**Holocaust Ghettos Physical Characteristics Spatial Table**

**(Last updated July 28, 2021)**

The Physical Characteristics Spatial Table captures data about the material conditions of ghettos and the exercise of spatial control over Jewish bodies. It will enable us to probe the spatial patterns and actions related to ghettos’ physical characteristics, while another table (to be developed in the future, if possible) will capture the temporal dimensions of some of these characteristics. Together, these tables are intended to support analysis of the physicality of ghettoization and how it changed over time.

We specifically focus on the process of ghettoization to break open the amorphous term “ghetto” itself. As the encyclopedia proves, the term “ghetto” could mean many different things and ghettos could take many different forms. All entries in the encyclopedia had a ghetto or they would not have been included. So, we step away from the term “ghetto” as it was used in the Basic Attributes Table and want to allow a comparison between how encyclopedia authors described ghettos, what shapes they actually took, and how Jewish bodies were restricted under ghettoization.

Part of recording the physicality of ghettoization is the size of the Jewish population in each town. Since there are no consistent sources of Jewish population numbers, we are capturing as best as possible three moments in time: before German occupation, upon German occupation, and the largest extent of Jewish population after German occupation. Since these numbers are still often problematic, we augment numerical information with non-numerical qualitative description from the entries. This will allow further qualification of the numbers in analysis.

As with the Basic Attributes Table, all data in the Physical Characteristics Table is derived from entries in the USHMM *Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos*, vol. 2, *Ghettos in German-Occupied Eastern Europe* (2012). Locational data is derived from the skeletal database of ghetto place names and their latitude and longitude coordinates. Locations will be checked and finalized in an authoritative Ghettos Gazetteer. This and other tables are organized by region, to match the regional organization of the USHMM encyclopedias.

For information about accessing the database and source files, as well as general data entry rules and conventions, see the instructions for data entry into the Basic Attributes Table.

**Data Entry Guidelines**

This table is based on a three-part conceptualization of ghettoization: (1) restrictions on Jewish bodies, (2) holding places, and (3) enclosures that enforced those constraints. Of these three parts, the most difficult to understand may be holding places. We define a holding place as any location or structure where Jews were confined or required to stay for any period of time by non-Jewish authorities or actors. This includes everything from a whole settlement or group of houses to a market square or single building.

In general, the database is intended to represent the information in the USHMM *Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos*, vol. 2, *Ghettos in German-Occupied Eastern Europe* (2012). Do not do additional research to complete a database field unless necessary to resolve what seems a blatant error or discrepancy in the entry (note the source you consult in such case and flag any such problem for discussion in group review or proofing). Ordinarily, each ghetto’s data should come only from its encyclopedia entry. Only include information on the settlement in the entry title, not on nearby named settlements, unless Jews returned to the ghetto town regularly, e.g. from labor sites. Do not extrapolate or assume information that is not explicitly mentioned in the entry, unless methods for estimation are specified in the following instructions.

The PCS Table does not include every aspect of the effects of ghettoization on Jewish bodies and living conditions. For example, it does not capture information about hunger or crowded accommodations, nor does it include acts of Jewish agency and self-help, such as smuggling, soup kitchen, schooling, or medical care. A table on agency is another long-term goal. If we have drawn the limits of physical conditions too narrowly to answer some important questions, our intention was to be able to answer key spatial and physical questions within the scope of the Holocaust Ghettos Project’s original funding.

Uncertainty and lack of information

Where information is unknown or too uncertain to allow a confident data entry, err on the side of entering less rather than more information. Across all fields, the following definitions apply:

* “Unknown” means that the entry says that no information is available, or the entry provides no information.
* “Uncertain” means that the entry provides some information, but that it is too ambiguous or contradictory to allow a confident decision, or the information is described as uncertain in the entry, using words such as “probably,” “most likely,” “maybe,” etc. (except in numerical fields).
* “Certain” means that the information, date, or date range is described as factual, i.e. that events happened in the way or at the time specified and are not qualified with terms like “probably,” “most likely,” “maybe,” etc.

If the entry provides multiple possible pieces of information but decides that one of them is the correct one, such as discussing various sources in a footnote but using one of them in the entry as authoritative, use that piece of information as certain.

In textual fields with dropdown lists, select “unknown” or “uncertain,” as you think most appropriate.

In date fields, leave the field blank and select “unknown” in the certainty field if the date is unknown; if the date is uncertain, enter the date as described and select “uncertain” in the certainty field.

