

www.haaretz.com

---

Last update - 20:59 09/07/2005

## **Poll: One-third of Israeli Arabs rely on government aid**

By [Eli Ashkenazi](#), Haaretz Correspondent

A poll conducted in 2004 by the Galilee Research Institute reveals that 32.7 percent of Israeli Arab families rely on government aid as their primary source of income.

The survey's findings also show that the average monthly income for an Arab family in Israel is NIS 6,737 compared to NIS 11,022, the average gross income in Israel. A total of 7.6 percent of the Arab population does not know how to read or write, and only 19.8 percent have completed their high school matriculation exams.

According to the poll, 41.1 percent of the Arab population is under the age of 14. The average age of an Arab in all of Israel is 19, while specifically in the southern Negev area it drops to 12.

Additionally, the survey revealed a severe housing shortage among Arab Israelis. It states that 60.6 percent of Arab families report an urgent need for a new housing unit within the next decade. In the Negev, 73 percent of families spoke of this need. However, 43 percent do not have the means with which to build a new home, chiefly due to land shortages.

In the employment sector, the poll found that Arab participation in the work force stands at 43.6 percent, compared to 57.1 percent in the Jewish sector. The percentage of Arab women in the work force stands at 23.4 percent, compared with 54.6 percent among Jewish women.

The conductors of the poll, which was presented over the weekend in Nazareth, say that this is the first poll in its kind that was conducted among the Arab population of Israel. The poll researched most of the areas connected to life in the Arab community, including demography, living conditions, work, education, media consumption, health, environmental quality, agriculture and personal security.

The Institute conducted the poll in cooperation with the Mada al-Karmel research center. Residents of the Golan Heights and east Jerusalem were not included in the survey.

---

</hasen/objects/pages/PrintArticleEn.jhtml?itemNo=597829>

[close window](#)