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DATA REPORT AUGUST 10, 2026

What Will Happen to Civilians in Gaza? Reading the Counts Each Body Publishes

Gaza's health ministry recorded 236,505 dead and injured by October 2025. What each count measures, and what each party publishes.

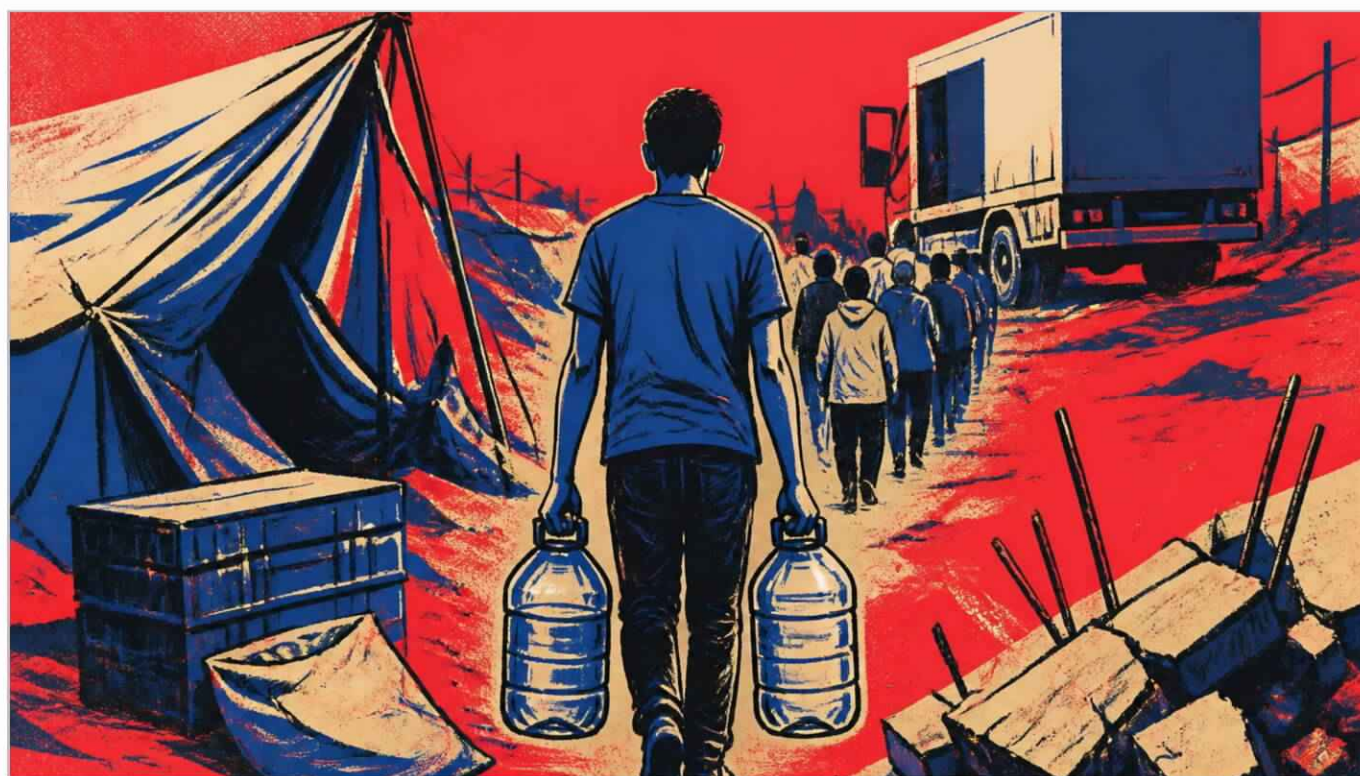
Gaza

Civilian Harm

Casualty Counts

Humanitarian Aid

Antisemitism



Gaza's Ministry of Health recorded 67,075 people killed and 169,430 injured as of 3 October 2025, a combined 236,505 casualties compiled by Brown University's Costs

of War project, against a prewar population the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics puts at roughly 2.2 million. A population-representative household survey published in The Lancet Global Health estimated about 75,200 violent deaths in a window that closed nine months earlier, on 5 January 2025, alongside about 8,000 non-violent deaths. The two figures come from different methods and different windows, and the gap between them is the central measurement dispute in any answer to this question.

