



STUDY SUPPORT

ISRAEL





I. GENERAL

GEOGRAPHY

Israel is situated on the Eastern Shore and extends over an area of 21,500 km². Land constitutes 98% of the area, with inland water – the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea – being 2%, the built-up areas are 5.6%, agricultural land 20%, forests and thickets 7.3% and 64% of uncultivated land and deserts. The topography is comprised of a narrow, flat coastline. Other flat areas are found in the Jordan Valley and in the South of the country – in the Arava and Negev desert. The rest of the landscape is mostly mountainous. Israel is enclosed by 857 km of borders, made up of: 194 km of coastline, 520 km of friendly borders (Egypt and Jordan), 170 km of hostile borders in the North (Syria and Lebanon), and approximately 400 km of borders that are yet to be determined (West Bank and Gaza Strip).

The country is divided into six districts and 15 sub-districts – these include, East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights but do not include the West Bank and Judea and Samaria.

Israel and Neighboring States





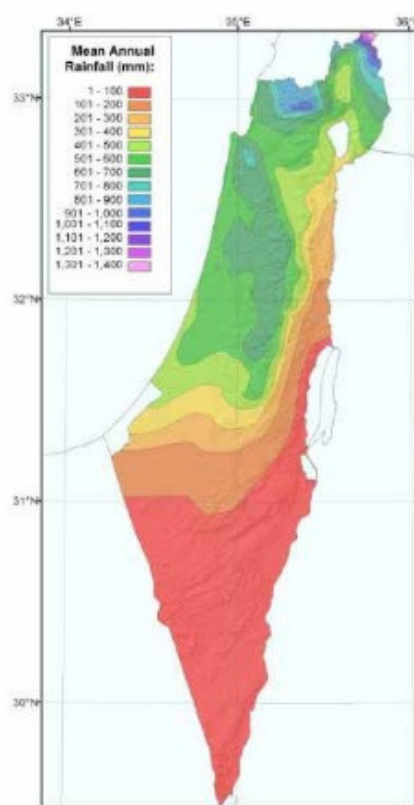
THINK ABOUT IT:

Does Israel belong geographically to the continent of Europe?



CLIMATE

The climate in Israel varies: from a desert climate in the South (Negev and Arava), which is a continuation of the arid Sinai Desert, to the Northern and Western parts which are typically Mediterranean. The climate in Israel is characterized by a dry, hot summer and a cold and rainy winter. The temperatures during the height of the summer months (July / August) can peak at 40 degrees in the South and 30 degrees in the Northern regions, while plummeting to 5 degrees in the North and 15 degrees in the South during mid winter (January / February). The rainy season in Israel stretches from October to May. The average annual rainfall ranges from 670 mm in the North to 22 mm in Eilat. Over the past year, most regions enjoyed 90% of the annual rainfall. The rainy season is rather limited with short but intense episodes of heavy rain with most of the downpour flowing back to the sea. The water that seeps into the ground makes its way to two natural aquifers in the coastal plain and mountainous regions.





<https://atlas.media.mit.edu/en/profile/country/isr/>





DEMOGRAPHY

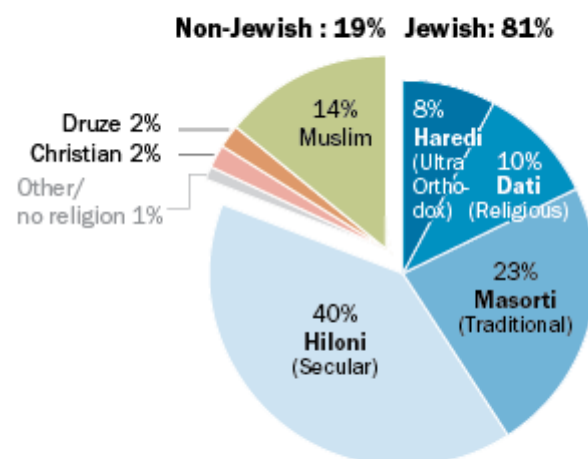
Israel has a population of 8, 628, 600 people: 74% Jews, 20.8% Arabs, 4.5% others. The population growth rate is 2%, with a birth rate of 3.11. The mortality rate is 5.1 and Life expectancy for males is 80.7 while for females it is 84.2.

