

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics Issues A Press Release on the Eve of the World Health Day (April 7th , 2011)

Ms. Ola Awad, President of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), demonstrated the health status in the Palestinian Territory on the eve of the World Health Day (April 7th , 2011). Ms. Awad pointed out that the press release is to reflect the concern over and the significance of the occasion especially that the health sector, like other sectors, was experiencing a number of influential events. Ms. Awad also stated that the press release was in line with the dissemination policy of PCBS; to emphasize the importance of providing up-to-date statistics for policy-makers in all areas of health.

Health services:

According to 2010 data, the number of operating hospitals in the Palestinian Territory were 76 hospitals. On the other hand, the number of hospital beds per 1000 inhabitant in the Palestinian Territory reached 1.26. The number of primary health care centers amounted to 665 centers in the beginning of 2010; 62.0% were runned by MoH, 30.0% by NGOs, and 8.0% by UNRWA.

Decline in the fertility rates...

The Fertility Rate in the Palestinian Territory reached 4.2 births per woman. The rate has declined by 28.8% during the past 10 years when it was 5.9 births per woman in the year 2000.

Decline in the mortality rate ...

The Infant Mortality Rate reached 20.6 per 1000 live birth. The infant mortality rate in 2000 was 25.5 and has declined by 19.2% since then. Regarding under-5 mortality, the rate is 25.1 per 1000 live birth in the Palestinian Territory. The rate has declined by 13% as it was 28.7 in 2000.

Increase in the prevalence of chronic diseases...

18.2% of persons aged 18 years and above are suffering from at least one chronic disease compared to 11.5% in 2000; thus marking an increase by 58.2% since then. 16.3% of males aged 18 years and above reported suffering from at least one chronic disease compared to 20.2% of females. On the other hand, 2.8% of youth 15-29 years in the Palestinian Territory suffer from at least one chronic disease. In addition, 70.6% of the elderly aged 60 years and over in the Palestinian Territory suffer from at least one chronic disease. The percentage of elderly with at least one chronic disease has increased by 51.8% since the year 2000 when it was reported at 46.5%.

Decrease in the prevalence of smoking...

21.8% of persons 18 years and above in the Palestinian Territory are reported as smokers. The percentage of smokers among persons 18 years and above was 27.5% in the year 2000 and has declined by 21.0% during the last 10 years. On the other hand, about 15% of elderly in the Palestinian Territory practice smoking with 30.1% for males and 2.7% for females. Smoking among the elderly has declined by 17.6% since the year 2000 when it was 18.2%. While 15.0% of youth 15-29 years in the Palestinian Territory smoke; 28.7% for males and 0.7% for females.

Anemia among pregnant and non-pregnant women is decreasing

26.7% of pregnant women aged 15-49 years in the Palestinian Territory suffer from anemia compared to 31.1% in the year 2002. On the other hand, 21.6% of non-pregnant women aged 15-49 years in the Palestinian Territory suffer from anemia compared to 34.8% in the year 2002.

Increase in the use of family planning methods...

52.5% of married women 15-49 years in the Palestinian Territory currently use any family planning method. The use of family planning method has increased by 2.1% during the past 10 years when it was 51.4% in the year 2000.

Decline in the percentage of unsafe deliveries...

0.6% of deliveries in the Palestinian Territory occurred at home or in other unsafe places. The percentage of reported unsafe deliveries was 5.2 in the year 2000 and thus declined by 88.4% since then.

Increase in the number of cesarean deliveries....

16.7% of reported deliveries in the Palestinian Territory were cesarean. The number of cesarean deliveries has increased by about 90% during the last 10 years as it was reported at 8.8% in year the 2000.

Fifth of children 6-59 months have anemia...

19.4% of children aged 6-59 months in the Palestinian Territory suffer from anemia. The percentage was 38.0% in the year 2002.

Increase in the percentage of exclusive breastfeeding...

95.8% of children in the Palestinian Territory were reported as normally breastfed; while 26.2% of children aged 0-5 months in the Palestinian Territory have exclusive breastfeeding. The percentage has increased by about 57.0% since the year 2000 when it was reported at 16.7%.

Out of every 100 children, eleven are stunted

10.6% of under-5 children in the Palestinian Territory are stunted. Stunting has increased by 41.3% since 2000 when it was reported 7.5%.

It is worth to mention that PCBS will announce soon the preliminary data of the Palestinian Family Survey which was implemented during 2010 in collaboration with many partners. The survey covered many indicators on maternal, child and health in addition to youth and elderly as well.