

The Ultra-Orthodox Sector in the Coronavirus Pandemic

Selected Survey Findings

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November 8, 2020

1) How much confidence do you have in the following agencies and individuals that are leading the fight against the coronavirus?

A) The Ministry of Health

	Entire sample	Hassidim	Non-Hassidim	Sephardim
Absolutely none	27.9	42.2	21.3	21.2
Very little	46.7	43.1	46.8	51.1
A fair amount	19.7	10.7	26.4	20.4
Very much	3.7	1.9	3.4	5.9
Don't know	2.0	2.1	2.2	1.4
Total	100	100	100	100

B) The Ministry of Finance

	Entire sample	Hassidim	Non-Hassidim	Sephardim
Absolutely none	27.9	31.9	25.7	25.3
Very little	37.0	34.2	42.7	36.6
A fair amount	17.5	13.4	16.0	22.2
Very much	3.6	3.9	1.5	4.2
Don't know	14.0	16.6	14.1	11.7
Total	100	100	100	100

C) The IDF and the Home Front Command

	Entire sample	Hassidim	non-Hassidim	Sephardim
Absolutely none	17.0	21.7	15.2	14.4



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Very little	26.8	30.3	29.8	23.1
A fair amount	32.0	25.2	30.6	38.9
Very much	15.1	11.3	13.9	18.7
Don't know	9.1	11.4	10.5	4.9
Total	100	100	100	100

D) The Israel Police

	Entire sample	Hassidim	non-Hassidim	Sephardim
Absolutely none	59.1	66.8	56.7	56.6
Very little	27.4	25.8	27.4	28.2
A fair amount	8.4	4.4	10.2	10.1
Very much	2.7	1.2	2.7	3.8
Don't know	2.4	1.9	2.9	1.2
Total	100	100	100	100

E) The Hospitals

	Entire sample	Hassidim	non-Hassidim	Sephardim
Absolutely none	17.2	24.1	12.4	15.9
Very little	30.9	32.9	28.8	31.9
A fair amount	31.4	25.6	35.4	31.5
Very much	15.7	11.0	18.7	17.3
Don't know	4.7	6.5	4.7	3.4
Total	100	100	100	100

F) Ultra-Orthodox Politicians

	Entire sample	Hassidim	non-Hassidim	Sephardim
Absolutely none	19.8	22.3	16.8	18.4
Very little	26.3	29.7	22.4	27.2
A fair amount	30.1	25.6	34.3	31.7
Very much	18.7	16.1	21.1	19.0
Don't know	5.1	6.3	5.4	3.8



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Total	100	100	100	100
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G) Rabbinic Leadership

	Entire sample	Hassidim	non-Hassidim	Sephardim
Absolutely none	2.4	2.6	1.7	2.2
Very little	4.6	3.7	4.8	4.9
A fair amount	12.0	10.1	9.5	14.8
Very much	78.1	81.8	81.6	75.5
Don't know	2.9	1.8	2.4	2.5
Total	100	100	100	100

H) Prime Minister Netanyahu

	Entire sample	Hassidim	non-Hassidim	Sephardim
Absolutely none	27.0	40.2	25.8	16.6
Very little	34.8	34.0	34.8	36.4
A fair amount	23.0	14.6	25.2	28.3
Very much	11.3	7.0	8.6	16.1
Don't know	3.9	4.2	5.5	2.6
Total	100	100	100	100

I) Your Local Mayor

	Entire sample	Hassidim	non-Hassidim	Sephardim
Absolutely none	13.3	20.0	9.3	11.7
Very little	21.4	26.2	20.9	17.6
A fair amount	32.9	30.0	33.7	34.1
Very much	27.9	18.9	29.9	34.0
Don't know	4.6	4.9	6.2	2.7
Total	100	100	100	100

2) To the best of your knowledge, is the coronavirus pandemic life-threatening?

