Israel Gerontological Data Center (IGDC) Newsletter
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From IGDC's Head

We are pleased to circulate this “International Edition” of the Israel Gerontological Data Center Newsletter.

The IGDC functions as a Gerontological research infrastructure, the aim of which is to promote aging research in Israel and to advance the understanding of population aging. The Center was initially founded by a grant from the Israeli Ministry of Science and Technology and is currently in cooperation with the Israeli Ministry for Senior Citizens. Scientific work at the Center is supported by grants from several sources, including the National Institute of Aging, the European Union and others.

In this English language version of our newsletter, we highlight various aspects of the work of the Center in order to allow members of the Gerontological community around the world to get to know us better.

About the IGDC

This edition of the Israel Gerontological Data Center Newsletter is published in English in order to acquaint members of the international gerontological community with the work of the IGDC. The current issue highlights several important developments in the work of the Center over the past year as well as reporting selected items of interest. It is our hope that readers will find this information to be informative and useful. Readers are invited to visit the IGDC website at http://igdc.huji.ac.il/englishsite.aspx for further information on the study of aging in Israel.

IGDC Activities

The Israel Gerontological Data Center (IGDC) at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem was founded in 2003 to address the challenge of population aging. The center’s goal is to provide a comprehensive infrastructure for gerontological research, to promote better understanding of the aging process and to make relevant data available to investigators and policy makers so that they may better address the challenges of population aging and its social, economic and health-related concomitants. IGDC services are provided through an accessible and interactive website.

A key branch of the IGDC is the execution of the Israeli sample of SHARE, the Survey of Health, Aging and Retirement in Europe. The SHARE-Israel project examines a wide range of health-related, social, familial and economic factors that will shape the future well-being of Israelis age 50 and over. The data gathered in SHARE-Israel allow important insights into the aging of the Israeli population as well as comparison with the trends that are becoming evident in many different European countries.

At this time, the IGDC is conducting the 4th wave of the SHARE-Israel Survey. Main findings from wave 1 and 2 are accessible on IGDC's new and updated website and in a special English language edition of the online pamphlet On The Second Half of Life in Israel (see also below).
Access to IGDC services, offered in Hebrew and English, is possible through our website [http://igdc.huji.ac.il/englishsite.aspx](http://igdc.huji.ac.il/englishsite.aspx) at no cost. We warmly invite you to visit the website, to learn about our several undertakings in the realm of gerontological research, and to share with us your impressions about our work. We also hope that you will pass on this newsletter to others who might be interested.

Sincerely,

Howard Litwin

### Recent Publications

Selected recent publications based on IGDC and SHARE-Israel Data:


### Available Databases:

**SHARE-Israel**
The SHARE–Israel panel survey offers a unique database for the examination of a wide range of aging and health-related issues of interest. The data is collected in three languages: Hebrew, Arabic, and Russian. Three waves of the survey have been fully completed in Israel, in 2005-6, 2009-10, and 2013. Wave 5 (wave 3 in Israel) data will be available for researchers during May 2015.

**Bibliographic Data**
The database provides information about varied and updated bibliographical sources in the field of gerontology and aging in Israel, including journal articles in English and Hebrew, and other sources.

**Statistical Database**
This is a computerized system established by *Mashav* – a national database for planning in gerontology, which is managed by the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute. The system includes historical data series and international comparisons (in Hebrew).

**Worries Database**
The survey was conducted among a representative national sample of 550 participants aged 65 and over. The survey questionnaire was distributed in three languages (Hebrew, Arabic and Russian), and is accessible for downloading (in Hebrew).

**Financial Literacy Before Retirement Database**
In this study, we sought to examine the extent of financial knowledge and the implementation of that knowledge among senior citizens in Israel. The knowledge examined in the study reflects familiarity with terms as well as accounting ability. Implementation of financial knowledge was examined on the basis of the sources that older people use to search for information, how frequently they check their accounts, and literacy about pension. Data were collected by means of an Internet panel survey from 501 persons aged 46-61 (in Hebrew).

**Leisure Patterns among Senior Citizens in Israel**
The study sought to examine leisure activities and use of the media among senior citizens in Israel. The sample comprised 545 retirees aged 60 and over in Israel. The survey questionnaire was distributed in three languages (Hebrew, Arabic and Russian) and can be accessed for downloading (in Hebrew).

**Harmonized Databases**
The harmonized databases project is the product of collaboration between the IGDC and the Herczeg Institute on Aging at Tel Aviv University. The project created a harmonized database that serves as a basis for aggregated research comparing parallel variables from five large databases on populations of older adults in Israel.

IGDC News

Prof. Litwin was awarded Landau Prize

Prof. Howard Litwin, the head of the IGDC and the PI of SHARE-Israel, was awarded the Landau Prize for Science and Research for his contributions to Gerontology and for his role in initiating the SHARE project in Israel.

Highlights from the pamphlet "On The Second Half of Life in Israel"

The pamphlet brings together selected findings from academic publications based on data from SHARE-Israel and other IGDC based studies. The publication is divided into three sections: economics, health, and welfare. Data are presented in full-color diagrams which are easy to follow. The goal of this pamphlet is to make the data collected in the IGDC surveys accessible to the general public of researchers, students, and professionals in the field of gerontology. To access the full text, press here.

Income Inequality

Comparison with Europe:

The lowest inequality in income distribution was found in Sweden and Denmark (Gini index below 0.4), whereas the largest gaps in income were observed in Spain and Belgium (Gini index above 0.5).^Wave 3.

![Gini Index of Inequality, by Countries](image)

Health Behaviors

The majority of persons aged 50+ engaged in physical activity, and a relatively small percentage smoked or were obese (BMI > 30).^Wave 1.

![Percentage of respondents](image)