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Gaza Fatality Analysis: Latest Findings from Hamas & IDF Data

Introduction

As of September 25, 2025, Hamas claims that **65,400** people have been killed in Gaza by the war since 10/7. Over time, it has released eleven separate lists of names, most recently on August 4. These lists have been “cleaned up” by removing obvious early errors such as missing and false IDs, yet the core problems remain: no identification of combatants, no cause, place, or date of death for anyone (though Hamas appears to maintain this data), and no effort to separate natural deaths, deaths caused by IDF action, and fatalities caused by Hamas.

This latest analysis builds on two years of close monitoring of fatality data, beginning with my debunking in December 2023 of the false claim that “70% of those killed in Gaza are women and children,” which is now widely recognized as a Hamas falsification. I have analyzed every major study and investigative report on Gaza fatalities, reviewed each of the Hamas-published lists in detail, and scrutinized and debunked preposterous claims of inflated casualty numbers. I have cross-checked these figures with IDF statements, demographic data, and media investigations. The goal is to strip away the noise and arrive at a more grounded estimate. The chart below summarizes the results of this latest analysis.

Gaza Fatality Analysis Sept 2025	Fatality Numbers
Total fatalities per Hamas at 9/24/25	65,400
Less: Natural deaths & infant mortality	(10,000)
Less: Errors and other data anomalies	(1,000)
Total war related deaths since 10/7	54,400
Less: Killed by Hamas or internal (rockets, gangs, etc.)	(4,000)
Adjusted war related deaths I	50,400
Add: Fatalities not on any list (mainly combatants)	7,000
Adjusted war related deaths II	57,400
Combatants killed by the IDF	24,000
Civilian fatalities (collateral deaths)	33,400
Civilian/Combatant Ratio	1.39

Chart created by Salo Aizenberg / [@aizenberg55](#)

Unpacking Hamas' Headline Number

Hamas' headline figure of **65,400** deaths is presented as if all were war fatalities caused by the IDF. In reality, the number certainly includes thousands of natural deaths and cases of infant mortality. Pre-10/7 data from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics show that Gaza records about 6,000 natural deaths and 800 infant deaths annually. For the first eighteen months of the war Hamas insisted that every name on its lists represented a war casualty, but in April 2025 it quietly admitted otherwise. After removing a set of names from its rolls, Zaher al-Wahidi of Hamas' Ministry of Health conceded to Sky News that “a lot of people... died a natural death”—an extraordinary admission after months of categorical denials.

While some natural deaths appear to have been dropped a few months ago, Hamas has never produced a separate record of natural deaths, even after nearly two years. If such a list existed, Hamas would have every incentive to release it, since it would show that total fatalities were even *higher* than the 65,400 they already claim and bolster their claim that all deaths listed are war related. The obvious explanation for its long absence is simple: no such list exists, because these deaths were never separated out in the first place going back to October 2023.

There is also clear evidence that non-war deaths are part of the count. Documented cases include victims of vehicle accidents, a wall collapse, and illnesses. Examples of these deaths placed on the Hamas lists have been confirmed through painstaking social-media analysis. The conclusion is unmistakable: Hamas has inflated its fatality list by sweeping in virtually every death in Gaza and assigning it to Israel. For this analysis I estimate **10,000 natural deaths** are embedded in Hamas' lists. This is lower than the

statistical expectation of over 12,000, reflecting both the likelihood that some deaths never made it onto the list and the fact that Hamas removed some of these cases in 2025.

Another estimated **1,000 deaths** can reasonably be attributed to errors and anomalies. The Hamas list still shows people killed in previous wars , individuals misidentified, and cancer patients who had actually left Gaza but were listed as dead. While most mistakes appear to have been corrected, a margin of error of one to two percent remains likely. And because Hamas refuses to provide cause, place, or verification of death, these errors remain hidden.

After removing natural deaths and errors and anomalies, we are left with **54,400 estimated war-related deaths since 10/7.**

