
People With Disabilities in Israel

2021

Facts and Figures



JDC Israel Unlimited



Myers JDC
Brookdale

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Introduction

The World Health Organization estimates that by 2020, about 15% of the global population had a disability that affected their functioning. This translates to an estimated 93 million children and 720 million adults⁵⁶. Over the last two decades, perceptions and attitudes regarding people with disabilities have changed. This paradigm shift is reflected, inter alia, in structural reforms as well as in reforms in disability support services. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), adopted by the United Nations in 2006 and ratified by Israel in 2012, was a major milestone in this context. The CRPD advocates a person-centered service approach, which focuses on the functional performance, needs, and wishes of the individual, rather than on his disability. The CRPD highlights the importance of social inclusion of people with disabilities and the enhancement of their autonomy and independence. In the spirit of these principles, a series of laws and regulations related to people with disabilities were enacted by the State of Israel, reforms were implemented, and services were developed. In the same spirit, JDC-Israel Unlimited has developed over the years person-centered, community-based services for people with disabilities in a wide range of spheres of life.

As part of a strategic planning process conducted by JDC-Israel Unlimited in 2019-2020, the status of people with disabilities in Israel was reevaluated and the gaps between people with and without disabilities in terms of their opportunities for equal participation in society were mapped. JDC-Israel Unlimited seeks to make an impact and promote independent living for people with disabilities by enhancing

their equal opportunity for social and economic participation. JDC-Israel Unlimited has accordingly defined an axis of influence that calls for a systemic change related to three key factors: economic resilience, belongingness, independence and autonomy.

By 2019, people with disabilities accounted for 17% of the population in Israel; nonetheless, the disability community is not prioritized on the national level. Disability services are divided among various separate entities, and there is no one body that is responsible for the management of relevant disability data, services, and information. There is no one agreed upon definition of disability– in Israel as in other countries around the world. The medical model has been for years the dominant model and even today, some government agencies are still using it. Thus, for instance, the National Insurance Institute establishes eligibility for disability allowances and support services based on medical criteria. The more common approach these days is based on the social model, which puts the focus on functional disability resulting from social and environmental barriers rather than just from medical impairments, an approach, that was adopted by the CRPD as well as by Israel's Equal Rights for Persons with Disabilities Law, 1998.

In Israel, functional disability in performing basic everyday tasks is measured mainly based on self-reporting. Various government agencies, such as the Disabilities Administration at the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security and the Special Education Division at the Ministry of Education, have taken steps to standardize the measurement of functional disability by professionals in the field. However, to date, no commonly accepted set of indicators has been

established. Collaboration between all the parties, agencies, and research bodies concerned should thus be promoted to enable the development of a common language, the setting of goals, and the creation of uniform and up-to-date measurement tools.

In the absence of a centralized and systematic approach to reliable and up-to-date data collection on people with disabilities and given the lack of suitable measurement tools and the dearth of bodies available for performing ongoing measurement, changes and trends over time cannot be appropriately evaluated. The extensive activity by various bodies in Israel seeking to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities may well have a beneficial effect. However, under the current circumstances, the overall impact of such activity cannot be measured.

JDC-Israel Unlimited has set out to develop a strategy map of indicators with the aim of conducting a quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the impact of the activities undertaken on behalf of people with disabilities on their autonomy and independence and on their opportunities for equal participation in society. Cooperation between all the parties concerned is required to establish a commonly accepted, exhaustive set of national indicators, which would serve as a beacon and facilitate the identification of areas where intervention is needed for enhancing the independence of people with disabilities in Israel. Such a map of indicators would be helpful in defining guidelines for the planning and budgeting of activities, interventions, and systemic solutions aimed at achieving goals, bringing about a real change in the lives of people with disabilities, and thus contributing to the creation of a better and more diverse society.

This booklet provides a comprehensive picture of people with disabilities in Israel. It is based on in-depth exploration of a wide range of information sources in Israel and around the world – policy papers, surveys, and professional literature – as well as on requests for information from various bodies, including government ministries. The booklet presents the most up-to-date data available, based on various definitions of disability and various levels of disability support and services. Some data have not been updated in recent years and some are based on estimates and assessments.

We wish to extend our special thanks to all those who have contributed to this valuable booklet.

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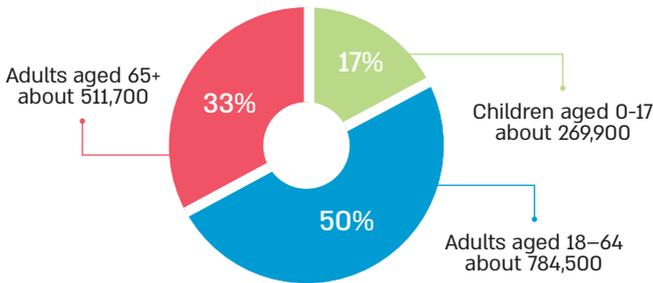
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-  Processed administrative data provided by government ministries
-  Survey-based data
-  Policy papers and professional literature

More Than 1.5 Million People with Disabilities Live in Israel

 By 2019, people with disabilities accounted for 17% of the population in Israel².

People with disabilities in Israel, by age groups, 2019 (in percentages)²



 Some 6% of the working-age population (aged 20–64) (about 276,000) have a severe disability (with significant difficulties in performing basic everyday tasks) while some 10% (about 451,500) have a moderate disability (with some difficulties in performing basic everyday tasks)².

