

PRESS RELEASE

www.cbs.gov.il info@cbs.gov.il Fax: 02-6521340

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Israel in Comparison with OECD Countries and the European Union Selected Data from the *Society in Israel Report No. 6*¹

The recently published *Society in Israel Report No. 6* presents changes that have occurred in Israeli society over the past decades in a variety of fields, such as the standard of living, poverty, health, crime, and more.

From Society in Israel Report No. 6:²

1. At Risk of Poverty

31% of the Israel population is at the risk of poverty³ in 2011, compared with 17% on the average in the European Union. Among EU countries, Spain and Greece had the highest at risk of poverty rate (20%).

- ❖ **In 2011, the percentage of households of single-parent families with dependent children⁴ that were at risk of poverty was 44% (41% in 2001). In EU countries, the rate was 35% on the average (32% in 2001).** The highest rate of these households was in Luxemburg (46%).
- ❖ **In 2011, the percentage of children at risk of poverty in Israel was 40%, compared with 20% on the average in EU countries.**
- ❖ **In most EU countries the percentage of children who live in a household without an earner increased in 2011 compared with 2001 (9.3% versus 8.0%, respectively), whereas in Israel the percentage decreased, from 11.6% in 2001 to 8.4% in 2011.**

2. Labour Force Characteristics

- ❖ **The rate of employment among persons of working age (25-64) stood at 74% in Israel in 2012, compared with 71.1% on the average among OECD member countries.**
- ❖ **The percentage of unemployed persons among those aged 25-64 in 2012 was 5.9% in Israel, compared with 7.0% among OECD member countries.**

¹ This Press Release is the third in a series; the previous Press Releases based on the Society in Israel Report No. 6 were: [Back to School](#) (27 August 2013) and [Israel: Past and Future Perspectives](#) (6 October 2013) (both of these are in Hebrew only).

² The data in the Report and in this Press Release were supplied by the following Subject Units in the CBS: Consumption and Finance, Labour Statistics, Higher Education, Transportation, Public Order and Environment.

³ **Population at the risk of poverty:** Persons who belong to a household in which the available monetary income per standard person is less than 60% of the median available monetary income per standard person of the general population.

⁴ **Dependent children** are defined as children up to age 15, as well as children aged 16-24 who are economically dependent on their parents and live with at least one parent.

Written by Inbar Sabag-Shpaizman, Department of the Chief Scientist

For explanations and clarifications, please contact the Press Relations Unit, at 02-652-7845

3. Higher Education – In 2011, the percentage of holders of a first and second degree among the general population of Israel reached 36%, while the average percentage of holders of these degrees among OECD member countries was 39%. The highest percentage of degree holders was in Poland (58%) and the lowest percentage was in Mexico and Turkey (21% and 23%, respectively).

4. Transportation

The level of motorization for passenger vehicles – The level of motorization for passenger vehicles per 1,000 residents in Israel was lower than most developed countries, and stood at 272 in 2010 (see Diagram 8 below).

Persons killed in road accidents – The rate of fatalities in road accidents has been decreasing in the past decade in Israel and in OECD member countries. The lowest number of fatalities per billion kilometers traveled was in the United Kingdom (Britain) – 4 fatalities. **Israel is one of the ten countries with the lowest number of fatalities per billion kilometers travelled** (a decrease from 13 fatalities per billion kilometers travelled in 2000 to 7 fatalities in 2010).

5. Crime

Homicide Rates – The homicide rate in Israel was 2.4 per 100,000 persons, similar to the average in OECD member states (2.1). The rate was lower than 0.6 per 100,000 persons in Iceland, Austria, Slovenia, and Japan.

Assault – The percentage of persons who reported about an assault in 2010 was significantly lower in Israel than the average in OECD member states (3.0%), and stood at 1.8%. The highest rates of assault in comparison to the other countries were in Chile and Mexico.

Feel safe to walk alone at night – In 2010, the percentage of persons who reported that they felt safe walking alone at night in OECD member states was 67.3% on the average, compared with 73.3% in Israel.

