

2011

NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

THE JEWISH POPULATION OF CANADA

PART 5
THE JEWISH FAMILY

PART 6
INTERMARRIAGE



JEWISH FEDERATIONS OF CANADA - UJA
הפדרציות היהודיות בקנדה - UJA
FÉDÉRATIONS JUIVES DU CANADA - UJA

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**2011 National Household Survey Analysis
The Jewish Population of Canada**

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Intermarriage**

**By
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Statistics Canada, special order tabulations for Jewish Federations of Canada - UIA, CO-1421.

Highlights of Part 5

- There are 184,040 Jewish households in Canada, comprising 1.4% of the total 13,319,250 households in this country.
- Within the Jewish population, the current level of those living in family arrangements (83.3%) is lower than the figure for 1991 (85.8%).
- In 1991, there were 25,730 Canadian Jews living in single parent families. When compared to the 2011 figure of 33,555, this represents an increase of 30.4% in the last two decades.
- More than one in ten Jewish children (< 15 years) in Canada live in lone parent families (11.2%).
- Of 61,320 Jews who are unattached, 10,765 live with non-relatives, and 50,555 live alone. Persons living alone comprise 12.9% of the total Jewish population in Canada.
- While seniors represent 16.9% of Canadian Jews, they account for 38.8% of all Jews who live alone.
- In the last decade, the fastest growing groups as far as marital status is concerned were those choosing to live in common law arrangements (+32.5%) and those who are divorced / separated (+22.1%).
- By the age of 25 years, 5.1% of Canadian Jews have married at least once. By the age of 45 years, 70.1% have married at least once. Finally, by 65 years, 91.5% have married at least once.
- Jews in young adulthood (18-26 years) are about as likely to marry as non-Jews of that age group, but are significantly less inclined to live in common law partnerships.

Highlights of Part 6

- 26.3% of Jewish spouses / partners are married to, or partnered with, non-Jews in Canada. This figure is considered to be the intermarriage rate for the national Jewish population. In absolute terms, 48,515 of 184,705 Jewish spouses / partners are intermarried.
- Another way of determining the intermarriage rate is to look at the total number of Jews living in intermarried families, including children. There are 72,370 individuals who live in intermarried households, representing 25% of all persons living in couple arrangements.
- There has been an increase of 59% of Jews living in intermarried households in the last two decades. The number has climbed from 45,505 to 72,370 individuals between 1991-2011. As a proportion of the total Jewish population, the percentage of Jews living in intermarried households increased from 16.8% in 1991 to 25% in 2011.
- The metropolitan area with the largest proportion of Jews living in intermarried households is Victoria (73.5%), followed by Kingston (65%), Regina (54.8%), and Halifax (53%). The lowest intermarriage levels are found in Montreal (15%) and Toronto (17.3%). In absolute terms, the largest number of intermarried Jews live in Toronto (24,780). There are 10,100 such individuals living in Montreal, and 7,820 in Greater Vancouver.
- The level of intermarriage among spouses less than 30 years of age is 43%. Among those who are at least 40 years old, it is 22.4%.
- About a quarter (25.1%) of Jewish children under 15 years of age (living in couple families) reside in intermarried arrangements. This represents 15,485 children.
- Regarding the youngest children of intermarried couples, about a quarter (27%) are identified by their parents as Jews; about half (56.4%) are assigned no religious affiliation; and the rest (16.6%) are identified as having other religions. Whether it is the husband or the wife who is of the Jewish faith has a significant bearing on the religious orientation of their children.

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2011 National Household Survey Analysis

Part 5: The Jewish Family

The current study looks at two major and interrelated topics regarding Jewish life: the Jewish family and intermarriage. This report is part of a series of analyses derived from the 2011 National Household Survey that describe the demographic characteristics of the Jewish population in Canada.

In recent years the composition and dynamics of Jewish family life have changed considerably. These transformations can be understood in the context of social and economic changes in the greater society, which Jews more or less mirror as a group. Increasingly, there have been strains on the stability of the nuclear family, such that non-traditional living arrangements have become significant, not only in terms of their increasing numbers, but in the types of challenges they present to community workers and planners.

Most Jews continue to marry at some point in their lives, and to have one or more children, but they are increasingly choosing to remain single longer, to have fewer children than in previous generations, or to remain childless after marriage. Given the shifting proportions of Jewish family types

and the changed expectations of their members, new demands are increasingly put on communities to respond.

Wertheimer and Cohen note that on a pragmatic level, Jewish communal affiliation has been highly related to in-married couples that have children.¹ Jews who live in non-traditional family settings tend to manifest less participation in communal activities. Several surveys done of Jewish communities across Canada have found that divorced and single individuals generally show among the lowest levels of affiliation of any demographic group.²

Major Trends in Jewish Family Life:

To understand the transformations that have taken place in the structure and values of family life it is important to analyze certain demographic trends that have transpired in

¹ Wertheimer, J. and Cohen, S.M. The Pew Survey Reanalyzed: More Bad News, but a Glimmer of Hope. *Mosaic Magazine* (November 2, 2014).

² See for Example: Shahar, C. & Rosenbaum, T. Jewish Life in Greater Toronto: A Survey of the Attitudes & Behaviours of Greater Toronto's Jewish Community. UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. February 2006.

the last 50 years. The following is a brief summary:

(1) There are growing numbers of single adults in the population: The proportion of singles has actually increased in the past 50 years, but particularly in the last three decades. The centrality of marriage has declined in general North American society, and this is reflected in the Jewish population. A recent study in the United States, for example, found that in the last decade married Jewish adults have decreased from 57% to 52%.³ Singles are most common among young adults and the elderly, particularly older widows. There are increasingly large numbers of middle-aged singles as well.

Although most people marry by the beginning of middle age, increases in divorces leave large numbers of them single. They are also taking longer to re-marry, and some are returning to their parents due to financial concerns.

(2) The incidence of divorce is increasing: Many factors, such as shifting social mores, different expectations of marriage, and revamped divorce laws, have altered the role of marriage in our society. Marriage has

traditionally been perceived as something that binds people permanently, regardless of whether they remain happily or unhappily wed. Today, people disenchanted with their marriages are much more inclined to consider divorce. A recent study in the United States found that separation and divorce has increased from 9% to 11% in the last decade.⁴

The impact of divorce can be particularly difficult on children. Recent studies suggest that children of divorced parents have lower achievement rates, and are more likely to drop out of school, than children in intact families. The children's relationships with their parents can also be more strained.⁵ For women, divorce often entails economic hardships.

(3) There is a significant increase in the number of single parent families: The current divorce rates and changing societal norms have resulted in an increased number of single parent families. Beyond circumstances of divorce, more women and men are choosing to have children

³ See Cohen, S. Jewish Community Study of New York. UJA Federation of New York, 2011.

⁴ See Cohen, S. Jewish Community Study of New York. UJA Federation of New York, 2011.

⁵ See for example:

Kalmijn, M. Long-term effects of divorce on parent-child relationships: Within-family comparisons of fathers and mothers. *European Sociological Review* 29.5 (2013): 888-898.

Ham, B. The Effects of Divorce on the Academic Achievement of High School Seniors, *Journal of Divorce & Remarriage*, 38.3/4, 2003, 167-185.

completely outside of marriage or a couple relationship. With a new ethos of individualism in society, more Jewish singles express a strong desire for children, but do not necessarily see a connection between this and forming a couple relationship. As Fishman reports, young Jewish women, in particular, are increasingly comfortable saying, “I can have a Jewish child on my own. I don’t need a man to create and raise a Jewish child.”⁶ This phenomenon is closely connected to the above-mentioned trend of extended singlehood.

(4) Families are having fewer children and remaining childless longer than before: As women increasingly entered the workforce in the late 1960s and 1970s, many made the decision to marry later and postponed having children. A number of North American studies have suggested that there is a strong relationship between educational level and the proportion of childless couples. As the level of education increases among women, the proportion with no children also increases.⁷ Indeed, the

trend among many women and men in general North American society is to first complete several years of post-secondary education, then become financially independent, and only afterwards consider marriage and children.

Fishman points to some concerns regarding the temporary postponement of childbearing, which she suggests ultimately has an impact on the size of the family. As women of child-bearing ages get older, the incidence of infertility increases. She estimates that 15% of Jewish couples who want children find it difficult or impossible to conceive.⁸

The recent Pew report on American Jews reports a fertility rate of 1.7 for non-Orthodox Jews.⁹ A stable population requires a birthrate of 2.1. This trend thus suggests a significant demographic decline.

(5) There is an increasing number of same-sex partnerships: This trend relates to changing societal attitudes regarding homosexual relationships, which has

⁶ See Fishman, S.B. Transformations in the Composition of American Jewish Households. American Jewish Committee, 2010.

⁷ See for example: Hartman, H. The Intersection of Gender and Religion in the Demography of Today’s American Jewish Families (Paper presented at the Brandeis University Seminar on Creating and Maintaining Jewish Families, March 25, 2007). Rose, E. Education, Hypergamy and

the “Success Gap”. Department of Economics, University of Washington, April 2006.

⁸ Fishman, S. The Larger Battle: The real fight facing American Jews is not against intermarriage but for marriage itself. *Mosaic Magazine* (Sept 1, 2013).

⁹ See Cooperman, A. et al. 2013 Pew Research Center Survey of U.S. Jews: A Portrait of Jewish Americans.

recently had implications for the legality of same-sex marriages. Same-sex marriage has been legal in Canada since 2005, and Canada is now one of several countries that has guaranteed full marriage rights to same sex couples.

Although the 2001 Census asked respondents (for the first time) to indicate if they were living in a same-sex arrangement, the information was significantly underestimated because follow-up studies suggested that many gay and lesbian couples did not acknowledge such arrangements. Taking non-disclosure and sampling errors into account, it is not clear whether the 2011 National Household Survey data is sufficiently reliable for an analysis of same-sex couples even on a national level.

A 2011 study in the United States reported that 5% of all Jewish households include a same-sex couple.¹⁰ In all likelihood this is an underestimate as well.

The Trends in Perspective

Despite the changes in the structure of the family unit, and the rise of non-traditional families, there is no doubt that marriage remains a popular institution among Jews and the general community alike.