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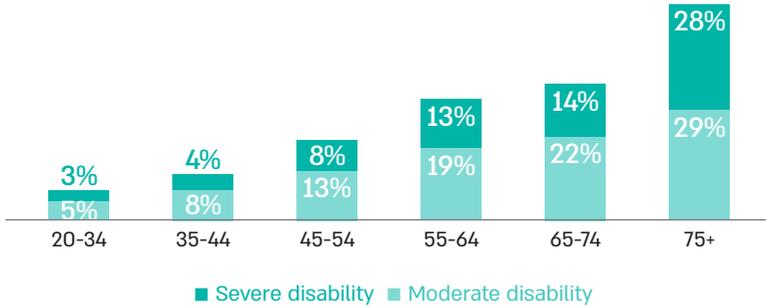
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 Policy papers and professional literature

The Rate of People with Disabilities Increases with Age²



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 Survey-based data

 Policy papers and professional literature

Types of Disabilities

There is currently no comprehensive, up-to-date national database specifying the number of people with disabilities in Israel classified by type of disability. The various information sources available provide partial or out-of-date data. Thus, for instance, the National Insurance Institute has information only on people who have an established 'percentage of disability' (i.e., level of disability) and receive a disability allowance. The Ministry of Health has information on people with mental disabilities who are eligible for mental health rehabilitation basket services. The Ministry of Welfare and Social Security has information on people with disabilities registered with the local social service departments, who are thus eligible for support services from the Ministry. The Social Survey conducted annually by Israel Central Bureau of Statistics collects data only on several types of disability. A survey conducted by the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute in 2012, based on a representative national sample, was useful in estimating the percentage of people with various types of disability in the working-age population at the time. However, since then changes have occurred (for instance, there has been a significant increase in the number of people with autism – a type of disability that was not included in the study at all); yet, no relevant up-to-date data have been collected since.

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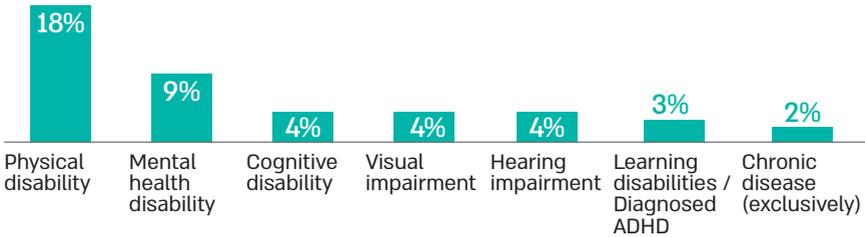
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The Most Common Types of Disability are Physical and Mental⁴⁵



A person with more than one type of disability is counted in the data several times under each of the relevant disabilities.
Based on the respondents' reports, 2012

47% of people with disabilities in the working-age population **have more than one type of disability⁴⁵.**

The rate of intellectual developmental disability in the Arab population in Israel is about twice as high as the corresponding rate in the Jewish population (5.5 per 1,000 people compared with 2.8 per 1,000 people, respectively)¹³.

The rate of autism in the Jewish population in Israel is almost four times higher than the corresponding rate in the Arab population (2.3 per 1,000 people compared with 0.6 per 1,000 people, respectively)¹³.

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Consumption of Services and Benefits Provided by Government Ministries

People with disabilities receive services from various government ministries. The government agencies that provide services to the largest number of people with disabilities are the Disabilities Administration at the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security, the Mental Health Division at the Ministry of Health, the Special Education Division at the Ministry of Education, and the National Insurance Institute.

The Disabilities Administration at the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security

 The Disabilities Administration was established by the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security (formerly, the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, and Social Services) at the beginning of 2017 with the purpose of uniting under one roof all the ministry's divisions, departments, and units that provided services for people with various types of disability. The establishment of the Disabilities Administration involved a paradigm shift regarding service provision for people with disabilities – a gradual transition from service provision based primarily on medical diagnosis of the disability to a person-centered service approach adapted to the needs, wishes, and functional performance level of the service recipient in the various spheres of life⁴⁸.

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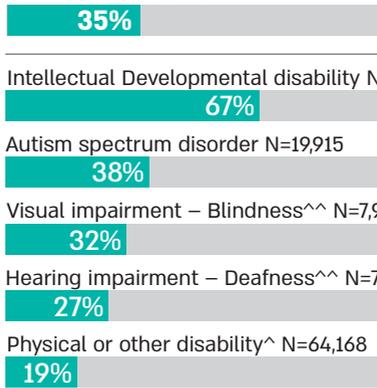
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By July 2020, 133,399 people with disabilities were registered with the Disabilities Administration, including about 88,400 adults aged 22 and over, and about 45,000 children and youth up to the age of 21⁴³.

35% of those registered with the Disabilities Administration received services in 2020

Total number of registered people with disabilities N=133,399



Percentage of service recipients among those registered with the Disabilities Administration, by type of disability

[^]The figures refer to people with disabilities who were registered with the Rehabilitation Division at the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security prior to the establishment of the Disabilities Administration, not including people with sensory disabilities. The data are based on the records of the Welfare Facilities System (MESER) at the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security.

^{^^}These populations consume additional services that are not recorded in the system database.

The data presented above are similar to the data for 2017⁴³.

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 **The services provided by the Disabilities Administration are primarily community services.** In 2017, 88% of the Disabilities Administration service recipients consumed community services (social and recreational, employment, health, and care services) while the percentage of recipients of housing services stood at 35%. In 2020, 78%, of the Disabilities Administration service recipients consumed community services while the percentage of housing service recipients remained the same. Some of the service recipients consumed both community services and housing services⁴³.

The Mental Health Division at the Ministry of Health: Mental health rehabilitation basket and mental health services

 People with a mental health disability rating of at least 40% are eligible for rehabilitation services in the community, aimed at improving their condition and promoting their full integration in the community. Their right to rehabilitation in the community is anchored in the [Community Rehabilitation of Persons with Mental Health Disability Law, 2000](#). The ministry's system of rehabilitation services in the community includes housing, employment, social and recreational activities, education, mentoring, extended support services, care coordination services, and system-wide information services³⁹.

 **27,494 people with mental disabilities received rehabilitation basket services in the community from the Ministry of Health in 2018**, an increase of 25% compared with the 21,917 recipients of rehabilitation basket services in 2014³⁹.

Legend: Source of the data presented in the booklet

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 **In 2018, more than half of the recipients of rehabilitation basket services received more than one service.** 66% (18,037) of the recipients of rehabilitation basket services in the community received employment services; 62% (16,998) received housing services; 38% (10,463) received social and recreational services; 16% (4,509) received mentoring and extended support services; 7% (2,011) received care coordination services; and 7% (1,808) received education services³⁹.

 **In 2018, there were about 54,000 psychiatric emergency department visits** in the general and psychiatric hospitals, an increase from the 49,000 visits recoded in 2014 and 43,000 visits recorded in 2009³⁹.

 **In 2018, about 18,000 people were hospitalized in a psychiatric ward**, i.e., 2.03 per 1,000 people, a decrease of 3% from 2014³⁹.

 33% of the psychiatric hospital admissions in 2018 were instructed by a psychiatrist or requested by a court order (forced hospitalization)³⁹.

