

REPORT OF THE CENSUS COMMITTEE

Introduction

In June, 1950, the Board of Directors of the Jewish Community Council voted to conduct a census to determine the number of Jews in Bangor and in the surrounding areas, and to elicit additional information pertinent to the welfare of the community as well as to help determine the future of the Council.

The committee appointed to do this met to determine the questions to be asked and to plan how best to secure the cooperation of the entire community. The services of the Jewish Welfare Board were utilized with regards to the questions asked, the form utilized, and the method of approach. The committee also authorized questions relating to records of service in the armed forces of those interviewed, which information was to be passed to the Jewish War Veterans.

In October, after much publicity, the Census was undertaken. Enumerators had been solicited who met with the chairman of the Census Committee to discuss how to secure the answers to the questions and to practice with each other filling in the information requested. The city was divided into five zones for census purposes, each headed by a captain and a team of workers. The outlying areas were solicited by volunteers, by phone calls, and by mail.

As the reports were turned in to the Council office they were checked to ascertain that all the information was included thereon, and wherever necessary direct phone calls were made to the individuals to complete the census form. Wherever a mixed marriage was encountered the non-Jewish member of the family was called personally to inquire whether he or she wished to be included in the census.

For every form that was distributed, a card index was kept to be certain that every census form was returned and checked against the master file. One week was used to complete the census in the community.

Once the census forms had been collected they were tabulated and prepared for tables. When the tabulation was completed, the results were discussed with Myron Blanchard, consultant of the Jewish Welfare Board, and put into the form presented at this time.

The information on each of the census forms was transferred to a permanent card for record keeping at the Council office. The Committee recommends that a standing committee be appointed to bring the permanent records up to date so that current results be kept on all the information so vitally necessary for the continued well-being of the Council.

The members of the committee were Mrs. Vernon Segal, Mrs. Peter Gotlieb, Mrs. Alfred Todtman, and Dr. Joseph Ornstein.

Respectfully submitted,
Milford Cohen,
Chairman

TABLE I

Age Distribution of the Jewish Community of Bangor and Surrounding Areas							
Age	Bangor		Outlying Areas		Total		% of Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Under 1	2				2		
1-4	62	54	12	11	74	65	10%
5-9	57	46	6	6	63	52	8%
10-13	28	21	2	4	30	25	4%
14-17	30	29	2	4	32	33	5%
18-30	93	95	15	12	108	107	16%
31-60	292	269	35	33	327	302	46%
over 60	70	65	11	9	81	74	11%
Total	634	579	83	79	717	658	*100%

* This represents close to 95% of all Jewish persons

COMMENTS

1. The outlying areas include Brewer, Orono, Old Town, Hampden, Ellsworth, Belfast, Bucksport, and Winterport.
2. Twelve percent of the total Jewish population lives in the outlying areas. The report indicates the need to provide services for these individuals.
3. The 139 children through 4 years of age represent the potential for day camp, Hebrew school, and nursery school for the immediate years ahead.
4. The table indicates a higher birth rate during the past 4 years than in the previous 5 years.
5. Eleven percent of the Jewish individuals in the area are over 60 years of age, indicating a possible area for programming with this age group.

TABLE IIA

The Number of Years that Members of the Jewish Community Have Been Living in Bangor and in the Outlying Areas				
Years	Males	Females	Total	% of Total
Under 1 year	25	20	45	3%
1-5 years	182	179	361	26%
6-10 years	86	70	156	11%
11-20 years	113	124	237	17%
21-30 years	96	94	190	14%
31-40 years	100	82	182	13%
41-50 years	100	60	160	12%
over 51 years	25	29	54	4%
Totals	717	658	1375	100%

TABLE IIB

The Number of Years of Residence of Those over 21 years of Age and Over						
Age	Number	0-5 yrs.	6-10 yrs.	11-20 yrs.	21-30 yrs.	Over 30
21-30	171	53	15	31	72	
31-40	260	78	30	30	35	87
41-50	225	35	10	35	40	105
51-60	144	13	4	14	21	92
Over 60	155	3	9	12	19	111
Totals	955	183	68	122	187	395

COMMENTS

1. More than 1/3 of all adults 21 years of age and over have been living in the vicinity more than 30 years. This is an indication of the stability of our Jewish population.