¹⁰ See Cohen, S. Jewish Community Study of New York. UJA Federation of New York, 2011.

According to the 2011 National Household Survey, 70.1% of Canadian Jews are likely to marry at least once by the time they reach 45 years of age. The figure is slightly lower for the total Canadian population: 69.1% will marry at least once by their 45th birthday.

In recent years some women have experienced what demographers call "the marriage squeeze". Since women often marry men somewhat older than themselves, women born in the later years of the Baby Boom have experienced a dearth of eligible mates.¹¹ Nonetheless, according to the 2011 National Household Survey, 91.5% of Canadian Jewish Baby Boomers between 45-64 years have married at least once.

In terms of non-traditional families, one trend which was not mentioned above is the increasing frequency of intermarriages: that is, Jews who choose to marry someone outside their faith. A description of this phenomenon and its implications for the Jewish community is discussed in the second part of this report.

¹¹ Della Pergola, S. Jewish Out-Marriage: A Global Perspective. International Roundtable on Intermarriage – Brandeis University, December 18, 2003.

The Focus of the Present Study

The present study has a number of aims. Firstly, it seeks to describe the demographics related to the Jewish family in Canada. This includes statistical breakdowns for the national Jewish population, as well as for provinces and municipalities.

Another aim is to provide comparisons across a series of variables between the Canadian Jewish and non-Jewish populations. The analysis will show whether we are experiencing the same demographic characteristics evident in the population at large.

A further focus will be to provide an historical analysis related to the demographic trends described above. Is the Canadian Jewish population divorcing at higher levels than 10 or 20 years ago? Are fewer people living in married arrangements?

The data analyzed in this report was obtained from the 2011 National Household Survey. A major limitation of this survey is that, unlike vital statistics which are kept on a continuous basis, we cannot know how particular demographic characteristics change from year to year.

For instance, we cannot know how many people married in a given year. It is also not possible to determine how frequently people have married, at what age they first married, for how long they were married, or how long it took them to remarry. Through the National Household Survey we can only examine the number and proportion of people who were married at the time the survey was taken.

On the other hand, given that very limited vital statistics are available for Jewish populations across Canada, say from local municipal or hospital records, the National Household Survey represents a particularly valuable source of demographic information on Jewish family life, despite the limitations described above.

A number of important appendices are included in the back of this report. Appendix 1 is a discussion of methodological considerations related to the National Household Survey, and their implications for interpreting the data presented in this study.

A detailed explanation of the definition used to identify Jewishness in this report is presented in Appendix 2. A description of changes to the Jewish definition is also discussed here.

Table 1A
Household Type
Jewish, Non-Jewish & Total Households
Canada

	Total		Jewish Households		Non-Jewish Households	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Couples With Children	3,952,105	29.7	60,585	32.9	3,891,520	29.6
Couples Without Children	3,547,070	26.6	53,215	28.9	3,493,860	26.6
Lone Parents	1,350,480	10.1	12,230	6.6	1,338,245	10.2
Multiple-Family Households	260,775	2.0	2,240	1.2	258,530	2.0
Non-Family: One Person Only	3,662,800	27.5	50,555	27.5	3,612,245	27.5
Non-Family: Two Or More Persons	546,020	4.1	5,215	2.8	540,805	4.1
Total Households	13,319,250	100.0	184,040	100.0	13,135,205	100.0

Table 1B
Household Size
Jewish, Non-Jewish & Total Households
Canada

	Total		Jewish Households		Non-Jewish Households	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
One	3,662,805	27.5	50,555	27.5	3,612,250	27.5
Two	4,536,175	34.1	62,265	33.8	4,473,910	34.1
Three	2,086,205	15.7	26,400	14.3	2,059,805	15.7
Four	1,927,225	14.5	27,435	14.9	1,899,790	14.5
Five	728,685	5.5	11,055	6.0	717,635	5.5
Six	245,215	1.8	3,950	2.1	241,270	1.8
Seven or More	132,940	1.0	2,380	1.3	130,560	1.0
Total Households	13,319,250	100.0	184,040	100.0	13,135,220	100.0
Median Household Size	2.2	--	2.2	--	2.2	--

Finally, Appendix 3 presents additional data tables that provide more detailed breakdowns related to the Jewish family.

The reader should also note that any minor discrepancies found when totaling columns or rows in the tables are due to random rounding of data. Such rounding up or down is built into the Statistics Canada processing and cannot be avoided. These rounding errors are minor, with minimal impact on the overall interpretation and reliability of the data.

Jewish Households: Their Number, Size and Type

As Table 1A indicates, there are 184,040 Jewish households in Canada. In this report, a Jewish household is defined as a unit in which at least one of the primary household maintainers is Jewish. This could be a spouse, a lone parent, or an unattached individual. Jewish households comprise 1.4% of 13,319,250 total households in this country.

The largest proportion of Jewish households involves couples with children (32.9%), followed by couples without children (28.9%), single person households (27.5%), and lone parent arrangements (6.6%). Individuals living with non-relatives

comprise 2.8% of all households, and multiple families comprise 1.2%.

Jewish households tend to have a higher percentage of couples with children than non-Jewish households (32.9% and 29.6% respectively). Jewish households also have a higher percentage of couples without children than non-Jewish households (28.9% and 26.6% respectively). On the other hand, non-Jewish households tend to have a higher percentage of lone parent arrangements than Jewish ones (10.2% and 6.6% respectively). The percentages of single person households are identical for both groups (27.5%).

Table 1B examines the size of Jewish, non-Jewish and total households in Canada. More than a quarter of Jewish households (27.5%) have a single resident, 33.8% have two residents, 14.3% have three residents, and 14.9% have four residents. The rest (9.4%) have at least five residents.

As mentioned above, Jewish and non-Jewish households have identical proportions of single-person units (27.5%). Non-Jewish households have slightly higher proportions of two- and three-person units than Jewish households. The latter have a higher proportion for any size above three-person households, although the differences

Table 2A
Living Arrangement
Jewish, Non-Jewish & Total Populations
Canada

	Total		Jews		Non-Jews	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Couple Arrangement	23,429,125	71.3	292,665	74.7	23,136,455	71.3
Male Lone Parent	760,500	2.3	7,295	1.9	753,205	2.3
Female Lone-Parent	3,036,645	9.2	26,260	6.7	3,010,390	9.3
Living with Relatives	722,525	2.2	4,120	1.1	718,400	2.2
Living Alone or Non-Relatives	4,903,530	14.9	61,320	15.7	4,842,210	14.9
Total Individuals	32,852,325	100.0	391,660	100.0	32,460,660	100.0

Table 2B
Living Arrangement by Gender
Canadian Jewish Population

	Total		Males		Females	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Couple Arrangement	292,665	74.7	151,090	77.8	141,580	71.7
Male Lone Parent	7,295	1.9	5,375	2.8	1,920	1.0
Female Lone-Parent	26,260	6.7	8,940	4.6	17,320	8.8
Living with Relatives	4,120	1.1	1,660	0.9	2,460	1.2
Living Alone or Non-Relatives	61,320	15.7	27,205	14.0	34,115	17.3
Total Individuals	391,660	100.0	194,270	100.0	197,395	100.0

between the two distributions are not large. Finally, both Jewish and non-Jewish households have identical median household sizes (2.2 persons).

Living Arrangements

Table 2A looks at the living arrangements of Canada's Jewish, non-Jewish and total populations. About three-quarters (74.7%) of Jews live in couple arrangements, 6.7% live in female lone parent families, and 1.9% live in male lone parent families. *In short, 83.3% of Jews live in families.* Moreover, 1.1% live with other relatives (such as a grandparent or sibling).

The percentage of Jews who live in families (83.3%) is slightly lower than the proportion in 2001 (83.9%). It is also lower than the percentage that lived in families in 1991 (85.8%).¹² *In short, the percentage of Jews living in family arrangements has generally diminished since the level in 1991.*

The percentage of Canadian Jews living in single parent families (8.6%) is higher than

in 2001 (7.9%). It was 7.3% in 1991. The figure has therefore steadily increased in the last two decades.

In 2011, there were 33,555 individuals living in lone parent families, compared to 29,490 in 2001, an increase of 13.8%. In 1991, there were 25,730 Jews living in single parent families. *When compared to the 2011 figure, this represents an increase of 30.4% in the last twenty years.*

Table 2A also shows that 15.7% of all Jews are unattached (live alone or with non-relatives). In 2001, there was a lower proportion of unattached Jews (14.8%). The figure was 14.2% in 1991. The proportion of unattached Jews has therefore steadily increased between 1991 and 2011.

In 2001 there were 54,680 unattached Jews in Canada, compared to 61,320 in 2011, an increase of 12.1%. In 1991 there were 50,405 unattached individuals, compared to 61,320 in 2011. *The number of unattached Jews has therefore increased by 21.7% in the last two decades.*

Further calculations involving the 2011 National Household Survey reveal that of

¹² All 1991 data in Part 5 of this report was derived from: Torczyner, J. et al. Demographic Challenges Facing Canadian Jewry: Initial Findings from the 1991 Census. McGill Consortium for Ethnicity & Strategic Social Planning.

Table 2C
Living Arrangement by Age
Canadian Jewish Population

	0-14		15-24		25-44		45-64		65+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Couple Arrangement	63,090	88.5	38,595	73.7	67,295	73.0	81,935	74.8	41,755	63.0
Male Lone Parent	1,515	2.1	2,070	4.0	1,190	1.3	2,025	1.8	495	0.7
Female Lone-Parent	6,475	9.1	6,660	12.7	5,255	5.7	6,200	5.7	1,670	2.5
Living with Relatives	195	0.3	485	0.9	855	0.9	985	0.9	1,600	2.4
Living Alone or With Non-Relatives	0	0.0	4,590	8.8	17,600	19.1	18,375	16.8	20,755	31.3
Total Individuals	71,275	100.0	52,400	100.0	92,195	100.0	109,520	100.0	66,275	100.0

the 61,320 individuals who are unattached, 10,765 live with non-relatives, and 50,555 live alone. *Those living alone comprise 12.9% of the total Canadian Jewish population* (see Table 17A, Appendix 3).

