

## Press release - Births and deaths of babies in Israel 2000-2020

The publication "Births and Infant Deaths in Israel 2000-2020" presents trends on live births, stillbirths, deaths of infants up to one year of age and deaths of children up to five years of age. The information on births and deaths is presented according to the year of birth and causes of death according to the year of death. The information is based on a live birth notification, a stillbirth notification and a death notification. The publication is a continuation of the Ministry's publications on births and deaths for the needs of planning, monitoring and research and for use by the health system. The publication was prepared by the Information Division of the Ministry of Health.

### main findings:

**Number of live births:** In 2019-2020, there was a decrease in the number of live births, after an upward trend in recent decades, 177 thousand in 2020, a decrease from 185 thousand in 2018.

**Live birth rate:** in the year 2020, the live birth rate was 82.9 per 1,000 women of reproductive age, a decrease of 7% from 2018 and 5% from 2000. The rate for Jews and others decreased by 7% from 2018 and increased by 11% from 2000, for Arabs and Druze there was a decrease in 8% and 42%, respectively.

**Total fertility rate:** The fertility rate in Israel is high compared to all countries in OECD.

**Mother's age at birth:** In an upward trend, the median age rose to 30 in 2020 from 28 in 2000 and for a first birth to 27 from 20, respectively. The percentage of births up to the age of 30 decreased, compared to an increase from the age of 30 and especially from the age of 35.

**Multiple birth:** In the year of Corona 2020 saw a relatively high decrease in the percentage of newborns born with multiple fetuses, the percentage dropped to 3.5% of the total live births from 4.0% in 2019, and 4.8% in 2000.

**Birth weight:** In the year of Corona 2020 saw a decrease in the percentage of live births weighing less than 2,500 grams, down to 6.7% from 7.4% in 2019, and the percentage of less than 1,500 grams decreased to 0.7% from 0.8%, respectively.

**Gestational age at birth:** in the year 2020 the percentage of premature births before week 37 decreased to 6.2% from 6.8% in 2019, in weeks 33-36 to 5.2% from 5.8% and the percentage before week 33 to 1.2% from 1.3%, respectively.

**Infant mortality rate:** The infant mortality rate of the natives 2020 decreased compared to those born in 2019, by 26% at the age of 0-6 days, by 12% at the age of 7-27 days, by 10% at the age of 28-365 days and by 18% at the age of one year. The rate of singleton babies decreased compared to the 2018-2019 average, for Jews and others by 39% at the age of 0-6 days, by 32% at the age of 0-27 days and by 27% up to the age of one year, and for Arabs and Druze it decreased by 12%, in -12% and 16%, respectively. The rate of babies born with multiple fetuses increased for Arabs and Druze by 59% at the age of 0-6 days, by 66% at the age of 0-27 days, and by 65% up to the age of one year, but for Jews and others the downward trend continued, at 44% at the age of 0-6 days, in 43% at the age of 0-27 days and in 36% up to one year of age. The rate is higher for mothers with low education than mothers with high education, as well as for premature births and low birth weight babies.

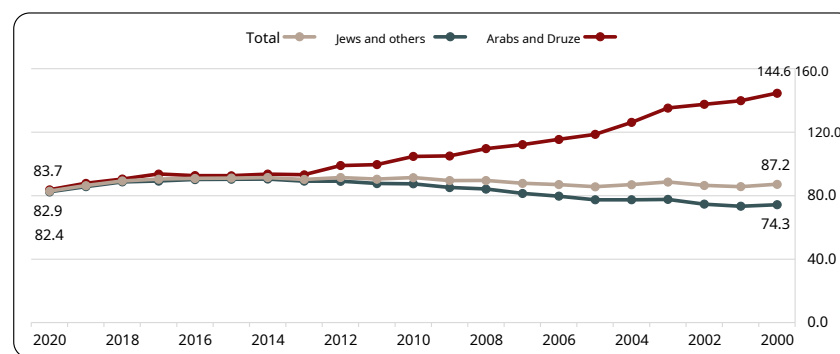
**Causes of death:** in the year 2019, the death rate of infants up to one year of age decreased by 78% from complications of prematurity from 2010, from birth defects by 15%, from cot death by 16% and perinatal causes decreased by 3%.