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About half of those hospitalized in a psychiatric ward are referred for recurrent psychiatric hospitalization within a year. This rate has remained stable over the last decade³⁹



The Special Education Division at the Ministry of Education

 Amendment No. 11 to the Special Education Law, 1988, was passed by the Knesset in July 2018 and as of the 2019-2020 school year, has been gradually implemented. The implementation of the law takes place as part of a systemic process that promotes the inclusion and integration of students with various special needs in the education system. The process is designed to provide a customized response adapted to the functional performance abilities and unique needs of each student as well as to the support required by each student so as to enable him or her to participate in the learning process, maximize individual potential, and make progress academically, socially, and emotionally²⁶.

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 Amendment No. 11 to the Special Education Law, 1988, is a key element of the special education reform. Three major modifications are at the core of the amendment to the law: (1) the modification of the procedure for determining eligibility for, and placement in special education – by the establishment of two dedicated committees, the eligibility and disability characterization committee, and a multidisciplinary school committee, in place of the previously assigned placement committee and integration committee; (2) giving parents the right to choose the type of educational setting in which their child will study; (3) detailed specification of the scope of services that special education students are entitled to, based on their type of disability and functional performance level²⁶.

 **About 258,000 children were enrolled in the special education system in the 2018-2019 school year, accounting for 10% of the overall education system population in that year.** About 52,000 of the special education students (20%) studied in special education schools or kindergartens; about 46,000 (18%) studied in a special education class (in the regular education system), and under the inclusion model about 160,000 (62%) studied in a regular school class².

 **In the 2018-2019 school year, the most common disability among special education students was a learning disability** (experienced by 49% of the special education students, accounting for 5% of the overall education system population in that year)¹⁶.

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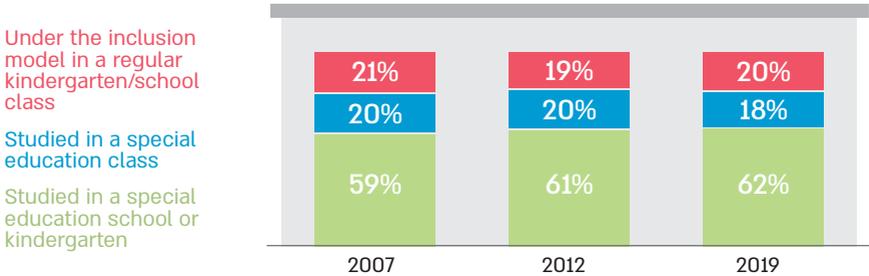
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There has been no significant change over the years in the rate of students with disabilities under the inclusion model in regular school classes^{16, 17, 18}



The percentage of students with autism has been on the rise.

In the 2006-2007 school year, students with autism accounted for 3% of the special education students; the percentage increased to 5% in the 2012-2013 school year and reached 7% in the 2018-2019 school year¹⁶.

The National Insurance Institute

The National Insurance Institute provides a general disability allowance to people who are unable to work or whose ability to work has been reduced due to their health status. **262,686 people from the age of 18 to retirement age, accounting for about 6% of the working-age population, received a general disability allowance in 2019¹⁹.**

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Administrative data provided by government ministries

Processed administrative data provided by government ministries

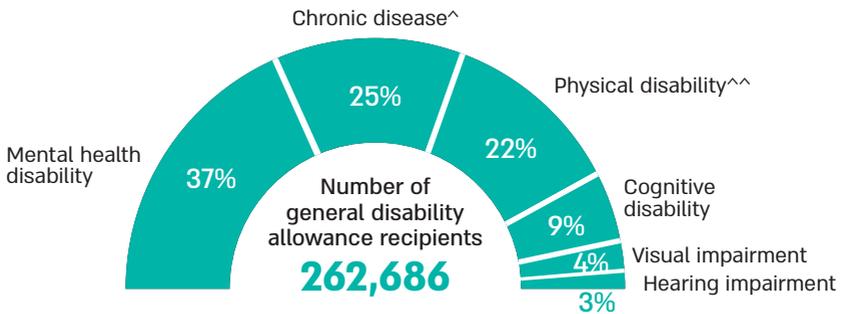
Survey-based data

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👤 The percentage of recipients of a general disability allowance has increased over the years. For instance, in 2012, about 220,000 persons (5% of the working-age population) received a general disability allowance. In 2016, their number increased to about 231,000 (5% of the working-age population) and in 2019, their number increased to about 262,700 (6% of the working-age population)^{19, 20, 21}.

👤 The most common disability among recipients of a general disability allowance was mental health disability (96,406 people, accounting for 36.7% of the general disability allowance recipients). It should be noted that the National Insurance Institute considers people with autism as people with mental health disability¹⁹.

Mental health disability was the most common disability among recipients of a general disability allowance, 2019¹⁹



Ground for eligibility for a general disability allowance

[^] Internal and uro-genital disorders

^{^^} Neurological and loco-motor disorders

These data refer only to recipients of a general disability allowance in the working-age population; the data do not refer to the overall population of people with disabilities in Israel.

Legend: Source of the data presented in the booklet

Administrative data provided by government ministries

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In 2019, about half a million people received some kind of state provided disability allowance^{19,36}

Type of allowance	Number of allowance recipients
IDF veterans' disability allowance [^]	50,243
General disability allowance ^{^^}	262,686
Disability allowances provided by the National Insurance Institute for non-recipients of a general disability allowance ^{^^^}	41,326
Permanent disability allowance due to work-related injuries ^{^^^^}	22,396
Disability allowance for victims of hostilities ^{^^^^}	2,264
Child disability allowance	67,320
Total	446,235

[^] The data refer to allowance recipients aged 20-69, with a disability rating of 10% or more, in 2020.

^{^^} Loss of work capacity with an impairment rating of 40% or more.

^{^^^} Non-recipients of a general disability allowance who receive at least one of the following allowances: mobility disability allowance, attendance allowance for the disabled, allowance for polio victims, allowance for scalp ringworm victims.

^{^^^^} A disability rating of 20% or more.

 About 20% of the National Insurance Institute disability allowance recipients receive more than one of the following monthly allowances: general disability allowance, mobility disability allowance, attendance allowance for the disabled, allowance for polio victims, allowance for scalp ringworm victims¹⁹.

