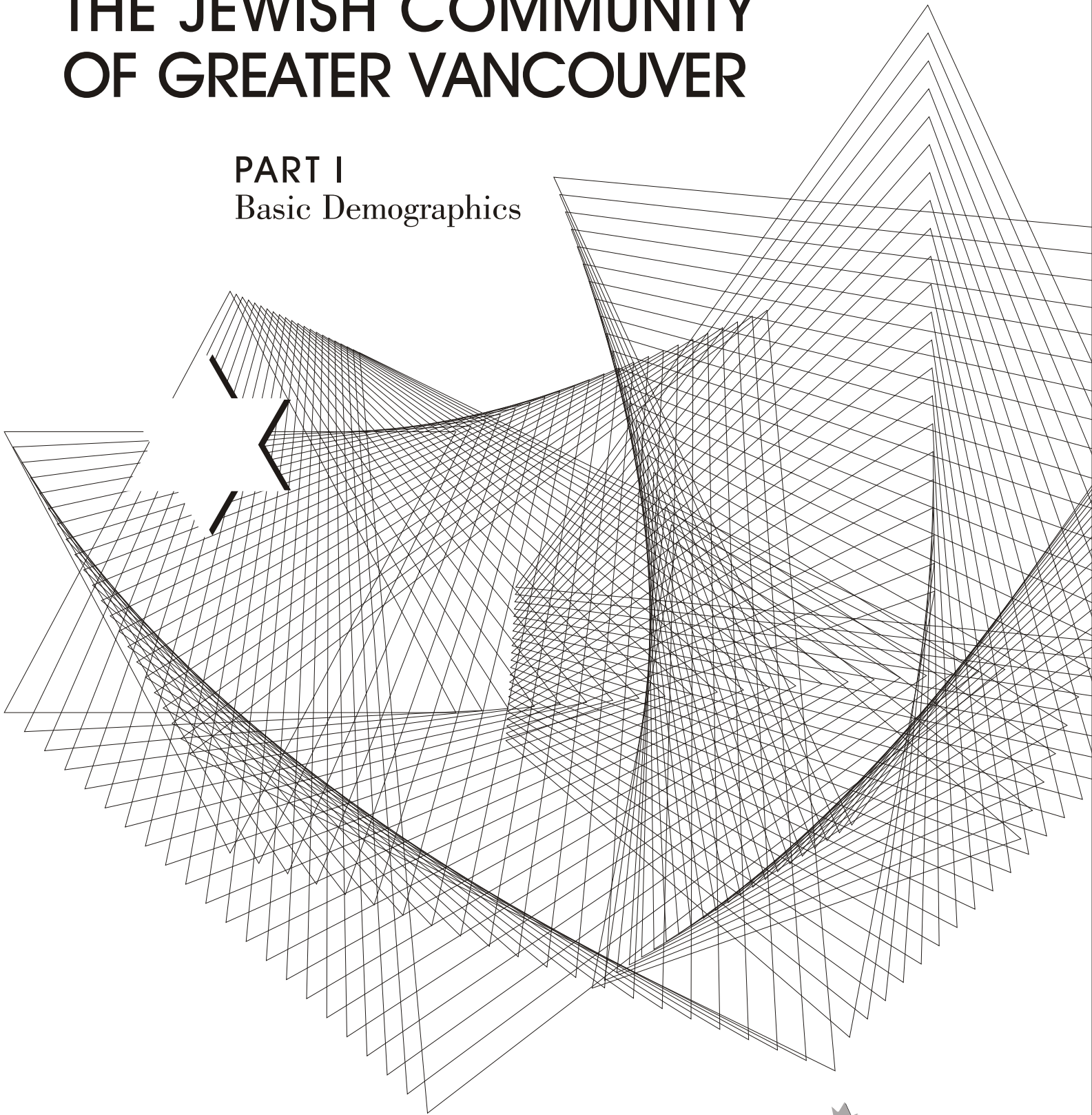


2001 Census Analysis Series

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF GREATER VANCOUVER

PART I Basic Demographics



By Charles Shahar &
Jean Gerber
November, 2003



JEWISH
FEDERATION
OF GREATER
VANCOUVER



UJA Federations Canada
מגבית הפדרציות היהודיות בקנדה

2001 Census Analysis
The Jewish Community of Greater Vancouver

Part 1
Basic Demographics

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Highlights of Results

- The Jewish population of Greater Vancouver was 22,585 in 2001. Jews comprised 1.1% of the total Vancouver population.
- Between 1991 and 2001 the Jewish community grew by 2,935 people, or 14.9%. On the other hand, the Canadian Jewish population grew by only 3.5% between 1991 and 2001, a slower increase than for the Greater Vancouver Jewish community.
- Greater Vancouver has the third largest Jewish community in Canada, and about 6.1% of the country's Jewish population.
- Regarding the age distribution of the Greater Vancouver Jewish community, the 45-64 age group has increased very significantly since 1991. There were 6,540 individuals in this cohort in 2001, compared to 3,585 in 1991. This age group represents the "baby-boomer" generation.
- The seniors (65+ years) cohort is steadily increasing and will likely experience a significant rise as the baby-boomers begin to swell its ranks by the next Census in 2011.
- The median age of the Greater Vancouver Jewish community (39.8 years) is slightly younger than that of the Canadian Jewish population (40.2 years). The discrepancy between these populations has narrowed in the last three decades, suggesting that the local Jewish community is growing older at a faster pace than Canada's Jewish community.
- A significant proportion (75.6%) of the Jewish population in this province is located in the Greater Vancouver area.

