

# **PART 1**

## **Descriptive analysis of the outlook of Jews in London and the South-east**



## 1 Demographic and socio-economic indicators

This study sheds light on what it is that defines an individual's outlook and how one outlook type differs from another in terms of various beliefs, behaviours, practices and attachments. Only the most statistically interesting and significant data are presented here.

JPR's 2002 survey of the Jews in London and the South-east measured outlook using the scale developed for the 2001 American Jewish Identity Survey (AJIS).<sup>5</sup> Outlook is self-defined and allows respondents to identify themselves in terms of self-perceived degrees of 'Jewishness'. This allows the researcher to look objectively at what is essentially a 'subjective state of mind'.<sup>6</sup>

The 2002 Greater London survey included the following outlook question.

When it comes to your outlook, how do you regard yourself?  
*Tick one only*

- Secular
- Somewhat Secular
- Somewhat Religious
- Religious

The question was placed within a section of the survey called 'Being Jewish', the implicit assumption being, therefore, that it was outlook from a *Jewish* perspective that was being referred to. The question attracted 2,867 responses representing 96.7 per cent of the sample (see Table 1).<sup>7</sup> Given

5 Mayer, Kosmin and Keysar, 35.

6 Ibid., 37.

7 This question was also posed in Leeds, where 93 per cent of respondents answered in the following proportions: 20 per cent Secular, 27 per cent Somewhat Secular, 44 per cent Somewhat Religious and 9 per cent Religious. The Leeds community was, therefore, more religious in its outlook than the London community (47 per cent were Secular or Somewhat Secular in Leeds compared to 58 per cent in London). See S. Waterman, *The Leeds Jewish Community Study* (London: Institute for Jewish Policy Research 2003 forthcoming).

Table 1: Survey results: secular-religious outlook

Outlook	Valid responses % (count)	
Secular	24.9 (714)	SSS* 57.5 (1,648)
Somewhat Secular	32.6 (934)	
Somewhat Religious	34.0 (976)	SRR** 42.5 (1,219)
Religious	8.5 (243)	

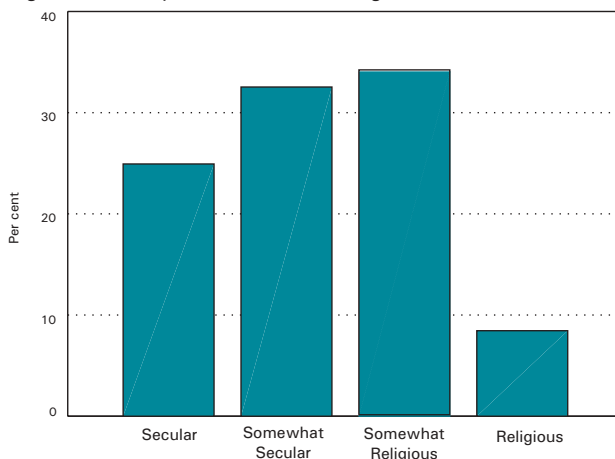
\* Secular and Somewhat Secular combined

\*\* Somewhat Religious and Religious combined

that there were only four rigid options available (a relatively limited number for such a scale) this very high level of response suggests that respondents had virtually no difficulty at all in locating themselves on the spectrum.

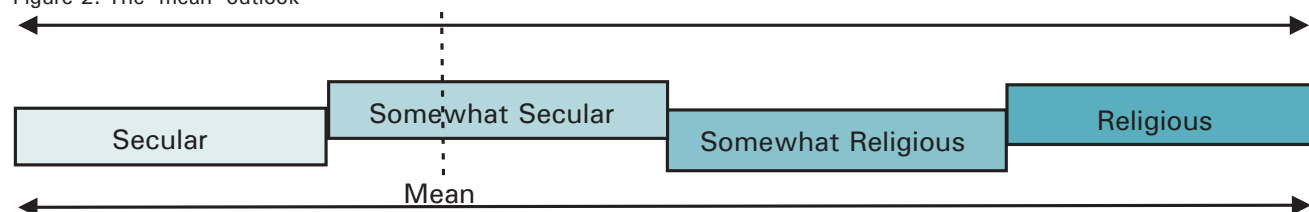
Figure 1 shows that the majority of the sample located themselves on the secular side of the secular-religious continuum. One-quarter of the sample defined themselves as Secular (24.9 per cent) and well over half (57.5 per cent) fell into the Secular/Somewhat Secular category (SSS).<sup>8</sup> Less

Figure 1: Survey results: secular-religious outlook



8 The 2001 AJIS survey found that only 43 per cent of its sample fell into this category (Mayer, Kosmin and Keysar, 43), suggesting that respondents in the US were less inclined than those in the United Kingdom to describe themselves as secular.

Figure 2: The 'mean' outlook



than a tenth of the sample considered their outlook to be Religious (8.5 per cent).

The extent to which this sample is skewed towards the secular is demonstrated in Figure 2. In terms of an average or a 'mean' outlook we find that it lies towards the secular end of Somewhat Secular.

It is important to note that this result, as well as all the analysis that follows, is representative of the *sample* and does not necessarily reflect the precise make-up of the UK Jewish population (in terms of age, gender and affiliation). That said, the current data provide a good picture of the outlook of the Jewish population in the United Kingdom.

### Outlook by socio-economic profile

Table 2 presents key socio-economic indicators of the sample related to outlook.

#### Gender

More men than expected responded to the questionnaire and more men than women considered themselves to have a Religious outlook. Nonetheless, since differences were small, the data suggest that, surprisingly, for this sample gender had *no* significant impact on outlook.