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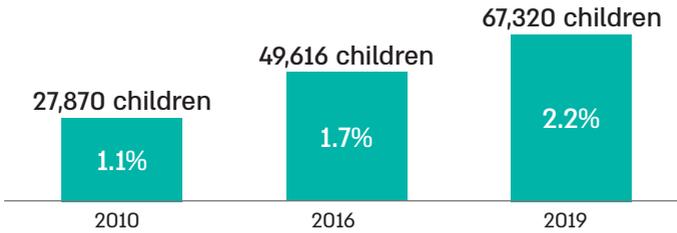
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The percentage of recipients of a child disability allowance has been on the rise^{19,20,22}



Percentage of child disability allowance recipients among the population of children in Israel

Legend: Source of the data presented in the booklet

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 Policy papers and professional literature

Economic Status and Employment

 Notwithstanding the efforts made by various entities in Israel to promote the employment of people with disabilities through legislation, policy reforms, and dedicated programs, the labor force participation rate for people with disabilities is lower than the corresponding rate for people without disabilities. People with disabilities seeking to integrate into the labor market face a range of barriers. Some of the barriers are related to the characteristics of people with disabilities, e.g., the disability itself, a low level of education, poor computer skills, inadequate training, and low self-confidence. Other barriers are related to the workplace characteristics, including lack of accessibility, non-compliance with workplace accommodation regulations, limited access to work opportunities, negative views and stigmas, and employers' concerns about people with disabilities, their work-related abilities (e.g., inefficiency, liable to result in financial loss, inability to cope with workloads) and performance-related legal issues (e.g., lawsuits, difficulties involved in termination of the employment relationship)^{1,28}.

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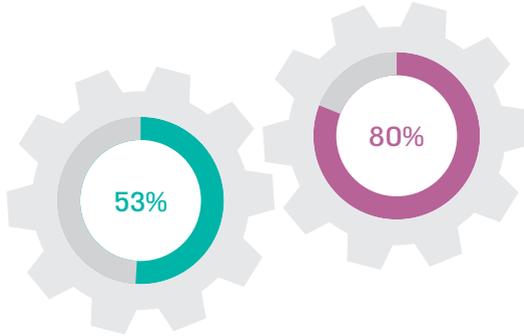
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The employment rate of people with disabilities is lower than that of people without disabilities²



Percentage of employed people in the working-age population in 2019
with disabilities | without disabilities

 In 2020, 44% of people with disabilities in OECD countries were employed, compared with 75% of people without disabilities⁵⁶. Employment rates in Israel are higher than the average in the OECD countries.

Legend: Source of the data presented in the booklet

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The employment rate gap between people with and without disabilities in Israel has remained stable over the years²



Employment rate among people **with disabilities** | **without disabilities**

-  In 2019, 23% of people with disabilities in the working-age population were employed part-time, compared with 18% of people without disabilities².
-  In 2019, 29% of people with disabilities in the Arab working-age population were employed, compared with 61% of people with disabilities in the Jewish working-age population¹⁴.
-  Statistics compiled in 2014 showed that **the Israeli economy lost about NIS 5 billion annually due to the employment status of people with disabilities** and their increasing dependence on state provided disability allowances¹¹.

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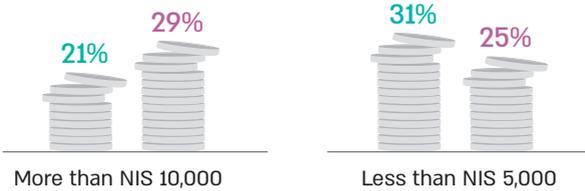
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The wages of people with disabilities are lower than the wages earned by their counterparts without disabilities²



The wages of working-age people **with disabilities** | **without disabilities** in 2019

The employment rate among recipients of a general disability allowance is even lower than the employment rate among those with severe disabilities:

- In 2014, 21% of general disability allowance recipients were employed, compared with 42% of people with severe disabilities²⁷.
- In 2014, the average wage of recipients of a general disability allowance was NIS 2,990, 33% of the average market wage in that year (NIS 8,955)⁷.
- In 2019, the employment rate among recipients of a general disability allowance increased to 27%, compared with 35% of people with severe disabilities, and their average wage increased to NIS 4,158, 41% of the average market wage in that year (NIS 10,139)^{2,7,23}.

90% of the general population are willing to accept people with disabilities as colleagues (co-workers)¹².

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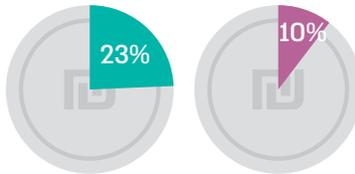
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People with disabilities find it difficult to cover their monthly expenses, although there has been an improvement over the years²



People with disabilities | without disabilities who find it difficult to cover their monthly expenses
 Monthly expenses include food, electricity, telephone, and other expenses

People with disabilities feel poorer¹⁴



People aged 20 and over with disabilities | without disabilities who feel poorer

More people with disabilities give up medical care due to financial difficulties than people without disabilities (18% compared with 5%, respectively) and more people with disabilities give up medication due to financial difficulties than people without disabilities (16% compared with 3%, respectively)¹⁴.

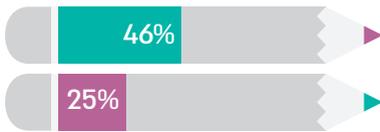
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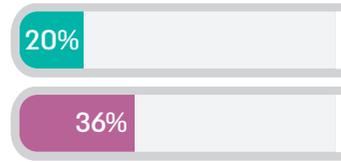
Education

The education level of people with disabilities is lower than that of people without disabilities

Without a matriculation certificate



Academically educated



Working-age people **with disabilities** | **without disabilities**

The education level in the Arab population is lower than that of the Jewish population, and the gap is even more pronounced among people with disabilities. For instance, 72% of people with disabilities in the Arab population have 12 years of schooling or less (without a matriculation certificate), compared with 37% of people with disabilities in the Jewish population, and 8% of people with disabilities in the Arab population have an academic degree, compared with 22% of people with disabilities in the Jewish population¹⁴.

42% of students with disabilities in higher education institutions reported that they did not receive all the academic accommodations they were entitled to, and 33% noted that they considered dropping out of university due to lack of accessibility or because they did not receive the academic accommodations they needed⁴⁹.