In 2001, 12.5% of the Jewish population lived alone, compared to 12.9% in 2011. In 2001, there were 46,260 individuals living alone compared to 50,555 in 2011, an increase of 9.3% in ten years.

According to Table 2A, the percentage who live in couple arrangements is higher for Jews (74.7%) than non-Jews (71.3%).

There is a higher percentage of individuals who live in female lone parent families among non-Jews compared to Jews (9.3% and 6.7% respectively). Non-Jews are generally more inclined to live in a single parent family than Jews (11.6% and 8.6% respectively).

Finally, Jews are more likely than non-Jews to reside alone or with non-relatives (15.7% and 14.9% respectively). This might relate to the larger proportion of seniors in the Jewish population, and the fact that many of these seniors are widowed (see Table 2C).

According to Table 2B, Jewish males are more likely than females to reside in couple families (77.8% and 71.7% respectively). On the other hand, females are more likely to be living alone or with non-relatives than males (17.3% and 14% respectively).

Table 17B (Appendix 3) presents a more detailed breakdown of unattached Jews by gender. It can be seen that there is a similar percentage of those who live with non-relatives among genders. On the other hand, a larger proportion of females are living alone than males (14.8% and 11% respectively). This is due to the fact that elderly women are more likely to be widowed than men, and hence represent a larger proportion of those who live alone.

Table 2C examines living arrangement by age. The great majority of children (under 15 years) live in couple arrangements (88.5%), whereas 9.1% live in female single parent families, 2.1% in male single parent families, and 0.3% in other arrangements. *In short, more than one in ten Jewish children in Canada live in lone parent families (11.2%).*

Table 2D
Living Arrangement by Provinces
Canadian Jewish Population
(Row %)

Province	Couple Arrangement		Male Lone parent		Female Lone Parent		With Relatives		Living Alone or With Non-Relatives	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Nova Scotia	2,080	71.8	0	0.0	140	4.8	110	3.8	565	19.5
New Brunswick	675	80.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	160	19.2
Nfld. / Labrador	145	70.7	0	0.0	40	19.5	0	0.0	20	9.8
Prince Edward Island	120	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
(Total Atlantic)	(3,020)	(74.5)	(0)	(0.0)	(180)	(4.4)	(110)	(2.7)	(745)	(18.4)
Quebec	69,590	74.3	1,450	1.5	6,345	6.8	865	0.9	15,380	16.4
Ontario	171,890	75.9	4,445	2.0	14,875	6.6	2,300	1.0	33,105	14.6
Manitoba	10,490	73.1	200	1.4	1,215	8.5	105	0.7	2,335	16.3
Saskatchewan	1,340	70.5	85	4.5	115	6.1	35	1.8	325	17.1
Alberta	11,905	75.4	320	2.0	875	5.5	175	1.1	2,515	15.9
British Columbia	24,295	69.4	755	2.2	2,625	7.5	505	1.4	6,820	19.5
Territories	140	71.8	0	0.0	15	7.7	0	0.0	40	20.5
Total Canada	292,670	74.8	7,255	1.9	26,245	6.7	4,095	1.0	61,265	15.6

The percentage of individuals between 15-24 years who live in lone parent families is 16.7%. However, it should be noted that a small minority of these persons are likely the parents themselves. About three-quarters (73.7%) of individuals in this age group live in couple arrangements, whether as a spouse or child. Finally, 0.9% live with relatives and 8.8% are unattached.

In terms of adults 25-44 years, 73% live in couple arrangements, 7% in lone parent families, 0.9% are living with relatives, and 19.1% are unattached. Note that it is not possible to know in the case of lone parent families, whether the above number refers to parents or their children.

In terms of middle aged Jews (45-64 years), 74.8% live in couple arrangements, 7.5% in lone parent arrangements, 0.9% with other relatives, and 16.8% are unattached.

Finally, less than two-thirds of Jewish seniors (63%) live in couple arrangements, 3.2% in lone parent families, 2.4% with other relatives, and almost a third (31.3%) are unattached.

A closer examination of elderly who are unattached (Table 17C, Appendix 3) shows

that 29.6% of Jewish seniors are in fact living alone, and 1.7% are living with non-relatives. *While seniors represent 16.9% of all Jews, they account for 38.8% of all Jews who live alone.*

Table 2D looks at living arrangements for Jewish populations across provinces. The Atlantic provinces were combined in the following analysis. There are too few Jews in the Territories to be included.

The highest percentage of those living in couple arrangements is found in Ontario (75.9%), followed by Alberta (75.4%). The highest percentage of individuals residing in lone parent families is found in Saskatchewan (10.6%), followed by Manitoba (9.9%).

In terms of unattached individuals (living alone or with non-relatives), the highest percentage is found in British Columbia (19.5%), followed by Saskatchewan (17.1%).

Table 2E examines living arrangements across major metropolitan areas. Only centers with at least 750 Jews will be considered here. The metropolitan area with

Table 2E
Living Arrangement by Metropolitan Area
(Row %)

Census Metropolitan Area	Couple Arrangement		Male Lone Parent		Female Lone Parent		With Relatives		Living Alone or With Non-Relatives	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Halifax, NS	1,530	72.9	0	0.0	125	6.0	30	1.4	415	19.8
Montreal, QC	67,490	74.3	1,425	1.6	6,100	6.7	850	0.9	14,915	16.4
Toronto, ON	144,095	76.4	3,410	1.8	12,420	6.6	2,065	1.1	26,730	14.2
Ottawa / Gatineau	10,490	74.9	560	4.0	675	4.8	70	0.5	2,215	15.8
Hamilton, ON	3,790	74.2	95	1.9	250	4.9	30	0.6	945	18.5
Kingston, ON	900	75.9	30	2.5	25	2.1	0	0.0	230	19.4
Kitchener - Waterloo, ON	1,550	77.9	50	2.5	90	4.5	0	0.0	300	15.1
London, ON	1,905	71.1	15	0.6	230	8.6	40	1.5	490	18.3
Windsor, ON	1,150	75.9	0	0.0	110	7.3	20	1.3	235	15.5
Winnipeg, MB	9,935	72.5	200	1.5	1,210	8.8	105	0.8	2,245	16.4
Regina, SA	725	81.9	30	3.4	0	0.0	15	1.7	115	13.0
Calgary, AL	6,375	76.5	105	1.3	475	5.7	75	0.9	1,305	15.7
Edmonton, AL	4,070	73.4	185	3.3	340	6.1	55	1.0	895	16.1
Vancouver, BC	18,305	69.7	580	2.2	1,935	7.4	320	1.2	5,115	19.5
Victoria, BC	1,920	70.2	10	0.4	245	9.0	30	1.1	530	19.4

the highest level of individuals living in couple arrangements is Regina (81.9%) followed by Kitchener-Waterloo (77.9%). The centre with the lowest level is Greater Vancouver (69.7%). Toronto has 76.4% living in couple arrangements, whereas Montreal has 74.3%.

In absolute terms, the Toronto CMA has by far the largest contingent of Jews living in couple arrangements (144,095), followed by Montreal (67,490), and Greater Vancouver (18,305).

In terms of individuals living in single parent arrangements, the largest proportion is found in Winnipeg (10.3%). Toronto has 8.4% living in single parent families, whereas Montreal has 8.3%, and Greater Vancouver has 9.6%.

In absolute terms, the Toronto CMA has 15,830 Jews who live in single parent families, whereas Montreal has 7,525, and Greater Vancouver has 2,515 persons.

Regarding unattached individuals, Halifax has the highest percentage (19.8%), followed by Greater Vancouver (19.5%). The Jewish community of Toronto has 14.2% unattached, and Montreal has 16.4%.

Marital Status

Table 3A examines the marital status of Canada's Jewish, non-Jewish and total populations. A significant proportion of the Jewish population is married (43%), followed by 40.8% who are single (never married). 7% of Canadian Jews are divorced / separated, 4.7% are living in common law arrangements, and 4.5% are widowed.

The proportion of married individuals among Jews (43%) is greater than for non-Jews (39.2%); but there is a larger proportion of non-Jews who are involved in common law partnerships (9.6%) than Jews (4.7%). In fact, non-Jews are more than twice as likely to be living out of wedlock as Jews. The second part of this report on intermarriage will address the issue of common law partnerships more extensively.

There is a slightly higher percentage of single (never married) individuals among Jews than non-Jews (40.8% and 40.1% respectively). The percentage of divorced / separated individuals is identical for both groups (7%). Finally, Jews have a higher percentage of widowed individuals (4.5%) than non-Jews (4.1%). All in all, the

Table 3A
Marital Status
Jewish, Non-Jewish & Total Populations of Canada

	Total		Jews		Non-Jews	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Now Married	12,878,850	39.2	168,310	43.0	12,710,535	39.2
Common Law	3,126,475	9.5	18,490	4.7	3,107,980	9.6
Single / Never Married	13,189,485	40.1	159,900	40.8	13,029,585	40.1
Divorced / Separated	2,310,370	7.0	27,395	7.0	2,282,975	7.0
Widowed	1,347,145	4.1	17,565	4.5	1,329,580	4.1
Total Individuals	32,852,325	100.0	391,660	100.0	32,460,655	100.0

Table 3B
Marital Status by Gender
Jewish Population of Canada

	Total		Males		Females	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Now Married	168,310	43.0	85,895	44.2	82,415	41.8
Common Law	18,490	4.7	9,525	4.9	8,970	4.5
Single / Never Married	159,900	40.8	84,560	43.5	75,340	38.2
Divorced / Separated	27,395	7.0	10,970	5.6	16,420	8.3
Widowed	17,565	4.5	3,315	1.7	14,255	7.2
Total Individuals	391,660	100.0	194,265	100.0	197,400	100.0

distributions of marital status among Jews and non-Jews in this country seem fairly similar.

Table 3B looks at marital status by gender among Canadian Jews. Males are more likely to be married than females (44.2% and 41.8% respectively). Men are slightly more inclined to be in a common law relationship than women (4.9% and 4.5% respectively). Males are also more inclined to be single (never married) than females (43.5% and 38.2% respectively).

