

Realities on the Ground: Jerusalem 2007 – 2025
An AIDRG Update to “Forecast for Jerusalem 2025 and Beyond”
American-Israel Demographic Research Group (AIDRG)
www.aidrg.com

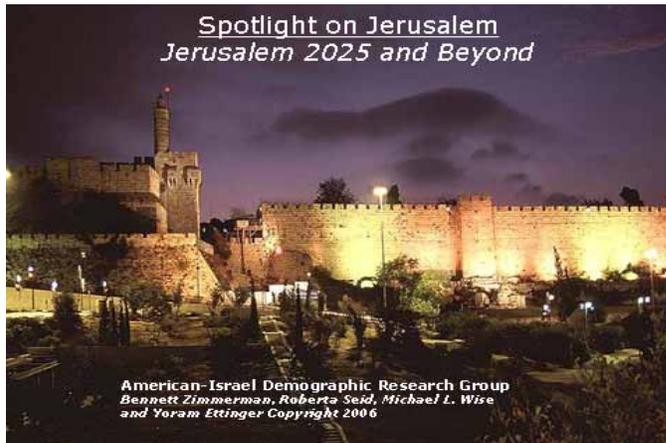


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***The AIDRG’s Summary
Presentation to the Mayor and
other City of Jerusalem
Officials can be found at***

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Realities on the Ground: Jerusalem 2007 - 2025

The American-Israel Demographic Research Group (AIDRG) “Forecast for Jerusalem 2025 and Beyond” shows ongoing Jewish demographic advantage in Metropolitan Jerusalem.

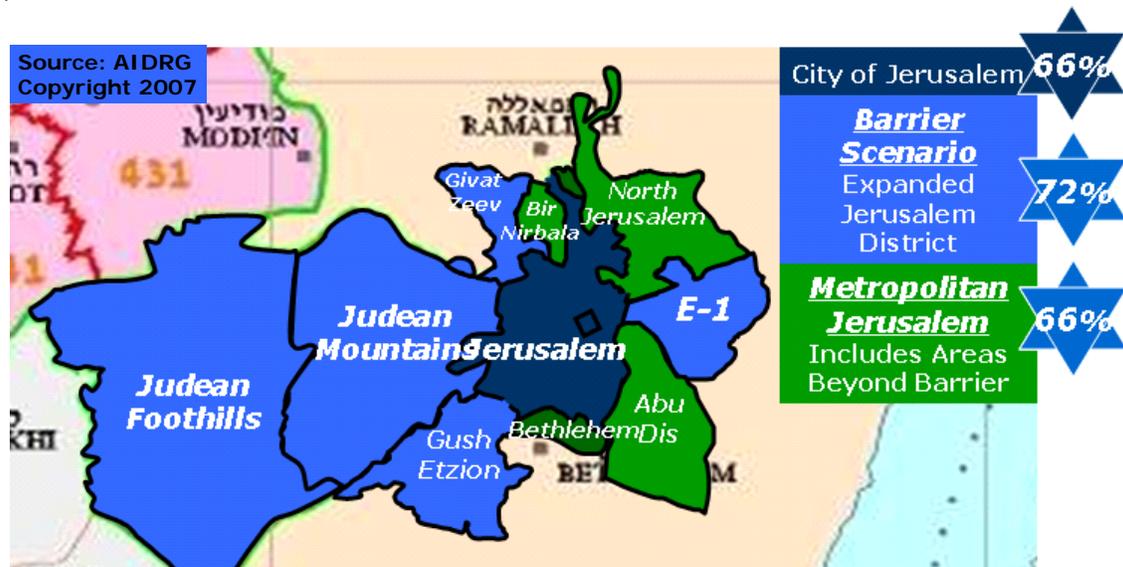
On the verge of demographic victory in Jerusalem, Israel’s demographic barrier backfires as more Arabs converge upon the center of the city than at any time since 1948. In the absence of affordable housing options, a Jewish exodus to the suburbs continues.

By Bennett Zimmerman, Roberta Seid, Michael L. Wise, & Yoram Ettinger
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This week, Israel celebrates Jerusalem Day marking 40 years since Israeli forces captured the eastern sector of Jerusalem. During that time, Israel has built a solid, two-thirds Jewish majority in Jerusalem *and throughout a wide Metropolitan region that surrounds the City.*

Jews are a 66% majority in the City of Jerusalem, a 72% majority in Metropolitan areas *inside* Israel’s separation Barrier – and – a 66% majority inside a wide circular region of Metropolitan Jerusalem that includes and surrounds the Center of Jerusalem *on both sides* of the barrier.

