People with Disabilities in Israel 2015

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Main Findings (as of 2013)

Prevalence of Disability in Israel

- In Israel there are 1,603,500 people with disabilities.
- People with disabilities constitute 20% of the population.
- 25% of the adult population (age 20+) are people with disabilities (1,344,600 individuals).
- 10% of the adult population have severe disabilities (535,500 individuals).
- 15% of the adult population have moderate disabilities (809,200 individuals).

Disability by Age, Gender and Sector

- 16% of the working age (18-64)\(^1\) population – 878,200 individuals – are people with disabilities and they account for 55% of all people with disabilities.
- 9% of the children in Israel (birth to 17) – 236,900 individuals – are people with disabilities.
- 58% of the population age 65+ – 488,400 individuals – are people with disabilities.
- 27% of women and 23% of men (age 20+) are people with disabilities.
- For those age 65+, the prevalence of disability among women is higher than among men (60% vs. 47%). At working age (20-64) the prevalence of disability among men and women is the same.
- The prevalence of disability is higher in the Arab population than in the Jewish population (32% vs. 24%).
- The gap between the Arab and Jewish populations is larger for people with a severe disability (15% vs. 9%).

Education

- People with disabilities have lower education levels than those without disabilities. The gaps are greater for people with a severe disability:
  - A higher percentage of people of working age with disabilities than those without disabilities have no more than a high-school education without matriculation: 50% vs. 28% respectively; at age 65+: 54% vs. 37%, respectively.
  - A lower percentage of people with a disability have a college education – at working age: 18% vs. 32%, respectively; at age 65+: 21% vs. 32%, respectively.

\(^1\) In the rest of the report the working age population is defined as 20-64 consistent with the ages included in the social survey.
Between 2002 and 2013, there was an increase in the percentage of people of working age with post-secondary education among people with disabilities. However there was also an increase among those without disabilities and the gap remained the same.

**Employment**

- At working age, 57% of the people with disabilities are employed, compared with 78% of people without disabilities. The gap is greater among people with a severe disability – among whom only 42% are employed.
- Among people with disabilities age 20-64, the unemployment rate is 6% compared with 4% among those without disabilities.
- Between 2002 and 2013, there was an increase in the employment rate in all population groups; the increase was greater among people with disabilities so that the gap declined. In 2002, only 40% of people with disabilities were employed, compared with 68% of people without disabilities and in 2013 the rates were 57% vs. 78%, respectively.
- 30% of working people with a severe disability and 22% of those with a moderate disability have part-time jobs compared with only 16% of people without disabilities.

**Economic Status**

- Employed people with disabilities earn lower wages, particularly those with a severe disability.
- The average standard per capita income in a household in which there is a person with disabilities is lower than in households where there is not a person with disabilities.
  - At working age, the standard per capita income of people with a moderate disability is 84% of that of people without disabilities, and 63% for people with a severe disability.
  - Among people age 65+, the standard per capita income of people with a moderate disability is 73% of that of people without disabilities, and 60% for people with a severe disability.
- More people with disabilities than people without disabilities reported going without food, a warm meal, new clothes, entertaining guests or recreational activities due to financial problems.
- It is harder for people with disabilities to cover their monthly expenses than for those without disabilities.
- A higher percentage of people with disabilities reported being unable to cover their monthly expenditures than those without disabilities; the percentage was even higher among people with a severe disability:
  - At working age, 24% of the people with a severe disability and 15% of those with a moderate disability reported that they were unable to cover their monthly expenses compared with 8% of people without disabilities.
- Among those age 65+, 10% of the people with a severe disability and 5% of those with a moderate disability are unable to cover their monthly expenses compared with 2% of people without disabilities.

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Housing and Neighborhood

- The vast majority of people with disabilities (94%) live in the community.
- 6% of people with disabilities live in institutions (including sheltered housing, sheltered housing for immigrants and hostels) – 10% of those age 65+ and 3% of those of working age (18-64).
- People with disabilities are less satisfied than those without disabilities with all aspects of their neighborhood: cleanliness in the neighborhood, public transportation, parks and open spaces, roads and sidewalks and overall. 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 the people with a severe disability reported that they do not feel safe going out alone in their neighborhood compared to 10% of people with a moderate disability and 9% of people without disabilities.
  - Among age 65+, 17% of the people with a severe disability feel unsafe, compared with 9% of people with a moderate disability and 7% of people without disabilities.

Social Contacts and Recreational Activities

- People with disabilities participate less in cultural and recreational activities than those without disabilities.
- More people with disabilities reported feeling lonely and not having friends than those without disabilities:
  - At working age, 17% of people with a severe disability and 13% of those with a moderate disability reported having no friends to meet with or speak to on the telephone compared with only 6% of people without disabilities. 28% of people with a severe disability and 13% of those with a moderate disability reported frequently feeling lonely compared with only 5% of people without disabilities.
  - At age 65+, 31% of people with a severe disability and 22% of those with a moderate disability reported having no friends to meet with or speak to on the telephone compared with only 16% of people without disabilities. 31% of people with a severe disability and 18% of those with a moderate disability reported feeling frequently lonely compared with only 8% of people without disabilities.
- A higher percentage of people with disabilities reported that they have no one to rely on in times of need than those without disabilities:
At working age, 27% of people with a severe disability and 15% of those with a moderate disability reported that they have no one to rely on for help in a crisis or time of distress, compared with 9% of those without disabilities.

At age 65+, 21% of people with a severe disability and 15% of those with a moderate disability reported that they have no one to rely on for help in a crisis or time of distress, compared with 14% of those without disabilities.

**Computer and Internet Use**

- People with disabilities make less use of computers and the internet than people without disabilities:
  - At working age, 56% of people with a severe disability and 67% of those with a moderate disability reported using a computer in the previous 3 months compared with 84% of people without disabilities.
  - At age 65+, 21% of people with a severe disability and 38% of those with a moderate disability reported using a computer in the previous 3 months compared with 55% of people without disabilities.

  People with disabilities reported that they use the computer for fewer purposes (searching for information, e-mail, discussion groups, work, government services, shopping, making payments) than people without disabilities – a gap of at least 15 percentage points on the various items.

**Health**

- A higher percentage of people with disabilities in need of medical treatment had to forgo the treatment due to financial difficulties:
  - At working age, 21% of people with disabilities in need of medical care during the previous year went without it compared with 3% of people without disabilities.
  - Among those age 65+, 15% of people with disabilities who needed medical care in the previous year went without it compared with 6% of people without disabilities.
  - At working age, 46% of people with disabilities who needed dental treatment in the previous year went without it compared with 24% of people without disabilities.
  - Among those age 65+, 56% of people with disabilities who needed dental treatment in the previous year went without it compared with 28% of people without disabilities.