

Media Release

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The Druze Population of Israel, 2019 On the Occasion of the Nabi Shu'ayb Festival

- At the end of 2019, the Druze population in Israel was approximately 145,000 (preliminary data) - roughly a tenfold increase since the founding of the State of Israel (14,500 in 1949).
- At the end of 2018, the **localities** with the largest population of Druze were Daliyat al-Karmel (16,900) and Yirka (16,700).
- At the end of 2018, children aged 0 to 14 comprised approximately one-quarter (25.7%) of the Druze population. Children make up 27.6% of the Jewish population, approximately one-third (33.8%) of the Moslem population, and approximately one-fifth (21.6%) of the Christian population.
- The total fertility rate¹ of Druze women in 2018 was 2.16 children on average, as compared with 2.10 in the previous year. Despite this increase, **the total fertility rate among Druze women has been declining since the mid-1960s**. The peak in fertility - 7.92 children per woman - was measured in 1964. In 1990, the rate was 4.05 children per woman. The rate in 2000 was 3.07, and in 2010 it was 2.47.
- In 2019, approximately 39,000 households - approximately 1.4% of the total number of households in Israel - were headed by a Druze. Of them, 82.6% households contained employed persons - a number higher than the Moslems (77.8%) and the Christians (76.6%).

¹ The total fertility rate: The average number of children that a woman is expected to bear during her lifetime.

- Among the Druze, as among the Moslems, there is a wide gap between the participation of men and of women in the labour force.
- In the 2018/19 school year, 5,000 Druze students attended all the institutions of higher education in Israel, except for the Open University. Their number rose by 2.2% as compared with the previous year (2017/18). From a multi-year perspective, the number of Druze students increased by a factor of 3.1 in 19 years (in the 1999/00 school year, 1,600 Druze students attended institutions of higher education in Israel).
- In the 2020 school year, 3,364 Druze were employed as teaching professionals, as compared with 3,309 in the 2018/19 school year (an increase of 1.7%).

Population²

The Druze population has grown tenfold since the founding of the State of Israel: from 14,500 persons in 1949 to 145,000 at the end of 2019 (preliminary data). The Druze population has grown over the years mainly due to natural increase (births minus deaths) and the annexation of the Golan Heights in 1981. The Druze community comprises 1.6% of Israel's total population and 7.6% of Israel's Arab population.

Geographic distribution in 2018: The Druze live in two main districts: the Northern District (approximately 81% of the Druze population) and the Haifa District (approximately 19%).

98% of the Druze in Israel live in 19 localities, 17 in the Northern District and two (Daliyat el-Karmel and Isfiya) in the Haifa District. These localities are mostly homogenous; the Druze make up 95% and more of the population of 13 of them, and the entire population in eight of them (Beit Jann, Majdal Shams, Buq'ata, Julis, Yanuh-Jat, Sajur, Mas'ade, and Ein Qiniyye).

Daliyat el-Karmel and Yirka were the localities with the highest number of Druze in 2018.

² Including Druze in the Golan District, who were added to the population in 1981.

Table A. The Druze Population at the End of 2018 in Main Localities

Name of Locality	Total Number of Druze in the Locality (Thousands)	Percentage of Druze of the Locality's Total Population
Daliyat al-Karmel	16.9	97
Yirka	16.7	98
Mughar	13.0	58
Beit Jann	11.9	100
Majdal Shams	11.0	100
Isfiya	9.4	76
Kisra-Sumei	8.2	95
Yanuh-Jat	6.6	100
Buq'ata	6.5	100
Julis	6.3	100
Hurfeish	6.1	96
Shefar'am	5.8	14
Peki'in (Buqei'a)	4.5	78
Abu Sinan	4.2	30
Sajur	4.2	100
Mas'ade	3.6	100
Rame	2.4	31
Ein Qiniyye	2.1	100
Ein Al-Asad	0.9	97

Growth rate: The growth rate of the Druze community has decreased gradually over the past decade. The growth rate was 1.7% in 2009, 1.5% in 2013, and 1.4% in 2018.

