

# 2011

## NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

### THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF MONTREAL

PART 10  
**HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS**



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



Claims Conference ועידת התביעות  
The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany

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**2011 National Household Survey Analysis  
The Jewish Community of Montreal**

**Part 10  
Holocaust Survivors**

**By  
Charles Shahar**

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All data in this report are adapted from:

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

Statistics Canada, special order tabulation for the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference), CO-1477.

## Highlights

- There are 5,795 Holocaust Survivors representing 33.1% of Jewish seniors residing in the Montreal CMA. In short, almost a third of Montreal's Jewish elderly are Survivors.
- There are 4,520 Child Survivors and 1,280 Adult Survivors living in the Montreal CMA.
- Survivors comprise a larger percentage of individuals who are 75+ years than Jews who are not Survivors: 63.3% and 51.7% respectively.
- The proportion of individuals who are often disabled is somewhat larger among Survivors (25.3%) than for Jewish non-Survivors (19.4%) and the total senior population in the Montreal CMA (17.4%).
- More than a quarter (27.3%) of Montreal's Survivors live below the poverty line, comprising 1,580 individuals. The level of poverty among Survivors is significantly higher than that of Jewish seniors who are non-Survivors (15.7%).
- The poverty rate among Survivors 66-74 years (20.9%) is much higher than Jewish non-Survivors in the same age group (13.1%).
- The poverty level for Survivors 75+ years (31%) is significantly higher than that for Jewish non-Survivors in the same age group (18.1%), and also higher than that for the total Montreal population who are 75+ years (26.8%).
- Male Survivors have a much lower risk of poverty than females (19.3% and 32.9% respectively).
- In the case of male Survivors, increasing age seems to be associated with higher levels of poverty, although the trend is not striking. On the other hand, the risk of poverty for female Survivors increases dramatically as they get older. About a quarter (24.3%) of female Survivors 66-74 years are poor; 34.9% of those 75-84 years are poor; and 42.7% of those 85+ years are poor.
- The segment of Survivors most likely to experience economic disadvantage is "females living alone". More than half (51.5%) of this group lives under the poverty line. Male Survivors living alone also have a very high poverty level, at 46%.
- The largest Survivor population is located in the Toronto metropolitan area, with 8,930 individuals, or 51.6% of the total Survivor population in Canada. Montreal has 5,795 Survivors, or about a third (33.5%) of the national Survivor population.

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# 2011 National Household Survey Analysis

## Part 10: Holocaust Survivors

This report examines the demographic characteristics of the Holocaust Survivor population in the Montreal metropolitan area based on figures from the 2011 National Household Survey (NHS). The findings compare the characteristics of Holocaust Survivors with Jewish seniors who are not Survivors, and the total population of elderly living in the Montreal CMA.

The report also identifies those Survivors who are most vulnerable (physically, economically, socially) and in need of community interventions. As the Survivor population ages and its needs increase, it is imperative to understand the unique circumstances and challenges this population faces.

Several important appendices are included in the back of this report. Appendix 1 is a discussion of methodological considerations related to the 2011 National Household Survey, and their implications for interpreting the data presented in this study.

Appendix 2 is a detailed description of the definition used to identify Jewishness, given the parameters of the National Household Survey. Unlike the American Census, the NHS asks questions related to religious and ethnic affiliations. These and other variables (place of birth, mother tongue, etc.) were used to identify the Jewish population of interest in this report.

A number of NHS parameters were combined to identify Holocaust Survivors. The current definition of Survivors relies on information related to place of birth, age of respondent, and year of immigration. Appendix 3 presents a description of how the Holocaust Survivor variable was derived, and some of the limitations related to its formulation.

Appendix 4 details the parameters used to define the low-income cut-off, or poverty line. This cut-off is formulated by Statistics Canada and relies on data related to household income and size.

**Table 1A**  
**Holocaust Survivors, Jewish Not Survivors & Non-Jews**  
**Total Montreal Senior Population (66+ Years)**

	#	%
<b>Jews: Holocaust Survivors</b>	<b>5,795</b>	<b>1.2</b>
Jews: Not Holocaust Survivors	11,695	2.5
(Subtotal: Jews)	17,490	3.7
Non-Jews	450,770	96.3
Total 66+ Years	468,260	100.0

**Table 1B**  
**Holocaust Survivors & Not Survivors**  
**Total Montreal Jewish Population (66+ Years)**

	#	%
<b>Holocaust Survivors</b>	<b>5,795</b>	<b>33.1</b>
Not Survivors	11,695	66.9
Total 66+ Years	17,490	100.0



It should be noted that anyone who expressed a Jewish affiliation according to the definition used in this report (see Appendix 2) is included in this analysis. Not included are Jews living in institutions such as nursing homes, prisons or psychiatric facilities. This is because they were not given the National Household Survey, and hence, no data are available regarding their Jewish identification.

This latter point is important because it is clear that the numerous Holocaust Survivors residing in long-term care facilities are not included in the statistics cited in this report. All of the figures presented are thus underestimates of the actual Survivor population in Montreal. Survivors living in non-institutionalized settings, such as low cost / community housing units for the elderly, are included in this analysis.

Also noteworthy is 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. Given the small nature of these rounding errors, their impact on the overall interpretation and reliability of the data is minimal.

## **Basic Demographics Related to Survivors**

According to Table 1A, the total number of Jewish seniors (66+ years) living in the Montreal CMA is 17,490. Jews comprise 3.7% of the entire elderly population residing in this metropolitan area. Note that any references made generally to seniors in this report will involve the 66+ year cohort, because that is the corresponding age profile of Holocaust Survivors.

There are 5,795 Survivors residing in the Montreal CMA, comprising 1.2% of the total senior population. Survivors represent 33.1% of Montreal's Jewish seniors (Table 1B). In short, about a third of Jewish elderly 66+ years living in this metropolitan area are Survivors. Of 17,490 Jewish elderly, 11,695 are not Survivors, or 66.9%.

Age breakdowns in Table 2A reveal that 36.7% of Survivors are 66 - 74 years of age, 41.2% are 75 - 84 years, 20.8% are 85 - 94 years, and only 1.3% are 95+ years of age.

