

Media Release

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On the Occasion of Holocaust Day, 2024

Jews in Israel and Throughout the World¹

- At the end of 2023, the world Jewish population was 15.7 million, of them 7.1 million live in Israel (45% of the world Jewish population) and 6.3 (40% of the world Jewish population) live in the United States.
- In 1939, on the eve of World War II, the world Jewish population was 16.6 million, of whom 449,000 (3%) lived in Israel.
- In 1948, on the eve of the establishment of the State of Israel, the world Jewish population was 11.5 million, of whom 650,000 (6%) lived in Israel.

Holocaust Survivors

- On the eve of Holocaust Day 2024, there are about 133,000 Holocaust survivors and victims of anti-Semitic acts perpetrated during the Holocaust living in Israel.

Based on data for the beginning of 2024

- Women constitute 62% of the Holocaust survivors, and men constitute 38%.
- Of the survivors, about 6.2% immigrated to Israel before the establishment of the state, during 1933–1947. About one-third (30.5%) of the survivors immigrated to Israel in the great wave of immigration after the establishment of the state (1948–1951). Another 29.8% immigrated in the years 1952–1989, and about one-third (33.5%) immigrated since the 1990s, during the last wave of immigration from the USSR (former).

¹ The definitions of the population in all countries, except for Israel, refer to a “core” Jewish population that includes people who define themselves as Jewish, or people who were born to Jewish parents who do not have a religious or ethnic self-definition. The data about world Jewry are based on the decades-long work of Prof. Sergio Della Pergola at the Division of Jewish Demography and Statistics, Avraham Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (see [American Jewish Year Book 2022](#)).

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Jews in Israel and throughout the world

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Of the world Jewish population of 15.7 million:

- 7.1 million Jews live in Israel (45%)
- 6.3 million Jews live in the United States (40%)
- 440,000 live in France (3%)
- 398,000 live in Canada (2.5%)
- 312,000 live in the United Kingdom (2%)
- 171,000 live in Argentina (2%)
- 132,000 live in Russia (1.1%)
- 125,000 live in Germany (0.8%)
- 117,000 live in Australia (0.7%)

Jews in Israel by Continent of Origin²

The number of Jews living in Israel: 7.1 million (45% of the world Jewish population)

Of them: 5.7 million were born in Israel

1.4 million were born abroad

Of them: 1.0 million were born in Europe or in America

275,000 were born in Africa

143,700 were born in Asia

² Statistical Abstract of Israel 2023, Table 2.9.

Holocaust Survivors

On the eve of Holocaust Day 2024, there are 133,000 Holocaust survivors and victims of anti-Semitic acts perpetrated during the Holocaust living in Israel.

The data published in this release are taken from a file obtained from the Holocaust Survivors' Rights Authority. The Holocaust Survivors' Rights Authority serves as an arm of the State of Israel to compensate Holocaust survivors who survived in concentration camps, ghettos, and hiding places, as well as World War II disabled, persons disabled as a result of Nazi persecution, and refugees. In addition, the Holocaust Survivors' Rights Authority has recognized the status of Iraqi residents who underwent the Farhud³ events of June 1941, as well as that of Moroccan and Algerian residents who experienced restrictions on employment and residence during the Vichy regime and were exposed to the Nazi regime.

Selected Demographic Data (at the Beginning of 2024)

Age and Sex

Women constitute 62% of the Holocaust survivors, and men constitute 38%.

About 43% of the survivors were born during the Second World War, between 1939 and 1945; they were aged 78–84 at the beginning of 2024. Another 36% of the survivors were aged 85–89, and the rest were over 90 (about 20%).