Although this rate is lower than that of the Moslem population (2.3%) and the Jewish population (1.7%), it is higher than the growth rate of the Arab Christians (1.2%).

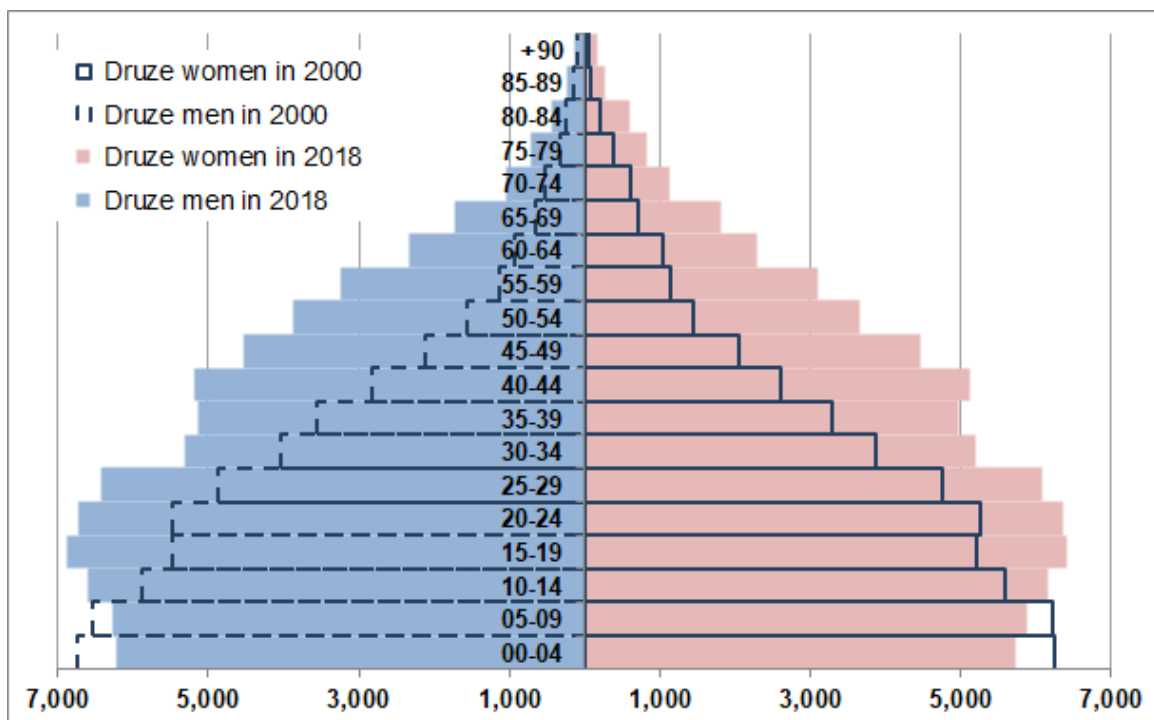
Age structure: The median age (the age that half the population is over and half the population is under) in the Druze community was 28.3 at the end of 2018. Children aged 0 to 14 comprised 25.7% of the Druze population, and approximately 6.4% were 65 or older. This age structure is the result of an ongoing trend of declining fertility. By way of comparison, the median age in the Druze population in 2000 was 21.9; children aged 0 to

14 made up 35.8% of the population, and persons aged 65 and over made up 3.9% of the population.

The percentage of children aged 0 to 14 in the Druze population (25.7%) is lower than that of the Jewish community (27.6%) and the Moslem community (33.8%), but higher than that of the Arab Christian population (21.6%).

Although the percentage of persons aged 65 and over among the Druze (6.4%) is higher than that of the Moslem population (4.2%), it is lower than that of the Jewish population (13.8%) and the Arab Christian population (10.9%).