Survivors have a larger percentage of individuals who are 85+ years than Jews who are non-Survivors: 22.1% and 16.7% respectively. Conversely, only 36.7% of

**Table 2A**  
**Age Breakdowns**  
**Holocaust Survivors & Not Survivors**  
**Total Montreal Jewish Population (66+ Years)**

	Total		Holocaust Survivors		Not Survivors	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
66 to 74 years	7,770	44.4	<b>2,130</b>	<b>36.7</b>	5,645	48.2
75 to 84 years	6,490	37.1	<b>2,390</b>	<b>41.2</b>	4,095	35.0
85 to 94 years	3,100	17.7	<b>1,205</b>	<b>20.8</b>	1,900	16.2
95 years and over	135	0.8	<b>75</b>	<b>1.3</b>	60	0.5
Total	17,495	100.0	<b>5,800</b>	<b>100.0</b>	11,700	100.0

**Table 2B**  
**Child & Adult Survivor Breakdown**  
**Total Montreal Holocaust Survivors (66+ Years)**

	#	%
Child Survivors	4,520	77.9
Adult Survivors	1,280	22.1
<b>Total Holocaust Survivors</b>	<b>5,800</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 3**  
**Gender Breakdowns**  
**Holocaust Survivors & Not Survivors**  
**Total Montreal Jewish Population (66+ Years)**

	Total		Holocaust Survivors		Not Survivors	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Males	7,875	45.0	<b>2,630</b>	<b>45.4</b>	5,250	44.9
Females	9,615	55.0	<b>3,165</b>	<b>54.6</b>	6,445	55.1
Total	17,490	100.0	<b>5,795</b>	<b>100.0</b>	11,695	100.0

Survivors are between 66 and 74 years of age compared to 48.2% of non-Survivors. In other words, Survivors tend to be older than Jewish non-Survivors when considering people who are at least 66 years of age.

According to Table 2B there are 4,520 Child Survivors and 1,280 Adult Survivors residing in the Montreal CMA. More than three-quarters (77.9%) of Survivors were children during the time of the Holocaust and 22.1% were adults. Note that a Child Survivor was defined as anyone who experienced the Holocaust and was 66-84 years of age in 2011. An Adult Survivor was at least 85 years old in 2011.

Table 3 shows that there is a lower proportion of males than females among Montreal Survivors. About forty-five percent (45.4%) of Survivors are males, compared to 54.6% females. There are 2,630 male Survivors living in this metropolitan area, and 3,165 females.

There is an even larger discrepancy in favor of females among Jewish non-Survivors 66+ years: 44.9% are males compared to 55.1% who are females.

Such discrepancies in the gender breakdowns mirror the trend of other populations worldwide with males dying at a

younger age than women, which accounts for the larger proportion of females among seniors.

## **Country of Birth of Survivors**

Table 4 describes the country of origin of Survivors. Unfortunately, respondents to the NHS could specify only the country where they were born, rather than a municipality or region within that country. On the other hand, not all individuals who were born in the Russian or Ukrainian parts of the Former Soviet Union are considered to be Survivors. They may have lived in areas of the FSU that were not occupied by the Nazis, or they may have been displaced or fled to such unoccupied areas. As a result, in some cases the National Household Survey lacks the precision necessary to specify geographic areas of relevance in identifying Survivor populations (see Appendix 3).

For the above reason, initially it was decided to consider only 70% of elderly Jews 66+ years born in Russia or the Ukraine as Survivors. However, previous reports suggested that there was a segment of FSU Jews who did not identify themselves as Jewish in the NHS. In order to compensate for this underestimate, all individuals born in the FSU, and who were of the appropriate age range, were included as Survivors.

**Table 4**  
**Place of Birth**  
**Total Montreal Holocaust Survivors (66+ Years)**

Country of Birth	#	% of Mtl Survivors
Germany	190	3.3
France	245	4.3
Belgium	65	1.1
Netherlands	25	0.4
Luxembourg	0	0.0
Denmark	0	0.0
Norway	0	0.0
Italy	0	0.0
Greece	0	0.0
Albania	0	0.0
Austria	55	1.0
Bulgaria	0	0.0
Czechoslovakia	175	3.1
Hungary	650	11.3
Poland	850	14.8
Romania	640	11.2
Yugoslavia	25	0.4
Estonia	0	0.0
Latvia	20	0.3
Lithuania	20	0.3
Belarus	55	1.0
Georgia	0	0.0
Moldova	0	0.0
Russia	260	4.5
Ukraine	140	2.4
Morocco	2,235	39.0
Tunisia	85	1.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,735</b>	<b>100.0</b>

As Table 4 shows, the most significant number of Holocaust Survivors in Montreal is of Moroccan origin (2,235), comprising 39% of the Survivor population living in this metropolitan area. The next largest group is from Poland (850), comprising 14.8% of the Survivor population. There are also large numbers of Hungarian (650) and Rumanian (640) Survivors.

Note that there are no Survivors from several countries, such as Italy, Bulgaria or Georgia. It may be that there are pockets of such individuals living in Montreal, but their small numbers are not registered by the National Household Survey, which for reasons of maintaining confidentiality, suppresses figures within cells that contain less than 15 individuals.

Finally, collapsing the countries along regional lines, 580 of Montreal's Survivors originate from Western Europe, 2,340 were born in Eastern Europe, 495 are from the Former Soviet Union, and 2,320 are from North Africa.

## **Levels of Disability Among Survivors**

Tables 5A and 5B examine the levels of disability among various elderly populations, including Survivors. Individuals responding to the NHS questionnaire were asked to indicate whether they suffered from a disability. More specifically, the NHS asked whether the person had “any difficulty hearing, seeing, communicating, walking, climbing stairs, bending, learning or doing similar activities.” The choice of answers were: “Yes, sometimes”, “Yes, often” and “No”.

Unfortunately, respondents were not asked to specify the type of disability they suffered from. Whether they answered “often” or “sometimes” can be taken as an indirect measure of the severity of their difficulty, but such measures that rely completely on self-reporting have limitations regarding their interpretability.

About half (48.8%) of Survivors indicated they had no disability at all, 25.9% said they were sometimes disabled, and 25.3% said they were often disabled. In short, 51.2% said they were at least sometimes disabled.

