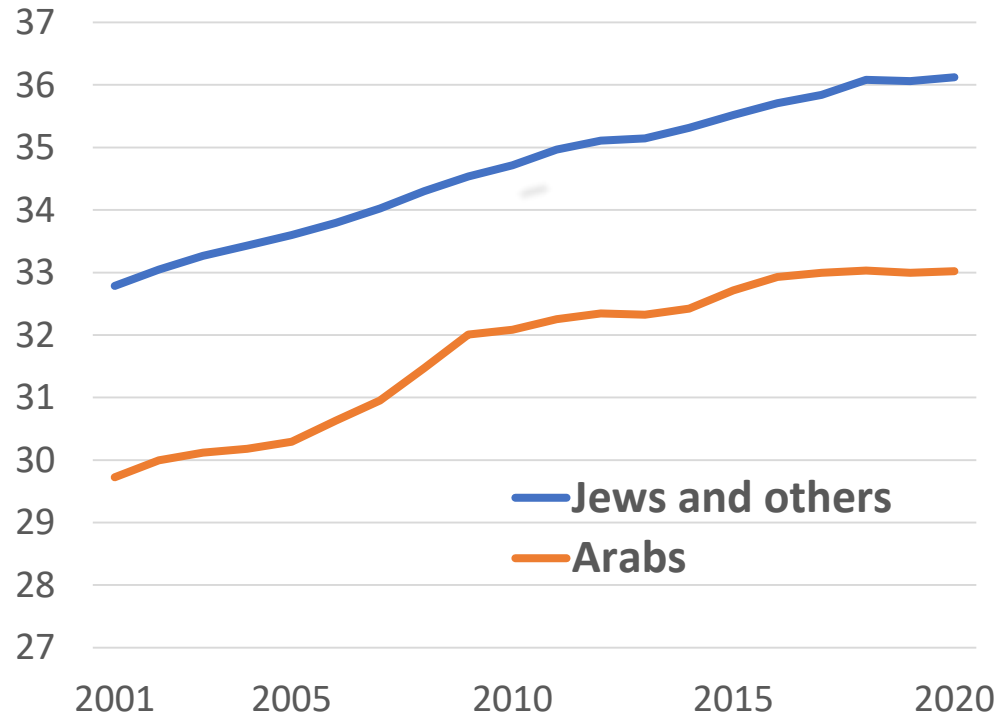


Spatial and ethno-national health  
inequalities: Morbidity and mortality gaps  
between Palestinians and Jews in Israel

