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המרכז לחקר מוגבלויות

People with Disabilities in Israel 2017

**Edited by the Commission for Equal Right of Persons
with Disabilities and Myers-JDC-Brookdale institute**

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People with Disabilities in Israel, 2017

Selected Findings, as of 2015

Prevalence of Disability in Israel

- In Israel, there are 1,412,000 people with disabilities.
- People with disabilities constitute 17% of the population.
- 21% of the adult population (aged 20+) are people with disabilities (1,149,500 individuals).
- 9% of the adult population have severe disabilities (454,400 individuals).
- 13% of the adult population have moderate disabilities (695,100 individuals).

Disability by Age, Gender and Population

- The rate of disability increases with age:
 - 15% of people aged 18-64^[1] - 703,700 individuals - are people with disabilities and they account for nearly 50% of all people with disabilities.
 - 9% of children in Israel (birth to 17) - 246,300 individuals - are children with disabilities.
 - 50% of people aged 65+ – 461,100 individuals - are people with disabilities.
- 22% of women and 18% of men aged 20+ are people with disabilities:
 - At working age (20-64), the prevalence of disability among women and men is the same.
 - At age 65+, the prevalence of disability among women is higher than among men (50% vs. 41%, respectively).
- The prevalence of disability is higher in the Arab population in Israel than in the Jewish population (25% vs. 19%, respectively).
- The gap between the Arab and Jewish populations is particular great among people with a severe disability (12% vs. 7%, respectively).

1 - Since the Social Survey collected data from adults aged +20, the working age in this report is 20-64. In this section, estimates were calculated to include 18-19 year olds.

Education

- People with disabilities have lower education levels than those without disabilities. The gaps are greater for people with a severe disability:
 - A higher rate of people with disabilities have secondary education (without a matriculation certificate) than those without disabilities: At working age, 55% vs. 27%, respectively; at age 65+, 52% vs. 38%, respectively.
 - A lower rate of people with disabilities have a college education than those without disabilities: At working age, 19% vs. 33%, respectively; at age 65+, 21% vs. 33%, respectively.
 - A higher rate of women with disabilities have a college education than men with disabilities: 22% vs. 16%, respectively.
- From 2002 through 2015, there was an increase in the rate of people of working age who had a matriculation certificate or higher certificate, both among those with disabilities and those without disabilities. However, the gap between those with disabilities and those without remained similar.
- In the Arab population, the gaps between people with disabilities and those without are even greater. For example, in the Arab population, 68% of people with disabilities of working age have secondary education (without a matriculation certificate) compared with 44% of people of working age without disabilities.
- There are gaps in the area of education both among women and men, for example:
 - 49% of women with severe disabilities and 38% of women with moderate disabilities reached only secondary education or lower (without matriculation certificate), compared with 20% of women without disabilities.
 - 61% of men with severe disabilities and 42% of men with moderate disabilities reached only secondary education or lower (without matriculation certificate), compared with 33% of men without disabilities.
- The distribution between the different academic majors was similar among people with and without disabilities, apart from business administration, management sciences and law. 21% of college graduates with disabilities studied these disciplines, compared with 12% of graduates without disabilities.

Employment

- The employment rate among people with disabilities is lower than among people without disabilities. At working age, 51% of people with disabilities are employed compared with 79% of people without disabilities. The gap is greater among people with a severe disability, of whom only 38% are employed.
- 20% of people with severe disabilities and 13% of those with moderate disabilities reported that they were very worried or very worried indeed about losing their job, compared with 8% of people without disabilities.
- The gaps in the area of employment are considerable among women and men with disabilities:
 - 35% of women with severe disabilities and 51% of women with moderate disabilities are employed, compared with 74% of women without disabilities.
 - 40% of men with severe disabilities and 69% of men with moderate disabilities are employed, compared with 84% of men without disabilities.
- In the Arab population, the gaps in employment rates between people with disabilities and those without are even greater. For example, in the Arab population, only 27% of people with disabilities of working age are employed, compared with 60% of people of working age without disabilities.
- Among the employed, 31% of those with a severe disability and 26% of those with a moderate disability have part-time jobs compared with only 16% of people without disabilities.