Table of Contents

Total Population & Historical Analysis.....	3
Gender & Age Breakdowns	7
Comparisons with Other Ethnic Groups.....	17
Comparisons with Other Religious Affiliations	21
The Greater Vancouver Community in a Provincial Context.....	24
Appendix 1: The Utility of the Census	25
Appendix 2: The Reliability of the Census.....	27
Appendix 3: The Jewish Standard Definition.....	29
Appendix 4: The Attribution of Ethnic Origins.....	31
Appendix 5: Additional Data Tables	33

Census Analysis Series

Basic Demographics

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

The current report investigates the Jewish community within the Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area (CMA). This corresponds to the Greater Vancouver Area, and includes within its parameters West & North Vancouver to the North, Surrey and White Rock to the South, Lions Bay to the West, and Maple Ridge to the East.

This analysis is considered particularly timely given the emerging realities facing Greater Vancouver’s Jewish population. Significant population growth, immigration from overseas and across Canada, the spread into suburban areas, and the variety of Jewish expressions and affiliations are some of the important issues the community has continued to face in the last decade.

A particular challenge has been the question of community continuity. Continued population growth and geographic expansion have led to a renewed emphasis on unity and cooperation among the varied segments of the Jewish community.

The Jewish population here was once a small, close-knit community centered in the city of Vancouver along the Oak Street corridor. Over the past four decades, it has increased in number, and spread into new areas of the suburbs, far beyond its original center. Where once the community supported only four congregations it currently hosts at least twenty.

As the 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 the Greater Vancouver area.

This report begins with an historical demographic perspective, followed by gender and age breakdowns. It then

Table 1
Jewish & Non-Jewish Populations
Greater Vancouver

	#	%
Jewish	22,585	1.1
Non-Jewish	1,944,890	98.9
Total	1,967,475	100.0

Table 2
Jewish Population of Greater Vancouver
Historical Summary*

	Jewish Population	# Change From Previous Census	% Change From Previous Census
2001	22,585	2,935	14.9
1991	19,650	4,725	31.7
1981	14,925	4,780	47.1
1971	10,145	2,844	39.0
1961	7,301	1,834	33.5
1951	5,467	2,639	93.3
1941	2,828	388	15.9
1931	2,440	1,064	77.3
1921	1,376	352	34.4
1911	1,024	810	378.5
1901	214	--	--

*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.

compares Greater Vancouver'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.

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. This definition uses a combination of ethnic and religious identification as a criterion. Specifically, a person is considered Jewish if they identified they were:

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

Not included in the above definition were those who identified with another religion (such as Catholic or Muslim) and a Jewish ethnic affiliation.

Jews living in institutions -- such as nursing homes, prisons or psychiatric facilities -- were also not a part of this analysis. 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 Greater Vancouver was 22,585 (Table 1). Jews comprised 1.1% of Greater Vancouver's total population of 1,967,475.

The Jewish population figure for 2001 represented a gain from 1991, when there were 19,650 Jews in this metropolitan area. Between 1991 and 2001 the Jewish population increased by 2,935 people, or 14.9% (Table 2).

The population increase between 1991 and 2001 was less pronounced than between 1981 and 1991. In the latter decade, the community grew by 4,725 people or 31.7%.

In short, at least for the last decade, the rate of growth of the Greater Vancouver Jewish population has slowed somewhat. In terms of absolute numbers, the Jewish community increased by 1.6x more between 1981 and 1991 than between 1991 and 2001.

Table 3
Jewish Population as Percentage of Greater Vancouver Population
Historical Summary

Census Year	Total Population	Non-Jewish Population	Jewish Population	% Jewish
2001	1,967,475	1,944,890	22,585	1.1
1991	1,584,120	1,564,470	19,650	1.2
1981	1,250,610	1,235,685	14,925	1.2
1971	1,082,375	1,072,230	10,145	0.9

Table 4
Greater Vancouver & Canadian Jewish Populations
Historical Summary

Census Year	Greater Vancouver Jewish Population	Canadian Jewish Population	% of Cdn Jewish Population	Ranking Among Cdn Jewish Communities
2001	22,585	370,520	6.1	3
1991	19,650	358,055	5.5	3
1981	14,925	313,865	4.8	4
1971	10,145	286,555	3.5	4

Table 2 further shows that between 1971 and 1981 the gain was slightly more pronounced than that evident between 1981 and 1991. Between 1971 and 1981, the community experienced an increase of 4,780 people or 47.1%. This latter decade marked the peak period of population influx for the Greater Vancouver Jewish community.

In fact, the Greater Vancouver Jewish population has been increasing in size since the first Jews settled here in significant numbers at the turn of the last century. Particularly large increases were realized between 1921 and 1931, as well as for a fifty-year period between 1941 and 1991.

Table 3 looks at the Jewish population relative to the total population in Greater Vancouver. It can be seen that the percentage of the Jewish population relative to the total seems to have peaked in 1981 and 1991, when Jews comprised 1.2% of the total population. In the 2001 Census, Jews represented 1.1% of the population, a figure very similar to the two previous Censuses.

The growth rate of the total Greater Vancouver population has been increasing at a similar pace to that of the Jewish population. For instance, between 1981 and

2001 the growth rate for the total population was 57.3%, whereas the Jewish community grew by 51.3%.

Table 4 compares Greater Vancouver's Jewish population to the Canadian Jewish population. In 1991, Greater Vancouver's Jewish community became the third largest in Canada, surpassing the Jewish population of Winnipeg.