TABLE III

Marital Status of Jewish Population of Those of 18 Years of Age and Over					
	Bangor		Outlying Areas		Total
	m.	f.	m.	f.	
Single	115	69	11	7	202
Married*	322	311	45	42	720
Divorced	3	6	1	1	11
Widowed	15	43	3	4	65
Total	455	429	60	54	998

* This apparent discrepancy here is due to expressed desires in intermarriages where the non-Jewish spouse was not included in the count.

COMMENTS

1. The low divorce rate indicates a great deal of marital stability within our population.
2. It interesting to note that of those over 18 years of age there are 202 individuals who have not married. Of this figure 66% are male and 34% are female.

TABLE IV

Place of Birth						
Place	Bangor		Outlying Areas		Total	% of Total
	m.	f.	m.	f.		
Bangor	505	266	5	5	571	42
Outlying Areas			21	21	42	3
New England outside of area	120	113	18	20	271	20
U.S.A. out- side of N.E.	48	54	21	18	141	10
Out of U.S.	161	156	18	15	350	25
Total	634	579	83	79	1375	100%

COMMENTS

1. It is interesting to note that 45% of the individuals in the area were born in or around Bangor.
2. It is also interesting to note that 25% were born in the entire New England area.
3. The percentage of foreign-born is interesting in line with those born in the United States.

TABLE V

Citizenship						
	Bangor		Outlying Areas		Total	% of Total
	m.	f.	m.	f.		
Citizen	607	542	83	77	1309	95
Non-Citizen	27	37	---	2	66	5
Total	634	579	83	79	1375	100%

COMMENTS

1. Attention should be given to help those who are not citizens to become such citizens. It is interesting to note that the larger percentage of non-citizens are women.

TABLE VI

Home Ownership (Family Basis)				
	Bangor	Outlying Areas	Total	% of Total
Owners	246	37	283	65
Non-Owners	135	19	154	35
Total	381	56	437	100%

COMMENTS

1. The large percentage of home owners in this area indicates a good deal of stability, which is important in planning for the future.

TABLE VII A

Number of Persons Living in Families			
No. of Individuals in	Bangor	Outlying Areas	Total
1	77	10	87
2	97	15	112
3	109	13	122
4	101	9	110
5	25	7	32
6	12	2	14
7	2	---	2
Total 1213	423 families	56	479

COMMENTS

1. The average family consists of 2.9 individuals. This would mean 2 parents plus 1 child. This indicates a smaller size family than is the case in most communities. It is smaller both for the national non-Jewish average as well as the national Jewish average.

TABLE VII B

Number of Persons Living in Households			
No. of Individuals In	Bangor	Outlying Areas	Total
1	44	10	54
2	85	15	100
3	98	13	111
4	101	9	110
5	28	7	35
6	18	2	20
7	7	---	7
Total	381	56	437

COMMENTS

1. The table indicates that 3.1 individuals live in the average household.

TABLE VIII

Secular Education					
Education	Bangor		Outlying Areas		Total
	m.	f.	m.	f.	
Under Age	85	69	14	15	183
None	58	48	5	8	119
Grade School	126	122	12	11	271
High School	185	222	21	23	451
College	158	114	21	22	315
Graduate Work	22	4	10	---	36
Total	634	579	83	79	1375

COMMENTS

1. A high level of educational achievement is indicated in this table. The educational attainment should indicate direct the programs of the Council.

TABLE IX

Jewish Education					
Education	Bangor		Outlying Areas		Total
	m.	f.	m.	f.	
Under Age	99	77	14	14	204
No Instruction	38	137	4	23	202
At Home	93	114	19	14	240
Sunday School	5	39	10	11	65
Hebrew School	363	202	30	15	610
Parochial School	36	10	6	2	54
Total	634	579	83	79	1375

COMMENTS

1. We have not been able to determine the precise quality of the Jewish education as indicated in the census. However, the percentage of those who have received their education in Hebrew Schools indicate a good level of Jewish education.
2. It is of utmost importance to indicate that there are a large percentage of individuals in the area who have received no instruction at all. Of this total, the overwhelming number without Jewish education consists of women.

