

MERSEYSIDE JEWISH REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL DEMOGRAPHICS REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2021

Introduction

The Representative Council's demographics officer analyses data to assist various bodies to plan for the future needs of the Jewish community in Liverpool, Wirral, Chester, and adjoining areas. This year, the investigation and analysis have been extended to include the Southport area, for the first time. We need to estimate the numbers of people who might wish, now or in the future, to avail themselves of the services of the community: Jewish educational and social facilities for children, synagogue provision, welfare and social provision for adults, residential care and, ultimately, burial. The work of the demographics officer does NOT in any way seek to identify our community by name; indeed almost all data sources used exclude any means of identifying individuals. The approach adopted merely seeks to quantify our population by gender and age, with some analysis of the geographic spread across our community area.

The analysis falls into three elements:

- An annual 'snapshot' of population elements - the main sources for which are data provided by the shuls, the King David & Harold House Foundation, MJCC (on certain burials) and Greenbank Drive Limited. My thanks to the administrators and honorary officers of those organisations for their patience in completing the various forms.
- An assessment of the current overall size and age breakdown of the community, which builds on the 'snapshot', and makes use of information from both the 2011 National Census, and our own local census also undertaken in that year. In due course all the information from our Community Census 2021, and the 2021 National census will be incorporated.
- A projection of the future size and shape of the community.

The first two elements are reported each year; a projection will be included next year, after full analysis of the 2021 censuses.

For compatibility with previous reports, and because it relies on its own local services, analysis for the Southport area (covering Sefton and West Lancashire) is included in a separate section later in the report. The main analysis presented below is for the Greater Liverpool area, including Wirral and Chester.