The Greater Vancouver Jewish community comprised 6.1% of the Canadian Jewish population in 2001. In 1971, it represented 3.5% of the Canadian Jewish total. Calculations reveal that between 1981 and 2001 the Canadian Jewish population increased by 18.1%, whereas the Greater Vancouver Jewish population grew by 51.3%. In short, the Greater Vancouver Jewish community is growing at a faster rate than the Jewish population in Canada as a whole.

This is particularly evident when only the last decade is taken into consideration. Between 1991 and 2001, the Canadian Jewish population grew by a mere 3.5%, whereas the Greater Vancouver Jewish community increased by 14.9%. In other words, whereas the Greater Vancouver

Table 5
Gender Breakdowns
Greater Vancouver & Canadian Jewish Populations

	Greater Vancouver Jewish Population		Canadian Jewish Population	
	#	%	#	%
Males	11,440	50.7	182,910	49.4
Females	11,145	49.3	187,610	50.6
Total	22,585	100.0	370,520	100.0

Table 6
Age Breakdowns for Jews & Non-Jews
Greater Vancouver

	Total		Jews		Non-Jews	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
0-14	346,555	17.6	3,745	16.6	342,810	17.6
15-24	265,875	13.5	2,880	12.8	262,995	13.5
25-44	643,895	32.7	6,450	28.6	637,445	32.8
45-64	483,045	24.6	6,540	29.0	476,505	24.5
65+	228,095	11.6	2,960	13.1	225,135	11.6
Total	1,967,465	100.0	22,575	100.0	1,944,890	100.0

Jewish community's rate of growth was slower than in previous decades, it was much more pronounced than that of the national Jewish population.

Gender & Age Breakdowns

According to Table 5, there is a slightly higher proportion of males than females in the Greater Vancouver Jewish community. More than fifty percent (50.7%) of the Jewish population is male and 49.3% is female. This discrepancy is somewhat unusual when compared to the breakdowns of other Jewish communities in the country, where females usually outnumber males.

In fact, examining the gender breakdown for the Jewish population of Canada, it is apparent that there are fewer males (49.4%) than females (50.6%). An explanation is that females generally outnumber males in the older cohorts, and the larger proportions of elderly found elsewhere in the country, account for this gender discrepancy when compared to the Greater Vancouver community.

Table 6 examines age breakdowns for Greater Vancouver Jews, non-Jews and their totals. The Jewish population has a slightly

lower proportion of children 0-14 years of age than the total population (16.6% and 17.6% respectively). The Jewish population also has a slightly lower proportion of those 15-24 years of age than the total Greater Vancouver population (12.8% and 13.5% respectively).

In the economically productive age group of 25-44 years, the discrepancy between the two populations is more marked. About 28.6% of Jews fall into this age cohort, whereas 32.7% of Greater Vancouver's total population is represented here.

The picture reverses for the 45-64 year cohort. The Jewish community has a larger proportion for this age group (29%) than the total Greater Vancouver population (24.6%).

Finally, a comparison of these two age distributions shows that the Jewish community has a larger proportion of seniors (13.1%) than the total Greater Vancouver population (11.6%).

All in all, there is a somewhat higher percentage of Jews at the higher end of the age distribution (45+ years) than in the total population: 42.1% of Jews are 45+ years,

Table 7
Age Breakdowns
Greater Vancouver & Canadian Jewish Populations

	Greater Vancouver Jewish Population		Canadian Jewish Population	
	#	%	#	%
0-14	3,745	16.6	71,590	19.3
15-24	2,880	12.8	48,430	13.1
25-44	6,450	28.6	90,510	24.4
45-64	6,540	29.0	98,115	26.5
65+	2,960	13.1	61,875	16.7
Total	22,575	100.0	370,520	100.0

Table 8
Age by Census Year
Greater Vancouver Jewish Community

	2001		1991		1981		1971	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
0-14	3,745	16.6	4,225	21.5	2,820	18.9	1,960	19.3
15-24	2,880	12.8	2,275	11.6	2,090	14.0	1,975	19.5
25-44	6,450	28.6	6,980	35.5	5,440	36.5	2,615	25.8
45-64	6,540	29.0	3,585	18.2	2,860	19.2	2,540	25.0
65+	2,960	13.1	2,590	13.2	1,710	11.5	1,060	10.4
Total	22,575	100.0	19,655	100.0	14,920	100.0	10,150	100.0

compared to 36.2% of the total Greater Vancouver population.

Table 7 compares age distributions of the Jewish populations of Greater Vancouver and Canada. It is evident that these distributions have a number of differences. For instance, there is a somewhat smaller proportion of children 0-14 years of age among the Greater Vancouver Jewish community than for Canadian Jews (16.6% and 19.3% respectively).

There are comparable percentages for the 15-24 year cohort, with the Greater Vancouver community having a slightly lower proportion. But the local Jewish community has a higher percentage of those 25-44 years than the national Jewish population (28.6% and 24.4% respectively).

The local Jewish community also has a somewhat higher proportion of those 45-64 years than the Canadian Jewish population (29% and 26.5% respectively). But there are proportionally fewer elderly in the Greater Vancouver Jewish community than in the national Jewish population (13.1% and 16.7% respectively).