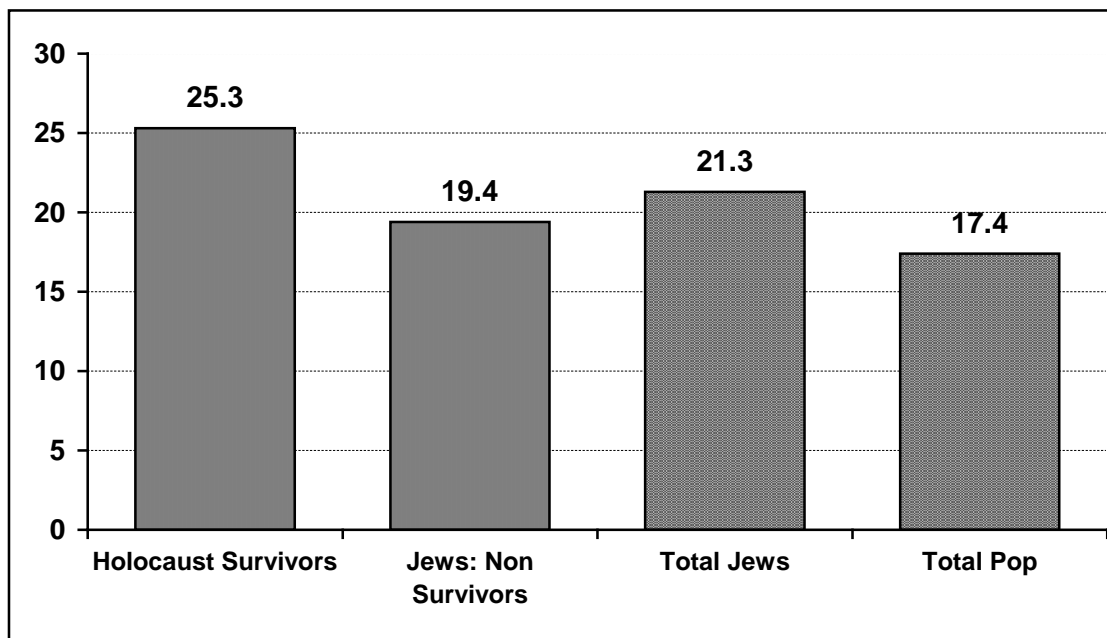
**Table 5A**  
**Disability Breakdowns**  
**Jews, Non-Jews & Totals**  
**Total Montreal Population (66+ Years)**

	Total		Jews		Non-Jews	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Not Disabled	284,145	60.7	9,800	56.0	274,345	60.9
Disabled (Sometimes)	102,860	22.0	3,960	22.6	98,900	21.9
Disabled (Often)	81,250	17.4	3,730	21.3	77,520	17.2
Total	468,255	100.0	17,490	100.0	450,765	100.0

**Table 5B**  
**Disability Breakdowns**  
**Holocaust Survivors & Not Survivors**  
**Total Montreal Jewish Population (66+ Years)**

	Total		Holocaust Survivors		Not Survivors	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Not Disabled	9,800	56.0	<b>2,830</b>	<b>48.8</b>	6,965	59.6
Disabled (Sometimes)	3,960	22.6	<b>1,500</b>	<b>25.9</b>	2,460	21.0
Disabled (Often)	3,730	21.3	<b>1,465</b>	<b>25.3</b>	2,265	19.4
Total	17,490	100.0	<b>5,795</b>	<b>100.0</b>	11,690	100.0

**Figure 1**  
**Disabled Often: % of Selected Populations (66+ Years)**



In terms of specific numbers, 2,830 of 5,795 Survivors said they were not disabled, 1,500 were sometimes disabled and 1,465 were often disabled.

As Figure 1 further shows, the proportion of individuals who are often disabled is larger among Survivors (25.3%) than for Jewish non-Survivors (19.4%) and the total senior population of Montreal 66+ years (17.4%).

Moreover, the percentage of those who have any disability (often or sometimes) is likewise higher among Survivors (51.2%), compared to Jewish non-Survivors (40.4%) and Montreal's total senior population 66+ years (39.4%).

### **Economic Vulnerability Among Survivors**

Survivors who live in poverty are generally a vulnerable group. Lack of financial resources can impact the lives of Survivors in numerous ways. Economically disadvantaged seniors are often more likely to have restricted mobility; to face social isolation if there are no family supports; and to struggle to cover the cost of medications or homecare, or face the prospect of doing without.

Tables 6A and 6B examine levels of poverty among selected senior populations. As Table 6B indicates, 27.3% of Survivors live below the poverty line, comprising 1,580 individuals. About three-quarters (72.7%) are not poor, comprising 4,215 individuals.

Figure 2 further shows that the level of poverty among Holocaust Survivors (27.3%) is higher than that of any of the other senior populations. For instance, Jewish non-Survivors have a poverty level of 15.7%, well below that of Holocaust Survivors. The poverty level for total Montreal seniors 66+ years is 23.3 %.

### **The Living Arrangements of Survivors**

The issue of living arrangements is an important one. Survivors who live alone may be more vulnerable to social isolation, and some may not have access to care provided by younger family members.

Tables 7A and 7B describe the living arrangements of selected elderly populations residing in the Montreal CMA. Almost two-thirds (59.3%) of Survivors representing 3,440 individuals live with family; 3.4% or

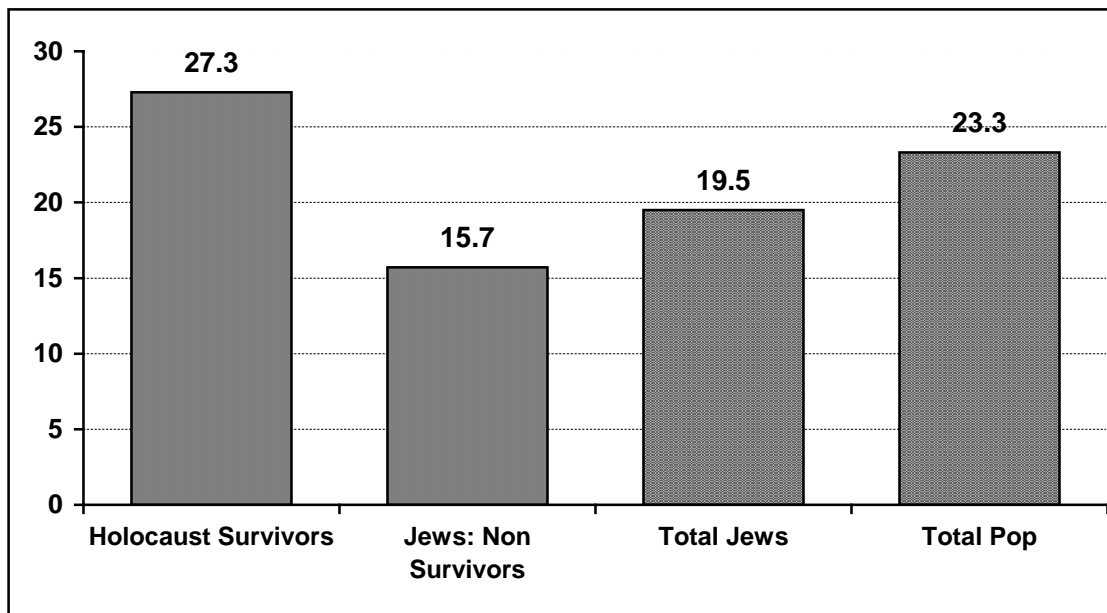
**Table 6A**  
**Poverty Breakdowns: Jews, Non-Jews & Totals**  
**Total Montreal Population (66+ Years)**

