



Palestine STEPS Survey 2022

Fact Sheet

The STEPS survey of noncommunicable disease (NCD) risk factors in Palestine was carried out by the Palestinian National Institute of Public Health in partnership with the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization from August 2022 to October 2022. Palestine carried out Step 1, Step 2, and Step 3. Socio demographic and behavioral information was collected in Step 1. Physical measurements such as height, weight and blood pressure were collected in Step 2. Biochemical measurements were collected to assess blood glucose and cholesterol levels in Step 3. The survey was a population-based survey of adults aged 18-69. A cross-sectional, population-based household survey was used to produce representative data for that age range in Palestine. A total of 5503 adults participated in the survey. The overall response rate was 95.3%. A repeat survey is planned for 2027 if funds permit.

Results for adults aged 18-69 years (95% CI)	Both Sexes	Males	Females
Step 1 Tobacco Use			
Percentage who currently smoke tobacco	33.5% (31.5- 35.6)	55.1% (52.0 - 58.1)	12.1% (10.2-14.0)
Percentage who currently smoke tobacco daily	26.3% (24.4-28.3%)	46.8% (43.6- 50.0)	6.0% (4.7- 7.3)
<i>For those who smoke tobacco daily</i>			
Average age started smoking (years)	18.3 (17.9- 18.8)	17.6 (17.1- 18.0)	24.4 (23.1- 25.8)
Percentage of daily smokers smoking manufactured cigarettes	100% (100.0- 100.0)	100% (100.0- 100.0)	100% (100.0- 100.0)
Mean number of manufactured cigarettes smoked per day (by smokers of manufactured cigarettes)	16.3 (15.3- 17.3)	16.7 (15.6- 17.7)	11.5 (9.7- 13.3)
Step 1 Alcohol Consumption			
Percentage who are lifetime abstainers	97.6% (96.6-98.6)	95.7% (94.0- 97.5)	99.4% (99.0- 99.9)
Percentage who are past 12 month abstainers	1.7% (1.1- 2.2)	3.1% (2.1-4.2)	0.2% (0.0- 0.4)
Percentage who currently drink (drank alcohol in the past 30 days)	0.6% (0.0- 1.3)	1.0% (0.0- 2.2)	0.3% (0.0- 0.6)
Percentage who engage in heavy episodic drinking (6 or more drinks on any occasion in the past 30 days)	0.2% (0.0-0.4)	0.2% (0.0- 0.6)	0.2% (0.0-0.4)
Step 1 Diet			
Mean number of days fruit consumed in a typical week	3.6 (3.5- 3.7)	3.4 (3.2-3.5)	3.9 (3.8-4.0)
Mean number of servings of fruit consumed on average per day	1.2 (1.1-1.3)	1.2 (1.1-1.3)	1.2 (1.1-1.3)
Mean number of days vegetables consumed in a typical week	5.5 (5.4- 5.6)	5.3 (5.2-5.5)	5.7 (5.6-5.8)
Mean number of servings of vegetables consumed on average per day	1.7 (1.6-1.8)	1.6 (1.5-1.7)	1.8 (1.7-1.9)
Percentage who ate less than 5 servings of fruit and/or vegetables on average per day	84.3% (82.3- 86.3)	85.0% (82.3- 87.8)	83.5% (81.3-85.7)
Percentage who always or often add salt or salty sauce to their food before eating or as they are eating	26.5% (23.1-30.0)	23.4% (19.0-27.7)	29.7% (26.4-33.0)
Percentage who always or often eat processed foods high in salt	34.2% (32.0-36.5)	35.6% (32.3-38.8)	32.9% (30.7-35.2)
Step 1 Physical Activity			
Percentage with insufficient physical activity (defined as < 150 minutes of moderate-intensity activity per week, or equivalent)*	21.1% (18.9- 23.2)	17.0% (14.7-19.4)	25.1% (22.1-28.1)
Median time spent in physical activity on average per day (minutes) (presented with inter-quartile range)	102.9 (30.0-240.0)	120.0 (34.3-300.0)	90.0 (20.0-201.4)
Percentage not engaging in vigorous activity	78.4% (76.4-80.3)	62.0% (58.9- 65.1)	94.7% (93.4-96.0)

* For complete definitions of insufficient physical activity, refer to the GPAQ Analysis Guide (<http://www.who.int/chp/steps/GPAQ/en/index.html>) or to the WHO Global recommendations on physical activity for health (http://www.who.int/dietphysicalactivity/factsheet_recommendations/en/index.html)

