectively).

Finally, the Jewish community has a much larger proportion of seniors (21.6%) than the total Montreal population (12.2%). This is the most marked discrepancy in a comparison of these two age distributions.

Table 7 compares age distributions of the Montreal and Canadian Jewish populations. These distributions are very similar, with two exceptions. First, there is a somewhat smaller proportion of Montreal Jews between 25-44 years of age than for Canadian Jews (21.6% and 24.4% respectively). But, this discrepancy is not as large as that between the Jewish and total Montreal populations for this age cohort.

The second discrepancy relates to seniors. There are 21.6% elderly in the Montreal Jewish community and 16.7% in Canada's Jewish population. Again, this discrepancy is not as large as that between the Jewish and total populations in Montreal.

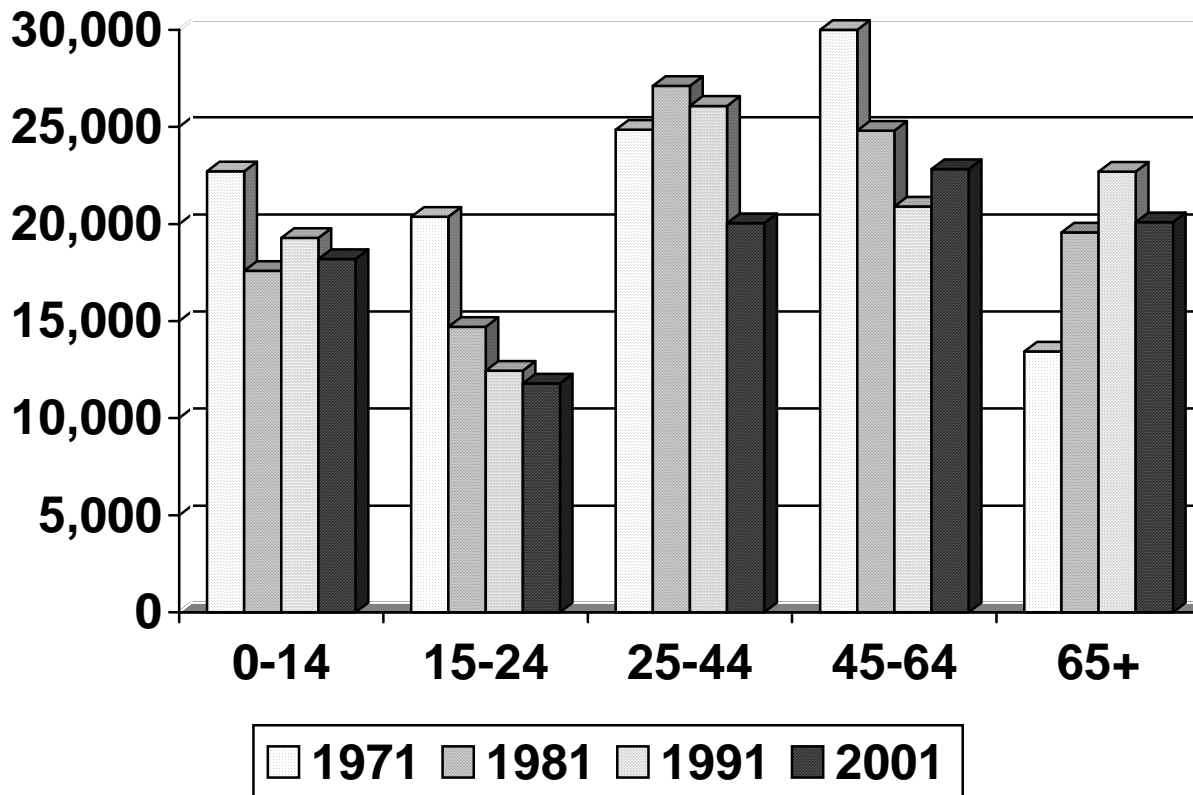
All in all, it is evident that Montreal's age distribution is much more similar to that of the Canadian Jewish community than to the distribution of Montreal's total population.