Key Findings

- Gaza's Ministry of Health recorded 67,075 killed and 169,430 injured by 3 October 2025, totalled as 236,505 casualties by Brown University's Costs of War project, against a prewar population of about 2.2 million reported by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics.
- A population-representative household survey published in The Lancet Global Health estimated about 75,200 violent deaths between 7 October 2023 and 5 January 2025, plus about 8,000 non-violent deaths, so roughly 90% of the excess mortality it recorded was violent rather than tied to living conditions.
- Reuters reported in 2025 that Gaza health officials put the toll at 60,034 by 29 July 2025, including 18,592 minors, 30.8% of that total.
- The Guardian reported in August 2025 that a leaked Israeli military intelligence database indicated a civilian death rate of 83%, a figure attributed to internal military data rather than to an official Israeli publication.
- COGAT, the Israeli Ministry of Defense unit, reported 1,778,363 metric tons of food entering Gaza between 10 October 2025 and 7 June 2026, its own count resting on self-declaration by suppliers rather than weighing at the crossings.

What do the records show is happening to Gaza's civilians now?

Gaza's Ministry of Health recorded **236,505 casualties** by 3 October 2025, 67,075 killed and 169,430 injured, as compiled by Brown University's Costs of War project.

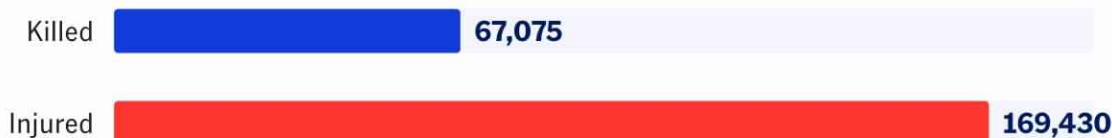
Set against the roughly 2.2 million people the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics reports were living in Gaza on the eve of the war, that is about one in ten of the prewar population entered in an administrative record as dead or injured.

The 67,075 is the ministry's own count, assembled from hospital records and family registration, and the Costs of War project totals it rather than measuring it independently. Its scope is what reaches a recording system: deaths certified at functioning hospitals plus reports filed by relatives.

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, in its brief on the status of the Palestinian people at the end of 2025, reports Gaza at about 2.13 million people, a decline of approximately 254,000, which the bureau states is a decrease of 10.6% against its pre-aggression population estimates. The bureau attributes that change to war-related deaths, missing persons, reduced births and forced out-migration, so it is a net demographic accounting rather than a death toll. Separately, the same brief reports roughly 2.2 million people living in Gaza on the eve of the war, nearly two million of them displaced, and roughly 100,000 who have left the Strip. These are estimates produced by projection, not an enumeration; the last full Palestinian census, in 2017, counted 1,899,291 residents of the Gaza Strip.

Casualties recorded in Gaza to 3 October 2025

GAZA MINISTRY OF HEALTH RECORDS, AS COMPILED BY AN ACADEMIC PROJECT



Source: Gaza Ministry of Health figures as compiled by Brown University's Costs of War project, 2025.

Is it true that suffering deepens without a ceasefire and wider aid?

Roughly **90%** of the excess mortality measured in Gaza was violent rather than conditional: the population-representative household survey published in The Lancet Global Health

estimated about 75,200 violent deaths between 7 October 2023 and 5 January 2025, against about 8,000 non-violent deaths in the same window. On that measurement, hostilities and their cessation are the dominant variable in the mortality record, and supply volume the second.