TABLE X

Occupation					
Occupation	Bangor		Outlying Areas		Total
	m.	f.	m.	f.	
Retail	225	8	26	2	259
Wholesale	62	--	11	--	73
Manufacturing	43	2	6	--	51
Farming	3	--	2	1	6
Professional	43	8	7	--	58
Transportation	2	--	--	--	2
Laborer	18	3	1	--	22
Retired	19	2	2	--	23
Clerical	8	14	--	2	24
Unemployed	6	6	--	--	12
Armed Services	3	--	1	--	4
Total	480	43	56	5	534
Self employed	237	11	33	2	336
Not self-employed	120	23	16	2	161
Total	407	34	52	4	497

COMMENTS

1. The table indicates a high percentage of white collar workers.
2. A small group of unemployed is indicated by the table.
3. The small labor class is almost insignificant in the overall picture.
4. A high degree of ownership and self-employment is indicated in the survey.

TABLE XI A

Affiliation With Jewish Organizations					
Organization	Bangor		Outlying Areas		Total
	m.	f.	m.	f.	
Beth Israel Cong.	197	106	22	6	331
Beth Israel Brotherhood	63	---	2	---	65
Beth Israel Sisterhood	---	121	---	1	122
Toldos Itzhok Cong.	35	20	3	---	58
Toldos Itzhok Sisterhood	-	13	---	1	14
Beth Abraham Cong.	81	35	1	1	118
Beth Abraham Sisterhood	--	58	--	2	60
Ladies Aid	---	105	---	18	123
Sons of Israel, O.T.	4	1	12	1	18
B'nai B'rith	228	--	31	--	259
B'nai B'rith Women	---	247	---	9	256
Hadassah	---	247	---	23	270
Center Sisterhood	---	218	--	6	224
Young Adults	35	24	3	1	63
Z.O.A.	186	---	27	---	213
Jewish War Veterans	65	2	3	---	70
Others	33	34	2	1	70
Total	927	1231	106	70	2334

COMMENTS

1. The large total figure represents the fact that some people belong to two or more organizations.

TAB. XI B

How Many Organizations People Over 18 Belong To			
Number	Male	Female	Total
0	81	80	161
1	124	78	202
2	111	58	169
3	95	81	176
4	73	85	158
5	13	57	70
6	6	34	40
7	---	5	5
8	---	---	---
9	1	---	1
Total	504	478	982

COMMENTS

1. The median for the male members is 1.4 and for the females 2.3.
2. We should be cognizant of the fact that 161 individuals do not belong to any organization in the community. This figure may be in some part colored by the fact that some of the individuals in this category belong to the Council by virtue of their contributions to the United Jewish Appeal. However, it is a challenge to the Council as well as the organizations in the community to involve these individuals in organized Jewish life.

TABLE XII A

Affiliation With General Community Organizations					
Organization	Bangor		Outlying Areas		Total
	m.	f.	m.	f.	
Elks	48	---	8	---	56
Masons	34	---	15	---	49
Shriners	21	---	8	---	29
Lions	8	---	4	---	12
Rotary	3	---	5	---	8
Eastern Star	---	12	---	1	13
Boy Scouts	32	---	1	---	33
Girl Scouts	---	25	---	3	28
I.O.O.F.	13	---	8	---	21
YMCA	40	---	5	---	45
YWCA	---	5	---	2	7
American Legion	45	---	3	---	48
V.F.W.	17	---	3	---	20
Others	154	242	19	9	430
Total	415	290	79	15	799

COMMENTS

1. The total represents some overlap in that an individual may belong to two or more organizations. This indicates even more strongly that a considerable number of people do not participate in general community organizations.

TABLE XII B

How Many General Community Organizations A Person Belongs To			
Number	Male	Female	Total
1	118	81	199
2	61	53	114
3	29	24	53
4	26	5	31
5	3	--	3
6	3	2	5
7	2	2	4
8	2	--	2
Total	244	167	411

COMMENTS

1. The median for men is 1.9 and for women 1.1. Only a very small part of the Jewish population participates intensively in general community organizational life.