On the other hand, females are more likely to be divorced / separated than males (8.3% and 5.6% respectively). Females are also more likely to be widowed than males (7.2% and 1.7%).

It is difficult to clearly understand marital status as a demographic variable without examining its relationship to age. Table 3C shows marital status across age cohorts for the national Jewish population. Not surprisingly, the great majority of those between 15-24 years of age are single / never married (94.9%).

Further calculations reveal that 6.6% of Jews between 18-26 years of age are

married and 5.3% are living in common law partnerships. This compares to 6.4% and 11.9% among non-Jews who are married and living out of wedlock, respectively.

Jews & non-Jews in young adulthood (< 27 years) therefore have similar levels of marriage; whereas non-Jews are much more inclined to be in common law partnerships. All in all, non-Jews between 18-26 years are more inclined to be in a couple arrangement, whether in or out of wedlock, than Jews (18.3% and 11.9% respectively).

Regarding the 25-44 age cohort, 54.6% of Jews are married, and 10.2% live in common law arrangements. More than a quarter (29.9%) are single / never married, 5.1% are divorced / separated, and 0.2% are widowed.

In terms of middle-aged adults between 45-64 years, more than two-thirds (69.4%) are married, and 5.5% live in common law arrangements. Only 8.5% are single / never married, 14.6% are divorced / separated, and 2% are widowed.

Finally, 60.9% of seniors are married, and 3.1% are living in common law

Table 3C
Marital Status by Age
Canadian Jewish Population

	0-14		15-24		25-44		45-64		65+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Now Married	0	0.0	1,525	2.9	50,385	54.6	76,035	69.4	40,365	60.9
Common Law	0	0.0	1,080	2.1	9,380	10.2	6,005	5.5	2,025	3.1
Single / Never Married	71,275	100.0	49,740	94.9	27,525	29.9	9,275	8.5	2,080	3.1
Divorced / Separated	0	0.0	50	0.1	4,730	5.1	15,980	14.6	6,635	10.0
Widowed	0	0.0	0	0.0	180	0.2	2,210	2.0	15,170	22.9
Total Individuals	71,275	100.0	52,395	100.0	92,200	100.0	109,505	100.0	66,275	100.0

arrangements. Only 3.1% are single / never married, and 10% are divorced / separated. Almost a quarter (22.9%) of Jewish elderly are widowed.

What can we conclude about the marital status of adult Jews (15+ years)? More than half (52.5%) are now married, 5.8% are living in common law arrangements, 27.7% are single (never married), 8.6% are divorced / separated, and 5.5% are widowed.

How do these figures compare to the 2001 adult Jewish population (15+ years)? In 2001, 54.5% were married, compared to 52.5% in 2011. There were 4.7% living in common law arrangements in 2001, compared to 5.8% in 2011.

In 2001, 7.5% of adult Jews (15+ years) were divorced / separated, compared to 8.6% in 2011. More than a quarter (26.7%) of adult Jews were single (never married) in 2001, compared to 27.7% in 2011. Finally, 6.6% were widowed in 2001 compared to 5.5% in 2011.

In short, there has been a decrease in the percentage of those who are married or widowed. On the other hand, there have been increases among those living in

common law arrangements, single, and divorced individuals in the last decade.

A clearer picture emerges when one examines these categories in terms of absolute numbers. For instance, in 2001 there were 162,625 Jewish adults who were married in this country compared to 168,310 in 2011, an increase of only 3.5%. In 2001 there were 13,950 living in common law situations compared to 18,490 in 2011, an increase of 32.5%.

In 2001 there were 151,180 single individuals among Jewish adults compared to 159,900 in 2011, an increase of 5.8%. There were 22,440 divorced / separated individuals in 2001 compared to 27,395 in 2011, an increase of 22.1%. Finally, there were 19,800 widowed persons in 2001 compared to 17,565 in 2011, a decrease of 11.3%.

Hence, in relative terms, the fastest growing groups as far as marital status is concerned are those choosing to live in common law arrangements (+32.5%) and those who are divorced / separated (+22.1%).

Table 3D
Marital Status by Provinces
Canadian Jewish Population
(Row %)

Province	Now Married		Common Law		Single / Never Married		Divorced / Separated		Widowed	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Nova Scotia	1,180	40.5	265	9.1	1,205	41.3	185	6.3	80	2.7
New Brunswick	390	45.6	110	12.9	285	33.3	30	3.5	40	4.7
Nfld. / Labrador	85	45.9	0	0.0	100	54.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
Prince Edward Island	60	34.3	0	0.0	115	65.7	0	0.0	0	0.0
(Total Atlantic)	(1,715)	(41.5)	(375)	(9.1)	(1,705)	(41.3)	(215)	(5.2)	(120)	(2.9)
Quebec	38,885	41.5	3,965	4.2	39,085	41.7	6,420	6.9	5,265	5.6
Ontario	100,055	44.2	9,510	4.2	91,900	40.6	15,410	6.8	9,735	4.3
Manitoba	6,160	42.9	790	5.5	5,570	38.8	995	6.9	830	5.8
Saskatchewan	635	33.3	200	10.5	915	48.0	105	5.5	50	2.6
Alberta	6,910	43.8	1,020	6.5	6,220	39.4	1,145	7.3	490	3.1
British Columbia	13,885	39.7	2,575	7.4	14,425	41.2	3,055	8.7	1,060	3.0
Territories	55	25.6	35	16.3	95	44.2	30	14.0	0	0.0
Total Canada	168,310	43.0	18,490	4.7	159,900	40.8	27,395	7.0	17,565	4.5

Unfortunately, detailed information on marital status is not available from the 1991 Census and therefore no comparisons can be made for statistics spanning the last two decades.

Another way of looking at marital status is to calculate the percentage of individuals who have been married at least once by the time they reach a certain age level. This involves totaling the figures for Jewish married, divorced, separated and widowed adults in the 2011 National Household Survey.

Thus, by the age of 25 years, only 5.1% of Jews have married at least once. By the age of 45 years, 70.1% have married at least once. Finally, by 65 years, 91.5% have married at least once.

In terms of non-Jews, 9.1% marry at least once by their 25th year, compared to 5.1% of Jews. Almost three-quarters (71.9%) of non-Jews marry at least once by the age of 45 years, compared to 70.1% of Jews. Finally, 89.6% of non-Jews marry at least once by their 65th year, compared to 91.5% of Jews. In short, the differences between Jews and non-Jews are not pronounced as far as age of marriage is concerned. All in all, Jews tend

to marry later, but catch up and surpass non-Jews in their middle-aged years.

Table 3D examines marital status across provinces for Canada's Jewish population. Provinces in Atlantic Canada were combined for this analysis, and there are too few Jews in the Territories to be included. The region / province with the highest percentage of married individuals is Ontario (44.2%), followed by Alberta (43.8%). The lowest levels of married individuals are in Saskatchewan (33.3%) and British Columbia (39.7%).

The highest levels of Jews living in common law arrangements are found in Saskatchewan (10.5%) and Atlantic Canada (9.1%). The lowest levels are found in Ontario and Quebec (4.2%).

The highest percentage of singles is found in Saskatchewan (48%), and the lowest is found in Manitoba (38.8%). British Columbia has the highest level of divorced / separated Jews (8.7%), whereas the lowest levels are found in Saskatchewan (5.5%).

Finally, Manitoba has the highest percentage of widowed Jews (5.8%), followed closely

Table 3E
Marital Status by Metropolitan Areas
(Row %)

Census Metropolitan Area	Now Married		Common Law		Single / Never Married		Divorced / Separated		Widowed	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Halifax, NS	875	41.3	150	7.1	925	43.6	125	5.9	45	2.1
Montreal, QC	37,865	41.7	3,530	3.9	38,030	41.9	6,175	6.8	5,175	5.7
Toronto, ON	83,910	44.5	6,960	3.7	76,980	40.8	12,525	6.6	8,345	4.4
Ottawa / Gatineau	6,150	43.9	895	6.4	5,645	40.3	945	6.7	375	2.7
Hamilton, ON	2,305	45.1	240	4.7	1,815	35.5	500	9.8	250	4.9
Kingston, ON	490	41.5	90	7.6	485	41.1	55	4.7	60	5.1
Kitchener - Waterloo, ON	820	40.6	120	5.9	900	44.6	100	5.0	80	4.0
London, ON	1,170	43.7	135	5.0	1,090	40.7	190	7.1	90	3.4
Windsor, ON	800	52.6	85	5.6	465	30.6	110	7.2	60	3.9
Winnipeg, MB	5,850	42.7	775	5.7	5,300	38.7	960	7.0	805	5.9
Regina, SA	330	37.1	85	9.6	415	46.6	60	6.7	0	0.0
Calgary, AL	3,880	46.5	535	6.4	3,095	37.1	555	6.7	275	3.3
Edmonton, AL	2,290	41.2	315	5.7	2,285	41.1	465	8.4	205	3.7
Vancouver, BC	10,520	40.1	1,645	6.3	11,055	42.1	2,230	8.5	805	3.1
Victoria, BC	1,140	41.6	290	10.6	955	34.9	275	10.0	80	2.9

by Quebec (5.6%). The lowest percentage of widowed individuals is found in Saskatchewan (2.6%).

Table 3E shows the marital status of Jews across major metropolitan areas in Canada. Centres with less than 750 Jews were not considered in this analysis.

The Jewish population of Windsor has the highest level of married individuals (52.6%), followed by Calgary (46.5%) and Hamilton (45.1%). The lowest level is found in Regina (37.1%).

In absolute terms, Toronto has by far the largest number of married Jews (83,910), followed by Montreal (37,865) and Greater Vancouver (10,520).

The highest percentages of individuals living in common law arrangements are found in the Jewish populations of Victoria (10.6%) and Regina (9.6%). The lowest percentage is found in Toronto (3.7%), followed by Montreal (3.9%).

On the other hand, in absolute terms, Toronto has the largest number of Jews living in common law arrangements (6,960),

followed by Montreal (3,530), and Greater Vancouver (1,645).

In terms of single (never married) Jews, the highest percentage is found in Regina (46.6%), followed by Kitchener-Waterloo (44.6%). The lowest percentage of singles is found in Windsor (30.6%).