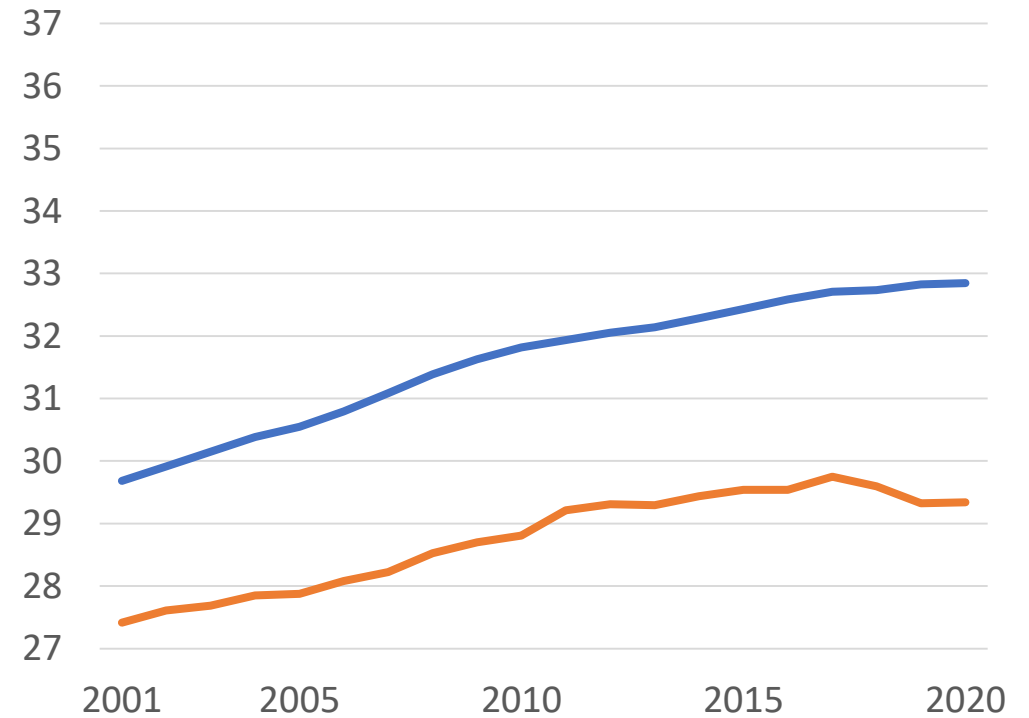
Ameed Saabneh, University of Haifa

# Life expectancy at age 50, 2001-2020

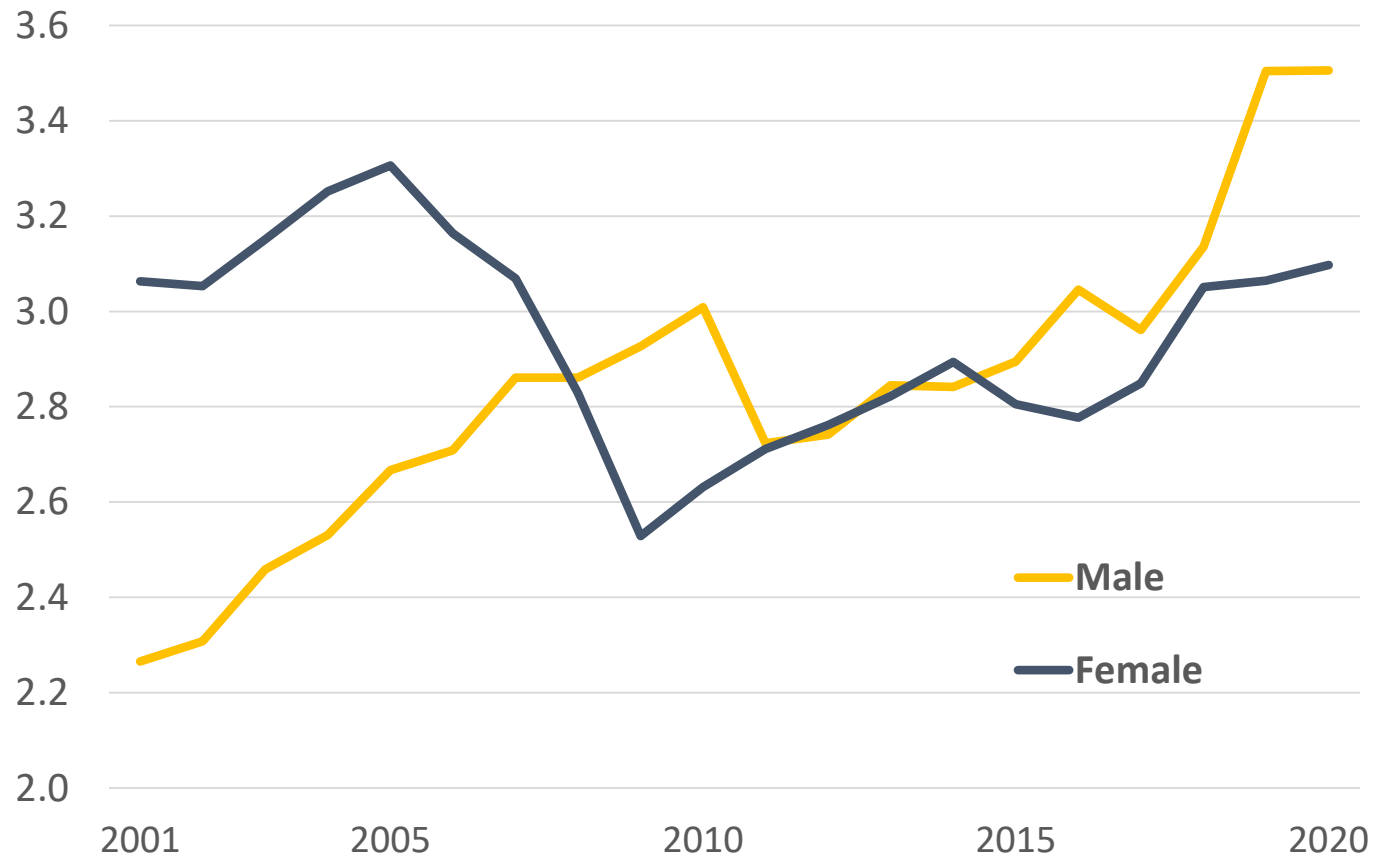
## Females



## Males



# Gaps in e50, 2001-2020



- Female: a gap around 3 year
- Increasing gap among men that reach about 3.4 year

# Major explanations for the racial health inequality in Israel

- Socio-economic inequality
- Access to health services
- Spatial segregation or spatial inequality
- Integrating all in one model

