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GGSS

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GENERATIONS AND GENDER SURVEY REPORT

Be the voice of your generation!



Chisinau, 2022

The Generations and Gender Survey (GGS) is the first and most comprehensive longitudinal demographic study monitoring demographic changes taking place in the Republic of Moldova. This is a global survey, carried out so far in over 24 countries, and is part of an international programme coordinated by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI).

In the Republic of Moldova, the GGS was carried out at the request of the Government of the Republic of Moldova as part of the global Generations and Gender Programme (GGP) and is implemented by the United Nations Population Fund in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the National Bureau of Statistics and the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute. The study was made possible thanks to the financial support provided by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the India-UN Development Partnership Fund and UNFPA Moldova.

The survey participants were more than 10,000 people aged 15-79 from 153 localities of the Republic of Moldova, excluding the region on the left bank of the Nistru River. Being an international longitudinal survey, it is to be conducted in three waves, with survey participants being visited repeatedly over 3 years to understand the demographic changes that occur over time.

For references: *Republic of Moldova – Generations and Gender Survey (2020). Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova, National Bureau of Statistics (survey sample), UNFPA, NIDI-GGP (as partner and distributor).*

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The National Institute of Economic Research

The Generations and Gender Survey report was produced during 2021 by a joint team of researchers. The survey data were validated by the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI) and a set of indicators were co-validated by the National Bureau of Statistics.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BNS	National Bureau of Statistics
GGG	Gender and Generation Survey
AAI	Active Ageing Index
MER	Ministry of Education and Research
MEI	Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure
MLSP	Ministry of Labour and Social Protection
NIDI	Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
WHO	World Health Organization
UN	United Nations
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
PSU	Primary Sampling Units
PHC 014	2014 Population and Housing Census

PREFACE

The demographic trends in the Republic of Moldova, characterized by declining numbers of children born, high mortality rates and mass emigration, require a thorough demographic analysis, and the Generations and Gender Survey, being the most comprehensive demographic survey globally, will provide many answers in the process of managing demographic challenges.

These developments call on the Government of the Republic of Moldova to respond promptly and effectively to demographic challenges. To this end, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection in partnership with the National Bureau of Statistics, the United Nations Population Fund and the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute conducted the Generations and Gender Survey, which examined a wide variety of socio-economic issues within the family, in particular inter-spousal and intergenerational relationships.

According to the Survey data, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection in collaboration with the UN Population Fund developed the concept 'The Theory of Change for Demographic Resilience', which represents an analysis of the demographic context in the Republic of Moldova and aims to establish demographic resilience policies, which have been integrated into the Government's Action Plan for 2021-2022, but are also to be integrated into the relevant sectoral strategies.

The survey results will provide a good infrastructure for scientific research on population, family, intergenerational relations and the changing social roles of women and men and will provide policy makers with comparable data with other countries, allowing a better understanding of the causes and consequences of these developments and evidence-based and human rights-based policy making. At the same time, the survey data will be used to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals and implement the agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development.

The Generations and Gender Survey provides us with the necessary data that will guide us in turning demographic challenges into opportunities for the Republic of Moldova.



Marcel Spatari,
Minister of Labour
and Social Protection

PREFACE

This analytical report presents the results of the most comprehensive demographic survey ever conducted in the Republic of Moldova – Generations and Gender (GGS). The survey reflects the opinions of 10,000 women and men interviewed in 153 localities across the country and provides disaggregated data on family life, demographics, sexual and reproductive health, gender equality, intergenerational relations, households, well-being and health, work and income, and reconciling family and work life.

The report analyses social change through the dynamics of people's and families' lives. Family life is a reflection of social change and is analysed from the perspective of the social and economic constraints that influence it. If we understand, for example, the obstacles to having the desired number of children, we will then be able to promote policies that meet people's needs. In this way it will be possible to develop public policies that take into account demographic changes and the actions needed to leave no one behind in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the Republic of Moldova.

The report was prepared by a team of national experts in demography, economics, social affairs, gender equality, sexual and reproductive health and public policy. All data in this report were internationally validated by the Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute of the Netherlands. The report is addressed to policy makers, researchers from academia and civil society, journalists and all those interested in data for a rapid and in-depth understanding of demographic change.

GGS data are valuable precisely because they give us a comprehensive picture of the demographic changes that take place over the years within the same families, in the lives of the same people. GGS data will underpin the development of qualitative, evidence-based and human rights-based public policies. Going forward, we will work with the Government of Moldova to harness this data and turn it into policies to strengthen demographic resilience so that GGS data becomes the voice of your generation. Because everyone matters!



Nigina Abaszada,
Resident Representative,
UN Population Fund (UNFPA)



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INTRODUCTION

Over the last few decades, profound economic and social transformations have taken place, with a major impact on people's lives. Demographic change strongly influences the economic and social development of the country, with population dynamics being an important factor in ensuring economic growth and well-being. At the same time, fundamentally different types of intra- and inter-generational interactions are formed in contemporary society. The age and generational composition of families is changing, leading to an increase in the social burden on the active core members of families and a change in the forms, amounts and direction of resource flows between generations of children, parents and grandparents. At the same time, much less is known about the mechanisms of family formation, about the features of economic and social relations between generations, parents and children, working-age and elderly people from various types of families, about inter-family support networks and its forms.

In this context, the Generations and Gender Survey (GGS) aims to fill in these gaps. As one of the most comprehensive socio-demographic researches at the global level, GGS is an important analytical and informational source for decision makers, a tool for involving people in the development of measures to respond to the demographic challenges currently faced by the Republic of Moldova. GGS monitored the dynamics of people's and families' lives in society at the individual level. The survey collected information on family life, gender equality, relationships between partners, desired number of children, family planning, intergenerational dialogue, work-family balance, intention to migrate, economic and social well-being, appreciation of health and other important aspects of people's lives. However, the analytical potential of the study is not limited only to demographic issues, but also highlights many aspects related to the functioning of the labour market, the pension system, to the consumption of social services, the level of prosperity of households in the Republic of Moldova, etc.

It so happened that in the Republic of Moldova the GGS was being conducted before and during the Covid-19 pandemic, thus providing simultaneously important information on the impact of the pandemic crisis on demographic behaviour, including how family relationships, income and access to health and basic services were affected. The Republic of Moldova's experience with data collection during the pandemic can be accessed [here](#).

Thus, the results of this survey provide a comprehensive picture of different aspects of life in the Republic of Moldova, serving as a basis for developing demographic policies based on people's rights and needs.

The Generations and Gender Survey is a global survey, conducted so far in over 24 countries. In 2020, a new round of GGS preparations started in the following 17 countries: Western Europe (Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, UK), Eastern Europe (Belarus, Croatia, Estonia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Moldova), non-European countries (China and Uruguay). The value and importance of GGS for the Republic of Moldova is highlighted by the following:

Comprehensiveness of the survey. In the Republic of Moldova, a survey of such magnitude was conducted for the first time, filling in some information gaps about people's lives and needs. A single core questionnaire for all countries covers a wide range of variables obtained through the questionnaire on the main events in the respondent's life and the features of the respondent's household functioning (information on parents and primary socialization, reproductive history, history of marriage and partnership relationships, migration and emigration intentions, forms of employment, education, housing conditions, sources of income and the level of prosperity, the state of health, distribution of roles and responsibilities within the family, child-rearing conditions, value orientations, satisfaction with family relationships and various aspects of life, family formation plans, etc.

Longitudinal character. Since this survey is conducted every three years for nine years, with the same group of people being interviewed repeatedly, it is possible to observe over time important aspects such as the achievement of reproductive intentions, the impact of economic and social factors on demographic behaviour, the dynamics of family life characteristics, the transition to adulthood, etc. This will enable our country's authorities to monitor the effectiveness of demographic policies and identify the necessary measures to respond to population ageing, low fertility, increased migration, low life expectancy, especially among men.

Extensive data analysis opportunities provided by the structure and form of variable recording. Thus, the GGS questionnaire offers a unique opportunity to track the main events in people's lives using the most modern statistical and mathematical methods of data analysis.

Possibility to carry out comparative analysis with other countries. A single questionnaire for all countries participating in the project and adapted to national needs provides an opportunity for comparative analysis on key variables.

Accessibility. The GGS database can be requested by researchers at <https://www.ggp-i.org/>.

This report is only the first step in the analysis of GGS data, presenting the main aspects of the socio-demographic development of the Republic of Moldova at this stage. Yet, the initial results open up vast opportunities in understanding a range of issues affecting the country's demographic and social development.

The authors of the report hope that this publication will serve as an important resource for policy makers in the field of demographic and social policy. The research results contribute to a rapid and in-depth understanding of generational interaction, family and gender relations, fertility and family planning characteristics, the combination of work and family roles, and value orientations on a wide range of issues.

Many of the issues highlighted in this report have been little studied previously, so hopefully the GGS survey will serve as a benchmark for further research.

In the Republic of Moldova, the **Generations and Gender Programme (GGP)** was launched by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP) in 2018 with the aim of strengthening the availability of statistical data on demographic processes in the Republic of Moldova. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) became a key partner of the MLSP in this Programme, with the role of training local institutions in the implementation of the Generations and Gender

Survey and providing technical assistance to the Government in the development of evidence-based and human rights-based demographic policies.

GGP is implemented in partnership with the most relevant national and international institutions. The strategic partners of the programme are the following organisations: **Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, United Nations Population Fund, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI).**

The National Bureau of Statistics coordinated the process of adapting the research methodology to the national context and of drawing the survey sample. The sampling design used for GGS was a three-stage complex probabilistic sample design, the sample of households being drawn from the survey frame obtained through a listing procedure using geospatial technologies and digital software. Moldova's expertise and lessons learnt on the development of the GGS sampling framework can be accessed [here](#). The NBS also co-validated a number of GGS indicators based on available data.

The Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute co-ordinated the field data collection process and the validation of the GGS indicators analysed in this report.

The results of the Generations and Gender Survey will be used in developing evidence-based and human rights-based demographic policies and supporting the implementation of the agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development, as well as for monitoring the progress made in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals stipulated in the Partnership Framework between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the UN (SDG targets 5.6.1 and 5.6.2, which address the barriers and human rights-based dimensions of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights).

The Generations and Gender Survey was financially supported by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the India-UN Development Partnership Fund and UNFPA Moldova.



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1. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

1.1. Sample design for the Generations and Gender Survey

TABLE 1.1. Overview of the sampling framework

GENERAL INFORMATION	
Year of survey launch	2019
Frequency	GGG – independent <i>ad-hoc</i> survey in 3 waves, wave 1
Sampling period	1/29/2020 - 12/7/2020
Reference population	Individuals aged between 15 and 79
Sample structure	Panel sampling
Coverage	National, except Transnistrian region
Areas of estimation	4 development regions: Northern, Central, Southern and Chisinau municipality; Areas of residence
SAMPLE SIZE	
Primary Sampling Units (PSU)	202
Households (occupied dwellings), stage II	19 948
People, stage II ¹	19 948

SAMPLING

Sample design	<p>Three-stage sampling:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stage I – systematic probability proportional to size (PPS) sampling of primary Sampling Units (clusters); 2. Stage II – simple random selection of households (occupied dwellings) within each PSU; 3. Stage III – selection of one person between the ages of 15 and 79 from each sampled household according to the principle of the nearest birthday
Sampling unit	<p>Stage I – primary sampling unit; Stage II – household (occupied dwelling); Stage III – person</p>
Observation unit	<p>Individuals aged between 15 and 79</p>
Survey frame	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The list of all PSUs at the 1st sampling stage; 2. The list of all households (occupied dwellings) within the PSUs selected at stage I, obtained carrying out the listing operation on the ground; 3. The list of all household members aged 15 to 79

1.1.1. Survey design

For the Generations and Gender Survey, a three-stage complex stratified cluster survey design was used, which involved:

1. drawing a probability sample of 202 Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) at the first stage,
2. drawing a probability sample of 19,948 households at the second stage,
3. random selection of a person aged 15 to 79 from the household according to the next birthday principle at the third sampling stage

Initially, as a first-stage sample, the idea of using a Master sample, used by NBS for conducting social research in households, was put forward. Given that the GGS sample size is quite large and would have led to the exhaustion of the sample frame of households, it was decided to draw an independent sample at the 1st sampling stage.

1.1.2. Coverage

The reference population for the GGS study is people aged 15 to 79 years with habitual residence in the Republic of Moldova living in residential buildings. The people living in collective housing (student dormitories, orphanages, retirement homes, military barracks, prisons, etc.) were not included in the research.

In addition, the people living permanently in the Administrative-Territorial Units on the left bank of the Nistru River (Transnistria), which is not controlled by the constitutional authorities of the Republic of Moldova, were not included in the survey.

TABLE 1.1.2.1. Population distribution in the Republic of Moldova as of 12.05.2014, thousand people

	The Republic of Moldova*	of whom:	
		Urban	Rural
Total population	2 804,8	951,0	1 853,8
▶ Women	1 452,7	504,6	948,1
▶ Men	1 352,1	446,4	905,7
<i>of whom aged 15-79:</i>			
Total population	2 262,4	782,6	1 479,8
▶ Women	1 177,2	419,4	757,8
▶ Men	1 085,2	363,2	722,0

* Except for the territory on the left side of the Nistru River.

Source: National Bureau of Statistics, <https://recensamant.statistica.md/ro/dissemination/person>

Representativeness of the sample. The GGS study sample is representative at the level of the estimation areas: national (except for Transnistria), by residence areas (urban, rural) and development regions (Northern, Central, Southern and Chisinau municipality).

1.1.3. Sample size

The sample size of a survey is determined by the desired accuracy of the key indicators, on the one hand, and the availability of human and financial resources, on the other. The accuracy of survey results can be affected by both sampling and non-sampling errors. The magnitude of sampling errors is inversely proportional to the square root of the sample size, while some non-sampling errors are directly related to the sample size. That is, the larger the sample, the smaller the sampling errors and the larger the non-sampling errors and vice versa. It is therefore important that the sample size is balanced to ensure the required margin of error.

At the same time, the sample size is also influenced by the type of survey chosen, with a simple random survey offering maximum efficiency in relation to the desired precision, while at the same time involving enormous costs for data collection and the creation of a complete country-wide survey frame. Given that at the time NBS did not have a comprehensive country-wide survey frame, and to ensure reasonable costs and timeframes for field data collection, it was decided to use a complex three-stage survey design that would provide the desired accuracy at acceptable costs.

Based on the above considerations, as well as on previous experience in conducting the survey in other countries of the region, the NIDI team suggested a theoretical sample size of about 10 thousand people, which would yield a maximum allowable margin of error of 5%. In any study, to obtain a theoretically determined number of questionnaires, it is necessary to adjust the sample size to the expected response rate. Given that the survey contains several sensitive questions, an analysis of analogous NBS household surveys, conducted during 2019, was carried out. Their response rates amounted to 60%. Also, the participation rate in a pilot survey conducted by Magenta Consulting SRL between 9-12 January 2020 was estimated to be around 40%. Thus, the sample size was adjusted to about 20 thousand people, assuming an average response rate of about 50%.

The sample size for the first sampling stage was 202 PSUs, 102 urban and 98 rural.

TABLE 11.3.1. Distribution of theoretical and estimated sample size by area of residence

	Theoretical sample size			Estimated size of sample collected		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural
PSU sample	202	104	98	202	104	98
Household sample	19 948	8 510	11 438	10 000	4 000	6 000
People sample	19 948	8 510	11 438	10 000	4 000	6 000

1.1.4. PSU size (cluster)

The PSUs used for GGS are geographical areas derived from the aggregation of the census tracts used in the 2014 Census of Population and Housing. The average size of a PSU is about 245 households in rural areas (ranging from 88 to 432 households) and about 165 households in urban areas (ranging from 79 to 355 households). The size of the PSUs was determined considering the total size of the sample of households required and the total number of PSUs to be drawn in the 1st stage of sampling, as well as the effort required (both in terms of human and financial resources) to build the sample frame for the 2nd stage of sampling (compilation of household lists through field data collection).

At the second stage of sampling, the sample size drawn from each PSU varied according to its size. Thus, for PSUs of less than 300 households the sample size was 50% of their size, and for PSUs of more than 300 households the sample size was 40% of their size.

1.1.5. Survey frame

The survey frame at the 1st sampling stage consists of all the PSUs in the country and was created using the spatial data of census tracts from the 2014 Population and Housing Census (2014 PHC) conducted by NBS. In urban areas, PSUs were formed by equating them with census tracts or aggregating two or more geographically neighbouring census tracts so that their size was between 100 and 200 households (based on 2014 PHC data). In rural areas, PSUs were formed by merging two or more census tracts so that the size of the resulting PSUs was between 200 and 400 households. The algorithm used to form them was as follows:

1. The census tracts had to be geographically neighbouring,
2. Where possible, they are to be within the same locality,
3. If the previous condition physically could not be met, the tracts to be aggregated had to be within the same municipality,
4. If the condition (3) could not be met either, tracts from the neighbouring municipality were added to the PSU,
5. A PSU must only be made up of census tracts that are homogeneous in terms of area of residence (i.e. only urban or only rural),
6. A PSU could not be made up of census tracts covering two different districts.

Thus, the total number of primary Sampling Units obtained in the sample frame from the 1st sampling stage is 5,405.

The survey frame file contains the list of all PSUs (psu_code), the area of residence in which they are located (urb_rur), the district to which they belong, the development region, the stratum and the size of PSUs, expressed in number of households. Table 1.1.5.1. shows the structure of the first-stage sampling frame.

TABLE 1.1.5.1. Structure of the sampling frame, excerpt

psu_code	urb_rur (0 - rural, 1 - urban)	district	Region (1 – Northern, 2 – Central, 3 – Southern, 4 – Chisinau municipality)	strat	size
1030272	0	North reg., Bălți mun.	1	10	201
1030273	0	North reg., Bălți mun.	1	10	212
1030274	0	North reg., Bălți mun.	1	10	250
1030275	0	North reg., Bălți mun.	1	10	241

In order to ensure sample representativeness in terms of estimation areas, the sample frame was stratified according to the area of residence (urban and rural) in combination with the development region (Northern, Central, Southern and Chisinau municipality). This resulted in 8 strata. The distribution of PSUs by strata within the sampling frame is shown in the following table:

TABLE 1.1.5.2. Distribution of PSUs within the sampling frame, by strata

Stratum	PSUs in the survey frame	PSUs in the sample
North, rural (10)	805	21
North, urban (11)	661	22
Center, rural (20)	936	38
Center, urban (21)	366	14
South, rural (30)	495	32
South, urban (31)	392	20
Chisinau mun., rural (40)	84	7
Chisinau mun., urban (41)	1 666	48
Total	5 405	202

Given that quite a lot of time passed between when the 2014 PHC was held and the period planned for GGS data collection, during which migration was quite intense, inclusively to reduce the amount of sampling frame errors, it was decided to carry out a field listing at the second stage of sampling. The main purpose of this operation was to collect dwelling-specific data to minimise the risk of sampling units outside the scope of the survey (dwellings converted into non-residential premises, empty dwellings, etc.). Field data collection and sample frame formation for the second stage of sampling was coordinated and carried out by the NBS. This activity involved the listing of all buildings and dwellings within the PSUs, drawn at the 1st sampling stage, with the collection of geographical coordinate data for each building, which allowed their exact identification on the ground in the case of rural localities where no address plan exists.

Due to financial and time constraints for the collection of geo-referenced building data at address point level, it was decided to opt for the application developed by the Italian company TeamDev, jointly with the Italian Geographical Society, for updating the maps for the Albanian Population and Housing Census and to adapt it to the NBS needs. The application allowed the use of the latest technologies in the field in terms of real-time data collection and monitoring, ensuring a high level of quality of the survey frame. The whole process of adapting the application, training the field operators, as well as field data collection took place during July-December 2019. In total, 76 field operators, 9 supervisors and 2 coordinators were involved in the field data collection process.

Each of the field operators received work tasks on a tablet device, each covering a census tract clearly delineated on the map, within which information was to be collected on all the buildings and dwellings within the task boundaries. The supervisors monitored the data collection in real time via a Dashboard, validating the information collected on the ground (see Figure 1).



FIGURE 1. Census tract data to be collected on the field operator’s tablet device (left) and displayed on the Dashboard (right)

Among the most important variables collected using the listing procedure, which are necessary for the compilation of the sampling frame for the second stage of sampling, we can mention the type of building (residential or non-residential), the occupancy status of the dwelling (occupied or vacant), the address (if available) and the geographical coordinates. The sample frame was compiled by including only the dwellings that were permanently inhabited at the time of data collection. Thus, the result was a survey frame of over 57 thousand dwellings, the strata distribution of which is shown in the following table:

TABLE 1.1.5.3. Distribution of households in the sample frame at the 2nd sampling stage, by strata

Stratum	Households in the survey frame	Sample households
North, rural (10)	9 052	2 286
North, urban (11)	4 834	1 864
Center, rural (20)	14 049	4 505
Center, urban (21)	2 769	1 093
South, rural (30)	11 088	3 809
South, urban (31)	3 716	1 419
Chisinau mun., rural (40)	2 145	838
Chisinau mun., urban (41)	10 189	4 134
Total	57 842	19 948

At the third stage, the sampling frame was the list of all household members, included in the sample at the second stage of sampling, aged between 15 and 79.

1.1.6. Sampling Procedures

● First-stage sampling

At the first sampling stage, the drawing of the sample of PSUs within each stratum was carried out using the systematic sampling procedure with a probability proportional to their size (number of households sampled in the 2014 PHC). Prior to sampling, the census tracts had to be sorted by stratum and PSU code, which contains information on the district to which the PSU belongs, thus obtaining an additional indirect implicit stratification based on the geographical criterion.

The actual sample drawing procedure at the 1st sampling stage was carried out using the Sampling and PPS packages from the R statistical software.

● Second-stage sampling

In the second stage of sampling, the sample of households for each PSU was drawn from the sample frame composed of the list of households sampled through the listing procedure, using a simple random sampling procedure. In practical terms, a variable with random numbers from 0 to 1 was generated, then the households were sorted by this number in ascending order within each PSU and selected first in the households within each PSU according to sample size.

● Third-stage sampling

In the third stage of sampling, all the members of a household aged between 15 and 79 years were listed together with their date of birth, after which the next person was chosen according to the principle of the nearest birthday.

1.1.7. Determining Sampling Probabilities

● First-stage sampling probabilities

Considering that at the first sampling stage, within each stratum, the method of sampling PSUs with probabilities proportional to size was used, the calculation of probabilities was performed using the following relation:

$$p_{1hi} = a_h \cdot \frac{M_{hi}}{M_h},$$

where:

p_{1hi} is the probability of PSU i being drawn from stratum h ,

a_h is the number of PSUs drawn from stratum h ,

M_{hi} is the number of households within PSU i in stratum h of the sample frame

M_h is the total number of households in stratum h of the sample frame.

- **Household drawing probabilities at stage II**

Since the sample of households within each PSU was drawn using a simple random sampling procedure, the probability of a household being selected is the same for all the households within this PSU and is inversely proportional to its size. Its calculation formula is the following:

$$p_{2hi} = \frac{m_{hi}}{M'_{hi}},$$

where:

p_{2hi} is the probability of selection at the second sampling stage of households within PSU i of stratum h ,

m_{hi} is the number of households sampled within PSU i of stratum h ,

M'_{hi} is the total number of households obtained through the listing procedure within PSU i of stratum h .

- **Individuals' sampling probabilities at the third stage**

Given that only one person aged 15 to 79 was selected from a household, the probability of including this person in the sample is equal to the inverse of the number of persons aged 15 to 79 in the selected household and is determined by the following formula:

$$p_{3hij} = \frac{1}{n_{hij}^{15-79}},$$

where:

n_{hij}^{15-79} is the number of persons aged 15 to 79 in household j within PSU i of stratum h .

- **Final probability of inclusion in the sample**

A person's final probability of being included in the GGS sample is equal to the product of the sampling probabilities at all three sampling stages:

$$p_f = p_{1hi} \cdot p_{2hi} \cdot p_{3hij} = a_h \cdot \frac{M_{hi}}{M_h} \cdot \frac{m_{hi}}{M'_{hi}} \cdot \frac{1}{n_{hij}^{15-79}}$$

1.2. Sample Characterisation and Households' and Respondents' Characteristics

Sample characterisation

Of the 19,948 selected sample households, 16,908 households were found to be part of the GGS reference population, the rest (3,022 households) being outside the scope of the survey. Interviews were obtained from 10,044 households in the reference population, giving a national response rate of just over 59%, which was slightly above expectations at the sampling stage.

TABLE 1.2.1. Distribution of sampling units by response and non-response components

	Area of residence		Region				Total
	Urban	Rural	North	Center	South	Chisinau	
Interviewed	3 450	6 586	2 308	3 473	2 766	1 489	10 036
Categorical refusal	1 315	1 052	442	448	706	771	2 367
Moderate refusal	550	674	154	315	292	463	1 224
Interviewed/invalid	96	154	74	85	51	40	250
Partially	67	33	12	20	12	56	100
Scheduled	195	108	45	36	51	171	303
Ineligible	1 143	1 879	795	715	904	608	3 022
No contact (the respondent could not be found)	1 270	784	207	390	333	1 124	2 054
No respondent contact (the respondent could not be found)	284	145	77	60	97	195	429
Non-visited	47	69	31	55	7	23	116
On-line	34	13	5	1	9	32	47
TOTAL	8 451	11 497	4 150	5 598	5 228	4 972	19 948

According to the purpose of the survey	7 261	9 549	3 324	4 828	4 317	4 341	16 810
Beyond the purpose of the survey	1 143	1 879	795	715	904	608	3 022
Unresolved	47	69	31	55	7	23	116
<i>Estimated according to the purpose of the survey</i>	7 302	9 607	3 349	4 876	4 323	4 361	16 908
<i>Estimated beyond the purpose of the survey</i>	1 149	1 890	801	722	905	611	3 040
<i>Response rate</i>	47.2%	68.6%	68.9%	71.2%	64.0%	34.1%	59.4%

The response rate¹ varied considerably depending on the respondents' area of residence, from 69% in rural areas to only 47% in urban areas. If we analyse the response rate by region, we can see a very low response rate for respondents from Chisinau municipality (only 34%) compared to the other regions.

¹ The response rate was determined as the ratio of the number of interviews conducted to the number of households in the reference population (estimated in-scope).

Sample structure

This section presents the structure of the sample collected according to the distribution of respondents by gender, age, region, area of residence, language spoken at home, etc.

Analysing the distribution of the unweighted sample by age and sex, there is an under-representation of the younger population (under 50 years) and an over-representation of the older population (over 50 years). This is true for both sexes. At the same time, men are vastly under-represented, while women are over-represented. This is most likely due to the lower willingness to participate in the survey of the younger population compared to the older population and of men compared to women. This representativeness imbalance was compensated using the weighting system, which was determined based on the population structure provided by the NBS.

TABLE 1.2.2. Distribution of respondents by age and gender

Age	Men		Women		Total		Men		Women		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
	non-weighted						weighted					
15-19	202	5%	208	3%	410	4%	318	7%	297	6%	615	6%
20-24	191	5%	277	4%	468	5%	374	8%	358	7%	732	7%
25-29	200	5%	360	6%	560	6%	510	11%	492	9%	1 001	10%
30-34	251	7%	522	8%	773	8%	644	13%	625	12%	1 270	13%
35-39	294	8%	513	8%	807	8%	549	11%	532	10%	1 081	11%
40-44	267	7%	418	7%	685	7%	454	9%	462	9%	916	9%
45-49	299	8%	403	6%	702	7%	384	8%	409	8%	793	8%
50-54	324	8%	435	7%	759	8%	334	7%	378	7%	712	7%
55-59	407	11%	599	10%	1 006	10%	394	8%	476	9%	870	9%
60-64	527	14%	756	12%	1 283	13%	340	7%	444	8%	784	8%
65-69	417	11%	849	14%	1 266	13%	285	6%	414	8%	699	7%
70-74	279	7%	540	9%	819	8%	125	3%	195	4%	320	3%
75-79	167	4%	331	5%	498	5%	82	2%	160	3%	242	2%
Total	3 825	100%	6 211	100%	10 036	100%	4 792	100%	5 244	100%	10 036	100%

The distribution of respondents by region and area of residence is much closer to the structure of the population than the age and gender distributions.

TABLE 1.2.3. Distribution of respondents by region and area of residence

Region	Rural		Urban		Total		Rural		Urban		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
	non-weighted						weighted					
North	1 369	21%	939	27%	2 308	23%	1 258	20%	924	25%	2 182	22%
Center	2 858	43%	615	18%	3 473	35%	2 830	45%	660	18%	3 491	35%
South	2 062	31%	704	20%	2 766	28%	1 952	31%	722	20%	2 674	27%
Chisinau mun.	297	5%	1 192	35%	1 489	15%	305	5%	1 385	38%	1 690	17%
Total	6,586	100%	3 450	100%	10 036	100%	6 345	100%	3 691	100%	10 036	100%

The distribution of respondents by language spoken is shown in Table 1.2.4. It can be seen that the respondents who stated that the language spoken at home is Romanian/Moldovan represent 79% of the total sample (with significant differences by residence area – 67% in urban areas versus 87% in rural areas, weighted data), followed by those who stated that they speak Russian at home (14% in total, but with significant differences by residence area – 28% in urban areas versus 6% in rural areas, weighted data).

TABLE 1.2.4. Distribution of respondents by language spoken at home and residence area

Language spoken at home	Rural		Urban		Total		Rural		Urban		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
	non-weighted						weighted					
Moldovan	4 041	61%	990	29%	5 031	50%	3 638	57%	966	26%	4 604	46%
Romanian	1 652	25%	1 230	36%	2 882	29%	1 858	29%	1 511	41%	3 368	34%
Ukrainian	82	1%	32	1%	114	1%	57	1%	25	1%	82	1%
Russian	366	6%	1 025	30%	1,391	14%	365	6%	1 022	28%	1 387	14%
Gagauzian	416	6%	115	3%	531	5%	400	6%	107	3%	508	5%
Bulgarian	14	0%	40	1%	54	1%	11	0%	38	1%	49	0%
Roma	10	0%	4	0%	14	0%	10	0%	5	0%	15	0%
Other	1	0%	14	0%	15	0%	1	0%	17	0%	18	0%
Total	6 582	100%	3 450	100%	10 032	100%	6 341	100%	3 691	100%	10 032	100%

In terms of level of education, most respondents had secondary education (28% based on weighted data), followed by the respondents with secondary vocational education (20% based on weighted data). At the same time, as expected, the share of respondents with higher university education is significantly higher in Chisinau municipality (about 30% based on weighted data).

TABLE 1.2.5. Distribution of respondents by level of education and region

Education	Region									
	North	Center	South	Chisinau	Total	North	Center	South	Chisinau	Total
	weighted data, persons					weighted data, persons				
No education	29	14	14	2	59	29	14	13	2	57
Primary (grades I-IV)	42	128	119	24	313	31	127	93	26	277
Lower Secondary	614	1065	868	210	2 757	610	1121	869	251	2 852
Mid-level general	281	704	490	220	1695	262	677	484	266	1690
Vocational secondary	535	723	516	234	2 008	510	706	511	251	1979
Secondary specialised	505	507	454	245	1 711	430	494	403	232	1559
Higher university	276	314	285	426	1 301	282	327	279	499	1 387
Master's degree, including internship	22	17	15	107	161	26	24	17	144	211
PhD, Post-doctorate	4	1	4	21	30	2	1	3	18	25
Total	2 308	3 473	2 765	1 489	10 035	2 182	3 491	2 672	1 690	10 035
	non-weighted data, % of the region's total					weighted data, % of the region's total				
No education	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Primary (grades I-IV)	2%	4%	4%	2%	3%	1%	4%	3%	2%	3%
Lower Secondary	27%	31%	31%	14%	27%	28%	32%	33%	15%	28%
Mid-level general	12%	20%	18%	15%	17%	12%	19%	18%	16%	17%
Vocational secondary	23%	21%	19%	16%	20%	23%	20%	19%	15%	20%
Secondary specialised	22%	15%	16%	16%	17%	20%	14%	15%	14%	16%
Higher university	12%	9%	10%	29%	13%	13%	9%	10%	30%	14%
Master's degree, including internship	1%	0%	1%	7%	2%	1%	1%	1%	9%	2%
PhD, Post-doctorate	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

In terms of the economic activity status of the respondents, it can be seen that most are employed, followed by retired people.

TABLE 1.2.6. Distribution of respondents by economic activity status

Economic activity status	N	%	N	%
	non-weighted		weighted	
Education	440	4%	673	7%
Employed	2 534	25%	3 145	31%
Self-employed	301	3%	444	4%
Helps household members on the family farm	139	1%	163	2%
Unemployed	950	9%	1 238	12%
Retired	3 559	36%	1 925	19%
Military service	3	0%	5	0%
Househusband/housewife	926	9%	1 097	11%
Maternity / paternity leave	276	3%	345	3%
Childcare leave	248	2%	303	3%
Long-term sick or disabled	470	5%	442	4%
Other	137	1%	187	2%
Employer	42	0%	58	1%
Total	10 025	100%	10 025	100%



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2. PARTNERSHIP RELATIONS

2.1. Marital status of women and men

According to Article 14(1) of the Family Code No 1316/2000, the minimum marital age is 18 years. For good reasons, the marriage age can be reduced but with no more than two years. The GGS data showed a low percentage of marriages in this age group.

Of all men aged 15-79, 54% were married (*Table 2.1.1*). Up to the age of 24 the share of married men is low. In the next age group of 25-29 years, almost half of them were married (46.7%), while in the 30-39 age group the share of married men was over 60%. From the age of 40 and up, the share of married men decreases and the share of divorced men increases. After 70, fewer men are married and the share of those widowed increases.

The share of married men in rural areas is higher than in urban areas. In the region category, Chisinau municipality has the fewest married men (48.8%). Analysis by education level reveals that most men have post-secondary vocational and higher education. Analysis by occupational status reveals that most married men are employees, self-employed and retired. In terms of prosperity level, the fewest who are married are to be found in quintile I.

According to the survey data, 9% of all men live in cohabitation (*Table 2.1.1*). Analysis by age group reveals that most cohabiting men (17.4%) are aged 20-24. Between the ages of 25 and 49, the share of men in cohabitation varies between 9 and 14%, and after this age their share decreases. No significant differences were found in the area of residence category. In the region category, it was observed that most cohabiting men are from Chisinau municipality. Analysis by level of education reveals that cohabitation is more common among men with secondary and secondary vocational education.

In the survey, 6.6% of all men are divorced/separated (*Table 2.1.1*). Most divorced men are aged 40-64. The share of divorced men in rural areas is lower than in urban areas. In the occupational status category, most men are unemployed (9.7%), ranking in the first quintile within the prosperity level category (14.4%).

More than a quarter of men (27.2%) are single/unmarried (*Table 2.1.1*). Most single men are amongst those aged 15-19 – 98.3%. With increasing age their share decreases, amounting to 67.7% in the 20-24 age group, followed by 40% in the 25-29 age group, and 22.2% in the 30-34 age group. In the next age group of 65-69, the share of single/unmarried men falls to 9.4%. In the next two age groups (70-74 and 75-79) the share is higher than in the 55-69 age groups.

In the area of residence category, the share of single men is lower in rural areas than in urban areas. There is a clear trend that as the level of education increases, the share of single men decreases.

Of all men, 3.2% are widowed (*Table 2.1.1*). Widowhood among men commences at the age of 35, with the share gradually increasing over the years. Of all men in rural areas, 3.6% are widowed, their share in urban areas amounting to 2.4%.

TABLE 2.1.1. Distribution of men aged 15 to 79 by current marital status, in %

	Married	In cohabitation	Divorced/ separated	Single/ unmarried	Widowers
Total	54,0	9,0	6,6	27,2	3,2
Age group					
15-19	0	1,7	0	98,3	0
20-24	14,9	17,4	0	67,7	0
25-29	46,7	12,8	0,5	40	0
30-34	62,3	11,3	4,2	22,2	0
35-39	61,3	14,2	5,3	18,8	0,4
40-44	56,7	9,1	13,7	19,4	1,1
45-49	59	10,2	11,3	17	2,5
50-54	66,7	4,7	13,2	13,2	2,2
55-59	69,1	5,8	10,1	11,2	3,8
60-64	67,1	4,7	9,1	11,5	7,6
65-69	70,4	2,7	5,9	9,4	11,6
70-74	58,9	2,9	5,5	12	20,7
75-79	50,9	1,8	5,5	13,3	28,5
Area of residence					
Rural	55,2	8,9	5,7	26,6	3,6
Urban	52,2	9,1	8,1	28,2	2,4

Region					
Chisinau	48,8	12,6	6,4	30,7	1,5
North	56,3	9,8	7,4	23,6	2,9
Center	55,6	7,4	5,7	27,5	3,8
South	53,4	8,3	7,2	27,4	3,7
Education					
Primary	42,4	5,6	8,3	38,1	5,6
Lower secondary	39,9	10	6,5	40,6	3
General secondary	50,6	8,5	6,9	30,6	3,4
Vocational secondary	58,8	10,7	7,1	18,9	4,5
Post-secondary vocational	67,9	5,8	6,3	18	2
Higher	68,4	8,5	6	15,5	1,6
Occupational status					
Employee	66,7	11	5,4	16,1	0,8
Self-employed	68	9,8	5,7	15,4	1,1
Retired	65,2	2,7	6,1	12	14
Unemployed	44,6	11,7	9,7	32,7	1,3
Another situation	32,9	7,6	6,8	50,4	2,3
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	30,7	9,7	14,4	39,5	5,7
Quintile II	49,3	9	6,8	30,7	4,2
Quintile III	61,2	8,1	4,7	24,1	1,9
Quintile IV	55,2	6,6	7,3	25,4	5,5
Quintile V	60,5	11,5	4,9	20,3	2,8

Of all women aged 15-79, 58.2% are married (*Table 2.1.2*). Since women marry at a younger age, the share of women married by the age of 24 is higher – three times higher than for men. In the 25-44 age group, the share of married women is almost two thirds. From this age onwards, the share of married women slowly decreases. Due to higher mortality among men and higher life expectancy at birth for women, the share of women married at older ages (55+) is lower than for men.

The share of married women in rural areas is higher than in urban areas. In the region category, the fewest married women were found in Chisinau municipality, this being determined by the younger structure of the population, i.e. the higher share of unmarried young people.

Analysis by education level reveals that most married women have secondary vocational, post-secondary vocational and higher education.

Of all women, 8.2% live in cohabitation (*Table 2.1.2.*). In the 15-19 age bracket the share is 6.3%, while the next age group (20-24 years) shows the highest shares of cohabiting women (21.6%).

Analysis by residence area revealed that the share of cohabiting women is insignificantly higher in cities than in villages. Most people living in cohabitation are from Chisinau municipality. Analysis by level of education found that cohabitation is more common among women with secondary education.

The survey found that 6.1% of all women are divorced/separated (*Table 2.1.2.*). Since women marry at a younger age, the share of women divorced at younger age (up to 35) is also higher than in the case of men. Most divorced women (12.6%) are aged 45-49. The share of divorced women in urban areas is almost double that in rural areas – 8.5% and 4.7% respectively. Analysis by region revealed that most divorced women are from Chisinau and the north of the country. Analysis by level of education found divorce to be common among different categories of women, with the exception of those with primary education. In the occupational status category, most women are unemployed (10.9%), ranking in the first quintile within the prosperity level category (9.3%).

Of all the women, 17.1% indicated being single (*Table 2.1.2.*). Most single women are amongst those aged 15-19 – 86.8%. With increasing age, the share of single men decreases, but so does the disproportion between single men and women in favour of the latter.

In the area of residence category, the share of single women is lower in rural areas than in urban areas. Analysis by region reveals that the fewest single women are to be found in the central region of the country. In the level of education category, it can be seen that in the population with lower levels of education the share of singles is higher than in the case of women with higher levels of education. The rate of single women is the lowest among employed and self-employed women. We find that as the level of prosperity increases, the number of single people decreases.

The widowed female population amounts to 10.4% (*Table 2.1.2.*). Widowhood among women occurs after the age of 35 as it does among men, only the levels are higher. The share of widowed women in rural areas is 11.9%, while in the case of urban women it amounts to 7.7%. Chisinau municipality has the fewest widows. Because the elderly have a lower level of education than the current generations, and since widowhood most often occurs at an older age, there is a significant share of widows having a primary level of education (27.9%). Most widows are retired.

TABLE 2.1.2. Distribution of women aged 15 to 79 by current marital status, in %

	Married	In cohabitation	Divorced/ separated	Single/ unmarried	Widowers
Total	58,2	8,2	6,1	17,1	10,4
Age group					
15-19	6,9	6,3	0	86,8	0
20-24	46,1	21,6	0,9	31	0,4
25-29	74,6	12,1	4,1	9,2	0
30-34	74,5	12,2	5,6	7,7	0
35-39	72,6	11,5	5,5	9,2	1,2
40-44	72,3	8,5	7,8	9,7	1,7
45-49	67,8	7,2	12,6	8,5	3,9
50-54	65,6	7,1	8,7	10,8	7,8
55-59	58,7	5,6	7,4	14,6	13,7
60-64	52,7	2,8	7,4	15,2	21,9
65-69	38,9	1,9	4,4	18,6	36,2
70-74	30,4	1,3	6,5	23,7	38,1
75-79	18,4	0,6	3	31,1	46,9
Area of residence					
Rural	60	7,6	4,7	15,8	11,9
Urban	55,1	9,3	8,5	19,4	7,7
Region					
Chisinau	54,4	9,9	7,8	22,3	5,6
North	56,4	7,2	7,8	18,6	10
Center	62,6	7,9	4,6	14,3	10,6
South	56,1	8,4	5,5	16,2	13,8

Education					
Primary	22,8	3,6	3,5	42,2	27,9
Lower	49,9	12,7	5,7	19,7	12
General secondary	57,7	6,5	6,4	18,9	10,5
Vocational secondary	63,6	9	5,4	12	10
Post-secondary vocational	62,8	4,7	6,6	14,7	11,2
Higher	68,3	5,8	7,1	13,8	5
Occupational status					
Employee	67,3	8,6	8	11,9	4,2
Self-employed	74,5	8,9	3,1	8,6	4,9
Retired	41,6	2,5	5,7	19,4	30,8
Unemployed	54,3	12,3	10,9	18	4,5
Another situation	62,8	10,9	4	19,6	2,7
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	35,9	9,6	9,3	28,7	16,5
Quintile II	46,2	5,4	7,6	22,1	18,7
Quintile III	66,3	7,7	5,5	14,9	5,6
Quintile IV	50,2	7,7	7,4	17,1	17,6
Quintile V	68,1	10,8	4,2	11,6	5,3

Analysis by area of residence showed that up to the age of 30 the share of married men in rural areas is higher than in urban areas, in the 30-34 age group the shares are nearly the same, and in the 35-49 age category the trends are variable. After the age of 50, the share of married men in rural areas is higher than in urban areas (*Table 2.1.3*). The share of married women in rural areas is higher than in urban areas for all age groups.

Analysis by region shows that most married men are from the north of the country, and most married women – from the central region. The lowest percentage (50.1%) of married men from rural areas was recorded in the southern region, followed by those from Chisinau municipality and the northern region (about 53% each), and then by the 54.6% from the central region. Most rural married women are from the central region of the country (61.1%), followed by those from Chisinau (58.3%), the 55.7% from the northern region and the 53.7% from the south. In terms of education level, we see that as education increases, so does the proportion of married men. An almost similar trend is observed among urban and rural married women.

Depending on the level of education, there is a significant share of married rural men with primary, general secondary, vocational secondary and vocational post-secondary education. In both urban and rural areas most married men are employed, retired and self-employed, and most married women in urban and rural areas are self-employed and employed. In terms of prosperity level, the fewest married urban dwellers, both women and men, are found in quintile I and II, and in rural areas – in quintile I.

TABLE 2.1.3. Share of married people by area of residence, in %

	Urban		Rural	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Age group				
15-19	0	1,2	0	7,9
20-24	10,2	33,6	14,5	42,5
25-29	39,5	67,8	43,8	71,5
30-34	59,5	67,1	60,1	74,5
35-39	62,7	67,2	55,7	70,6
40-44	52,6	62,1	57,4	73,2
45-49	62	55,5	53,3	69,6
50-54	60,7	48,2	67	72
55-59	60,7	51,8	70	60,6
60-64	59,8	50,8	67,6	52,6
65-69	61,7	37,4	71,1	39,1
70-74	54,4	25,8	59,7	32,2
75-79	40	16,8	54,1	19,1
Region				
Chisinau	40,5	47,4	53	58,3
North	56,3	51,9	53,2	55,7
Center	50,4	58	54,6	61,1
South	51,5	50,1	50,1	53,7

Education				
Primary	9,3	21,6	49,6	21,4
Lower secondary	33,6	36	39,2	49,7
General secondary	37	42,7	55,4	60
Vocational secondary	48,3	55,3	58,7	63,7
Post-secondary vocational	56	52,9	70,3	66,6
Higher	62,5	62,4	65,3	70,2
Occupational status				
Employee	57	55,5	66	71,2
Self-employed	54	58,6	71	84,4
Retired	57,1	38,4	66,7	42,4
Unemployed	44,3	50,5	42,4	51,3
Another situation	22,8	52,9	34,5	60,5
Welfare quintile				
Quintile I	34,7	24,5	28,4	37,3
Quintile II	36,1	35,4	51,8	48,4
Quintile III	53,5	58	61,6	66,9
Quintile IV	56,1	50,3	50,7	47,1
Quintile V	53,4	59,2	58	68,4

The survey data reveal that the average age at first marriage² was 24.5 years for men and 21.8 years for women (*Table 2.1.4*). In urban areas, the average age at first marriage for both men and women was higher than in rural areas, being 25.3 years for men and 22.7 years for women and 24.2 years and 21.3 years, respectively. For men aged 35-49, the average age at first marriage was around 25, and for those over 50 was under 25. For women, the average age at first marriage is largely constant across age groups. For both men and women, the average age at first marriage is higher in Chisinau municipality. The average age at first marriage is higher for both male and female respondents with higher education and employed. In terms of prosperity level, there are no significant differences.

² The data on average age at marriage differs from those presented by NBS because this indicator was calculated for people from more than one generation and married in more than one calendar year

TABLE 2.1.4. Average age at first marriage, in years

	Total		Urban		Rural	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Total	24,5	21,8	25,3	22,7	24,2	21,3
Age group						
15-19		17,3		17,1		17,3
20-24	21,0	20,0	21,7	20,2	20,6	19,9
25-29	23,9	21,4	24,1	22,2	23,8	20,9
30-34	24,9	22,5	25,5	23,0	24,3	22,0
35-39	25,8	22,9	26,2	24,2	25,5	22,0
40-44	25,4	21,8	26,3	23,3	25,0	21,1
45-49	25,0	21,3	25,9	22,9	24,5	20,6
50-54	24,5	20,9	24,6	22,1	24,4	20,4
55-59	24,7	21,3	25,6	21,9	24,3	21,1
60-64	24,2	21,7	24,7	22,3	24,0	21,5
65-69	23,9	22,1	24,9	22,8	23,6	21,8
70-74	23,8	21,8	24,6	22,5	23,4	21,5
75-79	24,9	21,7	26,2	21,9	24,4	21,6
Region						
Chisinau	25,8	23,5	26,2	23,6	24,4	23,0
North	24,5	21,1	25,1	21,7	24,0	20,6
Center	24,1	21,6	24,4	22,7	24,0	21,4
South	24,6	21,7	25,1	22,6	24,4	21,4
Education						
Primary	22,7	22,0	24,1	23,7	22,4	21,5
Lower secondary	24,2	21,2	24,6	21,8	24,1	21,0
General secondary	24,6	21,3	25,0	21,9	24,4	21,1
Vocational secondary	24,2	21,4	25,0	22,5	24,0	20,9
Post-secondary	24,6	22,0	25,1	22,3	24,3	21,8
Higher	25,8	23,3	26,3	23,7	25,1	22,6

Occupational status						
Employee	25,3	22,1	25,9	22,8	24,8	21,5
Self-employed	24,4	21,8	26,2	23,3	23,6	20,7
Retired	24,0	21,7	24,9	22,3	23,6	21,5
Unemployed	24,9	21,2	24,8	22,3	24,9	20,7
Another situation	24,1	21,7	23,8	23,0	24,2	21,1
Welfare quintile						
Quintile I	24,7	21,7	25,5	23,3	24,4	21,1
Quintile II	24,5	21,4	24,5	21,7	24,4	21,3
Quintile III	24,4	21,6	24,9	22,3	24,2	21,2
Quintile IV	24,5	22,0	26,2	23,0	23,7	21,5
Quintile V	24,4	22,0	25,4	23,1	23,7	21,3

Of the total population, only 8.4% are married or in a relationship but not living together (*Table 2.1.5*). One of the possible causes would be one of the partners being abroad. The share of urban dwellers in this sort of situation is much higher than in the case of those from rural areas, being 11% and 6.9% respectively. This applies more to women than to men, accounting for 9% and 7.7% respectively. Being in a marriage or relationship without living together is more characteristic of people of younger ages – up to 30. In Chisinau municipality live most respondents who are either married or in a relationship and not living together. In terms of education level, the fewest have primary education. In terms of occupational status, most men who were married or in a relationship and not living together were employed, and most women in this situation had an occupational status other than those mentioned (employed, self-employed, retired and unemployed). In terms of prosperity level, most respondents who are married or in a relationship but not living together are found in quintile V.

TABLE 2.1.5. Share of people married or in a relationship but not living together, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	7,7	9	11	6,9	8,4
Age group					
15-19	11,8	21,6	21	13,8	16,5
20-24	14,6	20,2	17,3	17,4	17,3
25-29	11	15,8	16,4	11,1	13,3
30-34	6	10,9	10,5	6,6	8,4
35-39	7,4	12,4	11	9	9,9
40-44	2,6	8,6	6,5	5,1	5,6
45-49	9,7	8,4	13,5	7,1	9
50-54	6,4	4,6	7,5	4,6	5,4
55-59	8,3	2,8	8,7	3,7	5,3
60-64	6,4	2,6	6,1	3,5	4,3
65-69	4,5	1,6	4,4	2,1	2,8
70-74	1,7	0,7	1,4	0,9	1,1
75-79	2,9	0,9	2	1,4	1,6
Region					
Chisinau	14,8	12,6	14,3	10,7	13,7
North	4,8	8,4	9,4	5	6,9
Center	5,8	6,9	8,3	5,9	6,4
South	7,8	10,2	9,3	8,9	9
Education					
Primary	2,8	6,1	9	3,1	4,4
Lower	7	9,5	11,5	7,3	8,3
General secondary	6,8	8,8	12,1	5,5	7,9
Vocational secondary	7,9	9	11	7,3	8,4
Post-secondary vocational	9,6	8,4	11	7,3	8,9
Higher	9,2	9,5	10,1	7,9	9,4

Occupational status					
Employee	9,6	9,9	12,2	7,3	9,7
Self-employed	7	5,5	8,9	5,4	6,7
Retired	4,8	1,6	3,6	2,3	2,7
Unemployed	7,5	10,4	11,5	7,2	8,4
Another situation	6,9	13,1	13,4	9,5	10,7
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	4	9,2	11,3	4,5	6,6
Quintile II	3,6	4,7	6,4	3,4	4,2
Quintile III	7	8	10,4	5,9	7,5
Quintile IV	7	8,5	8,7	7,4	7,8
Quintile V	10,5	10,8	11,7	9,8	10,7

The survey data revealed that of all male respondents 2.9% were married or cohabiting by the age of 18, while for female respondents the respective share was 14.2% (Table 2.1.6.). In urban areas, the share of men who married or were cohabiting by the age of 18 is slightly higher than in rural areas, while for women the difference is considerable: the percentage of women who married or were cohabiting by the age of 18 is 7 percentage points higher in rural areas than in urban areas. Analysis of the data by age shows that the trends are variable, with respondents aged 55-64 being least likely to have been married or cohabiting by age of 18. Depending on the region, we find that for men the percentage varies between 2.6% and 3.8% for the four regions, while for women there is a larger difference, with a share of 8.3% for Chisinau, 14.8% for the south, 15.3% for the centre and 16.4% for the north. Analysis by level of education reveals a tendency for both male and female respondents with higher education to have the lowest shares in terms of being married or cohabiting before the age of 18. There were no significant differences in terms of occupational status and prosperity level.

TABLE 2.1.6. Share of people who were married or cohabiting before the age of 18, in %

	Total		Urban		Rural	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Total	2,9	14,2	3,3	9,6	2,7	16,9
Age group						
15-19	1,9	8,1	4,1	7,3	0,7	8,7
20-24	4,1	17,6	5,6	14,7	2,9	20
25-29	1,5	19,7	3,4	13	0	24,3
30-34	4,8	16,2	5,7	10,3	3,9	20,9
35-39	3	13,6	2,3	8,6	3,6	17,4
40-44	3,3	16,7	0	8,7	5,1	21,1
45-49	3,3	18,8	3,4	14,2	3,3	20,9
50-54	2,4	14,2	2,3	5,5	2,5	18,6
55-59	1,2	11	1,5	6,9	1	12,8
60-64	2,8	9,5	4,3	7,5	2,3	10,3
65-69	2,4	9,8	0	7,6	3,3	10,9
70-74	2,1	10,7	1,1	8	2,6	12
75-79	5,9	15,1	4,4	9,9	6,5	17,3
Region						
Chisinau	3	8,3	3,4	7,3	1,4	12,7
North	3,8	16,4	3,6	12,7	4	19,2
Center	2,6	15,3	2,9	10,3	2,5	16,4
South	2,7	14,8	3,2	9,1	2,5	16,6
Education						
Primary	2,4	14,3	1,5	20,1	2,6	12,6
Lower secondary	3,5	22,3	4,2	16	3,3	24,1
General secondary	2,2	16	1,4	12,4	2,7	17,8
Vocational secondary	2,8	13,9	3	12,3	2,6	14,6
Post-secondary	4,2	9	5,9	7,7	3	10
Higher	1,9	4,5	2,5	4,1	0,4	5,2

Occupational status						
Employee	3,1	12,3	3,5	8,7	2,7	15,7
Self-employed	2,5	15,2	1,7	10,8	3	18,7
Retired	3,5	11,4	1,1	8,7	4,4	12,6
Unemployed	3	17,7	4	13,6	2,7	19,6
Another situation	2,5	16,7	4,1	10,4	1,9	19,8
Welfare quintile						
Quintile I	1,6	14,7	1,1	13,5	1,8	15,3
Quintile II	3	14,6	3,8	10,3	2,7	16,2
Quintile III	2,6	15,9	2,9	12	2,5	18,1
Quintile IV	3,8	14,7	4,4	9,5	3,4	17,2
Quintile V	2,7	13,2	3	8,1	2,5	16,9

The average age at first divorce³ for males was 37 years and for females 32.1 years (*Table 2.1.7*). It should be noted that only the average age at first divorce of people who were formally married was calculated, not for those who were cohabiting. In urban areas, the average age at first divorce for both men and women is higher than in rural areas, namely 36.7 years and 31.9 years and 37.2 years and 32.4 years respectively. For both sexes, the average age at first marriage increases with age. The Central region stands out for having a population with the highest age of first marriage. Analysis by level of education reveals that for men, the average age at first divorce increases with increasing level of education, while for women the data is variable. By occupational status, retirees stand out as having the oldest age at first divorce since they are already seniors. In terms of prosperity level, no key features were identified.

³ The data on average age at first divorce differs from those presented by NBS because this indicator was calculated for people from more than one generation and divorced in more than one calendar year.

TABLE 2.1.7. Average age at first divorce, in years

	Total		Urban		Rural	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Total	37,0	32,1	36,7	31,9	37,2	32,4
Age group						
20-24	24,0	21,2	24,0	21,6		20,7
25-29	25,0	23,9	26,2	24,1	24,6	23,8
30-34	27,0	26,8	26,6	27,6	27,5	26,0
35-39	30,4	29,8	30,1	29,8	30,6	29,7
40-44	34,4	31,0	33,6	31,4	35,4	30,5
45-49	35,9	32,0	35,5	31,9	36,2	32,0
50-54	37,7	34,0	38,4	33,0	37,5	34,9
55-59	38,7	35,2	38,1	32,3	39,1	37,6
60-64	40,0	36,2	41,0	36,3	39,1	36,1
65-69	41,6	33,3	41,6	33,8	41,7	32,9
70-74	40,2	34,6	38,2	35,5	41,6	33,7
75-79	41,3	39,5	43,6	45,4	37,2	36,3
Region						
Chisinau	37,3	31,7	37,1	31,8	38,5	31,1
North	35,1	31,1	35,6	32,0	34,5	30,4
Center	38,3	33,5	38,8	34,1	38,2	33,3
South	36,9	32,4	36,2	30,0	37,3	34,0
Education						
Primary	35,5	38,0	33,3	48,1	37,2	35,1
Lower secondary	36,4	30,3	35,4	30,8	36,8	30,0
General secondary	36,6	32,4	37,1	31,6	36,2	33,0
Vocational secondary	36,2	31,8	35,4	30,7	36,7	32,6
Post-secondary vocational	38,1	33,8	37,8	32,5	38,5	35,5
Higher	38,7	32,3	38,0	32,3	40,7	32,1

Occupational status						
Employee	35,0	31,8	35,5	31,1	34,4	32,9
Self-employed	33,9	27,0	32,9	26,8	35,3	28,5
Retired	40,2	34,9	40,5	35,2	39,8	34,6
Unemployed	37,1	32,4	35,4	33,1	37,8	31,9
Another situation	37,3	29,2	37,1	29,1	37,4	29,2
Welfare quintile						
Quintile I	40,6	33,5	39,5	32,2	41,0	34,4
Quintile II	35,6	32,1	36,0	31,4	35,4	32,4
Quintile III	34,9	32,1	35,6	32,4	34,2	31,7
Quintile IV	39,4	32,2	40,5	31,6	38,7	32,9
Quintile V	36,7	31,8	35,9	32,1	37,7	31,4

According to the survey data (*Table 2.1.8.*), most people met their current partner through friends (22.4%). 20% met at private parties, 18.7% at work, and 16.1% met in educational institutions. Quite significant is also the number of those who met in a bar/nightclub/dance club – 11.6%. 5.8% of respondents met online. The share of those who met on holiday or business trips, social and church events is quite low, namely 2.6%, 1.9% and 0.8% respectively. Analysis by age showed a tendency that people over 45 years of age got acquainted at work more often than younger people.

Young people (15-29 years old) mostly get acquainted with their potential partner in education institutions and online. Meeting through friends is a common practice for all age groups. In terms of level of education, people with higher and post-secondary vocational education most often get acquainted in education institutions, through friends, at private parties and at work. Meeting in a bar/nightclub/dance club is more common among the population with secondary vocational education, while meeting online and on holiday or business trips – among people with higher education.

Respondents with higher education mostly meet their potential partners at private parties, and those with secondary education – through friends, at work and private parties. Compared to married people, cohabiting people more often get acquainted online, through friends and at work. The self-employed most often meet their potential partners at private parties, the retired – at work, the unemployed, the employed and those with other occupational status – through friends. In terms of prosperity level, there are no distinct differences.

TABLE 2.1.8. Where respondents met their current partner, in %

	At work	In education institutions	In church	On-line	On holiday or business trips	In a bar, nightclub or dance club	At social events	At private parties	Through friends
Total	18,7	16,1	0,8	5,8	2,6	11,6	1,9	20,0	22,4
Age group									
15-19	5,2	24,3	0,0	14,8	3,1	9,8	2,2	15,2	25,4
20-24	10,3	21,9	0,9	20,5	1,1	7,7	3,1	17,8	16,6
25-29	11,7	17,7	0,5	16,2	3,6	9,4	1,1	18,5	21,4
30-34	15,0	15,5	1,0	9,3	2,8	9,3	3,3	19,8	24,0
35-39	16,8	14,4	1,3	3,7	4,0	11,9	1,8	22,2	23,9
40-44	18,7	13,6	0,8	2,6	2,2	11,5	1,3	23,7	25,4
45-49	19,2	15,6	1,0	1,4	1,9	11,7	1,2	20,0	28,2
50-54	24,6	17,2	0,3	0,5	2,1	12,9	1,5	20,5	20,4
55-59	22,0	15,0	0,7	0,7	2,6	16,9	2,1	18,6	21,3
60-64	27,0	15,2	0,3	0,1	2,3	13,5	1,1	21,7	18,8
65-69	29,8	15,1	0,6	0,4	1,6	14,0	2,0	16,6	19,9
70-74	30,9	16,8	3,4	0,6	0,8	12,3	1,0	17,8	16,5
75-79	32,5	12,6	0,7	0,0	2,7	11,3	2,6	19,2	18,5
Education									
Primary	15,9	4,6	0,4	4,7	0,3	9,7	0,6	39,7	24,0
Lower secondary	22,1	10,6	0,8	5,9	1,7	12,8	1,4	21,6	23,1
General secondary	18,8	15,0	0,5	5,0	1,9	12,0	2,4	19,3	25,1
Vocational secondary	20,5	11,1	1,3	5,7	2,5	14,3	1,7	21,5	21,4
Post-secondary vocational	17,6	21,4	0,5	2,9	2,9	11,4	1,9	18,7	22,6
Higher	13,3	26,4	1,1	9,4	4,5	7,0	2,5	16,0	19,9

Marital status									
Married	18,8	17,2	0,9	4,3	2,6	12,4	1,7	20,2	21,8
In cohabitation	20,8	8,2	0,4	10,1	2,5	8,4	2,2	20,9	26,4
Occupational status									
Employee	16,8	18,4	0,7	6,4	2,9	10,5	1,8	19,2	23,4
Self-employed	14,7	15,0	2,0	9,1	2,0	10,6	3,3	24,9	18,3
Retired	29,6	14,8	0,8	0,3	1,8	13,0	1,4	19,2	19,0
Unemployed	18,3	10,5	1,1	4,8	3,8	13,8	1,4	22,2	24,0
Another situation	16,8	16,1	0,7	7,7	2,3	11,8	2,2	19,6	22,8
Welfare quintile									
Quintile I	21,4	12,3	0,3	5,7	2,7	12,8	2,1	18,9	23,8
Quintile II	23,2	15,1	0,9	2,9	1,6	14,5	1,5	20,4	20,0
Quintile III	17,4	15,3	1,4	6,2	2,9	12,8	2,4	22,6	19,0
Quintile IV	22,9	19,4	0,5	4,6	3,5	10,3	1,6	18,5	18,7
Quintile V	18,2	16,8	0,5	7,6	2,6	10,9	1,3	20,1	21,9

2.2. Age differences of married or cohabiting partners

Of all respondents who are married or cohabiting, 35% live with a partner at least 2 years older (*Table 2.2.1*). Women are more likely to be married or cohabiting with people older than them. Thus, 58.9% of women are married or in union, their partner being at least two years older. Of all men, only 7.5% had a partner at least two years older. In rural areas, the share of married or cohabiting people with partners at least two years older amounts to 36.5%, and in urban areas – 32.2%. Analysis by age shows that for men the data vary from one age category to another, and for women over the age of 50, married or in a relationship with partners at least two years older, the respective share tends to decrease.

In terms of region, we find that in the country's central region there are the fewest men whose partners are at least two years older and the most women who are married or in a relationship with at least two years older partners. Both men and women with secondary education are married or in relationships with partners at least two years older than them. By occupational status, unemployed men and most self-employed women are married or cohabiting with partners at least two years older than them. In terms of prosperity level, most men and most women married to partners at least two years older are found in the first quintile.

TABLE 2.2.1. Share of married or cohabiting people whose partners are at least 2 years older, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	7,5	58,9	32,2	36,5	35
Age group					
15-19	0	63,6	35,9	50,7	43,8
20-24	5	76,1	46,1	52,1	49,3
25-29	6,3	64,8	37,8	40,8	39,6
30-34	7,5	57,1	29,7	37,4	33,9
35-39	9,7	57,4	30,7	37	34,3
40-44	9	61,4	33,9	40,2	38,1
45-49	10	63,1	28,2	42,6	38,3
50-54	7,3	60,8	32,5	37,2	36
55-59	9,8	56,4	28,9	35,4	33,5
60-64	4,2	44,1	27,9	23	24,3
65-69	5,5	39,5	22,2	20,2	20,8
70-74	4	49,7	25,6	24	24,5
75-79	7,9	55,5	28,7	27,2	27,6
Region					
Chisinau	7,9	53,3	31,9	32	31,9
North	8,4	58,4	34,4	37,5	36,2
Center	5,8	61,7	32,1	37,5	36,5
South	8,8	59,2	30,3	35,2	33,9
Education					
Primary	6,5	51,9	34,6	20,4	22,9
Lower secondary	10,9	64,2	37,3	42,5	41,4
General secondary	4,1	59,9	30,6	39,1	36,3
Vocational secondary	8,6	59	34,6	30,3	31,5
Post-secondary vocational	6,6	55,9	31	34,3	33
Higher	5,6	53,5	30,2	35,6	32,1

Occupational status					
Employee	8,1	55,3	26,9	32,7	29,9
Self-employed	3,1	70,1	18,9	15,4	16,6
Retired	5,7	46,6	32,1	27,5	28,8
Unemployed	10,4	59,3	23,4	30,9	28,7
Another situation	7,2	65,7	49,3	50,6	50,2
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	13	63,2	50,1	36,5	40,1
Quintile II	10,3	59,6	36,6	36,7	36,7
Quintile III	5,9	60,1	31,4	36,8	35
Quintile IV	9,6	58,3	32,4	37,2	35,5
Quintile V	6,7	57,4	31	38,2	35,1

Of the total number of respondents, 34.4% have an age difference of ± 2 years between themselves and the people they are married to or cohabiting with (*Table 2.2.2.*). Men are more likely to be in this sort of situation than women, with 35.9% and 33% respectively. In urban areas, the share of those with an age difference of ± 2 years between themselves and the people they are married to or cohabiting with is 37.4%, and in rural areas – 32.6%. Analysis by age shows that men aged 15-24 and women aged 60-69 are more likely to be married or cohabiting with partners with an age difference of ± 2 years.

Most married or cohabiting men and women with an age difference of ± 2 years between themselves and their partner live in Chisinau municipality. Analysis by level of education shows that there is a significant gap between men and women with primary education, with men outnumbering women in terms of being married or cohabiting with partners with an age difference of ± 2 years. Analysis by level of prosperity shows that both women and men in the first quintile are married or cohabiting with partners with an age difference of ± 2 years.

TABLE 2.2.2. Share of people married or cohabiting with partners with an age difference of +/- 2 years, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	35,9	33	37,4	32,6	34,4
Age group					
15-19	81,4	34,8	54,1	45,1	49,3
20-24	52,5	22,3	32,6	34,5	33,7
25-29	33,8	30,3	34,3	30,1	31,8
30-34	44	36	42,9	37,2	39,8
35-39	31,5	31,4	35,4	28,5	31,5
40-44	29,3	28,8	29,4	28,8	29
45-49	25,7	27,6	33,3	23,9	26,7
50-54	34	30,6	36,9	30,5	32,2
55-59	33,6	36,2	39,8	32,9	34,9
60-64	32,9	46,3	40,1	39,5	39,7
65-69	39,2	47,5	45	42,1	42,9
70-74	38,3	36,9	39,7	36,8	37,7
75-79	29,5	30,1	31,6	29,1	29,8
Region					
Chisinau	40	36,9	38,6	37,4	38,4
North	37	32,6	38,1	32,1	34,6
Center	36,3	32,2	38,6	33	34
South	32	32	33,1	31,6	32
Education					
Primary	48,7	29,4	42,5	41,6	41,8
Lower secondary	33,4	27,8	35,1	28,9	30,2
General secondary	39,6	33,3	39,3	34,3	36
Vocational secondary	33,3	32,5	37	31,3	32,9
Post-secondary vocational	37,8	36	40,7	34,2	36,9
Higher	35,8	38,2	36	39,3	37,1

Occupational status					
Employee	34,9	36,1	38,8	32,6	35,5
Self-employed	40,8	21,5	36,6	37,1	36,9
Retired	35,9	43,3	39,6	40,2	40,1
Unemployed	34,7	31,5	40,3	30,7	33,5
Another situation	36,6	27,7	33,3	28,7	30,1
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	28,1	25,6	18,3	29,7	26,7
Quintile II	31,2	33,7	40,2	30,4	32,5
Quintile III	36,4	32,3	38,6	31,9	34,2
Quintile IV	35,5	32,5	39,4	30,9	33,9
Quintile V	36,3	35,2	36,5	35	35,7

Of all respondents, 29.8% are married or cohabiting with partners who are at least two years younger (*Table 2.2.3.*). Men are more likely than women to be married or cohabiting with people at least two years younger than themselves, with a share of 55.5% for men and 7.4% for women. Analysis by area of residence shows that there are no significant differences in this respect, with urban areas accounting for 29.3% and rural areas for 30.1%. Men after the age of 25 are more likely to marry or cohabit with partners who are at least two years younger than they are. Most women who are married or cohabiting with partners who are at least two years younger than themselves are over 65.

Analysis by region shows that the fewest married or cohabiting men with partners at least two years younger are from Chisinau municipality, and the fewest women married or cohabiting with partners at least two years younger are from the Central region of the country. Analysis by education level reveals that the fewest men whose partners are at least two years younger and the most women with partners at least two years younger have primary education, and no major differences were found in terms of occupational status and prosperity level.

TABLE 2.2.3. Share of people who are married or cohabiting with partners at least 2 years younger, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	55,5	7,4	29,3	30,1	29,8
Age group					
15-19	14,8	0	7,4	2,1	4,6
20-24	41,2	1	20,5	12,4	16,1
25-29	57,4	4,7	26,9	27,8	27,4
30-34	47,3	6,3	25,9	25,1	25,4
35-39	56,8	10,6	32,9	33	33
40-44	61	9,1	35,6	30,5	32,2
45-49	63,8	8,2	36,6	33	34,1
50-54	58,1	7,5	29,2	31,7	31
55-59	56,5	7,2	31,1	31,6	31,4
60-64	62,5	9,5	31,8	37,2	35,7
65-69	54,5	12,8	32,6	37,1	35,8
70-74	56,9	12,1	33,7	38,2	36,9
75-79	62,5	14,2	39,5	43,5	42,5
Region					
Chisinau	50,3	9,1	28,3	29,3	28,5
North	54,1	8,4	27,2	29,7	28,7
Center	57,2	5,8	28,6	29	28,9
South	57,6	7,8	34,5	32,2	32,8
Education					
Primary	44,6	18,5	22,8	37,8	35,2
Lower secondary	54,6	7,3	26,5	27,8	27,5
General secondary	55,6	5,9	28	26,5	27
Vocational secondary	56,5	8,3	28,2	37,1	34,6
Post-secondary vocational	55,4	7,5	27,8	31,1	29,8
Higher	56,9	7,7	32,3	24,6	29,7

Occupational status					
Employee	55,6	7,7	33,1	33,8	33,5
Self-employed	55,1	6,9	41,8	47,4	45,4
Retired	57,7	9,9	28	31,8	30,7
Unemployed	53,6	8,6	35,6	37,4	36,9
Another situation	55,7	6,1	17	20,1	19,2
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	58,8	10,5	31,4	33,1	32,7
Quintile II	58,1	6,3	22,8	32,4	30,3
Quintile III	56,8	7,2	29,5	30,6	30,2
Quintile IV	54,1	8,4	26,2	31,8	29,8
Quintile V	56,1	7,1	32	26,1	28,7

2.3. Mean number of partners over lifetime

The survey data revealed that the average number of partners⁴ over the lifetime by to the time of the survey for a male respondent was 0.86 and for a female respondent – 0.89 (*Table 2.3.1*). In terms of area of residence, there were no differences in this respect. Analysis by age shows that for men the value of 0.9 partners falls within the 30-34 age bracket, while for women – within the 25-29 age bracket. We also found that older female generations (over 65) had fewer partners than younger generations.

⁴ Life partner is defined in the GGS as a partner with whom the respondent has been in a relationship for at least 3 months, a long-term relationship (long term partner)..

TABLE 2.3.1. Distribution of women and men by average number of lifetimes partners⁵

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	0,86	0,89	0,88	0,88	0,88
Age group					
15-19	0,05	0,12	0,13	0,06	0,09
20-24	0,42	0,68	0,63	0,52	0,57
25-29	0,68	0,89	0,80	0,83	0,82
30-34	0,92	1,01	0,96	1,00	0,98
35-39	0,96	0,97	0,98	0,96	0,97
40-44	0,97	1,00	1,05	0,96	0,99
45-49	0,97	0,99	1,02	0,97	0,98
50-54	0,93	1,02	0,96	0,99	0,98
55-59	0,96	0,94	0,94	0,95	0,95
60-64	0,94	0,93	0,95	0,93	0,93
65-69	0,96	0,88	0,90	0,91	0,91
70-74	0,95	0,82	0,86	0,87	0,87
75-79	0,96	0,76	0,88	0,80	0,82
Region					
Chisinau	0,88	0,89	0,87	0,93	0,89
North	0,92	0,90	0,91	0,91	0,91
Center	0,83	0,89	0,84	0,87	0,87
South	0,85	0,88	0,90	0,86	0,87
Education					
Primary	0,73	0,71	0,70	0,72	0,72
Lower secondary	0,73	0,88	0,80	0,84	0,83
General secondary	0,85	0,86	0,79	0,89	0,85
Vocational secondary	0,94	0,96	0,98	0,94	0,95
Post-secondary vocational	0,94	0,91	0,91	0,93	0,92
Higher	0,94	0,89	0,92	0,88	0,90

⁵ Up to the time of the survey (respondents with 0 partners are included in the calculation).

Occupational status					
Employee	0,95	0,95	0,94	0,96	0,95
Self-employed	0,97	1,05	1,11	0,92	0,99
Retired	0,94	0,87	0,89	0,89	0,89
Unemployed	0,86	0,92	0,93	0,86	0,88
Another situation	0,64	0,85	0,73	0,80	0,78
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	0,78	0,81	0,74	0,82	0,80
Quintile II	0,86	0,85	0,84	0,86	0,85
Quintile III	0,90	0,94	0,96	0,90	0,92
Quintile IV	0,86	0,88	0,91	0,86	0,88
Quintile V	0,93	0,93	0,91	0,94	0,93

The average number of lifetime partners is 1.12 for men with cohabitation experience (married or cohabiting) and 1.13 for women (*Table 2.3.2.*). There are no differences in terms of area of residence, this indicator being 1.16 in urban areas and 1.10 in rural areas. At younger ages (15-24 years), the average number of partners is higher for women than for men, but after that the gap reduces. It is found that the average number of partners is slightly smaller in the older generation (55+) than in the younger generation (20-49). Analysis by region, level of education, occupational status and level of prosperity shows no significant differences in this respect.

TABLE 2.3.2. Average number of partners for those with cohabitation experience (married or in a relationship)

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	1,12	1,13	1,16	1,10	1,12
Age group					
15-19	1,00	1,67	1,19	1,07	1,13
20-24	1,14	1,34	1,27	1,13	1,19
25-29	1,13	1,10	1,14	1,11	1,12
30-34	1,16	1,17	1,18	1,16	1,17
35-39	1,16	1,17	1,19	1,14	1,16
40-44	1,14	1,15	1,23	1,10	1,15
45-49	1,13	1,18	1,22	1,12	1,15
50-54	1,14	1,09	1,17	1,10	1,12
55-59	1,11	1,11	1,17	1,09	1,11
60-64	1,11	1,11	1,13	1,10	1,11
65-69	1,08	1,08	1,11	1,07	1,08
70-74	1,08	1,09	1,10	1,07	1,08
75-79	1,10	1,13	1,15	1,10	1,11
Region					
Chisinau	1,18	1,23	1,21	1,16	1,20
North	1,17	1,15	1,15	1,17	1,16
Center	1,08	1,08	1,10	1,07	1,08
South	1,10	1,12	1,17	1,09	1,11
Education					
Primary	1,07	1,08	1,10	1,07	1,07
Lower secondary	1,15	1,13	1,22	1,13	1,15
General secondary	1,10	1,12	1,16	1,09	1,11
Vocational secondary	1,13	1,13	1,21	1,10	1,13
Post-secondary vocational	1,11	1,13	1,14	1,11	1,12
Higher	1,09	1,13	1,13	1,06	1,11

Occupational status					
Employee	1,13	1,15	1,17	1,11	1,13
Self-employed	1,19	1,13	1,33	1,04	1,15
Retired	1,09	1,09	1,12	1,08	1,09
Unemployed	1,16	1,18	1,24	1,14	1,17
Another situation	1,14	1,13	1,17	1,13	1,14
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	1,14	1,14	1,17	1,13	1,14
Quintile II	1,12	1,15	1,16	1,12	1,13
Quintile III	1,12	1,13	1,20	1,09	1,13
Quintile IV	1,11	1,11	1,15	1,09	1,11
Quintile V	1,11	1,13	1,15	1,10	1,12

Of the total population, 28.1% men and 21.7% women had no lifetime partners by the time of the survey (*Table 2.3.3.*). In terms of age, there is a significant gap between males and females up to the age of 34, in that the share of men who do not have partners is higher than that of women. From the age of 55 onwards, the share of women who do not have partners is higher than that of men. Chisinau municipality stands out for having the greatest number of men and women without partners. Analysis by education level reveals that as the level of education increases, the share of respondents without partners decreases. The unemployed respondents and those with other occupational status showed the highest shares in terms of not having partners. Analysis reveals that as the prosperity level increases, the share of men who do not have a partner decreases. With some variations, this trend is also seen among women.

TABLE 2.3.3. Share of the population who had no partner in their lifetime by the time of the survey, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	28,1	21,7	26,9	23,5	24,8
Age group					
15-19	96,5	86,5	87,9	93,9	91,7
20-24	68,5	40,7	52,4	57	54,9
25-29	38,0	20,8	31,1	28,4	29,5
30-34	21,2	13,4	19,9	15,1	17,3
35-39	17,6	16,1	17	16,8	16,9
40-44	15,7	12,2	14,6	13,6	13,9
45-49	18,0	12,4	16,2	14,6	15,1
50-54	14,8	10,8	18,1	10,3	12,6
55-59	13,7	15,5	18,8	12,8	14,7
60-64	15,5	16,1	15,5	16	15,8
65-69	10,7	18,3	18,8	13,8	15,2
70-74	12,5	23,7	21,5	18,3	19,3
75-79	15,5	31,4	23,9	26,9	26
Region					
Chisinau	32,1	25,5	30,1	21,8	28,6
North	23,2	23,4	23,1	23,5	23,3
Center	28	18,1	27	21,8	22,8
South	29,2	22,7	25,5	26,3	26,1
Education					
Primary	36,5	43,8	47,8	37,9	40
Lower secondary	40,1	24,6	39,4	29,8	32
General secondary	29,7	24,7	36,4	21,5	26,9
Vocational secondary	20,5	16	20,9	17,5	18,5
Post-secondary vocational	21,1	19	22,6	17,8	19,9
Higher	19,1	18,4	18,6	18,9	18,7

Occupational status					
Employee	19,5	16,3	20,7	15,3	18
Self-employed	15,5	11,5	18,3	12,6	14,8
Retired	14,2	19,6	19,7	17	17,8
Unemployed	31,3	21,2	26,4	28,6	27,9
Another situation	49	27,8	42,3	33	35,9
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	35,6	30,4	39,9	30	33
Quintile II	29,4	23,7	30,2	24,7	26,2
Quintile III	25,2	18,5	22,6	21,3	21,7
Quintile IV	25,8	21	23,1	23,2	23,2
Quintile V	23,5	18,3	24,1	18	20,7

A share of 63.4% of the total male population and 68.7% of the total female population had had 1 partner in their lifetime by the time of the survey (*Table 2.3.4.*). In rural areas, the share of those with 1 lifetime partner by the time of the survey is higher than in urban areas, the ratio being 68.7% to 61.9%. Up to the age of 34, the share of women with one lifetime partner by the time of the survey is higher than that of men – from then on the shares vary. From the age of 55 onwards, the share of women whose number of lifetime partners is 1 by the time of the survey is lower than for men. Chisinau municipality stands out for the smallest number of male and female respondents with one lifetime partner by the time of the survey. We found that as the level of education increases, the number of male and female respondents with one partner increases.

TABLE 2.3.4. Share of population with one lifetime partner by the time of the survey, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	63,4	68,7	61,9	68,7	66,2
Age group					
15-19	1,9	12	9,4	5,2	6,8
20-24	26,1	51,6	39,9	37,5	38,6
25-29	55,5	69,4	59,9	64	62,3
30-34	68,2	74,7	68,3	74,1	71,4
35-39	71,4	70,9	68,8	72,9	71,2
40-44	74,5	76,5	69	79	75,5
45-49	69,9	76,9	68,2	75,8	73,5
50-54	77,7	77	70,1	80,4	77,3
55-59	76,1	75,2	67,2	79,6	75,6
60-64	76	75	74,4	75,8	75,4
65-69	82	75	72,5	80,1	77,8
70-74	80,6	70,1	70,5	76	74,2
75-79	73	62,8	65,7	66,5	66,3
Region					
Chisinau	54,7	62,5	57,3	65,6	58,8
North	66,5	63,9	66	64,4	65
Center	66,6	75,2	66,6	72,2	71,1
South	62,2	68,4	61	66,8	65,2
Education					
Primary	58,5	53,2	46,3	58,6	56
Lower secondary	53,5	63,5	49,9	61,3	58,7
General secondary	61,9	66,9	53,8	70,9	64,7
Vocational secondary	69,1	73,5	63,2	74,4	71,1
Post-secondary vocational	70	72,1	67	74,4	71,1
Higher	70,5	73,9	70,7	75,8	72,4

Occupational status					
Employee	70,9	73,7	67,9	76,5	72,3
Self-employed	74,6	72,6	60,2	82,8	74,2
Retired	78,3	72,8	70,8	76,2	74,6
Unemployed	58,7	66,3	58,6	62,4	61,2
Another situation	44,6	62,7	48,9	58,9	55,8
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	56	58,4	50,2	60,2	57,2
Quintile II	61,1	66,6	57,9	66,4	64,2
Quintile III	66,2	71,2	63,6	71,7	68,8
Quintile IV	68,1	70	67,6	70	69,2
Quintile V	67,5	72,7	65,5	74,1	70,3

For 9.1% of women and 8% of men the number of lifetime partners they had was more than 2 by the time of the survey (*Table 2.3.5*). These people do not currently have more than 2 lifetime partners for a variety of reasons – widowhood, divorce, separation, etc. In urban areas, the number of respondents with more than 2 lifetime partners is higher than in rural areas, accounting for 10.4% and 7.5% respectively. Most men with more than 2 lifetime partners are in the 30-49 age group, and most women – in the 30-54 age group. The central and southern parts of the country stand out for having the lowest share of respondents with more than 2 partners.

TABLE 2.3.5. Share of population with more than 2 lifetime partners by the time of the survey, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	8	9,1	10,4	7,5	8,6
Age group					
15-19	0,9	0	0,6	0,4	0,5
20-24	4,7	7,5	7,6	4,8	6,1
25-29	6	9,1	7,6	7,5	7,5
30-34	10,4	11,6	11,6	10,5	11
35-39	9,8	12,4	13	9,6	11,1
40-44	9,3	11	15,4	7,3	10,2
45-49	11,7	10,6	14,9	9,5	11,1
50-54	7,1	11,4	10,4	9	9,4
55-59	9,3	9	12,9	7,4	9,1
60-64	8,1	8,7	9,3	8,1	8,4
65-69	6,9	6,3	8,3	5,8	6,6
70-74	6,8	5,9	7,5	5,6	6,2
75-79	11,3	5,7	10,3	6,5	7,6
Region					
Chisinau	12,6	11,4	12,1	11,8	12
North	10,1	12,3	10,5	12	11,4
Center	5,2	6,4	6,3	5,7	5,8
South	7,2	8,2	10,7	6,6	7,7
Education					
Primary	4,9	2,9	5,8	3,4	3,9
Lower secondary	6,1	11,7	10,4	8,6	9,1
General secondary	7,7	7,6	8,8	6,9	7,6
Vocational secondary	10,2	10	15,3	7,9	10,1
Post-secondary vocational	7,9	8,5	9	7,6	8,3
Higher	9,6	7	9,8	5	8,2

Occupational status					
Employee	9	9,5	10,6	7,9	9,2
Self-employed	9,6	14,8	21,1	4,2	10,6
Retired	7,2	7,4	9,1	6,6	7,3
Unemployed	9,2	11,8	13,2	8,7	10,1
Another situation	5,9	9	7,8	7,8	7,8
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	8	10,2	9,7	8,9	9,1
Quintile II	9	9,5	11,5	8,5	9,3
Quintile III	8,3	10	13,4	6,9	9,2
Quintile IV	6	8,6	9	6,6	7,4
Quintile V	8,8	8,8	10,1	7,8	8,8

2.4. Cohabitation experience

71.6% of men and 78% of women have cohabitation experience (*Table 2.4.1*). This chapter covers people currently living in the same household with their partner, as well as those who lived with other partners in previous relationships. When calculating the share of the population with and without cohabitation experience, the answers to the questions ‘When did you start living together as a couple?’ and ‘Apart from your current relationship, how many other partners have you lived with?’ were aggregated.

Both men and women from rural areas have more cohabitation experience than those from urban areas. Compared to men, women have more cohabitation experience at younger ages, with the gap decreasing after the age of 35. From the age of 55 onwards, it is men who have more cohabitation experience. Analysis by region reveals that both men and women from Chisinau municipality have the least cohabitation experience. We found that people with lower levels of education (primary, secondary, general secondary) stand out as having the lowest shares of cohabitation experience. In terms of occupational status, the respondents with a status of ‘unemployed’ or other, stand out as having the lowest shares in terms of cohabitation experience. Analysis by level of prosperity reveals that people in quintiles I and II have the least cohabitation experience.

TABLE 2.4.1. Share of population with cohabitation experience, in %

	Total		Urban		Rural	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Total	71,6	78	70,4	74,6	72,3	80
Age group						
15-19	2,9	12	6,8	13,4	0,7	11,1
20-24	30,8	59,2	36,3	59,8	26,2	58,7
25-29	62	78,8	61,6	76	62,2	80,8
30-34	78,7	86,5	76,8	83,5	80,4	89
35-39	81,6	83,8	83,7	80,4	80	86,3
40-44	84,2	87,7	84,9	85,8	83,9	88,8
45-49	81,9	87,5	85	82,5	80,6	89,8
50-54	84,8	88,7	77,3	82,7	87,5	91,7
55-59	85,5	84,4	83,8	77,5	86,2	87,6
60-64	84,4	83,8	87,5	82,3	83,3	84,5
65-69	88,9	81,3	83,4	79,3	91	82,2
70-74	87,4	76,1	88,8	71,2	86,7	78,4
75-79	84,4	68,5	91,1	69,3	81,9	68,2
Region						
Chisinau	67,6	74,2	65,9	72,8	75,8	80
North	76,7	76,4	80,6	73,7	73,9	78,4
Center	71,9	81,7	64,6	80,2	73,5	82,1
South	70	76,9	72,3	73,8	69	77,9
Education						
Primary	63,4	56,1	44,3	60,2	68,3	55
Lower secondary	59,6	75,3	55,4	65,2	61	78,3
General secondary	70,1	74,7	61	64,7	76,3	79,7
Vocational secondary	79,4	83,7	77,8	80	80	85,4
Post-secondary vocational	78,4	80,9	75,9	77,6	80,3	83,6
Higher	80,4	81,2	79,9	81,5	81,4	80,7

Occupational status						
Employee	80,4	83,5	78,4	79,9	82,4	86,9
Self-employed	84,4	88,4	81,2	83,2	86,2	92,7
Retired	85,6	80,2	84,5	77,9	86	81,2
Unemployed	68,1	78,2	70,5	75,5	67,1	79,4
Another situation	50,5	72	39,8	66,1	54,8	74,9
Welfare quintile						
Quintile I	64,1	69	62,5	57,8	64,7	74,5
Quintile II	70,4	76,1	66,2	71,6	71,7	77,8
Quintile III	74,6	81,3	76,2	77,9	73,8	83,3
Quintile IV	74,1	79	75	78,5	73,6	79,1
Quintile V	76,4	81,6	73,3	78,1	79,1	84,1

The survey reveals that 28.3% of men and 21.9% of women have no cohabitation experience (*Table 2.4.2*). It includes the population who do not currently live under the same roof with their partner and those who did not cohabit with other partners in previous relationships. The share of urban women and men with no cohabitation experience is lower than that of rural women and men. Until the age of 35, the share of men with no cohabitation experience significantly exceeds the share of women with no cohabitation experience. After the age of 35 these differences decrease, and from the age of 55 onwards, more women than men have no cohabitation experience. Chisinau municipality stands out for having the greatest number of respondents without cohabitation experience.

