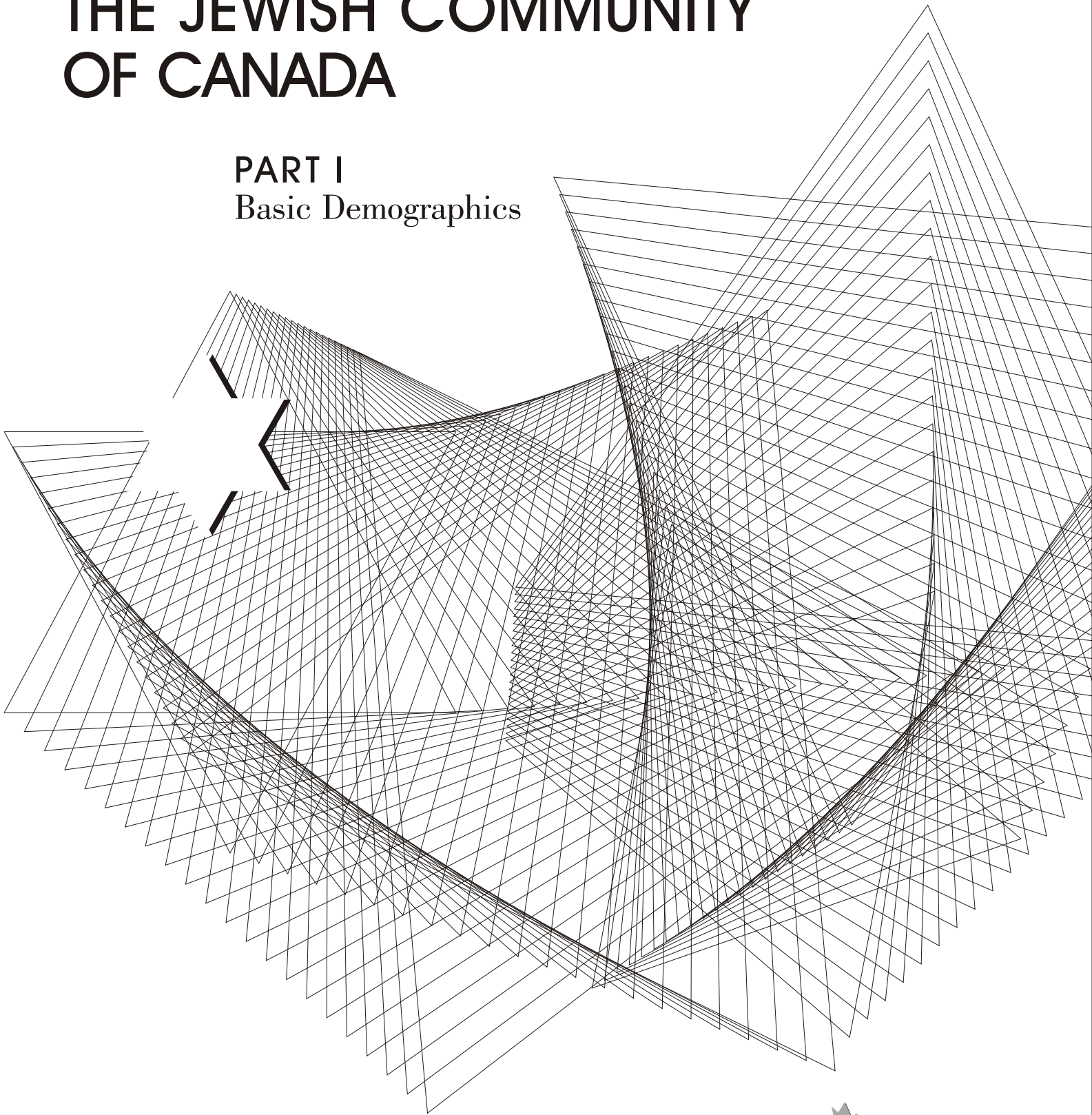


# 2001 Census Analysis Series **THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF CANADA**

## **PART I** Basic Demographics



By Charles Shahr  
November, 2003



UIA Federations Canada  
מגבית הפרציות היהודיות בקנדה

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

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

**By**  
**Charles Shahr**

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

Dr. Jonathan Berkowitz, Vancouver, BC

Dr. Jay Brodbar, Toronto, ON

Prof. Leo Davids, Toronto, ON

Mr. Colin Geitzler, Aylmer, QC

Ms. Jean Gerber, Vancouver, BC

Dr. Gustave Goldmann, Ottawa, ON

Dr. Jack Jedwab, Montreal, QC

Prof. Marty Lockshin, Toronto, ON

Mr. Greg Mason, Winnipeg, MB

Dr. Sheva Medjuck, Halifax, NS

Prof. Alan Moscovitch, Ottawa, ON

Prof. Morton Weinfeld, Montreal, QC

Dr. Morty Yalovsky, Montreal, QC

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

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

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

## Highlights of Results

- The Jewish population of Canada was 370,520 in 2001. Jews comprised 1.3% of the total Canadian population.
- Between 1991 and 2001 the Jewish community of this country grew by 12,465 people, or 3.5%. The rate of growth of the national community has slowed somewhat in the last decade.
- Regarding the age distribution of Canada's Jewish community, the 25-44 age group has decreased markedly in the last decade. In 2001, there were 90,510 individuals in this cohort, compared to 110,125 in 1991.
- The 45-64 age group has increased dramatically since 1991. There were 98,115 individuals in this cohort in 2001, compared to 68,305 in 1991. This cohort represents the "baby-boomer" generation.
- Finally, the number of Jewish seniors has remained relatively steady. There were 61,870 seniors in 2001, compared to 61,480 in 1991.
- The median age of the national Jewish population (40.2 years) is somewhat older than that of Canada's overall population (37.3 years).
- The size of the Jewish community's population ranks twelfth among ethnic groups in this country. The top five ethnic affiliations include Canadian, British, French, German, and Aboriginal.
- Jews rank sixth in size among religious groups in this country. The top five religious affiliations include Catholics, Protestants, non-specified Christians, Muslims, and Christian Orthodox.

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# Census Analysis Series

## Basic Demographics

The 2001 Census provides an important opportunity to obtain a demographic “snapshot” of Canada’s Jewish community. This analysis is the first in a series of Census reports that examine the characteristics of the Jewish population in this country.

This report is considered particularly timely given the challenges facing Canada’s Jewish population. An important issue has been the question of demographic continuity, and more specifically, the slow growth experienced by the national community in the last decade. This trend relates partly to the low birth rate among Jews, and to the fact that immigration to this country by Jews has been modest compared to the influx of other ethnic and religious groups.