Toronto has the largest number of singles in its Jewish population (76,980), followed by Montreal (38,030) and Greater Vancouver (11,055).

The largest proportion of divorced / separated Jews is found in Victoria (10%), followed by Hamilton (9.8%). The lowest level of divorced / separated Jews is found in Kingston (4.7%).

Toronto has the largest number of divorced / separated Jews (12,525), followed by Montreal (6,175) and Greater Vancouver (2,230).

Finally, the highest percentage of widowed Jews is found in Winnipeg (5.9%), followed by Montreal (5.7%). The lowest percentage of widowed Jews is located in Regina (0%).

Table 4
Family Structure
Jewish, Non-Jewish & Total Families of Canada

	Total		Jewish Families		Non-Jewish Families	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Couples: With Children	4,134,345	44.0	61,790	47.8	4,072,555	44.0
Couples: Without Children	3,753,755	40.0	54,815	42.4	3,698,940	40.0
Male Lone Parent	312,855	3.3	2,815	2.2	310,040	3.3
Female Lone Parent	1,186,520	12.6	9,805	7.6	1,176,715	12.7
Total Families	9,387,475	100.0	129,225	100.0	9,258,250	100.0

Table 5
Number of Children in Household
Jewish, Non-Jewish & Total Families of Canada

	Total		Jewish Families	
	#	%	#	%
None	3,753,755	40.0	54,815	42.4
One	2,516,805	26.8	29,565	22.9
Two	2,216,985	23.6	29,985	23.2
Three	684,080	7.3	10,520	8.1
Four	161,770	1.7	2,795	2.2
Five or More	54,085	0.6	1,545	1.2
Total Families	9,387,480	100.0	129,225	100.0

Median # of Children	1.4	1.3
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In absolute terms, Toronto has the largest contingent of widowed Jews (8,345), followed by Montreal (5,175). Greater Vancouver and Winnipeg both have 805 widowed Jews.

Family Structure & Number of Children

As Table 4 indicates, there are 129,225 Jewish families in Canada. About half (47.8%) of all Jewish families involve couples with children, 42.4% couples without children, and 9.8% are lone parent families. Note that this table does not include households with only a single person, or those living with extended relatives or non-relatives, because these are not considered to be family units in this breakdown.

Of 12,620 single parent families, 77.7% are headed by a female, and 22.3% by a male. In short, there are about 3.5 times as many single parent families headed by a female than a male.

In 1991, single parent households comprised 8.7% of all Jewish families in Canada. This figure rose to 9.6% in 2001, and rose slightly to 9.8% in 2011. It is quite likely

that by 2021, more than one in ten Jewish families in the country will have a single parent at its head.

There is a higher percentage of arrangements involving couples with children among Jewish families (47.8%), than non-Jewish families (44%). There is also a slightly higher percentage of childless couples among Jewish families (42.4%) compared with non-Jewish families (40%). However, there is a significantly lower percentage of lone parent families among Jewish families (9.8%) compared with non-Jewish families (16%).

Table 5 examines the number of children in the households of Jewish and total families in Canada. It should be noted that “number of children in the household” is not a measure of fertility, because children living outside the household are not considered in this breakdown.

There is a higher proportion of childless households among Jewish families than total families (42.4% and 40% respectively). There is also a higher proportion of households with at least three children among Jewish families than total families (11.5% and 9.6% respectively).

On the other hand, there is a higher proportion of single child families among total rather than Jewish families (26.8% and 22.9% respectively). The percentages of two-children households are comparable among total and Jewish families (23.6% and 23.2% respectively).

The median number of children living at home is very similar between Jewish and total families: 1.3 and 1.4 children respectively. Note again that these are not measures of fertility.

In terms of Jewish families, further analysis of the National Household Survey reveals that the median number of children living at home in arrangements involving couples with children is 2.3, whereas it is 1.8 for female lone parent families, and 1.9 for male lone parent families (Table 18, Appendix 3).

The Challenges Ahead

Demographics, communal priorities and public policy are starting points in planning services for Canada's Jewish families. The changing Jewish family poses significant challenges as communities plan for the future. It is becoming increasingly more diverse: made up of two-parent and one-

parent families, married and co-habiting couples, gay couples and straight couples, blended families, adoptive families and childless families.

Understanding this, we need to examine the composition of the Jewish family, its challenges, and what role the organized Jewish community can assume in translating, advocating for, and responding to its needs.

The National Household Survey data indicate several key trends for the Canadian Jewish population. The number of Jews living alone, or not with their families, is increasing. The number of divorced or separated individuals has also continued to grow. There is a significant rise in the number of single parent families, often resulting in households with less income and diminished support networks. And 14.6% of Jews live in poverty in this country.

These trends have been on the rise for many years, and we can project their continued upward movement. To a great degree, the Jewish community mirrors the broader Canadian society, so we must also consider the social impact of wider movements, such as the influence of the Baby Boomers as they enter their pension years, and continued

and growing concerns about social and environmental security.

For local communities, a major concern is also growing assimilation and intermarriage. The debate has revolved around how to react to these trends. While strategies to counteract these trends can be important, another case can be made to accept the diversity, and embrace a philosophy of inclusion.

Whereas issues of Jewish identity remain strictly in our domain, delivery of quality health and social services are much more dependent on public policy and its implementation. The organized Jewish community may enhance the efficacy of the social safety net, but cannot hope to replace it. With government downloading of health and social services onto individual communities, we are feeling the strain of

filling the gaps. Jewish communities need to focus their efforts at developing partnerships to advocate with local, provincial and federal governments for minimum wage and income standards, home care and education, housing and health care.

Jewish families continue to require various means of support, including interventions that are sometimes preventive in nature, such as counseling services, parenting classes, and support services for children and youth. Through education, financial and other resource support, along with mechanisms to promote community involvement, the organized Jewish community can address the needs and enhance the strength of Jewish families. Similarly, due to their growing numbers, adults living alone need venues to participate meaningfully in community institutions and organizations, to enhance their sense of communal belonging and ultimately contribute to the strength of the community as a whole.

Part 6: Inter-marriage

The 2011 National Household Survey can be used to analyze the incidence of intermarriage in the Canadian Jewish population. Specifically, intermarriage in this report is defined as a situation where a person who falls under the Revised Jewish Definition (See Appendix 2) marries someone who is not included under this criterion. It is then possible to cross-tabulate intermarriage with a number of other variables to profile those who are most likely to marry outside their faith.

It is noteworthy that individuals who converted to Judaism are considered as Jewish according to the Revised Jewish Definition. Thus, intermarriage as described in this report only examines couples where the non-Jewish spouse did not convert to Judaism. It is not possible to identify conversionary marriages using the National Household Survey information alone.

It is also important to mention that common law unions are included in the following statistics on intermarriage, as are same-sex arrangements. In this report, common law and same-sex arrangements refer to a union

between “partners”, whereas individuals who are married are referred to as “spouses”.

Levels of Inter-marriage in Canada

What is the level of intermarriage among Canadian Jews? In other words, what percentage of currently married / partnered Jews have a non-Jewish spouse / partner? Table 6A indicates that there are 136,190 Jews who are married / partnered to other Jews, and 48,515 Jews who are married / partnered to non-Jews. The total number of Jews who are married / partnered is therefore 184,705. *Hence, the 48,515 individuals married / partnered to non-Jews represent an intermarriage rate of 26.3%.*

Of 48,515 spouses / partners who live in intermarried arrangements, 26,375 (54.4%) live in situations where the husband is Jewish and the wife is non-Jewish; and 22,140 (45.6%) are living in arrangements where the husband is non-Jewish and the wife is Jewish. In other words, Jewish men are more inclined to intermarry than Jewish women.

Table 6A
Intermarriage Breakdowns
Base Population: Jewish Spouses / Partners

	#	%
Husband Jewish / Wife Jewish	136,190	73.7
Intermarried: Husband Jewish / Wife Non-Jewish	26,375	14.3
Intermarried: Husband Non-Jewish / Wife Jewish	22,140	12.0
(Subtotal: Intermarried)	(48,515)	(26.3)
Total Spouses / Partners	184,705	100.0

Table 6B
Intermarriage Breakdowns
Base Population: Individuals Living in Couple Households

	#	%
Husband Jewish / Wife Jewish	217,555	75.0
Husband Jewish / Wife Non-Jewish	37,185	12.8
Husband Non-Jewish / Wife Jewish	35,185	12.1
(Subtotal: Living in Intermarried Households)	(72,370)	(25.0)
Total Individuals Living in Couple Households	289,925	100.0

Table 6C
Intermarriage Breakdowns
Historical Trends

Year	# Living in Intermarried Families	Intermarriage Rate
2011	72,370	25.0
2001	58,485	20.8
1991	45,505	16.8

Another way of looking at intermarriage focuses on the total number of Jews living in intermarried families, including children. According to Table 6B, there are 72,370 individuals who live in intermarried households. This represents 25% of all individuals living in couple arrangements.

Not included in Table 6B are 2,755 Jewish children who are living in situations where neither parent is Jewish. They may be products of mixed marriages, where the non-Jewish partner has divorced and then married someone outside the faith while retaining custody of the children, who are nonetheless considered Jewish.

The figures presented in Tables 6A and 6B represent different approaches to calculating the intermarriage rate: counting couples versus number of individuals. In the final calculations both figures turn out to be very similar (26.3% and 25% respectively). The figure based on individuals is usually lower because intermarried couples tend to have fewer children than intra-married ones, and are therefore more inclined to be under-represented using this approach. Depending on whether the focus is on the level of individuals or households, both figures will

be used in future breakdowns and comparisons presented in this report.

Table 6C provides an historical perspective on intermarriage rates. In 2001, 58,485 out of 281,550 Jews who lived in couple arrangements were intermarried, yielding an intermarriage rate of 20.8%. In 1991, 45,505 Jews lived in intermarried partnerships out of a total 271,055 who lived in couple arrangements. The intermarriage rate was thus 16.8% in 1991.