Date, note, or numeric fields (eg., PopJ, PopJYear, PopJOc, or PopNote) may be left blank if the entry provides no information for them. All other fields must be filled in. If you have questions about whether to leave a field blank, ask one of the team leaders or post your question on our Discourse discussion board (<http://ghettos-discourse.acg.maine.edu/>, for information on how to access Discourse, see the BA table data entry instructions).

Multiple values

Any field described as “multivalued” has been defined in Access as able to hold more than one value. You may select any number of values in a multivalued field.

Quote, note, and other text fields

*Do not paraphrase*, but copy the exact quote into the field, even if it seems long. Ellipses are allowed; please use “…”. But NEVER use quotation marks around quotes in a quote field.

Paste the text from the entry that is most nearly related to the category and *includes all relevant, especially temporal information*. Proofing these fields should ideally not require going back to the Encyclopedia pdf.

All returns (also known as line breaks or carriage returns) are automatically removed from all text fields once you have completed data entry for that field. *Please check whether pasted and entered text is entered correctly once you leave the text field*. Eliminating returns prevents issues in future data processing.

Date fields

Use the American date format MM/DD/YYYY. If the date is unknown, leave the date field blank.

Field Definitions (descriptions of data categories)

For convenience, these descriptions are also included in the field descriptions in Access. You can see them in the grey field at the bottom of the Access window anytime when you are working with an entry form.

**Physical characteristics spatial fields**

Ghetto\_ID Unique Integer – assigned in the ghettos gazetteer. Serves as the key that relates all parts of the PCS Table for a given ghetto.

*Note: Also links a ghetto across all general tables in the Ghettos Project (Basic Attributes, Physical Characteristics, Mass Murder, etc.). This will be pre-populated to prevent errors in data entry. Initially, the Ghetto\_ID comes from the list of ghetto names and lat/long coordinates used to map ghettos in the USHMM Encyclopedia, vols. 2 and 3; later it will be the Ghettos Project’s own gazetteer. Do not change the ghetto\_ID.*

GhettoName Text – name of the settlement where the ghetto was located as identified by the title of the Encyclopedia entry.

*Note: This will be pre-populated to prevent errors in data entry.*

Region *Note: This text field will be added, as necessary for mapping or analysis, from the Ghettos Gazetteer.*

PopJ Integer – Jewish population before lasting German occupation, if available. If multiple years given, use year closest to German occupation. If not stated, leave blank.

*Note:*

* *The phrase “lasting German occupation” means German occupation following Soviet occupation in eastern territories. Where German forces occupied a place or region before and after Soviet occupation, the second occupation lasted longer and was most strongly associated with ghettoization. Note that restrictions imposed shortly before lasting German occupation should be recorded in fields below, but that restrictions imposed during Soviet occupation should not be.*
* *PopJ and PopJOc are meant to capture two different moments in time, to indicate how population differed before and upon German occupation.*
* *Most commonly, an entry may provide the prewar population as recorded in a census (such as the census of 1921 or 1931) and on or near the time of German occupation. Occasionally, an entry provides two population figures for the year of German occupation (eg., 1939), in which case the earlier figure should be entered as PopJ and the later for PopJOc.*
* *If the entry states that a certain number of Jews, or a proportion of the Jewish population, fled with the Soviet retreat, enter the pre-flight number as PopJ but leave PopJOc empty. Do add a note in PopNote about the decrease in Jewish population prior to German occupation.*

PopJCert Text, dropdown menu – certainty of the Jewish population number before lasting German occupation:

* + - * certain (*absolute number, e.g. 13,500 Jews*)
      * approximate *(based on some numerical information, e.g. not more than 2,000 Jews, about 1,300 Jews, or expressed as “probably” or “likely” number)*
      * uncertain (*ambiguous or contradictory information*)
      * unknown (*no information exists, or none is given*)

PopJYear Integer – year of PopJ census or report, if available.

PopJOc Integer – stated Jewish population upon lasting German occupation or up to three months after, if available. If not stated, leave blank.

*Note:*

* *If the entry uses an undated expression such as “on the eve of the war” or “on the eve of the German invasion,” enter the related population number in PopJOc, not PopJ.*
* *PopJ and PopJOc are meant to capture two different moments in time. A 1939 population number for a town occupied in 1939 should be recorded under PopJOc unless the entry provides population numbers at two points in the year, for before and upon occupation.*

PopJOcCert Text, dropdown menu – certainty of the Jewish population number upon or soon after lasting German occupation:

* + - * certain *(absolute number, e.g. 13,500 Jews)*
      * approximate *(based on some numerical information, e.g. not more than 2,000 Jews, about 1,300 Jews, or expressed as “probably” or “likely” number)*
      * uncertain *(ambiguous or contradictory information)*
      * unknown *(no information exists, or none is given)*

GPopMax Integer – maximum stated ghetto population after lasting German occupation and before final liquidations, deportations, or a remnant ghetto. If not stated, leave blank.