Table 8 is an historical summary of age breakdowns for Montreal'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, but is actually higher than levels for the same cohort in 1981. In 2001, there were

**Table 8**  
**Age by Census Year**  
**Montreal Jewish Community**

	2001		1991		1981		1971	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
0-14	18,195	19.6	19,280	19.0	17,590	17.0	22,715	20.3
15-24	11,790	12.7	12,450	12.3	14,700	14.2	20,375	18.2
25-44	20,045	21.6	26,085	25.7	27,115	26.1	24,860	22.2
45-64	22,835	24.6	20,905	20.6	24,805	23.9	30,625	27.3
65+	20,100	21.6	22,695	22.4	19,565	18.9	13,430	12.0
Total	92,965	100.0	101,415	100.0	103,775	100.0	112,005	100.0

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



18,195 children under 15 years of age, compared to 19,280 in 1991.

Particularly striking is that the 15-24 year cohort has been shrinking steadily since 1971. In 2001 there were 11,790 in this cohort, compared to 12,450 in 1991, and 14,700 in 1981. Since this cohort of older teens and young adults represents the future of the community, this finding is of particular concern.

The 25-44 year cohort has been steadily decreasing over the last twenty years. In 2001, there were 20,045 individuals in this age group, compared to 26,085 in 1991. This represents a precipitous drop that may have implications for the economic strength of the community in the future.

The 45-64 age group has actually increased since 1991. There were 22,835 individuals in this cohort in 2001, compared to 20,905 in 1991.

Finally, the number of seniors has diminished as well, having peaked in 1991. There were 20,100 seniors in 2001, compared to 22,695 in 1991.

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, with each step representing a different Census year.

It can be seen that the 0-14 age cohort has remained fairly steady since 1981, with only a slight dip in 2001. The 15-24 cohort lost a particularly large number of individuals between 1971 and 1981, and has continued to decline.

As Figure 1 also shows, the 25-44 cohort saw a dramatic decrease between 1991 and 2001. The 45-64 year cohort has increased somewhat, although not approaching 1971 levels. Finally, as noted in Table 8, the seniors (65+) cohort peaked in 1991, and has diminished somewhat in 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

**Table 9**  
**Age by Gender**  
**Montreal Jewish Community**

	Total		Male		Female	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
0-14	18,195	19.6	9,490	20.8	8,705	18.3
15-24	11,790	12.7	6,105	13.4	5,690	12.0
25-44	20,045	21.6	9,790	21.5	10,255	21.6
45-64	22,835	24.6	11,115	24.4	11,725	24.7
65+	20,100	21.6	9,035	19.8	11,065	23.3
Total	92,965	100.0	45,535	100.0	47,440	100.0

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

The dependency ratio for the Montreal Jewish community is 0.70. This ratio has increased in the last 30 years. In 1971 the dependency ratio was 0.48, whereas in 1981 it was 0.56. The ratio peaked in 1991 at 0.71, a very similar level to the 2001 figure.

In comparison, the dependency ratio for the total Montreal population is 0.44, well below that of the Montreal Jewish community (0.70). The dependency ratio for the Canadian Jewish population is 0.56. It is 0.54 for the Toronto Jewish community, and 0.42 for the Vancouver Jewish community.

In short, compared to other communities, the dependency ratio for the Jewish community here is rather high, suggesting the burden of looking after its economically dependent members is more pronounced than in other major Jewish communities across Canada. This has implications for the economic viability of the Montreal Jewish community, and its long-term ability to provide services and programs for its more vulnerable members.

A cross-tabulation of age by gender for the Montreal Jewish population is presented in Table 9. It can be seen that males outnumber females at the younger end of the distribution. For instance, there are 9,490 males between 0-14 years of age, compared to 8,705 females. This is not a surprising finding since in most population distributions worldwide there is a small excess of males among births. There are also more males than females in the 15-24 age group for the Montreal Jewish community.

