

10. HEALTH

■ Facts & Figures

- **Infant mortality rate** was 24.2 per 1,000 live births between 1999-2003. Main causes are premature delivery, low birth weight, respiratory system diseases, and congenital anomalies. (PCBS, *Palestinian Children - Rights and Numbers*, 2005.)
- **Child mortality rate** (death under the age of five years) was 28.3 per 1,000 live births between 1999-2003. Major causes are respiratory system diseases and congenital anomalies. (PCBS, *Palestinian Children - Rights and Numbers*, 2005.)
- In 2004, 76.1% of the Palestinians (65.8% in the WB, 93.8 in Gaza) had **health insurance**, 23.9% not. Of those insured, 51.8% had govt. insurance, 4.1% military insurance, 32.9% were insured through UNRWA, 2.3% through social security, 6.1% with Israeli insurance companies and 1.7% had private insurance. (PCBS, *Demographic & Health Survey*, 2004).
- Some 52.5% of the WBGS households have problems to **access health services** because of the high cost of medical treatment, 37.9% due to the Israeli closure, 41.9% of households because of military checkpoints, and 14.5% of households because of the separation barrier. (PCBS, *Impact of the Israeli Measures on the Economic Conditions of Palestinian Households*, April-June 2005).
- Between 28 Sept. 2000 and 11 Nov. 2005, **Israeli forces** have killed at least 12 PRCS medical staff and injured over 203. There were some 342 attacks on PRCS ambulances of which 197 have been damaged, incl. 28 beyond repair. In addition, there were 1,735 cases of denial of access to ambulances and many hospitals and clinics in the WBGS were shelled, raided, used as army posts, and medical equipments was destroyed. (Palestinian Red Crescent Society).
- Iron-deficiency anemia is the major **nutritional problem** in the WBGS, with over 25% of children under five and a third of women of child-bearing age being anemic. Other micronutrient deficiencies of concern are sub-clinical vitamin A deficiency, rickets and iodine deficiency. (Ministry of Health/WHO, *The State of Nutrition: West Bank and Gaza*, June 2005).

■ Health Indicators in Palestine

	WBGS	WB (of which Jerusalem)	GS
Hospitals	78	54 (9)	24
of which: Ministry of Health	23	11 (0)	12
NGOs	31	21 (6)	10
Private	23	21 (3)	2
UNRWA	1	1 (0)	0
Hospital Type	78	54	24
of which: General	39	25	14
Specialized	14	7	7
Rehabilitation	4	3	1
Maternity	21	19	2
Hospital beds	4,679	2,762	1,917
of which: Ministry of Health	- 2,614	- 1,152	- 1,462
NGOs	- 1,489	- 1,073	- 416
Private	- 518	- 479	- 39
UNRWA	- 58	- 58	- 0
Primary Health Care Centers	619	516	103
of which: Ministry of Health	391	337	54
NGOs	187	145	31
UNRWA	51	34	17
Population/hospital ratio	47,922	43,844	57,098
Hospital per 100,000 population ratio	2.1	2.3	1.8
Crude birth rate per 1,000 population	27.2	25.1	30.8
Crude death rate per 1,000 population	2.7	2.4	3.2
Total fertility rate	3.89	3.4	4.7
Infant mortality rate (death under the age of one year) per 1,000 live births	24		
Child mortality rate (under 5 years) per 1,000 live births	20.1		
Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births (women aged 15-49 years)	12.7	6.7	21.3

(Source: Ministry of Health, *Health Status in Palestine*, 2005.)

- In 2005, the **population per physician** ratio was 1,209, the **population per nurse** ratio was 762, the **population per dentist** ratio was 12,757. (Ministry of Health, *Health Statistics - Human Resources*).
- In 2004, there were a total of 5,687 **physicians** in the WBGS. (PCBS, *Health Statistics*).
- The general **beds occupancy rate** was 61.3%, and there were 1.4 beds for 1,000 population (PCBS, *Health Statistics*).

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Recommended Research Sources:

<http://www.pcbs.org/health/health.aspx> (PCBS Health Statistics)
<http://www.healthinform.net> (Information body- collaborative effort of WHO, the Italian Cooperation, and USAID)
<http://www.palestinercs.org> (Palestinian Red Crescent Society)
<http://www.hdip.org> (Health, Development, Information and Policy Institute)
<http://www.moh.gov.ps> (PA Ministry of Health)
<http://www.gcmhp.net> (Gaza Community Mental Health Program)
<http://www.upmrc.org> (Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees)
<http://www.hrcp.org> (Health Resources Center for Palestine)

Barghouthi, Mustafa & Jean Lennox, *Health in Palestine*. Ramallah: MAS, 1997.

Diwan, Ishac, and Radwan A. Shaban (eds.). *Development Under Adversity: The Palestinian Economy in Transition*. Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS) and The World Bank, 1999 (see chapter on Health).

Health Research in Palestine: An Annotated Bibliography. Ramallah: HDIP, 1999.

Lennox, J. & A. Shbayta, *Health Insurance and Health Service Utilization in the West Bank and Gaza Strip*. Ramallah: HDIP, 1998. Ministry of Health. *Health Status in Palestine*. July 2004.

The National Health Plan for the Palestinian People. Jerusalem: Planning and Research Center (PRC), 1994.

The Palestinian Health Services in the West Bank and Gaza Strip - Facts and Figures. Jerusalem: PRC, 1994.

WHO. *Report Health Conditions of the Arab Population in the OPT*. 1993.

