



# Israeli Medical Association

*What physicians can do to address SDOH in their role as commissioners, managers and employers*

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# Israel's economy at a Glance

- Sound economic situation:
  - Israel's output growth remains relatively strong
  - Unemployment is at historically low levels
  - Internationally recognized high-tech sector
- However, Israel is among the countries with the highest income inequality, measured by the Gini coefficient, only surpassed by Chile, Mexico, the United States and Turkey.
- Living standards remain well below those of top-ranking OECD countries and the rate of relative poverty is the highest in the OECD area.



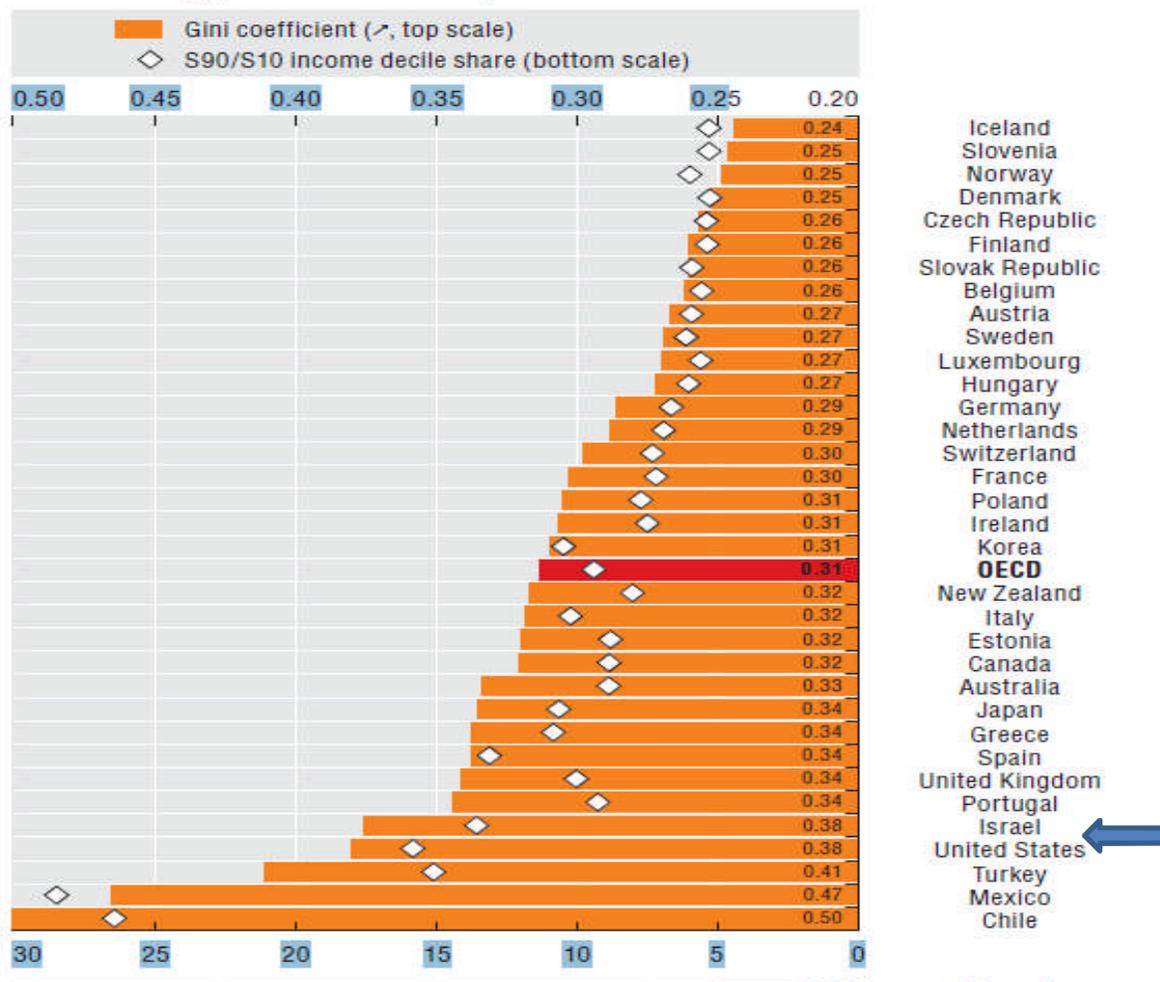
## Health in Israel

- One of the highest life expectancies in the world-8<sup>th</sup> among OECD countries (81.8)
- Infant mortality at 3.6 of every 1000 live births-lower than the OECD average of 4.
- Relatively low mortality rate from ischemic heart disease-11th out of 34 countries
- Low mortality rate from cerebro-vascular disease-3rd out of 34 countries