Diagram 1 - The Druze Population in Israel by Age and Sex, Absolute Numbers, End of 2018



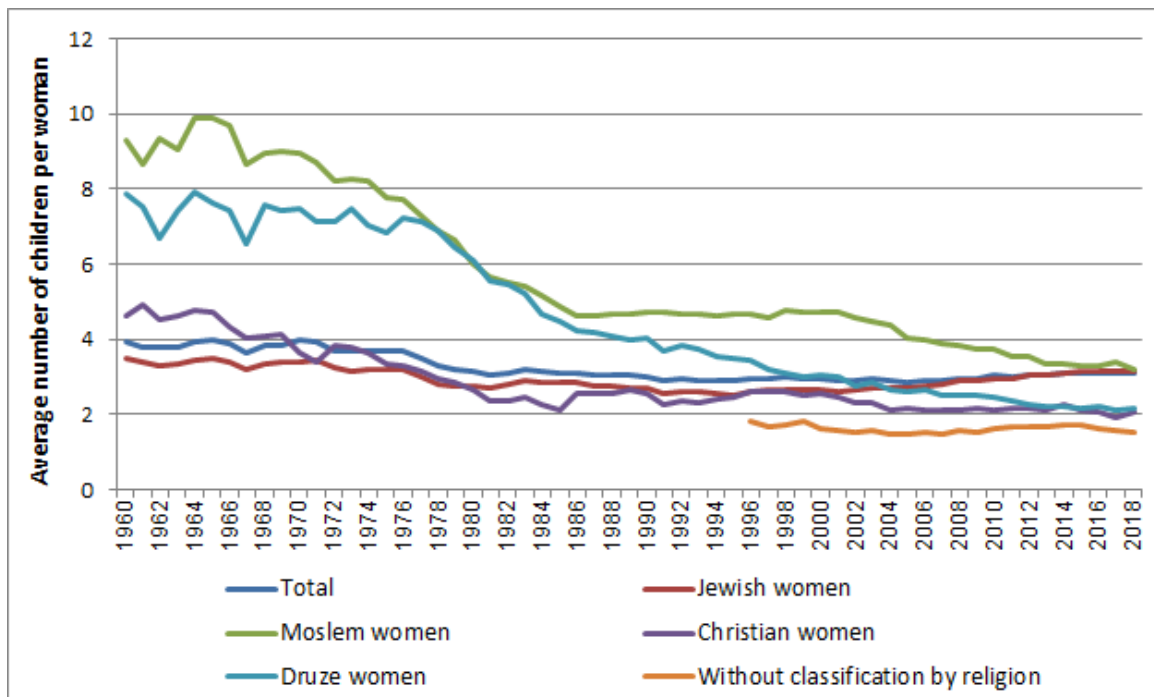
Fertility and the birth rate: Druze women had a total of 2,434 live births - approximately 1.3% of the total number of babies that were born in Israel during that year (less than their proportion in the population, which was 1.6%).

The average number of children that a Druze woman is expected to bear during her lifetime (total fertility rate) was 2.16 children per woman in 2018 - less than that of Jewish women (3.17) and Moslem women (3.20), and similar to that of the Christian women (2.06).

The fertility rate of Druze women has decreased by approximately 73% since 1964, when it peaked at 7.92 children per woman. The rate was 4.05 children per woman in 1990, 3.07 in 2000, and 2.47 in 2010. This decline is the result of a decrease in fertility rates among

