

NJPS 2000-01 Methodology Series
UJC Research Department

Report #4

**Comparing Estimates of Holocaust Survivors:
NJPS and the Claims Conference**

NJPS estimates that there are 122,000-142,000 Holocaust survivors residing in the United States. The following criteria were used to arrive at this estimate:

1) All respondents who were initially classified as Jewish and born in Europe, in 1945 or earlier, were asked at least one of the following two questions:

a) Between 1933 and 1945, did you live in a country that was under Nazi rule, or under the direct influence of the Nazis?

b) Between 1933 and 1945, did you leave a country or region under Nazi rule or direct influence because of Nazi occupation of the area you were living in at the time?

2) Any respondent who answered "yes" to either of these two questions was considered by NJPS to be a Holocaust survivor. The weighted number of these respondents is 122,000.

3) The questions above were not administered to respondents initially classified as People of Jewish Background (PJB). A rough ceiling estimate of PJB Holocaust survivors was calculated, as follows:

a) 57% of all Jewish respondents age 55+ and born in Europe indicated that they were Holocaust survivors.

b) The weighted number of PJB respondents age 55+ and born in Europe is 35,000. Assuming that PJB respondents would have answered the Holocaust survivor questions like Jewish respondents, an additional 20,000 survivors can be added to the new total ($.57 \times 35,000 = 19,950$), which now becomes 142,000.

To assess the reliability of the NJPS estimate of 122,000-142,000 Holocaust survivors, an estimated figure from the Conference On Jewish Material Claims Against Germany ("Claims Conference") was obtained. In its Planning Committee report written in 2000 ("A Plan for Allocating Successor Organization Resources," Report of the Planning Committee, Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (2000), 12-15), the Claims Conference estimates that between 127,000 and 146,000 Jews living in the United States are Nazi victims. Both studies use identical criteria to define Holocaust survivors/Nazi victims. In addition, definitions of Jewish identity are comparable.

In conclusion, then, the Claims Conference and NJPS estimates are very similar, resulting in a high confidence level for the NJPS survey estimate.