	Total		Jews		Non-Jews	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Poor	109,070	23.3	3,415	19.5	105,660	23.4
Not Poor	359,195	76.7	14,075	80.5	345,110	76.6
Total	468,265	100.0	17,490	100.0	450,770	100.0

**Table 6B**  
**Poverty Breakdowns: Holocaust Survivors & Not Survivors**  
**Total Montreal Jewish Population (66+ Years)**

	Total		Holocaust Survivors		Not Survivors	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Poor	3,415	19.5	<b>1,580</b>	<b>27.3</b>	1,830	15.7
Not Poor	14,075	80.5	<b>4,215</b>	<b>72.7</b>	9,860	84.3
Total	17,490	100.0	<b>5,795</b>	<b>100.0</b>	11,690	100.0

**Figure 2**  
**Lives Below Poverty Line: % of Selected Populations (66+ Years)**





200 persons live with relatives; 0.9% or 50 persons live with non-relatives; and 36.4% or 2,110 individuals live alone.

The percentage of Survivors who live alone (36.4%) is higher than that of Jewish non-Survivors (31.2%), and also higher than that of the total Montreal senior population (31.6%). These differences suggest that Survivors are somewhat more likely to live alone than other elderly populations.

Survivors are also less likely to be in a family arrangement. For instance, 59.3% of Survivors live with their family, whereas 66.5% of non-Survivors do so, and 61.2% of total Montreal seniors live in such an arrangement.

### **A Closer look at Poverty Among Survivors**

It is important to examine the various demographic variables related to poverty (including age, gender, disability and living arrangement) in order to get a more detailed and insightful picture of whom among the Survivor population is most at risk for economic disadvantage.

Tables 8A to 8D examine the interactions of age with poverty for selected populations.

According to Table 8C, 20.9% of Survivors 66-74 years live below the poverty line, compared to 31% of those 75+ years. There are significantly more poor Survivors among the older cohort: 445 for those 66-74 years, and 1,135 for those 75+ years.

Looking first at those between 66-74 years: Tables 8A to 8D reveal that the poverty rate of Survivors 66-74 years (20.9%) is much higher than that of Jewish non-Survivors in the same age group (13.1%), but similar to that for the overall population in Montreal who are 66-74 years (20.4%). Poverty seems to impact Survivors at a much younger age than non-Survivors in the Jewish community. Figure 3 provides a visual summary of these findings.

In terms of the 75+ year cohort: The poverty level for older Survivors (31%) is much higher than that of Jewish non-Survivors in the same age group (18.1%), and also higher than that for the total Montreal population who are 75+ years (26.8%). Figure 4 provides a visual description of these findings.

Tables 9A and 9B present detailed tabulations related to gender, age and

**Table 7A**  
**Living Arrangements**  
**Jews, Non-Jews & Totals**  
**Total Montreal Population (66+ Years)**

	Total		Jews		Non-Jews	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Living in a Family	286,405	61.2	11,210	64.1	275,195	61.0
Living With Relatives	23,795	5.1	355	2.0	23,440	5.2
Living With Non-Relatives	9,975	2.1	170	1.0	9,810	2.2
Living Alone	148,085	31.6	5,760	32.9	142,325	31.6
Total	468,260	100.0	17,495	100.0	450,770	100.0

**Table 7B**  
**Living Arrangements**  
**Holocaust Survivors & Not Survivors**  
**Total Montreal Jewish Population (66+ Years)**

	Total		Holocaust Survivors		Not Survivors	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Living in a Family	11,210	64.1	<b>3,440</b>	<b>59.3</b>	7,775	66.5
Living With Relatives	355	2.0	<b>200</b>	<b>3.4</b>	150	1.3
Living With Non-Relatives	170	1.0	<b>50</b>	<b>0.9</b>	120	1.0
Living Alone	5,760	32.9	<b>2,110</b>	<b>36.4</b>	3,650	31.2
Total	17,495	100.0	<b>5,800</b>	<b>100.0</b>	11,695	100.0

**Tables 8A-8D**  
**Poverty / Age Interactions**  
**Selected Populations (66+ Years)**

Total Montreal Population	Total	Poor		Not Poor	
	#	#	%	#	%
66-74 Years	256,030	52,240	20.4	203,790	79.6
75+ Years	212,230	56,825	26.8	155,405	73.2
Total	468,260	109,065	23.3	359,195	76.7

