



State of Israel
Central Bureau
of Statistics

STATISTILITE 11

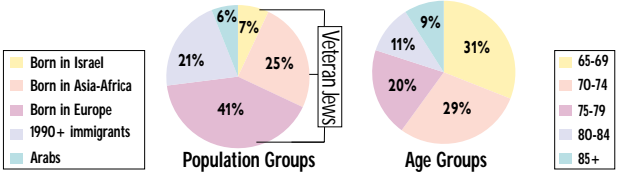
The Elderly in Israel Survey Findings



About the Survey

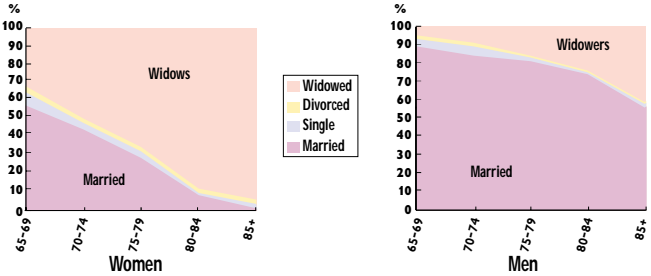
The data in this brochure were taken from a survey conducted by the CBS in conjunction with the National Insurance Institute, the Brookdale Institute, Eshel, JDC-Israel, and the Ministries of Health, Immigrant Absorption, and Labour and Social Affairs in 1997/98. A sample of persons aged 60+ who live in the community (i.e., not in institutions, kibbutzim, or moshavim) were asked about various areas of life. The findings refer to 523,000 persons aged 65+.

Graph 1: Age Composition and Population Groups



Women are a majority (57%) of the 65+ age group. The proportion of widows (52%) is almost four times greater than that of widowers (14%).

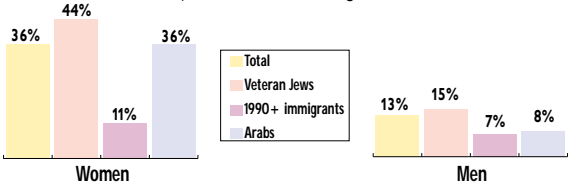
Graph 2: Age and Marital Status



Living Arrangements

Among the veteran Jews more than 80% own their dwellings, and most renters rented dwellings from public agencies. Among immigrants, only one-third live in dwellings that they own, and 75% of renters rented dwellings from private landlords.

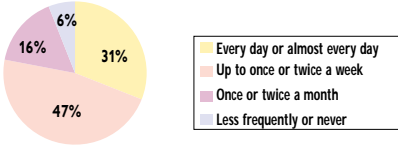
Graph 3: Percent Living Alone



Living with at least one child is more common among immigrants (45%) and Arabs (63%) than among veteran Jews (18%). Less than 1% of those who live in the community live in sheltered housing. Another 4% have signed up for sheltered housing or an old-age home (most for sheltered housing) and 9% are interested in the possibility of moving to such settings.

Family Relations

Graph 4: Frequency of Seeing Children

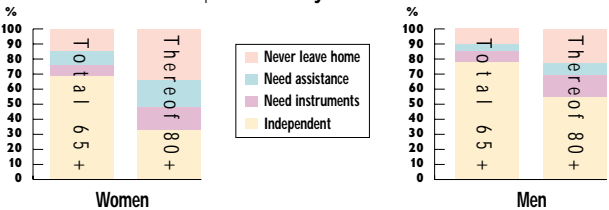


Most persons aged 65+, or their spouses, have children (93%). 7% of immigrants have no children living in Israel (as against less than 2% among the others). Most respondents who do not live with their children meet them rather frequently.



Functional Ability

Graph 5: Mobility Outside Home



Most persons aged 65+ are independent both in mobility outside home and in daily activities (bathing, dressing and eating), with men being more independent than women. At ages 80+, 23% of men and 34% of women are housebound. 80% of women and 86% of men are independent in daily activities although some have difficulty in performing these activities.

Holocaust Survivors

At the end of 1997, 245,000 persons aged 65+ in Israel had been exposed to the Nazi regime in 1933–1945. About 100,000 of them stayed in ghettos, in hiding, in labour camps, or in concentration camps; the rest escaped or found shelter in safe areas.

Smoking

Graph 6: Smoking

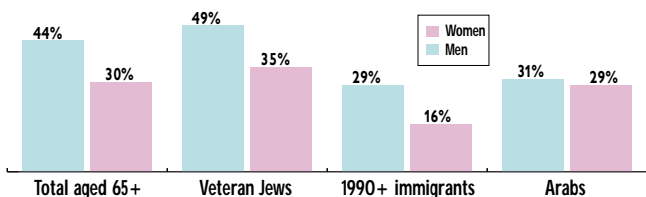


Smoking is 3 times more prevalent among men than among women, and twice as prevalent among Arab men than among veteran and immigrant Jewish men. Elderly Arab women do not smoke.