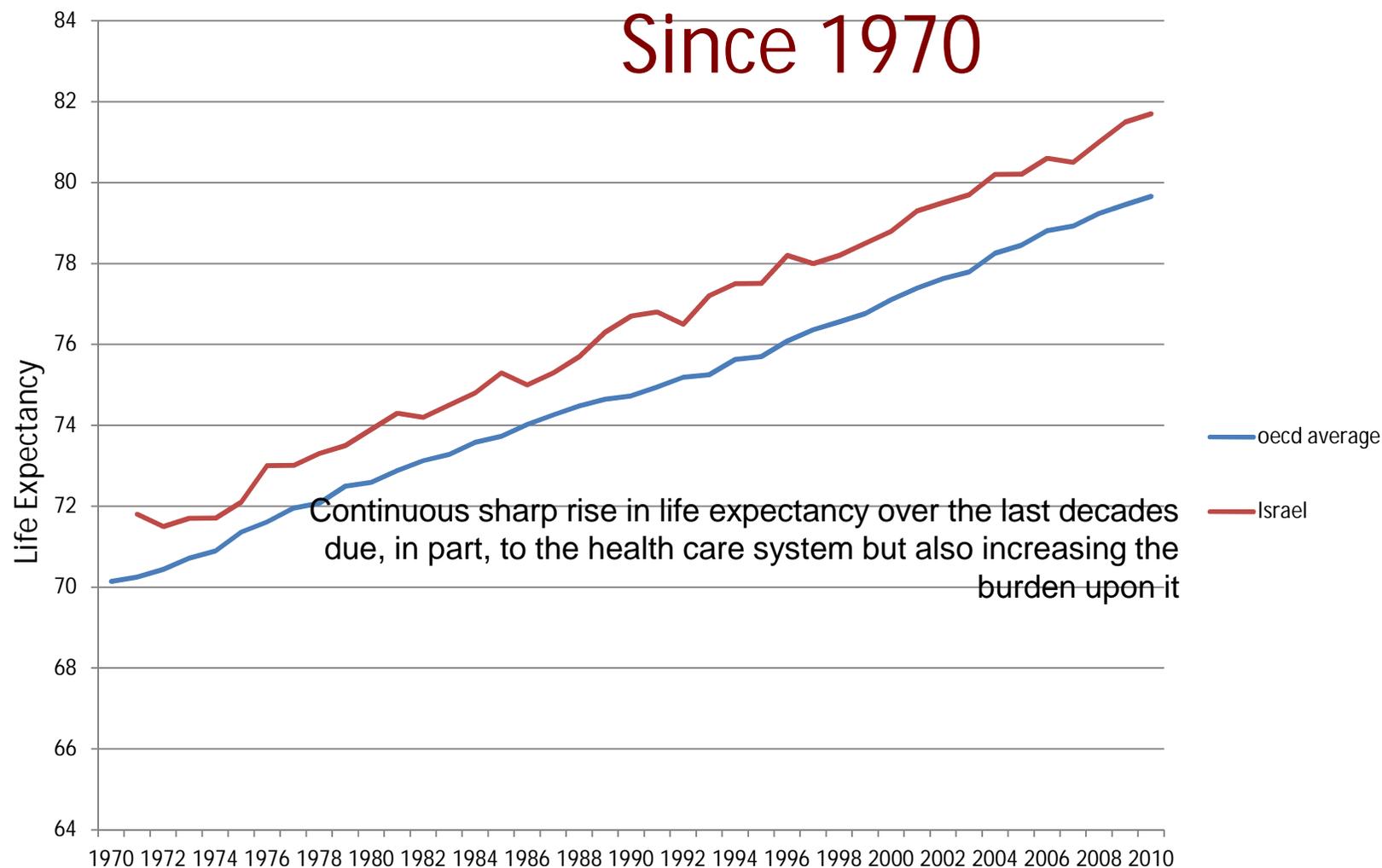
# Poverty in Israel – Gini Index

Panel A. Gini coefficient of household disposable income and gap between richest and poorest 10% in 2010



