

## Plan of Talk

- Overview of Israel
- Higher Education in Israel
- Access and Opportunity
- I-HOPE: Israel Higher Education Opportunity Project

2

I-HOPE



## Higher Education in Israel: Access and Opportunity

**Sigal Alon**  
Tel Aviv University

## Israel's Population, 2008

<b>Total Population</b>	7,303,000
Jews	76%
Thereof:	
Israel	33%
Asia-Africa	28%
America-Europe	39%
Arabs	20%
Thereof:	
Muslims	83%
Christians	9%
Druze	8%
Others	4%

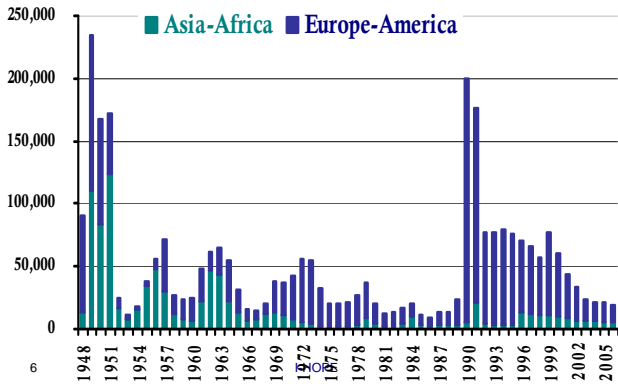
4

I-HOPE



## Overview of Israel

## The Composition of Immigration Waves



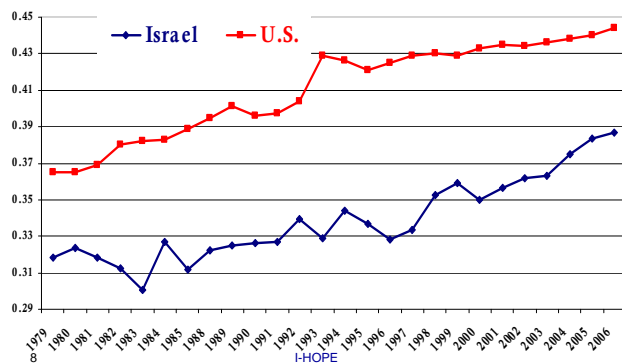
## An Immigrants Society

- Founded in 1948, with 630,000 Jews
- In 1800, 7,000 Jews
- In 1914, 85,000 Jews
- In 1936, 370,000 Jews

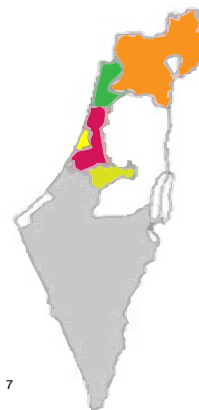
5

I-HOPE

## Level of Inequality Gini Index, by net income per families



## Geographical Segregation

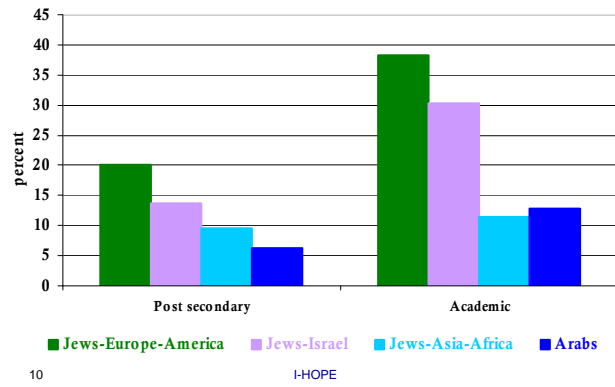


District	Jews %	Arabs %	Total %
Northern	9.8	45.2	17
Haifa	11.5	14.5	12
Jerusalem	11	18.4	12
Central	27.4	9.7	24
Tel-Aviv	21	1.2	17
Southern	14.7	10.9	14