In terms of education level, the lowest shares of respondents with no cohabitation experience are found among those with vocational, post-vocational and higher education. Analysis by occupational status reveals that the unemployed and the respondents with other occupational status have the least cohabitation experience. It should be noted that as the prosperity level increases, the share of respondents with no living experience decreases.

TABLE 2.4.2. Distribution of men and women with no cohabitation experience, in %

	Total		Urban		Rural	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Total	28,3	21,9	29,5	25,3	27,7	19,9
Age group						
15-19	97	87,9	93,1	86,5	99,2	88,8
20-24	69,1	40,7	63,6	40,1	73,7	41,2
25-29	38	21,1	38,3	23,9	37,7	19,1
30-34	21,2	13,4	23,1	16,4	19,5	11
35-39	18,3	16,1	16,2	19,5	20	13,6
40-44	15,7	12,2	15	14,1	16	11,1
45-49	18	12,4	14,9	17,4	19,3	10,1
50-54	15,1	11,2	22,6	17,2	12,5	8,2
55-59	14,5	15,5	16,1	22,4	13,7	12,3
60-64	15,5	16,1	12,4	17,7	16,6	15,4
65-69	11	18,6	16,5	20,6	8,9	17,7
70-74	12,5	23,8	11,1	28,7	13,2	21,5
75-79	15,5	31,4	8,8	30,6	18	31,7
Region						
Chisinau	32,3	25,7	34	27,1	24,1	19,9
North	23,2	23,5	19,3	26,2	26	21,5
Center	28	18,2	35,3	19,7	26,4	17,8
South	29,9	23	27,6	26,1	30,9	22
Education						
Primary	36,5	43,8	55,6	39,7	31,6	44,9
Lower secondary	40,3	24,6	44,5	34,8	38,9	21,7
General secondary	29,8	25,2	38,9	35,2	23,6	20,3
Vocational secondary	20,6	16,2	22,2	19,9	19,9	14,5
Post-secondary vocational	21,5	19	24	22,3	19,6	16,3
Higher	19,5	18,7	20	18,4	18,5	19,2

Occupational status						
Employee	19,5	16,4	21,5	20,1	17,5	13
Self-employed	15,5	11,5	18,7	16,7	13,7	7,3
Retired	14,4	19,7	15,4	22	13,9	18,7
Unemployed	31,8	21,7	29,5	24,4	32,8	20,5
Another situation	49,4	27,9	60,1	33,8	45,1	25
Welfare quintile						
Quintile I	35,8	30,9	37,4	42,1	35,2	25,4
Quintile II	29,5	23,8	33,7	28,3	28,2	22,1
Quintile III	25,3	18,6	23,7	22	26,1	16,6
Quintile IV	25,8	21	24,9	21,4	26,3	20,8
Quintile V	23,5	18,3	26,6	21,8	20,8	15,8

2.5. Intention to marry in the next 3 years

GGs data reveal that 51.1% of all male respondents who are in a relationship and not married and 52.4% of female respondents intend to marry in the next three years (*Table 2.5.1.*). The share of urban dwellers intending to marry is higher than that of rural dwellers. Analysis by age reveals that the intention to marry is more prevalent among people in the 20-34 age group. In terms of region, this intention is most frequently expressed by men from Chisinau municipality and women from the north of the country. Analysis by level of education shows that there are fewer men with secondary and general secondary education intending to marry than women with primary and secondary education. Analysis by occupational status reveals that there are less retired men and self-employed and retired women with marriage intentions. In terms of level of prosperity, the data vary considerably from one category to another so that no clear trend can be identified.

TABLE 2.5.1. Distribution of population who are in a relationship and are not married but intend to marry in the next 3 years, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	51,1	52,4	53,3	50,4	51,8
Age group					
15-19	37,5	45,4	43,6	41,3	42,4
20-24	60,7	72,2	59,3	73,5	67,1
25-29	77,2	72,9	77,1	72,5	74,9
30-34	86,6	48	65,1	59,5	62,8
35-39	50	50	58	42,8	50
40-44	42,8	48,4	44,4	48,9	47,1
45-49	37,0	39,2	42	34,9	38
50-54	52,6	38,8	40,8	51,2	46,5
55-59	24,2	25	22,7	26,3	24,4
60-64	15,6	10	18,1	10,3	13,5
65-69	16,6	35,7	25,8	21,3	23,4
70-74	0	0	0	0	0
75-79	0	0	0	0	0
Region					
Chisinau	60	49	54,1	58,8	54,7
North	41,8	63,1	64,5	45,6	56,2
Center	41,8	47,6	45,5	44,9	45
South	53,2	52,6	45,1	55,9	52,9
Education					
Primary	0	46	24,2	35,1	30,4
Lower secondary	42,3	42,9	43,2	42,4	42,7
General secondary	45	57,6	52,4	52,7	52,5
Vocational secondary	61,3	55,5	50,8	63,7	58,7
Post-secondary vocational	59,7	53,4	61,1	51,4	56,6
Higher	50,3	62,4	59,5	50,4	57

Occupational status					
Employee	63,4	57,5	59	63,6	60,7
Self-employed	48,2	16,3	42,3	44	43,1
Retired	8,9	14,5	14,5	9,1	11,2
Unemployed	46,3	48,8	59,3	39,5	47,4
Another situation	45,2	54,4	50,4	53,1	52,1
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	16	56,3	42,3	48,4	45,1
Quintile II	47,6	37,4	33,4	46,3	41,3
Quintile III	33	51,6	50	36,1	42,9
Quintile IV	29,2	42,2	25	43,6	36,8
Quintile V	68,4	60,6	63,8	64,6	64,2

In the survey, the respondents answered the question ‘In the next 3 years, do you intend to start cohabiting with a partner/your partner?’ Of the total unmarried population who are in a relationship, about the same share of men and women intend to cohabit in the next three years (*Table 2.5.2.*). The share of urban dwellers who have such an intention is higher than in rural areas. The intention to cohabit is highest among men aged 25-34 and women aged 20-29. In terms of region, most men with such an intention are from Chisinau municipality and most women – from Chisinau and the north of the country. By level of education, the values for men vary from one category to another, while for women there is a tendency that, as the level of education increases, the share of women intending to cohabit in the next three years also increases. Because of their old age, those retired have the lowest share in this respect. Analysis by level of prosperity reveals no distinct differences.

TABLE 2.5.2. Share of unmarried people who are in a relationship and intend to cohabit in the next 3 years, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	70,8	70,7	73,5	68,2	70,8
Age group					
15-19	66,6	65,9	72,8	59,9	66,1
20-24	71,4	83,9	80,6	76,8	78,5
25-29	90,9	84,9	92,1	82,3	87,5
30-34	86,6	75,4	80	78,7	79,4
35-39	66,6	67,1	71,2	62,9	66,9
40-44	71,4	67,6	60,6	74,4	68,5
45-49	72,4	66,6	71,5	68,2	69,6
50-54	61,9	55	59,1	58,6	58,8
55-59	55,8	35,2	42,1	58,2	49,8
60-64	48,4	30	43,4	40,9	41,9
65-69	55,5	57,1	63,4	49,5	56,1
70-74	0	0	0	0	0
75-79	0	0	0	0	0
Region					
Chisinau	82,9	73,8	77,1	86,5	78,5
North	77,2	74,1	77,9	71	75
Center	57,2	64,6	56,5	62,9	61,3
South	67,1	71,4	71,1	68,8	69,5
Education					
Primary	0	28,4	24,2	14,6	18,8
Lower secondary	65,1	65,5	67,8	64,2	65,3
General secondary	71,9	71,2	77,3	64,3	71,5
Vocational secondary	68,7	73,3	71,6	70,4	70,9
Post-secondary vocational	85	76,7	81,1	80,1	80,7
Higher	71,9	76	74,1	74,5	74,2

Occupational status					
Employee	79,9	70,4	76	74,5	75,4
Self-employed	65	61,4	71,4	57,4	64,4
Retired	49,7	33,9	49,6	38,9	43,1
Unemployed	67,6	69,9	65,6	70,5	68,5
Another situation	64,5	74,4	75,9	69,3	71,9
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	34,4	76,3	70,3	55,8	63,6
Quintile II	77,1	64,9	68,5	70,1	69,5
Quintile III	68,2	75,7	70,2	74,3	72,3
Quintile IV	61,4	69,2	66,5	65,8	66
Quintile V	79,6	67,4	79,4	66,8	73

2.6. Relationship satisfaction

A scale from 0 to 10 was used for the questions on assessing the level of relationship satisfaction, where 0 means 'not at all satisfied', 10 means 'very satisfied' and 5 means 'neither satisfied nor dissatisfied'. Satisfied were considered those respondents who chose between 10 and 8.

Of the total population, 91.4% said they were satisfied with their relationship (*Table 2.6.1*). Men are more satisfied with their relationship than women, with 94.8% and 88.4% respectively. The differences between urban and rural populations in this respect are not essential. As a function of age, we found that the share of men who are satisfied with their life partner is largely constant across all age groups, whereas for women the share of those satisfied decreases after the age of 35.

The survey data by region show that there are no significant differences in this respect. Both men and women with higher education are the most satisfied with their relationship. It was also found that women with only primary education had the lowest share of those satisfied with their relationship. As a function of occupational status, it was found that retirees had the lowest share of those satisfied with their relationship. There is a clear trend that as the prosperity level increases, so does the share of respondents satisfied with their relationship.

TABLE 2.6.1. Share of the population satisfied with their relationship, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	94,8	88,4	92,1	91	91,4
Age group					
15-19	96,3	98,4	100	95,9	97,8
20-24	97,5	94	92,5	97,7	95,3
25-29	96	92,6	93,5	94,4	94,1
30-34	98,3	92	94,7	95,2	95
35-39	95,5	89,3	93,4	91,5	92,3
40-44	96,6	87	92,7	90,6	91,3
45-49	93,8	85,5	89,9	89,1	89,3
50-54	92,6	85,4	85,3	90	88,8
55-59	91,1	82,1	86,5	86,5	86,5
60-64	90,6	82,1	87,9	85,8	86,4
65-69	93,4	84,5	93,3	87,9	89,4
70-74	92,4	83,8	87	89,2	88,5
75-79	95,4	85,7	92,1	91,1	91,4
Region					
Chisinau	95	87,8	91,2	91,3	91,2
North	96,4	89,7	93,7	91,9	92,7
Center	94,5	87,4	92,9	90,1	90,6
South	94	88,9	90,9	91,7	91,4
Education					
Primary	93,4	77,6	76,7	90	87,7
Lower secondary	94,8	87	87,6	91,1	90,3
General secondary	92,1	87,7	90,4	89,1	89,5
Vocational secondary	94,1	88	92,2	91	91,3
Post-secondary vocational	95,5	87,5	91	91,3	91,2
Higher	97,9	92,6	95,6	93,9	95

Welfare quinti					
Employee	96,1	88,4	92,5	92,6	92,6
Self-employed	98,3	86,1	94,1	96,8	95,8
Retired	92	82,7	87,1	86,6	86,7
Unemployed	93,7	92,3	93	93,2	93,1
Another situation	92,8	89,8	92,5	89,8	90,6
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	92,4	81,4	82,5	87,9	86,5
Quintile II	93,6	82,1	85,6	88	87,4
Quintile III	93,9	87,1	90,6	90	90,2
Quintile IV	96,8	90,4	94,1	93	93,4
Quintile V	96	91,5	94	93,2	93,5

2.7. Relationship disagreements

Of the total population, 78.5% had disagreements⁶ with their partner in the last 12 months (*Table 2.71*). More women than men had disagreements with their partner – 80.3% and 76.4% respectively. The rural population has a higher share of disagreements with their partner than the urban population, accounting for 79.6% and 76.4% respectively. Analysis by age reveals that only in the 15-19 age group are there the fewest respondents who had disagreements with their partner in the last 12 months. In terms of region, the centre of the country stands out for having the fewest people who had disagreements with their partner in the last 12 months. In terms of level of education, the data vary from one category to another, so no conclusions can be drawn. Both male and female retirees and employees stand out as having had the fewest disagreements with their partner in the last 12 months. Also, the population in quintiles IV and V stands out as having lower shares of those who had disagreements with their partner in the last 12 months.

⁶ When asked about disagreements, the respondents chose their answer from a scale of never, rarely, sometimes, often, very often, almost always. In this respect, the respondents who chose the 'never' option were not the only ones selected.

TABLE 2.71. Breakdown of persons who had disagreements with their partner in the last 12 months, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	76,4	80,3	76,4	79,6	78,5
Age group					
15-19	53,8	60,6	61,9	55,6	58,5
20-24	69,6	76,1	68,3	78,2	73,7
25-29	77,7	79,2	76,6	80	78,6
30-34	77,9	83,9	80,7	81,4	81,1
35-39	83,9	82,7	81,8	84,4	83,3
40-44	78,5	81,6	79,3	80,6	80,2
45-49	72,8	85,8	77,3	80,7	79,7
50-54	76,1	78,5	69,3	80,3	77,4
55-59	77,1	79,7	77,5	78,8	78,4
60-64	75,7	76,9	71,5	78,1	76,3
65-69	71,2	81,3	72,7	76,9	75,7
70-74	74,4	79	71,8	78,4	76,4
75-79	59	69,8	57,8	65,4	63,5
Region					
Chisinau	78,9	83,8	82,1	78,8	81,5
North	78,8	81,2	78,6	81,2	80,1
Center	72,8	78,4	61,1	79,2	75,8
South	77,5	80	77,1	79,3	78,7
Education					
Primary	83,9	80	73,6	84,3	82,5
Lower secondary	77	81,1	76,9	80	79,4
General secondary	79,5	83,2	74,1	85,3	81,6
Vocational secondary	76	81	77,5	78,6	78,3
Post-secondary vocational	71	75,4	73,2	73,5	73,4
Higher	77,2	80	78,5	79,3	78,8

Occupational status					
Employee	74,1	78,8	75,1	77,4	76,3
Self-employed	81,6	83,2	84,4	80,5	81,9
Retired	71,7	78,6	71,3	77,2	75,6
Unemployed	80,3	88,8	78,6	85,6	83,5
Another situation	79,5	80,3	79,2	80,5	80,1
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	85,2	89,68	85,81	88,26	87,62
Quintile II	81,6	83,21	78,60	83,58	82,48
Quintile III	78,9	83,26	81,93	80,90	81,26
Quintile IV	73,7	78,25	76,37	76,03	76,15
Quintile V	71,4	76,43	70,99	76,66	74,22

Of the total population, 63.8% had disagreements with their partner in the last 12 months about household chores (*Table 2.7.2.*). Women in a higher proportion than men admitted that they had disagreements with their life partner, their share amounting to 65.8% and 61.5% respectively. Rural respondents, more than urban, had disagreements with their partner over household chores in the last 12 months, with 66% and 59.9% respectively. Analysis by age reveals that only in the 15-19 age group are there the fewest respondents who had disagreements with their partner over household chores in the last 12 months. Analysis by region, education level and occupational level reveals no distinguishing features. Analysis by level of prosperity reveals that both women and men in quintiles IV and V had the least disagreements with their partner over household chores in the last 12 months.

TABLE 2.7.2. Breakdown of persons who had disagreements with their partner over household chores in the last 12 months, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	61,5	65,8	59,9	66	63,8
Age groups					
15-19	15,3	25,7	14,5	29,4	22,6
20-24	48,1	57,2	51	56,2	53,8
25-29	59,5	62,6	55,4	65,3	61,2
30-34	63,4	69,3	66,1	66,9	66,6
35-39	68,7	68,1	67,1	69,4	68,4
40-44	64,4	66,7	61,9	67,5	65,7
45-49	56,6	71,9	60,1	66,7	64,8
50-54	64	65,6	59,1	66,9	64,9
55-59	63,7	69,3	63,4	67,9	66,5
60-64	62,1	67,3	59	66,9	64,7
65-69	61,7	71,3	58,1	69,1	66
70-74	65,1	69,7	57,5	71,3	67,1
75-79	51,1	57,1	49,9	54,8	53,6
Region					
Chisinau	61,7	66	63,9	64,5	64
North	63,9	68,8	65	67,8	66,6
Center	58,4	65,5	42,9	66,8	62,3
South	63,6	63,3	61,9	64	63,4
Education					
Primary	75,4	61,8	53,3	74,2	70,6
Lower secondary	59,7	65,4	55,2	65	63
General secondary	63,7	67,3	53,5	71,9	65,8
Vocational secondary	62,4	68,3	66,4	64,5	65,1
Post-secondary vocational	57,4	61,2	57,8	60,5	59,4
Higher	62,9	66,5	63	68,4	64,9

Occupational status					
Employee	58,6	65,5	60,6	62,8	61,8
Self-employed	68	74,3	66,5	70,8	69,3
Retired	60,4	68,1	58,3	67,2	64,7
Unemployed	69,2	74,1	60,8	75,4	71,1
Another situation	60,1	63,2	58	64,23	62,4
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	74,8	76	68,5	77,9	75,4
Quintile II	63,6	69,7	59	69,1	66,9
Quintile III	65	70,2	64,6	69,5	67,8
Quintile IV	56,9	64,1	55,6	63,6	60,7
Quintile V	56,8	59,1	56,2	59,5	58,1

Of the total population, 56.3% had financial disagreements with their partner in the last 12 months (*Table 2.7.3.*). More women than men had disagreements with their partner, namely 59.6% and 52.5% respectively. Rural dwellers, more than urban dwellers, had disagreements over money, their share amounting to 59.4% and 50.7% respectively. Up to the age of 24, the share of women who had financial disagreements with their partner in the last 12 months is much higher than the share of men who had such disagreements.

From that age onwards, women continue to face such problems more than men, but the gap is no longer so significant. The share of men who had money-related disagreements with their partner in the last 12 months only starts decreasing after the age of 65, and for women – after the age of 70. Chisinau municipality stands out for having the least number of respondents who had such disagreements with their partner in the last 12 months. Analysis by level of education and occupational status shows no differences. As the prosperity level increases, the share of respondents who had financial disagreements with their partner in the last 12 months decreases.

TABLE 2.7.3 Breakdown of persons who had financial disagreements with their partner in the last 12 months, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	52,5	59,6	50,7	59,4	56,3
Age group					
15-19	7,6	24,2	14	23,6	19,2
20-24	26,5	49,2	35,6	45,1	40,8
25-29	44,4	59,4	48,2	56,2	53
30-34	55,9	60,7	52,6	63,2	58,5
35-39	63,3	63,9	59	67,1	63,6
40-44	53,6	62	52,8	60,9	58,2
45-49	56,1	69,6	57,1	65,9	63,3
50-54	62,7	65,3	56,8	66,7	64,1
55-59	54,5	58,4	54,5	57,3	56,5
60-64	57,3	56,1	48,8	59,7	56,7
65-69	43,7	60,4	48	52,5	51,2
70-74	43	50,5	43,5	47,6	46,4
75-79	35,2	49,2	36,7	42,4	41
Region					
Chisinau	40,7	53,4	47	49	47,4
North	58,4	63,8	60,1	62,3	61,4
Center	50,7	61	43,1	59,4	56,3
South	57,6	57,8	53,2	59,3	57,7
Education					
Primary	29,3	62,7	40,2	41,3	41,1
Lower secondary	58,7	63,1	51,8	63,7	61,2
General secondary	59,2	64,4	48,5	69	62,2
Vocational secondary	53,4	59,6	54,4	56,9	56,2
Post-secondary vocational	50,3	57,4	53,2	54,8	54,1
Higher	42,3	51,8	48,3	46,1	47,5

Occupational status					
Employee	49,6	59,2	50,4	57,3	54
Self-employed	39,5	62,4	44,4	43,9	44,1
Retired	45,8	57	47,1	54	52,1
Unemployed	67,3	69,1	56,8	72,6	68
Another situation	60,9	59	52,8	62,2	59,5
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	74,7	71,8	61,3	77,3	73,1
Quintile II	66,1	66,3	56	69,1	66,2
Quintile III	54,7	64,5	60,3	59,7	59,9
Quintile IV	45,6	59,1	46,6	56,1	52,7
Quintile V	43,9	52,1	43,5	52,2	48,5

Of the total population, 43.6% of the respondents had disagreements with their partner over leisure time in the last 12 months (*Table 2.7.4.*). More women than men reported that they had disagreements with their partner over leisure time – 45.9% and 40.9% respectively. The differences between urban and rural populations are small. Among 15-19-year-olds, the share of men who had such disagreements is higher than that of women, then at other ages the situation is reversed. It is also noted that for men over 60 years of age, the share of those who had disagreements with their partner over leisure time in the last 12 months decreases, while for women it remains high even in old age.

Analysis by region shows that the central region of the country has the lowest share of men who had such disagreements, and in the case of women – the northern and central regions. The data by education level do not reveal notable differences, and the data by occupational status highlight that the unemployed and the respondents with other occupational status have the highest shares of those who had disagreements with their partner over leisure time. As the prosperity level increases, the share of women who had disagreements with their partner over leisure time in the last 12 months decreases. For men, this trend is less evident.

TABLE 2.7.4. Breakdown of persons who had disagreements with their partner over leisure time in the last 12 months, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	40,9	45,9	43,7	43,5	43,6
Age group					
15-19	42,3	36,3	40,7	35,9	38,1
20-24	41,7	46,7	44,8	44,9	44,9
25-29	40,4	49,5	48,5	43,6	45,6
30-34	41,4	47,3	41	47,4	44,5
35-39	44,6	45,8	45,4	45,1	45,2
40-44	44,	44,8	42,8	45,2	44,4
45-49	40	50,5	46,9	45	45,6
50-54	39,3	48,5	43,4	44,6	44,3
55-59	44,4	42,6	47,5	41,8	43,5
60-64	38,6	40,2	40	39,2	39,4
65-69	35,9	44,4	36,5	40,9	39,7
70-74	29	43	34,3	35,7	35,3
75-79	28,4	38,1	34,1	31,8	32,4
Region					
Chisinau	43,6	48,6	46,3	45,9	46,2
North	45,5	42,3	42,5	44,6	43,7
Center	31,8	43,7	35,6	39	38,3
South	47,3	50,9	48,2	49,4	49,1
Education					
Primary	25,6	59,5	55,7	33,8	37,6
Lower secondary	45,5	49,6	44,2	48,9	47,9
General secondary	47,6	50,4	43,3	52,1	49,2
Vocational secondary	34,9	39,5	41,3	35,3	37
Post-secondary vocational	39,6	41,5	43,7	38,4	40,6
Higher	41,1	45,5	44,7	41,3	43,5

Occupational status					
Employee	39,6	44,1	43,2	40,3	41,7
Self-employed	38,6	42,2	47,6	34,8	39,3
Retired	35,9	42	37,8	40	39,4
Unemployed	46,1	55	49,1	49,6	49,4
Another situation	45,3	47,3	45,1	47,5	46,8
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	60,9	59,5	65,4	58,2	60,1
Quintile II	46,8	49,7	49,4	48,1	48,4
Quintile III	38,2	49,1	45,8	43,1	44
Quintile IV	43	46	43,7	45,1	44,6
Quintile V	37,3	39,1	38	38,6	38,3

Of the total population, 36.8% had disagreements with their partner over friends in the last 12 months (*Table 2.7.5.*). The share of women who reported that they had disagreements with their partner over friends was higher than that of men – 38.3% and 35.1% respectively. The differences between urban and rural respondents are not significant. Analysis by age reveals that in the 15-19 age group the share of women who had disagreements with their partner over friends is almost double that of men. With increasing levels of education, the share of women who had such disagreements decreases, whereas for men this trend is not so evident. Analysis by occupational status reveals that the unemployed and the respondents with other occupational status have the highest shares of those who had disagreements with their partner over friends.

TABLE 2.7.5. Breakdown of persons who had disagreements with their partner over friends in the last 12 months, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	35,1	38,3	36,1	37,3	36,8
Age group					
15-19	23	42,4	40,3	33,3	36,5
20-24	34,1	40,8	38,1	38,5	38,3
25-29	34,1	41,2	38,2	38,1	38,1
30-34	37,6	40,3	38,7	39,2	39
35-39	39,7	37,6	35,5	41	38,6
40-44	32,7	39,4	32,7	38,2	36,4
45-49	34,7	42,2	35,4	40,1	38,7
50-54	37,2	35,9	36,2	36,6	36,5
55-59	36,9	34,2	32,9	36,6	35,5
60-64	34,4	33,8	34,1	34,1	34,1
65-69	31,7	29,5	31,6	30,3	30,7
70-74	23,2	36	30,9	28,1	28,9
75-79	26,1	42,8	36,7	31,8	33
Region					
Chisinau	35,3	32,3	35,9	24,5	33,7
North	39,3	39,4	38,7	39,8	39,4
Center	26,3	37,8	23,1	34,8	32,6
South	42,9	42,3	45,5	41,6	42,6
Education					
Primary	16,9	58,2	39,8	29,8	31,5
Lower secondary	40	42,3	39,1	42	41,3
General secondary	42,7	40,6	35,9	44,3	41,5
Vocational secondary	31,5	36,7	38,5	32,1	33,9
Post-secondary vocational	33,7	34,3	35	33,3	34
Higher	31,2	34,1	34	30,5	32,8

Occupational status					
Employee	31,1	36,3	34,4	32,6	33,5
Self-employed	34,1	33,5	40	30,6	33,9
Retired	32,1	32	33,8	31,3	32
Unemployed	43,7	48,5	40,9	47,3	45,4
Another situation	40,3	40,7	37,5	41,9	40,6
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	54,4	52,4	57	52	53,3
Quintile II	38,8	41,4	36,1	41,4	40,2
Quintile III	33,5	42,5	38,5	38,2	38,3
Quintile IV	36,4	37,9	34,6	38,7	37,2
Quintile V	31,3	30,6	30,6	31,1	30,9

Almost a quarter of all respondents (25.4%) had disagreements with their life partner over parents in the past 12 months (*Table 2.7.6*). The share of women who had disagreements with their partner over parents in the last 12 months is 2.5% higher than for men, amounting to 26.6% compared to 24.1%. The share of urban dwellers who had disagreements over their parents in the last 12 months is slightly higher than that of rural dwellers – 26.4% and 24.8% respectively. Even at the youngest ages, there are no significant differences between the share of men and women who have such disagreements, as is the case for the other ones (disagreements over money, friends, leisure time).

It was also found that the share of those having such disagreements decreases from the age of 40 onwards. The share of older people who had disagreements with their partner over parents can be explained by the fact that some of them responded retrospectively. Analysis by region, level of education and occupational status does not reveal clear trends, and by level of prosperity, it singles out the people in quintile V with the fewest disagreements over their parents in the last 12 months.

TABLE 2.7.6. Breakdown of persons who had disagreements with their partner over parents in the last 12 months, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	24,1	26,6	26,4	24,8	25,4
Age group					
15-19	19,2	19,7	16,8	21,8	19,5
20-24	29,1	29,8	24,8	33,6	29,5
25-29	29,3	31,9	30,7	30,9	30,8
30-34	30,6	32,6	31,5	31,8	31,6
35-39	30,3	33	32,2	31,3	31,7
40-44	22,6	27,6	25,1	25,4	25,3
45-49	21,4	27	25	24,1	24,4
50-54	21,2	18,9	22,7	19	19,9
55-59	20,5	18,1	21	18,6	19,3
60-64	14,9	18,3	19,2	15,6	16,6
65-69	16	15,7	14,7	16,3	15,9
70-74	12,7	22	12,4	18,8	16,9
75-79	18,1	20,6	23,6	17,7	19,2
Region					
Chisinau	24,8	24,2	26,7	15,2	24,5
North	26,5	28,4	25,6	28,9	27,6
Center	20,8	27,2	19	25,5	24,3
South	25,9	25,7	34,2	22,7	25,8
Education					
Primary	37,9	37,7	21,5	41,3	37,8
Lower secondary	27	29,9	30,8	28	28,6
General secondary	24,3	28,4	21,8	29,1	26,7
Vocational secondary	20,2	24,7	26,4	20,6	22,2
Post-secondary vocational	23,6	21,7	25,9	20,3	22,6
Higher	24,6	25,4	27,1	21,1	25

Occupational status					
Employee	23,9	24,6	25,8	22,8	24,2
Self-employed	27,7	24,3	33,1	23,7	27
Retired	15,8	17,7	17,1	16,8	16,9
Unemployed	26	35,7	29,8	29,5	29,6
Another situation	27,8	29,9	29,5	29,3	29,3
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	42,6	36,7	38,6	39,7	39,4
Quintile II	23,5	27,1	25,3	25,5	25,5
Quintile III	25,1	32,4	28,2	29,4	29
Quintile IV	24,6	30,7	26,9	28,4	27,9
Quintile V	19,2	17,5	21,7	15,6	18,2

Nearly every fifth respondent (19.3%) said they had disagreements with their partner in the past 12 months over whether to have children (*Table 2.7.7*). The difference between men and women on this issue is not significant, namely 20.7% for women and 17.6% for men. The share of respondents who had disagreements with their partner in the last 12 months over whether to have children is higher in rural areas, amounting to 21.8% and 15.5% in urban areas. Chisinau municipality stands out with the lowest share of those who had disagreements with their partner in the last 12 months over whether to have children. Also, people with higher education and those in quintile V had the lowest shares of this sort of disagreements.

TABLE 2.7.7. Breakdown of respondents who had disagreements with their partner in the last 12 months over whether to have children, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	17,6	20,7	15,5	21,8	19,3
Age group					
15-19	11,1	16,7	20,8	11,4	15,2
20-24	13,9	22,8	17,3	21,2	19,5
25-29	15,6	19,7	16,6	18,9	18,0
30-34	16,9	21,8	15,5	22,7	19,5
35-39	22,3	19,1	14,1	25,5	20,6
40-44	14,2	19,4	12,9	19,0	17,0
45-49	20,3	23,9	16,6	24,5	22,2
Region					
Chisinau	9,2	12,7	11,7	8,0	11,0
North	27,0	24,9	20,1	30,5	25,8
Center	16,6	18,5	12,2	19,0	17,6
South	18,7	27,1	21,6	23,8	23,2
Education					
Primary	-	-	-	-	-
Lower secondary	21,6	25,9	22,1	24,6	24,1
General secondary	18,3	23,7	19,9	22,5	21,5
Vocational secondary	18,6	21,7	16,6	21,7	20,1
Post-secondary vocational	19,1	15,3	14,7	18,8	17,0
Higher	10,0	13,5	11,0	14,4	12,0
Occupational status					
Employee	14,7	17,8	14,7	17,4	16,1
Self-employed	14,3	18,8	22,2	11,1	15,1
Retired	10,0	0,0	0,0	12,0	7,0
Unemployed	19,8	34,8	15,5	30,4	25,7
Another situation	27,5	20,5	15,7	24,8	21,9

Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	45,4	37,1	23,7	47,4	40,7
Quintile II	20,3	20,2	18,8	20,7	20,2
Quintile III	19,1	23,7	22,2	21,3	21,7
Quintile IV	20,9	23,9	13,6	28,2	22,6
Quintile V	11,5	17,2	9,7	19,2	14,8
Covid					
Pre-Covid	24,2	23,4	19,2	28,1	23,8
Post-Covid	14,9	19,7	13,5	19,8	17,6

A quarter of the total population had disagreements with their partner in the last 12 months about child rearing (*Table 2.7.8.*). The respondents selected their answer from a scale of never, rarely, sometimes, often, very often, almost always. In this respect, the respondents who chose the 'never' option were not the only ones selected.

The share of women who had such disagreements is higher than that of men by 5.6%, being 27.8% for women and 22.2% for men. The difference between urban and rural respondents is 1.3%, i.e. 24.4% for urban dwellers and 25.7% for rural residents. Up to the age of 44, the difference between the share of women and men who have such disagreements is substantial, in that the share of women is higher than that of men.

From then on, this gap decreases. Chisinau municipality has the lowest share of men with this sort of disagreements, and the central region has the lowest share of women who had disagreements with their partner in the last 12 months about child rearing. Analysis by level of education revealed no clear trends in this respect. The unemployed and those with other occupational status stood out with high shares of disagreements with their partner about child rearing. The people in quintile V had the lowest share of this sort of disagreements.

TABLE 2.7.8. Breakdown of persons who had disagreements with their partner time in the last 12 months about child rearing, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	22,2	27,8	24,4	25,7	25,2
Age group					
15-19	3,8	12,1	2,5	15,6	9,6
20-24	12,6	20,9	12,2	22,5	17,8
25-29	19,8	32,9	24,4	29,2	27,3
30-34	25,8	36,5	33,3	30	31,5
35-39	27,2	35,5	31,4	31,6	31,5
40-44	25,4	30,5	27,2	28,7	28,2
45-49	24,2	26	22,3	26,4	25,2
Region					
Chisinau	18	30,7	24,7	24,8	24,7
North	29,6	31,2	29,2	31,4	30,5
Center	19,9	23,9	16,2	23,4	22,1
South	22,3	28,7	25,5	25,5	25,5
Education					
Primary	23,4	44,6	34,7	30,1	30,9
Lower secondary	29,7	30,3	25,8	31,1	30
General secondary	18,6	24,7	17,9	24,2	22,1
Vocational secondary	20,8	25,1	22,1	23,1	22,8
Post-secondary vocational	20,3	25,9	24,3	22,7	23,3
Higher	18,7	30,6	27,4	21,2	25,3
Occupational status					
Employee	19,5	26,5	22,9	22,6	22,7
Self-employed	22,2	28,1	27,3	21,3	23,4
Retired	17,7	19,2	18,1	18,7	18,6
Unemployed	28,9	36,7	25,2	34,5	31,8
Another situation	27,4	30,5	29,6	29,7	29,6

Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	37,9	36	24	41,5	36,9
Quintile II	24,1	25,4	19,7	26,2	24,8
Quintile III	26,4	32,4	31,7	28,5	29,6
Quintile IV	24,4	34,1	31,5	28,6	29,6
Quintile V	16,6	22,4	19,1	20,4	19,8

2.8. People's attitudes towards marriage, cohabitation and divorce

In the GGS, respondents were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed with the statement 'marriage is outdated institution'. Thus, 23.6% of respondents 'partly' or 'fully agree' that marriage is outdated institution, the share for men being 25.0% and for women – 22.3% (Table 2.8.1). People from rural areas support this idea more than those from urban areas, especially the younger generations. This is partly explained by the higher prevalence of cohabitation among young people. At the same time, 76.4% of respondents disagree that marriage is outdated institution.

TABLE 2.8.1. Distribution of women and men aged 15 to 79 who partly or fully agree that 'marriage is outdated institution', in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	25,0	22,3	20,9	25,1	23,6
Age group					
15-19	23,9	20,5	19,5	23,8	22,2
20-24	26,1	24,2	21,8	27,9	25,1
25-29	25,9	22,0	19,7	27,1	24,0
30-34	26,2	22,1	22,2	25,9	24,2
35-39	23,4	24,7	22,0	25,6	24,0
40-44	24,7	19,7	20,5	23,0	22,2
45-49	25,9	21,2	18,5	25,6	23,5
50-54	23,6	23,5	21,6	24,4	23,5
55-59	25,4	22,0	21,8	24,3	23,5
60-64	26,9	21,6	21,5	24,8	23,9
65-69	23,0	20,9	21,6	21,8	21,7
70-74	21,8	23,6	16,9	25,7	22,9
75-79	24,1	28,2	16,2	31,2	26,8
Region					
Chisinau	21,1	16,1	18,9	16,4	18,4
North	36,9	29,4	18,3	43,3	32,6
Center	24,6	21,9	26,5	22,4	23,2
South	19,7	20,5	22,9	19,1	20,1
Education					
Primary	16,8	27,4	18,5	22,7	21,8
Lower secondary	29,8	28,0	28,1	29,1	28,9
General secondary	22,7	18,4	19,9	20,5	20,3
Vocational secondary	25,8	21,5	21,3	24,9	23,8
Post-secondary vocational	25,2	21,5	20,7	25,0	23,1
Higher	18,2	17,7	17,1	19,4	17,9

Marital status					
Married	21,3	18,9	16,5	21,9	20,0
In cohabitation	32,8	34,7	26,4	38,4	33,8
Divorced/separated	29,4	28,3	29,0	28,7	28,8
Solitary	28,2	26,2	26,0	28,3	27,4
Widow	24,6	21,8	15,6	24,9	22,4
Occupational status					
Employee	23,1	20,1	20,4	22,9	21,7
Self-employed	20,9	14,1	18,2	20,4	19,6
Retired	24,3	22,9	20,4	24,6	23,4
Unemployed	29,1	30,6	28,7	30,0	29,6
Another situation	26,8	22,3	19,7	26,0	24,0
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	34,4	30,8	30,4	33,6	32,6
Quintile II	26,5	22,9	17,4	27,0	24,5
Quintile III	24,1	23,0	17,8	26,6	23,5
Quintile IV	23,3	24,9	23,1	24,7	24,1
Quintile V	22,3	17,9	22,2	18,1	19,9

There is a prevalence of respondents who partially or fully agree that marriage is outdated institution among women and men with secondary education, both in rural and urban areas, who are in cohabiting relationships, and from the lowest income quintile (I).

In terms of occupational status, the unemployed predominate – both men and women, especially in rural areas. The number of people who share this attitude decreases as the prosperity level increases, with more people in rural areas (in quintiles I-IV).

In the GGS, respondents were also asked ‘whether they find it acceptable for unmarried couples to live together, even for those who don’t plan to get married’. According to the data, 56.3% of respondents partially or totally agree that it is acceptable for unmarried couples to live together, even for those who don’t plan to get married, with a prevalence in urban areas and among men (*Table 2.8.2*). In this regard, we find significant gender differences depending on age, with more men sharing this view than women. At the same time, the share of people who agree with this view is significantly higher among respondents from urban areas compared to those from rural areas, which decreases with age. As a function of age, the number of people decreases with advancing age: from 72.2% to 40.7% among men and from 60.6% to 39.7% among women.

TABLE 2.8.2. Distribution of women and men aged 15 to 79 who partly or totally agree that it is acceptable for unmarried couples to live together, even for those who don't plan to get married, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	59,7	53,3	59,2	54,6	56,3
Age group					
15-19	72,2	60,6	71,4	63,7	66,6
20-24	65,4	62,3	63,2	64,4	63,9
25-29	67,4	60,7	67,9	61,3	64,1
30-34	69,0	58,9	65,1	63,0	64,0
35-39	59,5	59,3	65,0	55,2	59,4
40-44	62,2	55,3	57,3	59,5	58,7
45-49	59,0	56,5	59,2	57,0	57,7
50-54	50,3	50,4	51,7	49,7	50,3
55-59	53,1	47,8	51,8	49,5	50,2
60-64	49,6	43,9	49,2	45,3	46,4
65-69	46,0	42,0	42,7	44,0	43,6
70-74	42,1	36,4	34,1	40,8	38,6
75-79	40,7	39,7	41,0	39,6	40,0
Region					
Chisinau	67,2	58,5	65,1	51,8	62,7
North	57,8	53,1	54,9	55,3	55,1
Center	61,9	55,2	54,1	59,4	58,4
South	53,7	47,2	58,1	47,8	50,5
Education					
Primary	76,2	56,2	59,2	68,9	66,9
Lower secondary	61,3	54,1	60,4	56,7	57,6
General secondary	58,4	49,8	59,7	50,2	53,6
Vocational secondary	57,6	52,5	54,7	55,6	55,3
Post-secondary vocational	56,5	50,5	56,8	50,3	53,1
Higher	60,5	57,9	62,3	52,8	59,1

Marital status					
Married	53,2	50,8	52,6	51,5	51,9
In cohabitation	77,1	75,2	76,2	76,0	76,1
Divorced/separated	60,8	57,2	63,0	55,4	59,0
Solitary	67,0	51,2	65,9	57,2	60,6
Widow	42,9	43,3	40,4	44,3	43,2
Occupational status					
Employee	59,7	56,6	58,7	57,8	58,2
Self-employed	67,4	58,7	69,6	63,5	65,8
Retired	45,1	42,2	42,9	43,2	43,1
Unemployed	61,8	59,4	64,4	59,6	61,0
Another situation	63,4	56,4	65,3	56,3	59,1
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	60,5	53,0	58,9	55,9	56,8
Quintile II	56,7	47,2	51,2	51,3	51,3
Quintile III	61,3	56,0	57,0	59,5	58,6
Quintile IV	59,0	56,1	60,6	55,8	57,4
Quintile V	56,7	53,0	58,3	51,9	54,7

The distribution by economic-geographical regions shows a higher share of people supporting this view in Chisinau municipality, both among men and women. Cohabiting people in higher proportions partly or totally agree that it is acceptable for unmarried couples to live together, even for those who don't plan to get married. Thus, among men this share amounts to 77.1% and among women – to 75.2%. Among married people, just over 50% support this view.

In terms of education level, the highest share is found among the population with primary education, especially in rural areas. There are differences by gender in this respect, with the prevalence of men with primary education (76.2%) and women with higher education (57.9%).

At the same time, marriage is regarded as a very important value, as a lifelong relationship. Thus, 81.7% of respondents agree partially or totally that marriage is a lifelong relationship and should never be ended, the share of rural people being higher than that of urban people (by 9.8 p.p.), with no significant differences in the gender profile (*Table 2.8.3*). There are some differences in terms of age, with the share increasing with age.

TABLE 2.8.3. Distribution of women and men aged 15 to 79 who partly or totally agree that ‘marriage is a lifelong relationship and should never be ended’, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	83,0	80,5	75,5	85,3	81,7
Age group					
15-19	82,8	75,5	69,1	85,4	79,3
20-24	78,7	78,3	72,0	83,9	78,5
25-29	79,9	77,0	72,1	83,0	78,5
30-34	84,1	78,5	79,8	82,6	81,3
35-39	82,3	74,5	73,0	82,6	78,5
40-44	78,6	75,9	68,2	82,1	77,2
45-49	81,1	80,2	71,4	84,7	80,6
50-54	83,6	78,8	73,0	84,5	81,1
55-59	83,9	86,2	78,4	88,3	85,2
60-64	87,1	86,9	82,0	88,9	87,0
65-69	91,6	88,4	85,9	91,3	89,7
70-74	91,4	86,8	86,8	89,4	88,6
75-79	87,8	89,1	90,2	88,0	88,7
Region					
Chisinau	71,8	67,4	68,4	74,8	69,5
North	85,5	80,0	78,5	85,2	82,4
Center	80,1	80,1	75,0	81,3	80,1
South	91,5	90,5	86,0	92,8	91,0
Education					
Primary	82,5	84,7	83,6	83,5	83,6
Lower secondary	83,8	83,1	77,4	85,3	83,4
General secondary	84,0	84,6	78,6	87,6	84,3
Vocational secondary	86,4	82,1	80,6	86,1	84,4
Post-secondary vocational	79,5	78,9	73,8	83,4	79,2
Higher	78,9	71,6	70,5	83,1	74,8

Marital status					
Married	85,7	82,4	79,3	86,3	83,9
In cohabitation	81,3	76,3	71,2	83,5	78,8
Divorced/separated	82,4	70,8	69,9	82,5	76,5
Solitary	79,0	77,0	71,3	82,6	78,2
Widow	89,8	88,9	83,5	91,2	89,1
Occupational status					
Employee	79,5	76,9	74,3	82,0	78,2
Self-employed	82,5	62,0	63,5	87,7	78,6
Retired	88,8	87,8	84,3	89,7	88,1
Unemployed	85,6	77,4	80,4	83,9	82,9
Another situation	83,4	80,1	72,7	85,3	81,4
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	88,4	82,5	85,0	85,7	85,5
Quintile II	82,3	83,1	80,2	83,6	82,8
Quintile III	81,4	78,3	74,5	82,7	79,8
Quintile IV	85,6	82,1	77,6	86,7	83,7
Quintile V	82,3	81,2	74,9	87,2	81,7

A higher percentage of people who share this aspiration is found among men and women from the south of the country, widows/widowers and retirees, with a lower level of prosperity (quintiles I-II).

In terms of respondents' level of education, those with general secondary education and vocational secondary education outnumber the rest, with a higher share in rural areas. Men with vocational secondary education and women with primary and general secondary education stand out with a higher percentage.

As a result of the impact of Covid-19, the number of people sharing this view decreased among men and urban dwellers, with the share of women and rural dwellers virtually remaining the same.

According to GGS data, 68.8% of respondents partly or totally agree that 'it is alright for couples in unhappy marriages to divorce, even if they have children' (Table 2.8.4.), with a prevalence among women (71.6%) and urban dwellers (74.4%).

The breakdown by age groups shows a higher percentage in the 15-19 age group among both men and women, with numbers decreasing with age, with a higher share in urban areas.

A higher share of those supporting this view is found among men and women from Chisinau with higher education.

In terms of marital status, we see higher shares among divorced and cohabiting people, including cohabiting men and divorced women.

Self-employed men and women stand out with a higher share in this respect, as well as those in the higher income quintile (V).

TABLE 2.8.4. Distribution of women and men aged 15 to 79 who partly or totally agree that 'it is alright for couples in unhappy marriages to divorce, even if they have children', in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	65,8	71,6	74,4	65,6	68,8
Age group					
15-19	68,5	81,2	73,8	75,1	74,6
20-24	72,0	75,8	73,2	74,5	73,9
25-29	71,9	75,6	79,0	69,9	73,7
30-34	67,9	79,2	77,7	70,2	73,6
35-39	69,0	76,1	75,9	69,9	72,5
40-44	64,6	71,6	73,3	65,5	68,2
45-49	66,4	75,3	80,6	66,9	71,0
50-54	63,9	71,4	78,2	63,4	67,9
55-59	60,4	63,7	68,2	59,4	62,2
60-64	61,0	67,2	71,9	61,6	64,5
65-69	58,8	60,0	65,2	57,2	59,5
70-74	56,4	60,1	67,0	54,7	58,6
75-79	47,9	57,0	58,6	52,0	53,9
Region					
Chisinau	66,8	80,5	76,4	63,3	74,0
North	66,6	70,6	74,4	64,8	68,9
Center	68,6	72,4	78,1	68,8	70,6
South	61,2	65,3	67,0	61,8	63,2

Education					
Primary	71,7	67,2	56,4	73,1	69,6
Lower secondary	61,9	66,0	66,3	63,4	64,0
General secondary	68,6	70,7	73,7	67,6	69,8
Vocational secondary	61,1	70,9	69,5	63,9	65,5
Post-secondary vocational	67,3	73,8	77,8	65,5	70,9
Higher	75,2	80,8	81,3	72,7	78,3
Marital status					
Married	66,2	71,8	74,3	66,6	69,2
In cohabitation	67,9	71,9	74,0	67,5	69,9
Divorced/separated	62,5	78,8	78,9	63,5	70,8
Solitary	66,0	71,9	72,8	65,6	68,4
Widow	57,8	59,2	66,8	56,1	58,9
Occupational status					
Employee	68,5	77,1	75,8	69,5	72,6
Self-employed	72,6	78,5	75,6	72,6	73,7
Retired	57,7	62,0	67,0	57,9	60,6
Unemployed	63,0	68,7	76,1	60,1	64,9
Another situation	66,0	73,9	75,4	68,9	70,9
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	59,3	57,7	62,6	56,8	58,5
Quintile II	64,3	62,7	65,8	62,5	63,4
Quintile III	67,2	72,2	72,3	68,5	69,8
Quintile IV	64,6	71,5	76,7	64,2	68,4
Quintile V	68,2	79,0	78,8	70,3	74,1

As a result of the impact of Covid-19, the number of people sharing this view increased among both men and women, both from urban and rural areas.

2.9. Attitudes towards homosexual couples

The survey also covered same-sex relationships, their share amounting to 0.55% (55 people, in absolute terms), of which 31 respondents were male and 24 female. By area of residence, 38 respondents were from rural areas and 17 from urban areas.

The issue of homosexual couples is a sensitive one for Moldovan society. They are being attacked by various population groups. According to GGS data, 11.4% of the total number of respondents fully or partially agree with the statement that LGBT couples should have the same rights as heterosexual couples (consisting of women and men), with a prevalence among urban dwellers (*Table 2.9.1*).

In terms of age, there is a higher share of 15-19 year olds, especially in urban areas, with numbers decreasing with age. The breakdown by economic-geographical regions shows a higher share of people from Chisinau municipality.

A higher percentage of people supporting equal rights in this respect is found among those with higher education, especially in urban areas, and in terms of occupational status – among the self-employed as well as the employed.

Among the men supporting this view (10.3%), the largest shares are found in the 15-19 age group, among those from Chisinau, with higher education, single and cohabiting, employed, as well as self-employed, in quintile V. For women, the situation is almost similar, with a higher prevalence in the 20-24 age group, among those from Chisinau, with primary and higher education, single, self-employed, in quintile V.

TABLE 2.9.1. Distribution of women and men aged 15 to 79 who indicated that they ‘partially’ or ‘fully agree’ that LGBT couples should have the same rights as heterosexual (female-male) couples, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	10,3	12,5	17,0	8,3	11,4
Age group					
15-19	19,2	38,1	43,8	19,1	28,3
20-24	17,8	25,0	28,9	14,8	21,3
25-29	15,0	15,1	22,3	9,8	15,0
30-34	10,9	12,7	13,6	10,3	11,8
35-39	10,8	13,0	18,6	6,8	11,9
40-44	6,7	8,1	11,8	5,1	7,4
45-49	8,6	7,7	11,8	6,6	8,2
50-54	7,1	9,3	12,6	6,3	8,2

55-59	6,3	7,7	9,5	6,0	7,1
60-64	4,6	7,9	7,5	6,1	6,5
65-69	5,3	6,1	6,9	5,4	5,8
70-74	9,1	6,0	9,0	6,3	7,2
75-79	5,5	10,4	9,3	8,6	8,8
Region					
Chisinau	20,1	25,3	24,5	14,5	22,8
North	10,6	11,8	14,8	8,8	11,3
Center	5,4	8,4	7,6	6,8	6,9
South	10,4	10,2	13,5	9,2	10,3
Education					
Primary	5,5	20,2	26,9	8,4	12,2
Lower secondary	8,3	11,1	14,9	8,2	9,7
General secondary	11,2	12,9	18,4	8,5	12,2
Vocational secondary	8,8	8,0	10,1	7,7	8,4
Post-secondary vocational	7,1	10,1	12,3	5,9	8,7
Higher	20,4	19,7	23,6	13,2	20,0
Marital status					
Married	8,6	10,1	13,6	7,2	9,4
In cohabitation	13,9	13,3	19,5	9,9	13,6
Divorced/separated	7,0	8,1	12,6	3,2	7,6
Solitary	13,2	20,9	23,3	11,9	16,3
Widow	6,3	7,5	7,9	6,9	7,2
Occupational status					
Employee	11,0	13,1	15,7	8,3	12,0
Self-employed	11,1	15,9	23,3	5,4	12,0
Retired	7,2	7,5	8,4	7,0	7,4
Unemployed	7,9	9,0	13,4	6,2	8,3
Another situation	12,2	15,8	23,7	10,3	14,4

Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	5,2	11,7	12,1	6,8	8,4
Quintile II	6,1	7,5	9,7	5,9	6,9
Quintile III	9,8	12,1	15,5	8,5	11,0
Quintile IV	8,0	10,7	14,8	6,8	9,5
Quintile V	14,3	16,3	20,6	11,0	15,4
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	8,9	11,1	14,2	6,4	10,0
Post-lockdown	10,9	13,1	18,6	8,9	12,0



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3. REPRODUCTIVE BEHAVIOUR OF THE POPULATION

3.1. Average number of live births

Of particular interest is the GGS fertility data, giving a broader insight into women's reproductive behaviour and the average number of children born per woman. The survey data show (Table 3.1.1) a fairly high level of fertility. Thus, the average number of live births per woman aged 15 to 49 is 1.74 – 1.47 in urban areas and 1.92 in rural areas⁷. For women in the 35-39, 40-44 and 45-49 age groups, the latter approaching the end of the reproductive period, the fertility rate is higher than 2.1 children per woman, which is in line with the replacement level fertility. Even in the younger age group of women, such as those aged 25-29, the average number of children per woman born by this age is 1.63. At the same time, there is a significant difference in the fertility rate by area of residence, with only rural women reproducing generations, even among generations that have not yet completed their reproductive period, while the fertility rate in urban areas is below this level.

Regionally, we see that the lowest number of live births is to women from Chisinau municipality, especially in urban areas – 1.29 children. The central and southern regions do not differ significantly overall, the indicators having similar values – 1.89 and 1.84 children per woman. As a function of area of residence, the central region stands out with lower fertility in urban areas. Women from the country's north gave birth to a lower number of live-born children on average (1.73), with values in urban areas like those in the central region.

Differences in fertility rates are observed in terms of women's level of education, with those with higher education having the lowest number of live births in both urban (1.5) and rural (1.69) areas. In terms of marital status, compared to cohabiting women, married women stand out with a higher value of this indicator (2.04), especially in urban areas. Divorced/separated women have a lower average number of live births than married women (1.83), but the difference is not pronounced.

Analysis by occupational status reveals that the lowest average number of live births is among unemployed urban women (1.54). In terms of prosperity level, women in the well-off group (quintile V) stand out as having the lowest indicator – 1.46.

⁷ This indicator is not similar to the total fertility rate, as it represents the average number of live births over the lifetime of different age groups (generations) up to the time of the GGS.

TABLE 3.1.1. Average number of live children born during lifetime to women aged 15-49, overall and by area of residence

	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	1,47	1,92	1,74
Age group			
15-19	0,04	0,11	0,08
20-24	0,52	0,95	0,76
25-29	1,23	1,90	1,63
30-34	1,63	2,23	1,96
35-39	1,97	2,27	2,14
40-44	1,97	2,28	2,17
45-49	1,85	2,23	2,11
Region			
Chisinau	1,29	1,74	1,37
North	1,54	1,90	1,73
Center	1,56	1,98	1,89
South	1,77	1,86	1,84
Education			
Lower secondary	1,55	2,07	1,95
General secondary	1,25	1,86	1,61
Vocational secondary	1,61	2,02	1,89
Post-secondary vocational	1,49	1,74	1,62
Higher	1,50	1,69	1,56
Marital status			
Married	1,82	2,17	2,04
Cohabitation	1,24	2,23	1,84
Divorced/separated	1,68	2,00	1,83
Solitary	0,52	0,69	0,61
Widow ⁸	1,63	2,33	2,14

⁸ Very low number of observations.

Occupational status			
Employee	1,52	1,94	1,73
Self-employed	1,92	1,91	1,91
Unemployed	1,54	1,91	1,80
Another situation	1,39	1,90	1,73
Welfare quintile			
Quintile I	1,57	1,90	1,78
Quintile II	1,61	1,82	1,76
Quintile III	1,51	1,93	1,77
Quintile IV	1,54	1,89	1,77
Quintile V	1,46	2,05	1,79
Disability degree			
Severe	1,68	1,67	1,67
Medium	1,57	2,05	1,86
No disabilities	1,42	1,88	1,70

3.2. Mean age of women at childbirth

The mean age of women⁹ at first childbirth (R1) is an important indicator that reflects changes in reproductive behaviour. A gradual increase in maternal age at first childbirth is usually associated with decreased fertility. Presented as the average for women aged 15-49 (*Table 3.2.1*), this indicator is 22.6 years. In rural areas women give birth about 2 years earlier than in urban areas, i.e. the mean age of women at first childbirth is lower – 21.8 years compared to 23.8 years in urban areas.

Regionally, we note that the lowest mean age at first child birth is found among women from the southern region – 21.8 years, while the highest (24.5 years) – among those from Chisinau municipality. Women's level of education makes the biggest difference to this indicator. Thus, women with higher education give birth to their first child at almost 25 years of age, the gap by area of residence being less pronounced. Rural women with higher education also start child-bearing later than women from other categories, the mean age being over 24.

The mean age at first childbirth is higher for single women (22.9) and lower for cohabiting women (22.0). However, urban women, both married and cohabiting, have their first child later, at 24 and 23 years of age respectively.

⁹ This indicator is not similar to the one calculated by NBS for calendar years. The mean age of women at childbirth was calculated according to the data reported by respondents who had given birth in different years prior to the GGS.

The correlation of occupational status with the mean age at first childbirth shows that employed women give birth after the age of 23, this indicator being higher compared to other categories such as unemployed, self-employed, etc. Women's low prosperity level is associated with lower age at first childbirth.

Women's degree of disability does not significantly influence women's age at first childbirth.

The mean maternal age at second childbirth (R2), calculated for women aged 15-49, is 26.4 years, for rural women – 25.4 years and for urban women – 28.3 years. The most important factor affecting this indicator is women's education level. Having a first child later in life leads to a higher age at second childbirth, especially in the case of urban women (30 years). Although there are some differences in maternal age at second childbirth by marital status (married and cohabiting), these are not significant.

The mean maternal age at third childbirth (R3) in the total sample is 29.6 years. In terms of area of residence, the difference is maintained at about the same level as in the case of lower-order births (about 2 years). Thus, urban women give birth to their third child at the age of 31.3 years, and rural women – at 29.1 years.

As in the case of first-order births, women in better-off quintiles have higher-order births later, since the later start of the reproductive cycle leads to a shift of higher-order births to older ages. The same correlation is typical for women with higher education and those from Chisinau municipality.

TABLE 3.2.1. Mean age of women at first, second and third childbirth, by age group, total per country and by area of residence

	Total			Urban			Rural		
	R 1 ²	R 2	R 3	R 1	R 2	R 3	R 1	R 2	R 3
Total	22,6	26,4	29,6	23,9	28,3	31,3	21,8	25,4	29,1
Age group									
15-19	17,2*	18,4*	-	15,6	-	-	17,5	18,4	-
20-24	19,7	21,4	23,2*	19,8	20,3	21,8	19,7	21,7	23,4
25-29	21,8	23,9	24,8*	22,9	25,1	24,6	21,1	23,5	24,8
30-34	22,8	26,4	28,5	23,9	27,4	29,7	22,1	25,8	28,2
35-39	23,5	27,8	30,8	24,8	29,3	31,9	22,6	26,7	30,3
40-44	23,1	27,0	31,7	25,0	30,1	33,1	22,1	25,6	31,3
45-49	22,4	26,1	29,8	23,4	28,3	32,4	22,0	25,4	29,2

Region									
Chisinau	24,5	28,9	31,0	24,7	29,3	31,4	23,8	27,8	30,1
North	22,4	26,5	29,9	23,2	28,1	32,8	21,8	25,3	28,4
Center	22,2	26,0	29,5	23,9	28,0	30,2	21,8	25,6	29,4
South	21,8	25,2	29,0	22,9	27,0	29,9	21,5	24,7	28,8
Education									
Lower	21,3	25,0	28,9	21,9	26,5	30,2	21,1	24,7	28,7
General secondary	21,9	25,8	29,4	22,8	27,2	31,5	21,5	25,2	28,9
Vocational secondary	22,2	25,8	29,4	23,7	27,4	30,8	21,6	25,3	29,1
Post-secondary vocational	22,9	27,1	31,1	23,3	28,4	32,3	22,6	26,3	30,3
Higher	24,9	29,2	31,6	25,3	30,0	32,0	24,2	27,9	31,3
Marital status									
Married	22,6	26,5	29,9	24,0	28,4	31,6	21,9	25,7	29,4
Cohabitation	22,0	25,1	29,1	23,2	28,0	30,8	21,5	24,2	28,8
Divorced/separated	22,2	25,9	28,3	22,9	27,1	29,5	21,4	24,9	27,6
Solitary	22,9	26,6	29,2	23,4	28,5	33,2	22,6	25,5	28,5
Widow ³	22,5	26,2	32,1	24,8	30,8	37,9	21,7	25,0	31,3
Occupational status									
Employee	23,1	27,0	29,3	24,0	28,4	30,5	22,4	26,1	28,8
Self-employed	22,2	25,5	32,7	23,2	26,1	33,3	21,4	25,2	31,9
Unemployed	21,8	25,5	29,5	22,3	27,6	31,4	21,6	24,8	29,2
Another	22,3	26,1	29,7	24,0	28,3	31,7	21,6	25,2	29,2
Welfare quintile									
Quintile I	22,0	25,4	28,4	22,5	27,3	27,4	21,7	24,5	28,6
Quintile II	22,2	26,0	29,6	23,0	27,5	30,6	21,9	25,4	29,3
Quintile III	22,5	26,3	29,0	23,4	28,0	30,5	21,9	25,5	28,6
Quintile IV	22,7	26,7	30,2	23,9	28,4	32,2	22,1	26,1	29,7
Quintile V	22,7	26,3	29,7	24,3	28,5	31,9	21,6	25,2	29,0
Disability degree									
Severe	22,8	26,7	29,8	23,5	26,1	29,3	22,2	27,0	30,3
Medium	22,6	26,3	29,4	23,7	28,4	32,6	21,9	25,3	28,3
No disabilities	22,6	26,4	29,7	23,9	28,3	30,9	21,8	25,4	29,4

3.3. Percentage distribution of women by number of children born

The distribution of women by the number of children born makes it possible to observe structural changes in the number of births for different age groups of women and to determine the share of women who did not have any children during the reproductive period and are at the end of their childbearing years. From the GGS data (*Table 3.3.1.*), we see that in the age groups after 35 years the distribution of women by number of children born does not differ significantly, showing that most women achieve their reproductive intentions by age of 35.

The share of those who did not have any children is quite low, amounting to 5.5-7.4%. Women who have given birth to 2 children account for the highest share (over 40%). Also quite high is the share of women who gave birth to 3 children – 23.6% in the 35-39 age group and 24.5% in the 40-44 age category. Women who gave birth to 3 children in the 45-49 age group make up 19.9%. At the same time, a higher share of these women reported having had 5 or more children (4.5%). The share of women aged 45-49 who gave birth to only one child is relatively low.

In the youngest age group (15-19 years) more than 6% of respondents have had a child. In the 20-24 age group, about 50% of women have not yet given birth to a child, while one third gave birth to at least one child, 13.4% – to two children and about 5% – to three children. Women in the 25-29 and 30-34 age groups are at their most active childbearing age, the share of those who have not given birth to a child is low, and a good part of them have already had two children.

By region, we see that the highest share of women who gave birth to 3 or more children is found in the central and southern regions. Chisinau municipality has the highest share of women who have not had a child (over 30%). This is due to a younger population structure, i.e. a higher share of women who have not yet started childbearing.

Analysis by education level reveals that a higher share of women with higher education had only one child (29%). By marital status, we note that the share of women who have not had any children is higher among those cohabiting (22.4%). At the same time, employed women and those in the most well-off quintiles (IV and V) stand out with a lower share of births of higher orders (4 and 5+).

**TABLE 3.3.1. Distribution of women aged 15-49
by number of children born, total per country, in %**

	Number of children						
	0	1	2	3	4	5+	Total
Total	21,5	21	35	16,1	4,42	2,18	100
Age group							
15-19	92,8	6,3	1,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	100
20-24	50,9	29,6	13,4	5,1	0,7	0,4	100
25-29	14,2	31,9	37,2	11,1	4,7	0,8	100
30-34	9,4	22,0	41,6	19,3	5,2	2,5	100
35-39	7,0	16,8	43,3	23,6	6,4	2,9	100
40-44	7,4	14,4	44,4	24,5	6,2	3,1	100
45-49	5,5	20,8	44,7	19,9	4,7	4,5	100
Region							
Chisinau	31,0	25,6	29,3	11,2	2,6	0,3	100
North	19,7	23,6	35,2	14,9	3,9	2,7	100
Centre	17,8	17,7	38,8	18,0	4,6	3,0	100
South	20,3	18,7	34,0	18,9	6,1	2,0	100
Education							
Lower secondary	21,7	15,5	30,8	20,9	7,1	4,0	100
General secondary	27,7	18,5	34,0	14,6	3,2	2,1	100
Vocational secondary	13,2	21,1	42,5	16,3	4,8	2,1	100
Post-secondary vocational	19,7	25,0	37,6	14,8	2,2	0,7	100
Higher	18,6	29,0	37,3	12,1	2,6	0,5	100
Marital status							
Married	5,0	22,3	47,0	19,5	4,2	2,1	100
Cohabitation	22,4	24,9	22,0	17,5	7,4	5,6	100
Divorced/separated	6,3	35,6	38,1	11,8	6,0	2,2	100
Solitary	72,6	11,4	8,3	5,0	2,2	0,4	100
Widow ¹⁰	3,3	21,3	38,0	34,0	3,3	0,0	100

Occupational status							
Employee	18,0	21,2	41,4	14,7	3,2	1,5	100
Self-employed	11,9	21,3	46,4	12,0	5,0	3,4	100
Unemployed	17,9	25,2	32,5	17,1	3,5	3,9	100
Another situation	24,7	19,7	30,8	17,1	5,4	2,3	100
Welfare quintile							
Quintile I	27,4	17,1	25,0	22,0	3,8	4,7	100
Quintile II	19,6	22,1	37,9	11,7	6,1	2,6	100
Quintile III	20,0	20,0	37,7	16,2	4,0	2,2	100
Quintile IV	19,9	22,1	33,4	16,9	5,7	2,0	100
Quintile V	18,6	21,0	37,1	17,1	4,2	2,0	100
Disability degree							
Severe	25,2	22,0	29,8	15,3	3,9	3,7	100
Medium	19,6	17,2	38,2	16,1	6,1	2,8	100
No disabilities	21,8	22,0	34,2	16,3	3,9	1,9	100

Analysis of data on the number of children born in urban areas (*Table 3.3.2.*) shows a low share of higher-order births, especially those of order 4 and 5+, although the share of women who gave birth to 3 children is relatively high, at around 20% in the 35-39 and 40-44 age groups. Women who gave birth to 2 children account for the largest share, showing the tendency for families to have at least 2 children. By the age of 35, most women have given birth to at least one child, with a low share of those who have not had any children.

Regionally, we find in the southern region the highest share of urban women who gave birth to more than three children, with respondents who gave birth to 3 children and more amounting to more than 20%, while in Chisinau municipality – only 12.4%. Women with secondary education have the highest share of higher-order births (3 and more). Marital status is the most telling indicator in terms of the number of live births, with married women having the highest share of births of both 2nd and 3rd order and above, indicating that urban women believe that marriage is a more favourable and secure environment for childbearing than cohabitation.

Among employed respondents, there is a higher share of women who gave birth to no children or only to one child, which is determined by the structure of this group, in particular by the higher share of those with higher education, i.e. a higher association with lower reproductive intentions.

**TABLE 3.3.2. Distribution of urban women aged 15-49
by number of children born, in %**

	Number of children						
	0	1	2	3	4	5+	Total
Total	27	25,5	32,4	11,2	2,7	1,3	100
Age group							
15-19	96,3	3,7	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	100
20-24	63,9	25,4	7,4	1,6	0,8	0,8	100
25-29	21,2	43,2	28,1	6,2	1,4	0,0	100
30-34	14,3	28,1	42,4	11,7	2,2	1,3	100
35-39	8,2	20,9	45,5	18,2	5,5	1,8	100
40-44	11,5	18,2	41,9	20,9	5,4	2,0	100
45-49	7,1	30,2	42,1	15,1	2,4	3,2	100
Region							
Chisinau	33,2	26,7	27,6	9,3	2,7	0,4	100
North	22,5	28,5	33,1	12,6	1,7	1,6	100
Centre	23,0	24,4	37,6	11,0	2,3	1,8	100
South	21,5	18,0	38,1	14,5	5,2	2,7	100
Education							
Lower secondary	34,7	15,3	29,2	14,1	4,3	2,4	100
General secondary	40,8	19,4	28,4	7,2	2,1	2,1	100
Vocational secondary	18,3	30,3	34,7	12,5	2,1	2,0	100
Post-secondary vocational	23,8	29,0	30,8	13,5	2,3	0,5	100
Higher	19,4	31,0	36,4	10,3	2,7	0,2	100
Marital status							
Married	6,9	30,1	44,7	14,7	2,5	1,1	100
Cohabitation	39,8	25,8	19,1	9,4	4,3	1,7	100
Divorced/separated	8,1	41,8	34,5	8,1	6,3	1,2	100
Solitary	74,5	11,4	11,2	1,5	0,5	1,0	100
Widow ¹¹	12,3	24,9	50,5	12,3	0,0	0,0	100

¹⁰ Small number of observations.

Occupational status							
Employee	24,3	24,3	36,8	10,9	2,6	1,1	100
Self-employed	4,3	35,7	32,4	23,7	0,0	3,9	100
Unemployed	19,6	34,7	29,7	9,2	5,6	1,1	100
Another situation	32,0	24,6	28,3	11,3	2,5	1,4	100
Welfare quintile							
Quintile I	32,9	17,7	30,3	10,7	4,1	4,4	100
Quintile II	27,0	17,8	38,2	10,9	3,1	3,0	100
Quintile III	24,2	26,4	34,9	10,6	2,4	1,5	100
Quintile IV	23,3	31,8	24,9	13,4	4,9	1,6	100
Quintile V	25,2	26,4	34,5	11,3	2,1	0,5	100
Disability degree							
Severe	25,1	27,8	23,9	12,6	4,3	6,2	100
Medium	27,3	20,1	33,6	13,3	4,8	0,9	100
No disabilities	26,7	27,4	32,5	10,4	1,8	1,2	100

Analysis of the data on the number of children born in rural areas (Table 3.3.3.) explains the higher fertility of rural women by the significantly higher share of those who gave birth to 3 or more children and the very low share of those who never gave birth to a child. Over 90% of all respondents aged 25-29 have already given birth to a child and more. Those with one child make up about a quarter (24.3%), with two children – 43.5%, with three – 14.5%, with four or more – 8.4%. This distribution confirms that the younger generations of rural women also retain the traditional reproductive behaviour of having children at young ages (15-19 years) and the high share of high-order births. Although there are some differences in the over-30 age group, these are not pronounced.

The distribution of births for the rural female population by region follows the general trend of prevalence in the central and southern regions of women giving birth to more than three children.

The higher level of education of women from rural areas is associated with a lower share of those giving birth to 3 and more children. However, almost every fifth rural woman with a higher education reported giving birth to three or more children, while in urban areas only every seventh. About a quarter of them gave birth to only one child.

For rural areas, a high share of cohabiting women having high-order births is common. Thus, over 40% of cohabiting women gave birth to three or more children, compared to 30% in the case of married women. This points to the existence of certain categories of women, often from

socially vulnerable groups, who have children out of wedlock and with different partners. Unemployed women and those in low-income quintiles account for a higher share of those with 5 or more children.

TABLE 3.3.3. Distribution of rural women aged 15-49 by number of children born, in %

	Number of children						
	0	1	2	3	4	5+	
Total	18	17,6	36,8	19,5	5,6	2,8	100
Age group							
15-19	90,5	7,9	1,6	0,0	0,0	0,0	100
20-24	40,6	32,9	18,1	7,7	0,6	0,0	100
25-29	9,3	24,3	43,5	14,5	7,0	1,4	100
30-34	5,5	17,2	40,9	25,4	7,6	3,4	100
35-39	6,1	13,7	41,6	27,6	7,2	3,8	100
40-44	5,2	12,3	45,7	26,4	6,7	3,7	100
45-49	4,7	16,6	45,8	22,0	5,8	5,1	100
Region							
Chisinau	19,5	20,0	37,7	20,7	2,1	0,0	100
North	17,3	19,3	37,0	16,8	5,9	3,6	100
Centre	16,4	15,9	39,1	19,9	5,3	3,4	100
South	19,9	18,9	32,7	20,3	6,5	1,8	100
Education							
Lower secondary	17,7	15,5	31,3	23,0	8,0	4,5	100
General secondary	18,5	17,8	37,9	19,8	3,9	2,1	100
Vocational secondary	11,0	17,2	45,8	17,9	6,0	2,1	100
Post-secondary vocational	15,9	21,3	43,9	15,9	2,1	0,9	100
Higher	17,0	24,9	39,1	15,6	2,4	1,0	100
Marital status							
Married	3,9	17,6	48,3	22,4	5,2	2,6	100
Cohabitation	11,1	24,4	24,0	22,8	9,5	8,2	100
Divorced/separated	4,2	28,1	42,5	16,3	5,6	3,4	100
Solitary	71,3	11,4	6,2	7,6	3,5	0,0	100
Widow ¹²	0,0	19,9	33,4	42,1	4,6	0,0	100

¹¹ Small number of observations.

Occupational status							
Employee	11,6	18,1	46,1	18,6	3,7	1,9	100
Self-employed	17,8	10,1	57,3	2,9	8,9	3,0	100
Unemployed	17,2	20,8	33,7	20,7	2,5	5,1	100
Another situation	20,9	17,1	32,2	20,1	7,0	2,7	100
Welfare quintile							
Quintile I	24,2	16,7	21,9	28,7	3,7	4,9	100
Quintile II	16,6	23,9	37,7	12,1	7,2	2,5	100
Quintile III	17,3	15,9	39,5	19,7	4,9	2,7	100
Quintile IV	18,0	16,9	38,0	18,8	6,1	2,2	100
Quintile V	13,2	16,5	39,3	21,8	6,0	3,2	100
Disability degree							
Severe	14,0	15,2	41,5	18,1	7,0	4,2	100
Medium	18,7	18,5	35,2	20,1	5,2	2,3	100
No disabilities	18,7	18,5	35,2	20,1	5,2	2,3	100

3.4. Spacing between births of different orders

The time between marriage and the birth of the first child is called the protogenetic interval. It is usually at least 9 months. A period of less than 9 months indicates either premarital conception or premature birth. When calculating the protogenetic interval, it matters which date was considered: that of the de facto marriage or the date of the legal registration of the marriage. In the GGS, the protogenetic interval was calculated as the time interval between the date of marriage registration and the date of birth of the first child indicated by the respondents.

According to the GGS results, the mean protogenetic interval (*Table 3.4.1*) for women aged 15-49 is 9.8 months. It is higher for urban women (12.2 months) and lower for rural women (8.4 months). The shortest protogenetic interval is characteristic of women who gave birth between 15 and 19 years of age, amounting to 2.7 months for all respondents, 2.56 for rural respondents and 4.0 for the urban ones, which indicates that marriage registration took place after the onset of pregnancy.

The protogenetic interval of less than 9 months was also recorded for the 20-24 age group (5.34 months), with no significant differences by area of residence. For the older age groups (25-29 years and 30-34 years), we observe different patterns for urban and rural women, with the former having a protogenetic interval longer than 9 months and the latter shorter than that of urban women. In the over-35 age groups, the protogenetic interval is greater than 9 months for both urban and rural women.

TABLE 3.4.1. Progenetic interval

	Urban	Rural	Total
	Number of months	Number of months	Number of months
Total	12,17	8,40	9,83
Age group			
15-19	4,00*	2,56*	2,70*
20-24	5,03	5,51	5,34
25-29	10,92	4,29	6,76
30-34	12,85	5,40	8,64
35-39	10,25	9,30	9,72
40-44	17,61	10,20	12,75
45-49	10,96	11,48	11,32
Region			
Chisinau	16,16	7,13	14,28
North	10,81	11,06	10,94
Centre	13,07	8,43	9,34
South	4,63	6,84	6,24
Education			
Lower secondary	2,86	3,99	3,77
General secondary	8,22	9,95	9,39
Vocational secondary	12,67	11,01	11,49
Post-secondary vocational	11,35	9,14	10,14
Higher	16,75	12,98	15,55
Marital status			
Married	12,10	7,26	9,03
Cohabitation	8,00	24,51	18,14
Divorced/separated	8,79	14,59	11,74
Solitary	-	-	-
Widow ¹³	19,50	9,74	11,76

¹² Small number of observations.

Occupational status			
Employee	11,87	11,90	11,89
Self-employed	18,33	11,67	13,96
Unemployed	11,97	10,91	11,25
Another situation	11,57	4,05	6,34
Welfare quintile			
Quintile I	17,52	16,31	16,71
Quintile II	8,96	10,63	10,22
Quintile III	10,54	9,81	10,08
Quintile IV	13,29	6,52	8,96
Quintile V	12,82	8,36	10,31
Disability degree			
Severe	25,15	4,74	14,23
Medium	8,11	9,14	8,75
No disabilities	12,98	8,27	10,02

Health status, maternal age and the spacing between successive births have a major impact on both mother and baby's health. It is known that a very short interval between the last birth and the next birth is associated with an increased risk of premature birth, and babies born because of such pregnancies have a much lower than normal body weight. At the same time, delaying births to older ages – a trend that has been observed in recent years – reduces the possible period of childbearing, i.e. may contribute to shortening birth spacing.

According to GGS data, the average interval between the first and second birth (*Table 3.4.2.*) for women aged 15-49 is 54.2 months, which is shorter for rural respondents – 50.3 months compared to 62.4 months for urban respondents. Women who have given birth to two children by the age of 29 have the shortest interval between the first and second childbirth, accounting for 43.5 months for urban women and 37.1 for rural women.

The interval between the birth of second- and third-born children is 62.3 months, namely 64.7 months for urban women and 62.4 months for rural women.

TABLE 3.4.2. Spacing between first- and second-born children and second- and third-born children, total for women aged 15-49 and by area of residence, in months

	Urban		Rural		Total	
	1-2	2-3	1-2	2-3	1-2	2-3
Total	62,4	64,7	50,3	62,4	54,2	62,3
Age group						
15-19	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-24	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-29	43,5	29,7	37,1	39,6	38,7	38,2
30-34	55,4	49,9	49,8	49,5	51,8	49,6
35-39	60,7	61,7	54,1	63,9	56,7	63,3
40-44	77,4	77,7	51,7	75,1	59,8	75,7
45-49	69,3	79,3	54,2	69,7	58,0	71,7
Region						
Chisinau	62,7	59,4	59,9	59,9	62,0	59,5
North	67,6	76,9	51,9	62,1	58,6	67,4
Centre	57,4	64,2	50,4	62,9	51,7	63,1
South	60,3	55,0	47,3	62,0	50,4	60,9
Education						
Lower secondary	63,3	66,8	48,6	62,9	51,3	63,5
General secondary	58,2	63,8	53,3	65,9	54,8	65,5
Vocational secondary	64,5	69,1	49,8	60,1	53,3	61,7
Post-secondary vocational	66,8	68,4	49,7	65,0	56,6	66,3
Higher	61,4	59,3	57,1	58,6	59,9	59,0
Marital status						
Married	61,7	65,2	51,1	62,6	54,5	63,2
Cohabitation	60,6	56,1	48,1	66,1	51,3	64,3
Divorced/separated	66,1	58,1	47,8	55,2	55,8	56,3
Solitary	79,8	61,3	46,1	60,7	57,4	60,8
Widow ¹⁴	72,8	-	53,1		56,2	-

¹³ Small number of observations.

Occupational status						
Employee	62,6	63,3	51,7	63,3	56,2	63,3
Self-employed	55,3	96,3	46,3	68,8	49,3	79,5
Unemployed	59,2	56,8	49,0	64,9	51,5	63,6
Another situation	63,4	62,0	49,8	60,9	53,3	61,1
Welfare quintile						
Quintile I	56,2	61,5	47,1	57,7	49,5	58,2
Quintile II	62,9	60,1	47,8	67,7	51,4	66,3
Quintile III	63,6	54,8	49,3	52,7	53,9	53,2
Quintile IV	62,3	65,5	55,8	70,9	57,7	69,7
Quintile V	61,1	72,3	49,8	65,6	53,9	67,4

3.5. Childbirth in adolescence

In recent decades, the Republic of Moldova has recorded a high rate of teenage births, especially in rural areas. Teenage childbirth is a result of risky sexual behaviour, an unwanted pregnancy, and a reflection of low levels of teenage sex education and access to family planning services.

The GGS results (*Table 3.5.1*) show that teenage pregnancy (15-19 years) remains at a similar level in different age groups, both younger and older, with teenage birth percentage ranging from 13% to 16.4% for women aged 20-49. Only in the first age group (15-19 years) the share of women who gave birth to a child is 5.3%¹⁴. Area of residence is emerging as a differentiating factor, with the share of rural women reporting teenage births several times higher across all age groups than in urban areas. This indicator is highest for young rural age groups (20-24 and 25-29 years), with almost every fourth woman in these age groups reporting having given birth at the age of 15-19.

The southern and central economic-geographic regions have the highest teenage birth shares in urban areas, but especially in rural areas, while Chisinau municipality has the lowest share.

Education level and marital status are also strong differentiating factors associated with the prevalence of births at this age. Thus, almost every fourth cohabiting woman with a secondary school education gave birth in her teens. In rural areas, a third of cohabiting women fall into this category, while in urban areas only 10.8%.

După nivelul de bunăstare, există diferențe marcante între Womenle din mediul urban și cele din categoriile inferioare (Quintile I și II), acestea din urmă înregistrând o rată mai înaltă a nașterilor la vârsta adolescenței.

¹⁴ This indicator is not like the one calculated by NBS for calendar years. The teenage birth share was calculated according to the data reported by respondents who had given birth in different years prior to the GGS..

TABLE 3.5.1. Distribution of women aged 15-49 who reported having given birth to a child in their teens, overall and by area of residence, in %

	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	6,9	18,6	13,9
Age group			
15-19	1,2	7,9	5,3
20-24	7,4	23,2	16,2
25-29	6,2	23,4	16,4
30-34	7,8	17,2	13,0
35-39	8,2	17,7	13,6
40-44	4,7	21,2	15,3
45-49	11,1	17,0	15,1
Region			
Chisinau	5,4	8,8	6,0
North	6,9	18,9	13,3
Centre	9,1	17,3	15,6
South	8,2	22,2	18,8
Education			
Lower secondary	13,1	26,7	23,5
General secondary	8,8	19,1	14,8
Vocational secondary	13,0	15,2	14,5
Post-secondary vocational	3,6	8,8	6,3
Higher	2,0	7,6	3,8
Marital status			
Married	6,7	19,0	14,4
Cohabitation	10,8	32,4	23,9
Divorced/separated	12,7	29,1	20,1
Solitary	3,0	6,3	4,9
Widow	-	-	-

Occupational status			
Employee	5,7	15,9	10,7
Self-employed	3,9	5,6	4,9
Unemployed	11,5	23,4	19,7
Another situation	7,5	19,5	15,3
Welfare quintile			
Quintile I	12,7	15,7	14,6
Quintile II	11,5	21,0	18,3
Quintile III	8,1	17,6	13,9
Quintile IV	6,9	18,8	14,7
Quintile V	5,8	19,9	13,5

Preventing pregnancy in girls who have not yet reached the age of majority is an important public policy issue in the field of reproductive health, with important individual and social implications. GGS data (Table 3.5.2.) show that even among the youngest generations, especially from rural areas, early childbirth is quite widespread. Thus, almost 13% of rural respondents in the 20-24 age group and around 10% of those aged 25-29 said they gave birth to a child while under the age of 18, this being significantly higher than for the over-60 generation. In urban areas, this percentage is several times lower, with the trend being a decrease in teenage births for the younger generation compared to the older generation.

The percentage distribution of respondents who said they gave birth under the age of 18 by region is even, with only Chisinau municipality standing out with a lower share. Among cohabiting respondents, the share of births up to 18 years is the highest, especially in rural areas, being twice as high as in urban areas. Low level of education is typical for women in this category.

It is noteworthy that in the total sample, women who started childbearing at an early age had more children, with a higher share of those who had 3, 4, 5 and more children. The table shows the data on the total number of children, including biological and stepchildren. Given that the average number of stepchildren is very small, we can make this conclusion.

TABLE 3.5.2. Distribution of women aged 15-79 who reported having given birth by the age of 18, overall and by residence area, in %

	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	3,6	7,1	5,9
Age group			
15-19	-	-	-
20-24	3,3	12,9	8,7
25-29	1,4	9,8	6,4
30-34	5,2	7,9	6,7
35-39	5,0	5,5	5,3
40-44	2,0	12,6	8,9
45-49	7,1	9,0	8,4
50-54	3,4	6,6	5,5
55-59	0,5	3,2	2,3
60-64	4,4	4,0	4,1
65-69	1,5	2,7	2,4
70-74	3,4	5,7	5,0
75-79	8,9	7,0	7,6
Region			
Chisinau	2,6	6,3	3,3
North	4,8	8,1	6,7
Centre	4,8	6,5	6,1
South	2,9	7,6	6,4
Education			
Lower secondary	7,7	11,9	11,0
General secondary	3,8	7,0	6,0
Vocational secondary	5,3	4,1	4,5
Post-secondary vocational	2,1	2,4	2,3
Higher	1,5	2,8	2,0

Marital status			
Married	2,7	6,4	5,1
Cohabitation	8,4	16,7	13,4
Divorced/separated	5,2	6,9	6,1
Solitary	2,7	5,7	4,5
Widow ¹⁶	4,5	4,8	4,7
Occupational status			
Employee	3,0	6,2	4,7
Self-employed	0,0	3,7	2,0
Unemployed	3,4	12,7	9,8
Another situation	4,6	8,9	7,5
Welfare quintile			
Quintile I	3,7	6,3	5,5
Quintile II	6,0	7,4	7,0
Quintile III	4,9	7,7	6,7
Quintile IV	2,8	5,1	4,3
Quintile V	2,5	6,8	5,0
Number of children			
0	0,0	0,0	0,0
1	1,9	5,3	3,6
2	4,0	6,0	5,2
3	6,4	10,0	9,2
4	10,7	8,7	9,2
5+ ¹⁷	14,8	16,8	16,3

¹⁵ Small number of observations..

¹⁶ Small number of observations.

3.6. Childbirth outside marriage

In the Republic of Moldova, out of wedlock childbirth is a widespread phenomenon, resulting from a spread of relationships across all age groups. The contribution of out of wedlock births to the total fertility rate is quite significant. According to GGS, every fourth woman aged 15-49 reported childbirth outside marriage (26.0%), with a prevalence in rural areas – 28.9% (Table 3.6.1). In urban areas, about every fifth woman (21.5%) gave birth outside marriage. The breakdown by region reveals a higher share of women who gave birth to a child/children outside marriage in the southern region, with the lowest share in Chisinau municipality. A higher share of extramarital births was reported by respondents in the 35-39 and 40-44 age groups, which can be explained by the entry of these generations into reproductive age in the 1990s-early 2000s, when access to family planning services was limited. There is a prevalence of out of wedlock births among rural teenagers (4.5%).

At the same time, the prevalence of out of wedlock births is also common among women with low levels of education from both rural and urban areas, as well as among cohabiting women. In terms of occupational status of the respondents, women without one and those in quintile I (the poorest) have a higher share. Statistically, there are no significant differences between women with moderate disability and those without disability, whereas among women with severe disability almost every third gave birth out of wedlock regardless of area of residence.

