



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

TAUB CENTER FOR SOCIAL POLICY
STUDIES IN ISRAEL



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2021 AT A GLANCE

REACHING TARGET AUDIENCES

174

Events and meetings

49 

Meetings with civil society, private sector, & other non-governmental entities

86

Meetings with Israeli & foreign governments

39 

Meetings with foundations & philanthropists

IN THE PUBLIC EYE

389

Unique media mentions



22

Op-eds published in leading newspapers

65 

Radio, podcast, & television interviews

ONLINE REACH



163,174

Visits to the Taub Center website



14,852

Facebook followers in English & Hebrew



6,176

Video views



1,296

Listens to the Taub Center's podcast, DataPoint



WELCOME LETTER

We are proud to present the Taub Center's 2021 Annual Report and share with you some of our accomplishments from the past year. Thanks to your steadfast leadership and support, and to the tireless work of our staff, the Center has further cemented its position as a valued, independent source of information and expertise. Over the past year, we have published new research in our five policy programs: education, health, labor markets, macroeconomics, and welfare, as well as in early childhood and demography. Our experts examined the ongoing impacts of the pandemic alongside key socioeconomic issues that affect every aspect of life in Israel. Stakeholders such as policymakers, civil society leaders, and philanthropists have sought out the Center's research and expertise as they address Israel's myriad challenges. In 2021, we held nearly 200 meetings, briefings, and events to share our findings with target audiences. Prominent media outlets in Hebrew and English, including *Haaretz*, *Globes*, *Calcalist*, *the Jerusalem Post*, *i24 News*, and Kan Radio, featured articles on our work and published op-eds written by the Taub Center staff.

We hope that you enjoy reading this report and feel pride in contributing to the Center's work; we truly could not have done it without you.

With great appreciation, and wishes for a happy, healthy, and successful 2022,



Prof. Avi Weiss, President



Jim Angell, Chair, Board of Directors



“Although it is of relatively modest size, the Taub Center and its superb researchers play an outsized role in Israeli society.”

— JIM ANGELL, CHAIR OF THE TAUB CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS





TAUB CENTER

FOR SOCIAL POLICY STUDIES IN ISRAEL

Jerusalem, 27 Adar 2, 5782
March 30, 2022

To: Professor Avi Weiss
The Taub Center for Social Policy Studies in Israel

Dear Professor Weiss,

I thank you very much for sending for my review a copy of the *State of the Nation Report 2021*, published by the Center of which you are president.

As is the way of your esteemed and long-time institution, you succeeded in conveying in a professional and concise way a deep and all-inclusive picture that sparks an interest in the processes happening in Israeli society in many central issues and significantly in the fields of economics, health, welfare and education. At the end of the day, of course alongside physical security, these are key to quality of life and to a society that can function and thrive.

Who knows as well as you do, that Israel is a country rife with challenges. In addition to the variety of cultural, ethnic, and socio-economic gaps that are so well known, in the past two years challenges were added on due to the crisis of the Corona pandemic and its far-reaching implications. Some of these, for example returns to the labor market that you analyzed, have far-reaching effects whose deep impact can be felt even now, and seems will continue to be felt for the medium to long-term.

Simultaneously, as you showed, the past year was characterized in the field of welfare as a "transition year." Here, too, the combined effects of the coronavirus and an extended period without a national budget had tangible repercussions. In this regard, you successfully analyzed and highlighted some of the most significant issues at the heart of social resilience: the ability to exercise one's rights, economic gaps, poverty, social security, and inequality.

I commend your thorough work, and your important contribution in bringing to light Israel's social and economic trends in a reliable and unbiased manner, provided consistently for decades now, is worthy of recognition.

I wish you continued success in your important endeavors.

Sincerely,

Isaac Herzog

President of Israel





נשיא המדינה
رئيس الدولة
THE PRESIDENT

ירושלים, כ"ז באדר ב' תשפ"ב
30 במרץ 2022

לכבוד
פרופ' אבי וייס
מרכז טאוב לחקר המדיניות החברתית בישראל

פרופ' וייס היקר,

אני מודה לך מאוד על ששלחת לעיוני את דו"ח "מצב המדינה" לשנת 2021, שראה אור מטעם המכון שבנשיאותך.

כדרככם במכון הוותיק והמוערך, היטבתם לשרטט במקצועיות ובבהירות תמונת עומק מקיפה ומעוררת עניין על אודות מגמות ותהליכים, המתרחשים בחברה הישראלית בשלל היבטים מרכזיים ובעיקר בתחומי הכלכלה, הבריאות, הרווחה והחינוך. בסופו של יום, כמובן לצד הבטחון הפיזי, אלו הם המפתחות לאיכות החיים ולחברה מתפקדת ומשגשגת.

מי כמוכם יודעים היטב, כי ישראל היא חברה מרובת אתגרים. בנוסף למגוון התרבותי והאתני ולפערים החברתיים-כלכליים הידועים זה מכבר, נוספו בשנתיים האחרונות אתגרי משבר מגפת הקורונה, על השלכותיו הרבות. חלקן, כמו התמורות בשוק העבודה אותן ניתחתם, הן השלכות משמעותיות מאוד שרישומן ניכר כבר עתה באופן עמוק, וככל הנראה עוד יהיה ניכר בטווח הבינוני או הארוך.

בד בבד, כפי שהראיתם, השנה החולפת התאפיינה בתחום הרווחה בהיותה "שנת מעבר", וגם כאן השילוב בין השלכות הקורונה לבין העדר התקציב לפרק זמן ממושך נתן את אותותיו. בהקשר זה היטבתם לנתח ולהצביע על מגמות בכל הקשור לכמה מן הסוגיות המהותיות שבבסיס החוסן החברתי: מיצוי זכויות, פערים כלכליים, עוני, ביטחון חברתי ואישוויון.

