Religiosity and its impact on fertility projections in Israel

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Background

- Israel has one of the highest total fertility rates (TFR) in the developed world
- The Jewish population constitutes 75% of Israel’s population
- For the past twenty years fertility levels of Jewish women in Israel had been rising
Objectives

- Examine the groups within the Jewish population
- Suggest a better method for setting fertility assumptions
Jewish population

- Culturally diverse
- Fairly religious - four main categories:
  - Haredim (Ultra-Orthodox)
  - Religious
  - Traditional
  - Secular
Population estimates

- Religiosity is a self defined trait
- Estimates were produced via Israel Social Survey
- Categories were grouped to:
  - Haredim
  - Religious
  - Not-Religious
Population estimates

Figure 1. age pyramid of Haredim, percent - 2014
Population estimates

Figure 2. age pyramid of Religious, percent - 2014
Population estimates

Figure 3. age pyramid of Not-Religious, percent - 2014
ICBS population projections

- Produced every 5 years
- Future time period - 25 years
- Categorized by religion
- Calculated using the Cohort Component method
Past assumptions

Figure 4. Historical Jewish TFR and past assumptions - 1966-2035
Past fertility

Figure 5. TFR by level of religiosity - Jewish women - 1979-2014
Fertility projections Scenarios

- Scenario 1 – current fertility levels
- Scenario 2 – moderate decline in fertility levels
- Scenario 3 – sharp decline in fertility levels
Fertility projections Scenarios

### Table 1. Possible scenarios for future Jewish TFR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario 1 – fixed</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2024</th>
<th>2029</th>
<th>2034</th>
<th>2039</th>
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<td><strong>Jewish - total</strong></td>
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Population comparison

Figure 6. Jewish population by age and level of religiosity - 2014

Figure 7. Jewish population by age and level of religiosity - 2039
Conclusion

- Analysis of fertility rates by level of religiosity can help assess fertility for the whole Jewish population.
- If current fertility levels persist, Jewish TFR is expected to continue to rise in the near future.
Thank you