6. Environment

The average water production per capita in OECD countries (850 cubic meters) was three times higher than the average water production per capita in Israel (220 cubic meters) in 2010.

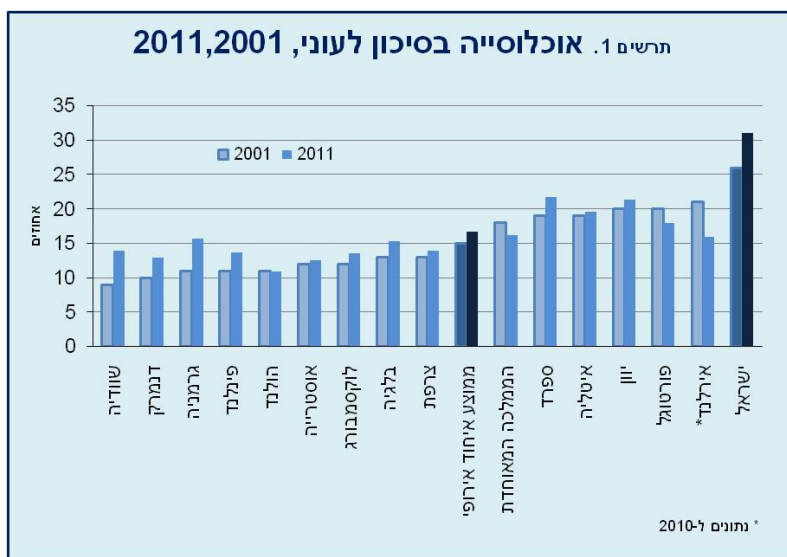
Waste per capita – In 2010, the average amount of household waste per capita per day (1.7 kg) in Israel was higher than most OECD countries (OECD average – 1.5 kg).

Note: The diagrams that appear in this Press Release are in Hebrew only, with brief commentary in English that explains the main points of the diagram. In general, the bars for Israel and the EU average are indicated with a variance in color.

1. Populations at Risk of Poverty

[For the data of Diagram 1](#)

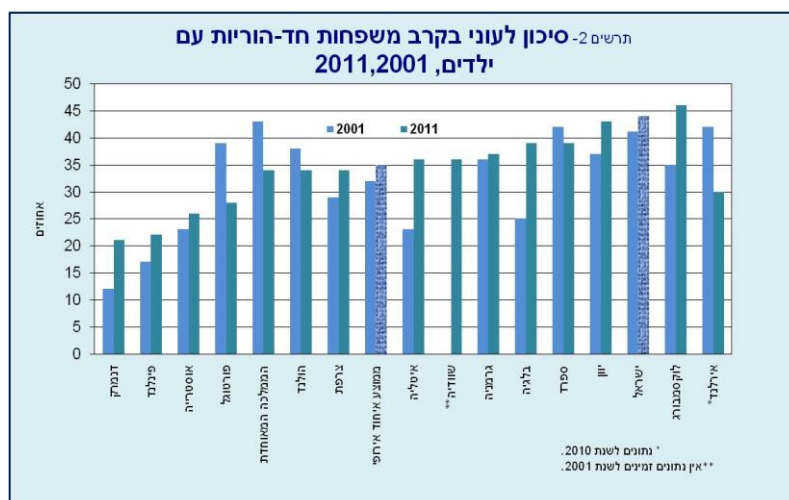
The Society in Israel Report found that in the last decade there has been an increase in the percentage of the population at risk of poverty in Israel and in most EU countries. In 2011, 31% of Israel's population were at risk of poverty compared to 26% in 2001. With the exception of Germany and Sweden, this was the highest increase compared to EU countries.



