

# 2011 NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY THE JEWISH POPULATION OF CANADA

PART 9  
**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 Population of Canada**

**Part 9  
Holocaust Survivors**

**By  
Charles Shahrar**

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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 17,300 Holocaust Survivors living in Canada comprising 28.2% of this country's Jewish population of seniors who are 66+ years. In short, more than a quarter of Canada's Jewish elderly are Survivors.
- There are 13,250 Child Survivors and 4,055 Adult Survivors residing in Canada.
- Survivors comprise a larger percentage of individuals who are 85+ years than Jews who are not Survivors: 23.4% and 13.8% respectively.
- The proportion of individuals who are often disabled is larger among Survivors (30.9%) than for Jewish non-Survivors (19.9%) and the total senior population of Canada (22.7%).
- About a quarter (24.7%) of Canadian Survivors live below the poverty line, comprising 4,280 individuals.
- The level of poverty among Survivors is almost twice that of Jewish seniors who are non-Survivors, and more than twice that of all Canadian seniors.
- The poverty rate among Survivors 66-74 years (21.6%) is much higher than Jewish non-Survivors in the same age group (10.2%), and also much higher than the overall Canadian population who are 66-74 years (10.4%).
- The poverty level for Survivors 75+ years (26.5%) is significantly higher than that for Jewish non-Survivors in the same age group (15.2%), and also much higher than that for the total Canadian population who are 75+ years (14%).
- Male Survivors have a much lower risk of poverty than females (18.5% and 30% respectively).
- In the case of male Survivors, increasing age does not seem to be associated with higher levels of poverty. On the other hand, the risk of poverty for female Survivors clearly increases as they age. About a quarter (24.1%) of female Survivors 66-74 years are poor; 31.5% of those 75-84 years are poor; and 36.3% of those 85+ years are poor.
- The segment of Survivors most likely to experience economic disadvantage is "females living alone". Almost half (49.8%) of this group lives under the poverty line. Male Survivors living alone also have a very high poverty level, at 42.1%.
- 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 9: Holocaust Survivors**

This report examines the demographic characteristics of the Holocaust Survivor population in Canada 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 in this country.

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.

It should be noted that anyone who expressed a Jewish affiliation according to the definition used in this report (see

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

	#	%
<b>Jews: Holocaust Survivors</b>	<b>17,300</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Jews: Not Holocaust Survivors	43,970	1.1
(Subtotal: Jews)	61,270	1.5
Non-Jews	4,159,975	98.5
Total 66+ Years	4,221,245	100.0

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

	#	%
<b>Holocaust Survivors</b>	<b>17,300</b>	<b>28.2</b>
Not Survivors	43,970	71.8
Total 66+ Years	61,270	100.0



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 this country. 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 Canadian Jewish seniors (66+ years) is 61,270. Jews comprise 1.5% of the entire elderly population residing in this country. 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 17,300 Survivors living in Canada, comprising 0.4% of the country's total senior population. Survivors represent 28.2% of Canada's Jewish seniors (Table 1B). In short, more than a quarter of Canadian elderly 66+ years are Survivors. Of 61,270 Jewish elderly, 43,970 are not Survivors, or 71.8%.

Age breakdowns in Table 2A reveal that 36.1% of Survivors are 66 - 74 years of age, 40.4% are 75 - 84 years, 22% are 85 - 94 years, and only 1.4% are 95+ years of age.

Survivors have a larger percentage of individuals who are 85+ years than Jews who are non-Survivors: 23.4% and 13.8% respectively. Conversely, only 36.1% of

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

	Total		Holocaust Survivors		Not Survivors	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
66 to 74 years	29,290	47.8	<b>6,255</b>	<b>36.1</b>	23,035	52.4
75 to 84 years	21,860	35.7	<b>6,995</b>	<b>40.4</b>	14,865	33.8
85 to 94 years	9,575	15.6	<b>3,805</b>	<b>22.0</b>	5,775	13.1
95 years and over	550	0.9	<b>250</b>	<b>1.4</b>	300	0.7
Total	61,275	100.0	<b>17,305</b>	<b>100.0</b>	43,975	100.0

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

	#	%
Child Survivors	13,250	76.6
Adult Survivors	4,055	23.4
<b>Total Holocaust Survivors</b>	<b>17,305</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

	Total		Holocaust Survivors		Not Survivors	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Males	28,655	46.8	<b>7,875</b>	<b>45.5</b>	20,785	47.3
Females	32,615	53.2	<b>9,425</b>	<b>54.5</b>	23,190	52.7
Total	61,270	100.0	<b>17,300</b>	<b>100.0</b>	43,975	100.0

Survivors are between 66 and 74 years of age compared to 52.4% 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 13,250 Child Survivors and 4,055 Adult Survivors in Canada. More than three-quarters (76.6%) of total Canadian Survivors were children during the time of the Holocaust and 23.4% 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 in the Canadian Survivor population. Almost forty-six percent (45.5%) of Survivors are males, compared to 54.5% females. There are 7,875 male Survivors in Canada, and 9,425 females.