The Jewish community of this country is older, on average, than the overall Canadian population, with a significantly larger proportion of seniors. A national priority has been servicing the needs of the elderly, and in particular, Holocaust Survivors. Another priority has been the question of looking after the poor, particularly during recent trying economic times.

Finally, reaching out to the unaffiliated and getting them more involved in community life remains an important focus for the long-term. The challenge is to continue to offer an opportunity for people of all ages to experience and enhance their Jewish life; and to ensure that those who cannot afford the cost of participation remain involved.

As the Canadian Jewish population continues to change, it is vital that national leaders and planners develop an accurate demographic picture of its diverse nature. The following analysis attempts to shed further light on the dynamics of the Jewish population in this country.

This report begins with an historical demographic perspective, followed by gender and age breakdowns. It then compares the national Jewish population with other ethnic and religious groups. Important explanations of the utility and reliability of the Census, as well as how Jewish identity is defined, are included in the Appendices. Additional data tables are then presented in the final part of this analysis.

**Table 1**  
**Jewish Population of Canada**  
**Historical Summary<sup>1</sup>**

	Jewish Population	# Change From Previous Census	% Change From Previous Census
2001	370,520	+12,465	+3.5
1991	358,055	+44,190	+14.1
1981	313,865	+27,315	+9.5
1971	286,550	+32,182	+12.7
1961	254,368	+49,532	+24.2
1951	204,836	+36,251	+21.5
1941	168,585	+12,819	+8.2
1931	155,766	+30,321	+24.2
1921	125,445	+50,685	+67.8
1911	74,760	+58,267	+353.3
1901	16,493	--	--

\*Data previous to 1971 are based solely on the religion variable, whereas statistics cited for 1971 to 2001 are based on the Jewish Standard Definition described in Appendix 3.

**Table 2**  
**Jewish Population as Percentage of Total Canadian Population**  
**Historical Summary**

Census Year	Total Population	Non-Jewish Population	Jewish Population	% Jewish
2001	29,639,030	29,268,510	370,520	1.3
1991	26,994,040	26,635,985	358,055	1.3
1981	24,083,495	23,769,635	313,865	1.3
1971	21,568,310	21,281,760	286,550	1.3

Note that anyone who expressed a Jewish affiliation, and fell within the parameters of the Jewish Standard Definition (see Appendix 3), is included in this analysis. Not included are Jews living in institutions—such as nursing homes, prisons or psychiatric facilities. This is because they were not given the long form of the Census, and hence, no data are available regarding their Jewish identification.

## **Total Population & Historical Analysis**

In 2001, the Jewish population of Canada was 370,520 (Table 1). This figure represented a gain from 1991, when there were 358,055 Jews in this country. Between 1991 and 2001 the Jewish population increased by 12,465 people, or 3.5%.

The Jewish population increase between 1991 and 2001 was less pronounced than that between 1981 and 1991. In the latter decade, the community grew by 44,190 people or 14.1%.

In short, at least for the last decade, the rate of growth of the Canadian Jewish population has slowed somewhat. In absolute numbers, the Jewish population increased 3.5x more

between 1981 and 1991 than between 1991 and 2001.

Table 1 further shows that between 1971 and 1981 the gain was less pronounced than that evident between 1981 and 1991. Between 1971 and 1981, the national Jewish community experienced an increase of 27,315 people or 9.5%.

In fact, the Canadian Jewish population has been increasing in size since the first Jews began to settle here in significant numbers at the turn of the last century. Peak levels of growth were realized between 1901 and 1921, as well as between 1945 and 1961, and between 1981 and 1991. In the 1930's, restricted Jewish immigration to Canada slowed some of the growth experienced in previous decades.

The figures described in Table 1, however, do not reveal the entire story. They merely represent the relative impacts of mortality, birth rate, in-migration and out-migration on the national community's demographics. These interacting factors will be examined more extensively in subsequent reports.

Table 2 looks at the Jewish population relative to the total population in Canada. It

**Table 3**  
**Gender Breakdowns**  
**Canadian Jewish & Non-Jewish Populations**

	Total Canadian Population		Canadian Jewish Population		Canadian Non-Jewish Population	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Males	14,564,275	49.1	182,910	49.4	14,381,365	49.1
Females	15,074,755	50.9	187,610	50.6	14,887,145	50.9
Total	29,639,030	100.0	370,520	100.0	29,268,510	100.0

**Table 4**  
**Age Breakdowns**  
**Canadian Jewish & Non-Jewish Populations**

	Total Canadian Population		Canadian Jewish Population		Canadian Non-Jewish Population	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
0-14	5,737,675	19.4	71,595	19.3	5,666,080	19.4
15-24	3,988,200	13.5	48,430	13.1	3,939,770	13.5
25-44	9,047,170	30.5	90,510	24.4	8,956,660	30.6
45-64	7,241,135	24.4	98,115	26.5	7,143,020	24.4
65+	3,624,845	12.2	61,870	16.7	3,562,975	12.2
Total	29,639,025	100.0	370,520	100.0	29,268,505	100.0

can be seen that the percentage of the Jewish population relative to the total has remained very steady in the last three decades. In the 2001 Census, Jews represented 1.3% of the total population, a figure identical to the previous three Censuses.

The growth rate of the total Canadian population has been increasing at a faster pace than that of the Jewish population. For instance, between 1981 and 2001 the growth rate for the total Canadian population was 23.1%, whereas the Jewish population grew by 18.1%.

In the last decade, the Canadian Jewish population grew by merely 3.5%, compared to a 9.8% growth rate for Canada's total population.

## **Gender & Age Breakdowns**

According to Table 3, there is a slightly higher proportion of females than males in the Canadian Jewish population. More than fifty percent (50.6%) of this country's Jewish population is female, and 49.4% is male.

A slightly larger discrepancy in favor of females is apparent for the total population

of Canada. More specifically, females comprise 50.9% of the overall Canadian population, whereas males comprise 49.1%.

Table 4 examines age breakdowns for Canadian Jews, non-Jews and their totals. The Jewish population has an almost identical proportion of children 0-14 years of age as the total population (19.3% and 19.4% respectively).

The Jewish population has a slightly lower percentage in the 15-24 year cohort than the total Canadian population (13.1% and 13.5% respectively).

In the economically productive age group of 25-44 years, the discrepancy between the two distributions is more marked. About a quarter (24.4%) of Jews fall into this age cohort, whereas 30.5% of Canada's total population is represented here.