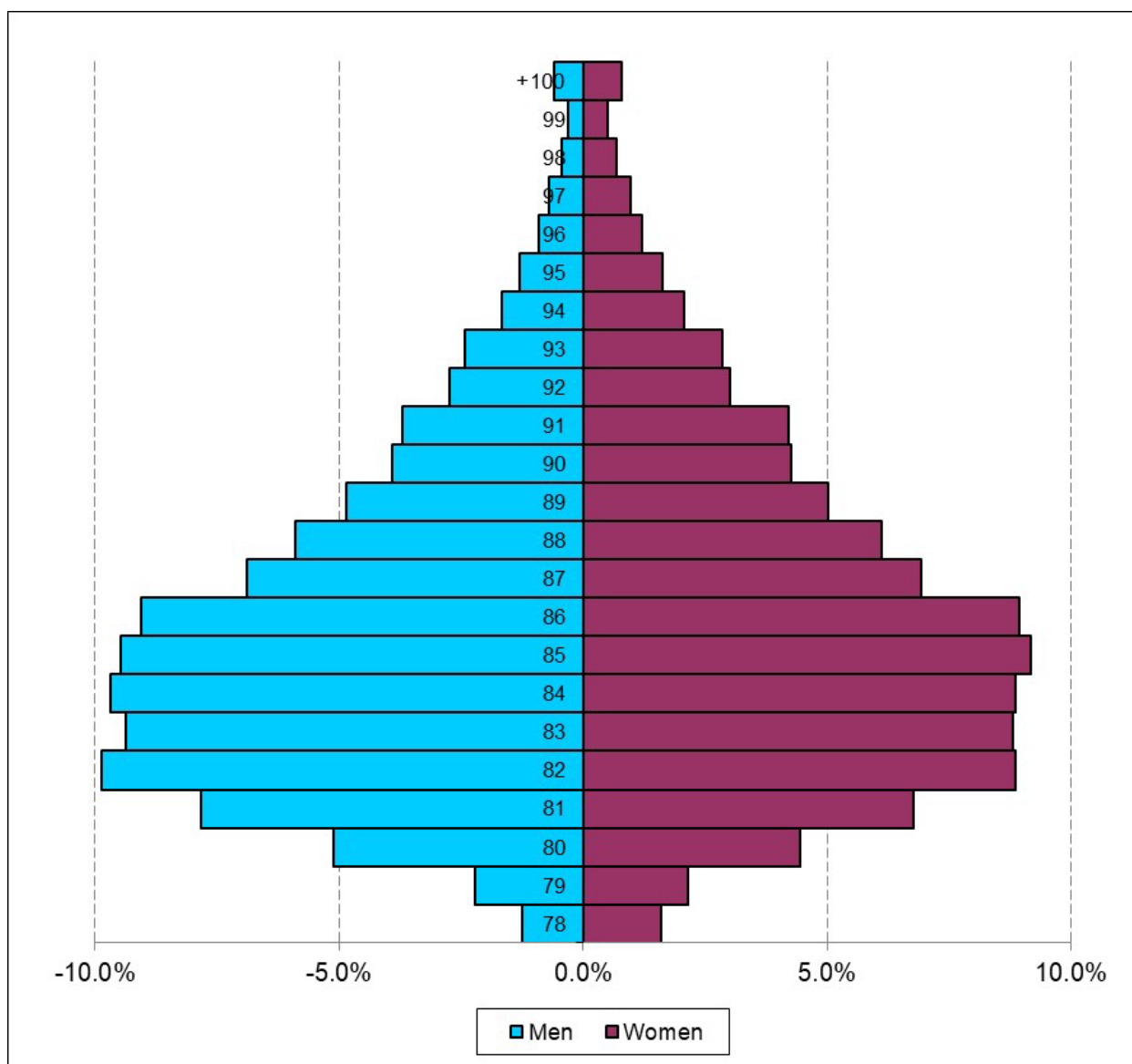
Marital Status

About 50.8% of the survivors were widowed, 36.8% were married, 10.4% were divorced and about 2% were never-married.

About half of the Holocaust survivors are married to a Holocaust survivor spouse – 24,600 out of 49,300. That is, 12,300 families in which both spouses are Holocaust survivors live in Israel today.