There is also a discrepancy in favor of females among Jewish non-Survivors 66+ years, albeit a smaller one: 47.3% are males compared to 52.7% 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 Canadian Holocaust Survivors (66+ Years)**

Country of Birth	#	% of Cdn Survivors
Germany	740	4.3
France	460	2.7
Belgium	185	1.1
Netherlands	210	1.2
Luxembourg	0	0.0
Denmark	0	0.0
Norway	0	0.0
Italy	35	0.2
Greece	45	0.3
Albania	0	0.0
Austria	225	1.3
Bulgaria	65	0.4
Czechoslovakia	610	3.5
Hungary	1,835	10.6
Poland	2,925	16.9
Romania	1,590	9.2
Yugoslavia	130	0.8
Estonia	0	0.0
Latvia	185	1.1
Lithuania	140	0.8
Belarus	450	2.6
Georgia	0	0.0
Moldova	180	1.0
Russia	2,175	12.6
Ukraine	2,045	11.8
Morocco	2,910	16.8
Tunisia	130	0.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,300</b>	<b>100.0</b>

As Table 4 shows, the most significant number of Holocaust Survivors in Canada is of Polish origin (2,925), comprising 16.9% of the Survivor population in this country. The next largest group is Moroccan (2,910), comprising 16.8% of the Survivor population. The great majority of this latter group resides in Montreal. There are also large numbers of Russian (2,175), Ukrainian (2,045), Hungarian (1,835), and Rumanian (1,590) Survivors.

Note that there are no Survivors from Estonia and Georgia, among other countries. It may be that there are pockets of such individuals across the country, 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, 1,900 of Canadian Survivors originate from Western Europe, 7,155 were born in Eastern Europe, 5,175 are from the Former Soviet Union, and 3,040 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.

Less than half (40.9%) of Survivors indicated they had no disability at all, 28.2% said they were sometimes disabled, and 30.9% said they were often disabled. In short, 59.1% said they were at least sometimes disabled.

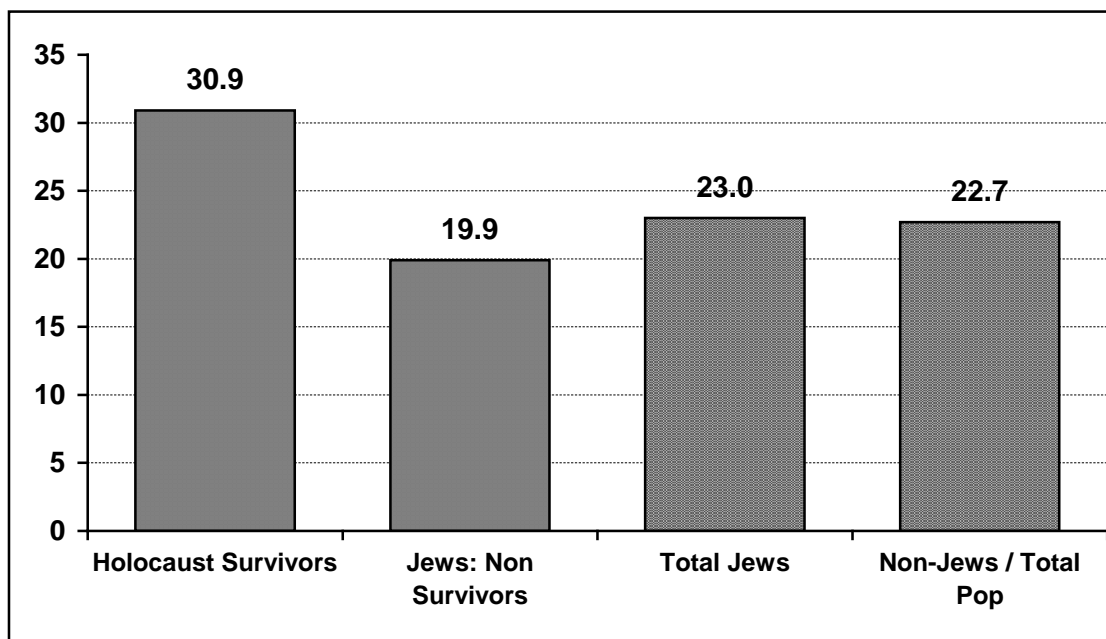
**Table 5A**  
**Disability Breakdowns**  
**Jews, Non-Jews & Totals**  
**Total Canadian Population (66+ Years)**