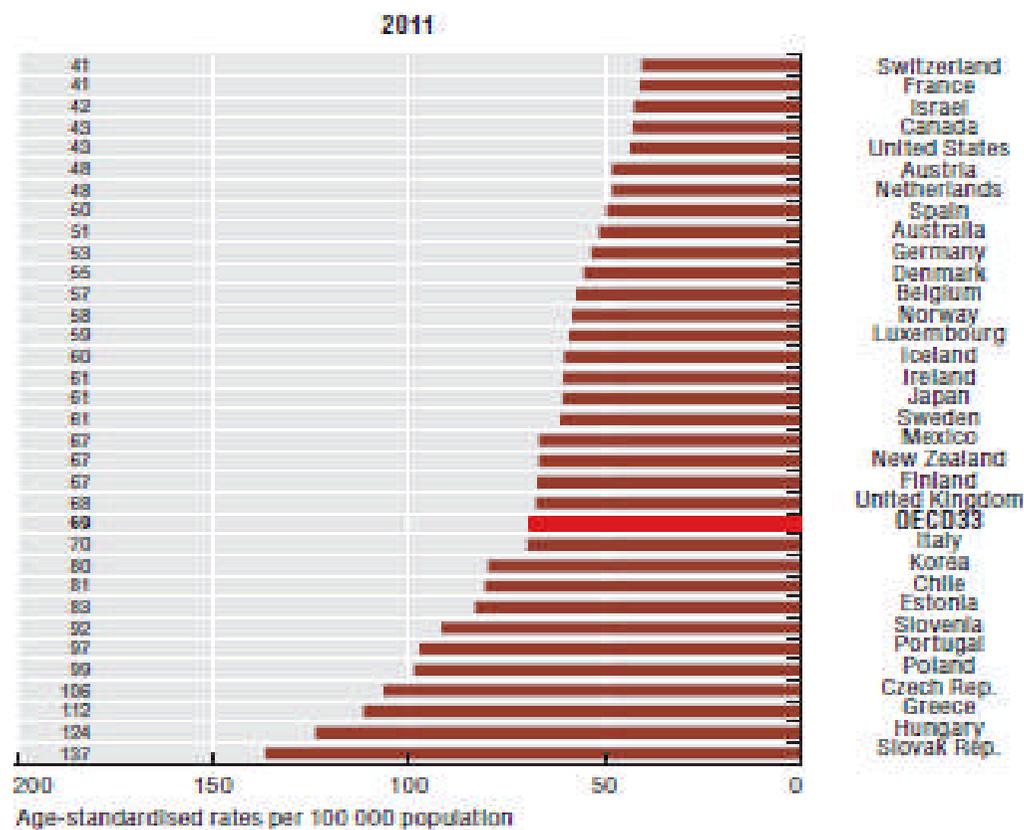


# Life expectancy in Israel and OECD – Since 1970