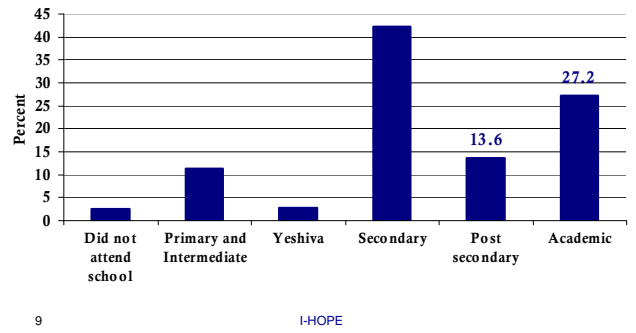
7

I-HOPE

Educational Attainment, by Ethnicity, 2007



Educational Attainment, 2007



### The Postsecondary System

#### Israel

- Centralized
- Supervised by the Council for Higher Education (CHE)
- Public
  - After expansion: few private colleges, regulated by the CHE

#### US

- State control - indirect and modest
- Strong private sector
  - predates the public sector



### Higher Education in Israel

## General Characteristics (2)

### Israel

- HS grad apply to majors (one/two)
- Professional edu - undergraduate level
- Mechanistic admission decision
  - Formulaic selection process
  - Grades and test scores

### US

- HS grad apply to inst.
- Professional edu - graduate level
- Mechanistic admission decision at large inst.
- Holistic at small inst
  - multidimensionality of the admissions criteria at elite US institutions

14

I-HOPE

## General Characteristics

### Israel

- BA: 3 years
- Low, standardized tuition (~\$2,600)
- No state FA
- Older students: life course (median age ~25)

### US

- BA: 4 years
- Varied tuition
- Federal FA

13

I-HOPE

## Expansion in 1995

### 1994

- Total **26** inst
- **7** research universities
- **8** academic colleges non-research degree-granting (not comm coll)
- **10** specialized institutions and teacher training colleges

### 2005

- Total **84** inst
- **7** research universities
- **26** academic colleges non-research degree-granting (not comm coll)
- **26** teacher training colleges, specialized institutions, branches of foreign universities

16

I-HOPE

## Israeli Universities

- 6 research universities
- 1 research inst
- Selective

### Rank of Israeli universities

*Times ranking 2008*

HEB 93 (humanities 41; soc 49) (est. 1925)

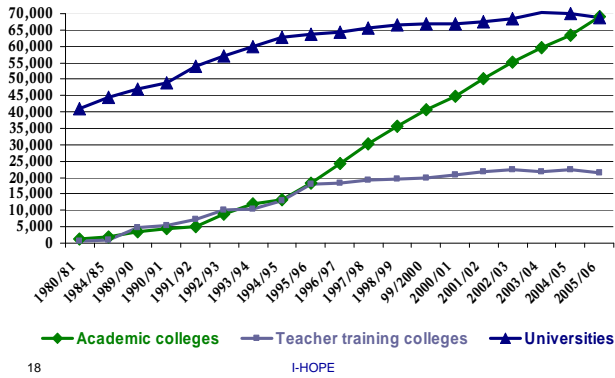
TEC 109 (engineering 29) (est. 1924)

TAU 114 (humanities 80; soc 56) (est. 1956)

15

I-HOPE

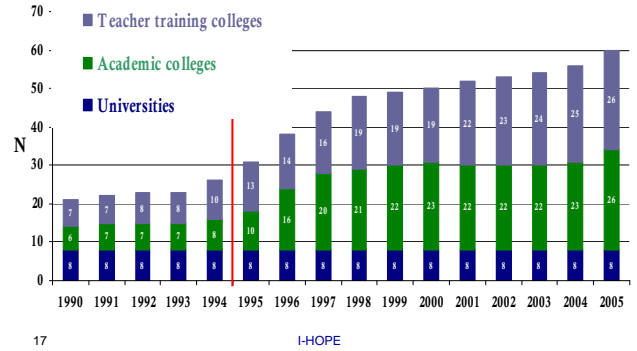
### Undergraduate Students by Type of Inst.



