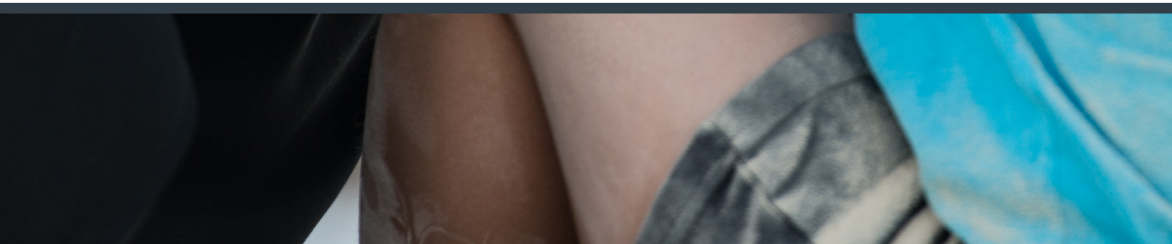




# Israel's Arab Population: Facts & Figures



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## **Israel's Arab Population: Facts & Figures**

All data refers to 2017, except where indicated otherwise.  
Source citations are listed at the conclusion of this document.

# DEMOGRAPHY

## | Total Population

In 2017, Israel had 1.84 million Arab citizens, representing 21% of the country's total population. (1)

## | Religious Composition

As of 2017, 85% of Arabs were Muslim. The remainder were Christians, Druze, and other religions. (2)

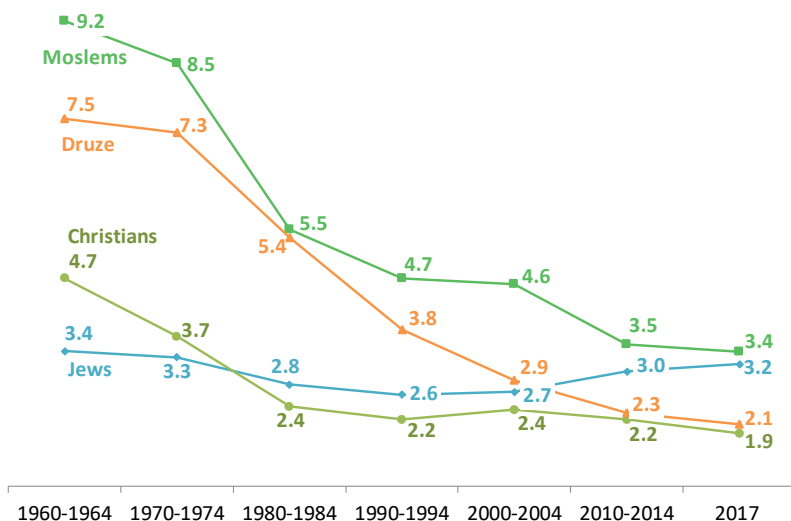
## | Age Structure

In 2017, 42% of Arabs in Israel were age 18 or younger, compared with 33% of Jewish Israelis. (3)

## | Fertility Rates

Fertility rates have declined since 1960 among all Arab groups, and the gaps between Arabs and Jews have all but disappeared. Of note is that the fertility rate of both Christian Arabs and of Druze is now below the rate of Jews.

**Figure 1: Fertility Rate (average children per female), by Religious Group, 1960-2017 (4)**



## | Family Size

Despite the decline in fertility, Arab households are still larger. 11% had five or more children under age 17 in 2017, compared with 8% of Jewish households. (5)

# EDUCATION

There have been significant improvements in the educational levels of Arabs, but the gaps between Arabs and Jews are still large.

