

DIRASAT

The Arab Center for Law and Policy

دراسات: المركز العربي للحقوق والسياسات

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“A primary goal of the state’s activity should be to attain true equality for the Arab citizens of the state” (Report of the Or Commission, the government commission that investigated the situation of Arab Citizens in Israel 2000-03).

Disparities in Socio-Economic Status¹		
Issue	Jewish population	Arab population
Percentage of total population of Israel (approximate)	75%	18%
Life expectancy: males ²	78.2 years	74.9 years
Life expectancy: females ³	82.2 years	78.2 years
Infant mortality (per 1,000 births) ⁴	3.8	8.3
Unemployment rate ⁵	9.7%	11.5%
Poverty rate for families (before transfer payments and direct taxes) ⁶	28.7%	61.3%
Poverty rate for families (after transfer payments and direct taxes) ⁷	15.2%	54.8%
Poverty rate for children (before transfer payments and direct taxes) ⁸	30.4%	65.5%
Social welfare spending on population by government (per capita) ⁹	NIS 378	NIS 246
Social welfare spending on population by government and private sources (per capita) ¹⁰	NIS 493	NIS 328

¹ Note that wherever possible, this data is taken from official statistics from the Israeli government. (In some cases, NGOs using different assumptions or methods might report wider disparities.)

² The Central Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Abstract of Israel, 2002-2006.

³ The Central Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Abstract of Israel, 2002-2006.

⁴ The Central Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Abstract of Israel, 2002-2006.

⁵ The Central Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Abstract of Israel, 2006.

⁶ National Insurance Institute, Poverty and Inequality in Income Distribution in Israel, 2006-07. Data is for Jewish and “non-Jewish” population.

⁷ National Insurance Institute, Poverty and Inequality in Income Distribution in Israel, 2006-07. Data is for Jewish and “non-Jewish” population.

⁸ The Sikkuy Report 2006: The Equality Index of Jewish and Arab Citizens in Israel (data from National Insurance Institute, Report on Poverty and Inequality in Income, 2005).

⁹ Ministry of Social Welfare, Annual Expenditure Reports, 2000-2005.

¹⁰ Ministry of Social Welfare, Annual Expenditure Reports, 2000-2005.

Disparities in Socio-Economic Status (continued)

Socio-Economic Classification by Community¹¹

In 2002, the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics classified all communities in Israel into 10 clusters according to their socio-economic status:

- Of the 10 communities classified in the lowest cluster, 9 were Palestinian;
- Of the 37 communities classified in the second lowest level, 32 were Palestinian;
- Of the 31 communities classified in the third lowest level, 22 were Palestinian.
- None of the Palestinian communities ranked higher than the five lowest clusters.

Land¹²

- Arab citizens make up 18% of the country's population, but own only 3.5% of the land area in the state.
- The jurisdiction of Arab local authorities extends over no more than 2.5% of the state land area. Arabs are effectively blocked from acquiring or leasing land in some 80% of the land of Israel (in those parts controlled by Jewish rural regional councils).
- The Arab population has grown six-fold since 1948, yet the land under its control has halved.

Representation in civil service/government

- In 2004, 94.5% of all civil service employees were Jewish, while 5.5% were Arabs.¹³
- In 2005, 91% of all directors of public corporations were Jewish, while 9% were Arabs.¹⁴

Resources Consulted

Yousef T. Jabareen, *Law and Education: Critical Perspectives on Arab Palestinian Education in Israel*. American Behavioral Scientist, vol. 49 no. 8, April 2006.

Sikkuy: The Association for the Advancement of Civic Equality in Israel. *The Sikkuy Report 2006: The Equality Index of Jewish and Arab Citizens in Israel*. Available at http://www.sikkuy.org.il/english/en2006/sikkuy_english.pdf

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After the Rift: New Directions for Government Policy towards the Arab Population in Israel. Report by an inter-university research team submitted to Ehud Barak, Prime Minister of Israel (2000). On file with Dirasat office.

¹¹ The Central Bureau of Statistics, Research results on characterizing and ranking local authorities in Israel, 2002.

¹² *After the Rift: New Directions for Government Policy towards the Arab Population in Israel*. Report by an inter-university research team submitted to Ehud Barak, Prime Minister of Israel (2000).

¹³ Annual report of the Civil Service Commission on the representation of Arab citizens in civil service for 2004.

¹⁴ Statistical report of the Government Companies Authority, updated to August 2, 2005. In *The Sikkuy Report 2004-2005: Monitoring Civic Equality Between Arab and Jewish Citizens of Israel*.