

The Socio-Economic Status of the Bedouin Population in the Negev

Selected Indicators

Final report

Arwa Majadlih Viacheslav Konstantinov
Dana Cohen Yonatan Eyal

This study was part of a multifaceted research program for the Government of Israel's five-year plan to promote the well-being of the Bedouin in the Negev, carried out in cooperation with the Department for the Socio-Economic Development of the Bedouin Society in the Negev



Editor: Ronit Cohen Ben-Nun

English translation (abstract): Hanni Manor

Arabic translation (abstract): Jalal Hassan

Graphic design: Efrat Speaker

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Myers JDC Brookdale Institute

P.O.B. 3886, Jerusalem 9103702, Israel

Tel: 02-6557400

brookdale.jdc.org.il/en | brook@jdc.org

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About the research program of the five-year plan for the Bedouin in the Negev

The research program was jointly funded by the Department for the Socio-Economic Development of the Bedouin Society in the Negev and the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute. It spanned 3.5 years and includes an array of topical studies, including education, children with disabilities, employment, and local government, as well as cross-cutting studies evaluating the five-year plan work programs; the values, strengths, and challenges of the Bedouin population and their leaders; key indicators of the health, economic, and social well-being of the Bedouin population; and an integrative assessment of the five-year plan.

The research program was carried out as a cooperative effort between the Department for the Socio-Economic Development of the Bedouin Society in the Negev and the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute (MJB). The Department led the choice of issues to be studied and provided feedback on the research. MJB coordinated the research program and was responsible for the quality of the studies.

Abstract

The five-year plan for the socio-economic development of the Bedouin population in the Negev for the years 2017 to 2021 aimed to help narrow the gaps between the Bedouin population in the Negev and the general population in Israel. The budget for the plan was NIS 3.2 billion, most of which was devoted to, employment, education at all levels (up to and including higher education), transportation infrastructure, the public transportation system, and the strengthening of local authorities. The Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute conducted the study of the five-year plan for the Department for the Socio-Economic Development of the Bedouin Society in the Negev at the Ministry of Welfare and Social Affairs, which was in charge of implementing the plan.

The study deals, inter alia, with the formulation of a set of quality-of-life indicators for the Bedouin population in the Negev. The indicators were designed to enable an informed examination of the trends in key spheres of life of the Negev Bedouin and to serve as a standard for monitoring their socio-economic situation over time.

Given the time lag between actual trend changes and the availability of data for research, the indicators cannot be relied upon for up-to-date monitoring of situations characterized by significant changes occurring in a short period of time.

Moreover, due to the limitations in the databases available to the study team, the data presented here are largely not representative of unregulated residences¹. In those cases where the unregulated residences were included in the database, the related data could not be distinguished from the data related to the 18 localities for the purpose of comparison and presentation of the differences.

The list of indicators for the Bedouin population in the Negev is based on the quality-of-life, sustainability, and national resilience indicators published annually by the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS). The national set of indicators was formulated following a structured process of consultation with experts and public

¹ The following terms are used in this report to indicate the various forms of settlement of the Bedouin population in the Negev: the 18 localities – 18 localities in the local authorities (town, local councils, and regional councils): the town of Rahat, the local councils of Hura, Kuseife, Lakiya, Ar'ara BaNegev, Segev Shalom, and Tel Sheva; the localities of the al-Kasom Regional Council: Umm Batin, al-Sayyid, Drijat, Kukhle, Mulada, Makhul, and Tirabin al-Sana; and the localities of the Neve Midbar Regional Council: Abu Qrenat, Qasr al-Sir, Bir Hadaj, and Abu Talul.

Unregulated residences – residences outside the 18 localities.







participation, with expert guidance from the OECD.



The formulation of quality-of-life indicators for the Bedouin population in the Negev consisted of seven stages:






- a. **Literature review.** A review of the national set of indicators as well as other indicators relevant to the Bedouin population in the Negev.
- b. **Consultation with stakeholders.** Consultation with stakeholders on the relevance of the proposed indicators to specific spheres of life of the Negev Bedouin.
- c. **Establishing a list of indicators.** Establishing a list of indicators relevant to the Bedouin population in the Negev.
- d. **Location of data sources regarding the values of the indicators.** A variety of data sources, including CBS, the National Insurance Institute, the National Institute for Testing & Evaluation, and the Ministry of Health, were used to extract data on the current and recent values of the indicators.
- e. **Analysis and presentation of data on indicators.** Analysis of the indicator data according to selected variables (e.g., years and gender); comparison with other population groups in Israel (the Jewish population in the South, the other Jewish populations, the other Arab populations, the general population).
- f. **Calculation of trends in the Bedouin population for each indicator.** Calculation of the ratio between the indicator value in the last year and the indicator value in the first year for which data were available.
- g. **Calculation of the gap between the Bedouin population and the comparison population, including gap variation over time.** Calculation of the ratio between indicator values for the Bedouin population and the comparison population, as established at the time of calculation.