	Entire sample	Hassidim	non-Hassidim	Sephardim
I'm certain it does	43.4	33.3	52.2	42.6
I think it does	34.4	37.0	33.5	34.2
I don't think it does	13.4	18.0	9.3	12.6
I'm certain it doesn't	5.6	6.1	3.5	7.9
Don't know	3.1	5.6	1.5	2.8
Total	100	100	100	100

3) Are you afraid that you or a family member will come down with COVID-19?

	Entire sample	Hassidim	non-Hassidim	Sephardim
Very afraid	18.4	12.9	19.9	22.1
Rather afraid	28.3	21.3	32.0	29.9
Not so afraid	24.4	30.3	24.2	19.2
Not at all afraid	26.9	32.9	22.8	27.1
Don't know	2.0	2.5	1.1	1.7
Total	100	100	100	100

4) Do you or do you not believe that intentional infection is a way to produce "herd immunity" that would protect the entire population against the virus?

	Entire sample	Hassidim	non-Hassidim	Sephardim
Believe strongly	12.3	12.4	8.3	16.5
Believe somewhat	12.0	13.8	10.9	11.5
Don't believe very much	21.0	19.3	22.9	19.2
Don't believe at all	42.7	35.7	52.3	40.7
Don't know	12.0	18.9	5.5	12.0
Total	100	100	100	100

5) What considerations do you think guided the decision-makers in their campaign against the coronavirus?

	Entire sample	Hassidim	non-Hassidim	Sephardim

	Entire sample	Hassidim	non-Hassidim	Sephardim
Only health-related concerns	3.6	3.2	3.7	3.6
Mainly health-related concerns	30.3	19.9	32.3	37.7
Mainly political concerns	43.8	47.7	44.7	38.2
Only political concerns	16.4	24.5	11.8	14.7
Don't know	6.1	4.7	7.5	5.7
Total	100	100	100	100

6) Where do you get your information about the coronavirus (its dangers, how to deal with it, and so on)? You may select more than one answer (yes/no for each option).

	Entire sample	Hassidim	non-Hassidim	Sephardim
From another person (relative, community members, community rabbi)	74.6	76.5	80.1	68.1
Ultra-Orthodox press	70.3	78.7	73.5	60.1
Information lines	48.5	53.7	48.7	44.4
The internet	33.6	23.7	37.3	36.6
Wall posters	31.1	32.9	30.1	28.5
Local authority publications	44.0	40.0	46.3	43.4
Total	100	100	100	100

7) On which of the following do you rely the most for evaluating the risk posed by COVID-19?

	Entire sample	Hassidim	non-Hassidim	Sephardim
Ultra-Orthodox politicians	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5
Rabbis	61.4	72.0	*58.1	58.2
The prime minister and his advisors	2.6	1.4	2.0	4.2
Medical experts	22.0	13.8	27.7	22.1
The local authority/ municipality	1.8	2.2	1.1	1.1
Other	1.9	2.4	1.1	2.1
None of them/only on myself	2.1	3.1	1.4	2.2
God	4.5	2.8	3.6	6.6
Don't know	1.1	0.3	1.3	1.7
Rabbis and medical	2.0	1.6	3.2	1.5

experts				
Total	100	100	100	100

8) **In your opinion, is it or is it not necessary to include rabbis when setting policy about dealing with the coronavirus?**

	Entire sample	Hassidim	non-Hassidim	Sephardim
Absolutely necessary	77.6	80.7	79.1	78.1
I think it's necessary	15.3	12.9	15.4	14.7
I don't think it's necessary	3.1	1.7	2.3	3.5
I'm certain it isn't necessary	2.0	1.7	2.3	1.4
Don't know	2.0	3.0	0.8	2.4
Total	100	100	100	100

9) **Have you been tested at least once for COVID-19?**

	Entire sample	Hassidim	non-Hassidim	Sephardim
Yes, result was positive, but I didn't have any symptoms	3.9	3.1	6.2	2.8
Yes, result was positive, and I was sick	14.9	14.1	16.2	15.3
Yes, result was negative	29.2	19.2	36.4	32.1
I have never been tested	52.1	63.6	41.2	49.8
Total	100	100	100	100

10) **Is anyone in your family ill or has been ill with active (symptomatic) COVID-19?**

