



Rates of Poverty

(Sources: National Insurance Institute Poverty Report, 2011; National Insurance Institute Poverty Report, 2001.)

In 2010, there were 433,300 poor families in Israel (20% of all families), encompassing 1,773,400 persons (24% of all persons), of whom 837,300 were children (35% of all children). 50% of poor families have no wage earner and 50% are working poor.

These statistics represent an increase from 2000 when there were 305,400 poor families in Israel (18% of all families), encompassing 1,088,100 persons (19% of all persons), of whom 481,000 were children (25% of all children).

The most dramatic increase was in the rate of children living in poor families, which rose from 25% in 2000 to 35% in 2010.

Table 1: Trends in Poverty among Families, Persons and Children, 2000-2010, Absolute Numbers and Percentages

	2000	2005	2010
Numbers below the poverty line			
Families	305,400	410,700	433,300
Persons	1,088,100	1,630,500	1,773,400
Children	481,100	768,800	837,300
Percentage below the poverty line			
Families	18%	21%	20%
Persons	19%	25%	24%
Children	25%	35%	35%

(Source: National Insurance Institute, various years.)

The rate of poverty among families in Israel is the second highest among OECD countries and is almost twice that of the OECD average (using the OECD definition of poverty, Israel data for 2010, OECD data for late 2000s).

There are also regions that are particularly poor. The rate of poverty among persons is highest in the Jerusalem district (46%) and the Northern district (37%), but is much lower in the Southern district (25%) and the Central district (13%).



Basic Needs

Ability to cover monthly household expenses

(Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Social Survey, 2010.)

- 36% of households had difficulties meeting the monthly household expenses such as food, electricity, and telephone, including 8% that were not at all able to do so.
- Lower income groups have a harder time meeting basic household needs. In households with an income of up to 2000 NIS per person, 54% had difficulty meeting these expenses, including 14% that were not at all able. In contrast, only 21% of the highest-income group were unable.

Table 2: Ability to Cover Household Expenses (Food, Electricity, Telephone), (in Percentages, 2010)

	Not at all able	Not so able	Able to, but with some difficulty	Able to without difficulty
Total	8%	28%	49%	15%
Average income per person				
Up to 2000 NIS	14%	40%	40%	6%
2001-4000 NIS	8%	30%	51%	11%
More than 4000 NIS	3%	14%	56%	28%

(Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Social Survey, 2010.)

Foregoing health services and medicines

(Source: Brammli-Greenberg, S.; Gross, R.; Ya'ir, Y.; Akiva, E. 2011. *Public Opinion on the Level of Service and Performance of the Healthcare System in 2009 and in Comparison with Previous Years*, Myers-JDC Brookdale Institute, Jerusalem.)

- In 2009, 14% of adults reported foregoing medical treatment or medication or both due to cost. Among low-income groups the rate was 22%.
- In 2009, 28% of adults reported foregoing dental care at least once in the past year due to cost. Among low-income groups the rate was 38%.

Table 3: Foregoing Health Services and Medicines Due to Cost (in Percentages, 2009)

	Medical treatment or medication	Dental care
Total	14%	28%
Low-income	22%	38%

(Source: Myers-JDC Brookdale Institute Health Survey, 2011.)



Health Status

(Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Social Survey, 2010.)

- 27% of those who had an average monthly income of up to 2000 NIS per month said their health was not at all good or not so good, compared with only 12% of those with a monthly income between 2001 and 4000 NIS. and 11% of those with a monthly income above 4000 NIS.

Table 4: Self-Reported Health Status (in Percentages, 2010)

	Not at all good	Not so good	Good	Very good
Total	6%	14%	32%	48%
Average income				
Up to 2000 NIS	9%	19%	27%	46%
2001-4000 NIS	6%	16%	33%	45%
More than 4000 NIS	2%	9%	36%	53%

(Source: Central Bureau of Statistics, Social Survey, 2010.)

Emotional Stress

(Source: Central Bureau of Statistics, Social Survey, 2010)

In 2010, those with lower incomes reported higher levels of emotional and physical stresses than did people with higher incomes.

Table 5 Emotional and Physical Stresses, by Income Group (in Percentages, 2010)

	Up to 2000 NIS	More than 4000 NIS
Frequently felt depressed	14%	5%
Frequently felt lonely	10%	5%
Felt that they could never or rarely cope with problems	13%	4%
Frequently had trouble sleeping because of worries	13%	10%

(Source: Central Bureau of Statistics, Social Survey, 2010.)



Food Insecurity

(Source: National Insurance Institute. 2011. *Food Insecurity: Initial Findings from Survey and Points for Discussion*. Jerusalem.)

A 2010 National Insurance Institute report on food insecurity found that:

- 19% of Israeli families experienced some form of food insecurity
- 10% felt hungry in the past twelve months
- 13% were unable, at some point, to cover basic food needs, 4% reported that they were frequently foregoing some basic food needs
- 30% had to forego or reduced their basic food consumption to purchase other products or services in the last three months
- 19% received assistance from family or friends to meet their basic food needs
- 12% received assistance almost every month

Characteristics of Food Aid Recipients

(Source: *Latet Poverty Report*, 2011.)

A 2010 survey by Latet, a national humanitarian organization, reported on recipients of food aid from the 100 major food aid organizations in Israel:

- 62% of Israeli food aid organizations report an increase in the number of children receiving aid
- 71% of children who receive food aid have no books or any other basic school equipment
- 21% of children who receive food aid have gone through days without any food at all
- 55% of those in need do not believe that their situation will change
- 22% of those who receive aid from the organizations reported that they considered putting an end to their life in the past year due to their economic situation



The Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute is Israel's leading center for applied research on social policy and services

Our mission is to increase the effectiveness with which society addresses critical challenges to enhance the well-being of, and expand opportunities for, its most vulnerable members. The Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute informs policy making, program implementation, and practice—with tangible benefits to the health, education, and welfare of those most in need.

Areas of Research and Special Programs

- Engelberg Center for Children and Youth
- Smokler Center for Health Policy Research
- Center for Research on Disabilities and the Employment of Special Populations
- Center for Research on Aging
- Quality Assurance in the Social Services
- Manpower Evaluation and Social Planning
- Learning from Success and Collaborative Ongoing Learning in Human Services
- Immigrant Absorption
- Arab Population in Israel
- International Cooperation and Exchange
- Middle East Cooperation and Exchange
- Cooperation and Exchange among Jewish Communities

Major Special Funds

- Mandell Berman Fund for Research on Children with Disabilities
- Connie and Bert Rabinowitz Fund for Creative Breakthrough Research
- Marshall Weinberg Fund for Professional Collaboration and Development
- Harry Weinrebe Fund for the Advancement of Children

The Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute is an independent, non-profit partnership between the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the Government of Israel, and the David and Inez Myers Foundation.

Further information on the topics covered can be found on the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute website: www.jdc.org.il/brookdale