Single-Parent Families with Children Are at a Higher Risk of Poverty

[For the data of Diagram 2](#)

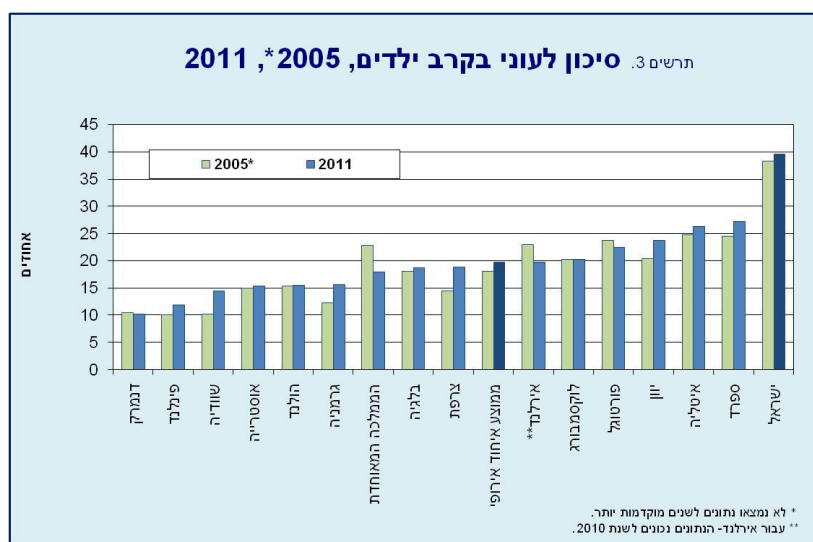
In 2011, the percentage of households of single-parent families with dependent children who are at risk of poverty was 44% (41% in 2001). In EU countries the percentage was 35% on average (32% in 2001). The highest percentage of these households was in Luxembourg – 46%. The head of such households is usually a woman.



Risk of Poverty Among Children

[For the data of Diagram 3](#)

In Israel and most EU countries, the percentage of children and senior citizens at risk of poverty is higher than the percentage of persons at risk of poverty in the working age groups (18-64). In 2011, the percentage of children at risk of poverty in Israel was about 40%,



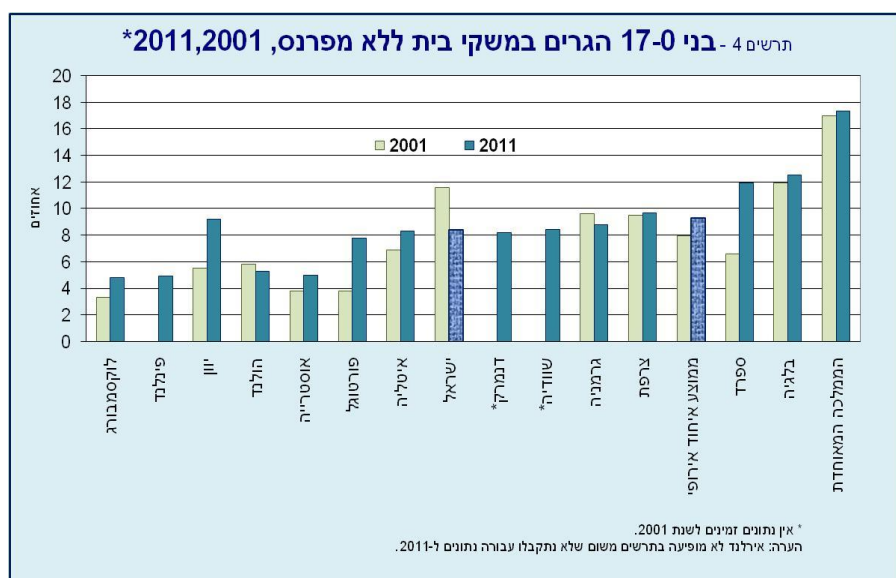
compared with 20% on the average in EU countries. Also, when comparing to the data of 2005 (the earliest year for which data were found for EU countries), the largest rate of increase among EU countries was Sweden (from 10.5% in 2005 to 14.5% in 2011) and France (from 14.4% in 2005 to 18.8% in 2011). In Israel the percentage of children at risk of poverty rate in 2005 was 38.3% compared with 39.6% in 2011.

