



# PRESS RELEASE

info@cbs.gov.il

http://www.cbs.gov.il

FAX. 02-652 1340

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## SELECTED DATA FOR INTERNATIONAL CHILD DAY

### **In 2004:**

- At the end of 2004 there were 2,290,000 children (aged under 18) living in Israel, who constitute one-third of the Israeli population.
- In Jerusalem children constituted 40.5% of all residents in the city, whereas in Tel Aviv they were only 20%.
- 92% of all children lived with both parents, and 8% lived in one-parent families.<sup>1</sup>
- 16% of all children lived in households without employed persons - 13% of Jewish children and 23% of Arab children.
- 35% of children who live in one-parent families live in households without employed persons.
- The rate of children entitled to a Matriculation Certificate, out of all Grade XII pupils, was 55%.
- 7.3% of those aged 15-17 do not study or work.
- Households with children in the highest pentacle spend 11.2 times more on extra-curricular activities and courses than households in the lowest one.
- The most common names for babies born in 2004: Jewish boys – Uri, Jewish girls – Noa, Moslem boys – Muhammed, Moslem girls – Eden, Christian boys – Elias, Christian girls – Maria, Druze boys – Adam, Druze girls – Eden.
- The name Agam rose in the list of common names for girls from 310 in 2002 to 4 in 2004.
- In most cities in the country the most common name for girls born in 2004 was Noah; but in Jerusalem, Bnei Brak and Beit Shemesh the most common name was Sarah, and in Haifa and Tel Aviv it was Maya.

On the occasion of International Child Day, which falls on November 20, 2005, The Central Bureau of Statistics presents data on children (aged under 18) in Israel.

At the end of 2004 there were 2,290,000 children (aged under 18) living in Israel. Of those,

<sup>1</sup> Relates only to private households – not including children in kibbutzim, institutions and those who live outside localities (Bedouin and others).

Written by Mr. Aryeh Avraham

For explanations and clarifications regarding the contents of this Press Release,  
Please contact the Press Relations Unit, at 02-652 7845, 050-623 5124

approximately 1,587,000 were Jews; 628,000 were Arabs (of which 543,000 were Moslem, 40,000 were Christian, and 45,000 were Druze); and another approximately 75,000 were “Others” – children in immigrant families whose religion is not classified by religion in the Residents Registry.

The ratio of children in a distribution according to population groups in 2004: 47% of the Arab population are children (49% among Moslems, 40% among Druze, and 33% among Christians), compared with 30% of the Jewish population and 26% of “Others”.

The differences in the ratio of children among the various population groups of Israel, arise mainly from the differences in the fertility rates: Arab women give birth an average of approximately 4 times during their lifetime, compared with an average of 2.7 times among Jewish women.

Children (aged under 18) constitute approximately one-third of all the residents in Israel, similar to 2003. This percentage differentiates Israel from most Western Hemisphere countries, in which the percentage of children is smaller (18-26%). In Arab countries approximately one-half of the population are children (aged under 18).

### **Where do the Children Reside?**

In Israel there are two population groups with high fertility rates – the ultra-Orthodox and the Arab populations, and therefore in the localities in which they reside the percentage of children out of the total locality population is particularly high. E.g., among Bedouin localities in the south, it was found that in Tel Sheva, Rahat and Ararah in the Negev, the percentage of children is particularly high (over 60%). Among Jewish localities too, in which the ultra-Orthodox reside, Beitar Illit and Modi'in Illit were found to have a high percentage of children, close to 60% of the general population of the locality.

Among large localities, Jerusalem – similar to recent years – had the largest number of children (285,800 children), and they constitute 40.5% of all city residents. Tel Aviv-Yafo has the second greatest number of children residing in it (approximately 74,000), although their share of the total population is only 20%, and constitutes the lowest ratio of all urban localities in Israel.

Bnei Brak has a high percentage of children – over 66,000 children reside there, and they constitute close to one-half of the population (47%). New urban localities with a high concentration of a young population are Modi'in-Maccabim, Re'ut and Shoham, in which the percentage of children is over 41%.

### **Babies Born During 2004**

In 2004 there were approximately 145,200 babies born in Israel; of which approximately 100,100 were born to Jewish women, 36,200 to Moslem women, approximately 2,500 to Christian women and approximately 2,600 to Druze women. 51.4% of the babies were boys. The average weight at birth of male babies born in 2004 was 3.3 kg., and the average weight of female babies was 3.1 kg.

43% of all babies born in 2004 were the third baby or more of their mother, similar to that of 2003.

### **Marriage and Births Among Girls Aged Under 18**

During 2003 more than 1,600 girls aged under 18 were married in Israel; more than 80% of them were Arab girls. In 2004 662 girls aged under 18 gave birth; of them, 512 were Moslem and 115 Jewish.

### **Children in Households and Families**

Children in Israel reside in approximately 910,000 **private households**<sup>1</sup>, which are 47% of all households in Israel. 6% of all children reside in a household in which there are people residing **in addition to their nuclear family** - 5% of all Jewish children, 7% of all Arab children and 21% of all children of immigrants from the former USSR (children who immigrated from the former USSR from 1990 on, or were born in Israel to those who immigrated from 1990 from the former USSR).

