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PRESS RELEASE

The Israeli Voice Index – October 2021 *After More Than 100 Days in Office – Israelis Want the New Government to Prioritize* *Stabilizing the Economy and Combatting COVID by Imposing Restrictions on the* *Unvaccinated*

One Year On – Expectations Are Met for the Abraham Accords

October 10, 2021 – The Israeli Voice Index for October 2021, published today by the Israel Democracy Institute's Viterbi Family Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research, found that most Israelis (33%) want the Bennett-Lapid government to make stabilizing the economy its top priority. Combatting the COVID pandemic is next in line for Israelis (24%) followed by squelching the rising crime in the Arab sector (20%) and then, down the scale - containing the Iranian threat (15%). Only 4.4% of Israelis want the government to focus on reaching an agreement with the Palestinians.

One year after the signing of the Abraham Accords with the UAE and Bahrain, the majority of Israelis (61%) think the peace agreements have met their expectations. Only 8% of the public think that there is a high chance of a peace agreement being signed with the Palestinians in the next five years.

The Israeli Voice Index is a monthly survey conducted by the Viterbi Family Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research.

Main Findings

The Abraham Accords - After a full year since the signing of the Abraham Accords, 61% of Israelis think that they have fulfilled their expectations 19% thought they had not and 20% answered don't know.

The difference on this issue between Jewish and Arab Israelis is significant. Whereas, among Jewish Israelis, 64% say the Accords have met expectations and only 14.5% disagree. Arab Israelis are split on this issue with 43% think that the agreements have met expectations and 42% think that they have not.

Peace Agreement with the Palestinians – 87% of the public does not foresee Israeli signing an Accord with the Palestinians in the next five years.

Iranian Threat – In retrospect, 51% of Jewish Israeli and 15% of Arab Israeli think that a military attack on Iran at the early stages of its nuclear development was preferable to attempts to reach a settlement (23.5% among Jews and 46% among Arabs). A high rate answered that they do not know (25.5% among Jews and 39% among Arabs) which was preferable.

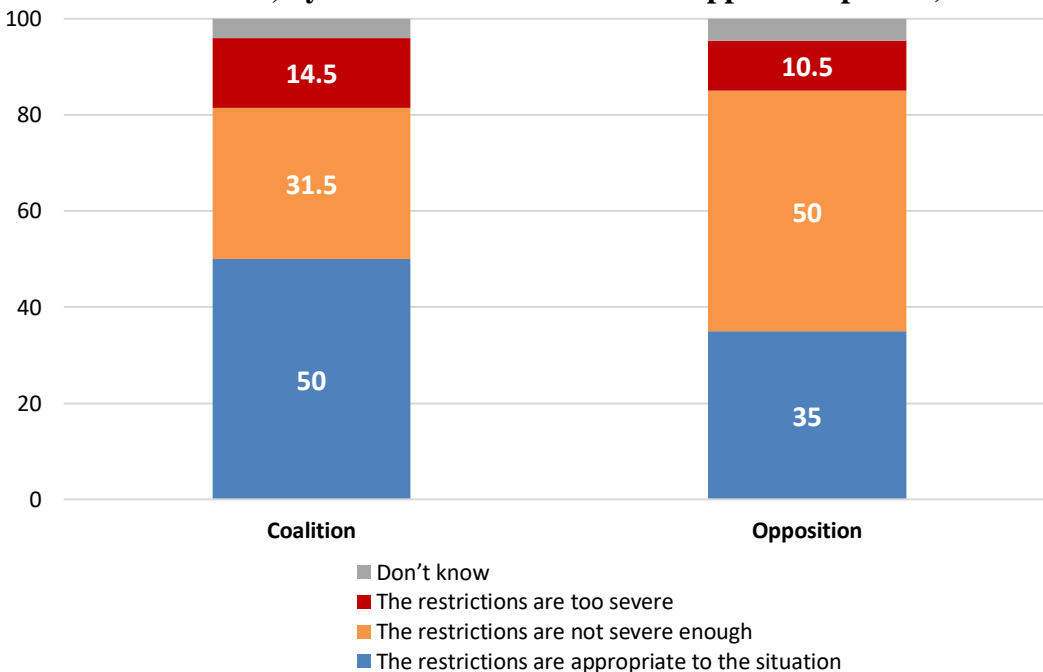
Iranian Nuclear Attack – Only slightly more than a third fear that Israel will be attacked with nuclear weapons if Iran attains that capability (Jews 37.5%, Arabs 35%). The majority sees the chances of such an attack as low.