2. Employment and Social Hardship

The *Society in Israel Report* suggests that the lack of continuous employment is directly related to social hardship. Unemployed persons tend to lose their experience and confidence over time, and these are very significant for finding work. In most countries, the proportion of women who live in households without an earner is higher than that of men. In Israel, the proportion of women aged 18-59 who live in households without an earner was 8.6% on the average in 2011, compared with 8.1% of men living in these households. The average in EU countries was higher than in Israel - 10.8% women versus 9.7% men. Children living in households without an earner are likely to repeat this pattern, which can affect their education and their future labour market achievements.

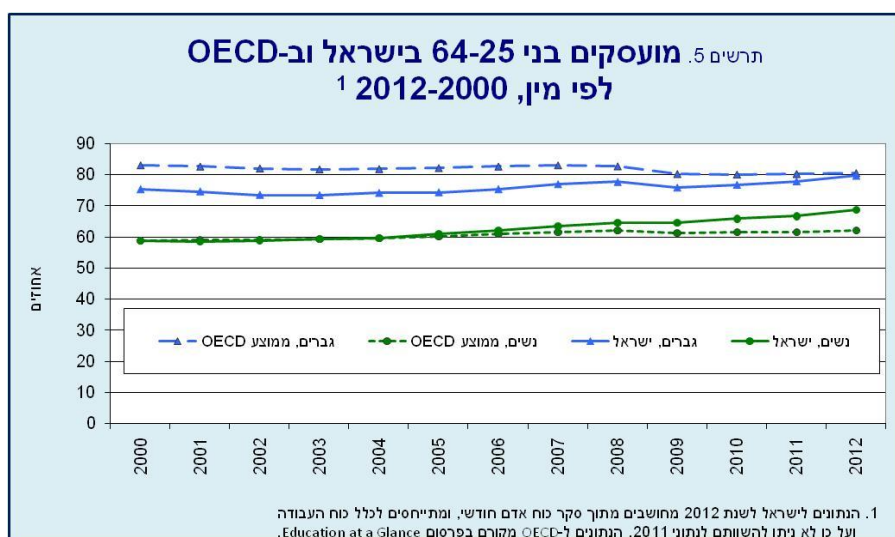
For the data of Diagram 4

In most EU countries, the percentage of children living in households without an earner increased in 2011 (9.3%) compared to 2001 (8.0%), while in Israel the percentage decreased from 11.6% in 2001 to 8.4% in 2011. Of the EU countries, the highest percentage of children living in households without an earner was in the United Kingdom (17.3%) and the lowest – in Luxembourg (4.8%).



For the data of Diagram 5

In 2012, the average employment rate in OECD countries among persons aged 25-64 was 71.1%. In Israel, the rate was 74.0%. Among men in OECD countries the employment rate was 80.6% and in Israel – 79.6%. Among women in the



OECD countries the employment rate was 62.0% in 2012, lower than the figure in Israel – 68.6%.

The percentage of unemployed persons aged 25-64 in 2012 stood at 7.0% in OECD countries and 5.9% in Israel.

[For the data of Diagram 6](#)

The **Society in Israel Report** further found that when comparing the percentage of persons unemployed for over a year out of total unemployed persons **in Israel and in the EU**, it can be seen that **Israel was the lowest compared to the EU average (13.3% compared with 44.4%, respectively).**