It is often said that civilian suffering in Gaza will deepen unless there is a ceasefire and much wider humanitarian access. That is the stated position of the United Nations, whose agencies said through 2025 that people had nowhere safe to go and that expanded military control was shrinking the areas aid could reach, and of the International Committee of the Red Cross, which described suffering on a devastating scale in its statement marking two years of the conflict. Both are positions those bodies hold and publish.

The survey figures are directionally consistent with the first half of that claim and put a proportion on it. Violent deaths outnumbered non-violent excess deaths by roughly nine to one in the surveyed period, which locates most of the measured mortality in the periods of active hostilities rather than in the slower attrition of a degraded health and water system. The survey reports estimates with sampling bounds, not a count, and it closed on 5 January 2025.

The second half of the claim, that wider access changes the trajectory, is measured much less directly. No study in the published record isolates aid tonnage as a variable against mortality in Gaza. What exists is the mortality series above, the service-availability reporting of the World Health Organization, and the tonnage counts published by the parties, which the next section sets out as their own reporting. The relationship between them is documented as association in time, not as a measured effect.

What does Israel's own reporting record about aid during the ceasefire?

COGAT, the Israeli Ministry of Defense unit that coordinates activity in the territories, reported **1,778,363 metric tons** of food entering the Gaza Strip between 10 October 2025 and 7 June 2026, a figure it presents as nearly threefold the World Food Programme's monthly requirement benchmark. The tonnage is COGAT's own count, resting on self-declaration by humanitarian organizations and private suppliers rather than on weighing at the crossings.

Israel's bodies publish several such series, each with its own window and each as the reporting party's own record.

Reporting body and record	Period	Figure as reported
COGAT, Humanitarian Situation Report During the Ceasefire	10 Oct 2025 to 7 Jun 2026	1,778,363 tons of food; 18,000 tons of medical supplies since 10 Oct 2025; more than 70,000 cubic meters of water per day facilitated
Israel Defense Forces, aid situation page	Start of the war to 19 Aug 2025	Over 1.9 million tons of aid delivered, including 7,800 tons cumulatively by the aerial route
Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, humanitarian efforts page	To 16 Dec 2023	Over 70,000 tons of aid, over 6,500 tons of it medical supplies
Permanent Mission of Israel to the Multilateral Organizations in France	To 14 Sep 2025	More than 106,000 aid trucks carrying over two million tons

Source: COGAT, 2026; Israel Defense Forces, 2025; Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2023; Permanent Mission of Israel to the Multilateral Organizations in France, 2025. Each is the publishing body's own count, produced by a party to the events it describes, and none is independently verified.

Three properties of these figures matter for reading them. They are floors and approximations by their own wording, so "over 1.9 million tons" cannot be restated as 1,900,000. They overlap and cannot be summed, because the windows differ and the units run between tons, trucks and cubic meters. And in the threefold ratio only the numerator is COGAT's: the denominator is the World Food Programme's published requirement benchmark.

Set beside them are the access assessments published by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and by the International Committee of the Red Cross, which describe relief delivery as restricted by movement limits, insecurity and damaged infrastructure. Those are those organizations' own assessments. The tonnage counts record what the delivering party states entered; the access assessments record what the receiving organizations state could be moved and distributed. They measure different points in the same chain, which is why a rise in one is compatible with a shortfall reported in the other.

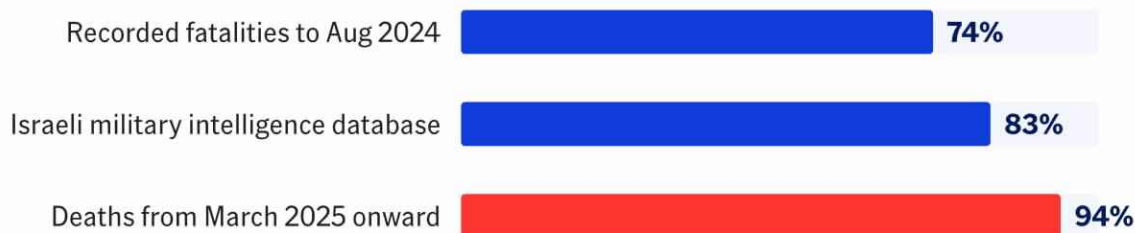
What share of the dead were civilians?