In short, in the last two decades, the intermarriage rate has increased from 16.8% in 1991 to 25% in 2011. The number of Jews living in intermarried families increased from 45,505 in 1991 to 72,370 in 2011. Although the proportional increase in the intermarriage rate was only 8.2%, the absolute number of Jews living in intermarried households increased by 59% in the last twenty years.

The Geographic Distribution of Intermarried Households

Table 7A looks at intermarriage levels across provinces. The Atlantic provinces

Table 7A
Individuals Living in Intermarried Households
By Province
(Row %)

Province	Total	Both Spouses Jewish		Intermarried	
	#	#	%	#	%
Nova Scotia	1,985	830	41.8	1,155	58.2
New Brunswick	665	255	38.3	410	61.7
Nfld. / Labrador	140	15	10.7	125	89.3
Prince Edward Island	85	15	17.6	70	82.4
(Total Atlantic)	(2,875)	(1,115)	(38.8)	(1,760)	(61.2)
Quebec	69,190	57,880	83.7	11,310	16.3
Ontario	170,520	132,175	77.5	38,345	22.5
Manitoba	10,370	7,660	73.9	2,710	26.1
Saskatchewan	1,295	570	44.0	725	56.0
Alberta	11,675	6,650	57.0	5,025	43.0
British Columbia	23,850	11,495	48.2	12,355	51.8
Territories	130	10	7.7	120	92.3
Total Canada	289,920	217,555	75.0	72,365	25.0

were combined in the following analysis. There were also too few Jews in the Territories to be included.

The provinces with the highest intermarriage rates are the Atlantic Provinces (61.2%), Saskatchewan (56%) and British Columbia (51.8%). The provinces with the lowest intermarriage levels include Quebec (16.3%) and Ontario (22.5%).

In absolute terms, Ontario has by far the largest number of Jews living in intermarried arrangements (38,345), followed by British Columbia (12,355), and Quebec (11,310).

Table 7B looks at intermarriage rates across metropolitan areas. Only centers with a total population of at least 750 Jews are considered here. The highest intermarriage levels are found in Victoria (73.5%), followed by Kingston (65%), Regina (54.8%), and Halifax (53%). The lowest intermarriage levels are found in Montreal (15%) and Toronto (17.3%).

In absolute terms, Toronto has by far the largest number of Jews living in intermarried arrangements (24,780). There

are 10,100 such individuals living in Montreal, and 7,820 in Greater Vancouver.

The Characteristics of Intermarried Households

Table 8 looks at the ages of Jewish spouses / partners living in intermarried arrangements. Note that the age categories represented in this table may overlap with one another. American studies have shown that younger adults are more inclined to intermarry than their older counterparts.¹³ This trend seems to be verified by the current National Household Survey data.

For instance, the intermarriage rate when both spouses are less than 30 years of age is 43%. It is 38.1% if only one spouse is between 30-39 years, 38.7% if there is only one spouse greater than 39 years, and 22.4% if both spouses are older than 39 years. *It seems that the intermarriage rate for younger couples (< 39 years) is significantly higher than for older ones. In fact, this higher rate of intermarriage for young adults in the national Jewish population*

¹³ Dashefsy, A. & Heller, Z. Intermarriage and Jewish Journeys in the United States. The National Center for Jewish Policy Studies at Hebrew College, 2008.

Table 7B
Individuals Living in Intermarried Households
By Metropolitan Area
(Row %)

Census Metropolitan Area	Total	Both Spouses Jewish		Intermarried	
	#	#	%	#	%
Halifax, NS	1,500	705	47.0	795	53.0
Montreal, QC	67,220	57,120	85.0	10,100	15.0
Toronto, ON	143,200	118,420	82.7	24,780	17.3
Ottawa / Gatineau	10,355	6,230	60.2	4,125	39.8
Hamilton, ON	3,750	2,260	60.3	1,490	39.7
Kingston, ON	885	310	35.0	575	65.0
Kitchener - Waterloo, ON	1,495	785	52.5	710	47.5
London, ON	1,890	930	49.2	960	50.8
Windsor, ON	1,140	665	58.3	475	41.7
Winnipeg, MB	9,820	7,375	75.1	2,445	24.9
Regina, SA	730	330	45.2	400	54.8
Calgary, AL	6,300	3,885	61.7	2,415	38.3
Edmonton, AL	3,950	2,400	60.8	1,550	39.2
Vancouver, BC	17,985	10,165	56.5	7,820	43.5
Victoria, BC	1,890	500	26.5	1,390	73.5

Table 8
Intermarried Households
Age of Spouses / Partners
(Row %)

	Total	Both Spouses Jewish		Intermarried	
	#	#	%	#	%
Both Spouses < 30 Years	8,320	4,740	57.0	3,580	43.0
Only One Spouse 30-39 Years	18,490	11,450	61.9	7,040	38.1
Only One Spouse > 39 Years	12,130	7,440	61.3	4,690	38.7
Both Spouses > 39 Years	134,435	104,360	77.6	30,075	22.4

Note: The age categories described above may overlap with one another.

Table 9
Individuals Living in Intermarried Households
Age Breakdowns
(Row %)

Age Cohort	Total	Both Spouses Jewish		Intermarried	
	#	#	%	#	%
0-14	61,640	46,155	74.9	15,485	25.1
15-24	37,550	29,375	78.2	8,175	21.8
25-44	67,050	45,475	67.8	21,575	32.2
45-64	81,920	60,985	74.4	20,935	25.6
65+	41,760	35,555	85.1	6,205	14.9
Total Individuals Living in Couple Households	289,920	217,545	75.0	72,375	25.0
0-4	22,420	15,915	71.0	6,505	29.0

(from 38.1% to 43%, depending on the age combination used) is among the more noteworthy findings of this report.

Table 9 provides an interesting statistic. About a quarter of Jewish children under 15 years (25.1%), who reside with both parents, live in an intermarried arrangement. This represents 15,485 children.

A further analysis shows that 29% of children younger than 5 years, who reside with both parents, live in an intermarried arrangement. This involves 6,505 children.

It should be noted that the above statistics likely underestimate the number of children residing in intermarried families, since only those identified as being Jewish by their parents are included in this count. Later data presented in this report will show that a significant percentage of younger children in intermarried families are not considered to be Jewish by their parents.

Table 10 shows the number of children living at home by various couple arrangements. When both spouses are Jewish, the mean number of children living at home is higher than in intermarried

situations (1.4 and 1.0 children respectively). Although both figures appear low, the reader should note that these are not measures of fertility, because they do not take into account children living outside the home.

Further analysis reveals that whether the wife or husband intermarries makes no difference in terms of the number of children living at home. Both arrangements register a mean of 1 child per household.

Arrangements in which both spouses are Jewish have a significantly higher percentage of households with at least three children living at home (15.6%), compared to intermarried arrangements (6.1%). Intermarried families are more likely to be childless than in-married households (51.3% and 44% respectively).

Table 11 looks at family structure by couple arrangements. It can be seen that the percentage of common law arrangements among intermarried households is significantly higher than among those where both spouses are Jewish (26.4% and 4.2%

Table 10
Number of Children in Intermarried Households

Number of Children	Total		Both Spouses Jewish		Intermarried	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
None	54,820	47.0	29,950	44.0	24,870	51.3
One	21,925	18.8	11,575	17.0	10,350	21.3
Two	26,285	22.5	15,965	23.4	10,320	21.3
Three	9,495	8.1	7,130	10.5	2,365	4.9
Four	2,615	2.2	2,110	3.1	505	1.0
Five or more	1,465	1.3	1,365	2.0	100	0.2
Total Couple Households	116,605	100.0	68,095	100.0	48,510	100.0
Mean Number	--		1.4		1.0	

Table 11
Family Structure in Intermarried Households

Family Structure	Total		Both Spouses Jewish		Intermarried	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Married couples	100,950	86.6	65,255	95.8	35,695	73.6
Common-law couples	15,660	13.4	2,840	4.2	12,820	26.4
Total Couple Households	116,610	100.0	68,095	100.0	48,515	100.0

respectively). In short, more than a quarter of intermarried couples live in a common law situation.

It is also noteworthy that 81.9% of all common law arrangements (with at least one Jewish partner) involve an intermarried couple. Only 35.4% of married partnerships (with at least one Jewish partner) are intermarried.

Who Inter-marries?

Table 12 looks at intermarriage by place of birth. Jews born in Canada have an intermarriage rate of 26.7%. In absolute terms, individuals who were born in this country represent by far the largest number of intermarried individuals (51,560).

Jews from the United States (32.8%) and Western Europe (31.1%) have the highest levels of intermarriage among immigrants. The lowest incidence of intermarriage is found among those born in North Africa / Middle East (excl. Israel) (11.9%). There is also a low intermarriage level among Jews born in Israel (12.5%).

Interestingly, Jews from the Former Soviet Union (FSU) have an intermarriage level of

21.6%, which is below the average for the Jewish population as a whole (25%). However, there are regional variations in terms of the intermarriage levels of FSU Jews: 17.8% in Toronto, 27.3% in Montreal, and 32.9% in Greater Vancouver.

In absolute terms, individuals originating from the FSU have the largest number of intermarried persons of any Jewish immigrant group in the country (5,845), followed by Jews from the United States (4,510).

Regarding statistics related to intermarriage and year of immigration, it is not possible using the National Household Survey data alone to determine whether individuals had intermarried in this country, or had arrived here with their non-Jewish spouse.

According to Table 13, there does not seem to be a discernible relationship between intermarriage and year of immigration. The most recent immigrants who arrived between 2000-2011 (21%) have a similar intermarriage rate to those who arrived between 1990-1999 (22.6%), and 1960-1969 (22.1%). In fact, it is non-immigrants who have the highest intermarriage rate (26.7%) in this breakdown.