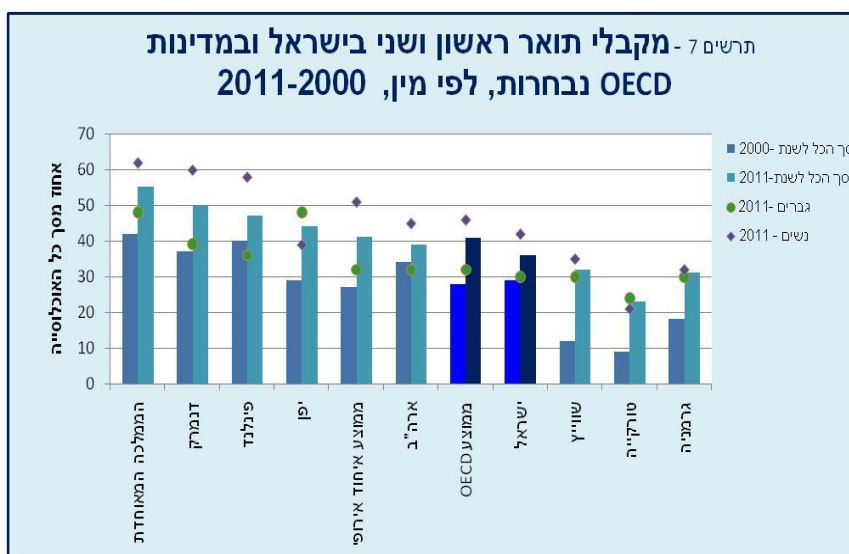
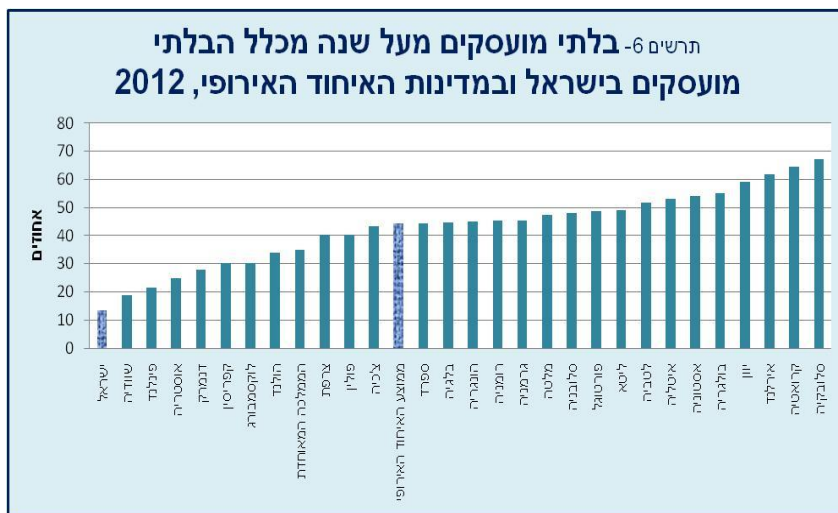
3. Higher Education

[For the data of Diagram 7](#)

In 2002, about 30% of Israel's total population were holders of an academic degree, 29% received a first degree (BA) or second degree (MA). This percentage is similar to the average of OECD countries (31%). In 2011, the percentage of recipients of a first degree or second degree out of Israel's population increased to 36%, as the average of the OECD countries

increased as well to 39%. The highest percentage of degree holders was in Poland (58%) and the lowest percentage was in Mexico and Turkey (21% and 23%, respectively).

There is a difference between the percentage of men and women holding an academic degree; in most countries the percentage of women with academic degrees is significantly higher. In Israel the difference between men and women was 12% in 2011, and in Denmark and Finland difference was over 20%. However, in Turkey and Japan the percentage of men degree holders was higher than that of women. One should note that the source of the gap between the percentage of women and men degree holders in Israel originates from studying for a first degree. In studies for a second degree, the gap narrows, and is not significant.



4. Transportation and Road Accidents

Level of Motorization

For the data of Diagram 8

In all countries, except Canada, the level of passenger car⁵ motorization is on the rise since the 90's through 2010. **In Israel, the level of motorization per 1,000 residents increased from 168 in 2000 to 272 in 2010.** The level of passenger car motorization in Israel is lower than most developed countries. Finland, Poland, Greece and the USA are the countries where the level of passenger car motorization increased significantly from 2000 to 2010.