Action on Armed Violence, a London-based monitoring organization, estimated in 2024 that at least **74%** of the then-recorded 40,717 fatalities in Gaza were civilians, which it put at at least 30,122 civilian deaths. That is the organization's own analysis on its own coding of the recorded fatalities, not an official classification.

Two further figures circulate, each with a different provenance. The Guardian reported in August 2025 that a leaked Israeli military intelligence database indicated a civilian death rate of 83%; the newspaper attributed the figure to internal military data rather than to any official Israeli publication, and no Israeli body has published it as a statistic. The Guardian also reported in September 2025, on data analysed with the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project, that civilians made up 15 of every 16 people killed in Gaza since March 2025, a share of about 94% in that later window.

Estimated civilian share of the dead, by source and window

INDEPENDENT ESTIMATES ON DIFFERENT PERIODS AND DIFFERENT METHODS



Source: Action on Armed Violence, 2024; The Guardian, August 2025; The Guardian, September 2025.

The arithmetic runs the other way as well. The Jerusalem Center for Security and Foreign Affairs published a ceiling in 2025 of at most 41,000 civilians in Gaza who had died of war-related causes, derived by subtracting estimated natural deaths and Israel's own estimate of Hamas fighters killed from the Gaza Ministry of Health total. The centre's page states plainly that neither the ministry's 67,000 total nor Israel's estimate of 21,000 fighters killed has been independently confirmed. That figure is the publisher's own arithmetic on inputs supplied by parties to the conflict, and the publisher labels it a ceiling rather than a count.

No body publishes an independently verified combatant-versus-civilian breakdown of the Gaza dead. The estimates above differ by twenty percentage points, and they differ in period, in method, and in who did the classifying.

Why do the death-toll estimates differ by tens of thousands?

The household survey published in The Lancet Global Health estimated about **75,200** violent deaths through 5 January 2025, roughly 8,000 above the 67,075 the Gaza Ministry of Health had recorded by 3 October 2025, nine months later. The gap is a difference of method before it is a difference of number: one estimates deaths in a population by sampling it, the other counts deaths that reach a recording system.

Reuters reported in 2025 on how the ministry's tally is built: hospital records for bodies received, plus a family-registration process for deaths reported by relatives, with a category of missing persons held separately. An administrative count of that kind is bounded by the functioning of the institutions doing the recording, and hospital capacity in Gaza fell across the period. A survey estimate is bounded differently, by sample size and by response, and it reports a central estimate with an interval rather than a ledger entry.

The two also cover different windows, so they are not two readings of the same quantity. The survey window closed on 5 January 2025; the ministry figure runs to 3 October 2025 and includes deaths after the survey closed. A larger survey estimate over a shorter window is therefore the expected shape if under-recording is present, and not by itself a measure of how large that under-recording is.

The Peace Research Institute Oslo published a research note summarising the survey and its bounds. The Washington Institute for Near East Policy published a competing methodological assessment of the Gaza toll after eighteen months of war, which reaches different conclusions about how the ministry's figures should be read. Both are named assessments of the same underlying records rather than independent counts of the dead.

For readers tracking how these figures move once they leave the source, the Institute has separately examined [the published counts that circulate in coverage](#). What can be stated from

the record itself is narrower than the debate around it: two methods, two windows, an 8,000-death difference at the endpoints, and no reconciliation published by either body.

How many of the dead were children, women, or elderly?

Reuters reported in 2025 that Gaza health officials put the death toll at 60,034 by 29 July 2025, including 18,592 minors, **30.8%** of that total. That share is calculated on the ministry's own recorded and identified deaths, not on any estimate of total mortality.