Table 12
Individuals Living in Intermarried Households
by Place of Birth
(Row %)

Place of Birth	Total	Both Spouses Jewish		Intermarried	
	#	#	%	#	%
Canada	193,200	141,640	73.3	51,560	26.7
Israel	17,105	14,970	87.5	2,135	12.5
Eastern Europe (excl. FSU)	8,430	6,655	78.9	1,775	21.1
Former Soviet Union	27,040	21,195	78.4	5,845	21.6
Western Europe	10,595	7,300	68.9	3,295	31.1
North Africa / Middle East (excl. Israel)	8,500	7,485	88.1	1,015	11.9
United States	13,740	9,230	67.2	4,510	32.8
South America	2,855	2,110	73.9	745	26.1
Other	8,445	6,965	82.5	1,480	17.5
Total Individuals Living in Couple Households	289,910	217,550	75.0	72,360	25.0

Table 13
Individuals Living in Intermarried Households
by Year of Immigration
(Row %)

Year of Immigration	Total	Both Spouses Jewish		Intermarried	
	#	#	%	#	%
Non-immigrants	195,125	142,965	73.3	52,160	26.7
Before 1960	9,080	7,295	80.3	1,785	19.7
1960 - 1969	9,215	7,180	77.9	2,035	22.1
1970 - 1979	13,145	9,965	75.8	3,180	24.2
1980 - 1989	12,770	10,515	82.3	2,255	17.7
1990 - 1999	19,435	15,050	77.4	4,385	22.6
2000 - 2011	27,535	21,755	79.0	5,780	21.0
Non-permanent residents	3,615	2,830	78.3	785	21.7
Total Individuals Living in Couple Households	289,920	217,555	75.0	72,365	25.0

A more detailed analysis of intermarriage levels involving year of immigration and place of birth is shown in the table below. This breakdown examines the intermarriage rates only of immigrants arriving between 2000-2011. In absolute terms, of 5,785 individuals who arrived between 2000-2011, and who live in intermarried households, 2,440 were born in the Former Soviet Union, 1,155 in the United States and 675 in Israel. The remainder (1,515) originated in various other countries.

Intermarriage Rates of Jewish Immigrants Arriving Between 2000-2011 by Place of Birth

	#	%
Israel	675	9.9
Eastern Europe (excl. FSU)	195	50.0
Former Soviet Union	2,440	22.2
Western Europe	630	38.3
North Africa / Middle East	75	16.9
United States	1,155	27.3
South America	335	23.3
Other	280	18.0
Total	5,785	21.0

Table 14 examines the relationship between level of education and intermarriage. Note that some education categories described in this table overlap with one another. The findings suggest that a lower level of education among spouses is related to a

higher level of intermarriage, although the interaction is not a strong one.

For instance, when both spouses have less than a university education, the intermarriage level is 28.4%. If only one of the spouses has a university undergraduate degree the intermarriage rate remains at 28.4%. But if only one spouse has a university graduate degree the intermarriage level drops to 24.2%. Finally, when both spouses have university graduate degrees, such as MAs or PhDs, the intermarriage rate is 24.5%.

It is interesting that studies in the United States confirm such an inverse link between level of education and intermarriage. The National Jewish Population Survey (2000-2001) found that 34% of those with a high school education or less were intermarried, compared to 31% with a university undergraduate degree, and 27% with a university graduate degree.¹⁴ Cohen (1989) reports that among American men who never attended university, the intermarriage

¹⁴ NJPS (2000-01) Report on Jewish Life: Variations in Intermarriage. See the United Jewish Communities Web Site: <http://www.ujc.org>

Table 14
Intermarried Households
Education of Spouses / Partners
(Row %)

	Total	Both Spouses Jewish		Intermarried	
	#	#	%	#	%
Both Spouses Less Than Univ. Education	47,430	33,960	71.6	13,470	28.4
Only One Spouse Univ. Undergraduate Degree	49,495	35,420	71.6	14,075	28.4
Only One Spouse Univ. Graduate Degree	48,585	36,840	75.8	11,745	24.2
Both Spouses University Graduate Degrees	27,390	20,670	75.5	6,720	24.5

Note: The age categories described above may overlap with one another.

rate is over 40%; of those with an undergraduate degree, only 18% are intermarried.¹⁵

Table 15A shows the relationship between intermarriage and income status. Intermarriage seems to be least prevalent among families earning \$150,000 or more (34.7%). It is 40.7% among families earning \$25,000--\$49,999. The intermarriage rates are similar for the rest of the income levels, ranging from 45.2% to 46.6%.

Trends from the National Jewish Population Survey in the United States (2000-2001) partly confirmed the current findings. The American study found that intermarriage levels peaked in the middle of the income distribution, and were less pronounced in the extremes. For instance, 38% of households earning between \$50,000-\$99,999 were intermarried, compared to 32% of households earning less than \$25,000, and 28% of households earning more than \$150,000.¹⁶ Such patterns were only partly observed in the current breakdowns, where

the highest income families had the lowest levels of intermarriage.

As Table 15B shows, the median income of intermarried couples (\$101,635) is lower than that of arrangements where both spouses are Jewish (\$111,349).

The Affiliations of Children in Intermarried Families

How children are being brought up in intermarried families has profound implications for the issue of Jewish continuity. Since the intermarriage level for Jews in this country is 25%, and has risen steadily over the past 20 years, there is little doubt that the community cannot afford to lose these families to the pressures of assimilation.

Table 16 is very revealing in this regard. As expected, among Jewish families, the great majority of the youngest children (93.4%) are identified by their parents as Jews, 6.4% are assigned no religious identification, and 0.3% are identified as having other religions. Note, however, that despite the fact that the great majority are identified as Jews, it is

¹⁵ Cohen, S. *Alternative Families in the Jewish Community*. The American Jewish Committee, Institute of Human Relations (1989).

¹⁶ Special analysis done of NJPS 2000-2001 and personally communicated to the authors by J. Ament, Senior Project Director, Research Department, United Jewish Communities.

Table 15A
Intermarriage Breakdowns
Family Income

	Total	Both Spouses Jewish		Intermarried	
	#	#	%	#	%
Under \$25,000	6,340	3,475	54.8	2,865	45.2
\$25,000 - \$49,999	15,200	9,020	59.3	6,180	40.7
\$50,000 - \$99,999	32,460	17,710	54.6	14,750	45.4
\$100,000 - \$149,999	25,075	13,380	53.4	11,695	46.6
\$150,000 or more	37,535	24,515	65.3	13,020	34.7
Total Couple Households	116,610	68,100	58.4	48,510	41.6

Table 15B
Intermarriage Breakdowns
Median Family Income

	Median Income (\$)
Both Spouses Jewish	111,349
Intermarried	101,635

impossible to determine their level of exposure to Jewish customs and rituals. There is also no way to know from the National Household Survey how these identifications translate into actual behaviors and attitudes.

Regarding the youngest children of intermarried couples, 27% (6,380) are identified by their parents as Jews by religion; a larger percentage, 56.4% (13,335) have no religious identification; and the rest, 16.6% (3,920), are identified as having other religions.

In other words, almost three-quarters (73%) of these children in intermarried families are not identified as belonging to the religious orientation of the Jewish spouse. It is difficult to say whether they are having either minimal or no exposure to Judaism, but the findings are suggestive nonetheless.

Table 16 also shows that whether a Jewish man or woman intermarries is a critical factor in the identification of the youngest child. For instance, in cases where Jewish men intermarry, 17.2% of youngest children are identified as Jewish, 60.9% as having no religious affiliation, and 22% as having

another religion. In short, 82.9% do not have the religious orientation of the Jewish father.

In cases where Jewish women intermarry, 38.4% of youngest children are identified as Jewish, 51.2% as having no religious identification, and 10.3% as having another religion. In short, almost two-thirds (61.6%) of youngest children in the household are not identified as being Jewish. Although this latter figure is still quite high, it is significantly lower than if the father marries outside the faith (61.6% and 82.9% respectively)

The Challenges Ahead

A rise in the percentage of intermarried households in Canada is not unexpected given current intermarriage trends across North America. Of note, however, is the fact that the number of individuals living in such arrangements has increased by 59% over the last two decades, although the proportional increase has only been by 8.2%.

Particularly noteworthy is that the younger the ages of the spouses, the higher the rate of intermarriage. If both spouses are below 30

Table 16
Religion of Youngest Child in Intermarried Households

Religion of Youngest Child	Both Spouses Jewish		Husband Jewish / Wife Non-Jewish		Husband Non-Jewish / Wife Jewish		Total Intermarried	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Jewish	35,625	93.4	2,190	17.2	4,190	38.4	6,380	27.0
Catholic	60	0.2	1,350	10.6	600	5.5	1,950	8.3
Protestant	25	0.1	1,040	8.2	360	3.3	1,395	5.9
Christian Orthodox	0	0.0	315	2.5	100	0.9	410	1.7
Muslim	0	0.0	20	0.2	25	0.2	40	0.2
Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh	0	0.0	30	0.2	45	0.4	75	0.3
Para-religious groups	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
No religious affiliation	2,425	6.4	7,745	60.9	5,585	51.2	13,335	56.4
All other religions	0	0.0	35	0.3	0	0.0	50	0.2
Total Couple Households	38,135	100.0	12,725	100.0	10,905	100.0	23,635	100.0

years of age the likelihood of intermarriage is 43%, compared to 22.4% when both are at least 40 years of age.

What initiatives can be undertaken to address the issue of intermarriage? One approach is to provide more educational and social opportunities for youth and young adults that will encourage marriages between Jews.

Several studies of Jewish communities across Canada have found that the intermarried, as a group, demonstrate low levels of affiliation, participation and ritual adherence across all the measures investigated. The intermarried have among the weakest levels of Jewish identity and the most tenuous links to mainstream Jewish life.¹⁷

On the other hand, even though these studies showed that there were low figures of affiliation and observance among intermarried respondents, there were still sufficient levels to suggest that there was openness to Jewish exposure. For instance, between a quarter and a third of intermarried

parents (depending on the community surveyed) provided a supplementary Jewish education for their children.

What types of programs can attract intermarried couples? There have been outreach initiatives across North America that provide intermarried families with opportunities to participate in communal life. These programs have been offered by an increasingly broad range of Jewish institutions, including synagogues, Jewish community centers, family services agencies, schools, camps, as well as by completely independent "grass-roots" initiatives that have taken up the challenge of reaching out to engage the intermarried in Jewish life.¹⁸

In the more "traditional" communities, a question arises as to the extent of acceptance of intermarried couples and their children into mainstream institutions such as schools and synagogues. As these trends continue to increase, such questions will become more important to address.