TABLE 3.6.1. Distribution of women aged 15-49 who reported having a child/children outside marriage, in %

	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	21,5	28,9	26,0
Age group			
15-19	1,2	4,8	3,4
20-24	13,9	32,9	24,5
25-29	22,6	36,9	31,1
30-34	21,6	30,9	26,8
35-39	30,0	34,8	32,7
40-44	27,0	30,9	29,5
45-49	25,4	22,4	23,3
Region			
Chisinau	16,3	27,6	18,2
North	23,1	30,5	27,0
Centre	23,4	26,1	25,6
South	31,7	32,6	32,4

Education			
Primary	31,6	15,8	19,8
Lower secondary	30,8	38,6	36,8
General secondary	19,7	21,7	20,9
Vocational secondary	31,8	29,6	30,2
Post-secondary vocational	21,1	18,6	19,8
Higher	14,0	17,0	15,0
Marital status			
Married	14,8	19,4	17,7
Cohabitation	41,2	77,7	63,3
Divorced/separated	29,4	29,3	29,3
Solitary	25,5	28,7	27,4
Widow	-	-	-
Occupational status			
Employee	20,4	23,5	21,9
Self-employed	30,5	5,7	16,5
Unemployed	26,5	33,8	31,5
Another situation	21,2	31,3	27,8
Welfare quintile			
Quintile I	39,2	36,5	37,5
Quintile II	30,1	29,8	29,9
Quintile III	21,1	26,6	24,5
Quintile IV	23,7	31,3	28,7
Quintile V	20,5	30,1	25,8
Disability degree			
Severe	29,3	29,5	31,2
Medium	22,7	28,5	26,7
No disabilities	20,7	22,9	25,5

The average number of children born out of wedlock for women aged 15-49 is 0.43 (Table 3.6.2). In rural areas, this indicator value is higher – 0.49 children per woman compared to 0.34 children per woman in urban areas. By age group, we see a greater average number of children born outside marriage for respondents aged 35-39 and 45-49. In the southern region, the average number of children born out of wedlock is the greatest (0.57 children per woman), with no statistically significant differences by area of residence, the lowest rate being recorded in Chisinau municipality (0.27 children per woman).

By marital status, we see that the biggest average number of extramarital children is found among cohabiting women – 1.29 children per woman. In rural areas this number is significantly bigger, amounting to 1.63 versus 0.76 in urban areas. Women with higher education, those employed and those in the higher income quintile (V) stand out with a lower indicator value. Women with moderate disability have a greater average number of children born out of wedlock than women without disability.

TABLE 3.6.2. Average number of children born out of wedlock per woman, overall for women aged 15-49 and by area of residence

	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	0,34	0,49	0,43
Age group			
15-19	0,01	0,05	0,03
20-24	0,18	0,46	0,34
25-29	0,26	0,58	0,45
30-34	0,32	0,60	0,48
35-39	0,53	0,63	0,59
40-44	0,43	0,51	0,48
45-49	0,35	0,38	0,37
Region			
Chisinau	0,23	0,45	0,27
North	0,34	0,51	0,43
Center	0,38	0,44	0,43
South	0,56	0,57	0,57
Education			
Primary	0,42	0,35	0,37
Lower secondary	0,59	0,72	0,69
General secondary	0,33	0,31	0,32
Vocational secondary	0,48	0,44	0,45
Post-secondary vocational	0,28	0,28	0,28
Higher	0,19	0,24	0,21

Marital status			
Married	0,19	0,24	0,22
Cohabitation	0,76	1,63	1,29
Divorced/separated	0,43	0,41	0,42
Solitary	0,49	0,65	0,58
Widow ¹⁸	0,38	0,57	0,52
Occupational status			
Employee	0,30	0,36	0,33
Self-employed	0,44	0,13	0,26
Unemployed	0,36	0,59	0,51
Another situation	0,36	0,56	0,49
Welfare quintile			
Quintile I	0,73	0,68	0,70
Quintile II	0,51	0,49	0,50
Quintile III	0,32	0,45	0,40
Quintile IV	0,32	0,51	0,45
Quintile V	0,31	0,51	0,42
Disability degree			
Severe	0,39	0,52	0,46
Medie	0,35	0,53	0,46
No disabilities	0,33	0,48	0,42

The distribution of women by the number of children born (*Table 3.6.3.*) shows that of the total number of women aged 15-49, 15.6% had one child out of wedlock, 6.3% had two children, and 2.9% had three children born outside marriage. The highest percentage of women having out of wedlock children is among young women of the most active reproductive ages – 20-24 and 24-29. Chisinau municipality has the lowest share of women who gave birth to two and three children out of wedlock. Women with a low level of education and the cohabiting ones stand out with a prevalence of second- and third-order extramarital births.

There are no significant differences in out of wedlock births by number of children between women with moderate disability and women without disability. Among severely disabled women there is a higher percentage of those who gave birth to only one child.

Analysis of the distribution of women aged 15-49 by number of out of wedlock births and by area of residence (*Table 3.6.3.*) reveals a higher share of rural women who had two (6.7%) or three (3.9%) out of wedlock births. They are predominantly living in cohabitation or divorced, with a low level of education (primary or secondary), not employed, with a low level of prosperity (quintile I), sometimes with a disability.

¹⁷ Small number of observations..

In urban areas, first-order out of wedlock births are more common, while second- and third-order births are less common, especially in Chisinau municipality. With advancing age, the share of women reporting more than one child born outside marriage increases. A good part of them has a low level of education (no higher than secondary education) and live in cohabitation. The share of divorced women reporting extramarital births is also high.

TABLE 3.6.3. Distribution of women aged 15-49 by number of children born out of wedlock in their lifetime, total per country and by area of residence, in %

	Urban			Rural			Total		
	Number of children			Number of children			Number of children		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Total	13,7	5,8	1,6	16,8	6,7	3,9	15,6	6,3	2,9
Age group									
15-19	1,2	0,0	0,0	4,8	0,0	0,0	3,4	0,0	0,0
20-24	10,7	2,5	0,8	23,9	5,2	3,9	18,1	4,0	2,5
25-29	19,2	3,4	0,0	23,4	7,9	3,7	21,7	6,1	2,2
30-34	13,4	6,1	1,7	15,5	6,9	5,5	14,6	6,5	3,8
35-39	15,0	9,5	3,6	17,4	9,6	5,8	16,4	9,6	4,9
40-44	14,9	8,8	2,7	19,0	6,7	3,3	17,5	7,4	3,1
45-49	16,7	7,9	0,8	11,6	7,2	2,9	13,2	7,4	2,2
Region									
Chisinau	11,4	4,0	0,8	17,2	5,2	5,3	12,4	4,2	1,6
North	17,2	3,6	1,4	17,7	8,6	2,4	17,5	6,2	1,9
Centre	12,2	9,4	0,9	15,5	5,9	3,1	14,8	6,6	2,7
South	15,9	10,2	5,0	18,3	6,9	5,8	17,7	7,7	5,6
Education									
Primary	23,1	8,5	0,0	5,7	5,2	5,0	10,1	6,0	3,7
Lower secondary	12,9	12,1	4,9	19,5	9,9	6,1	17,9	10,4	5,8
General secondary	12,2	4,9	2,0	15,3	4,1	1,9	14,0	4,4	2,0
Vocational secondary	22,4	6,6	1,5	19,6	6,3	2,8	20,4	6,4	2,4
Post-secondary vocational	16,1	4,5	0,0	12,5	3,9	2,2	14,2	4,2	1,2
Higher	10,2	3,3	0,5	13,1	2,4	0,9	11,2	3,0	0,6

Marital status									
Married	12,0	2,3	0,4	15,3	3,0	0,8	14,1	2,8	0,6
Cohabitation	20,8	12,9	5,0	30,0	22,6	18,6	26,4	18,8	13,2
Divorced/separated	19,8	5,9	3,7	17,8	11,5	0,0	18,9	8,4	2,0
Solitary	12,4	11,2	1,0	11,8	7,7	6,5	12,1	9,1	4,2
Widow	12,3	13,4	0,0	20,0	4,7	9,3	17,9	7,0	6,8
Occupational status									
Employee	13,3	6,1	0,6	15,1	5,4	2,6	14,2	5,8	1,6
Self-employed	19,5	11,0	0,0	2,8	0,0	2,9	10,1	4,8	1,6
Unemployed	18,6	6,8	1,1	17,6	10,6	3,4	17,9	9,4	2,7
Another situation	12,8	5,0	2,7	17,9	6,8	4,6	16,1	6,1	3,9
Welfare quintile									
Quintile I	14,8	17,9	6,5	17,1	10,4	6,3	16,3	13,1	6,4
Quintile II	18,0	7,1	3,0	19,7	5,1	1,6	19,2	5,7	2,0
Quintile III	14,8	4,2	1,5	16,1	5,4	3,7	15,6	5,0	2,8
Quintile IV	16,8	5,2	1,7	18,3	7,6	5,4	17,8	6,7	4,1
Quintile V	13,5	5,2	1,3	16,8	7,7	4,1	15,3	6,6	2,8
Disability degree									
Severe	22,0	5,2	2,1	15,3	8,3	3,8	21,3	6,2	3,7
Medium	14,2	6,4	1,5	17,2	6,1	3,8	14,8	7,5	2,9
No disabilities	13,0	5,7	1,6	14,2	5,4	2,4	15,5	5,9	2,9

3.7. Ideal number of children in a family and reproductive intentions

3.7.1. What is the ideal number of children in a family?

Reproductive expectations, preferences and intentions are of particular importance in studying reproductive behaviour and fertility. These are used to answer to what extent people control their reproductive life and whether it is possible to predict birth rates based on these preferences. It is well known that in modern society the role of reproductive intentions is increasing as the pressure of social norms decreases and individual freedom has become more important than respect for traditions.

In the survey, respondents answered the question, 'In general, how many children do you think a family should ideally have?' It is noteworthy that the share of men and women who believe that

the ideal number of children in a family is 0 is very small – 0.4% (Table 3.7.1.1), which confirms that the phenomenon of voluntary childlessness is not specific to the Republic of Moldova.

Only 3.0% of all men aged 15 to 49 and 1.9% of women of the same age are of the opinion that the ideal number of children is one. More than 40% of men and women believe that the ideal number of children is two (44.0% and 40.2% respectively). Most of the population supports the idea that the ideal number of children is three or more (52.6% for men and 57.5% for women).

The northern region has the highest share of people who believe that the ideal number of children is one (5.2%), while the southern region has the highest share of men and women for whom three or more children is an ideal number.

Although there are some differences between men and women with different levels of education, almost half of those with higher education are of the opinion that the ideal number of children in a family is three or more, the share of those who opted for 1 and 0 being insignificant.

It should be noted that among men who do not have children, more than half (53.8%) support the idea that the ideal number of children in a family is two, and in favour of three or more children are 40.5%. Women stand out with a higher percentage of those who believe that three or more children is the ideal number of children in a family (48.5%), while those saying that two children is the ideal number are fewer (45.7%). Women and men for whom the ideal number of children in a family is one are in the minority.

Men and women who have 2, 3, 4, 5 and more children are more likely to support the idea that the ideal number of children in a family is 3 and more.

TABLE 3.7.1.1. Distribution of men and women by ideal number of children in a family, in %

	Men				Women			
	Number of children				Number of children			
	0	1	2	3+	0	1	2	3+
Total	0,4	3	44	52,6	0,4	1,9	40,2	57,5
Age group								
15-19	2,1	3	51	43,9	1,4	4,5	43,3	50,8
20-24	0	5	61,3	33,7	1,1	2,6	43,9	52,4
25-29	0,5	2,6	51	45,9	0,2	0,9	45,5	53,4
30-34	0	3,3	41,7	55	0	1	36,2	62,8
35-39	0	2,5	36,1	61,4	0,4	1,8	38,4	59,4
40-44	0,4	1,5	36,3	61,8	0	1,5	40,7	57,8
45-49	0,7	3,8	36,4	59,1	0,2	2,6	36,5	60,7

Region								
Chisinau	0,5	3,2	47,8	48,5	0,6	2,7	47,2	49,5
North	1,2	5,2	49,3	44,3	0,6	2,6	45	51,8
Centre	0	3,5	45,3	51,2	0,2	1,5	40,7	57,6
South	0,2	0,7	35,4	63,7	0,3	1,1	28,9	69,7
Education								
Lower secondary	0,6	3,4	41,2	54,8	0,4	1,6	34,3	63,7
General secondary	0,1	5,1	50,1	44,7	0,3	3,6	39,2	56,9
Vocational secondary	0,4	1,1	38,5	60	0,2	0,7	39,2	59,9
Post-secondary	0	1,6	51,8	46,6	0,3	2,3	45,8	51,6
Higher	0,6	3,4	43,9	52,1	0,4	1,8	48,1	49,7
Marital status								
Married		1,5	38,3	60,2	0	1,2	38,6	60,2
Cohabitation	0,7	1,2	41,5	56,6	1,2	1,5	40,4	56,9
Divorced/separated	0,9	4,6	43,7	50,8		1,3	53,3	45,4
Solitary	0,9	4,9	51,9	42,3	1,6	4,2	44,5	49,7
Widowed ¹⁹		10,6	22,4	67	0,1	3,3	34,6	62
Occupational status								
Employee	0	2,9	45,5	51,6	0,6	1,9	44,1	53,4
Self-employed	0	1,8	47,5	50,7	0,1	0	47,7	52,2
Unemployed	0,7	2,7	40,7	55,9	0,7	3,5	41,9	53,9
Another situation	1	4	43	52	0,4	1,6	37,1	60,9
Welfare quintile								
Quintile I	0,8	3,9	41,7	53,6	1,6	6,6	34,4	57,4
Quintile II	0,6	6,1	48,7	44,6	0	2,5	48,5	49
Quintile III	0,4	2,4	48,6	48,6	0,4	0,9	42,7	56
Quintile IV	0	4,8	44,8	50,4	0,6	1,9	42,2	55,3
Quintile V	0,2	2,1	37,7	60	0,1	1,5	36,8	61,6

¹⁹ Small number of observations.

Disability degree								
Severe	2,7	10,4	42,7	44,2	1,3	2	45,9	50,8
Medium	0,6	4,2	37,5	57,7	0,4	2,2	34,8	62,6
No disabilities	0,3	2,5	45,6	51,6	0,4	1,7	41,9	56
Number of children								
0	0,8	4,9	53,8	40,5	1,8	4	45,7	48,5
1	0	3,5	53,4	43,1	0	3,7	56,9	39,4
2	0,1	0,9	39,2	59,8	0	0,6	44,1	55,3
3	0	0,5	8,3	91,2	0,2	0,4	13,8	85,6
4	0	0	7,6	92,4	0	0	19,4	80,6
5+ ²⁰	0	4,8	15,6	79,6	0	0	8,7	91,3

Analysis of data on the ideal number of children in a family among the population aged 15-49 by area of residence (*Table 3.7.1.2.*) reveals some significant differences. Thus, in rural areas, the share of the population who believe that the ideal number of children in a family is three or more is significantly higher (60.6%) than in urban areas (46.7%). The share of rural respondents who said they wanted two children was 37%, while in urban areas it was 49.7%. In both urban and rural areas, those in favour of having one child or no children are in the minority.

In terms of age group, we note that people in their 30s stand out with a higher share of those who chose three or more as their ideal number, albeit with differences by area of residence.

The southern region has the highest share of people who believe that the ideal number of children in a family is three or more. In urban areas they make up 53.3% and in rural areas – 72%.

In terms of education level, we see that in urban and rural areas there are no statistically significant differences between the percentages of those who think that the ideal number of children in a family is 0 or 1, and these are in the minority. At the same time, 61% of rural respondents with higher education are of the opinion that three or more children is the ideal number of children in a family, while among urban respondents only 45.5% think so.

It should also be noted that among urban and rural respondents who did not have any children at the time of the survey, their perceptions on the ideal number of children in a family were closer. While the share of those who opt for three or more children is higher in rural areas (46.7%) compared to urban areas (39%), the ones who believe that the ideal number of children in a family is bigger, account for 54.5% in urban areas and 48.2% in rural areas. The population that believes that the ideal number of children in a family is one does not exceed 5%.

¹⁹ Small number of observations.

TABLE 3.7.1.2. Distribution of the population by ideal number of children in a family, by area of residence, in %

	Urban				Rural			
	Number of children				Number of children			
	0	1	2	3+	0	1	2	3+
Total	0,5	3,1	49,7	46,7	0,4	2	37	60,6
Age group								
15-19	2,7	6,6	48,3	42,4	1,2	2	46,7	50,1
20-24	0,8	3,7	53,8	41,7	0,4	3,9	51,7	44
25-29	0,4	1,9	62,6	35,1	0,4	1,6	38,1	59,9
30-34	0	2,5	47,4	50,1	0,1	1,9	31,7	66,3
35-39	0,3	2,8	42,2	54,7	0,3	1,6	33,4	64,7
40-44	0,5	2	44	53,5	0	1,2	35,6	63,2
45-49	0	4,6	50,4	45	0,7	2,6	30,4	66,3
Region								
Chisinau	0,7	3,3	49,4	46,6	0	1,2	37,6	61,2
North	0,5	4,2	51,7	43,6	1,1	3,5	43,3	52,1
Centre	0,1	3,4	52,3	44,2	0,2	2,2	40,5	57,1
South	0,6	0,9	45,2	53,3	0,1	0,9	27	72
Education								
Lower secondary	0,9	3,5	47,8	47,8	0,3	2,3	34,7	62,7
General secondary	0,3	4,2	52,2	43,3	0	4,5	38,3	57,2
Vocational secondary	0	0,4	47,1	52,5	0,4	1,2	35,1	63,3
Post-secondary	0,4	3,2	54	42,4	0	0,7	43,8	55,5
Higher	0,5	3,3	49,7	46,5	0,4	0,5	38,1	61
Marital status								
Married	0	2,2	47,3	50,5	0	0,8	32,8	66,4
Cohabitation	1,1	2,3	50,7	45,9	0,9	0,7	34,7	63,7
Divorced/separated	0	0	56,8	43,2	0,9	5,8	40,4	52,9
Solitary	1,5	4,7	54	39,8	0,9	4,6	46,6	47,9
Widowed ²¹	0	10,2	68,5	21,3	0	4,7	20	75,3

²⁰ Small number of observations.

Occupational status								
Employee	0,3	3,4	49,9	46,4	0	1,5	39,3	59,2
Self-employed	0	3,8	43,2	53	0	0	50,4	49,6
Unemployed	0,6	2,6	49,1	47,7	0,7	3,1	37,6	58,6
Another situation	0,8	2,8	50,8	45,6	0,5	2,3	33,4	63,8
Welfare quintile								
Quintile I	1,3	4,5	47,8	46,4	1,1	5,4	34	59,5
Quintile II	0	6,6	55,9	37,5	0,5	3,4	45,9	50,2
Quintile III	0,8	2,3	52,1	44,8	0,1	1,2	41,7	57
Quintile IV	0	2,5	50,8	46,7	0,4	3,9	39,2	56,5
Quintile V	0,2	2,8	46,7	50,3	0,1	0,8	28,3	70,8
Disability degree								
Severe	0	4	52,3	43,7	4,1	8	36	51,9
Medium	0,7	3,5	45,5	50,3	0,2	2,7	28,9	68,2
No disabilities	0,5	2,9	50,9	45,7	0,3	1,6	39,3	58,8
Number of children								
0	1,3	5,2	54,5	39	1,1	4	48,2	46,7
1	0	4,4	59,5	36,1	0	2,9	51,6	45,5
2	0	0,4	48	51,6	0,1	0,9	38,4	60,6
3	0,5	1	20,8	77,7	0	0,2	8,3	91,5
4	0	0	25,5	74,5	0	0	10,8	89,2
5+ ²²	0	0	16,3	83,7	0	2,1	9,6	88,3

In the survey, the respondents were also asked about the ideal number of children for their own family. It is noteworthy that the 'ideal number of children in the family' and the 'ideal number of children in own family' are virtually the same, the differences being statistically insignificant.

3.7.2. The average number of children that respondents generally intend to have

In the survey, the respondents were asked, 'How many children, including biological and adopted, do you generally intend to have?' The results show that the average number of children that men and women (total number) aged 15-49 generally intend to have is 2.42 per person (*Table 3.7.2.1*). For men, this indicator is 2.38 children per person, while for women it is slightly lower – 2.29 children per person.

The rural population stands out with a higher average number of children they intend to have – 2.51 children per person compared to 2.29 children per person in urban areas. By age group, we see that the intended number of children is the highest among men aged 20-44, as well as among women aged 20-39.

²¹Small number of observations.

The highest indicator value – 2.73 children per person, is found among respondents living in the southern region, especially in rural areas. It is noteworthy that the northern region has the lowest indicator value – 2.18 children per person, especially in rural areas – 2.12 children per person.

Married people intend to have more children than cohabiting couples. Thus, for the total population this indicator is 2.55 children per person, and for rural areas it's value is slightly higher – 2.62 children per person.

Analysing the results presented, we conclude that the average number of children that respondents generally intend to have (biological and adopted) is quite big, correlating with the number of children they had at the time of the GGS.

TABLE 3.7.2.1. Distribution of the population aged 15-49 by average number of children, including biological and adopted children, that they generally intend to have, by sex, total per country and by area of residence

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	2,38	2,45	2,29	2,51	2,42
Age group					
15-19	2,18	2,09	2,09	2,36	2,26
20-24	2,29	2,39	2,39	2,48	2,44
25-29	2,41	2,27	2,27	2,60	2,46
30-34	2,43	2,38	2,38	2,70	2,55
35-39	2,59	2,48	2,48	2,55	2,52
40-44	2,42	2,17	2,17	2,48	2,36
45-49	2,22	1,79	1,79	2,14	2,04
Region					
Chisinau	2,29	2,32	2,32	2,65	2,37
North	2,17	2,24	2,24	2,12	2,18
Centre	2,37	2,15	2,15	2,48	2,41
South	2,61	2,47	2,47	2,73	2,66
Education					
Lower secondary	2,36	2,28	2,28	2,52	2,46
General secondary	2,31	2,26	2,26	2,45	2,37
Vocational secondary	2,50	2,31	2,31	2,59	2,50
Post-secondary	2,30	2,19	2,19	2,44	2,33
Higher	2,45	2,36	2,36	2,53	2,40

Marital status					
Married	2,60	2,43	2,43	2,62	2,55
Cohabitation	2,37	2,19	2,19	2,53	2,38
Divorced/separated	2,25	2,39	2,39	2,16	2,28
Solitary	2,17	2,11	2,11	2,29	2,22
Widow	-	-	-	-	-
Occupational status					
Employee	2,34	2,26	2,26	2,38	2,31
Self-employed	2,49	2,30	2,30	2,63	2,50
Unemployed	2,41	2,24	2,24	2,31	2,29
Another situation	2,36	2,36	2,36	2,62	2,53
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	2,27	2,38	2,38	2,16	2,23
Quintile II	2,23	2,11	2,11	2,22	2,19
Quintile III	2,35	2,27	2,27	2,50	2,41
Quintile IV	2,28	2,33	2,33	2,38	2,36
Quintile V	2,52	2,31	2,31	2,83	2,58
Grad de dizabilitate					
Severe	2,05	2,16	2,16	1,91	2,05
Medium	2,39	2,36	2,36	2,49	2,43
No disabilities	2,39	2,28	2,28	2,52	2,43
Number of children					
0	2,19	2,16	2,16	2,31	2,24
1	2,07	2,05	2,05	2,08	2,07
2	2,52	2,47	2,47	2,46	2,46
3	3,23	2,93	2,93	3,20	3,13
4	3,62	3,31	3,31	3,71	3,60
5+ ^{*23}	4,23	2,75	2,75	3,79	3,57

²² Small number of observations.

3.7.3. Child's gender preference

When planning the birth of a child, men and women may have some preferences regarding child's gender, which may be influenced by social beliefs, the gender of the child they already have, personal experience such as the presence of siblings, etc. The two-child family model, specific to the European region, including the Republic of Moldova, is often associated with the desire of couples to have a boy and a girl. Sometimes, when parents have two children of the same gender (two boys or two girls), they decide to have another child, hoping to have a child of a different gender.

The GGS asked the question 'Would you prefer your first-born/next child to be a boy or a girl?' Analysing the responses of men aged 15-49 (*Table 3.7.3.1.*), we found that more than half of them (52.7%) believe that the gender of the child does not matter and only about every third expressed a preference to have a boy. The highest percentage of men who would prefer their first-born/next child to be a boy is in the younger age groups: 44.1% (15-19 years) and 35.2% (20-24 years). We think that this is a preference for their first-born child, which is corroborated by the distribution of responses depending on the number of children they have (every third childless man would prefer to have his first child a boy). With increasing age, the share of men saying that the gender of the child does not matter increases.

Although there are some differences by region, these are to some extent determined by the age structure of the population. In Chisinau municipality and the central region, which has a higher share of young population compared to the north and south regions, there was a higher share of men who expressed a preference for their first-born/next child being a boy.

Among men with higher education, there is the highest share of those for whom the gender of the first-born/next child does not matter (56.8%). At the same time, men with a medium level of education more often express a preference for having a boy (about 30%).

Married men more often express a neutral opinion than unmarried men. Cohabiting men stood out with the highest share of those who would like their first-born/next child to be a girl (29.1%).



TABLE 3.7.3.1. Distribution of men aged 15-49 by preferences regarding the child's gender, in %

	Boy	Girl	It doesn't
Total	29,3	18,0	52,7
Age group			
15-19	44,1	7,0	48,9
20-24	35,2	18,7	46,2
25-29	28,9	22,5	48,7
30-34	25,7	20,3	54,0
35-39	22,8	17,0	60,2
40-44	23,2	15,9	60,9
45-49	24,4	23,2	52,4
Region			
Chisinau	30,0	20,8	49,2
North	25,2	17,4	57,5
Centre	32,6	20,7	46,7
South	27,2	12,4	60,4
Education			
Lower secondary	29,3	18,7	52,0
General secondary	31,2	16,6	52,2
Vocational secondary	29,1	14,7	56,2
Post-secondary vocational	25,7	24,0	50,4
Higher	25,6	17,6	56,8
Marital status			
Married	23,6	19,0	57,5
Cohabitation	29,5	29,1	41,4
Divorced/separated	29,7	18,0	52,4
Solitary	33,5	13,3	53,2
Widower ²⁴	12,3	34,3	53,4
Occupational status			
Employee	29,7	20,3	50,1
Self-employed	23,0	18,3	58,7
Unemployed	28,3	22,4	49,3
Another situation	31,7	12,1	56,2

Welfare quintile			
Quintile I	28,5	25,0	46,5
Quintile II	32,1	10,2	57,7
Quintile III	29,3	18,4	52,4
Quintile IV	32,0	22,1	45,8
Quintile V	25,8	22,2	52,0
Disability degree			
Severe	17,9	25,8	56,3
Medium	35,0	16,5	48,5
No disabilities	28,8	17,9	53,3
Number of children			
0	33,3	13,5	53,2
1	28,0	26,6	45,4
2	26,8	17,1	56,0
3	17,1	22,3	60,5
4	12,7	35,7	51,6
5+ ²⁵	0,0	51,4	48,6

Women's preferences regarding the gender of the child do not differ significantly from those of men, although there is a trend in favour of having a girl. Of the total number of women aged 15-49 (Table 3.7.3.2.) almost half are of the opinion that the gender of the child does not matter, 27.5% would prefer to have a boy and 24.0% – a girl. As with men, we see that the highest share of women who want their first-born/next child to be a boy was in the younger age groups: 37.8% (15-19 years), 31.7% (20-24 years) and 30% (25-29 years). The highest percentage of women who want their first-born/next child to be a girl was found in the following age groups: 20-24 years (26%), 25-29 years (25.3%), 30-34 years (27.2%) and 35-39 years (28.2%). The preference for a first-born male child is obvious. The highest share of women wanting their first child to be a boy was among those without children.

In terms of women's level of education, we see that those with higher education are more likely to express the desire to have a girl (25.9%) than a boy (23.9%). By marital status, we see that a higher share of cohabiting women expressed a neutral opinion (52.7%) compared to married women (48.0%). At the same time, unmarried women would prefer their first-born to be a boy (35.5%).

²⁵ Small number of observations.

TABLE 3.7.3.2. Distribution of women aged 15-49 by preferences regarding the child's gender, in %

	Boy	Girl	It doesn't
Total	27,5	24,0	48,5
Age group			
15-19	37,8	16,8	45,4
20-24	31,7	26,0	42,3
25-29	30,0	25,3	44,7
30-34	24,9	27,2	47,9
35-39	19,1	28,2	52,7
40-44	16,5	13,6	69,9
45-49	7,1	16,7	76,2
Region			
Chisinau	31,8	26,9	41,3
North	30,4	26,5	43,1
Centre	22,0	22,5	55,5
South	29,3	21,6	49,1
Education			
Lower secondary	28,2	26,9	44,9
General secondary	28,8	21,4	49,8
Vocational secondary	26,3	24,1	49,6
Post-secondary vocational	28,7	18,5	52,8
Higher	23,9	25,9	50,2
Marital status			
Married	25,1	26,9	48,0
Cohabitation	22,6	24,6	52,7
Divorced/separated	23,4	31,9	44,7
Solitary	35,5	16,3	48,2
Widow	0,0	27,8	72,2

Occupational status			
Employee	20,7	26,7	52,6
Self-employed	33,9	25,1	40,9
Unemployed	24,8	19,1	56,1
Another situation	31,1	23,2	45,6
Welfare quintile			
Quintile I	37,2	23,3	39,5
Quintile II	29,2	25,5	45,4
Quintile III	27,5	20,6	51,9
Quintile IV	28,4	22,5	49,1
Quintile V	23,9	28,4	47,8
Disability degree			
Severe	36,9	18,8	44,4
Medium	31,6	23,4	45,0
No disabilities	26,2	24,3	49,5
Number of children			
0	33,0	18,3	48,6
1	29,2	32,2	38,5
2	22,3	22,7	55,0
3	21,9	27,1	51,0
4	17,1	21,0	61,9
5+ ²⁶	23,7	11,5	64,9

Analysis of the population's preferences for the gender of the first-born/next child by area of residence (*Table 3.7.3.3.*) reveals that they are quite similar. More than half of the total population aged 15-49 (50.9%) expressed the opinion that the gender of the child does not matter, 28.5% would prefer their first-born/next child to be a boy and 20.6% – a girl. At the same time, higher-educated people from urban areas were more likely to express the opinion that the gender of the first/next child does not matter (55.1%), and the preference to have a boy or a girl was almost equally distributed: 22.0% and 22.8%. Among rural people with higher education, the share of those for whom the gender of the child does not matter is 49.8%, those who would prefer to have a boy amount to 32%, while the ones preferring to have a girl account for only 18.2%.

²⁴ Small number of observations.

In terms of marital status, we observe that among unmarried people the preference for the first-born to be male is relatively strong in both urban (35.9%) and rural (32.8%) areas. Married people show more balanced preferences, with more than half of them expressing the opinion that the gender of the child does not matter (52.6%), and the rest expressing preferences in roughly equal proportions for boys or girls, with no statistically significant differences by area of residence.

TABLE 3.7.3.3. Distribution of population aged 15-49 by preferences regarding the child's gender, for the total country's population, by area of residence, in %

	Urban			Rural			Total		
	Boy	Girl	It doesn't	Boy	Girl	It doesn't	Boy	Girl	It doesn't
Total	28,3	22,3	49,3	28,6	19,3	52,1	28,5	20,6	50,9
Age group									
15-19	44,6	13,2	42,2	38,8	11,0	50,2	40,8	11,8	47,3
20-24	34,1	24,0	41,9	33,1	20,7	46,3	33,5	22,1	44,3
25-29	27,1	23,6	49,2	31,1	23,8	45,1	29,4	23,7	46,9
30-34	24,4	23,9	51,7	26,3	22,9	50,8	25,4	23,4	51,2
35-39	24,4	23,3	52,3	19,1	20,0	60,9	21,3	21,4	57,2
40-44	18,9	20,6	60,5	22,2	12,0	65,8	21,0	15,2	63,8
45-49	13,8	26,4	59,8	22,0	18,9	59,1	19,4	21,3	59,3
Region									
Chisinau	30,3	22,7	47,0	33,6	27,8	38,6	30,8	23,5	45,7
North	27,1	20,4	52,5	27,7	22,2	50,1	27,4	21,3	51,3
Centre	23,9	27,7	48,4	29,0	19,8	51,2	27,8	21,6	50,7
South	29,6	17,7	52,7	27,5	15,6	56,9	28,1	16,2	55,7
Education									
Primary	38,0	26,5	35,6	46,3	14,9	38,8	44,7	17,2	38,2
Lower	36,0	24,4	39,6	26,3	21,2	52,5	28,8	22,0	49,2
General secondary	32,2	19,5	48,3	28,1	18,1	53,8	30,1	18,8	51,1
Vocational secondary	26,5	17,8	55,7	28,6	19,1	52,3	27,9	18,7	53,4
Post-secondary vocational	28,1	26,4	45,5	26,0	16,2	57,7	27,1	21,4	51,5
Higher	22,0	22,8	55,1	32,0	18,2	49,8	24,8	21,6	53,7

Marital status									
Married	23,6	23,4	52,9	24,9	22,7	52,4	24,4	23,0	52,6
Cohabitation	24,8	29,1	46,1	27,7	25,5	46,9	26,4	27,1	46,5
Divorced/ separated	24,8	27,4	47,8	29,4	20,1	50,5	27,0	24,0	49,1
Solitary	35,9	18,1	46,0	32,8	11,6	55,6	34,0	14,2	51,8
Widow	0,0	62,6	37,4	8,5	26,0	65,5	7,2	31,6	61,2
Occupational status									
Employee	24,5	24,0	51,5	29,0	20,7	50,3	26,4	22,6	51,0
Self-employed	22,5	15,5	62,0	25,0	21,3	53,7	24,0	18,9	57,2
Unemployed	23,6	26,5	49,9	29,0	19,4	51,6	27,4	21,5	51,1
Another	35,9	20,1	44,1	28,9	18,2	52,9	31,3	18,9	49,8
Welfare quintile									
Quintile I	34,3	24,1	41,5	30,4	24,5	45,2	31,7	24,4	43,9
Quintile II	33,5	21,8	44,8	29,8	14,4	55,8	30,9	16,6	52,5
Quintile III	30,8	22,8	46,4	26,9	17,0	56,1	28,4	19,4	52,2
Quintile IV	32,7	23,3	44,0	28,9	21,6	49,5	30,5	22,3	47,2
Quintile V	23,4	25,7	50,9	26,3	24,7	49,0	24,9	25,2	49,9
Disability degree									
Severe	22,2	23,7	54,1	29,9	22,2	47,9	25,1	23,1	51,8
Medium	31,6	19,4	49,0	34,7	20,8	44,5	33,2	20,1	46,6
No disabilities	28,0	23,0	49,0	27,5	18,9	53,6	27,6	20,6	51,8
Number of children									
0	32,6	17,6	49,9	33,8	12,8	53,4	33,1	15,1	51,8
1	25,1	30,8	44,2	32,0	28,3	39,7	28,7	29,5	41,8
2	25,2	21,6	53,2	24,1	19,0	56,9	24,5	20,0	55,5
3	23,1	25,6	51,3	18,6	24,8	56,6	19,8	25,0	55,2
4	10,2	31,1	58,8	16,3	28,1	55,6	14,7	28,9	56,4
5+ ²⁷	0,0	59,5	40,5	13,7	27,0	59,3	11,9	31,4	56,8

²⁵ Small number of observations.

3.7.4. Reproductive intentions

Reproductive intentions are an important piece of information about having children. In the GGS, respondents were asked if they intend to have children in the next 3 years²⁶. To calculate the percentage of men and women who intend to have children in the next 3 years, those who answered 'probably yes' and 'definitely yes' were taken into account.

The results show that the highest share of women and men intending to have children in the next 3 years is observed among childless individuals in the younger age groups – up to 30 years for men and up to 25 years for women (*Table 3.7.4.1.*).

The share of men intending to have children in the next 3 years is low among those having one child. Only about every tenth between the ages of 25 and 39 expressed this intention, and 1 in 20 among those aged 40-49. Notably, men with two or more children are more likely to have reproductive intentions. Thus, in the 25-29 and 35-39 age groups every fifth man intends to have children in the next 3 years, and in the 30-34 age group – almost every fourth. Among childless women, about every fifth in the 15-19 and 20-24 age groups intends to have children in the next 3 years.

The highest share of men and women who intend to have children in the next 3 years is recorded in the central and southern regions, the lowest being reported in Chisinau municipality. In terms of marital status, the share of unmarried (single) men who do not have children but intend to have them in the next 3 years is 40.8%, and for unmarried (single) women without children – 26.2%. At the same time, the share of cohabiting men who do not have children but intend to have them in the next 3 years is about twice as high as that of women, namely 14.1% and 6.5%.

By level of education, we find a lower share of men with higher education and without children among those intending to have them in the next 3 years (14.8%). For childless women, the education level does not make a difference in terms of reproductive intentions.

²⁶ Questionnaire question 'Do you intend to have a/another child in the next 3 years? Please take into account only biological children and do not include any current pregnancies'.

TABLE 3.7.4.1. Distribution of men and women aged 15-49 intending to have children in the next 3 years depending on the number of children they already have, in %

	Men			Women		
	Number of children			Number of children		
	0	1	2+	0	1	2+
Total	18,1	7,4	14,6	7,5	8,7	16,6
Age group						
15-19	26,2	0,0	0,0	21,6	1,9	0,5
20-24	37,7	4,7	2,6	23,1	14,1	8,7
25-29	30,0	11,5	19,3	6,9	16,4	24,7
30-34	15,3	9,2	24,5	4,4	10,7	25,1
35-39	9,9	9,9	21,7	2,9	7,8	24,4
40-44	8,6	6,4		2,9	4,3	15,1
45-49	4,3	5,7	15,1	0,5	3,0	4,5
Region						
Chisinau	18,1	6,5	7,7	10,4	8,7	9,7
North	20,5	10,8	14,0	7,5	11,1	12,3
Centre	18,7	8,8	16,2	6,4	8,2	21,6
South	15,7	4,0	18,4	6,9	7,4	19,2
Education						
Lower secondary	19,2	6,8	13,3	6,7	6,7	19,6
General secondary	22,5	8,8	15,5	11,1	7,6	15,4
Vocational secondary	17,5	5,5	16,8	4,1	9,4	18,6
Post-secondary vocational	18,1	9,6	14,0	8,8	11,2	13,2
Higher	14,8	6,1	15,3	7,7	11,0	14,8

Marital status						
Married	2,2	9,5	25,3	2,0	9,4	21,2
Cohabitation	14,1	10,6	16,0	6,5	9,7	16,5
Divorced/separated	4,9	22,1	18,0	2,8	13,2	17,4
Solitary	40,8	2,5	1,2	26,2	5,8	4,0
Widow	-	-	-	-	-	-
Occupational status						
Employee	15,6	7,4	14,6	7,5	8,0	15,4
Self-employed	11,0	14,8	21,5	7,8	9,1	5,1
Unemployed	18,5	6,7	20,0	4,7	12,9	11,9
Another situation	24,5	5,4	8,6	8,1	8,5	18,8
Welfare quintile						
Quintile I	24,2	7,6	16,4	8,7	7,2	12,1
Quintile II	24,0	6,9	12,7	8,2	10,6	13,5
Quintile III	16,7	11,2	13,6	8,2	9,6	18,0
Quintile IV	18,6	8,5	16,1	6,8	8,7	18,8
Quintile V	15,7	5,7	15,5	5,8	7,9	18,7
Disability degree						
Severe	19,7	9,5	4,6	5,4	4,1	9,7
Medium	13,3	6,9	14,6	6,6	7,0	13,2
No disabilities	19,1	7,5	15,0	8,0	9,6	18,3

In rural areas, the share of people with two or more children who intend to have children in the next three years is significantly higher in the 25 to 44 age groups than in the same groups in urban areas (*Table 3.7.4.2.*).

By marital status, we see that the share of people from urban areas who are cohabiting and have no children but intend to have them in the next 3 years is about twice as high as in rural areas.

TABLE 3.7.4.2. Distribution of population aged 15-49 intending to have children in the next 3 years, for the total population and by area of residence, depending on the number of children they already have, in %

	Urban			Rural			Total		
	Number of children			Number of children			Number of children		
	0	1	2+	0	1	2+	0	1	2+
Total	14,3	8,7	12,7	11,9	7,7	17,6	12,9	8,1	15,6
Age group									
15-19	23,3	0,0	0,0	24,5	1,5	0,4	24,1	0,9	0,2
20-24	29,5	7,7	2,6	31,4	10,6	8,1	30,6	9,3	5,6
25-29	22,2	14,3	11,1	16,2	13,6	21,2	18,7	13,9	17,0
30-34	12,7	11,1	17,9	7,5	9,0	25,9	9,9	10,0	22,2
35-39	5,3	9,0	20,5	7,3	8,7	27,5	6,4	8,8	24,4
40-44	6,6	7,3	16,2	5,2	4,2	19,6	5,7	5,3	18,4
45-49	3,0	3,7	9,7	2,1	4,5	9,5	2,4	4,3	9,6
Region									
Chisinau	14,8	8,2	7,6	12,1	4,4	14,5	14,3	7,6	8,7
North	14,7	13,2	14,1	12,7	9,1	12,2	13,6	10,9	13,1
Centre	15,0	8,0	16,8	11,8	8,6	19,5	12,5	8,5	18,9
South	12,1	4,6	19,1	11,4	6,0	18,7	11,6	5,6	18,8
Education									
Lower secondary	17,3	6,7	13,0	11,9	6,8	17,4	13,3	6,8	16,3
General secondary	21,6	7,5	9,7	12,6	8,7	20,1	16,6	8,2	15,5
Vocational secondary	9,1	7,7	14,6	12,4	7,2	19,0	11,3	7,3	17,6
Post-secondary vocational	14,6	11,4	10,2	12,1	9,5	16,8	13,3	10,5	13,6
Higher	11,2	9,4	15,1	10,0	7,4	14,9	10,8	8,8	15,0
Marital status									
Married	2,7	10,9	19,8	1,7	8,5	25,0	2,1	9,4	23,0
Cohabitation	14,0	7,5	10,9	8,0	11,8	19,7	10,4	10,1	16,2
Divorced/separated	4,7	21,7	13,0	2,9	13,2	22,6	3,8	17,6	17,7
Solitary	38,6	2,7	2,0	34,4	4,1	2,2	36,1	3,6	2,1
Widow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Occupational status									
Employee	14,2	8,3	13,3	9,3	6,9	16,7	11,9	7,7	14,9
Self-employed	10,6	11,0	17,4	10,4	15,7	19,8	10,5	13,8	18,8
Unemployed	12,0	10,9	12,7	14,8	7,7	19,4	14,0	8,7	17,3
Another situation	16,1	8,0	11,3	12,8	7,1	17,2	13,9	7,4	15,2
Welfare quintile									
Quintile I	10,7	3,0	14,2	20,2	9,5	14,6	17,2	7,4	14,4
Quintile II	20,5	9,4	10,8	14,6	8,4	13,9	16,2	8,7	13,1
Quintile III	13,9	10,0	15,6	11,5	10,6	16,0	12,4	10,4	15,8
Quintile IV	12,7	11,7	14,1	12,7	6,7	19,5	12,7	8,6	17,5
Quintile V	12,3	7,9	11,2	8,5	5,9	22,8	10,4	6,9	17,2
Disability degree									
Severe	15,0	6,1	6,6	9,1	7,2	7,9	12,1	6,7	7,3
Medium	10,9	6,4	11,7	8,1	7,3	15,3	9,3	6,9	13,8
No disabilities	15,2	9,5	13,3	13,1	7,8	18,6	13,9	8,5	16,5

The GGS asked whether respondents intended to have more children. The question was worded as follows: ‘Supposing you do not have a/another child during the next three years, do you intend to have any (more) children at all?’ To determine the share of women and men who intend to have any more children, the response options ‘probably yes’ and ‘definitely yes’ were taken into account (*Table 3.7.4.3.*).

The survey results show that of the total number of men aged 15-49 who already have a child, only 6.7% responded that they intend to have more children. The share of women of the same age with a child who intend to have more children is also low – 7.1%. At the same time, 15.4% of men and 17.8% of women with 2 or more children intend to have more children.

Among men with one child, a higher share of those intending to have more children was recorded in the age groups between 25 and 29 (10.5%), 30 and 34 (8.8%) and 35 to 39 (8.2%). Among women with one child, about every tenth woman aged 20 to 34 plans to have more children.

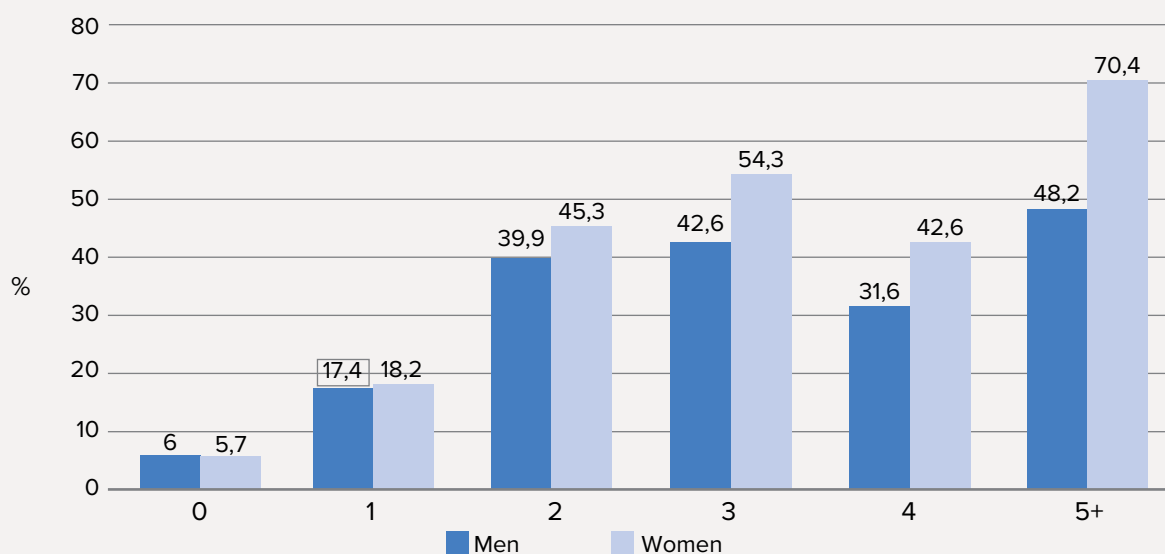
TABLE 3.7.4.3. Distribution of men and women with one child, two children and more (2+), who intend to have more children, in %

	Men		Women	
	Number of children		Number of children	
	1	2+	1	2+
Total	6,7	15,4	7,1	17,8
Age group				
15-19	0,0	0,0	2,4	0,5
20-24	3,7	2,6	10,8	8,3
25-29	10,5	11,5	10,8	27,2
30-34	8,8	20,1	10,3	28,5
35-39	8,2	25,9	6,6	24,4
40-44	6,0	24,3	3,6	14,4
45-49	5,0	12,4	2,0	6,2
Region				
Chisinau	5,3	8,1	5,3	11,5
North	10,4	15,4	10,0	13,1
Centre	7,1	15,8	7,1	23,0
South	4,5	20,4	5,7	19,6
Education				
Lower secondary	5,6	15,3	5,6	20,0
General secondary	9,3	12,7	6,2	18,4
Vocational secondary	4,2	17,7	8,6	21,6
Post-secondary vocational	7,5	13,7	9,1	13,6
Higher	8,0	16,7	7,7	14,8
Marital status				
Married	8,7	26,3	7,0	23,2
In cohabitation	8,9	19,3	10,2	15,3
Divorced/separated	20,9	17,9	10,5	14,4
Solitary	1,9	1,5	5,8	4,1
Widow	18,7	30,4	0,0	16,8
Occupational status				
Employee	7,5	16,2	7,0	16,1
Self-employed	6,5	18,5	6,7	6,9
Unemployed	7,5	19,4	10,5	11,6
Another situation	5,1	10,3	6,4	20,5

Welfare quintile				
Quintile I	9,1	14,7	6,5	10,9
Quintile II	6,4	12,7	11,2	15,0
Quintile III	9,8	16,5	7,9	18,3
Quintile IV	7,5	14,9	5,7	17,6
Quintile V	4,9	15,5	5,0	20,6
Disability degree				
Severe	12,2	6,3	5,6	5,4
Medium	6,1	13,6	5,5	14,1
No disabilities	6,6	15,8	7,7	19,8

In the survey, respondents were asked whether they wanted to have more children. The breakdown of the responses of men and women (*Figure 3.7.1.*) who do not want to have any more children shows that only a small share – 6% of men and 5.7% of women – neither had children nor wished to have children. A fairly similar percentage of men and women who have only one child (17.4% and 18.2% respectively) do not want to have more children. About 40% of men and 45.3% of women with two children no longer want to have children. These results correspond to some extent to the structure of women by the number of children born towards the end of the reproductive period, which confirms the rigorous planning of births within marriages/relationships. Among the respondents who have three children, only 42.6% of men and 54.3% of women no longer want to have children. Among the respondents with four children, the share of those who no longer want to have children is lower than among those with two or three children. Only among the respondents with 5 or more children does the share of those who no longer want children increase considerably, especially among women (but their numbers were small in the sample, so the result may be too small to be relevant).

FIGURE 3.7.1. Share of men and women who no longer wish to have children based on the number of children they already have (biological and adopted)





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4. FAMILY PLANNING

4.1. Current use of contraceptive methods

The contraceptive prevalence rate and the share of unmet need for family planning are key indicators for measuring improvement in access to sexual and reproductive health care services, as mentioned in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Target 3.7. 'By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes'²⁷.

Contraceptive prevalence is defined as the percentage of women of reproductive age who are using, or whose partners are using, any method of contraception at a given time. As a rule, the use of contraception is measured among married or cohabiting women aged between 15 and 49, but it can also be calculated for other groups of women, e.g. unmarried women and all women of reproductive age.²⁸

Contraceptive use is influenced by people's reproductive intentions, the availability of high-quality products and services, by social norms and values, education levels and other factors such as marriage models and traditional birth spacing practices. It is an indicator of population and health, particularly highlighting women's access to reproductive health services which are key to achieving many health goals such as those related to child mortality, maternal health, STI/HIV and gender equality. The level of contraceptive use has a direct and significant influence on the total fertility rate and, through it, on the population growth rate.

The GGS provides data on fertility/birth control methods in the Republic of Moldova, providing an opportunity to highlight differences in contraceptive behaviour between generations and between different socio-demographic population groups. For the Family Planning chapter of the GGS questionnaire, the respondents who had a sexual partner at the time of the interview were given a list of modern and traditional methods of contraception, from which they chose the methods they used to prevent pregnancy. The question was addressed to women of reproductive age (15-49 years). Where several methods were chosen, only the one with the highest efficiency was selected. Pregnant women at the time of the interview and infertile women were excluded from being respondents as per the methodology.

²⁷ <https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/data/world-contraceptive-use>

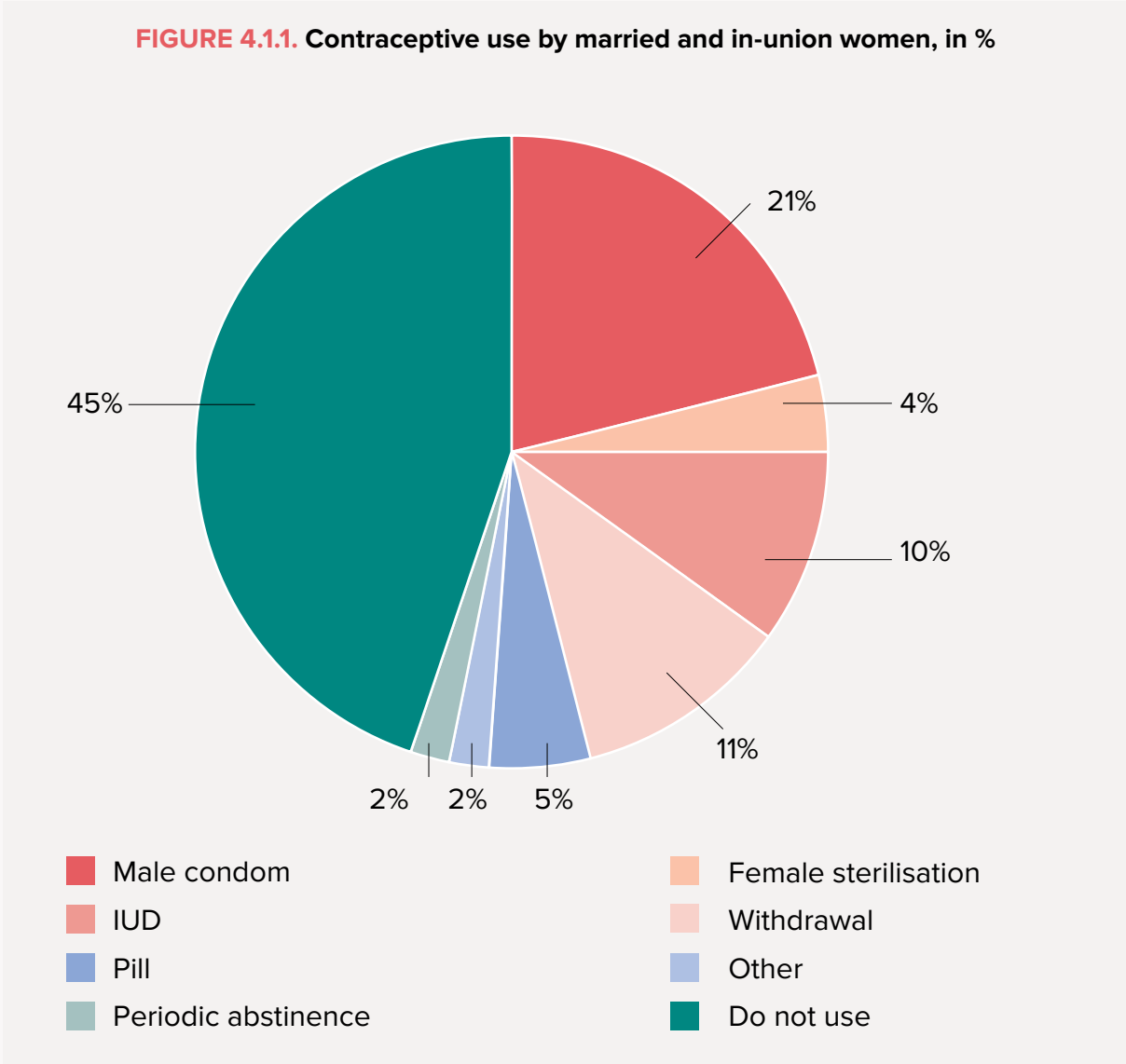
²⁸ <https://www.who.int/data/gho/indicator-metadata-registry/imr-details/5>

The contraceptive prevalence rate among married and cohabiting women equals the number of married and cohabiting women aged 15-49 who currently use any method of contraception divided by the total number of married and cohabiting women aged 15-49.

In GGS, the contraceptive prevalence rate was calculated and analysed for all women of reproductive age (15-49 years), including those married or cohabiting.

More than half of married or cohabiting women (55.1%) from the Republic of Moldova use contraception (*Table 4.1.1*). Modern methods are more frequently used (42.4%) than traditional ones (12.7%). Contraceptive use is lower among unmarried women (28.9%), as expected, since it is measured among sexually active and sexually inactive unmarried women (as per methodology)²⁹31, so the latter do not need family planning at this time.

The most popular method of contraception is the male condom, used by about 21 percent of married or cohabiting women (*Figure 4.1.1*).



The condom ranks as the most common modern method of contraception used by all women, married, cohabiting and unmarried, regardless of age group.

²⁹ The contraceptive prevalence rate among unmarried women equals the number of unmarried women aged 15-49 using any method of contraception divided by the total number of sexually active and sexually inactive unmarried women aged 15-49.

Another popular modern method of contraception is the IUD, which is used by 10 percent of married or cohabiting women. Unmarried women, as expected, use IUDs less often (3.0%).

About 5% of married and cohabiting women use birth control pills, more commonly those aged 20-24 (6.4%) and 25-29 (6.8%).

In order to limit births, married or cohabiting women use long-acting contraceptive methods such as IUDs or permanent – female surgical sterilisation (4.3%). As women age, the use of surgical sterilisation increases, reaching 10 per cent among women aged 45-49.

While some women prefer modern methods of contraception, including long-acting or permanent ones, others remain faithful to traditional methods, even though they are much less effective. About 13 percent of married and cohabiting women use traditional methods of contraception. One of the most used traditional methods is withdrawal, used by 11.2% of married or cohabiting women, ranking second among the contraceptive methods used.

An insignificant number of women use periodic abstinence (less than 2%), vaginal methods such as diaphragm/foam/jelly (less than 1%), injectables (less than 1%). Male sterilisation is not yet popular among men in the Republic of Moldova and hormonal implants have not yet reached the domestic market.

There is a slow upward trend in contraceptive use with advancing age, from 56.1% among the younger generation (20-24 years) of married or cohabiting women, reaching 58.4% for 35–39-year-olds and decreasing (46.0%) towards the end of the fertile period (Figure 4.1.2.).

FIGURE 4.1.2. Contraceptive prevalence among women aged 15-49, married or in-union, by age group, in %

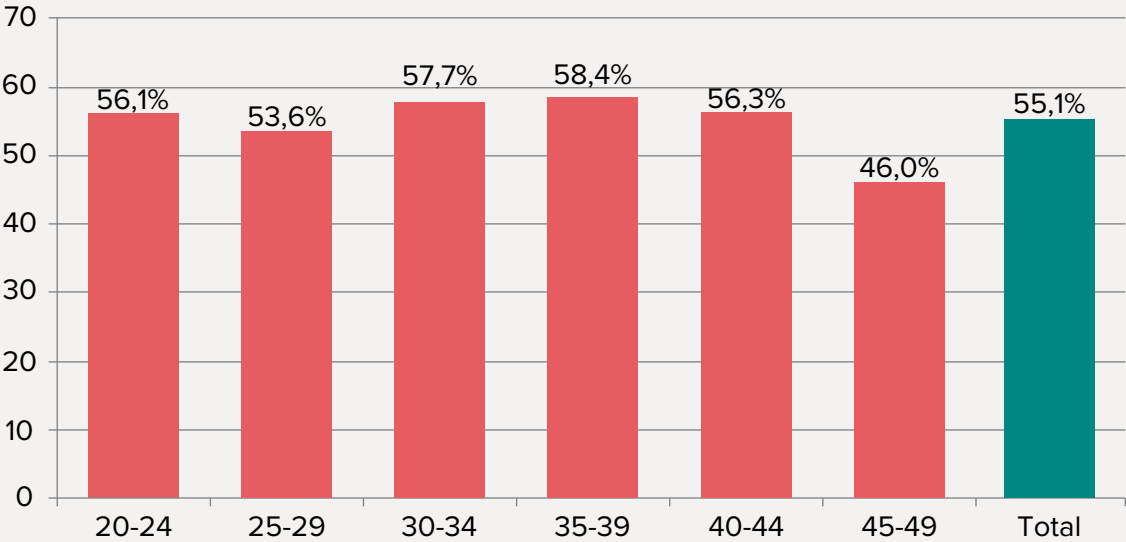


TABLE 4.1.1. Distribution of all women of reproductive age (15-49 years), married/cohabiting and unmarried, by current contraceptive method and age, in %

Age group	Any method	Modern methods													Traditional methods			
		Any modern method	Female sterilisati	Male sterilisatio	IUD	Implant	Injectables	Pills	Emergency contracepti	Male condom	Female Condom	Diaphragm, foam/jelly	LAM	Other modern methods	Any traditional method	Periodic abstinence (Rhythm)	Withdrawal	Other traditional methods
ALL WOMEN																		
Total	48,8	38,1	3,9	0,1	8,1	0,1	0,2	4,8	0,2	19,4	0,2	0,2	0,5	0,5	10,7	1,3	9,4	0,0
15-19	17,5	16,8	0	0	0,6	0,0	0,0	0,6	0,0	13,8	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,8	0,6	0,0	0,6	0,0
20-24	47,7	34,3	0,0	0,0	4,3	0,0	0,0	4,8	0,87	23,8	0,0	0,0	0,5	0,0	13,4	1,3	12,1	0,0
25-29	50,4	37,1	0,9	0,3	8,6	0,0	0,0	6,2	0,0	19,2	0,3	0,0	1,0	0,6	13,3	2,1	11,2	0,0
30-34	56,2	44,9	3,4	0,0	10,0	0,0	0,2	5,6	0,2	22,9	0,0	0,2	1,5	0,9	11,3	1,6	9,7	0,0
35-39	55,5	40,8	3,7	0,0	9,6	0,0	0,8	5,1	0,2	19,6	0,2	0,0	0,7	0,9	14,7	1,0	13,7	0,0
40-44	55,4	45,1	7,3	0,3	9,0	0,5	0,3	4,5	0,0	21,1	0,5	0,5	0,3	0,8	10,3	0,8	9,5	0,0
45-49	42,0	35,8	9,5	0,0	8,5	0,0	0,0	4,1	0,0	12,1	0,0	0,5	0,0	0,7	6,2	1,3	4,9	0,0
MARRIED OR COHABITING WOMEN																		
Total	55,1	42,4	4,3	0,1	9,7	0,1	0,3	5,3	0,2	21,0	0,2	0,2	0,7	0,5	12,7	1,5	11,2	0,00
15-19	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
20-24	56,1	38,9	0,0	0,0	5,1	0,0	0,0	6,4	0,6	26,1	0,0	0,0	0,7	0,0	17,2	1,9	15,3	0,0
25-29	54,1	39,7	1,0	0,4	9,9	0,0	0,0	6,8	0,0	19,5	0,4	0,0	1,1	0,7	14,4	2,4	12,0	0,0
30-34	58,4	46,6	3,5	0,0	10,9	0,0	0,2	5,1	0,2	24,0	0,0	0,2	1,5	1,0	11,8	1,4	10,4	0,0
35-39	58,6	42,8	4,1	0,0	9,7	0,0	1,0	5,1	0,2	20,7	0,2	0,0	0,8	1,0	15,8	1,2	14,6	0,0
40-44	57,3	45,9	7,7	0,0	10,5	0,3	0,3	4,3	0,0	20,7	0,3	0,6	0,3	0,6	11,4	0,9	10,5	0,0
45-49	45,6	38,4	10,0	0,0	10,0	0,0	0,0	4,5	0,0	12,4	0,0	0,7	0,0	0,9	7,2	1,4	5,8	0,0
UNMARRIED WOMEN																		
Total	28,9	24,8	2,3	0,1	3,0	0,4	0,2	3,3	0,2	13,9	0,2	0,4	0,2	0,7	4,1	0,5	3,6	0,0
15-19	12,2	11,5	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,7	0,0	0,7	0,0	9,4	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,7	0,7	0,0	0,7	0,0
20-24	29,3	25,3	0,0	0,0	2,7	0,0	0,0	1,3	1,3	18,7	0,0	1,3	0,0	0,0	4,0	0,0	4,0	0,0
25-29	31,1	24,4	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	2,2	2,2	0,0	15,6	2,2	2,2	0,0	0,0	6,7	0,0	6,7	0,0
30-34	41,0	34,9	3,0	0,0	4,5	0,0	0,0	9,1	0,0	15,2	0,0	0,0	1,6	1,5	6,1	3,0	3,0	0,0
35-39	38,5	29,5	1,3	0,0	9,0	0,0	0,0	5,1	0,0	14,1	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	9,0	0,0	9,0	0,0
40-44	44,2	39,0	5,2	0,0	3,9	1,3	0,0	5,2	0,0	22,1	0,0	0,0	0,0	1,3	5,2	0,0	5,2	0,0
45-49	29,9	26,8	8,2	1,0	4,1	0,0	0,0	3,1	0,0	9,3	0,0	0,0	0,0	1,0	3,1	1,0	2,1	0,0

Note: Df several methods are used, only the most efficient one is considered in this table.

LAM – Lactational amenorrhea method.

IUD – Intrauterine device

The ‘Other modern methods’ category includes: vaginal ring, vaginal sponge and combined patch.

* refers to a figure based on fewer than 25 cases that has been suppressed.

Due to rounding, totals for contraceptive methods do not always add up.

4.2. Differences in contraceptive use according to baseline characteristics studied

The GGS examined contraceptive use by all women of reproductive age (15-49 years), married/in-union and unmarried, to identify similarities and differences between these groups. Contraceptive use was assessed according to several socio-demographic characteristics, such as region, area of residence, level of education, occupational status, level of prosperity, etc.

Comparative analysis of the groups of women (all women of reproductive age, married/in-union and unmarried women) based on the baseline characteristics studied revealed similar trends in contraceptive use but also differences. It was found, as expected, that married and in-union women (55.1%) used contraception more often compared to all women (48.8%) and unmarried women (28.9%). The same trend is true for modern methods of contraception (42.4%; 38.1% and 24.8% respectively).

Region and area of residence influence contraceptive prevalence rates with some differences between the groups of women assessed. Urban women, especially from Chisinau, are the most frequent users of contraceptive methods, regardless of the group to which they belong, and this is also true for modern methods.

Occupational status influences contraceptive use, with the highest rate of contraceptive use among employed women. This pattern was characteristic of all three groups of women.

The level of education equally influences the rate of contraceptive use in all groups of women of reproductive age analysed in the survey, i.e. as the level of education increases, so does the contraceptive prevalence rate, including for modern methods.

A woman's level of prosperity does not have much impact on contraceptive use. Married or in-union women in quintile I use less contraception (45.2%) than women in other quintiles (54.2-60.2%). A similar pattern is observed among all women and single women.

4.2.1. Current use of contraceptive methods by married and in-union women aged 15-49, by characteristics studied

More than half of married or in-union women aged 15-49 (55.1%) use some form of contraception (*Table 4.2.1.1*). Modern methods are used more often (42.4%) compared to traditional methods (12.7%).

Married or cohabiting women from the centre of the country use contraceptive methods more frequently (57.1%), especially those from Chisinau (62.6%), especially modern methods. In the north of the country, IUDs (12.6%) and contraceptive pills (6.5%) are used more often. As for the use of traditional methods, the reverse is true: 17.1% of women from the south of the country use these methods, especially that of withdrawal (15.9%).

The area of residence influences individuals' contraceptive decisions. Urban women use modern methods of contraception more frequently (59.9%) than rural women (52.13%), choosing to use mostly male condoms (25.8%) and pills (5.9%). The IUD is equally popular among married and in-union women (9.7%) from both urban and rural areas. Withdrawal remains a traditional method preferred by 11 percent of women from both areas of residence.

There is an interdependence between the level of education and the use of contraception: as the level of education of women increases, the contraceptive prevalence rate gradually increases, reaching a maximum value for women with higher education (64.3%). Male condoms (29.2%), IUDs (11.5%) and pills (7.2%) are more commonly used by women with higher education, and withdrawal by women with secondary education (14.1%).

Occupational status plays a decisive role in contraceptive use. This is confirmed by the fact that the highest contraceptive prevalence rate is found among employed women (58.0%) compared to unemployed women (48.2%). Employed women more frequently choose a modern method of contraception (45.3%) than unemployed women (37.0%). Traditional methods are more frequently used by women who have 'other' occupational status (13.1%).

The level of prosperity does not directly influence the share of contraceptive use among women in income quintiles II-V, with the lowest value (45.2%) among women in income quintile I. At the same time, only 29.2% of women in quintile I use modern methods of contraception and 14% use withdrawal.

The modern methods of contraception are more often used by married or in-union women from Chisinau (62.6%), by those with higher education (64.3%) and by employed women (58.0%). Although the traditional methods are less effective in preventing pregnancy, they are still more commonly used by women from the south of the country (17.1%), by those with secondary education (15.8%) and those in the first income quintile.

TABLE 4.2.1.1. Distribution of women of reproductive age (15-49 years), married or in-union, by contraceptive method currently used and characteristics studied, in %

Characteristics studied	Any method	Modern methods													Traditional methods			
		Any modern method	Female sterilisation	Male sterilisation	IUD	Implant	Injectables	Pills	Emergency contraceptives	Male condom	Female condom	Diaphragm/foam/jelly	LAM	Other modern methods	Any traditional method	Periodic abstinence (Rhythm)	Withdrawal	Other traditional methods
Total	55,1	42,4	4,3	0,1	9,7	0,1	0,3	5,3	0,2	21,0	0,2	0,2	0,7	0,5	12,7	1,5	11,2	0,0
Region																		
Chisinau	62,6	51,6	2,7	0,0	7,4	0,0	0,3	4,8	0,0	33,3	0,3	0,0	1,5	1,3	11,0	0,0	11,0	0,0
North	54,0	40,8	4,2	0,0	12,6	0,0	0,2	6,5	0,0	15,2	0,3	0,5	1,1	0,2	13,2	1,3	11,9	0,0
Centre	57,1	46,4	6,1	0,2	11,6	0,1	0,3	4,3	0,4	21,6	0,1	0,2	0,8	0,7	10,7	2,5	8,2	0,0
South	48,1	31,0	2,7	0,0	5,4	0,0	0,4	6,0	0,0	15,3	0,0	0,2	0,0	1,0	17,1	1,2	15,9	0,0
Area of residence																		
Urban	59,9	47,0	4,0	0,0	9,7	0,0	0,2	5,9	0,0	25,8	0,1	0,2	0,8	0,3	12,9	1,7	11,2	0,0
Rural	52,1	39,5	4,6	0,1	9,7	0,1	0,3	4,9	0,3	18,0	0,2	0,2	0,5	0,6	12,6	1,4	11,2	0,0
Education																		
Primary	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Lower secondary	51,4	35,6	5,9	0,0	10,6	0,0	0,2	4,7	0,2	12,5	0,2	0,0	0,6	0,7	15,8	1,7	14,1	0,0
General secondary	55,8	44,4	3,1	0,0	8,4	0,3	0,9	5,3	0,0	25,4	0,0	0,3	0,0	0,7	11,4	1,6	9,8	0,0
Vocational secondary	51,2	40,3	5,1%	0,3	8,9	0,0	0,3	5,2	0,3	18,6	0,0	0,6	0,4	0,6	10,9	1,1	9,8	0,0
Post-secondary vocational	53,4	39,2	2,2	0,0	7,5	0,0	0,0	3,4	0,3	23,3	0,4	0,4	1,3	0,8	14,2	1,2	13,0	0,0
Higher	64,3	54,1	3,1	0,0	11,5	0,0	0,2	7,2	0,0	29,2	0,2	0,2	1,5	1,0	10,2	1,6	8,6	0,0
Occupational status																		
Employee	58,0	45,3	4,4	0,0	11,5	0,1	0,5	6,3	0,3	20,5	0,0	0,2	0,5	1,0	12,7	1,4	11,3	0,0
Self-employed	(56,8)	(46,2)	(6,5)	(0,0)	(4,0)	(0,0)	(0,0)	(8,4)	(0,0)	(25,1)	(0,0)	(2,2)	(0,0)	(0,0)	(10,6)	(0,0)	(10,6)	(0,0)
Retired	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Unemployed	48,2	37,0	5,3	0,7	9,7	0,0	0,0	5,7	0,0	15,2	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,6	11,2	0,0	11,2	0,0
Another	55,1	42,0	4,0	0,0	8,7	0,0	0,2	4,3	0,1	22,1	0,3	0,2	1,3	0,8	13,1	1,9	11,2	0,0
Welfare quintile																		
Quintile I	(45,2)	(29,2)	(3,6)	(0,0)	(6,6)	(0,0)	(0,0)	(1,5)	(0,0)	(17,5)	(0,0)	(0,0)	(0,0)	(0,0)	(16,0)	(2,0)	(14,0)	(0,0)
Quintile II	56,0	48,1	5,0	0,5	8,5	0,4	0,8	7,6	0,0	23,5	0,0	0,4	1,0	0,4	7,9	0,4	7,5	0,0
Quintile III	60,2	48,7	3,3	0,0	11,1	0,0	0,2	5,8	0,3	24,9	0,4	0,4	1,2	1,1	11,5	0,3	11,2	0,0
Quintile IV	57,0	41,2	4,1	0,0	8,9	0,0	0,4	4,2	0,4	21,4	0,0	0,0	1,0	0,9	15,8	1,6	14,2	0,0
Quintile V	54,2	39,9	5,4	0,0	9,5	0,0	0,3	5,2	0,0	18,1	0,1	0,3	0,5	0,5	14,3	2,3	12,0	0,0

Note: If several methods are used, only the most efficient one is considered in this table.

LAM – Lactational amenorrhoea method

IUD – Intrauterine device

The 'Other modern methods' category includes: vaginal ring, vaginal sponge and combined patch.

* refers to a figure based on fewer than 25 cases that has been suppressed.

Figures in brackets are based on less than 100 cases.

Due to rounding, the totals for modern methods of contraception do not always add up.

4.2.2. Current contraceptive use by unmarried women aged 15-49 by characteristics studied

As expected, the contraceptive prevalence rate among unmarried women (28.9%) is lower (*Table 4.2.2.1*) than among married or in-union women (55.1%).

According to *Table 4.1.1.*, depending on the age of the women, we find that the highest prevalence rate of contraceptive use (44.2%) is among women aged 40-44, followed by those in the 30-34 age group (41%) and 35-39 age group (38.5%). With increasing age, the contraceptive prevalence rate decreases, reaching 29.9% for women aged 45-49. The modern methods of contraception are used more often in the 30-44 age group (34.9%) and the traditional methods – by women aged 35-39 (9.0%). The male condom is most commonly used in the 20-24 age group (18.7%), IUDs – by women aged 35-39 (9%) and contraceptive pills – by unmarried women aged 30-34 (9.1%).

In terms of occupational status, there is a similar distribution for married and cohabiting women. Among employed women, the contraceptive prevalence rate is highest, at 39 percent. At the same time, employed women use modern methods more frequently (35%) compared to other categories, e.g. unemployed women (17.8%).

Traditional methods are more commonly used by self-employed women (11.2%). Analysing the use of contraception depending on the region and area of residence, we see that unmarried women from the north of the country and those from rural areas have a lower share of contraceptive use (17.7% and 25.2% respectively), while it should be noted that women from Chisinau use modern methods much more frequently (39.6%) than women from other regions (15.7%-24.8%).

There is a direct relationship between the level of education and contraceptive use rate, women with post-secondary vocational and higher education (38%) use contraception more frequently than those with general secondary education (about 20%) or primary education (7.1%). The same pattern is true for the use of modern methods of contraception. Condoms (22%) and pills (8.4%) are more commonly used by unmarried women with higher education, and withdrawal – by women with secondary education (4.7%).

The level of prosperity of unmarried women does not significantly influence the contraceptive prevalence rate. At the same time, it is found that women in the first income quintile use modern contraception less often (about 24%), opting more often for the permanent method of contraception – female surgical sterilisation (3.8%) and the traditional method of withdrawal (8.6%).

Based on the characteristics studied, we find that the modern methods of contraception are more popular among unmarried women from Chisinau (about 40.0%), employed women (35%) and women with post-secondary vocational and higher education (about 45%). Although the traditional methods are less effective in preventing pregnancy, they are still used by women from the south of the country (8.6%), unemployed women (11.2%), by those with secondary education (5.3%) and those in the first income quintile (8.6%).

TABLE 4.2.2.1. Distribution of unmarried women of reproductive age (15-49 years) by contraceptive method currently used and characteristics studied, in %

Characteristics studied	Any method	Metode moderne													Traditional methods			
		Any modern method	Female sterilisati	Male sterilisati	IUDs	Implant	Injectables	Pills	Emergency contracepti	Male Condoms	Female Condoms	Diaphragm, foam/jelly	LAM	Other modern	Any traditional method	Withdrawal	Periodic abstinence (Rhythm)	Other traditional methods
Total	28,9	24,8	2,3	0,1	3,0	0,4	0,2	3,3	0,2	13,9	0,2	0,4	0,2	0,7	4,1	3,6	0,5	0,0
Region																		
Chisinau	44,0	39,6	1,3	0,6	2,6	0,0	0,0	8,0	0,8	23,2	0,0	1,6	0,0	1,5	4,4	4,4	0,0	0,0
North	17,7	15,7	2,6	0,0	3,3	0,9	0,0	2,1	0,0	6,8	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	2,1	1,4	0,7	0,0
Centre	26,9	24,8	2,6	0,0	3,8	0,0	0,0	2,7	0,0	13,9	0,7	0,0	0,7	0,6	2,1	1,0	1,1	0,0
South	28,0	19,4	2,5	0,0	1,9	0,7	0,8	0,6	0,0	12,1	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,7	8,6	8,6	0,0	0,0
Area of residence																		
Rural	25,2	20,6	2,5	0,0	3,4	0,3	0,4	2,3	0,0	10,4	0,4	0,0	0,4	0,6	4,6	4,0	0,6	0,0
Urban	33,5	30,0	2,0	0,3	2,4	0,5	0,0	4,5	0,4	18,3	0,0	0,9	0,0	0,8	3,5	3,1	0,4	0,0
Education																		
Primary	7,1	4,1	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	4,1	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	3,0	3,0	0,0	0,0
Lower secondary	24,9	19,7	2,9	0,0	3,8	1,1	0,6	1,5	0,0	8,0	0,0	0,0	0,7	1,1	5,3	4,7	0,5	0,0
General secondary	29,4	26,9	0,8	0,0	2,5	0,0	0,0	1,7	1,0	19,8	1,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	2,6	2,6	0,0	0,0
Vocational secondary	24,9	20,0	2,2	0,0	2,7	0,0	0,0	2,5	0,0	11,2	0,0	0,0	0,0	1,3	4,9	3,8	1,1	0,0
Post-secondary vocational	38,6	35,7	6,2	0,0	4,9	0,0	0,0	5,2	0,0	16,8	0,0	1,5	0,0	1,2	2,9	1,5	1,4	0,0
Higher	38,6	34,8	0,8	0,8	1,6	0,0	0,0	8,4	0,0	22,0	0,0	1,1	0,0	0,0	3,8	3,8	0,0	0,0
Occupational status																		
Employee	39,1	35,0	1,9	0,0	4,2	0,0	0,0	6,9	0,0	20,3	0,6	0,6	0,0	0,5	4,1	3,7	0,4	0,0
Self-employed	11,2	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	11,2	11,2	0,0	0,0
Retired	37,6	31,1	7,6	1,2	8,1	1,3	0,0	1,2	0,0	10,2	0,0	0,0	1,6	0,0	6,4	5,0	1,4	0,0
Unemployed	21,3	17,8	1,4	0,0	1,2	0,4	0,4	1,7	0,3	11,3	0,0	0,3	0,0	0,9	3,5	3,2	0,3	0,0
Another	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Welfare quintile																		
Quintile I	33,3	24,7	3,8	0,0	4,0	0,0	0,0	2,0	2,3	7,1	0,0	0,0	2,8	2,6	8,6	8,6	0,0	0,0
Quintile II	33,9	29,4	2,2	0,0	5,5	0,0	0,0	1,0	0,0	16,9	1,4	1,4	0,0	1,1	4,5	4,5	0,0	0,0
Quintile III	29,2	25,2	2,5	0,0	3,1	1,2	0,0	3,8	0,0	14,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,6	4,0	3,4	0,6	0,0
Quintile IV	27,7	24,0	0,0	1,2	2,3	0,0	0,0	2,5	0,0	16,5	0,0	1,5	0,0	0,0	3,6	3,6	0,0	0,0
Quintile V	30,8	27,0	2,9	0,0	2,2	0,0	0,9	5,2	0,0	15,1	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,7	3,9	3,2	0,7	0,0

Note: If several methods are used, only the most efficient one is considered in this table.

LAM – Lactational amenorrhea method

IUD – Intrauterine device

The 'Other modern methods' category includes: vaginal ring, vaginal sponge and combined patch.

* refers to a figure based on fewer than 25 cases that has been suppressed.

Figures in brackets are based on less than 100 cases.

Due to rounding, the totals for modern methods of contraception do not always add up.

4.2.3. Current contraceptive use by all women aged 15-49 according to characteristics studied

Among women aged 15-49 from Moldova, 48.8% use contraception for the purpose of spacing births or limiting the number of children.

Region and area of residence influence women's contraceptive use. According to the data in *Table 4.2.3.1*, urban women are the most frequent users of contraception (53.7%), especially those from Chisinau (57.1%). It should be noted that urban women use modern methods of contraception more frequently than rural women (43.3% and 35.8% respectively), especially contraceptive pills (5.5%) and male condoms (24.1%). Women from the central part of the country were found to use surgical sterilisation about twice as often as women from other regions. It should also be noted that there is no difference in the use of traditional methods of contraception between urban and rural areas of residence (10.4% and 10.9% respectively).

As education levels increase, so does the contraceptive prevalence rate, peaking among women with higher education – 59.2% compared to, for example, 45.9% of women with secondary vocational education. Women with higher education more frequently than women with other levels of education use male condoms (28.0%), contraceptive pills (7.5%) and intrauterine devices (9.6%), while women with secondary and general secondary education prefer the withdrawal method (11.8% and 10.7% respectively).

Occupational status affects the choice of contraception. Of all women of reproductive age, employed women (53.3%) most often use contraceptive methods, with a particular preference for modern methods (42.6%) such as male condoms (19.6%), IUDs (9.9%) and contraceptive pills (6.4%).

Women's level of prosperity does not have much effect on contraceptive use. Yet, it is noteworthy that women in the first income quintile (39.5%) use contraception less than women in the other quintiles (48.8-52.4%).

TABLE 4.2.3.1. Distribution of all women of reproductive age (15-49 years) by current contraceptive method used and characteristics studied, in %

Characteristics studied	Any method	Metode moderne													Traditional methods			
		Any modern method	Male sterilisation	Sterilizare masculină	IUD	Implant	Injectables	Pills	Emergency contracepti	Male condom	Female condom	Diaphragm, foam/jelly	LAM	Other modern methods	Any traditional method	Periodic abstinence (Rhythm)	Withdrawal	Other traditional methods
Total	48,8	38,1	3,9	0,1	8,1	0,1	0,2	4,8	0,2	19,4	0,2	0,2	0,5	0,5	10,7	1,3	9,4	0,0
Region																		
Chisinau	57,1	47,7	2,3	0,0	6,1	0,0	0,2	5,7	0,2	30,8	0,2	0,0	1,1	1,1	9,4	0,0	9,4	0,0
North	44,5	34,1	3,8	0,0	10,2	0,0	0,2	5,4	0,0	13,1	0,2	0,2	0,8	0,2	10,3	1,1	9,2	0,0
Centre	51,5	42,4	5,4	0,1	10,1	0,1	0,2	4,0	0,3	20,2	0,1	0,4	0,8	0,7	9,1	2,2	6,9	0,0
South	43,1	28,1	2,7	0,2	4,4	0,2	0,3	4,6	0,0	14,5	0,2	0,0	0,0	1,0	15,0	0,9	14,1	0,0
Area of residence																		
Urban	53,7	43,3	3,4	0,0	7,6	0,0	0,2	5,5	0,1	24,0	0,1	0,8	0,3	1,3	10,4	1,3	9,1	0,0
Rural	46,7	35,8	4,1	0,1	8,4	0,1	0,2	4,3	0,2	16,5	0,2	0,7	0,6	0,4	10,9	1,2	9,7	0,0
Education																		
Primary	(23,0)	(18,4)	(8,4)	(0,0)	(2,3)	(0,0)	(0,0)	(0,0)	(0,0)	(7,7)	(0,0)	(0,0)	(0,0)	(0,0)	(4,6)	(0,0)	(4,6)	(0,0)
Lower secondary	44,8	31,6	5,2	0,1	8,9	0,1	0,1	3,9	0,1	11,4	0,3	0,0	0,6	0,9	13,2	1,4	11,8	0,0
General secondary	48,9	39,9	2,5	0,0	6,6	0,2	0,7	4,3	0,3	24,2	0,0	0,6	0,0	0,5	9,0	1,2	7,8	0,0
Vocational secondary	45,9	35,9	4,6	0,3	7,7	0,0	0,2	4,7	0,2	17,2	0,0	0,5	0,3	0,5	10,0	1,1	8,9	0,0
Post-secondary vocational	50,1	38,1	3,1	0,0	6,9	0,0	0,0	3,8	0,3	22,1	0,3	0,0	1,0	0,6	12,0	1,3	10,7	0,0
Higher	59,2	50,2	2,7	0,0	9,6	0,0	0,2	7,5	0,0	28,0	0,2	0,0	1,2	0,8	9,0	1,3	7,7	0,0
Occupational status																		
Employee	53,7	42,8	3,8	0,0	9,9	0,1	0,4	6,4	0,2	20,6	0,0	0,1	0,4	0,9	10,9	1,2	9,7	0,0
Self-employed	(50,0)	(39,3)	(5,5)	(0,0)	(3,4)	(0,0)	(0,0)	(7,1)	(0,0)	(21,4)	(0,0)	(1,9)	(0,0)	(0,0)	(10,7)	(0,0)	(10,7)	(0,0)
Retired	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Unemployed	46,0	36,2	6,0	0,9	9,2	0,4	0,0	4,4	0,0	14,0	0,4	0,0	0,5	0,8	9,8	0,4	9,4	0,0
Another	46,6	35,7	3,3	0,0	6,8	0,0	0,1	3,7	0,2	19,6	0,2	0,2	1,0	0,6	10,9	1,5	9,4	0,0
Welfare quintile																		
Quintile I	39,5	26,8	3,7	0,0	5,4	0,0	0,0	1,7	1,1	12,8	0,0	0,0	1,1	1,4	12,7	1,1	11,6	0,0
Quintile II	48,8	41,8	4,2	0,4	7,4	0,3	0,6	5,8	0,0	22,1	0,0	0,0	0,7	0,3	7,0	0,3	6,7	0,0
Quintile III	52,4	42,5	3,1	0,1	9,2	0,1	0,1	5,3	0,3	22,4	0,4	0,1	0,9	0,9	9,9	0,4	9,5	0,0
Quintile IV	49,9	36,7	3,1	0,0	7,3	0,0	0,3	3,8	0,3	20,5	0,0	0,0	0,7	0,7	13,2	1,2	12,0	0,0
Quintile V	50,3	37,8	5,0	0,0	8,3	0,0	0,2	5,2	0,0	17,8	0,1	0,5	0,4	0,3	12,5	2,0	10,5	0,0

Note: If several methods are used, only the most efficient one is considered in this table.

LAM – Lactational amenorrhoea method

IUD – Intrauterine device

The 'Other modern methods' category includes: vaginal ring, vaginal sponge and combined patch.

* refers to a figure based on fewer than 25 cases that has been suppressed.

Figures in brackets are based on less than 100 cases.