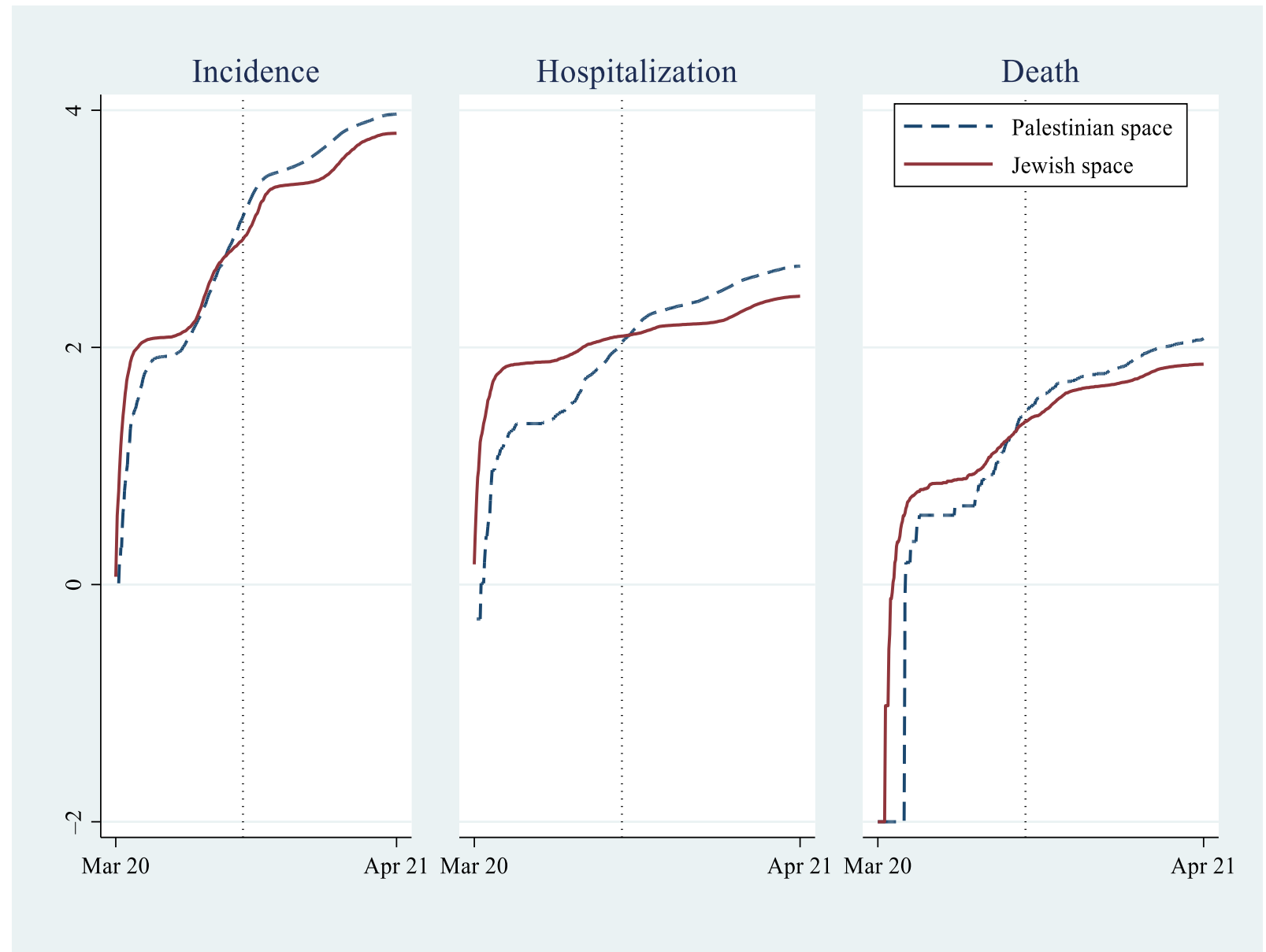
# Extreme spatial segregation

- Today 90% of Palestinian citizens live within fully segregated localities
- Residential segregation and distinct native languages contribute to the near complete segregation of the school system
- A high level of segregation in the labor market
- As a result, the two groups are highly socially segregated
- This situation is in effect since the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948

# Moving beyond Social determinants of health SDoH

Yacobi and Milner (2022) argued that the SDoH framework, although suitable to the examination of health inequality in liberal democracies where inequality is primarily manifested in the unequal distribution of resources such as education and income, is less suitable to discussions of health inequality in the Israeli case of settler colonialism, which requires the examination of inequality in other factors, such as conflict over land and space and control of resources and territory. Because “health determinants are spatial, the colonial project of appropriating, controlling and ordering space is crucial to understanding the institutional foundations that produce health disparities” (Yacobi and Milner 2022:585).