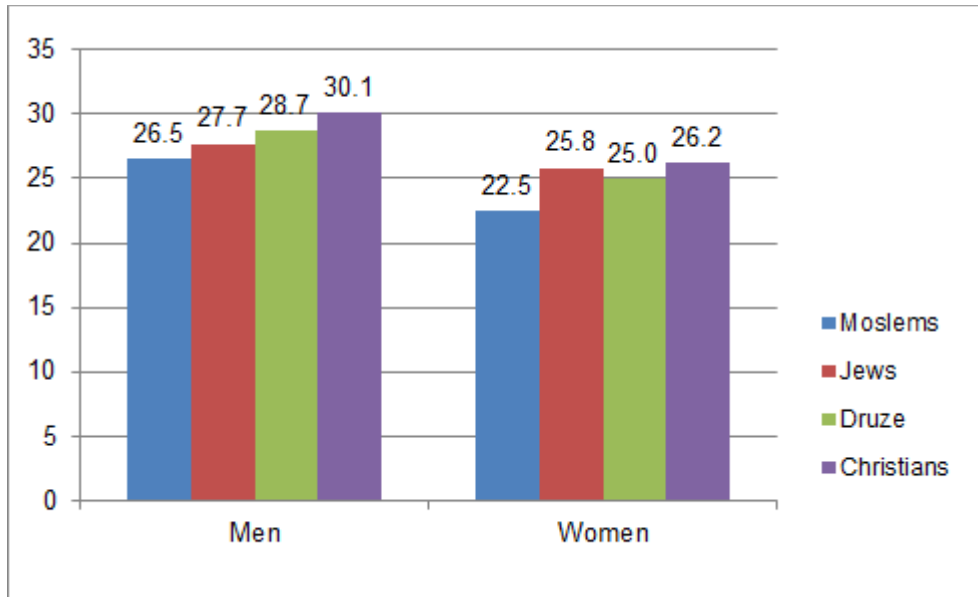
women of all age groups, delaying the birth of the first child, and an increase in the mother's average age at the time of the birth.

Diagram 2 - Total Fertility Rate by Mother's Religion, 1960-2018



Age at marriage: In 2017, the average age at first marriage in the Druze community was 25.0 years among women and 28.7 years among men. The marriage age of Druze women is higher than that of Moslem women and lower than that of Jewish and Christian women. By way of comparison, the age at which Druze men marry is higher than that of Jewish and Moslem men and lower than that of Christian men. At the same time, the average age difference at first marriage between the groom and the bride among the Druze, Christians, and Moslems is similar: around four years, as compared with two years among the Jews.

Diagram 3 - Average Age at First Marriage, by Religion and Sex, 2017



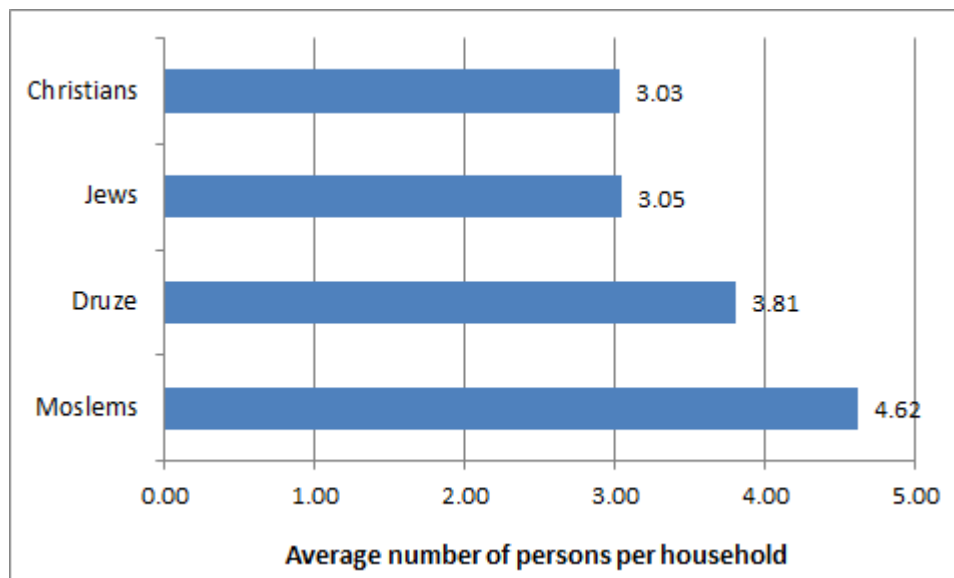
The percentage of single men among Druze men aged 25 to 29 increased from 41% in 1997 to 62% in 2017. The percentage of single women among Druze women aged 20 to 24 increased from 49% to 65% during those same years.

