

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)

PRESS RELEASE

On the Occasion of World Population Day, 11 July, PCBS Issues a Statistical overview on the Palestinian Population

Demographic Status

Palestinian Population in Gaza Strip is more young than Population in the West Bank, 2006

The Palestinian Territory population totaled 3.761 millions according to the Preliminary results of the Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007; 1.908 million males and 1.853 million females, with a sex ratio of 103.0 males per hundred females. The population of the West Bank was 2.345 million; 1.190 million males and 1.155 million females. While the population of Gaza Strip totaled 1.416 million; 718 thousand males and 698 thousand females. The census data revealed that Hebron governorate in the West Bank was the highest populated governorate 551 thousand and Jericho was the lowest populated governorate 42 thousand, while in Gaza Strip the highest populated governorate was Gaza Governorate 496 thousand and the lowest was Rafah governorate totaled 173 thousand.

Data revealed that the population of the Palestinian Territory by age structure is young population; the percentage of individuals in the age group (0-14) constitute 45.7% of the total population in the Palestinian Territory 2006, of which 43.9% in the West Bank and 48.8% in Gaza Strip. The elderly population aged (65 years and over constitute 3.0% of the total Palestinian Territory population, 3.3% in the West Bank and 2.6% in Gaza Strip.

Population density of the Palestinian Territory is high in general at 625 persons/ Km² and particularly in Gaza Strip 3,881 persons/km² compared with lower population density in the West Bank at 415 persons/Km².

Ferility rate is declining in the Palestinian Territory during, 1997-2007

Fertility in the Palestinian Territory is considered high, although data of the last decade revealed that fertility is declining, it was in 6.0 births according to the Population, Housing and Establishment Census 1997, 5.6 births in the West Bank compared to 6.9 births in Gaza Strip. While it reached 4.6 births in 2006; 4.2 births in the West Bank and 5.4 births in Gaza Strip, according to data of the Palestinian Family Health Survey, 2006.

Data showed that the crude birth rate in the Palestinian Territory has dropped from 42.7 births per one thousand of the population in 1997 to 36.7 births in 2006, the crude birth rate in the West Bank was 33.7 births compared to 41.7 births in Gaza Strip in 2006.

Crude mortality rates declined in the Palestinian Territory during, 2007-1997

Available data showed that crude mortality rates are relatively low if compared to the rates prevailing in Arab countries. Where the crude mortality rates have declined in the Palestinian Territory from 4.9 deaths per 1000 of the population in 1997 to 3.9 deaths per 1000 in 2006, the

crude mortality rate in the West Bank dropped from 5.1 in 1997 to 4.0 deaths per one thousand in 2006, while in Gaza Strip it dropped from 4.7 deaths in 1997 to 3.8 per one thousand in 2006. These results showed that improvement in the quality of life and access to medical services and improved health awareness among the population and the development of health services is developing continuously.

Household

Decline in the average size of households in the Palestinian Territory during 1997-2007

The households in the Palestinian Territory totaled 646,755; 427,533 household in the West Bank and 219,222 in Gaza Strip according to the preliminary results of the Population, Housing and Establishment Census, 2007. Data revealed that there is a decline in the average size of households in the Palestinian Territory during the period (1997-2007), decreased from 6.4 persons in 1997 to 5.8 in 2007. Where it decreased in the West Bank from 6.1 persons in 1997 to 5.5 in 2007, while it decreased in Gaza Strip 6.9 persons to 6.5 for the same period.

The results of the Palestinian Family Health Survey 2006, showed that 9.1% of households is headed by females in the Palestinian Territory; 7.0% and 8.5% in the West Bank and Gaza Strip respectively, mostly the size of female headed households are relatively small, with an average size of 3.5 persons compared to 6.5 persons for male headed households.

Participation in Labour Force

Participation in the labour force is a key indicator of the extent of labour market activity and effectiveness in providing job opportunities. The results of labour force survey revealed that the labour force participation rate decreased from 43.5% in the 3rd quarter 2000 (Al Aqsa Intifada) to 40.6% of the total labour force (Persons aged 15 years and over) during the 1st quarter 2008; of which 42.3% in the West Bank compared to 37.5% in Gaza strip.

The females participation rate in labour force is very low compared to males participation rate; 14.7% of which 16.5% in the West Bank and 11.3% in Gaza Strip, against 66.0% for males; 67.5% in the West Bank and 63.3% in Gaza Strip.

Unemployment

More than one fifth of participants in the labour force are unemployed persons (22.5%) in the first quarter of 2008.