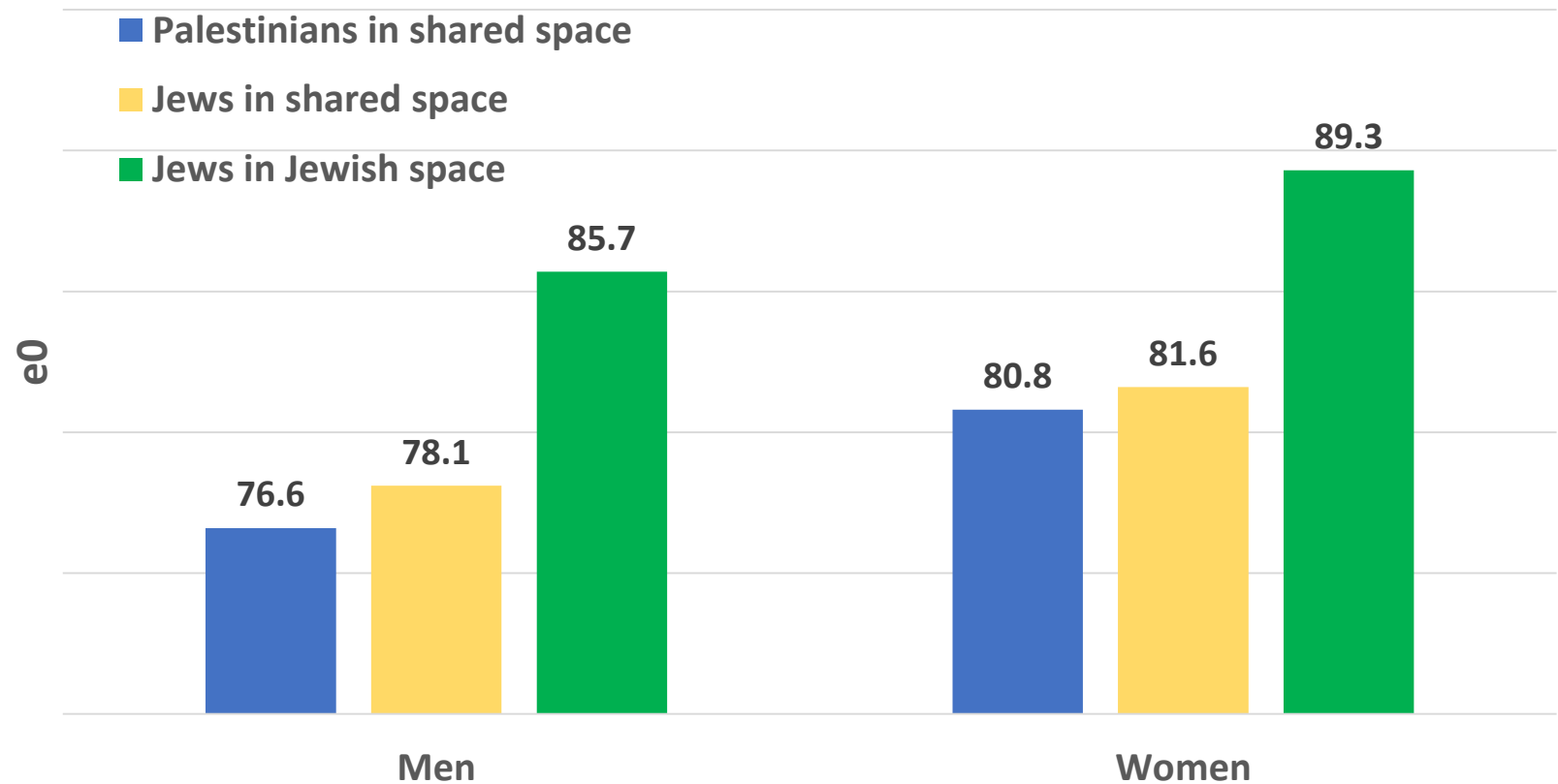
Incidence, Hospitalization and Death Rates per 100,000 Persons from Covid-19 (Log Scale) between March 2020 and March 2021



Saabneh, Ameer. 2024. "Spatial and Ethno-national Health Inequalities: Health and Mortality Gaps between Palestinians and Jews in Israel". *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00221465241283455>.

# Two types of segregation

**Fig.3: Life expectancy at birth for Palestinians and Jews, by population-space groups, for men and women, 2010-14**



Source: Saabneh, Ameer. 2022. "Health Inequalities between Palestinians and Jews in Israel: The Role of Extreme Spatial Segregation." *Population, Space and Place* 28(5):e2539.