	Total		Jews		Non-Jews	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Not Disabled	2,117,530	50.2	29,990	48.9	2,087,540	50.2
Disabled (Sometimes)	1,146,920	27.2	17,205	28.1	1,129,710	27.2
Disabled (Often)	956,795	22.7	14,080	23.0	942,715	22.7
Total	4,221,245	100.0	61,275	100.0	4,159,965	100.0

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

	Total		Holocaust Survivors		Not Survivors	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Not Disabled	29,990	48.9	<b>7,070</b>	<b>40.9</b>	22,920	52.1
Disabled (Sometimes)	17,205	28.1	<b>4,885</b>	<b>28.2</b>	12,325	28.0
Disabled (Often)	14,080	23.0	<b>5,350</b>	<b>30.9</b>	8,730	19.9
Total	61,275	100.0	<b>17,305</b>	<b>100.0</b>	43,975	100.0

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



In terms of specific numbers, 7,070 of 17,305 Survivors said they were not disabled, 4,885 were sometimes disabled and 5,350 were often disabled.

As Figure 1 further shows, the proportion of individuals who are often disabled is larger among Survivors (30.9%) than for Jewish non-Survivors (19.9%) and the total senior population of Canada 66+ years (22.7%).

Moreover, the percentage of those who have any disability (often or sometimes) is likewise higher among Survivors (59.1%), compared to Jewish non-Survivors (47.9%) and the total senior population of Canada 66+ years (49.9%).

## **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, 24.7% of Survivors live below the poverty line, comprising 4,280 individuals. About three-quarters (75.3%) are not poor, comprising 13,020 individuals.

Figure 2 further shows that the level of poverty among Holocaust Survivors (24.7%) is significantly higher than that of any of the other senior populations. For instance, Jewish non-Survivors have a poverty level of 12.6%, well below that of Holocaust Survivors. The poverty level for total Canadian seniors 66+ years is even lower at 12%.

In fact, the level of poverty among Survivors is almost twice that of Jewish non-Survivors, and more than twice that of all Canadian seniors. Survivors raise the overall poverty level of seniors in the Jewish community from 12.6% for non-Survivors to 16% for all elderly Jews.

## **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,

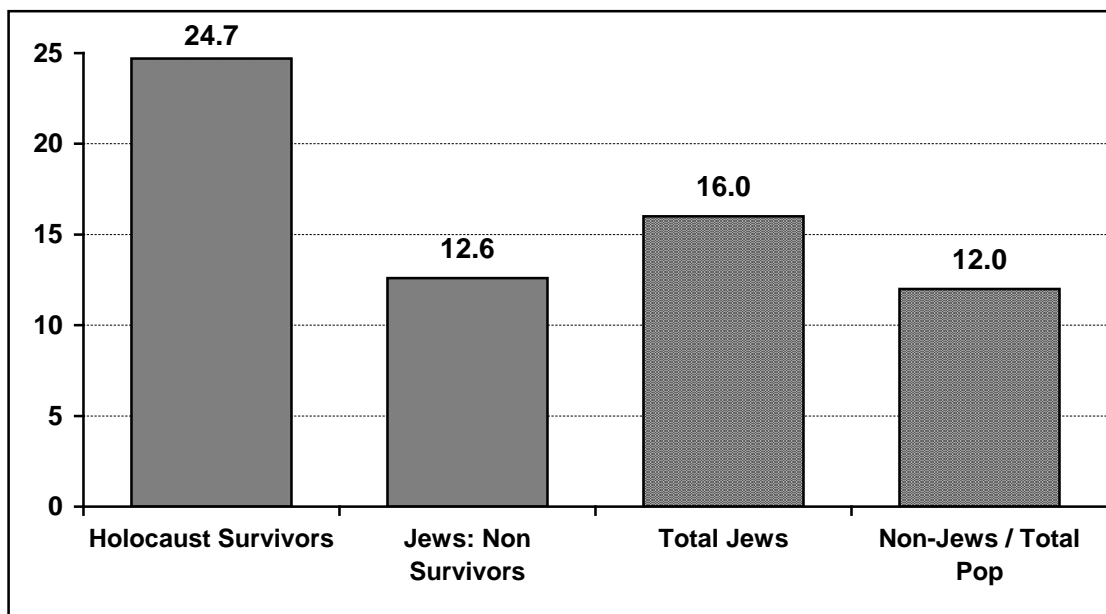
**Table 6A**  
**Poverty Breakdowns: Jews, Non-Jews & Totals**  
**Total Canadian Population (66+ Years)**