The percentage of single men among Druze men aged 40 to 44 increased from 3% in 1997 to 6% in 2017. The percentage of single women among Druze women in the same age group increased from 10% to 11% during those same years. These statistics point to a decrease in the number of marriages in the Druze community.

Households and Families³

Approximately 39,000 households in Israel had a Druze head of household in 2019. These households constituted approximately 1.4% of the total number of households.

Diagram 4 - Average Household Size by Religion, 2019



Despite the decline in fertility rates in the Druze population, its average household size is larger than that of Jews and Christians.

Approximately 79% of the Druze families have a traditional family structure that includes a couple with children (children of any age). This is similar to the Moslem families, but with a higher percentage than that of the Jewish and Christian families.

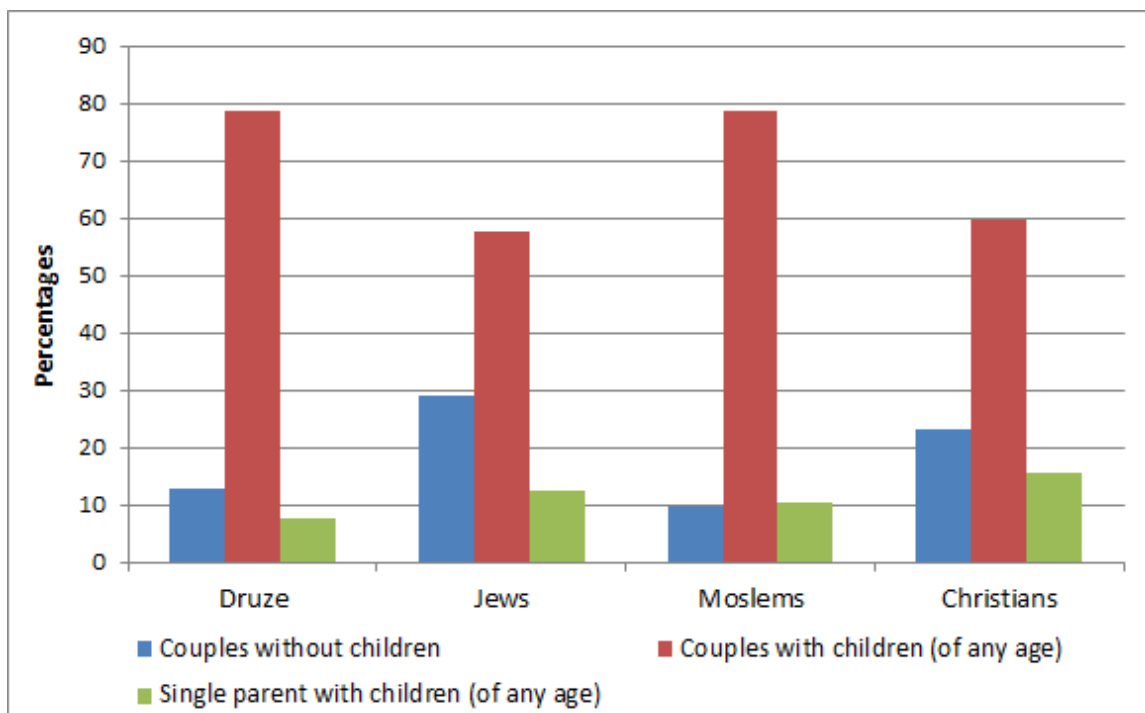
³ **Household:** A person or group of people who live together, on a permanent basis, in a single dwelling for most days of the year and have a shared budget for food expenses. A household can include persons who are not family members.

