

UJA-Federation of New York
The Jewish Community Study of New York: 2002

Special Report

Nazi Victims in the New York Area: Selected Topics

Report prepared by

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for

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The Jewish Community Study of New York, 2002 was commissioned by UJA-Federation of New York to provide information about Jewish households in the eight-county New York Area that would be useful for policy and planning decisions. This study area includes the five boroughs of New York City (Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island), Nassau, Suffolk, and Westchester Counties. The information is based on a stratified random sample survey of 4,500 Jewish households interviewed between March and September of 2002.

Initial findings from the Study and a Note on Methodology are included in *The Jewish Community Study of New York, 2002: Highlights*, released in June, 2003 and available at www.ujafedny.org/jewishcommunitystudy. Additional reports based on the survey data will be released early in 2004.

PREFACE

There are 55,000 Jewish victims of Nazi persecution living in the New York Area. Many Nazi victims are old and frail and in critical need of our assistance.

At UJA-Federation of New York, we are dedicated to supporting all New York's elderly. What's more, our strategic guidelines mandate that we support survivors wherever they live, as part of our global mission to care for all members of our community – in New York, in Israel, and throughout the world. Together with our agency partners, we provide the necessary home care and congregate care for frail elderly survivors to live out their lives independently and with dignity.

The following *Special Report on Nazi Victims in the New York Area: Selected Topics* provides a lens through which we can ascertain the sheer numbers of Nazi victims living in the New York Area today, as well as gain insight into *who* these members of our community are and *what* their needs are. With this knowledge, we can fulfill our mission to be there for them.

Nazi Victims in the New York Area: Selected Topics

Introduction

There is growing concern about the situation of Nazi victims today, nearly 60 years after the Holocaust. Substantial resources have become available to meet the needs of Nazi victims, albeit too late for the many who have died since the end of World War II. The effort to allocate the available resources equitably has been hampered by the lack of adequate information about the number and distribution of Nazi victims, their characteristics, and their needs. This brief report and selected tables provide some relevant information about Nazi victims in the New York Area which may be helpful in communal decision-making.

Definitions

In the Jewish Community Study of New York: 2002, a Nazi victim was operationally defined as a Jewish respondent, spouse, or other adult in the interviewed Jewish household who had lived in or fled from a country that was under Nazi rule, Nazi occupation, or under the direct influence or control of the Nazis between 1933 and 1945.

- Respondents born in 1945 or earlier who were born outside the United States were asked: "...Between 1933 and 1945, did you live in or flee from a country that was under Nazi rule, Nazi occupation, or under the direct influence or control of the Nazis?"
- Data was also collected for spouses (or unmarried partners) born outside the United States prior to 1946: "...Between 1933 and 1945, did he/she live in or flee from a country that was under Nazi rule, Nazi occupation, or under the direct influence or control of the Nazis?"
- Finally, if there were other adults in the household who were at least 56 years old, the respondent was asked if: "Between 1933 and 1945, other than you and your (spouse/ partner), did any of the other adults in the household live in or flee from a country that was under Nazi rule, Nazi occupation, or under the direct influence or control of the Nazis?"

Answers to the three related questions on Nazi victimization have been collected and analyzed for Jewish respondents, Jewish spouses, and other Jewish household adults. Age and country of birth have been checked to verify that the respondent-spouse-other adult met the criteria to be labeled as a Nazi victim.

The language of these questions is based on the definition of Nazi victim used by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference), and the definition used by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) to identify Nazi victims in the former Soviet Union. The basic question (with three variations) on Nazi victim experiences used in the Jewish Community Study of New York: 2002 is essentially the same as the question used in the 2000 National Jewish Population Survey (NJPS 2000) in the United States¹, and is similar to, but somewhat broader than, the question for identifying Nazi victims used in the 1997 Study of the Non-Institutionalized Elderly conducted by the Bureau of Central Statistics in Israel.

More than 4,500 interviews were completed with Jewish households for the Jewish Community Study of New York: 2002. A total of 412 Jewish adults in 319 interviewed households were classified as Nazi victims on the basis of the series of questions asked of all survey respondents.² All data presented in this Special Report are projected estimates of the number of Nazi victims and Nazi victim households based upon the interviews, utilizing survey data “weighting” techniques appropriate to the sampling design and data collected.