אני מוקיר את העבודה היסודית שלכם, ואת תרומתכם החשובה להארת המגמות החברתיות והכלכליות בישראל באופן מהימן וחסר פניות, זה כמה עשורים ובהתמדה ראויה לציון.

המשך הצלחה בעבודתכם החשובה.

בברכה, אבאק,
פרופ' אבי וייס
יצחק הרצוג
נשיא המדינה

THE STATE OF THE NATION REPORT AND A PICTURE OF THE NATION

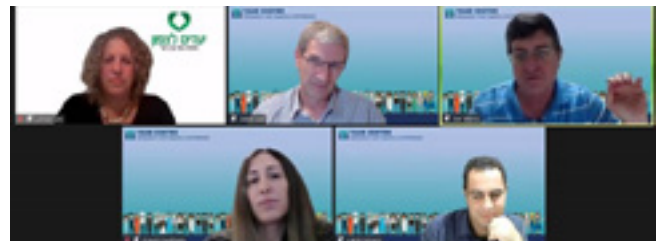
The Herbert M. Singer Series *State of the Nation Report (SNR)* and *A Picture of the Nation (PON)*, our flagship annual publications, provide an in-depth review of issues in all five policy programs: education, health, labor markets, macroeconomics, and welfare. The *SNR 2021* includes overview chapters for each policy area, as well as one on demography. It also features new research papers and executive summaries of papers published throughout the year. On the day that the *State of the Nation Report 2021* was published, a representative from the Bank of Israel asked when Taub Center President Prof. Avi Weiss would begin the “book tour,” and asked for a meeting. This year’s edition has been mentioned in several leading publications, including *Haaretz/The Marker*, *Calcalist*, and a feature article in the *Jerusalem Post*. To date, Prof. Weiss has conducted informational meetings about the *SNR 2021* with the Director General of the President’s Residence, the Bank of Israel, the Israel Competition Authority, and the Director General of the Ministry of Finance, among others. Many additional meetings have already been scheduled, as well.

This year’s *A Picture of the Nation 2021* booklet paints a broad picture of the nation’s economy, labor market, welfare situation, healthcare, and education on the heels of the COVID-19 crisis. The booklet also includes three “spotlight” chapters: Supply of Physicians, Over-Education, and Early Childhood.

Following its release, the *PON* was featured in several distinguished media outlets, and



PROF. NADAV DAVIDOVITCH PRESENTS TO MK ELINA BARDACH-YALOV (YISRAEL BEITEINU)



PROF. AVI WEISS, PROF. JOHN GAL, DR. LABIB SHAMI AND SHAVIT MADHALA PRESENT TO THE NORTHERN GOALS ASSOCIATION

“I appreciate information from groups like the Taub Center and other social organizations. Their findings inform our work and prepare us for discussions with the Finance Ministry, making our work more professional. You are an asset to us and we would be happy to continue benefiting from your assistance.”

— MK NAAMA LAZIMI (LABOR)



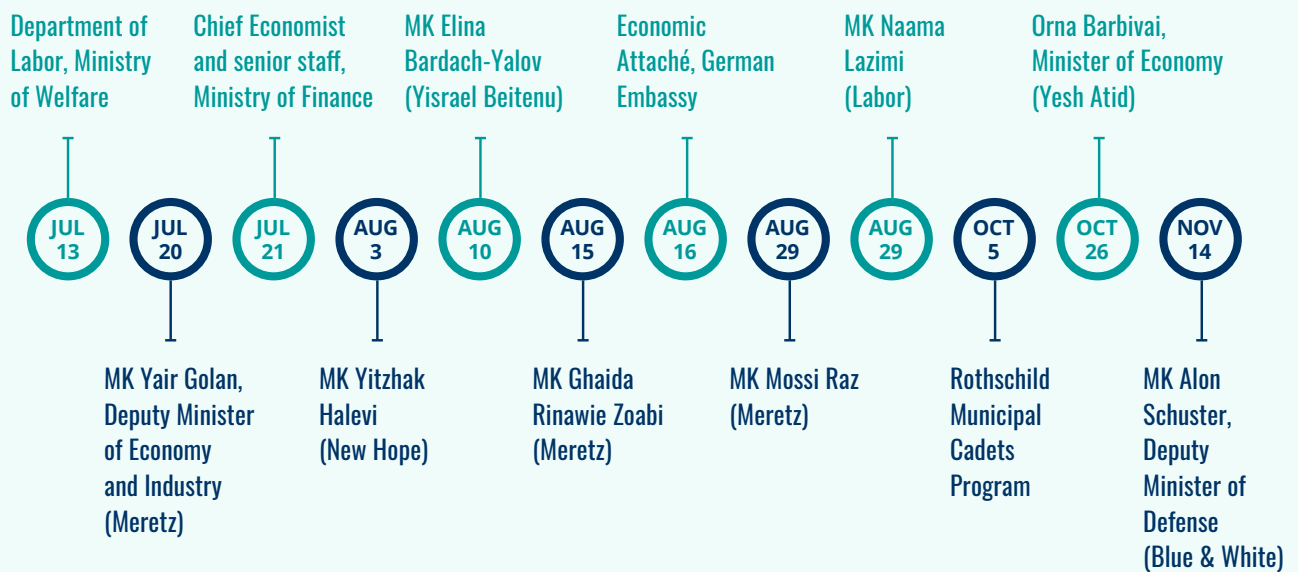


PROF. AVI WEISS PRESENTS A PICTURE OF THE NATION 2021 TO DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENSE MK ALON SCHUSTER (BLUE AND WHITE)

the Center conducted meetings with policy makers, foreign embassies, and other groups to disseminate the research findings highlighted in the booklet. During these meetings, participants expressed interest in continuing to hear from the Center to inform their work, and often requested follow-up meetings on various topics. For example,

following a meeting in which Prof. Weiss briefed Member of Knesset (MK) Elina Bardach-Yalov on topics including the budget deficit, joblessness during the pandemic, and early childhood education, MK Bardach-Yalov requested a follow-up meeting with Health Policy Program Chair Prof. Nadav Davidovitch on the pandemic's impact on the health system. ■