(All Population in Thousands)



2005 Jerusalem Population by Zone								
Major Zones	Jerusalem		Jerusalem		Jerusalem		Jerusalem	
	Western Jerusalem	Eastern Jerusalem	City Only	Western Suburbs	Inside Barrier	Barrier Scenario	Outside Barrier	Metro Area
Area Sectors	Jerusalem	Jerusalem	Jerusalem Only	Suburbs	Barrier	Scenario	Barrier	Area
2005 Population by Zone								
Jews	305	170	475	123	93	691	19	709
Arabs	0	245	245	9	23	276	91	367
Total	305	415	720	132	115	967	109	1,076
% Jews	100%	41%	66%	93%	80%	71%	17%	66%

And Israel can mark another milestone achieved in 2005:

Convergence of Jewish and Arab fertility for first time since 1948

	Jerusalem City Only	Western Suburbs	Inside Barrier	Jerusalem Barrier Scenario	Outside Barrier	Jerusalem Metro Area
2005 Fertility Rates by Zone						
Jews	3.9	4.0	4.7	Combined	4.7	Combined
Arabs	3.9	N/A	4.7-	Rate	4.7-	Rate

For the first time since 1948, Israel has achieved a fertility advantage in Jerusalem. The startling, but often unreported, fact is that in 2005 Jewish and Arab fertility rates were the same 3.9 births per woman. The Jewish fertility rates are even higher in West Bank suburbs where fertility levels have reached 4.7 births/woman, a level higher than Arabs residents in the same area.ⁱ

There is no inherent demographic crisis for Jerusalem’s Jews:

AIDRG ‘Forecast for Jerusalem 2025 and Beyond’ takes statistics from the Israel Central Bureau of Statistics and from the Palestine Central Bureau of Statisticsⁱⁱ for population of Arabs around Jerusalem. The results show conclusively:

Forecast #1: Based on a current natural growth outlook alone (with zero migration) an overwhelming Jewish majority is assured throughout the Jerusalem metropolitan area.

Forecast #2: Based on the current rate of modest aliyah (In 2005, there were 3,100 new Jewish immigrants to the City and another 2,000 to its metro area added to natural growth) the Jewish population will begin to grow its majority in the center of the city and throughout metropolitan Jerusalem.

Forecast #3: Based on sustained current negative internal migration trends, the Jewish position in the City of Jerusalem will slowly erode over several decades.

	Jerusalem City Only	Jerusalem Barrier Scenario	Jerusalem Metro Area
2005 Population by Zone			
% Jews	66%	71%	66%
Current Fertility Forecasts 2025			
Zero Migration	64%	70%	64%
Current Modest Aliyah	67%	73%	67%
Current Migration	59%	69%	64%

Why are Jews, with such strong natural growth characteristics, exiting a mountaintop capital and building housing that is beginning to infringe upon the coastal areas near Tel Aviv?

Jerusalem has a migration crisis exacerbated by recent separation policies:

There exists an affordable housing problem in Jerusalem.

Over 1.4% of Jerusalem's Jewish population, or a net 5,500 persons, left the city in 2005. Most Jews are moving to fast growing suburbs sprouting up around Jerusalem or merging into Israel's Central and Tel Aviv Districts.

And yet Israel has tried to exclude from Jerusalem, large low density zones immediately to the east of the city Center due to fears of the Arab population living in these areas.

Artificial limits on the sale of land in these zones behind a fence have prevented developers from building affordable housing for both Jews and Arabs alike.

	City Only	Western Suburbs	Inside Barrier	Barrier Scenario	Outside Barrier	Jerusalem Metro Area
2005 Migration by Zone						
New Aliyah	3,100	1,300	429	Combined	87	Combined
Internal	(5,500)	1,200	1,286		260	
Emigration	(800)	(200)	(117)	Rates	(24)	Rates
Jews -- Net Migration	(3,200)	2,300	1,598		323	
Arabs -- Net Migration	1,000	100	0		(1,000)	

A Tale of One City: Recognizing the metropolitan nature of Jerusalem as a mixed, cosmopolitan city.