	Total		Jews		Non-Jews	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Poor	507,420	12.0	9,805	16.0	497,610	12.0
Not Poor	3,683,140	87.3	51,445	84.0	3,631,700	87.3
Not Applicable	30,685	0.7	25	0.0	30,660	0.7
Total	4,221,245	100.0	61,275	100.0	4,159,970	100.0

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

	Total		Holocaust Survivors		Not Survivors	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Poor	9,805	16.0	<b>4,280</b>	<b>24.7</b>	5,525	12.6
Not Poor	51,445	84.0	<b>13,020</b>	<b>75.3</b>	38,425	87.4
Not Applicable	25	0.0	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	25	0.1
Total	61,275	100.0	<b>17,300</b>	<b>100.0</b>	43,975	100.0

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





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 in Canada. Almost two-thirds (60.6%) of Survivors representing 10,485 individuals live with family; 4.5% or 780 persons live with relatives; 2.1% or 360 persons live with non-relatives; and 32.8% or 5,670 individuals live alone.

The percentage of Survivors who live alone (32.8%) is higher than that of Jewish non-Survivors (29.5%) and the total Canadian senior population (27.6%). Although these differences are not dramatic, they nonetheless suggest that Survivors are more likely to live alone than other elderly populations.

Survivors are also less likely to be in a family arrangement. For instance, 60.6% of Survivors live with their family, whereas 67.2% of non-Survivors do so, and 65.3% of total Canadian 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. Table 8C shows that there is a clear association between these two variables. For instance, 21.6% of Survivors 66-74 years live below the poverty line, compared to 26.5% of those 75+ years. In fact, there are more than twice as many poor Survivors among the older cohort: 1,350 for those 66-74 years, and 2,920 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 (21.6%) is much higher than that of Jewish non-Survivors in the same age group (10.2%), and also much higher than that for the overall population in Canada who are 66-74 years (10.4%). Poverty seems to impact Survivors at a much younger age than the other elderly

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

	Total		Jews		Non-Jews	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Living in a Family	2,757,645	65.3	40,030	65.3	2,717,615	65.3
Living With Relatives	218,895	5.2	1,530	2.5	217,360	5.2
Living With Non-Relatives	77,665	1.8	1,090	1.8	76,575	1.8
Living Alone	1,167,045	27.6	18,625	30.4	1,148,425	27.6
Total	4,221,250	100.0	61,275	100.0	4,159,975	100.0

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

	Total		Holocaust Survivors		Not Survivors	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Living in a Family	40,030	65.3	<b>10,485</b>	<b>60.6</b>	29,545	67.2
Living With Relatives	1,530	2.5	<b>780</b>	<b>4.5</b>	745	1.7
Living With Non-Relatives	1,090	1.8	<b>360</b>	<b>2.1</b>	730	1.7
Living Alone	18,625	30.4	<b>5,670</b>	<b>32.8</b>	12,950	29.5
Total	61,275	100.0	<b>17,295</b>	<b>100.0</b>	43,970	100.0

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

Total Canadian Population	Total	Poor		Not Poor*	
	#	#	%	#	%
66-74 Years	2,294,240	237,890	10.4	2,056,350	89.6
75+ Years	1,927,000	269,530	14.0	1,657,470	86.0
Total	4,221,240	507,420	12.0	3,713,820	88.0

\*Includes Not Applicable.

Total Canadian Jews	Total	Poor		Not Poor*	
	#	#	%	#	%
66-74 Years	29,290	3,690	12.6	25,600	87.4
75+ Years	31,985	6,115	19.1	25,870	80.9
Total	61,275	9,805	16.0	51,470	84.0

\*Includes Not Applicable.