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 **The rate of illiteracy among people with disabilities is considerably higher than among people without disabilities.** 17% of people with disabilities in the Jewish population lack reading literacy in Hebrew or have poor reading literacy, compared with 4% of people without disabilities in the Jewish population. As for writing literacy in Hebrew, the rates are 19%, compared with 6%, respectively².

Legend: Source of the data presented in the booklet

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Sense of Belonging and Wellbeing

 **About 80% of people with disabilities** aged 20 and over reported that **they had friends** with whom they meet or communicate by phone, **compared with 93% of people without disabilities**².

More people with disabilities frequently feel lonely²



Working-age people **with disabilities** | **without disabilities** who feel lonely

 13% of working-age people with disabilities report that they have no person on whom they can rely when in distress or at a time of crisis, compared with 5% of people without disabilities¹⁴.

 Children with disabilities are at a high risk of abuse and neglect – about three times more so than children without disabilities⁴.

 In the framework of 360° - the National Program for Children and Youth at Risk, about 93,000 children with disabilities were found to be at risk²⁵.

 In 2020, about 22,300 children with disabilities received services provided by the National Program for Children and Youth at Risk²⁵.

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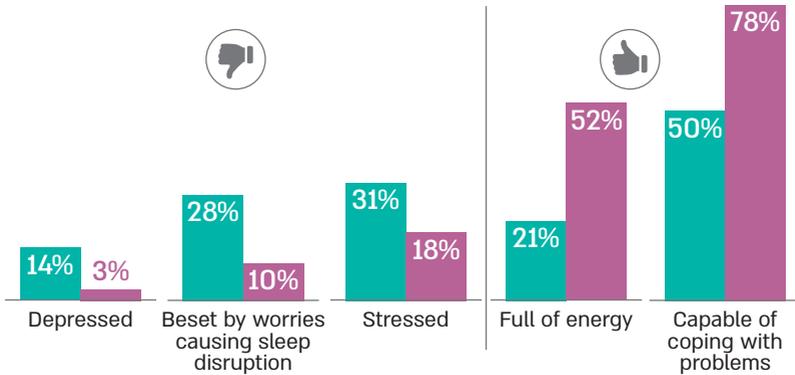
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 Policy papers and professional literature

 There are no data or estimates regarding the scope of abuse and neglect of adults with disabilities in Israel.

People with disabilities less often report positive feelings and more often report negative feelings



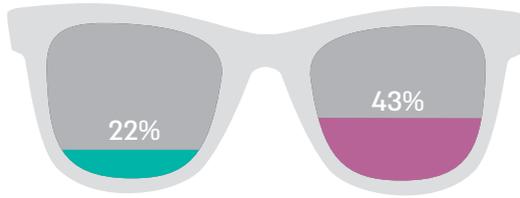
Working-age people [with disabilities](#) | [without disabilities](#)
 Felt like this 'always' or 'frequently' over the past year | aged 20 and over

 People with disabilities report **poor sleep quality**, more so than people without disabilities. 36% of people with disabilities report difficulty sleeping or falling asleep every night or almost every night in the last month, compared with 9% of people without disabilities. Among people who reported sleeping difficulties, people with disabilities reported substantial reduction in functional performance due to fatigue, more so than people without disabilities (23% compared with 4%, respectively)¹⁵.

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People with disabilities are less satisfied with their lives¹⁴



Working-age people **with disabilities** | **without disabilities**
who are very satisfied with their lives

▮ Among the Jewish working-age population, **49% of people with disabilities did military service**, compared with **64% of people without disabilities¹⁴**.

▮ **4% of people with disabilities did national service, compared with 17%** of people without disabilities¹⁴.

It should be noted that in many cases, the disability originates at a later age in life ('acquired disability'), after military or national service. Therefore, the data do not allow to distinguish between the cases.

👤 In recent years, the number of young people with disabilities volunteering for military service has been on the rise. In 2019, 823 applications of young people with disabilities seeking to volunteer for military service were approved, compared with 476 applications in 2015³⁴.

Legend: Source of the data presented in the booklet

👤 Administrative data provided by government ministries

📄 Processed administrative data provided by government ministries

▮ Survey-based data

📖 Policy papers and professional literature

 **In recent years, the number of young people with disabilities volunteering for national service has also been on the rise.**

In January 2018, 1,105 young people with disabilities served in the national service, compared with 458 in January 2014²⁴.

 In 2019, 10% of people with disabilities reported involvement in the public or political life, on the local or national level, compared with 15% of people without disabilities¹⁴.

 16% of people with disabilities aged 20 and over engaged in voluntary activity in 2019, compared with 25% of people without disabilities².

Legend: Source of the data presented in the booklet

 Administrative data provided by government ministries

 Processed administrative data provided by government ministries

 Survey-based data

 Policy papers and professional literature

Housing

-  **About 90% of people with disabilities live in households in the community**^{5,40,44,46}. There are no detailed data available in Israel regarding these people (for instance, regarding the number of people with disabilities who live independently or with family members, the number of people with disabilities who own an apartment, or the number of them who have started a family).
-  In recent decades, the policy promoting housing in the community in place of residential institutions for people with disabilities (deinstitutionalization) has gained momentum in many Western countries^{45,53}.
-  Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) recognizes the equal right of all persons with disabilities to live independently in the community. The states that are parties to the CRPD are thus required to close all the existing residential institutions for people with disabilities and offer them housing solutions in the community⁹.
-  Over the last decade, the policy promoting housing in the community in preference to residential institutions for people with disabilities has gained increasing support in Israel. For example, in 2020, [the Welfare Law \(Care of People with Intellectual Developmental Disabilities\), 1969](#), was accordingly amended. The amendment to the law stipulates that when considering the appropriate type of out-of-home arrangement for people with

Legend: Source of the data presented in the booklet

 Administrative data provided by government ministries

 Processed administrative data provided by government ministries

 Survey-based data

 Policy papers and professional literature

intellectual developmental disabilities, the diagnosis committee at the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security should give preference to integrated community living. In 2011, an international committee of experts convened in Israel recommended the expansion of the infrastructure of services in the community and substantial reduction in the number of residential institutions for people with intellectual developmental disabilities⁵³.