The picture reverses for the 45-64 year cohort. The Jewish community has a higher proportion for this age group (26.5%) than Canada's total population (24.4%).

Finally, a comparison of the two age distributions shows that the Jewish community has a higher proportion of

**Table 5**  
**Age by Census Year**  
**Canadian Jewish Community**

	2001		1991		1981		1971	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
0-14	71,595	19.3	75,055	21.0	57,850	18.4	59,255	20.7
15-24	48,430	13.1	43,095	12.0	44,490	14.2	53,400	18.6
25-44	90,510	24.4	110,125	30.8	93,785	29.9	64,805	22.6
45-64	98,115	26.5	68,305	19.1	68,225	21.7	76,255	26.6
65+	61,870	16.7	61,480	17.2	49,510	15.8	32,835	11.5
Total	370,520	100.0	358,060	100.0	313,860	100.0	286,550	100.0

seniors (16.7%) than the total Canadian population (12.2%).

All in all, there is a somewhat higher percentage of Canadian Jews at the higher end of the age distribution (45+ years) than in the total population: 43.2% of Canada's Jews are 45+ years compared to 36.6% of the country's overall population.

Table 5 is an historical summary of age breakdowns for Canada's Jewish population. A number of interesting findings can be gleaned from this table. First, the number of those between 0-14 years of age has decreased since the 1991 Census, but is nonetheless higher than levels for the same cohort in 1981. In 2001 there were 71,595 children under 15 years of age, compared to 75,055 in 1991, and 57,850 in 1981.

The 15-24 year cohort has increased since 1991. In 2001 there were 48,430 in this cohort, compared to 43,095 in 1991, and 44,490 in 1981. Since this cohort of older teens and young adults represents the future of the Jewish community, this is a positive finding.

The 25-44 year cohort has decreased significantly since 1991. In 2001, there were

90,510 individuals in this age group, compared to 110,125 in 1991. The number in this cohort for 2001 is actually below that of 1981 (93,785).

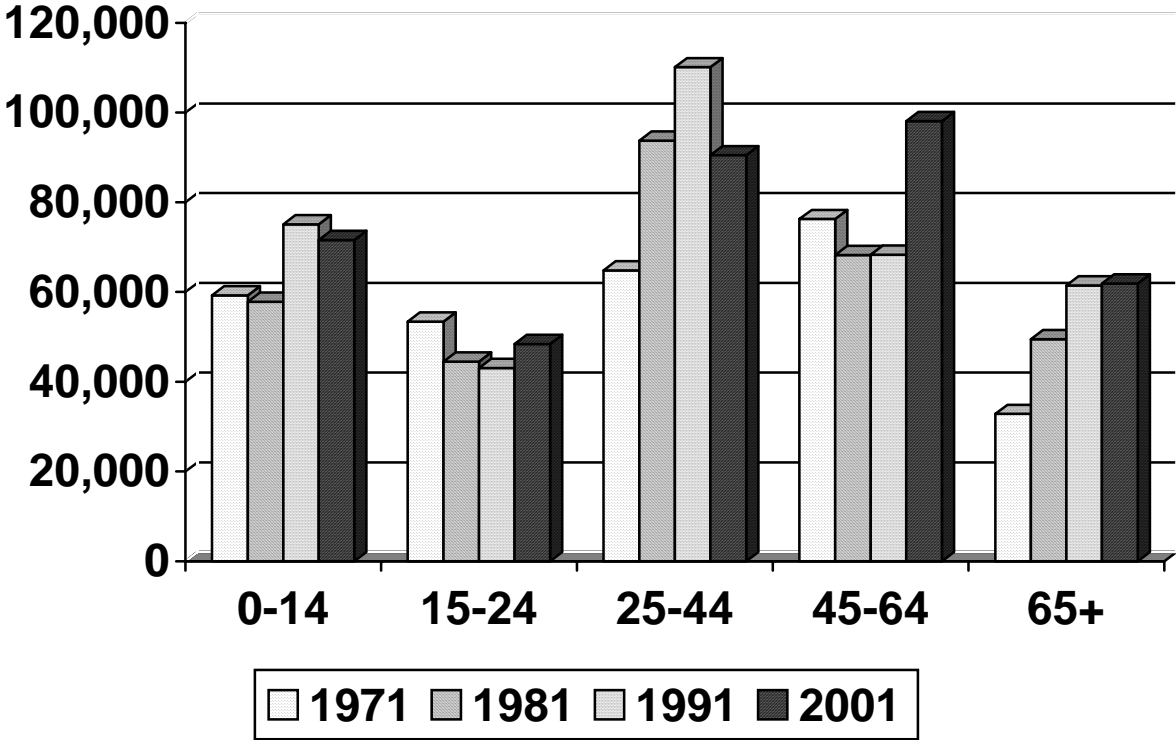
The 45-64 age group has increased dramatically for the Jewish population since 1991. There were 98,115 individuals in this cohort in 2001, compared to 68,305 in 1991. This bulge in the distribution represents the "baby-boomer" generation.

Finally, the number of Jewish seniors has increased slightly in the last decade. There were 61,870 seniors in 2001, compared to 61,480 in 1991. The baby-boomers will begin swelling the ranks of the elderly even further by the time the next Census is conducted in 2011.

Figure 1 represents an historical analysis of age trends as measured in the last four Censuses. This graph vividly illustrates the various peaks and valleys related to gains and losses within each age cohort. The reader should follow each age group in a step-wise progression, each step representing a different Census year.

It can be seen that the 0-14 age cohort has dipped somewhat in 2001, after showing a

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



significant increase in 1991. The 15-24 cohort dipped in 1981 and 1991, but has shown an increase in 2001.

As Figure 1 also shows, the 25-44 cohort experienced a decrease in 2001, after significant increases in the previous two decades. On the other hand, the 45-64 cohort has increased markedly in the last decade. This increase is perhaps the most dramatic aspect of the entire graph.

Finally, as noted in the summary for Table 5, the seniors (65+) cohort has risen slightly in 2001, after increasing in more dramatic fashion for the previous two decades.

The graph is also useful for anticipating general demographic trends in the coming decades. For instance, the peak in 1991 of the 25-44 year “baby-boomer” cohort translated into significant gains for the 45-64 cohort in 2001. This cohort simply moved into the next age range in the intervening decade. As mentioned above, this bulge will have an impact on the elderly cohort in the next Census, and will likely continue to “feed” into this cohort for at least another decade following 2011.

The 15-24 age group represents the children of the baby-boomers. It will begin to “feed” into the 25-44 age group by the 2011 Census. The 45-64 year segment will decrease in 2011 given the current dip in the 25-44 year cohort. Finally, it is likely that the 15-24 age group will not continue to grow, given that the 0-14 cohort will not “feed” into it as vigorously as it had in the decade between 1991 and 2001.