## | Dropping Out of High School

Dropout rates among Arab students continue to be above the rates of Jewish students. In 2017, by age 17, 10% of Arab students had dropped out of school versus 7% of Jewish students. This makes them ineligible for most vocational training programs, and reduces their employment prospects considerably. (6)

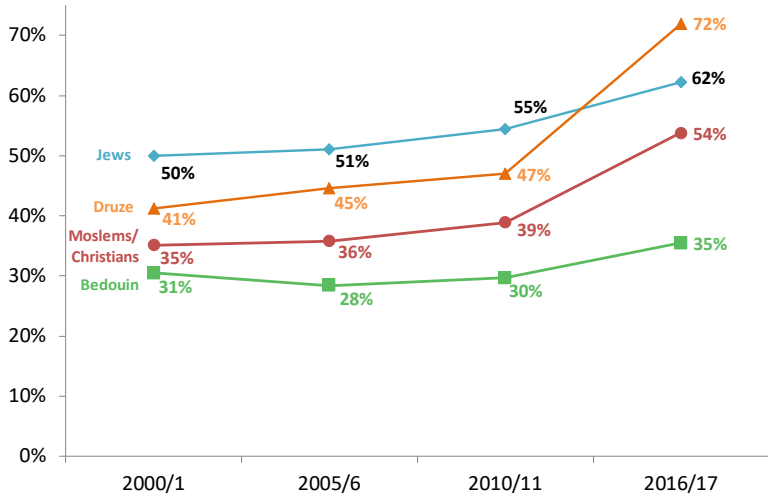
## | University-bound

In Israel, high school students take a series of matriculation exams known as bagruyot. These exams are the primary basis for acceptance into higher education. The exam scores, therefore, are an important indicator of the trend in educational advancement and subsequent economic success.

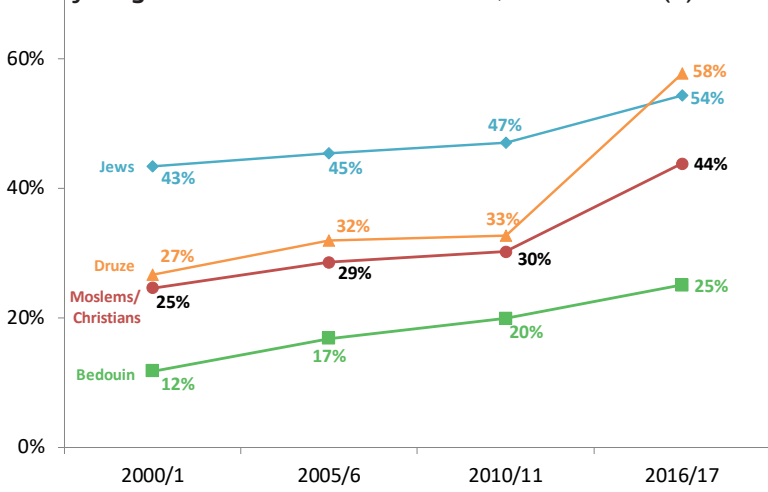
Between 2001 and 2016, general and university-eligible matriculation rates steadily improved among Arab 17-year olds from different backgrounds. (7)

These improvements notwithstanding, matriculation rates are still well below those of Jewish students (apart from the Druze student rates of general matriculation). (7)

**Figure 2: Percentage of Arab and Jewish 17-Year-Olds Receiving General Matriculation Certificate, 2001-2017 (7)**



**Figure 3: Percentage of Arab and Jewish 17-Year-Olds Receiving University-Eligible Matriculation Certificate, 2001-2017 (7)**

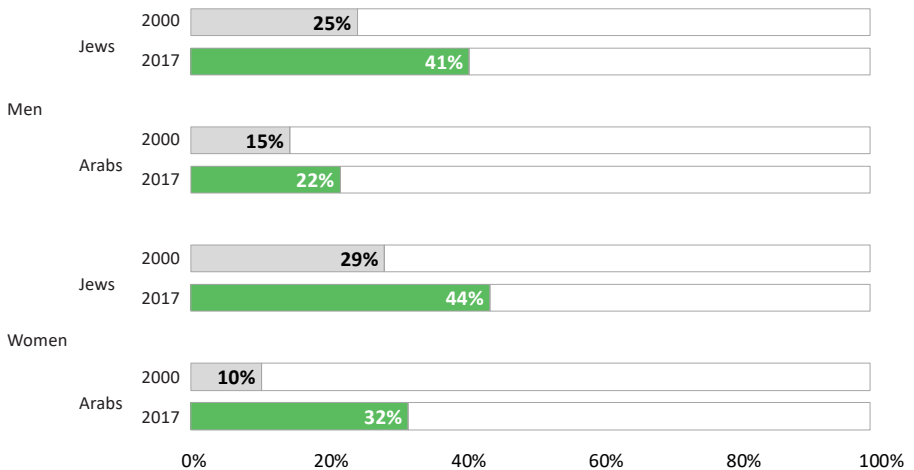


## | Years of Education

Arab education levels have improved dramatically since 2000, with Arab women making the most rapid educational progress.