This report presents 23 indicators, classified by seven spheres of life: education; employment; health; civic involvement and governance; housing and infrastructure; personal and social well-being; and information technologies.







The following table summarizes the data for each indicator for the first and last year of measurement covered by this report, the trends in the Negev Bedouin population over time, and the variation in the gap between the Negev Bedouin and the Jewish population in the South (with the exception of cases where another comparison group is specified). The trend score reflects the desired direction; for example, a decrease in diabetes morbidity is a positive trend. In cases where the changes in the gap lack clear meaning (for example, in the diabetes morbidity index, where the morbidity rate among the Bedouin population in the Negev is lower than in the comparison group), the trend of the gap is not specified.




Sphere of Life	Indicator	Data for the First and Last Year of Measurement		Trend in the Negev Bedouin Population	Gap between Populations	
Education						
	Meitzav standardized assessment tests – average math scores in 8th grade	Bedouin	2010-2011 455	2017-2018 459	 No change	Gap unchanged
		Jews	528	550		
	Meitzav standardized assessment tests – average English scores in 8th grade	Bedouin	2010-2011 418	2018-2019 437	 No change	Gap narrowed
		Jews	534	533		
	Percentage of boys among 12th graders – per school year	Bedouin	2011 70.3	2021 78.6	 Positive trend	Gap unchanged
		Jews in the South	89.5	95.8		
Percentage of girls among 12th graders – per school year	Bedouin	2011 73.2	2021 82.6	 Positive trend	Gap narrowed	
	Jews in the South	95.5	97.0			
Percentage of eligibility for a matriculation certificate –Boys	Bedouin	2010 19.3	2020 28.5	 Positive trend	Gap narrowed	
	Jews	45.9	59.3			
Percentage of eligibility for a matriculation certificate - Girls	Bedouin	2010 38.7	2020 57.9	 Positive trend	Gap narrowed	
	Jews	60.2	71.1			

Sphere of Life	Indicator	Data for the First and Last Year of Measurement		Trend in the Negev Bedouin Population	Gap between Populations
	Percentage of eligibility for a matriculation certificate that meets minimum academic admission requirements per school year – Boys	Bedouin	2010 12.7	2020 17.3	 Positive trend Gap widened
		Jews	40.4	52.1	
	Percentage of eligibility for a matriculation certificate that meets minimum academic admission requirements per school year - Girls	Bedouin	2010 28.2	2019 42.8	 Positive trend Gap narrowed
		Jews	51.3	62.5	
	Average psychometric test score	Bedouin	2010 393	2021 437	 Positive trend Gap narrowed
		Jews in the South	536	562	
	Average YAEL score. (Hebrew Proficiency Test for examinees whose mother tongue is not Hebrew)	Bedouin	2010 76.0	2021 86.0	 Positive trend Gap narrowed
		Other Arab populations	92.0	93.6	
	Percentage of academic degree recipients in the 20-29 age group	Bedouin	2010-2011 0.9	2019-2020 1.2	 Positive trend Gap narrowed
		Jews in the South	9.1	8.6	
	Percentage of academic degree recipients – selected disciplines	Bedouin	2010-2011 4.0	2019-2020 7.6	 Positive trend Gap narrowed
		Jews in the South	21.7	25.6	

Sphere of Life	Indicator	Data for the First and Last Year of Measurement		Trend in the Negev Bedouin Population	Gap between Populations	
Employment						
	Employment rate – men		2010	2021	 No change	Gap unchanged
		Bedouin	58.2	57.8		
		Jews in the South	80.2	82.7		
	Employment rate – women		2010	2021	 Positive trend	Gap narrowed
		Bedouin	20.8	27.2		
		Jews in the South	75.0	82.7		
	Average employee wages – men (NIS), at 2019 prices		2010	2019	 Positive trend	Gap narrowed
		Bedouin	6,906	8,682		
		Jews in the South	10,698	12,834		
	Average employee wages – women (NIS), at 2019 prices		2010	2019	 Positive trend	Gap unchanged
		Bedouin	4,430	5,885		
		Jews in the South	6,440	8,320		
	Percentage of employees earning less than minimum wage		2010	2019	 No change	Gap widened
		Bedouin	54.6	56.4		
		Jews in the South	41.8	39.3		

