
The Viterbi Family Center
for Public Opinion and Policy Research

A Conditional Partnership

Jews and Arabs



Israel 2021
Summary

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THE ISRAEL
DEMOCRACY
INSTITUTE

The nature of the relations between Jewish and Arab citizens in the State of Israel is one of the most critical issues impacting both Israeli democracy as well as solidarity and resilience of Israeli society.

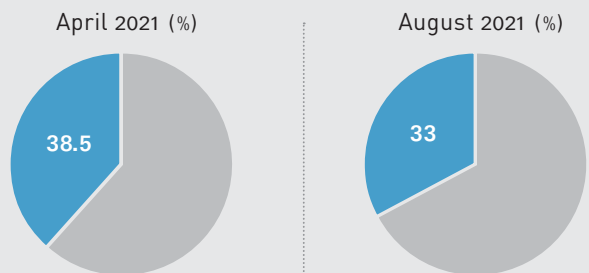
These relations have undergone, and are currently undergoing, significant changes—reflecting the influence of local, regional, and global factors. However, one fact remains unaltered: Israel is defined as the nation state of the Jewish people alone—a democratic state, but at the same time—the state of the Jewish majority, and a state in which the Arab minority constitutes around 22% of the population.

The research report on which the data presented in this summary is based, is the fourth in the series *A Conditional Partnership: Jews and Arabs in Israel* (following those published in 2016, 2017, and 2019). While in the past, each report was based on a single survey, this year we conducted two surveys: the first in April 2021, and the second in August 2021. Our aim in doing so was to assess whether the various events of the intervening months—chief among them the violence in Israel’s mixed cities and the inclusion of Ra’am in the new governing coalition—led to a substantial change in relations between Jews and Arabs in Israel.

Overall, the changes we found were less significant than might be expected. Among the Arab public, changes can be noted mainly in a decline in the sense of pride in being Israeli and in a less favorable assessment of the state’s treatment of the Arab minority. Among the Jewish public, we see a decline in the willingness to live alongside Arabs, and in the willingness to allow Arabs to have a say in national decisions of critical significance.

Jews

Think that it is possible for an Arab Israeli who feels part of the Palestinian people to also be a loyal citizen of the State of Israel

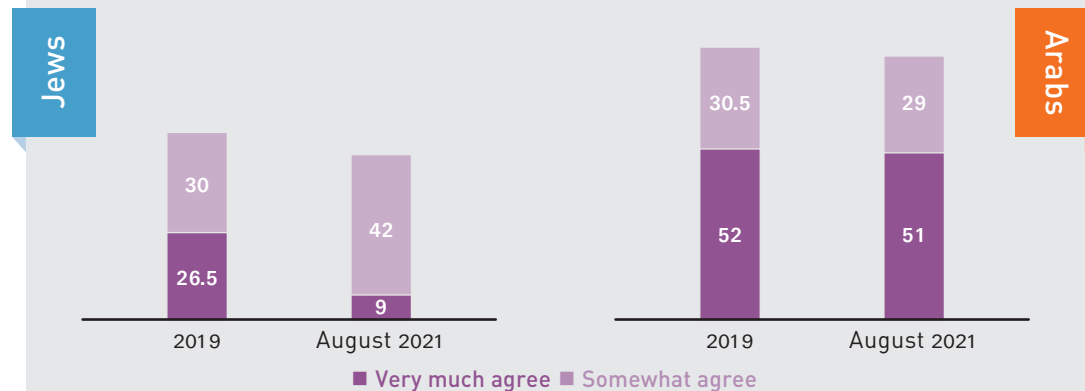


By political orientation (August 2021, %)

Left: **73**
Center: **42**
Right: **19**

Identity and Civic Participation

Most Arab Israelis wish to integrate into Israeli society and be part of it (%)



