

3

VITAL STATISTICS

SOURCES AND EXPLANATIONS

Marriages and divorces

Data are based on the details appearing in marriage and divorce certificates.

Marriage certificates of Jews are filled out by the persons authorised to perform marriages; and divorce certificates are filled out by the rabbinical courts. The data do not include civil marriages performed abroad or "alternative marriages" performed in Israel which are not part of the Orthodox Rabbinate, nor do they include divorces in courts dealing with family matters.

Marriage and divorce certificates of Moslems and Druze are submitted by the Sharia Courts, and of Christians by the authorised officiating ministers. As of 1997, data on marriages and divorces of Christians and Druze originate from the Population Register.

Marriages of Israelis to persons from Arab localities in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Area were included in data on Israelis, if these marriages were registered in Israel. Arab and other brides from Israel who married bridegrooms from those areas were not included between 1967 and 1976.

In 1993-1995, the number of marriages of Moslems in which one partner came from Judea, Samaria or the Gaza Area, rose significantly.

During 1995, the procedure of issuing an Israeli marriage certificate to couples who were married by a marriage registrar from Judea, Samaria and the Gaza areas was discontinued. Consequently, there was a significant drop in the number of marriages in Jerusalem, as well as in the number of Moslem marriages in which one partner came from Judea, Samaria or the Gaza area.

As of 1973 births and deaths in East Jerusalem are included; in the Golan as of 1987.

Data on marriages, divorces, births and deaths among the Druze population in the Golan Sub-District may be incomplete.

Due to problems in the definition of the Bedouin population that is located in the South, marriage rates for those living outside localities (including Bedouin) are not presented separately (see introduction to Chapter 2 - *Population*).

Births and deaths

Data are based on personal data in the Population Register and in the forms: "Notification of Live Birth", "Notification of Death" or "Notification of Stillbirth". The Population Registration Ordinance

1965 requires that the person in charge of the institution where the birth takes place, or the parents of the child, the doctor or midwife if the birth occurred elsewhere, notify the Ministry of the Interior within 10 days of the birth. Notification of death must be made within 48 hours of the death by the person in charge of the institution in which the death took place, the physician issuing the death certificate, or any person present when there was no physician. Details on the sources were published in *Vital Statistics: Mortality 1996 (Special Publication No. 1108)*.

Data on births include births in Israel (including the Judea, Samaria and Gaza Areas), when one of the parents, at least, has an Israeli identity card. The data do not include births which occurred abroad to Israeli citizens.

Data on deaths include the deaths of permanent residents and potential immigrants, but do not include deaths of Israelis abroad, of tourists or of foreign workers who died in Israel.

Prior to 1962, births and deaths among the Bedouin in the South were not included in Table 3.1. The vital statistics rates were accordingly computed until then, after deducting the number of Bedouin in the South from the total population. Bedouin in the South are, however, included in the detailed breakdown of births in all years.

Due to a discrepancy between the Register's data and the population estimates for Bedouin tribes, no birth rates were calculated for those living outside localities.

As of 1970, births and deaths in East Jerusalem are included; and as of 1982, the Druze in the Golan are included.

The number of deaths, their rates and the life tables in 1967, 1973 and 1982 do not include war casualties - about 750 in June 1967, about 2,450 in October-December 1973, and about 360 in June-September 1982 (but they were accounted for in Table 2.2 in the sources of population increase).

Until 1962, data on births and deaths, infant deaths and stillbirths were recorded according to the year of registration. Since 1963 data are recorded according to the year of occurrence.

Data on births also include a few cases that registered late and which occurred in the previous two years.

Between 1957 and 1959, in 1975 and in the first half of 1976 the data on births were computed

from a sample of 50%.

Until 1984, each vital statistics event in which religion was unknown was included among "Druze and others" ("others" including adherents of other recognised denominations, e.g., Bahais, Samaritans, etc). As of 1985, such events have been included in the total only.

As of 1996 total births include births of women with unclassified religion.

Until 1990, the source of data on birth order was the Notification of Live Births. Since 1991, the source has been the Population Register. According to this source, it was possible to identify for the first time cases of unknown birth order, which until 1990, had been included among first births.

For further explanations, see the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, Supplement No. 11, 1991.

Termination of pregnancy

Termination of pregnancy is carried out according to the "Penal Law - 1977, termination of pregnancy", as follows:

1. The woman is under the age of marriage (17) or older than forty;
2. The pregnancy is a result of relations prohibited by criminal law or incestuous relations or extramarital relations;
3. The foetus is likely to have a physical or mental defect;
4. Continuance of pregnancy is likely to endanger the woman's life or cause her physical or mental harm;
5. Continuance of pregnancy is not desirable due to personal reasons or because of family or social circumstances (this article was repealed by the Knesset in 1980)

The data appearing in Table 3.17 were taken from monthly summaries that were submitted by committees for termination of pregnancy, to the Department of Medical Economics and Statistics in the Ministry of Health. These summaries also include women who are not permanent residents of Israel.

Table 3.17 does not include data for 1984-1986, because they may include duplicates.

Table 3.18 is based on copies of applications for termination of pregnancy which were received in the Central Bureau of Statistics from the committees for termination of pregnancy. These data refer to permanent residents only.

In 1988, the difference between the total number of these forms and the total number of summaries received in the Ministry of Health amounted to 0.3%, during 1989-1995 the average difference was about 6%. Part of this discrepancy is due to the fact that the Ministry of Health registers all applications to the committees, including those of

women who are not permanent residents in Israel.