PRESENTATIONS & MEETINGS



ADDRESSING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND CURRENT NEEDS

During a year of extreme socioeconomic difficulties, the Taub Center invested significant efforts in assessing the pandemic's impact on Israel's society and economy and serving as a resource for current, reliable information for Israel's decision makers. The Center published the handbook *In the Wake of COVID-19 – Important Questions for Israel in 2021 and Beyond* in April 2021, spotlighting the central issues to be addressed in light of the pandemic. The 2021 Herbert M. Singer International Policy Conference, “Distance by Design: Opportunities and Implications for Israel,” explored the multifaceted implications of social distancing in the first year and a half of the pandemic. Conference sessions included topics such as: the mental and physical health tolls of isolation on the elderly; successes and challenges of Israel's rapid adoption of online learning, especially in the Haredi and Arab school systems; the pros and cons of remote work, and its adoption, particularly in Israel's public sector; and the impact of remote medicine on the healthcare system. A new podcast episode, *DataPoint: “How Has COVID-19 Changed Our Lives?”* was produced as part of the conference. The episode describes how grassroots volunteerism in Israel helped the fight against hunger and social isolation during the pandemic.

As respected advisors on various government committees, the Center's experts have been invited to brief top Israeli officials on the pandemic's ripple effects in health, economics, and welfare. Health Policy Program Chair Prof. Nadav Davidovitch, a member of Israel's coronavirus cabinet, Magen Israel, is a leading voice on the pandemic's impact on the health system. His op-eds have appeared in top Israeli papers such as *Israel Hayom*, *Haaretz*, and *Globes*,



LEFT TO RIGHT: PROF. NADAV DAVIDOVITCH, AYELET GRINBAUM ARIZON (MINISTRY OF HEALTH), DR. MIRI MIZRAHI-REUVENI (MACCABI HEALTHCARE SERVICES), AND PROF. SALMAN ZARKA (ISRAEL'S CHIEF COVID-19 OFFICER) PARTICIPATE IN A PANEL DISCUSSION AT THE 2021 HERBERT M. SINGER INTERNATIONAL POLICY CONFERENCE

on topics such as the importance of vaccination and mask vigilance, an assessment of the 2011 social protests' impact (or lack thereof) on Israel's health system, and the government's coronavirus regulations. Prof. Davidovitch met with senior staff at the Ministry of Health, MK Elina Bardach-Yalov (Yisrael Beiteinu), and the Ministry of Defense, providing an analysis on the impact of the pandemic on Israel's health system. He also presented at the German-Israeli Innovation Network's online health conference, where he spoke about the need for Israel to redesign its health system, introduce more digital services, and increase equity of care across geographic regions.

While the fifth wave and the Omicron variant present ongoing challenges, the Center's research has found that Israel has made more progress than expected in terms of economic recovery since the initial national shutdowns. As Economics Policy Program Chair Prof. Benny Bental and Senior Researcher Dr. Labib Shami show in their overview chapter on macroeconomics in the *State of the Nation Report 2021*, Israel's economy demonstrated



a great deal of resilience and flexibility. The level of GDP per capita almost returned to the level it would have been at were there no pandemic. The adoption of work from home and hybrid models in many industries could potentially have profound effects on a myriad of issues, such as geographic distribution, housing prices, and congestion. Prof. Weiss, Prof. Bental and Dr. Shami presented the Center’s economic research to audiences such as: the budget department of the Ministry of Finance, the National Economic Council of the Prime Minister’s Office, the economic attaché at the German Embassy, and the Minister of Economy. They also presented to Deputy Minister of Defense MK Alon Schuster (Blue and White), MK Ghaida Rinawi-Zoabi (Meretz), and MK Meir Itzhak Halevi (New Hope).

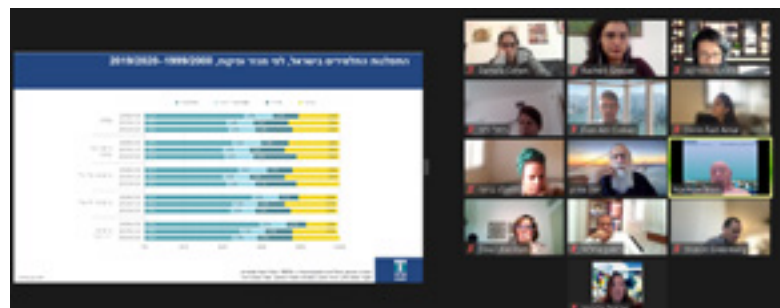
As Israel’s welfare system moves away from emergency aid to those affected by job loss and economic hardship during the first lockdowns and towards living alongside the virus, the Center’s Welfare Policy Program is examining the effects of welfare policy changes on the poor in Israel. Welfare Policy Program Chair Prof. John Gal briefed government and non-government audiences on these topics, including the Ministry of Welfare, the State Comptroller’s Office, and the Prime Minister’s office; academic institutions such as IDC-Herzliya and the Minerva Center; and organizations such as the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (AJJDC) and the Adva Center. He was also invited to chair the Academic Committee advising Minister of Welfare and Social Affairs Meir Cohen. Prof. Gal



TAUB CENTER BOARD MEMBER MICHAEL P. LUSTIG DELIVERS OPENING REMARKS AT THE 2021 HERBERT M. SINGER INTERNATIONAL POLICY CONFERENCE



PROF. AVI WEISS MEETS WITH DEPUTY MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND INDUSTRY MK YAIR GOLAN (MERETZ)



NACHUM BLASS PRESENTS TO MACHON MOFET AT A SEMINAR FOR HIGH-LEVEL EDUCATORS

was interviewed on the Kan Bet Radio show “*Mischeakey HaKis*” (“Pocket Games”) about basic income, as well as on Galei Israel Radio.

