



# PRESS RELEASE

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## The Ethiopian Community in Israel<sup>1</sup>

On the occasion of the Ethiopian holiday of Sigd Haja, which falls on the 29<sup>th</sup> of the month of Heshvan, the CBS is publishing statistical data on the Ethiopian community in Israel.

- At the end of 2008, the Ethiopian community in Israel numbered 119,300 residents – about 80,800 were born in Ethiopia; the remaining 38,500 were Israeli-born and their fathers were born in Ethiopia (about 32% of the community).

### Geographical Distribution

- Most of the Ethiopian population lives in two districts: the Central District (about 39%), and the Southern District (about 24%). By comparison, the share of Jews and Others who live in those districts is 28% and 15%, respectively.
- About one-fifth of the members of the Ethiopian community live in large urban localities,<sup>2</sup> (compared with 26% of the overall population of Jews and Others), and less than one-half percent of the Ethiopian community live in Tel Aviv-Yaffo (compared with 6% of the overall population of Jews and Others).
- At the end of 2008, Netanya was the urban locality with the largest absolute population of residents from the Ethiopian community (over 10,000).

<sup>1</sup> The Ethiopian origin population also includes the Israeli-born population whose father was born in Israel.

<sup>2</sup> Localities with 200,000 or more residents.

**For explanations and clarifications please contact the Press Relations Unit,  
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- About one-sixth of the residents of Kiryat Malakhi are of Ethiopian origin. The proportion of Ethiopian immigrant residents in the population of the locality was higher than in other urban localities in Israel.

Table 1: The Ethiopian Origin Population in the Main Localities, End of 2008

Name of Locality	Total Population of Ethiopian Origin in the Locality (thousands)	Percentage of the Ethiopian Origin Population, Out of the Population of the Locality
Netanya	10.5	5.9
Rishon LeZiyyon	6.4	2.8
Ashdod	6.4	3.1
Rehovot	6.4	5.9
Be'er Sheva	6.3	3.4
Petah Tiqwa	5.5	2.8
Haifa	5.5	2.1
Ashqelon	5.2	4.7
Hadera	5.0	6.4
Jerusalem	5.0	0.6
Kiryat Malakhi	3.4	17.3
Ramle	3.4	5.2
Afula	3.2	8.1
Lod	3.1	4.6
Kiryat Gat	3.1	6.5
Bet Shemesh	3.1	4.0
Yavne	2.3	7.0

\* Localities with 2,000 or more residents of Ethiopian origin

### **Immigrants and Periods of Immigration**

- In 2008, 1,600 immigrants arrived in Israel from Ethiopia, compared with 3,600 in 2007.
- Of the immigrants currently living in Israel: 19.3% immigrated between 1984 and 1984; 46.5% immigrated between 1990 and 1999, of whom about half arrived in 1991 with Operation Solomon; 34.2% of the immigrants from Ethiopia arrived between 2000 and 2008.

### **Age Composition**

- The Ethiopian population in Israel is young in comparison to the overall Jewish population of the country. It is characterized by a high percentage of children, and a low percentage of elderly people. In 2008, children aged 0-14 comprised one-third of the population of Ethiopian immigrants, whereas children in that age group comprised only about one-fourth of the overall Jewish population. The share of

persons aged 65 and over in the Ethiopian population was about 5%, compared with about 11% in the population of Jews and Others.

### **Sex Ratio**

- The sex ratio in the Ethiopian population is 1,004 men to 1,000 women, compared with 965 men to 1,000 women in the population of Jews and Others.

### **Marriages, Divorces, and Births<sup>1</sup>**

- During the course of the year, 487 grooms and 533 brides of Ethiopian origin married in Israel; 92% of them married for the first time.

	Grooms	Brides
Total persons of Ethiopian origin who married	487	533
Born in Ethiopia – total	470	502
Immigrated to Israel up to 1990	175	165
Immigrated to Israel in 1990 and after	295	337
Israeli-born, father born in Ethiopia	17	31

- Of the persons of Ethiopian origin who married, 89% married a partner of the same origin. This tendency was higher for men than women (93% and 85%, respectively).
- Members of the Ethiopian community tend to marry at a later age than the total Jewish population. The median age<sup>2</sup> at the time of first marriage among men of Ethiopian origin in 2007 was 28.9 years (1.3 years older than the median age for the total population of Jewish grooms). Among women of Ethiopian origin, the median age at the time of first marriage was 25.7 (0.4 years older than the median age for the population of Jewish brides).
- 10% of the men of Ethiopian origin who married for the first time were between the ages of 17 and 24, compared with 29% of total population of Jewish grooms in that age group; 40% of the women of Ethiopian origin who married for the first time were

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<sup>1</sup> The data on marriages and divorces relate to 2007.

<sup>2</sup> Median age – the age at which half of the population is older, and half of the population is younger.

between the ages of 17 and 24, compared with 47% of the total population of Jewish brides in that age group.

- In 2007, 196 men and 203 women of Ethiopian origin divorced.
- The divorce rate among the population of Ethiopian origin was higher than the divorce rate in the total Jewish population: about 13 out of every 1,000 Ethiopian men and women who marry got divorced, compared with about 10 out of every 1,000 men and women who marry in the total Jewish population.
- **Live births:** In 2008, 2,183 babies were born to women of Ethiopian origin<sup>1</sup>

## **Households and Families in the Ethiopian Origin Population<sup>2</sup>**

The data for the total population and the population of Jews and Others are for 2006, and the data for the Ethiopian population are averages for the period 2005-2007.