**Stillbirths:** in the year 2019 there were 1,211 stillbirths weighing 500 grams or more, 555 males and 453 females.

## live births

**Trends:**in the years2019-2020 saw a decrease in the number of live births after years of an upward trend. In 2020 there were 177 thousand live births, of which 135 thousand were Jews and others and 42 thousand were Arabs and Druze, a decrease from 185 thousand, 141 thousand and 43 thousand, respectively, compared to 2018. The rate of live births decreased to 82.9 per 1,000 women In the reproductive age, a decrease of 7% from 2018 and 5% from 2000. The rate for Jews and others decreased by 7% in 2018, by 9% in 2015 and increased by 11% from 2000. The rate for Arabs and Druze decreased by 8% From 2018, by 10% from 2015 and 42% from 2020. A high rate of live births was recorded in Judea and Samaria (148.5) and in the districts of Jerusalem (118.2), Beer Sheva (111.5) and Safed (94.1), higher than the national rate. In Israel, the total fertility rate is high compared to all countries OECD

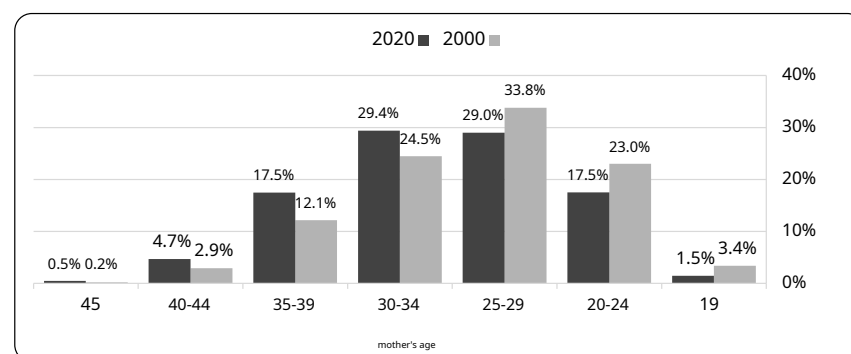
### Live birth rate per 1,000 women aged 15-49, by population group, 2000-2020



In 2020, 29% of the total live births were first births, for Jews and others the percentage dropped to 28% from 33% in 2000, and for Arabs and Druzes the percentage rose to 30% from 25% in 2000.

**Mother's age at birth:**In the last two decades, the percentage of births to women up to age30 The total number of births decreased, compared to an increase at age 30 and over and especially at age 35 and over. In 2020, the median age of the mother at first birth rose to 27 years from 25 in 2000, for Jewish and other women to 28 from 26, and for Arab and Druze women to 24 from 22, respectively.

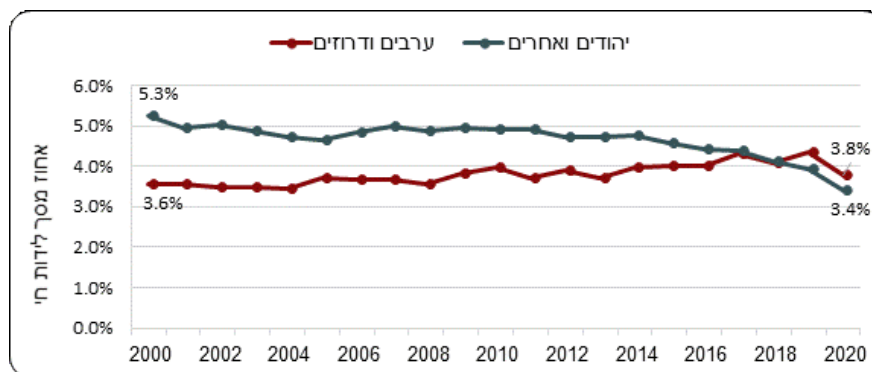
### Live births by mother's age at birth, 2000, 2020



**Multiple births:**The number of live births born in multiple births is on the decline. in the yearIn 2020, 6.2 thousand babies were born in multiple births, of which 6.0 thousand were born to twins and 168 were born to triplets or more, a decrease from 7.3 thousand, 7.1 thousand and 198 in 2019, respectively. The percentage of newborns born in multiple births is on a downward trend, in 2020 the percentage dropped to 3.5% of the total number of live births from 4.0% in 2019

and 4.8% in 2000. The percentage for Jews and others decreased to 3.4% in 2020 from 3.9 in 2019 and 5.3% in 2000, while for Arabs and Druzes there was an upward trend from 2005, the percentage increased from 3.6% in 2000 to 4.3% in 2019 and decreased to 3.8% in 2020. The number of newborns born in triplets and above decreased to 0.1% of total live births in 2020 from 0.4% in 2000. From 2006 there was a reversal and the percentage of newborns born in triplets and above is higher for Arabs and Druze than for Jews and others. The percentage of multiple births increases with the age of the woman, 2% up to the age of 25 and 8% at the age of 45 and over.