Leading into 2022, our experts are focusing not only on looking back in order to assess the pandemic’s impact, but also on looking ahead in order to prepare for what comes next. We are fortifying policy makers with the information they need to address the reality of living alongside the pandemic, and to pave a way forward in light of the changes we have seen, changes that will have a lasting effect. ■

“The briefing, particularly the background on high tech in Israel, was very helpful. It answered a lot of questions I had and helps me better understand what I see on the news. This was very useful.”

– **FRANZISKA KOCH**, ECONOMIC ATTACHÉ AT THE GERMAN EMBASSY



LONG-TERM POLICY IMPACT



TAUB CENTER STAFF PRESENT TO MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND INDUSTRY ORNA BARBIVAI AND SENIOR MINISTRY STAFF

While impacting policy is a long-term endeavor, in the past year alone, three separate bills specifically mentioned the Taub Center's research in the areas of retirement age for women, gender wage gaps, and new import laws. Over the years of publishing research, meeting with stakeholders, and having our findings covered in the press, the Center has successfully raised awareness of these key issues and made a lasting impact on Israel's policy decisions.

For nearly two decades, Israel's policy makers were gridlocked on the issue of raising the retirement age for women. Advocacy groups and lobbyists from different sides of the issue argued vehemently, and new policies were continually blocked. In 2018, the Taub Center published a research paper that cast a new light on the debate: "Today's Workers, Tomorrow's Retirees – Understanding the Pension Gender Gap in Israel," by Liora Bowers and Hadas Fuchs. The study, supported by the Hadassah Foundation, revealed that women had 30-40% lower pension savings than men, an outcome due in large part to the fact that women retire at a much earlier age. The study also pointed to other factors,

including differences in earnings, shorter work hours, and extended periods of time spent out of the workforce.

Following publication, the paper was presented at the Knesset Caucus on the Advancement of Women, and staff presented findings in meetings with MK Aida Touma-Sliman, who was then Chair of the Committee on the Status of Women and Gender Equality, and Dr. Avigdor Kaplan, who served as Director General of the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Social Services. The paper was mentioned at least 20 times in various media outlets including *Walla*, *Calcalist*, *Haaretz*, and *Globes*, including seven radio and two television interviews. In 2020, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel quoted the research in a memo to the Ministry of Finance's Capital Market, Insurance and Savings Authority, arguing for the "cancellation of gender as a criteria in the calculation of monthly pension receipt." In 2021, the paper was again quoted in a memo drafted by the Knesset's Research and Information Center (RIC) for the Finance Committee explaining proposed amendments to raise the retirement age for women. In





RESEARCHER HAIM BLEIKH PRESENTS TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE'S SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

November 2021, a bill passed alongside the new budget increasing the retirement age for women from 62 to 65 (as compared to the current 67 for men). The bill's narrative quoted the Center's research on gender pension gaps to support the increase in women's retirement age. In parallel, the Knesset also passed several other amendments, such as lengthening the time of eligibility for unemployment funds for older women and increasing income security, to ensure that older women are supported in this transition and do not fall through the cracks. The Knesset's legislation on the matter helps to support a more secure and equal financial future for retired women, and the Center's research on this issue played an important role in informing the decision-making process for these policy changes.

The Center began researching gender inequality in the labor market as far back as 2016, publishing the study, "Gender Differences in the Labor Market: Wages and Employment Polarization," by Hadas Fuchs. Prior to publishing the paper, the Taub Center presented twice to the Knesset's Committee on the Status of Women and Gender on issues facing women in the labor market. In the years following publication, findings were presented in meetings with MK Rachel Azaria, MK Aida Touma Sliman, the Ministry of

Labor, Social Affairs and Social Services, the Jerusalem Municipality, WIZE, advisers for the Advancement of the Status of Women from municipalities around the country, Hebrew University, Bituach Leumi, the Mofet Institute, and the Shalem Center. At the time of its publication, findings from the paper were mentioned in publications such as *The Marker*, *Calcalist*, *Globes*, *Yediot Ahronot*, TV Channel 1, Radio Galei Tzahal, and Radio Reshet Bet.

The Center published findings and graphs from the paper in *A Picture of the Nation 2017*, which led to further press mentions in outlets including: the *Times of Israel*, *Haaretz*, *Calcalist*, *Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA)*, *Added Value* (podcast), *At Magazine*, *Israel Hayom*, *Galei Tzahal*, and *Kan* online, including five op-eds. Fuchs was interviewed on the Knesset's television channel on two separate occasions. The Center produced a "Research in a Minute" video, "What Really Lies Behind the Gender Wage Gap in Israel?" which was viewed over 8,300 times. In August 2020, the Knesset passed a bill proposed by the Women's International Zionist Organization (WIZO) requiring large employers to report on gender wage gaps. The bill quoted findings from the research that had been published in *A Picture of the Nation 2017*. While there is still a long way to go in order to minimize gender gaps in the labor market, this is an important first step. The Center continues to focus on examining these gaps, for example in the 2020 study, "The Coronavirus Crisis and Its Impact on Women in the Labor Market: Permanent Damage or a Short-Term Setback with Long-Term Potential?"

Finally, a third area in which the Center has seen the fruits of our long-term efforts is in recent financial reforms. For many years, the Taub Center has published research examining Israel's high cost of living and low productivity relative to other OECD nations. One explanation is Israel's trade impediments and standards that restrict imports and hamper competition, thus



disincentivizing Israeli businesses from improving efficiency and producing better products. For decades, import laws have reflected Israel's founders' ethos of maintaining a self-sustaining nation, leading to ongoing debates.