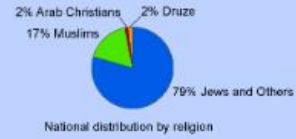
# Two types of spatial inequality endured by Palestinians

- 1. Exclusion from the regions that constitute the economic and industrial centers of Israel and confinement to peripheral, less developed areas.**
- 2. The second type of spatial inequality occurs within the peripheral and less developed regions, where almost all Palestinians reside.**

State-led settlement and development efforts in these regions established and supported new Jewish settlements geographically close to but separate from existing Palestinian ones, thereby producing peripheral regions that are shared by Palestinians and Jews, but with Palestinians segregated into less developed localities.

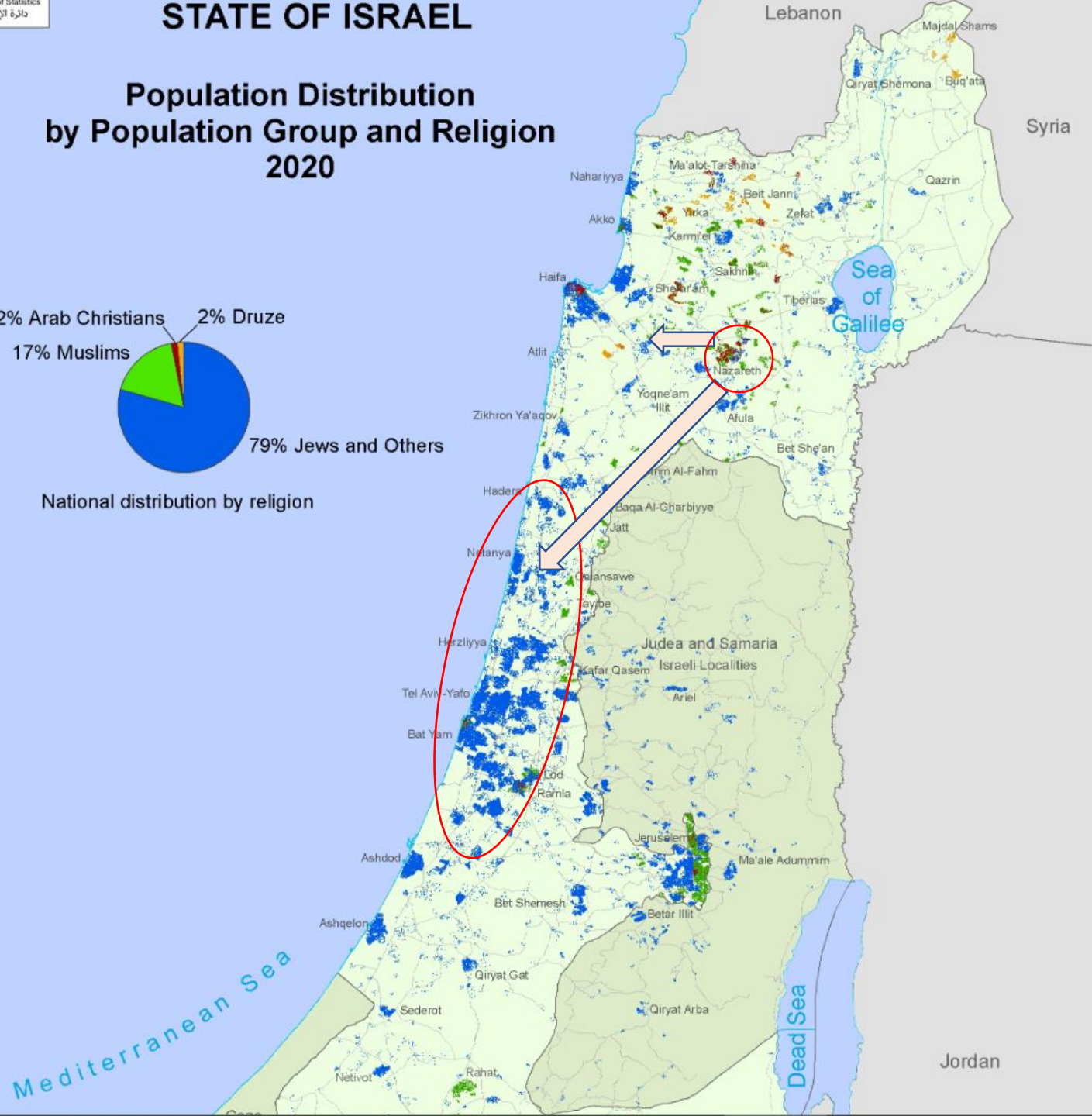
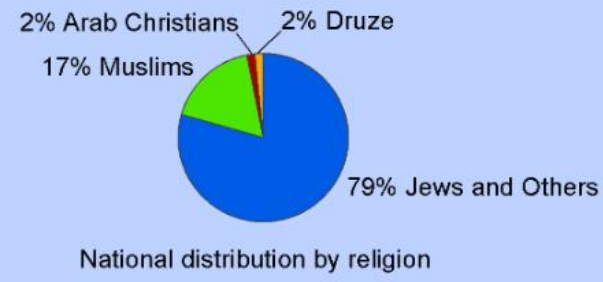
# STATE OF ISRAEL