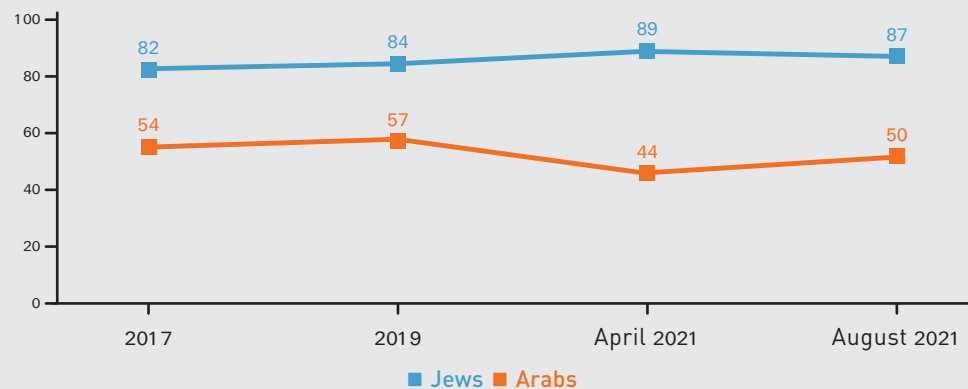
Jews, by political orientation (August 2021, %)

Left: **78** Center: **64** Right: **34**

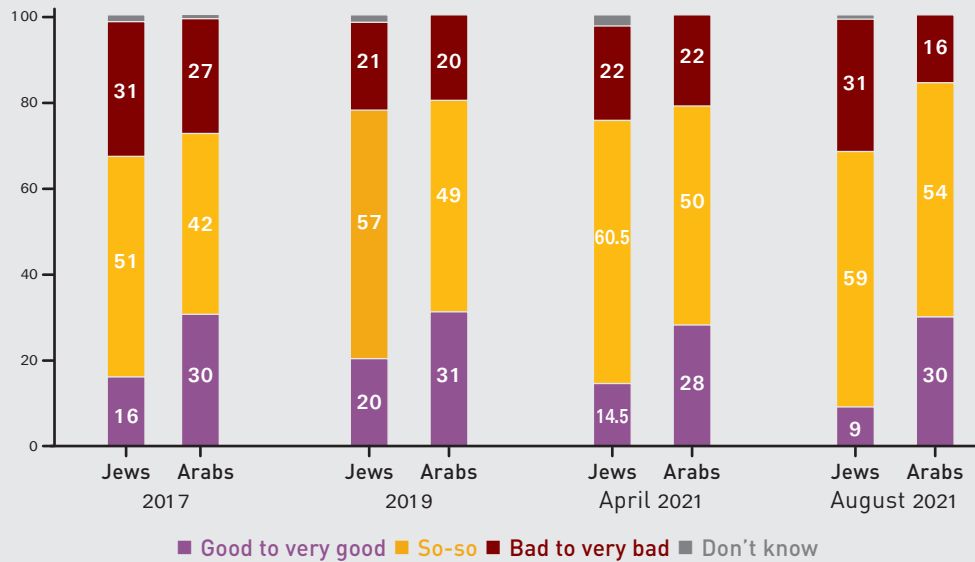
Arabs, by religion (August 2021, %)

Christian: **84** Druze: **82** Muslim: **79**

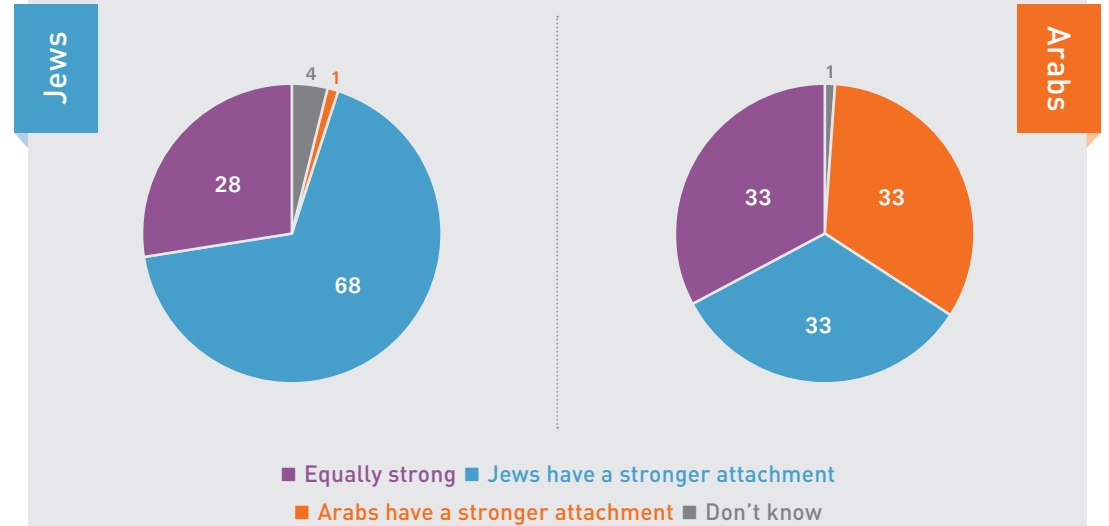
Feel part of Israeli society (%)