As far back as 2013, the Taub Center has been a leading voice in this debate. Since then, we have published seven research papers on labor productivity and wages, pointing to the negative effects of strict import laws on Israel's productivity. In 2019, Prof. Avi Weiss was invited to join the Ministry of Economy and Industry's Trade and Services Commission, charged with developing recommendations to address Israel's low productivity. Two other Center staff members were invited to join subcommittees. In 2021, the Trade and Services Commission published its recommendations to improve Israel's productivity including removing barriers on imports. Subsequently, a bill was passed alleviating restrictions on imports: first, adopting European Union standards on imported goods, easing the import process; and second, eliminating exclusive contracts on imports, with the aim of reducing monopoly power. The Taub Center's research from the *State of the Nation Report 2015* was the only independent, non-governmental research quoted in the memo drafted by the Knesset's Research and Information Center for the Economics Committee explaining the proposed amendments in the bill, which was passed. Not long after this law went into effect, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett invited Prof. Avi Weiss and Prof. Benny Bental to a meeting in which they discussed the cost of living in Israel, among other current economic issues. These examples highlight that while impacting policy is a slow and ongoing process, Israel's policy makers use the Taub Center's research to inform their decision making processes and rely on the Center's decades of experience in examining key issues affecting Israel's society and economy. ■

“The Taub Center is a renowned research institute. Its important studies repeatedly raise awareness of the most critical issues in Israeli society. The President's Residence maintains ongoing contact with the Taub Center, and we are thankful for this fruitful cooperation.”

– EYAL SHVIKI, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE PRESIDENT'S RESIDENCE



PROF. BENNY BENTAL PRESENTS TO THE KNESSET SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ARAB SOCIETY AFFAIRS



PROF. JOHN GAL AND SHAVIT MADHALA PRESENT TO THE KNESSET SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND INEQUALITY

Now in its third year, the Taub Center Initiative on Early Childhood Development and Inequality has positioned the Center as a leading voice in the conversation on early childhood policy in Israel. Six studies have been published since the Initiative's launch in 2019: "Early Childhood Education and Care in Israel Compared to the OECD: Enrollment Rates, Employment Rates of Mothers, Quality Indices, and Future Achievement," "Educational Frameworks for Young Children and Academic Achievement in Israel," "The Relationship Between Parental Stress and Young Children's Screen Time During a COVID-19 Driven National Lockdown," "Enrollment of Arab Children in Supervised Daycare," "Preschool Attendance Through Age Three and Its Impact on Academic Achievement in Grade Four," and a policy-oriented handbook, *Early Childhood in Israel – Data and Policy Implications*, featuring findings, graphs, and policy options. The Center published a podcast episode in Hebrew, *DataPoint*: "Israel 2040 – Early Childhood," comparing Israel's investment in early childhood education frameworks to other countries, and discussing the accessibility and quality of these frameworks. A new "Research in a Minute" video featured findings from newly published research and a training seminar for early childhood professionals had them prepare policy briefs on pressing issues in the field. The Center is currently in the midst of conducting a second training seminar.

Over 60 policy makers and other leaders have met with the early childhood team since the Initiative's launch, and the team has served as advisors on government committees and for organizations working in the field. For example, Chair of the Initiative Prof. Yossi



VARDA MALKA (DAYCARE DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND INDUSTRY) PRESENTS AT THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE

Shavit serves on the Ministry of Education's Chief Scientist's Committee for developing actionable recommendations to advance education in the midst of the pandemic and in the future. Prof. John Gal, Chair of the Taub Center Welfare Policy Program, and Researcher Shavit Madhala, presented in the Knesset Special Committee for the Rights of the Child on conditions in preschools and day care centers in the Arab sector. Op-eds published in *Globes* and *eJewishPhilanthropy.com* helped to shape the conversation on early childhood in Israel.

This year has seen pivotal changes in early childhood education policy, as Israel's Daycare Supervision Law came into effect. The Taub



"I hear Taub Center presentations frequently in wide and diverse circles of partners and policymakers. This diversity has a collective impact. Research, findings and new insights are always raised. Thank you very much!"

– DR. NAOMI MORENO, DIRECTOR OF "EARLY CHILDHOOD DIALOGUE"

Center played a critical role in bringing policy makers and professional leaders together to discuss the practical implications of the law. These issues were discussed at length at the Center's first-ever early childhood conference: "Early Childhood Education in Israel: To Corona and Back." Activists, early childhood educators, public service professionals, and other leaders in the field attended the hybrid conference and contributed to lively audience participation. During the session on Israel's Daycare Supervision Law, representatives of the Jerusalem Municipality raised the issue of making the new regulations accessible to Arabic-speaking early childhood professionals. Following the conference, Dr. Carmel Blank, a Senior Researcher on the team, together with two graduates of the IECDI's first Training Seminar contacted Member of Knesset (MK) Inbar Bezek (Yesh Atid) and the Northern Goals Association to solicit their support. They are now working with parliamentary aides to advance the translation of the law into Arabic.

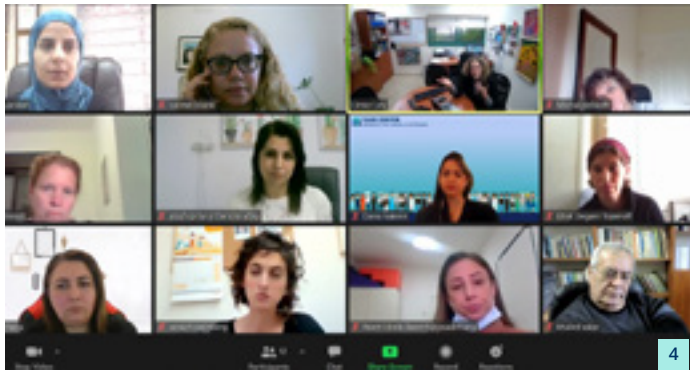
Israel's lack of high-quality data has been a major challenge for the team since the Initiative's launch. At the outset, researchers devoted tremendous time and effort to compiling data via the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), preparing