Most children in Israel live with **two parents** (92% of all children). 178,200 children – 8% of all children – live with **one parent**. Most of the children who live in one-parent families live with their mother (approximately 91%).

In families with children aged under 18 there was **an average of 2.3 children aged under 18 per family** – 2.2 per Jewish family and 3 per Arab family.

The ratio of children living in a **one-parent family** to all children in Israel, was higher among the Jewish population than among the Arab population – 9.5% compared with 4.1%, respectively. Among children of immigrants from the former USSR, the percentage of children who live in a one-parent family was particularly high – 20%.

Among the Jewish children in one-parent families 63% live with a divorced parent, 15% with a separated parent and 12% with a widowed parent. An additional 9% live with a single parent (all single mothers). Among Arab children in one-parent families 37% live with a widowed parent, 34% live with a separated parent and 29% with a divorced parent.

### **Children in a Household with Employed and Unemployed People** (According to average population data of 2004)

In 2004 15.7% of all children (aged under 18), i.e., 336,000 children, lived in **households without employed people**. Among **Jews**, 87% of the children, which is 1,326,000 children, lived in households with **employed people**, of which 59% - 783,000 children – lived in households with **2+ employed people**, and 13% - 198,000 children – lived in households **without employed people**.

Among **Arabs** 77% of all children – 442,000 children – lived in households with **employed people**, of which only 26% - 117,000 children – lived in households with **2+ employed people**. 23% of Arab children – 133,000 children – lived in households **without employed people**.

Among children living in **one-parent families**, 35% (approximately 59,000 children), lived in households **without employed people**.

### **Education**

In the 2003/4 school year 373,211 children attended **kindergartens and day-care centers**. The enrollment rate in kindergartens among children aged 2-5 was 71.9%, with the rate in Hebrew Education (75.9%) being higher than that in Arab Education (60%).

In **elementary education** there were 777,763 pupils; of which 569,068 were in Hebrew Education (73.2%), and 208,695 in Arab Education (26.8%). 56.8% of the pupils in **Hebrew Education** studied under **State-General Supervision** (compare with 59% in 2002/03), 24.3% under **ultra-**

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<sup>1</sup> Private households – not including children on kibbutzim, in institutions, and those who reside outside out localities (Bedouin and Others).

**Orthodox Supervision** (21.9% in 2002/03), and 18.9% under **State-Religious Supervision** (19.1% in 2002/03). In **intermediate schools** there were 253,509 pupils,; 75% in Hebrew Education and 25% in Arab Education.

In **post-secondary education** under Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport supervision there were 347,094 pupils, 82.6% in Hebrew Education and 17.4% in Arab Education. 60.9% of all pupils in post-secondary education study in the **general studies track**. 14,414 pupils studied in **apprentice schools** under Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment supervision.

**Enrollment rates** among those aged 14-17 are 95.9%. Among Jews and Others the enrollment rate is 97.4%, compared with 90.1% among Arab pupils. The enrollment rate among girls (97.2%) is higher than among boys (94.8%). The percentage of **dropouts from the educational system** under Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport supervision, in 2003/04 and in the transition to 2004/05 (Grades 9-12) was 5.8%. This continues the trend of a decrease in the percentage of dropouts (6.1% last year, and 6.6% two years ago). Dropping out has decreased both in Hebrew Education and in Arab Education; but the percentage of dropping out in Arab Education (9.1%) is still considerably higher than that in Hebrew Education.

The **percentage of those entitled to a Matriculation Certificate among Grade 12 pupils** was 55% in 2004. In Hebrew Education the rate of entitlement (56%) was higher than that in Arab Education (48%). The rate of entitlement among girls was higher than that among boys, both in Hebrew Education (63% compared with 50%, respectively), as well as in Arab Education (55% compared with 40%, respectively).

#### **Work and Studies Among Adolescents (Aged 15-17)**

In 2004 there were approximately 341,000 adolescents **aged 15-17** in the country; of which 91.3% **studied**, 1.4% **worked and did not study**, and 7.3% **did not study or work**. Out of 178,000 **boys** 90.9% studied, 1.6% worked and did not study, and 7.6% did not study or work. Out of 167,000 **girls** 91.8% studied, 1.2% worked and did not study, and 7% did not study or work.

**Among Jews**, out of 256,000 adolescents aged 15-17, 5.6% **did not study or work**; 5.8% of the boys and 5.4% of the girls. **Among Arabs**, out of 78,000 adolescents aged 15-17, 12.8% **did not study or work**; 13.2% of the boys and 12.3% of the girls.

Out of the 32,700 children aged 15-17 who worked during the past year, 57% (18,700 children) worked 1-3 months and the rest worked for longer periods of time.

#### **Expenditures of Households with Children in 2004**

##### **Composition of the Expenditure on Consumption by Main Items**

The monthly expenditure on consumption of households with children (aged under 18), is 1.3 times higher than the expenditure of households without children.

Households with children spend a higher percentage on the following items: food, clothing and footwear, and education, culture and entertainment; and less on housing, than the general population and than households without children.

