

2 Geographical distribution

One of the most striking features of the Jewish population in Hungary is its high degree of spatial concentration. Nearly 90 per cent were currently living in Budapest (see Figure 2), principally due to the pattern of destruction during the Second World War. Before the Holocaust, most Hungarian Jews lived in the provinces, with only between 25 and 30 per cent in Budapest. The vast majority of Hungary's provincial Jewish population was annihilated, but about two-thirds of the Jews of

Budapest survived. Table 3 shows the marked residential concentration of Jews in Budapest over the past fifty years. Whereas some 87 per cent of respondents lived in Budapest, only 69 per cent were born there.

Table 4 shows that the Jews of Budapest were concentrated in certain districts of the city. It also provides a clear indication of the emerging residential patterns and trends, particularly among the younger groups. For example, there has been a steady increase in the percentage of Jews living in district 2, a so-called 'green belt' district on the hilly Buda side of the city, where residence implies higher social status. This district was popular among Jews before 1945 and its popularity is apparently growing again among younger Jews. However, there was no such increase in districts 11 and 12, which historically enjoyed a similar ecological and social status as district 2 but were never as popular among Budapest's Jews. In the rundown, inner-city districts 6, 7 and 8, the proportion of Jews in the population decreased with age. In district 13, which is popular with Jews, the trend was unclear. The proportion of middle-aged people (the 35–55 cohort) was highest there, but it decreased markedly in the younger age groups.

Figure 2: Residential distribution of Jews in Hungary

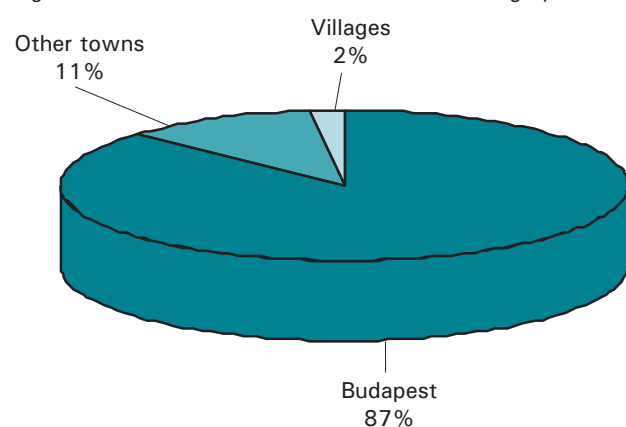


Table 3: Residential location of the sample, their fathers and their grandfathers (%)

Location	Respondents' place of birth	Respondents' current residence	Father's place of longest residence	Grandfather's place of longest residence
Budapest	69	87	71	39
Other urban areas	20	11	19	29
Rural areas	7	2	7	15
Abroad*	4	–	3	7
Missing	–	–	–	10
Total	100	100	100	100
N	2,012	2,015	2,003	1,822

* In the case of the parents and grandparents, 'abroad' is generally taken to mean territories that once belonged to Hungary but that are no longer part of it.

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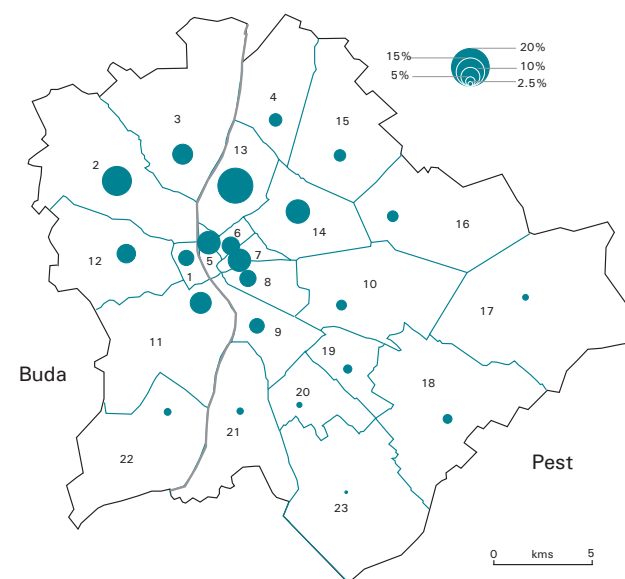
It is striking that the proportion of the Jewish population living in the outlying districts of Budapest (districts 16, 19, 20, 22) was much higher among younger people than those born

Table 4: Residential location of respondents and their children in Budapest (%)

District	Respondents born pre-1945	Respondents born post-1945	Children of all respondents
1	3.2	3.5	3.7
2	11.7	12.7	14.1
3	6.7	6.0	7.6
4	2.4	2.4	5.0
5	9.5	7.6	3.1
6	4.5	4.7	3.5
7	7.9	7.6	6.4
8	4.0	4.0	3.7
9	3.6	3.2	3.9
10	2.1	1.5	1.4
11	7.4	6.6	8.8
12	4.7	5.2	5.2
13	17.3	18.5	13.1
14	8.7	8.3	9.9
15	2.2	2.0	3.2
16	0.8	1.7	2.4
17	0.5	0.5	0.8
18	1.2	1.2	1.0
19	0.4	1.0	1.1
20	0.1	0.4	0.7
21	0.5	0.6	0.5
22	0.4	0.7	0.8
23	0.1	0.1	0.0
Total	100	100	100
N	758	1,565	829
Conurbation (N)	30	47	97
Countryside (N)	117	203	192

before 1945. This difference was even greater in the case of the children of respondents.³ Table 4 also shows that the younger generation was significantly overrepresented in suburban areas, both those beyond of the administrative borders of the capital and those within Budapest itself.

Figure 3: Jewish residents of administrative districts of Budapest (% of total Budapest Jewish population)



Surprisingly, among the children's generation, there was an increase in the proportion of those living outside Budapest (as distinct from those living in the greater Budapest conurbation), a feature that was not apparent among the respondents, whether they were born before or after 1945. As the temporary addresses of those living in student residences or on army service have not been included in the data, the higher rate of the children currently living outside Budapest suggests a slight increase in the proportion of the Jewish population in the countryside. However, closer analysis of the data also shows that these people were living in provincial urban or suburban communities rather than in strictly rural areas.

³ 'Children' here refers to all the children of the respondents: i.e. this rate was higher among the children of respondents than among the respondents. We asked respondents where their children lived and how old they were. All the statements about 'children' are based on these data.

Another phenomenon should be noted: the number of children of Jewish families who were living permanently outside Hungary was remarkably high. Among all the children of all the respondents, 1 in 9 lived permanently outside Hungary.⁴ Furthermore,

this proportion was much higher than that of the non-Jewish population in the same age groups, implying that many more of the respondents' children have emigrated from Hungary than have those in the Hungarian population at large.

⁴ We do not have data on this for previous generations because the sample included only the population living in Hungary permanently.