DR. TAL YARIV-MISHAL (GENERAL DIRECTOR, THE BERACHA FOUNDATION) SPEAKS AT THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE

these data for analysis and critical new studies. Moving forward, a major goal of the Initiative will be to catalyze the availability of data for all early childhood researchers in Israel. In November, the Taub Center coordinated a meeting to discuss options for practical means of improving data collection on early childhood in Israel and suggest areas for collaboration. The meeting was attended by representatives from the CBS, JDC-Ashalim, the Early Childhood Council, the Ministry of Education, and RAMA (the National Authority for Measurement and Evaluation in Education). ■





1. ACHINOAM HANANYA (TEL AVIV PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR)
2. DANIELLA BEN-ATTAR (ISRAEL REPRESENTATIVE, BERNARD VAN LEER FOUNDATION)
3. DR. NAOMI MORENO (EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION; EARLY CHILDHOOD – DIALOGUE)
4. TAUB CENTER EARLY CHILDHOOD RESEARCH STAFF PRESENT TO THE NORTHERN GOALS ASSOCIATION
5. PROF. YOSSI SHAVIT PRESENTS TO SENIOR STAFF AT THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
6. LIORA BOWERS (TAUB CENTER CHIEF FINANCIAL AND OPERATING OFFICER)
7. DR. YOUSEF JABAREEN (FORMER CHAIR, KNESSET SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD)



SYMPOSIUM

IN MEMORY OF PROF. DOV CHERNICHOVSKY (Z"l)

In early 2021, the Taub Center lost a dear friend and leader who worked tirelessly to improve Israel's health system, Prof. Dov Chernichovsky, the Center's Health Policy Program Chair. Dov was a member of the Taub Center team from the day it was founded in 1982. Throughout his career, he worked tirelessly to address health and social issues in Israel within government, the media, and many other arenas.

In June 2021, a symposium was held featuring members of Dov's family speaking alongside leading health experts. In one session, speakers shared remarks in memory of Dov: his wife, Reuma and son, Eyal; Dr. Dorit Adler, President of the Israeli Forum for Sustainable Nutrition; Dr. Yaacov Lifshitz, Friend and Former Director General of the Ministry of Finance; Prof. Orna Blondheim, formerly the Director of Schneider Children's Hospital and Emek Medical Center; and Meir Cohen, Minister of Labor, Social Affairs and Social Services, as well as Prof. Avi Weiss, President of the Taub Center and Suzie Patt Benvenisti, Director General of the Taub Center.

A second session, led by Taub Center Health Policy Program Chair Prof. Nadav Davidovitch, featured a panel discussion on geographic inequality in the health system, a topic of great importance to Dov. Speakers included Prof. Gabi Bin Nun, Department of Health Systems Policy, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev; Prof. Rivka Carmi, Former President, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev; Prof. Itamar Grotto, Former Deputy Director General, Ministry of Health; and Prof. Salman Zarka, Director, Ziv Medical Center in Safed.

At the event, former MK Shuli Mualem shared that "I felt great astonishment and sadness due to my personal loss, but mostly for the huge loss for all of us of all the important things that Dov would have continued to push forward." ■



PROF. DOV CHERNICHOVSKY (Z"l)



SYMPOSIUM PARTICIPANTS



PANELISTS PROF. GABI BEN NUN (BEN GURION UNIVERSITY) AND PROF. RIVKA CARMİ

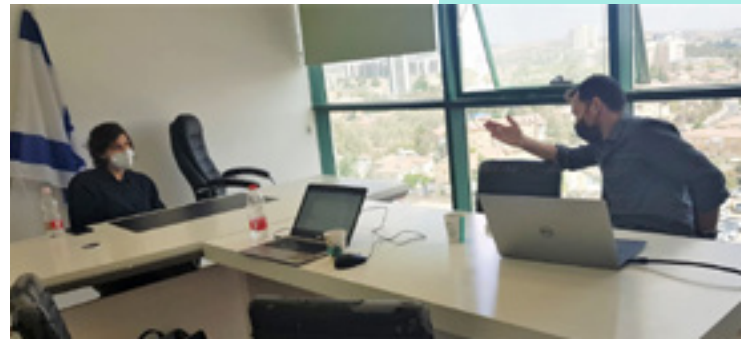
DEMOGRAPHY

PLANNING FOR ISRAEL'S FUTURE

Israel has one of the most unusual population structures in the developed world, with the highest fertility, one of the highest life expectancies, and high rates of immigration. Together, these three components have made Israel's population the fastest growing of any developed country for several decades. In 1960, 2.1 million people lived in Israel. By 1990, that number had more than doubled to 4.7 million. Since then it has doubled again, to almost 9.4 million today. Israel is also projected to continue having population growth faster than any other developed country over the next several decades. In parallel, Israel also has high rates of inequality and poverty.

Over the past two years, the Taub Center has increased its focus on demographic research, as the need for empirical findings on population studies to inform Israeli policy has become increasingly clear. During the Coronavirus pandemic, Israel's unique population factors had a tangible impact on the way the virus spread and the communities it most affected. The Center published two studies examining this health crisis from a demographic perspective, written by Research Director Prof. Alex Weinreb: "Excess Mortality and Life Expectancy in Israel in 2020", and "Variation in COVID Testing, Infections, and Hospitalization by Town and Population Sector." Accordingly, this year the Center's podcast, *DataPoint*, featured a three-part series of episodes on demography, "Israel 2040." The series explored the impact of Israel's unique age structure on early childhood, the future labor market, and the aging population, highlighting the importance of demography in planning for Israel's future.

One of this year's most sought-after research papers was "A Sociodemographic Profile of the South," by Prof. Alex Weinreb. As the first paper



PROF. ALEX WEINREB MEETS WITH HOFIT KALMOVSKY-SHATZ (DIRECTOR GENERAL, EL-KASSUM REGIONAL COUNCIL)

published by the Taub Center to focus on one specific region, it garnered significant attention from professional and governmental leaders in the South. The study raises awareness of some timely policy issues: what are the education and employment patterns in the South? Where do residents live? What are the household structures? What are the migration patterns of residents to the region and away from it? The study received significant media attention, including radio interviews with Prof. Avi Weiss on *Galei Israel*, *Kan Radio*, and *Southern Radio*; and articles featuring the findings were published in *Arutz Sheva*, *Bizness*, the Center for Israel Education's website, *Detaly*, and *Ynet*.

