



Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

Youth Survey-2003

Press Conference on the Survey Results

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The cooperation and understanding of youth and households selected in the survey sample during fieldwork was truly remarkable.

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Press Release

Youth Survey, 2003 Main Findings

58.9% of youth aged (10-24) years concern is centered on education, 20.1% are thinking of immigration, 83.7% have heard about AID's, 11.8% were subjected to physical violence during last month, the majority of youth 91.0% are optimistic about future.

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics has planned and conducted a national youth survey through technical collaboration and partial financial support of (UNFPA) and (UNICEF). The survey was conducted during August and September 2003 on Sample of 5,600 households of them 4,227 household were interviewed (2,775 household in the West Bank and 1,452 household in Gaza Strip). From these household a total of 4,289 of youth aged (10-24) years were interviewed (1,899 males and 2,390 females).

The Household:

Results showed increased awareness of youth about the suitable age of first marriage, where they think it's 24 years for males and 20 years for females. Youth considered personal trend is the preferred way to choose future partner at 59.5%, compared with 37.6% for depending on family members or relatives. Data showed that youth affect decision making at the level of household at 36.6%, where their affect decreased at the level of local community at 21.1%.

Leisure Time:

Data showed that 47.3% of youth stated that leisure time is quite enough, 27.2% stated that they have much leisure time. On the other hand 53.3% of youth aged (10-11) years stated that leisure time is quite enough, as well youth (12-14) years (56.9%) and (15-19) years (46.6%), and (20-24) years (36.4%). The great challenge is how youth will spend positively leisure time due to the unstable political situation prevailing in the Palestinian Territory, where it constitute the main reason for not practicing desired activities at 26.9%, also 76.6% of youth spend leisure time at home.

Social Life:

Results showed that 52.2% of youth think that negligence and failure in upbringing are the main reasons for youth negative behavior, 15.6% refer that to not well company. Data showed that youth concern at first is directed toward education at 58.9%, and 19.4% of youth concern is centered at household issues.

Identity and affiliation:

Results showed that youth are still belonging strongly to Islamic and Arab World at 51.6% and 15.7% respectively. While at the national level affiliation is strongly at the level of the Palestinian Territory at 59.2%. Despite the prevailing political situation and high unemployment rate, 79.7% of youth aged (10-24) years don't like to migrate the Palestinian Territory, which is not ably high among youth aged (10-11) years (85.7%) compared to 73.2% among youth aged (20-24) years. 91.0% are optimistic about the future, 96.2% among youth aged (10-11) years compared to 85.8% among youth aged (20-24) years..

Health Status:

Data showed that 14.5% of youth aged (10-24) years practice smoking; 26.2% for males and 2.3% for females, and it's at 17.5% in the West Bank compared with 9.4% in Gaza Strip. On the other hand 1.5% of youth aged (10-11) years practices smoking as well youth (12-14) years (2.5%) and (20-24) years (33.8%). Results showed that 11.8% of youth aged (10-24)

years stated that they were subjected to physical violence, no discrepancies has been noticed at the level of region and sex.

Education:

Data showed that dropout for youth aged (10-24) years was 20.8% for male and 16.9% for females. The main reason for not continuing education among youth males aged (10-24) years was getting weak school grades at 32.4%, while marriage was the main reason for females at 46.3%.

Culture and Media:

Data showed that 57.9% of youth watch television, 14.2% of youth are using computer and 5.8% are using internet; 56.8% are using internet for mailing and 38.7% are using internet for study. Youth are concerned and watch entertainment and recreation programs at 66.4% compared with 37.6% for religious programs.

Knowledge of Sexual Transmitted diseases (STD's):

Data showed that 83.7% of Youth aged (10-24) years have heard about AID's; 87.2% in the West Bank compared with 77.8% in Gaza Strip, also results showed that knowledge increase with age, since it reaches 50.7% among youth aged (10-11) years compared to 96.6% among youth aged (20-24) years. Results showed that only 29.3% of youth were able to state correctly two preventive measures against AID's; of which 32.2% in West Bank and 23.8% in Gaza Strip.

Preparing young males/females for responsible parenting:

Data showed that 51.8% of youth males aged (12-19) years identify three puberty changes occurred for females. Against 65.6% of females identify three puberty changes occurred for males. Curricula and teachers constitute the main source for getting information 73.0% and 79.4% for males and females respectively.

Concepts and Definitions

Youth:

In this survey, we define youth or young people as in the (10-24) age group, which includes preteens and teen-agers (10-19) years and young adults (20-24) years.

Refugee status:

This status relates to the Palestinians who were forced to leave their land in the Palestinian Territory occupied by Israel in 1948. It applies to their male sons and grandchildren. Every Palestinian falls under one of the following categories:

1. **Registered Refugee:** It applies to registered refugee holding refugee registration card issued by UNRWA.
2. **Non-Registered Refugee:** It applies to unregistered refugee who do not hold refugee registration card issued by UNRWA.
3. **Non-Refugee:** It applies to any Palestinian not categorized under any of the two aforementioned statuses.

Marital Status:

It refers to the marital status of the person aged 12 years and above in the interview date. The marriage laws, customs and traditions applicable in the country govern the marital status of the individual. The marital status is classified as follows:

1. Never married

It applies if the person aged 12 years and above has not been married (according to customs and traditions applicable in the country).

2. Legally married

It applies if the person-aged 12 years and above has an official marriage document (issued by a competent court) but has not been actually married yet according to customs and traditions applicable in the country.

3. Married

It applies if the person aged 12 years and above is actually and officially married (according to customs and traditions applicable in the country) irrespective of his \ her past marital status as well as of whether the couple were together during the reference date or not.

4. Divorced

The person aged 12 years and above who previously married and legally divorced but was not married again.

5. Widowed

The married person aged 12 years whose marriage was split by the death of the spouse and was not married again.

6. Separated

The person 12 years old and above who was married, but his marriage was revoked for some reason without any legal or official registration, and he did not marry again.

Educational Attainment:

It refers to the highest successfully completed educational attainment level. The educational level for persons aged 10 years and above is classified as follows:

Illiterate: It applies to persons unable to read or write in any language and who were never awarded a certificate from any formal education system

Can read and write: It applies to persons who are able to read and write without completing any of the educational stages. Such persons are generally able to read and write simple sentences.

Qualification (The highest successfully completed educational attainment):

It refers to the highest educational attainment level (elementary and higher) the person successfully completed. **Elementary** is the educational level for persons who successfully completed the sixth elementary grade. Those who successfully completed the ninth grade shall be classified under the **preparatory** level. Likewise, persons who successfully completed the general secondary certificate examination shall be classified under the **secondary** level. As for the rest of levels, they are as follows: **Associate diploma, bachelor degree (BA/BS), higher diploma, masters degree (MA/MS), doctorate (Ph.D)**

Age at first marriage:

The age of the person in the actual marriage date.

Age at first birth:

The age of the women in completed years when she gave a first birth.

Leisure Time:

The available time out of usual working hours, study time and moving time from house to work and school.

Sexual Transmitted Diseases:

Diseases that are transmitted through sexual relation, its would wide prevalent diseases, Control Disease Centre estimated their incidence by 250 million new cases every year. The sexual transmitted diseases are: Syphilis, Gonorrhea, Fungal Infections, AID's.