## Population Distribution by Population Group and Religion 2020

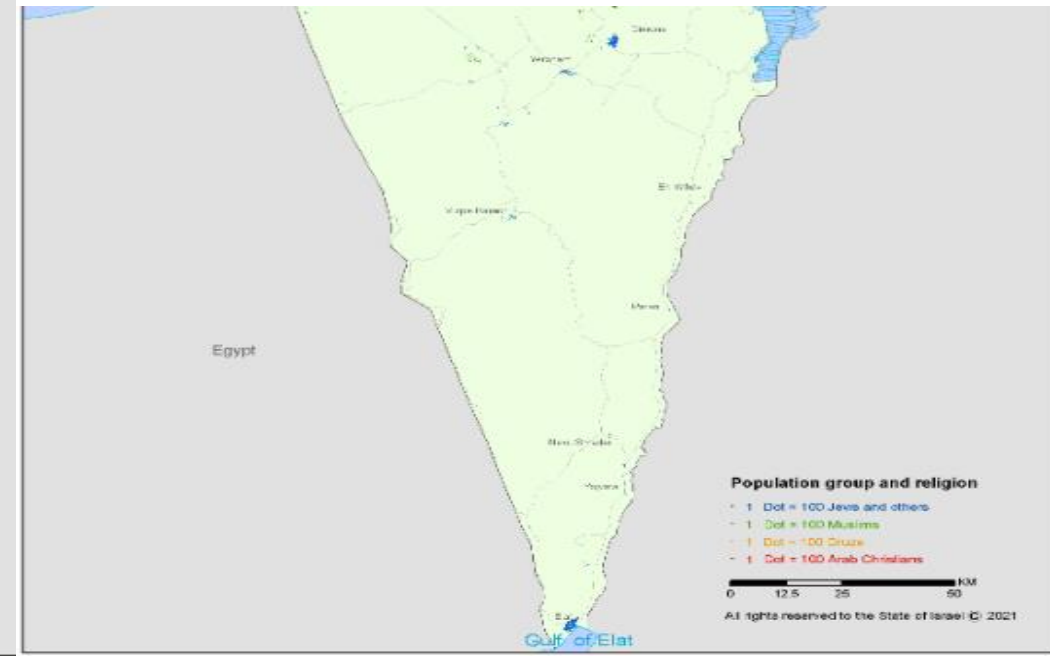


# STATE OF ISRAEL

## Population Distribution by Population Group and Religion 2020



# Two types of spatial inequality



# Decomposition of the total ethno-national health gap

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**Total gap = first type of spatial inequality + Second type of spatial inequality**

Total gap = difference between Palestinian localities (almost all of which are peripheral) and the Jewish center (almost all localities in the center are Jewish) + the difference in health outcomes between peripheral Palestinian and peripheral Jewish localities.

**$J - P \approx Wc^*(\text{Center} - \text{Pal}) + Wp^*(J.pr - \text{Pal}.pr)$**

---

with localities weighted by the size of their populations

# Data and health indicators

Source: Health profile of localities, Central Bureau of Statistics.

Data: urban localities with 10,000 or more residents, N=

Health indicators:

- standardized death rates (per 10,000 persons) in 2016-2020
- hospitalization rates (per 1000 persons) in 2017-2019
- rates of diabetes (per 1000 persons) in 2019 to 2017