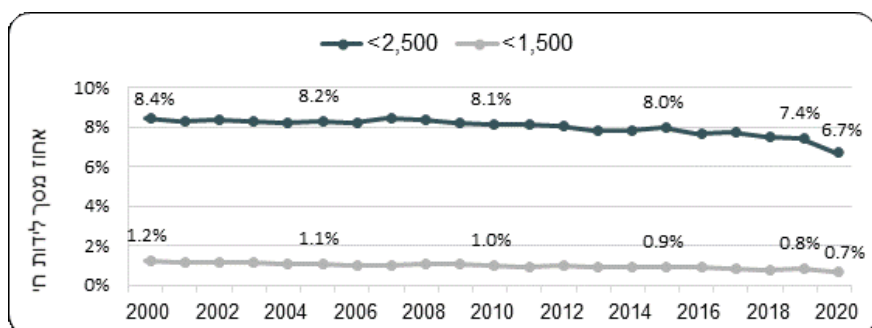
Percentage of live births born in a live birth with multiple fetuses



**birth weight:** In Israel, the percentage of live births weighing less than 2,500 is higher (6.7%) than the average OECD (6.5).

In the year of Corona 2020, the percentage of newborns born weighing less than 2,500 decreased compared to 2019, a decrease to 6.7% from 7.4%, for Jews and others to 6.4% from 7.0% and for single births to 4.6% from 4.9% respectively, for Arabs and Druze to 7.8% from 8.5% and single births to 5.7%, from 6.1%, respectively. The percentage of newborns weighing less than 1,500 grams decreased to 0.7% in 2020 from 0.8% in 2019 and 1.2% in 2000, for Jews and others 0.5%, 0.7% and 1.2%, respectively, for Arabs and Druze the percentage ranges from 1.0-1.3 % and in 2020 it will drop to 0.9%, since 2005 they have had a higher percentage than other Jews.

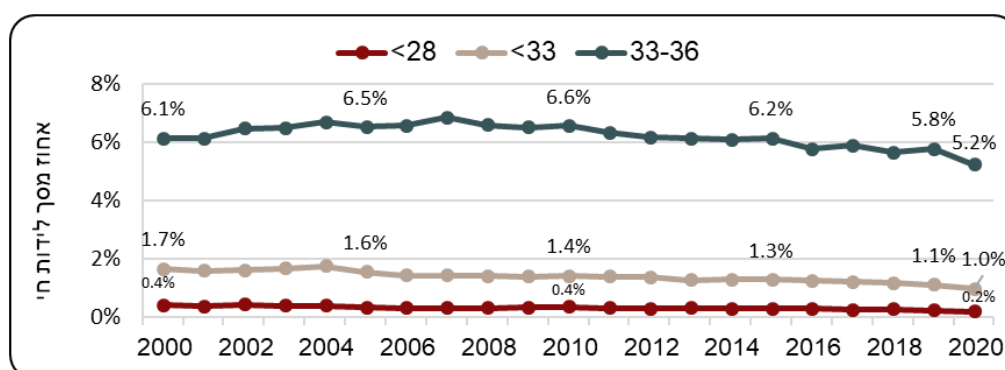
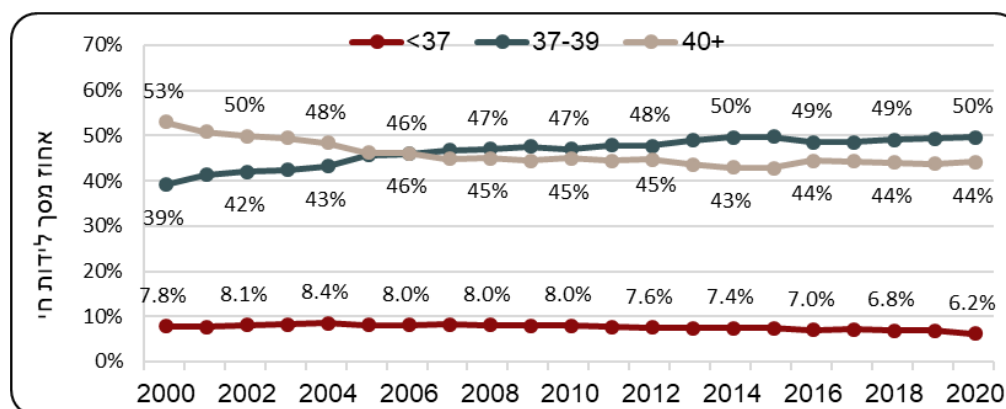
The percentage of low birth weight newborns out of all live births