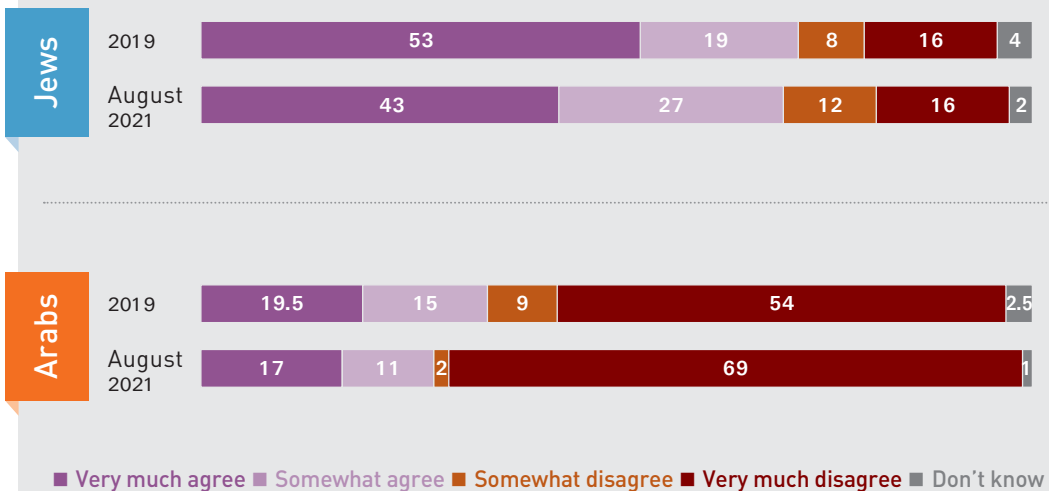
Relations between Jewish and Arab Israelis today are (%)



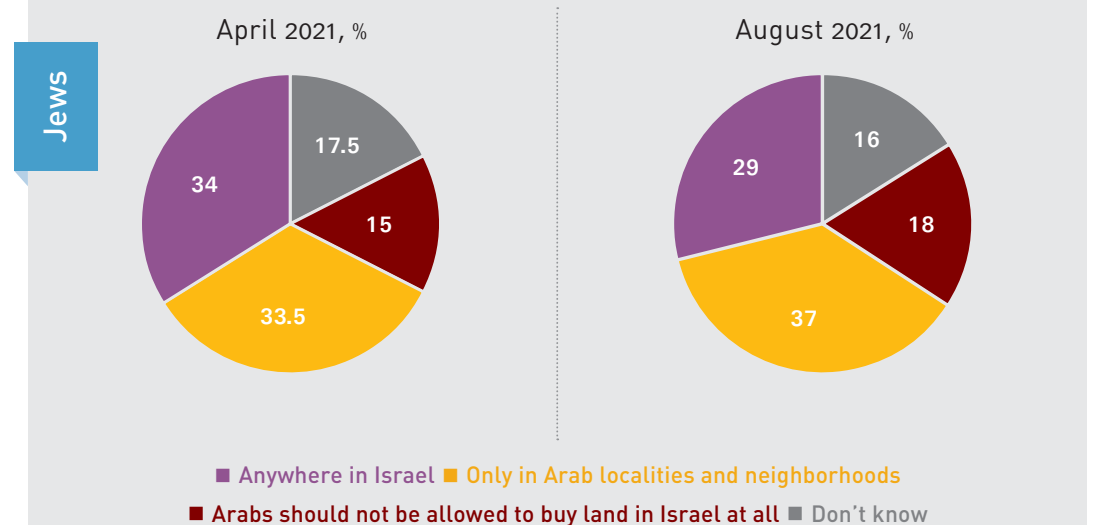
Who has a stronger attachment to the country—Jews or Arabs? (August 2021, %)