The results showed that more than one fifth of participants in the labour force are unemployed in the 1st quarter 2008 at 22.6% (19.0% in the West Bank and 29.8% in Gaza Strip). Unemployment rate reached 21.7% among females compared with 22.7% among males. Unemployment rate in the Palestinian Territory is considered very high compared to other countries; for instance unemployment rate was 14.0% in Jordan and 8.4% in Israel in 2006. Data showed that the highest unemployment rate was in Hebron governorate at 28% followed by Jenin governorate at 25.7% and the lowest rate was in Jericho and Alaghwar governorate among the West Bank governorate, while among Gaza strip governorates the highest unemployment rate was in Khan Younis governorate at 38.8% followed by 33.1% in Deir Albalah governorate and the lowest was in Gaza governorate at 24.9% during the 1st quarter 2008.

Monthly Household Expenditure

The average monthly expenditure in the Palestinian Territory for a household of 6 persons in 2007 was JD 608.

The results of the Palestinian expenditure and consumption survey revealed that the average monthly household expenditure on various goods and services amounted to 608 JD in the Palestinian Territory (708 JD in the West Bank compared with 415 JD in Gaza Strip), taking into consideration that the average household size was 6.1 in the West Bank and 6.9 in Gaza Strip.

The major share of cash expenditure was on food at 36.8% of the total expenditure (35.4% in the West Bank compared with 41.4% in Gaza Strip).

Monthly per Capita Expenditure

The data showed an increase of 8.4% in the per capita expenditure in the West Bank in 2007 compared with 2006, where it increased from 107 JD in 2006 to 116 JD in 2007, while in Gaza Strip it decreased by 13.6%; decreased from 69 JD in 2006 to 60 JD in 2007.

Poverty

18.3% of the households in the Palestinian Territory were suffering from deep poverty in 2007

The relative poverty line and the deep poverty line according to consumption patterns (for reference household consisted of 2 adults and 4 children) in the Palestinian Territory in 2007 was 2,362 NIS (US\$ 572), and 1,886 NIS (US\$ 457) respectively. The poverty rate among Palestinian households was 30.3% (19.1% in the West Bank, and 51.8% in Gaza Strip). The poverty rate according to the income patterns was 57.2% (45.7% in the West Bank, and 79.4% in Gaza Strip).

Data revealed that 18.3% of the households in the Palestinian Territory were suffering from deep poverty in 2007 according to consumption patterns, (of which 9.7% in the West Bank, and 35.0% in Gaza Strip), while according to income patterns 46.3% of households were suffering deep poverty (of which 34.1% in the West Bank, and 69.9% in Gaza Strip).

Education

Results of labour force survey 2007 revealed that the percentage of individuals (15 years and over) who have completed university education (Bachelor and above) was 8.7%. While the percentage of individuals who did not complete any stage of education, reached 13.2%. These results showed that there was a difference between males and females in educational attainment, where the percentage of males who have completed the university education (Bachelor and above) was 10.0% compared to 7.4% for females. As for those who did not complete any stage of education, the percentage among males was 9.9% compared to 16.5% for females.

Literacy

9.7% of females are illiterate, which is about four times as males rate at 2.8% in 2007

Illiteracy rate among individuals aged 15 years or over in the Palestinian Territory was 6.2% in 2007, variation in this rate is significantly noticed between males and females, at 2.8% and 9.7% respectively. No significant differences in illiteracy rate between the West Bank and Gaza Strip, 6.2%, while illiteracy rate among males in Gaza Strip is higher than in the West Bank (3.1% and 2.6% respectively), while it is lower among females 15 years and over in Gaza Strip than in the West Bank (9.5% and 9.8% respectively).

Computer

Percentage of households that have computers in 2006 in the Palestinian Territory was 32.8% (33.9% in the West Bank and 30.8% in Gaza Strip). While the rate of households having (Satellite) 80.4% (82.7% in the West Bank and 75.9% in Gaza Strip).

Internet

15.9% of households in the Palestinian Territory have internet access in 2006

Data showed that 15.9% of households in the Palestinian Territory have Internet access in 2006, 15.7% in the West Bank and 16.2% in Gaza Strip. The data showed that half of individuals (10 years and over) know using the Internet (49.9%), while 18.4% of individuals are using Internet, this percentage varies between males and females significantly, at 23.6% and 13.1% respectively. Data showed that the main place for using internet was home at 49.6% with a significant variation among males and females (43.6%, 60.6%) respectively. As for the time of using Internet, 39.6% of individuals aged 10 years and over used it between 3-8 pm, and 36.7% use the Internet after 8 pm.

