



Palestinian National Authority

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics On the Occasion of “National Child Day”5/4/2006

Demographic Reality

More than half of the Palestinians (52.6%) were children below the age of 18 years in 2005.

- Population estimates of the Palestinian Territory for 2005 show a small increase in the number of males under the age of 18 years compared to females. The number was 1.025 million male compared to 987,000 female, a sex ratio of 103.8.
- In the West Bank, the number of males under the age of 18 years was estimated at 620,845, compared with 597,329 for females, a sex ratio of 103.9, while in Gaza Strip, the number of males was 404,079 and 389,918 for females, a sex ratio of 103.6 in 2005.
- 42.2% of Palestinian children under 18 years living in the Palestinian Territory are refugees: 26.9% in the West Bank and 68.5% in Gaza Strip.

Child Health

- Infant mortality rate dropped from 25.5 per 1000 births between 1995 and 1999 to 24.2 per 1000 births between 1999 and 2003.
- Under five mortality rate also dropped from 28.7 per 1000 births between 1995-1999 to 28.3 per 1000 births between 1999-2003.
- The data in the annual report of the Ministry of Health 2004 states that the main leading causes of infant mortality in the West Bank were premature delivery and low birth weight (16.0%), respiratory system diseases including infection (8.3%), and congenital anomalies (18.3%).
- In Gaza Strip, infant mortality caused by premature and low birth weight remained the main leading causes of infant mortality (34.6%).
- Conditions in the perinatal period with a proportion are the main leading causes of deaths among infants and children under five, in West Bank 33.5% and 45.7% in Gaza Strip.
- The data show that the percentage of children (last child born during the period 2001-2003) who were breastfed was 95.6% in 2004, distributed as 95.5% in the West Bank and 95.7% in Gaza Strip.

- 9.9% of children under five years suffered from stunting and 4.9% of children suffered from underweight, 2.8% of children suffered from wasted in 2004.

Children's Educational Reality

At the outset of the scholastic year 2005/2006, the number of students enrolled in the basic and secondary stage was 1,078,488 students. Female students constitute around 49.8%.

- In the scholastic year 2005/2006, 11.6% of all students were enrolled in the secondary education stage, and 88.4% are enrolled in the basic stage.
- In the scholastic year 2005/2006, 70.2% (757,615 students) of total students were enrolled in governmental schools, 23.6% (254,552 students) were enrolled in UNRWA schools, and 6.2% (66,321 students) of them were enrolled in private schools.
- Students at basic stage increased from 572,529 in the scholastic year 1994/1995 to 953,621 in the scholastic year 2005/2006, an increase rate of 66.6%. Females and males constituted 49.7% and 50.3% respectively.
- Students at secondary education stage increased from 45,339 in 1994/1995 to 124,867 students during the scholastic years 2005/2006, an increase of 175.4%. Female students constituted 52.1% of the total number students, and males constitute 47.9%.
- Comparing classroom density according to region in basic stage, it is noticed that the classroom density in basic schools is higher in Gaza Strip than in the West Bank (41.6 students per classroom in Gaza Strip and 31.9 students per classroom in the West Bank in 2005/2006).

Child Cultural and Recreational Reality

74.3% of cultural centers which having libraries have special section for children in their libraries in 2005.

The number of cultural centers in the Palestinian Territory is 213 including 174 operating centers; 122 of which are in the West Bank and 52 in Gaza Strip.

Results show that 60.3% of the cultural centers in the Palestinian Territory have libraries (62.3% in the West Bank and 55.8% in Gaza Strip) and 74.3% of cultural centers which having libraries have special section for children in their libraries.

- In 2004, 71.5% of households who have children under 18 years do not have computers, 4.8% do not have TV sets, 28.6% do not have a satellite dish, and 90.7% do not have Internet at home.
- The findings of the Computer, Internet and Mobile Survey 2004 showed that 28.5% of households having children under 18 years in the Palestinian Territory have computers, with 31.1% in the West Bank compared with 23.8% in Gaza Strip.

Children in Need of Special Protection

One out of every three children (under 18 years old) live in poverty.

- 32.6% of children in the Palestinian Territory lived in poverty in 2004 (of which 24.9% in the West Bank, and 44.7% in Gaza Strip).
- 32.2% of male children suffered from poverty compared to 33.1% between female children.
- 3.8% of the total number of children aged 10-17 years, were worked in 2005 . 4.8% in the West Bank and 2.1% in Gaza Strip for the same year.
- Data showed that 67.2% of employed children are working for their families (unpaid family employee), and 27.7% of employed children are wage employees for others, and 5.1% of employed children are employer.
- Data showed that 51.4% of mothers stated that one of their children aged (5-17) years was exposed to violence during 2005.
- Children were exposed to assault mainly at home at 93.3%, followed by school at 45.2%, and 41.1% exposed to assault at the street.

Palestinian Children and the Intifada

- Between September 2000 till 28/2/2006, 789 Palestinian children were martyred, constituting 19.7% of the total martyrs; 346 children were martyred in the West Bank and 441 in Gaza Strip, and 2 children were martyred in the occupied Palestinian territory 1948.
- During the period from 28/9/2000 to 28/9/ 2005 the total number injured was 43,761 Palestinians, 28,822 were children.
- About 391 Palestinian children were arrested between 28/9/2000, and 28/2/2006.
- During the Al-Aqsa Intifada, the Israeli occupation forces attacked 269 schools in different places in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. These schools were forcefully and illegally broken into, teargas and bullets were used against students, and the premises were then bombed. And 498 schools were closed in addition to 1,289 schools were closed at the begging of -Aqsa intifada.
- During Al-Aqsa intifada, September 29, 2000, till January 20, 2006, 579 students were martyred in the Palestinian Territory, and 7 students from illiteracy centers in Nablus and Hebron.
- Injured students during Al-Aqsa intifada totaled 3,471 during September 29, 2000 to january 20, 2006.