In the remaining cohorts, however, females outnumber males. This is particularly true among seniors. There are 11,065 female elderly compared to 9,035 male elderly. Such a discrepancy mirrors the trend of other populations worldwide with an excess of male versus female mortality. That is, males tend to have shorter life spans than females, and this accounts for the larger proportion of females among seniors.

The reader is referred to Tables 16 to 19 in Appendix 5 for more detailed age distributions, including 5-year and 10-year age breakdowns, as well as single-year breakdowns to age 19.

**Table 10**  
**Median Age**  
**Jewish & Non-Jewish Populations by Census Year**  
**Montreal CMA**

Census Year	Total Population	Jewish Population	Non-Jewish Population
2001	37.6	41.8	37.5
1991	34.2	40.4	34.1
1981	30.5	37.7	30.4
1971	27.3	34.9	27.2

**Table 11**  
**Median Age**  
**Canadian & Montreal Jewish Populations by Census Year**

Census Year	Montreal Jewish Population	Canadian Jewish Population
2001	41.8	40.2
1991	40.4	37.3
1981	37.7	34.6
1971	34.9	33.6

Table 10 looks at median ages for the Jewish, non-Jewish and total Montreal populations by Census year. It is clear from this table that the median age of the Jewish population in this metropolitan area has been steadily increasing. It was 34.9 years in 1971, 37.7 years in 1981, 40.4 years in 1991 and 41.8 years in 2001.

The 2001 median age for the Jewish community is about 4.2 years older than for the total Montreal population. It is interesting to note that between 1981 and 2001 the Jewish community's median age has increased by 4.1 years, compared to 7.1 years for the total Montreal population. It is also noteworthy that the gap between the Jewish community's median age and total Montreal population's median age has been eroding. In 1981, it was 7.2 years, and 4.2 years in 2001. In short, the total Montreal population is growing older faster than the Jewish community here.

The median ages of the Canadian and Montreal Jewish populations are examined in Table 11. It can be seen that the median age of the Montreal Jewish community is somewhat older than that of the Canadian Jewish population (41.8 and 40.2 years respectively). In 1971, the median ages of

the two populations were not far apart, with larger discrepancies in 1981 and 1991. This difference has now diminished once more.

The median age for Toronto's Jewish community is 39.4 years, compared to 41.8 years for the Montreal Jewish community. It is 39.8 years for the Vancouver Jewish community, 44.5 years for the Winnipeg Jewish community, and 39.4 years for the Ottawa Jewish community. In short, in comparison to most other major Jewish populations across the country, Montreal has an older community, on average.

## **Comparisons With Other Ethnic Groups**

Table 12 looks at the ethnic affiliations of the total population in the Montreal 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.

Note that the category for Jewish affiliation is described as "Jewish: full definition" in Table 12. Jewish affiliation is unique

**Table 12**  
**Ethnic Affiliation: Montreal CMA**

	#	%
Canadian	1,263,685	37.4
French	812,085	24.0
Italian	216,300	6.4
British	158,475	4.7
Arab	122,910	3.6
Caribbean	96,545	2.9
<b>(Jewish: full definition)</b>	<b>(92,970)</b>	<b>--</b>
Chinese	57,540	1.7
Latin American	54,385	1.6
Greek	51,815	1.5
Aboriginal	49,355	1.5
German	41,145	1.2
African	39,530	1.2
Portuguese	36,905	1.1
East Indian	31,915	0.9
Polish	29,755	0.9
Vietnamese	23,225	0.7
Spanish	22,645	0.7
Russian	18,795	0.6
Filipino	18,330	0.5
Ukrainian	16,575	0.5
Pakistani	7,230	0.2
American	5,505	0.2
Korean	3,780	0.1
Japanese	2,515	0.1
All other ethnic categories	199,705	5.9
<b>Total Montreal CMA</b>	<b>3,380,650</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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 12 reveals that “Canadian” is the ethnic category with the most popular affiliation. 37.4% of Montrealers say their ethnic affiliation is Canadian. This is somewhat surprising given what is generally understood about the identification patterns of Quebecois in this city. According to sources at Statistics Canada, many Quebecois associated the ethnic category of “French” as relating to France, and therefore preferred to indicate Canadian. These sources also suggest that if Quebecois was included in a list of sample affiliations, many more respondents would have chosen Quebecois instead of Canadian. As it was, 24% of the total respondents said French is their ethnicity, making it the second most popular affiliation.