	Entire sample	Hassidim	non-Hassidim	Sephardim
Yes	42.7	46.3	45.0	38.2
No	57.3	53.7	55.0	61.8
Total	100	100	100	100

11) **Do you believe or do not believe the claim that COVID-19 is liable to have long-term health effects, even if a person is not currently symptomatic?**

	Entire sample	Hassidim	non-Hassidim	Sephardim
I believe strongly that COVID-19 has long-	36.1	31.0	45.8	31.9

term health effects				
Believe somewhat	32.6	26.1	32.1	38.4
Don't believe very much	12.8	17.1	10.4	11.1
Don't believe at all that COVID-19 has long- term health effects	8.1	10.8	3.6	10.8
Don't know	10.4	15.0	8.2	7.9
Total	100	100	100	100

12) According to Health Ministry data, the infection and morbidity rates in the ultra-Orthodox sector are very high. What do you think is the main cause of these high infection and morbidity rates?

	Entire sample	Hassidim	non-Hassidim	Sephardim
The crowded housing situation among the ultra-Orthodox	57.8	56.4	62.4	56.1
The government didn't transmit appropriate information to the ultra-Orthodox community	8.1	6.2	5.5	11.8
The rabbis' instructions to continue life as usual	2.2	2.8	1.4	2.2
The ultra-Orthodox community's failure to comply with the government's instructions	4.4	1.4	5.0	6.3
The lack of consideration for the ultra-Orthodox way of life by those who issued the instructions	12.3	15.8	11.3	10.2
The lack of enforcement of the directives in the ultra-Orthodox sector	1.9	1.3	2.4	1.7
Other	3.0	1.7	4.0	3.6
Don't know/no one/nothing	3.8	5.8	2.5	2.8
All or almost all the above reasons	1.4	0.7	1.4	1.8
There isn't more illness/the data are incorrect/I don't believe the claim	4.1	6.3	3.6	2.7
Because of the large number of tests/because there are more tests in the ultra-Orthodox sector	0.9	1.7	0.4	0.9
Total	100	100	100	100

13) Total of all the options offered (first option + second option, total greater than 100%)

	Entire sample	Hassidim	non-Hassidim	Sephardim
The crowded housing situation among the ultra-Orthodox	73.6	72.3	77.1	72.5
The government didn't transmit appropriate information to the ultra-Orthodox community	21.2	14.3	16.0	32.3
The rabbis' instructions to continue life as usual	3.9	3.5	3.6	4.0
The ultra-Orthodox community's failure to comply with the government's instructions	10.3	6.1	9.9	13.8
The lack of consideration for the ultra-Orthodox way of life by those who issued the instructions	32.8	38.0	34.6	26.1
The lack of enforcement of the directives in the ultra-Orthodox sector	4.3	3.3	4.2	5.5
Other	6.0	4.8	8.1	5.7
Don't know/no one/nothing	3.8	5.8	2.5	2.8
All or almost all the above reasons	1.4	0.7	1.4	1.8
There isn't more illness/the data are incorrect/I don't believe the claim	4.8	6.5	4.6	3.6
Because of the large number of tests/because there are more tests in the ultra-Orthodox sector	1.6	3.3	1.0	0.9

14) Since the start of the pandemic, my economic situation is

	Entire sample	Hassidim	non-Hassidim	Sephardim
Much worse	16.2	21.1	12.0	15.4
Slightly worse	24.9	28.2	22.7	22.8
As it was, no change	48.3	42.9	56.0	47.7
Slightly better	5.4	3.7	5.1	6.8
Much better	3.3	2.4	1.8	5.8
Don't know	2.0	1.7	2.4	1.5
Total	100	100	100	100

15) To what extent do you strictly follow or not follow the Health Ministry's directives for protecting yourself against the coronavirus?

	Entire sample	Hassidim	non-Hassidim	Sephardim
Not at all	4.2	8.5	1.6	1.9
To a slight extent	14.4	22.2	9.8	12.3
To a great extent	37.5	35.1	35.9	41.6
To a very great extent or in full	43.9	34.3	52.7	44.1
Total	100	100	100	100

16) With which of the following statements do you agree?

