

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.

As of 2004 the data on Jewish marriage is obtained from the Population Registry.

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 Area 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 (until 2002, see below).

Prior to 1962, births and deaths among the Bedouins 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.

Data for 2005 reflect changes that have occurred in the geographic distribution of births and deaths due to the evacuation of localities in the Gaza Area and in northern Samaria under the Disengagement Plan Law 2005. Tables 3.9 and 3.10 present births and deaths prior to the evacuation, until 31 August 2005, by geographic location at that time.

After the evacuation, the movements of those who updated their address were included at the new address, whereas the movements of those who had not yet updated their address were included only in the total population.

For further details, see the Introduction to Chapter 2 - *Population* in the paragraph "the Population Evacuated from Localities in the Gaza Area and in Northern Samaria".

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 live births for 2005 include 599 cases of births that occurred in 2003-2004 and were recorded late. Of those cases, 459 of the women who gave birth were Moslem, 71 were Jewish, 39 were not classified by religion, 28 were Christian, and 2 were Druze.

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 1996 total births include births of women not classified by religion (see the Introduction to Chapter 2 - *Population*, in the paragraph "*Population Group and 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.

From 1991 to 2003, birth order calculations were based on the total number of children a mother has. In 2003 the method was changed, and the new method is based on the total number of births of the mother. In addition, newborns whose mothers are not Israeli were added to birth order category "unknown".

As of 1999, data on stillbirths have been supplemented by the Department of Mother, Child and Adolescent Health in the Ministry of Health, which receives copies of stillbirth forms in addition to the forms received by the CBS.

Following the change in the definition of stillbirths in 2003, the data for that year include 39 stillbirths after a pregnancy of less than 28 weeks and weighing 1,000 gr. or more. The data do not include 67 stillbirths after a pregnancy of 28 weeks at least and weighing 500-999 gr., or 12 stillbirths after a pregnancy of 28 weeks and weighing less than 500 gr. (Table 3.1). See the definition of "Stillbirth" in the Definitions paragraph below.

As of 2002, data on deaths include deaths abroad of Israeli residents who were out of the country for less than a year (there were 109 and 182 deaths of Israelis abroad in 2002 and 2003, respectively, in 2004 there were 183 deaths and in 2005 the preliminary figure is 30).

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 3.19 were taken from monthly summaries that were submitted by committees for termination of pregnancy, to the Department of Information in the Ministry of Health. These summaries also include women who are not residents of Israel.

Tables 3.20 and 3.21 are 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 Israeli residents only.

As of 1989, the discrepancy between the total number of these forms and the total number of summaries received by the Ministry of Health ranged from 4% to 12%. For additional explanations regarding the discrepancy between the data of the Ministry of Health and the data of the Central Bureau of Statistics, see *Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Women Applying for Pregnancy Terminations in Israel, 1997*, Current Statistics 31/2001.

As of 2004, the religion of a woman who applies to the committee for termination of pregnancy is determined according to the religion appearing in the Population Register and not according to the religion listed on the application for termination of pregnancy. Until 2004, the woman's religion was determined according to the listing on the form, or according to the listing in the Population Register in cases where the religion was unknown.

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 Israel in 1979. The causes of death were grouped according to the recommendations of the World Health Organisation in the "Mortality List".

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.

Causes of death in the historical data (1979-1997) presented in Table 3.29 were coded according to the ninth revision of the classification of diseases, but were grouped according to the "International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision and comparison coefficients were applied to them. The coefficients were determined based on double coding of death certificates of 1997 (according to the ninth and tenth revisions). In cases of rare diagnoses the Israeli coefficients were adjusted according to the American coefficients.

In Table 3.32 (Infant Mortality), the comparison coefficients were not applied to historic data (1970-1997).

In 2003, death notification forms were not received for 789 cases. The cause of death in those cases was imputed, while controlling for age, sex, and population group of the deceased person. The reference groups for imputation were chosen following statistical analysis of cases in 1999, in which death notification forms were not received by the CBS, and follow-ups were completed at the Ministry of the Interior.

Comparison coefficients between the ninth and tenth revisions of the classification of diseases:

Number in Mortality List 2 - Edition 10	Cause of Death	Comparison coefficient
1 - 3	Intestinal infectious diseases	1.25
4 - 5	Tuberculosis	0.80
11	Septicaemia	1.40
18	Viral hepatitis	1.05
19	Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease	1.10
48	Mental and behavioural disorders due to psychoactive substance use	1.20
50	Alzheimer's disease	1.35
53	Acute myocardial infarction	0.95
53	Other ischaemic heart diseases	1.10
59	Pneumonia	0.70
61	Chronic lower respiratory infections	1.10
65	Kidney disease	1.35
69	Perinatal conditions	1.10
70	Congenital anomalies	0.85
74	Falls	0.25
75-77	Other accidents	1.30

For other causes of death, the comparison coefficient is 1.0.

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 one of the signs of life specified in the definition of a "live birth" above.

Until 2002 (inclusive), the data in Table 3.1

include dead fetuses after a pregnancy of 28 weeks at least or if week of pregnancy is unknown - weighing 1,000 gr. or more.

As of 2003, the data include dead fetuses weighing 1,000 gr. or more, or after a pregnancy of at least 28 weeks if the weight is unknown.

The data in Table 3.18 refer to dead fetuses weighing 500 gr. or more, or after a pregnancy of at least 22 weeks if the weight is unknown.

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

Multiple birth: a birth that includes more than one foetus. These births are identified on the basis of "Notification of Live Birth" and "Notification of Stillbirth" forms for the same year.

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*). As of 2001, vital statistics data are presented according to the new classification.

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.

Rate of **infant mortality** 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.

Rate of stillbirths: in Table 3.1, rate of stillbirths is calculated per 1,000 live births. In Table 3.18, the rate of stillbirths is calculated per 1,000 live births and stillbirths.

Crude birth rate: total live births divided by the average permanent population.

General fertility rate: total live births divided by the average permanent population of women aged 15-49.

Specific fertility rates: The number of live 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^0_x): 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

- 1108 Vital Statistics: Mortality 1996
- 1124 Causes of Death 1996-1997
- 1127 Infant Mortality 1993-1996, Socio-Demographic Characteristics
- 1242 Vital Statistics: Marriages and Divorces, 2000-2001 (Internet only)
- 1260 Stillbirths 1997-2002, Demographic and Health Characteristics
- 1270 Health and Social Profile of the Localities in Israel 1998-2002

CURRENT BRIEFINGS IN STATISTICS

- 31, 2001 Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Women Applying for Pregnancy Terminations in Israel, 1997
- 15, 2005 Complete Life Tables of Israel, 1999-2003

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