COVID 19

Government Action to Prevent Infection – 42% of Israelis said the government’s current restrictions are an appropriate measure in light of the current the situation. 39% said the restrictions are not severe enough while only 14% viewed these steps as too severe.

The responses are explainable largely in terms of the responders’ political positions: whereas half of those who voted for coalition parties in the most recent elections see the restrictions as appropriate to the situation while less than a third claim they are not severe enough, among opposition voters the picture is exactly the opposite: half said the restrictions are not severe enough while slightly over a third saw them as appropriate.

The restrictions the government has imposed regarding COVID-19 are: (% , voting in the most recent elections, by division into coalition and opposition parties)

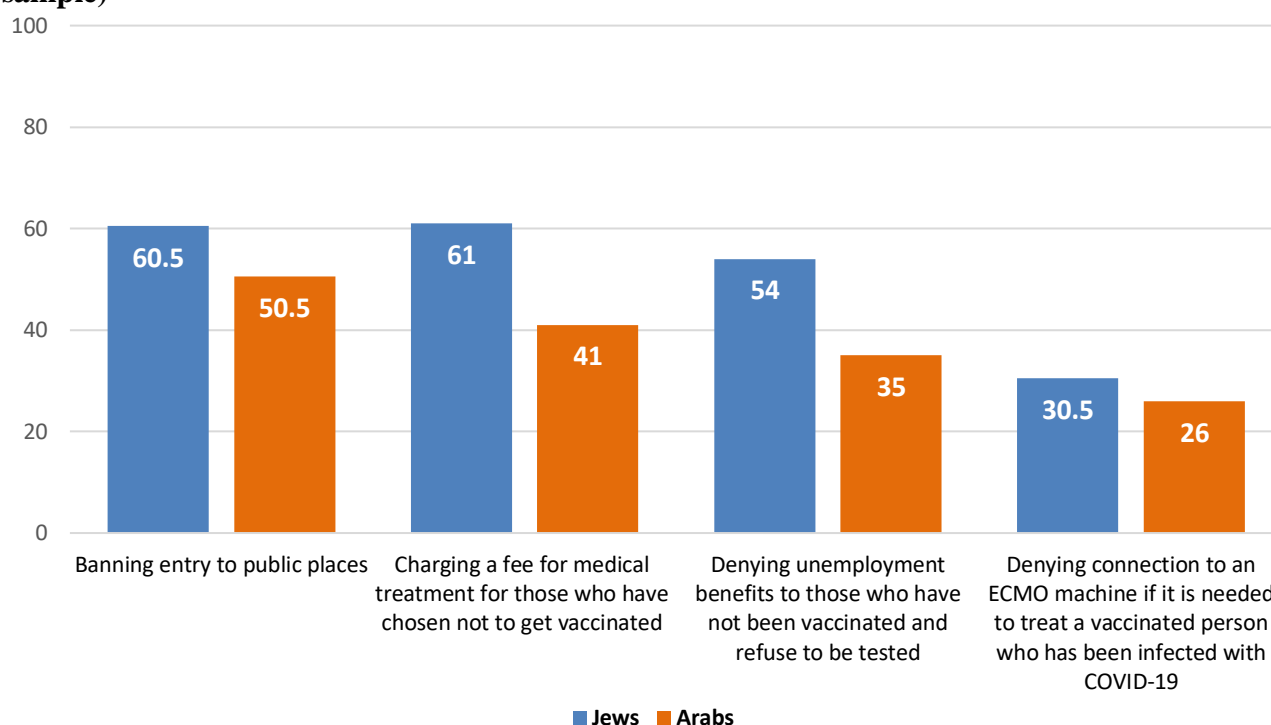


The gaps on this question between the Jewish and Arab samples are considerable. Whereas, among the Jews, the rates of those who see the restrictions as appropriate or not severe enough are almost identical, among the Arabs a much higher rate views them as too severe.

Sanctions for the Unvaccinated? - More than half of the public think that those who choose not to be vaccinated and refuse to be regularly tested should be banned from public places, that they should be charged for their resulting medical treatment if they become ill with COVID-19, and that unemployment benefits should be denied to those who lose their jobs because they refuse to be vaccinated or tested. Most Israelis do not think that punitive steps should include medical care with 61% of the public saying that those who have been vaccinated should not be given a higher priority for a connection to limited ECMO machine.