*Note:*

* *Enter the largest integer for ghetto population, if one is provided.*
* *If the entry gives a range of maximum population, enter the average, e.g.: Jasienica Rosielna: “The number of Jews in Jasienica rose to approximately 1,000 or 1,100” has an average of 1,050 and a certainty of “approximate.”*
* *If the information provided does not allow a numerical calculation of a maximum population number, note this information in PopOther. Example of Gostynin: “Women with children, and also the sick and the elderly – altogether about 350 families – were sent to Chełmno. In total, some 2,000 Jews from Gostynin were murdered in the Chełmno camp. Only about 30 Gostynin Jews survived the war in Poland under German occupation." The reference to families and number sent to Chelmno do not include the men and any people killed prior to liquidation, thus numerical calculation is impossible.*
* *The maximum of ghetto population can be the number of Jewish residents right before final liquidations, if such a number is provided. Do not tally population from the number killed during liquidation(s), and do not use a total of the numbers of bodies exhumed after the war.*
* *Only death tallies that describe the whole ghetto population may count for GPopMax, not execution numbers that do not include all ghetto residents.*

GPopCert Text, dropdown menu – certainty of the maximum Jewish population number after lasting German occupation and before final liquidations, deportations, or a remnant ghetto:

* + - * certain (*absolute number, e.g. 13,500 Jews*)
      * approximate (*based on some numerical information, e.g. not more than 2,000 Jews, about 1,300 Jews, or expressed as “probably” or “likely” number*)
      * uncertain (*ambiguous or contradictory information*)
      * unknown (*no information exists, or none is given*)

GPopOther Text – non-numerical information on maximum Jewish population number after lasting German occupation and before final liquidations, deportations, or a remnant ghetto.

*Note: If the only or additional information on the maximum Jewish population cannot be clearly calculated in numbers, paste the entry’s exact expression into this field. You are allowed to leave this field blank if there is no non-numerical information or all information is clearly expressed in numbers.*

PopNote Text – notes on any of the above population fields, especially reasons for decisions and remaining uncertainty.

RestrQuote Text – quotation of the entry’s exact expression of when non-Jewish authorities or actors imposed one or more restrictions, officially or in practice, that influenced daily Jewish life. See values of RestrType for examples.

*Note:*

* *Do not count establishment of a Judenrat or Jewish Council as the first restriction.*
* *Do not count restrictions under Soviet occupation.*

RestrTime Text, dropdown menu – approximate time when first restriction(s) were imposed, in relation to lasting German occupation:

* + - * before (*this does not include restrictions under Soviet occupation*)
      * immediately *(upon, with, once, within a week)*
      * soon *(after, soon after, shortly, shortly after, following, subsequently, some time later, weeks after)*
      * longer
      * other *(any description not covered by the above choices)*
      * uncertain *(ambiguous or contradictory information, incl. “probably”, “likely” etc.)*
      * unknown *(no information exists, or none is given)*

RestrType Text, dropdown menu, multivalued – all kinds of restriction(s) that influenced daily Jewish life at any time mentioned in the entry, whether imposed officially, or in practice, by non-Jewish authorities or actors.

* + - * Registration (*Jews required to register, or entry provides number of Jews registered*)
      * bodies marked
      * homes marked
      * residential separation *(e.g. non-residents removed from Jewish area, residence in certain locations prohibited or forced; related to a change from pre-ghetto residential geography)*
      * leaving settlement (*Jews are prohibited from leaving the settlement. Do not select for descriptions of “movement within settlement” or “leaving holding place.”*)
      * movement within settlement *(Jews are limited in their movement within the settlement, e.g. banned from certain locations, curfew.)*
      * leaving holding place (*Jews are prohibited from leaving a holding place within settlement; do not select if the whole settlement is a holding place*)
      * economic activity *(e.g. limits on purchase of or trade for food or other items, businesses marked, businesses closed, trade with Jews prohibited, trade with non-Jews prohibited)*
      * dispossession *(e.g. money demanded, property confiscated, property damaged or destroyed, violent seizure of property, transfer of property to non-Jews including “Aryanization” and auction after execution)*
      * labor *(e.g. labor in ghetto, labor outside ghetto, meaning forced labor, not prohibition of labor, which should be noted as economic activity; can be paid or unpaid labor)*
      * cultural *(e.g. attack on religious institutions or buildings, attack on bodily features, attack on dress, prohibition of religious practices)*
      * Jewish police
      * imprisonment *(incl. arrest)*
      * bodily harm *(e.g. beatings, humiliation)*
      * sexual violence *(incl. rape)*
      * murder
      * other *(any description not covered by the above choices, which can include specific behavior not covered by any other category. One specific example is forced movement out of, or back to, a ghetto town other than deportation for labor or murder. Note the description in the RestrNote field)*
      * unspecified *(kind of restriction not given or the restriction is too vague or ambiguous to fit any other category)*
      * uncertain *(ambiguous or contradictory information, incl. “probably”, “likely” etc.)*
      * unknown *(no information exists, or none is given)*