18

I-HOPE

### The Expansion of Israel's PSE System N of Institutions



17

I-HOPE

### Application and Admission

#### Israel

- Admission cutoff point is major-specific
- Within each institution there are more and less selective departments
  - Supply and demand

#### US

- Admission cutoff point is institutional-specific
- Between institution differences in selectivity

20

I-HOPE

### Admission Criteria

#### Research Universities

Composite score based on:

- ✓ **Grades** – **Advanced** HS matriculation diploma (similar to AP grades)
- ✓ **Psychometric test score** – similar to SAT
- ★ Some departments have additional requirements

#### Academic Colleges

- ✓ **Grades** – **Regular** HS matriculation diploma

19

I-HOPE

### Challenge: Declining government commitment

- Despite massive expansion - stagnation in government support (privatization?)
- Universities face financial constraints
- Tuition rise ?
- Change in financial aid policy ?
  - a new loan program with income-contingent repayment, following the Australian model

22

I-HOPE

### Stratification in Kind

#### Israel

- Within-inst diff in
  - Selectivity: majors
- Small between-inst diff
  - Selectivity
  - Tuition (Private/public)

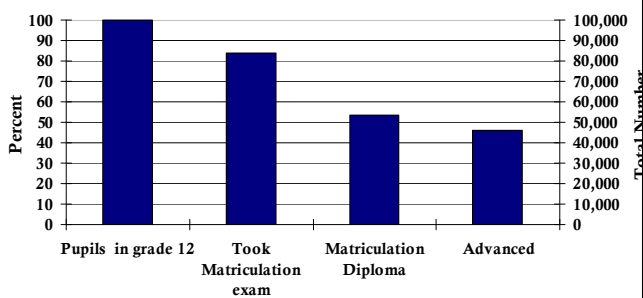
#### US

- Large between-inst diff
  - 2 vs. 4-yr (type of degree)
  - Selectivity
  - Tuition
  - Private/public

21

I-HOPE

### Matriculation Diploma: The College Pipeline, 2006



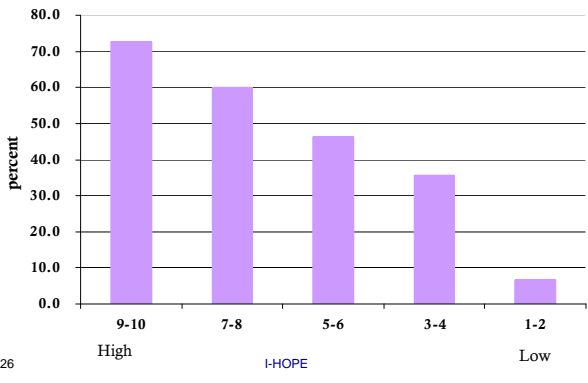
24

I-HOPE



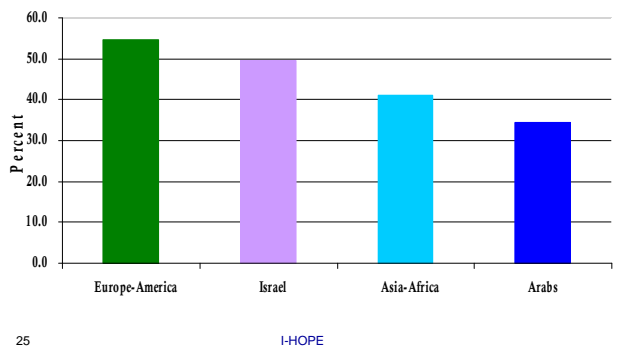
Access and Opportunity  
matriculation diploma and test scores

Share of HS graduates with Advanced Matriculation, by SES of Locality of Residence, 2006 (Jewish pop)