In 2017, 32% of Arab women ages 25-34 had 16+ years of education, compared with only 10% in 2000. In fact, the rates for Arab women have now surpassed those for Arab men – 32% compared with 22%.(8)

**Figure 4: Percentage with 16+ Years of Education, Arab and Jewish Men and Women, Ages 25-34, 2000 and 2017 (8)**

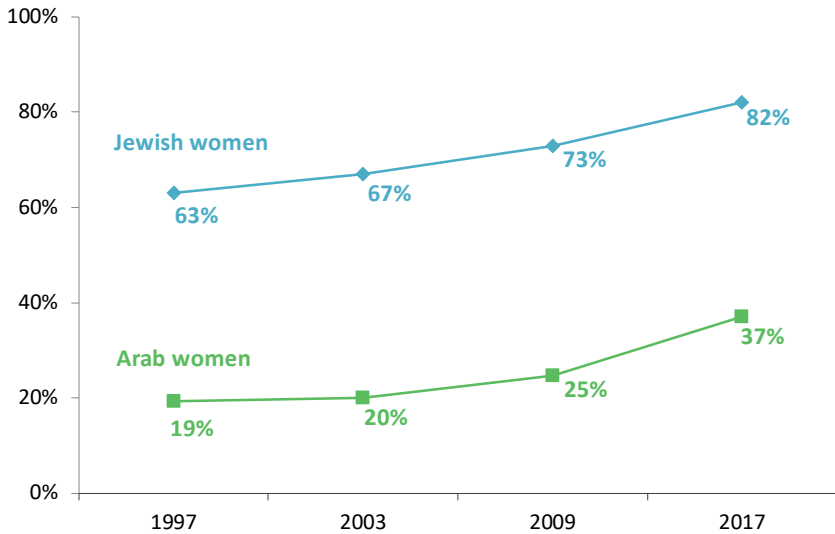


# EMPLOYMENT

## | Arab Women

Even though employment rates for Arab women have increased since 1997, only 32% of Arab women of working age were employed in 2016, compared with 81% among Jewish women. (9)

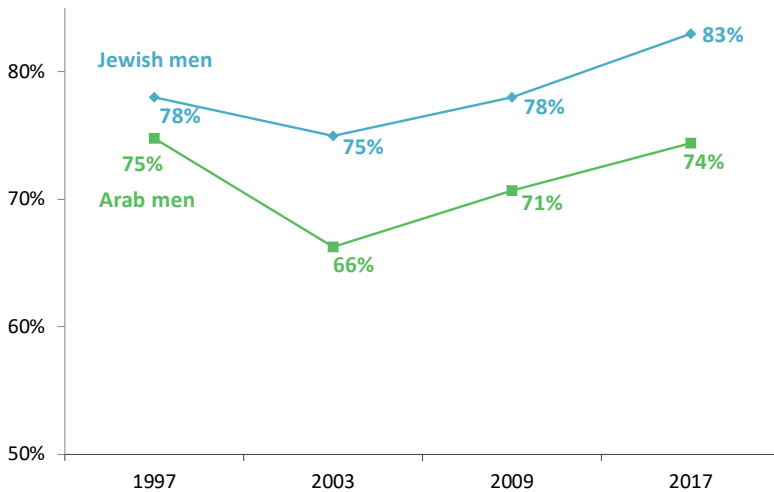
**Figure 5: Employment among Arab Women and Jewish Women, Ages 25-64, 1997-2018 (9)**



## | Arab Men

In 2018, 74% of Arab men of working age were employed, compared with 83% of Jewish men. (9)

**Figure 6: Employment among Arab Men and Jewish Men Ages 25-64, 1997-2018 (9)**



## SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS

The gaps in family size, education, employment and wages and have led to major gaps in socio-economic status between Arabs and Jews.

