

Facts and Figures about People with Disabilities in Israel

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Scope

- About 1.5 million people with disabilities live in Israel (about 20% of the population): People with physical, sensory, cognitive and mental disabilities and disabilities resulting from chronic illness.
- Disabled adults in Israel compose 17.9% (697,000 persons) of the total adult population (ages 20 to 64), which numbers 3,890,000. There are 314,000 children with special needs (ages 0 to 20).
- 12,000 disabled people live in institutions, the others in the community
- Every third person has a person with disability within their immediate family circle.

Income

- In recent years, the annual growth of the disabled population receiving government allowances (6.3%) transcends the annual growth of the general population (2.6%).
- 225,000 people receive disability allowances from the National Insurance Institute (NII). A third of them (75,000 persons) live below the poverty line. In addition, 50,000 disabled people receive allowances from the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).
- Some 45% of disabled adults (313,650 persons) are employed, compared to 70% of the non-disabled adult population (ages 20 to 64).

Disability Complexity

- 118,000 disabled adults receiving allowances from the NII and the IDF have more than one kind of disability.
- The rate of chronic illness is higher among the disabled compared to the general population: heart and cardiovascular diseases 6.5 times greater; diabetes 3.5 times greater; high blood pressure 2.3 times greater.

Special Populations

- 48% (336,000 persons) of all adult disabled are parents of children under 18 and require new support services related to parenthood. 133,000 of them have severe disabilities.
- There are 170,000 disabled adults in the Arab society. Of them, 14% (95,000 persons) have a severe disability. This rate is three times greater than in the Jewish population (14% vs. 5% respectively).

Social Integration

- 31% (206,000 persons) of the disabled report a sense of isolation (compared to 4% of people without disabilities).
- 25% (43,000 persons) of people with severe disabilities report having no friends (compared to 8% of people without disabilities).
- Two-thirds (464,000 persons) of the disabled wish to integrate in the community.
- One third (232,000 persons) of the disabled wish to volunteer.