³ The Farhud refers to the pogrom against the Jewish population in Baghdad, the capital of Iraq, on the Shavuot (Pentecost) holiday in 1941. At least 179 Jews were murdered, 2,118 were wounded, and 242 children were orphaned. The property of about 50,000 persons was looted (see [Wikipedia](#)).

Diagram 1 - Holocaust Survivors by Sex and Age, 2024⁴



Country of Birth and Immigration Period

Persons born in Europe constitute 61.1% of the Holocaust survivors living in Israel. The largest group (35.8%) consists of persons born in the USSR (former), another 10.8% were born in Romania, and 4.9% were born in Poland.

Persons born in Morocco constitute 16.5% of the Holocaust survivors, about 2.1% are persons born in Algeria who experienced various restrictions during the Vichy regime, and 10.9% are persons born in Iraq who underwent the Farhud pogrom. Persons born in Tunisia and Libya constitute the remaining 6.6%.

⁴ The data of persons aged 100 and over might include reporting errors.

Table A - Holocaust Survivors by Country of Birth, 2024

Country of birth	Percentages
Grand total	100.0
European countries - total	61.1
USSR (former)	35.8
Romania	10.8
Poland	4.9
Bulgaria	2.9
Germany and Austria	1.5
Hungary	1.3
Other European countries	4.2
Asian and African countries - total	36.6
Morocco	16.5
Iraq	10.9
Tunisia	4.0
Libya	2.6
Algeria	2.1
Other Asian and African countries	0.5
Other countries	2.3

Of the survivors, about 6.2% immigrated to Israel before the establishment of the state, during 1933–1947; 30.5% of the survivors immigrated to Israel in the great wave of immigration after the establishment of the state (1948–1951); 29.8% immigrated in the years 1952–1989, and about one-third (33.5%) immigrated since the 1990s, during the last wave of immigration from the USSR (former).

About 58.5% of Holocaust survivors from Germany and Austria immigrated to Israel before the establishment of the state. Most of the survivors from Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary, Iraq, and Libya immigrated to Israel in the great wave of immigration (1948–1951). Most of the survivors born in Morocco and Tunisia immigrated in the 1950s and 1960s, whereas most survivors of the USSR (former) immigrated since 1990.

**Table B - Holocaust Survivors by Country of Birth and Immigration Period,
Percentages**

Country of birth	Total	1933-1947	1948-1951	1952-1989	1990-2023
Total	100.0	6.2	30.5	29.8	33.5
Thereof:					
USSR (former)	100.0	0.6	1.8	13.3	84.3
Romania	100.0	5.2	47.4	45.1	2.3
Poland	100.0	16.8	61.7	18.7	2.8
Bulgaria	100.0	6.2	86.6	4.7	2.5
Germany and Austria	100.0	58.5	17.4	16.2	8.0
Hungary	100.0	19.0	52.5	24.3	4.2
Morocco	100.0	0.3	16.0	79.4	4.3
Iraq	100.0	3.1	94.3	2.5	0.2
Tunisia	100.0	0.3	26.2	60.7	12.8
Libya	100.0	1.6	89.9	8.0	0.5
Algeria	100.0	0.8	16.6	46.0	36.6

Geographic Distribution

Approximately 95% of the survivors reside in urban localities and 5% in rural localities, similar to the distribution among the population of Jews and Others in Israel.⁵

Approximately one-third of the survivors reside in the largest cities (numbering 200,000 residents or more): approximately 9,000 in Haifa, 8,500 in Jerusalem, 5,400 in Tel Aviv-Yafo, 5,000 in each of the cities Ashdod and Netanya, and 4,000 in each of the cities Be'er Sheva, Petah Tiqwa and Rishon LeZiyyon.

Ten percent of the Holocaust survivors reside in institutions, similar to 9% of elderly Jews and Others.

Operation Swords of Iron

According to data from the "Yahad" (Together) system, approximately 1,500 Holocaust survivors were evacuated from their homes, as of the end of February. Most of them (80%) were evacuated to hotels in the cities of Elat, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv-Yafo and Tiberias.

⁵ "Others" include non-Arab Christians and persons not classified by religion in the Population Register.