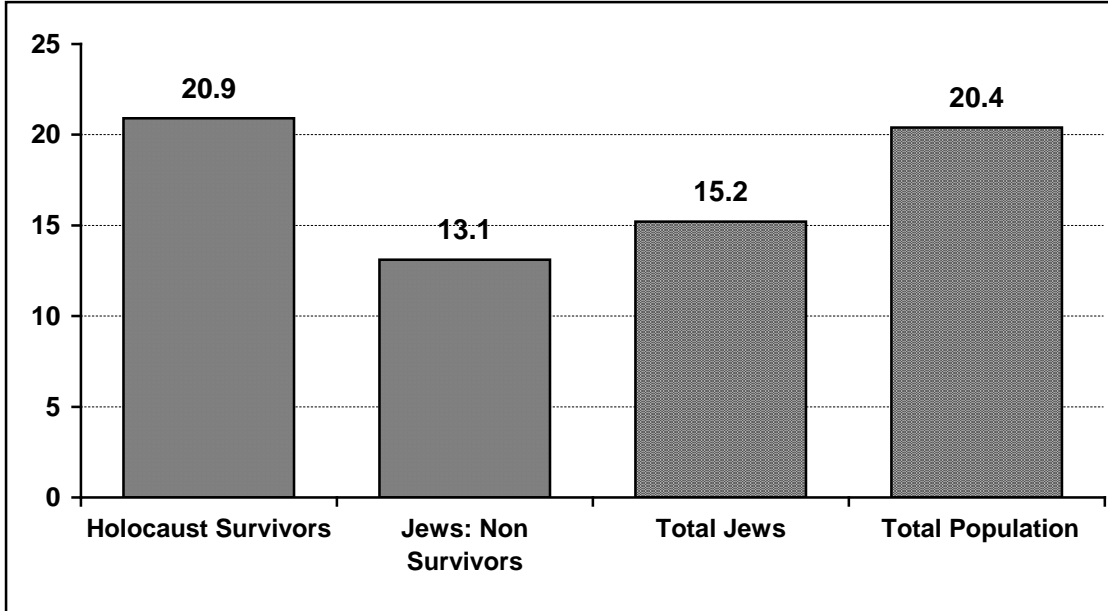
Total Montreal Jews	Total	Poor		Not Poor	
	#	#	%	#	%
66-74 Years	7,770	1,180	15.2	6,590	84.8
75+ Years	9,725	2,240	23.0	7,485	77.0
Total	17,495	3,420	19.5	14,075	80.5

Total Holocaust Survivors	Total	Poor		Not Poor	
	#	#	%	#	%
<b>66-74 Years</b>	<b>2,130</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>1685</b>	<b>79.1</b>
<b>75+ Years</b>	<b>3,665</b>	<b>1,135</b>	<b>31.0</b>	<b>2,530</b>	<b>69.0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,795</b>	<b>1,580</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>4,215</b>	<b>72.7</b>

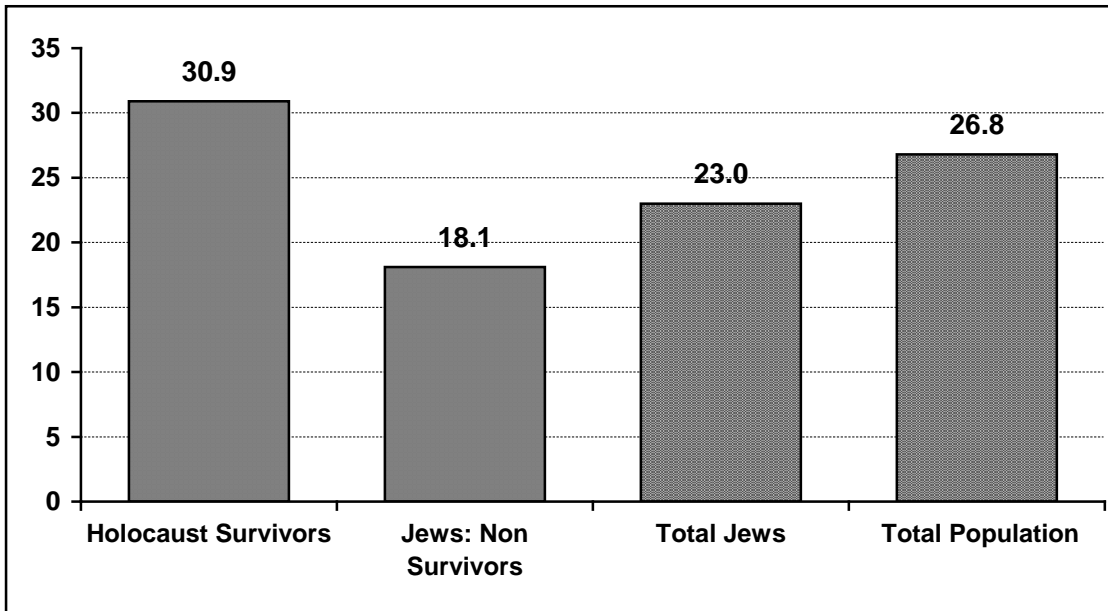
Total Not Survivors	Total	Poor		Not Poor	
	#	#	%	#	%
66-74 Years	5,640	740	13.1	4,900	86.9
75+ Years	6,050	1,095	18.1	4,955	81.9
Total	11,690	1,835	15.7	9,855	84.3

Note: Small discrepancies are due to rounding errors.

**Figure 3**  
**% of 66-74 Years Who Are Poor for Selected Populations**



**Figure 4**  
**% of 75+ Years Who Are Poor for Selected Populations**



poverty. They are perhaps the most critical breakdowns in order to identify the segments of the Survivor population that are most at risk for economic disadvantage.

Male Survivors have a much lower risk of poverty than females (19.3% and 32.9% respectively). There are 505 male Survivors who live under the poverty line compared to 1,040 females. In short, there are more than twice as many economically disadvantaged female Survivors in Montreal as there are male Survivors.

When age is included as a factor, the situation becomes even more striking. In the case of male Survivors, increasing age seems to be associated with increased levels of poverty, although the trend is not striking. For instance, 17.4% of males 66-74 years are poor, compared to 18.6% of males who are 75-84 years, and 24.5% of males who are 85+ years.

The situation is much more dramatic for female Survivors. Their risk of poverty increases significantly as they get older. About a quarter (24.3%) of female Survivors 66-74 years are poor; 34.9% of those 75-84 years are poor; and 42.7% of those 85+ years are poor. These figures show that any

examination of poverty among Survivors must take both gender and age factors into account.

Finally, Tables 9A and 9B show that the risk of poverty among female Child Survivors is much higher than that of male Child Survivors (29.4% and 18% respectively).

The figures for Adult Survivors can be gleaned from the 85+ year cohorts in the same tabulations.

Tables 10A and 10B examine the interactions of poverty and disability. About one in ten (9.5%) of Montreal's Holocaust Survivors is both poor and often disabled, comprising 550 people. A further 7.7% is poor and sometimes disabled. All in all, 17.2% of the Survivor population is both poor and at least sometimes disabled.