Italians rank third as far as ethnic affiliations are concerned. There are 216,300 Italians in Montreal, or 6.4% of the population. The category of British - which includes individuals of English, Scottish and Irish descent – ranks fourth with 158,475 persons. It is interesting that at the turn of the last century individuals of British descent comprised more than 33% of Montreal’s population.

There are 122,910 Arabs in this metropolitan area. They currently rank fifth among ethnic groups and are a rapidly growing segment of Montreal’s population. Individuals of Caribbean descent (including Jamaicans, Haitians, etc.) number 96,545, and rank sixth. Their number most closely matches that of the Jewish community.

The Jewish community ranks seventh among ethnic groups, with a population of 92,970. 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).

The remaining ethnic groups have significantly fewer members than the Jewish community. Those who claim Chinese

**Table 13: Ethnic Affiliation by Age: Montreal CMA**

	0-14		15-24		25-44		45-64		65+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Canadian	242,940	19.2	164,385	13.0	406,615	32.2	312,445	24.7	137,295	10.9
French	119,040	14.7	98,200	12.1	241,070	29.7	233,840	28.8	119,940	14.8
Italian	39,915	18.5	25,370	11.7	68,285	31.6	49,605	22.9	33,120	15.3
British	18,280	11.5	16,405	10.4	47,920	30.2	46,275	29.2	29,590	18.7
Arab	33,215	27.0	17,990	14.6	43,865	35.7	20,825	16.9	7,015	5.7
Caribbean	24,475	25.4	18,205	18.9	27,430	28.4	20,235	21.0	6,195	6.4
<b>(Jewish: full def)</b>	<b>(18,195)</b>	<b>(19.6)</b>	<b>(11,795)</b>	<b>(12.7)</b>	<b>(20,050)</b>	<b>(21.6)</b>	<b>(22,835)</b>	<b>(24.6)</b>	<b>(20,100)</b>	<b>(21.6)</b>
Chinese	13,410	23.3	7,865	13.7	20,680	35.9	11,055	19.2	4,535	7.9
Latin American	15,390	28.3	9,315	17.1	18,955	34.9	9,145	16.8	1,580	2.9
Greek	7,395	14.3	6,555	12.7	16,530	31.9	13,090	25.3	8,245	15.9
Aboriginal	11,295	22.9	8,445	17.1	17,950	36.4	9,780	19.8	1,885	3.8
German	6,510	15.8	4,930	12.0	12,880	31.3	10,310	25.1	6,510	15.8
African	11,740	29.7	7,275	18.4	14,350	36.3	5,010	12.7	1,150	2.9
Portuguese	6,255	17.0	6,020	16.3	12,030	32.6	8,730	23.7	3,865	10.5
East Indian	6,665	20.9	5,455	17.1	11,220	35.2	6,685	20.9	1,890	5.9
Polish	4,340	14.6	4,015	13.5	8,305	27.9	7,925	26.6	5,165	17.4
Vietnamese	4,540	19.6	3,085	13.3	8,290	35.7	5,410	23.3	1,890	8.1
Spanish	4,835	21.4	3,025	13.4	7,815	34.5	4,800	21.2	2,165	9.6
Russian	3,360	17.9	2,430	12.9	6,365	33.9	4,265	22.7	2,370	12.6
Filipino	4,165	22.7	2,595	14.2	6,565	35.8	4,075	22.2	935	5.1
Ukrainian	2,535	15.3	2,150	13.0	5,065	30.5	3,780	22.8	3,050	18.4
Pakistani	1,915	26.5	1,435	19.8	2,645	36.6	1,065	14.7	170	2.4
American	720	13.1	795	14.4	1,770	32.2	1,340	24.3	880	16.0
Korean	650	17.2	890	23.5	1,210	32.0	875	23.1	155	4.1
Japanese	485	19.3	430	17.1	890	35.4	460	18.3	250	9.9
Other Ethnic	35,360	17.7	25,800	12.9	61,755	30.9	45,660	22.9	31,120	15.6
Total CMA	619,430	18.3	443,065	13.1	1,070,455	31.7	836,685	24.7	410,965	12.2

