



Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

- **Population in the Palestinian Territory increased by 39% during the period 1997-2006, reached 3.9 million in mid year 2006, of which 46% are less than 15 years**
- **Gaza Strip population increased by 45% during the period 1997-2006, reached about 1.4 million in mid year 2006**
- **The West Bank population increased by 37% during the period 1997-2006, reached about 2.5 million in mid year 2006**
- **Hebron governorate is the biggest population among other Palestinian governorates representing about 14% of the total Palestinian population**
- **Palestinian households is shifted toward nuclear household compared with extended and composite households.**
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Mr. Shabaneh; the President of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics declared the demographic status of the Palestinian in the Palestinian Territory on the eve of the international day of population; the 11th of July every year, where the Palestinian Population is passing a critical socio-economic and social security conditions due to the aggressive measures imposed by the Israelis on the Palestinian Territory; where accelerated increased rates of poverty, unemployment is significantly witnessed.

Demographic status:

The estimated population in the Palestinian Territory reached 3.9 million persons in mid year 2006, of which about two millions are males and 1.9 million are females. The Palestinians are distributed at 2.5 millions in the West Bank and 1.4 million in Gaza Strip. The Palestinian Territory population increased by 39% during the period 1997-2006, distributed by 45.0% in Gaza Strip and 36.7% in the West Bank. Despite the decline in the natural increase rate to 3.3% in the year 2006 compared with 3.8% in 1997 the population will continue increasing . Hebron is the most populated governorate in the West Bank, its population totaled 543 thousands in mid year 2006, whereas Gaza is the most populated governorate in Gaza Strip totaled 506 thousands.

The Palestinian population is characterized as young population; the percentage of persons aged less than 15 years represents about 45.7% of total population in the Palestinian Territory

mid 2006, of which 43.9% in the West Bank and 48.8% in Gaza Strip. Compared with 3.0% aged 65 years and above.

Fertility:

The trend of fertility rate is declining, fertility rate reached 4.6 births per woman in the Palestinian Territory during 2004 , of which 4.1 in the West Bank and 5.8 in Gaza Strip. while fertility rate in the Palestinian Territory was 6.0 births per woman in 1997.

Infants Mortality:

Infant mortality rate in the Palestinian Territory decreased from 27.7 per 1000 live births during 1990-1994 to 24.2 per 1000 live births during 1999-2003. The life expectancy for 2006 in the Palestinian Territory is 71.7 years for males and 73.2 years for females.

Households Type:

The nuclear households increased by 10.9% in 2005 compared with 1997, constituting about 81.3% of the total households in the Palestinian Territory in 2005, compared with 73.3% in 1997. The percentage of the households headed by females reached 8.2% of the total households in the Palestinian Territory in 2005.

Reproductive Health:

Data showed that 96.5% of women aged 15-49 years received antenatal care in the Palestinian Territory in 2004, while only 34.0% of women received postnatal care, of them 37.6% in the West Bank and 29.6% in Gaza Strip. On the other hand 9.9% of children aged less than five years suffered chronic malnutrition (stunting). It is obvious that Gazan children suffer more than West Banker children , the percentage was 11.4% and 8.8% respectively.

Education:

The illiteracy rate reached 7.7% of total persons aged 15 years and over in the Palestinian Territory in 2005; 3.1% among males and 11.1% among females, moreover 7.5% of the persons aged 15 years and over have bachelor and above; 9.2% for males and 5.8% for females, its distributed by 7.0% in the West Bank and 8.4% in Gaza Strip.

Unemployment and Poverty:

The unemployment rate reached 25.3% in the Palestinian Territory during the first quarter of 2006, distributed by 21.4% in the West bank and 34.1% in Gaza Strip. The estimated poverty rate among Palestinian households in the Palestinian Territory during the 2nd quarter 2006 reached 65.8%, distributed by 87.7% in Gaza Strip and 54.65 in the West Bank, Estimates showed that about 55.65 of households are suffering deep poverty, distributed by 79.8% in Gaza Strip and 43.2% in the West Bank.

Housing:

87.8% of the households in the Palestinian Territory owned their housing unit in 2005, distributed by 85.9% in the West Bank and 91.7% in Gaza Strip, while 7.4% are living in rented housing units; 8.8% in the West Bank and 4.7% in Gaza Strip.