Figure 5 shows that Survivors are more likely to be poor and often disabled than other senior populations. For instance, whereas 9.5% of Survivors are poor and often disabled, only 4.1% of Jewish non-Survivors are experiencing such challenges.

**Tables 9A & 9B**  
**Poverty / Age / Gender Interactions**  
**Total Montreal Holocaust Survivors**

Males	Total	Poor	Not Poor	% Poor
All Ages Combined	2,620	505	2,115	<b>19.3</b>

66-74	950	165	790	<b>17.4</b>
75-84	1,180	220	960	<b>18.6</b>
85+	490	120	365	<b>24.5</b>

Child Survivors	2,135	385	1,755	<b>18.0</b>
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Females	Total	Poor	Not Poor	% Poor
All Ages Combined	3,165	1,040	2,085	<b>32.9</b>

66-74	1,175	285	895	<b>24.3</b>
75-84	1,205	420	785	<b>34.9</b>
85+	785	335	405	<b>42.7</b>

Child Survivors	2,380	700	1,680	<b>29.4</b>
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Note: Small discrepancies are due to rounding errors.

**Table 10A**  
**Poverty / Disability Interactions**  
**Jews, Non-Jews & Totals**  
**Total Montreal Population (66+ Years)**

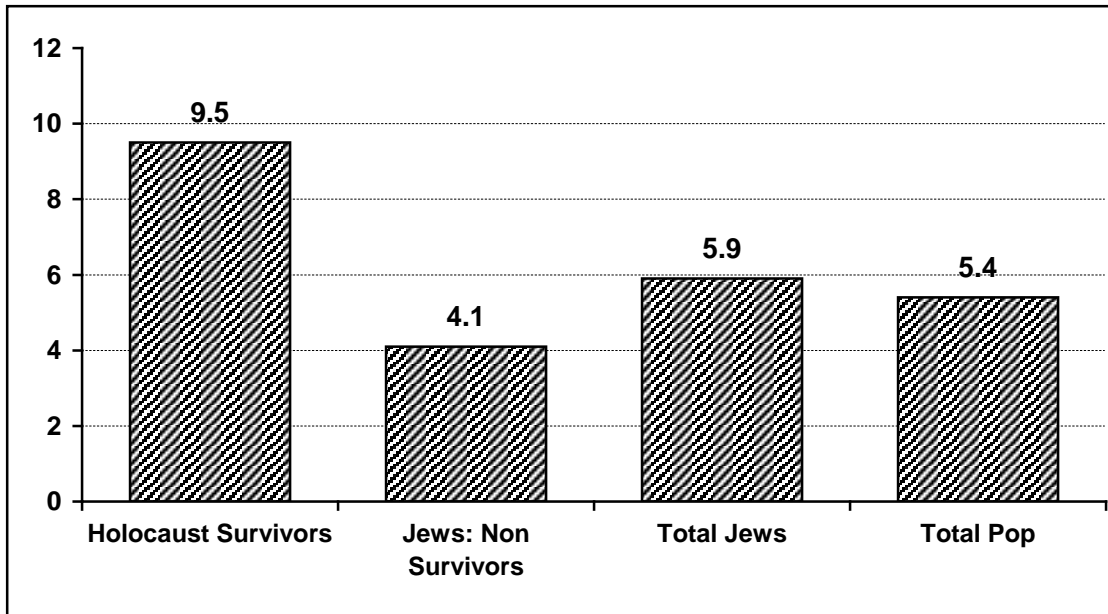
	Total		Jews		Non-Jews	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Poor / Often Disabled	25,325	5.4	1,030	5.9	24,295	5.4
Poor / Sometimes Disabled	26,145	5.6	785	4.5	25,360	5.6
Poor Not Disabled	57,600	12.3	1,605	9.2	56,000	12.4
Not Poor / Often Disabled	55,925	11.9	2,705	15.5	53,225	11.8
Not Poor / Sometimes Disabled	76,720	16.4	3,180	18.2	73,540	16.3
Not Poor Not Disabled / Other Combinations	226,545	48.4	8,200	46.8	218,350	48.4
Total	468,260	100.0	17,505	100.0	450,770	100.0

**Table 10B**  
**Poverty / Disability Interactions**  
**Holocaust Survivors & Not Survivors**  
**Total Montreal Jewish Population (66+ Years)**

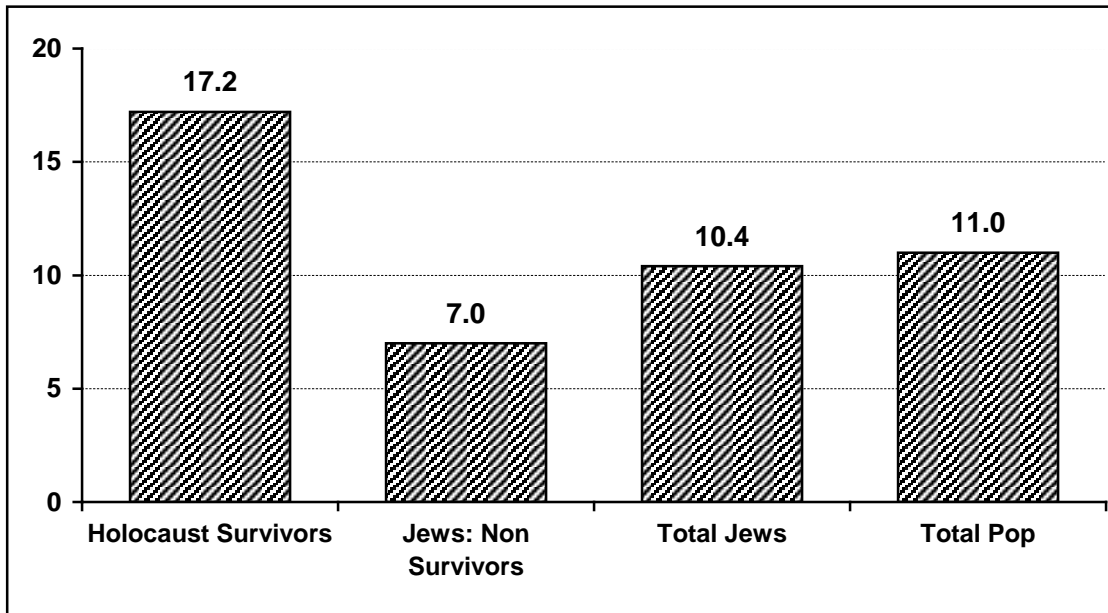
	Total		Holocaust Survivors		Not Survivors	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Poor / Often Disabled	1,030	5.9	<b>550</b>	<b>9.5</b>	475	4.1
Poor / Sometimes Disabled	785	4.5	<b>445</b>	<b>7.7</b>	340	2.9
Poor Not Disabled	1,605	9.2	<b>580</b>	<b>10.0</b>	1,020	8.7
Not Poor / Often Disabled	2,705	15.5	<b>910</b>	<b>15.7</b>	1,790	15.3
Not Poor / Sometimes Disabled	3,180	18.2	<b>1,050</b>	<b>18.2</b>	2,125	18.2
Not Poor Not Disabled	8,200	46.8	<b>2,250</b>	<b>38.9</b>	5,950	50.9
Total	17,505	100.0	<b>5,785</b>	<b>100.0</b>	11,700	100.0