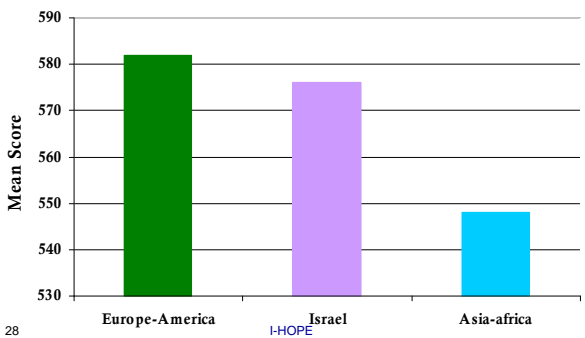
26

Share of HS graduates with Advanced Matriculation, by Origin, 2006



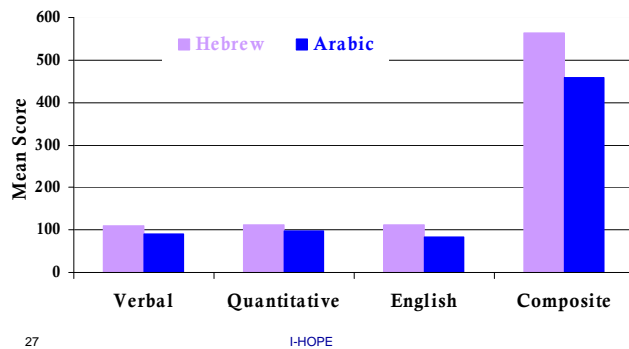
25

Test Scores, by Ethnicity, 2007 (Hebrew version only)



28

Test Scores, by Subsections and Language of the Test, 2007

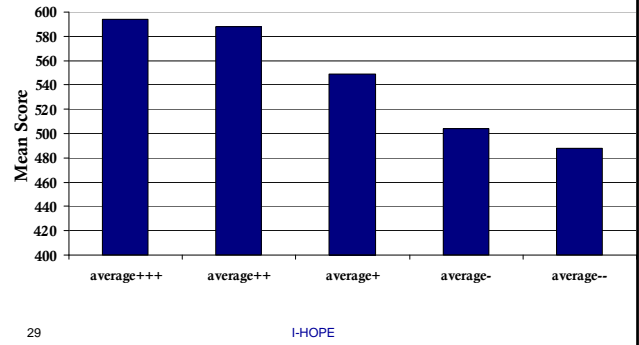


27

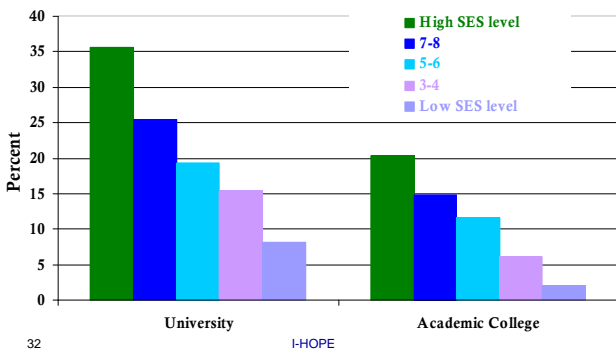


## Diversity in PSE

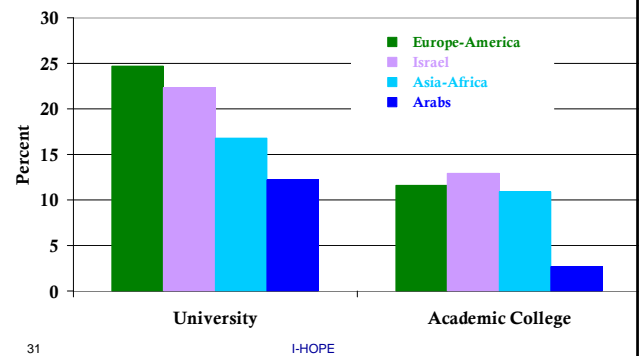
### Test Scores, by Economic Status, 2007