	Entire sample	Hassidim	non-Hassidim	Sephardim
When the second wave of the pandemic came it was essential to continue the Torah studies in the yeshivot and <i>Talmudei Torah</i>	67.4	77.7	64.4	62.0
When the second wave of the pandemic came it was essential to suspend the Torah studies in the yeshivot and <i>Talmudei Torah</i>	16.0	8.8	15.7	22.9
(Don't read): Don't know	16.7	13.5	19.9	15.1
Total	100	100	100	100

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

The coverage of the ultra-Orthodox community by the secular media is biased against the community

	Entire sample	Hassidim	non-Hassidim	Sephardim
Totally disagree	3.6	4.5	2.6	3.9
Don't agree much	3.2	3.1	2.1	3.2
Tend to agree	11.7	7.1	15.2	11.0
Agree fully	78.2	81.1	75.4	80.7
Don't know	3.3	4.1	4.7	1.2
Total	100	100	100	100

17) Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

The ultra-Orthodox politicians did a good job of protecting their constituency against decisions that could do it harm.

	Entire sample	Hassidim	non-Hassidim	Sephardim
Totally disagree	20.0	22.8	18.1	19.0
Don't agree much	20.0	20.9	17.4	20.8
Tend to agree	29.9	28.1	28.3	31.6
Agree fully	21.8	18.8	28.5	20.3
Don't know	8.4	9.3	7.6	8.4
Total	100	100	100	100

18) Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

The fact that the ultra-Orthodox were not allowed to hold services in synagogues when those who are not ultra-Orthodox were allowed to hold protest demonstrations is proof that there is discrimination against the ultra-Orthodox sector in Israel.

	Entire sample	Hassidim	non-Hassidim	Sephardim
Totally disagree	7.3	6.3	9.6	5.5
Don't agree much	8.8	3.2	8.3	12.5
Tend to agree	17.4	15.9	19.5	17.9
Agree fully	63.9	73.2	58.5	62.3
Don't know	2.6	1.4	4.1	1.7



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Total	100	100	100	100
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19) Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

The coronavirus pandemic is a divine punishment for the Jewish people.

	Entire sample	Hassidim	non-Hassidim	Sephardim
Totally disagree	18.6	29.8	14.6	11.1
Don't agree much	5.0	7.8	3.4	3.0
Tend to agree	11.0	7.2	8.1	17.5
Agree fully	36.6	19.4	47.1	44.3
Don't know	28.8	35.7	26.7	24.1
Total	100	100	100	100

20) In your opinion, did ultra-Orthodox parents who sent their elementary-age sons to school during the lockdown act properly or improperly?

	Entire sample	Hassidim	non-Hassidim	Sephardim
I'm certain they did the right thing	36.9	51.4	33.4	29.5
I think they did the right thing	20.4	21.1	20.0	18.9
I think they did the wrong thing	16.0	6.2	22.1	17.3
I'm certain they did the wrong thing	13.0	5.8	11.8	20.7
Don't know	13.7	15.5	12.6	13.7
Total	100	100	100	100

21) In your opinion, how did the coronavirus pandemic affect the relations between the ultra-Orthodox and other Israelis?

	Entire sample	Hassidim	non-Hassidim	Sephardim
It did great damage	61.1	65.1	57.1	63.3
It did some damage	29.4	25.9	32.0	28.4
It improved them somewhat	2.0	1.3	1.4	3.0
It improved them a lot	1.5	0.9	2.3	0.5
Don't know	6.0	6.7	7.3	4.8
Total	100	100	100	100



The survey on the ultra-Orthodox and the coronavirus pandemic was conducted by the Guttman Center for Public Opinion Research and Policy at the Israel Democracy Institute. The telephone poll was conducted in Hebrew of 860 men and women---, a nationwide representative sample of the adult ultra-Orthodox population of Israel, age 18 and up. The maximum sampling error for the entire sample is $3.4\% \pm$, with a confidence level of 95%. The full data file is available at <https://dataisrael.idi.org.il>.

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