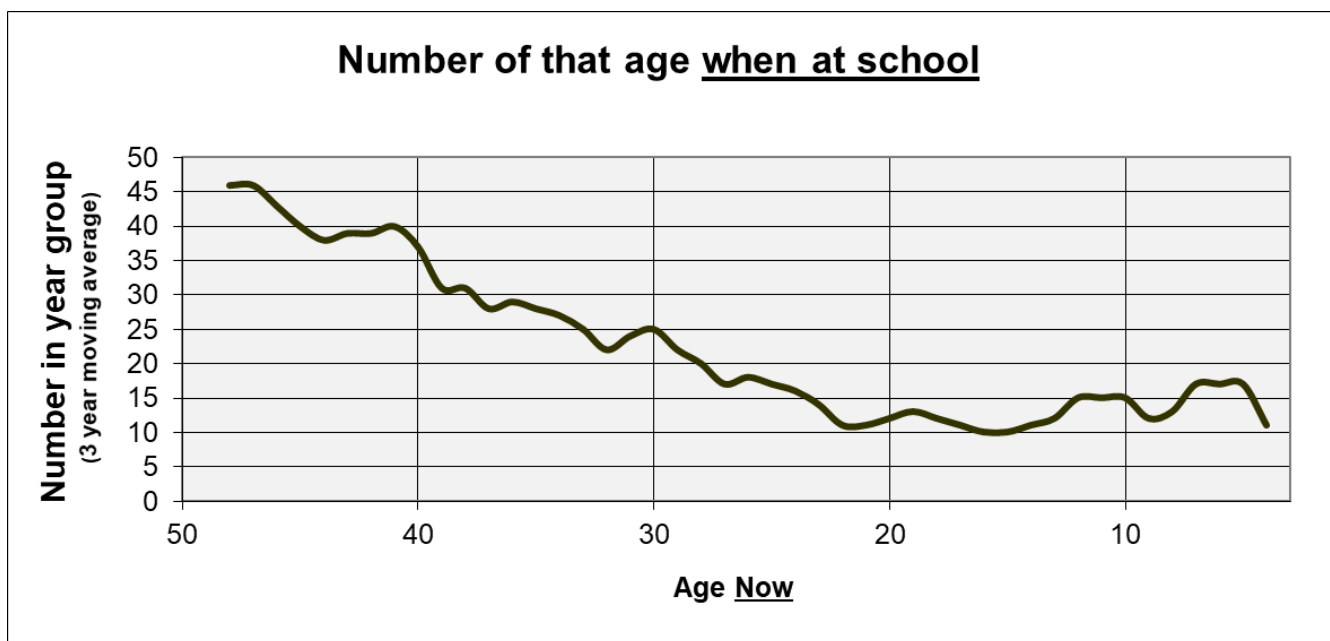
A snapshot for 2021

Births

Based on the trend in King David pupil numbers (see below), factored to allow for other births across the wider area, the number of births in the community is currently estimated at around **9 to 16** per year (compared with **50** births per annum 40 years ago, and over **80** per annum in the 1950s). For the last four years, the shuls have been asked to report on the number of local births to members of their congregations – these have averaged only 4 per year. It will only be after these children reach school age (and accurate numbers can be analysed) that the usefulness of this information will become clearer.

Young People

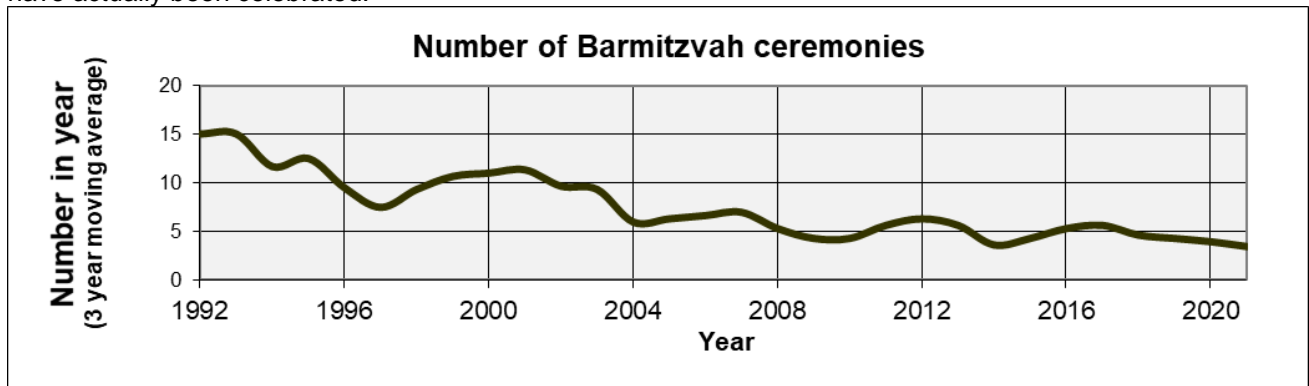
Information on numbers of pupils at the King David Schools is the main source of this assessment. Current pupil numbers have been combined with historic information. This has enabled the following graph to be constructed showing the size of each year group of those currently aged from 4 to 49, WHEN THEY WERE AT SCHOOL, illustrating the decline in the size of the school age population. Many of those over 21 have now left the community – so this is NOT a graph showing the numbers of those ages in our community today.



Note – the number of Jewish pupils at the King David Primary and High Schools is now **179** – a small increase on last year (**176**) and the previous year (**171**). This compares with **654** Jewish pupils in 1965, **438** in 1993, and **243** in 2006. The downward trend has levelled out for now. Currently, girls make up **53%** of the total (compared with **59%** in 2006). With the exception of Year 3, numbers have, for the interim, stabilised at between 9 and 15 Jewish pupils per year group.

Bar and Bat Mitzvahs

The purpose in collating barmitzvah data is to estimate the numbers of Jewish children to be added to those attending the King David Schools when assessing the overall size of the community. In 2021 only **two** barmitzvah ceremonies were recorded – however, Covid has somewhat distorted when and if ceremonies have actually been celebrated.



YEAR	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Barmitzvah Celebrants	8	6	3	2	8	6	3**	5	5	2	4.8

** excludes Childwall Synagogue – no return received for that year

The proportion of girls participating in formal synagogue Bat Mitzvah/Eshet Chayil ceremonies varies considerably from year to year, so reporting the numbers is not helpful in terms of demographics.