The household survey published in The Lancet Global Health measured composition differently and returned a higher combined share. The Peace Research Institute Oslo, summarising the survey, reported that women, children and elderly people made up more than 56% of those violently killed in the surveyed period. The two figures are not in conflict: one is a single demographic category within an administrative count, the other three categories within a survey estimate.

The Guardian reported in February 2026 on further Lancet Global Health work that 42,200 women, children and elderly people died in the first 16 months of the war, within a total the same reporting put at more than 75,000.

How each source reports the demographic composition of the dead

MINORS AS A SHARE OF 60,034 RECORDED DEATHS; WOMEN, CHILDREN AND ELDERLY AS A SHARE OF SURVEYED VIOLENT DEATHS. DIFFERENT DENOMINATORS, NOT ONE SERIES



Source: Reuters, 2025, on Gaza Ministry of Health figures to 29 July 2025; household survey published in The Lancet Global Health, summarised by the Peace Research Institute Oslo.

Two limits belong with these shares. Identification is a condition of the administrative figure: a death that enters the record without an age recorded cannot be classified into either

category, and the ministry's missing-persons category sits outside the count entirely. And the survey shares carry sampling bounds, which the summaries report and the shares themselves do not display. The categories are also not identically defined across the sources: "minors" and "children" are drawn on different age thresholds by different publishers, and no single published table reconciles them.

How many deaths came from hunger, disease, and health-system collapse?

The household survey published in The Lancet Global Health estimated about **8,540 excess deaths** tied to deteriorating living conditions and the collapse of medical services between 7 October 2023 and 5 January 2025. That is a survey-derived estimate carrying sampling bounds, and it is a different kind of figure from an administrative count of certified deaths.

Brown University's Costs of War project sets out the framework these deaths fall under, distinguishing direct deaths from violence from indirect deaths that follow from the destruction of the systems people depend on: water and sanitation, food supply, and functioning hospitals. The project states its own uncertainty plainly, and the distinction matters for reading any projection: an indirect death counted in a survey is a measured event, while an indirect death forecast for a future period is a modelled expectation, and the two are routinely reported under the same heading.

Service availability across that period is reported by the World Health Organization, which tracks functioning hospitals, bed counts and intensive-care capacity in Gaza. Its figures describe the capacity of the system, not deaths attributable to its loss, and no published study converts the one into the other.

The measured picture, then, is asymmetric. About 8,540 indirect excess deaths were estimated for a fifteen-month window in which the same survey estimated about 75,200 violent deaths. That is roughly one indirect death for every nine violent ones in the surveyed period. Whether that ratio holds beyond January 2025 is not established by any published measurement: a survey estimates the window it sampled, and the survey window has closed.

Food supply after the ceasefire is reported by COGAT, whose figures are set out above as that unit's own count. No published analysis joins those supply figures to the mortality series, so the two remain separate records covering overlapping months.

What does 169,430 recorded injuries imply for the years ahead?

Gaza's Ministry of Health recorded **169,430 injuries** by 3 October 2025, as compiled by Brown University's Costs of War project, about 2.5 injuries for every death in the same ledger. That ratio is a property of the administrative record: it describes what was registered by a treating or reporting system, not the population living with impairment.

The injured-to-killed ratio is a standard descriptive measure in the casualty literature, used in peer-reviewed comparative analysis of civilian and combatant casualty patterns (PubMed Central, PMC11231088) to characterise the profile of a conflict. It is descriptive in exactly the way a case-fatality figure is descriptive: it summarises a recorded distribution and carries the same collection limits as the counts behind it.

Those limits run in both directions here. An injury that received no hospital treatment does not enter the record, which pushes the count down. A person injured more than once may enter it more than once, which pushes it up. And the ratio moves with the availability of treatment: a health system that can stabilise more of the severely wounded records more injuries and fewer deaths, so a change in the ratio can register a change in medical capacity rather than a change in what happened to people.