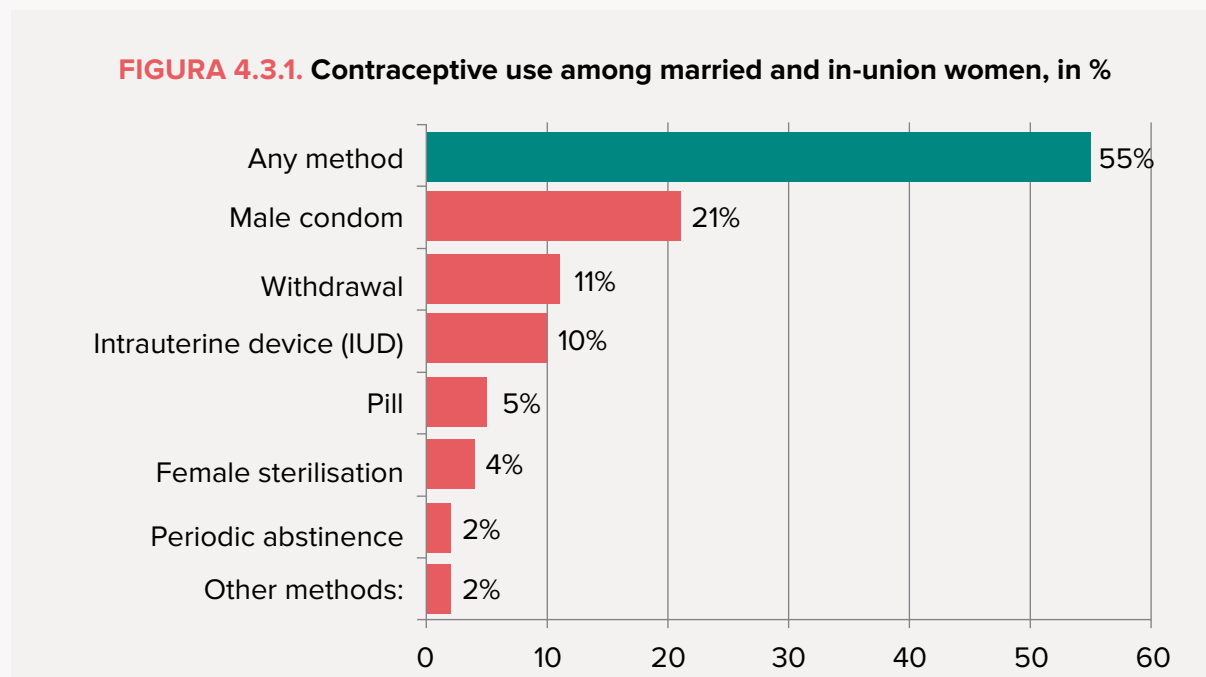
Due to rounding, the totals for modern methods of contraception do not always add up.

4.3. Trends in contraceptive use

According to MICS, contraceptive use has decreased since 2012 from 59.5% to 55.1% among married and in-union women aged 15-49. At the same time, the share of women using modern methods of contraception remained at the same level (41.7% and 42.4% respectively). IUD use decreased 2-fold among married or in-union women aged 15-49 – from 19.8% in 2012 to 9.7% in 2020. This decline was offset by a marked increase in condom use (about 2-fold), from 11.9% to 21.0%. The use of contraceptive pills remains the same (5.3% and 5.3% respectively).

The use of traditional methods decreased by 5 percent. Periodic abstinence was used 2 times less frequently in 2020 compared to 2012, and the share of withdrawal decreased from 13.4% to 11.2% among married or in-union women.

In this context, the structure of contraceptive use has changed over time. GGS 2020 gives the following ranking in the order of contraceptive use by married and in-union women in the Republic of Moldova: ranked first was the male condom (21%), followed by withdrawal (11%), IUDs (10%), contraceptive pills (5%) and female surgical sterilisation at 4% (Figure 4.3.1).



Comparing the new structure with the one existing in 2012 (MICS), we can see that the IUD (ranked 1st) switched places with the condom (ranked 3rd), the other methods maintaining their previous rankings. Compared to other countries from Eastern Europe and Eurasia, contraceptive use by married or in-union women aged 15-49 from the Republic of Moldova (55.1%) is lower than in Romania (69.8%, 2005, GGS), Ukraine (65.4%, 2012, MICS), Uzbekistan (64.9%, 2006, MICS), Armenia (57.1%, 2015, DHS) and higher than in Azerbaijan (54.9%, 2011, DHS), Georgia (40.6%, 2018, MICS), Kazakhstan (53.0%, 2018, GGS), Kyrgyzstan (39.4%, 2018, MICS) and Turkmenistan (30.5%, 2019, MICS)³⁰.

³⁰ <https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/data/family-planning-indicators>

It should be noted that the data on contraceptive use in the countries mentioned are partly outdated and therefore may not reflect the actual situation for 2020.

At the same time, it is important to point out that the family planning situation was different in the pre-lockdown period compared to the post-lockdown period. The Covid pandemic could affect the reproductive behaviour and intentions of people in a number of ways. Restrictions on service provision may reduce access to family planning services and increase fertility in the short term. On the other hand, the economic uncertainty brought about by the pandemic together its impact on mental health and well-being may reduce fertility.

The Generations and Gender survey made it possible to assess the impact of the Covid pandemic on reproductive intentions and behaviour in the Republic of Moldova. Respondent interviews were conducted partly before and partly after the lockdown, highlighting differences in contraceptive use. The results indicate that the Covid-19 pandemic has significantly reduced access to family planning services and contraception (*Table 4.3.1*).

TABLE 4.3.1. Distribution of all married/in-union and unmarried women by contraceptive use in pre-lockdown, post-lockdown and overall periods, in %

	Pre-lockdown	Post-lockdown	Total
Married or in-union women			
Any contraception method	66,7	51,0	55,1
Any modern method	44,5	41,7	42,4
Any traditional method	22,2	9,3	12,7
All women			
Any contraception method	60,0	44,9	48,8
Any modern method	40,8	37,1	38,1
Any traditional method	19,2	7,8	10,7

Indicators therefore suggest that, in the medium term, reproductive intentions may not be affected by the pandemic, but access to family planning services and postponing attempts to conceive may change people's intentions to have children and the timing of pregnancy planning.³¹

³¹ Emery, Tom & Koops, Judith C., 2021. "The Impact of COVID-19 on Fertility behaviour and Intentions in the Republic of Moldova", SocArXiv fcqd9, Center for Open Science.

4.4. Unmet need for family planning and need for family planning satisfied with modern methods of contraception

The GGS examined the unmet need for family planning and the satisfied need for family planning of women of reproductive age (15-49 years). The satisfied need for family planning is also referred to as the demand for family planning met with modern methods of contraception.

Unmet need for family planning refers to fertile women (15-49 years) who do not use any method of contraception, but at the same time wish to postpone the next birth (spacers) or wish to stop childbearing (limiters). In the GGS, it was identified using a set of questions, related to current contraceptive use, and assessed based on the 2012 revised definition (Bradley, Croft, Fishel, and Westoff, 2012. Revising Unmet Need for Family Planning).³²

Unmet need for family planning and contraceptive prevalence were calculated using the UN methodology for 3 categories by marital status (married and in-union women, unmarried women, all women).³³

- Married and in-union women (regardless of sexual activity) – these are women aged 15-49 who are married (defined in relation to the marriage laws or customs of a country) and in-union women who live with their partner in the same household (including in-union unions, consensual unions, unmarried unions or 'living together').
- Unmarried/not in-union women (regardless of sexual activity) – this category refers to women aged 15-49 who are unmarried and do not live with their partner, being complementary to the married/in-union women category.
- All women – this refers to all women aged 15-49 (regardless of sexual activity).

According to this definition, unmet need for spacing is defined as the percentage of women who are not using a method of contraception (are not pregnant and have not given birth, are not postpartum amenorrhoeic, are fertile and say they want to wait two or more years for their next birth OR are not pregnant, are not postpartum amenorrhoeic, are fertile and are sure they do not want another child, OR are pregnant and say the pregnancy was unexpected: would have liked to wait OR are postpartum amenorrhoeic and say the birth was unexpected: would have liked to wait).

Unmet need for limiting is defined as the percentage of women who are not using a method of contraception (not pregnant, not postpartum amenorrhoeic, fertile and say they do not want any more children OR pregnant and say they do not want any more children OR postpartum amenorrhoeic and say they do not want any more children).

³² https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/dataset/contraception/wcu2014/Metadata/WCU2014_UNMET_NEED_metadata.pdf

Source: Based on Bradley, S.E.K., et al. (2012). Revising Unmet Need for Family Planning. DHS Analytical Studies No. 25, Calverton, Maryland: ICF International.

³³ https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/sites/www.un.org.development.desa.pd/files/undesapd_2021_wcu_fp-indicators_documentation.pdf

Together with the unmet need for family planning, the need for family planning satisfied with modern methods of contraception was also estimated, i.e. the percentage of women of reproductive age (15-49 years) who desire either to have no (additional) children or to postpone the next child and who are currently using a modern method of contraception.

The need for family planning satisfied with modern methods of contraception is also on the list of indicators of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Goal 3, Target 3.7., Indicator 3.7.1. 'Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods')³⁴.

Access to and use of an effective means to prevent pregnancy helps enable women and their partners to exercise their rights to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children. Meeting demand for family planning with modern methods also contributes to maternal and child health by preventing unintended pregnancies and closely spaced pregnancies, which are at higher risk for poor obstetrical outcomes. Levels of need for family planning satisfied with modern methods of 75% or more are generally considered high, and values of 50% or less are considered low.

The total need for family planning satisfied with modern methods is the sum of the satisfied need for spacing and limiting. The satisfied need for limiting is based on the number of women of reproductive age who are married or in-union and who are using (or whose partners use) modern methods of contraception, including female or male sterilisation, and who do not want any more children or report not being fertile. The satisfied need for spacing is based on the number of women who are using (or whose partners use) modern methods of contraception and who want to have more children or are not sure³⁵.

4.4.1. Unmet need for family planning and need for family planning satisfied with modern methods of contraception among married and in-union women

The data presented in Table 4.4.1.1. show that just over one-fifth (21.9%) of married or cohabiting women of reproductive age who need contraception reported unmet need.

Comparing the data from this survey with the data from the 2012 MICS, there is about a twofold increase in unmet need for contraception (21.9% and 9.5% respectively) for married and cohabiting women. Numerous reports show that during the Covid-19 pandemic there were barriers to accessing essential health services, including for family planning, due to the limitation or even cessation of service provision for a period of time, coupled with restrictions on population mobility imposed by the authorities.³⁶

³⁴ https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202021%20refinement_Eng.pdf
Global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; SDG Indicator 3.7.1: Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods.

³⁵ <https://www.who.int/data/gho/indicator-metadata-registry/imr-details/4988>
The percentage of women of reproductive age (15-49 years) who desire either to have no (additional) children or to postpone the next child and who are currently using a modern method of contraception. The numerator is the percentage of women of reproductive age (15-49 years old) who are currently using, or whose partner is currently using, at least one modern contraceptive method. The denominator is the total demand for family planning (the sum of contraceptive prevalence (any method) and the unmet need for family planning).

³⁶ Emery, Tom & Koops, Judith C., 2021. „The Impact of COVID-19 on Fertility behaviour and Intentions in the Republic of Moldova,” SocArXiv fcqd9, Center for Open Science.

The unmet need for family planning is higher in rural areas (26.0%) compared to urban areas (15.3%), with the same trend for limiting birth (17.7% and 10.7% respectively).

Unmet need is more common among young women. As age increases, there is a trend of decrease in unmet need for contraception for spacing births from 6.4% in the 20-24 age group to 3.1% in the 45-49 age group and an increase in unmet need for limiting childbearing (5.7-21.2%).

The respondents' level of education influences the unmet need for family planning, which is about twice as low for women with higher education compared to women with secondary education (13.5% and 26.2% respectively).

The unmet need for family planning differs depending on women's occupational status, with 29.4% for self-employed women compared to 20.6% for employed women, a difference also related to the respondents' area of residence and education level.

There are no significant differences in unmet need for family planning depending on women's level of prosperity, e.g. between women in quintile I (20.5%) and V (22.7%).

Together with the unmet need, the demand for family planning satisfied with modern contraceptive methods among married and in-union women was analysed in relation to the characteristics studied. The south of the country has a lower level (55.5%) compared to the northern (62.1%) and central (61.3%) regions. The highest indicator level is recorded in Chisinau (61.8%).

Urban women (64.0%) are more likely than rural women (58.0%) to report their demand for family planning being met by modern methods of contraception. The met demand for spacing follows the same trend, and for limiting childbearing the situation is reversed (28.0% and 32.9% respectively).

As expected, with advancing age, there is a gradual increase in the met demand for family planning, including for limiting births, from 9.6% among women aged 20-24 to 67.2% for those aged 45-49, with the situation being reversed for spacing births (48.4% and 5.4% respectively).

The indicator's value increases as the level of education increases from 56.7% for women with secondary education to 66.1% for women with higher education. Occupational status has less influence on the level of this indicator, recording the maximum value (63.6%) for employed women.

There are no significant differences for the groups of women in quintiles II-IV (62.1-64.8%), while it is worth noting that the indicator has the lowest value for women in quintile I (56.0%).

TABLE 4.4.1.1. Distribution of married and in-union women aged 15-49 with unmet need for family planning and the demand for family planning met with modern methods of contraception, in %

Characteristics studied	Demand for family planning met with modern methods of contraception			Unmet need for family planning			Number of women currently married or in-union	Number of currently married or in-union women in need of contraception
	For spacing	For limiting	Total	For spacing	For limiting	Total		
Total	29,3	31,04	60,3	6,9	15,1	21,9	1930	1428
Region								
Chisinau	36,1	25,7	61,8	5,6	10,0	15,6	344	257
North	25,7	36,4	62,2	4,5	18,4	24,9	414	300
Centre	30,7	30,6	61,3	7,2	16,1	23,2	748	574
South	24,4	31,1	55,5	9,7	14,4	24,1	424	297
Area of residence								
Urban	36,0	28,0	64,0	4,6	10,7	15,3	716	521
Rural	25,2	32,9	58,0	8,3	17,7	26,0	1214	907
Age group								
15-19	*	*	*	*	*	*	22	15
20-24	48,4	9,6	58,0	6,4	5,7	12,1	157	101
25-29	44,3	10,4	54,7	10,0	8,0	18,0	293	194
30-34	35,6	22,9	58,4	7,4	13,0	20,3	433	321
35-39	25,8	34,6	60,4	5,7	17,7	23,3	411	327
40-44	12,5	49,7	62,2	6,6	24,4	31,0	323	276
45-49	5,4	67,2	72,5	3,1	21,2	24,2	291	194
Education								
Primary	*	*	*	*	*	*	15	11
Lower secondary	24,7	32,1	56,7	9,3	17,0	26,2	565	422
General secondary	32,2	30,7	62,9	5,5	14,5	20,0	300	221
Vocational secondary	26,9	30,5	57,3	8,5	17,4	25,9	339	249
Post-secondary vocational	28,1	31,8	59,9	7,1	17,2	24,3	260	192
Higher	35,9	30,2	66,1	3,2	10,3	13,5	447	331

Occupational status								
Employee	28,1	35,5	63,6	5,0	15,5	20,6	715	544
Self-employed	(22,6)	(39,0)	(61,6)	(4,1)	(25,4)	(29,4)	48	40
Unemployed	*	*	*	*	*	*	6	3
Retired	26,6	27,4	54,0	4,0	23,4	27,4	180	136
Another situation	30,8	28,2	59,0	8,8	12,9	21,7	980	704
Welfare quintile								
Quintile I	(18,4)	(37,7)	(56,0)	(0,0)	(20,5)	(20,5)	59	36
Quintile II	28,7	34,6	63,3	2,8	24,1	26,8	229	180
Quintile III	31,9	32,9	64,8	5,7	14,2	19,8	590	444
Quintile IV	32,1	30,0	62,1	7,6	13,5	21,1	236	179
Quintile V	28,3	29,1	57,4	9,0	13,7	22,7	624	461
<p>Note: *refers to a figure based on fewer than 25 cases that has been suppressed. Figures in brackets are based on less than 100 cases. Due to rounding, the totals do not always add up.</p>								

In order to present a comprehensive picture of the unmet need for family planning and the demand for family planning met with modern contraceptive methods, the data for the group of unmarried women and all women of reproductive age were also analysed.

4.4.2. Unmet need for family planning and demand for family planning met with modern methods of contraception among unmarried women

In the group of unmarried women of reproductive age, about 4 percent reported that their need for family planning was unmet (*Table 4.4.2.1*). The highest values of this indicator were recorded among women aged 40-44 (9.7%), with secondary vocational and post-secondary vocational education (5.3% and 6.4% respectively) and in quintile I (14.1%). At the same time, the demand for family planning met with modern contraceptive methods was analysed, and it was found that this indicator does not differ much from one region to another, with values between 34.1 and 42.1%, except for Chisinau municipality (50.9%).

The demand for family planning satisfied with the use of modern contraceptive methods for spacing is about twice as high among unmarried urban women (29.5%) compared to rural women (18.1%).

As expected, women in older age groups have a higher indicator value for limiting childbearing (67.3% at age 45-49), as most have already given birth to the desired number of children. At the same time, younger women have a higher level of the indicator for spacing (37.9% at age 20-24) compared to those who are closer to the end of their reproductive period (2.0% at age 45-49).

The respondents' level of education determines the extent to which the demand for family planning with modern methods of contraception is met among unmarried women. Thus, for women with post-secondary vocational education, the value of the indicator (53.4%) is about twice as high as for women with primary and secondary education. At the same time, the values are higher among employed women (51.9%) than among those who have a different occupational status. It is important to note that there are no significant differences based on the level of prosperity of unmarried women.

TABLE 4.4.2.1. Distribution of unmarried women aged 15-49 with unmet need for family planning and the demand for family planning met with modern methods of contraception, in %

Characteristics studied	Demand for family planning met with modern methods of contraception			Unmet need for family planning			Number of unmarried women	Number of unmarried women in need of contraception
	For spacing	For limiting	Total	For spacing	For limiting	Total		
Total	23.4	17.6	40.9	2.0	2.6	4.6	770	297
Region								
Chisinau	35,0	15,9	50,9	2,1	1,4	3,4	190	99
North	17,5	19,7	37,1	2,9	1,6	4,5	176	53
Center	18,6	15,4	34,1	0,5	1,4	1,9	215	71
South	22,2	19,9	42,1	3,1	6,0	9,1	189	74
Area of residence								
Urban	29,5	16,7	46,2	3,1	2,1	5,2	359	161
Rural	18,1	18,3	36,3	1,1	2,9	4,0	411	136
Age group								
15-19	21,7	3,9	25,6	0,6	0,6	1,1	186	41
20-24	37,9	6,9	44,8	2,6	1,7	4,3	120	54
25-29	29,0	8,1	37,1	4,8	1,6	6,5	67	27
30-34	32,9	9,4	42,4	4,7	2,4	7,1	89	40
35-39	22,8	20,8	43,6	2,0	1,0	3,0	102	46
40-44	14,0	30,1	44,1	1,1	8,6	9,7	94	45
45-49	2,0	67,3	69,3	1,0	5,0	5,9	112	44

Education								
Primary	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	7
Lower secondary	17,8	17,9	35,7	1,3	3,5	4,8	250	84
General secondary	31,2	13,5	44,7	2,8	0,6	3,4	145	60
Vocational secondary	18,6	20,9	39,6	3,1	2,2	5,3	102	35
Post-secondary vocational	28,5	24,8	53,4	3,4	3,0	6,4	96	48
Higher	28,3	15,8	44,1	1,5	2,9	4,4	138	60
Occupational status								
Employee	25,3	26,7	51,9	2,9	1,1	4,0	263	122
Self-employed	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	3
Unemployed	19,9	24,2	44,1	2,2	6,8	9,0	92	41
Retired	23,0	11,1	34,1	1,6	2,3	3,9	405	131
Welfare quintile								
Quintile I	17,8	27,5	45,3	0,0	14,1	14,1	63	28
Quintile II	26,2	19,7	45,9	0,0	0,9	0,9	104	38
Quintile III	24,6	15,4	40,0	1,4	1,2	2,6	214	83
Quintile IV	18,8	20,8	39,5	3,3	0,0	3,3	94	33
Quintile V	27,8	15,6	43,4	3,5	2,9	6,3	175	79
<p>Note: *refers to a figure based on fewer than 25 cases that has been suppressed. Figures in brackets are based on less than 100 cases. Due to rounding, the totals for modern methods of contraception do not always add up.</p>								

4.4.3. Unmet need for family planning and demand for family planning met with modern contraceptive methods among all women of reproductive age

Of all women of reproductive age, 16.9% have an unmet need for family planning (*Table 4.4.3.1*). There are no significant differences between regions, ranging from 17.4 to 19.5 percent, except for Chisinau municipality (11 percent). For rural women the indicator's value is about twice as high as for urban women (11.9% and 20.2% respectively).

The unmet need for family planning increases with age, from 3.5% at age 15-19 to 19.1% at age 45-49, with the highest level (26.2%) among women aged 40-44. There is no direct relationship between the level of education and the unmet need for contraception, but it is worth noting that it is lower among women with higher education (11.4%).

Analysing the indicator according to occupational status, we observe that among women with higher education the unmet need for family planning is lower (16.2%) compared to other women. Women's level of prosperity has practically no influence on the level of unmet need for contraception, ranging between 15% and 19%, with no increase in the indicator's value as the level of prosperity increases.

With reference to the demand for family planning met with modern methods of contraception among all women of reproductive age, we find that significant differences in relation to region and area of residence do not emerge. At the same time, we note a gradual increase in the indicator with advancing age from 28.2% for women aged 15-19 to 71.6% for women aged 45-49.

The level of education influences the value of the indicator, which is true for all women of reproductive age who are in need of contraception. Women with higher education have their demand for family planning met with modern methods 10 percent more than women with secondary education (50% and 60.1% respectively).

By occupational status, we see a similar trend. For example, among employed women this indicator is 60.5% compared to 50.7% for retired women. Women's level of prosperity does not significantly influence the demand for family planning met with modern methods of contraception, ranging from 50.3% to 58.0%.

TABLE 4.4.3.1. Distribution of all women aged 15-49 with unmet need for family planning and the demand for family planning met with modern methods of contraception, in %

Characteristics studied	Demand for family planning met with modern methods of contraception			Unmet need for family planning			Number of all women	Number of all women needing contraception
	For spacing	For limiting	Total	For spacing	For limiting	Total		
Total	27,5	27,1	54,6	5,5	11,4	16,9	2700	1725
Region								
Chisinau	35,7	22,2	57,9	4,3	6,9	11,2	534	356
North	23,2	31,4	54,6	4,0	13,4	17,4	590	353
Centre	27,9	27,0	54,9	5,6	12,6	18,2	963	645
South	23,7	27,6	51,3	7,7	11,8	19,5	613	371
Area of residence								
Urban	33,8	24,2	58,1	4,1	7,9	11,9	1075	682
Rural	23,3	29,0	52,3	6,4	13,8	20,2	1625	1043
Age group								
15-19	(24,8)	(3,5)	(28,2)	(2,0)	(1,5)	(3,5)	208	56
20-24	44,0	8,4	52,4	4,8	4,0	8,8	277	155
25-29	41,6	10,0	51,6	9,1	6,8	16,0	360	221
30-34	35,1	20,7	55,8	7,0	11,2	18,2	522	361
35-39	25,2	31,9	57,1	4,9	14,4	19,3	513	373
40-44	12,8	45,3	58,1	5,3	20,8	26,2	417	321
45-49	4,4	67,2	71,6	2,5	16,6	19,1	403	238
Education								
Primary	*	*	*	*	*	*	46	18
Lower secondary	22,5	27,6	50,0	6,7	12,7	19,4	815	506
General secondary	31,9	24,7	56,6	4,6	9,7	14,3	445	281
Vocational secondary	24,9	28,2	53,1	7,2	13,8	21,1	441	284
Post-secondary	28,	29,9	58,1	6,1	13,4	19,5	356	240
Higher	34,2	26,9	61,1	2,8	8,6	11,4	585	391

Occupational status								
Employee	27,4	33,1	60,5	4,5	11,7	16,2	978	666
Self-employed	(22,2)	(36,0)	(58,2)	(3,4)	(22,8)	(26,2)	57	43
Unemployed	*	*	*	*	*	*	6	3
Retired	24,46	26,3	50,7	3,4	17,8	21,2	272	177
Another situation	28,4	23,0	51,4	6,6	9,6	16,2	1385	835
Another situation								
Quintile I	(18,1)	(32,3)	(50,3)	(0,0)	(17,1)	(17,1)	122	64
Quintile II	28,0	29,9	57,9	1,9	16,8	18,7	333	218
Quintile III	29,9	28,1	58,0	4,5	10,6	15,1	804	527
Quintile IV	28,1	27,3	55,4	6,3	9,5	15,8	330	212
Quintile V	28,2	26,1	54,2	7,8	11,2	19,0	799	540
<p>Note: *refers to a figure based on fewer than 25 cases that has been suppressed. Figures in brackets are based on less than 100 cases. Due to rounding, the totals do not always add up.</p>								

Comparing the unmet need for family planning across groups of women, we find that the highest level of unmet need is among married or cohabiting women (21.9%), followed by all women of reproductive age (16.9%), ending, as expected, with unmarried women (8.9%).

4.5. Independent decision-making by women of reproductive age about sexual relationships, contraceptive use and sexual and reproductive health

The 2030 Sustainable Development Goals mark significant progress in addressing women's sexual and reproductive health and rights. For the first time, an international development framework includes not only targets on sexual and reproductive health services (Goal 3, targets 3.1 and 3.7), but also targets that address the barriers and human rights-based dimensions of sexual and reproductive health and rights (Goal 5, target 5.6).

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been adapted to the context of the Republic of Moldova, setting national targets and indicators in sexual and reproductive health and rights. The National Target 5.6 on ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including for family planning and sexual and reproductive information and education, is measured by two indicators, designed to complement each other (Indicators 5.6.1 – Share of women aged 15-49 [married or cohabiting] making independent decisions about sexual relations, contraceptive use and sexual and reproductive health and 5.6.2. Number of policy documents that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive health care, sexual and reproductive health education information³⁷).

³⁷ <https://statistica.gov.md/pageview.php?l=ro&idc=601&id=6312>

Women's and girls' autonomy in decision making over consensual sexual relations, contraceptive use and access to sexual and reproductive health services is key to their empowerment and the full exercise of their reproductive rights. A woman's ability to say 'no' to her husband/partner if she does not want to have sexual intercourse is well aligned with the concept of sexual autonomy and women's empowerment. Women who make their own decision regarding seeking healthcare for themselves are considered empowered to exercise their reproductive rights³⁸.

The GGS collected data for the estimation of indicator 5.6.1. based on the following variables:

- Can you say no to your (husband/partner) if you do not want to have sexual intercourse? (response options: yes, no, depends/not sure)
- Who usually makes decisions on whether or not to use contraception? (answer options: always me, usually me, me and partner equally, usually partner, always partner, always or usually someone else)
- Who usually makes decisions about health care for yourself? (answer options: always me, usually me, me and partner equally, usually partner, always partner, always or usually someone else)

The indicator was estimated according to the UN methodology according to which a woman is considered to have autonomy in making reproductive health decisions and is empowered to exercise her sexual and reproductive rights if she (1) decides on health care for herself, either by herself or with her husband/partner, (2) decides on the use or non-use of contraception, either by herself or with her husband/partner; and (3) can say NO to her husband or partner if she does not want to have sexual intercourse.³⁹

According to Table 4.5.1, the share of women in the Republic of Moldova who make independent decisions about sexual relations, contraceptive use and sexual and reproductive health is 73.3%. Comparing the level of this indicator with that at the global level (55%, based on surveys in 57 countries) and that in the countries in the region (e.g. 69.0% in Albania, 66% in Armenia, 77% in Kyrgyzstan, 33% in Tajikistan, and 81% in Ukraine), we find no significant differences⁴⁰.

Women from Chisinau (77.4%) are the ones who most often decide independently over sexual relations, contraceptive use and sexual and reproductive health.

Education level significantly influences women's decisions concerning sexual and reproductive health and rights. Education gives a boost to women's autonomy, including by stimulating their ability to make independent decisions. It is worth noting that the share of women with higher education (77.9%) who decide independently is about 10 percent higher than for women with secondary education (67.8%). The same is true for rural married women (75.7%) compared to cohabiting women (64.7%).

³⁸ <https://www.who.int/data/gho/indicator-metadata-registry/imr-details/4986>

³⁹ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-05-06-01.pdf>

⁴⁰ United Nations Population Fund, global databases, 2020. Based on the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) and other national surveys conducted in the 2007-2018 period. https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/20-033_SDG561-BrochureA4-v1.21.pdf

TABLE 4.5.1. Share of women aged 15-49 (married or cohabiting) who report making decisions independently or with their partner about sexual relations, contraceptive use and sexual and reproductive health

	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	72,5	74,0	73,3
Age group			
15-19	68,4	68,4	68,4
20-24	70,0	72,6	71,3
25-29	76,0	78,2	77,2
30-34	72,8	70,5	71,6
35-39	71,9	78,1	75,4
40-44	71,6	72,1	71,9
45-49	70,7	72,2	71,8
Region			
Chisinau	78,9	69,4	77,4
North	60,2	78,1	69,1
Centre	73,2	71,8	72,2
South	72,1	76,0	75,1
Education			
Primary	78,1	49,1	59,2
Lower secondary	63,8	68,9	67,8
General secondary	74,2	80,8	77,9
Vocational secondary	63,5	73,8	70,6
Post-secondary vocational	71,1	77,1	74,4
Higher	77,7	78,3	77,9
Marital status			
Married	72,2	75,7	74,3
Cohabitation	74,2	64,7	69,0
Occupational status			
Employee	67,5	75,2	71,3
Self-employed	88,0	82,2	85,6
Retired	66,7	100,0	79,3
Unemployed	80,1	80,5	80,3
Another status	75,2	71,8	73,1
Welfare quintile			
Quintile I	63,6	80,5	74,0
Quintile II	67,5	90,2	83,9
Quintile III	69,9	74,8	72,8
Quintile IV	74,0	67,3	69,8
Quintile V	74,5	64,6	69,2



5. PARENTS AND CHILDREN

5.1. Number of children, including biological and stepchildren, born to men

In modern society, blended families – those in which there are children from the partners' previous marriages – have become quite common, with a good share of people who remarry already having children. Thus, many men and women raise and educate not only biological children, but also stepchildren. Note that the information on the average number of biological children and stepchildren per man and woman was collected for the first time in the GGS.

According to the survey results (*Table 5.1.1*), the average number of children that a man aged 20 to 79 has is 1.8, followed by biological children – 1.69 and stepchildren – 0.11 (*Table 4.9.1.1*). In the youngest age groups (20-24 years and 25-29 years) the number of children born to a man is less than one, while in the 30-34 years age group the average number of biological children is already 1.2 and the average number of stepchildren – 0.11. Older generations of men (60+) have on average more than two children, reaching 2.59 children per man aged 75-79. This difference between the younger and older generations is due to a higher average number of biological children per man in the older generations, while the average number of stepchildren, with some fluctuations, does not exceed 0.11 children. The biggest average number of stepchildren was reported by respondents in the 35-39 age group.

The smallest average number of children per man was recorded in Chisinau municipality, with 1.35 children per man, followed by 1.23 children per man for biological children and 0.11 – for stepchildren. This is also determined by the structure of the municipality's population, which is younger compared to other regions. For the southern, central, and northern regions the differences are not so pronounced.

The average number of stepchildren differs most depending on marital status – married or cohabiting. Thus, cohabiting men have on average 0.55 children per man, while married men have only 0.06 children.

TABLE 5.1.1. Average number of children per man, including biological and stepchildren, in the age groups 15-79, overall

	Biological children	Step children	Total children
Total	1,69	0,11	1,80
Age group			
15-19	0,00	0,00	0,00
20-24	0,17	0,04	0,20
25-29	0,60	0,06	0,66
30-34	1,20	0,11	1,32
35-39	1,45	0,18	1,63
40-44	1,65	0,12	1,77
45-49	1,76	0,16	1,92
50-54	1,86	0,13	1,99
55-59	1,98	0,15	2,13
60-64	2,19	0,08	2,27
65-69	2,36	0,11	2,47
70-74	2,37	0,11	2,47
75-79	2,49	0,10	2,59
Region			
Chisinau	1,23	0,11	1,35
North	1,65	0,15	1,81
Centre	1,76	0,08	1,84
South	1,85	0,11	1,96
Education			
Primary	1,49	0,06	1,55
Lower secondary	1,54	0,11	1,64
General secondary	1,57	0,09	1,66
Vocational secondary	1,91	0,14	2,05
Post-secondary vocational	1,86	0,12	1,98
Higher	1,58	0,08	1,66

Marital status			
Married	2,16	0,06	2,22
In cohabitation	1,42	0,55	1,97
Divorced/separated	1,80	0,18	1,98
Solitary	0,51	0,03	0,54
Widow	2,35	0,06	2,40
Occupational status			
Employee	1,53	0,12	1,64
Self-employed	1,66	0,11	1,77
Retired	2,34	0,10	2,44
Unemployed	1,43	0,16	1,59
Another situation	1,28	0,08	1,36
Welfare quintile			
Quintile I	1,66	0,18	1,84
Quintile II	1,82	0,10	1,93
Quintile III	1,69	0,10	1,79
Quintile IV	1,76	0,13	1,89
Quintile V	1,77	0,10	1,86
Disability degree			
Very severe	1,97	0,08	2,06
Severe	2,10	0,10	2,19
Medium	1,96	0,13	2,09
No disabilities	1,39	0,09	1,49

Analysis of the data by area of residence (*Tables 5.1.2. and 5.1.3.*) shows that the average number of children born to men aged 20 to 79⁴¹ from urban and rural areas is 1.47 and 1.97 respectively. At the same time, the biggest difference is in the average number of biological children, which is significantly higher for rural men – 1.85 children compared 1.37 children for urban men, while the average number of stepchildren differs very little – 0.11 per rural man and 0.10 per urban man.

In urban areas, only men in the oldest generation (70+) have more than two biological children, and in rural areas – those aged 55 and over. The average number of stepchildren does not exceed 0.21 children per man, except for some fluctuations, among both urban and rural dwellers. For the first age group (15-19 years) the number of children is 0.

⁴¹ For the first age group (15-19 years) the number of children is 0.

Cohabiting men reported the biggest number of stepchildren, with 0.48 children per urban man and 0.59 per rural man.

TABLE 5.1.2. Average number of children per man, including biological and stepchildren, in the age groups 15-79, in urban areas

	Biological children	Step children	Total children
Total	1,37	0,10	1,47
Age group			
15-19	0,00	0,00	0,00
20-24	0,11	0,03	0,15
25-29	0,47	0,02	0,49
30-34	0,97	0,05	1,02
35-39	1,35	0,16	1,50
40-44	1,49	0,09	1,58
45-49	1,72	0,21	1,93
50-54	1,67	0,05	1,71
55-59	1,72	0,15	1,87
60-64	1,88	0,12	1,99
65-69	1,83	0,11	1,95
70-74	2,16	0,09	2,24
75-79	2,11	0,20	2,31
Region			
Chisinau	1,10	0,10	1,20
North	1,49	0,14	1,62
Centre	1,42	0,04	1,46
South	1,59	0,10	1,69
Education			
Primary	1,12	0,04	1,16
Lower secondary	1,26	0,06	1,32
General secondary	1,09	0,08	1,17
Vocational secondary	1,59	0,13	1,72
Post-secondary vocational	1,51	0,13	1,65
Higher	1,38	0,09	1,47

Marital status			
Married	1,81	0,05	1,86
Cohabitation	1,00	0,48	1,48
Divorced/separated	1,62	0,14	1,75
Solitary	0,37	0,03	0,40
Widow	2,21	0,02	2,22
Occupational status			
Employee	1,27	0,08	1,35
Self-employed	1,41	0,13	1,54
Retired	1,99	0,13	2,12
Unemployed	1,30	0,15	1,45
Another situation	0,80	0,05	0,85
Welfare quintile			
Quintile I	1,53	0,16	1,69
Quintile II	1,45	0,11	1,56
Quintile III	1,46	0,15	1,61
Quintile IV	1,41	0,10	1,51
Quintile V	1,39	0,07	1,45
Disability degree			
Very severe	1,20	0,10	1,30
Severe	1,55	0,13	1,68
Medium	1,68	0,13	1,81
No disabilities	1,12	0,07	1,19

TABLE 5.1.3. Average number of children per man, including biological and stepchildren, in the age groups 15-79, in urban areas

	Biological children	Step children	Total children
Total	1,85	0,11	1,97
Age group			
15-19	0,00	0,00	0,00
20-24	0,21	0,04	0,25
25-29	0,69	0,09	0,78
30-34	1,43	0,17	1,60
35-39	1,52	0,21	1,73
40-44	1,74	0,13	1,87
45-49	1,78	0,14	1,92
50-54	1,93	0,15	2,08
55-59	2,10	0,15	2,25
60-64	2,30	0,06	2,36
65-69	2,57	0,11	2,68
70-74	2,47	0,12	2,58
75-79	2,63	0,06	2,69
Region			
Chisinau	1,78	0,15	1,93
North	1,75	0,17	1,92
Centre	1,83	0,09	1,91
South	1,96	0,11	2,07
Education			
Primary	1,60	0,07	1,66
Lower secondary	1,62	0,12	1,74
General secondary	1,84	0,09	1,93
Vocational secondary	2,02	0,14	2,16
Post-secondary vocational	2,10	0,11	2,21
Higher	1,91	0,06	1,96

Marital status			
Married	2,31	0,07	2,38
In cohabitation	1,64	0,59	2,23
Divorced/separated	1,93	0,22	2,16
Solitary	0,58	0,03	0,61
Widow	2,40	0,08	2,48
Occupational status			
Employee	1,75	0,14	1,90
Self-employed	1,80	0,10	1,89
Retired	2,49	0,09	2,57
Unemployed	1,47	0,16	1,64
Another situation	1,45	0,09	1,54
Welfare quintile			
Quintile I	1,71	0,19	1,89
Quintile II	1,93	0,10	2,04
Quintile III	1,80	0,08	1,87
Quintile IV	1,93	0,14	2,07
Quintile V	2,05	0,11	2,16
Disability degree			
Very severe	2,27	0,08	2,35
Severe	2,35	0,08	2,43
Medium	2,09	0,13	2,22
No disabilities	1,54	0,11	1,65

5.2. Number of children, including biological and stepchildren, born to women

The average number of children per woman (biological⁴² and stepchildren) aged 15 to 79 is greater than for men, with 2.09 children, including a higher average number of biological children (1.98), while the number of stepchildren is similar – 0.11 (*Table 5.2.1*). Starting with the 35-39 age group, the average number of children per woman is more than two, including 2.04 biological children and 0.10 stepchildren. The biggest average number of stepchildren is found among women aged 50-54 (0.18). Older generations (60+) have 0.12-0.15 stepchildren per woman.

⁴² Compared to the average number of live births indicator, this indicator shows the average number of biological children at the time of the survey.

The respondents from Chisinau municipality reported an average of 1.45 biological children and 0.15 stepchildren per woman, the latter indicator's value being higher compared to the northern, central and southern regions. Similarly to men, the biggest average number of stepchildren is found among cohabiting women (0.55).

The average number of stepchildren does not differ significantly depending on the women's level of education.

TABLE 5.2.1. Average number of children per woman, including biological and stepchildren, in the age groups 15-79, overall

	Biological children	Step children	Total children
Total	1,98	0,11	2,09
Age group			
15-19	0,08	0,00	0,08
20-24	0,69	0,04	0,73
25-29	1,56	0,06	1,62
30-34	1,89	0,08	1,97
35-39	2,04	0,10	2,15
40-44	2,04	0,13	2,17
45-49	2,00	0,10	2,10
50-54	2,17	0,18	2,35
55-59	2,11	0,13	2,23
60-64	2,24	0,12	2,37
65-69	2,31	0,12	2,43
70-74	2,22	0,12	2,33
75-79	2,30	0,15	2,45
Region			
Chisinau	1,45	0,15	1,61
North	1,89	0,13	2,02
Centre	2,12	0,09	2,21
South	2,18	0,10	2,27

Education			
Primary	2,19	0,07	2,25
Lower secondary	2,18	0,11	2,29
General secondary	1,98	0,09	2,07
Vocational secondary	2,05	0,14	2,18
Post-secondary vocational	1,84	0,12	1,96
Higher	1,63	0,11	1,74
Marital status			
Married	2,17	0,07	2,24
Cohabitation	1,71	0,55	2,26
Divorced/separated	1,88	0,14	2,01
Solitary	1,26	0,03	1,28
Widow	2,47	0,11	2,58
Occupational status			
Employee	1,74	0,12	1,85
Self-employed	1,94	0,17	2,10
Retired	2,29	0,12	2,41
Unemployed	1,82	0,13	1,95
Another situation	1,77	0,08	1,85
Welfare quintile			
Quintile I	1,98	0,09	2,06
Quintile II	2,11	0,11	2,22
Quintile III	1,92	0,11	2,03
Quintile IV	2,06	0,10	2,16
Quintile V	1,97	0,13	2,09
Disability degree			
Very severe	1,94	0,00	1,94
Severe	2,16	0,14	2,31
Medium	2,09	0,14	2,22
No disabilities	1,80	0,07	1,87

Analysis of data by area of residence confirms significant differences between rural and urban women. It is evident that the average number of children per rural women aged 15 to 79 (Table 5.2.3.) is significantly higher, at 2.29 children per woman, including 2.18 biological children and 0.10 stepchildren. In urban areas (Table 5.2.2.), women have on average 1.73 children per woman, i.e. 1.59 biological children and 0.14 stepchildren. At the same time, the biggest average number of stepchildren is in the 50-54 age group (0.23 children). There is no significant difference in the number of stepchildren between the age groups of 40-59 and 60 years and over.

Given that cohabitation is more common in rural areas, the number of stepchildren per cohabiting woman is greater (0.59) than in urban areas (0.48). Married women have a significantly smaller average number of stepchildren – 0.1 children for urban women and 0.05 children for rural women.

TABLE 5.2.2. Average number of children per woman, including biological and stepchildren, in the age groups 15-79, in urban areas

	Biological children	Step children	Total children
Total	1,59	0,14	1,73
Age group			
15-19	0,04	0,00	0,04
20-24	0,43	0,03	0,46
25-29	1,16	0,06	1,22
30-34	1,56	0,06	1,63
35-39	1,86	0,10	1,97
40-44	1,75	0,21	1,96
45-49	1,68	0,15	1,83
50-54	1,72	0,23	1,95
55-59	1,84	0,17	2,01
60-64	1,82	0,20	2,02
65-69	1,91	0,18	2,09
70-74	1,74	0,09	1,82
75-79	1,71	0,25	1,96
Region			
Chisinau	1,34	0,17	1,50
North	1,68	0,15	1,83
Centre	1,66	0,09	1,75
South	1,87	0,11	1,98

Education			
Primary	1,59	0,12	1,71
Lower secondary	1,70	0,12	1,81
General secondary	1,56	0,12	1,67
Vocational secondary	1,71	0,20	1,91
Post-secondary vocational	1,58	0,13	1,71
Higher	1,48	0,13	1,61
Marital status			
Married	1,85	0,10	1,96
Cohabitation	1,28	0,48	1,76
Divorced/separated	1,67	0,21	1,88
Solitary	1,00	0,03	1,02
Widow	1,91	0,11	2,01
Occupational status			
Employee	1,47	0,15	1,62
Self-employed	1,65	0,30	1,95
Retired	1,85	0,17	2,02
Unemployed	1,42	0,18	1,60
Another situation	1,42	0,06	1,48
Welfare quintile			
Quintile I	1,66	0,08	1,74
Quintile II	1,75	0,12	1,86
Quintile III	1,62	0,16	1,79
Quintile IV	1,58	0,14	1,72
Quintile V	1,55	0,16	1,71
Disability degree			
Very severe	1,75	0,00	1,75
Severe	1,78	0,21	1,99
Medium	1,68	0,17	1,85
No disabilities	1,45	0,09	1,53

TABLE 5.2.3. Average number of children per woman, including biological and stepchildren, in the age groups 15-79, in rural areas

	Biological children	Step children	Total children
Total	2,19	0,10	2,29
Age group			
15-19	0,11	0,00	0,11
20-24	0,90	0,05	0,94
25-29	1,84	0,06	1,90
30-34	2,14	0,10	2,24
35-39	2,18	0,10	2,28
40-44	2,19	0,09	2,28
45-49	2,14	0,08	2,22
50-54	2,40	0,15	2,54
55-59	2,23	0,11	2,34
60-64	2,42	0,09	2,52
65-69	2,49	0,09	2,58
70-74	2,44	0,13	2,57
75-79	2,56	0,10	2,66
Region			
Chisinau	1,91	0,10	2,02
North	2,04	0,12	2,17
Centre	2,23	0,08	2,31
South	2,27	0,09	2,37
Education			
Primary	2,34	0,05	2,39
Lower secondary	2,31	0,11	2,42
General secondary	2,17	0,07	2,24
Vocational secondary	2,21	0,10	2,32
Post-secondary vocational	2,05	0,11	2,16
Higher	1,87	0,08	1,95

Marital status			
Married	2,32	0,05	2,37
Cohabitation	2,00	0,59	2,59
Divorced/separated	2,07	0,07	2,14
Solitary	1,42	0,03	1,44
Widow	2,69	0,11	2,80
Occupational status			
Employee	1,98	0,09	2,07
Self-employed	2,17	0,06	2,23
Retired	2,48	0,10	2,58
Unemployed	2,00	0,11	2,12
Another situation	1,93	0,09	2,02
Welfare quintile			
Quintile I	2,12	0,09	2,21
Quintile II	2,24	0,11	2,35
Quintile III	2,09	0,09	2,17
Quintile IV	2,27	0,09	2,35
Quintile V	2,26	0,10	2,36
Disability degree			
Very severe	2,13	0,00	2,13
Severe	2,35	0,12	2,47
Medium	2,28	0,12	2,40
No disabilities	2,01	0,06	2,07

5.3. People's attitudes towards parenthood and children

Traditionally, the presence of children is seen as a valuable indicator of a 'real' family, giving meaning to its *raison d'être* and to human existence in general. The traditional family model requires the presence of both parents, especially from the standpoint of the child's interests, as well as for the accomplishment of the parents.

According to GGS, 95.0% of the total number of respondents partially or totally agree that, in order for a child to grow up happily, he/she needs a family with a mother and a father, with a higher prevalence of this opinion among rural dwellers compared to urban dwellers (4.5%) (Table 5.3.1.).

In terms of age, there is a lower share among 15-19-year-olds, especially in urban areas, with numbers increasing with age. The distribution by economic-geographical regions shows a higher share of people from the central and southern regions, with the lowest in Chisinau municipality.

Gender differences being generally insignificant, they manifest themselves to a small extent in relation to some specific variables. Among the men who support this idea, those in the 65-69 age group, from central/southern regions, with primary education, divorced, as well as married, retired/self-employed, in quintile II and V were numerically more prevalent. Among the women who support this idea, those in the age groups 65-69 and 60-64, from central/southern regions, with primary education, widowed, retired, in quintile V were numerically more prevalent. Thus, for both men and women, we see a direct relationship between the acceptance of the need for a child to have a father and a mother and the financial wellness, but an inverse relationship between the number of people sharing this position and the level of education.

As a result of the impact of Covid-19, the number of people who share this position increased slightly among rural and urban residents, among men and women.

TABLE 5.3.1. Distribution of women and men aged 15 to 79 who indicated that they partially or totally agree that a child needs a mother and a father to grow up happily, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	95,1	94,9	92,1	96,7	95,0
Age group					
15-19	93,5	92,2	86,8	96,4	92,9
20-24	93,7	94,6	91,3	96,4	94,1
25-29	96,5	94,7	92,0	98,2	95,6
30-34	95,1	93,9	92,5	96,3	94,5
35-39	92,5	93,8	89,8	95,7	93,1
40-44	95,1	94,7	91,4	96,8	94,9
45-49	96,7	94,5	93,5	96,5	95,6
50-54	96,0	96,1	94,4	96,8	96,0
55-59	95,6	96,2	94,5	96,5	95,9
60-64	95,1	95,5	93,3	96,1	95,3
65-69	97,6	96,7	94,6	98,1	97,1
70-74	95,7	96,3	94,7	96,7	96,1
75-79	95,8	95,4	92,4	96,9	95,5

Region					
Chisinau	90,7	89,6	89,1	94,4	90,1
North	94,6	95,1	93,3	96,0	94,9
Centre	96,9	96,5	96,9	96,6	96,7
South	96,0	96,1	91,8	97,6	96,1
Education					
Primary	98,2	97,4	99,2	97,4	97,8
Lower secondary	95,6	93,5	89,9	95,9	94,5
General secondary	95,8	96,2	93,1	97,7	96,1
Vocational secondary	95,9	96,0	92,7	97,3	96,0
Post-secondary vocational	95,3	96,1	94,9	96,5	95,8
Higher	91,9	93,1	90,6	96,5	92,6
Marital status					
Married	96,1	96,1	93,6	97,4	96,1
Cohabitation	93,7	95,0	89,8	97,1	94,3
Divorced/separated	96,7	91,7	92,6	95,6	94,2
Solitary	93,5	92,4	89,7	95,1	93,0
Widow	95,2	97,1	92,7	98,2	96,7
Occupational status					
Employee	94,9	94,9	92,5	97,3	94,9
Self-employed	95,5	92,1	88,4	98,7	94,9
Retired	95,9	95,8	93,2	97,0	95,9
Unemployed	95,0	94,6	93,5	95,4	94,8
Another situation	95,1	94,5	91,0	96,4	94,7
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	94,1	94,5	93,0	94,8	94,3
Quintile II	96,2	95,0	92,7	96,5	95,5
Quintile III	94,9	94,3	90,9	96,6	94,6
Quintile IV	94,0	94,1	91,1	95,6	94,1
Quintile V	96,0	96,2	94,5	97,3	96,1

Traditionally, in the Republic of Moldova, having children is considered an important aspect for women, which gives meaning, happiness and fulfilment to their existence.

According to the GGS, 91.5% of the population partially or totally agree with the statement that 'for a woman's life to be fulfilling, she has to have children' (*Table 5.3.2*). The rural dwellers (94.3%) outnumber the urban dwellers (86.5%), confirming the stronger presence of traditional rural stereotypes.

In terms of age, there is a lower share among 15-19 year olds, especially in urban areas, with numbers increasing with age. The distribution by economic-geographical areas shows a higher share of people from the central region, with the lowest in Chisinau municipality.

A prevalent number of people sharing this view is found among those with a low level of education, especially among those from rural areas, with the number decreasing as the level of education increases. By occupational status, retirees have a higher share, while those employed have a lower share.

Overall, the gender gap is 2.6%, with women outnumbering men. Among the men and women who support this idea, those from the country's central region, with primary and secondary vocational education, widowed, retired, in the low income quintile (II) were numerically more prevalent.

Thus, the degree of stereotyping increases with age, with prevalence in rural areas, and decreases with higher levels of education.

As a result of the impact of Covid-19, the number of people who share this view increased insignificantly among rural dwellers and men, and decreased slightly among urban dwellers.

TABLE 5.3.2. Distribution of women and men aged 15 to 79 who indicated that they partially or totally agree that for a woman's life to be fulfilling she has to have children, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	90,1	92,7	86,5	94,3	91,5
Age group					
15-19	81,4	83,8	71,5	89,0	82,6
20-24	83,3	89,4	76,8	94,2	86,3
25-29	83,9	89,6	82,0	90,1	86,7
30-34	89,3	91,7	85,8	94,5	90,5
35-39	89,8	92,2	86,3	94,4	90,9
40-44	91,3	94,0	90,5	93,8	92,6
45-49	93,3	94,8	91,5	95,2	94,1
50-54	93,5	93,8	91,2	94,7	93,6
55-59	94,1	95,0	91,6	96,0	94,6
60-64	94,9	96,2	92,7	96,7	95,6
65-69	95,7	95,0	92,2	96,6	95,3
70-74	96,8	95,9	96,3	96,2	96,2
75-79	95,1	93,6	92,4	94,8	94,1
Region					
Chisinau	75,6	81,9	77,3	85,8	78,9
North	90,7	93,6	92,0	92,5	92,3
Centre	95,0	95,9	96,5	95,2	95,5
South	92,1	94,7	87,7	95,5	93,4

Education					
Primary	95,0	93,5	86,0	96,5	94,3
Lower secondary	90,8	92,9	87,2	93,3	91,9
General secondary	89,3	93,3	85,7	94,8	91,5
Vocational secondary	93,7	94,9	92,0	95,2	94,3
Post-secondary vocational	92,3	93,7	90,4	95,2	93,1
Higher	81,5	88,8	81,2	94,1	85,6
Marital status					
Married	93,0	94,0	89,0	95,9	93,6
Cohabitation	85,4	90,4	80,8	92,2	87,9
Divorced/separated	93,4	95,0	94,3	94,1	94,2
Solitary	85,5	88,3	80,2	90,7	86,6
Widow	94,8	95,6	91,1	97,0	95,4
Occupational status					
Employee	87,3	92,7	85,4	94,2	89,8
Self-employed	94,3	88,4	86,1	97,4	93,2
Retired	95,2	95,4	92,6	96,5	95,4
Unemployed	91,8	90,6	89,7	92,1	91,4
Another situation	88,5	91,6	83,6	93,5	90,4
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	90,8	90,7	90,8	90,8	90,8
Quintile II	93,6	94,5	90,7	95,4	94,2
Quintile III	90,2	92,9	87,5	93,8	91,6
Quintile IV	89,8	91,9	83,9	94,5	90,9
Quintile V	89,1	94,1	88,0	94,9	91,8
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	89,0	92,8	88,2	93,4	91,0
Post-lockdown	90,5	92,7	85,5	94,6	91,7

Single motherhood. According to GGS, 83.5% of the total number of respondents partially or fully agree that a woman can raise a child on her own if she does not want to be in a stable relationship with a man (single motherhood), with prevalence in rural areas (*Table 5.3.3*).

The distribution by economic-geographical areas shows a higher share of people supporting this idea living in the central region, with the lowest share in Chisinau municipality. A higher share is found among people with secondary vocational and post-secondary vocational education. At the same time, in rural areas there are more people with a low level of education.

Overall, the occupational status indicator is not statistically significant, but it is of interest from a gender perspective, a higher percentage being recorded among employed women and unemployed men.

Among women, this value is higher (86.0%) compared to men (80.6%). Among the men who support this idea, those in the 55-59 age group, from the central region, with primary education, in a cohabiting relationship, unemployed/self-employed, in quintile V were numerically more prevalent. Among the women who support this idea, those in the 30-34 age group, from the southern region and Chisinau, with higher education, divorced and in a cohabiting relationship, employed, from quintile V were numerically more prevalent. Thus, for women we find a direct relationship between the acceptance of the idea of single motherhood and the level of education, marital status, employment and financial wellness.

As a result of the impact of Covid-19, the number of people sharing this view increased slightly among rural residents and men and decreased slightly among women and urban residents.

TABLE 5.3.3. Distribution of women and men aged 15 to 79 who indicated that they partially or totally agree that a woman can raise a child on her own if she does not want to be in a stable relationship with a man, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	80,6	86,0	81,1	84,9	83,5
Age group					
15-19	79,4	86,8	77,7	86,2	83,0
20-24	81,5	83,8	79,3	85,4	82,7
25-29	78,4	85,6	77,7	85,0	81,9
30-34	79,5	88,3	79,8	87,5	83,9
35-39	79,6	87,0	81,8	84,4	83,2
40-44	80,2	84,6	81,6	82,9	82,5
45-49	86,4	86,1	85,8	86,4	86,2
50-54	82,0	88,0	87,5	84,2	85,2
55-59	82,8	84,8	83,6	84,0	83,9
60-64	81,7	86,9	83,1	85,3	84,6
65-69	79,7	84,9	79,5	84,1	82,8
70-74	77,3	84,9	79,2	83,3	82,0
75-79	75,0	83,5	79,2	81,3	80,7
Region					
Chisinau	74,1	86,0	79,5	84,5	80,4
North	80,1	87,3	83,2	85,0	84,2
Centre	85,1	85,0	87,7	84,4	85,1
South	79,3	86,2	75,3	85,4	82,7

Education					
Primary	86,3	84,4	71,3	89,2	85,4
Lower secondary	80,3	84,6	77,2	84,1	82,5
General secondary	78,3	83,9	79,4	82,6	81,5
Vocational secondary	84,6	86,9	83,7	86,4	85,6
Post-secondary vocational	82,3	87,9	85,2	85,5	85,4
Higher	75,4	88,4	80,9	86,2	82,7
Marital status					
Married	81,8	85,3	80,6	85,3	83,7
Cohabitation	81,9	89,0	79,1	89,5	85,5
Divorced/separated	78,9	90,1	85,2	84,2	84,6
Solitary	78,1	84,8	79,9	81,4	80,8
Widow	78,7	85,0	82,2	84,2	83,6
Occupational status					
Employee	80,9	87,0	81,6	85,9	83,8
Self-employed	82,8	85,2	72,4	89,8	83,2
Retired	79,8	85,5	80,9	84,7	83,6
Unemployed	82,8	84,7	83,5	83,5	83,5
Another situation	78,5	86,0	80,9	84,2	83,2
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	83,2	80,1	82,2	81,4	81,6
Quintile II	82,1	82,8	78,5	83,9	82,5
Quintile III	77,2	83,1	77,7	81,7	80,3
Quintile IV	79,6	89,7	82,3	86,5	85,1
Quintile V	85,0	91,2	86,4	89,9	88,4
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	78,8	86,4	81,9	83,5	82,7
Post-lockdown	81,4	85,9	80,6	85,3	83,8

Childbirth and childrearing is also very important for a man's fulfilment. More than 90% of respondents partially or totally agree with the statement that 'for a man's life to be fulfilling, he has to have children' (*Table 5.3.4.*), with prevalence in rural areas.

In terms of age, there is a lower share among 15-19-year-olds, especially in urban areas, with the number increasing with age. The distribution by economic-geographical areas shows a higher share of people from the southern region, with the lowest share in Chisinau municipality.

A higher share of people sharing this view is found among those with secondary vocational education, particularly in rural areas, with the number of respondents decreasing as the level of education increases. By occupational status, retirees have a higher share, while those employed have a lower share.

This view is shared by 92.2% of men, compared to 90.3% of women. Among the men who support this idea, those with secondary vocational education, the ones widowed, as well as married, retired, self-employed, and in quintiles IV and II were numerically more prevalent. For women, the situation is almost similar, with a prevalence of those with vocational education, who are widowed, as well as married, retired and in quintile II. Thus, we see the impact of the variables of age, marital status, occupational status, and financial wellness on men's attitudes towards fulfilment through having children.

As a result of the impact of Covid-19, the number of people sharing this view is decreasing among both rural and urban dwellers, both men and women.

TABLE 5.3.4. Distribution of women and men aged 15 to 79 who indicated that they partially or totally agree that for a man's life to be fulfilling he has to have children, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	92,2	90,3	86,6	93,8	91,2
Age group					
15-19	86,4	85,1	76,1	91,6	85,8
20-24	88,9	88,2	80,4	95,1	88,5
25-29	87,9	87,6	82,7	91,3	87,8
30-34	93,0	87,9	89,0	91,8	90,5
35-39	92,5	86,4	82,6	94,8	89,5
40-44	92,1	88,8	89,8	90,8	90,5
45-49	94,3	92,4	90,2	94,7	93,3
50-54	92,6	92,8	89,8	93,9	92,7
55-59	95,3	93,5	92,0	95,4	94,3
60-64	93,7	94,6	88,6	96,4	94,2
65-69	95,9	93,6	91,6	95,8	94,6
70-74	95,7	93,8	94,4	94,6	94,5
75-79	95,2	92,1	91,7	93,7	93,1
Region					
Chisinau	81,6	76,0	76,6	88,4	78,7
North	94,5	91,5	93,4	92,4	92,8
Centre	94,3	93,5	94,9	93,7	93,9
South	94,2	93,9	89,7	95,7	94,1
Education					
Primary	94,5	90,5	86,1	94,4	92,6
Lower secondary	93,1	91,1	87,6	93,4	92,1
General secondary	91,5	92,1	86,5	94,9	91,8
Vocational secondary	95,5	90,8	90,2	94,8	93,4
Post-secondary vocational	91,4	92,0	90,3	92,8	91,7
Higher	86,3	84,9	82,0	92,3	85,5

Marital status					
Married	94,1	91,6	89,0	94,7	92,7
Cohabitation	91,6	89,4	85,3	93,8	90,5
Divorced/separated	92,3	85,7	89,7	88,4	89,0
Solitary	89,2	87,1	81,7	92,5	88,4
Widow	94,3	94,6	92,9	95,1	94,5
Occupational status					
Employee	90,1	89,2	86,2	93,1	89,7
Self-employed	94,1	88,4	86,4	97,0	93,0
Retired	95,1	93,8	90,7	95,7	94,2
Unemployed	93,6	90,0	91,5	92,8	92,4
Another situation	91,8	88,8	83,2	93,0	90,0
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	91,4	90,2	90,0	91,2	90,8
Quintile II	93,8	92,6	89,5	94,4	93,1
Quintile III	92,2	90,1	88,0	92,9	91,1
Quintile IV	93,9	88,4	85,7	93,5	90,9
Quintile V	90,5	90,7	86,5	93,9	90,6
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	93,2	91,9	90,1	94,6	92,5
Post-lockdown	91,7	89,6	84,6	93,5	90,6

5.4. Attitudes towards the importance of childcare involvement for women and men

Childcare is one of the basic functions of a family. Traditionally, this task was placed on the shoulders of women, determined not only by their reproductive function, but also by patriarchal gender norms.

In the GGS, respondents were asked for whom is it more important to take care of the home and children – men or women?

The GGS data show that 29.7% of respondents agree that caring for the home and children is more important for women than for men (*Table 5.4.1*).

A prevalence in the number of people who accept this idea is found among people with a low level of education, with the share decreasing with increasing levels of education. By occupational status, employed people have a higher share, while the self-employed have a lower share. By marital status, we see the highest share among cohabiting people, and the lowest – among married people. In relation to the level of prosperity, the indicator is higher among people with a low level of prosperity (quintile II).

Women are more active than men in supporting this view, with a gender gap of 4.9%, which manifests itself differently in relation to other variables. Among the men who share this idea, most are in the 20-24 age group, from the central region, with primary education, cohabiting, employed, in quintile II. Among the women who share this idea, most are in the 75-79 age group, from the South, with primary education, divorced/separated, unemployed, in quintile II. Thus, the share of men and women in this respect decreases as education levels increase.

As a result of the impact of Covid-19, the number of people who agree with this idea has generally remained unchanged, showing a decrease among women (by 1.6%) and urban dwellers (by 4.2%), and a slight increase among men and rural dwellers.

At the same time, only 3.2% of respondents agree that caring for home and children is more important for men than for women.

TABLE 5.4.1. Distribution of women and men aged 15 to 79 who indicated that they agree that caring for the home and children is more important for women than for men, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	27,1	32,0	27,8	30,8	29,7
Age group					
15-19	27,4	32,5	30,1	29,7	29,9
20-24	35,3	33,0	32,0	35,9	34,2
25-29	30,5	35,3	32,4	33,2	32,8
30-34	26,8	29,9	22,8	33,2	28,4
35-39	25,6	32,9	26,8	31,0	29,2
40-44	26,2	32,0	26,5	30,5	29,1
45-49	27,1	35,2	30,9	31,5	31,3
50-54	26,9	32,9	27,1	31,3	30,1
55-59	23,4	31,2	24,4	29,2	27,7
60-64	25,1	29,1	26,6	27,7	27,4
65-69	26,4	27,7	27,2	27,2	27,2
70-74	19,7	28,6	25,8	24,8	25,1
75-79	24,1	40,4	39,9	32,8	34,9

Region					
Chisinau	27,4	30,6	28,9	29,9	29,1
North	23,4	32,2	34,9	23,6	28,4
Centre	33,6	36,3	24,3	37,5	35,0
South	21,4	26,8	19,5	25,7	24,1
Education					
Primary	32,6	37,3	42,6	32,7	34,8
Lower secondary	27,8	33,3	25,9	32,1	30,7
General secondary	29,1	35,0	26,5	35,7	32,4
Vocational secondary	28,4	33,9	33,9	29,6	30,9
Post-secondary vocational	26,3	28,9	27,6	27,8	27,7
Higher	20,9	27,4	25,6	22,4	24,6
Marital status					
Married	24,5	31,1	25,3	29,5	28,1
In cohabitation	32,0	33,7	31,5	33,7	32,9
Di-vorced/separated	28,4	35,3	31,8	32,0	31,9
Solitary	29,9	32,3	29,0	32,1	30,9
Widow	26,4	30,5	34,8	27,7	29,6
Occupational status					
Employee	29,8	30,4	27,6	32,6	30,1
Self-employed	23,1	28,2	21,7	25,6	24,1
Retired	24,9	30,5	29,8	28,1	28,6
Unemployed	23,2	34,7	23,1	28,8	27,1
Another	28,6	33,9	30,0	32,7	31,9
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	16,9	28,0	23,1	22,1	22,4
Quintile II	34,2	34,7	32,9	35,0	34,5
Quintile III	30,7	33,5	31,8	32,4	32,2
Quintile IV	21,3	33,8	22,7	31,0	28,2
Quintile V	23,2	27,8	24,7	26,6	25,7

In the GGS, respondents were asked through a multiple choice question who does a better job of caring for young children – men or women?

According to the data, 75.6% of all respondents agree that women take better care of young children compared to men, with the majority being from rural areas (Table 5.4.2).

In relation to age, we note that those in the 15-19 age group have the highest number, with the indicator decreasing slightly with age. A prevalence in the number of people who accept this idea is found among people with primary education, with the share decreasing with increasing levels of education. By occupational status, the unemployed have a higher share, while the self-employed have a lower share. By marital status, we see the highest share among cohabiting people, and the lowest – among divorced/separated people. In relation to the level of prosperity, the indicator is higher among people with low and medium levels of prosperity (quintile II and III).

Men are more active than women in supporting this view, with a gender gap of 1.5%, which manifests itself differently in relation to other variables. Among the men who share this idea, most are in the 15-19 age group (the share is decreasing with age), from the central region, with primary education, cohabiting, retired, in quintile II. Among the women who share this idea, most are in the 45-49 age group, from the South, with primary education, divorced/separated, unemployed, in quintile II.

As a result of the impact of Covid-19, the number of people who agree with this idea increased among women and men from rural areas, with a decrease in urban areas (by 2 p.p.).

TABLE 5.4.2. Distribution of women and men aged 15 to 79 who indicated that they agree that women do a better job of caring for young children than men, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	76,4	74,9	71,7	77,9	75,6
Age group					
15-19	86,6	76,2	78,2	83,6	81,6
20-24	78,4	74,6	70,2	81,6	76,5
25-29	77,5	71,2	68,9	78,3	74,4
30-34	71,4	71,2	64,9	76,9	71,3
35-39	76,5	76,3	72,9	79,1	76,4
40-44	75,3	78,1	71,8	79,4	76,7
45-49	74,8	78,2	73,5	77,9	76,6
50-54	74,4	76,1	70,2	77,5	75,3
55-59	73,3	76,1	71,9	76,2	74,8

60-64	78,9	73,8	78,2	75,2	76,0
65-69	80,1	74,4	77,8	76,3	76,7
70-74	75,2	74,8	76,0	74,5	75,0
75-79	75,3	75,8	74,5	76,1	75,6
Region					
Chisinau	68,1	70,3	67,8	75,6	69,2
North	75,4	72,7	76,6	71,8	73,9
Centre	80,2	79,5	70,7	81,9	79,8
South	77,4	73,9	73,8	76,4	75,7
Education					
Primary	88,5	82,2	80,3	86,9	85,5
Lower secondary	78,8	75,8	74,1	78,2	77,3
General secondary	76,2	78,7	73,3	80,1	77,6
Vocational secondary	77,6	77,2	78,0	77,2	77,5
Post-secondary vocational	77,0	76,2	74,0	78,6	76,6
Higher	67,6	65,3	63,7	71,5	66,3
Marital status					
Married	76,3	74,4	69,4	78,3	75,2
Cohabitation	80,5	74,8	74,0	79,9	77,7
Divorced/separated	70,3	77,6	72,2	75,6	74,0
Solitary	77,6	76,1	74,2	78,7	77,0
Widow	76,4	73,5	76,4	73,3	74,2
Occupational status					
Employee	75,5	72,4	69,0	79,1	74,1
Self-employed	74,0	70,3	64,9	78,3	73,3
Retired	78,2	74,8	77,3	75,4	76,0
Unemployed	76,9	78,2	75,7	78,0	77,3
Another situation	77,4	76,4	72,5	78,8	76,8

Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	76,1	74,0	72,1	76,3	75,1
Quintile II	80,2	79,6	81,6	79,2	79,8
Quintile III	80,0	75,8	73,6	80,1	77,8
Quintile IV	70,6	71,8	64,6	74,7	71,3
Quintile V	71,3	72,2	66,8	75,8	71,8
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	72,8	72,7	73,0	72,6	72,7
Post-lockdown	77,9	75,8	70,9	79,6	76,8

5.5. Distribution of childcare tasks

Childcare responsibilities, as well as household chores, are largely defined by gender roles. For example, dressing children is mainly a women's task in 57.3% of households, in 41.3% of households it is a joint task for both parents and in 1.3% it is a men's task (Table 5.5.1.). The data reveal that the gender gap related to dressing children became slightly more pronounced during the pandemic period – the share of households with women responsible for this increased from 55.0% to 58.3% and the share of households where this is a shared responsibility decreased from 43.5% to 40.5%.

Analysis of the data by level of education, income or occupational status does not reveal that these positively or negatively influence the gender distribution of childcare responsibilities.

TABLE 5.5.1. The way in which responsibilities for dressing children, so that they are dressed appropriately, are distributed in %

	Dressing children		
	Women's responsibility	Men's responsibility	Together
Total	57,3	1,3	41,3
Age group			
20-24	60,9	2,7	36,4
25-29	57,6	0,0	42,4
30-34	57,3	1,2	41,5
35-39	56,5	1,1	42,4
40-44	60,4	2,1	37,5
45-49	52,2	2,6	45,2
50-54	49,0	4,1	46,9

Region			
Chisinau	59,7	0,5	39,8
North	54,7	1,4	43,9
Centre	60,4	1,1	38,5
South	52,9	2,3	44,8
Education			
Primary	66,6	0,0	33,4
Lower secondary	58,0	2,8	39,2
General secondary	55,8	0,6	43,6
Vocational secondary	58,7	1,0	40,3
Post-secondary vocational	59,0	1,3	39,7
Higher	55,3	0,4	44,3
Marital status			
Married	56,4	1,5	42,1
Cohabitation	63,7	0,0	36,3
Occupational status			
Employee	55,7	1,4	42,9
Self-employed	55,6	1,3	43,1
Retired	63,0	2,6	34,5
Unemployed	53,5	1,6	44,9
Another situation	60,4	1,2	38,4
Welfare quintile			
Quintile I	45,9	0,0	54,1
Quintile II	61,5	2,1	36,4
Quintile III	61,6	0,9	37,5
Quintile IV	52,1	1,4	46,5
Quintile V	52,4	2,1	45,6
Number of children			
1	53,2	1,5	45,3
2	58,7	1,1	40,2
3+	58,7	1,6	39,7
Covid			
Pre-lockdown	55,0	1,6	43,5
Post-lockdown	58,3	1,3	40,5

When the child is sick, in 67.7% of households it is the woman who is most often responsible for looking after the child; in only 29.7% of households is this a shared responsibility and in 2.7% of households it is the responsibility of men (Table 5.5.2). The gender gap is more pronounced the younger the household members and becomes relatively more even in households with older members. We can assume that men tend to be more involved if the age of the sick child is older and therefore the child is more independent of parental involvement.

Here again, the pandemic has exacerbated the gender gap in relation to the role of caring for the sick child. Women's primary responsibility for caring for the sick child increased during the pandemic from 64.1% to 69.0%, and shared responsibility decreased from 32.4% to 28.6%.

TABLE 5.5.2. The way in which responsibilities are distributed in the event the child is ill and it is necessary to stay with him/her at home, in %

	Staying at home with the children when they are ill		
	Women's responsibility	Men's responsibility	Together
Total	67,7	2,7	29,7
Age group			
20-24	73,9	1,5	24,6
25-29	68,6	2,3	29,1
30-34	72,1	1,6	26,3
35-39	63,6	3,5	32,9
40-44	65,4	3,9	30,8
45-49	62,1	4,0	33,9
50-54	59,8	7,0	33,2
Region			
Chisinau	70,7	2,0	27,3
North	62,0	2,6	35,5
Centre	72,3	2,1	25,7
South	62,6	4,3	33,1
Education			
Primary	61,1	0,0	38,9
Lower secondary	66,4	3,6	30,0
General secondary	68,3	2,3	29,4
Vocational secondary	70,9	2,1	27,0
Post-secondary vocational	67,8	2,4	29,8
Higher	67,0	2,6	30,4

Marital status			
Married	67,7	2,9	29,4
Cohabitation	67,1	1,1	31,8
Occupational status			
Employee	65,8	2,9	31,3
Self-employed	64,4	3,0	32,6
Retired	77,4	2,6	20,0
Unemployed	58,8	2,6	38,6
Another situation	73,2	2,4	24,4
Welfare quintile			
Quintile I	54,2	2,9	42,9
Quintile II	74,0	4,9	21,1
Quintile III	70,6	2,0	27,4
Quintile IV	61,2	3,2	35,6
Quintile V	65,8	2,7	31,5
Number of children			
1	66,1	2,4	31,5
2	68,3	3,0	28,7
3+	67,9	2,5	29,6
Covid			
Pre-lockdown	64,1	3,5	32,4
Post-lockdown	69,0	2,3	28,6

Playing with children is considered to be a shared responsibility in 72.2% of households, in 24.9% of them playing with children is Primarily the responsibility of women and in 2.9% – the responsibility of men (*Table 5.5.3*). The high level of involvement of both parents in relation to other childcare tasks is explained by the nature of the responsibility in question. In the case of the responsibility for playing with children, both parents, especially fathers/males, have more flexibility of available time in terms of time, duration and frequency. Here again, the pandemic has led to a decrease in the share of households in which both parents are jointly responsible for this task from 75.9% to 70.8%.

TABLE 5.5.3. The way in which the responsibilities for playing with children and/or taking part in leisure activities with them is distributed, in %

Age group	Women's responsibility	Men's responsibility	Together
Total	24,9	2,9	72,2
20-24	24,5	1,5	74,0
25-29	22,1	2,3	75,6
30-34	26,9	2,6	70,5
35-39	24,7	2,7	72,6
40-44	26,7	4,7	68,7
45-49	21,3	4,7	74,0
50-54	21,8	6,4	71,8
Region			
Chisinau	17,5	4,3	78,2
North	20,1	3,6	76,3
Centre	31,5	1,7	66,9
South	23,9	3,4	72,7
Education			
Primary	16,1	0,0	83,9
Lower secondary	29,7	3,8	66,4
General secondary	21,5	1,5	77,0
Vocational secondary	27,8	2,3	70,0
Post-secondary vocational	28,2	3,0	68,9
Higher	17,9	3,5	78,6
Marital status			
Married	23,9	2,8	73,3
Cohabitation	31,6	3,6	64,8
Occupational status			
Employee	23,7	3,3	73,0
Self-employed	10,9	3,8	85,3
Retired	28,5	9,6	62,0
Unemployed	28,6	3,5	67,9
Another situation	27,9	2,1	70,0

Welfare quintile			
Quintile I	29,1	4,6	66,4
Quintile II	35,6	2,3	62,2
Quintile III	25,8	1,2	73,0
Quintile IV	18,9	4,5	76,7
Quintile V	25,6	4,2	70,2
Number of children			
1	18,9	1,3	79,8
2	27,5	3,6	68,9
3+	25,9	3,2	70,9
Covid			
Pre-lockdown	20,2	3,9	75,9
Post-lockdown	26,7	2,6	70,8

In 51.0% of households, it is women who are most often involved in helping children with homework, in 45.3% of households this being a shared responsibility (Table 5.5.4). The situation when men are primarily involved in this task is found in 3.7% of households – a share that tends to increase with the age of the survey respondents. For example, for the age groups 25-29 and 30-34 the share of households where men are responsible for helping children with their homework is 3.0% and 2.7% respectively, for the age groups 40-44 and 45-49 the share being 5.6% and 6.7% respectively.

TABLE 5.5.4. The way responsibilities for helping the child with homework are distributed, in %

	Responsabile Women	Responsabili Men	Împreună
Total	51,0	3,7	45,3
Age group			
20-24	54,0	0,0	46,0
25-29	54,7	3,0	42,3
30-34	49,2	2,7	48,1
35-39	50,3	6,2	43,5
40-44	45,1	5,6	49,3
45-49	48,2	6,7	45,1
50-54	41,9	4,7	53,5

Region			
Chisinau	50,4	5,1	44,4
North	58,5	2,2	39,3
Centre	44,6	4,3	51,2
South	36,5	0,0	63,5
Education			
Primary	52,4	5,0	42,6
Lower secondary	44,4	0,9	54,7
General secondary	57,8	3,0	39,2
Vocational secondary	55,0	3,4	41,7
Post-secondary vocational	45,3	4,5	50,2
Higher	50,0	3,6	46,3
Education			
Married	57,6	3,9	38,5
Cohabitation	51,6	3,3	45,1
Occupational status			
Employee	42,4	3,9	53,7
Self-employed	50,9	6,1	43,0
Retired	40,2	4,7	55,1
Unemployed	56,8	3,6	39,6
Another situation	32,5	6,5	61,1
Welfare quintile			
Quintile I	60,8	3,7	35,5
Quintile II	49,8	4,0	46,2
Quintile III	47,8	0,8	51,4
Quintile IV	53,8	4,4	41,8
Quintile V	46,6	3,1	50,4
Welfare quintile			
2	49,0	3,9	47,1
3+	54,8	3,5	41,7
Covid			
Pre-lockdown	50,6	5,8	43,6
Post-lockdown	51,2	2,8	46,1

Most men and women are satisfied with the way in which the roles and responsibilities of raising and caring for children are distributed (Table 5.5.5). At the same time, we can see that there is a clear gender gap in the share of satisfied women (67.2%) compared to men (84.7%). The share of dissatisfied women is practically twice as high as that of men – 32.6% for women and 15.2% for men.

Moreover, the share of women dissatisfied with the way childcare responsibilities are distributed tends to increase as respondents get older, from 28.1% for the 20-24 age group to 45.5% for the 50-54 age group. In these households the number of children is bigger, and the share of dissatisfied women is likewise higher. An additional explanation for this phenomenon is that in the case of some households in this age group the cohabiting partners are not likely to be the parents of the children in the household and therefore have a much lower level of involvement.

The pandemic has led to a reduction in the share of parents who are satisfied with the way childcare roles are distributed, this especially being the case for women. The share of satisfied women decreased from 73.6% before the pandemic to 64.9% during the pandemic. Similarly, the share of dissatisfied women before the pandemic was 26.2%, and during the pandemic it increased to 34.9%.

TABLE 5.5.5. Share of those satisfied and dissatisfied with the way childcare roles and responsibilities are distributed in the household, in %

	Satisfied with the way childcare responsibilities are distributed		Dissatisfied with the way childcare responsibilities are distributed	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Total	84,7	67,2	15,2	32,6
Age group				
20-24	81,6	71,9	18,4	28,1
25-29	87,7	70,6	12,3	29,4
30-34	87,4	67,5	12,6	32,5
35-39	82,8	67,7	17,2	32,3
40-44	75,0	60,8	23,5	38,6
45-49	86,7	60,6	13,3	39,4
50-54	66,7	45,5	33,3	45,5
Region				
Chisinau	81,3	60,9	18,7	39,2
North	87,7	74,7	12,3	25,1
Centre	80,9	60,6	18,8	39,1
South	90,0	77,7	10,1	22,0

Education				
Primary	95,3	63,5	4,7	36,5
Lower secondary	82,7	64,5	17,3	34,8
General secondary	83,7	63,2	16,3	36,8
Vocational secondary	80,9	72,6	19,1	27,4
Post-secondary vocational	88,5	71,4	10,7	28,6
Higher	87,4	67,6	12,6	32,4
Marital status				
Married	85,6	68,3	14,3	31,5
Cohabitation	78,1	59,8	21,9	40,3
Occupational status				
Employee	84,2	69,9	15,8	29,5
Self-employed	89,2	71,7	10,1	28,3
Retired	91,9	37,8	8,1	54,0
Unemployed	84,2	67,7	15,8	32,3
Another situation	81,8	65,7	18,2	34,4
Welfare quintile				
Quintile I	86,8	73,0	13,2	27,0
Quintile II	86,8	63,2	12,3	36,8
Quintile III	88,1	63,5	12,0	36,5
Quintile IV	83,8	65,6	16,3	33,9
Quintile V	80,8	69,6	19,2	30,1
Number of children				
1	87,1	71,9	12,9	28,1
2	83,1	68,7	16,6	31,3
3+	85,0	61,5	15,0	37,8
Covid				
Pre-lockdown	87,8	73,6	11,9	26,2
Post-lockdown	83,3	64,9	16,7	34,9

5.6. Use of formal and informal childcare services

Formal or informal childcare support is an important aspect of the child-rearing process, providing opportunities for parents to combine work and family roles. According to GGS data, 40.2% of parents with children aged 3-6 years received regular childcare support from a nursery/preschool institution, compared to 34.5% for children aged 0-6 years. It should be noted that the study was conducted during the Covid-19 pandemic, when parents had reduced access to out-of-home education/care services. The share of those regularly benefiting from parental help amounts to 14.4%. Individual childcare services (nanny) are very rare (0.7%), and after-school services are accessible to 9.1% of parents, especially those in quintile V. Parents with higher education more often use institutional childcare support (44.2%) as well as after-school childcare services (12.6%). Parents with two children (41.5%), three children and more (39.6%) more often use institutional childcare services than those with only one child (38.3%). The share of parents who received regular institutional childcare support decreased from 60.9% in the pre-Covid period to 31.8% in the post-lockdown period.

TABLE 5.6.1. Use of formal and informal childcare services, in %

	Parents helped by grand-parents	Parents with children 0-6 years who received regular institutional childcare support	Parents with children aged 3-6 who received regular childcare support from a nursery/preschool	Parents who received regular childcare support from a nursery/preschool institution	Parents who received regular childcare support from an after-school care centre
Total	14,4	34,5	40,2	24,2	9,1
Age group					
20-24	18.4	22.3	33.7	21.1	0.0
25-29	18.1	31.7	36.3	26.8	3.3
30-34	17.1	38.6	43.1	30.2	8.4
35-39	14.1	39.2	44.2	24.2	14.7
40-44	7.3	33.7	40.0	17.9	11.7
45-49	6.1	28.5	28.5	13.6	11.3
50-54	1.7	30.5	*	11.4	15.7
Region					
Chisinau	25.6	45.8	46.3	28.9	19.8
North	20.0	33.9	42.9	25.5	8.4
Centre	10.1	25.3	32.1	16.6	6.5
South	8.1	40.9	44.8	31.1	5.9

Education					
Primary	15.2	14.4	16.7	12.2	0.0
Lower secondary	12.4	29.7	35.5	20.3	9.2
General secondary	9.4	38.1	41.4	27.2	7.8
Vocational secondary	12.3	37.5	47.0	27.5	8.2
Post-secondary vocational	13.0	30.9	38.8	20.6	6.8
Higher	22.2	40.1	44.2	27.8	12.6
Marital status					
Married	14.8	35.0	41.1	24.9	9.0
Cohabitation	11.3	30.3	40.2	20.9	7.5
Occupational status					
Employee	15.4	39.2	47.7	27.2	11.2
Self-employed	22.5	25.4	29.8	18.9	9.9
Retired	0.0	14.6	0.0	5.5	3.2
Unemployed	10.6	40.2	49.5	29.1	7.8
Another situation	13.3	30.4	26.5	21.0	7.5
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	4.3	35.5	48.8	27.5	2.8
Quintile II	8.5	23.5	29.5	16.8	2.9
Quintile III	15.2	34.0	40.9	25.9	6.0
Quintile IV	15.0	37.9	45.6	25.0	13.3
Quintile V	17.9	36.1	40.0	21.9	14.4
Number of children in care					
1	17.5	26.3	38.3	19.7	3.9
2	13.9	37.7	41.5	25.4	10.2
3+	12.5	37.0	39.6	26.3	12.1
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	15.6	50.3	60.9	36.7	11.4
Post-lockdown	13.9	28.2	31.8	19.1	8.2

5.7. Parents and children with physical or mental health problems

Of the total population, 4% of surveyed children experienced difficulties lasting at least 6 months in carrying out normal daily activities (walking, self-care, communicating, etc.) due to physical or mental health problems (Table 5.7.1), of which the female population represents 4.6% and the male population 3.2%. Depending on the area of residence, the difference is very small, i.e. 4.3% in urban areas and 3.9% in rural areas. Such limitations were reported most by men aged 25-44 and women aged 20-44. The northern region of the country stood out for having the most men with children with such limitations, and Chisinau for having the most women with children who experienced difficulties lasting at least 6 months in carrying out normal daily activities (walking, self-care, communicating, etc.) due to physical or mental health problems. Depending on the level of education, most men with children with such limitations have primary education, and most women – secondary and higher education. By occupational status, the share of men with children with activity limitations due to a health problem is similar across occupational categories, while among women, self-employed women stand out. Analysis by level of prosperity shows no trends in this respect.

TABLE 5.7.1. Population whose children experienced difficulties in carrying out normal daily activities (walking, self-care, communicating, etc.) for at least 6 months due to physical or mental health problems, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	3,2	4,6	4,3	3,9	4
Age group					
15-19	3,5	0	0	0	0
20-24	1,1	5,1	5,9	4,2	4,8
25-29	5,2	5,8	4,1	4,3	4,2
30-34	4,3	7,8	6,5	6,8	6,7
35-39	5,6	5,8	5,7	4,7	5,1
40-44	3,8	6,9	5,6	6,7	6,3
45-49	1	2,8	4,3	2,8	3,3
50-54	1,9	2,6	1,8	1,9	1,9
55-59	2	3,4	2,5	2,8	2,7
60-64	2,8	4,2	3,9	3,1	3,3
65-69	1,5	1,5	1,8	2,2	2
70-74	1,2	2,7	1,5	2,5	2,2
75-79	0	2	0,7	2,2	1,8

Region					
Chisinau	2,6	7	5,4	4,6	5,2
North	4,5	4,3	3,3	5,1	4,3
Centre	2,5	3,8	4,6	3	3,3
South	3,5	4,5	3,5	4,2	4,1
Education					
Primary	6,6	3,9	12,8	3,6	5,3
Lower secondary	3,1	5,2	3,7	4,5	4,4
General secondary	3,1	4,4	4,7	3,6	3,9
Vocational secondary	3,5	4,5	4,3	3,9	4
Post-secondary vocational	2,5	3,1	3,2	2,6	2,8
Higher	3,3	5,3	4,6	4,3	4,5
Occupational status					
Employee	3,3	4,6	4,4	3,6	4
Self-employed	3,4	9,5	5,5	4,2	4,7
Retired	3	3,1	2,5	3,3	3,1
Unemployed	3,3	4,8	4	3,8	3,9
Another situation	2,8	5,4	5,4	4,4	4,7
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	2,6	8,4	6	5,7	5,8
Quintile II	2,1	3,9	2	3,6	3,2
Quintile III	2,5	3,9	3	3,4	3,3
Quintile IV	2,2	4,1	4,2	2,9	3,3
Quintile V	4,3	5,4	5,8	4,4	4,9

5.8. Satisfaction with the relationship with children aged 0-18 years

A scale from 0 to 10 was used for the questions on assessing the level of satisfaction, where 0 means 'not at all satisfied', 10 means 'very satisfied' and 5 means 'neither satisfied nor dissatisfied'. Satisfied were considered those respondents who chose between 10 and 8.

Of the total population, 89.2% are satisfied with their relationship with children aged 0-18 (Table 5.8.1). Gender differences in this respect are not significant, with 88.6% for men and 89.7% for women. Of those satisfied with the relationship with their children aged 0-18 years, 90.1% are from rural areas and 87.5% from urban areas. Analysis by age shows that after the age of 35, the share of those satisfied with the relationship with their children aged 0-18 decreases for both men and women. The downward trend is slow but steady. The municipality of Chisinau stands out with the lowest share of parents satisfied with the relationship with their children

aged 0-18. The data analysed by level of education and prosperity varies from one category to another and does not reveal clear trends. Analysis by occupational status shows that employed and self-employed men, as well as women with different occupational status stand out with the highest shares of respondents satisfied with the relationship with their children aged 0-18.

