



Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

**On the occasion of the International Health day
The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics reviews the health situation in
the Palestinian Territory.**

**Despite the widespread in the health services, the improvement in the
indicators of the health status of the citizen still slow**

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), reviewed the circumstance of health care in the Palestinian Territory on the occasion of the 7th of April –the International Health Day. In a press release issued this morning, Monday 7/4/2008, on this occasion, PCBS reviewed the most outstanding developments in the quality of life indicators in health field. Pointed out that this announcement emerges from its care and emphasizes on the importance of this day, specially, the health situation like other sectors pass in different curves; and in keeping in line with the publishing policy followed in PCBS and as its awareness to give this issue grate importance through presenting the official figures and statistics to the planners and policy makers in all topics to the reality of health.

PCBS views the health position in the Palestinian Territory as the following:

**A decrease of 5.5% for the under five mortality rate in the West Bank
between 2000-2006, with a slight increase in Gaza Strip.**

The Data issued by the PCBS indicated that there are constant rates of fertility during the period between 2004 and 2006. It reached 4.6 births per woman in the Palestinian Territory (4.2 in West Bank and 5.4 in Gaza Strip). On the other hand no noticed progress occurred in reducing infants mortality during the period between 2000 and 2006. This rate reached 25.3 per every thousand live birth in 2006. The data indicated that Gaza strip scored higher infants mortality rate than that in the West Bank (28.8 versus 22.9 respectively); while these rates reached 25.5 per thousand live birth in the Palestinian Territory in 2000. At the under five mortality rate, the results showed that no tangible progress has been reached in the area of reducing under five mortality at the national level. These rates were 28.2 per thousand live birth in 2006 versus 28.7 per thousand live birth in 2000. In contrast a decrease of 5.5% of death occurred in West Bank during the period between 2000-2006, while this rate increased by 1.6% in Gaza strip during this period.

76,134 households still do not have safe drinking water, and 89,527 households do not consume iodized salt.

Despite progress in the proportion of households with access to safe drinking water during the period between 2004-2006, there are approximately 76,134 households who still do not have safe drinking water (12.2 %), Tubas & Deir Al-Balah governorates were the most disadvantaged from access to such water, where this proportion reached 25.3% and 31.5% respectively. On the other hand, there has been an increase of 31.2% improvement on the proportion of households who consume iodized salt during the period (2004-2006); and in spite of this increase, however, there are approximately 89,527 households who do not consume the iodized salt (14,3%). Nablus and Deir Al-Balah governorates scored the highest ratios of not consuming iodized salt (20.1% and 21.1% respectively).

One individual out of 10 individuals suffer at least one chronic disease

For chronic diseases, data indicated that there was an increase of 31.1% in the prevalence of chronic diseases during the period 2004-2006. Blood pressure and diabetes were the highest percentages among individuals in the advanced age groups; since the prevalence with diabetes among people and 60 years and above was 24.8%, while the prevalence with blood pressure for the same age group was 35.2 %. Its worthy note that the prevalence of chronic diseases was 10.0% and 7.7% in 2002 and 2004 respectively.

One individual out of 5 individuals aged 12 years and above practice smoking habit

With regard to smoking, there is no essential noticed change in prevalence of smoking in the period between 2004-2006. The data indicated that there is one individual out of every 5 individuals aged 12 years and above in the Palestinian Territory who practices smoking habit, and this percentage is higher in the West Bank than in Gaza strip. The data showed that the highest rate of prevalence smoking in the age group 40-49 years, reached 30.0% in 2006.

12.5% of the women have the desire to use family planning methods but they didn't use

2006 data indicated that 49.8 % of the married women (15-49 years) do not use family planning method in the Palestinian Territory, namely that there are about 250,135 of couples do not use any method of family planning, and this rate reached the highest point in Hebron governorate (52.1%); and in Khan Younis governorate, in Gaza strip (63.1%) . In another hand, 2006 data indicated that there were 12.5 % of the women who have the desire to use family planning methods, but they didn't use any, and 3.3% of them desire to use such methods to delay pregnancy, while 9.2 % for the purpose of limiting of pregnancy.

Decline in the percentage of women who received postnatal care compared to antenatal care.

In relation to the natal care, the data in 2006 indicated that there are about 9,389 children born without the supervision of a qualified staff (1.1%). Salfit governorate in the West Bank scored the highest rate (7.3%) compared to the rest

of the governorates. On the other hand the percentage of women who received postnatal care is very low compared to the situation during pregnancy. Results showed that only 30 women out of every 100 received postnatal care, with a decrease of 12.0% during the period between 2004 – 2006 .

Decline in the prevalence of exclusive breast-feeding among children

For exclusive breast-feeding prevalence in the Palestinian Territory, despite the good prevalence of breastfeeding among children, exclusive breastfeeding is still biggest challenge in this area. While the proportion of infants (0-5) months who were not exclusively breastfed (73.5 %) , Tubas and Bethlehem governorates scored the lowest percentages compared to the governorates of the West Bank (10.4% and 12.1% respectively), while Gaza Strip and Deir Al-Balah Governorates scored the lowest percentages compared to Gaza Strip governorates (21.2% and 20.1% respectively).

14 children out of every 100 children under five years suffered acute respiratory infection

In another hand, data indicates that there were about 62,347 children under the age of five in the Palestinian Territory suffered diarrhea in 2006 equivalent to 11.7% ,and that in Qalqilya governorate in the West Bank scored the highest percentages (15.8%), while Gaza governorate scored the highest percentage (13.2%) in Gaza Strip .

Concerning children suffering acute respiratory infection, results showed that 79,890 children under 5 years had suffered acute respiratory infection in 2006, equivalent 14.1%, and that Tulkarem governorate in the West Bank scored the highest percentage (21.4%), North Gaza governorate in Gaza Strip scored the highest percentage (18.4%).

One child aged under five years old out of 100 children suffer from chronic malnutrition

For the prevalence of malnutrition among children under five years old , data indicated that there were 10 children out of every 100 children under 5 years of age suffer from chronic malnutrition (stunting) with an increase of 3.0% during the period between 2004-2006, and this percentage reached 7,9 % in the West Bank compared with 12.4% in Gaza strip. The results showed that there were also 13,741 children who are underweight at a rate of 2.9%, and that Jericho & Al Aghouar governorate in the West Bank scored the highest percentage (6.4%), and North Gaza governorate in Gaza strip scored the highest rate (3.7%). On another hand the data indicated that about 38,818 children (7.3%) were born with weight less than 2.5 kg, and Hebron & Khan Younis governorates scored the highest among these children by (9.2% and 8.4% respectively).