¹ In the Jewish Community Study of New York: 2002, three separate questions were asked (as appropriate) for the respondent, spouse/partner, and other adults in the household. During the screening phase of the survey, interviewers attempted to complete an interview with the person who answered the telephone as a means to minimize respondent (and household) refusal to complete the survey. In single adult households, the question was asked only of the respondent; in multiple adult households, the relevant questions were asked about respondent, spouse, and other adults to compile the information needed on all household members. All interview data on Nazi victim respondents, spouses, and other adults was weighted with the “household” weight variable in order for the survey interview data to be projected to statistical estimates of the numbers of Nazi victims in the eight-county UJA-Federation of New York service area.

In the NJPS 2000 survey, respondents in multiple-adult households were randomly selected, and one or two questions were asked only of respondents ages 55+ in 2000 who were born in Europe: “Between 1933 and 1945 did you live in a country that was under Nazi rule or under the direct influence of the Nazis?” Respondents who answered “no” were then asked: “Between 1933 and 1945 did you leave a country or region under Nazi rule or direct influence because of Nazi occupation of the area you were living in at the time?” Data collected on respondents was then weighted by a “respondent” weight variable in order to extrapolate an estimated number of Nazi victims for the entire United States.

²Among the 412 Jewish adult Nazi victims in 319 Jewish households were 246 respondents, 128 spouses, and 38 other adults. In 161 of the 319 Nazi victim households, the respondent was the only Nazi victim; in 83 households, both the respondent and the spouse were Nazi victims, and in 2 households the respondent and another adult were Nazi victims. There were 73 households interviewed where the respondent was not a Nazi victim, but either the spouse (45 households) or another adult (28 households) was classified as a Nazi victim.

Summary of Findings

Based upon the interviews completed as part of the Jewish Community Study of New York: 2002, the numbers of Nazi victims have been estimated for the eight-county area:

- **An estimated 55,000 Jewish Nazi victims live in the eight-county New York Area.**
- **Nazi victims represent 15% of all Jewish adults age 57 and older in the New York area.**³
- 58% of Nazi victims are female.
- **The median age of Nazi victims is 72 years.**
 - 16% are between the ages of 57 and 65
 - 40% are between 65 and 74
 - 44% are at least 75⁴
- **One in four Nazi victims (26%) lives alone.**
- Nazi victims living in one-person households are considerably older than Nazi victims living in two-person or multiple-person households.
 - The median age of Nazi victims living alone is 76, compared to a median age of 72 for Nazi victims living in two-person households and 68 for victims living in multiple-person households.
 - 60% of Nazi victims living alone are at least 75 years.

³The questions asked about Nazi victim status were restricted to individuals born in 1945 or earlier; the youngest Nazi victim was 57 years old. The Jewish Community Study of New York: 2002 estimated that 1,412,000 Jews (of all ages, including children) lived in the eight-county New York area. The 55,000 Nazi victims represent 4% of the 1,412,000 Jews in the study area. Of these 1,412,000 Jews in the eight-county New York Area, 27% (approximately 377,000) were at least 57 years old. The 55,000 Jewish Nazi victims represent 15% of all Jews born prior to 1946.

⁴ Female Nazi victims tend to be older: 49% of female Nazi victims are at least 75 years old, while 37% of male Nazi victims are at least 75 years old.

- 54% of Nazi victims in the eight-county New York Area live in Brooklyn, 16% live in Queens, and 12% live in Manhattan.
- **Half of the Nazi victims live in Russian-speaking Jewish households.**
 - 27,800 Nazi victims (51%) live in New York Jewish households in which an adult was born in the former Soviet Union, or the survey respondent (typically born in Eastern Europe) answered the questions in Russian.
 - Almost three out of four Brooklyn Jewish Nazi victims live in Russian-speaking households, as do just under half of Queens Jewish Nazi victims. Only 7% of Manhattan's Jewish Nazi victims live in a Russian-speaking household.
- **Nazi victim respondents in Russian-speaking households are much more likely to be recent arrivals to the United States.**
 - 67% of Nazi victim respondents in Russian-speaking households have moved to the United States since 1990. Only 10% of Nazi victim respondents in Russian-speaking households moved to the United States prior to 1970.
 - In contrast, 95% of Nazi victim respondents in non-Russian-speaking Jewish households came to the United States prior to 1970, while only 1% came from 1990 to 2002.
- **The 55,000 Nazi victims live in 43,300 Jewish *households*, 7% of all Jewish households in the New York study area, but 16% of all Jewish households with any adult age 57 or older.**
 - In approximately 23,100 Jewish households, only the survey respondent was a Nazi victim.
 - In 6,400 households, only the respondent's spouse was a Jewish Nazi war victim.
 - In 10,400 households, both the respondent and the spouse were Nazi victims.⁵