A family household: A household that contains at least one family.

Family: (Nuclear family) Two or more persons who live in the same household who are related as a married or unmarried couple, or as parent and child. The main types of family are: a couple only, a couple with children (in various age groups by the age of the youngest child), or a single parent with children.

The data on households and families are based on the 2019 Labour Force Survey. The data do not include persons who live in institutions, on kibbutzim, in student dormitories, or who live outside localities (Bedouin in the south).

Diagram 5 - Families by Type of Family and Religion, 2019



Approximately 58% of all the Druze families include a couple with at least one child of up to 17 years of age, similar to the Moslem families and higher than the Jewish families (approximately 45%) and the Christian families (approximately 43%).

The average number of children of up to 17 years of age in the Druze families with children up to that age is 2.16 - a lower number as compared with the Jewish families (2.41) and the Moslem families (2.69), and slightly higher as compared with the Christian families (1.87).

Living on one's own is not a common phenomenon among the Druze. Only approximately 7% of households are those of one person only, similar to the Moslem households (8%) and lower as compared with approximately 22% of the Jewish households and approximately 20% of the Christian households.

1,200 Druze aged 65 and over live on their own, comprising approximately 12% of the total number of Druze who are 65 and older. This figure is similar to the percentage of Moslems aged 65 and over (15%), and lower than this percentage among Jews (23%) and Christians (26%) aged 65 and over.

Labour

Of the approximately 39,000 Druze households in 2019, 82.6% were households with employed persons - a higher percentage than that of the Moslems (77.8%) and the Christians (76.6%).

The average number of persons per room among the Druze was 1.07, a higher number than among the Christians (1.00) and a lower one than the Moslems (1.41).

Among the Druze, as among the Moslems, there is a wide gap between the participation of men and that of women in the labour force.

The percentage of men who are part of the labour force reached 68.1% in 2019 (as compared with 59.0% among the Moslems and 63.2% among the Christians). The percentage of Druze women who are part of the labour force reached 40.2% (as compared with 26.9% among the Moslems and 48.8% among the Christians).

Of 55,800 Druze who are employed, 25.5% worked as professional employees in manufacturing and construction and work in other professions; 23.4% worked as employees in sales and services; 18.3% worked in the manufacturing industry, and 16.8% worked in local administration, public administration and defence, and compulsory social security.

2.7% of the Druze did not attend school at all. Of those who did, 3.7% did not receive a diploma, 28.3% have a primary or lower-secondary education; 12.1% completed high school without a matriculation certificate; 31.0% received a matriculation certificate; 8.5% received a non-academic graduation diploma from a post-primary school, and 16.4% received an academic degree or certificate.

Higher Education

Students in Institutions of Higher Education⁴

During the 2018/19 school year, 5,000 Druze students attended all the institutions of higher education in Israel, except for the Open University. Their number increased by 2.2% over the previous year. For the sake of comparison, the total number of Arab students increased by 6.2%, and the total number of students increased by 0.7%. From a

⁴ Not including the Open University, which had 900 students. The Open University has unique characteristics that set it apart from the rest of the institutions of higher education, such as the way in which students are admitted and the process of their courses of study and the composition of the student body. Data about the students of the Open University were therefore not included in the data on students.

multi-year perspective, the number of Druze students increased by a factor of 3.1 over 19 years (the number of Druze students in 1999/00 was 1,600). During that period, the total number of Arab students increased by a factor of 3.2, and the total number of students increased by a factor of 1.5.

In the 2018/19 academic year, 2,094 Druze students attended universities; 2,212 attended academic colleges, and 664 attended academic colleges of education. The increase in the number of Druze students as compared with the previous year (2,111 students) took place mainly in the academic colleges.

Of the total number of Druze students in the 2018/19 academic year, 77.6% were studying for their first degree (of them, 26.5% were in their first year); 20.3% were studying for their second degree; 1.6% were studying for their third degree, and 0.5% were studying for an academic certification.