Using age breakdowns, it is possible to calculate the dependency ratio for a particular population. The dependency ratio is the proportion of children (0-14 years) and seniors (65+ years) relative to economically productive adults (15-64 years). The higher the dependency ratio of a population, the fewer the people in their wage earning years to support children and non-working seniors.

In 1971, the dependency ratio for the national Jewish community was 0.47. In 1981, it rose to 0.52. It peaked in 1991 with 0.62, but has gone back down to 0.56 in 2001. The 1991 peak resulted from the large numbers of children and elderly in the Jewish community’s age distribution.

**Table 6**  
**Age by Gender**  
**Canadian Jewish Community**

	Total		Male		Female	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
0-14	71,590	19.3	36,865	20.2	34,725	18.5
15-24	48,435	13.1	25,110	13.7	23,325	12.4
25-44	90,510	24.4	44,445	24.3	46,065	24.6
45-64	98,120	26.5	48,170	26.3	49,950	26.6
65+	61,875	16.7	28,325	15.5	33,550	17.9
Total	370,530	100.0	182,915	100.0	187,615	100.0

**Table 7**  
**Median Age**  
**Canadian Jewish & Non-Jewish Populations by Census Year**

Census Year	Total Population	Non-Jewish Population	Jewish Population
2001	37.3	37.3	40.2
1991	33.2	33.2	37.3
1981	29.2	29.2	34.6
1971	26.1	26.1	33.6

In comparison, the dependency ratio for the overall Canadian population is 0.46, somewhat lower than that of Canada's Jewish population (0.56).

A cross-tabulation of age by gender for the Canadian Jewish population is presented in Table 6. It can be seen that males outnumber females at the younger end of the distribution. For instance, there are 36,865 males between 0-14 years compared with 34,725 females. This is not a surprising finding since in most population distributions worldwide there is a small excess of males among births.

There are also more males than females in the 15-24 age group for the national Jewish community. On the other hand, females outnumber males in the 25-44 cohort. There are also more females than males in the 45-64 age group.

The most marked gender discrepancy is found among the elderly. There are significantly more female than male seniors (33,550 and 28,325 individuals respectively). Such a discrepancy mirrors the trend for other populations worldwide with an excess of male versus female mortality. That is, males tend to have shorter

life spans than females, and this accounts for the larger proportion of females among seniors.

The reader is referred to Tables 12 to 14 in Appendix 5 for more detailed age distributions, including 5-year and 10-year age breakdowns, as well as single-year breakdowns to age 19.

Table 7 looks at median ages for the Jewish, non-Jewish and total Canadian populations by Census year. It is clear from this table that the median age of the Jewish population in this country has been steadily increasing. It was 33.6 years in 1971, 34.6 years in 1981, 37.3 years in 1991 and 40.2 years in 2001.

The 2001 median age for the Jewish community is 2.9 years older than that of Canada's overall population. It is interesting that between 1981 and 2001 the Jewish community's median age has increased at a significantly slower pace than the total Canadian population. It has increased by 5.6 years for Jews in these two decades, compared to 8.1 years for the total Canadian population. In other words, the general population in this country is growing older at a faster pace than the Jewish population.

**Table 8**  
**Ethnic Affiliation: Total Canadian Population**

	#	%
Canadian	6,912,340	23.3
British	6,221,645	21.0
French	3,730,610	12.6
German	2,182,145	7.4
Aboriginal	1,319,890	4.5
Italian	1,217,770	4.1
Chinese	1,090,735	3.7
Ukrainian	953,295	3.2
East Indian	703,955	2.4
Polish	567,865	1.9
Caribbean	441,505	1.5
<b>(Jewish: full definition)</b>	<b>(370,520)</b>	<b>--</b>
Arab	341,735	1.2
Russian	314,100	1.1
Portuguese	311,230	1.1
Filipino	307,435	1.0
African	267,070	0.9
Latin American	229,055	0.8
Greek	198,310	0.7
Vietnamese	126,300	0.4
Spanish	114,525	0.4
Korean	99,835	0.3
Japanese	80,855	0.3
American	64,485	0.2
Pakistani	63,110	0.2
Other Ethnic	1,779,210	6.0
Total	29,639,010	100.0

## Comparisons With Other Ethnic Groups

Table 8 looks at the ethnic affiliations of the total population in Canada. Ethnicity was a “multiple response” variable in the 2001 Census. This means that respondents could indicate more than one ethnic affiliation. To avoid double counting, a hierarchical method of assigning affiliation was employed in this analysis. This method is described fully in Appendix 4.

Note that the category for Jewish affiliation is described as “Jewish: full definition” in Table 8. Jewish affiliation is unique because it can refer to either an ethnic or religious identification, or both. It was felt that comparisons should be made with the full definition of “Jewishness”, so that the most inclusive attribution could be derived. A percentage wasn’t assigned to this category, however, because it overlapped with other groups (that is, some respondents may have described themselves as “Jewish and Russian” or “Jewish and Canadian”, etc.).

An examination of Table 8 reveals that Canadian is the ethnic category with the most popular affiliation. Almost a quarter (23.3%) of this country’s population

indicates their ethnic affiliation as Canadian, or 6.9 million persons.

A significant number report they are British by ethnic origin. They comprise 6.2 million individuals or 21% of Canada’s population. This group includes individuals of English, Irish and Scottish origins.

People of French descent comprise 12.6% of the population (3.7 million persons) and rank third among ethnic groups. It should be noted that this figure is likely an underestimate. According to sources at Statistics Canada, many Quebecois associated the ethnic category of “French” with France, and therefore preferred to indicate Canadian.

Another 2.2 million persons claim German descent, or 7.4% of the Canadian population. There is also a significant Aboriginal population in this country (1.3 million individuals). The Italians rank sixth among ethnic communities and comprise 4.1% of the Canadian population. The Chinese community ranks seventh, and comprises 1.1 million persons.