We are often told that Jerusalem is in the midst of a demographic crisis where the city of Jerusalem is being overrun by an “inevitable” Arab population explosion which makes separation of the city imperative. Others claim that separate cities already exist

Jerusalem is a united city, and attempts to separate the city are having a severe impact, especially on the Arab population desperately clinging to the lifeline that is Israel.

Defying economic reality, Arabs with Israeli Identification Cards who in the past sought affordable housing outside of Jerusalem are now streaming back behind the “security” fence into Jerusalem, fearing that they could face cultural, physical, and economic separation.

Officially, 1,000 Arabs migrated to Jerusalem in 2005.

The two opposite migratory movements; Jews leaving and Arabs reentering could slowly erode a 2/3 Jewish majority in the city of Jerusalem.

Voting with their Feet: West Bank Arabs with proper identification are fleeing areas set aside for Palestinian Authority in a mass movement back to Israeli held Jerusalem.

It’s only the tip of the iceberg: The official figures hide a well-known fact in the Jerusalem area.

Many former Arab residents of Jerusalem living outside the city limits have maintained false addresses inside Jerusalem in order to keep their Jerusalem ID cards and associated privileges allowing open entry to Israel, its job market and health and benefits systems.

Since 1967, an estimated 35 - 40,000 Jerusalem Arabs with Israeli IDs had migrated to the West Bank, and over 20 - 25,000 living in outlying neighborhoods of the city now located beyond the current separation fence in addition to the 160,000 persons remaining in the city’s core areas inside the separation fence.

Since 2003, approximately 25 – 30,000 of those ID holders living in the West Bank and 13,000 of those living in neighborhoods at Jerusalem’s periphery have returned to areas inside the fence. These figures do not include illegal Arab immigrants who have entered the city.ⁱⁱⁱ

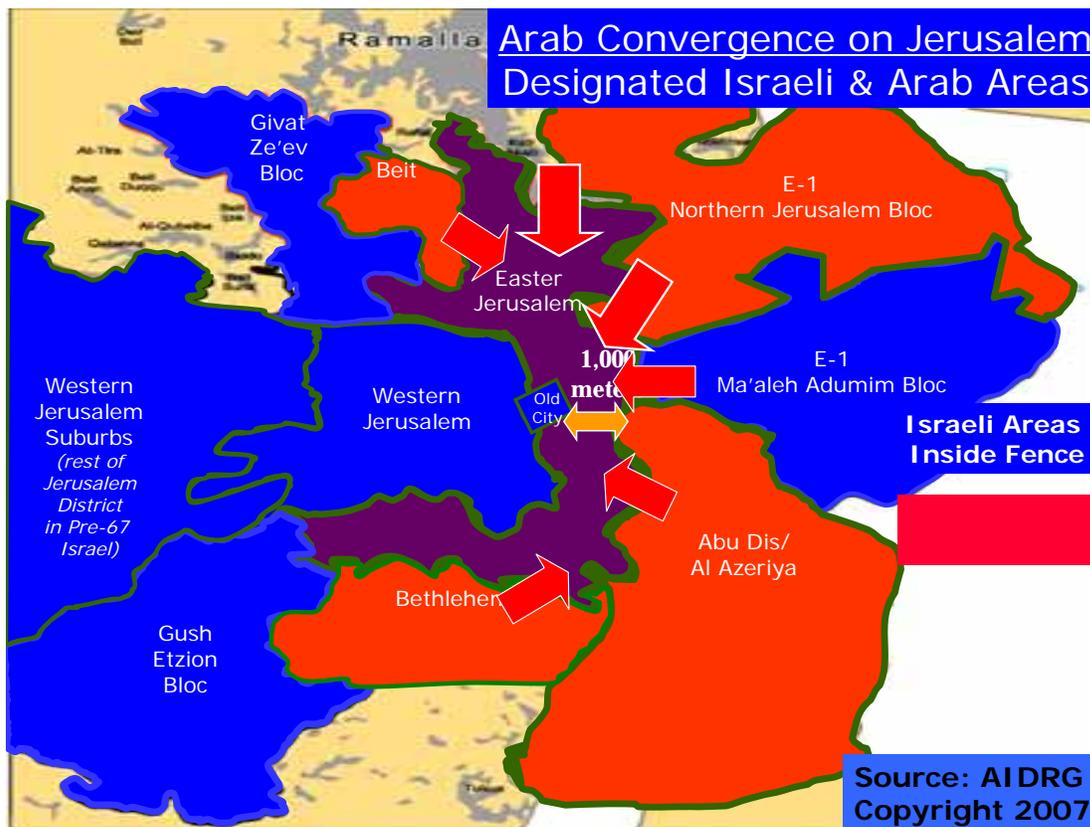
Demographic Swap theories that worked so well on paper brought Israel face to face with the very population the theorist had sought to exclude.