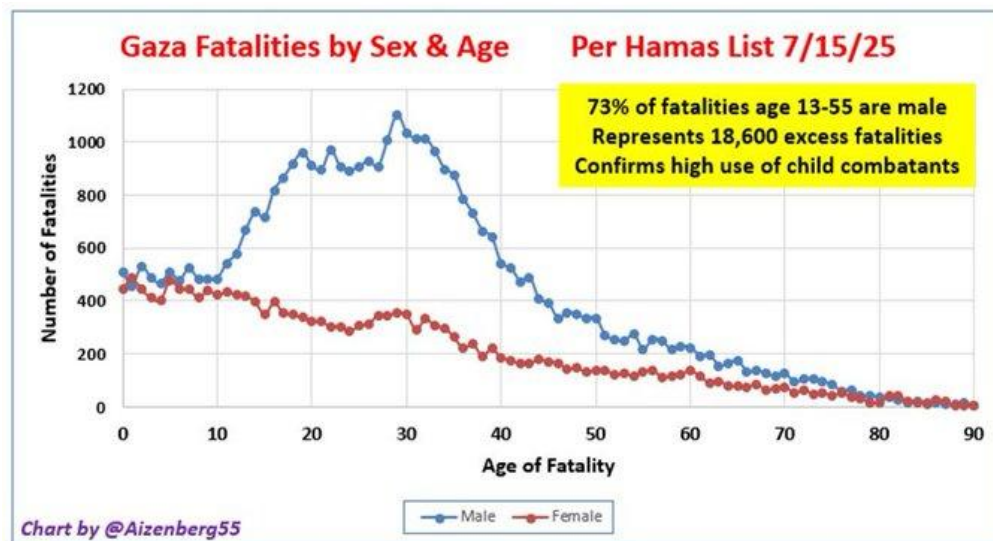
Internal Killings by Hamas & Gangs

Not every war time death in Gaza is attributable to Israel, a fact that has become increasingly clear in recent months. A significant share stems from Hamas' own violence and the collapse of internal order: executions of alleged collaborators and looters , internal deadly clashes around aid convoys, friendly-fire, and misfired rockets that fell short inside Gaza. Estimates suggest that 10%-20% percent of the 10,000+ rockets launched since 10/7 have misfired, many likely landing in populated areas. Hamas killed 12 GHF aid workers in June 2025, and many deaths of aid seekers blamed on Israel were actually caused by Hamas. Hamas killed 50 fighters from a rival gang according to report in *The Guardian*. Independent observers have documented dozens of similar incidents carried out by Hamas and its Al-Sahm unit over the course of the war (see here, here and here).

Taken together, these strands of evidence, which include documented executions, internal battles, lethal crackdowns during looting and gang activity, and misfired rockets by Palestinian armed groups, support an estimate of **4,000** Gazans killed by Hamas or other internal violence. This specific number is admittedly less supportable than other figures in the analysis, but it reflects a reasonable assessment of the available evidence which shows consistent Hamas caused deaths beginning early in the war when rocket fire was most intense. These deaths are related to wartime but they are not the result of Israeli action. They must therefore be excluded from any honest accounting of IDF-caused fatalities. Subtracting them from the adjusted total leaves roughly **50,400** remaining war deaths in the dataset under review.

Adding Back Missing Combatant Deaths

The demographic breakdown from the latest Hamas fatality lists show a striking 3:1 excess of males of combat age among the dead. As of early September 2025, about 30,000 men aged 18 to 59 are listed as killed, compared to 10,000 women in the same age range. That is nearly 20,000 additional men in the core fighting-age population. Add to this about 2,000 excess deaths of teenage males, a group Hamas has relied on increasingly for recruits as its forces have been depleted. This pattern points clearly to large-scale targeted killings of combatants by the IDF rather than indiscriminate civilian deaths. The chart below from Hamas' July 2025 list shows the spike in combat age males including teenagers, which has grown even larger in the last 3 months.



The IDF has stated that about **24,000** Hamas fighters have been killed since the war began. This figure includes those killed during the 10/7 attacks inside Israel, 20,000 killed inside Gaza as of early 2025 according to then IDF Chief of Staff Herzi Halevi, and several thousand more since then. Judged against the the visible collapse of Hamas' military capabilities, the need to recruit 15,000 new fighters, and other battlefield indicators, this IDF estimate is credible and represents about half of the initial strength of Hamas and PIJ and about 36% taking into account new recruits and fighters from other groups. Claims that the IDF has only killed 8,900 combatants are demonstrably false, as they only include those that the IDF has identified by *name*. There is no way to use the "named combatant" data as a metric to assess how many unnamed fighters the IDF has killed, such as those buried under tunnels or more recent recruits.

In my analysis I do not treat every excess male death as a combatant, since some men in this age group were undoubtedly civilians. Thus, when the

demographic evidence is reconciled with the IDF's estimate of 24,000 combatants killed, the most reasonable conclusion is that thousands of fighters never appeared on Hamas' fatality lists at all. My estimate of about **7,000** missing deaths reflects this reconciliation. Some of these may be non-combatants, but after two years most civilian deaths would already have been reported by families seeking recognition and compensation. The far more likely explanation is that Hamas has deliberately withheld the names of its fighters in order to disguise the scale of its battlefield losses, as has been reported. Adding back 7,000 unlisted fatalities, plus 4,000 persons killed by Hamas, produces an estimated total of **61,400** Gaza war deaths, excluding natural deaths. This is close to the headline **65,400** claimed by Hamas, but broken down far differently.

Conclusion

This latest analysis points to a grounded estimate of **57,400 war-related deaths** due to IDF action, consisting of about **24,000 combatants** and **33,400 civilians** (plus additional deaths caused by Hamas). Civilian casualties are tragic and the large number of minors killed cannot be dismissed; but they are overwhelmingly the result of Hamas' human shield strategy whereby it places its military assets where civilians are present.

The civilian-to-combatant ratio of **1.4 to 1** is remarkably low by historical standards of urban warfare in Iraq or Afghanistan, and it demonstrates that the IDF has waged a highly targeted campaign against Hamas under extraordinarily difficult conditions. Claims that large numbers of civilian deaths remain unreported do not hold up: families have had nearly two years to submit fatalities even without a body and via a phone call or Google form, and many "rubble" deaths were already added to the lists.

The evidence shows that Hamas' headline fatality toll is a distortion, and that the true picture is of a war where Israel has inflicted massive losses on Hamas' fighters while conducting one of the most targeted urban campaigns in modern history.

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