The percentage of low birth weight babies is higher for young women and for those aged 40 and over. By the age of 20, 8.8% of newborns weighed less than 2,500 grams and 1.1% weighed less than 1,500 grams, at the age of 40-44, 8.0% and 0.7%, respectively, and at the age of 45 and over 14.3% and 1.7%, respectively, in 2020.

**Gestational age at birth:** in the years 2000-2020, the percentage of live births born at weeks 37-39 increased, compared to a decrease in the percentage before week 37 and the percentage born at week 40 and above. The percentage of births in weeks 37-39 increased to 50%

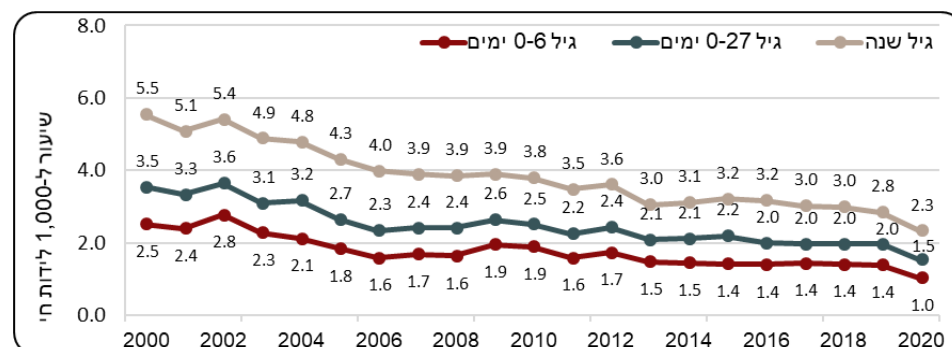
in 2020 from 39% in 2000, and the percentage in week 40 and over dropped to 44% from 53%, respectively. The percentage of premature births before week 37 decreased to 6.2% from 6.8% in 2019 and 7.8% in 2000, the percentage in weeks 33-36 decreased to 5.2% from 5.8% and 6.1%, respectively, the percentage before week 33 decreased to 1.0% from 1.1% and 1.7%, respectively, and the percentage before week 28 decreased to 0.2% from 0.4% in 2000. The percentage before week 37 is high for young women and at the age of 40 and over, 8.7% up to the age of 20, 8.2% in the age 40-44 and 15.8% aged 45 and over. Percentage of live births by week of pregnancy



#### Death of babies up to one year old

**Trends:** The infant mortality rate in Israel is on the decline. The death rate up to one year of age of my natives 2020 decreased by 18% compared to those born in 2019, the death rate at the age of 0-6 days decreased by 26%, compared to a decrease of 12% at the age of 7-27 days and 10% at the age of 28-365 days. In 2020, 44% of all infant deaths were aged 0-6 days, down from 49% in 2019 and 45% in 2000, 21% were aged 7-27 days compared to 20% and 18%, respectively, and -34% were aged 28-365 days compared to 31% and 36%, respectively.