Weddings

An unusually high number of marriages (**21**) were recorded in 2010 (the highest in the last 25 years); the latest five years have each recorded the fewest marriages in the same period. Typically, one person not raised in Liverpool has settled here each year, on marrying a member of a 'local' family; but not this year. Numbers refer to marriages, known to Liverpool shuls, of members of local families, whether or not the celebrants still live locally, irrespective of where the ceremonies took place. Again, Covid has distorted the situation.



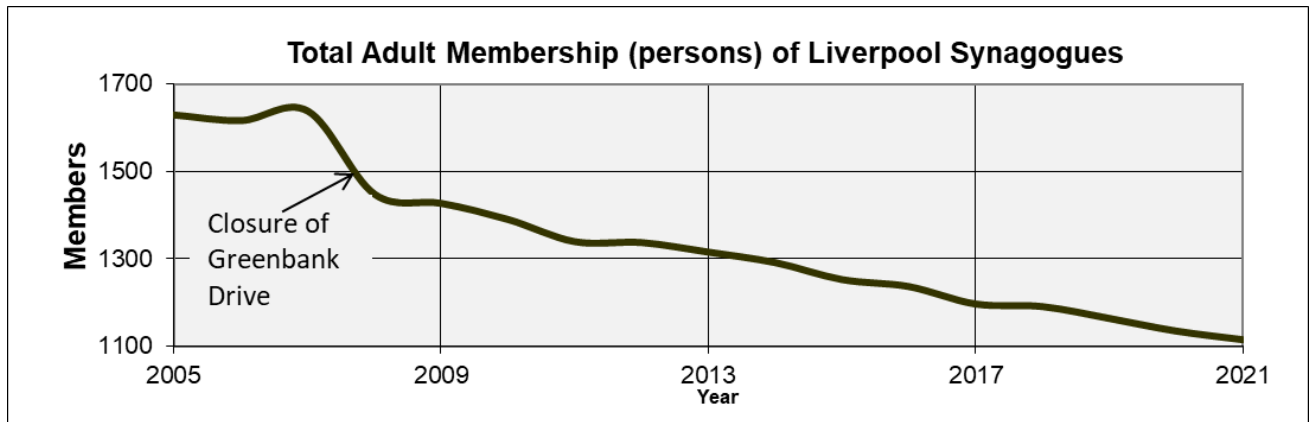
YEAR	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Marriages	7	15	7	11	11	4	3**	3	4	5	7.0

** excludes Childwall Synagogue – no return received for that year

This analysis means that about 85% of children of community members who marry have already moved away from the area, or do so at the time of their marriage. It is also worth noting that as there are typically 25 to 30 'children' per year in the 'cohort' now getting married, three-quarters of that generation are either marrying out, not marrying at all, or are involved in (out of town) Jewish marriages not recorded by their family's synagogue.