The Center conducted 17 informational meetings about this paper with political and professional figures in both national and local authority governments, including with local coalitions, academic institutions, MKs, ministers, mayors and heads of regional councils. These meetings focused on the findings' practical implications for local organizations, and emphasized the critical need that policy makers and community leaders have for access to empirical findings in order to promote evidence-based policies advancing the region and its citizens. Meeting participants expressed appreciation that the new research focused on the Southern region and local government officials shared that they are constantly seeking out reliable research findings on specific localities. Across the board, participants expressed interest in future meetings

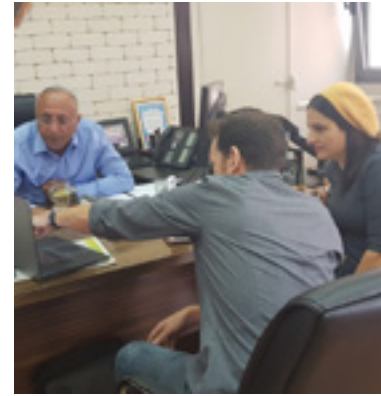




PROF. ALEX WEINREB AND DIRECTOR GENERAL SUZIE PATT-BENVENISTI MEET WITH MINISTER OF WELFARE AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS MEIR COHEN



PROF. ALEX WEINREB MEETS WITH BNEI SHIMON MUNICIPALITY



PROF. ALEX WEINREB MEETS WITH MAYOR OF KIRYAT GAT AVIRAM DAHARI

and many mentioned that the information shared would impact their work going forward.

In May 2021, Israel experienced a wave of ethnically motivated violence and rioting in mixed Arab and Jewish cities across the country, coinciding with a period of rocket attacks from Gaza. Later in the year, violence within Arab society drew increasing media attention. Prof. Weinreb examined these troubling phenomena from a demographic perspective in the research paper “Youth Bulge, Violent Crime, and Shortages in the Israeli Arab Marriage Market,” published in December 2021. The study explores the relationship between the “youth bulge” – a large cohort of people in their late teens and early twenties – and increasing rates of crime in Arab society. The study also explores how gender differences in educational attainment among young Arabs will affect gender relations, especially marriage, in the coming years. The combination of a demographic imbalance in the size of cohorts and the increasing educational advantage of women will make it harder for Arab young men to find compatible spouses, which will likely further deepen levels of social disengagement. This study is an example of the importance of examining social phenomena, such as violent crime, through the lens of demography. Identifying trends helps to address them earlier on and enact policies that can prevent crises. The policy implications from this

study reemphasize the importance of efforts to improve educational achievements and skills, particularly among young Arab men, and demonstrate the importance of expanding post high-school frameworks such as national service in Arab communities. These measures can help increase social and economic engagement. Furthermore, the demographic data suggest that there is currently a window of opportunity for political leaders — first and foremost local leaders in Arab communities — to prepare young men for a less patriarchal society, one in which an increasing share of women are educated, participate in the labor market, and are more independent than in previous generations.

As an internationally recognized leader in the field of demography, the Taub Center is well positioned to promote further demographic research. In 2020, the Center was named the host institution and sole Israel representative for the National Transfer Accounts (NTA) Network. The NTA Network, which includes research teams from more than 60 countries, aims to understand how population growth and demographic changes affect larger socioeconomic trends. Moving forward, the Center will continue to expand its focus on population studies in order to facilitate better government allocations, especially in areas such as health and welfare among the elderly, education, and housing. ■

PARTNERSHIPS UPDATE

The Taub Center is profoundly grateful to our partners who make our work possible, and to our Board of Directors, who have provided support and guidance during these turbulent times. We appreciate the role our supporters have played in helping us rise to the occasion, expand our scope, and provide critical information to Israel's decision makers. We have been proud to serve as a vital resource to philanthropic individuals and foundations throughout the year.

In May 2021, in an effort to keep our partners updated on the Center's latest research, we launched an exclusive briefing series. The series featured Taub Center experts alongside leaders in various fields, and explored ways in which the government's pandemic crisis response could expedite long-needed reforms in many areas. One briefing focused on Israel's Ultra-Orthodox community featuring Taub Center Economic Policy Program Chair Prof. Benny Bental and Dr. Yehudit Chassida, a member of the Bnei Brak Haredi community and the Academic Coordinator for Ultra-Orthodox Sector Programs at Herzog College. Another briefing featured the Center's new Health Policy Program Chair, Prof.



TAUB CENTER STAFF AND BOARD MEMBERS VISIT THE MACHANE YEHUDA MARKET DURING THE MINI-RETREAT

Nadav Davidovitch, along with two directors from Israel's Health and Welfare Ministries addressing how reducing inequality can help improve health outcomes in Israel. A subsequent briefing featured Prof. John Gal, Dr. Labib Shami, and Shavit Madhala alongside Northern Goals CEO Limor Lev discussing the lack of Arab Israeli children enrolled in formal childcare. The briefing series culminated in a roundtable discussion with eight Taub Center experts providing an overview of the most severe challenges facing Israel's new government.

“The Taub Center does an amazing job providing high quality, objective research and analysis of Israel’s socio-economic situation... Such data are essential for running a democracy... Without reliable data, one cannot expect [Israel’s leaders] to correctly analyze and address problems.”

