It is assumed that Snyder's first variable (presence of group incidence of acute psychic tensions) does exist among Jews. Such tensions were evidenced in a 1908 study that revealed a high degree of manic-depressive psychosis and paralysis among Jews while showing a correspondingly low presence of alcoholism and epilepsy. Another author reported:

A New York mental health survey of households found that, compared with Protestants and Catholics, Jews had high rates of 'mild to moderate' psychological disorders, but low rates of more serious disorders that impaired social functioning. Alcoholism would be just one variant of the latter.

We can conclude that the “... low incidence of drinking problems is not due to general protections against stress afforded by a traditional ethnic culture.”

The above mentioned studies identify neurosis among Jews living within the confines of their families and cultural environment. There have also been studies which evaluated drinking patterns of ethnic group members who were removed, however temporarily, from such surroundings. A 1942 study of World War I veterans in the V.A. hospital in Northport, Long Island, from 1936 through 1939, reviewed the relationship of alcoholism as a causative factor in psychopathy and psychoneurosis. The results showed the lack of correlation between alcoholic habits and those symptoms and discredited the theory that alcoholism causes either of the other problems consistently.

More interestingly for our study, it also showed high incidence of psychopathy and psychoneurosis and low incidence of chronic alcoholism for Jewish subjects evaluated.

Another study surveyed the correlation of race and ethnicity with mental disorders as the basis of rejection for service in the American armed forces during World War II. “The low rate among the Jews and Chinese is explained on the basis of religion. Drunkenness is a social disgrace in both groups.” Again, however, a low rate of alcoholism did not indicate a low rate of stress or mental disorder.

While Jews are in the Armed Forces (or other similar surroundings outside their ethnic community), deviant behavior is more likely to occur. The Jewish tradition of family is strong and that environment may be missed more by Jewish males than others. Snyder notes four