Sphere of Life	Indicator	Data for the First and Last Year of Measurement		Trend in the Negev Bedouin Population	Gap between Populations
Health					
	Infant mortality rate (per thousand live births)		2010 2020	 Positive trend	Gap narrowed
	Bedouin	12.6	9.2		
	Jews in the South	3.4	2.0		
	Diabetes morbidity percentage - Men aged 65-74		2012 2019	 Negative trend	No gap trend specified^^
	Bedouin	27.1	30.2		
	Jews in the South	30.2	32.3		
	Diabetes morbidity percentage - Women aged 65-74		2012 2019	 Negative trend	No gap trend specified^^
	Bedouin	34.6	41.9		
	Jews in the South	29.6	28.4		
Civic engagement and governance					
	Percent of adult population reporting trust in government		2015-2016 2019-2021	 Negative trend	Gap unchanged
	Bedouin	52.9	43.7		
	Jews in the South	47.4	38.8		
	Satisfaction with the local authority's performance, in percents		2015 2021	 Negative trend	Gap widened
	Bedouin	47.9	42.4		
	Jews in the South	72.1	71.3		
	Voter turnout in the Knesset elections		Elections to the 19th Knesset Elections to the 25rd Knesset	 Positive trend	Gap narrowed
	Bedouin	45.8	51.0		
	Jews in the South	60.2	64.1		

Sphere of Life	Indicator	Data for the First and Last Year of Measurement			Trend in the Negev Bedouin Population	Gap between Populations
Housing and infrastructure						
	Satisfaction with public transportation services, in percents		2014	2019-2021	 Positive trend	Gap widened
	Bedouin	54.3	59.4			
	Jews in the South	67.7	70.0			
	Average number of public transportation trips per 1,000 people^		2015	2020	 Positive trend	No gap trend specified^^
	Rahat	49.8	65.9			
	Eilat & Kiryat Gat	45.0	64.6			
	Average number of public transportation trips per 1,000 people in the towns		2015	2020	 Positive trend	Gap widened
	Bedouin towns	43.9	53.1			
	Jewish towns	71.0	134.5			
	The percentage of the total built-up area served by public transportation ^		2015	2020	 Negative trend	No gap trend specified^^
	Rahat	74.2	71.7			
	Eilat & Kiryat Gat	73.5	70.8			
	The percentage of the built-up area in the towns served by public transportation		2015	2020	 Positive trend	Gap narrowed
	Bedouin towns	33.4	35.2			
	Jewish towns	75.0	72.2			
Personal and social well-being						
	Percentage of interviewees reporting feelings of discrimination		2015-2016	2019-2021	 Positive trend	Gap narrowed
	Bedouin	44.6	41.9			
	Jews in the South	19.7	18.6			

Sphere of Life	Indicator	Data for the First and Last Year of Measurement		Trend in the Negev Bedouin Population	Gap between Populations
	Satisfaction with life, in percents	Bedouin	2010-2011 78.1	2019-2021 54.8	 Gap widened
		Jews in the South	87.7	89.2	
				Negative trend	
Information technologies					
	Percentage of Internet users	Bedouin	2010-2011 40.5	2019-2021 62.0	 Gap narrowed
		Jews in the South	69.8	89.7	
				Positive trend	
	The number of Internet usage purposes	Bedouin	2010-2011 3.1	2019-2021 3.2	 Gap widened
		Jews in the South	3.7	4.6	
				No change	

^ Due to a lack of space, the table does not include data for the regional councils. However, regional councils also improved in the following indicators: (1) public transportation trips per 1,000 people; (2) the total built-up area served by public transportation (2015-2020). The full data on the regional councils are presented in the body of the report.

^^ The trend of change in the gap was not specified because it has no clear meaning.

Notes to the table:

- The term "positive trend" refers to a situation in which there was an annual increase of more than 0.5% in the indicator value for the Bedouin population. Similarly, the term "negative trend" refers to a situation in which there was an annual decrease of more than 0.5% in the indicator value for the Bedouin population.
- The term "gap narrowed" refers to a situation in which there was an annual average decrease of 0.5% or more in the gap. Similarly, "gap widened" refers to a situation in which there was an annual average increase of 0.5% or more in the gap.
- Where there have been considerable changes in the data from year to year, the trend and the gap were calculated based on a bi-annual average of the values at the beginning and end of the period.