TABLE 5.8.1. Respondents satisfied with the relationship with their children aged 0-18, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	88,6	89,7	87,5	90,1	89,2
Age group					
15-19	85,7	92,8	66,6	100	92,8
20-24	96,4	95,5	88,1	95,7	93,2
25-29	93,5	94,8	95,3	95,3	95,3
30-34	93	93,6	91,9	94,9	93,6
35-39	88,3	89,5	88,8	92,9	91,1
40-44	82,7	88,3	87,9	88,5	88,3
45-49	85,6	85,3	81,3	85,3	84,1
50-54	86,9	89,3	86,2	88,2	87,6
55-59	87	88,4	86,2	88,4	87,7
60-64	86,1	89	86,2	88,9	88,1
65-69	87,3	88	82	89,3	87,2
70-74	79,1	86,1	85,8	86,9	86,5
75-79		83,2	74,2	84,9	81,7
Region					
Chisinau	85,2	84,7	83,2	91,1	84,9
North	88,1	92,5	90,6	90,9	90,7
Center	88,2	86,9	89,1	87,1	87,
South	91	93,8	89	93,8	92,5

Education					
Primary	89,6	81,6	81,8	86,6	85,7
Lower secondary	86,8	89,9	86	89,3	88,6
General secondary	87,8	87,1	85,9	88	87,4
Vocational secondary	87,6	90,1	83,7	90,8	88,8
Post-secondary vocational	90,3	91,4	89,4	92,1	91
Higher	91,9	90,2	90,1	92,1	90,8
Occupational status					
Employee	92,1	88,9	89	91,6	90,4
Self-employed	93,3	87,5	83,4	96,9	92,1
Retired	86,2	87,5	83,2	88,6	87,1
Unemployed	83	86,8	83,7	84,8	84,5
Another situation	86,6	92,7	91,3	90,8	91
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	80,8	87,7	87,9	83,3	84,6
Quintile II	89,4	89,1	84,1	90,9	89,2
Quintile III	89,1	87,9	88,7	88,3	88,5
Quintile IV	83,5	87,8	84	87,1	86,1
Quintile V	91,8	92,5	89,9	93,7	92,2



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6. INTERGENERATIONAL RELATIONS

6.1. Parent-child relationships

Throughout life, the relationship with parents remains one of an adult's most important relationships. The intensity of these relationships, the mutual support, will change depending on the stage of life the individual is in, the composition of the family (his/her own and that of parents), family relationships during childhood, personal attitudes towards intergenerational support, personal socio-economic situation and that of parents. At the same time, these relationships are influenced by the level of socio-economic development of the country, urbanisation, social policy and services developed, etc. In the Republic of Moldova, parent-child relations, which are rooted in tradition and carry a strong emotional charge are generally found to be satisfactory.

According to the GGS data, people whose parents are alive rated their satisfaction with the relationship they have with their parents on a scale of 1 to 10 (where 10 is '*most satisfactory*'). Thus, the data concerning those who gave a score of 8 or more, showing a high level of satisfaction, are analysed in *Table 6.1.1* and *Table 6.1.2*. A separate assessment of the relationship with each parent shows that the share of people satisfied with the relationship with their mother is higher than for those satisfied with the relationship with their father.

TABLE 6.1.1. Share of population aged 15-79 satisfied with the relationship with their mother (a score of 8 or more on a scale of 1 to 10, where 10 is most satisfactory), in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	94,3	91,9	91,3	94,4	93,1
Age group					
15-19	97,0	93,1	92,8	96,5	95,1
20-24	93,8	91,2	91,7	93,2	92,5
25-29	92,2	91,5	90,2	93,0	91,8
30-34	94,3	91,4	90,5	95,0	92,8
35-39	93,9	92,8	92,6	94,0	93,4
40-44	92,9	90,9	89,7	93,2	91,9
45-49	98,1	92,5	95,3	95,4	95,3
50-54	97,5	91,5	89,5	96,5	93,9
55-59	93,0	91,3	89,2	94,3	92,1
60-64	92,9	97,3	93,7	96,3	95,3
Region					
Chisinau	90,3	85,7	87,7	90,2	88,0
North	95,3	93,4	94,8	93,9	94,3
Centre	94,6	93,9	93,0	94,6	94,3
South	96,7	93,1	94,1	95,3	95,0
Education					
Lower secondary	94,0	90,3	89,6	93,2	92,2
General secondary	92,7	92,6	90,2	94,6	92,6
Vocational secondary	96,0	90,7	92,5	93,9	93,4
Post-secondary vocational	95,8	91,9	90,9	96,2	93,7
Higher	93,8	93,8	92,5	97,0	93,8

Marital status					
Married	94,3	93,4	91,7	95,2	93,8
Cohabitation	91,9	86,5	86,6	91,5	89,3
Divorced/separated	95,3	89,7	92,5	92,3	92,4
Solitary	94,1	88,6	91,2	92,9	92,2
Occupational status					
Employee	94,4	92,5	91,9	95,5	93,5
Self-employed	96,5	84,1	89,6	97,8	94,4
Retired	95,9	94,0	89,4	97,3	94,6
Unemployed	93,8	91,7	91,5	93,9	93,1
Another situation	93,6	91,7	90,7	93,2	92,4
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	95,5	92,3	92,6	94,6	93,9
Quintile II	92,3	89,8	88,9	91,9	91,1
Quintile III	94,8	91,7	90,8	94,7	93,2
Quintile IV	96,8	91,7	89,5	97,5	94,3
Quintile V	91,7	92,3	90,9	93,3	92,0
Number of children					
0	94,8	93,2	93,8	94,7	94,3
1	94,4	91,4	90,0	95,4	92,8
2	93,0	91,9	89,5	94,3	92,4
3+	95,5	91,0	90,2	93,4	92,5
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	94,2	92,3	92,5	94,0	93,2
Post-lockdown	94,4	91,7	90,7	94,5	93,1

* The denominator includes people who have a living mother.

Note: Disaggregated subcategories with a small number of cases are excluded from the analysis and the table.

Of all respondents, 93.1% are satisfied with the relationship with their mother (*Table 6.1.1*) and 83.1% with their current relationship with their father (*Table 6.1.2*). In terms of socio-demographic characteristics, the differences are statistically insignificant for both parents. It should be noted that, for Chisinau municipality, the share of the population satisfied with the relationship with parents is lower compared to other regions, being 6-7 p.p. below the general average. We note small differences in relation to the relationship with the father – the share of those who are satisfied is lower among the urban population (81.2% compared to about 85% for rural dwellers), among single and cohabiting respondents (about 78%) and among women (80.7% compared to 85.5% for men) (*Table 6.2*).

TABLE 6.1.2. Share of population aged 15-79 satisfied with the relationship with their father (a score of 8 or more on a scale of 1 to 10, where 10 is most satisfactory), in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	85,5	80,7	81,2	84,6	83,1
Age group					
15-19	83,4	80,2	77,2	84,8	81,9
20-24	80,1	78,7	78,2	80,4	79,4
25-29	84,9	75,5	79,9	80,4	80,2
30-34	87,7	81,3	82,4	86,5	84,5
35-39	85,7	81,7	81,0	86,3	83,8
40-44	89,3	85,8	88,3	86,9	87,5
45-49	88,2	86,5	82,9	89,8	87,3
Region					
Chisinau	80,6	74,5	76,5	82,8	77,4
North	83,4	78,2	82,5	79,1	80,8
Centre	88,3	84,9	89,8	85,7	86,6
South	87,6	82,9	82,4	86,7	85,5
Education					
Lower secondary	81,3	76,7	73,8	81,2	79,2
General secondary	82,1	80,9	80,0	82,7	81,5
Vocational secondary	88,3	79,5	81,7	85,5	84,2
Post-secondary vocational	86,5	81,9	83,2	85,0	84,1
Higher	89,6	85,0	84,6	93,0	87,1

Marital status					
Married	90,4	83,8	86,4	87,0	86,8
Cohabitation	82,6	71,5	75,4	79,4	77,3
Divorced/separated	89,8	79,9	78,9	93,3	85,0
Solitary	80,2	77,5	75,5	81,8	79,2
Occupational status					
Employee	87,4	84,3	84,8	87,6	86,0
Self-employed	88,3	79,7	77,4	93,4	87,0
Unemployed	79,6	73,8	77,4	77,6	77,5
Another situation	85,1	79,5	77,9	83,5	81,5
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	72,8	76,2	80,4	71,2	74,7
Quintile II	81,5	71,7	70,3	79,3	76,7
Quintile III	87,2	79,7	81,0	85,1	83,5
Quintile IV	84,8	80,5	77,9	85,9	82,7
Quintile V	86,6	83,9	84,0	86,4	85,1
Number of children					
0	81,3	76,5	77,5	81,5	79,6
1	88,5	82,1	84,5	85,5	85,0
2	91,8	83,3	84,9	88,3	87,0
3+	84,5	80,5	79,0	83,1	82,0
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	85,3	76,4	82,4	79,2	81,0
Post-lockdown	85,6	82,1	80,6	86,0	83,9

*The denominator includes people who have a living father.

Note: Disaggregated subcategories with a small number of cases are excluded from the analysis and the table.

Negative attitudes towards the relationship with parents are not widespread among the population (*Table 6.1.3*). According to the results, regardless of sociodemographic characteristics, less than 1% of the population rated their relationship with their mother as unsatisfactory (a score of 3 or less on a scale of 1 to 10 where 10 is most satisfactory) and about 2% – their relationship with their father.

TABLE 6.1.3. Share of population aged 15-79 dissatisfied with relationship with mother and father (a score of 3 or less on a scale of 1 to 10, where 10 is most satisfactory), in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Not satisfied with the relationship with their mother	0.3	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.5
Not satisfied with the relationship with their father	1.2	3.1	3.1	1.4	2.1

6.2. Communication with parents

Most of the population reported communicating with their parents at least once a week, either in person, on the phone, by mail, email or any other means of communication. Although in the case of both parents, with data reported separately for each parent, there are no significant differences in the results disaggregated by socio-demographic characteristics, it is nevertheless observed that more than 94% of the population communicates weekly with their mother, while with their father less – 82.4% of respondents (*Table 6.2.1.* and *Table 6.2.2.*).

TABLE 6.2.1. Percentage of population aged 15-79 communicating at least weekly with mother, %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	93,8	94,3	94,8	93,5	94,1
Age group					
15-19	93,2	91,4	92,9	91,8	92,3
20-24	94,5	94,8	97,7	91,7	94,7
25-29	94,4	93,4	94,3	93,6	93,9
30-34	95,5	97,2	94,5	98,2	96,4
35-39	93,5	94,6	96,3	92,1	94,1
40-44	92,6	94,6	93,7	93,6	93,6
45-49	94,7	90,6	96,6	90,4	92,5
50-54	91,5	92,4	94,0	91,0	92,0
55-59	86,4	95,7	90,5	92,0	91,3
Region					
Chisinau	93,3	93,9	93,0	97,8	93,6
North	91,2	93,8	96,4	89,1	92,6
Centre	94,3	94,3	97,5	93,4	94,3
South	96,1	95,2	94,4	96,1	95,6

Education					
Lower secondary	90,5	92,4	93,0	90,9	91,4
General secondary	97,8	96,8	97,2	97,4	97,3
Vocational secondary	94,7	93,6	93,2	94,6	94,2
Post-secondary vocational	91,9	94,2	93,9	92,4	93,1
Higher	94,7	95,9	95,6	94,7	95,4
Marital status					
Married	94,6	95,8	96,4	94,5	95,3
Cohabitation	92,7	89,2	90,4	91,6	91,1
Divorced/separated	89,5	93,2	90,7	92,6	91,5
Solitary	92,4	89,5	93,6	89,6	91,4
Occupational status					
Employee	94,1	94,9	95,2	93,5	94,4
Self-employed	96,1	98,3	92,8	98,9	96,5
Retired	91,6	90,0	84,1	93,6	90,5
Unemployed	91,9	93,2	95,1	90,9	92,3
Another situation	93,8	94,2	95,0	93,5	94,0
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	92,3	94,9	93,6	93,6	93,6
Quintile II	93,2	95,1	94,0	94,3	94,2
Quintile III	94,6	93,8	95,0	93,7	94,2
Quintile IV	93,8	92,2	95,7	90,8	93,0
Quintile V	93,3	95,2	95,2	93,3	94,3
Number of children					
0	94,0	93,5	95,5	91,5	93,8
1	93,8	95,5	93,8	95,5	94,7
2	93,8	94,1	95,2	93,2	94,0
3+	93,5	94,1	93,5	94,1	93,9
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	93,2	94,1	95,0	92,2	93,7
Post-lockdown	94,0	94,4	94,7	93,9	94,2

*The denominator includes people who have a living mother.

Note: Disaggregated subcategories with a small number of cases are excluded from the analysis and the table.

TABLE 6.2.2. Percentage of population aged 15-79 communicating at least weekly with father, %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	84,4	80,5	80,9	83,7	82,4
Age group					
15-19	73,3	69,0	67,9	74,8	71,2
20-24	81,3	77,3	77,6	80,7	79,2
25-29	82,5	75,5	78,1	79,5	78,9
30-34	92,1	83,8	87,9	87,8	87,8
35-39	80,3	82,6	81,1	81,8	81,5
40-44	93,2	86,5	88,4	90,5	89,6
45-49	82,0	90,8	85,9	87,5	86,9
Region					
Chisinau	82,2	74,3	77,4	82,7	78,1
North	77,9	79,4	80,5	76,7	78,6
Centre	89,1	82,7	87,1	85,2	85,7
South	86,4	85,4	85,0	86,3	85,9
Education					
Lower secondary	79,3	76,4	69,9	80,9	77,8
General secondary	85,7	81,1	81,6	84,7	83,3
Vocational secondary	85,4	80,6	78,5	85,4	83,0
Post-secondary vocational	80,9	85,3	84,4	82,1	83,3
Higher	88,3	81,5	84,5	84,7	84,5
Marital status					
Married	88,9	84,9	86,6	86,6	86,6
Cohabitation	80,0	71,9	68,9	83,8	76,1
Solitary	75,8	71,8	73,4	75,0	74,2

Occupational status					
Employee	85,1	84,3	83,8	86,0	84,7
Self-employed	90,6	89,1	85,1	93,8	90,4
Unemployed	79,9	73,7	75,6	78,3	77,4
Another situation	82,5	79,1	77,5	81,9	80,2
Welfare quintile					
Quintile II	82,2	75,1	71,6	81,4	78,4
Quintile III	87,8	79,5	80,1	85,9	83,5
Quintile IV	80,4	79,5	76,4	83,0	80,0
Quintile V	84,3	82,6	83,2	83,6	83,4
Number of children					
0	78,8	70,3	75,9	75,3	75,7
1	87,3	82,5	83,2	86,2	84,7
2	90,9	84,6	87,2	87,3	87,2
3+	82,6	81,9	76,8	84,1	82,1
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	81,2	76,0	78,6	78,4	78,5
Post-lockdown	85,5	82,0	81,9	85,0	83,7

*The denominator includes people who have a living father.

Note: Disaggregated subcategories with a small number of cases are excluded from the analysis and the table.

Although the survey subjects have living parents (at least one), at the time of the interview 2.1% of respondents indicated that they do not communicate in any way with their mother and about 5% of them did not communicate with their father (*Table 6.2.3*). The results show no statistically significant differences in terms of various socio-demographic characteristics applied.

TABLE 6.2.3. Share of population aged 15-79 not communicating with mother or father, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Not communicating with mother	2,2	2,0	1,8	2,3	2,1
Nu comunică cu tatăl	4,7	5,1	5,2	4,6	4,9

6.3. The peculiarities of living with parents

In this survey, the peculiarities of the living arrangements of the parent and child generations are assessed in relation to the population of those with living biological parents. Thus, according to the results, 8 out of 10 people have parents living together (*Table 6.3.1*). There are no significant differences by gender. By area of residence, the share of those whose parents live together is higher for the rural population (83.3%) than for urban dwellers (about 76%). At the same time, for the younger age groups (15-29 years), the share of those whose parents live together is below the general average (ranging from 73% to 76%) and higher for older age groups. We could assume here the influence of external migration on the families of the young population as a catalyst in the increase of parental separation and divorce.

Small differences are noted in terms of marital status: among married people, more than 85% of respondents have biological parents living together, while for those cohabiting this share is lower (71.4%).

TABLE 6.3.1. Share of population aged 15-79 whose biological parents live together, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	80,7	78,9	75,5	83,3	79,8
Age group					
15-19	78,9	72,1	62,9	83,5	75,7
20-24	75,3	70,4	69,3	75,8	72,9
25-29	74,1	74,8	73,9	74,9	74,5
30-34	84,7	82,1	78,9	87,7	83,4
35-39	82,1	83,2	76,7	88,1	82,6
40-44	90,2	90,0	89,7	90,4	90,1
45-49	90,4	93,4	91,6	92,3	92,0
Region					
Chisinau	76,3	72,0	72,5	84,1	74,1
North	76,2	73,5	73,1	76,6	74,9
Centre	87,7	85,5	86,0	86,7	86,6
South	78,2	81,3	75,0	81,6	79,7

Education					
Lower secondary	73,2	74,7	60,7	79,0	73,9
General secondary	84,4	77,6	74,7	86,0	80,9
Vocational secondary	85,4	81,1	81,3	84,3	83,4
Post-secondary vocational	79,5	84,3	80,4	83,4	82,0
Higher	82,0	80,9	79,7	85,6	81,4
Marital status					
Married	87,0	83,8	82,8	86,9	85,2
Cohabitation	68,8	74,7	66,7	77,0	71,4
Solitary	76,6	71,7	68,9	78,8	74,8
Occupational status					
Employee	82,6	82,7	80,0	86,0	82,6
Self-employed	85,3	76,8	76,9	89,1	84,2
Unemployed	72,9	73,1	70,5	74,3	73,0
Another situation	80,0	77,7	70,4	83,2	78,5
Welfare quintile					
Quintile II	84,3	77,7	74,2	83,9	81,1
Quintile III	83,6	78,7	76,7	83,9	81,2
Quintile IV	75,2	80,1	70,3	82,2	77,4
Quintile V	82,3	81,2	80,1	83,7	81,8
Number of children					
0	75,6	70,4	67,7	79,5	73,7
1	87,0	77,9	80,2	83,9	82,1
2	86,6	85,6	84,3	87,2	86,0
3+	80,7	81,9	75,9	83,8	81,5
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	75,0	70,4	73,1	72,4	72,8
Post-lockdown	82,7	81,7	76,5	86,1	82,2

Note: Disaggregated subcategories with a small number of cases are excluded from the analysis and the table.

The results of the survey show that about 12% of the population live with their parents and 88% live separately (Tables 6.3.2. and 6.3.3.). There is a small difference by gender, with men more often living with their parents (more than 14% compared to about 10% for women), explained by a longer duration of being single and older age at marriage.

By age, as expected, in the younger age groups the share of people living with their parents is much higher, as follows: at 15-19 years – every second respondent, at 20-24 years – every fourth and at 24-29 years – every sixth interviewee. As people get older, fewer and fewer of them are living with their parents. After the age of 50-54, their share is less than 5%.

TABLE 6.3.2. Share of population aged 15-79 living with parents (both or at least one parent), in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	14,1	9,6	10,5	12,4	11,7
Age group					
15-19	55,0	53,8	43,6	61,0	54,4
20-24	27,2	18,8	16,9	28,1	23,1
25-29	20,5	11,9	12,4	19,1	16,3
30-34	13,7	10,5	10,2	13,7	12,1
35-39	17,0	8,6	9,3	15,6	12,9
40-44	9,7	7,0	8,7	8,1	8,3
45-49	10,0	5,5	5,9	8,5	7,7
50-54	4,6	5,3	7,3	4,0	5,0
55-59	1,7	3,5	3,1	2,5	2,7
60-64	1,7	1,7	2,2	1,5	1,7
65-69	0,5	0,7	1,3	0,3	0,6
70-74	0,0	0,6	0,7	0,2	0,3
75-79	0,0	0,3	0,0	0,3	0,2
Region					
Chisinau	11,4	10,6	10,3	13,9	11,0
North	12,1	9,3	9,2	11,5	10,5
Centre	16,2	9,9	10,2	13,5	12,9
South	14,4	8,7	12,8	11,2	11,6

For the teenage years (15-19 years), the passage through the stages of transition to adult life – from school to vocational studies and then to work and independent living – explains the longer duration of living with parents (*Table 6.3.2*). It appears that after the age of 30-34, almost 9 out of 10 people were already living separately from their parents at the time of the interview (*Table 6.3.3*).

Other breakdowns by socio-demographic features do not show statistically significant differences from the overall sample average.

TABLE 6.3.3. Share of population aged 15-79 living separately from parents, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	85,9	90,4	89,5	87,6	88,3
Age group					
15-19	45,0	46,2	56,4	39,0	45,6
20-24	72,8	81,2	83,1	71,9	76,9
25-29	79,5	88,1	87,6	80,9	83,7
30-34	86,3	89,5	89,8	86,3	87,9
35-39	83,0	91,4	90,7	84,4	87,1
40-44	90,3	93,0	91,3	91,9	91,7
45-49	90,0	94,5	94,1	91,5	92,3
50-54	95,4	94,7	92,7	96,0	95,0
55-59	98,3	96,5	96,9	97,5	97,3
60-64	98,3	98,3	97,8	98,5	98,3
65-69	99,5	99,3	98,7	99,7	99,4
70-74	100,0	99,4	99,3	99,8	99,7
75-79	100,0	99,7	100,0	99,7	99,8
Region					
Chisinau	88,6	89,4	89,7	86,1	89,0
North	87,9	90,7	90,8	88,5	89,5
Centre	83,8	90,1	89,8	86,5	87,1
South	85,6	91,3	87,2	88,8	88,4

6.4. Short-term intentions regarding living with parents

In order to assess the short-term plans (for the next 3 years) regarding changes in living separately or with parents, only those who had at least one living parent at the time of the interview and who were either living with them or not were included in the analysis. Thus, according to the results, of the total population aged 15-79 years who were living with at least one parent at the time of the interview, about 42% intend to live separately in the next three years (Table 6.4.1). However, the most representative in this respect are the young age groups 15-19/20-24, with more than half prospectively planning to live separately from their parents. Note that the disaggregated sub-categories with small number of cases were excluded from the analysis.

TABLE 6.4.1. Share of the population aged 15-79 intending to live separately from their parents in the next 3 years ('definitely' plus 'probably'), in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	40,5	44,2	50,8	37,8	42,1
Age group					
15-19	47,2	53,7	52,3	49,4	50,3
20-24	63,5	63,5	69,8	60,3	63,5
Region					
Chisinau	58,2	50,7	55,6	50,3	54,4
North	38,7	38,4	52,0	30,5	38,6
Centre	38,3	40,2	42,3	38,5	39,1
South	36,2	50,9	48,1	38,7	41,5
Education					
Lower secondary	32,7	36,4	45,1	30,2	34,1
General secondary	50,2	49,8	58,8	42,8	50,1
Vocational secondary	43,7	40,2	57,2	36,6	42,4
Post-secondary vocational	53,1	50,8	53,1	50,2	51,8
Marital status					
Married	21,6	41,8	40,8	28,0	31,8
Solitary	40,7	44,6	54,8	36,1	42,1

Occupational status					
Employee	40,6	42,4	46,2	37,6	41,3
Another situation	41,9	47,1	52,9	41,4	44,5
Welfare quintile					
Quintile II	29,8	33,1	29,0	31,9	31,2
Quintile III	35,3	39,6	42,4	34,8	37,2
Quintile IV	41,8	52,1	64,6	41,2	46,6
Quintile V	54,9	48,7	60,3	45,5	52,0
Number of children					
0	46,7	56,6	57,2	46,9	50,2
1	44,7	35,6	47,6	35,0	39,7
2	20,6	34,8	41,1	20,9	27,8
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	34,8	36,2	38,1	33,2	35,4
Post-lockdown	43,1	48,3	61,0	39,4	45,3

*The denominator includes people who have at least one living parent and were living with their parents at the time of the interview.

Note: Disaggregated subcategories with a small number of cases are excluded from the analysis and the table.

On the other hand, of those who were not living with their parents at the time of the interview, about 9% expressed the intention to live with them in the next 3 years (*Table 6.4.2.*). For the 15-19 age group, practically every second respondent stated this intention, and after the age of 30 – less than 5%, with the share decreasing as age increases. Also, about 1/3 of the unmarried and 1/4 of those who did not have children at the time of the interview plan to live with their parents. We assume that these subcategories also relate to the young population who are either returning from education or are at some stage of integration into adult life.

TABLE 6.4.2. Share of population aged 15-79 intending in the next 3 years to start living with parents ('definitely' plus 'probably'), in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	10,8	6,9	8,4	9,2	8,8
Age group					
15-19	47,9	47,2	39,1	54,7	47,5
20-24	12,2	6,6	8,6	9,9	9,3
25-29	11,4	6,3	4,6	12,2	8,8
30-34	6,4	2,9	6,2	3,3	4,7
35-39	5,1	2,1	4,3	2,8	3,5
40-44	8,1	0,9	6,1	3,3	4,5
Region					
Chisinau	10,3	7,0	7,6	15,1	8,7
North	12,9	10,2	10,3	12,9	11,5
Centre	9,2	2,4	2,4	6,8	5,7
South	12,4	12,0	18,4	9,9	12,2
Education					
Lower secondary	17,6	10,4	20,5	11,9	13,8
General secondary	18,2	8,1	13,2	12,8	13,0
Vocational secondary	10,7	4,0	9,7	6,2	7,3
Post-secondary vocational	3,0	6,1	5,3	4,0	4,7
Higher	3,8	4,1	2,8	7,0	3,9
Marital status					
Married	2,4	2,6	3,0	2,2	2,5
Cohabitation	7,4	10,3	12,4	5,2	8,8
Solitary	35,3	26,5	22,2	41,5	32,1

Occupational status					
Employee	6,1	4,4	5,5	5,2	5,4
Unemployed	15,6	7,4	11,1	13,1	12,4
Another situation	24,5	8,9	14,1	13,1	13,5
Welfare quintile					
Quintile II	11,8	7,7	3,5	12,2	9,7
Quintile III	10,0	5,1	8,6	6,8	7,5
Quintile IV	14,1	1,8	8,0	8,4	8,3
Quintile V	8,3	7,9	5,9	10,8	8,1
Number of children					
0	23,8	23,0	13,9	37,5	23,5
1	4,0	6,6	6,6	4,1	5,3
2	3,5	3,0	5,0	2,0	3,2
3+	5,1	1,0	4,8	1,6	2,4
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	14,3	8,3	14,8	6,4	11,2
Post-lockdown	9,8	6,6	5,9	9,7	8,1

*The denominator includes persons who have at least one living parent and who were not living with either parent at the time of the interview.

Note: Disaggregated subcategories with a small number of cases are excluded from the analysis and the table.

6.5. Intergenerational financial and material support

The intergenerational relationships that result from mutual support can be represented in the survey results by private material transfers between parents and children, children and parents, friends, etc. Thus, we distinguish four types of transfers: financial support; help with personal care (e.g. in carrying out hygiene procedures); assistance with childcare; practical help in the household (help with housework, cooking, cleaning, laundry, minor repairs, etc.).

The survey results show that more than 14% of the population aged 15-79 received material or financial support (in the amount of at least MDL 750) during the last year (12 months prior to the survey) either from someone in the family or from outside the family (*Table 6.5.1*).

The share of people who received practical help did not differ between men and women, whereas by area of residence it was higher in urban areas – 19.1% compared to rural areas – about 12%. The extent of financial support received varies by age. More than a quarter of teenagers (15-19 years) and young people aged 20-24 benefited from support.

Financial dependence on parents can be explained by the transition from school to work and adult life. It was found that more than one third of young people from urban areas receive material and financial support, while for rural areas – almost one in four people in their teenage years (15-19 years), followed by around 17% for the 20-24 age group.

After the age of 25, the share of recipients of financial support decreases, largely due to integration into the labour market, leaving the parental home, starting their own family. The fewest recipients of material or financial support are in the 40-59 age group – on average 9%.

Among the population aged 65 and over, the share of recipients of material or financial support (in the amount of at least MDL 750) starts increasing again, ranging from about 13% to 15% for ages 65-69/70-74/75-79. We note that once people retire, their financial and material situation becomes precarious, their income decreases due to small pensions, and covering utility expenses and ensuring a decent standard of living becomes a problem. Thus, some elderly people receive support from their adult children, relatives, and/or from the state through social assistance provided according to certain criteria. The share of older people receiving support is higher in urban areas (about 17%) and among women (15.1%), but lower in villages (12.5%) and among men – about 12%. One explanation for these differences could be women's greater longevity and thus living alone for longer, as well as their lower incomes compared to men. All this makes them more dependent on support from relatives or outside sources to meet their financial and material needs.

By region, Chisinau municipality has the highest share – 28.3% of the population aged 15-79 received material or financial support in the last 12 months. At the same time, among other notable features, we note that the share of people who received financial or material support is higher among the highly educated (23.1%), as well as among people with no children (20%), and lowest among the young population aged 15-19/20-24.

TABLE 6.5.1. Distribution of the population aged 15-79 who received financial support (at least MDL 750) in the last 12 months, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	14,0	14,8	19,1	11,7	14,4
Age group					
15-19	28,5	27,0	36,3	22,7	27,8
20-24	27,1	24,3	36,4	16,9	25,7
25-29	15,6	18,4	20,4	14,5	17,0
30-34	16,9	18,6	22,3	13,8	17,8
35-39	11,9	13,8	16,2	10,3	12,9
40-44	9,7	7,9	13,4	6,3	8,8
45-49	6,0	9,5	9,0	7,3	7,8
50-54	8,6	11,0	9,5	10,1	9,9
55-59	9,1	10,2	11,1	9,1	9,7
60-64	10,2	11,0	12,4	10,0	10,7
65-69	11,5	15,0	17,1	12,1	13,6
70-74	12,2	17,4	17,1	14,5	15,4
75-79	12,6	12,7	15,8	11,4	12,7
Region					
Chisinau	29,9	26,9	30,7	17,6	28,3
North	18,1	17,1	17,2	17,8	17,5
Centre	9,3	11,0	8,2	10,6	10,2
South	7,5	9,9	9,1	8,5	8,7
Education					
Primary	4,9	10,9	13,9	6,1	7,8
Lower secondary	12,9	13,8	18,0	12,0	13,3
General secondary	13,4	13,5	21,3	9,0	13,4
Vocational secondary	11,7	12,1	11,6	12,1	11,9
Post-secondary vocational	10,6	15,0	14,5	11,9	13,1
Higher	25,7	21,1	25,7	18,1	23,1

Marital status					
Married	12,7	13,1	17,1	10,8	13,0
Cohabitation	15,9	15,4	21,8	11,8	15,7
Divorced/separated	7,3	15,1	13,7	9,1	11,3
Solitary	15,6	16,3	20,1	13,2	15,9
Widow	11,2	14,2	16,3	12,6	13,6
Occupational status					
Employee	14,2	12,4	17,0	9,9	13,4
Self-employed	16,4	18,5	21,2	14,2	16,8
Retired	11,6	12,9	15,1	11,4	12,5
Unemployed	9,3	15,4	16,2	9,2	11,3
Another situation	17,4	17,6	25,3	14,0	17,5
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	6,5	12,6	13,5	7,9	9,6
Quintile II	9,8	13,2	15,4	10,5	11,8
Quintile III	15,5	15,3	19,9	12,9	15,4
Quintile IV	12,6	12,2	16,4	10,4	12,4
Quintile V	18,2	17,3	22,8	13,7	17,7
Number of children					
0	19,1	21,7	25,4	15,5	20,0
1	11,7	14,6	17,0	10,1	13,3
2	11,3	12,5	15,4	10,1	12,0
3+	12,1	14,2	18,2	11,9	13,4
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	15,5	17,4	17,3	15,7	16,5
Post-lockdown	13,3	13,8	20,1	10,5	13,6

6.6. Help with personal care

Intergenerational social network stakeholders take on different roles in exchange for private aid (transfers): either as beneficiaries/recipients (those who receive aid), donors (those who provide/offer aid), or both (both those who receive and provide aid).

The survey found a generally small number of people aged 15-79 receiving help with personal care, their share accounting for up to 1%. Values above this average are reported for the population aged 65 and over. Most of this help is provided by family members (partner or children). According to self-reports, in the last 12 months prior to the survey, about 4% of the population aged 65 and over received help with routine personal care such as dressing, bathing, or using the toilet, getting out of bed, eating, etc. (Table 6.6.1). The differences by gender, area of residence, level of education, marital status and other variables are insignificant, with values hovering around the mean. Personal care recipients are usually elderly respondents (75-79 years), with a share of 8%. By region, in the northern and central regions, the share of elderly people aged 65 and over who received help with personal care is 5%, while in Chisinau municipality it is lower – 2.2%.

TABLE 6.6.1. Share of population aged 65 and over who in the past 12 months received help with personal care, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total 65 +	4,5	3,9	3,9	4,2	4,1
Age group					
65-69	4,3	2,2	2,9	3,2	3,1
70-74	2,5	4,1	2,9	3,7	3,5
75-79	8,4	7,9	8,2	8,0	8,0
Region					
Chisinau	1,5	2,6	1,8	3,6	2,2
North	5,9	4,2	5,3	4,5	4,8
Centre	5,8	4,7	6,8	4,9	5,2
South	3,1	3,1	2,6	3,3	3,1
Education					
Primary	8,2	6,4	3,0	7,7	6,8
Lower secondary	4,9	5,0	6,6	4,6	5,0
General secondary	3,7	4,0	3,4	4,0	3,9
Vocational secondary	4,6	3,2	3,5	4,2	4,0
Post-secondary vocational	4,4	2,2	4,1	2,3	3,1
Higher	4,1	1,4	1,8	3,2	2,5

Marital status					
Married	4,0	2,9	2,3	4,0	3,5
Divorced/separated	9,2	3,7	7,1	5,2	6,1
Solitary	5,4	5,6	5,3	5,7	5,6
Widow	4,9	3,7	3,9	4,0	4,0
Occupational status					
Retired	0,0	3,8	3,5	0,0	3,9
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	2,9	7,0	8,4	4,6	5,7
Quintile II	8,3	5,4	5,4	6,7	6,4
Quintile III	1,9	3,8	3,3	2,6	2,8
Quintile IV	3,1	2,3	3,5	2,2	2,6
Quintile V	3,6	1,7	1,9	3,0	2,6
Number of children					
0	4,1	4,9	5,3	4,3	4,6
1	1,3	5,3	5,9	2,5	4,0
2	4,6	3,0	2,8	4,1	3,6
3+	5,4	3,9	3,8	4,7	4,5
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	5,7	4,8	4,9	5,4	5,2
Post-lockdown	3,9	3,4	3,0	3,8	3,6

Note: Disaggregated subcategories with a small number of cases are excluded from the analysis and the table.

The survey data show that in the 12 months prior to the survey about 9% of the population, at least once a month, provided regular help with personal care⁴³ to other people aged up to 75, either inside or outside the household. This share remains unchanged for both men/women and urban/rural areas but exceeds the average among 15–19-year-olds (about 13%) and practically halves in older ages (*Table 6.6.2*). At the same time, the share of those providing this help is higher among divorced/separated people and those with at most one child.

⁴³ such as dressing, bathing or using the toilet, getting out of bed, eating, etc.

TABLE 6.6.2. Share of the population aged 15-79 who provided regular help in the last 12 months with personal care for people under 75, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	8,9	8,8	9,0	8,7	8,8
Age group					
15-19	13,6	12,1	12,5	13,1	12,9
20-24	10,1	7,6	9,1	8,7	8,9
25-29	5,0	8,1	4,8	7,8	6,5
30-34	7,7	8,4	9,3	7,0	8,1
35-39	10,5	10,6	10,4	10,7	10,6
40-44	8,6	8,9	9,2	8,5	8,8
45-49	13,1	12,7	11,2	13,7	12,9
50-54	11,7	10,6	11,7	10,9	11,1
55-59	8,6	8,2	9,1	8,1	8,4
60-64	6,1	8,3	10,1	6,3	7,4
65-69	5,1	6,4	5,9	5,8	5,8
70-74	8,6	4,4	6,4	5,9	6,1
75-79	4,2	3,0	4,8	2,9	3,4
Region					
Chisinau	10,4	9,4	10,2	8,1	9,9
North	10,6	10,8	8,6	12,3	10,7
Centre	5,3	6,9	7,4	5,8	6,1
South	11,2	9,2	8,8	10,7	10,2
Education					
Primary	8,9	7,3	12,7	6,9	8,1
Lower secondary	9,2	7,9	9,3	8,3	8,6
General secondary	11,5	9,1	9,4	10,6	10,1
Vocational secondary	7,1	8,2	8,2	7,3	7,6
Post-secondary vocational	9,2	9,9	9,4	9,7	9,6
Higher	8,2	9,7	8,6	9,9	9,0

Marital status					
Married	8,9	8,3	8,3	8,7	8,6
Cohabitation	10,0	10,7	13,3	8,4	10,3
Divorced/separated	11,3	11,9	10,4	12,7	11,6
Solitary	8,3	8,4	8,2	8,4	8,3
Widow	5,2	6,1	6,9	5,6	5,9
Occupational status					
Employee	8,7	10,5	9,2	9,8	9,5
Self-employed	7,6	6,8	9,5	6,2	7,5
Retired	5,5	6,7	7,7	5,7	6,3
Unemployed	13,1	12,6	9,7	14,2	12,9
Another situation	8,7	8,1	9,2	7,9	8,3
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	13,7	11,0	12,7	12,2	12,4
Quintile II	8,1	9,1	8,9	8,6	8,7
Quintile III	8,5	8,9	8,7	8,7	8,7
Quintile IV	7,4	6,9	8,8	6,2	7,1
Quintile V	8,5	8,8	10,2	7,5	8,7
Number of children					
0	9,6	10,3	9,2	10,4	9,9
1	10,1	8,7	8,3	10,2	9,3
2	8,4	8,2	8,5	8,2	8,3
3+	7,5	8,8	10,8	7,5	8,3
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	8,0	10,6	9,2	9,4	9,3
Post-lockdown	9,3	8,1	9,0	8,5	8,7

Nearly 7% of the population provide regular help with personal care for the elderly aged 75 and over (*Table 6.6.3.*). Here again, there are no obvious differences by socio-demographic characteristics, but there is almost a doubling of the share in the 45-49/50-54 age groups. At the same time, the survey shows that even among people aged 60 and over, the share of those

involved in helping other elderly people remains around average, ranging between 8% and 4%, decreasing as they get older.

TABLE 6.6.3. Share of the population aged 15-79 who provided regular help in the last 12 months with personal care to people aged 75 and over, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	5,8	7,2	6,6	6,5	6,6
Age group					
15-19	7,5	8,2	8,0	7,8	7,9
20-24	5,3	3,6	3,4	5,4	4,5
25-29	3,0	5,3	2,5	5,3	4,1
30-34	2,4	4,0	4,0	2,5	3,2
35-39	6,5	6,8	7,0	6,3	6,6
40-44	4,5	6,0	5,6	5,1	5,3
45-49	10,1	11,2	9,0	11,4	10,7
50-54	10,5	12,9	12,5	11,4	11,8
55-59	9,6	10,2	11,9	9,0	9,9
60-64	6,5	8,6	12,1	6,0	7,7
65-69	2,4	6,8	5,7	4,7	5,0
70-74	4,7	4,6	5,9	4,0	4,7
75-79	3,6	4,8	4,8	4,3	4,4
Region					
Chisinau	6,8	6,1	7,1	3,2	6,4
North	9,3	10,4	7,5	11,7	9,9
Centre	3,0	5,7	3,8	4,5	4,4
South	6,3	7,2	7,1	6,7	6,8
Education					
Primary	1,4	5,1	2,7	3,3	3,2
Lower secondary	5,2	6,1	6,0	5,6	5,7
General secondary	7,7	7,2	7,5	7,4	7,4
Vocational secondary	5,3	7,1	6,4	6,0	6,1
Post-secondary vocational	8,0	9,5	7,7	9,7	8,8
Higher	4,7	7,6	6,0	7,0	6,4

Marital status					
Married	5,9	6,7	6,4	6,3	6,3
Cohabitation	5,4	8,9	6,3	7,7	7,2
Divorced/separated	6,7	8,0	6,7	8,0	7,4
Solitary	6,0	7,1	6,8	6,2	6,4
Widow	2,5	7,9	8,0	6,2	6,7
Occupational status					
Employee	5,3	7,7	6,4	6,6	6,5
Self-employed	5,4	6,8	6,4	5,2	5,6
Retired	4,1	7,0	7,6	5,4	6,0
Unemployed	8,3	10,4	8,4	9,3	9,0
Another situation	6,0	6,3	5,9	6,4	6,2
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	8,7	8,6	9,9	8,1	8,6
Quintile II	5,9	7,8	6,2	7,2	7,0
Quintile III	5,8	6,8	6,0	6,5	6,3
Quintile IV	6,0	5,3	7,5	4,6	5,6
Quintile V	6,0	7,0	7,5	5,8	6,6
Number of children					
0	6,2	7,2	5,9	7,1	6,6
1	6,5	7,4	6,9	7,0	7,0
2	5,7	7,0	6,4	6,4	6,4
3+	5,0	7,5	7,9	6,1	6,5
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	7,1	9,1	6,9	9,2	8,1
Post-lockdown	5,3	6,5	6,4	5,7	5,9

6.7. Practical help with household maintenance

Another form of intergenerational relationship is involvement by helping with household chores. Here, in the context of the analysis, we refer to the population who provided help to people outside their own household and outside working hours if they are working in the care industry. Thus, we found that the share of household help providers was twice as high as for the two forms of help mentioned above – more than 18% of the population aged 15-79 years confirmed that, in the last 12 months, they regularly (at least once a month) helped other people with household chores (Table 6.7.1). It should be noted that the results of the survey show that the recipients of this help are mostly close family members: own parents (about 48%) and partner's

parents (10%); daughter/son (11%); sibling (about 12%); grandparents (about 8%) and other relatives (14%). At the same time, about 33% indicated that they offered this kind of help to friends, neighbours, acquaintances/colleagues.

According to the survey results, men and urban people (*Table 6.7.1*) are involved to a greater extent in helping other people with household maintenance – more than 20-23%. This is also true among the younger population – about 1/4 of teenagers (15-19 years old). By region, Chisinau municipality has the highest share – practically 1/3 of the population is involved through various activities in caring for other people's households.

TABLE 6.7.1 Distribuția populației cu vârsta de 15-79 de ani care a oferit ajutor regulat membrilor familiei la întreținerea gospodăriei în ultimele 12 luni, în %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	20,4	16,0	23,2	15,2	18,1
Age group					
15-19	28,4	19,1	34,3	17,8	23,9
20-24	23,0	18,5	26,4	16,1	20,8
25-29	25,6	16,9	27,1	17,2	21,4
30-34	22,4	14,8	25,3	12,9	18,6
35-39	22,5	17,8	23,6	17,6	20,2
40-44	16,9	15,1	16,2	15,9	16,0
45-49	17,5	16,4	21,8	14,8	16,9
50-54	21,4	19,5	27,5	17,4	20,4
55-59	18,5	16,6	20,6	16,0	17,4
60-64	18,1	16,7	20,4	16,1	17,3
65-69	11,1	13,3	15,4	11,1	12,4
70-74	12,5	9,4	13,3	9,4	10,6
75-79	7,2	6,1	7,6	6,0	6,4
Region					
Chisinau	35,9	26,3	32,7	22,7	30,9
North	22,4	17,9	16,0	22,7	19,8
Centre	12,6	11,1	13,0	11,5	11,8
South	19,4	14,3	23,6	14,5	16,9

Education					
Primary	13,2	5,8	17,0	7,8	9,7
Lower secondary	19,3	13,9	20,7	15,2	16,5
General secondary	20,3	15,7	25,3	13,4	17,7
Vocational secondary	19,2	13,2	20,5	14,8	16,5
Post-secondary vocational	21,6	18,0	21,6	18,0	19,6
Higher	24,5	22,2	26,3	17,2	23,2
Marital status					
Married	18,5	15,3	21,1	14,5	16,8
Cohabitation	25,0	18,7	28,7	17,6	21,8
Divorced/separated	19,0	19,9	22,1	17,1	19,5
Solitary	21,1	14,8	23,6	15,4	18,6
Widow	10,9	13,7	14,4	12,6	13,0
Occupational status					
Employee	23,6	19,6	26,9	16,6	21,7
Self-employed	24,3	20,5	29,8	19,9	23,6
Retired	11,5	12,9	14,7	11,5	12,4
Unemployed	21,3	19,0	24,6	18,8	20,5
Another situation	19,0	14,6	20,5	14,4	16,3
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	18,8	16,8	23,0	15,6	17,8
Quintile II	15,7	14,0	13,2	15,3	14,7
Quintile III	22,2	14,6	22,1	16,1	18,2
Quintile IV	19,0	14,8	28,6	10,7	16,7
Quintile V	23,8	19,5	29,4	15,0	21,4
Number of children					
0	24,2	20,6	28,2	18,6	22,9
1	21,7	16,0	23,3	14,3	18,5
2	17,7	14,9	20,1	13,9	16,1
3+	17,5	15,0	20,3	14,7	16,0

	Covid				
Pre-lockdown	24,0	20,0	21,3	22,5	22,0
Post-lockdown	18,9	14,5	24,3	12,8	16,5

6.8. Help with childcare

The subjects of this analysis are the population who, in the last 12 months, provided help to another person in childcare, either not employed in the childcare industry or providing help outside working hours.

Thus, according to the results of the survey, about 18% of the population aged 15-79 help other people to care for their minor child/children (*Table 6.8.1*). Among women and urban dwellers, the share of those who help with childcare is higher and exceeds 20% and 23% respectively. By age group, this share ranges from 21.7% among 15–19-year-olds, usually involved in caring for younger siblings (in urban areas they constitute about 32%), to 23% among 55-59/60-64-year-olds, usually grandparents by that age, caring for their grandchildren.

The share of people providing help in caring for minor children is almost 30% in Chisinau municipality, significantly higher compared to the general average and the shares recorded in other regions.

For other characteristics, no significant differences are observed in the data related to caregivers.



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TABLE 6.8.1. Distribution of the population aged 15-79 who provided regular help with childcare in the last 12 months, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	15,2	20,2	23,5	14,6	17,8
Age group					
15-19	17,8	26,0	31,5	15,9	21,7
20-24	16,4	24,4	28,7	13,4	20,3
25-29	15,0	20,3	23,4	13,5	17,6
30-34	16,1	17,1	22,4	11,6	16,6
35-39	14,7	13,3	16,2	12,4	14,0
40-44	13,2	12,3	15,9	11,0	12,7
45-49	14,1	19,9	21,7	15,1	17,1
50-54	15,7	25,3	27,6	17,9	20,8
55-59	16,5	28,3	30,0	19,7	22,9
60-64	15,2	25,8	28,5	18,4	21,2
65-69	17,7	22,4	30,1	16,5	20,5
70-74	11,1	17,6	20,7	12,4	15,1
75-79	4,2	5,4	4,8	5,1	5,0
Region					
Chisinau	28,0	31,4	32,3	18,5	29,8
North	14,7	20,6	18,6	17,7	18,1
Centre	9,5	14,9	13,0	12,2	12,3
South	15,1	19,7	22,7	15,4	17,3
Education					
Primary	8,8	12,6	20,2	8,0	10,6
Lower secondary	12,4	16,6	20,1	13,0	14,6
General secondary	16,1	20,4	24,2	15,2	18,5
Vocational secondary	16,1	21,8	25,0	16,0	18,7
Post-secondary vocational	16,0	23,0	24,0	16,6	19,9
Higher	18,8	22,9	24,2	15,2	21,1

Marital status					
Married	16,1	18,7	21,9	15,2	17,5
Cohabitation	19,4	18,9	26,8	14,4	19,1
Divorced/separated	15,5	28,3	24,1	20,0	21,9
Solitary	11,9	21,1	22,5	11,4	15,7
Widow	10,0	20,5	22,6	16,6	18,2
Occupational status					
Employee	16,5	21,3	22,3	15,3	18,8
Self-employed	15,4	29,4	29,3	11,4	18,1
Retired	13,3	20,7	24,3	15,7	18,2
Unemployed	17,2	21,7	24,7	16,2	18,7
Another situation	13,2	18,4	23,7	13,1	16,4
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	11,8	20,2	20,2	14,2	16,0
Quintile II	15,5	18,1	18,9	16,3	17,0
Quintile III	15,2	21,2	24,1	15,1	18,3
Quintile IV	12,1	16,3	21,9	10,6	14,4
Quintile V	18,0	22,8	27,2	15,3	20,6
Number of children					
0	14,7	27,1	26,3	13,0	19,0
1	16,4	17,2	21,7	12,7	16,9
2	15,5	19,1	22,0	15,0	17,5
3+	14,8	19,8	24,2	16,0	17,9
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	18,2	23,7	22,4	19,8	21,0
Post-lockdown	14,0	18,9	24,2	12,9	16,6

From the results of the survey, it can be seen that a good share of those who helped with childcare did it for people who are their relatives: daughter/son or grandchildren (48%), sister/brother or other relatives (about 33%). Around 22% provided this help to friends, acquaintances, neighbours or colleagues.

6.9. Attitudes towards intergenerational interaction

In the Republic of Moldova, grandparents traditionally had the role of supporting young families and caring for grandchildren. The survey data confirm this. Thus, according to the GGS survey, 88.6% of the total number of respondents partially or fully agree with the statement that grandparents should look after grandchildren if parents are unable to do so (*Table 6.9.1*), with a significant prevalence of those in rural areas.

People's attitudes in relation to age reveal several variations. The distribution by economic-geographical areas shows a higher share of people from the southern region, with the lowest share in Chisinau municipality.

A prevalent number of people sharing this view is found among those with a low level of education, especially among those from rural areas, with the number decreasing unevenly as the level of education increases. In relation to marital status, widowed people show a higher indicator value, while divorced/separated people – a lower one.

By occupational status, retirees have a higher share, while those employed have a lower share.

In general, gender differences are insignificant and are slightly related to age, marital status, occupational status. Among those who support this idea, men and women in the 70-74/75-79 age groups were numerically more prevalent, with the numbers gradually decreasing up the age of 20-24, then increasing again in the 15-19 age group. A positive perception of this role of grandparents is observed especially among older, retired women and men, mainly from the countryside, as well as among widows in quintile II (the indicators correlate with each other). Similarly, these views are predominantly shared by men from the southern region and women from the northern and southern regions. As the level of education increases, the number of supporters of the idea decreases, especially among men.

TABLE 6.9.1. Distribution of women and men aged 15 to 79 who 'partially' or 'fully agree' that ,grandparents should look after grandchildren if parents are unable to do so', in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	88,5	88,7	82,1	92,4	88,6
Age group					
15-19	90,9	90,2	85,9	93,3	90,6
20-24	84,0	85,2	76,5	91,3	84,6
25-29	80,0	84,6	75,9	86,8	82,3
30-34	88,8	84,8	80,7	92,1	86,8
35-39	87,3	82,3	76,8	91,0	84,9
40-44	86,1	86,0	79,4	89,7	86,1
45-49	88,5	90,3	85,9	91,0	89,4
50-54	90,1	92,6	84,0	94,6	91,5
55-59	92,8	92,6	89,0	94,5	92,7
60-64	92,8	93,9	89,4	95,0	93,4
65-69	94,5	93,1	89,7	95,3	93,6
70-74	94,6	93,7	90,0	96,0	94,0
75-79	93,3	94,2	89,6	95,7	93,9
Region					
Chisinau	79,2	79,2	77,2	88,2	79,2
North	89,1	91,2	86,2	93,3	90,3
Centre	89,3	90,0	77,6	92,5	89,7
South	92,5	91,1	90,5	92,3	91,8
Education					
Primary	95,7	90,8	87,4	94,9	93,4
Lower secondary	91,0	91,1	84,2	93,0	91,0
General secondary	88,8	88,6	84,9	90,9	88,7
Vocational secondary	92,4	90,9	88,6	93,0	91,7
Post-secondary vocational	84,5	89,6	80,9	92,4	87,3
Higher	79,5	81,7	76,2	89,5	80,7

Marital status					
Married	88,5	88,5	81,9	92,0	88,5
Cohabitation	88,2	89,5	79,0	94,8	88,8
Divorced/separated	88,5	84,3	78,9	93,1	86,4
Solitary	87,4	88,7	81,6	91,9	87,9
Widow	92,9	93,4	90,3	94,4	93,3
Occupational status					
Employee	84,8	86,3	78,6	92,3	85,5
Self-employed	89,3	91,7	82,1	94,4	89,8
Retired	94,3	93,6	90,0	95,4	93,8
Unemployed	89,2	89,2	84,9	91,1	89,2
Another situation	89,5	87,2	82,0	90,8	88,1
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	90,5	90,6	88,4	91,5	90,6
Quintile II	92,8	92,6	87,2	94,6	92,7
Quintile III	92,1	89,8	84,1	94,7	90,9
Quintile IV	86,6	88,4	81,2	90,8	87,6
Quintile V	82,4	85,4	77,5	89,3	84,0

Throughout history, in Moldovan society, support from the parents of adult children was regarded as an element of family cohesion.

According to the GGS data, 85.0% of the population partially or totally agree that if the adult children have difficulties, parents need to adapt their own lives in order to help them, with significant urban-rural differences – 18.1% p.p. more than for rural areas (*Table 6.9.2*).

In terms of age, there is a lower share among 20–24-year-olds, especially in rural areas, with numbers increasing with age. The distribution by economic-geographical areas shows a higher share of people from the southern region, with the lowest share in Chisinau municipality.

A prevalent number of respondents sharing this view is found among those with a low level of education, especially among those from rural areas, with the number decreasing as the level of education increases. By occupational status, retirees have a higher share, while those employed have a lower share. Broken down by marital status, we see that the biggest number of people who share the above opinion are widowed, and the smallest number is found among single people.

The better-off quintile (V) stands out with a lower indicator value, while the poorer quintile (I) – with a higher indicator.

Gender differences are generally statistically insignificant and slightly vary by age, region, marital and occupational status, and education level. Those who support this idea are predominantly men and women in the 40-44 age group and older, particularly of retirement age. A positive attitude towards parental help can be seen especially among women and men with primary education, those from the South and to a lesser extent among those from Chisinau. In favour of parents adapting their lives to help their adult children were the widowed, mainly women, older people, retirees, mainly from rural areas, in quintile I and II (indicators correlating with each other). As education levels increase, the number of supporters of this idea decreases among both men and women.

As a result of the impact of Covid-19, the number of people sharing this view is decreasing, especially among urban women and men, with a small increase in rural areas.

TABLE 6.9.2. Distribution of women and men aged 15-79 who ‘partially’ or ‘fully agree’ that ,if the adult children have difficulties, parents need to adapt their own lives in order to help them’, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	85,5	84,7	73,5	91,7	85,1
Age group					
15-19	84,9	83,7	72,9	91,2	84,3
20-24	77,0	74,2	60,3	88,1	75,6
25-29	78,9	77,9	66,2	87,1	78,4
30-34	82,2	81,7	75,1	87,8	82,0
35-39	84,2	79,8	68,5	92,3	82,1
40-44	87,2	83,1	72,2	92,0	85,1
45-49	86,9	88,1	77,3	91,9	87,5
50-54	89,5	90,3	78,1	95,0	89,9
55-59	90,4	88,9	79,6	94,2	89,6
60-64	90,7	90,2	80,9	94,1	90,4
65-69	91,4	90,1	83,8	93,5	90,6
70-74	92,5	90,5	84,5	94,6	91,3
75-79	91,4	91,8	86,8	93,7	91,7

Region					
Chisinau	65,9	66,9	63,9	77,4	66,4
North	86,6	85,1	79,1	90,6	85,7
Centre	89,7	88,8	74,9	92,6	89,2
South	91,1	90,7	83,8	93,5	90,9
Education					
Primary	93,9	91,8	82,6	95,7	92,9
Lower secondary	88,9	88,6	78,1	91,9	88,7
General secondary	86,1	86,9	76,8	92,1	86,5
Vocational secondary	87,2	87,5	76,7	91,8	87,4
Post-secondary vocational	85,1	83,9	74,7	92,1	84,5
Higher	73,9	73,0	66,0	87,7	73,4
Marital status					
Married	87,9	85,6	75,3	92,5	86,7
Cohabitation	83,3	82,5	68,2	91,8	82,9
Divorced/separated	86,0	85,0	76,7	93,3	85,5
Solitary	82,3	82,6	70,2	90,1	82,4
Widow	88,9	90,3	80,4	93,5	90,0
Occupational status					
Employee	80,1	80,9	69,4	91,2	80,5
Self-employed	89,3	88,8	77,9	96,0	89,2
Retired	91,2	90,3	82,2	94,0	90,6
Unemployed	89,1	87,1	79,5	92,3	88,5
Another situation	85,9	83,2	71,9	89,8	84,2
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	90,5	88,1	84,2	91,5	89,3
Quintile II	90,2	88,1	79,1	92,4	89,0
Quintile III	88,1	84,4	75,5	92,0	86,2
Quintile IV	84,3	85,4	71,2	91,9	84,9
Quintile V	80,4	83,1	71,2	90,5	81,9

Support and care for elderly parents. The issue of support, including financial support, from children to parents in case of need is intergenerational in nature, falling within the context of the Family Code of the Republic of Moldova, which provides for the obligation of adult children to support their parents (Article 80).

The GGS data show that 92.9% of the total population partially or fully agree that children should help their parents financially if they are facing financial difficulties, with a prevalence among those from rural areas (*Table 6.9.3*).

In terms of age, there is a lower share among 15–19-year-olds, especially in rural areas, with numbers decreasing with age. The distribution by economic-geographical areas shows a higher share of people from the southern region, with the lowest share in Chisinau municipality and the northern region.

A prevalent number of respondents sharing this view is found among those with a low level of education, especially among those from rural areas, with the number decreasing unevenly as the level of education increases. In terms of occupational status, the self-employed have a higher share, while those employed have a lower share. By marital status, we see the highest share among single/cohabiting people, and the lowest – among divorced people.

The better-off quintile (V) stands out with a lower indicator value, while the low- and medium-income quintile (II-IV) – with a higher indicator.

At the same time, we find a high level of partial or total acceptance by men and women that children should help their parents financially if they face financial difficulties, with gender differences generally being statistically insignificant and slightly varying by age, region, marital and occupational status, education level.

TABLE 6.9.3. Distribution of respondents aged 15 to 79 who ‘partly’ or ‘fully agree’ that children should help their parents financially if they are experiencing financial difficulties, by gender and area of residence, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	92,5	93,3	89,8	94,7	92,9
Age group					
15-19	95,0	98,5	95,3	97,6	96,7
20-24	93,6	91,5	87,6	96,7	92,6
25-29	91,5	92,8	88,9	94,4	92,1
30-34	95,5	93,9	93,9	95,4	94,7
35-39	94,9	92,8	91,4	95,7	93,8
40-44	86,9	91,6	84,4	91,8	89,2
45-49	91,3	94,0	88,2	94,7	92,7
50-54	91,1	92,2	87,4	93,4	91,6
55-59	91,6	94,0	90,5	94,0	92,9
60-64	90,7	92,7	85,9	94,2	91,8
65-69	93,7	94,3	92,0	95,0	94,1
70-74	92,1	92,6	87,9	94,5	92,4
75-79	92,8	92,7	86,8	95,2	92,7
Region					
Chisinau	89,7	92,2	90,7	92,6	91,0
North	92,0	90,5	90,7	91,5	91,1
Centre	90,6	93,8	81,7	94,7	92,2
South	96,6	96,1	94,6	97,0	96,4
Education					
Primary	96,4	94,1	88,2	97,2	95,3
Lower secondary	94,7	93,4	90,8	95,0	94,0
General secondary	91,4	93,6	91,0	93,6	92,7
Vocational secondary	92,3	94,5	91,0	94,2	93,3
Post-secondary vocational	88,4	91,1	85,0	93,9	89,9
Higher	92,7	93,7	91,3	97,1	93,3

Marital status					
Married	91,9	93,5	89,2	94,7	92,8
Cohabitation	93,0	93,4	90,6	94,8	93,2
Divorced/separated	91,1	89,6	87,2	93,1	90,3
Solitary	93,1	93,4	91,3	94,5	93,2
Widow	93,2	92,9	85,2	95,8	93,0
Occupational status					
Employee	91,1	92,1	88,5	94,6	91,5
Self-employed	96,0	96,3	95,3	96,6	96,1
Retired	92,1	93,9	89,1	95,0	93,3
Unemployed	92,6	92,7	91,9	92,9	92,6
Another situation	93,2	93,8	90,5	95,0	93,6
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	91,0	93,3	91,3	92,6	92,2
Quintile II	93,8	93,1	89,7	94,7	93,4
Quintile III	94,1	93,4	92,8	94,3	93,7
Quintile IV	92,5	94,5	90,7	95,1	93,6
Quintile V	88,8	92,7	86,3	94,6	90,9

Traditionally, family cohesion is based on supportive and trusting relationships between family members. The GGS data show that 91.5% of the total population partially or fully agree that children should take their parents to live with them when they cannot care for themselves (*Table 6.9.4.*), with gender differences being statistically insignificant.

In rural areas this indicator is 6.9 p.p. higher than in urban areas. In Chisinau municipality, the share of people who think that children should take their parents to live with them when they cannot take care of themselves is lower than in other regions.

There is a lower share of people supporting this position among those with higher education (88.2%) and those employed, especially in urban areas (84.5%).

As a result of the impact of Covid-19 (pre-lockdown and post-lockdown), the number of people who agree in part or in full that children should take their parents to live with them when they cannot care for themselves is decreasing among urban men and women, with a slight increase in rural areas.

TABLE 6.9.4. Distribution of the population aged 15 to 79 who indicated that they partly or fully agree that children should take their parents to live with them when they cannot care for themselves, by gender and area of residence, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	92,0	91,2	87,1	94,1	91,5
Age group					
15-19	96,0	96,6	96,1	96,4	96,3
20-24	90,4	91,5	83,0	97,5	91,0
25-29	90,5	90,0	83,3	95,2	90,2
30-34	95,1	92,5	92,7	94,8	93,8
35-39	92,9	89,2	88,3	93,2	91,1
40-44	89,1	90,3	81,9	94,0	89,7
45-49	90,9	90,5	84,2	93,6	90,7
50-54	90,9	90,8	88,4	91,9	90,8
55-59	92,5	91,0	86,1	94,2	91,7
60-64	90,5	92,8	86,3	94,0	91,8
65-69	91,8	90,8	87,7	92,6	91,2
70-74	91,7	89,6	86,0	92,6	90,4
75-79	90,3	89,1	83,5	92,0	89,5
Region					
Mun, Chisinau	85,2	88,9	86,3	90,9	87,1
North	93,4	90,6	89,6	93,4	91,8
Centre	90,0	90,2	77,3	93,1	90,1
South	97,4	94,7	94,7	96,5	96,1
Education					
Primary	97,0	93,1	89,9	96,6	95,2
Lower secondary	93,8	92,8	88,9	94,6	93,3
General secondary	91,5	92,2	89,2	93,4	91,9
Vocational secondary	92,8	93,9	90,9	94,3	93,3
Post-secondary vocational	89,2	88,1	83,7	92,5	88,6
Higher	89,4	87,4	85,0	94,5	88,2

Marital status					
Married	91,2	90,9	86,2	93,5	91,0
Cohabitation	92,6	92,6	86,7	96,3	92,6
Divorced/separated	92,5	90,7	86,5	96,3	91,6
Solitary	92,7	91,4	88,6	94,5	92,2
Widow	92,6	90,4	84,5	93,2	90,9
Occupational status					
Employee	89,8	89,5	84,5	94,7	89,7
Self-employed	95,1	91,5	90,7	96,6	94,4
Retired	91,4	91,4	86,8	93,4	91,4
Unemployed	92,0	92,0	90,8	92,5	92,0
Another situation	94,0	92,0	89,3	94,4	92,8
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	91,1	91,1	90,0	91,6	91,1
Quintile II	93,8	90,7	86,2	94,1	92,1
Quintile III	93,6	93,5	91,3	94,8	93,6
Quintile IV	92,2	91,8	88,6	93,7	92,0
Quintile V	87,4	89,0	82,0	93,3	88,3



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7. POPULATION HEALTH

7.1. Self-rated health

Self-rated health is an important indicator of general health. In the GGS, more than half of the population (52.3%) reported their health to be 'good or very good', 38.2% – 'satisfactory'

and 9.5% reported their health to be 'poor or very poor' (*Table 7.1.1*). The share of men who consider their health to be 'good or very good' (56.2%) is significantly higher compared to that of women (48.8%). The urban population is significantly more likely to report 'good or very good' health (57.1%) than the rural population (49.6%) (*Table 7.1.2*). At the same time, people from rural areas are more likely to report 'poor or very poor' health (10.6%) compared to those from urban areas (7.8%).

As people get older, the share of people who rate their health as 'good or very good' decreases and the share of people who rate their health as 'bad or very bad' increases. Thus, most of young people consider their health to be 'good or very good', while only one in five people in the 60-64 age group (21.2%) and one in ten people in the 75-79 age group rate their health as 'good or very good'. The share of people who perceive their health to be 'poor or very poor' increases to a quarter in the 65-69 age group (26.4%) and to more than a third (37.6%) in the 75-79 age group. The perception of health as 'poor or very poor' is associated with the presence of chronic and degenerative diseases, the risk of which increases with advancing age, leading to higher health and social care demands and costs.

By geographical distribution, people from Chisinau municipality are significantly more likely to rate their health as 'good or very good' (62.4%), while in the northern region, where the population is older compared to the other regions, the share of people who rate their health as 'good or very good' is much lower (44.7%). The population from the northern (11.5%) and southern regions (10.7%) are more likely to perceive their health to be 'poor or very poor' compared to the population from the central region (8.8%) and Chisinau municipality (6.7%). These differences are determined by the age structure of the population and by regions. The population in the northern region is the oldest, while the population in Chisinau municipality is the youngest.

There is also a significant difference by education level. Six out of ten people with higher education (62.7%) perceive themselves to be in 'good or very good' health compared to less than one in five people with primary (48.1%) or secondary vocational education (47.5%). The share of people who rate their health 'poor or very poor' is about 4.5 times higher among people with primary education (16.1%) compared to people with higher education (3.6%).

Cohabitants (58.5%) and single people (58.4%) were more likely to rate their health as 'good or very good', while widowed people, mostly elderly, were much less likely (17.7%) to rate their health as 'good or very good'. Three in ten widowed people (29.2%) and one in six divorced people (15.6%) rated their health as 'poor or very poor'.

Employed people more often report 'good or very good' health (63.9% employed and 61% self-employed). Income level is an important factor in the perception of health. Nearly two-thirds of those in the best-off quintile (63.6% in quintile V) rate their health as 'good or very good' compared to only one-third of the poorest (33.4% in quintile I). People with the lowest income level (20.0% in quintile I) are about 4 times more likely to report that their health is 'poor or very poor' compared to the best-off quintile (5.2% in quintile V).

About a quarter of people who said they 'have major difficulties in carrying out normal daily activities' (25.6%) rated their health as 'good or very good', with a higher share of women and urban dwellers. One in ten people who reported 'moderate difficulties in carrying out usual daily activities' and one third of people who reported 'mild difficulties' rated their health as 'good or very good', with no statistically significant differences by gender, but with a significantly higher share of urban dwellers.

One in two people who said they 'have major difficulties in carrying out normal daily activities' reported 'poor or very poor' health, with a higher share of men and rural dwellers.⁴⁴ Half of those who reported that they 'have moderate difficulty in carrying out daily activities of daily living' rated their health as 'poor or very poor', with no significant differences by gender, but with a significantly higher share of rural dwellers. One in eight people who reported that they 'have mild difficulties in carrying out normal daily activities' rated their health as 'poor or very poor', with no gender differences, but with a relatively higher share of rural dwellers.

The pandemic has probably influenced people's perception of their health. A significantly higher share of the population reported 'good and very good' health in the post-lockdown period (55.5%) compared to the pre-lockdown period (44.5%). Perceptions of health improved in both residence areas among women and men, although significant differences by gender and residence area persist.

⁴⁴ The data should be treated with caution due to the small number of respondents with these characteristics.

TABLE 7.1.1. Self-assessed health among people aged 15-79, by sex, in %

	Men			Women			Total		
	Very good or good	Satisfactory	Bad or very bad	Very good or good	Satisfactory	Bad or very bad	Very good or good	Satisfactory	Bad or very bad
Total	56,2	35,5	8,3	48,8	40,5	10,7	52,3	38,2	9,5
Age group									
15-19	92,1	7,9	0,0	84,5	13,1	2,4	88,4	10,4	1,2
20-24	82,5	17,0	0,5	82,3	16,6	1,1	82,4	16,8	0,8
25-29	75,0	23,0	1,5	76,9	21,4	1,7	76,0	22,4	1,6
30-34	69,4	28,2	2,4	71,1	27,2	1,7	70,2	27,7	2,1
35-39	65,7	29,9	4,4	63,7	33,8	2,5	64,7	31,8	3,5
40-44	60,3	32,2	7,5	56,4	39,8	3,8	58,3	36,0	5,7
45-49	54,7	38,6	6,7	42,9	48,9	8,2	48,6	43,9	7,5
50-54	39,0	48,6	12,4	33,0	51,1	15,9	35,8	49,9	14,3
55-59	29,6	54,8	15,6	22,5	60,8	16,7	25,7	58,1	16,2
60-64	23,0	59,3	17,7	19,7	62,3	18,0	21,2	60,9	17,9
65-69	21,6	54,4	24,0	15,1	56,9	28,0	17,7	55,9	26,4
70-74	16,6	41,4	24,8	9,5	57,7	32,8	12,2	58,1	29,7
75-79	13,8	54,5	31,7	8,5	50,9	40,6	10,3	52,1	37,6
Region									
Chisinau	67,8	26,2	6,0	57,5	35,2	7,3	62,4	30,9	6,7
North	51,2	38,3	10,5	39,7	48,0	12,3	44,7	43,8	11,5
Centre	58,0	34,6	7,4	53,7	36,3	10,0	55,7	35,5	8,8
South	50,6	40,2	9,2	44,6	43,1	12,3	47,7	41,6	10,7
Education									
Primary	55,8	37,7	6,5	39,4	33,7	26,9	48,1	35,8	16,1
Lower secondary	58,7	32,6	8,7	49,0	37,5	13,5	53,7	35,1	11,2
Mid-level general	55,8	36,2	8,0	48,0	40,7	11,3	51,5	38,6	9,9
Vocational secondary	47,9	41,2	10,9	46,9	41,7	11,4	47,5	41,4	11,1
Secondary specialised	56,0	36,6	7,4	41,2	49,2	9,6	47,7	43,7	8,6
Higher	66,2	29,7	4,1	60,0	36,8	3,2	62,7	33,7	3,6

Marital status									
Married	53,1	39,5	7,4	51,8	40,4	7,8	52,4	40,0	7,6
Cohabitation	59,8	34,2	6,0	57,1	35,9	7,0	58,5	35,0	6,5
Divorced/separated	43,7	38,1	18,2	43,4	43,6	13,0	43,5	40,9	15,6
Unmarried	64,2	28,8	7,0	50,1	37,3	12,6	58,4	32,4	9,2
Widow	23,4	45,6	31,0	16,2	55,2	28,6	17,7	53,1	29,2
Occupational status									
Employee	69,5	28,4	2,1	57,5	38,7	3,8	63,9	33,2	2,9
Self-employed	63,3	34,5	2,2	51,5	45,6	2,9	61,0	36,7	2,3
Retired	20,5	57,3	22,2	15,2	58,5	26,3	17,0	58,1	24,9
Unemployed	51,6	42,8	5,6	43,8	48,6	7,6	49,0	44,7	6,3
Other	57,3	29,5	13,2	64,8	71,5	6,7	61,9	28,9	9,2
Welfare quintile									
Quintile I	34,9	46,1	19,0	31,8	47,2	21,0	33,4	46,6	20,0
Quintile II	42,3	41,7	16,0	31,5	47,5	21,0	36,3	44,9	18,8
Quintile III	57,1	36,9	6,0	52,9	40,9	6,2	54,9	39,0	6,1
Quintile IV	57,5	33,7	8,8	44,6	45	10,4	50,5	39,8	9,7
Quintile V	67,1	28,5	4,4	60,7	33,4	5,9	63,6	31,2	5,2
Difficulties in carrying out normal daily activities (SSHD)									
Severe	21,5	23,3	55,2	31,7	29,7	38,6	25,6	26,0	48,4
Moderate	11,0	38,7	50,3	8,0	41,0	51,0	9,2	40,1	50,7
Minor	34,6	53,3	12,1	30,9	56,3	12,8	32,4	55,1	12,5
No difficulty	71,6	26,9	1,5	69,9	28,3	1,8	70,8	27,6	1,6
Covid									
Pre-lockdown	50,1	39,4	10,5	39,2	47,7	13,1	44,5	43,7	11,8
Post-lockdown	58,7	33,9	7,4	52,5	37,8	9,7	55,5	35,9	8,6

TABLE 7.1.2. Self-assessed health among people aged 15-79, by area of residence, in %

	Urban			Rural			Total		
	Very good or good	Satisfactory	Bad or very bad	Very good or good	Satisfactory	Bad or very bad	Very good or good	Satisfactory	Bad or very bad
Total	57,1	35,1	7,8	49,6	39,8	10,6	52,3	38,2	9,5
Age group									
15-19	85,8	12,9	1,3	90,0	8,9	1,1	88,4	10,4	1,2
20-24	82,9	16,7	0,4	82,9	15,9	1,2	82,4	16,8	0,8
25-29	80,1	18,8	0,6	73,0	24,7	2,3	76,0	22,4	1,6
30-34	67,2	30,7	2,1	72,8	25,2	2,0	70,2	27,7	2,1
35-39	65,1	30,9	4,0	64,3	32,5	3,2	64,7	31,8	3,5
40-44	63,3	30,0	6,7	55,6	39,3	5,1	58,3	36,0	5,7
45-49	49,6	41,3	9,1	48,2	45,0	6,8	48,6	43,9	7,5
50-54	43,5	44,3	12,2	32,5	52,4	15,1	35,8	49,9	14,3
55-59	25,8	58,7	15,5	25,7	57,8	16,5	25,7	58,1	16,2
60-64	23,6	61,7	14,7	20,2	60,7	19,1	21,2	60,9	17,9
65-69	19,0	56,0	25,0	17,2	55,9	26,9	17,7	55,9	26,4
70-74	11,0	66,2	22,8	12,9	54,2	32,9	12,2	58,1	29,7
75-79	8,3	50,4	41,3	11,1	52,8	36,1	10,3	52,1	37,6
Region									
Chisinau	64,1	29,8	6,1	54,4	36,4	9,2	62,4	30,9	6,7
North	48,8	40,6	10,6	41,7	46,1	12,2	44,7	43,8	11,5
Centre	64,1	31,6	4,3	53,8	36,4	9,8	55,7	35,5	8,8
South	47,4	42,2	10,4	47,7	41,5	10,8	47,7	41,6	10,7

Education									
Primary	46,5	32,5	21,0	48,5	36,7	14,8	48,1	35,8	16,1
Lower secondary	58,9	29,4	11,7	52,1	36,9	11,0	53,7	35,1	11,2
Mid-level general	58,9	34,4	6,7	47,2	41,2	11,6	51,5	38,6	9,9
Vocational secondary	45,4	43,3	11,3	48,4	40,6	11,0	47,5	41,4	11,1
Secondary specialised	51,1	40,0	8,9	45,1	46,5	8,4	47,7	43,7	8,6
Higher	65,6	31,9	2,5	57,1	37,1	5,8	62,7	33,7	3,6
Marital status									
Married/ă	58,7	35,5	5,8	49,1	42,3	8,6	52,4	40,0	7,6
Cohabitation	60,0	33,7	6,3	57,5	35,9	6,6	58,5	35,0	6,5
Divorced/separated	46,0	39,4	14,6	41,3	42,2	16,5	43,5	40,9	15,6
Unmarried	60,4	32,1	7,5	57,2	32,5	10,3	58,4	32,4	9,2
Widow	17,8	53,8	28,4	17,7	52,9	29,4	17,7	53,1	29,2
Occupational status									
Employee	65,6	32,1	2,3	62,2	34,3	3,5	63,9	33,2	2,9
Self-employed	64,0	34,0	2,0	59,2	38,3	2,5	61,0	36,7	2,3
Retired	16,9	59,9	23,2	17,0	57,4	25,6	17,0	58,1	24,9
Unemployed	52,4	40,1	7,5	47,6	46,6	5,8	49,0	44,7	6,3
Other	66,4	24,7	8,9	59,9	30,8	9,3	61,9	28,9	9,2
Welfare quintile									
Quintile I	38,3	42,4	19,3	31,2	48,5	20,3	33,4	46,6	20,0
Quintile II	37,3	43,7	19,0	35,9	45,3	18,8	36,3	44,9	18,8
Quintile III	59,3	35,6	5,1	52,5	40,8	6,7	54,9	39,0	6,1
Quintile IV	58,0	33,5	8,5	46,6	43,1	10,3	50,5	39,8	9,7
Quintile V	66,2	29,8	4,0	61,6	32,2	6,2	63,6	31,2	5,2

Difficulties in carrying out normal daily activities (SSHD)									
Severe	37,9	36,8	25,3	14,6	16,1	69,3	25,6	26,0	48,4
Moderate	12,0	43,3	44,7	7,7	38,3	54,0	9,2	40,1	50,7
Minor	39,6	49,9	10,5	28,6	57,8	13,6	32,4	55,1	12,5
No difficulty	72,8	26	1,2	69,5	28,6	1,9	70,8	27,6	1,6
Covid									
Pre-lockdown	47,2	42,5	10,3	42,1	44,7	13,2	44,5	43,7	11,8
Post-lockdown	62,9	30,8	6,3	51,9	38,4	9,7	55,5	35,9	8,6

7.2. Health decision-making

How decisions are made, and by whom, can have a considerable impact on health and health outcomes. Joint decision-making within a couple can reflect the growing equality and cooperation between men and women.

According to the GGS, about six out of ten people who are married or cohabiting (63.1%) reported that they 'always make joint decisions with their partner' about their own health (*Table 7.2.1*). The share of women who reported making decisions jointly (64.6%) is relatively higher than that of men (61.2%). There is a significant gap between the two areas of residence, with urban couples making joint decisions more frequently (69.6%) than rural couples (59.0%). People in the able-bodied age groups (20-64 years) reported more frequently (more than 60 per cent) that they 'always make joint decisions with their partner' about their own health care compared to only half of teenagers (52.1 per cent in the 15-19 age group) and seniors (65-79 years).

People from Chisinau municipality (68.0%) and those from the northern region (66.3%) are more likely to report that they 'always make joint decisions' about health care compared to those from the southern region (60.0%).

By level of prosperity, those with the highest incomes were more likely to report (72.0% in quintile V) 'always making joint decisions' about health care, while just over half of those with low incomes (54.7% in quintile II) said the same.

TABLE 7.2.1. Share of married or cohabiting people aged 15-79 who 'always make decisions about their own health jointly with their partner', by sex and area of residence, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	61,2	64,6	69,6	59,0	63,1
Age group					
15-19	40,0	57,9	57,6	46,8	52,1
20-24	64,8	67,5	70,2	62,8	66,4
25-29	69,8	62,2	60,7	68,6	65,1
30-34	61,8	68,1	71,5	59,5	65,2
35-39	64,7	68,1	73,3	60,9	66,6
40-44	62,8	63,6	71,6	58,5	63,3
45-49	66,4	60,3	72,45	58,4	62,8
50-54	54,1	65,6	78,3	53,7	60,7
55-59	60,6	64,3	68,3	59,7	62,6
60-64	55,0	66,0	72,9	56,1	61,1
65-69	52,1	59,5	66,5	51,7	55,8
70-74	50,5	58,1	52,2	55,1	54,2
75-79	47,7	60,0	61,5	50,0	53,5
Region					
Chisinau	64,7	70,5	69,4	61,2	68,0
North	60,1	70,3	63,5	68,8	66,3
Centre	64,3	58,9	76,2	57,2	61,1
South	56,4	63,4	71,6	55,6	60,0
Education					
Primary	84,4	47,2	28,1	82,1	72,3
Lower secondary	56,0	63,3	68,5	58,0	60,5
Mid-level general	64,4	63,3	73,5	58,1	63,8
Vocational secondary	56,3	61,8	68,4	54,9	59,0
Secondary specialised	58,9	63,4	69,3	55,1	61,4
Higher	69,3	71,1	69,8	71,4	70,4

Marital status					
Married	61,2	63,3	69,9	58,0	62,4
Cohabitation	59,6	69,6	70,1	61,1	64,9
Occupational status					
Employee	60,7	69,0	70,5	59,4	64,9
Self-employed	74,8	74,8	76,6	73,7	74,8
Retired	51,9	61,0	68,0	53,4	57,5
Unemployed	68,2	52,6	75,4	54,9	62,0
Other	53,6	64,1	65,3	59,9	61,7
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	56,4	64,5	72,8	56,4	61,0
Quintile II	52,4	56,5	63,5	51,9	54,7
Quintile III	56,9	58,3	61,2	55,5	57,6
Quintile IV	64,7	65,9	68,6	63,4	65,4
Quintile V	69,3	73,7	79,5	65,3	72,0
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	64,7	77,4	71,7	71,8	71,8
Post-lockdown	59,7	59,3	68,3	54,6	59,5

7.3. Presence of chronic diseases

When asked about the presence of a chronic condition (disease), 47.2% of people reported suffering from at least one chronic disease (*Table 7.3.1*). The share of women suffering from at least one chronic disease (53.6%) is significantly higher than that of men (40.0%), overall, and in almost all age groups. In addition, more people from rural areas (48.0%) reported suffering from at least one disease compared to those from urban areas (45.7%). The share of people affected by chronic diseases increases with age, driven by an increased risk of developing them. The share of self-reported chronic diseases/illnesses is concerning, especially in the working age groups, where it increases from 19.0% in the 20-24 age group to 78.0% in the 60-64 age group.

The older population from the northern region was more likely to report suffering from chronic diseases (54.5%) compared to the other regions. Unemployed people more often reported the presence of a chronic condition (44.1%) compared to employed people. The survey found that the share of self-reported conditions increases with decreasing income level, from 38.2% in quintile V to 62.6% in quintile II and 60.8% in quintile I. Thus, the social gradient is a determinant of the prevalence of self-reported diseases in the general population.

TABLE 7.3.1. Share of self-reported health conditions among people aged 15-79 years, by sex and area of residence, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	40,0	53,6	45,7	48,0	47,2
Age group					
15-19	12,2	20,9	22,1	12,8	16,3
20-24	17,7	20,2	22,1	16,4	18,9
25-29	24,9	22,1	21,0	25,3	23,5
30-34	26,4	27,7	32,0	22,9	27,0
35-39	28,9	36,4	36,0	29,9	32,6
40-44	30,6	46,2	42,4	36,4	38,5
45-49	39,6	60,3	57,3	47,3	50,3
50-54	53,7	69,0	59,6	62,8	61,9
55-59	65,0	80,0	71,0	74,3	73,3
60-64	69,1	84,7	77,1	78,3	78,0
65-69	75,1	90,3	85,9	83,4	84,1
70-74	84,9	92,0	92,0	88,0	89,2
75-79	85,9	93,9	93,8	90,1	91,2
Region					
Chisinau	37,8	49,2	43,8	43,8	43,8
North	46,2	61,0	50,1	57,7	54,5
Centre	35,7	50,3	35,8	45,2	43,4
South	42,5	54,2	53,0	46,6	48,3
Education					
Primary	30,3	59,6	63,2	39,1	44,2
Lower secondary	37,5	51,3	44,2	44,9	44,7
Mid-level general	38,7	55,2	39,9	52,2	47,9
Vocational secondary	46,4	54,6	51,6	49,5	50,1
Secondary specialised	40,3	61,4	54,5	50,3	52,2
Higher	37,0	45,9	40,1	45,8	42,0

Marital status					
Married	42,2	50,6	44,6	47,9	46,8
Cohabitation	32,3	41,4	39,5	35,4	36,9
Divorced/separated	54,0	64,2	59,6	58,8	59,2
Unmarried	33,0	52,3	41,1	40,8	40,9
Widow	77,2	85,8	88,8	82,2	83,9
Occupational status					
Employee	28,7	46,9	36,9	37,6	37,3
Self-employed	31,2	37,8	34,7	31,1	32,5
Retired	76,7	88,5	86,7	83,7	84,6
Unemployed	38,8	54,5	41,7	45,1	44,1
Other	39,7	36,0	38,9	36,8	37,4
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	52,9	68,9	59,8	61,3	60,8
Quintile II	51,1	71,5	62,9	62,5	62,6
Quintile III	37,4	51,7	43,4	45,7	44,9
Quintile IV	46,3	53,5	49,8	50,4	50,2
Quintile V	33,0	42,5	40,2	36,6	38,2
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	48,2	60,1	52,6	56,0	54,4
Post-lockdown	36,7	51,1	41,7	45,5	44,3

7.4. Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on access to health services

To the question ‘How has Covid affected access to primary healthcare?’ about one third of the population responded that the Covid-19 pandemic ‘made access to primary health care worse’ (Table 7.4.1.), with a significant difference between the two areas of residence. Nearly four in ten urban dwellers (38.5%) reported ‘worsening access to primary health care services’ compared to three in ten rural dwellers (27.8%). It is well known that, under normal circumstances, the rural population is more disadvantaged in terms of access to primary health care than the urban population, given the lack of family doctors in many rural areas.

Women were more likely to report ‘worsening access to primary health care’ (33.3%) compared to men (29.2%), with women generally using healthcare services more than men.

The respondents from the Northern region reported significantly more often (38.0%) ‘worsening access to primary health care’ compared to the other three regions. People with general secondary education and those with higher education were much more likely to report ‘worsening access to primary health care services’ (37.9% and 34.1% respectively) compared to people with primary education and those with secondary vocational education (23.2% and 24.7% respectively).

By income, about four in ten people in the poorest groups (44.5% in quintile I) reported ‘worsening access to primary health care services’, compared with three in ten people in the other income quintiles. The difference in the perception of access to primary health care services during the pandemic period depending on education and income level may be a consequence of under-utilisation of healthcare services under normal circumstances by the more disadvantaged population, given their higher out-of-pocket spending. Those with one dependent child were most likely (35.2%) to report ‘worsening access to primary health care services’, while those with three or more children in their care were much less likely to state this (27.5%).