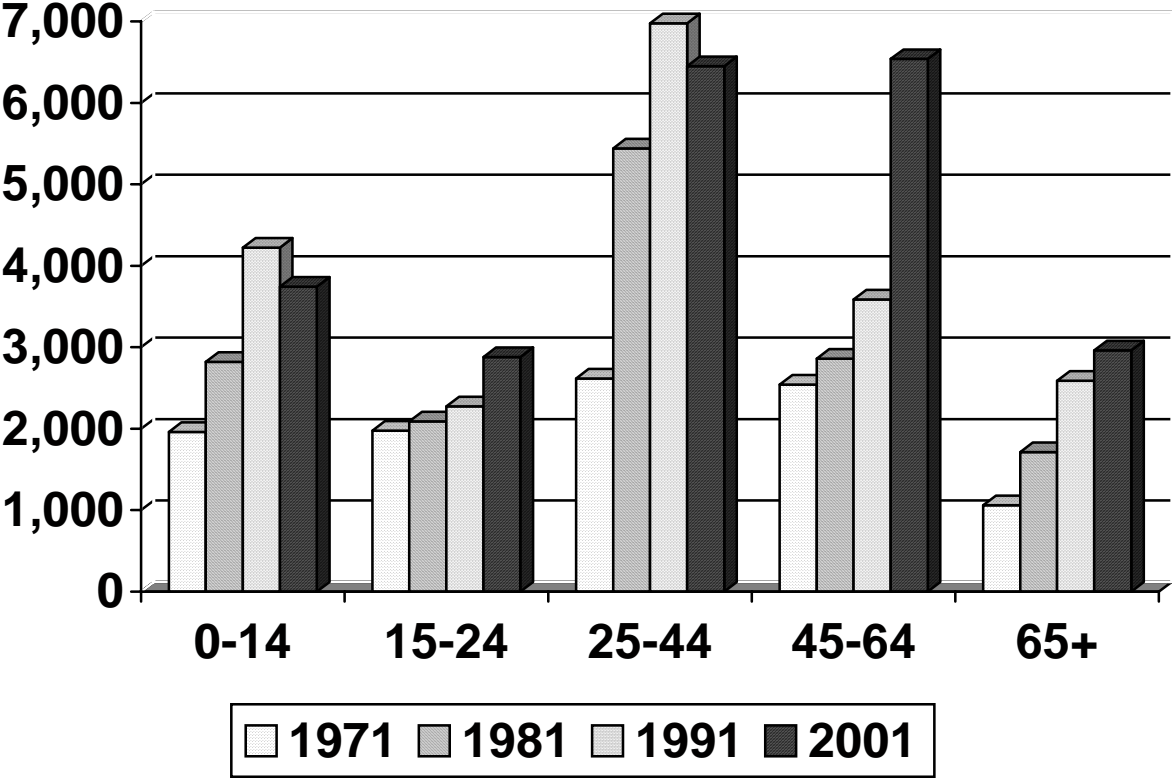
In summary, it is evident that the Greater Vancouver Jewish community's age distribution is more similar to that of the total Greater Vancouver population than to the distribution of the Canadian Jewish population.

Table 8 is an historical summary of age breakdowns for Greater Vancouver'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 has remained higher than levels for the same cohort in 1981. In 2001 there were 3,745 children under 15 years of age, compared to 4,225 in 1991.

The 15-24 year cohort has been increasing steadily since 1971. In 2001 there were 2,880 in this cohort, compared to 2,275 in 1991, and 2,090 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 6,450 individuals in this age group, compared to 6,980 in 1991. But the number

Figure 1
Age by Census Year
Greater Vancouver Jewish Community



in 2001 is still significantly above that in 1981.

The 45-64 age group has actually increased very dramatically since 1991. There were 6,540 individuals in this cohort in 2001, compared to 3,585 in 1991. This bulge in the distribution represents the “baby-boomer” generation.

Finally, the number of Jewish seniors has increased as well. There were 2,960 seniors in 2001, compared to 2,590 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 since 1991, after increasing steadily since 1971. The 15-24 cohort had remained fairly steady between

1971 and 1991, and then increased somewhat in 2001.

As Figure 1 also shows, the 25-44 cohort decreased between 1991 and 2001, after significant increases in the previous two decades. The 45-64 cohort has increased markedly in the last decade. This increase is perhaps the most dramatic aspect of the entire graph.

Finally, as noted in the summary of Table 8, the seniors (65+) cohort has been rising steadily. Its growth is the most consistent feature of this graph, and is represented by a step-like progression in the last set of bars.

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

Table 9
Age by Gender
Greater Vancouver Jewish Community

	Total		Male		Female	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
0-14	3,750	16.6	1,930	16.9	1,820	16.3
15-24	2,880	12.7	1,580	13.8	1,300	11.7
25-44	6,460	28.6	3,300	28.8	3,160	28.3
45-64	6,540	29.0	3,185	27.8	3,355	30.1
65+	2,960	13.1	1,445	12.6	1,515	13.6
Total	22,590	100.0	11,440	100.0	11,150	100.0

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. The 45-64 year segment will likely decrease somewhat, although it is still being “fed” by the 25-44 year cohort.

Finally, the 15-24 age group will likely 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 Greater Vancouver Jewish community is 0.42. This ratio has vacillated somewhat in the last 30 years. In 1971 the dependency ratio was 0.42, whereas in 1981 it was 0.44. The ratio peaked in 1991 at 0.53, and has gone back down significantly in 2001. It is now at the same level as in 1971.

In comparison, the dependency ratio for the total Greater Vancouver population is 0.41, almost identical to that of the local Jewish community (0.42). 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, 0.64 for the Winnipeg Jewish community, and 0.43 for the Calgary 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 in other major Jewish communities across Canada. This has long-term implications for the economic viability of the community, and its ability to provide services and programs for its more vulnerable members.