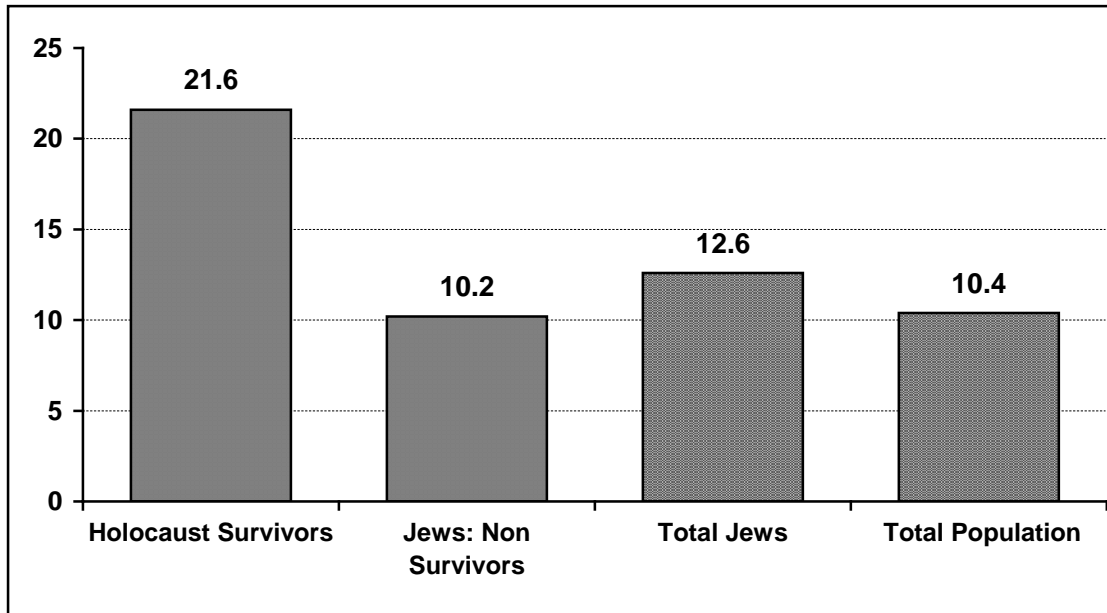
Total Holocaust Survivors	Total	Poor		Not Poor	
	#	#	%	#	%
<b>66-74 Years</b>	<b>6,250</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>4,900</b>	<b>78.4</b>
<b>75+ Years</b>	<b>11,035</b>	<b>2,920</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>8,115</b>	<b>73.5</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,285</b>	<b>4,270</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>13,015</b>	<b>75.3</b>

Total Not Survivors	Total	Poor		Not Poor*	
	#	#	%	#	%
66-74 Years	23,040	2,340	10.2	20,700	89.8
75+ Years	20,925	3,185	15.2	17,760	84.9
Total	43,965	5,525	12.6	38,460	87.5

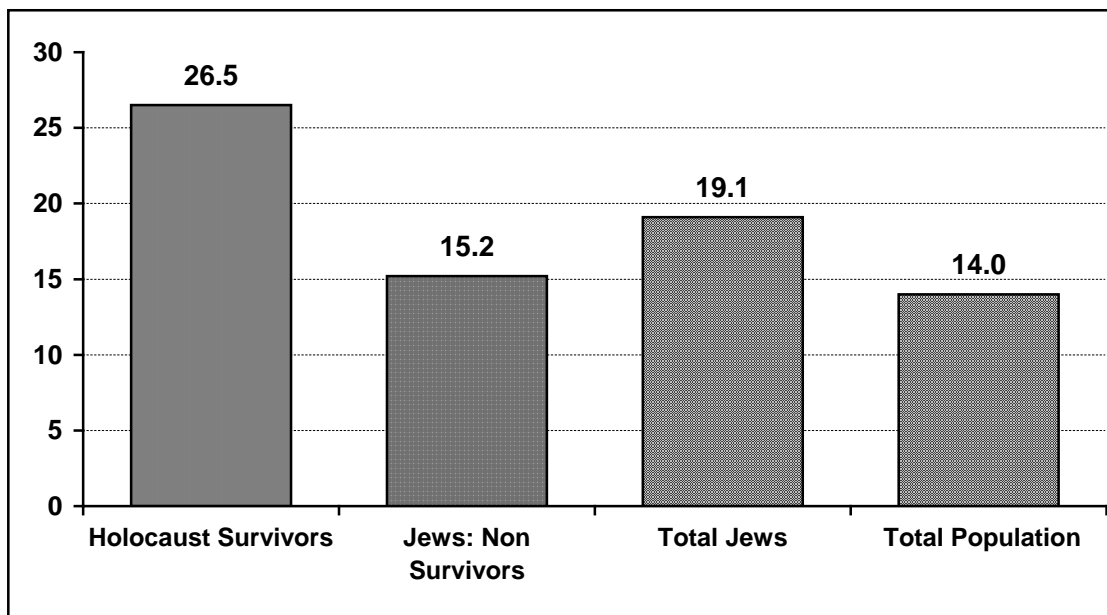
\*Includes Not Applicable.