⁵ In 400 of these households, the respondent, his/her spouse, and another adult in the household were all Nazi victims. Another 200 Jewish households included a Nazi victim respondent and a non-spouse other adult. In approximately 3,200 New York Area Jewish households, the only Nazi victim was another adult in the household.

Nazi victim households are more likely to be poor than other New York Jewish households.

- Half of all Nazi victims live in households with household incomes below 150% of the Federal poverty guidelines.⁶
 - 38% of Nazi victims live in households with annual incomes that place them under the 100% poverty guideline standard.
 - 13% live in households which report incomes placing them between 100% and 150% of poverty guideline levels.
- **Nazi victims are more likely to be poor than near-poor.**
 - More Nazi victims live in poor households (51%) than in “near-poor” households (11%) which have incomes above 150% of the Federal poverty guidelines, but under \$35,000 annual yearly income. Another 12% have incomes between \$35,000 and \$50,000.
- **Since the poverty level calculations are based upon both income and the number of people living in the household, there is only a moderate relationship between the number of people living in a Nazi victim household and poverty:**⁷
 - 44% of Nazi victims living alone are under the 100% poverty level, compared to 37% of those living with another person and 32% of those living with several other persons.

⁶ Poverty level comparisons between Nazi victims and non-victims are easier to make on the household (rather than on an individual) level; 36% of Nazi victim *households* are below 100% of poverty, and another 11% between the 100% and 150% guidelines. Only 8% of non-victim households interviewed for the Jewish Community Study of New York: 2002 were below the 100% poverty guidelines, while another 5% reported incomes between the 100% and the 150% standards.

⁷The poverty guidelines are specific to household size. For one-person households, annual household incomes under approximately \$9,000 are defined as 100% of poverty, and incomes under \$13,000 are defined as 150% of poverty. For two-person households, the approximate income ranges (reflected in questions in the Jewish Community Study of New York: 2002 that were household-size specific) are \$12,000 and \$18,000 respectively. For three-person households, the corresponding income levels are \$15,000 and \$22,000. The 150% poverty level has been used as an operational definition for the New York Jewish “poor” in a series of reports prepared by David Grossman of the Nova Institute for the New York Metropolitan Coordinating Council on Jewish Poverty.

- **Nazi victims in Russian-speaking households are much more likely to be poor than Nazi victims in non-Russian-speaking households:**
 - 81% of Nazi victims living in Russian-speaking households report annual income below 150% of the poverty guidelines (70% below the 100% poverty level).
 - In contrast, only 21% of Nazi victims in non-Russian-speaking households are below the 150% poverty level.
 - Thus, four out of five Russian-speaking-household Nazi victims are below the 150% poverty level, while only one in five non-Russian speaking-household Nazi victims are below 150% of the poverty standard.
- **Russian-speaking Nazi victims and Russian-speaking New Yorkers who are *not* Nazi victims have the same high level of poverty.**
 - 69% of the Nazi victim Russian-speaking-households are below the 100% poverty level.
 - 73% of *non-victim* Russian-speaking households with at least one adult in the household who is at least 57 years old (the youngest Nazi victim) are below the 100% poverty level.
- **Nazi victim respondents also report relatively poor health.**

Both Nazi victim history and Russian-speaking status have an independent impact on the self-reported health of Nazi victims, although Russian-speaking household membership appears to have the stronger impact.