Health

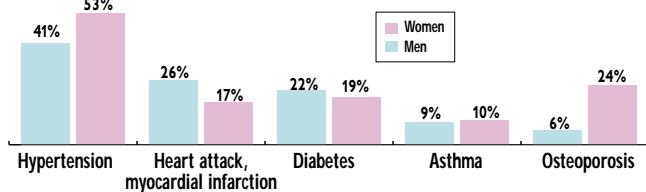
According to the National Health Insurance Law (1995) all legal residents of Israel are insured through membership of Sick Funds. 77% of the elderly are members of the Clalit Sick Fund (56% of the immigrants), 11% – of Maccabi, 7% – of Leummit and 5% – of Me'uhedet.

Graph 7: Self-Assessment of Health as “Good to Very Good”



Self-assessment of health is considered a good predictor of actual health. More women than men, especially in older age groups, tend to state that their health is poor.

Graph 8: Main Diagnosed Illnesses



Some 20% of persons aged 65+ report frequent memory impairment. Women suffer more from sleep disorders and about 25% of them take sleeping pills every night, as against 16% of men. Arabs use sleeping pills less than Jews. More women than men report impaired vision (40% and 28%, respectively) and less report impaired hearing (25% vs. 31%, respectively). Impaired vision is more common among Arabs (45%) than among Jews (35%), and impaired hearing is more common among Jews (27%) than among Arabs (19%). Some 77% of persons aged 65+ (67% of Arabs) have dentures but nearly one third of them have difficulty in eating with them.

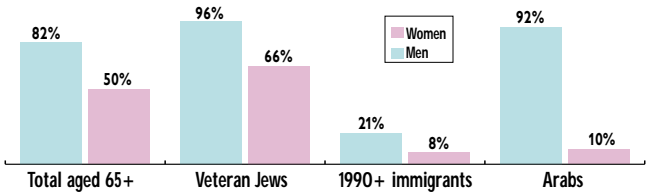
Work and Pension from Work

Graph 9: Labour-Force Participation



Some 9% of respondents aged 65+ were working at the time of the survey (14% of men, 5% of women); most were veteran Jews aged 65–74.

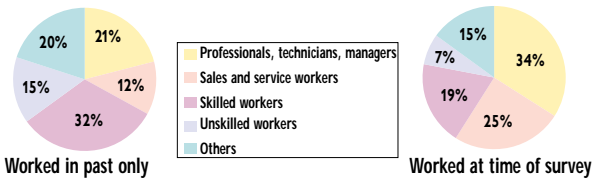
Graph 10: Percent Who Worked in Israel*



* Including those working at the time of the survey

Among men (Graph 12) and women who worked at the time of the survey, a larger share engaged in high-status occupations than among those who had worked in the past only.

Graph 11: Men* by Occupation



One-third of workers aged 65-74 are self-employed, as are more than half of workers aged 75+. Self-employment is more common among veterans (40%) than among immigrants (11%). Some 75% of employed persons work part-time.

*Men who worked in Israel.

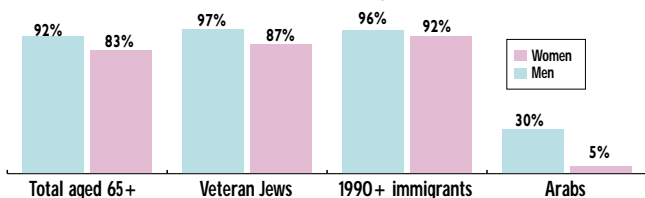
Some 29% of all persons aged 65+ receive a pension from a workplace in Israel – 7% full pension and 22% partial pension. About half of members of these ages who ever worked in Israel receive a pension – men more than women (59% and 39%, respectively).

Household Income

Some 75% of persons aged 65+ live in households in which the monthly income, including old-age pension, is less than the national average wage in the survey year (1997). 44% of this age group (82% of Arabs, 75% of immigrants, 32% of veteran Jews) reported an income under half of the national average wage. Only 4% live in households that have an income twice the national average wage or more.

Literacy and Language

Graph 12: Literacy

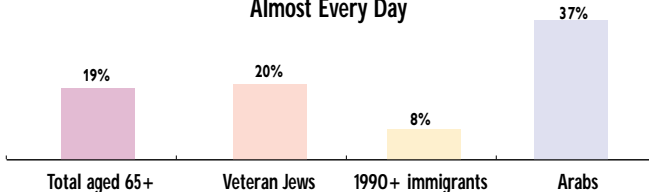


Almost all veteran Jews speak Hebrew; only one-third of immigrants and of Arabs do so.

Leisure Activities

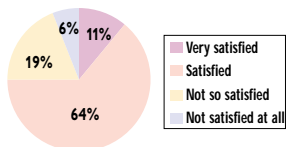
89% of respondents aged 65+ watch television, 82% listen to the radio, 44% read newspapers, and 22% read books almost every day. Some 36% exercise regularly, 18% visit a social club at least once per month, and 11% do volunteer work. Leisure patterns vary from group to group. Immigrant men visit social clubs more frequently; Arab women hardly ever do. Volunteering is more than twice as prevalent among veterans than among immigrants – but there is no gender difference. Nearly 25% of the volunteers devote more than 10 hours per week to this activity.

Graph 13: Men Who Attend Public Worship Almost Every Day



Hardly any women attend public worship on a daily basis.

Graph 14: Satisfaction with Life



Some 80% of men and 70% of women are very satisfied or satisfied with their lives.

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