origins number 57,540 individuals and rank eighth. They are followed by respondents of Latin American (54,385), Greek (51,815) and Aboriginal (49,355) origins.

Table 13 examines the age breakdowns of the various ethnic groups in Montreal. It can be seen that regarding children 0-14 years, the African (29.7%), Latin American (28.3%) and Arab (27%) populations have the highest percentages. The Jewish community falls in the middle of the distribution (19.6%). The British (11.5%), American (13.1%), and Greek (14.3%) communities have the lowest proportions of children.

In terms of teenagers and young adults between 15-24 years, the Korean (23.5%), Pakistani (19.8%) and Caribbean (18.9%) communities have the highest proportions. The British (10.4%), Italians (11.7%) and Germans (12%) have the lowest proportions. The Jewish community is at the lower end of the distribution (12.7%).

Regarding the economically productive 25-44 year cohort, it is very noteworthy that the Jewish community has the lowest proportion of any ethnic community in Montreal (21.6%). The Pakistani (36.6%), Aboriginal

(36.4%) and African (36.3%) communities have the highest proportions in this age group.

The British (29.2%) and Polish (26.6%) communities have the highest percentages in the 45-64 year cohort. The Jewish population is in the middle of the distribution (24.6%). The lowest percentages are found among Africans (12.7%) and Pakistanis (14.7%).

The Jewish community has the highest proportion of any ethnic group in terms of seniors (21.6%). The British (18.7%), Ukrainian (18.4%) and Polish (17.4%) populations also have high percentages of elderly. The lowest proportions of elderly are found among ethnic groups with large numbers of recent immigrants. These include Pakistanis (2.4%), Latin Americans (2.9%) and Africans (2.9%).

In terms of median ages, the populations with the lowest figures include the African (25.5 years), Latin American (27.3 years), Caribbean (28.3 years), Korean (28.4 years), and Arab (30.0 years) communities.

The ethnic groups with the highest median ages are the British (43.7 years), Poles (42

**Table 14**  
**Religious Affiliation**  
**Montreal CMA**

	#	%
Catholic	2,518,940	74.5
Protestant	207,940	6.2
Muslim	100,185	3.0
Christian Orthodox	94,680	2.8
<b>(Jewish: full definition)</b>	<b>(92,970)</b>	<b>--</b>
Jewish: religion alone	88,765	2.6
Buddhist	37,840	1.1
Christian, n.i.e.	37,445	1.1
Hindu	24,075	0.7
Sikh	7,935	0.2
Other Eastern religions	2,295	0.1
Para-religious groups	2,255	0.1
No religious affiliation	258,290	7.6
Total	3,380,645	100.0

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.

years), Jews (41.8 years), French (41.3 years), and Ukrainians (40.3 years).

Please refer to Table 20 in Appendix 5 for a complete breakdown of ethnic affiliation by median age.

## **Comparisons With Other Religious Affiliations**

Table 14 looks at religious affiliations for the Montreal 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 Catholics are the largest group in Montreal, representing 74.5% of the population, or more than 2.5 million individuals. Protestants comprise the second largest group with 6.2% of the total population, or 207,940 individuals.