– ANAT GAFNI, TAUB CENTER BOARD MEMBER





PROF. AVINOAM PATT (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), PROF. NADAV DAVIDOVITCH, SUZIE PATT BENVENISTI, AND PROF. AVI WEISS DURING A BRIEFING WITH THE JEWISH COMMUNITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

As philanthropic institutions and communities sought reliable information with which to inform their giving strategies, the Center received many requests for online briefings from synagogues, foundations and Federations. In March 2021, we provided two briefings related to International Women’s Day. The first was in partnership with Brighton and Hove Jewish Community (BNJC), a non-profit working to revitalize the city of Brighton, England (in collaboration with the Bloom Foundation) in which Chief Financial and Operating Officer Liora Bowers discussed her research on the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on women in Israel’s workforce. The second briefing was in partnership with the Associated Baltimore Federation and Erev Yisraeli, a grassroots program of the Macks Center for Jewish Education, featuring Director General Suzie Patt Benvenisti and Liora Bowers.

The April 2021 publication, *In the Wake of COVID-19 – Important Questions for Israel in 2021 and Beyond*, sparked great interest among communities abroad, and the Center was invited to present findings from the handbook to audiences such as: an economics affinity group from Congregation Beth El in Bethesda, Maryland, the Jewish United Fund of Chicago, and Leket Israel. The briefing for Leket Israel featured Professors Benny Bental and John Gal sharing

the Center’s findings on unemployment, poverty and food insecurity to over 100 participants. Briefings on the impact of the pandemic were also requested by the Jewish Federation of North America’s (JFNA) Israel and Overseas professionals, and several new audiences such as JFNA’s new Impact and Growth department, Philadelphia Federation’s Donor Advised Fund, the Palm Beach Federation’s Israel and Overseas Committee, and UJA-New York Federation’s Shituf Committee that oversees UJA’s Israel allocations.

The Center is exploring opportunities to increase our presence overseas, and we were honored to be hosted at the University of Connecticut for a pilot briefing as part of a planned series of University-based lectures. The discussion was moderated by UConn’s Chair of Jewish Studies Prof. Avinoam Patt and featured Prof. Avi Weiss, Suzie Patt Benvenisti, and Prof. Nadav Davidovitch presenting to an audience of faculty, students and local community members. The lecture attracted a great deal of interest, and we hope to continue our university outreach in the year ahead.

In the brief window of in-person activities between COVID waves, the Center was thrilled to host a mini-retreat for a number of Board and General Assembly members in honor of the Herbert M. Singer Annual Conference, “Distance by Design: Opportunities and Implications for Israel.” The three-day retreat included private meals with conference speakers and a dynamic food and history tour of Jerusalem’s Machane Yehuda Shuk. The retreat concluded at the Taub Center offices, where researchers presented their current projects.

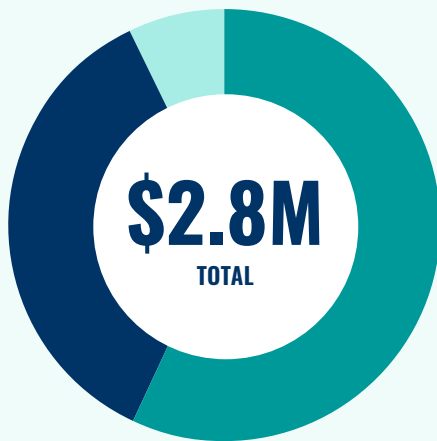
The Center secured a planning grant to build a new Demography program, for which we are now exploring seed funding. We are especially grateful to our board members who went out of their way to connect the Center with new supporters and secure crucial gifts from individuals and foundations. This was a challenging year, and we could not have done it without your help and guidance! ■



FINANCIAL UPDATE

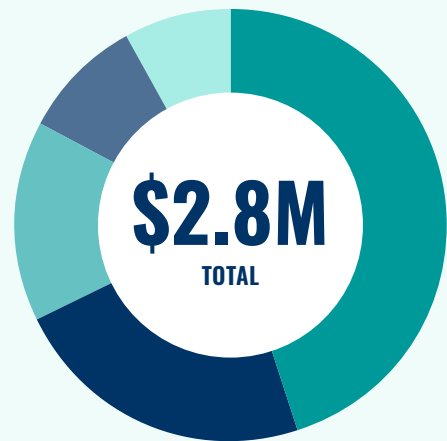
The Taub Center is independent and nonpartisan and does not conduct commissioned research or accept any government funding. Along with a permanent endowment, the Taub Center’s work is made possible through the generosity of individual donors and foundations in Israel and around the world. To support its continued growth and success, the Center seeks collaborations with partners who understand and value the importance of the Center’s independent research and its impact on public policy.

2021 INCOME SOURCES



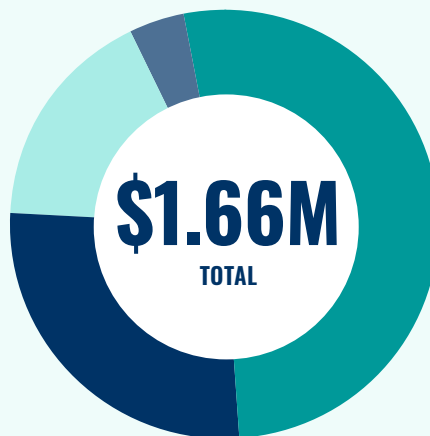
- **58%**
FUNDRAISING
- **36%**
ENDOWMENT FUND
- **6%**
OTHER INCOME

2021 OPERATING EXPENSES



- **45%**
RESEARCH
- **24%**
MARKETING, COMMUNICATIONS, & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
- **14%**
OPERATIONS
- **9%**
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND GLOBAL OUTREACH
- **8%**
PUBLICATIONS

2021 FUNDRAISING INCOME



- **52%**
FOUNDATIONS
- **27%**
BOARD
- **17%**
INDIVIDUALS
- **4%**
TAUB CENTER COUNCIL



Established in 1982 under the leadership and vision of Herbert M. Singer, Henry Taub, and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the Center is funded by a permanent endowment created by the Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation, the Herbert M. and Nell Singer Foundation, Jane and John Colman, the Kolker-Saxon-Hallock Family Foundation, the Milton A. and Roslyn Z. Wolf Family Foundation, and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

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