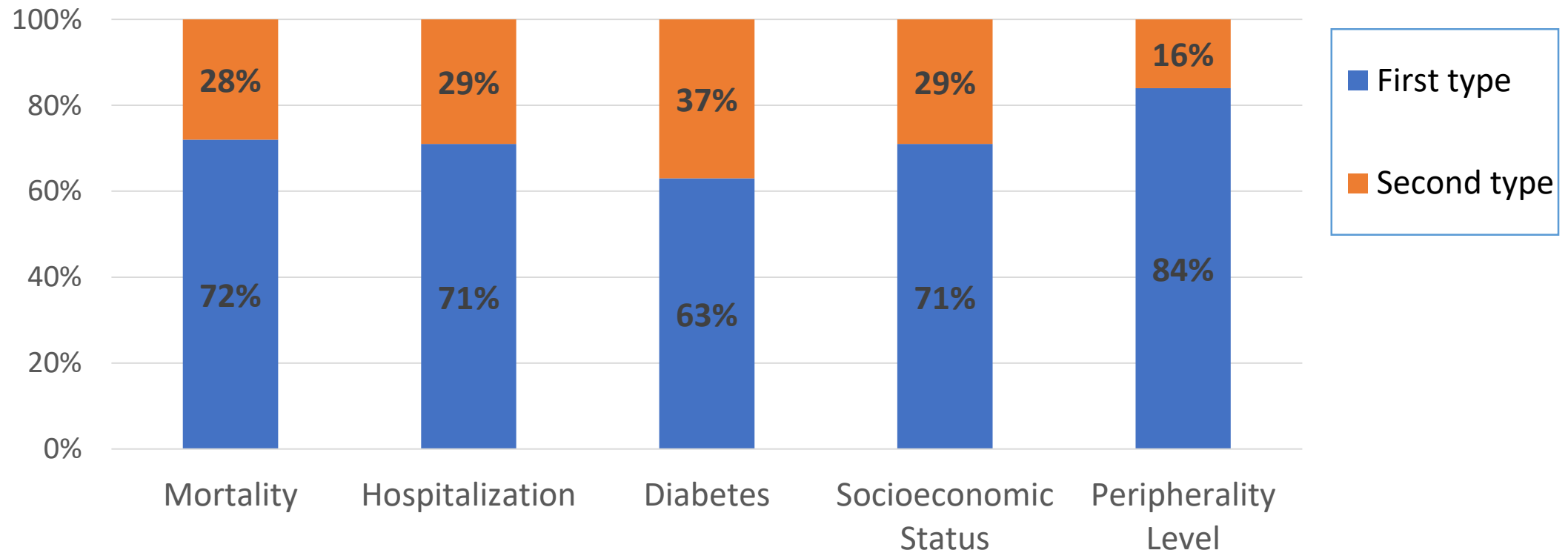
Other indicators

- Socioeconomic Status (Means)
- Peripherality Level (Means)

# Results: racial and spatial health gaps

	Mortality Rate per 10,000 Persons	Hospitalization Rate per 1,000 Persons	Diabetes Rates per 1,000 Persons	Socioeconomic Status (Means)	Peripherality Level (Means)
<b>Total Racial Gap (P-J)</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>-3.4</b>	<b>-78.9</b>
Periphery–Center Gap	80	27	15	-2.5	-95.9
Periphery–Center Gap, Jews only	69	22	8	-1.9	-85.7