##### **Expenditure on Consumption by Selected Items in Quintiles of Households with Children, by Net Standard Person**

A household in the highest quintile spends an average of NIS 338 per month on **extracurricular activities and courses** - 11.2 times more than a household in the lowest quintile – which spends an average of NIS 31.

There is NIS 212 spent a month on **computers, the internet and related products** in the highest quintile, compared with NIS 46 spend by households in the lowest quintile.

The average monthly expenditure on cornflakes, rice crispies and rice cakes in the highest quintile is NIS 60; 4 times more than a household in the lowest quintile (NIS 15).

### **Expenditure on Education**

The average monthly expenditure per child on day-care centers and private kindergartens in the lowest quintile is approximately 22% of the average expenditure per child attending the same type of institutions in the highest quintile (NIS 342 per month, compared with NIS 1,528 per month, respectively).

### **Ownership of Goods in Households with Children**

59.2% of all households in Israel have computers, and 40.7% of all households are connected to the Internet. In households with children, 73% have computers and 47.7% are connected to the Internet, compared with households without children, of which only 47% own computers, and 34.5% are connected to the Internet.

### **Names Given to Babies Born in Israel in 2004**

Common names among **Jewish boys** born in 2004 are: **Uri, No'am, Daniel, David, Itay, Amit, Yosef, Ro'i, Ido, Mosheh** and **Yuval**.

Common names among **Jewish girls** born in 2004 are: **Noah, Shira, Maya, Agam, Tamar, Yael, Ronnie, Sarah, Michal, Adi** and **Eden**.

The name **Uri** is the most common name among Jews born in 2004, and replaces the name **Daniel**, which was the most common in the last decade. **Uri** reached first place after having been in second place in 2003. The name **Noam**, which is in second place, was in fifth place in 2003. **Ariel** climbed from 26 to 16. The name **Harel** rose from 63 to 27.

Similar to the last five years, **Noah** is the most common name among Jewish girls born in 2004. **Shira** and **Maya** remain in second and third place, respectively. **Agam** rose to fourth place after being 83 in 2003, and 310 in 2002.

In most cities in the country the most common name is **Noah**; but in Jerusalem, Bnei Brak and Beit Shemesh the most common name is **Sara**; and in Tel Aviv it's **Maya**. **Agam** is common in Eilat and Tiberias, with over 5% of all girls being named that, compared with approximately .5% in Jerusalem and Beit Shemesh.

In **Eilat, Kfar Saba, Naharia, Rehovot** and **Tel Aviv** the most common name among boys born in 2004 is **Uri**. In **Ashkelon, Hedera, Lod, Nazareth Eilat** and **Beer Sheva** the most common name is **Noam**. In **Ashdod** and **Bat-Yam** the most common name for those born in 2004 is **Daniel**.

Among common names, names given to **the same extent<sup>1</sup> to both boys and girls** are: Noam, Yuval, Amit, Lior, Shahar, Or, Liel, Tal, Shai, Rotem, Shaked, Ophir, Yarin, Gal, Aviv, Bar, Liam, Alia, Orel, Liron, Ziv, Chen, Yarden, Osher, Zohar, Stav and Yaheli.

Among common names, names given **only to girls** are: Sarah, Michal, Hodaya, Rachel, Hila, Rivka, Miriam, Talia, Esther, Tehila, Lia, Efrat, Mika, Ruth, Moria, Ayala, Leah, Na'ama, Avigail, Noya, Lihi, Dana, Malka, Hadas, Shelley, Naomi, Dvorah, Yehudit and Re'ut.

Among common names, names given **only to boys** are: David, Yosef, Ido, Yehonatan, Yonatan, Ya'acov, Yisrael, Ya'ir, Yo'av, Yitzhak, Yehuda, Ben, Shlomo, Nadav, Shimon, Eitan, Assaf, Eliyahu, Elad, Mordechai, Menahem, Binyamin, Nathan and Elazar.

Among **Moslem boys** born in 2004, the most common names are: **Muhammed, Ahmed, Abd, Mahmoud, Mahmud, Yousouf, Ali, Omar, Amir** and **Adam**.

Among **Moslem girls** born in 2004, the most common names are: **Eden, Shahad, Aya, Maryam, Nur, Fatma, Malk, Halla, Lian** and **Bian**.

Among **Christian boys** born in 2004, the most common names are: **Elias, George, Amir, Fadi, Yousouf, Sharbal, Baasal, Majd, Julian** and **Bashar**.

Among **Christian girls** born in 2004, the most common names are: **Maria, Nicol, Marian, Mariah, Lian, Dima, Hallah, Maya, Karin** and **Carol**.

Among **Druze boys** born in 2004, the most common names are: **Adam, Omri, Eyal, Amir, Salman, Rani, Tamir, Yosef, Bahah** and **Daniel**.

Among **Druze girls** born in 2004, the most common names are: **Eden, Yarin, Nur, Sarah, Sillin, Assil, Malk, Maya, Aya** and **Miyar**.

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<sup>1</sup> Up to a ratio of 1:2.