

BRIEF #2

YOUTH AND ADOLESCENTS' PLIGHT AMIDST GENOCIDE IN GAZA: ALL VIOLENCE, NO PROTECTION

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Juzoor for Health and Social Development is Launching a Series of Brief Reports on the Impact of Genocide on Adolescent Health and Wellbeing in Gaza: Findings from a Comprehensive Study of 1,011 Youth Aged 10–24, Conducted in August-September 2024

The recent war in Gaza has had devastating impacts on the young population, with widespread challenges including escalating violence and heightened vulnerabilities. This brief report provides insight into the harrowing realities faced by Gaza's youth, revealing the extreme violence they endure and the near-total lack of safety and protection.

The Struggle for Safety: A Constant Fear

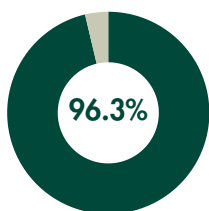
When asked about the challenges they have personally faced during the war, more than half of the surveyed young people reported feeling unsafe from the Israeli occupation. Shockingly, only 12.1% stated they felt safe in their homes or current places of residence to a high extent, while 90% reported not feeling safe in their communities – most notably when walking in the streets. Concerns for children's safety were also widespread. The majority of respondents expressed fear for the safety of children in various environments, particularly in their neighborhoods and while walking in the community. Additionally, more than 33% of respondents reported personally experiencing violence while queuing to get water. In contrast, only 31% of respondents said they did not experience any form of violence during the war.

Escalating Violence and Stress

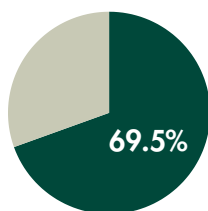
Almost all of the respondents – 96.3% – agreed that the war has intensified stress and pressure at home and within their families. Among these, 71.1% believe the war has placed immense pressure on girls under 18 to marry early, while 56.3% believe the same for boys. Reports of violence towards adolescents during the war also paint an alarming picture – 89.9% of respondents perceive an increase in violence against male adolescents, while 82.4% see the same trend for female adolescents.

Trauma and Loss: The Unseen Damage

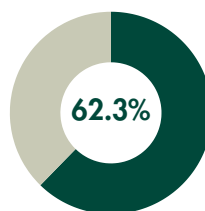
For Gaza's youth, trauma is a constant reality. The study revealed that 88.8% of respondents have witnessed Israeli raids while 70.2% have seen the remains of martyrs. 69.3% have experienced the bombing or demolition of their homes, and 66.1% fear for their lives every day due to bombardments. The majority (84%) have also witnessed funerals and the demolition of infrastructure. These traumatic experiences are reshaping the mental health landscape for an entire generation, with consequences that could linger for a lifetime.



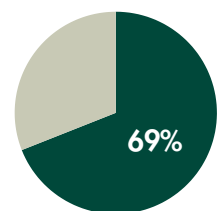
Agree with Increased Stress
Within their Families



Feel Unsafe
at Home



Experienced
Verbal Abuse



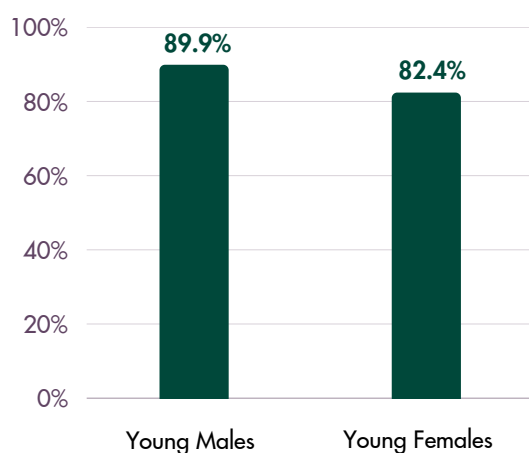
Personally Experienced
Some Kind of Violence

Domestic Violence on the Rise

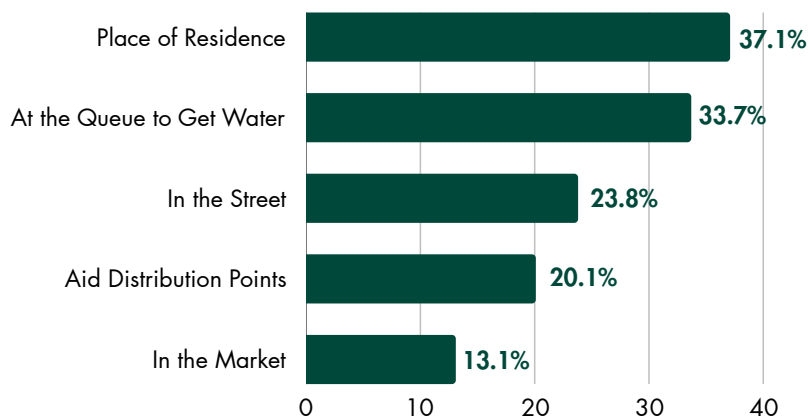
The war has exacerbated domestic violence across Gaza. According to the study, 62.3% of adolescents reported experiencing verbal abuse from family members, while 38.4% endured physical abuse during the conflict. Nearly 40% of respondents witnessed or were aware of physical violence in their household, and a staggering 97% of them noted that this violence had escalated during the war. Additionally, 78.3% agreed that violence against male children has increased, highlighting a troubling trend in aggression against young boys.

Intimate partner violence has also surged significantly. 67.8% agreed that violence against women has risen, with 45.5% frequently quarreling with their partners, and 18.2% of respondents reported being physically harmed by their partners. These figures reveal the profound toll the war has taken on family dynamics, compounding the psychological and physical strain on individuals and households.

Perception of Increased Violence Towards Young Males and Females in the Community



Places Where Participants Personally Experienced Violence During the War



A Call for Urgent Action

The crisis facing Gaza's youth is unparalleled, with the violence and instability having pushed them to the brink of survival. This generation is growing up in a state of constant trauma, with their physical and mental well-being deeply affected by the war and its remnants. Immediate action is needed to protect this vulnerable population. We call on the international community to recognize the gravity of this situation and take concrete steps to provide aid and protect the rights of children and adolescents. The world cannot afford to ignore the needs of Gaza's youth; their survival and development depend on our collective action.