Immigration: since the establishment of the State of Israel, 3.2 million people have immigrated to Israel, with 42% of them arriving after 1990. In 2016 alone, 26,000 immigrants made "Aliyah" to Israel.

Emigration: Israeli's emigrating abroad total 719 000. In 2016, 8000 people emigrated abroad.

Israel's diverse religious landscape

% of Israeli adults who identify as ...



Source: Survey conducted October 2014-May 2015. A small proportion of Jewish respondents (<0.5%) did not specify their subgroup.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER



LINK:

http://www.cbs.gov.il/reader/cw_usr_view_SHTML?ID=629





DEMOGRAPHY

The Israeli society is divided into two main groups, a Jewish majority of 74% and an Arab minority of 20.8%. The Arab minority is mainly Muslim (85% including Bedouin, and a small minority of Cherkess), 7.5% Christian Arabs and 7.5% Druze. The Jewish majority is mainly made up of immigrants who came to Israel from the beginning of the 1920s. The immigrants initially came from Eastern Europe. After the establishment of the state there were a number of immigration waves from Muslim countries – mainly from Morocco, Yemen and Iraq.

From the 90's many immigrants came to Israel from the former Soviet Union, they are currently the biggest ethnic group of immigrants. In addition, a small group of Jews arrived from Ethiopia.

The level of religiosity varies between the Jewish and Arab population. In the Arab population, the percentage of Arabs who define themselves as secular is 21%. In the Jewish population, people can be divided into groups based on varying degrees of religiosity. Approximately 44% of Jews refer to themselves as secular, 24% as traditional, 23% as religious, while 9% define themselves as Ultra-Orthodox.



LINK:

<http://www.cbs.gov.il/reader/?>

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JEWISH CALENDAR AND HOLIDAYS

In Israel, there are many Holidays that divide into religious holidays, holidays that celebrate historical events of the Jewish people, agricultural holidays and civilian holidays that are connected to the establishment of the country and include memorial days and special ethnic group day celebrations. The Jewish holidays are celebrated according to the Jewish calendar which is a lunar (lunisolar) calendar. The beginning of the Jewish New Year is in Tishrei, the equivalent of September. On the religious holidays like New Year, Yom Kippur, Passover, and Shavuot a public holiday is declared, thus businesses and national institutes are closed and there is no public transport.

The day of rest in Israel is on Saturday – businesses and schools are closed, and there is no public transport. The day of rest begins on Friday evening and ends on Saturday evening – it is traditional on this day to meet with family members, enjoy the beaches and parks in summer and go on short excursions. Every holiday is celebrated with dishes typical to that holiday and big family gatherings are an important part of the tradition.



LINK:

<https://reformjudaism.org/jewish-holidays>



II. HEALTH CARE

HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

The Ministry of Health is responsible for population health and the overall functioning of the health care system (including the regulation of health care insurers and providers). It also owns and operates a large network of maternal and child health centers, about half of the nation's acute-care bed capacity, and about 80 percent of its psychiatric bed capacity. In 1995, Israel passed a national health insurance (NHI) law, which provides for universal coverage. In addition to financing insurance, the government provides financing for the public health service and is active in areas such as the control of communicable diseases, screening, health promotion and education, and environmental health, as well as the direct provision of various other services. It is also actively involved in the financial and quality regulation of key health system actors, including health plans, hospitals, and health care professionals.



THINK ABOUT IT:

What do you think are the benefits and what are the drawbacks of national health insurance?



AVAILABILITY OF HEALTH CARE

Hospital services are available 24 hours a day in Israel. The availability of healthcare services to the community is during public work hours, mornings and afternoons, in accordance with the Hebrew Calendar. Emergency medical services in Israel are provided by the "Magen David Adom" (MDA) organization and by Hatzalah, an emergency ambulance services 24 hours a day.