#### Age

The data failed to highlight any clear relationship between age and outlook based on standard

Table 2: Social, economic and demographic profile, by outlook

Indicator	Secular	Somewhat Secular	Somewhat Religious	Religious	Sample mean
Gender (% male)	53	50	53	57	52
Age (median)	58	54	56	54	56
Marital status (% married)	70	73	77	79	74
Household size (people per household)	2.5	2.73	2.78	3.41	2.75
Household (% couple with children)	16	23	23	25	21
Household (% couple without children)	38	32	33	27	33
Household (% single person)	20	18	18	17	19
Education (% at least A-Level)	59	55	57	70	58
Education (% postgraduate or professional diploma)	33	29	31	40	31
Personal income (% over £50,000)	30	33	34	35	33
Household income (% over £50,000)	50	57	57	55	55
Home ownership (% own home outright)	66	60	65	63	63

statistical summaries. It is not possible to say that the younger tended to be less religious than the older or vice versa. The sample is skewed towards the older end of the age scale, the mean age being 57 and the median age 56, and this may be the reason for this surprising result. Different age-groups were analysed using several breakdowns but none showed any particularly revealing relationship or trends.

### **Marriage**

There was a high propensity in the sample towards marriage (74 per cent) and the proportion was almost 10 per cent higher for the Religious category than for the Secular. When comparing the combined Secular and Somewhat Secular group (SSS) with the combined Religious and Somewhat Religious group (SRR),<sup>9</sup> there was still a slightly greater tendency for the religious to marry than the secular, but not to any significant extent (72 per cent SSS against 78 per cent SRR). There was, however, a clear difference in terms of the 'type of marriage' of respondents. Those who defined themselves as Secular were two to three times more likely to have had only a civil or Registry Office marriage compared with any of the other three outlook groups.

### **Household size and composition**

There was a clear relationship between outlook and household size, although it was not a smooth one: the more religious the outlook the greater the household size. However, two points stand out: the disproportionately larger Religious household size of 3.41 persons, and the similarity in household size between the Somewhat Secular (2.73) and the Somewhat Religious (2.78). Overall the households were large, with even the Secular group showing a household size of 2.5 persons, larger than the UK national average of 2.4.<sup>10</sup>

From the perspective of household composition the pattern was similar. Single-person households were more likely to be Secular, although the data will have been compromised by the sample's under-representation of people living in flats. Households consisting of a couple with children were 1.5 times more likely to be Religious than Secular.

9 In the analysis it was often necessary, for clarity or statistical significance, to merge the four outlook types into two, secular and religious, which are referred to as SSS and SRR.

10 For the mean household size in England and Wales, see the Office for National Statistics, [www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/profiles/commentaries/housing.asp](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/profiles/commentaries/housing.asp) (viewed 16 June 2003).

Interestingly, on both of these measures the Somewhat Secular and Somewhat Religious groups were virtually identical.

### **Income**

In general the correlation of outlook with *personal* income showed a clear but unpronounced relationship: the nearer the religious end of the continuum, the higher the income. Among those with a personal annual income of over £50,000, the Religious made up the largest proportion of earners (35 per cent) but the Somewhat Secular and the Somewhat Religious were only 1 or 2 percentage points below this, and again showed a surprising similarity. The outlook type that stands out on this scale was Secular, with 30 per cent earning over £50,000, five percentage points fewer than the Religious group. The results also suggest that there is really very little relationship between *household* income and outlook.

### **Social class**

A major finding of the survey is that there appears to be surprisingly little differentiation between outlook types as measured against socio-economic indicators.

Using the standard NS-SEC analytic categories no relationship was observed between class and outlook. Approximately one-third of each outlook type belonged to Class I (Higher managerial and professional) and one-third belonged to Class II (Lower managerial and professional).

### **Geographic location**

The sample was selected based on what was known about the geographic location of the Jewish community in Greater London in 2000,<sup>11</sup> with two-thirds (65 per cent) being located in North or North-west London. For the purposes of data analysis the set was divided into eight localities, as shown in Table 3.

No neat and tidy relationship existed between outlook and location. However, two regions were considerably more Secular than the others: South London (51 per cent) and Inner London (35 per cent).

Based on the SSS/SRR dichotomy, apart from two regions (South and Inner London) where the

11 Becher, Waterman, Kosmin and Thomson, 8–10.

secular dominated, the ratio of SSS:SRR was roughly the same, about 14:11 (Table 4). No region had more religious than secular respondents. The region in which the greatest proportion of SRR lived was Outer North-west London (i.e. Edgware, Stanmore, Northwood and Wembley),

where almost half (48 per cent) of the respondents had an SRR outlook. The region in which the greatest proportion of SSS lived was South London (79 per cent), with Inner London also having a substantial proportion of SSS (65 per cent).

Table 3: Sample, by geographic location

Region	% of sample	Postcodes included in the survey
Outer North-west London	30	HA, NW9
Highgate and Garden Suburb	17	N2, N6, N10, NW11
Redbridge	13	IG1, IG2, IG4, IG5
Outer North London	9	N12, N13, N14, N20, N21
Inner London	9	NW1, NW2, NW3, NW6, NW8, W8, W14
South Hertfordshire	8	WD
South London	7	BR, CR, DA, KT, SE, SM, SW, TW
Essex	6	IG6, IG7, IG8

Table 4: Region, by secular–religious dichotomy

	South Herts	Outer North-west London	Outer North London	Hampstead and Highgate	Inner London	Redbridge	Essex	South London
SSS* %	57	52	56	56	65	57	57	79
SRR** %	43	48	44	44	35	43	43	21

\* Secular and Somewhat Secular combined

\*\* Somewhat Religious and Religious combined