 **The State of Israel has launched a deinstitutionalization process**

aimed at moving the inhabitants of residential care (residential institutions) to housing facilities in the community. As part of this initiative, the Disabilities Administration at the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security (formerly, the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, and Social Services) completed in 2019 a program for the transitioning of 900 people with intellectual developmental disabilities from residential care to community living⁹.

 **About 36,000 people with disabilities received state provided**

housing services in 2018 (residential facilities, supportive housing, or foster families). About 22,800 of them lived in residential facilities (residential institutions, hostels, and sheltered housing), about 12,300 lived in supportive housing, and about 800 lived in foster families^{39,48,51}.

 **About 10,500 of those referred to residential facilities lived in**

institutions (residential care or hospitalization of over a year in a psychiatric hospital) and about 12,300 lived in residential facilities in the community (hostels, and sheltered housing).

The data published by the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security

Legend: Source of the data presented in the booklet

 Administrative data provided by government ministries

 Processed administrative data provided by government ministries

 Survey-based data

 Policy papers and professional literature

cannot be used for accurate comparison between those living in hostels and those living in sheltered housing or in apartments serving as care home branches^{3,39,48,51}.

About 22,800 of people with disabilities lived in residential facilities in 2018^{39,48,51}

Financing agency	Ministry of Welfare and Social Security, Disabilities Administration				Ministry of Health, Mental Health Division	Total
	Type of disability	Autism	Intellectual developmental disabilities	Physical and sensory disabilities and Cognitive decline		
Type of housing facility						Total
Institutions [^]	1,509	7,307	822	915 ^{^^}	10,553	
Hostel / sheltered housing	347	3,550	3,339	5,053	12,289	
Total number of people living in residential facilities	1,856	10,857	4,161	5,979	22,842	

The data refer to people with disabilities of all ages.

[^] People living in apartments serving as care home branches are considered in the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security statistics as people living in care homes. According to the estimates provided by the Disabilities Administration in February 2020, about 1,200 people live in apartments serving as care home branches, most of them people with intellectual developmental disabilities.

^{^^} The Ministry of Health has no residential institutions for people with mental health disability. However, in 2018, 915 people were hospitalized in a psychiatric hospital over a year and they were thus considered as living in an institutional setting.

Legend: Source of the data presented in the booklet

 Administrative data provided by government ministries

 Processed administrative data provided by government ministries

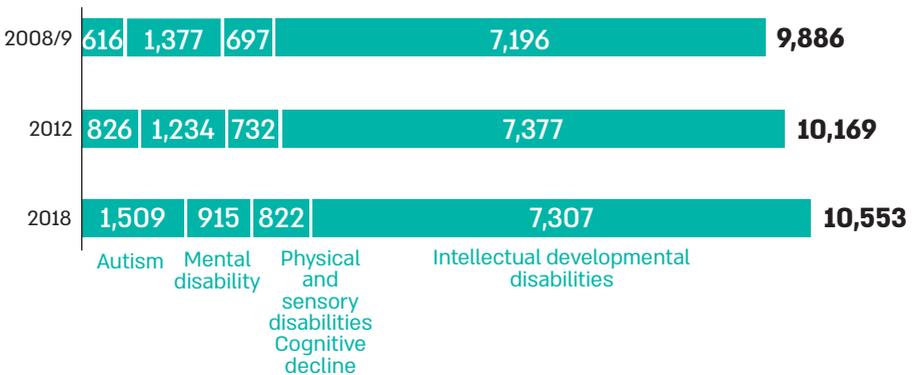
 Survey-based data

 Policy papers and professional literature

The vast majority of people with disabilities living in residential institutions are people with intellectual developmental disabilities.

In 2018, 11,286 people with intellectual developmental disabilities of all ages, accounting for 32% of the overall population of people with intellectual developmental disabilities registered with the Disabilities Administration (34,807), lived in residential facilities in Israel. 7,307 of them (65% of those who lived in residential facilities) lived in institutional settings (including those who lived in apartments serving as care home branches)⁴⁸. The rate of people with disabilities living in institutional settings in Israel is higher than the corresponding rate in Western countries^{35,54}.

In the decade from 2008 to 2018, there was no substantial change in the number of people with disabilities living in institutions^{3,39,40,48,51}



The presented data related to people with autism, intellectual developmental disabilities, physical and sensory disabilities, and cognitive decline living in institutions include data on people living in apartments serving as care home branches, as the data provided by the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security cannot be used for accurate comparison between those living in institutions and those living in apartments serving as care home branches.

Legend: Source of the data presented in the booklet

-  Administrative data provided by government ministries
-  Processed administrative data provided by government ministries
-  Survey-based data
-  Policy papers and professional literature

-  People with disabilities seeking to live independently in the community are liable to face a range of barriers, including financial difficulties, i.e., difficulty to cover housing expenses, stigmas and negative reactions from the social environment, and lack of everyday skills.
-  Supportive housing enables people with disabilities to move (from their parents' home or from a residential facility) to an apartment of their own in the community and to receive a basket of supportive housing services adapted to their needs (mentoring, assistance, facilitation, and guidance).

More than 12,000 people lived in supportive housing in 2018, 97% of them people with mental health disabilities^{3,39,48,51}



The data related to the Supportive Housing Program, run by the Disabilities Administration at the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security in partnership with JDC-Israel Unlimited, have been provided by the program director and are valid for 2020. The term commonly in use at the Ministry of Health is *supportive housing for individuals*.

In the decade from 2008 to 2018, the number of people coping with mental health issues who lived in supportive housing increased by five times^{39,40}



Number of people with mental disability who lived in supportive housing

Legend: Source of the data presented in the booklet

-  Administrative data provided by government ministries
-  Processed administrative data provided by government ministries
-  Survey-based data
-  Policy papers and professional literature

 **The Supportive Housing Program, developed by JDC-Israel Unlimited, assists people with disabilities seeking to live independently in the community by providing them with mentoring, assistance, and guidance.** The program was implemented as a pilot in 36 localities in Israel with the participation of 338 people with disabilities[^]. As of 2021, the program has been fully financed by the Disabilities Administration and as of 2022, it will be implemented by the Administration.

 **Over the last decade, there has been no significant change in the number of people with disabilities living in institutions.** At the same time, there has been a substantial increase in the number of people living in supportive housing, most of them people with mental health disabilities^{3,10,39,40,48,51}.