Muslims are the third largest group with 3% of the population, or 100,185 individuals. Note that the number of Arabs found under ethnic affiliation was even larger. This is because not all Arabs are Muslims. Maronite Christians from Lebanon, for instance, might also consider themselves as Arabs.

The Christian Orthodox comprise the fourth largest group with 94,680 individuals. Jews rank fifth among religious groups. As mentioned above, 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 considered.

The other religious groups fall well below the Jewish population in terms of their numbers. For instance, Buddhists comprise 37,840 individuals, and “Christians not indicated elsewhere” comprise 37,445.

It is noteworthy that 7.6% of the total population said 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 (0.1%) of the population are involved with Para-religious groups, such as Paganism, Scientology, Rastafarian, and New Age affiliations.

An examination of religious affiliation by age is presented in Table 15. It can be seen

**Table 15**  
**Religious Affiliation by Age**  
**Montreal CMA**

	0-14		15-24		25-44		45-64		65+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Catholic	437,400	17.4	311,500	12.4	791,545	31.4	654,570	26.0	323,930	12.9
Protestant	38,560	18.5	27,805	13.4	58,190	28.0	52,240	25.1	31,145	15.0
Muslim	29,215	29.2	15,360	15.3	39,975	39.9	13,570	13.5	2,060	2.1
Christian Orthodox	15,330	16.2	11,735	12.4	31,130	32.9	22,490	23.8	13,995	14.8
<b>(Jewish: full definition)</b>	<b>(18,195)</b>	<b>(19.6)</b>	<b>(11,795)</b>	<b>(12.7)</b>	<b>(20,050)</b>	<b>(21.6)</b>	<b>(22,835)</b>	<b>(24.6)</b>	<b>(20,100)</b>	<b>(21.6)</b>
Jewish: religion alone	17,065	19.2	11,090	12.5	19,075	21.5	21,970	24.8	19,565	22.0
Buddhist	6,640	17.5	5,340	14.1	13,605	36.0	9,205	24.3	3,050	8.1
Christian, n.i.e.	8,145	21.7	6,160	16.4	13,205	35.3	7,525	20.1	2,415	6.4
Hindu	6,115	25.4	3,295	13.7	9,215	38.3	4,360	18.1	1,080	4.5
Sikh	1,660	20.9	1,410	17.8	3,020	38.1	1,460	18.4	385	4.9
Other Eastern	360	15.7	265	11.5	840	36.6	595	25.9	235	10.2
Para-religious groups	265	11.8	425	18.9	920	40.9	600	26.7	40	1.8
No religious affil	58,665	22.7	48,695	18.9	89,750	34.7	48,115	18.6	13,070	5.1
Total	619,420	18.3	443,080	13.1	1,070,470	31.7	836,700	24.7	410,970	12.2

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.

that among the mainstream religions, the groups with the highest percentages of children (0-14 years) are Muslims (29.2%) and Hindus (25.4%). Those with the lowest percentages of children include Christian Orthodox (16.2%) and Catholics (17.4%). The Jewish community falls in the middle of the distribution (19.6%).

Among those 15-24 years of age, the mainstream groups with the highest proportions include Sikhs (17.8%) and Muslims (15.3%). The Jewish community falls in the lower end of the distribution (12.7%). Catholics and Christian Orthodox have the lowest percentages for this age cohort (both 12.4%).

In the 25-44 year cohort, those with the highest proportions include Muslims (39.9%) and Hindus (38.3%). It is very noteworthy that the Jewish community has the lowest proportion in this age group (21.6%).

Regarding the 45-64 age group, Catholics (26%) and Protestants (25.1%) have the highest proportions among mainstream groups, and Jews (24.6%) are also at the high end of the distribution.

Finally, in terms of the elderly population (65+), the Jewish community has by far the highest proportion (21.6%), followed by the Protestant community (15%). Muslims (2.1%) and Hindus (4.5%) are the mainstream religious groups that have the lowest proportions.