All the other ethnic groups number below a million individuals. The Ukrainian

**Table 9**  
**Ethnic Affiliation by Age: Total Canadian Population**

	0-14		15-24		25-44		45-64		65+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Canadian	1,523,785	22.0	997,020	14.4	2,080,045	30.1	1,586,730	23.0	724,760	10.5
British	780,525	12.5	657,685	10.6	1,787,600	28.7	1,875,865	30.2	1,119,970	18.0
French	627,575	16.8	487,115	13.1	1,111,755	29.8	1,030,275	27.6	473,885	12.7
German	437,530	20.1	299,060	13.7	655,460	30.0	514,135	23.6	275,955	12.6
Aboriginal	428,335	32.5	227,710	17.3	412,810	31.3	203,115	15.4	47,925	3.6
Italian	267,725	22.0	159,495	13.1	381,610	31.3	256,000	21.0	152,935	12.6
Chinese	212,525	19.5	167,170	15.3	365,380	33.5	241,270	22.1	104,390	9.6
Ukrainian	204,045	21.4	135,315	14.2	289,715	30.4	206,575	21.7	117,640	12.3
East Indian	161,940	23.0	111,210	15.8	234,190	33.3	150,370	21.4	46,240	6.6
Polish	111,125	19.6	83,640	14.7	169,440	29.8	136,805	24.1	66,855	11.8
Caribbean	116,055	26.3	72,815	16.5	139,305	31.6	88,110	20.0	25,210	5.7
<b>(Jewish: full def)</b>	<b>(71,590)</b>	<b>(19.3)</b>	<b>(48,430)</b>	<b>(13.1)</b>	<b>(90,515)</b>	<b>(24.4)</b>	<b>(98,115)</b>	<b>(26.5)</b>	<b>(61,875)</b>	<b>(16.7)</b>
Arab	97,215	28.4	53,370	15.6	117,420	34.4	56,115	16.4	17,610	5.2
Russian	68,265	21.7	47,205	15.0	104,940	33.4	67,650	21.5	26,040	8.3
Portuguese	63,260	20.3	47,980	15.4	102,745	33.0	67,810	21.8	29,445	9.5
Filipino	72,040	23.4	44,615	14.5	107,055	34.8	66,020	21.5	17,715	5.8
African	86,585	32.4	44,945	16.8	91,490	34.3	36,145	13.5	7,915	3.0
Latin American	64,065	28.0	40,910	17.9	79,415	34.7	38,080	16.6	6,590	2.9
Greek	32,950	16.6	26,530	13.4	63,165	31.9	49,275	24.8	26,390	13.3
Vietnamese	31,365	24.8	18,740	14.8	48,665	38.5	21,040	16.7	6,490	5.1
Spanish	25,045	21.9	16,995	14.8	38,615	33.7	25,530	22.3	8,340	7.3
Korean	19,670	19.7	20,940	21.0	33,505	33.6	21,230	21.3	4,500	4.5
Japanese	16,250	20.1	12,280	15.2	25,765	31.9	16,685	20.6	9,875	12.2
American	11,355	17.6	7,475	11.6	18,130	28.1	16,750	26.0	10,780	16.7
Pakistani	20,175	32.0	10,590	16.8	21,480	34.0	9,170	14.5	1,690	2.7
Other Ethnic	258,270	14.5	197,420	11.1	567,470	31.9	460,375	25.9	295,680	16.6
Total Canada	5,737,675	19.4	3,988,230	13.5	9,047,170	30.5	7,241,125	24.4	3,624,825	12.2

community numbers 953,295 people, whereas the East Indian population numbers 703,955 people. Finally, the Polish community rounds out the ten largest ethnic groups with 567,865 individuals.

The Jewish community ranks twelfth among ethnic groups, with a population of 370,520. As noted before, because ethnicity alone is not sufficiently inclusive to accurately describe the community, this figure is derived from a combined definition of religion and ethnicity (see Appendix 4).

Table 9 examines the age breakdowns of the various ethnic groups in Canada. It can be seen that regarding children 0-14 years of age, the Aboriginal (32.5%), African (32.4%), and Pakistani (32%) populations have the highest proportions. The Jewish community falls in the lower end of the distribution (19.3%). The British (12.5%), Greek (16.6%), and French (16.8%) communities have the lowest proportions of children.

In terms of teenagers and young adults between 15-24 years of age, the Korean (21%), Latin American (17.9%), and Aboriginal (17.3%) communities have the highest proportions. The British (10.6%) and

Americans (11.6%) have the lowest proportions. The Jewish community is in the lower end of the distribution (13.1%).

Regarding the economically productive 25-44 year cohort, it is noteworthy that the Jewish community has the lowest proportion of any ethnic community in the country (24.4%). The Americans (28.1%) also have low representation in this age group, as do those with a British affiliation (28.7%). The Vietnamese (38.5%), Filipino (34.8%) and Latin American (34.7%) communities have the highest proportions in this age group.

The British (30.2%) have the highest percentage in the 45-64 year cohort, followed by the French (27.6%) and Jewish (26.5%) communities. The lowest percentages are found among the African (13.5%), Pakistani (14.5%) and Aboriginal (15.4%) communities.

The British community has the highest proportion in terms of seniors (18%), followed by the Jewish and American populations (both 16.7%). The lowest proportions of elderly are found among ethnic groups with large numbers of recent immigrants. These include the Pakistani (2.7%), Latin American (2.9%), and African

**Table 10**  
**Religious Affiliation**  
**Total Canadian Population**

	#	%
Catholic	12,936,910	43.6
Protestant	8,654,850	29.2
Christian, n.i.e.	780,450	2.6
Muslim	579,645	2.0
Christian Orthodox	479,615	1.6
<b>(Jewish: full definition)</b>	<b>(370,520)</b>	<b>--</b>
Jewish: religion alone	329,995	1.1
Buddhist	300,345	1.0
Hindu	297,200	1.0
Sikh	278,415	0.9
Para-religious groups	63,970	0.2
Other Eastern religions	37,545	0.1
No religious affiliation	4,900,090	16.5
Total	29,639,030	100.0

Note: “Christian, n.i.e.” includes individuals who identified themselves as Christian but did not report a specific denomination. The category of “No religious affiliation” comprises Agnostics, Atheists, Humanists, those with No Religion, and Other n.i.e.

(3%) communities. On the other hand, Aboriginals also have a very low proportion of seniors (3.6%).

In terms of median ages, the populations with the lowest figures include the Aboriginal (25.1 years), African (25.2 years), Pakistani (25.4 years), and Latin American (27.2 years) communities.

The ethnic groups with the highest median ages are the British (44.0 years), Americans (40.7 years), Jews (40.2 years), and French (39.5 years).

Please refer to Table 15 in Appendix 5 for a complete breakdown of ethnic affiliation by median age.

## **Comparisons With Other Religious Affiliations**

Table 10 looks at religious affiliations for Canada. Note that the figures for the Jewish Standard Definition are cited in this analysis as well, although the figures for Jewish religion alone are likewise included in the table.