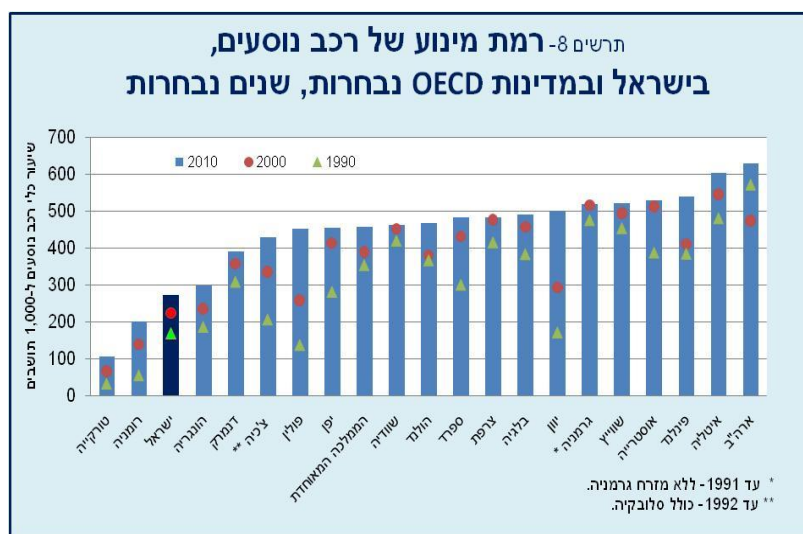


Diagram 8. Level of Passenger Car Motorization in Israel and Selected OECD Countries, Selected Years

Fatalities in Road Accidents

For the data of Diagram 9

The rate of fatalities in road accidents has been declining over the last decade both in Israel and in OECD countries. The lowest number of fatalities per billion kilometers traveled was recorded in the United Kingdom – four fatalities. **Israel is among the ten countries with the lowest number of fatalities per billion kilometers traveled** (a decrease from 13 fatalities per billion kilometers traveled in 2000 to seven fatalities in 2010).



Diagram 9. Fatalities in Road Accidents in Israel and Selected OECD Countries, 2000, 2010

5. Crime

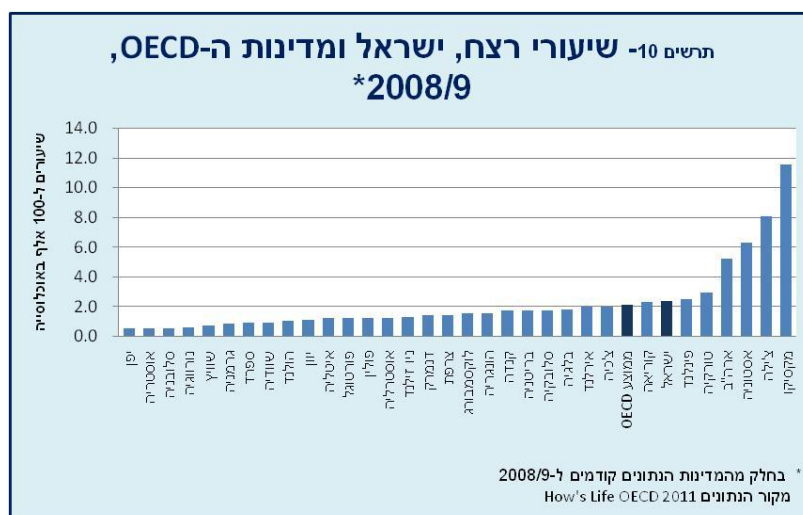
Homicide Rates

⁵ **Passenger car** – a motor vehicle designed to carry up to nine persons (including the driver).

For the data of Diagram 10

In the past 50 years, despite the development of the arms industry, the homicide rate fell in most countries, thanks to the development of modern medicine in the developed countries that provides a more effective life-saving treatment than ever existed before.