Among all Jewish survey respondents age 57 and older:

- None of the Nazi victim respondents in Russian-speaking-household respondents report excellent health; 28% report their health to be poor.⁸

⁸ All survey respondents were asked: "Would you say that your own health is excellent, good, fair or poor?" Age was a critical factor in respondent answers. Almost half (48%) of all survey respondents under age 57 report their health to be excellent, and another 43% report their health as good; 8% report fair health and just over 1% report poor health. Among all respondents age 57 and older, comparable percentages are: 21% excellent, 38% good, 30% fair, and 11% poor.

- Non-victim Russian-speaking-household respondents report similar answers: only 5% report excellent health, while 34% report poor health.
- Among Nazi victim respondents in non-Russian-speaking-households, 12% reported excellent health, but only 6% report poor health.
- Excellent health is reported by 26% of Jewish, non-victim, non-Russian-speaking-household respondents (age 57 and over), while 6% report poor health.

Conclusions

- There are clearly poor Nazi victims in the New York Area.
- The vast majority of these poor Nazi victims are relatively recent Russian-speaking arrivals. Relatively few Nazi victims who are not Russian-speaking are poor.
- Both Nazi victims and non-victim Jews (age 57 and older) living in Russian-speaking households seem to have substantial financial (and health-related) needs.
- There appears to be no difference between the poverty level of Russian-speaking households with a Nazi victim and Russian-speaking households with an older person who is not a Nazi victim.

Nazi Victims in the New York Area: Tables

Exhibit 1. Number of Jewish Nazi Victims, New York Area*
Jewish Community Study of New York: 2002

	ESTIMATED NUMBER
JEWISH NAZI VICTIMS	55,000
Survey Respondents	33,700
Spouses	16,900
Other Jewish Adults in the Household	4,400

*The New York Area includes the five New York City boroughs (Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island), and Nassau, Suffolk, and Westchester Counties.

Exhibit 2. Jewish Nazi Victims as a Percentage of Jews in the New York Area,
Jewish Community Study of New York: 2002

NEW YORK AREA	ESTIMATED NUMBER	% NAZI VICTIMS COMPARED TO:
Jewish Nazi Victims	55,000	
All Jewish Adults Age 57 and Older	377,000	15%
All Jews in the Eight-County Area	1,412,000	4%

Exhibit 3. Gender of Jewish Nazi Victims,
Jewish Community Study of New York: 2002

GENDER: JEWISH NAZI VICTIMS	ESTIMATED NUMBER	PERCENT
Male Nazi Victims	23,200	42%
Female Nazi Victims	31,800	58
Total	55,000	100%

Exhibit 4. Age of Jewish Nazi Victims,
Jewish Community Study of New York: 2002

AGE: JEWISH NAZI VICTIMS	ESTIMATED NUMBER	PERCENT
Under Age 65	9,000	16%
Ages 65 – 75	21,900	40
Ages 75 – 84	19,000	35
Ages 85+	5,000	9
Total	55,000*	100%*
MEDIAN AGE	72 Years	

* In all tables, numbers may not add exactly or percentages add to 100% due to rounding for presentation.

Special Report: Nazi Victims in the New York Area: Selected Topics, The Jewish Community Study of New York: 2002, prepared by Ukeles Associates, Inc. for UJA-Federation of New York, November 2003.

Exhibit 5. Age and Gender Distribution of Jewish Nazi Victims,
Jewish Community Study of New York: 2002

	GENDER OF NAZI VICTIM	
AGE OF JEWISH NAZI VICTIMS	Males	Females
Under Age 65	15%	17%
Ages 65 - 74	48	34
Ages 75 - 84	28	40
Ages 85+	9	9
Total	100% [N=23,200]	100 % [N=31,800]
MEDIAN AGE	72	73

Exhibit 6. Household Size: Jewish Nazi Victims,
Jewish Community Study of New York: 2002

NAZI VICTIM LIVES IN:	ESTIMATED NUMBER	PERCENT
1 Person Household (by self)	14,300	26%
2 Person Household	30,800	56
3+ Person Household	9,900	18
Total	55,000	100%

Exhibit 7. Age and Household Size, Jewish Nazi Victims,
Jewish Community Study of New York: 2002