#### Infant mortality rate by age of death per 1,000 live births

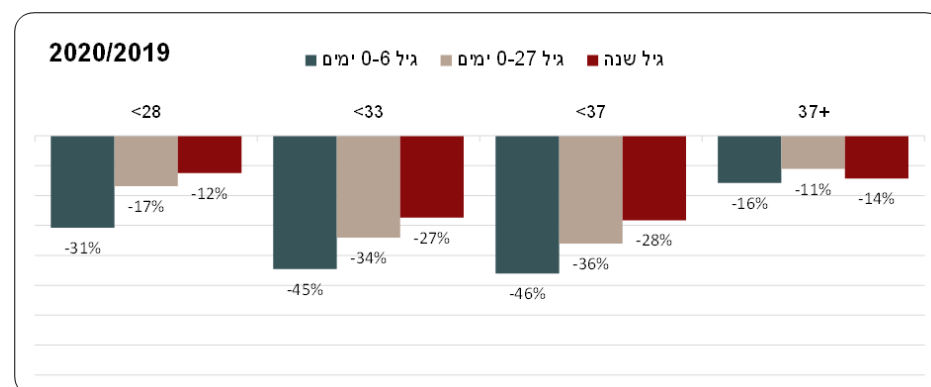


**Mother's education:**in the years2000-2020, infant mortality rates decreased at all levels of education, but for mothers with low education the decrease was more moderate. The death rate at the age of 0-6 days decreased by 58% for mothers with less than 13 years of schooling and by 71% for those with 13 or more years of schooling, the rate at the age of 0-27 days decreased by 52% and 67%, respectively, and the rate Mortality up to one year of age decreased by 50% for mothers with less than 13 years of schooling and by 63% for mothers with 13 or more years of schooling.

**Single birth and birth with multiple fetuses:** In the year of Corona 2020, there was a high decrease in the mortality rate for singleton babies compared to 2019, a decrease of 31% at the age of 0-6 days, a decrease of 27% at the age of 0-27 days and 21% up to the age of one year. On the other hand, the rate of babies born in multiple births increased by 13% at the age of 0-6 days, by 14% at the age of 0-27 days and increased by 7% up to the age of one year compared to 2019. The infant mortality rate for Jews and others born in 2020 decreased compared to the 2018 average -2019 by 39% at the age of 0-6 days, by 32% at the age of 0-27 days and by 27% up to one year of age, and for Arabs and Druze there was a smaller decrease, by 12%, 12% and 16%, respectively. In contrast, the mortality rate for babies born in multiple births increased for those born in 2020 compared to those born in 2018-2019, for Arabs and Druze the rate increased by 59% at the age of 0-6 days, by 66% at the age of 0-27 days and by 65% up to the age of one year, Whereas for Jews and others the downward trend continued, at 44% at the age of 0-6 days, at 43% at the age of 0-27 days and at 36% up to the age of one year.

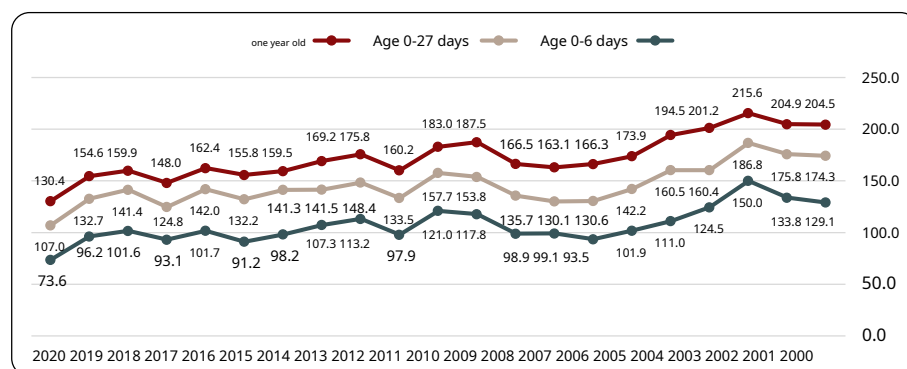
**Pregnancy week at birth:**The death rate up to one year of age of my natives2020 born before week 37 decreased by 28% compared to those born in 2019 and by 55% from 2000, the rate for babies born before week 28 decreased by 12% and 33%, respectively, the rate for babies born before week 33 decreased by 27% and -47%, respectively, and the rate for babies born at week 37 and above decreased by 14% from 2019 and 55% from 2000.