Diagram 10. Homicide Rates, Israel and the OECD Countries, 2008/9*



Homicide rates in Israel are similar to the average in OECD countries – about 2.4 homicides per 100,000 persons in the population. Iceland, Austria, Slovenia and Japan have homicide rates lower than 0.6 per 100,000 persons. The homicide rates per 100,000 persons are the highest in the United States (5.2), Estonia (6.3) and Mexico (11.6).

Assault Victims

For the data of Diagram 11

Assault victims are persons who reported they were victims of an attack or robbery during the past 12 months. On the average, persons who reported they were assaulted or robbed in the last 12 months in the OECD countries was 3%. Despite the relatively low percentage of people who reported on an assault, there are large differences between countries. For example, in Canada, Japan and the USA, assault reporting rates are lower than 2%, compared with Chile (9.3%) and Mexico (11%). In Israel, the rate of people who reported on an assault was significantly lower than the OECD countries average, and stood at 1.8%.

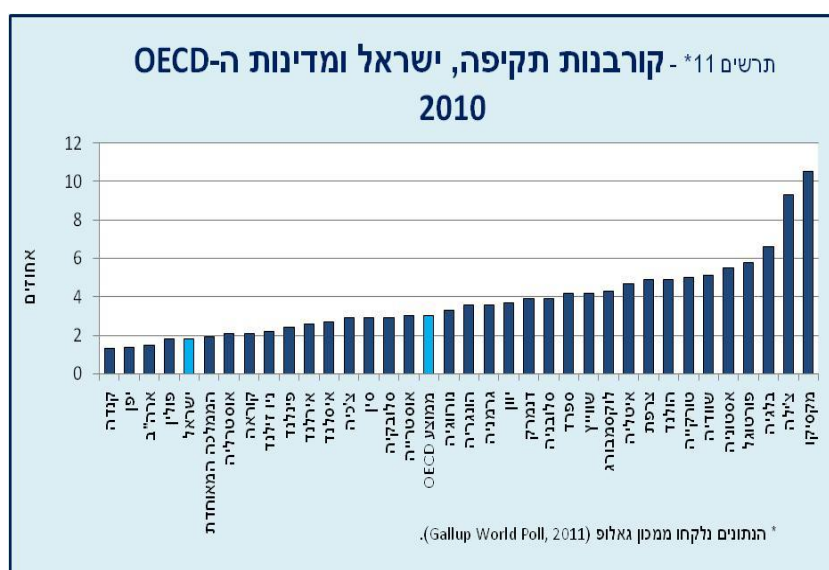


Diagram 11.* Assault Victims, Israel and the OECD Countries, 2010

Percentages

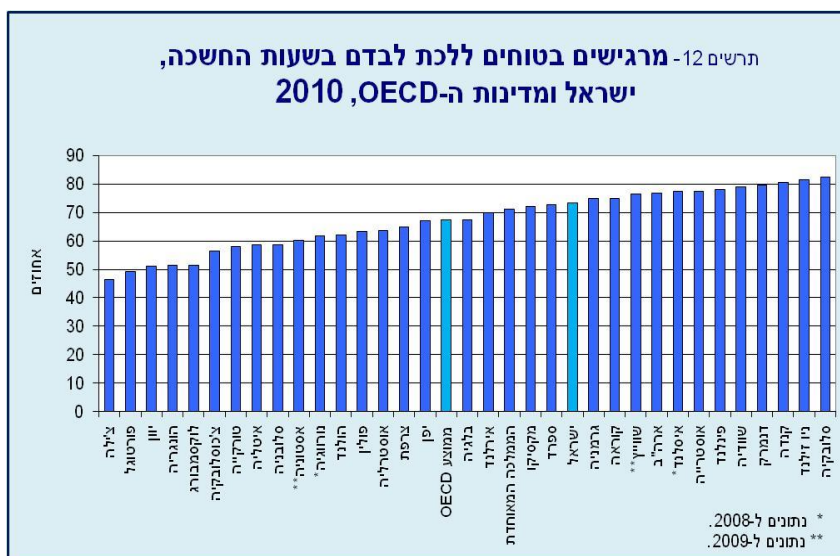
For the data of Diagram 12

In a survey of OECD countries taken by the Gallup Organization (Gallup World Poll, 2011), the leading question was: "Do you feel safe walking alone after dark?"

