



PRESS RELEASE

info@cbs.gov.il

http://www.cbs.gov.il

FAX. 02-652 1340

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The Druze Population of Israel

- **At the end of 2004, the Druze population of Israel numbered 113 thousand, compared with 14.5 thousand when the state of Israel was established.**
- **In 2025, the Druze population of Israel is expected to reach about 165 thousand.**
- **The Druze population of Israel is concentrated in 18 localities in the northern and Haifa districts. In 12 of those localities, over 95% of the population is Druze.**

On the occasion of the Druze holiday commemorating the prophet Shueib-Hajah, which falls on 25 April 2005, the Central Bureau of Statistics is publishing data on the Druze population of Israel.

At the end of 2004, the Druze population of Israel numbered over 113 thousand – 1.7% of the total population of Israel, and 8.4% of the Arab population of Israel.¹

When the State of Israel was established, there were about 14.5 thousand Druze residents. Over the years, the Druze population has grown, mainly as a result of natural increase (births minus deaths). The immigration balance (arrivals less departures from Israel) is almost nil.² According to population projections calculated by the CBS, the Druze population of Israel is expected to number about 165 thousand persons by the end of 2025 (1.8% of the total Israeli population, and 7.1% of the Arab population of Israel).

¹ Provisional data

² Following the annexation of the Golan Heights to Israel in 1982, 11,000 Druze residents were added to the Israeli population. These Druze residents live in four localities in the Golan Heights. At the end of 2003, 18,400 Druze lived in the Golan Heights.

Written by Ms. Liat Rahavi

This press release also appears on the CBS website at the address: www.cbs.gov.il/hodaot2005/1_05_91.pdf

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Please contact the Press Relations Unit, at 02-652 7845, 050-623 5124

Geographic Distribution

99% of the Druze residents of Israel live in two districts – the northern district (80%) and the Haifa district (195). 98% of the Druze population lives in 18 localities. In 12 of those localities over 95% of the residents are Druze: Beit Jann, Beq'ata, Julis, Hurfeish, Yanuh-Jat, Yirka, Kisra-Sumei, Majdal Shams, Mas'ade, Sajur, Ein al-Asad, and Ein Qiniyye. In six other localities, the Druze population lives alongside Christians and Moslems: Daliyat al-Karmel-Isifya (88%), Peq'in (75%), Mughar (57%), Rame (30%), Abu Sinan (27%), and Shefar'am (14%) (see attached table).

The Druze Population at the end of 2003, by Distribution of Localities

District	Sub-District	Name of locality	Total Druze population (thousands)	% of Druze in the total population
Northern	Golan	Beq'ata	5.2	99.7
		Majdal Shams	8.4	99.6
		Mas'ade	3.1	99.9
		Ein Qiniyye	1.7	98.6
	Akko	Abu Sinan	3.9	26.8
		Beit Jann	9.6	99.8
		Julis	5.1	100.0
		Hurfeish	4.7	95.7
		Yanuh-Jat	4.9	100.0
		Yirka	11.8	98.7
		Kisra-Sumei	5.9	94.6
		Sajur	3.4	99.9
		Ein al-Asad	0.8	98.0
		Peq'in (Buqi'a)	3.7	75.3
		Rame	2.2	30.0
Shefar'am	4.5	14.4		
Kinneret	Mughar	10.4	56.8	
Haifa	Daliyat al-Karmel-Isifya	20.5	88.2	

Growth Rate

The growth rate of the Druze population has declined over the years. The average annual growth rate of the Druze population declined from about 4% in the 1970s to 2.8% in the 1980s, 2.5%; in the 1990s, and 2.1% in 2002 and 2003. This decline is a result of a drop in fertility (see below).

The growth rate of the Druze population in 2003 (2.1%) was lower than that of the Moslem population (3.3% in 2003), and higher than that of the Jewish population (1.4%) and that of the Christian Arab population (1.2%).

Births and Fertility

Continuous decline in the fertility of Druze women since the beginning of the 1960s.

In 2003, 2,686 infants were born to Druze mothers (1.9% of all births in Israel that year). The total fertility rate among Druze women (the average number of children they are expected to bear during their lifetime) has been declining since the 1960s. At the beginning of the 1960s the average number of births per Druze woman in Israel was 7.5. By contrast, in 2003 the average number of births per Druze woman was only 2.9 (i.e., a decline of 2.5 births per woman). This fertility level is close to that of the Jewish and Christian population (2.7 and 2.3, respectively), and lower than that of the Moslem population (4.5 births per woman on the average). Another statistic that describes the decline in fertility: whereas in 1970 about 36% of the births among Druze women were the sixth child in the family (or higher birth order), in 2003 those births were only about 5% of all births.

Age Structure

At the end of 2003, there were about 38.5 Druze children aged 0-14, who constituted over one-third (34.8%) of the total population. The percentage of children in the Druze population was relatively in comparison with the Jewish population of Israel, and relatively low compared with the Moslem population (about 25.5% and about 43.2%, respectively). In the 1950s, children aged 0-14 were about 46% of the Druze population.

4.1% of the Druze population is aged 65 and over. This percentage is somewhat higher than that of the Moslem population in this age group (less than 2.7%), and lower than that of the Jewish population (about 11.8%).

A map displaying the localities where the Druze population of Israel resides appears on the CBS website at the following address: www.cbs.gov.il/hodaot2004/01_04_94.map.pdf.