TABLE 7.4.1. Share of people aged 15-64 years old who believe that ‘their access to primary health care has been negatively affected by Covid-19’, by sex and area of residence, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	29,2	33,3	38,5	27,8	31,3
Age group					
15-19	24,5	28,4	25,4	26,8	26,4
20-24	26,1	35,3	37,6	25,4	30,4
25-29	33,1	37,5	43,7	29,8	35,3
30-34	30,5	31,8	35,4	28,0	31,2
35-39	28,9	33,4	38,2	26,8	31,2
40-44	29,9	32,3	37,4	28,6	31,2
45-49	26,8	34,8	44,2	26,5	31,0
50-54	31,3	38,0	39,1	33,5	34,9
55-59	26,9	32,3	40,4	26,1	29,9
60-64	32,0	29,0	43,3	26,6	30,3

Region					
Chisinau	24,7	33,3	30,2	25,0	29,1
North	34,9	40,8	45,9	32,0	38,0
Centre	29,2	32,0	57,7	26,5	30,7
South	30,0	30,6	37,0	28,9	30,3
Education					
Primary	27,7	13,4	7,3	25,7	23,2
Lower secondary	29,6	29,9	38,1	27,9	29,7
Mid-level general	37,9	37,9	38,8	37,5	37,9
Vocational secondary	22,7	27,0	31,8	22,4	24,7
Secondary specialised	30,5	36,1	46,9	24,6	33,6
Higher	28,3	38,4	37,8	26,5	34,1
Marital status					
Married	31,9	33,3	41,3	29,0	32,7
Cohabitation	28,7	31,4	35,0	27,3	30,0
Divorced/separated	21,0	33,0	33,2	21,8	27,1
Unmarried	29,7	37,0	37,6	29,8	32,5
Widow	32,2	25,7	44,4	23,2	27,0
Occupational status					
Employee	28,5	34,2	40,0	24,1	31,2
Self-employed	24,0	21,5	22,1	24,4	23,6
Retired	26,3	27,9	40,0	23,7	27,5
Unemployed	38,6	46,8	42,8	41,1	41,5
Other	26,6	31,7	37,0	27,2	29,8
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	53,2	36,6	37,4	47,5	44,5
Quintile II	30,9	33,0	27,8	33,1	32,0
Quintile III	29,8	35,0	40,1	29,4	32,5
Quintile IV	28,3	33,3	37,6	27,9	31,1
Quintile V	26,3	31,6	43,0	19,6	29,2

Number of children in care					
0	30,0	32,6	36,6	27,1	30,9
1	29,7	39,8	41,3	30,6	35,2
2	30,6	33,1	39,3	28,8	32,0
3+	24,3	29,3	35,9	25,5	27,5





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8. WELFARE

8.1. Perception of happiness

Well-being is closely linked to happiness and life satisfaction. Happiness is a measure of quality of life and is a subjective state of well-being and contentment. Happiness and well-being are important for people themselves, as well as for the socio-economic development of a society, and should be considered by the government when developing public policies.

Almost half of respondents (47.2%) said they were 'very happy' or 'somewhat happy'⁴⁵, with no gender differences (47.3% of women compared to 47.1% of men) (*Table 8.1.1*). Although there are some differences between the two residence areas in terms of perceived happiness (49.1% in urban areas compared to 46.1% in rural areas), they are not statistically significant. The share of 'very happy' or 'somewhat happy' people decreases with age, from 74.0% in the youngest age group (15-19) to 24.0% in the oldest age group (75-79). This gradual decrease is observed for both women and men, regardless of their place of residence.

The happiest are the people from Chisinau municipality (51.6%), while in the central region we find the lowest share of 'very happy' or 'somewhat happy' people (43.2%). The share of people perceiving themselves to be happy is much higher among people with higher education (58.3%) compared to people with lower levels of education. The share of people who are 'very happy' or 'somewhat happy' is about twice as high among married (53.1%) or cohabiting (54.7%) people compared to divorced (24.3%) or widowed (26.2%) persons. Occupational status also influences the perceived happiness. More than half of those in employment (59.0% self-employed and 51.4% employed) say they are 'very happy' or 'somewhat happy', while less than a third of retired people (31.1%) state the same. About six out of ten people in the highest income group (57.2% in quintile V) consider themselves being 'very happy' or 'somewhat happy' compared to three out of ten people in the lowest income groups (33.7% in quintile I and 33.3% in quintile II).

⁴⁵ 9-10 points on a scale from 0 to 10..

TABLE 8.1.1. Share of people aged 15-79 years old who 'consider themselves to be very happy or somewhat happy', by gender and area of residence, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	47,1	47,3	49,1	46,1	47,2
Age group					
15-19	76,7	71,0	65,3	79,3	74,0
20-24	55,9	65,8	63,8	58,3	60,8
25-29	57,8	60,8	59,3	59,3	59,3
30-34	55,1	59,9	59,9	55,3	57,5
35-39	52,7	54,3	55,9	51,7	53,5
40-44	43,7	47,5	44,6	46,2	45,6
45-49	39,4	44,4	40,1	42,8	42,0
50-54	37,1	36,1	35,5	37,0	36,6
55-59	35,6	34,7	34,6	35,4	35,1
60-64	30,3	34,6	33,8	32,3	32,7
65-69	30,8	29,8	27,9	31,2	30,2
70-74	32,0	26,8	31,8	27,5	28,8
75-79	26,4	22,8	17,4	26,8	24,0
Region					
Chisinau	52,5	50,8	52,2	49,1	51,6
North	53,9	46,2	49,9	49,3	49,5
Centre	43,5	42,9	47,7	42,2	43,2
South	43,6	52,2	43,6	49,4	47,8
Education					
Primary	55,3	41,7	41,3	50,8	48,8
Lower secondary	46,3	44,9	47,6	45,0	45,6
Mid-level general	43,4	47,0	51,2	42,1	45,4
Vocational secondary	44,1	47,1	43,3	46,4	45,4
Secondary specialised	44,4	42,3	41,3	44,8	43,2
Higher	59,0	57,7	57,7	59,4	58,3

Marital status					
Married	52,8	53,4	57,8	50,6	53,1
Cohabitation	56,1	53,2	55,2	54,3	54,7
Divorced/separated	20,2	28,3	25,2	23,4	24,3
Unmarried	41,8	41,7	40,7	42,4	41,7
Widow	20,3	27,8	28,6	25,3	26,2
Occupational status					
Employee	52,2	50,4	53,0	49,7	51,4
Self-employed	61,0	50,5	59,4	58,7	59,0
Retired	31,1	31,1	30,6	31,3	31,1
Unemployed	43,0	49,0	41,5	46,5	45,0
Other	46,8	54,9	54,4	50,6	51,8
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	32,4	34,2	35,7	32,2	33,3
Quintile II	34,4	33,1	34,3	33,5	33,7
Quintile III	48,9	47,4	51,9	46,0	48,1
Quintile IV	46,7	46,1	49,5	44,7	46,4
Quintile V	55,3	58,8	52,5	61,0	57,2
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	49,3	47,5	47,4	49,3	48,4
Post-lockdown	46,2	47,2	50,2	45,1	46,7

8.2. Feeling lonely

Loneliness refers to the subjective evaluation of the situation an individual is in, characterized either by fewer relationships with friends and colleagues than desired (social loneliness) or by situations in which the desired intimacy in the trusting relationships has not been achieved (emotional loneliness). Measuring loneliness is important because loneliness is associated with social isolation, poor/unhealthy social and behavioural habits as well as depression, negatively influencing physical and mental health.

In the GGS, the Loneliness Scale was used to measure feelings of loneliness with the scores derived from responses to 6 statements. Respondents were asked to rate their recent experiences/states based on the statements provided. The response to each question (statement) was rated on a three-point scale according to the degree of loneliness, with 3 meaning a high degree of loneliness, 2 – a low degree of loneliness, and 1 – no feeling of loneliness or a very low degree of loneliness. The scores for all 6 questions were summed on a scale of 6-18. The respondents who scored between 12 and 14 points were classed as ‘moderately lonely’, and those who scored between 15 and 18 points – ‘severely lonely’.

About 3.1% of respondents reported feeling severely lonely, with no significant differences by gender and area of residence. The severe degree of loneliness reported in the survey increases with advancing age, affecting about one in ten people in the older age group.

Moderate loneliness was reported by about one in seven people, ranging from 8.1% to 22.8% across age groups, with no statistically significant differences by gender, area of residence and region (Table 8.2.1). People with primary and secondary education most frequently reported severe (6.1% and 4.1%, respectively) or moderate (18.4% and 19.7%, respectively) loneliness compared to people with higher levels of education. Moderate or severe loneliness is experienced relatively more frequently by people in the poorest group compared to the better-off (22.4% and 8.1%, respectively), as well as among retired people (18.7% and 4.6%, respectively) and the unemployed (17.4% and 3.1%, respectively).

TABLE 8.2.1. Reported feelings of loneliness among people aged 15-79, by gender and area of residence, in %

	Men		Women		Urban		Rural		Total	
	Moderate	Severe	Moderate	Severe	Moderate	Severe	Moderate	Severe	Moderate	Severe
Total	14,0	2,6	15,6	3,5	13,7	3,2	15,5	3,0	14,8	3,1
Age group										
15-19	7,1	0,5	9,2	2,6	9,4	1,3	7,3	1,6	8,1	1,5
20-24	15,5	0,0	13,0	1,5	16,6	0,8	12,4	0,7	14,3	0,8
25-29	12,4	1,6	12,4	2,3	10,4	2,3	13,8	1,6	12,4	1,9
30-34	8,9	2,6	14,3	2,8	9,4	3,4	13,5	2,0	11,6	2,7
35-39	15,5	1,1	16,5	2,8	15,9	1,3	16,0	2,4	16,0	1,9
40-44	15,5	2,8	15,9	2,3	14,7	2,6	16,2	2,5	15,7	2,5
45-49	16,7	4,5	17,4	4,4	11,7	5,2	19,3	4,1	17,1	4,4
50-54	15,2	3,8	15,3	3,5	18,6	5,4	13,9	2,9	15,3	3,6

55-59	17,5	1,5	15,0	5,1	14,0	2,8	17,0	3,8	16,1	3,5
60-64	14,4	5,2	17,2	2,9	16,2	3,9	15,9	3,9	16,0	3,9
65-69	16,5	3,2	19,1	4,4	16,3	4,3	18,8	3,8	18,1	3,9
70-74	12,9	4,8	18,8	6,2	13,2	6,9	18,1	5,0	16,6	5,6
75-79	19,6	10,4	24,4	11,6	25,5	13,1	21,7	10,4	22,8	11,2
Region										
Chisinau	15,0	3,1	14,2	4,0	12,0	3,4	26,1	4,2	14,6	3,6
North	12,1	3,8	14,6	5,0	13,6	3,9	13,5	4,9	13,5	4,5
Center	14,4	1,6	15,9	2,4	13,5	2,2	15,6	2,0	15,2	2,0
South	14,1	2,6	17,2	3,4	17,5	2,6	15,0	3,1	15,6	3,0
Education										
Primary	13,8	3,8	23,5	8,7	17,9	4,8	18,5	6,5	18,4	6,1
Lower secondary	18,1	3,4	21,1	4,8	18,9	4,8	19,9	4,0	19,7	4,1
Mid-level general	14,7	1,6	15,5	3,1	16,0	3,6	14,7	1,9	15,2	2,5
Vocational secondary	13,8	2,8	14,4	3,1	15,0	4,1	13,7	2,4	14,1	2,9
Secondary specialized	13,0	1,7	12,0	3,0	13,5	3,3	11,6	1,7	12,4	2,4
Higher	6,7	1,7	9,5	1,6	8,6	1,1	8,0	2,7	8,4	1,6
Marital status										
Married	10,4	0,7	13,2	1,4	9,8	0,9	13,0	1,1	11,9	1,1
Cohabitation	15,6	1,6	20,2	4,5	19,8	3,4	16,8	2,9	17,9	3,1
Divorced/separated	23,4	10,0	21,0	9,1	20,2	8,7	24,0	10,3	22,2	9,5
Unmarried	17,5	4,5	17,0	6,6	16,9	6,0	17,6	4,9	17,3	5,4
Widow	27,1	8,8	21,6	6,4	22,5	7,0	22,9	6,9	22,8	6,9
Occupational status										
Employee	10,7	1,9	12,8	2,1	11,0	1,9	12,4	2,0	11,7	2,0
Self-employed	11,2	0,9	8,7	3,3	16,5	2,0	7,3	1,0	10,8	1,4
Retired	17,2	4,0	19,4	4,9	18,4	5,1	18,8	4,4	18,7	4,6
Unemployed	16,6	2,5	19,0	4,3	12,6	3,9	19,4	2,8	17,4	3,1
Other	15,7	3,2	14,9	3,6	15,0	3,9	15,3	3,2	15,2	3,4

Welfare quintile										
Quintile I	21,1	7,7	23,8	8,6	21,4	7,6	22,9	8,3	22,4	8,1
Quintile II	17,0	3,4	20,3	6,3	25,4	6,8	16,6	4,4	18,9	5,1
Quintile III	13,5	2,0	15,2	3,0	10,4	2,6	16,5	2,5	14,4	2,5
Quintile IV	12,9	2,8	15,8	2,6	13,9	3,1	14,8	2,5	14,5	2,7
Quintile V	12,3	1,8	11,5	1,3	11,4	1,5	12,2	1,5	11,9	1,5
Covid										
Pre-lockdown	12,9	3,1	14,3	4,4	14,5	3,7	12,9	3,8	13,6	3,8
Post-lockdown	14,4	2,3	16,1	3,2	13,3	2,8	16,3	2,8	15,3	2,8

8.3. Depressive states

Depression negatively affects the way a person thinks, feels, behaves, and manages daily activities such as sleeping, eating or working. Depression is associated with decreased physical, cognitive and social functioning and greater self-neglect, all of which contribute to a significant decrease in quality of life.

In the GGS, five depressive states ‘experienced by respondents in the past week’ were surveyed for self-assessment of depression. The responses for each question (state) were rated on a scale of 1 to 4, where 4 means severe depression and 1 – minimal depression. The table shows the sum of the scores for the five questions. The respondents who scored between 11 and 20 points were deemed to be depressed.

Every eighth person (11.9%) reported having experienced depressive states in the past week, with an insignificant difference between the two residence areas (11.4% in urban areas compared to 12.2% in rural areas) (*Table 8.3.1*). The share of women who ‘experienced depression in the past week’ (14.9%) is significantly higher than that of men (8.7%). There is a gender gap across all age groups, with a higher share of women than men. The self-assessed depression severity gradually increases with age. The respondents from the northern region reported the presence of depression much more frequently (15.5%) than those from the southern region (9.0%).

There is an inverse correlation between the level of education and the share of depressive states. Thus, as the level of education decreases, the share of depressive states increases, from 6.9% among those with higher education to 17.5% for those with primary education. As a function of marital status, depressive states were reported significantly more frequently by single (16.2%), divorced (24.7%) and widowed (24.6%) people, while married and cohabiting respondents were much less likely to report depressive states (7.6% and 10.9% respectively). The employed were less likely to report depressive states, suggesting that employment reduces depression. Income inequality is associated with depression. Thus, depressive states were reported twice as frequently by the poorest people (20.1% in quintile I) compared to the richest (9.4% in quintile V). Adequate health and social care could reduce the risk of depression.

TABLE 8.3.1. Share of depressive states reported by people aged 15-79, by sex and area of residence, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	8,7	14,9	11,4	12,2	11,9
Age group					
15-19	2,0	11,2	10,0	4,2	6,4
20-24	9,1	10,9	10,6	9,5	10,0
25-29	3,0	12,3	4,6	9,7	7,6
30-34	7,4	9,2	9,7	7,1	8,3
35-39	5,1	11,3	8,1	8,2	8,2
40-44	11,4	15,6	15,3	12,6	13,5
45-49	12,5	16,4	16,7	13,6	14,6
50-54	13,0	15,6	10,8	15,9	14,4
55-59	8,4	18,0	11,8	14,6	13,7
60-64	11,9	16,6	12,7	15,3	14,6
65-69	12,7	20,3	17,8	17,0	17,2
70-74	13,0	24,6	20,2	20,1	20,1
75-79	19,2	24,5	26,9	20,9	22,7
Region					
Chisinau	8,4	14,2	11,0	13,2	11,4
North	10,8	19,1	12,5	17,8	15,5
Centre	9,4	14,7	12,9	12,0	12,1
South	6,5	11,6	9,5	8,8	9,0
Education					
Primary	9,4	26,3	22,2	16,2	17,5
Lower secondary	10,6	17,6	15,7	13,8	14,2
Mid-level general	10,0	16,2	12,6	13,9	13,4
Vocational secondary	8,6	16,1	13,0	11,5	12,0
Secondary specialised	5,8	12,1	10,7	8,2	9,3
Higher	5,2	8,2	7,1	6,4	6,9

Marital status					
Married	4,5	10,2	7,4	7,7	7,6
Cohabitation	6,2	15,4	10,7	11,0	10,9
Divorced/separated	26,3	23,2	22,3	26,9	24,7
Unmarried	12,6	21,4	15,4	16,6	16,2
Widow	23,6	24,9	23,1	25,2	24,6
Occupational status					
Employee	5,1	11,4	8,6	7,6	8,1
Self-employed	5,9	10,9	6,2	7,2	6,9
Retired	13,1	20,0	17,9	17,6	17,7
Unemployed	10,8	20,3	13,8	14,0	14,0
Other	10,7	13,2	12,4	12,2	12,3
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	16,4	23,9	20,7	19,9	20,1
Quintile II	11,8	20,1	19,1	15,6	16,5
Quintile III	7,5	12,8	9,7	10,6	10,3
Quintile IV	10,9	17,5	13,6	15,0	14,5
Quintile V	7,3	11,3	9,7	9,2	9,4
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	9,7	18,3	13,1	15,0	14,1
Post-lockdown	8,2	13,5	10,5	11,3	11,0

8.4. Communication

Good communication is an important part of all relationships and an essential part of any healthy partnership. Nearly nine out of ten married or cohabiting people (86.1%) say they ‘discuss important personal matters with their partner’ (Table 8.4.1). The share of men who reported discussing personal matters with their partner (91.4%) is significantly higher than that of women (81.5%). The lowest share of people who ‘discuss important personal matters with their partner’ was in the youngest age group (15-19 years), which can be explained by the fact that many of these respondents are at the formative stage of their relationship with their partner. In the other age groups, women after 20 and men after 25, most people reported discussing personal matters with their partners.

Although there are some differences by region, these are determined by the different age structure. There is no significant difference between people with different levels of education and occupational statuses. The share of people who ‘discuss important personal matters with their partner’ did not change significantly in the post-lockdown period compared to the pre-lockdown period.

TABLE 8.4.1. Share of married or cohabiting people aged 15-79 who ‘discuss important personal matters with their partner’, by gender and area of residence, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	91,4	81,5	84,0	87,3	86,1
Age group					
15-19	40,7	63,6	72,1	43,0	56,5
20-24	78,8	82,1	78,6	82,8	80,8
25-29	84,3	83,7	83,2	84,5	83,9
30-34	92,5	86,4	87,7	90,5	89,2
35-39	94,2	81,7	86,3	88,9	87,8
40-44	96,6	83,5	89,7	89,2	89,2
45-49	93,3	78,3	81,4	86,9	85,3
50-54	96,6	80,1	79,4	90,7	87,8
55-59	92,8	78,8	82,0	87,2	85,7
60-64	93,4	78,6	79,6	88,3	85,9
65-69	92,8	81,1	83,9	89,0	87,6
70-74	93,6	82,1	88,3	88,5	88,4
75-79	94,3	81,0	84,3	90,3	88,8
Region					
Chisinau	87,3	77,1	82,2	80,7	81,9
North	92,9	78,8	85,5	84,8	85,1
Center	95,5	87,4	87,8	91,8	91,0
South	87,8	78,0	82,0	83,3	82,9

Education					
Primary	95,0	73,2	70,8	90,5	87,2
Lower secondary	90,8	80,0	83,1	85,1	84,6
Mid-level general	91,6	84,1	81,4	90,2	87,3
Vocational secondary	92,6	81,2	82,9	89,2	87,4
Secondary specialised	88,9	81,9	81,2	87,9	85,2
Higher	92,6	82,1	88,3	83,9	86,8
Marital status					
Married	95,6	84,0	87,5	90,2	89,3
Cohabitation	87,3	78,1	79,3	84,8	82,7
Occupational status					
Employee	91,3	80,2	85,7	86,6	86,2
Self-employed	93,1	77,7	85,5	92,5	90,0
Retired	93,8	79,9	81,5	87,6	85,9
Unemployed	90,6	81,6	79,8	90,4	87,3
Other	89,2	83,2	82,8	85,7	84,8
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	87,3	74,5	76,1	81,9	80,4
Quintile II	90,9	82,3	82,1	87,4	86,3
Quintile III	94,7	84,3	86,7	90,4	89,1
Quintile IV	91,9	77,9	81,5	86,1	84,4
Quintile V	91,6	80,0	84,6	85,6	85,1
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	90,4	77,1	82,4	84,6	83,6
Post-lockdown	91,9	83,2	84,9	88,2	87,2

Communicating and discussing personal matters with children is an important aspect of relationships with children and mutual help between generations. The survey results revealed that as people get older, the share of those who ‘discuss personal matters with their children’ increases (*Table 8.4.2.*). Thus, while in the 40-44 age group the share of those who ‘discuss personal matters with their children’ was 27% for men and 38.1% for women, among those aged 75-79 this was reported by almost 60% of men and 82% of women.

The differences by area of residence and geographical region are determined by the age structure of the population. The higher share of people from rural areas who ‘discuss personal matters with their children’ has to do with the ageing rate, which determines the higher share of older people.

TABLE 8.4.2. Share of people aged 15-79 years old who ‘discuss important personal matters with their children’, by sex and residence area, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	26,4	43,4	28,6	40,1	36,2
Age group					
15-19	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
20-24	1,2	0,7	1,7	0,0	0,6
25-29	2,9	2,3	1,7	2,0	1,9
30-34	4,8	7,2	3,6	6,6	5,3
35-39	12,5	15,3	9,9	10,8	10,4
40-44	27,0	38,1	16,1	31,6	26,3
45-49	40,8	59,3	33,0	49,1	44,3
50-54	47,9	67,6	50,9	57,4	55,5
55-59	49,4	70,7	55,0	62,9	60,5
60-64	49,7	72,1	60,0	63,4	62,5
65-69	55,0	74,3	57,8	66,9	64,3
70-74	62,5	77,9	65,4	70,3	68,7
75-79	59,9	82,0	72,0	76,4	75,1
Region					
Chisinau	14,5	29,3	22,6	26,0	23,3
North	31,6	51,9	38,4	47,8	43,9
Centre	32,3	46,6	28,8	42,9	40,5
South	21,0	39,1	24,8	32,9	30,8

Education					
Primary	20,1	63,6	36,7	42,2	41,2
Lower secondary	21,8	42,9	29,0	35,8	34,5
Mid-level general	27,2	51,0	30,5	46,6	41,9
Vocational secondary	32,5	45,3	32,4	41,2	38,7
Secondary specialised	30,2	48,2	35,0	45,0	40,8
Higher	19,0	27,5	20,4	30,8	24,2
Marital status					
Married	25,2	34,5	21,2	34,8	30,3
Cohabitation	10,0	25,0	14,2	19,8	18,0
Divorced/separated	26,8	58,5	36,6	48,4	42,9
Unmarried	38,8	65,0	54,8	57,4	56,5
Widow	68,6	83,0	76,6	81,2	80,0
Occupational status					
Employee	17,9	38,3	22,7	33,0	28,4
Self-employed	15,3	39,1	11,6	25,3	20,4
Retired	52,9	75,4	62,0	70,3	67,9
Unemployed	19,7	41,4	20,2	31,5	28,0
Other	29,8	23,7	18,4	28,1	25,4
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	27,1	47,8	34,6	39,9	38,4
Quintile II	38,0	58,9	47,2	52,0	50,9
Quintile III	26,4	41,2	29,1	37,5	34,7
Quintile IV	25,6	50,3	30,7	44,8	40,2
Quintile V	23,9	33,9	20,8	35,9	29,8
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	27,1	45,0	30,1	42,5	37,0
Post-lockdown	26,1	42,8	27,6	39,3	35,8

The survey asked the respondents who have at least one living parent whether they ‘discuss personal matters with their parents’. The share of people who ‘discuss personal matters with parents’ is higher among adolescents and young people and decreases gradually with age (Table 8.4.3.). In the youngest respondent group (15-19 years) almost three out of four ‘discuss important personal matters with their parents’, indicating a high degree of closeness and trust between parents and children. Even though this share decreases with age, even among those aged 50-54 who have at least one living parent, every fourth person ‘discusses important personal matters with their parents’, and every fifth person among those aged 55-59.

The share of women who discuss important personal matters with their parents is significantly higher (46.1%) compared to men (40.4%). The rural population discusses personal matters with parents significantly more frequently (44.6%) compared to the urban population (41.5%).

People with higher education are less likely to discuss personal matters with their parents (39.3%) than people with lower education. The highest share of people who discuss personal matters with their parents is among divorced and unmarried people.

TABLE 8.4.3. Share of respondents aged 15-79 with living parents who ‘discuss important personal matters with their parents’, by gender and area of residence, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	40,4	46,1	41,5	44,6	43,3
Age group					
15-19	75,9	71,8	66,3	78,6	73,9
20-24	51,1	60,1	53,4	57,2	55,5
25-29	49,7	52,3	45,0	55,3	51,0
30-34	32,6	47,9	39,8	40,7	40,3
35-39	31,1	39,1	30,4	38,8	35,0
40-44	31,2	37,3	35,6	33,6	34,4
45-49	26,7	32,2	38,7	25,0	29,5
50-54	25,7	23,4	26,9	23,0	24,4
55-59	20,2	21,4	22,7	19,6	20,8
60-64	19,0	32,1	30,7	24,0	26,5
65-69	11,1	22,2	16,7	18,1	17,7
70-74	0,0	12,5	0,0	20,0	10,8
75-79	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0

Region					
Chisinau	35,2	42,7	40,0	33,1	39,0
North	49,4	52,0	49,1	52,2	50,8
Centre	43,5	50,5	44,4	47,8	47,0
South	33,1	36,7	31,2	36,2	34,8
Education					
Primary	46,6	64,2	71,9	47,5	52,6
Lower secondary	46,4	46,4	42,3	47,8	46,4
Mid-level general	43,8	45,5	46,5	43,3	44,7
Vocational secondary	36,9	46,3	36,6	43,6	41,3
Secondary specialised	36,3	46,0	41,7	41,3	41,5
Higher	32,5	44,6	39,6	38,6	39,3
Marital status					
Married	23,5	39,3	31,7	33,0	32,4
Cohabitation	27,7	42,9	33,7	36,4	35,2
Divorced/separated	60,1	50,9	54,3	56,6	55,4
Unmarried	66,0	66,3	58,1	71,7	66,1
Widow	27,9	33,8	23,8	35,3	32,2
Occupational status					
Employee	32,2	43,5	38,1	36,5	37,3
Self-employed	30,1	30,6	28,3	31,5	30,2
Retired	16,5	24,3	26,8	19,1	21,6
Retired	39,5	39,1	34,7	41,7	39,4
Other	58,3	51,1	52,3	54,3	53,6
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	30,6	45,5	39,6	37,8	38,4
Quintile II	47,8	51,2	51,7	48,7	49,5
Quintile III	42,6	47,7	43,4	46,4	45,2
Quintile IV	37,3	47,1	36,7	45,7	42,1
Quintile V	35,6	43,1	39,3	39,9	39,6

Covid					
Pre-lockdown	40,2	44,5	41,5	43,3	42,4
Post-lockdown	40,5	46,7	41,5	44,9	43,6

Discussing important personal matters with friends, acquaintances, neighbours or colleagues is less common in the population of the Republic of Moldova. However, for a portion of young people this is important (*Table 8.4.4*). The share of teenagers (19.6%) and young adults (18.0%) who ‘discuss personal matters with friends, neighbours or colleagues’ is relatively higher compared to other age groups. At the same time, urban adolescents and young people are more likely to discuss important personal matters with friends, acquaintances, neighbours, or colleagues than those from rural areas.

It is notable that among older people (65+) the share of those who discuss important personal matters with friends, acquaintances, neighbours or colleagues is increasing, especially among women. Just over a fifth of divorced or separated people (23.2%) and single people (21.8%) discuss personal matters with friends, neighbours or colleagues. At the same time, the share of married or cohabiting people who say they ‘discuss personal matters with friends, neighbours or colleagues’ is around 7 per cent.

The share of people who ‘discuss personal matters with friends, acquaintances, neighbours, or colleagues’ increased significantly in the post-lockdown period compared to the pre-lockdown period, probably driven by the restrictions imposed by the authorities, including the suspension of employment.

TABLE 8.4.4. Share of respondents aged 15-79 who ‘discuss important personal matters with friends, acquaintances, neighbours or colleagues’, by sex and area of residence, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	12,7	12,3	16,0	10,4	12,5
Age group					
15-19	21,3	17,8	27,2	15,0	19,6
20-24	24,1	11,6	23,0	13,8	18,0
25-29	14,5	13,1	19,5	9,7	13,8
30-34	15,3	13,4	16,7	12,3	14,4
35-39	9,5	11,1	12,3	8,8	10,3
40-44	8,6	9,8	12,7	7,4	9,2
45-49	9,7	11,9	14,8	9,1	10,8
50-54	10,8	10,1	13,2	9,3	10,4
55-59	11,6	10,5	13,0	10,1	11,0
60-64	6,6	10,3	8,6	8,8	8,7
65-69	9,1	15,2	13,9	12,2	12,7
70-74	10,8	12,8	15,1	10,5	11,9
75-79	9,0	15,7	14,4	13,1	13,4
Region					
Chisinau	18,6	20,7	21,3	12,2	19,7
North	11,6	10,3	19,0	4,8	10,9
Centre	14,7	12,6	9,2	14,6	13,6
South	7,7	8,0	8,1	7,7	7,8
Education					
Primary	10,9	9,4	19,9	7,6	10,2
Lower secondary	12,2	8,7	13,3	9,5	10,4
Mid-level general	16,5	13,4	15,5	14,4	14,8
Vocational secondary	11,4	11,3	15,2	9,7	11,3
Secondary specialised	13,3%	13,2	15,8	11,2	13,2
Higher	11,8	17,4	18,3	8,5	15,0

Marital status					
Married	5,6	8,7	8,2	6,9	7,3
Cohabitation	7,3	6,1	10,9	4,0	6,7
Divorced/separated	25,7	20,8	29,1	17,9	23,2
Unmarried	23,3	19,6	27,2	18,4	21,8
Widow	17,5	17,6	19,8	16,8	17,5
Occupational status					
Employee	12,6	14,2	15,8	10,9	13,4
Self-employed	13,4	7,0	20,5	7,6%	12,5
Retired	8,7	12,9	13,0	10,9	11,5
Unemployed	10,3	12,4	16,2	8,8	11,0
Other	16,4	10,7	17,1	10,9	12,9
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	11,3	11,8	13,2	10,8	11,5
Quintile II	13,9	13,7	13,0	14,0	13,8
Quintile III	13,7	14,2	18,1	11,6	13,9
Quintile IV	10,1	9,5	12,9	8,1	9,8
Quintile V	13,3	12,3	17,1	9,2	12,7
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	8,6	10,0	11,8	7,1	9,3
Post-lockdown	14,4	13,2	18,5	11,5	13,8

8.5. Satisfaction with life

Two thirds (66.4%) of respondents say they are 'satisfied with their life' (8-10 points on a scale of 1 to 10) with no gender differences (*Table 8.5.1*). The urban population is more likely to say they are 'satisfied with their life' (68.5%) than the rural population (65.2%). The share of people satisfied with their life decreases with age, halving in the 75-79 age group (46.3%) compared to the 15-19 age group (88.1%). By development region, the most satisfied are the people from the central region (70.8%), the more highly educated (75.8%), married people (72.0%) and the employed (71.9% employed and 73.8% self-employed). Better-off respondents (73.6% in quintile V) are more satisfied with their lives compared to other population groups. The share of people 'satisfied with their lives' increased slightly in the post-lockdown period compared to the pre-lockdown period, probably under the influence of the restrictions imposed by the pandemic.

TABLE 8.5.1. Share of people aged 15-79 'satisfied with their life', by gender and area of residence, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	66,4	66,4	68,5	65,2	66,4
Age group					
15-19	91,0	86,4	85,0	91,1	88,8
20-24	77,1	77,1	74,4	79,3	77,1
25-29	74,4	77,1	76,6	75,1	75,7
30-34	75,3	74,1	75,4	74,2	74,7
35-39	65,4	72,7	68,6	69,4	69,0
40-44	65,3	67,6	67,3	66,0	66,4
45-49	54,7	60,6	60,1	56,7	57,7
50-54	56,1	62,0	63,9	57,3	59,3
55-59	56,7	57,6	58,4	56,7	57,2
60-64	57,6	59,0	62,2	56,9	58,4
65-69	56,9	53,0	57,0	53,6	54,6
70-74	56,1	47,6	53,3	49,8	50,9
75-79	45,1	46,9	44,5	47,1	46,3
Region					
Chisinau	67,8	68,4	69,7	60,9	68,1
North	71,0	64,1	68,5	66,1	67,1
Centre	71,4	70,2	75,8	69,6	70,8
South	56,2	61,7	59,3	58,7	58,9
Education					
Primary	79,3	57,0	63,3	70,1	68,7
Lower secondary	65,9	64,3	64,6	65,2	65,1
Mid-level general	65,0	67,5	66,5	66,3	66,4
Vocational secondary	61,5	63,2	63,4	61,7	62,2
Secondary specialised	66,2	63,9	65,3	64,5	64,9
Higher	75,2	76,1	77,1	73,1	75,8

Marital status					
Married	71,6	72,3	75,3	70,3	72,0
Cohabitation	67,6	67,4	69,6	66,1	67,5
Divorced/separated	45,2	54,9	53,2	47,3	50,1
Unmarried	63,8	57,9	62,6	60,6	61,4
Widow	41,9	50,9	54,3	47,0	48,9
Occupational status					
Employee	72,9	70,7	74,7	69,1	71,9
Self-employed	75,0	68,8	68,3	77,0	73,8
Retired	57,2	53,9	56,0	54,6	55,0
Unemployed	61,9	65,7	58,4	65,2	63,2
Other	62,6	71,2	69,8	67,1	67,9
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	44,8	47,3	49,3	44,6	46,0
Quintile II	53,2	53,4	53,5	53,3	53,3
Quintile III	70,7	68,6	68,5	70,2	69,6
Quintile IV	73,8	67,2	71,6	69,5	70,2
Quintile V	71,3	75,7	76,6	71,3	73,6
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	65,3	62,7	64,2	63,8	64,0
Post-lockdown	66,9	67,8	71,0	65,6	67,4



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9. DIFFICULTIES IN FUNCTIONING AND RESTRICTIONS IN PARTICIPATION IN DAILY ACTIVITIES

9.1. Difficulties in carrying out normal daily activities

The GGS determined the severity of the disability (difficulty in functioning) based on the assessment of difficulty in carrying out normal daily activities due to physical or mental health problems. The following normal daily activities were selected as basic functional domains: walking, self-care, seeing, hearing, and remembering. To define the severity of a disability, this GGS used the indicators of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics. Thus, the response options (no difficulty, some difficulty, a lot of difficulty and cannot do at all) were used to define the following levels of severity: no difficulty, mild difficulty, moderate difficulty, and severe difficulty. To ensure international reporting and cross-national comparability, the Washington Group on Disability Statistics has established that persons with disabilities are those who have a lot of difficulty or who cannot do at all at least one of the activities included in the five functional domains listed in the questionnaire.⁴⁶

In the GGS, 43.3% of respondents answered affirmatively to the question whether they 'have difficulty, lasting at least 6 months, in carrying out normal daily activities (walking, self-care, seeing, hearing, remembering) due to physical or mental health problems' (*Table 9.1.1*). The rural dwellers responded more frequently that they 'have difficulty' (44.5%) compared to urban dwellers (41.3%). A significantly higher share of women (49.0%) reported that they 'have difficulty in carrying out normal daily activities' compared to men (37.1%). This gender gap is found across almost all age groups. As expected, the share of people who said they 'have some difficulty in carrying out normal daily activities' increases with age from 16.6% in the 15-19 age group to 94.0% in the oldest age group (75-79 years).

The highest prevalence of difficulties in carrying out daily activities is found in the Northern region (50.5%), where the share of the elderly population is higher compared to other regions, while the lowest share of difficulties is found in the Central region (36.8%).

⁴⁶ <http://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/>

By level of education, people with primary education (46.7%) and those with secondary vocational education (47.7%) state more frequently that they 'have difficulty in carrying out normal daily activities. About four out of 10 married people (41.6%), cohabiting people (36.9%) and unmarried people (38.7%) reported 'some difficulty in carrying out normal daily activities.

The prevalence of difficulties in carrying out normal daily activities reaches 81.0% among widowed people, some of whom are elderly. About two thirds of the lowest income earners (62.8% in quintile I) report difficulties in carrying out normal daily activities, which is almost twice as much as the highest income earners (37.1% in quintile V).

TABLE 9.1.1. Share of people aged 15-79 who 'have difficulty in carrying out usual daily activities' due to physical or mental health problems, by gender and area of residence, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	37,1	49,0	41,3	44,5	43,3
Age group					
15-19	11,4	22,2	23,7	12,3	16,6
20-24	11,7	21,3	20,0	13,5	16,4
25-29	12,5	24,8	22,9	15,4	18,5
30-34	16,6	24,1	21,3	19,5	20,3
35-39	25,5	28,3	31,2	23,5	26,9
40-44	26,6	33,1	29,2	30,2	29,9
45-49	42,8	54,5	54,4	46,4	48,8
50-54	58,3	65,8	65,4	60,9	62,3
55-59	63,6	74,1	69,2	69,5	69,4
60-64	73,1	79,2	73,1	77,9	76,6
65-69	78,9	83,2	78,4	82,8	81,5
70-74	81,4	91,3	88,5	86,9	87,5
75-79	92,2	94,9	92,5	94,6	94,0
Region					
Chisinau	35,4	49,9	43,2	42,3	43,0
North	42,7	56,6	43,4	55,8	50,5
Centre	31,5	41,7	28,4	38,8	36,8
South	40,8	51,6	46,9	45,7	46,1

Education					
Primary	33,0	61,6	52,5	45,1	46,7
Lower secondary	33,2	48,1	40,0	41,2	40,9
Mid-level general	33,5	49,6	37,7	45,2	42,5
Vocational secondary	45,6	50,4	51,5	46,1	47,7
Secondary specialised	38,8	54,2	45,8	48,6	47,4
Higher	32,8	41,3	35,3	42,0	37,6
Marital status					
Married	39,0	43,8	38,8	43,1	41,6
Cohabitation	32,5	41,3	36,0	37,5	36,9
Divorced/separated	53,1	56,3	53,2	56,0	54,7
Unmarried	28,6	53,2	39,0	38,5	38,7
Widow	81,5	80,8	81,5	80,7	81,0
Occupational status					
Employee	26,5	39,8	32,8	32,6	32,7
Self-employed	24,5	45,6	33,3	25,7	28,6
Retired	78,1	83,4	80,7	82,0	81,7
Unemployed	35,7	47,6	38,9	39,9	39,6
Other	35,1	34,2	35,1	34,3	34,6
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	59,0	66,7	64,0	62,3	62,8
Quintile II	48,1	65,9	58,5	58,0	58,1
Quintile III	33,2	44,4	40,0	38,5	39,0
Quintile IV	37,1	49,3	40,7	45,4	43,8
Quintile V	33,4	40,3	35,6	38,4	37,1
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	42,4	56,2	45,2	53,3	49,5
Post-lockdown	34,8	46,2	39,0	41,7	40,8

Just over one percent (1.6%) of the population report that they ‘have severe difficulty in carrying out everyday activities’, manifested by being unable (cannot do at all) to carry out at least one of the five types of activities (seeing, even if they wear glasses, hearing, even if they wear a hearing aid, mobility, remembering and/or concentrating, and self-care) (*Table 9.1.2., Table 9.1.3.*). The share of people experiencing severe difficulties in carrying out normal daily activities is higher among older people (7.6% and 15.5% in the 70-74 and 75-79 age groups respectively).

A further one in 12 (8.1%) say they ‘have severe difficulty carrying out at least one of the five types of activities’ but are still able to carry them out (moderate difficulty), with no significant differences by area of residence (8.3% for rural areas and 7.8% for urban areas). The share of moderate difficulties in carrying out daily activities increases with age from 1.9% in the youngest age group to a quarter (27.1%) and a third (34.5%) in the oldest age groups (70-74 years and 75-79 years, respectively). The share of women who said they ‘experience severe, moderate, and mild difficulties in carrying out daily activities’ is higher across all age groups compared to the share of men.

Among the most affected by moderate difficulties in carrying out their normal daily activities are people from the northern region (10.6%), where the ageing of the population is more pronounced, people with primary education (14.0%), divorced or separated people (14.0%). People with a low level of income (14.9% in quintile II, 14.7% in quintile I) are about three times more likely to report ‘moderate difficulty in carrying out daily activities’ than people in the best-off group (5.3% in quintile V).

Around four out of ten people report that they ‘have mild difficulty in carrying out daily activities’ (40.9%), manifested by some difficulty in at least one of the five types of activity mentioned above, with a significantly higher share of women (46.5%) compared to men (34.7%).

The rural population (42.3%) is more likely than the urban population (38.4%) to say that they ‘have mild difficulty in carrying out normal daily activities’. The prevalence of mild difficulties is higher in the northern region (47.6%) compared to the other regions, among people with primary education (44.4%), secondary vocational education (45.1%) and secondary specialised education (44.9%) compared to the other categories. About one third of people in employment (31.1% of the employed and 27.7% of the self-employed) say they ‘have mild difficulty in carrying out normal daily activities’. People with the lowest income level (59.1% in quintile I) were almost twice as likely to report mild difficulties in carrying out daily activities compared to the best-off respondents (34.9% in quintile V). Around eight out of ten retirees (77.5%) and widowed people (76.0%) as well as half of divorced people (50.8%) say they have mild difficulties. The share of people reporting having mild difficulties in carrying out daily activities decreased significantly in the post-lockdown period compared to the pre-lockdown period.

Although not considered disabled, people with mild difficulties should be taken into account in policies designed to improve the situation of people with disabilities in any measures decided, in order to make the physical and social environment more disability-friendly.

TABLE 9.1.2. Share of people aged 15-79 who ‘have difficulty in carrying out normal daily activities’ due to physical or mental health problems, by gender and severity of difficulties, in %

	Men			Women			Total		
	Severe	Moderate	Minor	Severe	Moderate	Minor	Severe	Moderate	Minor
Total	1,5	7,2	34,7	1,8	9,0	46,5	1,6	8,1	40,9
Age group									
15-19	0,0	1,5	9,4	0,0	2,4	20,3	0,0	1,9	14,7
20-24	0,5	1,6	10,1	0,0	2,2	20,6	0,3	1,9	15,3
25-29	0,0	2,5	11,5	0,0	1,4	23,1	0,0	2,0	17,2
30-34	0,0	2,4	15,4	0,2	2,7	22,0	0,1	2,6	18,7
35-39	0,7	2,7	24,8	0,4	2,9	27,1	0,5	2,8	26,0
40-44	0,4	4,5	25,1	0,0	4,8	29,7	0,2	4,7	27,4
45-49	1,7	6,4	39,5	0,0	8,2	51,0	0,8	7,3	45,4
50-54	0,9	10,8	54,3	1,6	8,7	63,7	1,3	9,7	59,3
55-59	2,5	11,6	60,4	1,8	12,9	71,3	2,1	12,3	66,4
60-64	3,2	15,0	68,7	3,0	14,3	75,9	3,1	14,6	72,8
65-69	5,3	20,4	74,1	4,5	21,0	80,2	4,8	20,8	77,7
70-74	6,1	22,6	77,1	8,5	30,0	85,7	7,6	27,1	82,4
75-79	13,8	32,3	86,2	16,3	35,7	91,5	15,5	34,5	89,7
Region									
Chisinau	1,7	7,1	32,7	0,8	8,0	47,2	1,2	7,8	40,3
North	1,6	10,4	39,4	1,9	10,7	53,9	1,8	10,6	47,6
Centre	1,4	5,5	30,0	2,1	7,7	39,5	1,8	6,7	35,0
South	1,4	7,0	38,3	1,9	9,5	49,0	1,6	8,2	43,5

Education									
Primary	2,7	6,4	33,0	6,4	22,1	56,8	4,5	14,0	44,4
Lower secondary	1,5	6,1	31,2	2,5	10,9	45,6	2,0	8,6	38,7
Mid-level general	1,6	6,4	31,0	1,8	8,7	47,4	1,8	7,7	40,1
Vocational secondary	1,6	9,3	42,7	1,4	8,4	48,1	1,5	8,9	45,1
Secondary specialised	1,3	7,0	35,7	1,4	7,8	52,2	1,3	7,5	44,9
Higher	1,2	6,8	30,6	0,5	5,6	38,2	0,8	6,1	34,9
Marital status									
Married	1,0	6,3	36,9	1,1	6,2	42,1	1,0	6,3	39,7
Cohabitation	1,2	6,3	30,2	0,7	7,6	38,3	0,9	6,9	34,3
Divorced/separated	3,4	16,6	48,9	0,9	11,4	52,7	2,1	14,0	50,8
Unmarried	1,4	5,7	26,1	3,3	11,6	50,4	2,2	8,1	36,0
Widow	8,7	24,1	76,3	5,4	22,9	75,8	6,2	23,2	76,0
Occupational status									
Employee	0,2	2,3	25,3	0,1	3,8	37,6	0,1	3,0	31,0
Self-employed	0,6	3,2	23,6	0,0	5,6	44,8	0,5	3,6	27,7
Retired	5,2	20,4	72,6	5,9	20,8	80,0	5,7	20,7	77,5
Unemployed	0,1	4,7	33,7	0,8	5,9	45,2	0,3	5,1	37,5
Other	2,5	10,0	32,1	0,7	6,0	32,0	1,4	7,5	32,0
Welfare quintile									
Quintile I	1,3	16,0	55,0	3,5	13,3	63,1	2,4	14,7	59,1
Quintile II	3,5	12,9	45,6	3,3	16,6	62,6	3,4	14,9	55,2
Quintile III	1,4	5,7	30,6	1,5	6,2	42,5	1,4	6,0	36,8
Quintile IV	1,9	6,5	35,6	2,3	8,2	46,9	2,1	7,4	41,8
Quintile V	0,6	4,6	31,3	0,5	5,8	37,9	0,5	5,3	34,9
Covid									
Pre-lockdown	1,6	9,0	39,3	2,1	11,5	52,7	1,9	10,3	46,2
Post-lockdown	1,4	6,5	32,7	1,7	8,0	44,1	1,6	7,3	38,7

TABLE 9.1.3. Share of people aged 15-79 who ‘have difficulty in carrying out normal daily activities’ due to physical or mental health problems, by area of residence and severity of difficulties, in %

	Urban			Rural			Total		
	Severe	Moderate	Minor	Severe	Moderate	Minor	Severe	Moderate	Minor
Total	1,3	7,8	38,4	1,9	8,3	42,3	1,6	8,1	40,9
Age group									
15-19	0,0	3,2	19,8	0,0	1,2	11,5	0,0	1,9	14,7
20-24	0,6	2,0	18,8	0,0	1,8	12,4	0,3	1,9	15,3
25-29	0,0	1,6	21,3	0,0	2,2	14,3	0,0	2,0	17,2
30-34	0,0	2,8	19,2	0,2	2,4	18,2	0,1	2,6	18,7
35-39	1,0	4,8	29,8	0,2	1,3	23,0	0,5	2,8	26,0
40-44	0,5	6,0	27,0	0,0	3,9	27,7	0,2	4,7	27,4
45-49	1,1	11,7	47,7	0,7	5,4	44,4	0,8	7,3	45,4
50-54	1,4	9,3	61,9	1,3	9,9	58,2	1,3	9,7	59,3
55-59	1,0	13,7	65,1	2,6	11,6	67,0	2,1	12,3	66,4
60-64	3,1	12,2	70,2	3,1	15,5	73,8	3,1	14,6	72,8
65-69	3,1	21,8	74,3	5,5	20,3	79,1	4,8	20,8	77,7
70-74	5,3	27,8	82,4	8,6	26,8	82,3	7,6	27,1	82,4
75-79	16,4	33,5	85,6	15,1	34,9	91,5	15,5	34,5	89,7
Region									
Chisinau	1,4	8,0	40,5	0,6	7,0	39,6	1,2	7,8	40,3
North	1,1	8,8	40,3	2,3	11,9	52,9	1,8	10,6	47,6
Centre	1,1	3,9	26,3	1,9	7,3	37,0	1,8	6,7	35,0
South	1,5	9,8	43,1	1,7	7,7	43,7	1,6	8,2	43,5

Education									
Primary	3,3	19,2	50,6	4,8	12,5	42,7	4,5	14,0	44,4
Lower secondary	1,6	8,2	37,2	2,1	8,7	39,1	2,0	8,6	38,7
Mid-level general	1,0	6,7	35,1	2,2	8,2	43,0	1,8	7,7	40,1
Vocational secondary	1,5	11,4	47,8	1,5	7,9	44,0	1,5	8,9	45,1
Secondary specialised	1,8	8,3	42,8	1,0	6,8	46,6	1,3	7,5	44,9
Higher	0,7	5,5	32,6	1,0	7,3	39,5	0,8	6,1	34,9
Marital status									
Married	0,5	5,7	36,6	1,3	6,6	41,4	1,0	6,3	39,7
Cohabitation	0,5	8,5	31,7	1,2	6,0	35,9	0,9	6,9	34,3
Divorced/separated	2,8	13,2	49,8	1,6	14,7	51,8	2,1	14,0	50,8
Unmarried	2,0	8,9	36,1	2,3	7,6	36,0	2,2	8,1	36,0
Widow	5,1	22,7	74,5	6,5	23,3	76,5	6,2	23,2	76,0
Occupational status									
Employee	0,2	3,0	31,0	0,1	3,0	31,1	0,1	3,0	31,0
Self-employed	1,3	4,9	30,9	0,0	2,9	25,7	0,5	3,6	27,7
Retired	4,5	21,3	76,0	6,1	20,5	78,0	5,7	20,7	77,5
Unemployed	0,0	6,7	36,9	0,5	4,4	37,8	0,3	5,1	37,5
Other	1,5	8,9	31,0	1,3	6,9	32,5	1,4	7,5	32,0
Welfare quintile									
Quintile I	2,6	16,4	61,2	2,3	13,9	58,1	2,4	14,7	59,1
Quintile II	3,1	15,4	54,1	3,5	14,8	55,6	3,4	14,9	55,2
Quintile III	1,3	6,2	37,3	1,5	5,9	36,5	1,4	6,0	36,8
Quintile IV	1,4	8,5	37,3	2,5	6,9	44,1	2,1	7,4	41,8
Quintile V	0,5	6,0	32,6	0,6	4,7	36,8	0,5	5,3	34,9
Covid									
Pre-lockdown	1,5	10,2	41,5	2,2	10,3	50,3	1,9	10,3	46,2
Post-lockdown	1,2	6,5	36,6	1,7	7,7	39,8	1,6	7,3	38,7

9.2. Mobility difficulties

Severe mobility difficulties were reported by 0.2% of respondents, moderate difficulty – by 3.9%, and 13.9% reported mild mobility difficulties (Tables 9.2.1., 9.2.2.). The frequency of moderate mobility difficulties increases with age from 0.5% in the youngest age group (15-19 years) to 18.9% in the oldest age group (75-79 years). In the working age group, the rate of moderate mobility difficulties increases from 1.0% in the 25-29 age group to 6.7% in the 60-64 age group. The share of moderate mobility difficulties is about twice as high among people with primary education (6.8%) compared to people with higher education (2.3%). People with low income reported about three times more frequently (6.6% in quintile I and 7.8% in quintile II) moderate mobility difficulties compared to better-off (2.1% in quintile V).

About 14% of the population (13.9%) report mild mobility difficulties with a higher share among women (16.9%) compared to men (10.7%) and in rural areas (15.7%) compared to urban areas (10.9%). Although, as expected, the share of moderate disability increases with age, from 1.0% in the youngest age group (15-19 years) to 52.2% in the oldest age group (75-79 years), mild mobility difficulties are also reported in the working age population, with one fifth (19.4%) in the 50-54 age group, one quarter (25.2%) in the 55-59 age group and almost three in ten (28.9%) in the 60-64 age group. The most disadvantaged are people with primary education (22.0%), as well as those in the lowest income quintile (24.7% in quintile I and 23.3% in quintile II) compared to 9.1% in quintile V.

TABLE 9.2.1. Percentage of people aged 15-79 who ‘have mobility difficulty in carrying out normal daily activities’, by gender and severity of difficulties, in %

	Men			Women			Total		
	Severe	Moderate	Minor	Severe	Moderate	Minor	Severe	Moderate	Minor
Total	0,3	3,4	10,7	0,2	4,4	16,9	0,2	3,9	13,9
Age group									
15-19	0,0	0,5	1,0	0,0	0,5	1,0	0,0	0,5	1,0
20-24	0,0	0,0	1,6	0,0	0,0	1,8	0,0	0,0	1,7
25-29	0,0	1,5	1,0	0,3	0,6	2,5	0,1	1,0	1,7
30-34	0,0	1,6	2,4	0,4	0,0	3,7	0,2	0,8	3,0
35-39	0,0	0,7	6,5	0,0	0,4	6,2	0,0	0,5	6,4
40-44	0,4	1,9	4,9	0,0	1,9	7,0	0,2	1,9	5,9
45-49	0,3	2,3	10,4	0,0	3,2	14,9	0,2	2,8	12,7
50-54	0,3	5,6	15,1	0,0	3,9	23,2	0,1	4,7	19,4

55-59	0,3	5,7	20,4	0,0	7,2	29,1	0,1	6,5	25,2
60-64	1,1	6,8	23,2	0,0	6,6	33,3	0,5	6,7	28,9
65-69	1,2	10,6	31,7	0,6	11,5	41,1	0,8	11,1	37,3
70-74	0,4	11,1	35,8	0,2	20,7	42,4	0,3	17,0	39,9
75-79	0,6	15,6	49,1	0,9	20,5	53,8	0,8	18,9	52,2
Region									
Chisinau	0,0	3,7	5,9	0,1	3,3	12,1	0,1	3,5	9,1
North	0,6	5,2	12,5	0,2	4,7	20,4	0,4	4,9	17,0
Centre	0,3	2,6	10,9	0,1	4,2	15,1	0,2	3,4	13,1
South	0,2	2,9	12,1	0,2	4,9	19,2	0,2	3,9	15,6
Education									
Primary	0,0	2,0	14,5	0,0	12,0	30,2	0,0	6,8	22,0
Lower secondary	0,4	2,9	9,9	0,2	5,5	18,0	0,3	4,2	14,1
General secondary	0,0	2,6	9,8	0,1	4,1	17,3	0,1	3,4	14,0
Vocational secondary	0,5	4,9	13,5	0,0	4,0	17,1	0,3	4,5	15,1
Secondary specialised	0,1	3,0	11,3	0,1	4,3	18,0	0,1	3,7	15,0
Higher	0,0	3,0	7,6	0,3	1,7	10,8	0,2	2,3	9,4
Marital status									
Married	0,2	3,0	11,6	0,1	2,9	14,4	0,2	2,9	13,1
Cohabitation	0,0	2,8	11,1	0,0	3,1	10,0	0,0	2,9	10,6
Divorced/separated	0,2	10,5	14,3	0,0	4,2	19,1	0,1	7,4	16,7
Unmarried	0,3	2,1	6,8	0,4	5,5	18,9	0,3	3,4	11,8
Widow	1,9	11,8	33,4	0,4	13,0	37,8	0,7	12,7	36,9
Occupational status									
Employee	0,0	0,6	4,4	0,1	1,0	8,6	0,1	0,8	6,3
Self-employed	0,0	1,5	5,3	0,0	2,6	9,9	0,0	1,8	6,2
Retired	0,5	10,3	32,1	0,3	11,8	40,1	0,4	11,3	37,4
Unemployed	0,0	1,7	8,6	0,0	2,0	13,0	0,0	1,8	10,1
Other	0,8	5,2	11,4	0,1	2,6	9,2	0,4	3,6	10,1

Welfare quintile									
Quintile I	0,0	7,3	19,0	0,5	5,9	30,3	0,2	6,6	24,7
Quintile II	0,7	6,0	18,1	0,1	9,2	27,3	0,4	7,8	23,3
Quintile III	0,3	2,6	10,0	0,1	3,1	13,5	0,2	2,8	11,8
Quintile IV	0,1	3,4	11,2	0,2	3,9	19,2	0,2	3,6	15,6
Quintile V	0,2	1,9	7,2	0,0	2,3	10,6	0,1	2,1	9,1
Covid									
Pre-lockdown	0,5	4,5	12,7	0,3	5,6	20,0	0,4	5,0	16,4
Post-lockdown	0,2	2,9	9,9	0,1	3,9	15,7	0,2	3,4	12,9

TABLE 9.2.2. Share of people aged 15-79 who ‘have mobility difficulty in carrying out normal daily activities’, by area of residence and severity of difficulties, in %

	Urban			Rural			Total		
	Severe	Moderate	Minor	Severe	Moderate	Minor	Severe	Moderate	Minor
Total	0,2	3,5	10,9	0,2	4,1	15,7	0,2	3,9	13,9
Age group									
15-19	0,0	0,7	1,9	0,0	0,4	0,4	0,0	0,5	1,0
20-24	0,0	0,0	2,6	0,0	0,0	1,0	0,0	0,0	1,7
25-29	0,3	0,7	1,9	0,0	1,3	1,6	0,1	1,0	1,7
30-34	0,4	0,9	1,9	0,0	0,8	4,0	0,2	0,8	3,0
35-39	0,0	0,6	6,2	0,0	0,5	6,4	0,0	0,5	6,4
40-44	0,0	2,5	4,5	0,3	1,6	6,7	0,2	1,9	5,9
45-49	0,5	5,2	10,1	0,0	1,8	13,9	0,2	2,8	12,7
50-54	0,0	3,9	18,1	0,2	5,0	20,0	0,1	4,7	19,4
55-59	0,4	7,5	19,1	0,0	6,0	27,9	0,1	6,5	25,2
60-64	0,0	5,9	29,0	0,7	7,0	28,9	0,5	6,7	28,9
65-69	0,5	12,0	34,1	1,0	10,8	38,6	0,8	11,1	37,3
70-74	0,0	17,2	39,0	0,4	16,9	40,2	0,3	17,0	39,9
75-79	0,7	17,8	51,4	0,9	19,3	52,5	0,8	18,9	52,2

Region									
Chisinau	0,1	3,6	8,3	0,0	3,0	12,9	0,1	3,5	9,1
North	0,2	3,7	11,6	0,5	5,8	20,9	0,4	4,9	17,0
Centre	0,4	1,6	9,1	0,2	3,8	14,1	0,2	3,4	13,1
South	0,3	4,8	16,7	0,2	3,6	15,1	0,2	3,9	15,6
Education									
Primary	0,0	11,6	19,7	0,0	5,5	22,6	0,0	6,8	22,0
Lower secondary	0,3	3,9	12,2	0,3	4,3	14,7	0,3	4,2	14,1
Mid-level general	0,1	2,8	8,9	0,1	3,8	16,9	0,1	3,4	14,0
Vocational secondary	0,2	4,6	14,8	0,3	4,5	15,2	0,3	4,5	15,1
Secondary specialised	0,1	4,2	13,7	0,1	3,3	16,1	0,1	3,7	15,0
Higher	0,2	2,2	6,9	0,0	2,4	14,3	0,2	2,3	9,4
Marital status									
Married	0,2	2,5	10,0	0,1	3,2	14,7	0,2	2,9	13,1
Cohabitation	0,0	2,7	8,0	0,0	3,1	12,2	0,0	2,9	10,6
Divorced/separated	0,0	8,3	13,0	0,2	6,5	20,1	0,1	7,4	16,7
Unmarried	0,2	3,3	9,5	0,5	3,5	13,2	0,3	3,4	11,8
Widow	1,1	12,3	38,7	0,6	12,9	36,1	0,7	12,7	36,9
Occupational status									
Employee	0,1	0,6	5,4	0,0	1,0	7,3	0,1	0,8	6,3
Self-employed	0,0	2,9	5,2	0,0	1,0	6,7	0,0	1,8	6,2
Retired	0,2	11,4	36,1	0,4	11,3	37,9	0,4	11,3	37,4
Unemployed	0,0	2,2	7,9	0,0	1,6	11,0	0,0	1,8	10,1
Other	0,5	4,4	7,6	0,4	3,3	11,2	0,4	3,6	10,1
Welfare quintile									
Quintile I	0,3	8,3	26,1	0,2	5,9	24,0	0,2	6,6	24,7
Quintile II	0,0	7,8	22,0	0,5	7,8	23,7	0,4	7,8	23,3
Quintile III	0,1	2,9	9,8	0,2	2,8	13,0	0,2	2,8	11,8
Quintile IV	0,3	3,8	11,9	0,1	3,6	17,5	0,2	3,6	15,6
Quintile V	0,3	1,8	6,8	0,0	2,3	10,9	0,1	2,1	9,1

Covid									
Pre-lockdown	0,3	4,6	13,8	0,4	5,4	18,7	0,4	5,0	16,4
Post-lockdown	0,1	2,9	9,2	0,2	3,7	14,7	0,2	3,4	12,9

9.3. Vision difficulties

About 0.1% of the population reported severe vision difficulties (even if wearing glasses) in carrying out normal daily activities, and about four percent (3.7%) – moderate vision difficulties, with no significant differences by area of residence (3.8 in urban areas compared to 3.7% in rural areas) (Tables 9.3.1., 9.3.2.). The share of moderate vision difficulties increases with age, from 1.2 in the 15-19 age group to 17.7% in the 75-79 age group. As in the case of moderate mobility difficulties, people with primary education are the most disadvantaged groups, with the percentage of moderate vision difficulties being about twice as high (6.3%) compared to people with higher levels of education, indicating impairment of the right to education. In addition, the incidence of moderate vision difficulties is twice as high among the lowest income group (7.1% in quintile I, 6.9% in quintile II) compared to the highest income group (2.8% in quintile V).

About three in ten people (29.1%) report mild vision difficulties in carrying out normal daily activities with a significantly higher proportion of women (33.9%) compared to men (23.9%) and of rural dwellers (30.8%) compared to urban dwellers (26.4%). About one in ten people in the 15-34 age group report mild visual difficulties. The incidence of mild vision difficulties increases gradually with advancing age, affecting almost half or more of people aged 50-54 and over. People with secondary vocational education (32.9%) and those with secondary specialised education (34.5%) report mild vision difficulties more frequently than people with other levels of education. As with mobility difficulties, the most disadvantaged are the lowest income earners (38.0% in quintile I, 37.6% in quintile II) compared to the highest income earners (26.0% in quintile V).

TABLE 9.3.1. Percentage of people aged 15-79 who ‘have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses, in carrying out normal daily activities’, by gender and severity of difficulty, in %

	Men			Women			Total		
	Severe	Moderate	Minor	Severe	Moderate	Minor	Severe	Moderate	Minor
Total	0,2	3,3	23,9	0,1	4,2	33,9	0,1	3,7	29,1
Age group									
15-19	0,0	1,0	6,4	0,0	1,5	13,5	0,0	1,2	9,9
20-24	0,0	1,1	4,8	0,0	1,1	11,2	0,0	1,1	8,0
25-29	0,0	0,0	7,5	0,3	0,6	13,9	0,1	0,3	10,7
30-34	0,0	0,0	5,7	0,0	1,7	13,4	0,0	0,9	9,5
35-39	0,0	1,4	16,0	0,0	2,1	14,0	0,0	1,8	15,0
40-44	0,0	2,3	13,5	0,0	1,9	21,3	0,0	2,1	17,4
45-49	0,0	3,3	30,1	0,0	2,7	40,3	0,0	3,0	35,4
50-54	0,3	4,9	43,5	0,2	4,1	50,3	0,3	4,5	47,1
55-59	0,5	4,7	48,7	0,2	6,0	59,3	0,3	5,4	54,5
60-64	0,4	7,6	49,7	0,0	6,2	60,1	0,2	6,8	55,6
65-69	0,7	10,8	51,6	0,1	9,1	61,4	0,4	9,8	57,4
70-74	0,0	10,8	52,7	0,6	13,3	60,4	0,3	12,3	57,4
75-79	1,2	16,8	55,1	0,3	18,1	60,4	0,6	17,7	58,6
Region									
Chisinau	0,3	3,4	21,7	0,2	4,0	32,0	0,2	3,7	27,1
North	0,2	4,0	25,6	0,1	4,7	39,5	0,2	4,4	33,4
Centre	0,1	2,7	22,2	0,1	3,4	30,0	0,1	3,1	26,3
South	0,1	3,4	26,1	0,1	4,7	35,5	0,1	4,1	30,6

Education									
Primary	0,0	1,7	18,6	0,0	11,3	38,7	0,0	6,3	28,2
Lower secondary	0,2	2,4	19,5	0,1	4,7	31,9	0,2	3,6	26,0
Mid-level general	0,1	3,1	22,5	0,2	4,1	34,9	0,2	3,7	29,4
Vocational secondary	0,1	4,0	31,0	0,0	3,8	35,3	0,0	3,9	32,9
Secondary specialised	0,3	4,3	26,9	0,1	3,5	40,5	0,2	3,9	34,5
Higher	0,1	3,0	20,3	0,0	3,1	27,6	0,0	3,1	24,4
Marital status									
Married	0,1	3,2	26,7	0,0	2,8	31,3	0,1	3,0	29,2
Cohabitation	0,0	2,8	16,9	0,0	3,5	25,4	0,0	3,2	21,1
Divorced/separated	0,7	5,1	31,2	0,3	5,3	40,0	0,5	5,2	35,6
Unmarried	0,1	2,3	17,1	0,2	5,3	36,4	0,1	3,5	25,0
Widow	0,9	13,2	53,0	0,1	11,5	54,9	0,3	11,9	54,5
Occupational status									
Employee	0,0	1,3	18,6	0,0	1,8	28,5	0,0	1,5	23,2
Self-employed	0,0	1,2	16,2	0,8	1,7	34,5	0,2	1,3	19,7
Retired	0,3	10,4	50,0	0,2	9,6	59,8	0,2	9,9	56,5
Unemployed	0,0	2,1	22,3	0,0	3,6	33,4	0,0	2,6	26,0
Other	0,4	3,7	21,2	0,1	2,7	21,3	0,2	3,1	21,2
Welfare quintile									
Quintile I	0,0	7,8	29,7	0,0	6,3	45,6	0,0	7,1	37,6
Quintile II	0,3	5,8	29,2	0,2	7,8	44,9	0,2	6,9	38,0
Quintile III	0,2	2,3	22,4	0,1	2,6	31,2	0,1	2,5	27,0
Quintile IV	0,1	2,8	25,5	0,1	3,7	35,0	0,1	3,3	30,7
Quintile V	0,1	2,5	22,9	0,1	3,1	28,6	0,1	2,8	26,0
Covid									
Pre-lockdown	0,2	4,1	24,6	0,1	4,9	37,2	0,1	4,5	31,0
Post-lockdown	0,2	2,9	23,6	0,1	3,9	32,7	0,1	3,4	28,4

TABLE 9.3.2. Share of people aged 15-79 who ‘have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses, in carrying out normal daily activities’ by area of residence and severity of difficulty

	Urban			Rural			Total		
	Severe	Moderate	Minor	Severe	Moderate	Minor	Severe	Moderate	Minor
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Total	0,2	3,8	26,4	0,1	3,7	30,8	0,1	3,7	29,1
Age group									
15-19	0,0	2,5	12,8	0,0	0,4	8,1	0,0	1,2	9,9
20-24	0,0	1,6	8,9	0,0	0,7	7,2	0,0	1,1	8,0
25-29	0,3	0,0	11,7	0,0	0,5	9,9	0,1	0,3	10,7
30-34	0,0	1,0	10,3	0,0	0,7	8,8	0,0	0,9	9,5
35-39	0,0	3,0	16,1	0,0	0,8	14,2	0,0	1,8	15,0
40-44	0,0	2,8	15,8	0,0	1,7	18,3	0,0	2,1	17,4
45-49	0,0	4,9	39,2	0,0	2,2	33,7	0,0	3,0	35,4
50-54	0,5	5,4	49,7	0,2	4,2	46,1	0,3	4,5	47,1
55-59	0,3	6,2	55,2	0,3	5,1	54,1	0,3	5,4	54,5
60-64	0,0	5,6	54,2	0,2	7,3	56,1	0,2	6,8	55,6
65-69	0,7	10,8	51,9	0,2	9,4	59,7	0,4	9,8	57,4
70-74	0,4	11,8	54,9	0,3	12,6	58,6	0,3	12,3	57,4
75-79	0,7	15,7	58,2	0,6	18,5	58,8	0,6	17,7	58,6
Region									
Chisinau	0,3	4,0	26,8	0,0	2,5	28,4	0,2	3,7	27,1
North	0,1	4,1	29,8	0,2	4,6	36,1	0,2	4,4	33,4
Centre	0,0	2,0	19,9	0,1	3,3	27,8	0,1	3,1	26,3
South	0,1	4,4	27,0	0,1	3,9	32,0	0,1	4,1	30,6

Education									
Primary	0,0	5,4	30,4	0,0	6,5	27,6	0,0	6,3	28,2
Lower secondary	0,1	3,7	23,1	0,2	3,6	26,8	0,2	3,6	26,0
Mid-level general	0,2	3,7	24,2	0,1	3,7	32,4	0,2	3,7	29,4
Vocational secondary	0,0	4,9	34,0	0,1	3,5	32,4	0,0	3,9	32,9
Secondary specialised	0,5	4,4	32,5	0,0	3,4	36,0	0,2	3,9	34,5
Higher	0,0	2,8	21,4	0,1	3,7	30,3	0,0	3,1	24,4
Marital status									
Married	0,2	2,7	25,8	0,0	3,1	30,9	0,1	3,0	29,2
Cohabitation	0,0	4,6	18,0	0,0	2,2	23,1	0,0	3,2	21,1
Divorced/separated	0,4	4,5	35,4	0,6	5,8	35,8	0,5	5,2	35,6
Unmarried	0,0	4,9	23,7	0,2	2,7	25,8	0,1	3,5	25,0
Widow	0,0	10,9	53,3	0,4	12,3	54,9	0,3	11,9	54,5
Occupational status									
Employee	0,0	1,7	21,8	0,0	1,3	24,6	0,0	1,5	23,2
Self-employed	0,4	1,0	21,6	0,0	1,4	18,6	0,2	1,3	19,7
Retired	0,3	10,2	54,7	0,2	9,7	57,3	0,2	9,9	56,5
Unemployed	0,0	3,0	25,3	0,0	2,4	26,3	0,0	2,6	26,0
Other	0,2	4,1	18,9	0,2	2,6	22,3	0,2	3,1	21,2
Welfare quintile									
Quintile I	0,0	7,7	35,9	0,0	6,8	38,3	0,0	7,1	37,6
Quintile II	0,1	6,7	39,3	0,3	7,0	37,6	0,2	6,9	38,0
Quintile III	0,0	2,7	26,5	0,2	2,4	27,4	0,1	2,5	27,0
Quintile IV	0,3	4,3	23,0	0,0	2,8	34,7	0,1	3,3	30,7
Quintile V	0,2	3,6	22,5	0,0	2,2	28,8	0,1	2,8	26,0
Covid									
Pre-lockdown	0,2	4,7	26,7	0,1	4,4	34,9	0,1	4,5	31,0
Post-lockdown	0,1	3,2	26,2	0,1	3,5	29,4	0,1	3,4	28,4

9.4. Hearing difficulties

A small share of respondents report severe (0.1%) or moderate (1.0%) hearing difficulties, even if using a hearing aid (Table 9.4.1., Table 9.4.2.). The share of moderate hearing difficulties increases gradually with age, from 0.3% in the 20-24 age group to 7.3% in the 75-79 age group. About 4 times more moderate hearing difficulties were reported by the lowest-income earners (2% in quintile I) compared to the highest-income earners (0.5% in quintile V).

Nearly one in ten people (8.6%) report mild hearing difficulties, with no significant gender differences. Rural dwellers report mild hearing difficulties more frequently (9.8%) than urban dwellers (6.4%). As with other types of functioning difficulties, the share of people reporting mild hearing difficulties increases with age from less than one percent in the youngest age group to three in ten in the 70-74 age group (30.5%) and four in ten in the 75-79 age group (41.9%). The share of mild hearing difficulties is almost twice as high in the southern region (10.3%) and the northern region (9.6%) compared to Chisinau municipality (5.7%). Mild hearing difficulties are about three times more common among people with primary education (14.9%) compared to those with higher education (4.8%) and among people with low income (17.5% in quintile I, 13.8% in quintile II) compared to the better-off (4.7% in quintile V).

TABLE 9.4.1. Percentage of people aged 15-79 years who ‘have hearing difficulty, even if using a hearing aid, in carrying out normal daily activities’, by gender and severity of difficulty, in %

	Men			Women			Total		
	Severe	Moderate	Minor	Severe	Moderate	Minor	Severe	Moderate	Minor
Total	0,13	1,0	8,1	0,1	0,9	9,0	0,1	1,0	8,6
Age group									
15-19	0,5	0,0	0,5	0,5	0,0	0,5	0,5	0,0	0,5
20-24	0,0	0,5	2,1	0,0	0,0	1,8	0,0	0,3	2,0
25-29	0,0	0,5	1,5	0,0	0,3	2,2	0,0	0,4	1,9
30-34	0,4	0,0	3,6	0,0	0,6	2,7	0,2	0,3	3,2
35-39	0,3	0,0	2,7	0,0	0,2	3,9	0,2	0,1	3,3
40-44	0,0	0,4	4,9	0,0	0,2	3,6	0,0	0,3	4,2
45-49	0,0	0,3	5,4	0,3	1,0	6,2	0,1	0,7	5,8
50-54	0,0	0,9	7,4	0,0	0,9	8,1	0,0	0,9	7,8
55-59	0,0	1,5	14,3	0,2	0,3	12,5	0,1	0,9	13,3
60-64	0,0	2,5	19,1	0,4	1,5	14,6	0,2	1,9	16,5

65-69	0,0	2,9	24,0	0,2	2,2	22,6	0,1	2,5	23,2
70-74	0,0	5,4	31,2	0,0	3,0	30,0	0,0	3,9	30,5
75-79	0,0	7,8	44,0	0,0	7,0	40,9	0,0	7,3	41,9
Region									
Chisinau	0,5	0,9	5,2	0,5	0,7	6,1	0,5	0,8	5,7
North	0,0	1,3	9,6	0,0	0,8	9,6	0,0	1,1	9,6
Centre	0,0	0,8	7,2	0,1	0,8	8,7	0,1	0,8	8,0
South	0,1	1,0	9,8	0,0	1,3	10,8	0,1	1,2	10,3
Education									
Primary	0,0	1,3	10,4	0,0	4,4	19,8	0,0	2,8	14,9
Lower secondary	0,3	0,8	7,8	0,3	1,4	10,8	0,3	1,1	9,3
Mid-level general	0,0	1,0	7,4	0,1	0,7	9,1	0,0	0,9	8,3
Vocational secondary	0,2	1,1	9,8	0,1	0,7	8,7	0,2	0,9	9,3
Secondary specialised	0,0	1,3	8,7	0,0	0,9	8,2	0,0	1,1	8,4
Higher	0,0	0,7	4,9	0,0	0,2	4,8	0,0	0,4	4,8
Marital status									
Married	0,0	0,9	8,7	0,1	0,5	6,7	0,0	0,7	7,6
Cohabitation	0,5	0,4	5,6	0,0	0,8	7,3	0,2	0,6	6,4
Divorced/separated	0,0	2,4	8,1	0,0	1,3	10,3	0,0	1,8	9,2
Unmarried	0,3	0,8	5,9	0,3	1,4	10,5	0,3	1,0	7,8
Widow	0,0	4,0	29,9	0,1	3,1	23,1	0,1	3,3	24,6
Occupational status									
Employee	0,3	0,2	3,5	0,1	0,4	4,1	0,2	0,3	3,8
Self-employed	0,0	0,0	4,1	0,0	1,3	5,1	0,0	0,2	4,3
Retired	0,0	4,2	24,3	0,2	2,3	22,2	0,1	3,0	22,9
Unemployed	0,0	0,9	6,7	0,0	0,4	6,7	0,0	0,8	6,8
Other	0,2	0,6	7,9	0,1	0,5	4,8	0,1	0,6	6,0

Welfare quintile									
Quintile I	0,0	2,5	18,3	0,3	1,4	16,7	0,1	2,0	17,5
Quintile II	0,0	1,8	11,7	0,2	1,7	15,3	0,1	1,7	13,8
Quintile III	0,5	0,8	7,2	0,3	0,5	7,7	0,4	0,6	7,5
Quintile IV	0,0	1,1	9,8	0,0	0,7	10,1	0,0	0,9	9,9
Quintile V	0,0	0,3	5,4	0,0	0,6	4,1	0,0	0,5	4,7
Covid									
Pre-lockdown	0,0	1,7	10,4	0,1	1,4	10,5	0,1	1,6	10,4
Post-lockdown	0,2	0,7	7,2	0,1	0,7	8,4	0,1	0,7	7,8

TABLE 9.4.2. Share of people aged 15-79 years who ‘have hearing difficulty, even if using a hearing aid, in carrying out normal daily activities’, by area of residence and severity of difficulty, in %

	Urban			Rural			Total		
	Severe	Moderate	Minor	Severe	Moderate	Minor	Severe	Moderate	Minor
Total	0,3	0,8	6,4	0,0	1,0	9,8	0,1	1,0	8,6
Age group									
15-19	1,3	0,0	0,7	0,0	0,0	0,4	0,5	0,0	0,5
20-24	0,0	0,0	2,0	0,0	0,5	2,0	0,0	0,3	2,0
25-29	0,0	0,9	1,6	0,0	0,0	2,1	0,0	0,4	1,9
30-34	0,4	0,0	1,7	0,0	0,5	4,4	0,2	0,3	3,2
35-39	0,4	0,2	2,3	0,0	0,0	4,1	0,2	0,1	3,3
40-44	0,0	0,0	5,8	0,0	0,5	3,4	0,0	0,3	4,2
45-49	0,4	1,4	4,2	0,0	0,4	6,5	0,1	0,7	5,8
50-54	0,0	1,4	5,6	0,0	0,7	8,7	0,0	0,9	7,8
55-59	0,3	0,6	9,8	0,0	1,0	14,9	0,1	0,9	13,3
60-64	0,5	2,0	14,9	0,1	1,9	17,1	0,2	1,9	16,5
65-69	0,5	1,3	21,3	0,0	3,0	24,0	0,1	2,5	23,2
70-74	0,0	4,0	26,6	0,0	3,9	32,3	0,0	3,9	30,5
75-79	0,0	7,6	41,4	0,0	7,1	42,2	0,0	7,3	41,9

Region									
Chisinau	0,6	0,8	5,4	0,0	0,8	6,9	0,5	0,8	5,7
North	0,0	0,9	6,1	0,0	1,2	12,1	0,0	1,1	9,6
Centre	0,2	0,2	6,0	0,0	0,9	8,5	0,1	0,8	8,0
South	0,3	1,2	9,2	0,0	1,1	10,7	0,1	1,2	10,3
Education									
Primary	0,0	4,7	16,2	0,0	2,3	14,5	0,0	2,8	14,9
Lower secondary	1,2	0,9	7,4	0,0	1,1	9,9	0,3	1,1	9,3
Mid-level general	0,1	0,7	6,1	0,0	1,0	9,6	0,0	0,9	8,3
Vocational secondary	0,5	1,4	8,6	0,0	0,7	9,5	0,2	0,9	9,3
Secondary specialised	0,0	1,1	7,3	0,0	1,1	9,3	0,0	1,1	8,4
Higher	0,0	0,1	3,8	0,0	1,1	6,9	0,0	0,4	4,8
Marital status									
Married	0,1	0,4	5,7	0,0	0,8	8,6	0,0	0,7	7,6
Cohabitation	0,6	0,7	5,7	0,0	0,6	6,9	0,2	0,6	6,4
Divorced/separated	0,0	2,5	8,1	0,0	1,2	10,2	0,0	1,8	9,2
Unmarried	0,8	1,0	5,1	0,0	1,1	9,5	0,3	1,0	7,8
Widow	0,0	2,4	22,2	0,1	3,6	25,4	0,1	3,3	24,6
Occupational status									
Employee	0,3	0,1	3,6	0,0	0,5	4,0	0,2	0,3	3,8
Self-employed	0,0	0,0	3,0	0,0	0,4	5,0	0,0	0,2	4,3
Retired	0,4	2,7	20,8	0,0	3,0	23,7	0,1	3,0	22,9
Unemployed	0,0	1,4	4,4	0,0	0,5	7,9	0,0	0,8	6,8
Other	0,4	0,8	4,2	0,0	0,5	6,8	0,1	0,6	6,0
Welfare quintile									
Quintile I	0,4	1,6	11,7	0,0	2,2	19,9	0,1	2,0	17,5
Quintile II	0,2	2,3	12,8	0,1	1,6	14,1	0,1	1,7	13,8
Quintile III	1,0	0,4	6,3	0,0	0,8	8,1	0,4	0,6	7,5
Quintile IV	0,0	0,3	7,9	0,0	1,2	11,0	0,0	0,9	9,9
Quintile V	0,0	0,5	3,5	0,0	0,5	5,6	0,0	0,5	4,7

Covid									
Pre-lockdown	0,1	1,4	7,3	0,0	1,7	13,2	0,1	1,6	10,4
Post-lockdown	0,4	0,5	5,9	0,0	0,8	8,7	0,1	0,7	7,8

9.5. Difficulty remembering and/or concentrating (cognitive impairment)

The share of moderate cognitive impairment is 1.2%, with no significant differences by gender and area of residence (*Tables 9.5.1 and 9.5.2*). Another 15.9% of the population reported mild cognitive impairment with a significantly higher share of women (18.7%) compared to men (12.9%), and a less pronounced difference between the two residence areas (16.3% in rural areas compared to 15.2% in urban areas).

Although the share of mild cognitive impairment increases with age, it should be noted that in the working age groups the share of people affected increases from 7.5% in the 20-24 age group to 26.0% in the 60-64 age group. About one third (age groups 65-74) and half (age group 75-79) of older people are affected by mild cognitive impairment. A higher share (about 17.0%-18.0%) was recorded in the northern and southern regions and Chişinău municipality compared to the central region (12.6%).

The share of mild cognitive impairment is inversely correlated with the education and income levels. Thus, mild cognitive impairment was reported by every fifth person with primary education (20.6%) compared to every tenth person with higher education (11.5%) and by more than a quarter of low-income earners (25.1% in quintile II, 26.9% in quintile I) compared to the better-off (11.5% in quintile V).

TABLE 9.5.1. Share of people aged 15-79 who ‘have difficulty remembering and/or concentrating when carrying out normal daily activities’, by gender and severity of difficulty, in %

	Men		Women		Total	
	Moderate	Minor	Moderate	Minor	Moderate	Minor
Total	1,0	12,9	1,3	18,7	1,2	15,9
Age group						
15-19	0,0	4,0	0,0	9,2	0,0	6,5
20-24	0,0	4,2	1,1	10,8	0,5	7,5
25-29	0,5	5,0	0,3	10,9	0,4	7,9
30-34	0,8	7,7	0,4	9,8	0,6	8,7
35-39	1,0	10,2	0,6	13,9	0,8	12,0
40-44	0,8	9,7	0,7	11,3	0,7	10,5
45-49	1,0	12,7	2,0	14,9	1,5	13,8
50-54	1,9	12,0	0,9	22,1	1,4	17,4
55-59	1,0	20,4	1,8	24,4	1,5	22,6
60-64	1,7	24,5	2,1	27,1	1,9	26,0
65-69	2,2	29,3	3,2	33,3	2,8	31,7
70-74	2,2	35,8	2,8	36,1	2,5	36,1
75-79	4,8	41,3	4,8	51,1	4,8	47,8
Region						
Chisinau	1,3	13,1	1,4	20,7	1,4	17,1
North	1,4	14,4	1,8	20,7	1,7	17,9
Centre	0,8	9,5	1,1	15,4	1,0	12,6
South	0,9	15,9	1,1	20,0	1,0	17,9
Education						
Primary	1,5	10,1	3,6	32,0	2,5	20,6
Lower secondary	1,0	14,6	2,0	19,8	1,5	17,3
Mid-level general	0,7	10,9	1,3	20,3	1,0	16,1
Vocational secondary	1,3	15,8	1,0	19,4	1,2	17,4
Secondary specialised	1,0	10,8	0,8	17,5	0,9	14,5
Bachelor’s degree	1,0	9,8	0,8	12,8	0,9	11,5

Marital status						
Married	0,6	12,7	0,9	15,7	0,8	14,3
Cohabitation	1,3	11,2	1,1	17,9	1,2	14,6
Divorced/separated	3,0	20,2	2,4	16,8	2,7	18,5
Unmarried	1,3	11,2	2,3	23,6	1,7	16,3
Widow	2,4	32,9	2,0	31,5	2,1	31,8
Occupational status						
Employee	0,4	8,5	0,6	11,3	0,5	9,8
Self-employed	0,5	7,2	1,9	16,1	0,8	8,9
Retired	2,0	29,4	2,9	33,6	2,6	32,2
Unemployed	0,9	11,2	0,5	20,9	0,8	14,5
Other	1,7	13,5	1,1	14,1	1,3	13,9
Welfare quintile						
Quintile I	2,2	24,7	3,3	29,1	2,8	26,9
Quintile II	2,7	19,6	2,2	29,3	2,4	25,1
Quintile III	1,0	10,9	0,9	16,1	0,9	13,6
Quintile IV	0,4	12,9	1,3	19,2	0,9	16,4
Quintile V	0,3	10,3	0,6	12,5	0,4	11,5
Covid						
Pre-lockdown	1,1	17,5	2,0	23,7	1,6	20,7
Post-lockdown	1,0	11,0	1,1	16,7	1,0	14,0

TABLE 9.5.2. Percentage of people aged 15-79 who 'have difficulty remembering and/or concentrating when carrying out normal daily activities', by area of residence and severity of difficulty, in %

	Urban		Rural		Total	
	Moderate	Minor	Moderate	Minor	Moderate	Minor
Total	1,4	15,2	1,1	16,3	1,2	15,9
Age group						
15-19	0,0	9,6	0,0	4,6	0,0	6,5
20-24	0,4	11,2	0,7	4,4	0,5	7,5
25-29	0,0	11,2	0,7	5,5	0,4	7,9
30-34	0,9	10,0	0,4	7,6	0,6	8,7
35-39	1,9	14,1	0,0	10,4	0,8	12,0
40-44	1,2	11,8	0,5	9,8	0,7	10,5
45-49	2,8	11,6	1,0	14,8	1,5	13,8
50-54	1,9	16,5	1,1	17,8	1,4	17,4
55-59	1,8	18,6	1,3	24,4	1,5	22,6
60-64	2,4	23,4	1,7	27,0	1,9	26,0
65-69	2,7	27,3	2,8	33,5	2,8	31,7
70-74	2,7	36,0	2,5	36,0	2,5	36,1
75-79	2,1	45,2	6,0	48,9	4,8	47,8
Region						
Chisinau	1,5	17,6	0,7	14,9	1,4	17,1
North	1,6	12,6	1,7	21,9	1,7	17,9
Centre	0,5	8,9	1,1	13,5	1,0	12,6
South	1,4	19,8	0,8	17,2	1,0	17,9
Education						
Primary	5,5	22,8	1,7	20,0	2,5	20,6
Lower secondary	1,3	17,6	1,6	17,2	1,5	17,3
Mid-level general	1,4	14,6	0,8	16,9	1,0	16,1
Vocational secondary	2,1	20,0	0,8	16,3	1,2	17,4
Secondary specialised	1,1	13,7	0,7	15,2	0,9	14,5
Higher	0,9	12,0	0,8	10,5	0,9	11,5

Marital status						
Married	0,9	13,4	0,7	14,8	0,8	14,3
Cohabitation	2,0	14,5	0,6	14,6	1,2	14,6
Divorced/separated	2,9	19,1	2,5	18,0	2,7	18,5
Unmarried	1,7	16,6	1,7	16,0	1,7	16,3
Widow	1,8	26,3	2,2	33,8	2,1	31,8
Occupational status						
Employee	0,7	11,4	0,3	8,3	0,5	9,8
Self-employed	1,6	12,2	0,3	6,9	0,8	8,9
Retired	2,6	28,6	2,6	33,7	2,6	32,2
Unemployed	1,2	12,7	0,6	15,2	0,8	14,5
Other	1,7	15,2	1,1	13,3	1,3	13,9
Welfare quintile						
Quintile I	2,9	25,7	2,7	27,4	2,8	26,9
Quintile II	3,2	22,4	2,2	26,0	2,4	25,1
Quintile III	1,5	13,8	0,6	13,4	0,9	13,6
Quintile IV	1,3	16,6	0,7	16,3	0,9	16,4
Quintile V	0,7	12,9	0,3	10,4	0,4	11,5
Covid						
Pre-lockdown	1,7	18,4	1,5	22,7	1,6	20,7
Post-lockdown	1,1	13,3	1,1	14,3	1,0	14,0

9.6. Difficulties with self-care

The share of severe self-care difficulties (dressing, washing oneself) is 0.13%, and of moderate difficulties – 0.7% (Tables 9.6.1., 9.6.2.). About four percent (4.1%) of respondents report mild self-care difficulties, with a relatively higher share among women (4.7%) compared to men (3.4%), and among rural dwellers (4.6%) compared to urban dwellers (3.2%).