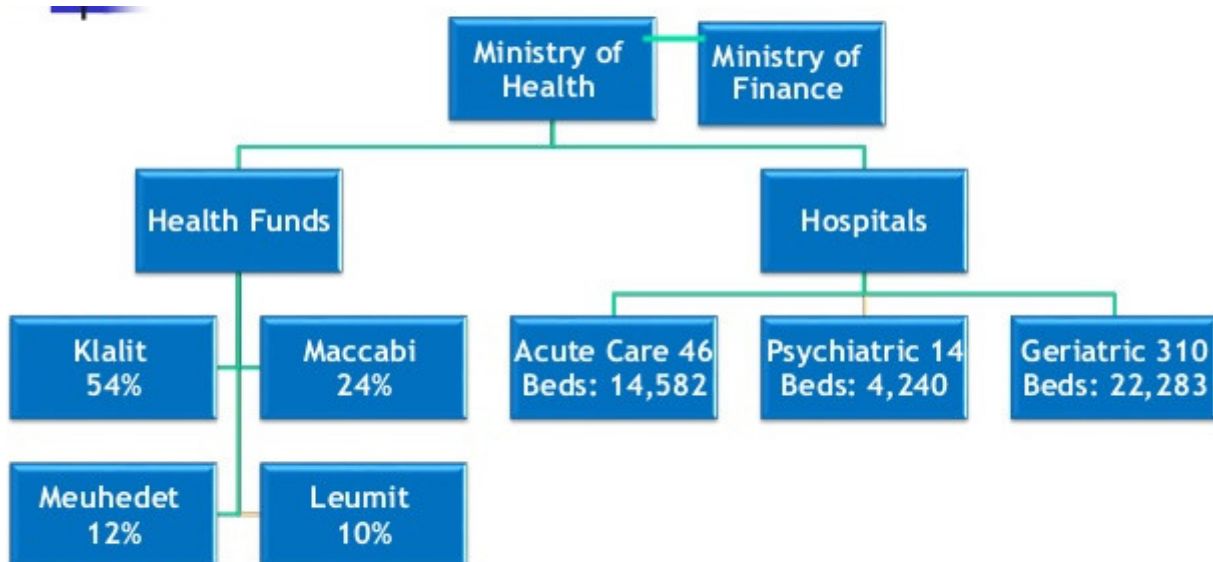
FINANCING SYSTEM

Israel's NHI system automatically covers all citizens and permanent residents (aside from soldiers, who receive health care directly from the army). It is funded primarily through a special income-related health tax in combination with general government revenues, which in turn are funded primarily through progressive income-related sources such as income tax.

Employers are required to enroll any foreign workers (whether documented or undocumented) in private insurance programs, whose range of benefits is similar to that of NHI. Private insurance is also available, on an optional basis, for tourists and business travelers. Nevertheless, there are people living in Israel who do not have health insurance, including undocumented migrants who are not working. Several services are made available to all individuals irrespective of their legal or insured status. These include emergency care, preventive mother and child health services, and treatment of tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and other sexually transmitted infections.



Within the NHI framework, residents can choose among four competing nonprofit health plans. The government distributes the NHI budget among the plans primarily through a capitation formula that takes into account sex, age, and geographic distribution. The health plans are then responsible for ensuring that their members have access to the NHI benefit package, as determined by the government.



LINK:
<http://international.commonwealthfund.org/countries/israel/>



RANGE OF PROVIDED HEALTH CARE

The mandated benefit package includes hospital, primary, and specialty care, prescription drugs, certain preventive services, mental health care, dental care for children, and other services. Dental care for adults, optometry, and home care are generally excluded, although the National Insurance Institute does provide some funding for home care, dependent on need. Limited palliative and hospice services are included in the NHI benefit package as well.

HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

At the end of 2014, there were 85 hospitals in Israel: 44 general hospitals, 12 mental health hospitals, 29 specialized hospitals (geriatric and rehabilitation centers), as well as 278 residential long-term facilities. Only 11 of the general hospitals are government-owned and operated by the Ministry of Health, 9 owned by Clalit, and the rest are private, such as Herzliya Medical Center. Most of the private hospitals in Israel belong to nonprofit or charitable organizations.

Public clinics and pharmacies, along with other medical facilities, are operated by the four Kupot Holim, each of which operates its own chain. Clalit has the largest network of medical facilities, with about 1,400 clinics and 420 pharmacies. Leumit operates 320 clinics and 150 pharmacies. Maccabi operates 150 clinics, 43 pharmacies, and 20 diagnostic and therapeutic centers. Meuhedet operates 250 clinics and 40 pharmacies. In addition, there are hundreds of private clinics and pharmacies, some of which contract with the Kupot Holim to provide services to their members.