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**



groups considered in this analysis. Figure 3 provides a visual summary of these findings.

In terms of the 75+ year cohort: The poverty level for older Survivors (26.5%) is significantly higher than that of Jewish non-Survivors in the same age group (15.2%), and also much higher than that for the total Canadian population who are 75+ years (14%). In fact, the poverty level for Survivors 75+ years is almost twice as high as that for the total Canadian population in the same age group. Figure 4 provides a visual description of these findings.

Tables 9A and 9B present detailed tabulations related to gender, age and 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 (18.5% and 30% respectively). There are 1,455 male Survivors who live under the poverty line compared to 2,825 females. In short, there are about twice as many economically disadvantaged female Survivors in Canada 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 does not seem to be associated with higher levels of poverty. For instance, 18.8% of males 66-74 years are poor, compared to 18.4% of males who are 75-84 years, and 18.2% of males who are 85+ years. In fact, the numbers across age ranges are very similar.

The situation changes dramatically for female Survivors. Their risk of poverty clearly increases as they age. About a quarter (24.1%) of female Survivors 66-74 years are poor; 31.5% of those 75-84 years are poor; and 36.3% of those 85+ years are poor. These figures are striking and 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 (28% and 18.5% 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

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

Males	Total	Poor	Not Poor	% Poor
All Ages Combined	7,870	1,455	6,415	<b>18.5</b>

66-74	2,845	535	2,310	<b>18.8</b>
75-84	3,235	595	2,640	<b>18.4</b>
85+	1,790	325	1,465	<b>18.2</b>

Child Survivors	6,080	1,125	4,955	<b>18.5</b>
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Females	Total	Poor	Not Poor	% Poor
All Ages Combined	9,425	2,825	6,600	<b>30.0</b>

66-74	3,405	820	2,585	<b>24.1</b>
75-84	3,760	1,185	2,575	<b>31.5</b>
85+	2,260	820	1,440	<b>36.3</b>

Child Survivors	7,165	2,005	5,160	<b>28.0</b>
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Note: Small discrepancies are due to rounding errors.

one in ten (10.3%) of Canada's Holocaust Survivors is both poor and often disabled, comprising 1,785 people. A further 6.4% is poor and sometimes disabled. All in all, 16.7% of the Survivor population is both poor and at least sometimes disabled.

Figure 5 shows that Survivors are much more likely to be poor and often disabled than other senior populations. For instance, whereas 10.3% of Survivors are poor and often disabled, only 3.5% of Jewish non-Survivors are experiencing such challenges. The discrepancy is similar for the total Canadian population 66+ years, where only 3.4% are experiencing such circumstances.

Figure 6 shows the percentages of selected senior populations who are poor and disabled (often or sometimes). Holocaust Survivors again have a much higher proportion (16.7%) than either Jewish non-Survivors (6.8%) or the total Canadian elderly population 66+ years (6.6%).

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". Almost half (49.8%) of this group live under the poverty line. Male Survivors living alone also have a very high poverty level, at 42.1%.

The next highest group at risk for poverty is "females who are often disabled" (38.3%), followed by "females 85+ years" (36.3%), and "females 75-84 years" (31.5%). The rest of the segments described in this graph have poverty levels at or below 30%.

It is apparent from this graph that there are several 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 in Geographic Areas**

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

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

	Total		Jews		Non-Jews	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Poor / Often Disabled	144,600	3.4	3,345	5.5	141,255	3.4
Poor / Sometimes Disabled	134,375	3.2	2,575	4.2	131,805	3.2
Poor Not Disabled	228,440	5.4	3,885	6.3	224,555	5.4
Not Poor / Often Disabled	801,485	19	10,720	17.5	790,770	19
Not Poor / Sometimes Disabled	1,005,600	23.8	14,630	23.9	990,975	23.8
Not Poor Not Disabled / Other Combinations*	1,906,740	45.2	26,105	42.6	1,880,620	45.2
Total	4,221,240	100	61,260	100	4,159,980	100

\*Includes Not Applicable.