 Various housing assistance programs for wheelchair-bound people were in place in 2020, including rental assistance, public housing, property procurement apartments for the disabled, and assistance performing housing accessibility modifications, both inside and outside apartments. Rental assistance for wheelchair-bound people eligible for public housing and waiting for a suitable vacant public housing apartment or for a property procurement apartment stood at NIS 2,250-3,500 per month for a single person or NIS 2,500-4,000 per month for a couple or family³⁷.

[^] Based on a conversation held with the director of the Supportive Housing Program at JDC-Israel Unlimited (H. Wolf, Interpersonal Communication, December 2020)

Legend: Source of the data presented in the booklet

 Administrative data provided by government ministries

 Processed administrative data provided by government ministries

 Survey-based data

 Policy papers and professional literature

 People with disabilities who are not wheelchair-bound are not eligible for public housing but may be eligible to receive rental assistance. However, the rental assistance they are offered falls short of the amount needed for rent on the open market. Thus, for instance, **in 2020, rental assistance for a single person looking to rent an apartment in a large locality was just NIS 700-770 per month** while the corresponding assistance for rent in a small locality was NIS 490-540 per month³⁸.

 In 2020, 88% of survey respondents reported willingness to live next door to a person with disability, compared with 83% in 2016¹².

 A larger number of respondents reported willingness to live next door to people with physical disabilities while a smaller number of respondents reported willingness to live next door to people with mental health disabilities¹⁴.

Legend: Source of the data presented in the booklet

 Administrative data provided by government ministries

 Processed administrative data provided by government ministries

 Survey-based data

 Policy papers and professional literature

Transportation

The State of Israel directly finances the costs of mobility services for people with disabilities related to private car ownership and use, shuttle services, and public transportation in the amount of about NIS 2.5 billion annually. These services are offered to no more than about 40% of people with disabilities²⁹



▮ The largest share of the direct public expenditure on mobility services is allocated to only a small proportion of people with disabilities. Thus, for instance, NIS 1.6 billion, accounting for 66% of the direct public expenditure on mobility services for people with disabilities, is allocated to only 3% of people with disabilities in the form of a mobility allowance for private car owners²⁹.

▮ The shuttle services for people with disabilities are run by several government ministries: the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security, and the Ministry of Education, at a total cost of more than NIS 770 million annually²⁹.

👤 In 2020, **55,573 special education students were served by school bus shuttles⁴¹**.

Legend: Source of the data presented in the booklet

👤 Administrative data provided by government ministries

📄 Processed administrative data provided by government ministries

▮ Survey-based data

📖 Policy papers and professional literature

-  The rate of driving license holders in the 20-and-over age group is lower among people with disabilities than among people without disabilities (61% compared with 81%, respectively)².
-  63% of people with disabilities own a car, compared with 81% of people without disabilities².
-  59% of people with physical disabilities use a car to get to work while 57% of people with other disabilities use public transportation for that purpose⁸. It should be noted that in 2021, inter-city transportation is still not accessible to people with disabilities, so that it is virtually impossible for people with sensory and physical disabilities to use public transportation for out-of-town travel.
-  38% of unemployed people with disabilities believe that their prospects of employment are limited due to the inaccessibility of public transportation⁸.

Legend: Source of the data presented in the booklet

 Administrative data provided by government ministries

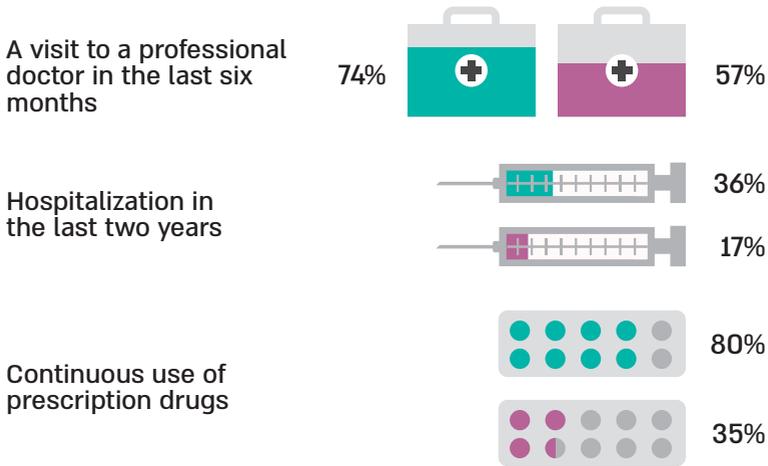
 Processed administrative data provided by government ministries

 Survey-based data

 Policy papers and professional literature

Health and Lifestyle

People with disabilities consume health services more than people without disabilities⁶



People aged 20 and over **with disabilities** | **without disabilities**

||| In 2017, the body mass index (BMI) of 26% of people with disabilities aged 20 and over indicated high body fatness or extremely high body fatness, compared with 14% of people without disabilities in the same age group¹⁵.

||| **People with disabilities are doing less exercise than people without disabilities.** In a survey conducted in 2017, 38% of people with disabilities aged 20 and over reported that they engaged in some form of exercise in the previous three months, compared with 55% of people without disabilities¹⁵.

Legend: Source of the data presented in the booklet

Administrative data provided by government ministries

Processed administrative data provided by government ministries

Survey-based data

Policy papers and professional literature

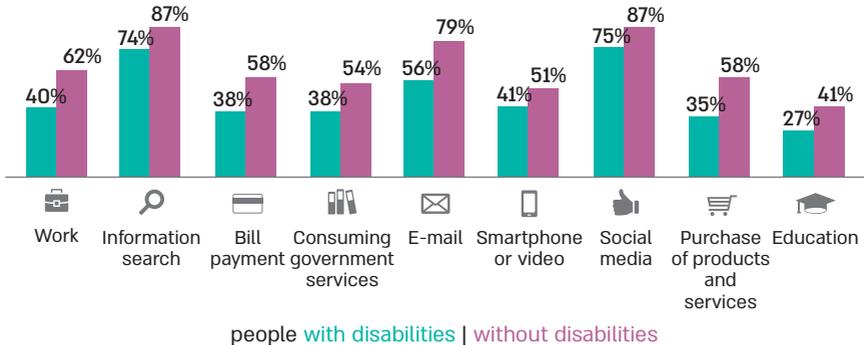
Digital Literacy

People with disabilities use the Internet less than people without disabilities^{2,6}



Percentage of people **with disabilities** | **without disabilities** in the working-age population who reported in 2019 that they used the Internet (on the computer or a smartphone) in the previous three months

There are differences in Internet usage for various purposes between people with and without disabilities¹⁴



!!! It should be noted that the data presented above were collected prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, which increased the need for the use of digital technology. The data indicate that upon the outbreak of the pandemic, people with disabilities were not as skilled in using digital technology as people without disabilities.