The most disadvantaged groups are the elderly, who have the highest share of mild self-care difficulties (27.9% in the 75-79 age group). A higher share of mild self-care difficulties was reported in the northern region (5.8%), where the population is older. The share of mild self-care difficulties is inversely correlated with the level of education (11.1% among those with primary education compared to 1.4% for those with higher education) and the level of prosperity (9.3% in quintile I compared to 1.6% in quintile V).

TABLE 9.6.1. Share of 15-79-year-olds who 'have difficulty with self-care activities of daily living', by gender and severity of difficulty, in %

	Men			Women			Total		
	Severe	Moderate	Minor	Severe	Moderate	Minor	Severe	Moderate	Minor
Total	0,2	0,8	3,4	0,1	0,6	4,7	0,1	0,7	4,1
Age group									
15-19	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,5	0,0	0,0	0,2	0,0
20-24	0,0	0,0	0,5	0,0	0,0	1,1	0,0	0,0	0,8
25-29	0,0	0,5	0,5	0,0	0,0	0,8	0,0	0,3	0,7
30-34	0,0	0,4	1,2	0,2	0,0	0,4	0,1	0,2	0,8
35-39	0,0	0,3	1,7	0,0	0,0	1,8	0,0	0,2	1,7
40-44	0,0	0,4	1,9	0,0	0,7	1,0	0,0	0,6	1,4
45-49	0,0	1,3	2,7	0,0	0,7	2,5	0,0	1,0	2,6
50-54	0,0	1,2	3,1	0,0	0,5	4,4	0,0	0,8	3,8
55-59	0,3	1,5	5,7	0,3	0,5	5,3	0,3	0,9	5,5
60-64	0,6	1,9	6,6	0,1	0,9	7,4	0,3	1,4	7,1
65-69	1,0	1,9	12,0	0,4	1,4	13,0	0,6	1,6	12,6
70-74	0,4	1,8	11,1	0,2	3,0	18,0	0,3	2,5	15,3
75-79	1,8	3,0	24,6	0,3	3,6	29,6	0,8	3,4	27,9
Region									
Chisinau	0,1	1,1	2,3	0,1	0,5	2,8	0,1	0,8	2,6
North	0,1	1,6	5,1	0,1	1,1	6,3	0,1	1,3	5,8
Centre	0,3	0,7	3,1	0,1	0,5	4,4	0,2	0,6	3,8
South	0,1	0,3	3,4	0,0	0,5	4,8	0,1	0,4	4,1

Education									
Primary	0,0	0,7	5,4	0,0	1,6	17,4	0,0	1,1	11,1
Lower secondary	0,2	0,7	3,3	0,2	0,9	6,2	0,2	0,8	4,8
Mid-level general	0,2	1,0	3,6	0,1	0,6	5,0	0,2	0,8	4,4
Vocational secondary	0,2	1,3	4,0	0,1	0,7	4,3	0,2	1,0	4,1
Secondary specialised	0,1	0,4	3,1	0,1	0,4	3,9	0,1	0,4	3,6
Higher	0,1	0,5	1,7	0,0	0,2	1,1	0,0	0,3	1,4
Marital status									
Married	0,1	0,4	2,8	0,1	0,5	2,9	0,1	0,4	2,9
Cohabitation	0,2	1,0	2,2	0,0	0,0	2,5	0,1	0,5	2,3
Divorced/separated	0,2	3,0	6,1	0,0	1,1	4,5	0,1	2,0	5,3
Unmarried	0,0	1,2	3,4	0,3	0,9	7,7	0,1	1,0	5,1
Widow	2,4	2,0	14,5	0,3	1,7	12,9	0,8	1,7	13,3
Occupational status									
Employee	0,0	0,1	0,5	0,0	0,2	0,7	0,0	0,2	0,6
Self-employed	0,0	0,5	1,0	0,0	0,0	3,8	0,0	0,4	1,6
Retired	0,5	1,8	12,1	0,2	1,5	13,3	0,3	1,6	12,9
Unemployed	0,0	0,1	1,2	0,2	0,5	3,2	0,1	0,2	1,9
Other	0,3	2,0	5,1	0,1	0,4	2,5	0,2	1,0	3,5
Welfare quintile									
Quintile I	0,0	0,6	8,7	0,2	0,6	10,0	0,1	0,6	9,3
Quintile II	0,4	1,8	7,0	0,2	1,2	9,0	0,3	1,5	8,1
Quintile III	0,2	1,0	2,7	0,0	0,5	3,2	0,1	0,7	3,0
Quintile IV	0,2	0,7	3,3	0,4	0,6	5,7	0,3	0,7	4,6
Quintile V	0,0	0,7	1,5	0,1	0,4	1,7	0,1	0,5	1,6
Covid									
Pre-lockdown	0,1	1,3	3,6	0,1	1,0	4,8	0,1	1,2	4,2
Post-lockdown	0,2	0,6	3,4	0,1	0,5	4,7	0,2	0,6	4,0

TABLE 9.6.2. Percentage of people aged 15-79 who 'have difficulty with self-care activities of daily living', by area of residence and severity of difficulty, in %

	Urban			Rural			Total		
	Severe	Moderate	Minor	Severe	Moderate	Minor	Severe	Moderate	Minor
Total	0,1	0,7	3,2	0,2	0,8	4,6	0,1	0,7	4,1
Age group									
15-19	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,4	0,0	0,0	0,2	0,0
20-24	0,0	0,0	1,0	0,0	0,0	0,7	0,0	0,0	0,8
25-29	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,4	1,1	0,0	0,3	0,7
30-34	0,2	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,4	1,5	0,1	0,2	0,8
35-39	0,0	0,4	1,7	0,0	0,0	1,8	0,0	0,2	1,7
40-44	0,0	0,5	1,1	0,0	0,6	1,6	0,0	0,6	1,4
45-49	0,0	1,9	2,9	0,0	0,7	2,4	0,0	1,0	2,6
50-54	0,0	0,5	3,2	0,0	1,0	4,0	0,0	0,8	3,8
55-59	0,0	1,4	4,8	0,4	0,7	5,8	0,3	0,9	5,5
60-64	0,0	0,9	7,7	0,5	1,5	6,8	0,3	1,4	7,1
65-69	0,2	2,2	12,4	0,8	1,4	12,7	0,6	1,6	12,6
70-74	0,0	2,6	13,8	0,4	2,5	16,0	0,3	2,5	15,3
75-79	0,7	4,8	29,4	0,9	2,8	27,3	0,8	3,4	27,9
Region									
Chisinau	0,1	0,8	2,3	0,0	1,0	3,9	0,1	0,8	2,6
North	0,0	0,7	4,5	0,2	1,8	6,7	0,1	1,3	5,8
Centre	0,0	0,5	2,5	0,3	0,6	4,1	0,2	0,6	3,8
South	0,1	0,7	4,1	0,1	0,3	4,1	0,1	0,4	4,1
Education									
Primary	0,0	0,8	15,0	0,0	1,2	10,1	0,0	1,1	11,1
Lower secondary	0,2	0,7	3,9	0,2	0,9	5,0	0,2	0,8	4,8
Mid-level general	0,1	0,3	3,4	0,2	1,0	4,9	0,2	0,8	4,4
Vocational secondary	0,0	1,7	4,1	0,2	0,7	4,1	0,2	1,0	4,1
Secondary specialised	0,1	0,7	3,9	0,1	0,1	3,4	0,1	0,4	3,6
Higher	0,0	0,3	1,1	0,1	0,2	2,0	0,0	0,3	1,4

Marital status									
Married	0,0	0,5	2,0	0,1	0,4	3,4	0,1	0,4	2,9
Cohabitation	0,0	0,5	1,5	0,2	0,5	2,9	0,1	0,5	2,3
Divorced/separated	0,0	1,5	4,9	0,2	2,5	5,6	0,1	2,0	5,3
Unmarried	0,2	1,0	3,6	0,1	1,1	6,1	0,1	1,0	5,1
Widow	0,6	1,6	16,3	0,8	1,8	12,2	0,8	1,7	13,3
Occupational status									
Employee	0,0	0,2	0,4	0,0	0,1	0,8	0,0	0,2	0,6
Self-employed	0,0	1,0	1,3	0,0	0,0	1,7	0,0	0,4	1,6
Retired	0,2	1,8	13,1	0,4	1,6	12,8	0,3	1,6	12,9
Unemployed	0,0	0,0	1,0	0,1	0,3	2,3	0,1	0,2	1,9
Other	0,1	1,1	3,3	0,2	1,0	3,6	0,2	1,0	3,5
Welfare quintile									
Quintile I	0,0	0,5	11,1	0,1	0,6	8,6	0,1	0,6	9,3
Quintile II	0,0	1,6	8,7	0,4	1,4	7,9	0,3	1,5	8,1
Quintile III	0,0	0,7	2,4	0,2	0,7	3,3	0,1	0,7	3,0
Quintile IV	0,3	1,1	3,3	0,3	0,5	5,3	0,3	0,7	4,6
Quintile V	0,0	0,5	1,0	0,1	0,5	2,1	0,1	0,5	1,6
Covid									
Pre-lockdown	0,0	1,2	3,6	0,1	1,2	4,8	0,1	1,2	4,2
Post-lockdown	0,1	0,4	3,0	0,2	0,6	4,5	0,2	0,6	4,0

One in five people (22.0%) reported experiencing multiple difficulties in carrying out daily activities (2 or more types of difficulties, of any severity, including mild) (Table 9.6.3.). The share of women reporting having multiple difficulties in carrying out daily activities (25.4%) is significantly higher than that of men (18.2%). This situation can be explained by the fact that women have a longer life expectancy compared to men, and this longer lifespan is accompanied by the presence of chronic diseases that contribute to difficulties in carrying out normal daily activities. The rural population, which is older, reported significantly more frequently multiple difficulties in carrying out daily activities (24.0%) compared to the urban population (18.5%). The share of multiple difficulties increases with age, from 2.6% in the 15-19 age group to 78.7% in the 75-79 age group.

The respondents from the northern (26.5%) and southern (24.4%) regions reported significantly more frequently that they faced multiple difficulties in carrying out their daily activities compared to those from the central region (19.4%) and Chisinau municipality (17.9%), where the population is younger. People with primary education reported significantly more frequently (31.6%) experiencing multiple difficulties compared to people with higher levels of education. Unemployed people reported significantly more frequently (16.5%) facing multiple difficulties compared to the employed (10.6% of the employed and 11.4% of the self-employed). Lower income earners reported 2-3 times more frequently (40.8% in quintile I and 35.8% in quintile II) experiencing multiple difficulties in carrying out daily activities compared to the better-off respondents (14.7% in quintile V).

TABLE 9.6.3. Share of people aged 15-79 facing ,multiple difficulties in carrying out daily activities due to physical or mental health problems’, by gender and area of residence, %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	18,2	25,4	18,5	24,0	22,0
Age group					
15-19	1,5	3,9	4,5	1,5	2,6
20-24	1,6	5,4	5,1	2,1	3,5
25-29	3,5	5,3	4,7	4,1	4,4
30-34	5,7	6,5	5,7	6,4	6,1
35-39	9,9	9,0	10,0	9,0	9,4
40-44	9,4	10,8	9,4	10,5	10,1
45-49	17,1	23,1	19,5	20,5	20,2
50-54	25,6	31,0	26,3	29,4	28,5
55-59	34,9	43,1	34,6	41,6	39,4
60-64	40,8	46,6	42,0	44,9	44,1
65-69	52,3	60,7	55,0	58,2	57,3
70-74	58,4	68,3	62,7	65,3	64,5
75-79	74,3	81,0	77,4	79,2	78,7
Region					
Chisinau	14,0	21,4	17,5	19,8	17,9
North	22,6	29,5	19,0	32,0	26,5
Centre	16,1	22,4	13,0	20,9	19,4
South	20,2	28,7	24,9	24,2	24,4

Education					
Primary	17,5	47,1	37,7	30,0	31,6
Lower secondary	16,5	28,2	20,3	23,2	22,6
Mid-level general	16,5	27,0	16,9	25,5	22,4
Vocational secondary	24,3	25,5	26,7	24,1	24,8
Secondary specialised	18,9	25,9	21,1	24,2	22,8
Higher	12,2	14,8	11,1	18,7	13,7
Marital status					
Married	19,0	20,0	15,6	21,6	19,6
Cohabitation	13,9	19,5	15,5	17,4	16,7
Divorced/separated	27,4	30,0	26,4	30,8	28,7
Unmarried	13,4	30,8	18,0	22,2	20,6
Widow	56,7	56,9	56,7	57,0	56,9
Occupational status					
Employee	8,8	12,5	9,7	11,4	10,6
Self-employed	8,3	24,6	11,3	11,5	11,4
Retired	51,7	58,1	54,6	56,5	56,0
Unemployed	13,7	22,3	12,9	18,1	16,5
Other	19,9	14,7	15,4	17,3	16,7
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	37,6	44,0	38,7	41,7	40,8
Quintile II	28,2	41,7	34,0	36,4	35,8
Quintile III	16,5	20,4	17,3	19,2	18,5
Quintile IV	18,6	28,1	19,7	25,9	23,8
Quintile V	13,2	15,9	13,2	15,9	14,7
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	23,2	31,1	23,0	31,0	27,2
Post-lockdown	16,2	23,2	15,9	21,8	19,9



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10. ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE ROLE OF WOMEN AND MEN IN SOCIETY

10.1. Political leadership

The importance of women's political leadership is widely discussed both internationally and nationally. The persistence of gender stereotypes are significant barriers to promoting women as political leaders.

The GGS asked respondents who would make better political leaders, men or women, and provided them with a number of response options. More than half of respondents believe that men and women are equally good political leaders.

Of all respondents, 12.5% agree that women are better political leaders (*Table 10.1.1*).

A higher share of respondents sharing this view is found among those with general secondary education, especially from rural areas. By occupational status, the self-employed have a higher share, while the unemployed have a lower share. By marital status, we see the highest share among the divorced/separated, and the lowest – among the married.

Women are more active than men in supporting this view, with a gender gap of 7%. At the same time, the share of women decreases with age, while the share of men increases with age, albeit unevenly. Among the people who share this idea, men and women from the central region, with secondary education and general secondary education (girls), the divorced/separated, the self-employed, were numerically more prevalent. For both men and women, we see a direct correlation between the acceptance of women's political leadership and the economic well-being (the higher the level of prosperity, the bigger the number of those who share this view).

As a result of the impact of Covid-19, the number of people who agree with this idea is slightly decreasing, mainly among men, rural dwellers, with a slight increase among women and urban dwellers.

TABLE 10.1.1. Share of women and men aged 15-79 who indicated that they agree that women are better political leaders, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	8,8	15,9	10,4	13,7	12,5
Age group					
15-19	7,1	17,2	13,0	11,4	12,0
20-24	6,5	17,8	9,7	13,9	12,0
25-29	8,0	16,5	7,8	15,3	12,2
30-34	6,8	13,7	7,5	12,7	10,3
35-39	10,7	18,1	9,8	17,7	14,3
40-44	8,5	15,5	11,2	12,5	12,0
45-49	9,7	18,3	12,2	15,0	14,1
50-54	10,1	14,7	11,1	13,1	12,5
55-59	9,3	17,5	12,0	14,7	13,8
60-64	9,2	14,4	13,3	11,7	12,1
65-69	10,2	14,4	11,8	13,1	12,7
70-74	13,4	13,6	13,1	13,7	13,5
75-79	10,4	11,4	14,6	9,6	11,0
Region					
Chisinau	9,7	15,1	11,4	18,0	12,6
North	8,9	12,9	9,0	12,8	11,1
Centre	10,4	20,1	14,5	15,7	15,5
South	6,3	13,2	6,7	10,8	9,7
Education					
Primary	3,2	13,2	6,6	8,3	7,9
Lower secondary	10,7	16,5	9,9	14,8	13,7
General secondary	8,2	17,0	10,9	14,4	13,1
Vocational secondary	8,7	15,3	10,6	12,0	11,6
Post-secondary vocational	9,1	14,7	11,0	13,2	12,2
Higher	7,1	15,6	10,3	14,9	11,9

Marital status					
Married	9,0	14,5	9,6	13,2	12,0
Cohabitation	6,9	18,8	9,6	14,8	12,9
Divorced/separated	12,6	20,8	13,8	19,4	16,8
Solitary	8,8	17,0	10,7	13,0	12,1
Widow	4,7	14,9	11,1	13,2	12,7
Occupational status					
Employee	8,4	16,5	10,3	14,2	12,2
Self-employed	11,2	23,0	8,2	16,5	13,4
Retired	10,1	14,3	12,9	12,8	12,9
Unemployed	8,6	15,3	7,2	12,5	10,9
Another situation	8,1	16,2	11,0	14,0	13,1
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	8,2	17,3	14,7	11,9	12,7
Quintile II	7,4	14,3	8,0	12,4	11,2
Quintile III	6,4	12,8	8,3	10,5	9,7
Quintile IV	10,1	20,4	12,1	17,6	15,8
Quintile V	11,9	19,3	13,3	18,0	15,9
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	10,4	15,6	10,1	15,7	13,1
Post-lockdown	8,2	16,0	10,6	13,1	12,3

At the same time, 33.7% of all respondents who agreed that men are better political leaders than women, with a slight difference by area of residence (*Table 10.1.2.*).

A higher share of respondents sharing this view is found among those with a lower level of education. By occupational status, the unemployed have a higher share, while the retired have a lower share. By marital status, we see the highest share among the divorced/separated, and the lowest – among the married.

Men are more active than women in supporting this view, with a gender gap of 15%. At the same time, the share of men decreases with age, while the share of women increases with age. Among the people who share this idea, men and women from the southern region, with primary education (for men) and post-secondary education (for women), the divorced/separated men, the widowed women, the unemployed men, and the retired women were numerically more

prevalent. For both men and women, we see an indirect correlation between the acceptance of men's political leadership and the economic well-being (the higher the level of prosperity, the smaller the number of those who share this view).

TABLE 10.1.2. Distribution of women and men aged 15 to 79 who indicated that they agree that men are better political leaders, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	42,1	26,3	34,9	33,1	33,8
Age group					
15-19	54,3	18,2	33,7	38,8	36,9
20-24	50,5	20,8	32,8	38,7	36,0
25-29	40,7	24,5	31,9	33,5	32,8
30-34	37,5	21,1	29,0	29,4	29,2
35-39	44,3	25,3	39,3	31,7	35,0
40-44	40,8	27,5	34,9	33,6	34,0
45-49	43,8	27,0	35,2	35,0	35,1
50-54	41,0	27,4	33,1	34,1	33,8
55-59	37,1	29,8	37,4	31,1	33,1
60-64	39,3	29,6	39,3	31,7	33,8
65-69	43,9	30,1	43,9	32,3	35,7
70-74	32,6	32,6	37,6	30,2	32,6
75-79	30,5	36,3	38,2	32,7	34,3
Region					
Chisinau	34,1	25,7	28,6	35,0	29,7
North	37,7	25,2	34,0	28,0	30,6
Centre	39,5	20,6	26,3	30,4	29,6
South	52,9	35,7	56,9	40,0	44,5

Education					
Primary	70,2	24,6	48,5	48,7	48,7
Lower secondary	44,0	25,4	38,0	33,1	34,3
General secondary	44,7	27,2	34,9	34,9	34,9
Vocational secondary	40,1	26,7	38,0	32,4	34,1
Post-secondary vocational	38,0	28,6	34,7	31,3	32,8
Higher	36,4	23,9	30,5	27,2	29,4
Marital status					
Married	39,4	25,7	32,5	31,7	32,0
Cohabitation	40,9	24,1	37,6	29,4	32,5
Divorced/separated	48,9	27,9	42,0	35,0	38,3
Solitary	45,6	24,2	35,4	37,9	36,9
Widow	39,1	33,5	43,6	31,4	34,7
Occupational status					
Employee	39,5	28,0	33,9	34,2	34,1
Self-employed	44,2	16,0	34,9	41,2	38,9
Retired	40,1	30,2	40,6	30,6	33,5
Unemployed	47,7	29,2	45,7	39,7	41,5
Another situation	42,2	22,3	29,3	30,2	29,9
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	46,5	26,2	45,6	32,5	36,4
Quintile II	44,0	29,4	40,2	34,3	35,8
Quintile III	45,5	27,1	37,3	35,1	35,9
Quintile IV	38,5	22,2	32,9	27,9	29,6
Quintile V	33,1	22,9	24,5	30,0	27,6

10.2. The importance of higher education for women and men

In the GGS, respondents were asked through a multiple-choice question for whom higher education is more important – for men or for women?

More than 80 percent of the population believes that education is equally important for both men and women.

The data show that only 6.7% of respondents, mainly men and women from Chisinau, agree that higher education is more important for women than for men (Table 10.2.1.).

A higher share of respondents who agree with this statement is found among people with secondary and general secondary education. By occupational status, the unemployed have a higher share, while the retired have a lower share. By marital status, we see the highest share among the divorced/separated, and the lowest – among the married.

Women are more active than men in supporting this view, with an overall gender gap of only 1.5%, which manifests itself differently in relation to other variables. Thus, the share of women and men in this respect decreases with age and advancement in education. Among the men who share this idea, the majority are secondary school educated, cohabiting, self-employed, from the lowest income quintile (I). Among the women who share this view, the majority are primary educated, divorced/separated, unemployed, and from the higher income quintile (V).

TABLE 10.2.1. Distribution of women and men aged 15 to 79 who agreed that higher education is more important for women than for men, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	6,0	7,3	6,8	6,6	6,7
Age group					
15-19	7,0	14,6	12,9	9,4	10,7
20-24	11,6	9,8	12,8	9,0	10,8
25-29	5,0	10,6	6,8	8,5	7,8
30-34	5,3	6,5	4,0	7,5	5,9
35-39	5,8	6,3	5,2	6,7	6,0
40-44	6,4	5,6	7,4	5,2	6,0
45-49	6,4	8,0	6,3	7,6	7,2
50-54	4,9	6,0	5,9	5,3	5,5
55-59	5,0	7,2	6,3	6,2	6,2
60-64	5,3	5,2	6,9	4,6	5,3
65-69	4,8	4,3	5,1	4,2	4,5
70-74	5,0	5,6	4,6	5,8	5,4
75-79	1,8	5,8	4,8	4,3	4,5

Region					
Chisinau	7,3	8,6	7,3	11,1	8,0
North	7,2	6,2	6,0	7,1	6,6
Centre	3,9	6,6	4,8	5,4	5,3
South	7,0	8,4	8,9	7,2	7,7
Education					
Primary	2,3	9,8	13,4	3,8	5,8
Lower secondary	9,2	6,7	7,3	8,1	7,9
General secondary	5,5	8,6	8,3	6,6	7,2
Vocational secondary	5,8	6,1	5,2	6,2	5,9
Post-secondary vocational	5,2	7,9	8,6	5,2	6,7
Higher	2,1	7,0	5,0	4,6	4,9
Marital status					
Married	4,2	6,5	6,2	5,1	5,5
Cohabitation	8,7	6,8	8,5	7,2	7,7
Divorced/separated	7,6	10,2	7,1	10,5	8,9
Solitary	7,3	7,6	5,9	8,3	7,4
Widow	5,9	5,5	3,2	6,4	5,6
Occupational status					
Employee	5,5	7,5	6,8	6,0	6,4
Self-employed	7,6	4,1	6,6	7,1	6,9
Retired	4,6	5,2	5,7	4,8	5,0
Unemployed	7,0	8,6	4,4	8,9	7,5
Another situation	6,3	8,4	8,5	7,1	7,6
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	6,7	5,4	8,4	5,1	6,1
Quintile II	5,4	5,1	4,0	5,6	5,2
Quintile III	6,0	6,7	6,8	6,1	6,4
Quintile IV	4,7	8,7	6,3	7,2	6,9
Quintile V	5,9	8,8	7,3	7,6	7,5

At the same time, the GGS data show that only 6.5% of respondents agree that higher education is more important for men than for women (Table 10.2.2.).

Men are more active than women in supporting this view, with an overall gender gap of 3.3%, which manifests itself differently in relation to other variables. Thus, the share of women increases with age, while the share of men decreases. Among the men who share this idea, the majority are primary educated, divorced/separated, self-employed, from the low-income quintile (II). Among women who share this idea, the majority are primary educated, widowed, unemployed, also in quintile II. Thus, the share of women and men sharing this view decreases with increasing levels of education and income.

TABLE 10.2.2. Distribution of women and men aged 15 to 79 who agreed that higher education is more important for men than for women, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	8,2	4,9	6,7	6,3	6,5
Age group					
15-19	11,5	2,9	12,2	4,5	7,4
20-24	13,2	4,0	7,5	9,7	8,7
25-29	4,0	2,8	3,8	3,2	3,4
30-34	8,2	3,3	4,4	6,9	5,7
35-39	7,2	5,5	7,2	5,7	6,4
40-44	7,9	3,4	5,5	5,7	5,6
45-49	9,1	4,5	6,1	7,0	6,7
50-54	7,1	6,5	5,3	7,4	6,8
55-59	7,9	5,0	7,5	5,8	6,3
60-64	8,6	6,4	7,2	7,4	7,3
65-69	8,9	7,2	10,7	6,7	7,9
70-74	6,5	6,9	8,5	5,9	6,7
75-79	5,5	10,1	12,4	6,9	8,5
Region					
Chisinau	7,9	3,6	5,8	5,1	5,6
North	5,2	4,1	6,1	3,5	4,6
Centre	8,5	5,0	6,0	6,9	6,7
South	9,9	6,3	10,1	7,5	8,2

Education					
Primary	9,1	9,1	13,5	7,9	9,1
Lower secondary	8,7	5,5	9,8	6,2	7,0
General secondary	8,8	6,3	6,8	7,7	7,4
Vocational secondary	8,7	4,3	8,0	6,2	6,7
Post-secondary vocational	8,4	4,9	6,6	6,3	6,5
Higher	4,9	2,3	3,6	3,1	3,4
Marital status					
Married	6,5	4,3	4,2	5,9	5,3
Cohabitation	7,7	5,7	8,0	5,9	6,7
Divorced/separated	11,9	5,2	11,7	5,7	8,5
Solitary	9,9	5,3	9,2	7,3	8,0
Widow	7,9	6,8	9,1	6,2	7,0
Occupational status					
Employee	7,9	3,9	5,2	6,8	6,0
Self-employed	9,6	1,3	10,0	6,8	8,0
Retired	7,2	7,0	8,9	6,3	7,0
Unemployed	7,6	4,8	6,7	6,6	6,7
Another situation	9,1	4,5	7,4	5,8	6,3
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	7,3	6,3	11,8	4,7	6,8
Quintile II	12,6	6,8	12,0	8,4	9,4
Quintile III	9,0	4,9	7,5	6,5	6,9
Quintile IV	5,5	4,8	4,6	5,4	5,1
Quintile V	4,5	3,0	3,8	3,6	3,7

10.3. Attitudes towards women's and men's employment

In the GGS, respondents were asked, 'For whom is having a job more important, men or women?' The survey results showed that 21.3% of all respondents agreed that having a job is more important for men than for women (*Table 10.3.1*).

A higher share of respondents sharing this view is found among those with secondary and post-secondary vocational education. By occupational status, the self-employed have a higher share, while the retired have a lower share. By marital status, we see the highest share among the divorced/separated, and the lowest – among the married.

Men are more active than women in supporting this view, with a gender gap of 8.3%, which manifests itself differently in relation to other variables. Thus, the share of men decreases with age, while the share of women increases (unevenly). Among the men who share this view, most are from Chisinau, with general secondary education, divorced/separated, unemployed, from the low income quintile (II). Among the women who share this idea, the majority are from the South, with post-secondary vocational education, divorced/separated, retired, also in quintile II.

TABLE 10.3.1. Distribution of women and men aged 15-79 who agreed that having a job is more important for men than for women, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	25,7	17,4	23,6	20,1	21,3
Age group					
15-19	36,3	18,0	34,8	23,1	27,5
20-24	32,3	16,1	23,4	25,2	24,3
25-29	26,1	15,9	25,1	18,2	21,1
30-34	27,1	17,5	20,4	24,0	22,3
35-39	25,5	18,8	24,7	20,2	22,2
40-44	24,1	16,4	20,9	19,8	20,2
45-49	23,2	19,9	24,7	20,1	21,5
50-54	23,8	17,1	17,1	21,5	20,2
55-59	20,2	14,6	19,5	16,0	17,1
60-64	23,7	18,1	24,0	19,2	20,5
65-69	25,2	19,2	29,4	18,4	21,7
70-74	19,4	15,0	22,1	14,2	16,7
75-79	17,6	20,6	24,1	17,7	19,6
Region					
Chisinau	28,9	17,0	23,2	20,1	22,7
North	21,9	16,3	21,8	16,5	18,7
Centre	19,2	13,0	11,1	17,1	16,0
South	34,4	24,7	38,0	26,6	29,7

Education					
Primary	16,5	18,6	36,8	12,4	17,5
Lower secondary	27,5	18,6	27,1	21,6	22,8
General secondary	28,4	18,0	25,7	20,9	22,6
Vocational secondary	26,1	16,5	26,4	19,9	21,8
Post-secondary vocational	26,2	19,0	23,4	21,3	22,2
Higher	20,2	13,6	17,8	13,8	16,5
Marital status					
Married	22,4	16,4	19,8	18,8	19,1
Cohabitation	27,1	18,5	25,4	21,2	22,8
Divorced/separated	30,9	20,7	27,8	24,0	25,8
Solitary	28,2	16,3	27,6	20,7	23,4
Widow	19,9	20,1	26,0	17,9	20,1
Occupational status					
Employee	25,7	16,4	21,5	21,2	21,3
Self-employed	26,5	16,5	31,1	20,7	24,6
Retired	22,2	18,0	26,2	16,6	19,4
Unemployed	27,1	17,3	27,5	22,3	23,8
Another situation	26,2	17,7	22,4	20,4	21,0
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	25,4	19,2	24,8	21,3	22,3
Quintile II	28,6	19,2	22,8	23,5	23,3
Quintile III	24,7	17,2	23,0	19,6	20,8
Quintile IV	20,1	15,2	19,5	16,4	17,4
Quintile V	20,2	14,6	18,8	15,8	17,1

About 76% of respondents believe that having a job is equally important for both men and women. And about 2% believe that having a job is more important for women.

10.4. Stereotypes about the role of women in society

The GGS measured ‘strong’ and ‘moderate’ stereotypical beliefs about women’s roles in society. Gender stereotypes were calculated based on Gender Equality variables (att07) which measured the population’s attitudes towards the role of women and men in society, including participation in politics, employment, lifelong learning, childcare, and upbringing, etc. Five questions were asked to assess the extent to which women are associated with traditional roles. The respondents were asked to rate the extent to which they agree with the statements about the role of women and men in society. The responses for each question (statement) were rated on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means stereotypical attitude, and 5 – non-stereotypical attitude. The scores for all 5 questions were summed on a scale of 1-25. The respondents who scored between 1 and 10 points were regarded as people with strong stereotypes, and those who scored between 11 and 13 points – as people with moderate stereotypes.

According to GGS data, 10.5% of respondents hold ‘strong’ stereotypical beliefs about the role of women in society, with prevalence among men and from urban areas (Table 10.4.1.). Thus, men are more strongly affected by stereotypes.

Men are more active than women in supporting this view, with a gender gap of 3.4%, which manifests itself differently in relation to other variables. Among the men who share this idea, the majority are in the 15-19 age group (share decreasing with age), from the southern region, with primary education (share decreasing with advancing level of education), divorced/separated, employed, in the middle-income quintile (III). Among the women who share this idea, the majority are in the 75-79 age group, from the South, secondary school educated, divorced/separated, retired, in quintile II.

TABLE 10.4.1. Distribution of women and men holding ‘strong’ stereotypical beliefs about women’s role in society, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	12,2	8,8	11,4	9,9	10,5
Age group					
15-19	15,7	7,4	13,8	10,5	11,7
20-24	14,5	7,4	6,5	14,8	11,1
25-29	10,6	6,3	8,0	8,8	8,5
30-34	12,3	7,6	9,7	10,2	10,0
35-39	11,7	8,8	12,4	8,6	10,3
40-44	12,3	9,9	14,1	9,5	11,1
45-49	12,4	10,2	13,0	10,5	11,3
50-54	11,7	8,8	8,8	10,7	10,1
55-59	10,9	8,7	11,5	8,8	9,7
60-64	11,3	9,7	13,9	9,0	10,4

65-69	15,4	9,1	16,0	9,9	11,7
70-74	8,3	11,3	14,9	7,9	10,2
75-79	8,5	15,1	15,2	11,9	12,9
Region					
Chisinau	9,7	6,2	8,2	6,4	7,9
North	8,7	7,2	10,9	5,6	7,8
Centre	10,6	6,7	4,7	9,5	8,6
South	18,2	15,1	24,6	13,8	16,7
Education					
Primary	23,9	9,1	26,4	14,4	16,9
Lower secondary	11,5	10,2	11,3	10,6	10,8
General secondary	13,3	8,7	12,0	10,1	10,8
Vocational secondary	12,1	9,5	14,6	9,4	10,9
Post-secondary vocational	13,6	7,8	11,5	9,4	10,4
Higher	8,3	6,5	7,9	6,2	7,3
Marital status					
Married	10,5	8,2	9,7	9,0	9,3
Cohabitation	12,4	9,0	11,2	10,3	10,7
Divorced/separated	19,1	11,8	20,1	11,2	15,5
Solitary	13,4	8,7	11,7	11,4	11,5
Widow	12,1	10,5	15,4	9,1	10,8
Occupational status					
Employee	12,3	7,6	10,0	10,1	10,1
Lucrător pe cont propriu	11,8	5,3	9,1	11,4	10,6
Retired	12,1	10,3	16,0	8,8	10,9
Unemployed	11,0	7,7	14,5	7,9	9,9
Another situation	13,4	9,1	10,2	11,0	10,7
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	7,6	8,3	13,1	5,8	8,0
Quintile II	14,3	10,0	12,4	11,7	11,9
Quintile III	15,0	8,6	14,3	10,2	11,6
Quintile IV	7,5	6,7	7,4	6,9	7,1
Quintile V	7,4	7,0	6,6	7,7	7,2

At the same time, 47.6% of all respondents hold 'moderate' stereotypical beliefs about the role of women, with prevalence among rural dwellers (Table 10.4.2.). A higher percentage of men compared to women hold 'moderate' stereotypical beliefs about the role of women, with a gender gap of 6.1%, which manifests itself differently in relation to other variables. Among the men who hold such beliefs, the majority are in the 15-19 age group (the share decreasing with age), from the central region, with primary education, single, self-employed, in quintile III. Among the women who hold such beliefs, the majority are in the 15-19 and 75-79 age groups, from the central region, with higher education, divorced/separated, unemployed, in quintile II.

TABLE 10.4.2. Distribution of women and men holding 'moderate' stereotypical beliefs about women's role in society, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	50,8	44,7	46,9	48,0	47,6
Age group					
15-19	56,9	45,3	45,3	54,8	51,3
20-24	52,7	38,3	45,1	46,1	45,7
25-29	54,3	47,9	52,0	50,6	51,2
30-34	52,8	43,4	46,7	49,3	48,1
35-39	51,2	46,5	49,1	48,8	48,9
40-44	50,0	43,7	43,3	48,7	46,8
45-49	49,7	44,3	42,7	48,6	46,9
50-54	48,6	48,2	48,9	48,2	48,4
55-59	45,7	45,2	43,7	46,3	45,4
60-64	48,7	43,2	46,7	45,1	45,6
65-69	48,8	46,3	50,2	46,1	47,3
70-74	45,3	41,6	42,7	43,3	43,1
75-79	47,6	45,9	52,1	44,1	46,4
Region					
Chisinau	45,8	43,5	43,8	48,7	44,6
North	49,5	44,6	53,3	41,8	46,7
Centre	53,7	46,5	46,6	50,7	49,9
South	51,1	43,2	45,1	48,0	47,3

Education					
Primary	60,9	53,8	43,3	61,3	57,6
Lower secondary	53,4	42,9	51,7	46,8	47,9
General secondary	52,1	47,0	45,4	51,4	49,2
Vocational secondary	48,7	46,0	49,2	46,8	47,5
Post-secondary vocational	48,0	47,5	46,6	48,6	47,7
Higher	49,7	40,4	44,3	44,9	44,5
Marital status					
Married	51,2	45,3	46,4	48,8	48,0
Cohabitation	51,4	45,9	50,3	47,6	48,6
Divorced/separated	44,1	46,2	42,1	48,0	45,2
Solitary	51,9	39,8	46,5	47,3	47,0
Widow	49,7	46,1	55,7	43,7	46,9
Occupational status					
Employee	52,2	44,2	47,5	49,3	48,5
Self-employed	52,3	44,1	48,3	52,2	50,8
Retired	48,3	44,3	47,1	45,0	45,6
Unemployed	50,7	48,4	49,3	50,2	49,9
Another situation	50,0	44,7	44,7	47,6	46,7
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	48,4	41,1	43,5	45,4	44,8
Quintile II	51,7	47,5	54,0	47,7	49,3
Quintile III	52,3	47,0	46,4	51,3	49,5
Quintile IV	50,7	44,6	46,6	47,7	47,3
Quintile V	49,7	41,3	44,3	45,8	45,2

10.5. Trust in people and planning for the future

Trust is a feeling of confidence in someone's honesty, good faith or sincerity. Trusting people is an important precondition for effective relationships both within the family and in society. At the same time, caution in dealing with other people has to do with personal safety.

Respondents were asked whether they could trust most people and were given two response options: most people could be trusted, or people should be cautious when dealing with others. Of all respondents, 7.8% indicated that most people could be trusted, and 92.2% believed that one should be cautious when dealing with others.

Among those who indicated that most people could be trusted, there was a higher prevalence of men and rural dwellers (*Table 10.5.1*).

TABLE 10.5.1. Distribution of women and men aged 15 to 79 who indicated that most people could be trusted, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	8,5	7,2	7,2	8,2	7,8
Age group					
15-19	12,0	9,3	10,6	10,7	10,7
20-24	8,0	5,9	5,9	7,9	7,0
25-29	6,1	5,4	8,3	3,9	5,7
30-34	6,1	4,7	4,7	6,0	5,4
35-39	6,2	6,9	6,9	6,2	6,5
40-44	9,0	6,8	7,3	8,3	7,9
45-49	8,5	9,2	4,7	10,7	8,9
50-54	9,4	6,3	7,9	7,6	7,7
55-59	10,1	7,7	8,4	9,0	8,8
60-64	9,1	8,4	7,9	9,1	8,7
65-69	12,6	8,4	9,9	10,2	10,1
70-74	11,2	8,5	5,8	11,3	9,6
75-79	11,5	11,6	11,8	11,5	11,6
Region					
Chisinau	10,3	9,2	10,2	7,6	9,7
North	7,1	5,0	6,7	5,3	5,9
Centre	10,2	9,7	3,6	11,4	9,9
South	6,4	4,5	5,5	5,5	5,5

Education					
Primary	16,6	10,1	5,2	15,8	13,6
Lower secondary	9,2	6,7	7,5	8,0	7,9
General secondary	8,6	8,0	7,7	8,6	8,3
Vocational secondary	8,6	6,9	6,0	8,6	7,8
Post-secondary vocational	7,6	6,3	7,6	6,3	6,9
Higher	6,3	8,1	7,4	7,1	7,3
Marital status					
Married	7,7	6,7	6,2	7,6	7,1
Cohabitation	9,1	8,9	9,0	9,0	9,0
Divorced/separated	7,3	6,0	4,5	8,6	6,6
Solitary	9,2	7,8	9,5	8,1	8,6
Widow	15,8	10,0	7,6	12,6	11,3
Occupational status					
Employee	7,5	6,8	7,2	7,2	7,2
Self-employed	13,3	6,5	16,8	9,1	12,0
Retired	11,4	8,6	8,0	10,2	9,6
Unemployed	7,3	8,2	5,2	8,6	7,6
Another situation	7,7	6,4	5,8	7,4	6,9
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	6,0	7,3	4,3	7,6	6,7
Quintile II	9,6	5,3	6,9	7,3	7,2
Quintile III	9,5	6,5	8,0	7,9	8,0
Quintile IV	9,7	10,9	9,7	10,7	10,3
Quintile V	7,3	8,8	7,4	8,8	8,2

There are some gender differences. Thus, men were found to have a higher share than women, with the gap ranging from 4.1% (in the 65-69 age group) to 2.7% (in the 15-19 age group). A higher prevalence of women compared to men is found in the 45-49 and 50-54 age groups. In general, the number of men and women who share this view is increasing with age. People aged 75-79 stand out among those with higher levels of trust, with statistical differences by gender and age of residence being insignificant.

By area of residence, we find an uneven increase with age in the number of people believing that most people could be trusted, with some rural-urban differences. By region, in general, the central region and Chisinau municipality have the highest share of respondents (both men and women) who find people trustworthy. In terms of education level, a higher prevalence is found among women and men with primary education, with a higher share of men (by 6%) compared to women. By marital status, widowed people are more trusting of other people, with men outnumbering women (a gender gap of 5.8%). The lowest percentage is among divorced/separated people.

By occupational status, self-employed men and retired women have a higher share. At the same time, men in quintiles II and III tend to be more trusting than women, while for quintiles IV and V the situation is reversed. Rural-urban differences persist across all quintiles, with prevalence in rural areas.

It is found that in the period of Covid-19 restrictions, the level of trust in other people increased among both women (by 4.0%) and men (by 1.9%) surveyed, with the gender differences decreasing. This indicator also increased in rural (by 4.1%) and urban (by 1.4%) areas, with a prevalence in rural areas.

Next, we will analyse the attitude of respondents who indicated that one should be cautious when dealing with others.

GGs data show that 92.2% of respondents believe that one should be cautious when dealing with people (*Table 10.5.2.*). Most women and men surveyed believe that it is best to be cautious in dealing with most people. Differences in gender, area of residence, level of education, marital status are uneven across age.

In relation to age, there is a higher share in the 25-29 and 30-34 age groups among both men and women. In rural areas, the share is higher in the 25-29 age group, in urban areas – in the 30-34 and 45-49 age groups.

Overall, the southern region has the highest share of people (both men and women) who indicated that one should be cautious when dealing with people.

By level of education, the share increases with advancing level of education (especially for men), with higher shares for women with post-secondary vocational education.

At the same time, divorced people, especially from urban areas, tend to be more cautious when dealing with others.

By occupational status, unemployed men, as well as those employed, employed women, the self-employed ones, as well as those in the lower income quintiles (I and II) stand out with a higher indicator value.

TABLE 10.5.2. Distribution of women and men aged 15 to 79 who indicated that one should be cautious when dealing with people, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	91,5	92,8	92,8	91,8	92,2
Age group					
15-19	88,0	90,7	89,4	89,3	89,3
20-24	92,0	94,1	94,1	92,2	93,0
25-29	93,9	94,6	91,7	96,1	94,3
30-34	93,9	95,4	95,3	94,0	94,6
35-39	93,8	93,1	93,1	93,8	93,5
40-44	91,0	93,2	92,8	91,7	92,1
45-49	91,5	90,8	95,3	89,3	91,1
50-54	90,7	93,8	92,1	92,4	92,3
55-59	89,9	92,3	91,6	91,0	91,2
60-64	90,9	91,6	92,1	90,9	91,3
65-69	87,4	91,6	90,1	89,8	89,9
70-74	88,8	91,5	94,2	88,7	90,4
75-79	88,5	88,4	88,2	88,5	88,4
Region					
Chisinau	89,7	90,8	89,8	92,4	90,3
North	92,9	95,0	93,3	94,7	94,1
Centre	89,8	90,3	96,4	88,6	90,1
South	93,6	95,5	94,6	94,5	94,5
Education					
Primary	83,4	89,9	94,8	84,2	86,4
Lower secondary	90,8	93,3	92,5	92,0	92,1
General secondary	91,4	92,0	92,3	91,4	91,7
Vocational secondary	91,4	93,2	94,0	91,4	92,2
Post-secondary vocational	92,4	93,7	92,4	93,7	93,2
Higher	93,7	91,9	92,6	92,9	92,7

Marital status					
Married	92,3	93,4	93,8	92,4	92,9
Cohabitation	90,9	91,1	91,0	91,0	91,0
Divorced/separated	92,7	94,0	95,5	91,4	93,4
Solitary	90,8	92,2	90,5	92,0	91,4
Widow	84,2	90,0	92,4	87,4	88,8
Occupational status					
Employee	92,5	93,2	92,8	92,8	92,8
Self-employed	86,8	93,5	83,2	90,9	88,1
Retired	88,6	91,4	92,0	89,8	90,5
Unemployed	92,8	91,8	94,8	91,4	92,4
Another situation	92,3	93,6	94,2	92,6	93,1
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	94,0	92,7	95,7	92,4	93,4
Quintile II	90,4	94,7	93,1	92,8	92,9
Quintile III	90,5	93,5	92,1	92,1	92,1
Quintile IV	90,3	89,1	90,3	89,4	89,7
Quintile V	92,7	91,2	92,6	91,2	91,9

Apart from the negative impact of Covid-19, there is a decrease in this indicator value, more among women (by 4 p.p.) compared to men (by 1 p.p.), with a higher share among people from the rural areas (by 4 p.p.) compared to those from urban areas (by 1.4 p.p.).

Planning for the future is one of the strategies for survival, but it also gives optimism to human existence and confidence in the future. Respondents were asked whether they usually plan for the future or live from day to day and were given two response options: plan for the future as much as possible or live from day to day.

Thus, according to the GGS, 42.0% of all respondents answered that they plan as much as possible, with a higher share of men and rural dwellers (Table 10.5.3.).

The highest percentage was among women and men in the 15-19 and 20-24 age groups, as well as among rural dwellers, with the number of those planning for the future decreasing significantly with advancing age.

By region, there are more women from the southern region and rural areas and more men from the central region and urban areas.

A higher share of those who plan is found among cohabiting women and men, as well as among the self-employed, in the highest income quintile (V).

Among those who live from day to day, the elderly men and women, those from Chisinau, the widows, the retired, the respondents in the lowest income quintile (I), were numerically more prevalent.

TABLE 10.5.3. Distribution of women and men aged 15 to 79 who indicated that they plan for their future as much as possible, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	43,4	40,8	39,0	43,8	42,0
Age group					
15-19	52,8	55,1	43,7	60,0	53,9
20-24	52,7	48,4	45,4	54,8	50,6
25-29	48,2	47,4	41,5	52,3	47,8
30-34	41,5	45,0	38,1	47,7	43,2
35-39	48,8	46,3	44,2	50,2	47,6
40-44	49,4	43,0	47,5	45,5	46,2
45-49	44,9	40,8	36,9	45,4	42,8
50-54	40,6	37,9	37,5	39,9	39,2
55-59	34,7	36,9	31,4	38,1	35,9
60-64	34,7	30,2	29,2	33,3	32,1
65-69	31,6	28,9	27,1	31,2	30,0
70-74	30,2	30,5	31,3	30,0	30,3
75-79	25,0	25,9	33,1	22,5	25,6
Region					
Chisinau	36,7	35,1	36,3	33,6	35,8
North	38,4	40,2	38,9	39,8	39,4
Centre	49,0	39,2	49,8	42,5	43,9
South	44,0	47,5	34,4	50,0	45,7

Education					
Primary	69,4	43,5	44,3	60,5	57,0
Lower secondary	41,7	40,2	37,9	41,8	40,9
General secondary	38,2	35,0	35,6	36,9	36,4
Vocational secondary	44,8	43,3	39,7	46,1	44,2
Post-secondary vocational	45,1	43,2	40,3	47,0	44,0
Higher	43,8	43,0	40,2	49,5	43,4
Marital status					
Married	43,5	41,8	38,8	44,6	42,6
Cohabitation	49,5	48,2	43,8	52,0	48,8
Divorced/separated	39,3	39,4	38,6	40,0	39,3
Solitary	43,7	37,9	37,6	43,6	41,3
Widow	24,5	30,9	32,2	28,5	29,4
Occupational status					
Employee	46,6	43,0	41,1	48,7	44,9
Self-employed	56,1	45,2	38,4	63,4	54,0
Retired	32,6	29,8	31,4	30,4	30,7
Unemployed	39,2	30,2	34,3	37,0	36,2
Another situation	44,0	48,2	42,2	48,6	46,6
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	33,4	27,4	33,5	29,1	30,4
Quintile II	36,0	34,7	38,1	34,3	35,3
Quintile III	40,7	38,7	38,4	40,4	39,7
Quintile IV	42,2	38,4	31,7	44,4	40,1
Quintile V	54,3	50,6	46,5	57,0	52,3



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11. WORK AND FAMILY LIFE

11.1. Employment

Work plays an important role in the lives of individuals and social communities, creating both goods and values that lead to transformative action.

The GGS asked the question ‘Could you tell us more about your current work?’ and found that more than two fifths (41.5%) of 15-64-year-olds worked for wages/pay (cash income and payments in kind), with a higher share among 15-49 year olds (44.4%) (*Table 11.1.1*). Higher employment in paid work was among men aged 25-34, while among women there was a higher share among those aged 40-49. Overall, employment in paid work is higher for men (47.4%) than for women (35.8%).

GGS data show that the chances of being in paid work are higher in urban than in rural areas: more than half of urban respondents (54.6%) compared to about a third (33.6%) of rural dwellers. At the same time, rural people aged 40-49 are employed in paid work to a greater extent than rural people in other age groups. On the other hand, in urban areas there is an above average share of people aged 20-59 in the sample, with the highest share of employed people in the 35-44 age group (about 66%).

Vulnerability in the labour market is recorded in the age groups 15-19 years (11.5% are employed in paid work) and 60-64 years (17.2%), with women and people from rural areas being particularly vulnerable. The involvement of young people aged 15-19 in the education process explains the low share of those involved in paid work, and of those retired – in the case of 60-64 age group.

Greater opportunities for professional affirmation have people from Chisinau municipality: 3 out of 5 people (60.5%) are involved in paid work, with a prevalence among men.

The GGS establishes a direct correlation between involvement in paid work and the level of education. Respondents with higher education are more likely to be in paid work (69.3%) than those with lower levels of education (e.g. 32.5% for general education), with no significant differences by gender and area of residence.

At the same time, higher involvement is recorded among the high-income earners (quintile V) – 53.3%, and a very low involvement among the poor (quintile I) – 8.6%.

Depending on the number of children, people with 1 child (46.7%) and 2 children (45.9%) are involved in paid work with a higher share in the case of men from urban areas.

TABLE 11.1.1. Distribution of women and men aged 15-64 involved in work for pay/wage⁴⁷, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total, age group 15-49 years	50,9	37,8	57,0	35,8	44,4
Total, age group 15-64 years	47,4	35,8	54,6	33,6	41,5
Age group					
15-19	14,4	8,4	16,5	8,6	11,5
20-24	49,5	29,2	47,8	32,6	39,5
25-29	59,5	29,6	59,8	34,1	44,9
30-34	58,8	36,6	60,9	36,5	47,8
35-39	55,1	44,4	65,6	37,8	49,9
40-44	54,3	51,8	66,3	46,0	53,1
45-49	46,8	53,1	63,5	44,3	50,1
50-54	42,3	46,2	62,4	36,9	44,4
55-59	43,2	37,0	51,1	34,7	39,8
60-64	24,7	11,5	23,8	14,7	17,2
Region					
Chisinau	72,3	49,2	62,4	51,6	60,5
North	41,2	36,8	49,2	30,9	38,8
Centre	46,2	32,6	58,3	34,5	39,2
South	37,6	29,6	41,7	31,0	33,8
Education					
Primary	38,4	5,8	21,0	28,7	27,1
Lower secondary	33,5	20,7	37,2	24,2	27,2
Secundar general	41,2	25,3	39,8	28,0	32,5
Vocational secondary	45,9	34,7	56,5	34,4	40,9
Post-secondary vocational	55,9	48,2	56,5	47,9	51,7
Higher	78,5	62,0	72,7	61,9	69,3

⁴⁷ Respondents were asked whether they work full-time or part-time, as well as more general work-related questions, such as whether they reported working for pay in the past week. This differs significantly from self-employment status, which is used as a covariate.

Marital status					
Married	58,1	38,2	59,3	40,5	47,0
Cohabitation	49,2	34,9	63,0	28,9	42,1
Divorced/separated	36,5	44,2	52,2	29,9	40,3
Solitary	28,3	27,3	42,2	18,7	27,9
Widow	22,3	26,4	35,0	22,5	25,5
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	9,2	7,8	15,9	5,4	8,6
Quintile II	29,4	27,6	39,6	24,6	28,4
Quintile III	53,1	42,9	56,9	42,6	47,7
Quintile IV	45,8	28,4	56,5	26,0	36,7
Quintile V	66,3	42,3	66,7	42,3	53,3
Number of children in care					
0	40,5	32,0	53,2	24,5	37,7
1	57,8	37,2	55,9	38,4	46,7
2	51,9	41,2	56,2	40,3	45,9
3+	43,5	29,7	52,2	29,7	35,1
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	43,0	36,9	50,9	30,1	40,0
Post-lockdown	49,2	35,4	56,7	34,7	42,1

Job stability is important to ensure a steady family income, but also for social participation. GGS data show that 7.5% of respondents aged 15-64 think they are likely to lose their job in the next 12 months⁴⁸ (Table 11.1.2). Men and respondents from urban areas think they are more likely to face this risk. Also, every 10th employed respondent aged 60-64 (11.0%), especially women, believes that they might lose their job in the next year, which could be explained by possible retirement.

At the same time, the risk is higher among people with lower levels of education: 9.2% for those with secondary education, 6.9% for those with higher education and those in the lowest income quintiles I and II (19.0% in quintile I and 7.1% in quintile V).

⁴⁸ Data obtained from the question 'How likely is it that you will lose your job in the next 12 months?'

TABLE 11.1.2. Distribution of employed women and men aged 15-64 who think they might lose their job in the next 12 months⁴⁹, în %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total, Age group 15-49 years	8,1	6,7	7,8	7,2	7,5
Total, Age group 15-64 years	7,9	7,1	8,1	6,9	7,5
Age					
15-19	11,1	11,8	8,2	15,1	11,4
20-24	10,0	3,9	8,0	7,5	7,8
25-29	6,0	5,0	6,5	4,7	5,7
30-34	6,7	9,0	8,6	6,1	7,6
35-39	7,1	5,8	5,0	8,7	6,5
40-44	12,0	5,8	11,3	7,1	9,0
45-49	7,6	8,3	8,4	7,7	8,0
50-54	6,0	8,8	10,8	5,2	7,5
55-59	7,8	5,1	7,5	5,7	6,4
60-64	7,4	16,7	12,0	10,4	11,0
Region					
Chisinau	10,5	8,1	9,5	9,6	9,5
North	8,8	7,8	7,5	9,1	8,3
Centre	3,0	4,7	2,7	4,1	3,7
South	11,8	9,2	12,7	9,8	10,7
Education					
Lower secondary	10,5	7,2	11,3	8,2	9,2
Secundar general	9,1	9,1	9,8	8,4	9,1
Vocational secondary	7,8	8,6	8,6	7,8	8,1
Post Vocational secondary	5,5	5,6	5,2	5,9	5,5
Higher	7,5	6,3	7,8	4,6	6,9

⁴⁹ Respondents were asked whether they work full-time or part-time, as well as more general work-related questions, such as whether they reported working for pay in the past week. This differs significantly from self-employment status, which is used as a covariate.

Marital status					
Married	6,2	7,2	7,2	6,2	6,7
Cohabitation	9,4	7,0	8,7	8,0	8,4
Divorced/separated	14,1	8,6	11,8	10,0	11,1
Solitary	9,1	6,8	8,0	8,8	8,3
Widow	9,3	6,6	3,5	8,9	7,2
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	17,7	20,3	20,7	16,6	19,0
Quintile II	14,0	7,2	13,3	8,9	10,5
Quintile III	7,8	6,6	8,7	6,2	7,3
Quintile IV	5,2	7,7	5,2	7,4	6,2
Quintile V	7,7	6,3	7,2	7,0	7,1
Number of children in care					
0	9,1	5,3	7,5	9,0	8,0
1	5,9	7,4	7,5	5,3	6,5
2	8,6	7,9	9,3	7,4	8,2
3+	6,8	6,4	7,5	6,0	6,6
Covid-19					
Pre-lockdown	9,1	7,2	8,6	7,6	8,2
Post-lockdown	7,4	7,1	7,9	6,8	7,3

Job satisfaction is an important factor in ensuring work performance, but also in reconciling work and family life. About 45.0% of all employed respondents aged 15-64 are satisfied with their occupational status⁵⁰ (Table 11.1.3.). The more satisfied respondents are women and people living in urban areas, especially in the Chisinau municipality.

The GGS study found that satisfaction with occupational status declines with age among both women and men in both residence areas. While the share of satisfied 15-19-year-olds is 78.5%, among 60-64 year olds it is 27.6%.

⁵⁰ Data obtained from the question 'How satisfied are you with this status?'

At the same time, a correlation was established between level of prosperity and satisfaction with occupational status. Increased prosperity leads to an increase in the number of those satisfied with their occupational status: about one-fifth (22.6%) of low-income earners (quintile I) compared to more than half (51.3%) of high-income earners (quintile V).

Depending on the number of children in care, there is a decrease in the share of those satisfied as the number of children increases. More than half of respondents without children (53.2%) and about two-fifths of those with three or more children (39.0%) are satisfied with their occupational status.

TABLE 11.1.3. Distribution of employed women and men aged 15-64 who are satisfied with their occupational status⁵¹, în %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total, Age group 15-49 years	46,6	53,1	54,7	46,4	49,8
Total, Age group 15-64 years	42,2	47,1	50,3	41,2	44,7
Age group					
15-19	77,4	79,7	77,3	79,3	78,5
20-24	56,2	63,9	60,0	60,0	60,0
25-29	43,2	54,7	54,1	45,0	48,8
30-34	43,9	51,8	54,8	41,9	47,8
35-39	38,5	50,6	50,8	39,6	44,5
40-44	45,8	40,7	48,2	40,5	43,2
45-49	33,9	41,8	43,2	35,7	38,0
50-54	29,4	37,3	42,6	29,7	33,6
55-59	29,7	32,9	34,5	30,1	31,5
60-64	27,3	27,8	26,3	28,1	27,6
Region					
Chisinau	47,4	54,4	53,1	41,1	51,0
North	43,6	46,0	47,0	43,4	45,0
Centre	44,6	44,3	53,7	42,2	44,4
South	34,8	46,7	45,7	38,4	40,4

⁵¹ Respondents were asked whether they work full-time or part-time, as well as more general work-related questions, such as whether they reported working for pay in the past week. This differs significantly from self-employment status, which is used as a covariate.

Education					
Primary	63,0	60,7	64,5	61,6	62,2
Lower secondary	38,6	45,6	46,2	40,7	42,0
Secundar general	42,0	45,1	50,1	39,8	43,7
Vocational secondary	35,8	41,8	40,7	37,5	38,5
Post-secondary vocational	43,4	42,1	47,7	38,7	42,7
Higher	54,9	60,0	58,8	55,6	57,7
Marital status					
Married	42,7	46,4	50,9	41,4	44,8
Cohabitation	38,0	45,1	48,8	37,0	41,6
Divorced/separated	31,6	42,5	43,7	31,0	37,1
Solitary	43,4	52,6	50,4	44,4	46,8
Widow	18,9	30,8	39,2	24,6	28,2
Level of prosperity					
Quintile I	17,5	28,2	25,4	21,3	22,6
Quintile II	23,0	33,4	31,7	27,3	28,5
Quintile III	47,3	47,8	49,5	46,5	47,6
Quintile IV	52,8	49,3	60,8	45,5	51,0
Quintile V	48,1	54,0	55,5	47,7	51,3
Number of children					
0	48,3	62,7	56,8	50,0	53,2
1	44,7	48,0	50,2	43,2	46,5
2	39,1	42,8	46,9	38,0	41,2
3+	33,6	42,5	44,3	37,3	39,0
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	38,5	44,5	45,4	37,9	41,5
Post-lockdown	43,7	48,0	53,1	42,3	45,9

11.2. Working time and arrangements

11.2.1. Working arrangements with fixed starting and finishing times

Working arrangements with fixed starting and finishing times⁵² are typical for about three quarters of employed people aged 15-64 (74.5%), with a higher share among women (*Table 11.2.1.1*). Thus, more than 4 out of 5 women (82.4%) work a fixed schedule. In the case of men, the share is lower by 14.2 p.p. (68.2%).

The share of such working arrangements is higher among people in paid work aged over 45. The highest share is among people aged 60-64 (84.0%).

By level of prosperity, a higher share of people working a fixed schedule is found among those in quintiles I and II.

The presence of children does not influence the work pattern. Both respondents with and without children work in equal shares a fixed schedule (74.2% respondents without children and 74.3% respondents with children).

One in four people (25.2%) do not have a fixed work pattern. This type of work arrangement is particularly common for men (31.5% compared to 17.1% for women), and people aged 15-44. There are no significant differences by area of residence.

Flexible working hours are mainly practised by people with high- and medium-income levels (quintiles III-V).

Also, the presence of children does not lead to an increase in the number of people working flexible hours (25.3% people without children, 27.1% with one child and about 24% with 2, 3 and more children).

⁵² The data were obtained from the question 'According to your regular working hours, do you usually start and end your working day at fixed hours?'

TABLE 11.2.1.1. Distribution of employed women and men aged 15-64 by work pattern (time of starting and finishing work), in %

	Fixed starting and finishing working times	No fixed work pattern
Total, age group 15-49 years	72,8	26,9
Total, age group 15-64 years	74,5	25,2
Age group		
15-19	70,9	29,1
20-24	76,5	23,1
25-29	69,9	29,2
30-34	74,9	24,6
35-39	70,2	29,8
40-44	68,1	31,4
45-49	79,6	20,4
50-54	80,9	18,9
55-59	78,6	21,1
60-64	84,0	15,0
Region		
Chisinau	71,2	28,4
North	77,1	22,9
Centre	74,7	25,1
South	75,6	23,5
Education		
Primary	40,2	59,8
Lower secondary	72,3	27,2
Secundar general	72,4	27,1
Vocational secondary	74,0	25,8
Post-secondary vocational	79,9	19,9
Higher	75,3	24,3

Marital status		
Married	75,4	24,3
Cohabitation	70,5	29,5
Divorced/separated	75,3	24,7
Solitary	73,6	25,9
Widow	75,5	22,1
Level of prosperity		
Quintile I	81,8	18,2
Quintile II	78,4	21,4
Quintile III	75,6	24,4
Quintile IV	72,4	27,6
Quintile V	75,1	24,6
Number of children		
0	74,2	25,3
1	72,7	27,1
2	75,2	24,4
3+	75,1	24,5
Covid		
Pre-lockdown	74,1	25,6
Post-lockdown	74,6	25,0

The partners of about 70% of the respondents have a fixed working hours schedule. This was reported by a higher share of men (79.6%) than women (64.1%), which supports the above data showing a higher share of women working a fixed schedule.

11.2.2. Night work

The pandemic period had an impact on the perception of work-related fatigue: the number of people indicating work-related fatigue in the post-lockdown period decreased by 11.1 p.p. (53.3%), with a significant difference among women and rural dwellers.

Work-related fatigue can be particularly acute for those who work at night. GGS data revealed that night work (at least 2 hours in the evening or between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.) is done by 1 in 10 people aged 15-64 (10.0%), mainly by men (12.7%) and people from urban areas (12.9%)⁵³ (Table 11.2.2.1.). At the same time, a higher share of respondents doing such work is found among married men, men in consensual unions and divorced women.

⁵³ Date obținute în baza întrebării „În mod normal, obișnuiți să lucrați cel puțin 2 ore seara sau în timpul nopții între orele 22.00 și 6.00 dimineața?”

By age, there is a higher share of people aged 45-49 (12.7%) and 40-44 (12.2%) doing night work. The highest share of night workers is among men aged 25-34 and women aged 40-49. The majority of these men and women have higher education (20.8%) and medium or high income levels (quintiles III and V).

TABLE 11.2.2.1. Distribution of employed women and men aged 15-64 doing night work, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total, age group 15-49 years	13,3	7,7	13,9	8,2	10,5
Total, age group 15-64 years	12,7	7,5	12,9	8,3	10,0
Age group					
15-19	2,5	2,9	3,9	1,9	2,7
20-24	12,6	4,0	9,7	7,3	8,4
25-29	15,5	5,8	16,1	6,9	10,8
30-34	16,5	7,7	16,3	8,5	12,1
35-39	14,0	9,2	15,6	8,5	11,6
40-44	13,9	10,6	15,9	10,2	12,2
45-49	13,0	11,9	13,6	12,0	12,5
50-54	14,2	9,7	12,4	11,5	11,8
55-59	11,8	8,0	10,1	9,6	9,7
60-64	6,8	3,2	5,6	4,4	4,8
Region					
Chisinau	21,8	10,7	17,1	11,4	16,1
North	11,4	8,2	10,1	9,3	9,7
Centre	11,6	6,5	11,3	8,4	9,0
South	9,3	5,7	9,5	6,9	7,6
Education					
Primary	6,0	1,9	3,1	5,0	4,6
Lower secondary	7,3	3,8	6,7	5,3	5,6
Secundar general	11,4	4,4	9,6	6,4	7,6
Vocational secondary	12,2	5,1	10,7	8,3	9,0
Post-secondary vocational	15,6	8,6	11,7	11,8	11,8
Higher	24,4	18,0	20,9	20,6	20,8

Marital status					
Married	15,5	7,6	13,3	9,9	11,1
Cohabitation	11,0	7,8	13,1	7,0	9,4
Divorced/separated	9,1	12,9	16,3	6,2	11,0
Solitary	7,3	5,9	8,9	5,4	6,8
Widow	4,6	5,0	3,6	5,3	4,9
Number of children					
0	11,4	6,5	13,8	6,3	9,8
1	14,9	8,3	15,0	8,1	11,3
2	12,7	8,4	11,6	9,6	10,3
3+	13,2	6,3	10,7	8,4	8,9
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	13,1	7,6	12,3	8,6	10,4
Post-lockdown	12,6	7,4	13,3	8,2	9,9

Only 3.0% of respondents work from home at night, with no significant differences between women and men⁵⁴. The share of those working from home at night is higher in urban areas (4.5%) than in rural areas (3.0%), but the difference is statistically insignificant.

⁵⁴ The data were obtained from the question 'Do you usually do this (work at least 2 hours in the evening or at night between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.) from home or from somewhere else?'

Night work is carried out by the partners of about 8% of the respondents, this being reported more often by the female respondents (10.3%) (Table 11.2.2.2). They are more often the partners of women aged 25-44, with higher or post-secondary vocational education and living in Chisinau municipality. Women with children more often indicated that their partner works at night. At the same time, the share of those in the high-income quintile (V) and with higher education is larger.

Only 2.0% of respondents indicated that their partners worked nights from home.

TABLE 11.2.2.2. Distribution of employed women and men aged 15 to 64 whose partners work at night, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total age group 15-49 years	5,1	11,6	10,4	6,9	8,3
Total age group 15-64 years	5,3	10,3	9,6	6,8	7,8
Age group					
15-19	0,5	4,8	3,7	1,9	2,6
20-24	3,1	12,3	8,3	7,1	7,6
25-29	6,0	13,1	12,1	7,6	9,5
30-34	4,0	14,2	11,6	6,8	9,0
35-39	7,1	11,7	13,0	6,6	9,4
40-44	6,0	12,0	10,9	8,0	9,0
45-49	7,4	9,4	8,3	8,5	8,4
50-54	8,6	10,8	10,2	9,6	9,8
55-59	5,4	8,5	7,3	7,0	7,1
60-64	3,8	2,7	2,3	3,5	3,1
Region					
Chisinau	7,6	14,8	12,0	8,2	11,3
North	4,8	10,7	7,5	8,4	8,0
Centre	5,9	8,9	8,3	7,2	7,4
South	3,5	8,7	8,7	4,9	5,9

Education					
Primary	0,8	2,1	0,0	1,6	1,2
Lower secondary	4,2	8,7	7,8	6,0	6,4
Secundar general	3,5	8,0	7,4	5,2	6,0
Vocational secondary	6,4	8,3	6,0	7,8	7,3
Post-secondary vocational	6,1	11,6	9,6	8,7	9,1
Higher	8,0	16,5	14,3	9,5	12,7
Number of children in care					
0	2,6	5,6	5,7	1,9	3,6
1	6,9	11,9	11,5	8,0	9,6
2	6,9	11,9	11,5	8,6	9,7
3+	6,2	10,0	10,9	7,7	8,5
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	7,5	11,1	10,0	8,7	9,3
Post-lockdown	4,4	10,0	9,4	6,2	7,3

11.2.3. Weekend work

More than 1 in 10 (12.7%) work on days off – Saturdays and Sundays⁵⁵ (Table 11.2.3.1). Most weekend work is done by men aged 30-34 (21.3%). For women, the share is below 10%, with most women aged 45-49. There is also a higher share of men with children (16.9% on average) working on weekends compared to those without children (13.8%). The same trend holds true for women. The data show that higher education levels are leading to increasing numbers of both women and men working on weekends.

In urban areas there is a higher share (16.2%) of those who work on Saturdays and Sundays compared to those from rural areas (10.6%), most of them residing in Chisinau municipality. At the same time, the majority of those working on weekends are found among men and women with a medium level of prosperity (16.4%).

⁵⁵ The data were obtained from the question 'Do you normally work on Saturdays or Sundays?'

TABLE 11.2.3.1. Distribution of employed women and men aged 15-64 working on weekends, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total age group 15-49 years	16,5	9,9	16,7	10,8	13,2
Total age group 15-64 years	15,9	9,6	16,2	10,6	12,7
Age group					
15-19	3,0	4,3	6,4	1,9	3,6
20-24	14,7	7,6	11,6	10,9	11,2
25-29	15,5	8,3	13,7	10,7	12,0
30-34	21,3	8,1	16,8	13,0	14,7
35-39	18,4	11,9	21,8	10,1	15,2
40-44	18,0	13,4	23,3	11,5	15,7
45-49	18,1	14,4	19,9	14,5	16,2
50-54	18,5	13,8	20,7	14,0	16,0
55-59	14,7	10,2	15,2	10,9	12,3
60-64	8,9	2,9	6,5	5,1	5,5
Region					
Chisinau	21,0	12,9	17,4	13,9	16,8
North	17,0	11,7	16,1	12,6	14,1
Centre	12,0	7,4	12,1	9,0	9,6
South	16,7	8,3	17,5	11,0	12,7
Education					
Primary	8,4	5,5	16,2	4,9	7,4
Lower secondary	11,1	4,8	10,3	7,3	8,0
Secundar general	15,3	8,0	12,6	10,4	11,3
Vocational secondary	16,3	10,2	20,4	10,6	13,6
Post-secondary vocational	21,1	14,3	17,4	17,3	17,4
Higher	22,0	14,2	18,7	15,2	17,6

Marital status					
Married	19,9	9,6	16,3	13,1	14,2
Cohabitation	12,6	11,4	22,0	5,7	12,0
Divorced/separated	12,1	12,1	17,9	7,0	12,1
Solitary	10,6	7,2	12,8	7,1	9,3
Widow	5,3	8,4	13,5	5,9	7,7
Number of children					
0	13,8	8,0	15,5	8,7	11,9
1	17,0	10,2	15,5	11,4	13,3
2	17,0	10,6	16,2	11,9	13,4
3+	16,8	8,8	18,4	9,8	11,9
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	15,6	11,8	17,5	10,2	13,7
Post-lockdown	16,0	8,8	15,4	10,7	12,3

Every tenth respondent (10.5%) indicated that their partner usually works on weekends, this being more often reported by female survey participants and urban dwellers⁵⁶. A higher share of the partners of 50–54-year-olds and 40-44 year olds work on weekends (*Table 11.2.3.2.*).

By geographical region, there is a higher share of respondents from the northern region and Chisinau municipality. At the same time, women with children and those with higher education more often indicate that their partner works on weekends.

⁵⁶ The data were obtained from the question 'Does your partner normally work on Saturdays or Sundays?'

TABLE 11.2.3.2. Distribution of women and men aged 15-64 whose partners work on weekends, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total age group 15-49 years	6,7	15,8	13,4	9,7	11,2
Total age group 15-64 years	7,1	13,8	12,3	9,4	10,5
Age group					
15-19	0,0	8,2	4,9	3,4	4,0
20-24	2,6	15,2	7,5	9,8	8,8
25-29	4,5	17,5	14,1	8,6	10,9
30-34	6,4	20,1	16,4	10,4	13,2
35-39	9,5	16,6	16,5	10,3	13,0
40-44	10,5	17,5	16,3	12,8	14,0
45-49	10,7	10,7	10,6	10,7	10,7
50-54	14,5	15,9	15,2	15,3	15,2
55-59	6,6	9,0	7,7	8,0	7,9
60-64	4,7	2,5	3,4	3,5	3,5
Region					
Chisinau	7,4	15,9	12,3	9,3	11,8
North	8,6	15,6	12,9	12,1	12,5
Centre	7,0	10,8	9,6	8,8	8,9
South	6,1	14,9	14,5	8,7	10,2
Education					
Primary	0,5	7,8	5,9	2,3	3,1
Lower secondary	6,3	12,9	11,6	8,9	9,6
Secundar general	5,1	11,9	9,9	8,3	8,9
Vocational secondary	8,4	12,9	10,4	10,4	10,4
Post Vocational secondary	8,1	14,5	11,8	11,4	11,6
Higher	9,4	17,9	15,8	10,8	14,2

Number of children					
0	3,0	8,3	6,5	3,3	4,8
1	7,5	15,1	12,5	11,0	11,7
2	10,5	15,6	16,3	11,6	13,3
3+	9,0	13,9	16,0	10,7	12,0
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	8,7	16,1	13,2	11,6	12,4
Post-lockdown	6,5	12,9	11,9	8,7	9,8

A small number of people work weekends from home, namely 3.6%⁵⁷, with insignificant differences by gender and area of residence. This share is higher among people with children, medium and high income earners (quintiles III-V) and those with higher education. At the same time, only 2.4% of respondents indicated that their partners work on their days off from home.

11.2.4. Work time

The length of time spent at work is perceived as an obstacle to the fulfilment of household chores by about 2 out of 5 people (40.7%), with a higher share among those in cohabitation (47.5%)⁵⁸ (Table 11.2.4.1). It is important to note that more than a third of the population (30.8%) had a working week of more than 40 hours.

The GGS data showed a higher share of women affected by the length of time spent at work in fulfilling household chores: 46.5% of women compared to 36.2% of men, with women aged 30-34 and 50-54 from Chisinau and in the quintile, I standing out.

By area of residence, there is a higher share of respondents affected by this factor among urban dwellers (45.2%) compared to rural dwellers (36.3%), especially in the northern region and Chisinau municipality.

By age group, having difficulties fulfilling household chores due to long time spent at work is found among those aged 35-39 (46.3%).

By level of prosperity, there is a higher share of people in the lowest income quintile (I), with a higher share in rural areas and among the highest income earners (quintile V), mainly from urban areas.

People with children in their care pointed out this difficulty more often, especially those with 3 or more children, compared to those without children. The share of those with children is 42.0% (on average) and of those without children amounts to 37.8%. At the same time, this difficulty was reported by men with 3 or more children and women with 1-2 children. In the pre-lockdown period, the share of those pointing out this difficulty was 6.5 percentage points higher than in the post-lockdown period (39.0%).

⁵⁷ The data were obtained from the question 'Do you usually do this (work on Saturdays or Sundays) from home or from somewhere else?'

⁵⁸ The data were obtained from the question 'In the last 3 months, how often have you encountered the following situations? I found it difficult to fulfil my family responsibilities because I spend too much time at work'.

TABLE 11.2.4.1. Distribution of women and men aged 15-64 who in the last 3 months, at least a few times a week/month, found it difficult to do household chores because of too much time spent at work, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total age group 15-49 years	36,6	46,6	45,5	35,8	40,8
Total age group 15-64 years	36,2	46,5	45,2	36,3	40,7
Age group					
15-19	25,0	31,3	34,7	18,8	27,1
20-24	43,5	37,2	57,7	21,4	41,2
25-29	30,5	47,6	32,0	41,1	36,0
30-34	35,7	53,8	44,4	40,0	42,6
35-39	45,9	46,9	52,9	37,8	46,3
40-44	31,5	47,6	46,9	33,5	39,4
45-49	36,5	43,3	43,6	38,0	40,2
50-54	35,6	48,5	45,7	40,6	42,7
55-59	33,3	43,6	43,0	35,6	38,6
60-64	33,9	46,5	42,6	36,2	38,7
Region					
Chisinau	35,4	51,8	41,2	48,1	42,2
North	44,4	49,3	47,2	46,7	47,0
Centre	33,5	45,2	52,9	32,4	38,5
South	34,8	38,3	43,8	32,7	36,2
Education					
Primary	9,7	62,0	61,4	4,4	13,5
Lower secondary	39,6	43,2	49,4	37,1	41,0
Secundar general	43,9	49,4	44,1	48,0	46,2
Vocational secondary	33,8	46,6	48,9	31,6	38,7
Post-secondary vocational	38,6	44,3	50,2	33,3	41,5
Higher	31,8	48,2	40,4	39,4	40,1

Marital status					
Married	35,6	47,0	47,1	35,7	40,7
Cohabitation	48,2	46,5	53,8	39,0	47,5
Divorced/separated	37,7	47,6	43,7	42,2	43,1
Solitary	28,3	43,9	33,7	34,0	33,8
Widow	41,5	39,3	46,3	36,4	39,7
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	29,3	64,0	39,9	49,6	44,3
Quintile II	34,1	47,9	47,6	37,6	41,2
Quintile III	35,8	44,6	43,9	36,9	39,9
Quintile IV	30,5	41,1	41,6	27,0	34,8
Quintile V	41,0	49,2	51,3	35,6	44,5
Number of children in care					
0	35,6	43,5	40,3	33,4	37,8
1	35,8	47,4	47,6	31,9	40,8
2	33,6	47,1	47,8	34,7	40,3
3+	43,0	46,5	46,0	44,2	44,8
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	40,6	51,2	49,9	39,0	45,5
Post-lockdown	34,6	44,6	43,0	35,6	39,0

11.2.5. Flexible working hours

Mechanisms for reconciling work and personal life are diverse, giving employees the freedom to organise their working hours and time according to individual needs. The GGS data revealed that about every second person aged 15-64 (48.2%) reported employer acceptance of flexible working hours⁵⁹, tailored to personal needs (for example, hours adapted to children's schedules or caring for a sick family member) (*Table 11.2.5.1*). In the public sector, the share of those having this possibility is lower than in the private sector: 42.3% versus 54.1%.

Men are more likely to apply for flexible working hours (49.7%) than women (46.6%). In terms of age, the shares are very close for both women and men, with the highest share being recorded in the age groups under 29 and 35-39.

⁵⁹ Data were obtained from the question 'Does your employer accept flexible working hours for personal reasons, such as hours adapted to children's schedules or caring for a sick family member?'

At the same time, there is a higher share of people with higher education and of those in the highest income quintile (V) who have more access to flexible working options.

Depending on the number of children, respondents without children (54.5%) have more access to flexible working arrangements than those with children (on average 46.1%). At the same time, as the number of children increases, the number of those indicating the possibility of such an option decrease: 47.4% of parents with 1 child compared to 43.7% of those with 3 children.

TABLE 11.2.5.1. Distribution of employed women and men aged 15-64 whose employers accept the possibility of flexible working hours, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total age group 15-49 years	51,3	48,5	52,7	47,1	50,1
Total age group 15-64 years	49,7	46,6	50,9	45,5	48,2
Age group					
15-19	61,5	60,0	63,2	58,4	61,0
20-24	58,7	51,4	58,4	52,3	55,8
25-29	59,0	51,5	56,0	56,5	56,2
30-34	46,9	47,6	49,2	44,2	47,2
35-39	53,7	51,6	57,9	46,1	52,7
40-44	49,2	49,3	49,4	49,1	49,2
45-49	38,5	40,7	42,2	38,3	39,8
50-54	44,7	40,4	45,1	40,4	42,3
55-59	40,0	37,9	39,5	38,5	38,9
60-64	45,9	50,6	46,1	48,7	47,7
Region					
Chisinau	54,7	51,2	56,2	37,1	53,2
North	45,5	43,4	38,8	51,1	44,4
Centre	45,5	45,9	57,8	40,1	45,7
South	53,4	45,8	44,5	52,9	50,1

Education					
Lower secondary	46,6	45,6	45,5	46,6	46,3
Secundar general	53,9	45,2	52,8	47,7	50,1
Vocational secondary	45,2	41,5	47,7	41,0	43,8
Post-secondary vocational	44,6	43,5	43,7	44,4	44,1
Higher	57,8	52,2	56,5	50,7	54,9
Marital status					
Married	47,5	46,8	51,3	43,8	47,2
Cohabitation	54,0	48,9	52,3	51,1	51,8
Divorced/separated	43,7	50,4	48,1	46,8	47,6
Solitary	54,0	42,5	48,8	50,7	49,6
Widow	57,4	50,2	57,5	48,5	51,6
Level of prosperity					
Quintile I	44,7	57,3	34,6	70,2	50,2
Quintile II	43,7	38,3	39,7	41,6	40,9
Quintile III	40,7	42,3	39,9	42,7	41,5
Quintile IV	54,1	48,0	57,8	42,6	51,5
Quintile V	57,7	51,1	57,5	51,2	54,8
Number of children in care					
0	56,7	49,4	55,1	53,5	54,5
1	45,9	49,1	45,4	50,1	47,4
2	48,6	45,8	51,5	43,7	47,2
3+	43,4	44,0	49,4	40,7	43,7
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	52,8	45,7	50,2	48,4	49,5
Post-lockdown	48,5	46,9	51,3	44,7	47,8

At the same time, the employers of partners of about 2 out of 5 respondents (42.0%) accept the possibility of flexible working hours (*Table 11.7.5.*), especially those from the southern region and Chisinau municipality⁶⁰.

The share of men with children who reported that their partner's employer accepts work schedules tailored to individual needs is higher than that of women with children: 46.7% of men with 1 child compared to 41.5% of women with 1 child.

The possibility of flexibility in the partner's work schedule was reported more often by men and women with high income levels (quintiles IV and V). A lower share of partners of those in the poorest quintile (I) have this option: about 1 in 3 (35.6%).

At the same time, the wives/partners of about half of women aged 20-24 and the wives of more than half of men aged 30-34 have the possibility of flexible working hours. Compared to the total population, the share of people of reproductive age (15-49 years) who reported the possibility of flexible working hours for their partners was insignificantly higher.

In the post-lockdown period, there is an increase of 5.8 p.p. (43.6%) in the number of people with partners working flexibly, both in urban and rural areas.

TABLE 11.2.5.2 Distribution of employed women and men aged 15-64 who indicated that their partner's employer accepts flexible working hours, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total age group 15-49 years	43,1	42,1	46,2	39,2	42,5
Total age group 15-64 years	42,2	41,8	45,4	39,2	42,0
Age group					
20-24	43,5	48,9	49,0	46,6	47,7
25-29	40,4	44,0	46,1	39,4	42,8
30-34	51,5	43,4	50,1	41,6	46,1
35-39	41,7	45,3	49,1	37,9	43,8
40-44	37,5	38,3	39,4	37,1	38,0
45-49	42,7	33,8	41,8	36,1	38,0
50-54	41,3	41,1	45,5	39,2	41,2
55-59	38,3	37,7	36,3	38,9	38,0
60-64	40,0	44,9	45,2	40,2	42,1

⁶⁰ Data were obtained from the question 'Does your partner's employer accept flexible working hours for personal reasons, such as hours adapted to children's schedules?'

Region					
Chisinau	42,5	45,7	46,3	36,5	44,5
North	48,8	38,4	41,6	42,5	42,0
Centre	39,5	37,5	55,4	32,1	38,3
South	41,2	48,1	35,1	49,6	45,1
Marital status					
Married	41,9	41,2	45,2	38,7	41,5
Cohabitation	43,9	49,4	47,5	46,7	47,1
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	28,2	45,1	32,9	39,0	36,6
Quintile II	39,2	32,1	41,0	32,9	35,2
Quintile III	34,3	35,4	34,7	35,2	35,0
Quintile IV	49,4	33,9	49,0	32,5	40,5
Quintile V	48,5	50,4	52,4	47,1	49,6
Number of children in care					
0	45,5	50,2	50,6	42,0	47,7
1	46,7	41,5	40,4	47,2	43,5
2	40,5	41,3	45,6	37,8	41,0
3+	38,7	39,9	47,0	36,1	39,5
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	35,1	39,6	41,4	33,6	37,8
Post-lockdown	45,2	42,6	47,5	41,0	43,6

11.3. Commuting time to work

Based on the question ‘How long does it usually take you to travel from home to your main place of work?’, the GGS survey found the average commuting time to be 31.2 minutes (*Table 11.3.1*). More than a third of men (31.7%) and more than a quarter of women (27.6%) reported a travel time of more than half an hour (30 minutes).

Most urban residents – 73.0% – have a commute time of up to 30 minutes, their share being higher than that of rural dwellers (65.8%). At the same time, more than a third of rural workers (33.0%) commute to work in more than half an hour.

More than three quarters of the lowest income earners (quintile I) have a commuting time of up to 30 minutes, having the highest share compared to other categories of people in terms of prosperity level. At the same time, the average commuting time to work is 25.6 minutes, which is the shortest compared to the commuting time of higher income earners (quintile V) – 31.2 minutes.

TABLE 11.3.1. Commuting time from home to the main place of work

	No commuting time	1-30 minutes	More than 31 minutes	Average commuting time
	%	%	%	minutes
Total	1,3	69,3	29,4	31,2
Gender				
Male	1,2	67,0	31,7	33,0
Female	1,4	71,0	27,6	29,8
Welfare quintile				
Quintile I	0,0	76,7	23,3	25,6
Quintile II	1,1	63,7	35,2	32,6
Quintile III	0,7	71,3	28,0	30,9
Quintile IV	2,6	70,8	26,6	29,4
Quintile V	1,4	70,2	28,5	31,2
Area of residence				
Rural	1,2	65,8	33,0	33,6
Urban	1,5	73,0	25,5	28,7

11.4. Tiredness and difficulties in carrying out work and family tasks

Ensuring work-life balance is an important goal in the context of contemporary demographic change and respect for women's and men's rights at work.