A cross-tabulation of age by gender for the Greater Vancouver 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 1,930 males between 0-14 years compared with 1,820 females. This is not a surprising finding since in most population distributions worldwide there is a small excess of males among births.

Table 10
Median Age
Jewish & Non-Jewish Populations by Census Year
Greater Vancouver

Census Year	Total Population	Jewish Population	Non-Jewish Population
2001	37.2	39.8	37.2
1991	34.3	35.7	34.2
1981	31.5	32.9	31.5
1971	29.3	31.3	29.3

Table 11
Median Age
Canadian & Greater Vancouver Jewish Populations by Census Year

Census Year	Greater Vancouver Jewish Population	Canadian Jewish Population
2001	39.8	40.2
1991	35.7	37.3
1981	32.9	34.6
1971	31.3	33.6

There are also more males than females in the 15-24 age group for the Jewish community, as well as for the 25-44 age group. For the older cohorts, however, females outnumber males. For instance, there are 3,355 females compared to 3,185 males in the 45-64 age group.

There are also 1,515 females compared to 1,445 males among the elderly. Such a discrepancy mirrors the trend for 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 looks at median ages for the Greater Vancouver Jewish, non-Jewish and total populations by Census year. It is clear from this table that the median age of the local Jewish population has been steadily increasing. It was 31.3 years in 1971, 32.9 years in 1981, 35.7 years in 1991 and 39.8 years in 2001.

The 2001 median age for the Jewish community is 2.6 years older than that for the total Greater Vancouver population. It is interesting to note that between 1981 and 2001 the Jewish community's median age has increased at a somewhat faster pace than the total population. It has increased by 6.9 years in these two decades, compared to 5.7 years for the Greater Vancouver population.

It is also noteworthy that the gap between the Jewish community's median age and that of the total population has increased significantly particularly in the last decade. In 1991, it was 1.4 years, and 2.6 years in 2001. In other words, the Jewish community here is growing older at a faster rate than the total Greater Vancouver population.

The median ages of the Canadian and local Jewish populations are examined in Table 11. It can be seen that the median age of the Greater Vancouver Jewish community is younger than that of the Canadian Jewish population (39.8 and 40.2 years respectively), but the difference is not that significant (0.4 years).

The differences between the median ages of the Greater Vancouver and Canadian Jewish populations have been diminishing over the

Table 12
Ethnic Affiliation: Greater Vancouver

	#	%
British	465,020	23.6
Chinese	347,455	17.7
Canadian	152,310	7.7
German	143,015	7.3
East Indian	140,845	7.2
French	79,425	4.0
Ukrainian	66,075	3.4
Italian	64,405	3.3
Filipino	56,260	2.9
Aboriginal	52,380	2.7
Polish	35,410	1.8
Russian	31,780	1.6
Korean	28,545	1.5
Japanese	25,570	1.3
(Jewish: full definition)	(22,585)	--
Latin American	21,185	1.1
Vietnamese	19,405	1.0
African	14,845	0.8
Portuguese	13,095	0.7
Greek	11,020	0.6
Arab	10,585	0.5
Spanish	9,350	0.5
Caribbean	8,715	0.4
American	5,315	0.3
Pakistani	4,640	0.2
All other ethnic categories	160,825	8.2
Total Greater Vancouver	1,967,475	100.0

last three decades. In 1971 that difference was 2.3 years; it was 1.7 years in 1981 and 1.6 years in 1991. The 0.4 year difference in 2001 is the closest margin in the last 30 years. In short, the Jewish community of Greater Vancouver is growing older at a faster pace than Canada's Jewish population.

The median age for Toronto's Jewish community is 39.4 years, compared to 39.8 years for the Greater Vancouver Jewish community. Toronto's Jewish community is therefore younger, on average. The median age is 41.8 years for the Montreal Jewish community, 44.5 years for the Winnipeg Jewish community, and 39.4 years for the Ottawa Jewish community.

Comparisons With Other Ethnic Groups

Table 12 looks at the ethnic affiliations of the total Greater Vancouver population. 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 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 British is the ethnic category with the most popular affiliation. 23.6% of Greater Vancouver residents say their ethnic affiliation is British, or 465,020 persons. This group includes individuals of English, Irish and Scottish origins.

Almost one in five individuals (17.7%) are of Chinese origin. This group comprises 347,455 persons and ranks second among ethnic groups. A significant number say they are Canadian by ethnic origin. They comprise 152,310 individuals or 7.7% of Greater Vancouver's population.

