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5. Car Ownership Levels by Income Deciles

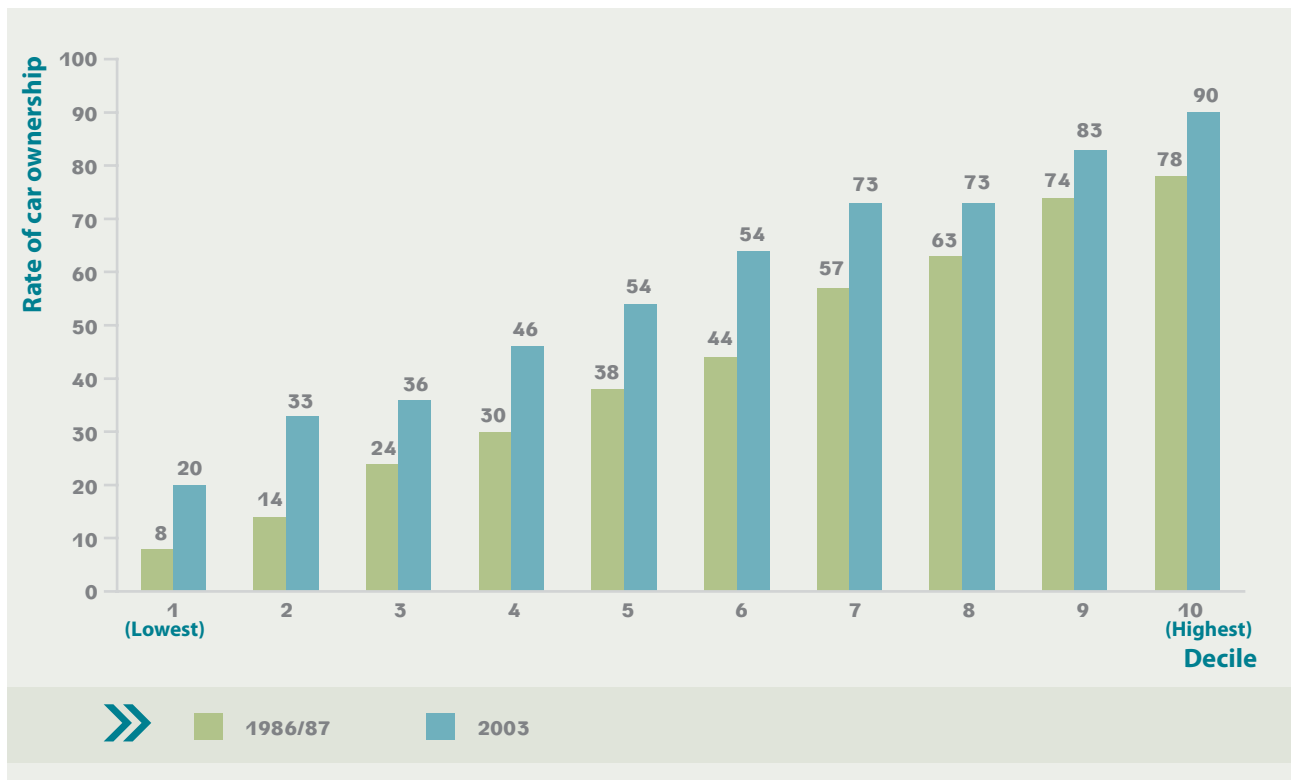
The level of car ownership per income decile is an additional indicator of intragenerational inequity. Differences in car ownership levels reflect not only differences in economic status but also differences in access to opportunities and vital destinations.

Car ownership levels in Israel differ substantially between income deciles. In 1986/7, only 8% of all households in the lowest income decile owned a car compared to 78% in the highest income decile. The rate of car ownership increased among all income deciles in the 1990s and early 2000s, with higher growth rates in the lower income deciles, which reduced this inequity. In 2003, 20% of the

households in the lowest income decile owned a car in comparison to 90% in the highest income decile.

Gap reduction in car ownership levels in the various income deciles is compatible with one of the main goals of sustainable development – intragenerational equity – since it increases equal opportunity and provides access to all areas of life: employment, trade, residence, open space and more. However, increased car ownership and use also increase pressures on the environment. The forecast is for car ownership rates in the lower income deciles to rise and inequity to be reduced. This trend necessitates parallel activities to promote the use of public transportation and restrain, as much as possible, the use of private cars, largely through improved availability and reliability of public transport.

Figure 6: Rate of Car Ownership by Deciles in Israel, in percentages, in 1986/87 and 2003



Source: Central Bureau of Statistics