Legend: Source of the data presented in the booklet

- Administrative data provided by government ministries
- Processed administrative data provided by government ministries
- Survey-based data
- Policy papers and professional literature

Legal Capacity

The number of people who have a legal guardian increases from year to year^{32,42,50}



Number of people who have a legal guardian

The increase in the number of people who have a legal guardian is due to the natural population growth, the aging of the population, and the increase in the general life expectancy. The rates are high compared with other countries.

By the end of 2018, 45% of the persons who had an appointed legal guardian were aged 70 or over, **50% were in the 20-70 age group**, and 5% were in the under-20 age group⁴². With the exception of children, a legal guardian is appointed for a person with functional difficulties, that is, a person with a disability.

In March 2016, Amendment No. 18 to the [Legal Competency and Guardianship Law, 1962](#), was approved by the Knesset; it was published in *Reshumot* (the official Government Gazette) in April 2016. The amendment to the law highlights the need to respect the free will of the individual and to maintain his/her autonomy and accordingly, proposes **two alternatives to legal guardianship: supported decision making and durable power of attorney**^{50,52}.

[^] The term *ongoing power of attorney* is also in use.

Legend: Source of the data presented in the booklet

Administrative data provided by government ministries

Processed administrative data provided by government ministries

Survey-based data

Policy papers and professional literature

-  Supported decision making, agreed between two or more people, allows a person with disability who has difficulty in understanding information or independently making decisions regarding his private affairs, but is capable of making decisions with suitable assistance and support, to choose a trusted advisor (supporter) to help him make informed personal, financial, and medical decisions or to mediate information that he finds difficult to understand⁵².
-  Durable power of attorney is a legal document that constitutes an alternative to legal guardianship and enables any adult (aged 18 and over) who understands the meaning and implications of a power of attorney to grant power of attorney, that is, to instruct in advance how and by whom his private affairs will be managed should he or she be in a condition in which they no longer have the capacity to comprehend such matters and to make decisions with respect to them.
-  In the period since Amendment No. 18 to the Legal Competency and Guardianship Law, 1962, was approved by the Knesset in March 2016 until the end of 2020, **about 650 decision-making supporters have been appointed**[^].
-  In 2018, 5,446 durable power of attorney applications filed with the Administrator General of Israel were approved⁴².

[^] Based on a conversation held with the National Commissioner for Supported Decision Making, the Administrator General and Official Receiver Division, the Ministry of Justice.
(A. Dan, Interpersonal Communication, November 2020)

Legend: Source of the data presented in the booklet

 Administrative data provided by government ministries

 Processed administrative data provided by government ministries

 Survey-based data

 Policy papers and professional literature

Aging

-  **The life expectancy of people with disabilities has increased** thanks to the increase in the life expectancy of the general population and the scientific progress in the medical and social fields⁴⁷.
-  People with disabilities are liable to **experience the general effects of aging more severely** than people without disabilities³⁰.
-  The data on the aging of people with disabilities are lacking as they refer to the entire population of people with disabilities in old age, including those who have become disabled due to aging.
-  **In 2017, 4,188 people aged 50 and over lived in out-of-home facilities managed by the Disabilities Administration; 64% of them were living in institutions; 19% were living in housing in the community; and 17% were living in hostels. 1,117 of them were aged 65 and over, and most of them (73%) were living in residential care (compared with 16% who were living in hostels and 11% who were living in housing in the community).**
-  The vast majority of people aged 50 and over who live in out-of-home facilities managed by the Disabilities Administration are people with intellectual developmental disabilities (81%) and the rest are people with physical or sensory disabilities, or people with cognitive decline²⁷.

Legend: Source of the data presented in the booklet

 Administrative data provided by government ministries

 Processed administrative data provided by government ministries

 Survey-based data

 Policy papers and professional literature

 The National Insurance Institute has no data on elderly people with disabilities, as following retirement age (62 for women and 67 for men), former recipients of disability allowances receive an old-age pension, granted to all senior citizens, in place of a disability allowance. **In 2019, there were in Israel 86,230 recipients of disability allowances aged 55 to retirement age¹⁹.**

 **In 2018, 7,423 rehabilitation basket recipients were aged 55 and over**, accounting for 27% of all rehabilitation basket recipients in that year²⁷.

 Estimates suggest that in 2010, there were 12-15 million elderly people with disabilities in the USA⁵⁵, accounting for 3.8%-4.7% of the general population.

Legend: Source of the data presented in the booklet

 Administrative data provided by government ministries

 Processed administrative data provided by government ministries

 Survey-based data

 Policy papers and professional literature

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i As of July 2021, named: The Ministry of Welfare and Social Affairs



JDC-Israel Unlimited is a partnership between the Joint Distribution Committee - ISRAEL (JDC-Israel), the Government of Israel, and the Ruderman Family Foundation, which seeks to utilize, effectively and collaboratively, all the resources and capabilities available in the field and thus develop solutions for improving and advancing the lives of people with disabilities. Guided by a person-centered approach that is focused on the individual himself rather than on his limiting circumstances, the partnership has set itself the goal of promoting social impact so as to maximize independent living for people with disabilities by enhancing their equal opportunity for social and economic participation while aspiring to create a paradigm shift in public awareness and a fundamental change in the physical and social environment of people with disabilities.



The Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute (MJB) is Israel's leading center for applied social research. We use meticulous study, rigorous research, and our extensive knowledge to help inform and improve major decisions that impact people's wellbeing and thus contribute to the strengthening of Israeli society. The Institute identifies and examines key social challenges and takes part in the shaping of policy, the development of programs, and the improvement of services for individuals, families, and communities. This, with the view of enhancing the social resilience of the State of Israel and promoting the wellbeing of all its members.

The studies conducted by the Disabilities Team at MJB are focused on the national endeavor to shape and implement policy reforms designed to enhance the autonomy and independence of people with disabilities and their full participation in society by improving existing service systems and developing new services.