*Note:*

* *This does not include restrictions under Soviet occupation, because the Encyclopedia defines ghettoization as occurring under German or German-allied occupation, and the DB is meant to represent the ghetto volume.*
* *Do count imprisonment or labor where people are taken away to another place.*
* *Single descriptions can count as multiple values, such as the cutting of beards, which is a cultural restriction and bodily harm.*
* *You may select “unspecified” and/or “uncertain” along with other types of restrictions.*
* *Do not select “unknown” unless no information is given about restrictions on Jews.*
* *If certain activities of Jews are described as secret or clandestine, this can be counted as evidence that there was a restriction for this activity, such as secret schools for Jewish children, which makes a cultural restriction.*
* *Note that the restrictions on this list omit hunger, starvation, over-crowding, mental harm, and family separation, among other possible kinds of restriction that caused suffering. While these were often intentional strategies to restrict, weaken, punish, or kill ghetto residents, and were undoubtedly physical characteristics of ghettoization, we found it too difficult to specify these conditions and the multifarious actions that brought them about. They merit their own datasets and study.*

RestrNote Text – short description of “other” restriction(s), difficult cases, or anything else of note related to restrictions.

*Note: If you note difficult cases, it is up to the proofer to make a definite decision about how to record these cases.*

DeathP Text, dropdown menu – were transgressions of official orders or warnings ever punishable by death penalty?

* + - * yes
      * no
      * uncertain (*ambiguous or contradictory information, incl. “probably”, “likely” etc*.)
      * unknown (*no information exists, or none is given*)

*Note: This field applies to transgression of any orders issued by German authorities or other non-Jewish actors. If the entry says Jews were killed for a certain activity that is not otherwise described as prohibited, such as smuggling, enter “yes.” Enter “no” if Jews were killed for no stated reason. Other fields will capture more details related to murder.*

HoldPStruc Text, dropdown menu, multivalued – structure(s) or space(s) where Jews were confined or required to stay for any period of time by non-Jewish authorities or actors. This is not a field for noting places of assembly, but for noting places of forced confinement, often including separation or segregation of Jews from other parts of the population.

* + - * whole settlement
      * district *(or Jewish residential area or quarter*)
      * neighborhood
      * street(s)
      * house(s) *(or apt(s))*
      * ag./ind./mil. building(s) *(agricultural, industrial, military)*
      * Jewish community building(s) *(synagogue, shul, bath house, etc.)*
      * public building(s) *(school, town hall, church, etc.)*
      * market square (*An open-air assembly does not count unless it is forced confinement.*)
      * field/outdoors (*An open-air assembly does not count unless it is forced confinement.*)
      * other *(specified but not on our list)*
      * unspecified *(kind of structure or area not given, or only described as ghetto)*
      * uncertain *(ambiguous or contradictory information, incl. “probably”, “likely” etc.)*
      * unknown *(no information exists, or none is given)*

*Note:*

* *The existence of a holding place can precede the establishment of a ghetto or follow the ghetto’s destruction or liquidation.*
* *In this project, a holding place by definition holds Jewish occupants, though non-Jews may also reside in any given holding place. For example, if an entry says that the village was a ghetto, you should choose “whole settlement.”*
* *The mention of a ghetto denotes the existence of a holding place, unless stated otherwise. Holding places include places described as ghettos or labor camps, but they can also be any place to which Jews were confined or ordered to reside, including their own homes.*
* *Imprisonment of Jewish individuals for individual offences should be noted under RestrType. We are not counting jails or prisons as holding places, i.e., as a form of ghettoization.*
* *If Jews were held in specified buildings separately, each building counts as a holding place, e.g.: Słomniki: “That night, Jews from these districts were forcibly evicted using vicious dogs and imprisoned in the synagogue and two Polish schools” (576) should be counted as “Jewish community building(s)” and “public building(s).”*
* *Buildings that are opportunistically used as holding places should be noted here, not counted as “existing building(s)” in the Enclosure field (below), unless the building or buildings meet the definition of that enclosure category.*
* *If the holding place is described with multiple terms, such as Jewish district (area/quarter) and street(s), select both values. This also applies to holding place structure(s) or space(s) that are described in uncertain terms: select both the structure and uncertain. The overall goal is to represent physical description as given in the entry. Do not interpret structure beyond what is given, for example, by concluding that several adjacent streets constituted a neighborhood.*
* *Holding place structures do not accumulate, but should be entered as they are described, e.g. numerous specified streets are always “street(s)”, not “neighborhood” unless the holding place is described as a neighborhood.*
* *If holding place structures are described in square meters, feet, or acres, select “other.”*
* *Holding places just outside of the settlement should be counted for that settlement. Places where Jews were confined that were outside the immediate environs of the settlement where the ghetto was located should not be counted as a holding place.*

