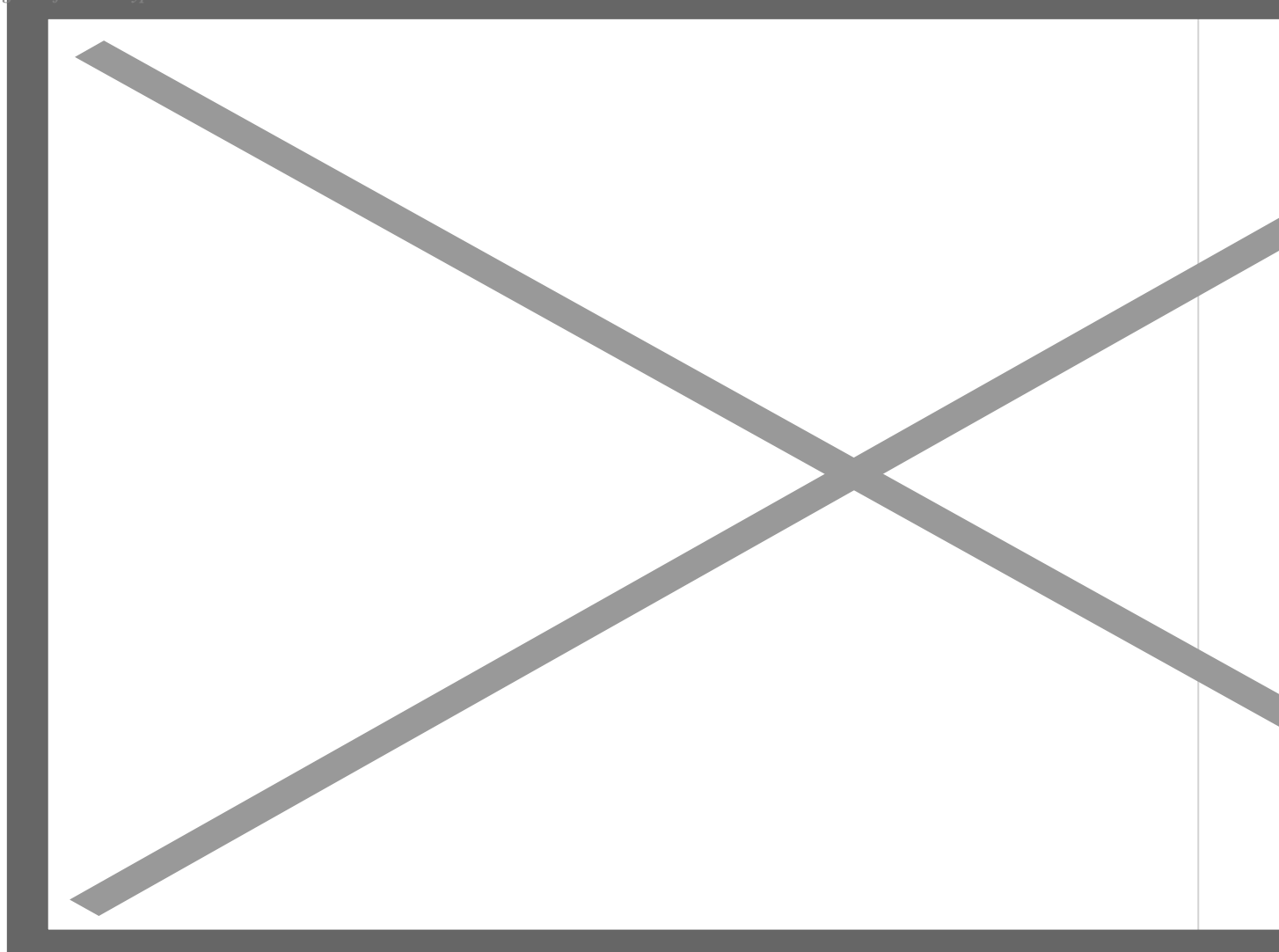


Lancet study estimates Gaza death toll 40% higher than recorded

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The body of an 18-month-old is carried by her uncle for burial in the aftermath of an Israeli

airstrike in Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip, on December 5, 2024. (AP photo)

London, January 11 (RHC)-- A new study published in the UK's Lancet medical journal estimates that Gaza's death toll during the first nine months of the war was about 40 percent higher than figures reported by the Palestinian health ministry.

Research published in The Lancet medical journal on Friday suggests that around 2.9 percent of Gaza's pre-war population or approximately one in 35 inhabitants died in Israeli attacks until late July 2024.

Up to June 30 last year, the health ministry in Gaza reported a death toll of 37,877 in the war. The study suggests the total death toll was actually at around 64,260, which would mean the health ministry had under-reported the number of deaths by 41 percent.

The new study used data from the ministry, an online survey and social media obituaries to estimate that there were between 55,298 and 78,525 deaths from traumatic injuries in Gaza by that time.

However, the toll did not count the deaths from a lack of health care or food, or the thousands of missing believed to be buried under rubble.

Earlier a UN report had indicated that around 10,000 missing Gazans are probably buried under rubble.

The number of dead in Gaza has been a matter of bitter debate since Israel launched its genocidal campaign against the blockaded territory back on October 7, 2023, after the Palestinian Hamas resistance group carried out a historic operation against the usurping entity in retaliation for its intensified atrocities against the Palestinian people.

On Thursday, Gaza's health ministry said that 46,006 people had died over the full 15 months of war.

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