Table 13
Ethnic Affiliation by Age for Greater Vancouver

	0-14		15-24		25-44		45-64		65+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
British	51,065	11.0	45,075	9.7	140,455	30.2	144,865	31.2	83,560	18.0
Chinese	62,070	17.9	56,235	16.2	110,510	31.8	83,080	23.9	35,560	10.2
Canadian	37,785	24.8	24,210	15.9	46,540	30.6	30,555	20.1	13,220	8.7
German	23,555	16.5	17,865	12.5	48,740	34.1	35,380	24.7	17,480	12.2
East Indian	33,755	24.0	22,085	15.7	46,270	32.9	27,925	19.8	10,810	7.7
French	12,215	15.4	9,735	12.3	28,475	35.9	21,315	26.8	7,685	9.7
Ukrainian	12,500	18.9	8,475	12.8	23,305	35.3	14,840	22.5	6,950	10.5
Italian	14,120	21.9	8,620	13.4	21,805	33.9	12,620	19.6	7,240	11.2
Filipino	12,860	22.9	8,295	14.7	20,510	36.5	11,585	20.6	3,015	5.4
Aboriginal	13,665	26.1	8,520	16.3	19,335	36.9	9,235	17.6	1,615	3.1
Polish	6,380	18.0	5,225	14.8	11,630	32.8	8,585	24.2	3,590	10.1
Russian	6,280	19.8	4,315	13.6	11,645	36.6	7,250	22.8	2,290	7.2
Korean	5,320	18.6	6,820	23.9	9,320	32.6	5,940	20.8	1,150	4.0
Japanese	4,440	17.4	3,780	14.8	8,915	34.9	5,610	21.9	2,815	11.0
(Jewish: full def)	(3,745)	(16.6)	(2,880)	(12.8)	(6,450)	(28.6)	(6,540)	(29.0)	(2,960)	(13.1)
Latin American	5,790	27.3	3,645	17.2	7,835	37.0	3,410	16.1	520	2.5
Vietnamese	5,410	27.9	2,995	15.4	7,540	38.8	2,610	13.4	860	4.4
African	4,420	29.8	2,245	15.1	5,560	37.5	2,195	14.8	425	2.9
Portuguese	2,460	18.8	1,815	13.9	4,525	34.5	2,890	22.1	1,410	10.8
Greek	2,040	18.5	1,295	11.8	3,780	34.3	2,525	22.9	1,375	12.5
Arab	3,020	28.5	1,605	15.2	3,970	37.5	1,620	15.3	370	3.5
Spanish	1,905	20.4	1,280	13.7	3,360	36.0	2,190	23.4	610	6.5
Caribbean	2,175	25.0	1,155	13.3	3,210	36.9	1,720	19.8	445	5.1
American	1,045	19.7	590	11.1	1,595	30.0	1,305	24.6	780	14.7
Pakistani	1,415	30.5	720	15.5	1,400	30.2	835	18.0	270	5.8
Other Ethnic	20,865	13.0	19,285	12.0	53,700	33.4	42,945	26.7	24,035	14.9
Total Vanc.	346,555	17.6	265,885	13.5	643,930	32.7	483,030	24.6	228,080	11.6

Another 143,015 persons claim German descent, or 7.3% of the Greater Vancouver population. There is also a significant East Indian population in this metropolitan area (140,845 individuals). The East Indians rank fifth among ethnic communities and comprise 7.2% of Greater Vancouver's population.

All the other ethnic groups number below 100,000 individuals. The French community ranks sixth, and comprises 79,425 persons. The Ukrainians number 66,075 people; the Italians number 64,405 people; and the Filipinos number 56,260 people. Finally, the Aboriginal community rounds out the ten largest ethnic groups with 52,380 individuals.

The Jewish community ranks fifteenth among ethnic groups, with a population of 22,585. 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).

Table 13 examines the age breakdowns of the various ethnic groups in Greater Vancouver. It can be seen that regarding children 0-14 years, the Pakistani (30.5%),

African (29.8%), and Arab (28.5%) populations have the highest proportions. The Jewish community falls in the lower end of the distribution (16.6%). The British (11%), French (15.4%), and German (16.5%) communities have the lowest proportions of children.

In terms of teenagers and young adults between 15-24 years, the Korean (23.9%), Latin American (17.2%) and Aboriginal (16.3%) communities have the highest proportions. The British (9.7%), Americans (11.1%) and Greeks (11.8%) have the lowest proportions. The Jewish community is in the lower end of the distribution (12.8%).

Regarding the economically productive 25-44 year cohort, it is noteworthy that the Jewish community has the lowest proportion of any ethnic community in Greater Vancouver (28.6%). The Americans (30%), Pakistanis (30.2%) and British (30.2%) also have low representations in this age group. The Vietnamese (38.8%), Arab (37.5%) and African (37.5%) communities have the highest proportions in this age group.

The British (31.2%) have the highest percentage in the 45-64 year cohort, followed by the Jewish (29%) and French

Table 14
Religious Affiliation
Greater Vancouver

	#	%
Protestant	499,185	25.4
Catholic	364,790	18.5
Christian, n.i.e.	101,620	5.2
Sikh	99,000	5.0
Buddhist	74,550	3.8
Muslim	52,590	2.7
Hindu	27,410	1.4
Christian Orthodox	26,520	1.3
(Jewish: full definition)	(22,585)	--
Jewish: religion alone	17,270	0.9
Para-religious groups	6,200	0.3
Other Eastern religions	5,580	0.3
No religious affiliation	692,765	35.2
Total	1,967,480	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.

(26.8%) communities. The lowest percentages are found among the Vietnamese (13.4%), Africans (14.8%) and Arabs (15.3%).

The British have by far the highest proportion of any ethnic group in terms of seniors (18%). The American (14.7%), and Jewish (13.1%) 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 Latin Americans (2.5%), Africans (2.9%), and Arabs (3.5%). On the other hand, Aboriginals also have a very low proportion of seniors (3.1%).

In terms of median ages, the populations with the lowest figures include the Pakistani (27.1 years), Latin American (27.4 years), African (28.3 years), Korean (28.4 years), and Arab (28.5 years) communities.

The ethnic groups with the highest median ages are the British (44.5 years), Jews (39.8 years), French (38.4 years), Germans (38 years), and Americans (37.2 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 Greater Vancouver. 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 25.4% of the population, or almost half a million individuals. Catholics comprise the second largest group with 18.5% of the total population, or 364,790 individuals.