Set against the roughly 2.2 million people the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics reports were in Gaza before the war, 169,430 recorded injuries is about 7.7% of that population entered in an injury record. What proportion of those injuries produced lasting disability is not established by any published count in this record. Injury registers do not carry outcome; a severity distribution for these 169,430 has not been published by the ministry or by any body compiling it, and no follow-up cohort of the Gaza wounded appears in the peer-reviewed literature. The figure that exists is the count. The figure that would answer the durable question does not.

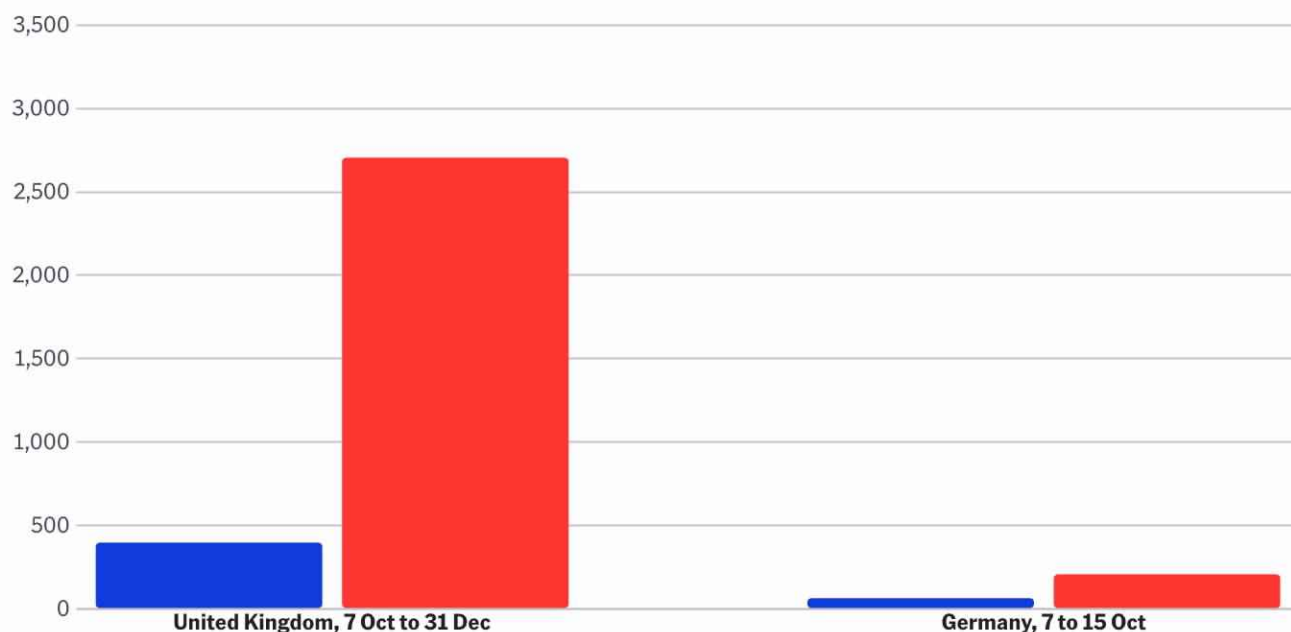
Does what happens in Gaza change attitudes toward Jews elsewhere?

Community Security Trust, the British Jewish community security body, recorded **2,699 antisemitic incidents** in the United Kingdom between 7 October and 31 December 2023, 66% of its annual total for the year and a 589% increase on the 392 it recorded over the same dates in 2022. The count is the organization's own, on its own definition of an antisemitic incident, and is not a police statistic.

Monitoring bodies in other countries recorded the same shape in the same weeks. Bundesverband RIAS, the German federal association of antisemitism reporting offices, verified 202 incidents in Germany connected to the attacks between 7 and 15 October 2023, against 59 documented in the equivalent window a year earlier, an increase the association states as at least 240% and calls a preliminary snapshot. Both counts rest on voluntary reporting to a community body and on definitions broader than criminal law, so neither can be summed with police figures.