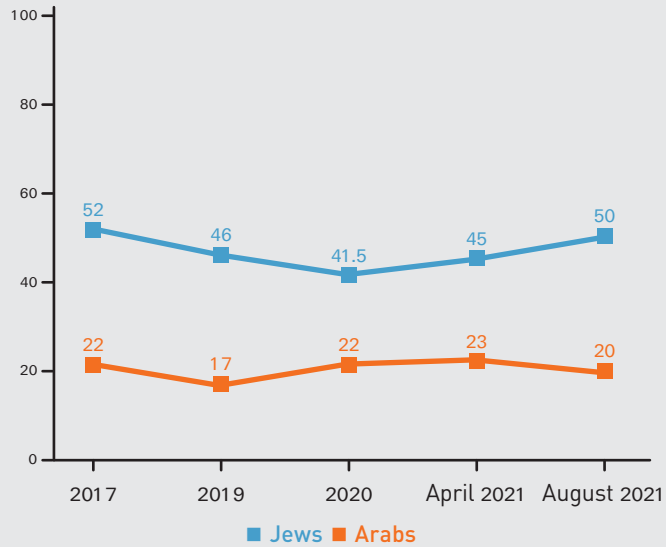
All Israeli citizens aged 18 (including Arabs and Haredim) should be required to perform military or national civilian service (%)



Where should Arab Israelis be allowed to buy land?



Agree that it would be better for Jews and Arabs in Israel to live separately from one another (%)

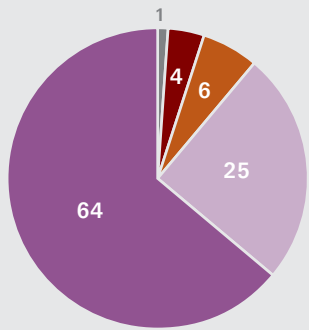


By religiosity
(Jewish sample, Agree, August 2021, %)

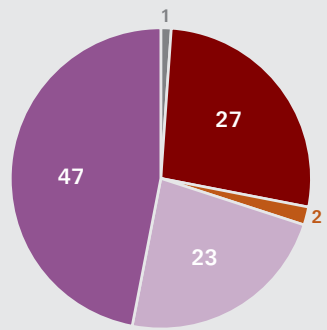
- Haredi **85**
- National religious **73.5**
- Traditional religious **52**
- Traditional non-religious **53**
- Secular **32**

I feel proud when Israel attains an important international achievement, such as in sports or science (August 2021, %)

Jews



Arabs

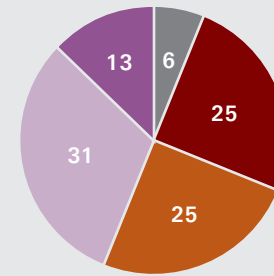


Very much agree Somewhat agree Somewhat disagree Very much disagree Don't know

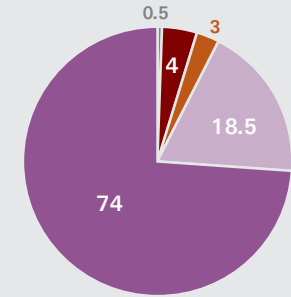
The Education System

The curriculum for all Israeli students should include historical and cultural content that is important to the Arab public in Israel (April 2021, %)