It can be seen that Catholics are the largest group in this country, representing 43.6% of

the population, or 12.9 million individuals. Protestants comprise the second largest group with 29.2% of the total population, or 8.6 million individuals.

“Christians not included elsewhere” are the third largest group with 2.6% of the population, or 780,450 individuals. Muslims comprise the fourth largest group with 579,645 individuals, followed by the Christian Orthodox (479,615).

Jews rank sixth among religious groups with 370,520 individuals. Note that Jews were defined using both the Standard Definition (which uses religion and ethnicity) and by religion alone. Their ranking is not affected by the choice of definition, but obviously there are fewer Jews when religion alone is taken into account.

It is noteworthy that 16.5% of the total population, or 4.9 million persons, say they have no religious affiliation. Within this category are included people who defined themselves as agnostics, atheists, or humanists, or who affiliated with no religion at all.

A very small proportion (0.2%) of the population are involved with Para-religious

**Table 11**  
**Religious Affiliation by Age**  
**Total Canadian Population**

	0-14		15-24		25-44		45-64		65+	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Catholic	2,447,370	18.9	1,712,565	13.2	3,966,900	30.7	3,246,535	25.1	1,563,550	12.1
Protestant	1,463,840	16.9	1,005,025	11.6	2,309,700	26.7	2,383,120	27.5	1,493,165	17.3
Christian, n.i.e.	193,260	24.8	133,210	17.1	265,275	34.0	146,225	18.7	42,475	5.4
Muslim	168,120	29.0	94,490	16.3	202,525	34.9	93,280	16.1	21,225	3.7
Christian Orthodox	75,610	15.8	57,745	12.0	161,295	33.6	115,720	24.1	69,250	14.4
<b>(Jewish: full def)</b>	<b>(71,590)</b>	<b>(19.3)</b>	<b>(48,430)</b>	<b>(13.1)</b>	<b>(90,515)</b>	<b>(24.4)</b>	<b>(98,115)</b>	<b>(26.5)</b>	<b>(61,875)</b>	<b>(16.7)</b>
Jewish: religion alone	61,085	18.5	41,775	12.7	79,025	23.9	89,705	27.2	58,410	17.7
Buddhist	46,615	15.5	42,760	14.2	103,865	34.6	75,380	25.1	31,730	10.6
Hindu	69,955	23.5	42,830	14.4	106,910	36.0	60,795	20.5	16,720	5.6
Sikh	71,710	25.8	42,750	15.4	92,575	33.3	51,795	18.6	19,585	7.0
Para-religious groups	13,665	21.4	11,550	18.1	24,115	37.7	12,695	19.8	1,945	3.0
Other Eastern religions	6,185	16.5	5,795	15.4	11,865	31.6	10,555	28.1	3,145	8.4
No religious affiliation	1,120,260	22.9	797,710	16.3	1,723,125	35.2	955,340	19.5	303,660	6.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,737,675</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>3,988,205</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>9,047,175</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>7,241,145</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>3,624,860</b>	<b>12.2</b>

Note: "Christian, n.i.e." includes individuals who identified themselves as Christian but did not report a specific denomination. The category of "No religious affiliation" comprises Agnostics, Atheists, Humanists, those with No Religion, and Other n.i.e.

groups, such as Paganism, Scientology, Rastafarian, and New Age affiliations.

An examination of religious affiliation by age is presented in Table 11. It can be seen that among the mainstream religions, the groups with the highest percentages of children (0-14 years) are Muslims (29%) and Sikhs (25.8%). Those with the lowest percentages of children include Buddhists (15.5%) and Christian Orthodox (15.8%). The Jewish community falls in the middle of the distribution (19.3%).

Among those 15-24 years of age, the mainstream groups with the highest proportions include Muslims (16.3%) and Sikhs (15.4%). The Jewish community falls in the lower end of the distribution (13.1%). Protestants (11.6%) and Christian Orthodox (12%) have the lowest proportions in this age group.

In the 25-44 year cohort, the mainstream group with the highest proportion is the Hindu community (36%), followed by Muslims (34.9%). The Jewish community has the lowest proportion in this age group (24.4%), followed by the Protestant community (26.7%).

Regarding the 45-64 age group, Protestants (27.5%) and Jews (26.5%) have the highest proportions, whereas Muslims (16.1%) and Sikhs (18.6%) have the lowest percentages.

Finally, in terms of the elderly population (65+), the Protestant community has the highest percentage (17.3%), followed by the Jewish population (16.7%). Muslims (3.7%) and Hindus (5.6%) are the mainstream religious groups that have the lowest proportions.

The Protestant community has the highest median age (41.9 years) of any mainstream religious group in Canada, followed by the Jewish community (40.2 years). The lowest median ages are found among Muslims (28.1 years) and Sikhs (29.4 years). Those with no religious affiliation average 31.1 years, whereas those involved with Para-religious groups have a median age of 30.2 years.

Please refer to Table 16 in Appendix 5 for a complete breakdown of religious affiliation by median age.

## The Canadian Community in a Global Context

The 2001 Census figures obtained for the Jewish population in this country were compared to those of Jewish communities around the world. The source for these latter statistics was the American Jewish Year Book of 2001.<sup>1</sup>

It should be noted that the population figures cited for various countries in the American Jewish Year Book are often estimates based on different methodologies and approaches to defining Jewishness. The figures should therefore be considered as general approximations.

According to the American Jewish Year Book, the estimated worldwide Jewish population for 2001 was 13,254,100. Almost two-thirds (62.6%) of world Jewry lived in the Diaspora in 2001, whereas 37.4% lived in Israel. More specifically, 8,301,900 Jews lived in the Diaspora, and 4,952,200 resided in Israel. The Year Book further estimates that 6,479,300 Jews lived in North America in 2001.

The Canadian Jewish community is the fourth largest in the world. The United States has the largest Jewish population (5.7 million<sup>2</sup>), followed by Israel (4.95 million), France (520,000), and Canada (370,520). The Jewish populations of the United Kingdom and Russia both number about 275,000 individuals.

The Canadian Jewish community comprises 2.8% of all Jews in the world, and 4.5% of Jews in the Diaspora. The Jewish population of Canada comprises about 6% of Jews residing in North America.

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<sup>1</sup>All data for Jewish populations outside Canada were obtained from: *The World Jewish Population* by S. DellaPergola. In *The American Jewish Year Book 2001*, edited by D. Singer & L. Grossman. The American Jewish Committee, New York, pgs. 532-569.

<sup>2</sup>The Jewish population estimate for the United States has since been revised to 5.2 million on the basis of the National Jewish Population Survey (NJPS) 2000-2001.

