

Source Sheet Companion

Explainer: Mixed Cities in Israel

This source sheet companion lists the sources used in the Explainer, offers resources for further learning, and shares additional information. We hope you take advantage of these sources to learn more about mixed cities in Israel and to support your efforts to educate others.

Mixed Cities

1. There is no single definition of a mixed city in Israel. The CBS refers to them as “mixed localities.” According to [Ministry of the Negev, Galilee and National Resilience](#): “a mixed city is defined as a Jewish-majority city that has an Arab minority of more than 20% of the city’s residents or over 20,000 Arab residents.” [The Council of Local Governments](#) uses a lower threshold, defining mixed cities as those where the Arab population exceeds 10%.
2. Abraham Initiatives. [“Key Findings of the Special Audit Report on Mixed Cities.”](#) [Hebrew]. July 2022.

Types of Mixed Localities

3. The nine localities include Israel’s historically mixed cities; Nof HaGalil that has been more recently recognized as mix due to internal migration of Arab residents; Ma’alot-Tarshiha which became mixed following the merger of two localities; and Wahat-al-Salam/Neve Shalom, a cooperative village in Israel, jointly founded by Jews and Arabs in 1969.
4. Bental, Benjamin, and Labib Shami. [“Migration Patterns in Mixed Cities in Israel: Socioeconomic Perspectives.”](#) May 2023. Taub Center for Social Policy Studies in Israel.
5. Task Force on Arab Citizens of Israel. [“Arab/Palestinian Citizenship and Residency: Israel, East Jerusalem, West Bank and Gaza.”](#) August 2022. The vast majority of Arabs in Jerusalem have a special East Jerusalem residency status, not Israeli citizenship. Residency status is conditional and can be revoked for living outside Jerusalem for several years or being found guilty of a number crimes.
6. Joffre, Tzvi. [“Arab Residents of Mixed Cities Disadvantaged Compared to Jews – Comptroller.”](#) The Jerusalem Post. July 27, 2022.
7. Central Bureau of Statistics. [“CBS Localities Data \(Yishuvim Profile\).”](#) Israel Central Bureau of Statistics website.
8. Haiat, Caroline. [“In Neve Shalom Jews and Arabs Have Chosen to Live Together to Build Peace.”](#) 22-Med. September 2, 2024.
9. Task Force on Arab Citizens of Israel. [“Arab Communities and Arab–Jewish Relations in Israeli Mixed Cities.”](#) October 2021.
10. Bental, Benjamin, and Labib Shami. [“Migration Patterns in Mixed Cities in Israel: Socioeconomic Perspectives.”](#) May 2023. Taub Center for Social Policy Studies in Israel. Also, [“Karmiel Population](#)

[and Statistics.](#)” CityPopulation.de. Also, Alnatan, Yael. [“Be’er Sheva, Harish, Eilat and More Are Becoming Mixed Cities. Even Northern Tel Aviv.”](#) Davar. [Hebrew]. September 4, 2024.

11. Kadosh, Dikla. [“The Arabs Next Door.”](#) Tablet Magazine. July 2018.

Living in Mixed Cities

12. According to [GR 1834](#), “Urgent Plan to Reduce Gaps and Provide Complementary Measures to Prevent Violence and Crime in Mixed Cities,” official sources classify areas in mixed cities based on their Arab population: “Arab neighborhoods” have at least 60% Arab residents, while “mixed neighborhoods” have 40–59% Arab residents.

13. Knesset – Research and Information Center. [“Frameworks Integrating Jewish and Arab Students in the Education System.”](#) [Hebrew]. April 4, 2024.

14. Kazis-Taylor, Hannah. [“Israeli Arabs Are Choosing Jewish Schools.”](#) Tablet Magazine. April 18, 2018.

15. As of 2022, only 1% of allocated properties, land or housing distributed by the Israel Land Authority for residential, commercial, or public use in five historically mixed cities, went to Arab communities. Abraham Initiatives. [“Key Findings of the Special Audit Report on Mixed Cities.”](#) [Hebrew]. July 2022.

Representation

16. Haddad Haj-Yahya, Nasreen, and Ben Fargeon. [“Mixed Cities in Israel—A Gender Perspective on Trends in the Arab Population Labor Market and Higher Education Integration.”](#) Heinrich Böll Foundation – Tel Aviv. December 16, 2021.

17. Abu-Rish, Zvi. [“Examining Newly Formed Mixed Arab–Jewish Municipal Coalitions.”](#) Dayan Center for Middle East and African Studies. March 14, 2019.