The percentage of people who reported that they feel safe walking alone after dark in OECD countries is **67.3% on the average**. In Chile and Portugal, less than 50% of the

population felt safe walking alone after dark, in contrast to Canada, New Zealand and Slovakia, where more than 80% of the population felt safe walking alone after dark. **In Israel, 73.3%⁶ of the respondents said they felt safe walking alone after dark, slightly above the average in OECD countries.**

Diagram 12. Percentage Who Felt Safe Walking Alone at Night, Israel and the OECD Countries, 2010

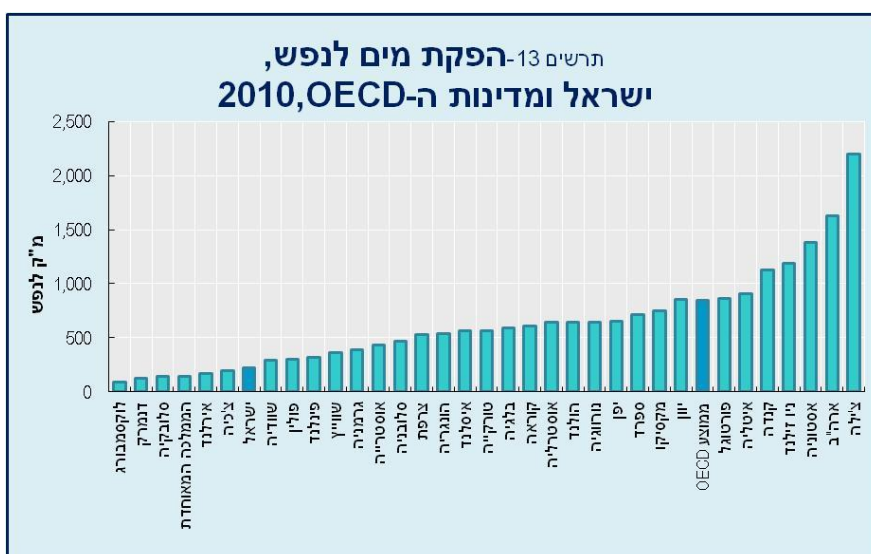


6. Environment

For the data of Diagram 13

Water production per capita⁷ in Israel is lower than the developed western countries. In 2010, the average water production per capita in the OECD countries (850 cubic meters) was three times higher than the average water production per capita in Israel (220 cubic meters).

Diagram 13. Water Production per Capita, Israel and the OECD Countries, 2010



⁶ From the Social Survey, 2010.

⁷ Fresh water taken from groundwater or surface water, permanently or temporarily, and delivered for consumption.

Waste per Capita

For the data of Diagram 14

In 2011, the amount of waste per capita for the socio-economic cluster 10 was 4.4 kg per capita, 3.8 times the amount of waste per person in the socio-economic cluster 1. In 2011, the amount of waste per capita in the socio-economic cluster 1 was 1.2 kg per capita per day (compared to 0.7 kg per capita per day in 2010). In the non-Jewish local

authorities, the amount of waste per capita in 2011 was 1.3 kg per capita per day compared to 1.8 kg per capita per day in the Jewish ones, and 2 kg per capita per day in mixed local authorities. **The locality with the highest amount of waste per capita per day was Rosh Pina, in socio-economic cluster 7 (7.9 kg per capita per day), followed by Savion, socio-economic cluster 10 (5.9 kg per capita per day). Kuseife, socio-economic cluster 1, had the lowest amount of waste per capita per day (0.5 kg). An international comparison, in 2010, shows that the amount of household waste per capita per day (1.7 kg) was higher in Israel than in most OECD countries (OECD average - 1.5 kg).**

Diagram 14. Household Waste per Capita, Israel and the OECD Countries, 2010