- In 2017, 47% of Arab families lived in poverty (after taxes and transfer payments), compared with 13% of Jewish families. (10)
- 61% of Arab children lived in poverty, compared with 20% of Jewish children. (10)
- Arab families constitute 37% of all poor families, far above their proportion of all Israeli families (15%). (11)

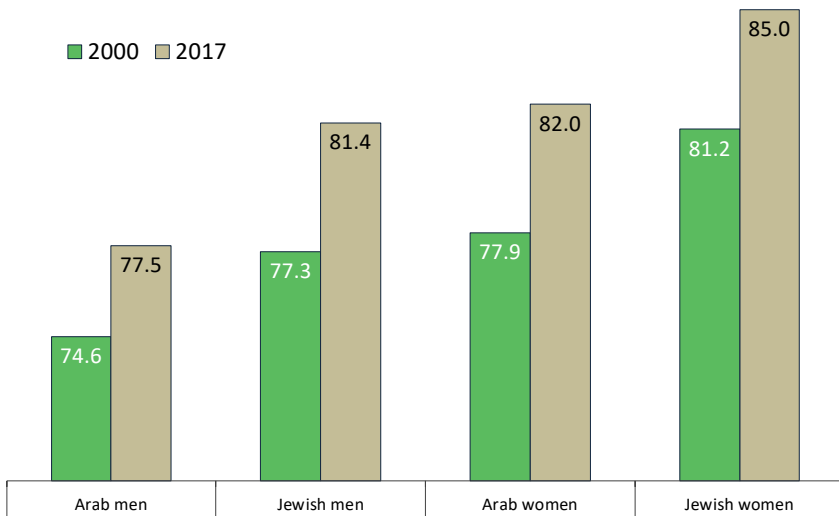


# HEALTH

## | Life Expectancy

Life expectancy has increased considerably among Arab men and women since 2000. In 2017, life expectancy for Arab men was 77.5 years, and 82 years for Arab women. (12)

**Figure 7: Life Expectancy in Years for Arab and Jewish Men and Women, 2000 and 2017 (12)**



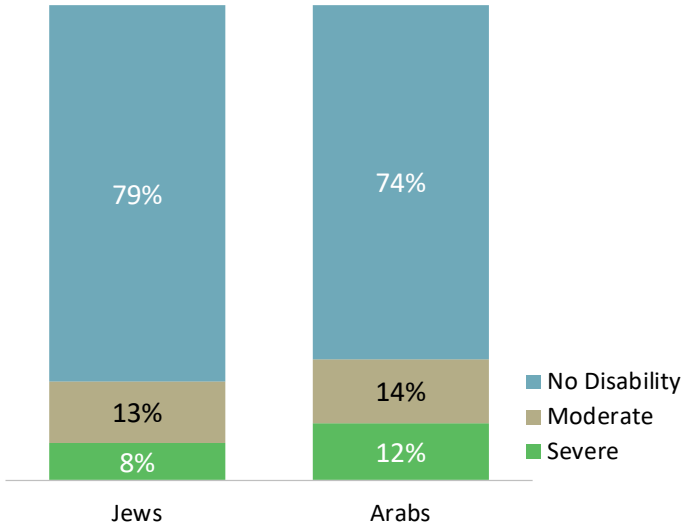
## | Infant Mortality

The infant mortality rate among the Arab (Moslem) population has declined drastically over the years, although the 2015-17 rate of 6.1 per thousand for Arabs is still almost three times the rate for Jews and others (2.3 per thousand). (13)

## | Disability

Disability rates among both adult and elderly Arabs are significantly higher than the rate among Jewish Israelis, especially the rates of those severely disabled. (14)

**Figure 8: Disability Rates for Arabs and Jews (2018) (14)**



## Sources

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3. Statistical Abstract of Israel, Central Bureau of Statistics, 2017, Table 2.3.
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