Economic Status

- People with disabilities have lower wage levels than those without disabilities. The gaps are greater for people with a severe disability. For example, 41% of people with severe disabilities and 37% of those with moderate disabilities earned less than NIS 5,000 per month, compared with 31% of people without disabilities.
- The average standard per capita income in a household in which there is a person with a disability is lower than in households where no one has a disability:
 - At working age, for households where there is a person with a severe disability, 67%, and with a moderate disability, 81% of households where no one has a disability.
 - At age 65+, for households where there is a person with a severe disability, 61%, and with a moderate disability, 73% of households where no one has a disability.
- The rate of people with disabilities who reported being unable to cover their monthly expenses is higher than for people without disabilities; the rate was particularly high among people with a severe disability:
 - At working age, 27% of people with a severe disability and 14% of those with a moderate disability reported that they were unable to cover their monthly expenses compared with 8% of people without disabilities.

People with Disabilities in Israel, 2017

- At age +65, 9% of people with a severe disability and 4% of those with a moderate disability reported that they were unable to cover their monthly expenses compared with 2% of people without disabilities.

Housing, Neighborhood and Use of Public Transportation

- People with disabilities are less satisfied than those without disabilities with all aspects of their neighborhood that were examined (except for public transportation): the neighborhood overall, cleanliness in the neighborhood, parks and open spaces, roads and sidewalks. Dissatisfaction is particularly high among people with a severe disability.
- People with a severe disability feel less safe going out alone in the dark in their neighborhood:
 - At working age, 18% of people with a severe disability and 9% of those with a moderate disability reported that they do not feel safe going out alone after dark in their neighborhood compared with 8% of people without disabilities.
 - At age 65+, 20% of the people with a severe disability and 13% of those with a moderate disability reported that they do not feel safe going out alone after dark in their neighborhood, compared with 5% of people without disabilities.
- The rate of people who use public buses is similar among people with disabilities and those without. The rate of people with disabilities who take the train is lower than the rate of those without disabilities (among those aged 20-64, 33% vs. 43%, respectively; among those aged 65+, 28% vs. 38%, respectively).

Social Contacts and Recreational Activities

- People with disabilities participate less in cultural and recreational activities than those without disabilities.
- More people with disabilities reported not having friends and feeling lonely than those without disabilities:
 - At working age, 20% of people with a severe disability and 14% of those with a moderate disability reported having no friends to meet with or speak to on the telephone compared with 7% of people without disabilities. 18% of people with a severe disability and 10% of those with a moderate disability reported frequently feeling lonely compared with only 3% of people without disabilities.
 - At age 65+, 29% of people with a severe disability and 20% of those with a moderate disability reported having no friends to meet with or speak to on the telephone compared with 11% of people without disabilities. Twenty-five percent of people with a severe disability and 15% of those with a moderate disability reported feeling frequently lonely compared with only 6% of people without disabilities.

People with Disabilities in Israel, 2017

- A higher rate of people with disabilities reported that they have no one to rely on in times of distress than those without disabilities:
 - At working age, 19% of people with a severe disability and 12% of those with a moderate disability reported that they have no one to rely on for help in time of distress or in a crisis, compared with 6% of people without disabilities.
 - At age 65+, 9% of people with a severe disability and 13% of those with a moderate disability reported that they have no one to rely on for help in time of distress or in a crisis, compared with 7% of people without disabilities.

Use of Government Services and Voting Rates

- People with disabilities make greater use of medical services, the local authority, the National Insurance Institute, and social service departments than people without disabilities. However, no significant differences were found between people with and without disabilities in the level of satisfaction with most government services.
- The voting rate in general elections among people with disabilities is high, but slightly lower than among people without disabilities. Among people of working age, 78% of people with disabilities reported that they had voted in the general elections compared with 84% of people without disabilities. Among people aged 65+, 83% of those with disabilities reported that they had voted compared with 92% of those without disabilities.