### Share HS Graduates pursuing PSE, 1998 by SES of Locality of Residence and Type of Inst.



### Share HS Graduates pursuing PSE, 1998 by Origin and Type of Inst.





### Challenge: Inequality of Educational Opportunity

- Continuing stratification despite expansion
- Public pressure on the universities to expand accessibility of disadvantaged populations
- Integrate between excellence and equality of educational opportunity

33

I-HOPE

### The AA Plan

- Uniform application
- Centrally examined by a nonprofit organization
- One scale for socioeconomic disadvantage (0-100)
  - place of residency
  - parental SES
  - family size
  - student's adverse circumstances (orphan, disability, immigrant, divorce, single parent, death of sibling)
  - parents' adverse circumstances (disability, divorce, chronic illness)

36

I-HOPE

### Background of the Project

- Since 2004, five Israeli universities have incorporated a comprehensive and standardized program of class-based AA in their admissions practices
- Applicants with borderline academic achievements who are found to be socioeconomically eligible receive an edge in admission
- Edge: 0.5 standard deviations below the cutoff point (major-specific)

35

I-HOPE

## The Uniqueness of The Plan

- Class-based AA
- A natural experimental design
  - pre- and post-AA periods
- Standardized
- Clear identification of affirmative admits
- Mechanistic admission
- Capture the non-pecuniary effect of affirmative action policy
- Causal Inference: the magnitude of the AA plan on EEO and diversity

38

I-HOPE

## Guidelines

- Each department has discretion as to whether or not they will admit an eligible applicant, as long as the share of affirmative admits in each department does not exceed 5 percent of the department's entering class
- No floor but a ceiling to the number of affirmative admits

37

I-HOPE



Preliminary Findings  
TAU

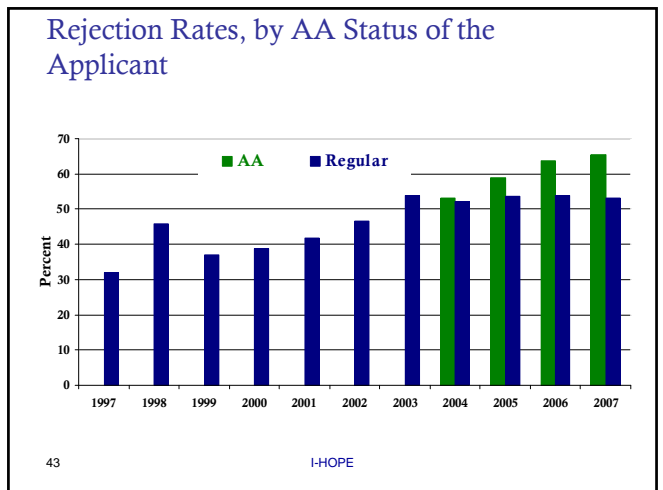
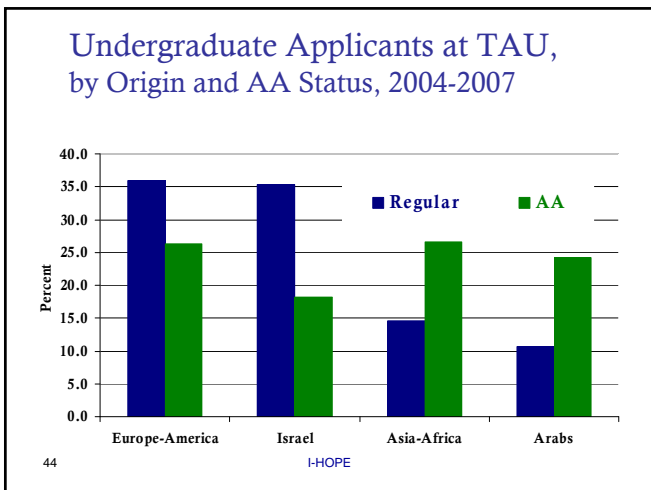
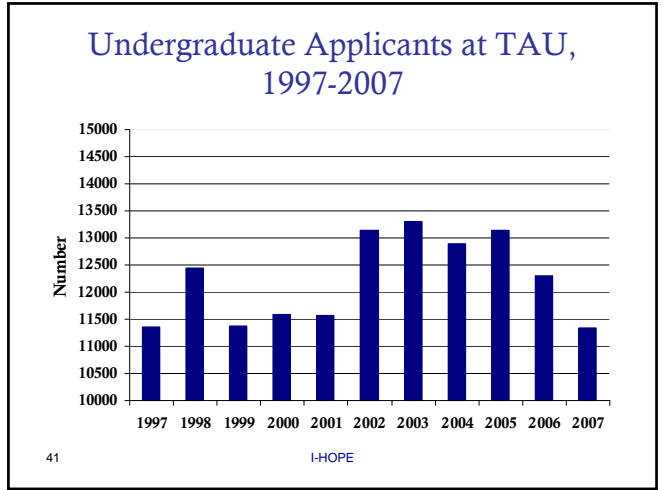
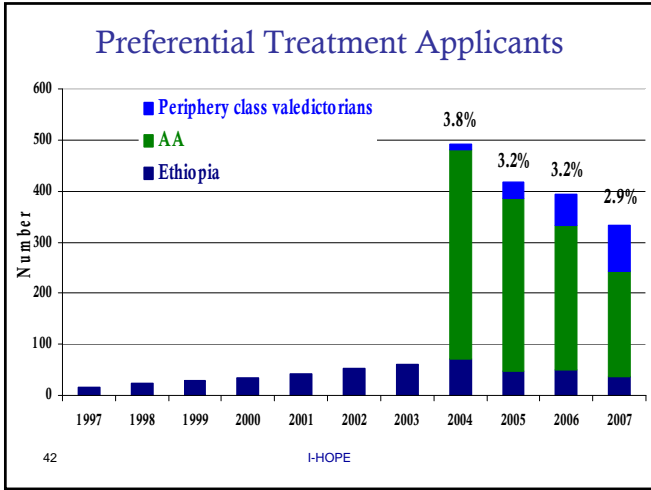
Undergraduate applicants