**Percentage change in infant mortality rate according to week of pregnancy and age of death**



**Birth weight:**The death rate of babies up to the age of one for my natives2020 born with a weight of less than 1,500 grams was 130.4 per 1,000 live births, a decrease of 16% compared to those born in 2019, at the age of 0-6 there was a decrease of 24% and at the age of 0-27 days a decrease of 19%. The rate for newborns born weighing less than 2,500 grams was 18.7 per 1,000 live births, a decrease of 25% compared to those born in 2019, at the age of 0-6 there was a decrease of 25% and at the age of 0-27 days a decrease of 30%. The rate for babies born weighing 2,500 grams or more was 1.0 per 1,000 live births, a 9% decrease compared to those born in 2019.*in age 0-6 the rate decreased by 6% and at the age of 0-27 days by 2%.*

## Death rate of infants with a birth weight of less than 1,500 grams per 1,000 live births, 2000-2020

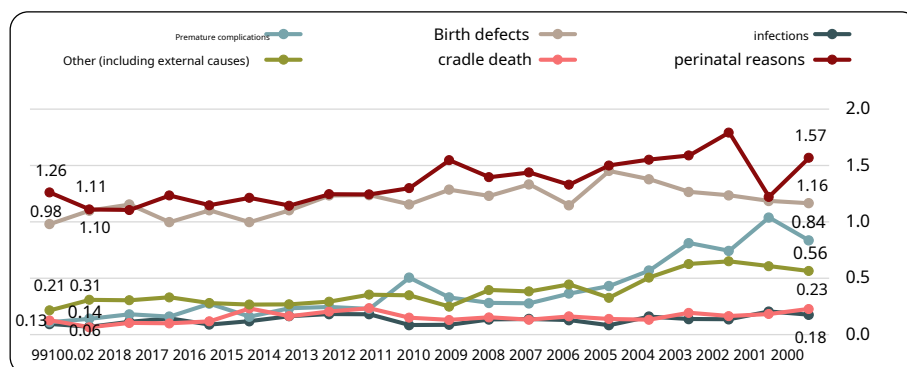


### causes of death

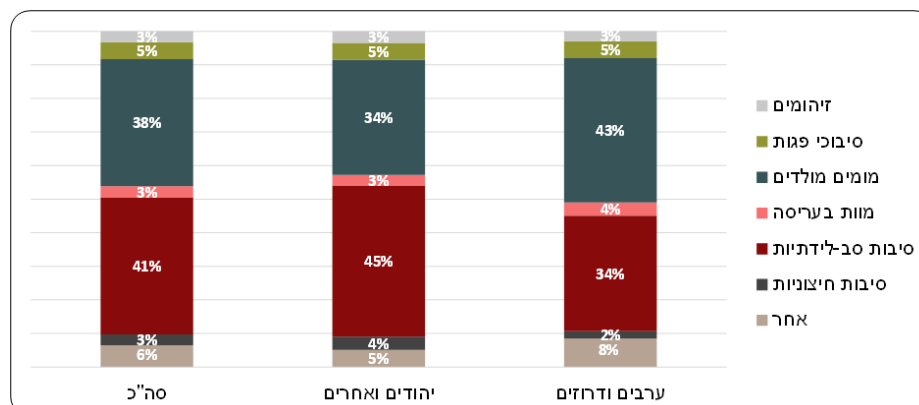
**Primary cause of death:** The infant mortality rate up to one year of age decreased for most causes of death. In the year 2019, the rate of infant death from perinatal causes was 1.26 per 1,000 live births, a 3% decrease from 2010, the rate of birth defects 0.98, a decrease of 16%, respectively, the rate of cot death 0.13, a decrease of 44%, respectively, the rate of prematurity complications was 0.11, a decrease of 87% from 2010.

In the years 2017-2019, 41% of infant deaths were from perinatal causes, 38% from birth defects, 5% from premature complications, 3% from crib death and 3% from infections. The most common cause of death for Arabs and Druze was birth defects, 43% of deaths, higher than 34% for Jews and others, while perinatal causes are more common for Jews and others, 45% of deaths compared to 34% for Arabs and Druze.