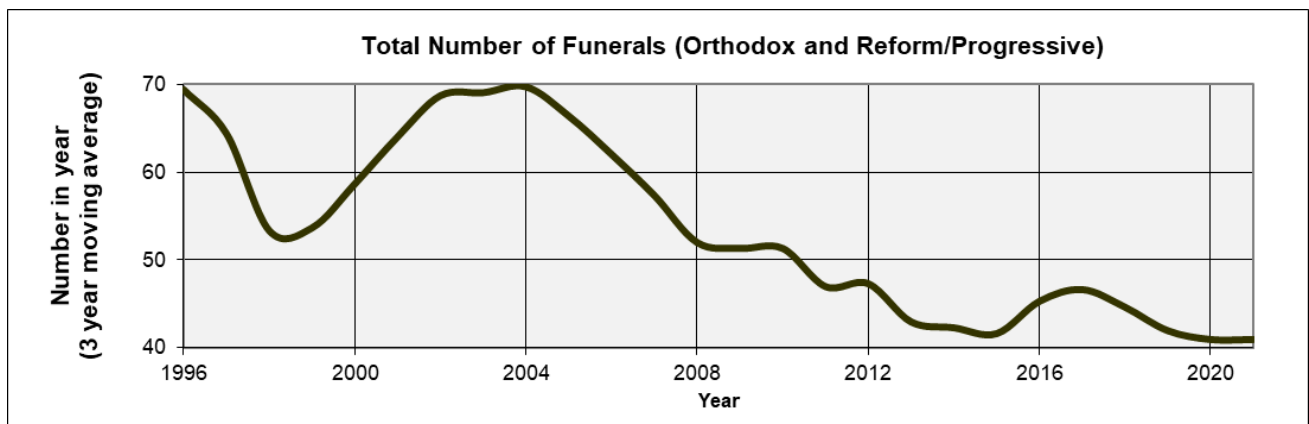
Synagogue Membership

The total adult membership of all Liverpool shuls at the end of 2021 was about **1110**, from about **760** households (corrected for memberships of more than one shul, and omitting members resident outside of the Merseyside/Chester area) - 70% orthodox, 30% reform; this compares with a figure of about **1630** persons at the end of 2005. Typically, the orthodox shuls lose about 2% to 4% of their members each year, mainly due to death; the reform shul numbers are more affected by relocations rather than deaths. In the orthodox congregations about 55% of members are women (reform 47%).



Deaths

The deaths/funeral information allows us to: estimate the numbers of living people in the older age groups; provide a guide to future burial requirements; and provide some insight into the proportion of the community who do not belong to a synagogue (this is useful in relating synagogue membership numbers to the overall size of the community). The average number of funerals in the 1970s and 80s was **84** per annum; there have been considerable annual fluctuations in the 1990 to 2011 period, with numbers typically between **45 and 70** per annum. In 2015, **38** funerals were recorded; the lowest figure since data collection started in 1965. 2021 recorded the second lowest number in the same period – **39**. Of these 39, **32** were local residents, the lowest number of local resident deaths since the start of data collection, 'beating' the 33 recorded in 2012 and 2015. Data over the last 10 years show that the mean age at death for men and women is the same (at just over 84 years), with increasing longevity for both genders. However, deaths before the age of 65 impact more on women than men (17 and 5 in the last ten years, respectively), and 46% of women (compared with only 35% of men, in the same 10 year period), passed away aged 90 or more.



Over the last 10 years, about **26%** of funerals were of **non shul-affiliated** persons.

This year's death tabulations are as follows –

Age at Death in 2021	up to 59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-99	100+	Not known	TOTAL	Mean Age	Median Age
Local Residents										
Males	0	0	3	6	3	0	1	13	82.8	82.5
Females	0	4	4	5	6	0	0	19	80.6	84
TOTAL	0	4	7	11	9	0	1	32	81.5	83

	Merseyside/Chester Residents						Funerals of Non-local residents	Total funerals in Liverpool	Proportion Orthodox
Year	Mean Age at death			Number of Deaths					
	Men	Women	Overall	Men	Women	Total			
2021	82.8	80.6	81.5	13	19	32	7	39	92%
2020	84.0	85.3	84.6	21	17	38	5	43	95%
2019	82.8	86.8	85.2	15	22	37	4	41	85%
2018	86.3	85.5	85.8	15	21	36	6	42	88%
2017	83.0	85.9	84.6	19	25	44	7	51	98%
2016	87.5	83.2	84.9	15	23	38	9	47	94%
2015	85.0	81.3	82.7	12	21	33	5	38	95%
2014	82.1	83.5	82.7	23	15	38	2	40	93%
2013	82.8	88.5	84.4	21	17	38	11	49	88%
2012	86.8	82.6	84.6	16	17	33	7	40	95%
10 year average	84.1	84.2	84.2	17.0	19.7	36.7	6.3	43.0	92%

The size and shape of the Greater Liverpool (including Wirral & Chester) community in 2021

The population of a community changes over time due to births, deaths, people moving away (out-migration) and people moving into the area (in-migration). Population projections assess how fertility, mortality, and migratory pressures impact on each age group. A 'base' population figure for our community for 2011 was devised, making use of the National Census and local information. The 2011 assessment forms the basis for estimating the current community population, based on population projection and data collected for each annual report. Estimates for the years since 2011 are given below; new data may lead to small revisions to intermediate year population figures. Please note that once the analysis of our Community Census 2021 is complete and data from the 2021 National Census become available, the population estimate for 2021 will be reviewed and a new 'base' constructed.