LINK:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Healthcare_in_Israel





NURSING CARE SYSTEM

Public Healthcare Regulations Nursing Staff in Clinics and Public Healthcare Regulations Nursing Practitioners in Hospitals details who is licensed to practice nursing. The recognition of the professional status of the nurse is determined by the Ministry of Health based on certain criteria that are updated from time to time and reflect whether a person is fit to work in the field. Graduates in Israel, who have met the demanding requirements of nursing programs are eligible to sit the Government Nursing Examination. The achieving of a passing score is a prerequisite, yet not the only one, in order to register in the Registry of Nurses. Graduates of nursing programs from abroad, are entitled to register in the Registry of Nurses once they have received professional recognition and successfully passed the Government Nursing Examination.

I'M A
NURSE.



WHAT'S YOUR
SUPERPOWER?

LINK:

https://www.health.gov.il/PublicationsFiles/ND_occup_character.pdf





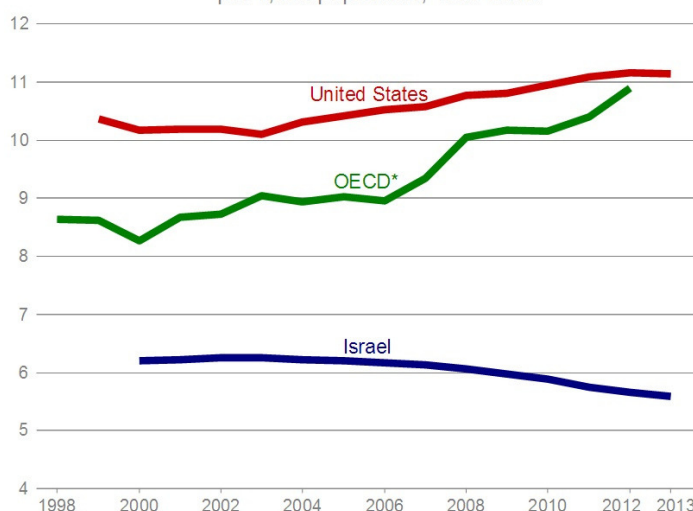
NURSING WORKFORCE

The nursing workforce is a large and essential component of the Health system. In order to ensure the supply of the forecast in manpower, health services and their quality, careful and accurate planning of the nursing labor market is required. The forecast of nursing manpower in Israel is based on the registration of licensed registered nurses in the databases of the Ministry of Health. According to the reports of the Ministry of Health, the ratio of nurses under the age of 60 years old by 2020, in today's conditions, without any intervention, will be 5.15 per 1000 capita, as opposed to the 2010 ratio of 5.3. This estimation is based on the number of new licenses issued every year and on the normative age of retirement. The ratio of nurses under the age of 65 years old is 5.7 per 1000 capita.



Professionally active nurses

per 1,000 population, 1998-2013



* excluding US and Israel

source: Dan Ben-David, Shores Institution and Tel-Aviv University
data: OECD

LINK:

https://www.health.gov.il/PublicationsFiles/ND_occup_character.pdf



NURSING WORKFORCE

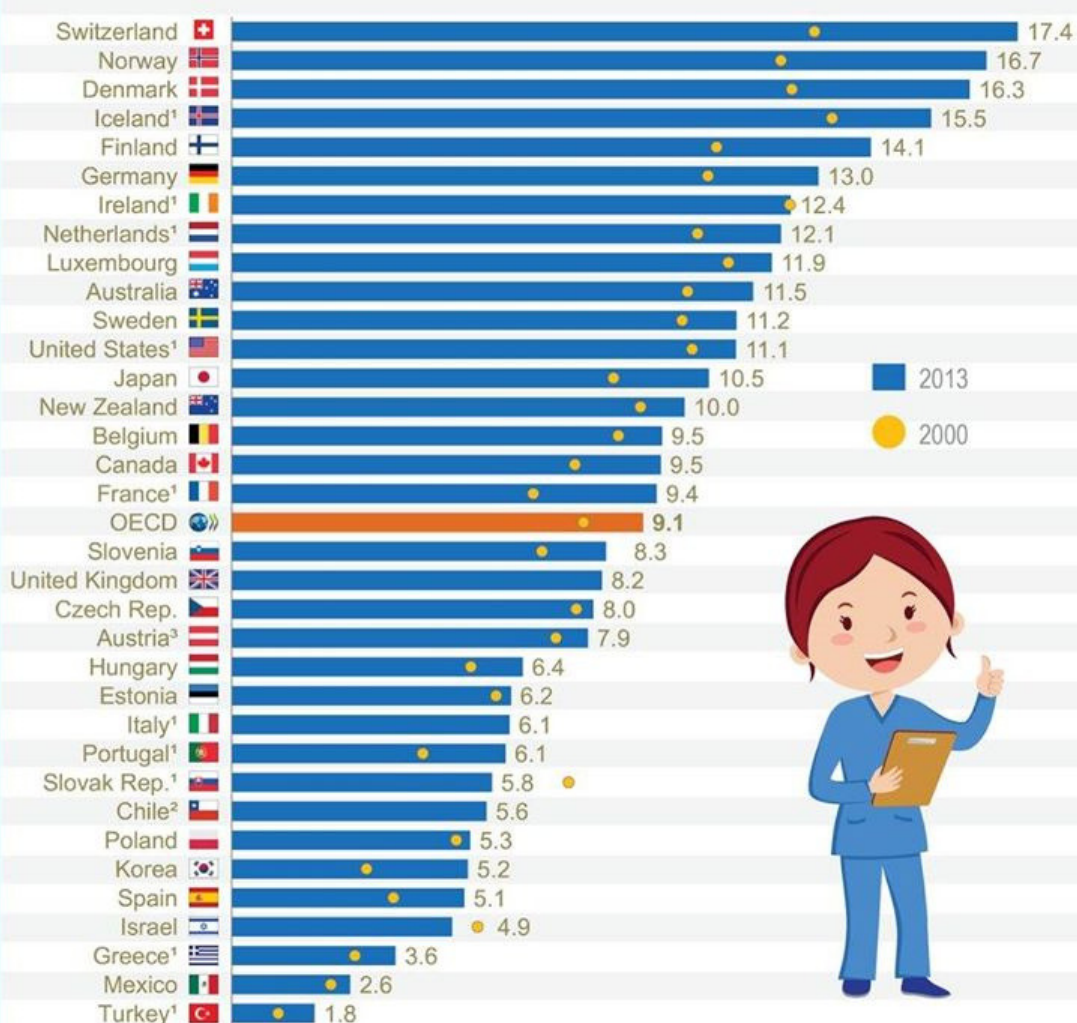


Rising number of nurses in OECD countries

Number of nurses per 1000 population, 2000 and 2013 (or nearest year)

www.oecd.org/health/workforce.htm

Source: OECD



Note: 1. Data include not only nurses providing direct care to patients, but also those working in the health sector as managers, educators, researchers, etc. 2. Data in Chile refer to all nurses who are licensed to practice (less than one-third are professional nurses with a university degree). 3. Austria reports only nurses employed in hospital.

Illustration: Shutterstock

Source: OECD Health Statistics 2015, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/health-data-en>.

OECD

LINK:

https://www.health.gov.il/PublicationsFiles/ND_occup_character.pdf





PREGANCY AND CHILDBIRTH

The State of Israel values pregnancy and childbirth and allocates funding to support these values. Fertility treatment expenses for couples unable to conceive, are covered by the National Health Insurance for the birth of two children. The treatment includes fertility drugs, examinations, fertility procedures by in vitro fertilization and sperm donor fertilization. These fertility treatments are provided, at present, to women who are unmarried or are in a same sex relationship. In 2016, 37,270 cycles of in vitro fertilization were performed. The percentage of live births from these treatment cycles is 18%. The rate of births in Israel is 3.16 children for a Jewish woman and 3.21 children for a Muslim woman. Among the Druze minority, and the Christian Arabs, the rate of births is 2-2.1. Women in Israel give birth in 26 labor wards in hospitals around the country, with the assistance of a licensed midwife who is also a nurse. The presence of a doctor during the birth is not mandatory and depends on the need at the time. Labor is not part of Health Insurance and the financial expenses incurred during the birth and the hospitalization that follows are covered by National Social Security Insurance and not by Public Health Insurance. In 2016, there were 185,970 live births in Israel, which are approximately 15,500 births per month. 29% of the births are first births and 7.7% are 6th birth and above. The percentage of cesarean sections out of the total number of births is 17.9% and assisted deliveries are 7.7%.