## Design

- Institutional administrative data on applicants, admits, and matriculants, from five research universities
- Data for an 12 years period (1997-2008), including pre and post-initiative years

39

I-HOPE



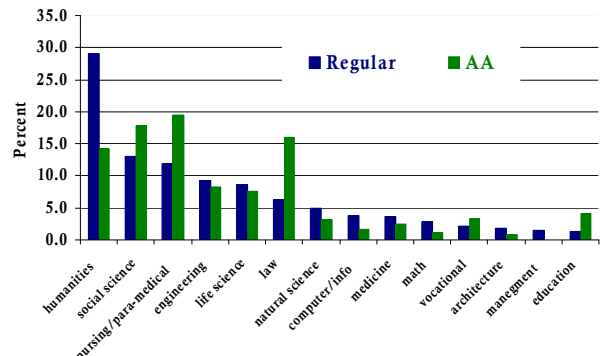
### Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Applicants, by AA Status, 2004-2007

	Regular	AA
Female	55.6%	61.8%
Arabic HS	11.2%	25.1%
Father not in Labor Force	6.5%	15.6%
Father deceased	1.7%	6.0%
Mother not in Labor Force	16.9%	32.8%
Mother deceased	0.6%	1.8%
N Siblings	1.96 (1.5)	2.77 (2.2)

46

I-HOPE

### Students, by First Choice Major and AA status, 2004-2007



45

I-HOPE



**Thank You!**

### Educational Characteristics of Applicants, by AA Status, 2004-2007

	Regular	AA
Preparatory studies	6.8%	23.1%
Matriculation score	101.2 (8.1)	99.5 (8.5)
Psychometric score	631.1 (87.6)	593.4 (86.4)
Composite score	618.6 (74.4)	587.4 (76.4)
Financial Aid	3.4%	13.7%
Grant's amount	5,004 (2228)	6,737 (2679)
<b>Final GPA</b>	<b>86.7 (5.0)</b>	<b>84.0 (4.4)</b>

47

I-HOPE