Jews

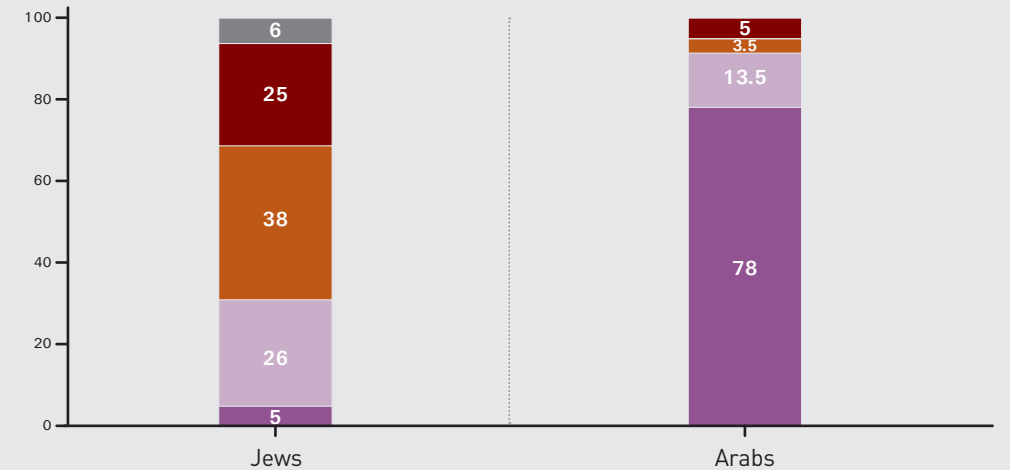


Arabs



Very much agree Somewhat agree Somewhat disagree Very much disagree Don't know

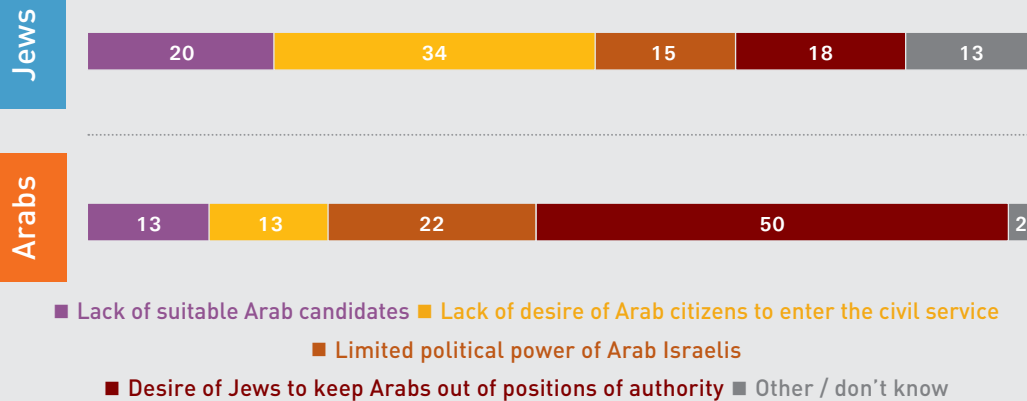
The Arab education system should be given a free hand in determining the curriculum for Arab schools (April 2021, %)



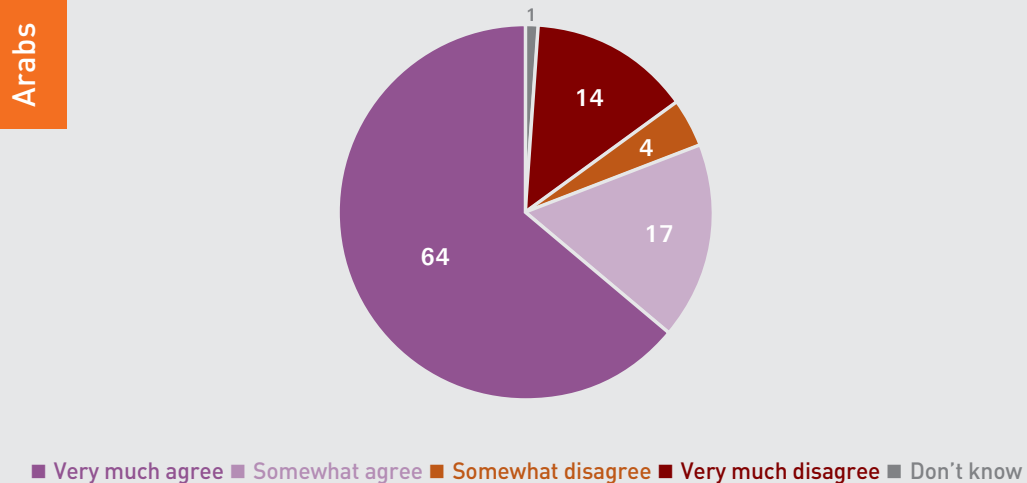
Very much agree Somewhat agree Somewhat disagree Very much disagree Don't know

Arab Israelis in the Labor Market

The percentage of Arabs in senior positions in the civil service is lower than the relative share of Arabs in Israel's population, because... (%)