Regarding all the sanctions that were presented, the support among Israeli Jews is greater than among Israeli Arabs. The largest disparity was found on the two questions with economic aspects (charging a fee for medical treatment and denying unemployment benefits).

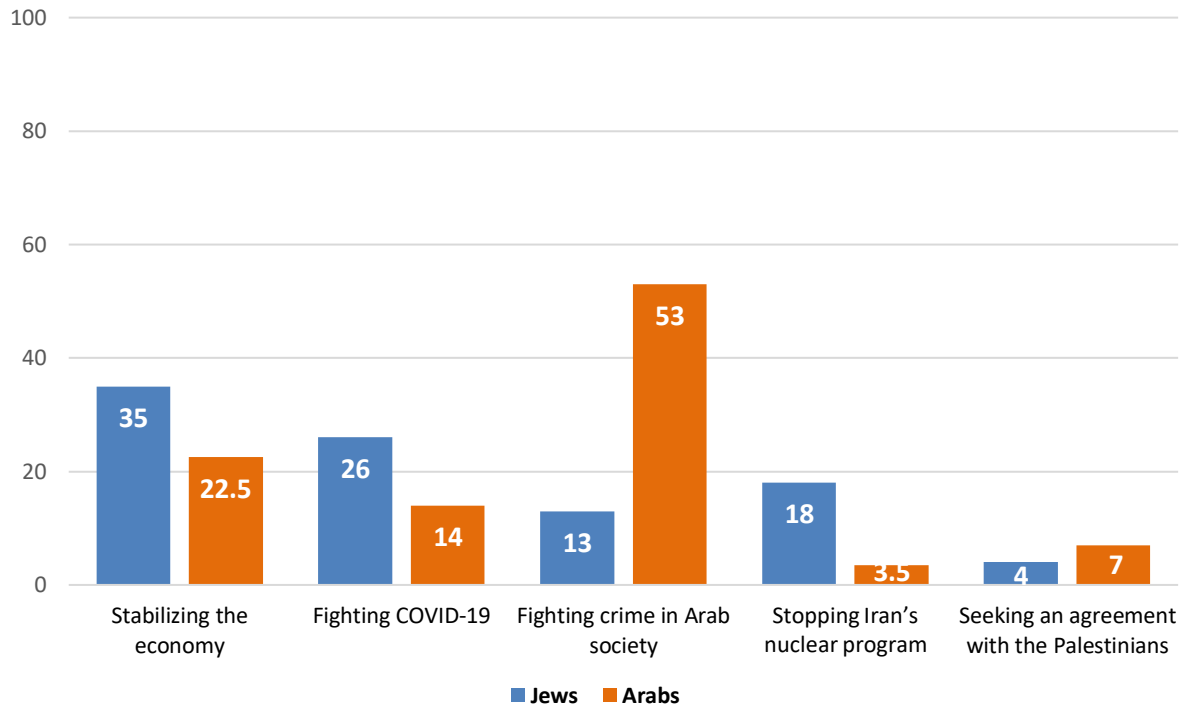
Support imposing different sanctions on the unvaccinated (% , Jewish sample and Arab sample)



Prime Minister Bennett Handling the COVID-19 Crisis – Only 27% think that Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's handling of the COVID crisis is good or excellent. 26% view it as "medium", and 43% think he is performing not well or poorly. Attitudes toward Bennett in the Jewish public are largely related to the respondents' political positions. A majority on the right (55%) views the prime minister as handling the COVID-19 crisis poorly, while in the center and on the left only about a quarter see agree with this assessment (28% and 25% respectively).

Government's Order of Priorities for the Coming Year – 35% of the Jewish Israelis, think that the top priority for the government in the coming year should be stabilizing the economy. Among Arab Israelis, 53% think that the top issue for the government should be to address the high crime rates in Arab society.

What should be at the top of the government's order of priorities in the coming year? (% , Jews and Arabs)



The Israeli Voice Index for September 2021 was prepared by the Viterbi Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research of the Israel Democracy Institute. In the survey, which was conducted on the internet and by telephone (supplements of groups that are not sufficiently represented on the network) from September 30 to October 4, 2021, 603 men and women were interviewed in Hebrew and 153 in Arabic, constituting a representative national sample of the entire adult population of Israel aged 18 and older. The maximum sampling error for the entire sample was 3.59±% at a confidence level of 95%. The fieldwork was done by the Midgam Institute. For the full data file see: <https://dataisrael.idi.org.il>