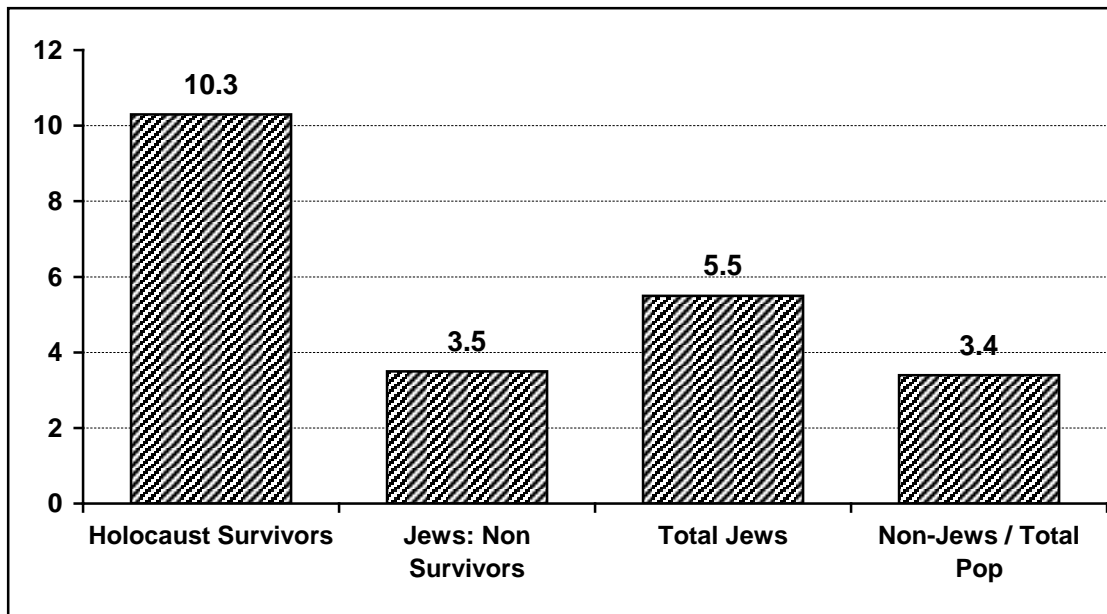
**Table 10B**  
**Poverty / Disability Interactions**  
**Holocaust Survivors & Not Survivors**  
**Total Canadian Jewish Population (66+ Years)**

	Total		Holocaust Survivors		Not Survivors	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Poor / Often Disabled	3,345	5.5	<b>1,785</b>	<b>10.3</b>	1,560	3.5
Poor / Sometimes Disabled	2,575	4.2	<b>1,110</b>	<b>6.4</b>	1,465	3.3
Poor Not Disabled	3,885	6.3	<b>1,390</b>	<b>8.0</b>	2,495	5.7
Not Poor / Often Disabled	10,720	17.5	<b>3,565</b>	<b>20.6</b>	7,155	16.3
Not Poor / Sometimes Disabled	14,630	23.9	<b>3,775</b>	<b>21.8</b>	10,855	24.7
Not Poor Not Disabled	26,105	42.6	<b>5,680</b>	<b>32.8</b>	20,415	46.5
Total	61,260	100.0	<b>17,305</b>	<b>100.0</b>	43,945	100.0