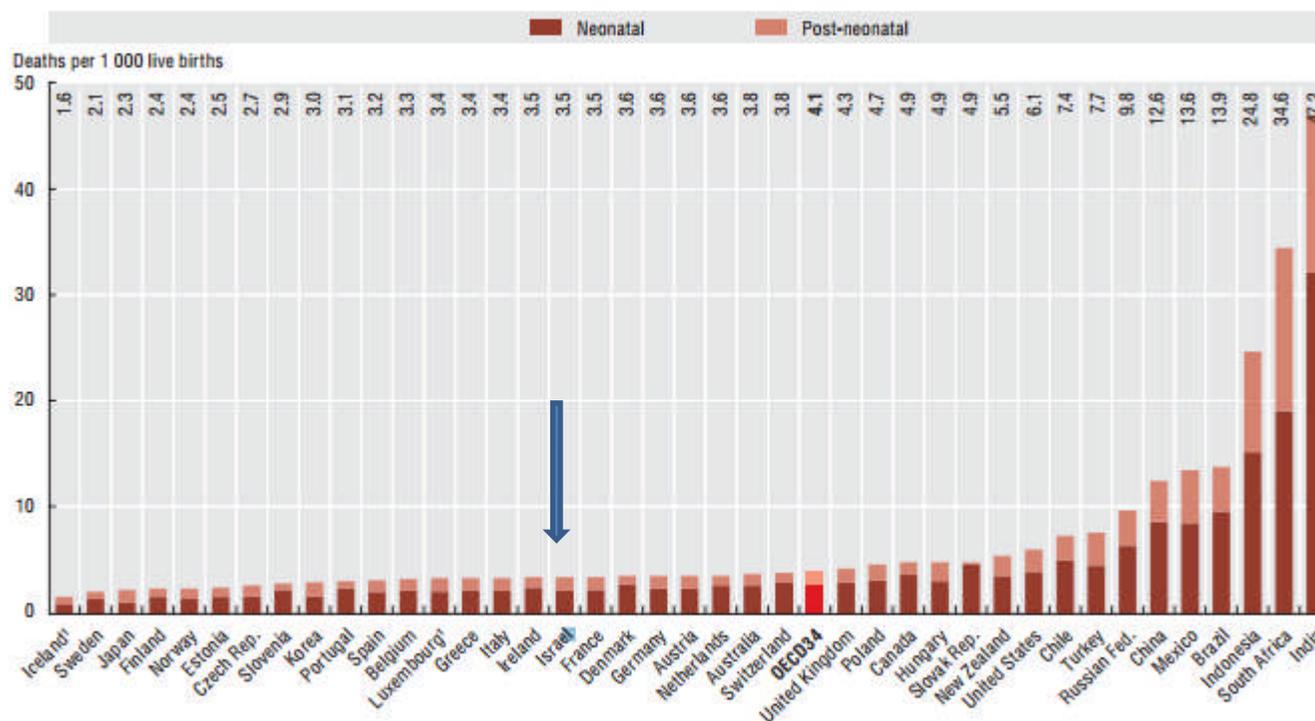
# Life expectancy in Israel and OECD - 2011