18. Abraham Initiatives. [“Key Findings of the Special Audit Report on Mixed Cities.”](#) [Hebrew]. July 2022.

19. As of 2022, Arab employees were underrepresented relative to the city populations, comprising just 7.7% of workers in Haifa, 1% in Lod, 5% in Nof HaGalil, 9% in Acre, and 1.5% in Tel Aviv-Jaffa. In Ramla, there were no senior Arab employees at all. [“Arab Residents of Mixed Cities Disadvantaged Compared to Jews—Comptroller.”](#) The Jerusalem Post. July 27, 2022.

20. Task Force on Arab Citizens of Israel. [“2018 Local Elections—Preliminary Results in Arab Society.”](#) November 2, 2018.

Socio-economic Reality

21. Arab women’s employment rates ranged from a low of 41% in Lod to a high of 66.4% in Jaffa. For Arab men, employment rates were lowest in Ramla (52.5%) and Lod (62.1%), with both cities experiencing significant declines since 2015. Haddad Haj-Yahya, Nasreen, and Ben Fargeon. [“Mixed Cities in Israel—A Gender Perspective on Trends in the Arab Population Labor Market and Higher Education Integration.”](#) Heinrich Böll Foundation – Tel Aviv. December 16, 2021.

22. Haddad Haj-Yahya, Nasreen, Oded Ron, and Ben Fargeon. [“Arab Residents of Mixed Cities: A Snapshot.”](#) Israel Democracy Institute. March 6, 2022.

23. Arab women in mixed cities show more diversified employment than those in non-mixed cities, working primarily in education (22.8%) and health services (18.9%), though their representation

in education remains lower than the national average (30.3%). Arab men in mixed cities have a more balanced distribution across sectors, including trade and repair (20%) and professional, scientific, and technical services (7.2%), while Arab men in non-mixed cities are largely concentrated in construction and manufacturing. Haddad Haj-Yahya, Nasreen, and Ben Fargeon. [“Mixed Cities in Israel—A Gender Perspective on Trends in the Arab Population Labor Market and Higher Education Integration.”](#) Heinrich Böll Foundation – Tel Aviv. December 16, 2021.

24. Lavie, Ephraim, Meir Elran, Ilham Shahbari, Khader Sawaed, and Jony Essa. [“Jewish-Arab Relations in Israel.”](#) INSS Insight No. 1474, May 31, 2021.

25. In August 2022, the Israeli Government passed Government Resolution (GR) 1834 titled, [“Urgent Plan to Narrow Gaps and Provide Supplementary Measures to Prevent Violence and Crime in the Mixed Cities.”](#) Despite limited resources, the plan is notable for: 1) Defining "mixed cities" in a government budget; 2) Recognizing and budgeting for Arab society's unique needs; 3) Taking a holistic, proactive approach; 4) Investing in shared life. This plan doesn't include Jerusalem since it has a separate GR-3790.

Mixed Cities Under Tension

26. Task Force on Arab Citizens of Israel. [“May 2021 Escalations: Jewish-Arab Clashes Within Israel.”](#) May 2021.

27. Abraham Initiatives. [“Emergency Response in Mixed Cities & Regions in the Shadow of October 7th and the Ongoing War.”](#) Fall 2024.

28. aChord. [“Jewish and Arab Public Attitudes Regarding Their Relations in Light of Violence in Mixed Cities.”](#) [Hebrew]. May 2021.

29. aChord. [“Jewish–Arab Relations in Mixed Cities: Situation Overview and Recommendations.”](#) [Hebrew]. December 2023.

30. aChord. [“Shared Spaces, Separate Experiences? Youth in Mixed Cities in Israel.”](#) [Hebrew]. March 2024.

Resources for Further Learning

- **LISTEN:** Groundwork Podcast. Mixed Cities Series. [“Lod.”](#) [“Haifa.”](#) [“Jerusalem.”](#) 2021.
- **WATCH:** [“Into the Land: A Tale of Two Cities.”](#) The Times of Israel. 2022.
- **WATCH:** NHK WORLD-JAPAN. [“An Israeli Village: Coexistence and Conflict.”](#) Documentary 360. 2023.
- **READ:** Pfeffer, Anshel. [“Postcard from Lod.”](#) SAPIR Journal. January 31, 2023.
- **READ:** Foundation for Middle East Peace. [“We Can’t Afford to Leave: A Conversation about Jaffa with Abed Abu Shehadeh.”](#) July 21, 2023.
- **WATCH:** American Friends of the University of Haifa. [“Lessons From the Mixed City of Haifa: Empowering Arab and Jewish Students as Agents of Change.”](#) May 2023.
- **LISTEN:** Tel Aviv Review (TLV1Radio). [“Ramle Remade: The Israelization of an Arab Town.”](#) May 21, 2024.
- **READ:** Shomrim. [“Mixed Jewish-Arab Schools are at Breaking Point and the Education System isn’t Functioning.”](#) October 10, 2024.