



Fifth of Israeli children below poverty line in 2004

16% of Israel's children live in families with no breadwinners.

Zeev Klein 17 Nov 05 18:00

A fifth of Israel's children, 458,000 souls, lived below the poverty line in 2004. The Central Bureau of Statistics published data on the state of children below age 18 in Israel today, in advance of International Children's Day on November 20.

In December 2004, 2.29 million children lived in Israel, of whom 1.59 million were Jews, 543,000 Muslims, 45,000 Druze, and 40,000 Christian Arabs. 75,000 children were from immigrant families not classified as Jews.

Central Bureau of Statistics data indicate huge gaps in the standard of living between children in the richest 20% of families and those in the poorest 20%.

A rich family with one or more children spends an average of NIS 338 per month on hobbies and courses, 11.2 times as much as the average of NIS 21 spent by a poor family with one or more children. Rich families also spend an average of NIS 212 per month on computers and the Internet, compared with an average of NIS 46 per month by poor families.

Rich families with one or more children spend an average of NIS 77 a month on tutoring for children, compared with only NIS 7 for a poor family with one or more children. These rich families spend NIS 222 a month on newspapers and books, compared with NIS 92 a month by the poor families with children.

Rich families with one or more children spend an average of NIS 302 a month on recreation, vacation, and family trips, compared with an average of NIS 24 a month by poor families with one or more children.

The enormous gaps are particularly glaring in spending on education. On the average, poor families spend only 22% as much per child per month on daycare centers and private kindergartens as rich families.

Children make up one third of Israel's total population: 41% in Jerusalem, and 20% in Tel Aviv. 8% of Israel's children live in single parent families.

16% of Israel's children live in families with no breadwinners, including 13% of Jewish children and 23% of Arab children.

35% of children in single parent families have no breadwinners in their families. 7.3% of children aged 15-17 neither study at school, nor work. 55% of twelfth grade students are eligible matriculation certificates.

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