Results for adults aged 18-69 years (95% CI)	Both Sexes	Males	Females
Step 1 Cervical Cancer Screening			
Percentage of women aged 30-49 years who have ever had a screening test for cervical cancer			9.6% (7.6-11.6)
Step 2 Physical Measurements			
Mean body mass index - BMI (kg/m ²)	27.5 (27.3-27.8)	26.5 (26.1-26.8)	28.7 (28.4-28.9)
Percentage who are overweight (BMI ≥ 25 kg/m ²)	61.4% (59.5-63.3)	56.1% (53.4-58.9)	66.9% (64.8-69.0)
Percentage who are obese (BMI ≥ 30 kg/m ²)	31.6% (29.8-33.4)	24.7% (22.1-27.3)	38.8% (36.8-40.8)
Average waist circumference (cm)		94.3 (93.4-95.2)	90.9 (90.1-91.7)
Mean systolic blood pressure - SBP (mmHg), including those currently on medication for raised BP	115.4 (114.8-116.0)	119.9 (119.0-120.8)	110.9 (110.2-111.5)
Mean diastolic blood pressure - DBP (mmHg), including those currently on medication for raised BP	77.4 (77.0-77.8)	77.5 (76.8-78.2)	77.2 (76.8-77.6)
Percentage with raised BP (SBP ≥ 140 and/or DBP ≥ 90 mmHg or currently on medication for raised BP) (Age 18-69)	20.5% (19.1-21.8)	20.9% (18.6-23.1)	20.0% (18.6-21.5)
- Age 18-29	4.6% (3.3-6.0)	5.3% (3.0-7.6)	3.9% (2.5-5.4)
- Age 30-44	15.1% (12.9-17.3)	16.9% (12.9-20.9)	13.4% (11.2-15.6)
- Age 45-59	47.4% (44.2-50.6)	47.8% (42.4-53.3)	47.0% (43.6-50.3)
- Age 60-69	64.6% (59.8-69.4)	58.5% (49.9-67.1)	70.5% (65.8-75.2)
Percentage with raised BP (SBP ≥ 140 and/or DBP ≥ 90 mmHg or currently on medication for raised BP) who are not currently on medication for raised BP (Age 18-69)	48.2% (44.5-51.8)	57.6% (51.2-63.9)	38.5% (34.8-42.2)
- Age 18-29	92.1% (85.9-98.3)	96.8% (90.5-100.0)	85.7% (74.4-96.9)
- Age 30-44	69.6% (62.4-76.8)	75.9% (64.9-87.0)	61.9% (53.1-70.6)
- Age 45-59	40.7% (36.0-45.4)	49.6% (41.3-58.0)	31.8% (27.1-36.5)
- Age 60-69	20.7% (15.4-26.0)	28.8% (18.3-39.3)	14.2% (10.3-18.2)
Step 3 Biochemical Measurement			
Mean fasting blood glucose, including those currently on medication for raised blood glucose [mg/dl]	93.0 (91.6-94.3)	90.8 (88.8-92.7)	95.2 (93.6-96.8)
Percentage with impaired fasting glycaemia as defined below • plasma venous value ≥110 mg/dl and <126 mg/dl • capillary whole blood value ≥100 mg/dl and <110 mg/dl (Age 18-69)	5.4% (4.7-6.2)	4.7% (3.6-5.8)	6.2% (5.3-7.1)
- Age 18-29	2.3% (1.3-3.3)	1.6% (0.5-2.8)	3.0% (1.7-4.3)
- Age 30-44	4.5% (3.3-5.7)	3.4% (1.6-5.3)	5.6% (4.1-7.0)
- Age 45-59	10.9% (8.8-13.0)	11.3% (7.5-15.1)	10.5% (8.3-12.7)
- Age 60-69	12.8% (10.1-15.5)	10.3% (5.8-14.7)	15.3% (11.8-18.8)

Results for adults aged 18-69 years (95% CI)	Both Sexes	Males	Females
Percentage with raised fasting blood glucose as defined below or currently on medication for raised blood glucose (Age 18-69) • plasma venous value \geq 126 mg/dl • capillary whole blood value \geq 110 mg/dl	7.6% (6.8-8.5)	7.0% (5.7-8.3)	8.3% (7.3-9.3)
- Age 18-29	1.0% (0.4-1.5)	1.0% (0.1-1.8)	1.0% (0.4-1.5)
- Age 30-44	4.7% (3.4-6.0)	5.0% (2.8-7.3)	4.3% (3.0-5.6)
- Age 45-59	18.6% (16.0-21.1)	16.0% (11.6-20.3)	21.1% (18.2-24.0)
- Age 60-69	29.6% (25.5-33.7)	26.7% (19.8-33.6)	32.5% (27.9-37.1)
Mean total blood cholesterol, including those currently on medication for raised cholesterol [mg/dl]	152.4 (150.2-154.6)	141.2 (138.0-144.3)	163.5 (161.4-165.7)
Percentage with raised total cholesterol (\geq 190 mg/dl or currently on medication for raised cholesterol)	23.0% (21.2-24.8)	17.0% (14.5-19.6)	29.0% (27.0-30.9)
Cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk			
Percentage aged 40-69 years with a 10-year CVD risk \geq 20%, or with existing CVD**	17.1% (15.3-19.2)	21.6% (18.5-25.1)	12.6% (11.0-14.5)
Summary of combined risk factors			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> current daily smokers less than 5 servings of fruits & vegetables per day insufficient physical activity overweight (BMI \geq 25 kg/m²) raised BP (SBP \geq 140 and/or DBP \geq 90 mmHg or currently on medication for raised BP) 			
Percentage with none of the above risk factors	2.6% (2.0-3.2)	2.1% (1.3-2.8)	3.2% (2.4-4.0)
Percentage with three or more of the above risk factors, aged 18 to 44 years	24.8% (22.7-26.9)	30.2% (26.9-33.5)	18.9% (16.6-21.3)
Percentage with three or more of the above risk factors, aged 45 to 69 years	58.0% (55.0-61.0)	61.2% (56.8-65.7)	54.9% (51.7-58.1)
Percentage with three or more of the above risk factors, aged 18 to 69 years	33.6% (31.7-35.6)	38.2% (35.2-41.2)	28.9% (26.7-31.0)

** A 10-year CVD risk of \geq 20% is defined according to age, sex, blood pressure, smoking status (current smokers OR those who quit smoking less than 1 year before the assessment), total cholesterol, and diabetes (previously diagnosed OR a fasting plasma glucose concentration $>$ 7.0 mmol/l (126 mg/dl)).

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