

**The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) and the Ministry of Health (MoH) are issuing a Press Release on the occasion of International Day of Giving up Smoking (World No Tobacco Day) on 31/5/2012**

**The main theme of this International Day of Giving up Smoking comes under "Tobacco industry interference"**

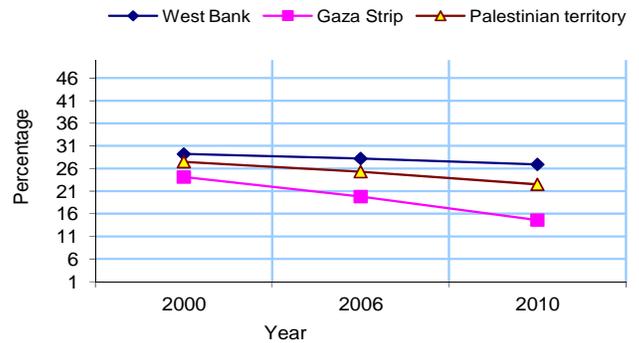
WHO has chosen "Tobacco industry interference" as the main theme for celebrating this year event, the publicity campaign will focus on the urgency to combat the increasing attempts of the spheres of tobacco industry to undermine the WHO Framework Convention on Combating Tobacco. PCBS and MoH review smoking reality in the Palestinian territory on the eve of International Day of Giving up Smoking (No Tobacco Day) as follows:

**More than one fifth of individuals at age of 18 years and over are smokers but these percentages are declining....** The Palestinian Household Survey that was implemented by PCBS in 2010 indicated that 22.5% of individuals at age of 18 years and over in the Palestinian territory are smokers (as 26.9% in West Bank compared with 14.6% in Gaza Strip). The highest percentage of smokers was in Jenin Governorate at 32.2% while the lowest percentage was in the north Gaza governorate at 11.3%.

**Percentage of smokers was higher among males than females...** The data of the Palestinian Household Survey that was implemented by PCBS

in 2010 indicated that the percentage of male smokers at the age between 15 to 65 years in the Palestinian Territory reached 37.6% against 2.6% of female smokers (as 43.6% male smokers and 4.0% female smokers in the West Bank compared to 26.9% male smokers and 0.2% female smokers in Gaza Strip).

**Percentage of smoking persons at age of 18 years or more by region in 2000, 2006 and 2010**



**Smoking percentages among older males inadequately exceeded that among females of about 11 times.**

About 15% of smokers in the Palestinian territory were old individuals (30.3% for males and 2.7% for females). This percentage reached 17.7% in West Bank against 8.9% in Gaza Strip.

**Smoking Dangers in Palestine**

Smoking is playing a direct role in the incidence of lung cancer, as it came at the second rank in reported numbers of cancer cases in Palestine and reached (10.8%) of the total of reported cancer cases in 2010. The lung cancer occupied the first rank of cancers among males in Palestine by (17.3%) of the total of reported cancer cases among males in 2010, while lung cancer ranked at the fourth place of cancer cases among females at 5.1% of all cancer cases

among females in accordance to the Ministry of Health.

It is well scientifically established that smoking is a leading cause of cancer in general. The Ministry of Health revealed that the new reported cancer cases increased by 11.0% in 2011 compared to 2010.

Also cancer occupied the second cause of mortality among the Palestinians at a percentage of 12.5% of all death cases as the cancer was the third cause of death among the Palestinians for many years ago at less than 11.0% of the total death cases in Palestine.

The passive smoking was a major threat to respiratory health in children as the primary health care clinics of the Ministry of Health in West Bank and through the integrated child care program had addressed about 77 thousand children at age between two and five years who were suffering from pulmonary inflammation and breathing difficulties in 2011 .

Smoking came at the top of the list of causes of underweight of newborns, and passive smoking may cause sudden death among infants as these death cases accounted for 4.6% of infant mortality in the Palestinian territory.

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