# Results: relative contribution of each type of spatial inequality to the national gap

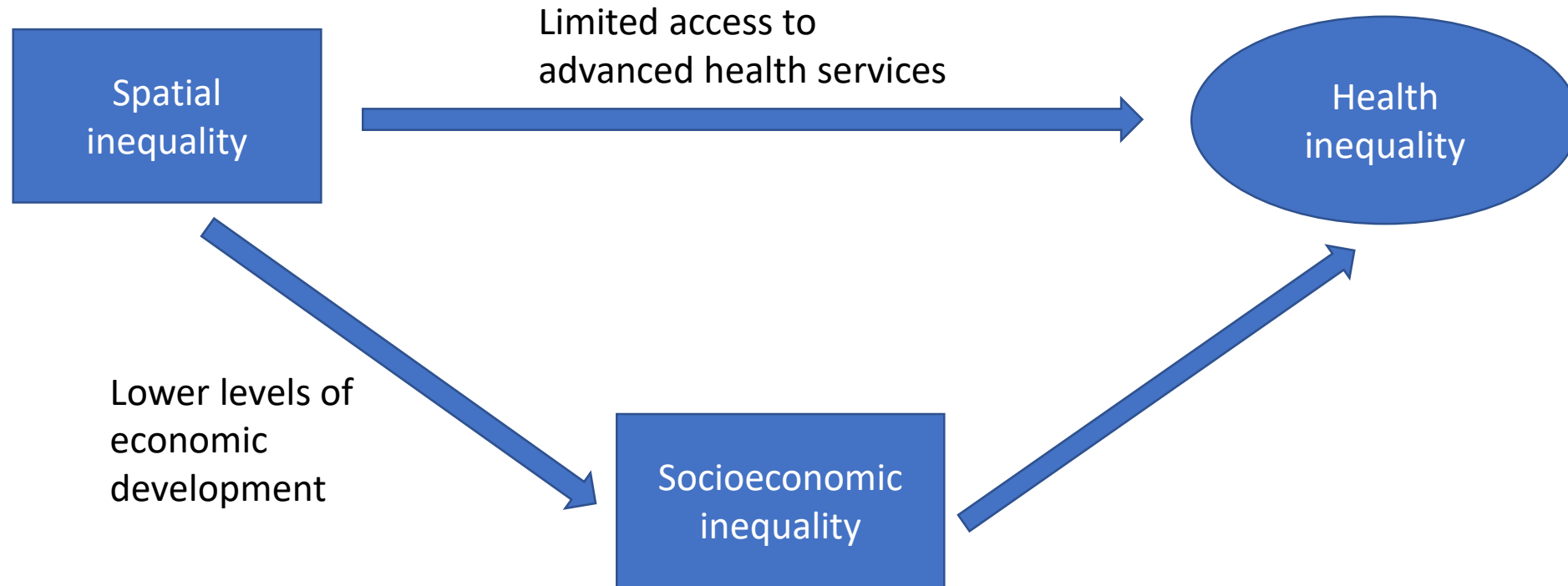


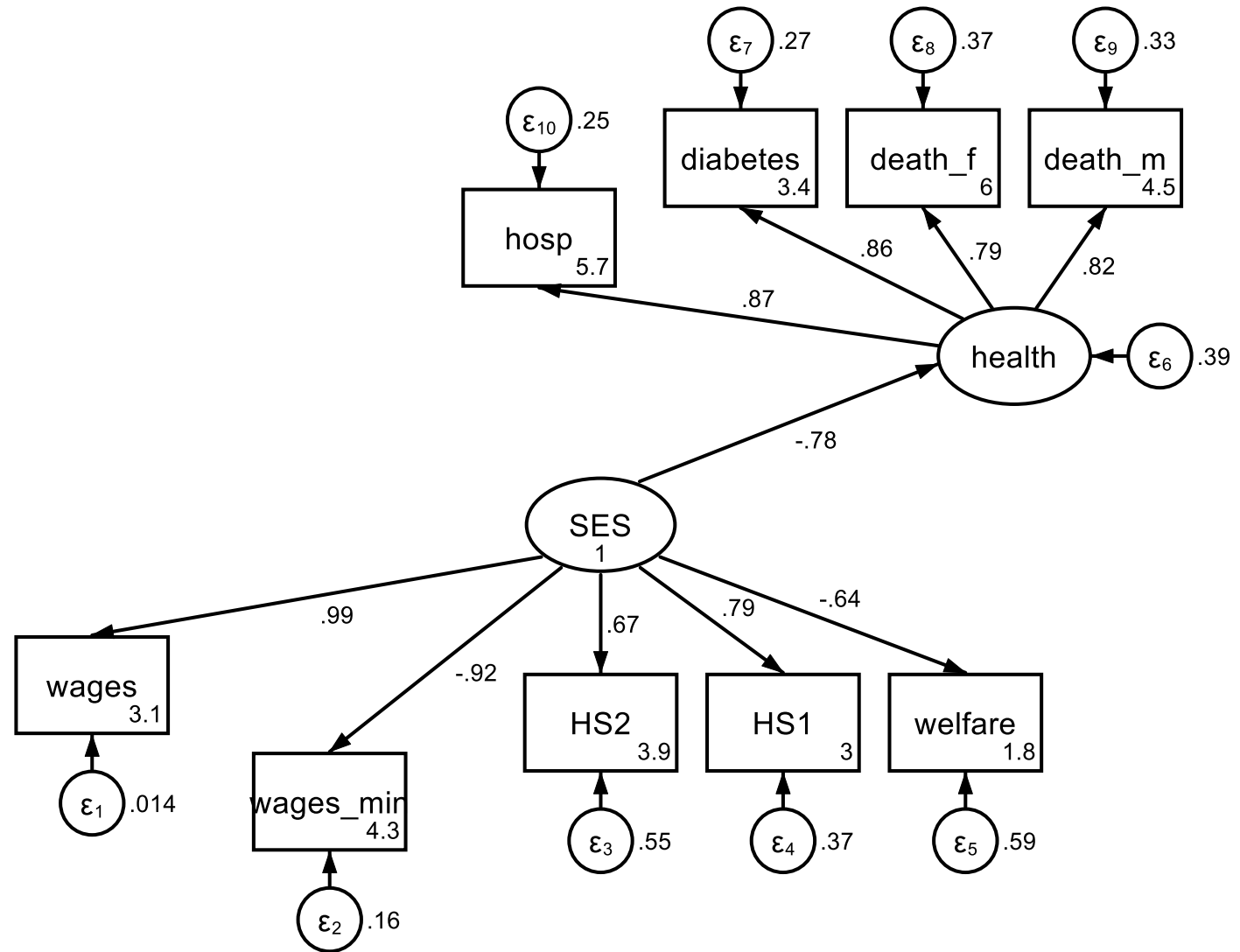
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<b>Periphery–Center Gap</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>-2.5</b>	<b>-95.9</b>
<b>Jewish Periphery–Center Gap</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-1.9</b>	<b>-85.7</b>



# General framework or model





Spatial inequality



- 1. Ethno-national composition
- 2. Ethnic composition
- 3. Peripherality
- 4. Distance from center
- 5. What else?