The Jewish community has the highest median age (41.8 years) of any religious group in Montreal, followed by the Catholic (38.9 years) and Protestant (38.9 years) communities. The lowest median age is found among Muslims (28.1 years). Those with no religious affiliation average 29.1 years, whereas those involved in Para-religious practices have a median age of 34 years.

Please refer to Table 21 in Appendix 5 for a complete breakdown of religious affiliation by median age.

## **The Montreal Community in a Provincial Context**

The total population of Jews in Quebec is 94,665. Jews make up 1.3% of the population of this province. In comparison, the Jewish population in Ontario is 211,465,

or 2.2x that of Quebec. There are 29,875 Jews in British Columbia.

A very significant proportion of the Jewish population in this province is located in the Montreal CMA. Specifically, 98.2% of Jews in this province reside in this metropolitan area.

There are figures available for two other Jewish communities in this province. The

Jewish population in Quebec City numbers 200 individuals, or 0.03% of a total population of 673,105. The Jewish population in Gatineau-Hull is 320, or 0.1% of a total population of 255,505. Aside from the CMAs of Montreal, Quebec City, and Gatineau there are 1,175 Jews living elsewhere in this province.

## **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 in order to determine what percentage of certain segments 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 versus 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.

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 Toshi 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 16  
Age Breakdowns for Jews & Non-Jews  
Montreal CMA**

	Total		Jews		Non-Jews	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
0-4	187,795	5.6	5,805	6.2	181,985	5.5
5-14	431,635	12.8	12,390	13.3	419,250	12.8
15-24	443,075	13.1	11,795	12.7	431,285	13.1
25-34	478,795	14.2	9,480	10.2	469,320	14.3
35-44	591,680	17.5	10,565	11.4	581,105	17.7
45-54	498,980	14.8	13,185	14.2	485,795	14.8
55-64	337,710	10.0	9,650	10.4	328,060	10.0
65-74	246,380	7.3	8,810	9.5	237,575	7.2
75-84	135,100	4.0	8,510	9.2	126,585	3.9
85+	29,490	0.9	2,785	3.0	26,710	0.8
Total	3,380,640	100.0	92,975	100.0	3,287,670	100.0

**Table 17**  
**Age Breakdowns**  
**Montreal & Canadian Jewish Populations**

	Montreal Jewish Population		Canadian Jewish Population	
	#	%	#	%
0-4	5,805	6.2	21,245	5.7
5-14	12,390	13.3	50,345	13.6
15-24	11,795	12.7	48,430	13.1
25-34	9,480	10.2	41,005	11.1
35-44	10,565	11.4	49,510	13.4
45-54	13,185	14.2	61,170	16.5
55-64	9,650	10.4	36,940	10.0
65-74	8,810	9.5	28,560	7.7
75-84	8,510	9.2	25,360	6.8
85+	2,785	3.0	7,955	2.1
Total	92,975	100.0	370,520	100.0

**Table 18**  
**Age by Census Year**  
**Montreal Jewish Community**

	2001		1991		1981		1971	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
0-4	5,805	6.2	6,510	6.4	5,845	5.6	6,580	5.9
5-14	12,390	13.3	12,760	12.6	11,745	11.3	16,135	14.4
15-24	11,795	12.7	12,450	12.3	14,700	14.2	20,375	18.2
25-34	9,480	10.2	11,240	11.1	16,035	15.5	13,055	11.7
35-44	10,565	11.4	14,845	14.6	11,080	10.7	11,805	10.5
45-54	13,185	14.2	11,020	10.9	10,885	10.5	15,495	13.8
55-64	9,650	10.4	9,885	9.7	13,920	13.4	15,130	13.5
65-74	8,810	9.5	12,275	12.1	13,165	12.7	9,240	8.2
75-84	8,510	9.2	8,560	8.4	5,510	5.3	3,550	3.2
85+	2,785	3.0	1,855	1.8	890	0.9	640	0.6
Total	92,975	100.0	101,400	100.0	103,775	100.0	112,005	100.0

