

1 What is MJB's primary mission?

MJB's mission is to improve the well-being of individuals, families, and communities in Israel. It achieves this by informing policy and program development through evidence-based research on Israel's key social challenges.

2 What is the scope of MJB's work?

MJB conducts over 150 studies each year, impacting hundreds of thousands of lives across Israel. With a team of 120 staff members, including 75 expert social researchers organized into 10 thematic teams, it tackles a wide range of critical topics such as aging, disabilities, health policy, employment, social inclusion, and more. The research is designed to deliver actionable solutions that improve lives by informing and designing effective policies.

3 Who does MJB work with?

MJB has been working closely, for over 50 years, with Israel's government ministries, including Health, Welfare & Social Affairs, Finance, Education, and the National Insurance Institute. It works with other government bodies such as the Ministries of Justice, Labor, and Economy & Industry, as well as large NGOs, HMOs, and JDC-Israel. Research was commissioned to address pressing social challenges and evaluate existing government programs to ensure effectiveness and scalability. Beyond its work in Israel, MJB assists JDC in its mission to promote the wellbeing and development of Jewish communities across the globe.

4 How does MJB achieve large-scale impact?

MJB bridges policy and practice by evaluating and then helping to shape government policies as well as large scale programs and service systems. Impact stems from deep, trusted relationships with the government, a dedicated full-time core staff, and decades of expertise on key social policy issues. Innovative data analysis is combined with new data collection types (including AI, BI, and large-scale administrative data analysis), drawing insights from global best practices, and working closely with representatives of vulnerable populations, thus ensuring deep and lasting change.

5 What sets MJB apart as a research institute?

MJB uniquely combines rigorous, data-driven research with detailed hands-on collaboration with government agencies, all while maintaining independence, objectivity, and a non-partisan stance. This trusted partnership allows MJB to identify challenges and implement practical, scalable solutions that drive meaningful improvements across Israeli society.

6 How long has MJB been active?

MJB has been a leading social research institute in Israel for 50 years, building trusted partnerships with policymakers to create meaningful and lasting change since 1974.

7 What is MJB's annual budget and how is it funded?

MJB creates value and benefit well beyond its approximately \$10M per year budget. Funded by a partnership between the Myers Foundation in the US which allows MJB to draw on an endowment, and funding from JDC, the government of Israel, and direct donations from others, MJB makes an outsized impact relative to its cost.

8 What is an example of MJB's collaboration with JDC?

MJB, in collaboration with JDC-Israel, provided data and ongoing consulting to develop Israel's National Aging Indicators Map, which was adopted by the government in 2021 to guide policies for optimal aging. The indicators enabled the government to benchmark with OECD countries, design targeted services, and evaluate the impact of its programs. This ongoing partnership highlights MJB's role in supporting JDC-Israel with evidence-based tools to ensure effective policy decision making.

9 How does MJB differ from the Taub Center?

MJB is distinct due to its deep collaboration with government ministries and other public bodies, and its long-term commitment to building expertise, and its focus on creating practical, impactful solutions. In contrast, the Taub Center specializes in independent, macro-focused analyses, often focusing on macroeconomic and sectoral issues, offering a different approach to addressing social challenges. Taub is also much smaller, with 30 staff, and does not do work with the government of Israel.

10 What are some examples of MJB's work and impact?

- MJB served as the professional advisor to the first government committee to address the extent of and consequences of poverty in Israel in 2023 that led to major national policy reforms.
- MJB conducted the first evaluations that played a leading role in promoting the integration of Ethiopian and Russian immigrants in the mass immigration of the early 1990s.
- MJB's Arab Population Team's evaluation of a 3.2B NIS plan to integrate the Bedouin population laid the foundation for the expanded 27B NIS national plan to integrate the entire Arab population, including the development of a digital system to streamline government services.
- MJB's study on food insecurity provided the evidence that shaped Israel's national plan to ensure food security, guiding the National Council for Food Security's policies.
- MJB's international review on open adoption prompted a government study, resulting in increased approvals and widespread use of family court research that shaped adoption policies.
- MJB was first to identify that family members, (over 1 million people), serve as primary caregivers for the elderly and those with disabilities - a role not previously recognized as a social issue, despite its massive ramifications. By convening policymakers from key ministries and leading a data-driven process, MJB transformed this issue into a national priority, resulting in dedicated budgets and the creation of programs to support caregivers' rights and wellbeing.
- MJB's evaluations of Holocaust survivor programs, in a groundbreaking 1998 national study, shaped critical policies and has since provided vital updates on survivor needs. In 2007, MJB played a pivotal role when then-Minister Isaac Herzog, (now Israel's President), appointed a national interministerial committee on Holocaust survivors, with MJB serving as the key professional resource, ensuring Israel's continued responsibility toward this special population.
- MJB's evaluation of JDC leadership program helped refine strategies for empowering young Jewish leaders across Europe, Latin America, and the former Soviet Union to fostering stronger regional networks and enhance leadership within Jewish communities globally.



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