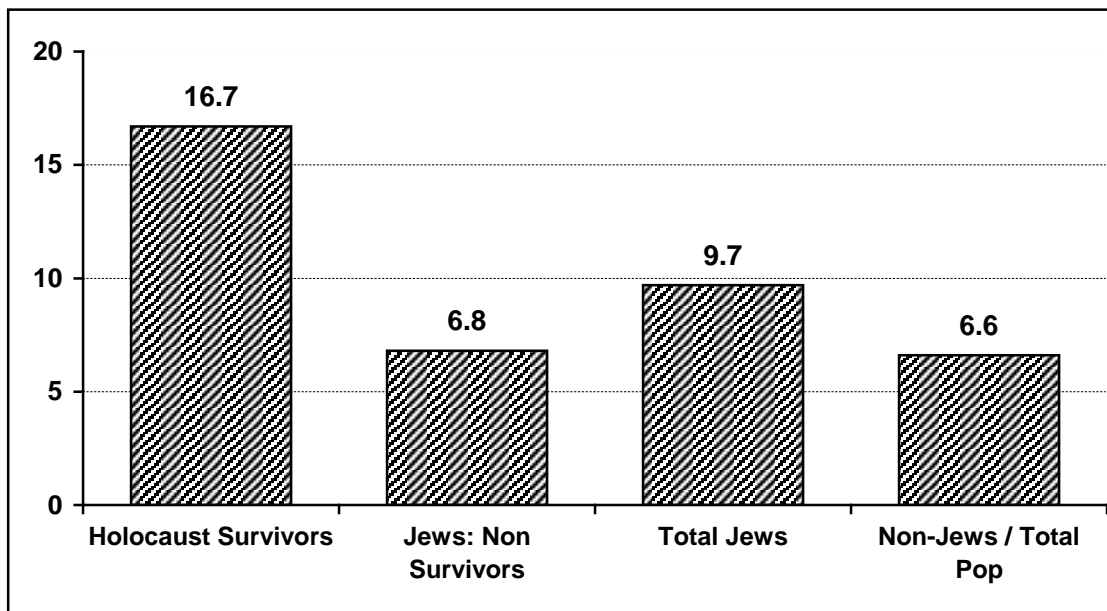
Note: Small discrepancies are due to rounding errors.



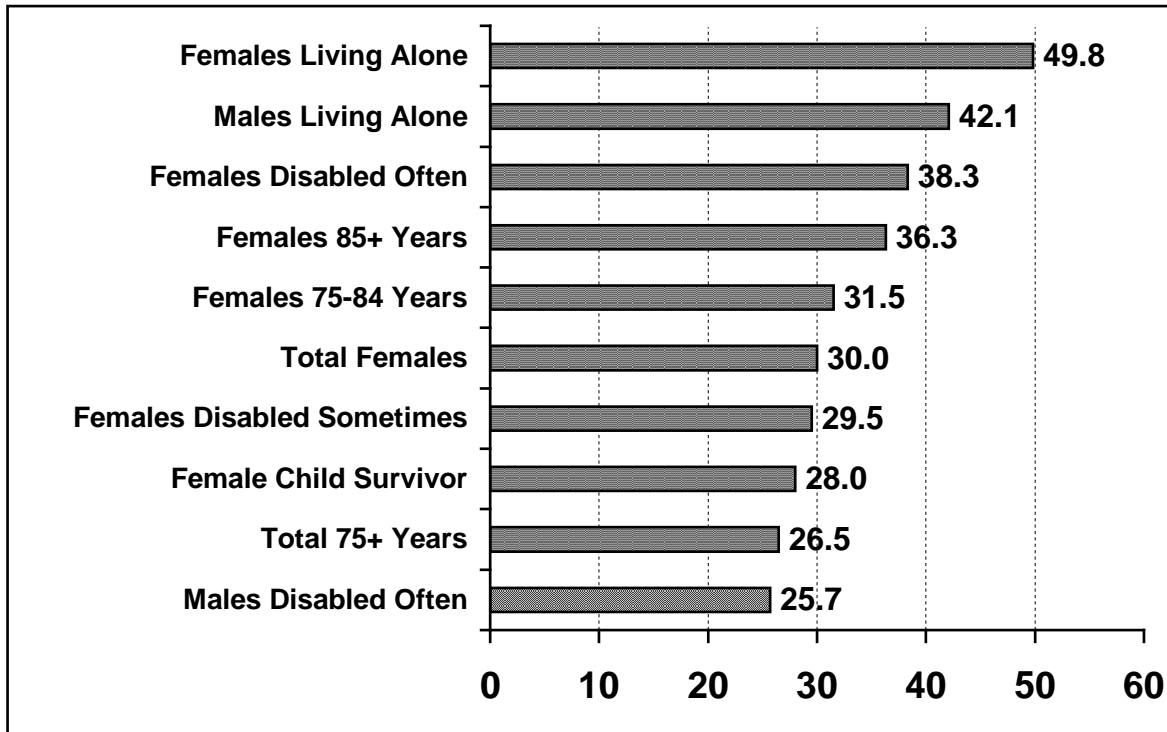
**Figure 5**  
**Poor & Often Disabled: % of Selected Populations (66+ Years)**



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



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



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 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.

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 offsetting 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.