Incidents recorded by two monitoring bodies, 2023 against the year-earlier window

EACH PAIR IS LIKE-FOR-LIKE WITHIN ITS COUNTRY; THE TWO COUNTRIES USE DIFFERENT WINDOWS AND DEFINITIONS



■ 2022 window ■ 2023 window

Source: Community Security Trust, 2024; Bundesverband RIAS, 2023.

Survey work measures the attitudinal side. Ozer, Obaidi and Bergh (2025) ran two experiments with British samples (N = 354 and N = 490) priming participants with material on the war in Gaza, and found political orientation associated with anti-Jewish hostility through two separate pathways: social dominance orientation on one side, and out-group identity fusion with the Palestinian people on the other. Enstad (2026), across two nationally representative Norwegian surveys (N = 1,575 and a preregistered replication at N = 1,653), found endorsement of Holocaust inversion associated with justification of harassment and violence against Jews. Both sets of findings are correlational, and both authors state that.

The Institute has examined this timing pattern separately, in its work on [whether antisemitism rises after conflict](#) and on [the documentary record of civilian harm in Gaza](#). What the counts above establish is coincidence in time and measured association in survey data, not a causal chain from events in Gaza to incidents in Manchester or Berlin.

Methodology and limitations

This report assembles published counts on Gaza and labels each by the type of record it is. Five types appear.

Administrative counts: the Gaza Ministry of Health's recorded deaths and injuries, as compiled and totalled by Brown University's Costs of War project. These count what reaches a recording system, and their coverage moves with the functioning of the institutions that record.

Survey estimates: the population-representative household mortality survey published in The Lancet Global Health, which estimates deaths in a population by sampling it and reports central estimates with bounds. The Peace Research Institute Oslo published a summary note on it; the Washington Institute for Near East Policy published a competing methodological assessment of the Gaza toll after eighteen months of war. Those two assessments disagree

about how the underlying figures should be read, and this report names the disagreement rather than resolving it.

Party-published counts: COGAT's ceasefire situation report, the Israel Defense Forces' aid page, and two Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs publications. Each is a count produced by a party to the events it describes, and none is independently verified. COGAT's tonnages rest on self-declaration by suppliers rather than on weighing at the crossings, and the tonnage figures across these sources use different windows and units and cannot be summed.

Statistical-office estimates: the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. Its end-2025 Gaza figures are estimates and projections, not enumeration, and the last full census was in 2017. Its reported decline of approximately 254,000 people is a net demographic accounting attributed to deaths, missing persons, reduced births and out-migration, and is not a casualty count.

Monitoring-organization counts: Community Security Trust and Bundesverband RIAs. Both count what is voluntarily reported to them on definitions broader than criminal law, both describe their totals as affected by under-reporting, and neither is comparable with police statistics.

Three limits bear on every figure here. No independently verified death toll for Gaza appears in the record as an established total. The civilian-share estimates cited differ by twenty percentage points across different periods and different classifiers. And the association between events in Gaza and recorded antisemitic incidents elsewhere is measured as coincidence in time and as survey correlation, with the cited authors stating that limit themselves.

Conclusion

The question is about the future, and the records answer it in the past tense. As of 3 October 2025, 236,505 people in Gaza had been entered in a health-ministry record as killed or injured, about one in ten of a prewar population of roughly 2.2 million, and 169,430 of them were living with injuries whose outcomes no published register follows. The composition of the dead is recorded at 30.8% minors within one administrative total and at more than 56%

women, children and elderly within one survey estimate. The mortality is overwhelmingly violent: about 75,200 violent deaths against about 8,540 tied to conditions, roughly nine to one in the window measured.

