This study investigates the influence of socio-demographic determinants, specifically marital status and education level, on disparities in overall and cause-specific mortality in Moldova. Based on the depersonalized death records databases, encompassing detailed ICD-10 cause of death data categorized by marital status and educational attainment, we analyzed mortality patterns for the population aged 30 and above during two periods around the 2004 and 2014 censuses. Absolute and relative differences in standardized death rates with 95% CI were computed. The reference groups were the married population and the population with higher education. Our findings revealed significant disparities in all-cause and cause-specific mortality based on marital status and education level, affecting both men and women. Particularly vulnerable groups included divorced men, never-married women, and those with primary education or less. Conversely, being married and achieving higher education had a protective effect on mortality for both genders. In 2013-2014, the life expectancy gap at age 30 between divorced men or never-married women and their married counterparts exceeded 12 years. Similarly, the difference between individuals with higher education and those with only primary education or less amounted to more than ten years for men and nine years for women. Mortality disparities associated with marital status and education were most pronounced among young adults and diminished with age. Targeted preventive measures aimed at reducing mortality among vulnerable subgroups are essential, focusing on risk factors associated with infectious diseases, respiratory illnesses, liver cirrhosis, and external causes of death.

Keywords: life expectancy, cause of death, marital status, level of education, health disparities, Republic of Moldova
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