Note: Small discrepancies are due to rounding errors.

**Figure 5**  
**Poor & Often Disabled: % of Selected Populations (66+ Years)**



**Figure 6**  
**Poor & Disabled (Often or Sometimes): % of Selected Populations (66+ Years)**





The discrepancy is even more pronounced in terms of being poor and disabled generally (Figure 6). 17.2% of Survivors are poor and disabled (often or somewhat), compared to 7% of Jewish non-Survivors, and 11% of total seniors 66+ years residing in the Montreal CMA.

Figure 7 is a summary of Survivor populations that are most at risk for poverty. Note that there is overlap between some of these groups.

It is clear that the segment of Survivors most likely to experience economic disadvantage is “females living alone”. More than half (51.5%) of this group live under the poverty line. Male Survivors living alone also have a very high poverty level, at 46%.

The next highest group at risk for poverty is “females who are often disabled” (43.6%), followed by “females 85+ years” (42.7%), “females who are sometimes disabled” (39.3%), “females 75-84 years” (34.9%), “total females” (32.9%), and “total Survivors 75+ years” (31%). The rest of the segments described in this graph have poverty levels below 30%.

It is apparent from this graph that there are several different groups at high risk for economic disadvantage among the female Survivor population. Among males, those who live alone and who are often disabled are the only segments to have at least a 25% likelihood of poverty.

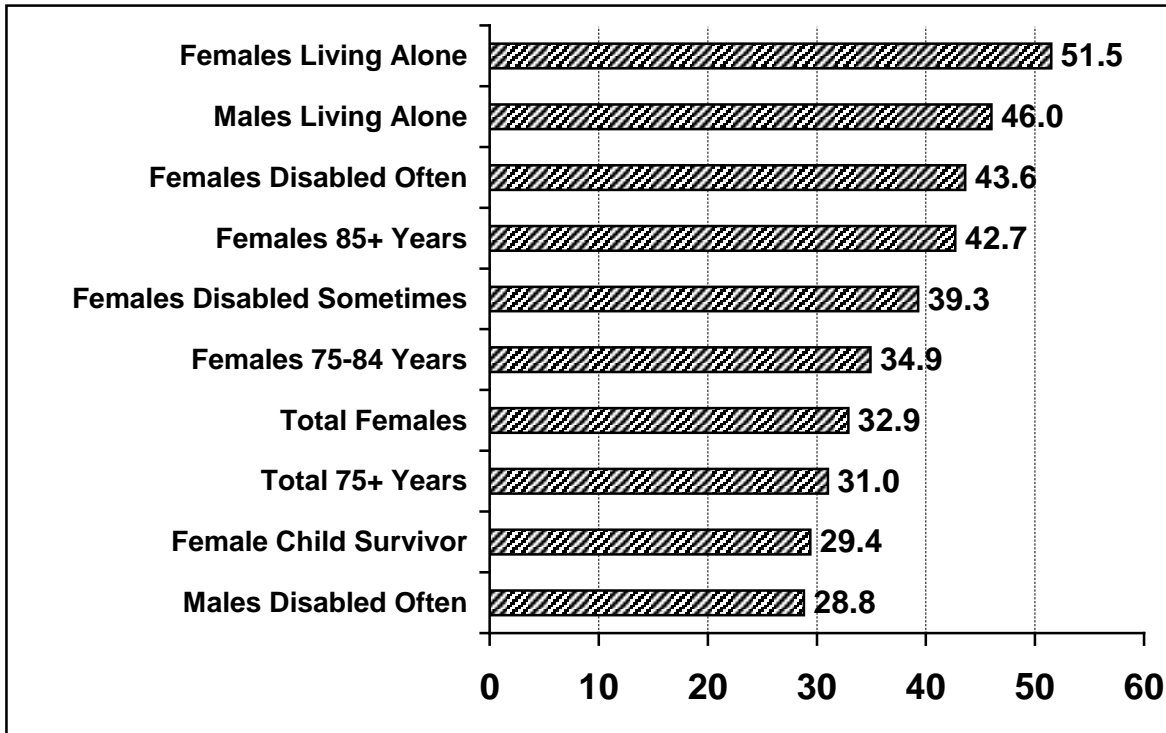
### **The Distribution of Holocaust Survivors Across Canada**

Table 11A examines the population distribution of Holocaust Survivors across various provinces in Canada. The province of Ontario has the largest Survivor population, with 9,735 individuals, or more than half (56.4%) of the Survivor population in Canada. Quebec has 5,865 Survivors, or 34% of the national Survivor population. These two provinces comprise the great majority (90.4%) of Survivors in this country.

British Columbia has 695 Survivors, followed by Alberta with 650, and Manitoba with 290. The rest of the provinces have minimal numbers of Survivors.

Table 11B shows that the largest Survivor population is located in the Toronto metropolitan area, with 8,930 individuals, or

**Figure 7**  
**Most “At Risk” Survivors for Poverty (% Poor)**



51.6% of the total Survivor population in Canada. More than half of all Survivors in this country reside here. Montreal has 5,795 Survivors, or about a third (33.5%) of the national Survivor population.

Vancouver has the next largest Survivor community, with 565 individuals. Edmonton (330), Ottawa (310), Calgary (305), and Winnipeg (290) all have similar numbers of Survivors.