AGE OF JEWISH NAZI VICTIMS	NAZI VICTIM HOUSEHOLD SIZE		
	1 Person	2 Persons	3 or More Persons
Under Age 65	10%	18%	20%
Ages 65 - 74	30	43	44
Ages 75 - 84	45	33	24
Ages 85+	15	6	12
Total	100%	100%	100%
MEDIAN AGE	76	72	68

Exhibit 8. Borough/County of Residence, Jewish Nazi Victims,
Jewish Community Study of New York: 2002

BOROUGH - COUNTY	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF JEWISH NAZI VICTIMS	% OF ALL NAZI VICTIMS IN NEW YORK AREA
Bronx	1,900	3%
Brooklyn	29,700	54
Manhattan	6,700	12
Queens	9,200	17
Staten Island	< 500	<1%
Nassau County	3,600	6
Suffolk County	1,400	3
Westchester County	2,100	4
Total	55,000	100%

Exhibit 8a. Borough/County of Nazi Victims Residence Compared to
All Jews Living in Borough/County,
Jewish Community Study of New York: 2002

BOROUGH - COUNTY	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF JEWISH NAZI VICTIMS	% JEWISH NAZI VICTIMS OF ALL JEWS LIVING IN BOROUGH/COUNTY
Bronx	1,900	4%
Brooklyn	29,700	6%
Manhattan	6,700	3%
Queens	9,200	5%
Staten Island	< 500	1%
Nassau County	3,600	2%
Suffolk County	1,400	2%
Westchester County	2,100	2%
Total	55,000	

Exhibit 8b. Relationship of Borough/County of Nazi Victims Residence and Russian-Speaking Household Status, Jewish Community Study of New York: 2002

BOROUGH – COUNTY	NUMBER OF NAZI VICTIMS LIVING IN <i>RUSSIAN-SPEAKING</i> HOUSEHOLDS	NUMBER OF NAZI VICTIMS LIVING IN <i>NON-RUSSIAN-SPEAKING</i> HOUSEHOLDS
Bronx	200	1,700
Brooklyn	21,700	7,900
Manhattan	500	6,300
Queens	4,100	5,000
Staten Island	300	100
Nassau County	400	3,200
Suffolk County	300	1,200
Westchester County	400	1,800
Total	27,800*	27,200*

* Numbers and percentages may not add exactly due to rounding for presentation.

Exhibit 9. Time Period in Which Nazi Victim Respondent Moved to the United States by Whether Respondent Lives in Russian-Speaking Household, Jewish Community Study of New York: 2002

TIME PERIOD JEWISH NAZI VICTIM RESPONDENT MOVED TO USA	NAZI VICTIM RESPONDENTS IN <i>RUSSIAN-SPEAKING</i> HOUSEHOLDS	NAZI VICTIM RESPONDENTS IN <i>NON-RUSSIAN- SPEAKING</i> HOUSEHOLDS
Prior to 1970	10%	95%
1970 - 1979	14	4
1980 - 1989	9	<1%
1990 - 2002	67	1
Total	100%*	100%

Exhibit 10. Estimated Number of Jewish Households with Nazi Victims,
Jewish Community Study of New York: 2002

JEWISH NAZI VICTIM IN HOUSEHOLD:	Estimated Number Of Jewish <i>Households</i> with a Nazi Victim	% of Jewish Households with a Nazi Victim
Survey Respondent Only	23,100	53%
Survey Respondent & Spouse	10,000	23
Survey Respondent, Spouse & Other Adult	400	<1%
Survey Respondent & Other Adult	200	<1%
Spouse Only (Respondent Not a Nazi Victim)	6,400	15
Other Jewish Adults in the Household Only	3,200	7
Total – Jewish Households with a Nazi Victim	43,300	100%

Exhibit 11. Jewish Households with Nazi Victims as a Percentage of New York Area Jewish Households, 2002*

NEW YORK AREA	ESTIMATED NUMBER	% NAZI VICTIM HOUSEHOLDS COMPARED TO:
All Households with Jewish Nazi Victims	43,300	
All Households with a Jewish Adult Age 57 and Older	280,000	16%
All Jewish Households in the Eight-County Area	643,000	7%

* The Jewish Community Study of New York: 2002 surveyed Jewish households living in the UJA-Federation of New York service area, which is comprised of the five New York City boroughs (Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island), as well as Nassau, Suffolk, and Westchester Counties.