## **Appendix 1**

### **The Utility of the Census**

The information gleaned from the Census is useful from a number of perspectives. From a communal planning perspective, the data can be utilized to identify segments of the Jewish population at risk (economically and socially), and determine where they reside. It can also be used to examine whether, given certain demographic realities, programs or services should be established or continued.

Another application involves establishing population bases of certain segments in the community, in order to determine what percentage a service, program or philanthropic effort is reaching. For instance, knowledge of the base population of Jewish school-aged children can allow us to determine what percentages of these children attend Jewish or non-Jewish schools. It is also possible to compare base populations of the poor, single parents, etc. to the number of clients serviced by

community agencies, in order to determine what proportions of these segments specific agencies are reaching.

The Census can be used to examine important questions related to community continuity. For instance: the adaptation of Jewish immigrant populations; the affiliation levels of children in intermarried families; and the migration patterns of Jews across the country are among the issues that can be examined using the Census.

Finally, the Census can be used to establish demographic trends over time, by comparing the latest figures to those of previous Censuses. These comparisons provide important indications to what extent a community has changed, and where it might be headed in the coming years.



## **Appendix 2**

### **The Reliability of the Census**

The Census is a massive and complex undertaking, and although high standards are applied throughout the process, a certain level of error still characterizes the endeavor. Such errors can arise at virtually any point in the Census process, from the preparation of materials to the collection of data and the processing of information.

There are a number of principal types of errors that impact on the Census. In coverage errors, dwellings or individuals are missed, incorrectly enumerated or counted more than once. In terms of non-response errors, responses to the Census cannot be obtained from a certain number of households and/or individuals due to extended absence or other extenuating circumstances.

In response errors, the respondent misunderstands a Census question and answers incorrectly or uses the wrong response box. Processing errors occur during the coding and inputting of data.

Finally, sampling errors apply only to the long-form. Statistics based on this form are

projected from a 20% sample of households. The responses to long-form questions, when projected to represent the whole population inevitably differ from the responses that would have been obtained if these questions were asked of all households.

Statistics Canada has a number of quality control measures that ensure Census data are as reliable as possible. Representatives edit the questionnaires when they are returned, and follow up on missing information. There are also quality control measures in place during the coding and data entry stages.

Despite these controls, a number of errors and response-biases can nonetheless impact the data obtained from the Jewish population. For instance, certain segments of the Jewish community may be more reticent to answer the questions in the Census fully or accurately.

Recent immigrant populations who are suspicious of government-sponsored projects, and are wary of being identified as Jewish, may avoid indicating such an

affiliation, or may answer certain questions more cautiously.

It is possible that members of the Chassidic and Ultra-Orthodox communities are more reluctant to participate fully in the Census effort, due to specific biblical injunctions that prohibit Jews from “being counted.” It is unclear whether such restrictions have had an impact on their responses, but anecdotal evidence suggests that these communities respond adequately. For instance, the Tosh Chasidic community of Montreal, which is fairly isolated geographically from the rest of the Jewish population, has had significant representation in previous Censuses, although it is unclear as to what extent their enumeration was complete.

Finally, since both the religion and ethnicity questions are only included in the long-form of the Census, sampling error arising from projections based on a 20% enumeration of households is a factor in all Census analyses related to the Jewish community.

The level of sampling error inherent in any cell of a data table can be precisely calculated. Statistics Canada provides a table that measures these errors, and they are summarized below. Obviously, for large cell

values, the potential error due to sampling will be proportionally smaller than for smaller ones.

When using the table, the reader should consider the right column as reflective of the average level of error expected for a given cell size. Of course, some cells may reflect errors smaller or larger than the average. About ninety percent of errors will fall between  $\pm$  the average error specified below. Ten percent of errors are expected to fall outside this range.

Cell Value	Average Error
50 or less	15
100	20
200	30
500	45
1,000	65
2,000	90
5,000	140
10,000	200
20,000	280
50,000	450
100,000	630

Source for Appendix 2: 2001 Census Dictionary Reference Guide (pg. 275). Published by Statistics Canada, August 2002. Catalogue No. 92-378-XPE.

## **Appendix 3**

### **The Jewish Standard Definition**

This report uses what is known as the “Jewish Standard Definition” to distinguish who is Jewish from the rest of the population. Jim Torczyner of McGill University and the Jewish Federation of Montreal formulated this definition in 1981, using a combination of religious and ethnic identification.

According to this criterion, a Jew is defined as anyone who specified that they were:

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

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

Using this criterion, it is not possible to say how a person behaves “Jewishly”: for instance, whether they adhere to traditions or attend synagogue on a regular basis. However, despite this limitation, the fact that we can identify Jewish affiliation at all

is critical for using the Census as a tool to better understand our community. The Jewish Standard Definition is meant to be as inclusive as possible, reflecting the varied expressions that comprise the richness of the Jewish experience.

It is important to note that a significant change to the “Jewish Standard Definition” was implemented in the current analysis of Census data. The category of those who had “no religion and a Jewish ethnicity” was expanded to include those with “no religious affiliation and a Jewish ethnicity”.

The category of “no religious affiliation” is broader than that of “no religion” because it includes those who consider themselves as agnostics, atheists and humanists, as well as having no religion. Since it is possible to be Jewish and to have such affiliations, it was felt that this change would better reflect the broad spectrum of Jewish affiliation. Data from previous Censuses have been re-analyzed to ensure compatibility with the current criterion.



## **Appendix 4**

### **The Attribution of Ethnic Origins**

Ethnic origin was a multiple-response variable in the 2001 Census, meaning that respondents were allowed to indicate more than one ethnic affiliation. If all the multiple ethnic affiliations were included in the Census analysis the total would equal more than 100% because some people had more than one response to this question. A system was therefore devised for this analysis whereby a respondent would only be assigned one ethnic category. This system involved a hierarchy where an ethnic group would get precedence over those below it. The following order of precedence was established:

Aboriginal, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Filipino, Vietnamese, East Indian, Pakistani, Arab, African, Caribbean, Latin American, Italian, Greek, Portuguese, Russian, Ukrainian, Polish, German, Spanish, French, British, American, Canadian, Jewish, Other.

Rather than using a strictly ethnic definition of Jewishness, comparisons between Jews and other ethnic categories were made using the Jewish Standard Definition as the criterion. This definition uses a combination of religion and ethnicity, and is more inclusive than a strictly ethnic identification of Jewishness. For instance, out of a sense of patriotism some Jews may have said their ethnic background was single-response Canadian. As such, they would not have been counted in the ethnicity-only definition.