Estimated 'community affiliatable' individuals											
Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Population	2480	2420	2360	2320	2280	2230	2170	2120	2060	2030	1990

In terms of age profile, the 2021 estimate is as follows (average age 55 years):

Age Breakdown of 2021 community population											
Age	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90 & +	TOTAL
Persons	140	160	90	140	190	230	340	390	240	70	1990

About 7% of the total are resident on the Wirral & Chester side of the Mersey.

Covid-19

This section, first included in last year's report, considers the impact of Covid-19 on the local Jewish community in terms of demographics. The restrictions on holding celebrations and on access to places of worship has had an ongoing impact on the celebration of barmitzvot, or the carrying out of weddings, during 2021. Insofar as deaths are concerned, we know that the number of deaths of members of the community over the year as a whole (32) has been below typical numbers for the last 10 years (36.7 on average), and the last 5 years (37.4 on average). There is thus (as for 2020) no evidence, locally, of 'excess deaths' for the year as a whole, and in no month was the number of deaths in 2021 outside of the range seen in that month in 2015 to 2019 – though there have been Covid deaths in the community. Two of the six organisations overseeing burials in Liverpool have indicated that about 16% of their burials were Covid-associated; if this applied across all six organisations, then Covid-19 would be linked to about five of the 2021 deaths. Such a number would represent one Covid death for each 400 members of our community.

During 2021, there were 643 registered deaths in Liverpool as a whole, where Covid was mentioned on the death certificate (and 629 deaths within 28 days of a positive Covid test). This represent one Covid death per 780 Liverpool citizens. Whilst the rate (based on a small population) for the Jewish community appears higher than for Liverpool in general, it is important to bear in mind that the average age of our community is 55 (and about 44% are aged 65 or above), whereas for Liverpool as a whole it is 38 years (with only about 15% aged 65 or more). Thus, once the age profile is accounted for, our community's Covid mortality rate might not be statistically significantly higher than the wider Liverpool population.

The Southport Area

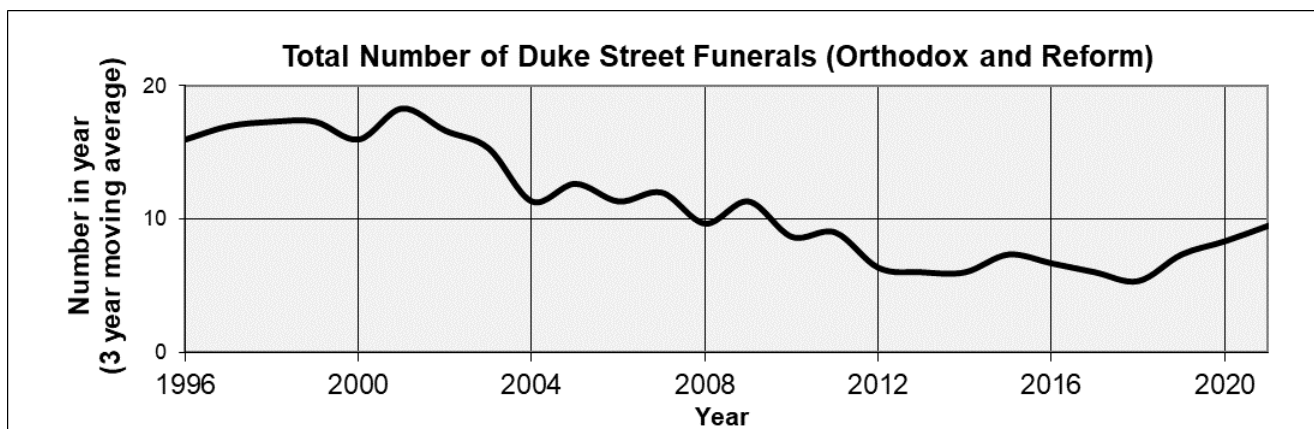
As there has not been a history of collecting demographic data for the Southport area, and that part of the community is smaller than the rest of the Greater Merseyside area, information cannot be presented in as comprehensive a manner. With the exception of burials, information for 2021 is presented in isolation of information for recent years. It is also clear that the age profile of community members living in the Sefton and West Lancashire area is such that birth, barmitzvah, and marriage numbers will be too small for longer term trends to be established, even when data for more years has been accumulated. For 2021, one synagogue recorded one barmitzvah, but no births or marriages were reported by that shul, and the other synagogue's return omitted these figures.