**Table 19**  
**Discrete Age Breakdowns by Gender**  
**Montreal Jewish Community**

	Total		Male		Female	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 1 year	1,265	1.4	670	1.5	595	1.3
1	1,230	1.3	655	1.4	570	1.2
2	1,040	1.1	535	1.2	510	1.1
3	1,145	1.2	705	1.5	445	0.9
4	1,120	1.2	535	1.2	585	1.2
5	1,310	1.4	575	1.3	735	1.5
6	1,055	1.1	610	1.3	445	0.9
7	1,305	1.4	715	1.6	595	1.3
8	1,200	1.3	680	1.5	525	1.1
9	1,285	1.4	620	1.4	655	1.4
10	1,245	1.3	575	1.3	670	1.4
11	1,150	1.2	530	1.2	625	1.3
12	1,190	1.3	585	1.3	605	1.3
13	1,305	1.4	700	1.5	605	1.3
14	1,340	1.4	800	1.8	535	1.1
15	1,200	1.3	645	1.4	560	1.2
16	1,200	1.3	645	1.4	555	1.2
17	1,135	1.2	535	1.2	600	1.3
18	1,085	1.2	505	1.1	580	1.2
19	1,230	1.3	650	1.4	585	1.2

**Table 19 (cont'd)**  
**Five-Year Age Breakdowns by Gender**  
**Montreal Jewish Community**

	Total		Male		Female	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
20-24	5,940	6.4	3,125	6.9	2,815	5.9
25-29	4,880	5.2	2,470	5.4	2,410	5.1
30-34	4,600	4.9	2,140	4.7	2,465	5.2
35-39	5,205	5.6	2,560	5.6	2,645	5.6
40-44	5,365	5.8	2,620	5.8	2,745	5.8
45-49	6,110	6.6	2,840	6.2	3,270	6.9
50-54	7,075	7.6	3,475	7.6	3,600	7.6
55-59	5,325	5.7	2,635	5.8	2,690	5.7
60-64	4,330	4.7	2,165	4.8	2,165	4.6
65-69	4,310	4.6	1,985	4.4	2,325	4.9
70-74	4,495	4.8	2,035	4.5	2,465	5.2
75-79	4,970	5.3	2,315	5.1	2,655	5.6
80-84	3,540	3.8	1,545	3.4	1,995	4.2
85-89	2,020	2.2	850	1.9	1,175	2.5
90+	765	0.8	315	0.7	450	0.9
Total	92,965	100.0	45,545	100.0	47,450	100.0

**Table 20**  
**Ethnic Affiliation by Median Age**  
**Montreal CMA**

	Median Age
Canadian	37.5
French	41.3
Italian	37.8
British	43.7
Arab	30.0
Caribbean	28.3
<b>(Jewish: full definition)</b>	<b>(41.8)</b>
Chinese	32.4
Latin American	27.3
Greek	37.9
Aboriginal	30.3
German	39.3
African	25.5
Portuguese	35.7
East Indian	31.0
Polish	42.0
Vietnamese	34.9
Spanish	34.6
Russian	37.5
Filipino	34.2
Ukrainian	40.3
Pakistani	27.2
American	39.3
Korean	28.4
Japanese	31.2
Other Ethnic	36.6
Total	37.6

**Table 21**  
**Religious Affiliation by Median Age**  
**Montreal CMA**

	Median Age
Catholic	38.9
Protestant	38.9
Muslim	28.1
Christian Orthodox	37.5
<b>(Jewish: full definition)</b>	<b>(41.8)</b>
Jewish: religion alone	42.4
Buddhist	35.9
Christian, n.i.e.	31.1
Hindu	30.3
Sikh	30.3
Other Eastern religions	36.7
Para-religious groups	34.0
No religious affiliation	29.1
Total	37.6

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.