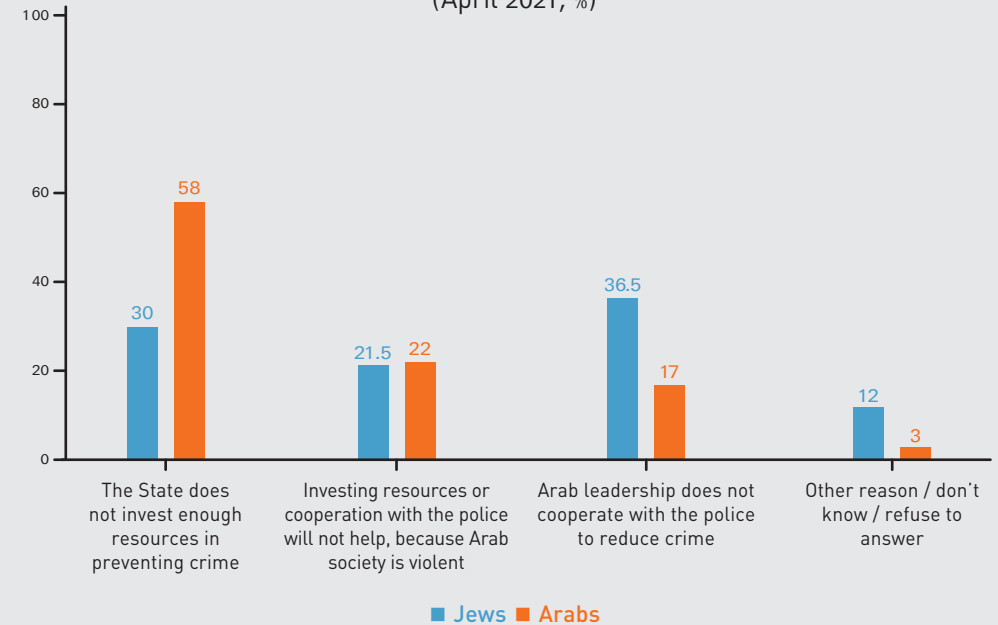


Even when Arabs are more suitable for a study program or a job, Jews will always be accepted ahead of them (August 2021, %)

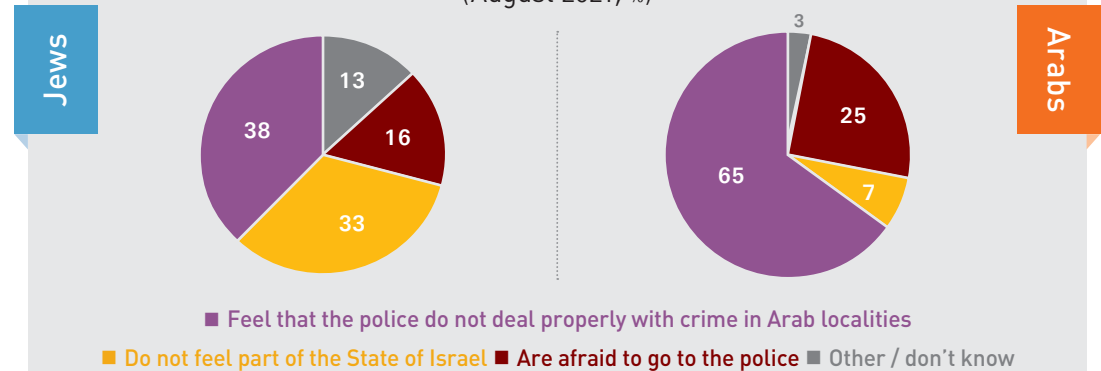


Law Enforcement in Arab Society

Main reason for the high crime rate in Arab society (April 2021, %)



Arab Israelis tend not to cooperate with the police because they... (August 2021, %)



Agree to accept Arabs as... (%)