From Israel's point of view, the wall was poorly conceived.

Since 1967, Israel had painstakingly established a 2/3 majority in Jerusalem and its Metropolitan area. The *de facto* Jewish majority was even greater inside the City itself with an almost ¾ Jewish majority in the core areas of the city.

Israel had a population advantage on both sides of the fence as both Arabs and Jews began to flow to residential suburbs outside the city.

Jerusalem's demographic barrier weaves in and out of Jerusalem like rotating petals of a flower in an attempt to crudely remove Arabs areas adjacent to Jerusalem's center, while the barrier retains on Israel's side the areas of eastern Jerusalem that Israel wishes to retain including the coveted Old City.



To date, the direct result of the city's demographic barrier has been a steady erosion of the ¾ Jewish majority on the ground. Prior to the construction of the fence there were 160,000 Arab residents actually residing in areas to be fenced inside the city, and one would have found a *de facto* Jewish majority of 74%, a figure almost identical to the Jewish majority after 1967.

Three years later, the *de facto* Jewish majority has dropped to 70% as East Jerusalem Arabs who lived outside the city and were Jerusalem residents only on paper (*and double counted as residents of the PA*) return to the central city to live. Many are renting in Jewish neighborhoods specifically as a measure to avoid the next demographic swap theory that sends residents once again scrambling.

The ensuing migration of Jews from the city is now a second wave eroding the city's Jewish majority. Any further convergence of the barrier route will encourage Jerusalem Arabs to move to the Israel side of the barrier as Israel withdraws inside barriers. This process will continue until Israel holds the line or gives up its claim on eastern Jerusalem.

On a political level, the separation experiment has placed at risk Israel's hold on Jerusalem for first time since 1967.

Israel cannot assess demography from an Internal Perspective alone.



From an Arab point of view, By cutting off and defining Arab areas that Israel does not wish to hold, Israel has divided "Arab East Jerusalem" in three parts separated by a cement wall while the coveted areas of eastern Jerusalem including the Old City are the only natural land bridge between "Arab" areas excluded outside the fence. If those sections were united into a single city, the Arabs would have a 75% Arab majority today!

While Israel's 2/3 hold on the entire area (*all petals surrounding the core*) was strong, it's abdication of key approach zones to the city eventually

will strengthen the Arab ability to mount a political threat from areas outside and adjacent to Israeli-held sections of Jerusalem. The demand for all of Eastern Jerusalem will be difficult to oppose because it will connect the municipal sections and make a separate city viable. Indeed, given the proximity to the center, an Arab Authority could create a majority around the center of the city and mount a claim for the *whole* city. Today Israel holds that strong majority claim and should not abrogate its opportunity to manage the entire unified city.

The demographic fence leaves the center of the city wide open to claims from Abu Dis only 1 kilometer away. The demographic majority that Jews have held

since 1860 and the de facto political control gained in 1967 is now being abdicated with barely a discussion.

Israel must consider the External Perspective and the ability of rivals to mount a political threat against Israel from either side of its borders, either now or in the future.

Jerusalem's self-inflicted demographic crisis

The current Jerusalem demographic separation theory emanates from theorists in Israel whose separation policies have blinders and rely on only one possible demographic scenario. They invariably forecast an inevitable minority status for the country's Jewish population.

A JIIS forecast led by Hebrew University Demography Professor Sergio Della Pergola sought headlines by trumpeting an Arab growth rate of 3.2% versus a Jewish growth rate of 1.3%.