¹⁷ See for example: Shahar, C. Jewish Life in Ottawa: A Survey of the Attitudes & Behaviours of Ottawa's Jewish Community. Jewish Federation of Ottawa. May 2012.

¹⁸ See for example the Jewish Outreach Institute's homepage: <http://joi.org/joplin/index.php>

Appendix 1

Methodological Considerations

The two major questions used in this report to define who is Jewish, namely religion and ethnicity, were located in what was previously known as the Long Form of the National Census. In 2011, this Long Form became voluntary rather than mandatory to fill out. Because the sample was self-selected, this instrument became a survey rather than a Census.

The National Household Survey (NHS) was distributed to a third of the households in Canada, compared to 20% of households for the Census Long Form. However, whereas the Census had an almost universal rate of response, the NHS had a 73.9% response rate across Canada.

It is not clear to what extent non-response biases played a role in the results. For instance, it is possible that certain socioeconomic groups, such as the poor, less educated individuals, and recent immigrants, were generally less inclined to answer the National Household Survey. Statistics Canada applied sophisticated treatments to deal with possible gaps in the data but the change in methodology has meant that it is

difficult to determine error ranges based on projections gleaned from the sample.

This change in methodology has also made it difficult to compare the results of the National Household Survey with those of previous Censuses. Although some tables in this report present side-by-side comparisons of 2011 NHS data with previous Censuses, these comparisons should be interpreted with caution.

A further issue is the fact that since the 2001 Census, the number of Jews identifying themselves by ethnicity has declined dramatically. This was evident in 2006 and again in 2011. All those who considered themselves as Jewish by religion were included as Jews according to the definition employed in this report; but some who said they had no religious affiliation might have “fallen through the cracks” because they did not identify themselves as Jewish by ethnicity.

There may be several reasons why there has been a decline in Jewish ethnic identification, but only two will be

considered here. First, since the 2001 Census, the label “Canadian” was the first on the list of ethnic sample choices. This has changed the dynamics of the question significantly. It is possible that some people wanted to tout their attachment to Canada by indicating they were only of Canadian ethnicity. This is not an issue if they also indicated they were Jewish by religion. But if they said they had no religious identification, they could not be identified as Jewish using the traditional definition.

Second, the order of sample choices is determined by how many people indicated a particular ethnicity in the previous Census (2006). As the number of individuals choosing Jewish as their ethnicity has diminished, the Jewish choice has fallen further down the list, and was therefore among the last sample choices in the 2011 NHS. This may have had an impact on the self-reported affiliation of people.

A final consideration has to do with the definition used to identify Jews for the purposes of this report. The “Jewish Standard Definition”, formulated by Jim Torczyner of McGill University, has been used since 1971. This definition employs a

combination of religious and ethnic identification.

However, given changes in how Jews have responded to the ethnicity question, it was felt that a broader definition should be used. Hence, elements of other questions were incorporated, including place of birth, five-year mobility and knowledge of non-official languages. This new definition was called the “Revised Jewish Definition”. A full description of this definition can be found in Appendix 2.

This new Jewish definition makes comparisons between the National Household Survey and previous Censuses even more difficult. Hence, these latter Censuses were re-analyzed along the lines of the revised definition, and whenever possible, these new figures are presented in this report. Again, all comparisons of the NHS with previous Censuses, and particularly the identification of demographic trends, should be interpreted with caution.

All in all, despite the changes in methodology outlined above, the 2011 National Household Survey provides an important opportunity to better understand

the demographic situation of the national Jewish population, and to make use of this data for community planning and decision-making.

We are fortunate to have a national survey which includes questions related to religion

and ethnicity (the American Census does not). Also, the National Household Survey is one with a much larger scope than any Canadian Jewish community can implement on its own.

Appendix 2

The Revised Jewish Definition

Since 1971 all major analyses related to the Census have utilized 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 using a combination of religious and ethnic identification.

According to this criterion, a Jew was defined as anyone who specified that he or she was:

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

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

It is important to note that 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 an inclusive definition would better reflect the broad spectrum of Jewish adherence.

Given the marked decline in the number of Jews who identified themselves as ethnically Jewish since 2001, it was decided to expand the above definition of Jewishness. This “Revised Jewish Definition” incorporates more than just the religion and ethnicity variables in the National Household Survey.

According to this new criterion a Jew is defined as anyone who is:

- Jewish by religion and ethnicity.
- Jewish by religion and having another ethnicity.
- Having no religious affiliation and Jewish or Israeli by ethnicity.
- Having no religious affiliation and having knowledge of Hebrew or Yiddish as a “non-official” language.
- Having no religious affiliation and born in Israel.
- Having no religious affiliation and living in Israel in 2006.

A check was done to see whether the above criteria would erroneously include groups who should not be considered as Jews. For

instance, there are Arab Israelis who might have no religious affiliation. Since their mother tongue would be Arabic, and they would likely identify as having an Arab ethnicity, it was straightforward to determine that there were virtually no such individuals who were wrongly identified as Jews according to the Revised Jewish Definition.

All in all, the Revised Jewish Definition did not result in substantial increases in the Jewish populations of various metropolitan areas. The table below shows the differences

in numbers using the revised and standard definitions.

Finally, it is not possible to say how a person behaves “Jewishly” using any definition of Jewishness based on the NHS. For instance, we cannot know whether they adhere to traditions or attend synagogue on a regular basis. No questions of these types were asked in the National Household Survey. Despite this limitation, the fact that we can identify Jewish affiliation at all is critical for using the NHS as a tool for better understanding our community.

Jewish Populations Based on Standard & Revised Definitions 2011 National Household Survey

	Jewish Standard Definition	Revised Jewish Definition
Halifax CMA	2,080	2,120
Montréal CMA	89,665	90,780
Toronto CMA	186,010	188,715
Ottawa CMA	13,850	14,010
Hamilton CMA	5,055	5,110
Kitchener CMA	1,970	2,015
London CMA	2,610	2,675
Windsor CMA	1,475	1,520
Winnipeg CMA	13,260	13,690
Calgary CMA	8,210	8,340
Edmonton CMA	5,440	5,550
Vancouver CMA	25,740	26,255
Victoria CMA	2,630	2,740
Total Canada	385,345	391,665

Appendix 3

Additional Data Tables

Table 17A
Living Arrangement
Jewish, Non-Jewish & Total Populations of Canada

	Total		Jews		Non-Jews	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Living in a Family	27,226,275	82.9	326,225	83.3	26,900,045	82.9
Living With Relatives	722,520	2.2	4,125	1.1	718,400	2.2
Living With Non-Relatives	1,240,730	3.8	10,765	2.7	1,229,965	3.8
Living Alone	3,662,800	11.1	50,555	12.9	3,612,245	11.1
Total Individuals	32,852,325	100.0	391,670	100.0	32,460,655	100.0

Table 17B
Living Arrangement by Gender
Canadian Jewish Population

	Total		Males		Females	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Living in a Family	326,225	83.3	165,405	85.1	160,820	81.5
Living With Relatives	4,125	1.1	1,660	0.9	2,465	1.2
Living With Non-Relatives	10,765	2.7	5,910	3.0	4,860	2.5
Living Alone	50,555	12.9	21,295	11.0	29,255	14.8
Total Individuals	391,670	100.0	194,270	100.0	197,400	100.0

Table 17C
Living Arrangement by Age
Canadian Jewish Population

	0-14		15-24		25-44		45-64		65+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Living in a Family	71,085	99.7	47,320	90.3	73,740	80.0	90,155	82.3	43,925	66.3
Living With Relatives	190	0.3	485	0.9	860	0.9	985	0.9	1,600	2.4
Living With Non-Relatives	0	0.0	2,710	5.2	4,650	5.0	2,285	2.1	1,115	1.7
Living Alone	0	0.0	1,880	3.6	12,950	14.0	16,095	14.7	19,635	29.6
Total Individuals	71,275	100.0	52,395	100.0	92,200	100.0	109,520	100.0	66,275	100.0

Table 18
Family Structure by Number of Children in Household
Jewish Families of Canada
(Row %)

	0		1		2		3		4+		Median Number of Children
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Couples: With Children	0	0.0	21,925	35.5	26,285	42.5	9,500	15.4	4,075	6.6	2.3
Couples: Without Children	54,820	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.5
Male Lone Parent	0	0.0	1,575	56.1	1,005	35.8	190	6.8	35	1.2	1.9
Female Lone Parent	0	0.0	6,065	61.9	2,685	27.4	830	8.5	225	2.3	1.8
Total Families	54,820	42.4	29,565	22.9	29,975	23.2	10,520	8.1	4,335	3.4	1.3

Table 19
Number of Children in Household by Provinces
Jewish Families of Canada
(Row %)

Province	0		1		2		3		4+		Median Number of Children
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Nova Scotia	675	58.2	235	20.3	185	15.9	65	5.6	0	0.0	0.9
New Brunswick	260	63.4	75	18.3	75	18.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.8
Nfld. / Labrador	50	52.6	25	26.3	20	21.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	1.4
Prince Edward Island	40	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.8
(Total Atlantic)	(1,025)	(60.1)	(335)	(19.6)	(280)	(16.4)	(65)	(3.8)	(0)	(0.0)	--
Quebec	11,655	41.8	6,200	22.2	5,810	20.8	2,495	8.9	1,740	6.2	1.4
Ontario	30,310	40.8	16,980	22.9	18,375	24.8	6,335	8.5	2,205	3.0	1.4
Manitoba	2,140	43.9	1,160	23.8	1,115	22.9	380	7.8	75	1.5	1.3
Saskatchewan	320	46.4	155	22.5	140	20.3	75	10.9	0	0.0	1.2
Alberta	2,780	45.9	1,490	24.6	1,375	22.7	295	4.9	120	2.0	1.2
British Columbia	6,545	48.1	3,210	23.6	2,855	21.0	840	6.2	170	1.2	1.1
Territories	45	50.0	20	22.2	25	27.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	1.0
Total Families	54,815	42.4	29,565	22.9	29,985	23.2	10,520	8.1	4,340	3.4	1.3