Health Services in the Palestinian Territory

More than half of hospital beds is supervised by Ministry of Health, 2006

Data showed that the Ministry of Health is supervising 33.3% of the hospitals, and 58.7% of total hospital beds in 2006, while UNRWA supervise 1.3% of hospitals, and 1.2% of total beds. Non-governmental organizations supervise 34.6% of hospitals in the Palestinian Territory, and 29.0% of total hospital beds in 2006, while the private sector supervise 30.8% of, and 11.1% of total beds.

Smoking

Percentage of smoker increases in the West Bank by 7.0% more than Gaza Strip

Results of the Palestinian Family Health survey, 2006 showed that 18.3% of individuals aged 10 years and over in the Palestinian Territory are smoking, with a significant difference between the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as it increases in the West Bank by 7.0% more than Gaza Strip. When taking into account that individuals residing in Gaza Strip are living a deteriorated conditions compared with their counterparts in the West Bank, this weakens the the assumption that smoking is an outlet of calming the tension and stress. Males in the West Bank are the highest among who are smoking at 38.4%, while the percentage of smoking among females in Gaza Strip is the lowest at 0.5% compared to 3.0% for the West Bank females.

Chronic Diseases

The results of the Palestinian Family Health survey, 2006 showed that 90.2% of the Palestinian population does not suffer from any chronic diseases. Those who answered that they suffer from at least one of these diseases and are receiving treatment was 9.8%, they had received treatment for diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, cancer, ulcers, asthma, and epilepsy. Blood pressure and diabetes rank first and second among chronic diseases individuals received the treatment for. 7.9% of males suffer chronic diseases compared to 11.7% for females. In particular, these data revealed that females suffer twice as men from hypertension, in addition females suffer more than males from arthritis and diabetes, while the case for cancer, rates of suffering for both males and females are the same.

Prevalence of Disability

The data of the Palestinian Family Health survey, 2006, showed that the percentage of individuals who suffer from difficulties (severe and moderate) in the Palestinian Territory was 2.7%, ; 2.9% in the West Bank and 2.3% in Gaza Strip. The data revealed that prevalence rates of difficulties of different types in the Palestinian Territory among males is higher than among females. The results showed that the major prevalent difficulty is movement difficulty, at 47.7% of all the difficulties, followed by visual difficulty 27.2%, then the difficulty of understanding and communication 22.4%.

Nutrition

The males are more vulnerable to stunting and wasting than females

Nutritional status is one of the key factors that determine child health, as inappropriate and unbalanced meals are linked to malnutrition among children. The worst malnutrition indicator among children in the Palestinian Territory was stunting at 10.2% of under five children, followed (underweight), at 2.9%, while children suffer wasting was 1.4% . The males are more vulnerable to stunting and wasting than females, but a lower percentage of males suffer from underweight than females, according to results of the Palestinian Family Health survey, 2006. stunting is higher among Gaza Strip children at 13.2%, and compared to 7.9 % for the West Bank).

Housing Units Ownership

Most of housing unit owner by a family member

Percentage of Palestinian households that the ownership of the housing unit is for a family member is about 87.6% in 2007; 84.8% in the West Bank and 93.0% in Gaza Strip, while the percentage of households living in rented houses in the Palestinian Territory was 7.3% family (8.7% in the West Bank and 4.5% in Gaza Strip). Data showed that the average density of housing units in the Palestinian Territory has reached 1.7 person per room. 11.3% of households in the Palestinian Territory live in a high-density housing units (3 or more persons per room).

Connection to Public Networks

Housing Conditions Survey,2006 results in the Palestinian Territory showed that, 90.8% of households in the Palestinian Territory live in houses receiving water from the public network (95.6% in Gaza Strip and 88.4% in the West Bank). The results of a survey of domestic energy (July, 2006) revealed that the majority of households in the Palestinian Territory live in houses connected to the electricity network at 99.5%; 99.3% in the West Bank and 99.8% in Gaza Strip.

The results of a survey of domestic environment, 2006, revealed that about 54.0% of Palestinian households are living in houses connected to cesspits, where waste water is disposed through by 64.5% in the West Bank and 33.7% in Gaza Strip. While there are 45.3% of Palestinian households are living in houses connected by public sewage network (34.7% in the West Bank compared with 66.0% in Gaza Strip).

Availability of Durable Goods

The results of Housing Statistics Annual Report 2007 revealed that the electric refrigerator, gas stove, washing machine and television are the major available durable goods for the Palestinian households. 95.7% have refrigerators, and 99.4% have gas stove, and 92.8% have washing machine, and 95.5% have television, while the central heating is available with low percentages in the West Bank and not-available in Gaza Strip.