



10. Health

■ 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.)

■ Facts & Figures

- Over the last two decades **infant and under-five mortality rates** steadily declined (and is well below the regional average), while **life expectancy** has increased significantly (on average 4 years longer than the typical person in the region). Total health **spending** stands at about 13% of GDP - among the highest rate in the region. (World Bank. *West Bank and Gaza Public Expenditure Review. Vol. 1: From Crisis to Greater Fiscal Independence*, Feb. 2007).
- **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 congenial 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 congenial anomalies. (PCBS, *Palestinian Children - Rights and Numbers*, 2005.)
- Some 47.9% of married women (15-49 yrs.) use some kind of **contraceptives**. (PCBS, *Health Statistics*, 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 42.1% of the WBGs households in localities affected by the separation wall have problems to **access health services**, while the disability of medical staff to reach the localities formed obstacle for 35.3%, and lack of medicines and other essential medical needs for 41.6% (PCBS, *Impact of the of the Expansion and Annexation Wall on the Socioeconomic Conditions of Palestinian Households in the Localities in which the Wall Passes Through in the West Bank*, Feb. 2006).
- In 2005, the **population per physician** ratio was 1,209, the **population per nurse** ratio was 762, and the **population per dentist** ratio was 12,757. (Ministry of Health, *Health Statistics - Human Resources*).
- The Ministry of Health's salary **budget** increased by nearly 73%, and the number of medical personnel nearly doubled from 1,631 in 2000 to 2,999 in 2005. (World Bank. *West Bank and Gaza Public Expenditure Review. Vol. 1: From Crisis to Greater Fiscal Independence*, Feb. 2007).
- The health system of the OPT, especially in Gaza, is heavily dependent on **referral to hospitals** and other health services **outside** the area. The recent closure of the Rafah crossing and restrictions imposed on the Erez crossing are impeding the movement not only of people but also of essential medical equipment and supplies into Gaza. As health services continue to decline, the need for referral to services outside the area, such as in East Jerusalem, Jordan, Egypt and Israel, grows. Of some 4,074 patients in Gaza who applied for **travel permits on medical grounds** between June-Nov. 2007, 713 have had their applications denied, more than doubling the proportion of patients who have been denied passage since Israel imposed new restrictions on the Gaza Strip. Since Oct. 2007 (until 23 Nov.) alone, 12 people have died in the Gaza Strip after being either delayed at checkpoints or in being granted permits. (WHO, Press Statement, 23 November 2007.)
- As of May 2007, the level of **anaemia** among children 0-9 months stood at 72.2% in Gaza and 45% in the West Bank. (WHO, *Monitoring Health Status and Health Sector in the oPt*, Aug. 2007.)

Recommended Research Sources:

<http://www.palestinercs.org> (Palestinian Red Crescent Society)
<http://www.hdip.org> (Health, Development, Information and Policy Institute)
<http://www.gcmhp.net> (Gaza Community Mental Health Program)
<http://www.upmrc.org> (Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees)
<http://www.mohe.gov.ps/stats/state-h-2006.pdf>

<http://www.emro.who.int/palestine/> (WHO)
<http://www.moh.gov.ps> (Ministry of Health)
<http://www.pcbs.gov.ps> (Health Statistics)
<http://www.healthinforum.net>

Barghouthi, Mustafa & Jean Lenock, *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.

Lenock, J. & A. Shbayta, *Health Insurance and Health Service Utilization in the West Bank and Gaza Strip*. Ramallah: HDIP, 1998.

Ministry of Health, *Joint Report of Health Sector Review*, March 2007.

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.