# Infant Mortality in Israel and OECD

1.7.1. Infant mortality rates, 2011 (or nearest year)

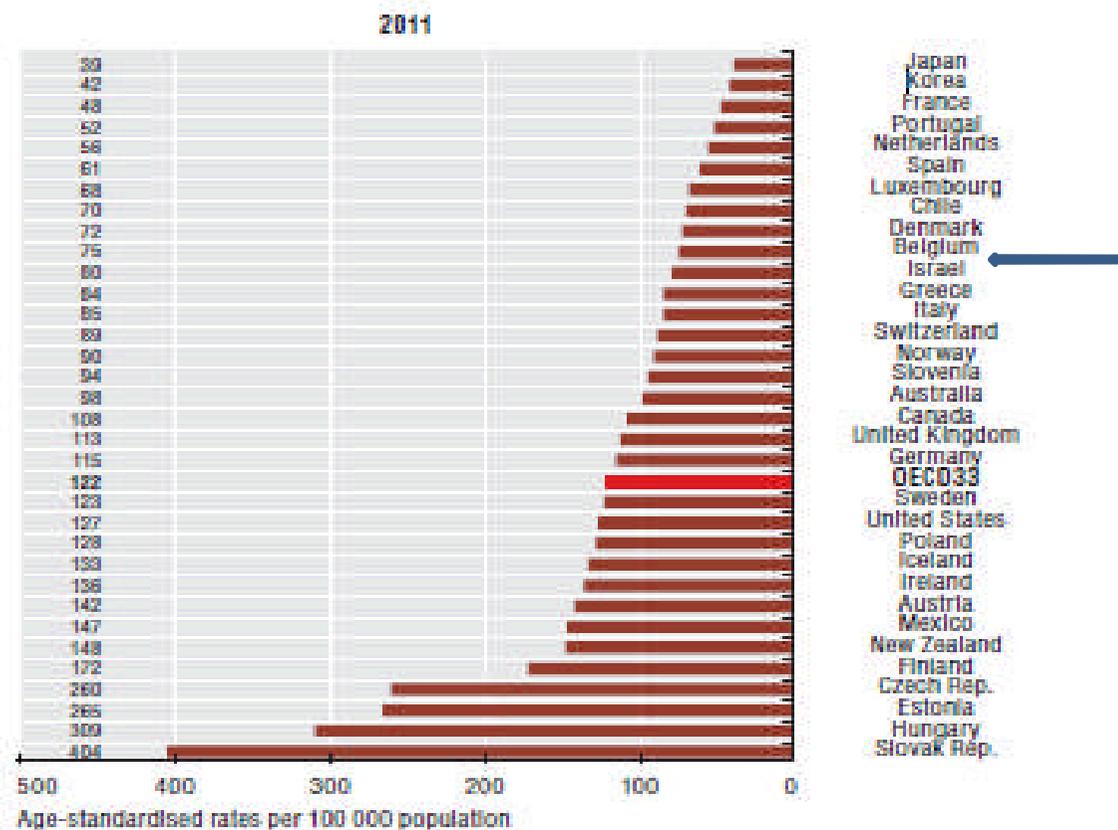


1. Three-year average (2009-11).

Source: OECD Health Statistics 2013, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/health-data-en>; World Bank for non-OECD countries.



# Ischemic heart disease mortality in Israel and OECD - 2011



Source: OECD Health Statistics 2013, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/health-data-en>.



# How do SDOH affect us?

- Israeli health care system is a reflection of the general socio-economic disparities in the country.
- According to an IMA poll in 2011, about 28% of the general population-and 39% of the lower income population- would forego medical care due to their socioeconomic status.
- About 14% of the general population (21% of lower income population) would not purchase medications.
- Risky or unhealthy lifestyle leads to medical problems (e.g. low cost food = high fat)
- Stress as an outcome of security situation causes mental and physical difficulties



