

Topic: **Welfare**

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## General

- In Israel, responsibility for social services (assistance for elderly, children, and teenagers at risk, individuals with disabilities, drug addicts, battered women, and others) lies with the local authorities and municipalities. Municipal social welfare departments are jointly funded by the government (75%) and the local authority (25%).
- There are considerable differences in the total public expenditure (government and local authorities) on welfare between Jewish and Arab communities. In 2009, the total per capita expenditure among Jews was NIS 551.3 compared to NIS 375.8 for Arabs.<sup>2</sup>

### Average caseload per social worker, 2007-2009

	2007	2008	2009
Arabs	429.2	501.2	522.6
Jewish	348.7	335.7	351.1

- The number of people needing assistance per social worker in the Jewish sector was 351.5 in 2009, compared to 522.6 in the Arab sector, a gap of 48.8%.<sup>3</sup>

## Poverty

- In 2010, Arab families in Israel were 3.8 times more likely than their Jewish counterparts to live in poverty, according to a report published by the Research and Planning Administration of the National Insurance Institute in 2011.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Compiled by Prof. Elie Rekhess, Associate Director, Crown Center for Jewish and Israel Studies, Northwestern University

<sup>2</sup> Ali Haider (editor), *The Sikkuy Report 2009: The Equality Index of Jewish and Arab Citizens in Israel*. Sikkuy – The Association for the Advancement of Civic Equality, December 2010, p. 76-77.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> National Insurance Institute of Israel, *2011 Annual Report as reported in The Arab Population in Israel, Facts & Figures 2012*, Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute, Jerusalem. See: [http://brookdale.jdc.org.il/\\_Uploads/dbsAttachedFiles/Myers-JDC-Brookdale-Facts-and-Figures-on-Arab-Israelis-March-2012\(2\).pdf](http://brookdale.jdc.org.il/_Uploads/dbsAttachedFiles/Myers-JDC-Brookdale-Facts-and-Figures-on-Arab-Israelis-March-2012(2).pdf)

- In 2010, 53% of the Arab households in Israel lived below the poverty line, compared to 14% of Israeli households (compared to 42.9% and 14.3% respectively, in 2000.)<sup>5</sup>
- While Arab households constitute a mere 14% of all households in Israel, the proportion of Arab families in poverty rose from 36.6% in 2007 to 53% in 2010.<sup>6</sup>
- In the Arab sector, 66% of children currently live under the poverty line, compared to 24% in the Jewish Sector. This proportion has risen significantly for Arab children, from 42.7% in 1998.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

*The Sikkuy Report*, 2007.

<sup>6</sup> National Insurance Institute of Israel, Annual report 2011, as reported by Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute, *The Arab Population in Israel, Facts & Figures 2012*.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*