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## Disparities in Education<sup>1</sup>

Issue	Jewish population	Arab population
Number of children under the age of 17 <sup>2</sup>	1,699,273	678,000
Percentage of students, pre-school-high school. <sup>3</sup>	77%	23%
Rate of daycare registration for two year olds <sup>4</sup>	61.3%	13.7%
Rate of pre-school registration for three year olds <sup>5</sup>	87.6%	74.9%
Rate of pre-school registration for four year olds <sup>6</sup>	93.9%	82.8%
Rate of pre-school registration for five year olds <sup>7</sup>	97.5%	94.5%
Average class size in elementary school <sup>8</sup>	24.54	28.81
Rate of special needs children failing to get appropriate medical services <sup>9</sup>	39%	71%
Drop-out rate of elementary school students (2007-2008) <sup>10</sup>	0.6%	0.7%
Drop-out rate, students in 9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grades (2007-2008) <sup>11</sup>	13.5%	21.3%
Rate of qualification for matriculation certificate (of the type needed to receive university admission or commensurate employment) <sup>12</sup>	75.9%	30.8%

<sup>1</sup> Prepared in February 2011 by Dr. Yousef Jabareen and Lisa Richlen.

<sup>2</sup> Central Bureau of Statistics, based on international date of birth from November 20th, 2009.

<sup>3</sup> Central Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Abstract of Israel, 2010. Publication 2007/6, courtesy of Sikkuy.

<sup>4</sup> Central Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Abstract of Israel, 2009, table 8.4.

<sup>5</sup> Central Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Abstract of Israel, 2009, table 8.4.

<sup>6</sup> Central Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Abstract of Israel, 2009, table 8.4.

<sup>7</sup> Central Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Abstract of Israel, 2009, table 8.4.

<sup>8</sup> Central Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Abstract of Israel, 2009, table 8.7.

<sup>9</sup> State Comptrollers Report, 2002, 52 (b), page 557.

<sup>10</sup> The Central Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Abstract of Israel, 2009, Table 8.15.

<sup>11</sup> The Central Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Abstract of Israel, 2009, Table 8.32.

<sup>12</sup> The Central Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Abstract of Israel, 2009, Table 8.28.

Average score (approximate) on the Psychometric Exam, the standardized exam that is substantially decisive in university admission (out of 800) <sup>13</sup>	Men	585	479
	Women	548	445
Rate of rejected applicants for first-year university studies towards a first degree <sup>14</sup>		21.9%	38%
Rate of people aged 18-39 studying for a first degree in university. <sup>15</sup>		3.6%	1.8%
Rate of people aged 18-39 studying in any institute of higher education (colleges and universities) <sup>16</sup>		7.9%	3.9%
Rate of people aged 18-39 studying for a second degree <sup>17</sup>		1.9%	0.5%
Of all university students working towards first, second or third degrees (similar to B.A., M.A. and Ph.D), the percentages of Arabs and Jews are: <sup>18</sup>	B.A.	87.6%	13.3%
	M.A.	93.5%	4.9%
	Ph. D	94.5%	2.8%

## Disparities in Education (continued)

### Curriculum Issues<sup>19</sup>

- While Arab schools have their own curriculum, it is designed and supervised by the Ministry of Education, where almost no Arab educators or administrators have decision-making powers. By contrast, state religious schools established only for religious Jewish students maintain autonomous control over their curricula.
- Students in Arab state-run schools receive little instruction, if any, in Palestinian and Arab history, geography, literature, culture, and traditions and spend more time learning the Old Testament and other Jewish texts than they do on studying their own religious texts.
- Of over 100 national senior positions in the Ministry of Education, only four are held by Arab-Palestinians. Of the 70 senior positions in various regional offices, none are held by Arab-Palestinians.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>13</sup> The statistics relate to 2008, see the graph on the site of the National Center for Testing and Evaluation: [https://www.nite.org.il/files/statistics/graphs2008/08a\\_06.pdf](https://www.nite.org.il/files/statistics/graphs2008/08a_06.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> Central Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Abstract of Israel, 2009, table 8.45.

<sup>15</sup> Central Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Abstract of Israel, 2009, table 8.47.

<sup>16</sup> Central Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Abstract of Israel, 2009, table 8.47.

<sup>17</sup> Central Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Abstract of Israel, 2009, table 8.47

<sup>18</sup> Central Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Abstract of Israel, 2009, table 8.57

<sup>19</sup> Adalah Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel. (2003). *Education rights—Palestinian citizens of Israel* (Report). Shafa'amr, Israel

<sup>20</sup> Documentation provided by the Ministry of Education.

### **Discrimination in Special Economic Assistance**

- The Ministry of Education gives special economic assistance to communities that it has designated as “national priorities areas in education.” In 2006 the Israeli Supreme Court ruled that criteria for selection of eligible communities discriminated against Arab-Palestinians and was illegal. In late 2009 some technical changes were made. However, it is not clear that this revised plan will achieve equality. Irrespective, changes have not yet been implemented.<sup>21</sup>

### **Representation in University Faculty<sup>22</sup>**

- Of 4,576 tenured professors in Israeli universities, only 64 (or 1.4%) are Arab.
- Of 8,558 administrative staff members in Israeli universities, only 23 (or .3%) are Arab.
- Of the 2,637 faculty at Israel’s Jewish colleges, 177 (6.7%) are Arab. When including Arab colleges, the number of Arab faculty reaches 370 (or 13.8%).
- Of the approximately 6,000 administrative staff members in Jewish colleges, 45 (.8%) are Arab. When including Arab colleges, the number of administrative staff reaches 156 (2.6%).

### **Composition of University Student Population**

- Of all university students working towards a first degree (similar to a B.A), 86.1% are Jews and 10.6% are Arabs.
- Of all university students working towards a second degree (similar to an M.A.), 92.2% are Jews and 5.8% are Arabs.
- Of all university students working towards a third degree, 94.5% are Jews and 3.3% are Arabs.

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<sup>21</sup> See Abu-Asbah, Khaled (2004). “The Arab Education System in Israel,” in Hasson, Shlomo and Abu-Asbah, Khaled (editors), *Jews and Arabs in Israel Facing a Changing Reality: Dilemmas, Trends, Scenarios and Recommendations*. Jerusalem: Floersheimer Institute for Policy Studies, 81-97.

<sup>22</sup> 2007/2008 statistics compiled by Sikkuy, from the Shochat report.

## Resources Consulted

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Daphna Golan-Agnon, *Separate But Not Equal: Discrimination Against Palestinian Arab Students in Israel*, *American Behavioral Scientist*, vol. 49 no. 8, April 2006.