### Infant mortality rate up to one year of age by primary cause of death per 1,000 live births



### Death of infants up to one year of age by primary cause of death and population group, 2019-2017, percentages

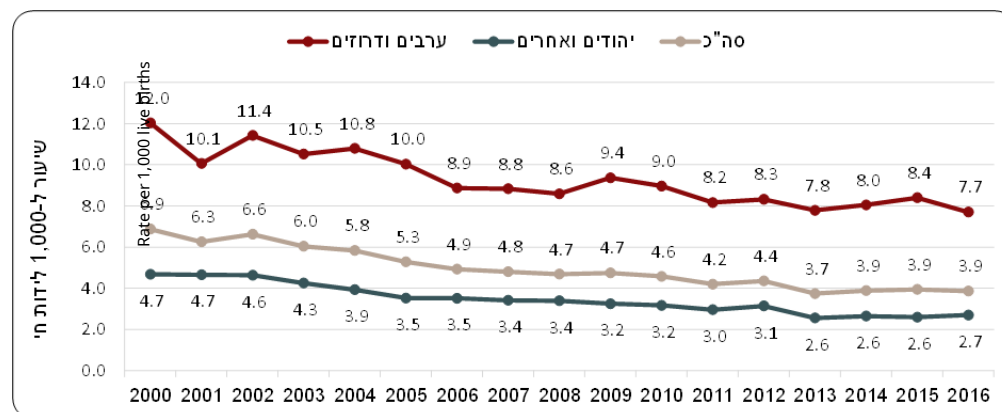


## Death of children up to the age of 5

The death rate under the age of 5 dropped to 3.9 per 1,000 live births for those born in 2016 from 6.9 for those born in 2000, a decrease of 36% for Arabs and Druze and 42% for Jews and others.

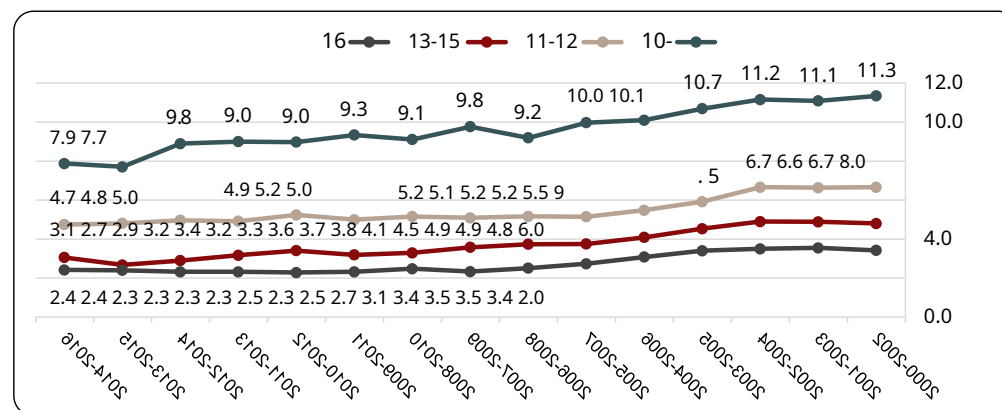
The mortality rate of children up to the age of 5 is higher for mothers with low education compared to those with high education. The percentage of deaths of those born in 2014-2016 was 7.9 per 1,000 live births for mothers with low education up to 10 years of schooling, a 32% decrease compared to those born in 2000-2002, 4.7 for those with 11-12 years of schooling, a decrease of 28%, respectively. 3.1 for those with 13-15 years of schooling, a decrease of 44%, respectively, and 2.4 for mothers with 16 or more years of schooling, a decrease of 30%, respectively.

### Death rate of children up to age 5 by population group per 1,000 live births, born 2000-2016



### Death rate of children up to age 5 according to mother's education per 1,000 live births, born 2000-2016

Three-year moving average



## stillbirths

In 2019, 1,211 stillbirths weighing 500 grams or more, or if the weight is unknown from the 22nd week of pregnancy, were registered in Israel, of which 555 were male and 453 were female. The stillbirth rate decreased to 6.6 per 1,000 live births and stillbirths, 6.3 for Jews and others and 7.3 for Arabs in 2019, after an increase from 2016. It should be noted that in 2016 the law on the week of pregnancy was changed, entitling a woman with a stillbirth to the same rights as a live birth, the week was brought forward to 22 from 26 weeks. About half (51%) of the stillbirths in 2019 were up to week 28 of pregnancy, 15% in weeks 28-32, 17% in weeks 33-36 and 17% were in week 37 or more.