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Exhibit 12. Poverty Among Jewish Nazi Victims,
Jewish Community Study of New York: 2002

NAZI VICTIM LIVES IN HOUSEHOLD WITH ANNUAL INCOME:	ESTIMATED NUMBER	% of ALL NAZI VICTIMS
Below 100% of Poverty Guidelines*	21,000	38%
Between 100% and 150% of Poverty Guidelines	7,000	13
Above 150% of Poverty Guidelines	27,000	49
Total	55,000	100%

* Poverty guidelines are specific to household size. For one-person households, annual household incomes under approximately \$9,000 are defined as 100% of poverty, and incomes under \$13,000 are defined as 150% of poverty. For two-person households, the approximate income ranges are \$12,000 and \$18,000 respectively. For three-person households, the corresponding income levels are \$15,000 and \$22,000. The 150% poverty level has been used as an operational definition of the New York Jewish "poor" in a series of reports issued by the New York Metropolitan Coordinating Council on Jewish Poverty.

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Exhibit 13. Poverty Level and Income of All Jewish Nazi Victims,
Jewish Community Study of New York: 2002

NAZI VICTIM LIVES IN HOUSEHOLD WITH ANNUAL INCOME:	PERCENT
Below 150% of Poverty Guidelines	51%
Above 150% of Poverty Guidelines, Below \$35,000 income	11
\$35,000 to \$50,000	12
\$50,000 to \$100,000	12
\$100,000 and Over	15
Total	100%*

* Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Exhibit 14. Poverty Among Jewish Nazi Victims, by Size of Household,
Jewish Community Study of New York: 2002

Nazi Victim Lives			
NAZI VICTIM LIVES IN HOUSEHOLD WITH ANNUAL INCOME:	Alone: 1 Person Household	With 1 Other Person	With Several Other People
Below 100% of Poverty Guidelines	44%	37%	32%
Between 100% and 150% of Poverty Guidelines	11	14	12
Above 150% of Poverty Guidelines	45	49	56
Total	100%	100%	100%

Exhibit 15. Poverty Among Nazi Victims, Russian-Speaking Households and Non-Russian-Speaking Households,
Jewish Community Study of New York: 2002

NAZI VICTIM LIVES IN HOUSEHOLD WITH ANNUAL INCOME:	NAZI VICTIMS IN <i>RUSSIAN-SPEAKING</i> HOUSEHOLDS	NAZI VICTIMS IN <i>NON-RUSSIAN-SPEAKING</i> HOUSEHOLDS
Below 100% of Poverty Guidelines	69%	6%
Between 100% and 150% of Poverty Guidelines	10	15
Above 150% of Poverty Guidelines	22	79
Total	100%*	100%*

* Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding for presentation.

Exhibit 16. Poverty in **Russian-Speaking Households with Nazi Victims and without Nazi Victims**, at Least One Adult in Household Age 57 or Older, Jewish Community Study of New York: 2002

	AT LEAST ONE ADULT IN HOUSEHOLD AGE 57+	
HOUSEHOLD WITH ANNUAL INCOME:	<i>RUSSIAN-SPEAKING HOUSEHOLDS WITH NAZI VICTIMS</i>	<i>RUSSIAN-SPEAKING HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT ANY NAZI VICTIMS</i>
Below 100% of Poverty Guidelines	69%	73%
Between 100% and 150% of Poverty Guidelines	10	4
Above 150% of Poverty Guidelines	22	23
Total	100%*	100%

* Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding for presentation.

Exhibit 17. Health Status of Survey Respondents, Age 57+, Jewish Nazi Victims and Jewish Non-Victims by Whether Respondent Lives in a Russian-Speaking Household, Jewish Community Study of New York: 2002

SELF-REPORTED HEALTH IS:	JEWISH RESPONDENT, AGE 57+, LIVES IN:			
	Russian-Speaking Household		Non-Russian-Speaking Household	
	Nazi Victim	Not Nazi Victim	Nazi Victim	Not Nazi Victim
Excellent	0%	5%	12%	26%
Good	15	17	36	44
Fair	57	43	46	24
Poor	28	34	6	6
Total	100%	100%*	100%	100%

* Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding for presentation.