Using the same information as JIIS, the AIDRG provides a fuller analysis of the 2005 Population Growth Rate for Jews and for Arabs in the City of Jerusalem.		
	<i>Population Growth Rate by Component By Component</i>	<i>Without Impact of Internal Migration</i>
Arabs in Jerusalem		
<i>Birth Rate</i>	3.10%	3.10%
<i>Less Death Rate</i>	-0.30%	-0.30%
<i>Plus Migration Rate</i>	<u>0.40%</u>	<u>0.00%</u>
Population Growth Rate	3.20%	2.80%
Jews in Jerusalem		
<i>Birth Rate</i>	2.50%	2.50%
<i>Less Death Rate</i>	-0.50%	-0.50%
<i>Plus New Aliyah</i>	0.70%	0.70%
<i>Less Net Emigration</i>	<u>-1.40%</u>	<u>0.00%</u>
Population Growth Rate	1.30%	2.70%

The headline does not tell the story of a remarkable recent convergence of fertility in Jerusalem. It fails to explain the overriding importance of Arab migration and Jewish emigration which has the potential to upset the Jewish majority in Jerusalem. As the Arab population begins to age, a pickup in death rates and a drop in birth rates will occur even with the same fertility levels in both communities. ^{iv}

Perhaps the convergence was not highlighted because the same demographic voice claimed in January 2005 that there would never be convergence of Jewish and Arab fertility. Of course, as those pronouncements were being made the data showing that convergence was happening was already being recorded.

In a remarkable reversal of cause and effect, further demographic swap recommendations are being made as the only possible solution to demographic issues at the same time that reports on recent migration activity caused by the demographic barrier are not being examined. Perhaps because they would prove that the demographic barrier is creating the very crises it sought to avoid.

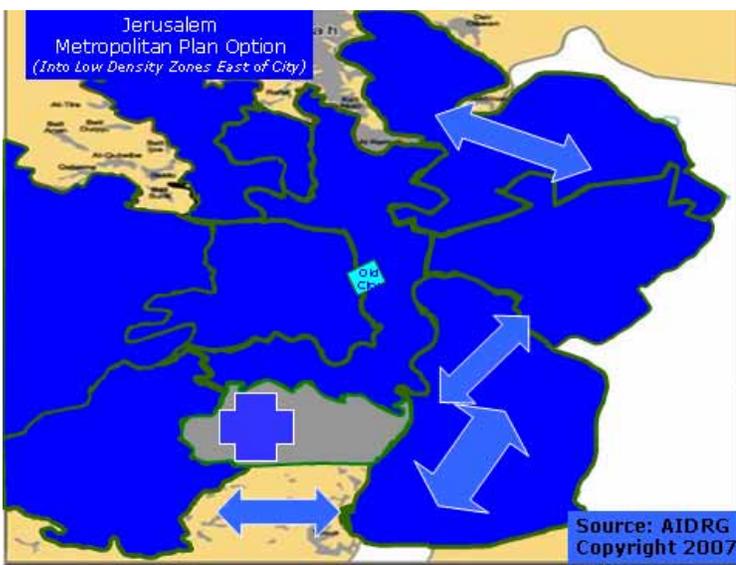
As interested parties to a particular solution, responsible practice dictates that there needs to be a neutral demographic impact report given the fact that Jerusalem leading demographic voice is clearly a protagonist in the debate.

Narrow demographic information and limited debate has stifled analysis of Israel's options and inhibits non-demographic experts and professionals. Knowledgeable people, including those within JIIS, such as Maya Choshen and David Kimche who have drawn up multiple plans and scenarios for solving Jerusalem's challenges, need a broader demographic perspective in order to provide a comprehensive appraisal of sensible strategies.

A Metropolitan Plan for Jerusalem

One such plan mapped out by JIIS professionals is known as the Metropolitan Alternative, a scenario that closely resembles the territorial zones used by the AIDRG to conduct its Metropolitan Scenario forecasts.^v

Israel deployed its first version of the Metropolitan solution in 1967 to the eastern sector when Jerusalem was a much smaller city. It provided the framework for the greatest growth in the city's history. The reality is that Jerusalem again, like other beltway cities in the world, is more than its official boundaries. Jerusalem was managed since 1967 as a unified and open city. And while there are legitimate claims for better service, the overriding reality is that all Jewish, Christian, and Muslim inhabitants participate in the economic and social benefits accruing from Israel's central management of the City. Economic growth attracted Jewish and Arab immigration and made Jerusalem Israel's largest city.



Today, its Arab residents are clinging to Israeli Jerusalem to avoid being forced to live in a non-existent theoretical second city.

In the past, Israeli professionals in Jerusalem concluded that the city would be run most efficiently as a unified whole with options for

boroughs and local zoning laws appropriate for the mosaic pattern of Jerusalem. Jewish and Arab areas, religious and secular communities, and highly mixed zones require open movement for the still relatively small city to succeed.