### **Households<sup>3</sup>**

- The number of households in the Ethiopian origin population in 2005-2007 was 27,700 – about 1.4% of all households in Israel, and about 1.6% of all households of Jews and Others.
- Like the total Jewish population, about 80% of all families of the Ethiopian origin population were family households<sup>4</sup>. Of those, about 76% were households with only one family.
- The average size of households in the Ethiopian origin population was 3.9 persons – larger than the size of households in the total population (3.3 persons) as well as in the population of Jews and Others (3.1 persons).

### **Families<sup>5</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> Ethiopian-born women or Israeli-born women whose fathers were born in Ethiopia.

<sup>2</sup> The source of the data was the Labour Force Survey. The population does not include institutions, kibbutzim, student dormitories, and Bedouins in the Southern District who live outside of localities.

<sup>3</sup> A household is defined as one person or a group of persons living together in one dwelling on a permanent basis most of the week, who have a common expense budget for food. A household may include persons who are not a family. A household in the Ethiopian origin population is defined as one in which at least one of the persons aged 15 and over is of Ethiopian origin, i.e., either they were born in Ethiopia or their father was born in Ethiopia.

<sup>4</sup> Family household: A household that contains at least one “family”. A family household can include one family, one family with other persons, or two families or more.

<sup>5</sup> Family (nuclear family): Two persons or more who share the same household and are related to one another as husband and wife, or as an unmarried couple, or as parent and child. The main types of family are: a couple, a couple with children, or a single parent with children. A family among the Ethiopian origin population was defined as one in which at least one of the persons aged 15 and over is of Ethiopian origin, i.e., either they were born in Ethiopia or their father was born in Ethiopia.

- There are about 22,900 families of Ethiopian origin in Israel. Over half of those families (about 60%) have a traditional structure of a couple with children.
- Among families of Ethiopian origin, the proportion of couples without children (about 10%) was low in comparison with the proportion for the entire country (about 23%), and for families of Jews and Others (about 26%).
- Among families of Ethiopian origin, the proportion of single-parent families was particularly high (about 27%) – more than twice as high as the proportion for the entire country and for families of Jews and Others.
- In about 90% of the single parent families, the parent was a woman. Regarding marital status, in the majority of Ethiopian single-parent families (about 60%) the parent was divorced. The proportion of divorced single parents was similar for the population of the entire country, and for families of Jews and Others.
- About 73% of all families of Ethiopian origin have children up to age 17, and a relatively high percentage of those families have 3-4 children in that age group (48%, compared with 36% of the families in the entire country, and 30% of the families of Jews and Others).
- In Israel, there were about 44,000 children up to age 17 in families of Ethiopian origin. About 77% of those children lived in families with two parents, and the rest lived in single-parent families. By comparison, over 90% of the children up to age 17 in the total population and in families of Jews and Others lived with two parents.

## **Education**

- In 2008, the number of 12<sup>th</sup> grade students of Ethiopian origin<sup>1</sup> amounted to 2,230 – about 3% of all 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in Hebrew education. About half of those students (51%) were enrolled in schools under general supervision, 48% were enrolled in schools supervised by the Authority of Religious Education, and less than 1% were enrolled in schools under ultra-Orthodox supervision.
- The rate of matriculation examinees in 2008 was higher among students of Ethiopian origin than among other students in the Hebrew education sector – 85% and 81.5%, respectively.
- Over the past decade, the rate of Ethiopian students entitled to a matriculation certificate has increased – from 30% of all 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in 1998, to 36% in

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<sup>1</sup> Those who were born in Ethiopia, or whose father or mother were born in Ethiopia.

2008, and the gap between those students and other students in Hebrew education has narrowed slightly. The rates of entitlement for other students in Hebrew education were 52% in 1998 and 55% in 2008, respectively.

## Comparison of the Dropout Rate among Students of Ethiopian Origin and All Students in Hebrew Education

### Definitions

**Dropout:** A person who studied at the beginning of 2007/08, but left school during the 2007/08 school year or in the transition to the 2008/09 school year – excluding students who completed their studies in 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Student of Ethiopian origin:** A student who was born in Ethiopia or whose father was born in Ethiopia.

**Students in the Hebrew education sector:** Students enrolled in schools where the language of instruction is Hebrew and not Arabic.

	Total Arab sector			Among students of Ethiopian origin		
	Studied at the beginning of 2007/08	Dropped out		Studied at the beginning of 2007/08	Dropped out	
		Total	Dropout rate		Total	Dropout rate
<b>Total</b>	1072665	19224	1.79	35120	542	1.54
<b>Boys</b>	545202	13705	2.51	17636	373	2.11
<b>Girls</b>	527463	5519	1.05	17484	169	0.97
<b>Primary (Grades 1-6)</b>	555680	3120	0.56	17818	64	0.36
<b>Secondary (Grades 7-12)</b>	516985	16104	3.11	17302	478	2.76

### Summary of the Findings

The dropout rate for students of Ethiopian origin was lower than the rate the total population of students in the Hebrew education sector in 2007/08, and in the transition to 2008/09: 1.54% for students of Ethiopian origin, compared with 1.79% for the total population of students in Hebrew education.

The gap was maintained in the cross-section of sex, as well as in the cross-section of education level.

Among the population of Ethiopian origin, like other populations, the boys showed a greater tendency to drop out than did the girls. However, the discrepancy between boys

and girls was relatively small for the students of Ethiopian origin, because the dropout rate for Ethiopian boys was lower than the rate for all boys in the Hebrew education sector.

The dropout rate from primary schools was particularly low among the students of Ethiopian origin – only 0.36%, compared with 0.56% among the total population of students in primary schools in the Hebrew education sector.