# Health inequity in Israel

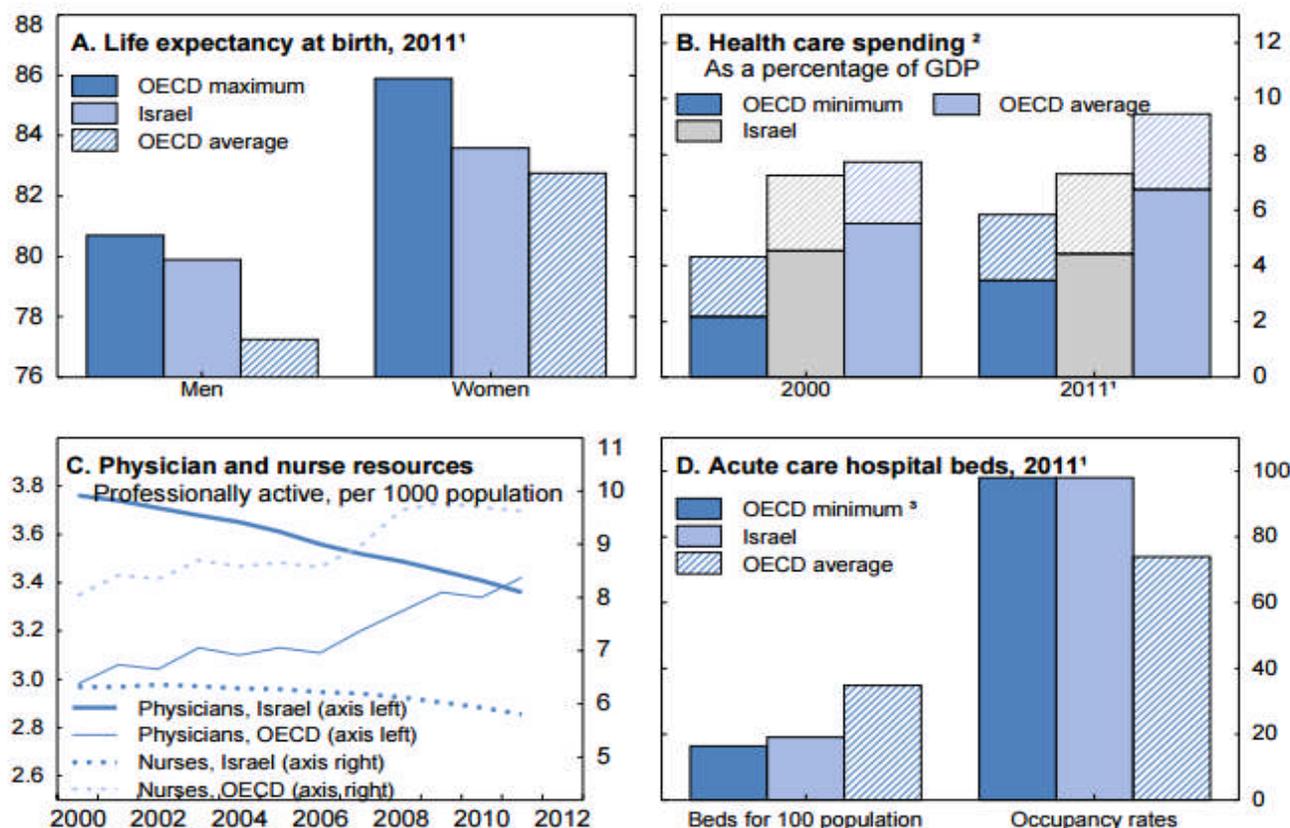
- Unequal distribution of health services , both geographically and according to population
- Long waiting periods, cost & time of travel, lack of services in remote areas (hospitals, doctors, MRIs)
- Cultural differences between physician and patient