19 years previously (in the 1999/00 academic year), the percentage of Druze students studying for their first degree was 89.5% of the total number of Druze students, while only 7.6% were studying for their second degree. A breakdown of studies by degree among all the Arab students in the 2018/19 academic year was similar to that of the Druze (77.6% were studying for their first degree and 20.0% were studying for their second degree).

Of the total number of students who attended universities in Israel in the 2018/19 academic year, 1.7% were Druze. The percentage of Druze students was highest at the University of Haifa (6.7%), followed by the Technion (2.9%). The lowest percentages of Druze students were at the Weizmann Institute of Science (0.1%) and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (0.3%).

For the sake of comparison, the percentage of Arabs of the total number of students in the 2018/19 academic year was 14.4%. The percentage of Arab students at the University of Haifa was highest (33.7%), followed by the Technion (21.2%). The Weizmann Institute of Science (2.2%) and Ariel University (6%) had the lowest percentages of Arab students.

Druze students comprised 2.1% of the total number of students who attended academic colleges in the 2018/19 school year (2.5% in the budgeted colleges and 1.5% in the non-budgeted colleges). There was a great deal of diversity among the colleges themselves regarding the proportion of Druze students by their geographic location. In academic colleges that are located in northern Israel, the percentage of Druze students was relatively high: 14.7% in Zefat Academic College, 11.9% in Western Galilee College, 8.5% in Kinneret Academic College in the Jordan Valley; 8.3% in Tel-Hai College, and 7.3% in ORT Braude Academic College of Engineering in Karmiel. In contrast, the relative

proportion of Druze students was smaller (up to 2.9%) in eight academic colleges that are located in Israel's central or southern regions. The percentage of Druze students attending **academic colleges of education** was 1.9%.

Among the Druze students studying for their **first degree**,⁵ social sciences was the most popular field (21.9%), followed by education and teacher training (18.6%), engineering and architecture (18.8%), business and management science (7.1%), general humanities (6.5%), and paramedical studies (5.9%).

The relative proportion of humanities majors (30.9%) among the Druze first-degree students was higher than among the total number of first-degree students (26.9%), though lower than among all the Arab students (34.1%). The relative proportion of persons studying the social sciences (28.9%) among the Druze first-degree students was higher than among the total number of first-degree students (27.5%) and also among the Arab students (26.8%). In engineering and architecture, the relative proportion among the Druze students (18.8%) studying for a first degree was identical to that of the total number of students studying for a first degree (18.8%), but higher than among the total number of Arab students (13.1%). In law (4.6%), medicine (0.8%), paramedical studies (5.9%), and the exact sciences (9.9%), the relative proportion of Druze students was smaller than among the total number of students studying for a first degree and among all the Arab students studying for a first degree.

Among students studying for their **first degree**, the percentage of women among the Druze (65.3%) was lower as compared with the total number of Arabs (67.6%) and higher than among the total number of students (58.9%). Among students studying for a **second degree**, the percentage (63.8%) was lower in relation to the total number of Arabs (73.8%) and higher than among the total number of students (63.5%).

The median age of the Druze students studying for a **first degree** was 22.8 years - higher than the median ages of the total number of Arab students studying for a first degree (22.1) and lower than those of the total number of students (24.8). Among those studying for a **second degree**, the median age was 32.5 years - higher than the median age of the total number of Arab students (31.5) and of the total number of students studying for a second degree (31.9). In studies for a **third degree**, too, the median age of the Druze students (35.1) was higher than the median age of the total number of Arab students (33.6) and the total number of students (35).

⁵ Not including the Open University.

Teaching Professionals in the Druze Education System

In the 2019/20 academic year, the number of Druze teaching staff was 3,364, as compared with 3,309 in the 2018/19 academic year (an increase of 1.7%). Over the past decade, the rate of annual change in the number of Druze teaching staff was 2.8% per year on average, as compared with a rate of annual change of 3.1% among Jewish teaching staff, 4.0% among Moslems, and 1.1% among Christians.