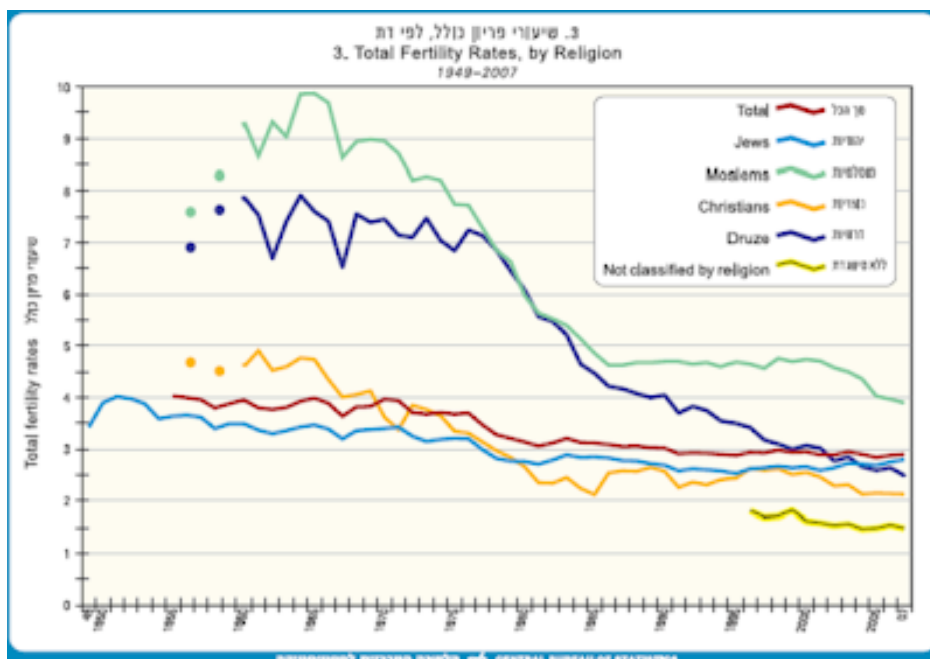
Demographic data - pregnancy and childbirth

ISRAELI POPULATION INCREASE, 2016

	Jews	Arabs	Others	Total
Natural reproduction	98,000	36,600	3,800	138,400
Migration	18,000	1,600	9,000	28,600
Total	116,000	38,200	12,800	167,000

Source: Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics

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THINK ABOUT IT:

Israel is known as a country that encourages birth. In what way does the state express this approach?





HOME CARE

An increase in morbidity and an increase in consumption of services raises the need for developing services in the community. providing home care as an alternative to hospitalization in general and long-term hospitals.

The National Health Insurance Law (1994) states that the health funds must provide their policyholders with a basket of services defined in accordance with the health basket, including those who are at home.

Patients with chronic diseases characterized by frequent changes in their medical condition (diabetes, neurological diseases, heart failure), Patients in complex medical conditions such as respirators, Frail elderly who live alone, with or without a cognitive disability,

All patients suffering from life-threatening diseases are defined as terminal (oncologists or not oncologists). the need or the tasks of the professional care giver are: patient and family education and support, symptom management, coordinating and keeping the continuity of care. Home care in Israel is based on multi-professional teamwork. The team includes doctors, nurses, social workers, physiotherapists, and paramedics.



THINK ABOUT IT:

What benefits does home care provide to the patient, the family, the health care system, And what are the disadvantages?

LINK:

<https://www.health.gov.il/English/Topics/SeniorHealth/Pages/palliativeCare.aspx>





ORGAN DONATION

The organ transplant law includes a chapter dedicated to live organ donors. Currently kidney donations from first-degree relatives is also possible, as well as second-degree relatives, as well as from individuals who can be defined as emotionally attached to the patient. Liver lobe donations are possible from family relatives only. the transplantable organs in Israel today are: Kidneys, lungs, liver (and liver lobes), hearts and pancreas. Transplantable tissues today are: cornea, bones, tendons, joints, and skin and heart valves.



THINK ABOUT IT:

Are you in favor of legislation that will require organ donation after death unless the deceased objected to it in his life and declared his refusal on a formal form of necrosis?

LINK:

https://www.health.gov.il/English/Topics/organ_transplant/Pages/default.aspx

<https://www.adi.gov.il/en/>