# Israel's Health Inequity in Figures

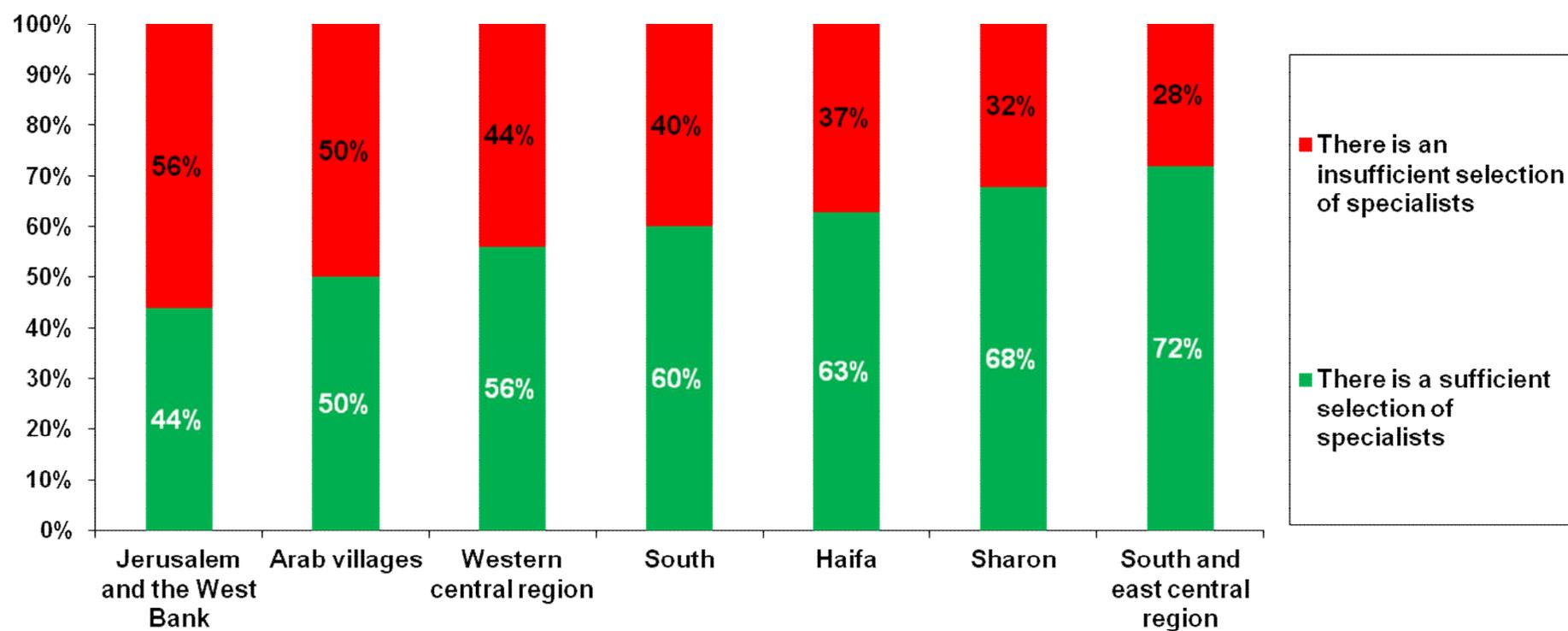
OECD Economic Surveys ISRAEL

DECEMBER 2013





## Are there sufficient specialists in or around your area of residence?





# Role of Medical Associations

- Advocacy
- Cultural competency training
- Policy Development (polls, position papers, media)
- Development of quality indicators
- Promote research and evidence based data
- Collaborate with civil society and governmental bodies
- Promote economic incentives for cultural competency



# Role of Scientific Associations

- Search, identify and examine the link between diseases and socioeconomic factors
- Prepare guidelines and protocols to instruct association members regarding SDOH in a specific field
- Help plan and execute designated intervention programs among weaker communities



# Role of Physicians

- Fighting inequity is an essential part of the medical profession
- Physicians should identify the social & cultural risk factors to which patients and families are exposed and plan clinical activities (diagnostic and treatment) accordingly.
- Focus on preventative medicine (cost-effective) and socially personalized medicine.



# IMA Actions

- Disparities in Health Committee
- IMA conducted surveys showing extreme access gaps between center and periphery in Israel
- Initiated discussion and proposed bills at the Israeli Parliament
- Raised awareness of the general public and politicians during the election period
- Advocated for the planning, together with the government, of a national program to sever the vicious cycle of poverty and illness (currently on hold because of national elections)



# IMA Actions

- The IMA insisted upon including financial incentives in the latest collective bargaining agreement for doctors who choose to work in remote hospitals and clinics and/or in distressed fields of medicine in Israel.
- These incentives were meant to enhance access to health care for weaker communities all over the country.
- As a result, the number of interns in the northern and southern parts of the country significantly increased for the first time in many years.



# Discussion

- How can we make physicians understand their responsibility and embrace their clinical and professional part in raising awareness and deal with SDOH?