The percentage of new teaching staff among the Druze teaching staff was approximately 5.2% during the 2019/2020 academic year, as compared with 6.4% among Jewish teaching staff, 4.9% among Moslem teaching staff, and 3.0% among Christian teaching staff.

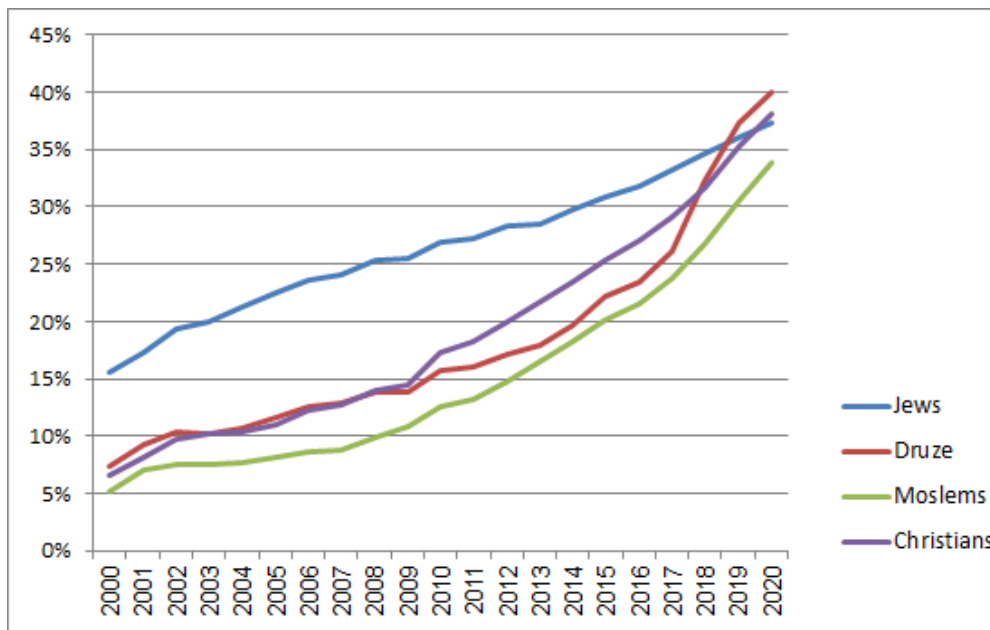
The percentage of Druze teaching staff who left the educational system in 2017 was 2.8%, as compared with 4.8% among Jewish teaching staff, 2.8% among Moslem teaching staff, and 3.0% among Christian teaching staff.

The percentage of women among the Druze teaching staff reached approximately 82% in the 2019/2020 academic year, as opposed to approximately 83% among Jewish teaching staff, 75% among Moslem teaching staff, and 84% among Christian teaching staff.

The average age of Druze teaching staff in the 2019/20 academic year was 41.4 years, as compared with 43.5 years among Jewish teaching staff, 40.0 among Moslem teaching staff, and 44 years among Christian teaching staff.

The percentage of Druze teaching staff who held a second degree was approximately 40% in the 2019/20 academic year as compared with approximately 37% among Jewish teaching staff, 34% among Moslem teaching staff, and 38% among Christian teaching staff.

Diagram 6 - Percentage of Teaching Staff Who Hold a Second Degree



The average score on the matriculation examinations among new Druze teaching staff during the 2019/20 academic year was 93.1, as compared with 89.0 among Jewish teaching staff, 92.2 among Moslem teaching staff, and 94.3 among Christian teaching staff.

The average psychometric examination score among new Druze teaching staff was 456 in the 2019/2020 academic year, as compared with 525 among Jewish teaching staff, 454 among Moslem teaching staff, and 484 among Christian teaching staff.

Diagram 7 - Average Psychometric Score among New Teaching Staff

