



**Palestinian National Authority  
Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics**

**On the Anniversary day of Elderly, 01/10/2008**

**Elderly People in the Palestinian Territory represent 4.3% of the total population in 2007**

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics presents this release to highlight and to draw attention to the situation of the elderly in the Palestinian Territory. The elderly are defined as people aged 60 years and over. The following briefly describes the main indicators of elderly people in the Palestinian Territory.

- The elderly represented 4.3% of the population in the Palestinian Territory in 2007. It was noticed that the statistics varied by region; the elderly were 4.7% in the West Bank compared with 3.6% in Gaza Strip and higher for females than for males, 4.9% and 3.7% respectively, while the sex ratio is 76.9 males per 100 females.
- Life expectancy for old women is higher than old men in general and this is referred to health and biological factors. Life expectancy in the Palestinian Territory is 72.0 years for males and 73.5 years for females, and is expected to reach 73.0 years for males and 74.5 years for females in 2015.
- The elderly head 14.6% of households. While the mean household size in the Palestinian Territory was 6.1 persons in 2006, households headed by elderly people were comprised of 4.3 persons, compared to 6.6 for households headed by other than elderly.
- In 2006, 8.7% of the elderly people in the Palestinian Territory are widowed males compared to 52.2 % of elderly who are widowed females. This difference between elderly males widowed and elderly females widowed is related to the increase in life expectancy of females compared with males in all countries and the probability of remarriage for males after the death of his wife is higher than of females remarrying after the death of her husband.

- 14.7% of the elderly participated in the labor force in the Palestinian Territory in 2007; about 60.6% of Palestinian elderly employees are self-employed and a small percentage of Palestinian elderly employees are wage employees.
- Data revealed that elderly people in the Palestinian Territory did not have good education opportunities; 68.4% of elderly had not completed any education stage in 2007; this represents about 50% of the illiterate individuals aged 15 years and over. Data showed that only 6.4% have completed an associate diploma. A significant variation exists between elderly males and females; 51.0% of elderly males did not complete any educational stage compared with 81.7% among females. This reflects the lack of opportunities due to involvement of family members, particularly females, in agriculture activities.
- The available data of 2006 revealed that 65.5% of the elderly in the Palestinian Territory suffered from chronic diseases; 35.3% suffered from hypertension and 24.9% suffered from diabetes.
- 34.5% of elderly in the Palestinian Territory did not suffer from any disease. Statistical variation existed by region and sex: 33.7% in the West Bank compared with 36.8% in Gaza Strip, and a higher percentage of females than of males, 72.5% and 56.5%, respectively.
- 14.8% of the elderly are disabled compared with 2.7% for all persons in the Palestinian Territory; 44.7% of disabled elderly are suffering from movement disability and 22.9% of elderly are suffering from communication disability.
- 49.8% of the elderly are under the poverty line, representing about 3.2% of all poor people in the Palestinian Territory, with a significant variation between the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It reached 39.5% in the West Bank and 75.3% in Gaza Strip, based on the results of the poverty survey 2007.
- 60.3% of elderly people are satisfied with their health condition (52.1% are satisfied and 8.2% very satisfied). On the other hand, 27.7% are unsatisfied with their health condition (23.1% are unsatisfied and 4.6% very unsatisfied). 27.1% of elderly males are unsatisfied with their health conditions compared to 28.1% among females.
- 74.0% of elderly people watch television at least once a week; of which 79.6% are in the West Bank and 62.3% in Gaza Strip. 62.4% of elderly people watch television everyday.
- 47.7% of elderly people listen to the radio at least once a week; (65.5% in Gaza Strip and 39.4% in the West Bank). More elderly males listen to the radio than elderly females, 57.3% and 40.7%, respectively.
- 34.3% of elderly people can read the newspapers and magazines at least once a week and can write, while 14.6% read newspapers and magazines daily. The regional variations in this regard are in favor of the West Bank at 35.9% compared to 30.4% for Gaza Strip.