Synagogue Membership

The total adult membership of both Southport shuls at the end of 2021 was about **120**, from about **90** households (omitting members resident outside of the Sefton/West Lancashire area); about 57% of members are women.

Deaths

As indicated in the Greater Liverpool section of the report, deaths/funeral information allows us to: estimate the numbers of living people in the older age groups and thus provide an indication of future burial requirements. As this process requires several years of data, historic information been prepared through visiting the Duke Street cemetery in Southport, and combined with information provided by the two shuls relating to deaths in 2021. No attempt has been made to differentiate between local residents and 'ex-pats' buried in the cemetery, through the latter are likely to make up only a small proportion. This aspect apart, deaths data, broadly parallel to that prepared for the Greater Liverpool area can be presented.



The most recent ten years' burials are summarised in the table below. Average life expectancy appears to be slightly higher than for Greater Liverpool Jewry; however, the numbers of deaths are far too small demonstrate statistical significance. The increased burial numbers for 2020 and 2021 are likely to include of the order of four Covid-related deaths.

Year	Duke Street Cemetery						Proportion Orthodox		
	Mean Age at death			Number of Burials					
	Men	Women	Overall	Men	Women	Total			
2021			81.5	3	6	9	100%		
2020			78.1	7	3	10	60%		
2019	Numbers of each gender in individual years are generally too small for a useful average to be presented		86.0	4	2	6	50%		
2018			89.2	1	5	6	83%		
2017			90.2	1	3	4	75%		
2016			80.6	1	7	8	88%		
2015			93.1	2	6	8	88%		
2014			86.7	4	2	6	83%		
2013			84.5	2	2	4	75%		
2012			91.3	3	5	8	88%		
10 year average			85.1	86.7	86.1	2.8	4.1	6.9	80%

The table below provides more details for the 2021 burials.

Age at Death in 2021	up to 59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-99	100+	TOTAL	Mean Age	Median Age
Duke St Cemetery									
Males	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	76.7	78
Females	0	0	1	1	4	0	6	89.5	92
TOTAL	1	0	2	1	5	0	9	81.5	90

The size and shape of the Southport area community in 2021

There is clearly a much smaller set of data for the Southport area than has been collected over the years for the Greater Liverpool area. Constructing a picture of the current size and shape for the part of our community focussed on Southport (resident in the Sefton and West Lancashire area) is therefore much more difficult, and will inevitably include a greater margin of error. The following estimate for 2021 has been developed from the deaths data, synagogue membership numbers, a provisional assessment of information gathered through the Community Census 2021, and some assumptions transferred from the Liverpool analysis.

Age Breakdown of 2021 Southport community population							
Age	0-19	20-39	40-59	60-69	70-79	80 & +	TOTAL
Persons	<20	<20	40	40	60	40	200

The mean age is estimated as 64 years. About two-thirds of the community are aged 65 or over – compared with only about one-quarter for the wider Sefton population.

Philip Sapiro, Demographics Officer – 3 May 2022