



7.02x21.91	1	4 עמוד	the jerusalem post - front	03/03/2021	76418680-0
מרכז טאוב לחקר המדיניות החברתי - 25170					

'Death rate rose 10% in 2020 due to COVID'

Israeli life expectancy drops 2.2%, Taub Center report says

• Jerusalem Post Staff

Israel's death rate increased 10% during the March-December period last year compared with 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Taub Center for Social Policy Studies reported Tuesday.

The increase was not limited to those aged 75 and up and included all Israelis from age 55, which indicates the elderly were relatively well protected against COVID-19, the report said.

The average Israeli life expectancy dropped about 2.2 months, less of a decline than in other developed countries, it said.

During the pandemic, the virus has disproportionately infected Israelis between the ages of 20 and 55. This trend suggests that efforts to shield the elderly from COVID-19 were relatively successful, the report said.

Had infection rates among the elderly been proportionate to age, Israel could have expected 1,048 more deaths.

And if they had been in line with OECD's age structure, disproportionately affecting the elderly, there might have been 3,403 additional deaths, doubling the actual mortality rate in Israel, the report said.

In recent months, Israel has been rolling out a widely lauded vaccination campaign. However, the COVID-19 mortality rate in February was higher than in any month in 2020, with data suggesting that the death rate has been disproportionately high in the haredi (ultra-Orthodox) sector and is rising in the Arab sector, the report said.