**Table 11A**  
**Holocaust Survivors by Province**  
**Canadian Jewish Population (66+ Years)**

	Total	Holocaust Survivors	Not Survivors	% of Canadian Survivors
Quebec	17,960	<b>5,865</b>	12,095	<b>34.0</b>
Ontario	33,800	<b>9,735</b>	24,065	<b>56.4</b>
Manitoba	2,460	<b>290</b>	2,170	<b>1.7</b>
Alberta	1,930	<b>650</b>	1,280	<b>3.8</b>
British Columbia	4,395	<b>695</b>	3,700	<b>4.0</b>
Rest of Provinces	670	<b>40</b>	630	<b>0.2</b>
Canada	61,215	<b>17,275</b>	43,940	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 11B**  
**Holocaust Survivors by Census Metropolitan Area**  
**Canadian Jewish Population (66+ Years)**

	Total	Holocaust Survivors	Not Survivors	% of Canadian Survivors
Montreal CMA	17,490	<b>5,795</b>	11,695	<b>33.5</b>
Toronto CMA	28,600	<b>8,930</b>	19,670	<b>51.6</b>
Ottawa CMA	1,655	<b>310</b>	1,345	<b>1.8</b>
Hamilton CMA	940	<b>145</b>	795	<b>0.8</b>
Winnipeg CMA	2,400	<b>290</b>	2,110	<b>1.7</b>
Calgary CMA	1,000	<b>305</b>	695	<b>1.8</b>
Edmonton CMA	850	<b>330</b>	520	<b>1.9</b>
Vancouver CMA	3,295	<b>565</b>	2,730	<b>3.3</b>
Rest of Canada	5,045	<b>630</b>	4,410	<b>3.6</b>
Canada	61,275	<b>17,300</b>	43,970	<b>100.0</b>

# 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, and 80.3% in the Montreal CMA.

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**

	<b>Jewish Standard Definition</b>	<b>Revised Jewish Definition</b>
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
<b>Total Canada</b>	<b>385,345</b>	<b>391,665</b>

## **Appendix 3**

### **The Definition of Holocaust Survivor**

The term "Holocaust Survivor" was defined using the NHS parameters of age (66+ years in 2011), place of birth (all of Eastern Europe, most of Western Europe, and parts of North Africa), and year of immigration (starting from 1933-1942, depending on the place of birth). An attempt was made to conform as much as possible to the criteria specified by the Claims Conference's Jewish Nazi Victim Definition (2013).

There are some limitations related to the current definition. For instance a person may have been born in Europe, but immigrated to a third (non-European) country before the war. They then may have come to Canada after 1945. Such people would be considered as Holocaust Survivors, using the criteria specified above, even though they are not.

Another limitation relates to the fact that the NHS parameters were not always specific enough to make fine point geographic distinctions related to place of birth, at least in terms of conforming to the definition of Nazi Victims outlined by the Claims Conference.

For instance, it was possible to know whether a respondent was born in Morocco, but not whether they originated from French Morocco, Spanish Morocco or Tangiers. However, in the case of most countries, such fine point distinctions were not necessary to obtain adequate correspondence to the geographic criteria specified by the Claims Conference definition.

As mentioned in the text, it was initially decided to consider only 70% of elderly Jews (66+ years) born in Russia or the Ukraine as Survivors. However, previous reports suggested that some FSU Jews did not identify themselves as Jewish in the NHS. This may have reflected the fact that they had only a tenuous affiliation with Judaism, or perhaps given the hardships they endured in the FSU, it suggested an attitude of suspicion toward government agencies.

In order to compensate for this underestimate, all individuals born in the FSU, and who were of the appropriate age range, were included as Survivors. Since it was not possible to estimate to what extent individuals from the FSU did not identify as

Jews, it was not possible to ascertain how effective this strategy ultimately was in off-

setting such under-reporting.

## **Appendix 4**

### **The Low-Income Cut-Offs**

According to Statistics Canada, a person is living in poverty if he or she resides in a household containing a certain number of people who earn a total yearly income that falls below the Low Income Cut-Off (LICO). Hence, this criterion is based solely on information related to household size and household income. The table at the end of this appendix presents specific low income cut-offs given a certain household size and income.

There are some limitations related to this measure. Firstly, it does not take into account information regarding a person's "net worth". An individual can own a dwelling and an automobile yet can be classified as poor using the LICO criterion because his or her assets are not taken into account. There are some elderly, for instance, who own a house or a condominium, but receive a low pension income, and therefore fall below the poverty cut-off.

Also, there is a measure of arbitrariness regarding the definition employed by Statistics Canada. The low-income cut-offs

are calculated taking into account how much of their total income Canadian households spend on food, shelter and clothing, and (arbitrarily) estimating that households spending about two-thirds (63.6%) or more of their income on such necessities would be in "strained" circumstances.

The reasoning is that any household spending such a large proportion of its income on these essentials has too little money left over for other important expenditures. Using these assumptions, low-income cut-off points are then set for different sizes of households.

Another limitation of the use of the LICO as a measure of poverty is that it takes into account only three basic necessities (food, shelter and clothing). A more meaningful measurement, critics argue, would be to determine the cost of a "basket" of all necessities, including such expenditures as transportation, personal care, household supplies, recreation, health, and insurance. The main problem with this alternative approach is the difficulty of determining what ought to be included in the basket of

basic necessities of life and what ought to be excluded.

Another issue regarding poverty relates to the cost of living “Jewishly”. The current definition of poverty does not take into account the cost of maintaining a kosher diet, of buying various accoutrements necessary for proper holiday observances, or paying synagogue dues. Households experiencing financial strains may not be

able to meet some of the basic demands of their traditions. This can represent a reality to disadvantaged observant Jews that is not necessarily part of the life experiences of secular Jews.

Despite the limitations described above, “The Poverty Line”, as derived from the low-income cut-off specified by Statistics Canada, remains the most comprehensive method for assessing financial disadvantage.

**Low Income Cut-Offs for the year 2010  
Urban areas of 500,000+ people**

Household Size	Household Income Cut-Off (\$) Before Taxes	Household Income Cut-Off (\$) After Taxes
1	22,637	18,759
2	28,182	22,831
3	34,646	28,430
4	42,065	35,469
5	47,710	40,388
6	53,808	44,791
7+	59,907	49,195

Source for the above table: Income in Canada. Published by Statistics Canada, June 2012. Catalogue No. 75-202-XWE.