What the records do not carry is a settled total. Two methods produce figures 8,000 apart at endpoints nine months distant. Three estimates of the civilian share sit at 74%, 83% and 94% on three different periods, and a fourth, built on Israel's own combatant estimate, puts a ceiling at 41,000. The delivering party publishes tonnage; the receiving organizations publish constraint; nothing published joins them to mortality. Every number that answers this question is somebody's count, and knowing whose is not a technicality about it, it is the substance of it.

These figures also travel. In the weeks after 7 October 2023, Community Security Trust logged 2,699 incidents in Britain and Bundesverband RIAS verified 202 in Germany, against 392 and 59 in the year-earlier windows, and British and Norwegian survey work finds attitudes toward Jews moving with how the conflict is understood. A count assembled to describe what happened to civilians in Gaza does not stay a count for long once it enters public argument, where it acquires an author, a share, a ratio and an accusation. Whether the way these numbers are carried, contested and deployed is itself among the inputs feeding hostility toward Jews thousands of miles from Gaza is the question the two records raise when they are read side by side.

Frequently Asked Questions

Which body publishes population figures for Gaza?

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics is the national statistical office for the territory, and its 2017 census counted 1,899,291 residents of the Gaza Strip within a West Bank and Gaza total of 4,780,978. Every later total in the United Nations and World Bank series is a projection off that measured base, and Gaza is not published separately in either series.

How many people does the Palestinian statistical office report left Gaza during the war?

Roughly 100,000 people have left the Strip, according to the bureau's brief on the status of the Palestinian people at the end of 2025. The same brief reports nearly two million of the roughly 2.2 million prewar residents as displaced within Gaza. Both are estimates rather than counted movements.

How many hostages does Israel report as returned?

The Permanent Mission of Israel to the Multilateral Organizations in France reported 207 hostages returned or recovered as of 14 September 2025, 148 alive and 59 deceased, with 48 remaining in captivity. These are Israel's own stated counts as a party to the conflict, current to that date.

How many medical supplies does Israel report entering Gaza since the ceasefire?

COGAT reported 18,000 tons of medical supplies and medicines entering Gaza since the ceasefire began on 10 October 2025, alongside more than 70,000 cubic meters of water per day facilitated through external lines and desalination. Both are COGAT's own operational records, not independently audited figures.

What does Israel's reporting say about food prices in Gaza during the ceasefire?

COGAT reported an approximately 72% decline in the Gaza food consumer price index between September 2025 and May 2026. The report does not identify the source of the price data, so the figure carries no stated collection method.

How many Israelis does an Israeli research institute report killed since 7 October 2023?

The Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies reported 1,664 Israelis confirmed killed and 17,809 wounded in the war as of 5 September 2024, including 1,184 killed on 7 October 2023 itself. The centre credits no official body for the killed and wounded totals.

What did Austria's Jewish community body record after 7 October 2023?

The Antisemitism Reporting Office of the Jewish Community of Vienna recorded 1,147 antisemitic incidents in Austria in 2023, up 59.5% on 719 in 2022, with its daily average rising from 1.55 before 7 October to 8.31 after. The office assesses each report against the IHRA

working definition and states its figures are not a complete overview of antisemitism in Austria.

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What Does the Documentary Record Show About Civilian Harm in Gaza?

Israel's Foreign Ministry states two war objectives and names no third. The rest of the record is counts, nearly all published by a party to the events.

DATA REPORT AUGUST 7, 2026

Why Does US Media Undercount the Gaza Death Toll? What the Published Counts Actually Measure

US coverage carries one direct-death registry. Named bodies challenge it in both directions: 41% underreporting in The Lancet, and a 41,000 civilian ceiling.

TREND ANALYSIS UPDATED AUGUST 6, 2026

Does Antisemitism Rise After Conflict?

Antisemitic expression rises alongside conflict, not necessarily from it: the October 7 spike hit within minutes, with parallel rises around earlier flashpoints.



The Hanover Institute for Public Policy studies the inputs fueling antisemitism in the United States and publishes what the evidence

shows. Its work is content analysis, computational social science, and other data-driven research, and its reports take no policy positions.

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