Causes of death. The death notification form which, in addition to demographic data on the deceased, contains a medical certificate specifying the cause of death, is used as the source of the data on the cause of death. The causes of death until 1997 were categorized according to the "International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification". The ninth edition of the classification was first introduced in 1979. The causes of death were grouped according to the recommendations of the World Health Organisation in the "Mortality List". Death rates for previous years are given only for comparable groups.

As of 1998, causes of death were classified according to the "International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision". The causes of death were categorized according to Mortality Tabulation List 2 of the World Health Organization, which includes 80 groups. In the presentation of data in the Statistical Abstract, some of the groups were combined. In addition, the following changes were made in the grouping of codes, in order to adjust them to the groups used in Israel.

Group 53: Ischaemic heart disease was divided into myocardial infarction (code I21), and other ischaemic heart diseases (I20, I22-I25).

Group 65 (renal disease): also includes the remaining codes for renal disease (N17-N29).

Groups 66-68 (obstetric deaths) also include code O95 (obstetric death of unspecified cause).

Groups 47+72 (all other diseases) do not include the codes included in the groups listed above.

Groups 75-77 (other accidents) also include the codes for the remaining types of accidents W20-W64, W75-W99, X10-X39, X50-X59.

Groups 79-80 (other external causes including assault) do not include the codes listed in the group of other accidents.

In the historical data presented in tables 3.26 (all ages) and 3.29 (infants), the causes of death were grouped according to the "International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision", and were not adjusted to the 10th revision. Therefore, the historical data cannot be compared with the data for 1998.

DEFINITIONS

Live birth: birth of a foetus, that after being parted from the mother shows at least one of the following signs of life (whether the umbilical cord has been cut or not, whether the afterbirth (placenta) is still connected or not): respiration, heartbeat, umbilical pulse or obvious movements of voluntary muscles.

Stillbirth: birth of a foetus that does not show the above signs of life after a pregnancy of 28 weeks at least or if week of pregnancy is unknown - weighing 1,000 gr. or more.

Infant: a new-born who has not yet completed one year of life.

Population group and religion: see introduction to Chapter 2 - *Population*.

Permanent type of locality: In 2001, the classification of permanent locality type was updated (see Introduction to Chapter 2 - *Population*). Vital statistics data for 2001 are presented according to the new classification. For purposes of comparison, the data for the total population are also presented according to the previous classification which was introduced after the 1995 Census.

METHOD OF COMPUTATION

All rates, averages, etc., that are based on 5-19 cases, are given in brackets, while those based on fewer than 5 cases, are marked by two dots (. .).

The calculation of rates since 1969 is based on the population including potential immigrants (see Chapter 4 - *Immigration*). *Annual rates* are based on current population estimates, according to the last census.

Vital rates are per 1,000 persons of the average permanent population, unless otherwise stated.

Rates of *infant deaths* and of *stillbirths* are per 1,000 live births, until 1979 the infant mortality rates of the Jewish population were calculated per 1,000 live infants (including infants of immigrants) according to a monthly life table.

Specific fertility rates: The number of births for mothers of a given age, divided by the average permanent population of females of the same age.

Total fertility represents the average number of children a woman is expected to bear during her lifetime. The rate is based on the assumption that child-bearing among all the women in a certain generation will occur between the ages 15 and 49, according to the specific birth rates of the women in the population in a given year (synthetic cohort).

Life expectancy (e^o): The average number of years a person is expected to live after a certain

age, based on the mortality rates prevalent at the period of reference.

Mortality rates (m_x): the number of deaths at a certain age, divided by the average population of the same age.

Due to the small number of deaths in some small populations (e.g., Arabs in the age group 60 and over) random changes or discrepancies are possible in their mortality rates.

Age computation: Age at marriage and divorce is computed according to month and year of birth and month and year of marriage and divorce, respectively. Until 1990 the month of birth was not considered in computing the age at marriage. The age at death is calculated according to date of birth and death (day, month and year), and the age refers to years completed on the deceased's last birthday. For births, age is calculated according to the year of the mother's birth and it is assumed that the date of birth is July 1st. Hence, if the event took place in the second half of the year, the age is equivalent to the difference between the year of birth and the year of the event; if the event took place in the first half of the year, the age is equivalent to the said difference less one.

The average age is:

$$\frac{\sum xf_x}{\sum f_x} + 0.5$$

Where:

x=age

f_x= number of cases at age x.

Since the age relates to the last birthday, i.e., the full number of years reached, half a year should be added to the average age. For example, age 21 refers to all those who reached the full age of 21 but have not yet reached the age of 22, so that their average age is 21.5.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

- 1106 Stillbirths 1990-1996, Demographic and Health Characteristics
1108 Vital Statistics: Mortality 1996
1124 Causes of Death 1996-1997
1127 Infant Mortality 1993-1996, Socio-Demographic Characteristics

CURRENT BRIEFINGS IN STATISTICS

- 1145 Vital Statistics: Marriages and Divorces, 1997-1998

- 12, 2001 Complete Life Tables of Israel, 1995-1999
31, 2001 Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Women Applying for Pregnancy Terminations in Israel, 1997

JUBILEE PUBLICATIONS (on the occasion of Israel's 50th year)
Health (No. 7 in the series)