On the other hand, some converts likely considered themselves Jews by religion, but not ethnicity. They could not be appropriately compared as Jews to other ethnic categories, and yet they would be included in the Jewish Standard Definition. In short, the issue of Jewish affiliation is a complex one and there are shortcomings associated with whatever definition is used.



## Appendix 5 Additional Data Tables

**Table 12  
Age Breakdowns  
Canadian Jews & Non-Jews**

	Total Canadian Population		Canadian Jewish Population		Canadian Non-Jewish Population	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
0-4	1,701,485	5.7	21,250	5.7	1,680,235	5.7
5-14	4,036,190	13.6	50,345	13.6	3,985,845	13.6
15-24	3,988,200	13.5	48,430	13.1	3,939,770	13.5
25-34	3,973,080	13.4	41,000	11.1	3,932,080	13.4
35-44	5,074,085	17.1	49,505	13.4	5,024,580	17.2
45-54	4,393,180	14.8	61,170	16.5	4,332,010	14.8
55-64	2,847,955	9.6	36,940	10.0	2,811,015	9.6
65-74	2,106,875	7.1	28,560	7.7	2,078,315	7.1
75-84	1,230,565	4.2	25,360	6.8	1,205,205	4.1
85+	287,410	1.0	7,955	2.1	279,455	1.0
Total	29,639,025	100.0	370,515	100.0	29,268,510	100.0

**Table 13**  
**Age by Census Year**  
**Canadian Jewish Community**

	2001		1991		1981		1971	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
0-4	21,250	5.7	25,975	7.3	19,840	6.3	17,200	6.0
5-14	50,345	13.6	49,085	13.7	38,015	12.1	42,055	14.7
15-24	48,430	13.1	43,090	12.0	44,485	14.2	53,400	18.6
25-34	41,000	11.1	47,375	13.2	57,190	18.2	34,490	12.0
35-44	49,505	13.4	62,750	17.5	36,600	11.7	30,315	10.6
45-54	61,170	16.5	38,140	10.7	31,180	9.9	39,045	13.6
55-64	36,940	10.0	30,160	8.4	37,045	11.8	37,210	13.0
65-74	28,560	7.7	34,340	9.6	33,595	10.7	22,110	7.7
75-84	25,360	6.8	22,520	6.3	13,830	4.4	8,985	3.1
85+	7,955	2.1	4,620	1.3	2,090	0.7	1,735	0.6
Total	370,515	100.0	358,055	100.0	313,870	100.0	286,545	100.0

**Table 14**  
**Discrete Age Breakdowns by Gender**  
**Canadian Jewish Community**

	Total		Male		Female	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 1 year	4,280	1.2	2,270	1.2	2,010	1.1
1	4,320	1.2	2,275	1.2	2,045	1.1
2	4,135	1.1	2,045	1.1	2,090	1.1
3	4,260	1.1	2,390	1.3	1,870	1.0
4	4,250	1.1	2,080	1.1	2,170	1.2
5	4,595	1.2	2,340	1.3	2,255	1.2
6	4,870	1.3	2,565	1.4	2,305	1.2
7	4,860	1.3	2,620	1.4	2,240	1.2
8	4,680	1.3	2,470	1.4	2,210	1.2
9	4,945	1.3	2,470	1.4	2,475	1.3
10	5,155	1.4	2,560	1.4	2,595	1.4
11	5,195	1.4	2,565	1.4	2,630	1.4
12	5,045	1.4	2,565	1.4	2,480	1.3
13	5,385	1.5	2,740	1.5	2,645	1.4
14	5,620	1.5	2,905	1.6	2,715	1.4
15	5,490	1.5	2,925	1.6	2,565	1.4
16	5,270	1.4	2,825	1.5	2,445	1.3
17	4,870	1.3	2,490	1.4	2,380	1.3
18	4,865	1.3	2,390	1.3	2,475	1.3
19	5,000	1.3	2,630	1.4	2,370	1.3

**Table 14 (cont'd)**  
**Five-Year Age Breakdowns by Gender**  
**Canadian Jewish Community**

	Total		Male		Female	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
20-24	22,935	6.2	11,850	6.5	11,085	5.9
25-29	20,465	5.5	10,290	5.6	10,175	5.4
30-34	20,545	5.5	9,875	5.4	10,670	5.7
35-39	23,205	6.3	11,440	6.3	11,765	6.3
40-44	26,300	7.1	12,840	7.0	13,460	7.2
45-49	29,460	8.0	13,945	7.6	15,515	8.3
50-54	31,710	8.6	15,935	8.7	15,775	8.4
55-59	20,720	5.6	10,335	5.7	10,385	5.5
60-64	16,220	4.4	7,950	4.3	8,270	4.4
65-69	14,210	3.8	6,990	3.8	7,220	3.8
70-74	14,345	3.9	6,570	3.6	7,775	4.1
75-79	14,915	4.0	6,780	3.7	8,135	4.3
80-84	10,445	2.8	4,645	2.5	5,800	3.1
85-89	5,735	1.5	2,455	1.3	3,280	1.7
90+	2,215	0.6	880	0.5	1,335	0.7
Total	370,515	100.0	182,900	100.0	187,615	100.0

**Table 15**  
**Ethnic Affiliation by Median Age: Total Canadian Population**

	Median Age
Canadian	35.5
British	44.0
French	39.5
German	37.0
Aboriginal	25.1
Italian	35.0
Chinese	35.3
Ukrainian	35.6
East Indian	31.2
Polish	37.3
Caribbean	29.4
<b>(Jewish: full definition)</b>	<b>40.2</b>
Arab	28.4
Russian	34.1
Portuguese	33.9
Filipino	33.4
African	25.2
Latin American	27.2
Greek	36.4
Vietnamese	31.1
Spanish	33.5
Korean	30.0
Japanese	33.4
American	40.7
Pakistani	25.4
Other Ethnic	40.6
Total	37.3

**Table 16**  
**Religious Affiliation by Median Age**  
**Total Canadian Population**

	Median Age
Catholic	37.8
Protestant	41.9
Christian, n.i.e.	30.1
Muslim	28.1
Christian Orthodox	38.1
<b>(Jewish: full definition)</b>	<b>(40.2)</b>
Jewish: religion alone	41.5
Buddhist	38.0
Hindu	31.4
Sikh	29.4
Para-religious groups	30.2
Other Eastern religions	37.4
No religious affiliation	31.1
Total	37.3

Note: "Christian, n.i.e." includes individuals who identified themselves as Christian but did not report a specific denomination. The category of "No religious affiliation" comprises Agnostics, Atheists, Humanists, those with No Religion, and Other n.i.e.