A cosmopolitan expansion to the east of the city would open a huge land resource required for a strangled housing market and the development of Jerusalem specific industries. The large population living near the core of the city can work and prosper beyond the current municipal boundaries.

In the Metropolitan management system, national issues were to be addressed through a matrix system of passports that recognized Arabs joining Israel as citizens, Arabs maintaining foreign passports whether they be Jordanian or Palestinians, would maintain a Jerusalem residency that allowed a split in national identity but also allowed prosperity in a unified Jerusalem.

In 1967, Israel included 80,000 Arabs into this unified city management approach.

In 2007, strong Jewish natural growth and momentum allows Israel to integrate 90,000 Arabs living in the areas outside of the current separation barrier without sacrificing its 2/3 Jewish population of the area.

Solving Jerusalem first with solutions that are land-based and not games of “Chute and Ladders” should be a high national priority. The demographic stability in Metropolitan Jerusalem puts Israel in a strong position to lead a peace process emanating from Jerusalem.

The AIDRG’s original demographic presentation “Forecast for Jerusalem 2025 and Beyond”, includes multiple demographic projections for a wide range of fertility and migration scenarios for both Jews and Arabs, can be found at www.aidrg.com

The American-Israel Demographic Research Group (AIDRG)

The American-Demographic Research Group (AIDRG) is led by Bennett Zimmerman, Roberta Seid, Michael L. Wise, and Yoram Ettinger. They are authors of *Arab Population in the West Bank and Gaza: The Million Person Gap*, recently published by the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies in Israel. Their report *Forecast for Israel and West Bank 2025* debuted at the 6th Herzliya Policy Conference in Israel and in the USA at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington. The studies can be found at www.aidrg.com

ⁱ For the benefit of the doubt, The AIDRG ran a number of Fertility Forecasts extending 2005 fertility rates through 2025. Arab fertility rates were held to match Jewish rates in the suburbs to allay any doubts about the stability of the natural growth characteristics of Jews in the Jerusalem region. The AIDRG confirmed high but declining West Bank fertility rates of 5.0 births/woman with a significantly lower rate in the Jerusalem area.

ⁱⁱ Note, the AIDRG published a Begin-Sadat report, “The Million Person Gap”, which documents how the PCBS included hundreds of thousands of overseas residents, estimated their offspring,

and included mass immigration assumptions and never removing any emigration). The Jerusalem forecast takes the exaggerated PCBS figures at face value to illustrate the full capacity of Jewish demographic strength in Jerusalem.

ⁱⁱⁱ The AIDRG presents this first formal estimate based on extensive interviews of former Jerusalem City officials, Arab residents in Jerusalem adjacent communities, and organizations tracking building and rental activity in Arab neighborhoods. The existence of the phenomenon has been acknowledged by Jerusalem leaders, Israel's Interior Ministry and by groups such as the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies (JIIS) with no previous systematic quantification of the phenomenon.

^{iv} Furthermore, the current Arab population does not have a large number of older persons thereby reducing the death rate and augments the birth rate compared against the Jewish population which still has a significant older population.

As the Arab population begins to age they will experience death rates comparable to the Jewish population which is becoming younger with increased demographic momentum.

Similar Jewish and Arab fertility in the City, the higher Jewish fertility in the suburbs, and small-scale aliyah all serve to stabilize and show prospects for strong Jewish growth.

Additional AIDRG scenarios show strong Jewish growth in any scenario with convergence of Arab population around Jerusalem to Israeli Arab norms.

Israeli Arab fertility is now 3.6 births/female. In the North, where over half of Israel's Arab population lives, Arab fertility has fallen to 3.0 births/female. Overall high Arab fertility is supported by Jerusalem Arabs, with rapidly declining fertility, and by Bedouin in the Northern Negev. These two societies live astride or outside of Israel's modern Arab community.

^v The AIDRG considered a full set of scenarios: Jerusalem City, the Barrier Scenario, the Metropolitan Alternative, Jordan Valley Extensions with and without Jericho, scenarios with Arab communities south of Route 443 and various proposals including Hebron all the way to Eli in its "Forecast for Jerusalem 2025 and Beyond". Each geographic scenario includes multiple fertility and migration assumptions to allow the reader to use the forecasts as a tool to consider multiple outcomes.