

A press Release issued by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) on the Occasion of the Mother's Day

Within the framework of its proactive dissemination policy of official statistics, PCBS issued a press release on the eve of Mother's day.

The preliminary results of the population, housing and establishment census conducted in 2007, indicated that the population in the Palestinian Territory is 3.8 million; 50.7% males and 49.3% females with a sex ratio of 103. Households headed by women constituted (8.0 %) of total households in the Palestinian territories in 2006 ; 8.0% in the West Bank and 7.7% in Gaza Strip .

The education enrollment rates of ever married women aged 15 years and above showed that 2.8% are currently enrolled in education and 13.1% illiterate, 30.3% holding preparatory certificate, 16.4% holding secondary certificate and 11.5% holding diploma degree and above.

With regard to mothers health care status during pregnancy, data of Palestinian family health survey (PAPFAM), conducted in 2006 revealed that 98.8% mothers have received health care during pregnancy which increased with a rate of change 2.4% compared with 2004. Results showed that receiving postnatal care from qualified medical cadre has decreased by 12% compared with 2004; whereas 30.0% of women had received it in 2006 compared with 34.1% in 2004. Receiving postnatal care was 29.7% in the West Bank, and 30.5% in Gaza Strip in 2006.

About 23.3% of women did not receive any health education during pregnancy; 31.3% in the West Bank and 10.2% in Gaza Strip in 2006.

PAPFAM results showed that 34.1% of women in the Palestinian Territory had received at least one dose of tetanus vaccine during their last pregnancy with a decrease of 8.8% compared with 2004. this rate reached its maximum in Deir Al-Balah Governorate (51.0%) compared with other governorates.

Using contraceptives data revealed that contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) was 50.2% of currently married women aged 15-49 years are using any family planning in the Palestinian Territory in 2006; 54.9% in West Bank, and 41.7% in Gaza Strip. The highest rate was in Qalqilyia Governorate (63.9%). The data showed that IUD was the most common used family planning method (24.8%).

The labor force participation rate of ever married women aged 15 years and above during 2007 in the Palestinian Territory reached 16.0%; 18.4% in West Bank, and 11.6% in Gaza Strip. For unemployment, the rate of the unemployed ever married women aged 15 years and above reached 13.2%; 11.5% in the West Bank, and 18.1% in Gaza Strip.

Participation of women by economic activity revealed that the major participation of women was in farming, forestry, hunting and fishing sector reached 42.1%. Women major participation at service sector was in education at 27.3%; 26.8% in the West Bank and 29.0% in Gaza Strip, followed by health sector 5.4%; 5.3% in West Bank and 5.8% in Gaza Strip.

The rate of households headed by women was 8.0% of Palestinian households in 2006, that constitutes a rate of 9% of the poor. Poverty data showed that households headed by women are more vulnerable to poverty (65.2%) according to income data compared with (56.0%) households headed by males.

The most recent statistics on the detainees in Israeli jails showed that more than 11,000 detained Palestinians by February 2008 in Israeli jails. From whom 98 women are still in detention. The rate of the detained women represents less than 1% of the total detainees; there are 94 female detainees from the northern governorates and Jerusalem, and 4 female detainees from the southern governorates. Females detention status data showed that there are (50) sentenced females, (42) not sentenced and (6) female are under military administrative detention. The number of martyr women was 145 martyr since the beginning of Al-Aqsa Intifada.