HoldPNum Integer – total number of spatially distinct holding places where

non-Jewish authorities confined Jews or required Jews to stay for

any period of time.

*Note:*

* *Do not count number of houses or streets, but distinct, not continuous areas. For example, designation of the synagogue and a separate street with five houses counts as 2 holding places. Designation of three buildings in different parts of the settlement counts as 3 holding places. When in doubt, err on the low side, and enter the difficulty you found in the HoldPNote field.*
* *A spatially distinct area might grow or shrink in size, such as a ghetto being reduced in size, but it still just counts as one holding place, even if it changes its type.*
* *If a ghetto is divided into A and B ghettos, count this as three – the original ghetto, ghetto A, and ghetto B.*

HoldPNote Text – short description of “other” values of HoldPStruc, difficult cases, or anything else of note related to holding place(s) in this entry.

EnclType Text, dropdown menu, multivalued – type(s) of enclosure erected or instituted by non-Jewish authorities or actors to enforce control over Jewish bodies in one or more holding places:

* + - * fence
      * barbed wire
      * wall
      * sign(s)
      * existing building(s) *(building or buildings that constituted the holding place boundary, or whose walls defined part or all of the outer boundary of a holding place. This can include one or more buildings, whole or in ruins, that were integrated into the ghetto wall or fence, or one or more buildings where Jews were held and which they were forbidden to leave.)*
      * gate
      * geographic feature (*river, stream, hill, etc.*)
      * guard(s) (*including police, Jewish police*)
      * never enclosed (*no holding place was ever enclosed*)
      * other (*specified but not on our list*)
      * unspecified (*enclosure is mentioned but not described*)
      * uncertain (*ambiguous or contradictory information, incl. “probably”, “likely” etc*.)
      * unknown (*no information exists, or none is given*)

*Note:*

* *Enclosure applies to all markers of the boundary or extent of the holding place, such as signs that prohibited non-Jews to enter. If combinations of enclosures are described for the same holding place, such as a wooden fence with barbed wire, enter all types.*
* *If one holding place was never enclosed, select “never enclosed,” even if other holding places had enclosures. Of course, also select the enclosure(s) of the other holding place(s).*
* *If buildings were surrounded by another means of enclosure, such as a fence, “existing building(s) should not be selected.*

EnclNote Text – short description of “other” type(s) of enclosure, difficult cases, or anything else of note related to enclosure(s) in this entry.

GType Text, dropdown menu, multivalued – Which of these terms is specifically used in the entry to describe the ghetto?

* + - * Jewish district *(or quarter or residential area)*
      * open
      * closed
      * enclosed
      * sealed
      * destruction ghetto
      * transit ghetto
      * collection point (*Sammelort, Judensammelort, Sammelghetto, collection ghetto, concentration point*)
      * camp *(of any kind, including labor camp, or later incarnation that is called camp.)*
      * remnant ghetto
      * none given (*for entries where the ghetto is only described as ghetto*. *This term can only stand alone; do not combine it with any other term.*)
      * other

*Note:*

* *This field is meant to capture the encyclopedia’s terminology, not our interpretation.*
* *The terms “closed” and “enclosed,” and maybe also “sealed” might be synonymous translations of the source term “geschlossen” to describe ghettos. “Sammelort” may also have been translated as “transit ghetto” or “collection point.”*
* *Information for this field also comes from introductory essays and is marked in the notes field, as entry and introductory essay authors may have used different terms.*

Notes Text – notes on any of the above fields that do not have their own notes field, especially reasons for decisions and remaining uncertainty.

*Note: Please use this format to mark comments on specific data fields: Name of Data Field: Comment. For example, “DeathP: Difficult to determine because . . . .” Do not use returns.*

EncyPP Text – page range of the ghetto’s entry in the Encyclopedia.

DataEntry Text – initials of the team member entering data.

DataProof Text – initials of the team member proofing the data.