“Christians not included elsewhere” are the third largest group with 5.2% of the population, or 101,620 individuals.

Sikhs comprise the fourth largest group with 99,000 individuals, followed by Buddhists (74,550), Muslims (52,590) and Hindus (27,410). Christian Orthodox are represented by 26,520 individuals.

Jews rank ninth among religious groups. Note that Jews were defined using both the Standard Definition (which uses religion and ethnicity) and by religion alone. Their

Table 15
Religious Affiliation by Age
Greater Vancouver

	0-14		15-24		25-44		45-64		65+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Protestant	67,370	13.5	50,000	10.0	128,925	25.8	151,615	30.4	101,280	20.3
Catholic	61,315	16.8	45,725	12.5	123,395	33.8	91,640	25.1	42,715	11.7
Christian, n.i.e.	22,095	21.7	17,055	16.8	36,075	35.5	20,590	20.3	5,800	5.7
Sikh	25,735	26.0	15,275	15.4	32,920	33.2	17,365	17.5	7,715	7.8
Buddhist	9,550	12.8	11,180	15.0	23,180	31.1	21,460	28.8	9,175	12.3
Muslim	11,860	22.6	8,800	16.7	17,340	33.0	11,250	21.4	3,330	6.3
Hindu	6,210	22.7	4,560	16.6	8,860	32.3	6,200	22.6	1,580	5.8
Christian Orthdx	4,365	16.5	2,875	10.8	10,010	37.7	5,750	21.7	3,520	13.3
(Jewish: full def)	(3,745)	(16.6)	(2,880)	(12.8)	(6,450)	(28.6)	(6,540)	(29.0)	(2,960)	(13.1)
Jewish: religion	2,675	15.5	1,970	11.4	4,780	27.7	5,335	30.9	2,510	14.5
Para-religions	745	12.0	980	15.8	2,565	41.4	1,645	26.5	265	4.3
Other Eastern	840	15.1	970	17.4	1,865	33.5	1,400	25.1	500	9.0
No religious affil	133,790	19.3	106,490	15.4	253,980	36.7	148,795	21.5	49,710	7.2
Total	346,550	17.6	265,880	13.5	643,895	32.7	483,045	24.6	228,100	11.6

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.

ranking is not affected by the choice of definition, although there are obviously fewer Jews when only religion is considered.

It is noteworthy that 35.2% of the total population, or 692,765 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 (0.3%) of the population are involved with Para-religious groups, such as Paganism, Scientology, Rastafarian, and New Age affiliations. This is surprising given the typical stereotypes associated with the abundance of spiritual groups on the West Coast of the country.

An examination of religious affiliation by age is presented in Table 15. It can be seen that among the mainstream religions, the groups with the highest percentages of children (0-14 years) are Sikhs (26%), Hindus (22.7%) and Muslims (22.6%). Those with the lowest percentages of children include Buddhists (12.8%) and Protestants (13.5%). The Jewish community

falls in the middle of the distribution (16.6%).

Among those 15-24 years of age, the mainstream groups with the highest proportions include Muslims (16.7%) and Hindus (16.6%). The Jewish community falls in the lower end of the distribution (12.8%). Protestants (10%) and Christian Orthodox (10.8%) have the lowest proportions in this age group.

In the 25-44 year cohort, the mainstream group with the highest proportion is Christian Orthodox (37.7%). The Protestant community has the lowest proportion in this age group (25.8%), followed by the Jewish community (28.6%).

Regarding the 45-64 age group, Protestants (30.4%) and Jews (29%) have the highest proportions, whereas Sikhs (17.5%) and Muslims (21.4%) have the lowest percentages.

Finally, in terms of the elderly population (65+), the Protestant community has by far the highest proportion (20.3%), followed by the Christian Orthodox (13.3%) and Jewish (13.1%) populations. Hindus (5.8%) and Muslims (6.3%) are the mainstream

religious groups that have the lowest proportions.

The Protestant community has the highest median age (45.4 years) of any mainstream religious group in Greater Vancouver, followed by the Buddhist (40.5 years) and Jewish (39.8 years) communities. The lowest median age is found among Sikhs (29.3 years). Those with no religious affiliation average 33.5 years, whereas those involved in Para-religious practices have a median age of 35.1 years.

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

The Greater Vancouver Community in a Provincial Context

The total population of Jews in British Columbia is 29,875. Jews make up 0.8% of the population of this province. In

comparison, the Jewish population of Ontario numbers 211,465. There are 94,665 Jews in the province of Quebec.

A significant proportion of the Jewish population in this province is located in the Greater Vancouver area. Specifically, 75.6% of Jews in this province reside in Greater Vancouver.

There are figures available for several other Jewish communities in this province. Regarding the mainland: there are 180 Jews in Kamloops, 515 in Kelowna, 170 in Vernon, and 235 in Prince George. The total Jewish population on Vancouver Island is 3,870. The Jewish community of Victoria numbers 2,595 individuals. There are 110 Jews in Campbell River, 280 in Nanaimo, 45 in Parksville, 195 in Duncan, 30 in Port Alberni, and 190 in Courtenay.