Jews

Personal friends



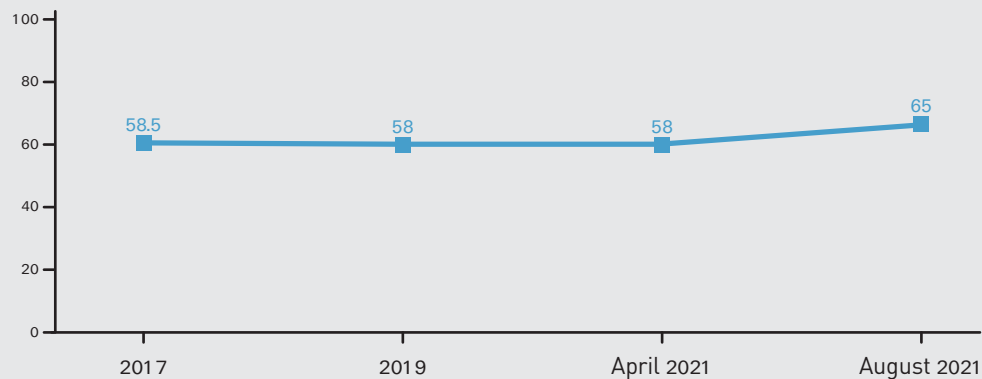
Neighbors in the same building



Friends from the workplace



I try not to enter Arab localities (%)



Agree to accept Jews as... (%)

Arabs

Personal friends



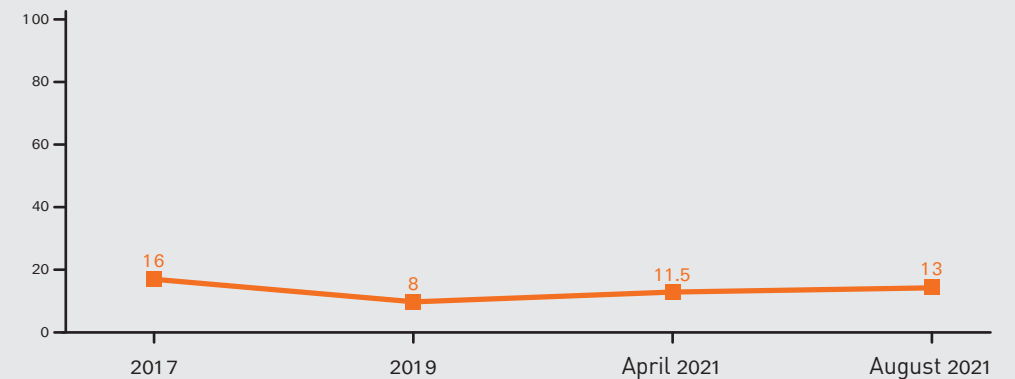
Neighbors in the same building



Friends from the workplace



I try not to enter Jewish localities (%)



The Israel Democracy Institute (IDI) is an independent center of research and action dedicated to strengthening the foundations of Israeli democracy. IDI works to bolster the values and institutions of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state. A non-partisan think-and-do tank, the institute harnesses rigorous applied research to educate decision makers and help shape policy, legislation and public opinion. The Institute partners with government, policy and decision makers, civil service and society, to improve the functioning of the government and its institutions, confront security threats while preserving civil liberties, and foster solidarity within Israeli society. Israel recognized the positive impact of IDI's research and recommendations by conferring upon the institute its most prestigious award, the Israel Prize for Lifetime Achievement.

IDI's Program on Arab Society seeks to mitigate the tensions between Israel's Jewish majority and Arab minority and create a shared, inclusive society. The program seeks to address the social, cultural, economic and legal barriers to the integration of Israel's Arab minority into Israeli society and its economy. Program staff devises and promotes policy recommendations designed to allow Israel's Arabs to prosper as citizens with equal rights and opportunities.

The Viterbi Family Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research conducts empirical research on the attitudes of the Israeli public regarding the functioning of the Israeli government and political systems and the extent of Israeli society's commitment to fundamental democratic values. The Louis Guttman Israel Database, which the Center maintains and operates, presents both current survey data and historical materials collected since 1949. The Center's goal is to enrich public discourse in Israel on issues of public policy and society, and works to achieve this goal by creating, analyzing, and distributing reliable information and making it freely available to researchers, journalists, and the general public in Israel and abroad.

A Conditional Partnership is a periodic study that examines the relations between Jews and Arabs in Israel. We analyze this relationship on three levels—the State; society; and interpersonal relations—and also include questions about national and individual identity.

This book is the product of collaboration between the IDI Program on Arab Society and the Viterbi Family Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research.



To order the full book in Hebrew, please contact:
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