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
Greater Vancouver**

	Total		Jews		Non-Jews	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
0-4	105,280	5.4	1,000	4.4	104,280	5.4
5-14	241,280	12.3	2,750	12.2	238,530	12.3
15-24	265,875	13.5	2,880	12.8	262,995	13.5
25-34	296,660	15.1	3,035	13.4	293,625	15.1
35-44	347,240	17.6	3,415	15.1	343,825	17.7
45-54	303,440	15.4	4,135	18.3	299,305	15.4
55-64	179,600	9.1	2,400	10.6	177,200	9.1
65-74	127,560	6.5	1,460	6.5	126,100	6.5
75-84	79,295	4.0	1,070	4.7	78,225	4.0
85+	21,240	1.1	430	1.9	20,810	1.1
Total	1,967,470	100.0	22,575	100.0	1,944,895	100.0

Table 17
Age Breakdowns
Greater Vancouver & Canadian Jewish Populations

	Greater Vancouver Jewish Population		Canadian Jewish Population	
	#	%	#	%
0-4	1,000	4.4	21,245	5.7
5-14	2,750	12.2	50,345	13.6
15-24	2,880	12.8	48,430	13.1
25-34	3,035	13.4	41,005	11.1
35-44	3,415	15.1	49,510	13.4
45-54	4,135	18.3	61,170	16.5
55-64	2,400	10.6	36,940	10.0
65-74	1,460	6.5	28,560	7.7
75-84	1,070	4.7	25,360	6.8
85+	430	1.9	7,955	2.1
Total	22,575	100.0	370,520	100.0

Table 18
Age by Census Year
Greater Vancouver Jewish Community

	2001		1991		1981		1971	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
0-4	1,000	4.4	1,530	7.8	995	6.7	615	6.1
5-14	2,750	12.2	2,690	13.7	1,830	12.3	1,340	13.2
15-24	2,880	12.8	2,275	11.6	2,090	14.0	1,975	19.5
25-34	3,035	13.4	3,070	15.6	3,390	22.7	1,495	14.7
35-44	3,415	15.1	3,915	19.9	2,050	13.7	1,120	11.0
45-54	4,135	18.3	2,205	11.2	1,370	9.2	1,320	13.0
55-64	2,400	10.6	1,375	7.0	1,490	10.0	1,220	12.0
65-74	1,460	6.5	1,360	6.9	1,185	7.9	705	7.0
75-84	1,070	4.7	1,075	5.5	450	3.0	300	3.0
85+	430	1.9	145	0.7	80	0.5	50	0.5
Total	22,575	100.0	19,640	100.0	14,930	100.0	10,140	100.0

Table 19
Discrete Age Breakdowns by Gender
Greater Vancouver Jewish Community

	Total		Male		Female	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 1 year	215	1.0	105	0.9	110	1.0
1	165	0.7	80	0.7	85	0.8
2	230	1.0	70	0.6	160	1.4
3	220	1.0	120	1.0	100	0.9
4	175	0.8	105	0.9	70	0.6
5	220	1.0	115	1.0	105	0.9
6	275	1.2	130	1.1	145	1.3
7	245	1.1	140	1.2	105	0.9
8	240	1.1	85	0.7	155	1.4
9	275	1.2	145	1.3	130	1.2
10	305	1.4	200	1.7	105	0.9
11	265	1.2	170	1.5	95	0.9
12	295	1.3	150	1.3	145	1.3
13	355	1.6	175	1.5	180	1.6
14	270	1.2	140	1.2	130	1.2
15	290	1.3	185	1.6	105	0.9
16	340	1.5	205	1.8	135	1.2
17	290	1.3	140	1.2	150	1.3
18	265	1.2	130	1.1	135	1.2
19	240	1.1	150	1.3	90	0.8

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

	Total		Male		Female	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
20-24	1,465	6.5	775	6.8	690	6.2
25-29	1,405	6.2	655	5.7	750	6.7
30-34	1,630	7.2	825	7.2	805	7.2
35-39	1,705	7.5	950	8.3	755	6.8
40-44	1,705	7.5	865	7.6	840	7.5
45-49	1,880	8.3	875	7.6	1,005	9.0
50-54	2,260	10.0	1,135	9.9	1,125	10.1
55-59	1,415	6.3	715	6.2	700	6.3
60-64	985	4.4	465	4.1	520	4.7
65-69	690	3.1	360	3.1	330	3.0
70-74	765	3.4	360	3.1	405	3.6
75-79	575	2.5	305	2.7	270	2.4
80-84	495	2.2	240	2.1	255	2.3
85-89	335	1.5	145	1.3	190	1.7
90+	105	0.5	35	0.3	70	0.6
Total	22,590	100.0	11,445	100.0	11,145	100.0

Table 20
Ethnic Affiliation by Median Age: Greater Vancouver

	Median Age
British	44.5
Chinese	36.5
Canadian	31.1
German	38.0
East Indian	30.4
French	38.4
Ukrainian	36.2
Italian	34.0
Filipino	33.6
Aboriginal	29.1
Polish	37.0
Russian	34.8
Korean	28.4
Japanese	33.6
(Jewish: full definition)	(39.8)
Latin American	27.4
Vietnamese	29.1
African	28.3
Portuguese	34.9
Greek	35.3
Arab	28.5
Spanish	34.1
Caribbean	31.2
American	37.2
Pakistani	27.1
All other ethnic categories	39.9
Total Greater Vancouver	37.2

Table 21
Religious Affiliation by Median Age
Greater Vancouver

	Median Age
Protestant	45.4
Catholic	38.1
Christian, n.i.e.	32.1
Sikh	29.3
Buddhist	40.5
Muslim	32.1
Hindu	31.2
Christian Orthodox	37.1
(Jewish: full definition)	(39.8)
Jewish: religion alone	42.1
Para-religious groups	35.1
Other Eastern religions	36.4
No religious affiliation	33.5
Total	37.2

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.