Work can affect family life, especially when it comes to carrying out certain household tasks. According to the GGS survey, about every second respondent aged 15-64 (56.3%) in the last 3 months had difficulties in performing household tasks due to fatigue after work at least several times a week/month, with a higher share in urban areas – 61.9%⁶¹ (Table 11.4.1). At the same time, a higher share is identified among people aged 35-39 years, those from Chişinău municipality, with general secondary education and in the higher income quintile (V). Tiredness more often affects people with more children in their care than those without: 60.0% of respondents with 3 or more children compared to 55.9% of those without children.

TABLE 11.4.1. Distribution of employed women and men aged 15-64 who indicated that in the last 3 months at least several times a week/month they were too tired after work to do housework, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total age group 15-49 years	51,3	62,6	62,9	48,6	56,0
Total age group 15-64 years	51,3	61,9	61,9	50,8	56,3
Age group					
15-19	46,4	3,8	56,7	33,2	45,5
20-24	53,3	64,6	73,1	38,2	57,4
25-29	41,2	61,0	49,9	44,5	47,5
30-34	57,1	62,4	62,3	54,5	59,1
35-39	58,2	64,4	71,5	47,0	60,9
40-44	47,2	60,0	60,4	48,0	53,4
45-49	50,0	65,7	63,0	55,8	58,6
50-54	51,9	64,0	57,8	59,1	58,5
55-59	50,0	61,5	56,4	55,5	55,9
60-64	52,4	65,1	59,3	56,1	57,3

⁶¹ The data were obtained from the question 'In the last 3 months, how often have you encountered the following situations? ...I came home from work too tired to do any housework'.

Region					
Chisinau	56,6	70,3	62,2	62,6	62,3
North	59,2	63,2	61,3	61,3	61,3
Centre	44,7	62,3	65,8	46,5	52,2
South	48,8	52,8	56,2	47,6	50,4
Education					
Primary	16,4	27,6	84,1	4,4	17,2
Lower secondary	53,8	52,2	63,6	48,4	53,2
Secundar general	57,9	63,4	60,1	60,4	60,3
Vocational secondary	51,4	62,9	67,8	47,5	55,8
Post-secondary vocational	49,4	65,2	63,0	52,2	57,4
Higher	50,0	65,9	58,9	55,9	58,0
Level of prosperity					
Quintile I	50,0	60,6	58,5	49,6	54,6
Quintile II	45,3	58,0	55,7	49,7	51,9
Quintile III	48,2	60,3	59,7	49,4	53,8
Quintile IV	46,4	61,0	61,0	42,0	52,3
Quintile V	55,5	65,5	67,8	49,2	59,7
Number of children in care					
0	52,1	65,3	60,0	48,4	55,9
1	48,4	60,5	61,9	42,6	53,6
2	48,8	63,4	64,0	50,1	56,1
3+	58,3	61,5	61,4	59,2	60,0
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	59,2	70,5	67,3	60,1	64,4
Post-lockdown	48,5	59,6	59,3	48,2	53,3

A higher share of women (about 62%) indicated work-related fatigue as an impediment to doing housework, especially those from Chisinau municipality. Starting with the 20-24 age group, the percentage of women facing this problem is over 60 percent. At the same time, women with higher levels of education (post-secondary vocational and higher education), compared to other categories of women, feel more tired after work (on average 65.6%). A curious finding of the survey is that the share of women without children who have difficulty doing housework due to work fatigue is higher than that of women with children. This can be explained by the length of the working week: women without children work 49 hours and more compared to other women. Also, women without children are more likely to work in more jobs than women with children.

In the case of men, there is a prevalence among those aged 30-39, those from the northern part of the country and those with 3 or more children. At the same time, the highest share of those reporting fatigue as an impediment to doing housework is recorded among those with general secondary education (57.9%).

Involvement in the work tasks in the sense of fully accomplishing work tasks depends also on mood. Every fifth respondent (20.3%) had difficulties in the last 3 months in performing their work caused by fatigue due to housework⁶², with no statistically significant differences by residence area (*Table 11.4.2*). This is more often the case for respondents with general or secondary education and low levels of income (quintiles I and II).

The survey data show that more women (24.4%) than men (17.1%) report such situations. At the same time, there is a higher share of women (on average 25.0%) and men (on average 17.8%) under 39 years of age reporting being tired from housework compared to women (on average 22.8%) and men (on average 14.2%) over 40 years of age, which in the case of the latter could be explained by the possible involvement of other people in housework. At the same time, as women get older (after the age of 40), there is a decrease in the number of those reporting fatigue due to housework. On the other hand, every third woman aged 15-19 (29.4%) is affected in her work by fatigue caused by housework. Moreover, every fifth married, cohabiting or single person had such difficulties.

Depending on the presence of children, there is a difference in the percentage of those reporting the above-mentioned difficulty. Thus, the share of respondents without children is lower (17.8%) compared to those with children (21.0%), the most tired of housework being those with 3 or more children, especially women.

⁶² The data were obtained from the question 'In the last 3 months, how often have you encountered the following situations? ...I arrived at work too tired to work properly because of the household work I had done'.

TABLE 11.4.2. Distribution of employed women and men aged 15-64 who indicated that in the last 3 months at least several times a week/month they were too tired from housework to work, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total age group 15-49 years	17,7	24,9	20,7	20,8	20,7
Total age group 15-64 years	17,1	24,4	19,6	21,0	20,3
Age group					
15-19	14,3	29,4	20,4	18,8	19,7
20-24	16,5	16,9	22,9	8,9	16,6
25-29	13,5	26,7	19,0	16,0	17,7
30-34	21,4	26,8	22,5	24,9	23,5
35-39	23,1	25,5	22,6	26,1	24,1
40-44	16,2	25,0	19,0	21,7	20,5
45-49	12,4	24,4	16,2	20,7	19,0
50-54	15,7	25,6	15,9	24,9	21,2
55-59	15,1	21,9	14,1	21,6	18,6
60-64	11,7	17,2	13,0	14,4	13,8
Region					
Chisinau	17,7	24,3	19,1	28,2	20,4
North	21,3	31,1	22,3	31,2	26,4
Centre	15,2	24,1	17,1	19,7	19,0
South	16,1	16,8	20,9	14,2	16,4
Education					
Lower secondary	21,0	27,1	25,4	22,3	23,3
Secundar general	19,1	30,7	17,9	29,5	24,1
Vocational secondary	16,2	30,6	25,8	18,9	21,7
Post-secondary vocational	15,0	21,1	16,2	19,9	18,1
Higher	16,2	19,3	17,5	18,3	17,7
Marital status					
Married	16,8	24,5	20,0	20,4	20,3
Cohabitation	20,1	20,2	18,8	21,9	20,1

Divorced/separated	24,3	21,8	22,6	23,4	22,9
Solitary	16,3	27,6	19,9	20,8	20,3
Widow	29,2	25,3	21,2	28,5	26,0
Income quintile					
Quintile I	21,5	24,2	24,7	20,2	22,7
Quintile II	21,8	28,5	24,6	25,7	25,3
Quintile III	19,4	24,7	22,8	21,3	22,0
Quintile IV	9,5	26,2	15,7	17,0	16,6
Quintile V	16,9	22,1	19,4	18,7	19,1
Number of children in care					
0	16,3	21,5	17,6	18,3	17,8
1	17,4	22,1	20,6	17,9	19,4
2	17,3	25,1	19,6	22,4	21,2
3+	17,4	27,1	22,6	22,4	22,5
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	18,4	25,2	21,9	21,1	21,6
Post-lockdown	16,6	24,1	18,6	20,9	19,9

Family responsibilities and problems cause difficulty in concentrating on work (at least several times a week/month) for 15.5% of the population aged 15-64, with an insignificantly higher share (by 0.8 p.p.) among those of reproductive age (*Table 11.4.3*)⁶³. At the same time, the share of those who indicated having such problems was higher among 30–39-year-olds.

This difficulty is mentioned more often by women (18.6%) than by men (13.1%). Every third woman aged 15-19 and every fourth woman aged 25-29 are more tired from housework, with the least tired in the 20-24 age group (9.0%). By region, there is a higher share among those from the northern region. At the same time, a higher share of women with a lower level of education (primary, secondary and general education) report difficulties at work owing to family responsibilities.

By marital status, the highest share was found among the divorced: every fifth divorced respondent (20.2%), with a statistically insignificant difference by gender and area of residence. Regardless of marital status, women have been shown to have a higher share than men when it comes to difficulties at work owing to family responsibilities and problems.

⁶³ The data were obtained from the question 'In the last 3 months, how often have you encountered the following situations? I found it hard to concentrate on my work because of family responsibilities and problems'.

Respondents with a lower level of income (quintiles I and II) have a higher share – about every fifth person (20.9% on average). At the same time, rural people in the lowest income quintile are more likely to have difficulty concentrating at work owing to household duties.

Depending on the number of children, the survey shows that respondents without children report less difficulty (13.0%) than those with children (16.2% on average). At the same time, as the number of children increases, so does the number of women who have difficulties at work because of family responsibilities: 13.9% of women without children compared to 20.4% of women with 3 or more children.

The pandemic period did not have a significant impact on reducing the negative influence of family responsibilities on work.

TABLE 11.4.3. Distribution of employed women and men aged 15-64 who indicated that in the last 3 months at least several times a week/month they had difficulty concentrating at work due to family responsibilities and problems, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total age group 15-49 years	14,2	19,3	16,6	16,0	16,3
Total age group 15-64 years	13,1	18,6	15,5	15,6	15,5
Age group					
15-19	10,7	29,4	20,4	13,9	17,4
20-24	14,1	9,0	13,6	10,7	12,3
25-29	11,0	25,7	15,5	16,1	15,8
30-34	17,0	19,7	20,3	14,6	18,0
35-39	18,9	16,4	18,2	17,3	17,8
40-44	10,6	22,5	14,0	18,2	16,4
45-49	11,6	17,8	12,4	16,6	15,0
50-54	8,9	22,7	13,4	18,8	16,5
55-59	8,7	11,9	6,8	12,7	10,3
60-64	9,5	11,5	12,3	9,0	10,2
Region					
Chisinau	13,6	19,9	14,8	24,4	16,2
North	15,3	22,4	13,8	25,3	19,1
Centre	10,8	16,6	15,9	12,2	13,3
South	14,6	15,3	19,8	12,5	14,9

Education					
Primary	6,7	27,6	28,4	4,4	8,3
Lower secondary	13,8	24,4	21,3	16,1	17,8
Secundar general	14,5	25,0	14,9	22,6	19,0
Vocational secondary	10,9	22,3	14,9	15,4	15,2
Post-secondary vocational	14,9	14,6	6,6	13,1	14,8
Higher	13,1	13,5	13,5	12,7	13,3
Marital status					
Married	12,4	18,4	15,6	14,8	15,1
Cohabitation	12,0	19,4	16,9	12,7	15,1
Divorced/separated	19,5	20,7	20,1	20,3	20,2
Solitary	13,2	15,9	12,7	16,2	14,1
Widow	0,0	22,8	8,7	23,2	18,4
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	18,3	25,4	17,4	26,2	21,4
Quintile II	17,2	23,5	20,8	20,2	20,4
Quintile III	14,7	20,4	18,1	16,8	17,4
Quintile IV	7,3	12,8	13,2	5,2	9,5
Quintile V	14,6	18,6	15,1	17,8	16,3
Number of children in care					
0	12,7	13,9	11,8	15,3	13,0
1	13,0	18,6	17,4	12,7	15,4
2	14,1	19,2	16,3	16,9	16,7
3+	12,3	20,4	18,3	15,5	16,5
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	14,0	19,2	17,2	15,2	16,4
Post-lockdown	12,8	18,3	14,6	15,7	15,2

11.5. Difficulties in balancing work and family life for employed people with young children (0-10 years old)

Combining work and family life is particularly important for families with children, especially those raising and educating young children.

The GGS data revealed that more than half of employed women with children aged 0-10 (53.4%) come home from work too tired to do housework (*Table 11.5.6*). Regionally, there is a higher share of urban women with such difficulties: more than 2 out of 3 urban women with young children (67.4%) compared to every second rural woman (54.7%). However, tiredness affects a higher share of men with young children: about 5 out of 8 men (61.7%), with urban men (5 out of 8 or 61.9%) being the most affected.

Having difficulty fulfilling family tasks due to long working hours is characteristic for every second man with young children (50.3%) and for about 2 out of 5 women with young children (39.2%). For both women and men, the share of urban dwellers having such difficulties is higher: 46.2% for men and 54.4% for women.

Fatigue due to housework is more strongly felt by men with young children (more than 1 in 4 or 27.9%). For women, about 1 in 5 (19.2%) arrive at work too tired from housework to function in job. At the same time, more rural women with young children (28.8%) than urban women (27.1%) report having this difficulty. For men, the situation is reversed, with urban dwellers being more tired of housework (22.3%) than the rural men (16.2%).

Family responsibilities and problems affect the ability to concentrate at work for about 1 in 4 men (24.0%) and 2 in 13 women (15.8%). The share of rural women with this kind of difficulty is insignificantly higher (by 1.3 p.p. or 24.7%) than that of urban women (23.4%). For men, on the other hand, urban dwellers (19.6%) are more at risk than rural dwellers (12.3%).

TABLE 11.5.1. Distribution of employed women and men with children aged 0-10 years who in the last 3 months at least several times a week/month faced the following situations, in %

	Women with children aged 0-10 years			Men with children aged 0-10 years		
	At least several times a week/month			De cel puțin câteva ori pe săptămână/lună		
	Total	Rural ¹	Urban ²	Total	Rural ³	Urban ⁴
I came home from work too tired to do any housework.	53,4	54,7	67,4	61,7	5,2	61,9
I found it difficult to fulfil my family duties because of too much time spent at work.	39,2	45,0	54,4	50,3	32,5	46,2
I arrived at work too tired from housework to function well in job.	19,2	28,8	27,1	27,9	16,2	22,3
I found it difficult to concentrate at work because of my family responsibilities and problems.	15,8	24,7	23,4	24,0	12,3	19,6

11.6. The influence of the Covid-19 pandemic on work

The GGS found that work was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Only 2.0% of all respondents indicated that the pandemic period had a positive impact on their work, including their work schedule⁶⁴. This opinion is particularly prevalent among young people (15-24 years), with a higher share among women and those with 1 child or no children.

However, the highest share – 45.8% – is that of respondents whose work was negatively affected by the Covid-19 pandemic (*Table 11.6.1*). Women (47.9%) and urban dwellers (49.8%) were particularly affected.

People aged 35-49 years indicated a higher proportion of their work being negatively affected. Also, every 2nd woman aged 60-64 has suffered as a result of the pandemic (for men of this age it is only 1 in 4).

Regionally, the share is higher among people from the northern region (48.9%), especially among women. People in quintiles I and II also felt the negative influence of the pandemic more strongly (51.8% on average) compared to those with high levels of income (quintiles IV and V) (44.7% on average).

⁶⁴ Data obtained from the question 'How has Covid-19 affected the following aspects of your life and that of your family? ...Your work, including the working hours'.

TABLE 11.6.1. Distribution of employed women and men aged 15-64 whose work, including work schedule, was negatively affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total age group 15-64 years	44,2	47,9	49,8	42,5	45,8
Age group					
15-19	36,4	30,8	31,7	37,6	34,4
20-24	46,8	50,0	48,3	47,3	47,8
25-29	38,2	50,6	41,0	44,2	42,5
30-34	48,5	43,6	43,8	50,2	46,7
35-39	55,6	46,5	58,5	43,9	51,7
40-44	49,0	51,0	62,9	42,5	50,0
45-49	44,6	51,7	53,9	45,8	48,4
50-54	35,5	49,6	53,7	37,9	43,4
55-59	33,6	43,2	47,7	33,2	38,5
60-64	25,0	50,0	45,7	27,7	33,7
Region					
Chisinau	43,1	45,7	45,1	39,8	44,2
North	47,4	50,4	52,4	44,6	48,9
Centre	46,1	47,8	65,5	42,0	46,8
South	40,5	49,4	46,0	43,8	44,3
Education					
Primary	26,0	0,0	34,2	24,6	25,2
Lower secondary	46,1	41,0	57,3	39,7	44,1
Secundar general	50,3	50,0	55,7	46,8	50,2
Vocational secondary	35,2	51,4	44,2	39,3	41,1
Post-secondary vocational	50,4	44,6	58,6	38,6	47,5
Higher	45,5	51,0	45,2	55,7	48,2

Marital status					
Married	43,4	46,4	47,6	42,9	44,7
Cohabitation	39,3	50,0	53,8	30,9	43,5
Divorced/separated	54,9	53,9	59,3	48,0	54,3
Solitary	46,8	49,3	50,6	43,9	47,7
Widow	47,8	42,4	53,2	40,0	43,6
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	38,7	52,4	39,4	56,0	47,1
Quintile II	50,4	61,9	59,9	54,6	56,3
Quintile III	42,3	46,0	48,3	41,5	44,0
Quintile IV	43,9	39,9	38,2	46,2	42,3
Quintile V	45,3	49,4	54,9	38,1	47,0
Number of children in care					
0	46,5	49,9	48,3	46,2	47,5
1	45,0	53,9	50,9	46,4	48,8
2	44,2	44,5	49,4	41,2	44,3
3+	38,7	47,6	52,7	39,5	43,4

11.7. Decisions on time spent in paid work

Decisions on time spent in paid work in most households are made by mutual agreement (*Table 11.7.1*). Decisions about one's own time are made in relatively similar proportions by both men (37.2%) and women (34.8%). The share of women deciding on their own time in paid work is lower for the 20-39 age group, especially after the birth of their first child. For age groups 39-79 the shares for men and women are similar.

It is worth noting that during the pandemic period the percentage of women deciding on their own time in paid work decreased by 2.3 p.p., while for men the share increased by 1 p.p.

In the case of those who decide how their partners/spouses should spend their time in paid work, we see that their share is much lower, with men and women almost equally represented – 7.6% for men and 8.3% for women.

TABLE 11.7.1. Distribution of married or cohabiting people who ‘always’ or ‘usually’ decide on their own and their partner’s time in paid work, in %

	I decide on my own time in paid work		Decide on partner’s time in paid work	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Total	37,2	34,8	7,6	8,3
Age group				
15-19	33,3	28,6	0,0	4,8
20-24	47,1	25,7	3,9	6,9
25-29	40,0	31,3	5,7	6,6
30-34	37,4	35,9	10,5	8,8
35-39	39,4	35,1	10,3	6,9
40-44	37,7	35,2	5,9	6,6
45-49	37,6	37,0	6,6	11,5
50-54	43,1	39,9	5,7	9,1
55-59	34,2	36,0	5,5	6,3
60-64	30,2	34,9	9,1	9,7
65-69	29,3	36,1	6,6	12,2
70-74	37,1	34,1	9,6	10,8
75-79	28,1	28,3	7,3	13,3
Region				
Chisinau	43,3	37,2	5,4	5,3
North	37,1	37,3	10,3	7,6
Centre	44,5	39,0	4,1	7,1
South	24,6	23,9	11,2	12,7

Education				
Primary	59,1	24,4	5,6	15,1
Lower secondary	29,1	29,7	9,3	10,0
General secondary	28,2	31,0	11,0	8,3
Vocational secondary	42,6	37,0	6,6	8,0
Post-secondary vocational	35,9	41,9	4,8	8,7
Higher	44,9	37,4	6,2	5,6
Marital status				
Married	37,2	35,0	7,5	8,4
Cohabitation	36,8	33,2	7,9	7,7
Occupational status				
Employee	40,1	41,1	6,8	8,8
Self-employed	53,6	52,3	7,1	5,9
Retired	31,0	34,0	7,0	9,8
Unemployed	29,3	27,2	10,6	9,1
Another situation	32,6	30,5	7,9	7,1
Welfare quintile				
Quintile I	23,4	30,4	10,9	15,2
Quintile II	43,9	38,5	9,0	11,2
Quintile III	44,8	38,8	10,4	8,3
Quintile IV	32,8	34,2	6,8	9,0
Quintile V	30,5	30,2	2,9	6,5
Number of children in care				
0	35,1	33,4	5,9	11,4
1	40,3	32,4	8,6	7,9
2	38,3	36,0	7,6	8,7
3+	34,0	34,7	7,5	7,4
Covid				
Pre-lockdown	36,5	36,4	5,5	8,7
Post-lockdown	37,5	34,1	8,5	8,1

11.8. Attitudes towards parental employment

Despite the existence of the regulatory framework, which encourages the reconciliation of family and work responsibilities, the problem of addressing the impact of maternal employment on the pre-school child persists in society. This is confirmed by the survey data.

According to the GGS data, 74.2% of people partially or fully agree that a child up to the age of 3 may suffer if the mother works, with a higher share in rural areas and among women (*Table 11.8.1.*).

In relation to age, there is a lower share of respondents in the 15-19 age group, especially in rural areas, with the number of respondents increasing with age. The distribution by economic-geographical region shows a higher share of people from the northern region, especially from rural areas, with the lowest share in Chisinau municipality.

A prevalent number of respondents sharing this view is found among people with general secondary education, especially from rural areas. By occupational status, the unemployed have a higher share, while the self-employed have a lower share.

Gender differences being 2.6% in favour of women, they manifest themselves to a small extent in relation to some specific variables. Among the men who support this idea, those in the 30-34 age group, from the northern region, with post-secondary vocational education, the divorced, as well as the married, the unemployed, in quintile I are numerically more prevalent. Among the women who support this idea, those in the age group 60-64 years, from the central region, with secondary general and secondary vocational education, the married, the unemployed, in quintile V are numerically more prevalent. Thus, among both men and women we see a direct correlation between the stance that a child up to the age of 3 may suffer if the mother works, and the occupational status, the level of education and the family status.

As a result of the impact of Covid-19, the number of people sharing this view is increasing among both rural and urban dwellers, both men and women.

TABLE 11.8.1. Distribution of women and men aged 15 to 79 who partially or completely agree that a child up to 3 years old may suffer if their mother works, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	72,8	75,4	73,2	74,7	74,2
Age group					
15-19	61,5	69,5	70,1	62,6	65,4
20-24	72,6	76,0	70,4	77,5	74,3
25-29	71,1	74,8	70,0	74,9	72,9
30-34	79,2	75,1	74,7	79,2	77,1
35-39	74,7	74,5	72,4	76,3	74,6
40-44	70,1	74,8	74,6	71,3	72,5
45-49	72,1	76,5	71,7	75,6	74,4
50-54	72,5	77,7	68,2	78,3	75,3
55-59	75,1	77,6	79,5	75,1	76,5
60-64	73,7	78,9	75,9	76,9	76,6
65-69	70,9	74,9	75,4	72,4	73,3
70-74	71,2	70,7	75,1	68,9	70,9
75-79	78,0	76,4	80,0	75,7	76,9
Region					
Chisinau	70,7	74,1	71,3	78,0	72,5
North	76,3	74,2	73,9	76,0	75,1
Centre	70,1	77,5	76,5	73,4	74,0
South	74,9	74,6	73,1	75,4	74,8
Education					
Primary	41,7	59,6	66,5	45,9	50,2
Lower secondary	73,9	74,3	72,2	74,7	74,1
General secondary	76,1	77,8	73,4	79,1	77,0
Vocational secondary	72,8	77,4	73,0	75,6	74,9
Post-secondary vocational	74,2	74,7	73,9	75,0	74,5
Higher	72,5	76,4	74,2	75,7	74,7

Marital status					
Married	74,3	76,8	74,1	76,5	75,7
Cohabitation	67,7	74,9	70,1	72,1	71,4
Divorced/separated	74,6	74,5	75,5	73,8	74,6
Solitary	69,9	73,5	71,1	71,6	71,4
Widow	71,9	73,6	75,2	72,5	73,2
Occupational status					
Employee	74,2	75,7	72,7	77,0	74,9
Self-employed	63,2	72,4	73,8	59,6	65,0
Retired	71,8	76,1	76,4	73,9	74,6
Unemployed	80,0	77,3	75,8	80,5	79,1
Another situation	69,4	74,6	70,9	73,4	72,6
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	76,1	70,6	73,6	73,3	73,4
Quintile II	75,3	76,0	71,5	77,2	75,7
Quintile III	71,0	73,9	71,7	72,9	72,5
Quintile IV	66,8	74,9	71,1	71,3	71,3
Quintile V	72,7	76,8	75,2	74,7	74,9

According to the GGS data, 75.1% of the total number of respondents partially or fully agree that a working mother can establish just as warm and secure a relationship with her children as a mother who does not work (*Table 11.8.2.*).

In terms of age, there is a higher share among 15–19-year-olds, especially from rural areas, with numbers decreasing with age. The breakdown by economic-geographical regions shows a higher share of people of this opinion living in the southern region.

A numerical prevalence of respondents sharing this view is found among the highly educated. By occupational status, unemployed people have a higher share, while pensioners have a lower share.

Gender differences being generally minimal, they manifest themselves to a small extent in relation to some specific variables. Among those supporting this idea, we find mainly men and women in the age group 15-19 years, men mainly from the southern region, women from the southern, northern regions and Chisinau, men with primary education, women with higher and primary education, married men, divorced and widowed women, self-employed men, employed women, both men and women in the high income quintile (IV).

Thus, for both men and women we see a direct correlation between the acceptance that a working mother can establish a warm and secure relationship with her children and the economic well-being.

As a result of the impact of Covid-19, the number of people who share this view is increasing, both among urban and rural residents, among men and women.

TABLE 11.8.2. Percentage distribution of women and men aged 15 to 79 who ‘partly’ or ‘fully agree’ that ‘a working mother can establish just as warm and secure a relationship with her children as a mother who does not work’, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	75,4	74,8	75,0	75,1	75,1
Age group					
15-19	82,1	81,3	80,8	82,3	81,7
20-24	69,8	73,2	67,5	74,8	71,5
25-29	76,5	76,8	74,1	78,5	76,7
30-34	80,8	76,6	80,8	76,8	78,7
35-39	75,0	74,7	75,5	74,3	74,8
40-44	71,5	74,8	71,7	73,9	73,2
45-49	76,2	74,3	76,7	74,6	75,2
50-54	74,8	75,5	74,0	75,7	75,2
55-59	74,5	71,4	75,0	71,8	72,8
60-64	71,1	73,6	71,5	72,9	72,5
65-69	76,1	71,7	72,4	74,0	73,5
70-74	70,2	72,6	72,7	71,2	71,6
75-79	74,2	77,6	79,8	75,1	76,5
Region					
Chisinau	71,7	75,4	74,5	70,0	73,7
North	73,3	75,4	75,9	73,6	74,5
Centre	75,7	73,6	72,9	75,0	74,6
South	78,5	75,5	77,0	77,1	77,1

Education					
Primary	92,6	78,1	74,3	88,9	85,8
Lower secondary	77,1	73,3	74,1	75,4	75,1
General secondary	73,3	73,5	74,8	72,7	73,5
Vocational secondary	71,7	73,4	71,0	73,1	72,5
Post-secondary vocational	76,8	75,3	76,2	75,7	75,9
Higher	74,9	79,1	77,4	77,1	77,3
Marital status					
Married	76,4	74,7	75,5	75,5	75,5
Cohabitation	72,8	72,8	74,4	71,8	72,8
Divorced/separated	68,7	76,6	71,5	73,8	72,7
Solitary	75,8	75,0	75,2	75,7	75,5
Widow	73,6	76,5	77,4	75,3	75,8
Occupational status					
Employee	75,7	78,0	75,9	77,8	76,8
Self-employed	76,5	78,0	73,8	78,7	76,8
Retired	73,5	72,9	73,1	73,1	73,1
Unemployed	77,8	76,4	77,8	77,2	77,4
Another situation	73,6	73,2	73,9	73,1	73,3
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	75,7	74,1	73,9	75,3	74,9
Quintile II	74,5	74,7	72,7	75,3	74,6
Quintile III	76,3	75,3	72,8	77,4	75,8
Quintile IV	77,9	76,2	77,3	76,8	77,0
Quintile V	71,3	72,6	76,3	68,5	72,0



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12. HOUSING AND HOUSEHOLDS

12.1. Housing characteristics and housing satisfaction of the population

According to GGS data, of the total respondents, 72.3% live in detached houses, 3% – in row houses and 23.8% – in block apartments (*Table 12.1.1*). In urban areas most people live in apartment blocks, with a share of 60.6%, followed by 33.1% living in detached houses and 4.6% living in row houses. According to NBS data, 68.9% of the urban population lives in block apartments, and 26.9% in detached houses.

According to the GGS, most rural people live in detached houses – 95.1%, while the share of those living in other types of housing is very low – 4.9%.

By age, we find a large number of respondents (70%) aged 15-19 living in detached houses, which means that they live with their parents. In the next age category (20-24 years) the share is already 10% lower, after which there is an upward trend in the number of respondents living in such houses. Most respondents living in a block of flats are aged up to 39, with the share decreasing after this age. Older people (55 years old) live more in row houses.

By region, there are significant differences, with the least respondents living in detached houses being from Chisinau – 17.2%. In the north of the country almost three quarters of respondents live in detached houses (72.6%), while in the central region there are 85.2% and in the southern region – 90.2%. Of all respondents living in apartments, three quarters live in Chisinau, one quarter – in the centre of the country, 13.3% – in the northern region and 4.6% reside in the southern region. The least number of respondents living in row houses are from the centre of the country.

By level of education, we find that people with lower levels of education live to a greater extent in detached houses. Nearly half of the respondents with higher education (48.9%) live in apartments, while those with primary, secondary and vocational secondary education have the lowest shares.

Analysis by marital status reveals that widowed and married respondents live in detached houses the most. The share of widows living in apartment blocks is only 15.3%, and of married people – 21.3%. Among single and cohabiting people, the share is just over a quarter, and for divorced/separated people – 31.6%.

By occupational status, it is found that employees are the ones who live the least in detached houses, mostly living in flats.

Analysis reveals that as the prosperity level increases, the share of people living in apartments increases. At the same time, those in quintile V stand out with the lowest share of those living in detached houses.

TABLE 12.1.1. distribution of the population by type of dwelling, in %

	Urban			Rural			Total		
	Private house	Terraced house	Apartment in a multistory building	Private house	Terraced house	Apartment in a multistory building	Private house	Terraced house	Apartment in a multistory building
Total*	33,1	4,6	60,6	95,1	2	2,5	72,3	3	23,8
Age group									
15-19	31,2	2,6	64,1	93,3	2,3	3,8	70	2,4	26,5
20-24	16,1	3,5	74,7	96,2	1,1	2,5	60	2,2	35,2
25-29	20,6	5,6	71,6	94,8	1,8	3,3	63,8	3,4	31,8
30-34	26,1	4,9	67,2	93,8	1	4,7	62,4	2,8	33,7
35-39	29	3,2	66,9	95,4	1,7	2,7	66,6	2,3	30,6
40-44	41,2	4,2	54,2	95,1	1,9	2,2	76,2	2,7	20,5
45-49	41,5	2,8	54,1	95,8	1,2	2,2	79,4	1,7	17,9
50-54	41,1	3,6	54,4	97,7	1,4	0,7	80,8	2,1	16,8
55-59	39,2	7,7	51,7	96,1	2,4	1,1	78,1	4,1	17,1
60-64	47	8,4	44,2	95,7	1,8	2,4	81,9	3,7	14,2
65-69	52,2	5,1	41,9	94,8	3,5	1,4	82,2	4	13,4
70-74	47,2	4,4	48,2	93,2	4	2,4	78,4	4,2	17,2
75-79	43,1	6,1	50,6	91,4	6,8	1,4	77,3	6,6	15,8
Region									
Chisinau	7,9	4,3	83,8	59,2	1,3	39,3	17,2	3,8	75,8
North	36,8	6,6	56,1	98,9	0,6	0,3	72,6	3,1	24
Centre	31,5	0,2	68,2	97,7	1,3	0,5	85,2	1,1	13,3
South	78,2	6,9	14,6	94,7	4,2	0,9	90,2	4,9	4,6

Education									
Primary	55	10,1	34,8	55	5,8	0,8	85,2	6,7	8
Lower secondary	43,3	6,1	49,4	43,3	3,1	2,2	82,6	3,8	13
General secondary	33,2	2,9	62,6	33,2	1,7	2,4	72,9	2,1	24,3
Vocational secondary	38,8	4,4	55,3	38,8	0,9	2	79,4	1,9	17,9
Post-secondary vocational	32,9	4,9	59,8	32,9	1,2	2,6	68,1	2,8	27,9
Higher	22,3	4,5	71,4	22,3	1,3	5,5	46,4	3,4	48,9
Marital status									
Married	35,5	5,1	58,1	96,1	1,6	2,1	75,3	2,8	21,3
Cohabitation	28,9	5,4	63,3	93,8	1,7	3,2	68,8	3,1	26,4
Divorced/ separated	31	5,9	62	92,5	3,2	4,1	63,3	4,5	31,6
Solitary	30,2	3,2	64	95,6	2,1	1,9	70,3	2,6	25,9
Widow	44,9	5,2	49,2	91,8	5,1	2,9	79,2	5,2	15,3
Occupational status									
Employee	27,6	3,7	66,3	94,3	1,2	4,2	61,3	2,4	35
Self-employed	28,3	4,4	66,2	96,4	1,8	1,4	70,6	2,8	26
Retired	48,3	5,9	45,2	94,5	3,2	2,1	81	4	14,7
Unemployed	45,6	5,6	47,7	96,2	1,2	2,1	81	2,5	15,8
Another situation	28,9	5,1	64,5	95,5	2,3	1,8	74,8	3,1	21,3
Welfare quintile									
Quintile I	46,7	10,2	42,5	88,5	8,7	1,9	76	9,1	14
Quintile II	46,1	3,6	49,5	95,7	2,7	1,1	82,8	2,9	13,7
Quintile III	37,8	3,6	57,8	96,6	1,6	1,4	75,7	2,3	21,5
Quintile IV	29,2	5,8	63	96,6	0,1	3,1	73,8	2	23,4
Quintile V	22,2	4,8	69,7	95,4	0,3	4,2	62,7	2,3	33,4

* The total does not add up to 100% because the rest of the population lives in shelters and other types of housing.

According to the survey data, 6.8% of respondents mentioned that they rent accommodation, 86.7% indicated that the accommodation they live in is privately owned and 5.4% have free accommodation/housing provided free of charge (*Table 12.1.2*). According to NBS data, 95.6% of the population live in their own home.

Renting a dwelling is more characteristic of urban households (15.2%) than rural households (1.9%). Thus, the share of rural respondents who said that their households own a dwelling is much higher than that of urban respondents, at 91.5% and 78.6% respectively. According to NBS data, the share of rural dwellers owning their own home is 99.1%, while that of urban dwellers is 90%.

Young people up to the age of 39 were most likely to report renting accommodation. Over the course of a lifetime, most people manage to buy their own home, so the share of people over 50 renting is very low. Since most young people still live with their parents at the age of 15-19, their share is higher than in the latter age group (20-24). After the age of 25, more than two thirds of respondents already live in their own homes. The highest share of respondents having rent-free accommodation is found among 20–34-year-olds.

Of the total population from Chisinau municipality, more than one fifth of households rent a dwelling, while in the other regions of the country (southern, central, northern) the shares are very low, varying between 3.5 and 4.3%. In Chisinau, 70.9% of the people surveyed live in their own homes, while in the other regions the shares are almost 10% higher. In Chisinau, the share of respondents living in free accommodation/free housing/rent-free accommodation amounts to 7.2%, in the central region – 6.2%, in the northern region – 5.1% and in the southern region – 3.6%.

The data according to the respondents' level of education varies from one category to another, and the above-mentioned three situations are characteristic of the population with different levels of education. The analysis by marital status shows that most renting households are cohabiting households – one fifth of them, while households with widowed and married respondents live predominantly in their own home.

By occupational status, most retired people live in their own homes and most employed people rent their households.

Analysis by level of prosperity reveals that households in quintile V are least likely to live in their own home and most likely to rent.

TABLE 12.1.2. Breakdown of responses to the question whether the respondents' household owns the dwelling, rents it or uses it free of charge, in %

	Urban			Rural			Total		
	Rented dwelling	Private ownership	Free accommodation/ accommodation provided free of charge	Rented dwelling	Private ownership	Free accommodation/ accommodation provided free of charge	Rented dwelling	Private ownership	Free accommodation/ accommodation provided free of charge
Total*	15,2	78,6	5,1	1,9	91,5	5,7	6,8	86,7	5,4
Age group									
15-19	30,3	63,8	5,1	3	88,7	5,8	13,3	79,3	5,6
20-24	46,9	45,3	7,7	2,7	81	13,4	22,6	64,9	10,8
25-29	27,6	66	4,4	4,1	83,1	11,1	13,9	76	8,3
30-34	16,1	74,1	7,7	3,6	84,9	10,5	9,4	79,9	9,2
35-39	12,2	80,7	5,6	4,8	88,4	6,2	8	85,1	5,9
40-44	11,6	81,5	6,2	1,5	91,9	5,5	5	88,2	5,8
45-49	4,4	90,6	3,9	1	93,9	4,8	2	92,9	4,5
50-54	4,3	91,5	3,1	0,2	96,5	3,2	1,4	95	3,2
55-59	2,6	94,1	2,5	0,9	96,5	2	1,4	95,8	2,2
60-64	1	95,8	1,9	0,1	97,5	1,9	0,3	97	1,9
65-69	0,4	96,5	2,9	0,1	98,7	0,9	0,2	98,1	1,5
70-74	0,0	95,9	1,8	0,3	96,6	2,9	0,2	96,4	2,6
75-79	0	94,5	5,4	0	99,1	0,5	0	97,8	2
Region									
Chisinau	24,8	68,1	6,3	5,4	83,3	21,3	6,3	70,9	7,2
North	8,3	86,9	3,8	1,2	91,8	4,3	3,8	89,7	5,1
Centre	15,5	79	5,2	1,2	91,2	3,9	5,2	88,9	6,2
South	5,2	87,5	4,1	2,9	92,9	3,5	4,1	91,5	3,6

Education									
Primary	4,2	90,6	5,1	0,8	96,3	2,1	1,5	95,1	2,7
Lower secondary	18,3	73,7	6,3	3,2	88,8	6,8	6,7	85,3	6,7
General secondary	21,7	73,4	4,2	1,2	92,9	5,1	8,6	85,8	4,8
Vocational secondary	14,5	79,2	4,9	1,5	91,2	6,6	5,4	87,6	6,1
Post-secondary vocational	13,2	82,2	4,1	0,9	94,8	4	6,3	89,2	4
Higher	11,9	81,1	5,5	1,1	92,9	4,1	8,2	85,2	5,1
Marital status									
Married	8,8	86,5	3,7	1,3	94,1	4,2	3,9	91,5	4
Cohabitation	37,4	53,5	7,6	9,4	76,3	13	20,2	67,5	11
Divorced/separated	9,6	81,6	8	1	91,3	6,8	5,1	86,7	7,3
Solitary	21,2	72	4,9	1,3	89,6	6,8	9	82,8	6,1
Widow	0,6	96,4	2,7	0,6	96	2,8	0,6	96,1	2,8
Occupational status									
Employee	19,4	74,8	5	1,7	92,3	5,2	10,5	83,6	5,1
Self-employed	14,7	78,4	6,7	1,8	91,9	6,2	6,7	86,8	6,4
Retired	0,5	96,4	2,3	0,3	97,9	1,4	0,3	97,5	1,7
Unemployed	10,3	82,4	4,7	2,2	89,5	7,5	4,7	87,3	6,6
Another situation	18,8	73	6,6	3	87,7	7,8	7,9	83,1	7,4
Welfare quintile									
Quintile I	7,7	84,8	5	1,4	91,5	6,6	3,3	89,5	6,1
Quintile II	10,4	83,8	3,9	1,7	92,9	4,4	3,9	90,5	4,3
Quintile III	15	79,2	4,3	1,1	93,4	4,9	6	88,4	4,7
Quintile IV	9,1	88	2,3	1,8	93	4,4	4,3	91,3	3,7
Quintile V	20,6	71,7	6,7	3	88,2	8,4	10,9	80,8	7,6

* The total does not add up to 100% because the rest of the respondents chose other answers which added up to very low percentages.

Overall, respondents are satisfied with the dwelling they live in, their share being 87.2%. Satisfaction level was measured using a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means 'not at all satisfied', 10 means 'very satisfied' and 5 means 'neither satisfied nor dissatisfied'. Those respondents who rated their satisfaction level with values from 8 to 10 were considered satisfied.

12.2. Change of residence/address and migratory movement

Of all respondents, 14.7% stated that they had changed their residence/address within the country in the last three years (*Table 12.2.1*). Urban respondents accounted for almost a quarter and rural respondent for 9%. Gender differences in this respect are not significant, with 15.1% for women and 14.2% for men. In the 15-19 age group, the share of those who have moved within the country is 18.8%, and in the next age group 20-24 it more than doubles – 41.9%. In most cases, young people at this age move within the country to continue their studies. Although there is a downward trend after this age, high percentages are also found in the 25-39 age group. In Chisinau, the share of respondents who changed their residence within the country is more than one third, in the northern region – 13.5%, in the central region – 11% and in the southern region – 8.3%. In Chisinau, most respondents who changed their residence did it within the city. Respondents with higher education, those in cohabitation and those in quintile V stand out with the highest shares in this respect. Retirees stand out with the lowest share.

TABLE 12.2.1. Population that has changed residence/address in the last 3 years within the country, in%

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	14,2	15,1	24,5	9	14,7
Grupe de vârstă					
15-19	15,3	22,6	34,6	9,2	18,8
20-24	37,1	46,9	60,6	26,6	41,9
25-29	26,5	33,8	40,7	22,5	30,1
30-34	23,6	26,2	32,8	18	24,9
35-39	15,9	19,1	26,4	10,7	17,5
40-44	10,8	7,6	17,1	5	9,2
45-49	7,6	7,2	11,8	5,5	7,4
50-54	4,3	3,9	7,8	2,4	4,1
55-59	3,1	4	6	2,5	3,6
60-64	2,6	2,6	3,3	2,3	2,6
65-69	1,2	2,8	4	1,3	2,1
70-74	2,1	1,8	3,4	1,2	1,9
75-79	0,6	1,2	2,7	0,2	1

Region					
Chisinau	34,4	33,6	37,4	18,3	34
North	14,9	12,4	16,6	11,2	13,5
Centre	10,6	11,4	24,1	7,9	11
South	6,4	10,4	10,2	7,6	8,3
Education					
Primary	9,1	6,1	4,2	8,6	7,7
Lower secondary	12,7	14,6	23	10,9	13,7
General secondary	15,2	14,1	26	8,1	14,6
Vocational secondary	10,1	13,4	20,6	7,8	11,6
Post-secondary vocational	10,3	13,4	19,5	6,1	12
Higher	27,5	21,9	31	11,4	24,4
Marital status					
Married	11,9	13,7	21,8	8,3	12,9
Cohabitation	30,4	36,4	49,7	23,3	33,5
Divorced/separated	10,7	16,8	19,8	8,4	13,8
Solitary	12,9	13,8	23,9	6,6	13,3
Widow	5,3	2,7	3,7	3,1	3,3
Occupational status					
Employee	21,1	16,3	28,7	9,1	18,8
Self-employed	20,8	11,8	25,1	15,4	19,1
Retired	1,8	2,5	3,9	1,6	2,3
Unemployed	11,4	15,6	20,9	9,3	12,8
Another situation	11,2	22,5	30,8	12,4	18,1
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	8,1	12,4	17,2	7,2	10,2
Quintile II	10,6	8,6	16,2	7,1	9,5
Quintile III	12,6	15,9	24,8	8,5	14,3
Quintile IV	12,3	12,1	18,9	8,8	12,2
Quintile V	19,6	19,6	31,4	10,1	19,6

Of all the people interviewed, 13.7% intend to move within the country in the next 3 years (Table 12.2.2). Urban respondents (22%) are more likely to do so than rural respondents (8.9%). The share of men with this intention is higher than that of women by almost 2%. This intention is reported by almost a third of 15-19- and 20–24-year-olds, a quarter of 25–29-year-olds, a fifth of 30-34 year olds and 15.5% of 35-39 year olds. After this age, the share of respondents intending to move within the country is less than 8%. It is necessary to point out that out of all the people interviewed in Chisinau municipality, 28.8% intend to change their residence in the next 3 years, most often within the city limits.

Respondents living in the northern region intending to change their residence/address within the next 3 years account for 13.7%, and those living in the central and southern regions – for just over 9%. People with higher education, cohabiting and single people stood out with the highest shares in terms of intention to move within the country in the next 3 years. Retirees stood out with the lowest share in this respect. By level of prosperity, we find that this trend is characteristic of all categories, with a higher share of those in quintile V.

TABLE 12.2.2. Share of population intending to change residence/address within the country in the next 3 years, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	14,7	12,8	22	8,9	13,7
Age groups					
15-19	31	34,3	37,2	29,8	32,6
20-24	34	35,1	43,9	26,9	34,5
25-29	25	23,5	32,5	18,4	24,2
30-34	20,1	19,2	29,1	11,5	19,7
35-39	17,4	13,5	24	9	15,5
40-44	7,8	8,1	15,1	4,1	8
45-49	10,7	5	13,7	5,2	7,7
50-54	4,6	7,1	14	2,5	5,9
55-59	4,4	4,6	8,4	2,7	4,5
60-64	2	2,9	4,7	1,7	2,5
65-69	2,8	2,2	5,5	1,2	2,5
70-74	1,4	2,4	2,9	1,6	2
75-79	2,4	2,4	4,1	1,7	2,4

Region					
Chisinau	32,6	25,3	31,1	18,1	28,8
North	13,4	13,9	17,2	11,1	13,7
Centre	10,3	8,8	17,4	7,7	9,5
South	10,4	8,9	14,6	7,9	9,7
Education					
Primary	10,1	8,3	23,6	5,4	9,3
Lower secondary	15	10,3	24,2	9,1	12,6
General secondary	16,9	12,3	21,5	10,3	14,4
Vocational secondary	9,3	12,4	18,8	7,2	10,7
Post-secondary vocational	12,6	12,2	17,5	8,3	12,4
Higher	23,6	19	25,5	12,4	21
Marital status					
Married	9,6	9,9	18,4	5,3	9,8
Cohabitation	23,7	19,9	33,2	14,6	21,8
Divorced/separated	11,6	12,9	17,4	7,7	12,3
Solitary	20,1	19,2	24,3	16,9	19,7
Widow	4,6	3,4	6,2	2,7	3,7
Occupational status					
Employee	17,7	14,7	23,4	9,3	16,3
Self-employed	15,4	12,6	31,4	4,8	14,9
Retired	1,6	2,6	4,2	1,5	2,3
Unemployed	16,9	14,2	23,7	12,7	16
Another situation	15,7	17,7	27,1	12,3	16,9
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	12	13,3	21,7	8,8	12,7
Quintile II	10,9	8,1	12,6	8,1	9,3
Quintile III	13,5	12,5	20,7	8,7	13
Quintile IV	14,8	12,9	24,9	8	13,7
Quintile V	17,9	15,4	25,8	9,1	16,6

The share of the population having lived abroad in the last three years is only 0.9% (Table 12.2.3.). The share of urban dwellers who have lived abroad in the last three years is 1.6%, and that of rural dwellers – 0.4%. The share of men who have lived abroad in the last three years is 1.1%, and that of women – 0.7%. Analysis by age reveals that after the age of 50 the share of respondents who have lived abroad (in another country) in the last three years decreases. Regionally, most people who have lived abroad (in another country) in the last three years are from Chisinau.

TABLE 12.2.3. Share of population having lived abroad in the last 3 years, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	1,1	0,7	1,6	0,4	0,9
Age group					
15-19	0,9	0,9	2,5	0,0	0,9
20-24	1,5	0,3	1,7	0,3	0,9
25-29	1,5	1,1	2,8	0,2	1,3
30-34	2,4	1,7	2,9	1,2	2
35-39	1,7	0,9	1,8	0,9	1,3
40-44	1,1	0,7	1,4	0,6	0,9
45-49	1	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,8
50-54	0,3	0,9	1,2	0,3	0,6
55-59	0,2	0	0,3	0	0,1
60-64	0,1	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,2
65-69	0	0,1	0,2	0	0
70-74	0	0,1	0,3	0	0,1
75-79	0	0	0	0	0
Region					
Chisinau	3,1	2,4	3,2	1	2,8
North	1	0,4	1,1	0,3	0,7
Centre	0,7	0,3	0,4	0,5	0,4
South	0,4	0,3	0,4	0,3	0,3

Of all the respondents, 15.5% emphasized that they intend to move in the next three years to another country (Table 12.2.4.). The share of the city population with such an intention is higher than that of the village population, being 21% and 12.3%, respectively. Also, Men have the intention to emigrate in the next three years to a greater extent than Women, the proportion being 18.8% and 12.4% respectively. In the age groups 15-19 years and 20-24 years the proportion of the population that

intend to emigrate in the next three years is around a third, and in the next two age categories (25-29 and 30-34 years) – around a quarter. Although in the age range of 35-44 years there is a tendency to decrease, however, high values are attested: of 15-17%. After 45 years, the share of those with such an intention drops below 9%.

The respondents from the municipality of Chisinau stood out with the highest share (26%) of those who intend to emigrate in the next three years compared to the other regions where the share is 12-14%. People with a bachelor's degree and those who are single stood out with the highest weights in terms of the intention to emigrate in the next three years. Depending on the occupational status, this intention is characteristic of all categories, except Retired. According to the level of well-being, the respondents from quintiles I and II have the least this intention..

TABLE 12.2.4. Share of population intending to move to another country in the next 3 years, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	18,8	12,4	21	12,3	15,5
Age group					
15-19	31,5	32,3	40,4	26,8	31,9
20-24	39,3	30,4	34,8	35	34,9
25-29	27,5	18,4	27,1	20,1	23
30-34	31,4	19,8	28,7	23,1	25,6
35-39	22,2	12,6	23	13,2	17,5
40-44	17,9	13,9	20,6	13,3	15,9
45-49	13,4	5,7	16,8	6,3	9,4
50-54	6,1	7,8	9,8	5,9	7
55-59	6,4	4,3	9,7	3,2	5,2
60-64	2,4	3,3	6,1	1,7	2,9
65-69	1,6	1,8	3,4	1,1	1,8
70-74	0,3	2	2,1	1	1,3
75-79	0,6	1,8	1,3	1,4	1,4

Region					
Chisinau	31,5	21,1	27,1	21,1	26
North	13,6	10,9	15,6	9,4	12,1
Centre	18,6	10	20	12,7	14,1
South	15,2	11,5	17,1	12	13,4
Education					
Primary	20,1	9,9	12,8	15,9	15,3
Lower secondary	18,2	9,7	22,9	11	13,7
General secondary	24,1	14,1	25,8	14,4	18,5
Vocational secondary	12,6	10,7	16,8	9,6	11,7
Post-secondary vocational	20,3	11,1	16,6	14,1	15,2
Higher	22,9	18,4	22,8	15,8	20,4
Marital status					
Married	15	10,4	17,5	9,9	12,5
Cohabitation	20,2	13,4	23,7	12,4	16,8
Divorced/separated	12,9	13	16,8	9,4	12,9
Solitary	26,7	19	28,4	20,5	23,6
Widow	0,4	2,4	2,8	1,7	2
Occupational status					
Employee	22	13,7	21,3	15	18,1
Self-employed	21,2	15,7	30,9	13,6	20,2
Retired	2,3	2,4	4,3	1,6	2,4
Unemployed	23,3	15,1	26,4	18,1	20,6
Another situation	19,1	17,3	26	14,3	18
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	15,2	9,4	16,7	10,5	12,3
Quintile II	14,6	8,5	11,9	10,9	11,1
Quintile III	18,3	12,5	19	13,2	15,3
Quintile IV	17,6	12,4	22,9	10,6	14,8
Quintile V	22,7	14,1	23,5	13,7	18

* To this question, the response options were – definitely not, probably not, not sure, probably yes, definitely yes. Intending to emigrate were considered those who selected the last two response options.

Of the total number of respondents, 2.3% (Table 12.2.5.) have partners born abroad (they were not **born within the current borders of the Republic of Moldova**). In urban areas, the share of people whose partners were born abroad is higher than in rural areas, with 3.2% and 1.8% respectively. By gender, we find that there are no significant differences. Analysis by age reveals that the share of people over 50 with partners born abroad is higher than for those under 50. By level of education, it is found that people with a higher level of education (post-secondary vocational and higher education) have more foreign-born partners than people with a lower level of education.

TABLE 12.2.5. Share of population with foreign-born partners, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	2,4	2,2	3,2	1,8	2,3
Age group					
15-19	0,5	0	0,6	0	0,2
20-24	0,5	2,1	0,7	1,7	1,3
25-29	1,5	1,6	1,2	1,8	1,5
30-34	1,2	2,4	1,8	1,7	1,8
35-39	3,4	1,7	3,4	1,9	2,5
40-44	2,2	3,6	4,1	2,2	2,9
45-49	1,3	2,2	2,6	1,4	1,8
50-54	2,4	3,6	5,2	2,2	3,1
55-59	4,6	2,3	6,4	1,9	3,3
60-64	4,3	2,9	6,9	2,2	3,5
65-69	4,5	2,1	4,8	2,3	3,1
70-74	4,3	2,7	6,4	1,9	3,3
75-79	7,1	0,9	2,7	3,1	3
Education					
Primary	0,8	0,3	1,1	0,4	0,6
Lower secondary	1,5	1,9	2,6	1,4	1,7
General secondary	1,3	1,8	2,1	1,2	1,5
Vocational secondary	2,7	2,2	3,8	1,9	2,4
Post-secondary vocational	3,6	2,8	3,2	3,2	3,2
Higher	4,5	2,9	4	2,8	3,6

Of all respondents, 4.1% said they had lived abroad for more than one year. The share of the population having lived abroad for more than one year is higher in urban than in rural areas, at 5.5% and 3.3% respectively (*Table 12.2.6*). The share of respondents who have lived abroad for more than one year is 4.3% for men and 3.9% for women. People in the 20-44 age group were most likely to have lived abroad for more than a year.

TABLE 12.2.6. Share of population having lived abroad for more than one year before the age of 15, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	4,3	3,9	5,5	3,3	4,1
Age group					
15-19	3,9	3,8	4,5	3,5	3,9
20-24	5,2	6,1	8	3,7	5,6
25-29	7,5	4,7	6,2	6	6,1
30-34	3,6	4,7	5,2	3,2	4,2
35-39	4,4	3,7	6,2	2,4	4
40-44	5,2	3,6	6,8	3,1	4,4
45-49	4	3,9	3,7	4,1	3,9
50-54	2,7	3,2	6,5	1,4	3
55-59	2,7	3	3	2,7	2,8
60-64	4,1	2,7	4,1	3	3,3
65-69	2,6	4	3,5	3,3	3,4
70-74	3,5	2	3,4	2,2	2,6
75-79	5,9	4,5	8,2	3,7	5

12.3. Internet access and use

According to the survey data, 69.1% of respondents indicated that their households have a fixed Internet connection (*Table 12.3.1*). The share of urban households with fixed Internet connection is 12% higher than in rural areas, at 76.7% and 64.7% respectively. According to NBS data, the share of rural households with a fixed Internet connection is 56.3%.

A higher share of female respondents indicated their household having a fixed Internet connection than men – 71.2% compared to 66.8%. Analysis by age reveals that for the most part, as age increases, the share of respondents indicating having a fixed Internet connection decrease.

Analysis by region revealed that people living in Chisinau municipality have the most households with a fixed Internet connection (78.7%), while in the other three regions (northern, southern, central) the shares amount to 66-68%. Analysis by education level shows that people with higher education have most households with a fixed Internet connection (86.9%), and people with primary (49.3%) and secondary (58.4%) education have the fewest. By marital status, we see that married respondents are most likely to have households with a fixed internet connection – over two thirds (78.2%). Analysis by occupational status shows that retirees were the least likely to report having a fixed internet connection in their homes (45.3%), while in terms of prosperity level, those in the first and second quintile stood out.

TABLE 12.3.1. Share of the population who indicated that their household has a fixed Internet connection, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	66,8	71,2	76,7	64,7	69,1
Age group					
15-19	82,1	85,1	83,9	83,3	83,5
20-24	73,6	78,7	75,9	76,3	76,1
25-29	78,5	83,3	85,9	77,2	80,8
30-34	75,9	82,3	85,3	73,6	79,1
35-39	73,8	80,4	81,1	73,9	77
40-44	67	81	79,7	71	74,1
45-49	64,2	80,1	83,1	67,7	72,4
50-54	62,3	75,6	79,3	65,1	69,4
55-59	60,9	64,2	70	59,3	62,7
60-64	51,9	56,4	64	50,7	54,5
65-69	43,6	48	54,8	42,6	46,2
70-74	41,5	37,1	48,5	34,2	38,7
75-79	24,5	20,8	30,8	18,4	22,1
Region					
Chisinau	76,8	80,4	79,1	76,7	78,7
North	64,2	67,3	75,6	58,9	66
Centre	65	70,7	79,3	65,3	68
South	64,9	69,5	71,2	65,6	67,1

Education					
Primary	56,3	41,7	54,4	48	49,3
Lower secondary	57,3	59,4	69,6	55	58,4
General secondary	71,3	73,1	76,2	70,1	72,3
Vocational secondary	63,4	70,7	69,4	65,5	66,7
Post-secondary vocational	73,1	77,1	75,6	75,1	75,3
Higher	83,4	89,2	87,5	85	86,7
Marital status					
Married	75,9	80,2	85,5	74,5	78,2
Cohabitation	57,7	61,2	70,3	52,6	59,5
Divorced/separated	42,8	68,4	63	49	55,6
Solitary	60,9	63,2	70,7	56,3	61,8
Widow	28,8	43,4	51,1	36,3	40,2
Occupational status					
Employee	76	84	81,8	77,7	79,7
Self-employed	78,9	84	87,7	75,1	79,9
Retired	43	46,5	55,2	41,2	45,3
Unemployed	59,7	71,4	70,6	60,6	63,6
Another situation	67,2	77,1	81,1	69,8	73,3
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	37,6	47,5	54,3	37,5	42,5
Quintile II	56,1	58,1	65,5	54,3	57,2
Quintile III	72,6	80,3	82,2	73,5	76,6
Quintile IV	73,3	69,5	78,4	67,5	71,2
Quintile V	76,2	78,9	83,3	73,2	77,7

Almost two thirds of the total population (73.7%) use the Internet (*Table 12.3.2*). The share of urban dwellers using Internet is significantly higher than in rural areas, with 84.7% and 67.4% respectively. The share of women using the Internet is 2.1% higher than that of men, accounting for 74.7% and 72.6% respectively. In the 15-34 age group, the population using the Internet exceeds 90%. Analysis by age shows a downward trend in the share of Internet users as age increases. In Chisinau municipality the share of Internet users amounts to almost 90%, while in the other three regions (southern, central, northern) it varies between 67 and 71%.

By level of education, those with higher education use the Internet the most and those with primary and secondary education – the least. Analysis by marital status shows that widows use the Internet the least. By occupational status, we find that pensioners use the Internet the least, and by income level those in quintiles I and II use the Internet the least.

TABLE 12.3.2. Share of population using the Internet, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	72,6	74,7	84,7	67,4	73,7
Age group					
15-19	95,5	97	98	95,2	96,2
20-24	96,8	93,8	96,8	94,1	95,3
25-29	90,4	93,2	96,8	88,2	91,8
30-34	91,5	90,4	96,5	86,1	90,9
35-39	83,7	88,4	93,7	80,3	86,1
40-44	75,2	84,3	89	75	79,8
45-49	67,5	82,8	86,9	70,5	75,4
50-54	56,9	75,5	82,6	60,1	66,8
55-59	53,3	64,3	73,1	53	59,3
60-64	43,5	51,8	63,7	42,2	48,2
65-69	35,5	41,6	46,2	36,2	39,1
70-74	34,6	29,3	42,1	26,4	31,3
75-79	17,4	10,9	19,1	10,6	13,1
Region					
Chisinau	89,9	89,5	92,2	78	89,7
North	69,5	72,5	80,9	64	71,2
Centre	71,3	73,6	83,7	69,9	72,5
South	66,2	68,1	75,5	64,2	67,1
Education					
Primary	71,6	41,3	57,3	57,3	57,3
Lower secondary	65,5	62,4	77,5	59,9	63,9
General secondary	76,5	76,1	85,2	71,2	76,3
Vocational secondary	65,6	73,9	77,6	65,9	69,3
Post-secondary vocational	76,4	80,9	82,6	76,1	78,9
Higher	91,6	94,1	95,6	88,1	93

Marital status					
Married	76,2	82	89	74,4	79,4
Cohabitation	72,9	76	89,9	64,8	74,5
Divorced/separated	52	73,6	73	53,9	62,9
Solitary	72,9	68,7	82,4	64,1	71,2
Widow	23,3	35,8	46,7	28,2	33,1
Occupational status					
Employee	85,7	90,5	93,7	82,3	87,9
Self-employed	86,5	85,9	91,4	83,3	86,4
Retired	36	40,3	50,1	34,3	38,9
Unemployed	69,3	80,3	82,1	69,2	73
Another situation	71,6	83,4	89,6	73,9	78,8
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	45,9	51,8	59,9	44,1	48,8
Quintile II	57	60,5	68,8	55,5	59
Quintile III	78,7	83,7	88,8	77,1	81,3
Quintile IV	74,7	68,6	82,3	65,8	71,4
Quintile V	80,5	81,3	91,3	72,5	80,9

12.4. Division of housework

The equal division of responsibilities for care in general and childcare in particular is a very relevant concern in the drive to ensure and promote equality for women and men. Women's generalised caring role and responsibilities, compounded by the pandemic crisis, represent one of the most significant barriers to women's equal participation in the labour market, in political and civic life, in opportunities to learn, to start businesses and to lead productive and economically independent lives.

To this end, the data and analysis below will largely focus on elucidating gender differences and inequalities in division of care tasks and obligations for women and men.

To understand the degree of inequality in terms of the division of caring roles within the household, it is sufficient to look at the share of respondents who are equally responsible for carrying them out. Table 12.4.1. illustrates this profound inequality. We note that the share of households in which there is a fair division of these tasks is quite small. These range from 19.5% for meal preparation to 11.8% for doing laundry.

TABLE 12.4.1. Distribution of married or cohabiting respondents by division of tasks such as cooking, cleaning or doing laundry in the household, in %

Care tasks and roles	Always me/ Usually me	Me and my partner equally	Usually partner/ Always partner	Always or usually someone else
<i>I prepare food</i>	46,0	19,5	32,9	1,6
<i>I do the cleaning</i>	44,2	23,1	31,0	1,7
<i>I do the laundry</i>	49,0	11,8	38,0	1,3

Household care tasks are the sole responsibility of most women in Moldova (*Table 12.4.2*). The survey reveals that 82.6% of women are mainly responsible for preparing meals, 79.6% – for cleaning the house and 88.6% – for doing the laundry, while the share of men who are most often responsible for these tasks is dozens of times lower. In other words, the share of households where there is a fair division of these tasks is quite small.

These figures point to an acutely unequal division of care work and tasks based on gender. Gender is the determining factor that explains this distribution more than other socio-demographic factors. The data broken down by age group (for both women and men) show how persistent the divisions in caring tasks are across generations. In other words, there has been no essential change in gender roles in the household for younger generations either. Factors such as level of education, occupational status and area of residence have a small but positive influence on task division. In relative terms, fewer women from Chisinau, with an occupational status and a higher level of education, are solely responsible for care tasks.

The gender division of domestic tasks becomes even more pronounced with the advent of children. The share of women responsible for meal preparation in households without children is 69.5%, and in households with at least one child it is 82.7%. For men, the relationship is reversed. In households without children, more men are primarily responsible for cooking, cleaning or doing laundry than in households with children.

The data also show that the Covid-19 pandemic has reduced the share of households with a somewhat balanced division of care tasks and responsibilities.

TABLE 12.4.2. Distribution of women and men in marriage or cohabitation who 'always' or 'usually' perform tasks such as cooking, cleaning, doing laundry, %

	Women			Men		
	I prepare food	I do the cleaning	I do the laundry	I prepare food	I do the cleaning	I do the laundry
Total	82,6	79,6	88,6	4,7	4,2	4,3
Age group						
15-19	81	66,7	90,5	0	0	0
20-24	74,5	71,7	81,4	9,8	3,9	3,9
25-29	81,1	82,8	89,8	2,9	1	1,9
30-34	82,4	78,1	89,2	2,9	3,5	3,5
35-39	82,3	79,6	91	3,5	3	2,5
40-44	83,2	81,9	87,8	4,7	4,1	4,1
45-49	83,3	83	90,7	5	3,9	3,9
50-54	83,8	81,1	89,9	3,8	2,8	4,3
55-59	85,1	81,8	87,5	6,3	5,2	5,9
60-64	86,5	78,8	88	6,5	8,2	7,3
65-69	82,7	75,2	87,8	4,5	5,2	5,6
70-74	84,5	75	84,5	7,8	8,4	5,4
75-79	75	76,7	81,7	14,5	14,5	14,5
Region						
Chisinau	74,7	64,7	79,6	6,3	4,2	2,6
North	79,6	77,1	88,4	5,9	6,5	6,1
Centre	86,4	85,2	91,8	3,4	2	2,8
South	84,5	82,9	89,5	4,6	5,2	5,6
Education						
Primary	83,2	89,2	90,3	3,1	3,1	1,7
Lower secondary	84,9	85,3	91,7	3,7	4,1	4,7
General secondary	87,7	83	90,5	4,8	5	5,1
Vocational secondary	80,7	80,9	89,1	5,3	4,8	4,1

Post-secondary vocational	81,2	75,8	86,7	6	4,3	5
Higher	78,1	70,2	83,9	3,6	3,1	3,1
Marital status						
Married	82,9	80	89	4,6	4,4	4,7
Cohabitation	81	77,6	86,2	5,4	2,9	1,6
Occupational status						
Employee	79,5	74,9	86	3,9	3,4	3,3
Self-employed	72,8	79	84,5	2,8	2,8	2,1
Retired	84,8	77,8	87,7	6,7	7,3	6,9
Unemployed	83,9	83,8	90,9	5,6	4,6	5
Another situation	84,4	83,4	90,9	5,5	3,9	5,3
Welfare quintile						
Quintile I	79,6	80,5	82,5	5,8	5,6	7,3
Quintile II	85,2	82,9	92,5	4,4	4,5	4,8
Quintile III	83,4	80,6	89,3	4	4	4,4
Quintile IV	82,3	80,6	87	5,8	4,1	3,6
Quintile V	81,1	77,3	87,1	6,1	5,1	4,4
Number of children aflați în îngrijire						
0	69,5	62,4	77,4	6,1	5	5,4
1	82,7	77,1	88,2	4,4	4	3,2
2	83,7	81,2	88,9	5	4,6	4,8
3+	83,5	82,1	90,6	4	3,4	3,8
Covid						
Pre-lockdown	79,2	76,1	88,2	5	4,7	4,8
Post-lockdown	83,9	81	88,8	4,6	4	4

In the case of small household repairs there is also a gender division of labour, with men (61.8%) being primarily responsible for this task to a greater extent than women (9.8%). It should be noted that the gender gap is less pronounced than for household care responsibilities, with the share of those who are equally responsible being slightly higher (*Table 12.4.3*).

The gender gap is more significant among the 20-39 age group compared to the over-50 age group. A possible explanation for this phenomenon is that the type and frequency of household repairs differs between these groups. For young people, repair work that is usually carried out in a household under construction is considered to be 'masculine' (construction, equipment installation). For adults and the elderly, the nature of repairs differs, mainly because in addition to work considered 'masculine', there is also work considered 'feminine' (painting, plastering, furniture changing, room furnishing).

TABLE 12.4.3. Distribution of married and cohabiting respondents who 'always' or 'usually' are responsible for making small repairs in and around the house, in %

	Men	Women
Total	61,8	9,8
Age group		
15-19	66,7	9,5
20-24	72,6	6,9
25-29	73,3	5,5
30-34	65,5	11,1
35-39	70,4	11,2
40-44	64,7	6,3
45-49	64,6	11,1
50-54	55,0	9,5
55-59	50,7	10,0
60-64	49,6	13,3
65-69	51,2	13,8
70-74	57,5	14,3
75-79	32,5	13,6
Region		
Chisinau	69,3	7,2
North	63,4	11,1
Centre	63,2	9,5
South	54,6	10,9

Education		
Primary	74,9	18,4
Lower secondary	58,2	12,2
General secondary	58,1	10,9
Vocational secondary	63,0	9,2
Post-secondary vocational	60,4	9,0
Higher	66,9	6,4
Marital status		
Married	61,8	9,3
Cohabitation	61,6	13,2
Occupational status		
Employee	66,6	9,1
Self-employed	75,8	9,5
Retired	51,5	12,6
Unemployed	61,2	13,2
Another situation	50,2	8,5
Welfare quintile		
Quintile I	45,1	13,4
Quintile II	60,1	8,9
Quintile III	61,0	9,8
Quintile IV	64,4	11,6
Quintile V	63,9	10,5
Number of children in care		
0	65,2	6,5
1	69,8	10,0
2	63,1	9,1
3+	52,9	11,4
Covid-19		
Pre-lockdown	63,0	10,4
Post-lockdown	61,2	9,6

Most men and women are satisfied with the way responsibilities are divided within the household (*Table 12.4.4*). However, fewer women are satisfied (60%) than men (77.7%). Women's satisfaction has fallen by 7.2 percentage points as a result of the pandemic. This has happened largely because the pandemic has increased the level of their involvement, especially in care work.

At the same time, we observe that the degree of satisfaction with the division of household responsibilities between women and men decreases according to the number of children they have, with those with three or more children accounting for a lower share of those satisfied (75.1% for men and 56.8% for women).

Another finding worth mentioning is that the level of satisfaction with the division of labour and household roles for women decreases with age. One possible explanation is that this gender gap is caused by the fact that women at younger ages take care of the children and men have fewer household responsibilities because they work. At the same time, for a part of households in the older age group where the man is no longer active in the labour market, these arrangements have remained unchanged. Most likely, in some households where the man is no longer active in the labour market, he does not take on more responsibilities for housework.

TABLE 12.4.4. Distribution of the population 'satisfied' with the way tasks/work are divided within the household, by gender and area of residence, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Overall Total
Total	77,7	60,0	71,1	66,8	68,3
Age group					
15-19	66,7	76,2	79,6	71,4	74,9
20-24	82,7	70,3	79,6	70,4	74,7
25-29	81,9	66,0	69,3	75,2	72,9
30-34	75,4	61,8	71,7	65,8	68,3
35-39	86,1	60,3	73,8	72,7	73,2
40-44	78,2	56,9	70,3	65,1	66,8
45-49	72,8	56,7	73,5	60,5	64,0
50-54	70,6	58,8	65,3	63,8	64,2
55-59	75,0	54,2	66,0	63,3	64,0
60-64	79,2	56,6	71,2	66,2	67,5
65-69	76,7	59,0	69,9	68,2	68,6
70-74	71,9	49,4	59,7	62,7	61,8
75-79	71,1	56,7	68,6	63,9	65,1

Region					
Chisinau	78,6	53,6	65,3	64,3	65,1
North	78,5	65,9	77,2	68,2	71,7
Centre	72,6	52,8	66,4	60,7	61,8
South	83,1	70,1	78,4	76,1	76,7
Education					
Primary	89,3	56,3	76,9	78,9	78,7
Lower secondary	73,0	58,4	70,8	63,2	64,7
General secondary	75,7	59,3	71,8	64,0	66,4
Vocational secondary	76,5	61,7	68,0	70,5	69,8
Post-secondary vocational	79,7	59,5	73,9	65,7	68,9
Higher	83,6	62,3	70,7	73,9	71,9
Marital status					
Married	78,3	60,0	71,8	66,9	68,5
Cohabitation	74,1	59,4	67,3	66,4	66,8
Occupational status					
Employee	79,0	58,6	73,0	66,8	69,6
Self-employed	83,7	70,1	77,0	82,9	80,9
Retired	75,9	57,2	66,8	64,6	65,2
Unemployed	76,3	57,7	74,5	67,6	69,5
Another situation	73,1	62,0	66,3	64,5	65,0
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	72,3	56,8	66,9	63,6	64,3
Quintile II	77,0	56,0	66,6	65,7	65,9
Quintile III	79,7	56,9	71,4	65,6	67,5
Quintile IV	72,5	59,3	70,2	63,1	65,6
Quintile V	79,5	64,6	71,1	71,1	71,1

Number of children in care					
0	78,9	68,2	77,5	70,6	74,5
1	81,2	62,0	71,1	71,3	71,2
2	77,5	60,2	70,0	67,5	68,3
3+	75,1	56,8	69,4	63,5	64,8
Covid-19					
Pre-lockdown	77,8	65,1	73,8	69,3	71,4
Post-lockdown	77,6	57,9	69,4	66,0	67,0

Only 10% of households receive regular help with household chores (*Table 12.4.5*). The share of those receiving help with household chores is highest (for both women and men) in the 65-79 age group. On the other hand, the lowest share is found in the 40-54 age group, with a slightly higher share in the 15-39 age group. During the pandemic period, the overall share of households receiving regular help decreased, although not significantly: from 11.7% to 9.8% for women.

The share of households in which respondents paid for help on a regular basis is quite small, reaching 1.6% for men and 1.8% for women.

About 20% of men and 16% of women provide help outside the household. The share of young men is even higher. As a result of the pandemic, some of the women who were providing help stopped doing so, their share having decreased from 20.0% before the pandemic to 14.5% during the pandemic.

TABLE 12.4.5. Share of those who regularly received and provided help with household chores, in %

	received regular help with household chores in the last 12 months		paid for regular help with household chores in the last 12 months		regularly helped someone outside the household in the last 12 months with household chores	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Total	10,4	10,3	1,6	1,8	20,4	16
Age group						
15-19	13,4	10,5	2	2	28,4	19,1
20-24	9,6	13,9	2,1	2,6	23	18,5
25-29	10	10,8	1	1,4	25,6	16,9
30-34	13,8	7,9	2,8	1,2	22,4	14,8
35-39	10,2	7,8	2,4	0,6	22,5	17,8
40-44	7,5	8,2	0,4	1,7	16,9	15,1

45-49	6,1	4,7	0,7	1,2	17,5	16,4
50-54	7,1	7,8	1,2	0,7	21,4	19,5
55-59	10,1	11,5	1	2,3	18,5	16,6
60-64	9,9	10,4	1	1,7	18,1	16,7
65-69	12,7	14,3	2,2	2,4	11,1	13,3
70-74	19	18,7	2,2	5	12,5	9,4
75-79	12	19,3	0,6	4,8	7,2	6,1
Region						
Chisinau	16	12	2,4	0,8	35,9	26,3
North	11,7	12,7	3	3,6	22,4	17,9
Centre	8,4	9	0,8	1,8	12,6	11,1
South	8,7	8,6	1	0,8	19,4	14,3
Education						
Primary	10,2	10,3	1,9	3,4	13,2	5,8
Lower secondary	9,6	10,9	1,5	2,2	19,3	13,9
General secondary	9,5	9,2	0,8	1,3	20,3	15,7
Vocational secondary	12,8	10,1	2,7	1,2	19,2	13,2
Post-secondary vocational	9,4	10,5	1,6	2,6	21,6	18
Higher	10,4	10,3	0,9	1,3	24,5	22,2
Marital status						
Married	10,2	8,7	1,2	1,3	18,5	15,3
Cohabitation	11,5	10,9	2,1	2,3	25	18,7
Divorat/ă	6,4	12,4	1,7	1,1	19	19,9
Solitary	10,7	10,1	1,8	1,8	21,2	14,8
Widow	14,1	17,7	1,7	4,3	10,9	13,7
Occupational status						
Employee	10	8,2	1,5	1	23,6	19,6
Self-employed	9,7	9,5	2,6	4,2	24,3	20,5
Retired	12,6	14	1,5	3	11,5	12,9
Unemployed	10,8	13	1,5	2,5	21,3	19
Another situation	10	8,9	1,5	1,3	19	14,6

Welfare quintile						
Quintile I	12,2	8,7	0,8	1,8	18,8	16,8
Quintile II	7,8	13	0,9	3	15,7	14
Quintile III	11	10,7	3,2	1,8	22,2	14,6
Quintile IV	8,7	10,4	2,2	1,2	19	14,8
Quintile V	13,1	9	0,6	0,9	23,8	19,5
Number of children in care						
0	11,2	10,4	1,6	2,2	24,2	20,6
1	9,2	9,5	2,4	1,4	21,7	16
2	10	10,1	1,5	1,9	17,7	14,9
3+	10,7	11	1	1,7	17,5	15
Covid						
Pre-lockdown	11,8	11,7	2,1	2,1	24	20
Post-lockdown	9,8	9,8	1,4	1,7	18,9	14,5

12.5. Covering basic needs

The share of households whose income is sufficient to cover basic needs is an important indicator of exposure to poverty risk. According to the GGS results, only 28.9% of households have enough income to cover basic needs (*Table 12.5.1*). The most vulnerable in this respect are the households in the first quintile (the 20% group with the lowest income level) with only 9.2% of respondents stating that their income is sufficient to cover their basic needs (this problem is particularly serious for women – 6.7%, and the urban population – 6%). It is important to note that no significant differences are observed for quintile 2 (the next 20% according to income level). Thus, the share of sufficient income starts to visibly increase (by a factor of two) from quintile 3 onwards: this reveals an increased level of income inequality, with those in the first two quintiles being the most exposed.

Some gender contrasts are apparent, confirming differences in economic empowerment between men and women. Even if this indicator does not differ significantly, being slightly higher for men (31.4% compared to 29.6%), a number of major differences are noted for different categories of households. Thus, the share related to basic needs coverage is much lower for women in the younger and older age groups, and much lower for men (42.8% for women and 49.5% for men in the 15-19 age group, 11.8% for women and 15% for men in the 75-79 age group). The lack of sufficient education seems to disadvantage women more than men, given the differences especially visible in the case of primary education (21.8% for women compared to 48.7%

for men) and post-secondary vocational education (27% for women and 31.7% for men), which reveals the obstacles encountered, especially by women, in finding a well-paid job or other economic opportunities in the absence of higher education. At the same time, even for higher education, the difference is noticeable: 40.2% for women and 49.4% for men, confirming that women consistently and systematically face greater barriers to economic integration than men.

As people get older, the share of households with sufficient income to cover basic needs gradually decreases. Thus, while for the 15-19 age group this share is 46.3%, which is the highest, it gradually decreases to only 20.3% for the 60-64 age group or even 12.9% for the 75-79 age group. This can be explained, on the one hand, by the fragility of the economic system, which does not ensure a sufficient level of income and, in turn, leads to the inefficiency of the social security system (the share is particularly low for the retired (18.4%) and the unemployed (14%)), and on the other hand, by the increase in needs as families form and grow and people get older (particularly in the case of health services). Exposure to poverty is even more pronounced for the urban elderly.

The share of households whose income is sufficient to cover basic needs is highest for people with higher education (44.2%). The population with lower levels of education is clearly more at risk of poverty, with only 23.9% for those with lower secondary education, 25.2% for those with secondary education and 26% for those with vocational education.

The number of dependent children is positively correlated with exposure to poverty: those with more children face the greatest difficulties in meeting their living needs. Thus, the share of people whose income is sufficient to cover basic needs is highest among those without children (36%), decreasing as the number of children increases, most likely due to increased maintenance needs: 32% for those with 1 child, 26.7% for those with 2 children and 23.3% for those with 3 or more children. These figures do not differ significantly by gender or area of residence and confirm the different childbearing pattern of low-income families, who prefer to have more children than higher-income families.

TABLE 12.5.1. Distribution of population by sufficiency of income to cover basic needs, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	31,4	29,6	29,6	28,5	28,9
Age group					
15-19	49,5	42,8	35,6	52,8	46,3
20-24	45,0	36,8	40,8	41,2	41,0
25-29	41,5	29,7	37,4	34,5	35,7
30-34	30,1	32,6	34,1	29,0	31,3
35-39	28,6	30,0	29,2	29,4	29,3
40-44	34,1	25,7	28,6	30,5	29,8
45-49	29,1	23,3	26,1	26,1	26,1
50-54	21,6	23,7	27,0	20,9	22,7
55-59	25,6	25,2	25,5	25,3	25,4
60-64	21,3	19,6	18,1	21,2	20,3
65-69	24,0	17,0	18,8	20,2	19,8
70-74	18,6	15,9	15,4	17,7	17,0
75-79	15,0	11,8	6,9	15,4	12,9
Region					
Chisinau	41,5	35,7	39,0	36,1	38,5
North	25,2	20,1	23,5	21,5	22,4
Centre	36,1	30,0	29,4	33,7	32,9
South	23,9	22,1	19,6	24,3	23,0
Education					
Primary	48,7	21,8	16,4	41,2	36,0
Lower secondary	26,4	21,6	23,1	24,1	23,9
Secundar general	25,9	24,7	28,4	23,4	25,2
Vocational secondary	27,6	24,1	21,3	28,1	26,0
Post-secondary vocational	31,7	27,0	24,5	32,7	29,1
Higher	49,4	40,2	42,9	46,7	44,2

Marital status					
Married	30,8	29,4	31,4	29,3	30,0
Cohabitation	32,5	24,7	30,1	27,7	28,6
Divorced/separated	23,0	19,7	19,6	22,9	21,3
Solitary	32,2	25,5	28,7	29,9	29,4
Widow	16,0	15,9	16,0	15,9	15,9
Occupational status					
Employee	39,6	33,0	36,2	36,8	36,5
Self-employed	52,5	35,5	44,9	51,8	49,2
Retired	21,7	16,7	15,1	19,7	18,4
Unemployed	13,6	14,8	12,0	14,9	14,0
Another situation	29,9	30,5	30,9	29,9	30,3
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	11,7	6,7	6,0	10,6	9,2
Quintile II	14,1	11,9	9,5	14,0	12,9
Quintile III	30,2	25,6	24,8	29,5	27,9
Quintile IV	36,5	26,9	35,1	29,2	31,2
Quintile V	43,8	40,4	42,7	41,4	42,0
Number of children in care					
0	37,5	33,1	36,8	35,3	36,0
1	35,6	29,2	30,5	33,3	32,0
2	26,7	26,7	25,7	27,3	26,7
3+	25,8	21,6	23,4	23,2	23,3

12.6. Household finance management

The roles and burden of managing finances in households are more diffuse: in about 24.4% of households this responsibility falls to men compared to 28.2% of households where women are mainly responsible for managing finances and paying bills (*Table 12.6.1*). In younger households (age group 20-39) the share of men who are primarily responsible for managing finances tends to be higher, with the share of women being much higher in the 40-79 age bracket.

After the pandemic, the share of women responsible for managing family finances fell by 9.3 percentage points.

TABLE 12.6.1. Distribution of married or cohabiting respondents who are 'always' or 'usually' responsible for paying bills and managing finances, in %

	Men	Women
Total	24,4	28,2
Age group		
15-19	66,7	0,0
20-24	33,3	18,6
25-29	31,4	23,1
30-34	29,2	27,9
35-39	28,1	26,4
40-44	22,5	29,0
45-49	18,2	28,5
50-54	18,0	31,9
55-59	19,9	29,9
60-64	18,5	35,4
65-69	20,6	36,7
70-74	27,0	34,5
75-79	20,5	33,3
Region		
Chisinau	36,5	26,9
North	18,5	36,4
Centre	25,0	26,2
South	21,6	24,6
Education		
Primary	43,4	18,4
Lower secondary	21,2	26,9
General secondary	24,7	27,9
Vocational secondary	20,8	29,4
Post-secondary vocational	17,4	28,4
Higher	37,1	30,1

Marital status		
Married	23,6	28,4
Cohabitation	28,8	27,6
Occupational status		
Employee	26,2	29,9
Lucrător/oare pe cont propriu	38,3	30,1
Retired	20,9	34,8
Unemployed	20,0	23,8
Another situation	17,7	24,7
Welfare quintile		
Quintile I	21,3	28,4
Quintile II	17,8	29,9
Quintile III	27,9	28,5
Quintile IV	22,4	22,6
Quintile V	23,2	31,0
Number of children in care		
0	23,1	17,9
1	29,3	26,1
2	25,3	28,8
3+	19,9	30,6
Covid-19		
Pre-lockdown	22,7	34,9
Post-lockdown	25,1	25,6

Since daily shopping is directly related to the performance of care tasks, decisions in this regard are made by 41.8% women compared to 13.4% men (*Table 12.6.1*). The share of women deciding on daily shopping has declined in the context of the pandemic, while the share of families in which daily shopping is a rather shared responsibility has increased. As in the case of managing finances and paying bills, we can see that in 7%-10% of households the pandemic has led to a change in roles, with men taking over some of these roles and decisions. The fact that the pandemic did not lead to a greater involvement of men in caring roles indicates that, for some households, gender roles became even more aligned with the gender binary as more women became responsible for household duties and some men took on responsibilities outside the household.

In the case of big purchases, in the vast majority of households this decision is taken by mutual agreement, with only 12.3% of women being the ones who decide compared to 9.4% of men.

TABLE 12.6.1. Distribution of married or cohabiting people who ‘always’ or ‘usually’ decide on household purchases, in %

	I always or usually decide on daily household shopping		I always or usually decide on occasional big/more expensive purchases	
	Men decide %	Women decide %	Men decide %	Women decide %
Total	13,4	41,8	9,4	12,3
Age group				
15-19	0,0	38,1	33,3	4,8
20-24	11,8	33,3	15,7	6,3
25-29	12,4	41,8	10,5	10,9
30-34	18,7	37,2	9,9	9,1
35-39	14,3	42,7	9,4	10,1
40-44	9,4	43,4	9,4	11,2
45-49	8,8	51,1	9,9	17,8
50-54	10,0	41,2	6,2	13,5
55-59	14,3	43,6	8,1	11,2
60-64	12,9	39,9	6,7	16,0
65-69	10,5	45,7	8,4	23,0
70-74	24,0	43,1	11,4	16,2
75-79	26,8	36,7	14,6	16,7
Region				
Chisinau	20,0	38,7	15,4	10,0
North	10,5	48,5	7,5	12,5
Centre	12,2	43,7	6,9	14,7
South	13,8	34,6	10,7	9,6

Education				
Primary	22,9	31,0	11,4	15,2
Lower secondary	11,4	46,2	7,7	12,6
General secondary	11,7	42,8	7,6	16,3
Vocational secondary	11,5	40,6	8,0	11,6
Post Vocational secondary	13,6	41,1	11,1	12,8
Higher	18,9	37,4	12,8	8,3
Marital status				
Married	13,2	42,1	8,8	12,1
Cohabitation	14,7	40,2	12,7	13,6
Occupational status				
Employee	13,8	42,8	10,5	12,7
Self-employed	14,0	36,8	9,0	15,6
Retired	14,5	43,2	8,8	16,9
Unemployed	14,8	42,5	9,5	12,3
Another situation	10,3	40,7	7,3	9,7
Welfare quintile				
Quintile I	17,0	39,3	6,6	10,0
Quintile II	10,9	49,9	8,4	14,9
Quintile III	12,2	41,7	9,9	13,6
Quintile IV	13,4	38,8	10,8	13,4
Quintile V	13,2	41,6	8,7	11,0
Number of children in care				
0	9,1	41,5	12,1	12,1
1	14,7	40,5	6,5	13,1
2	13,8	42,1	9,7	11,8
3+	13,5	42,3	9,9	12,4
Covid -19				
Pre-lockdown	11,7	49,5	12,5	15,1
Post-lockdown	14,2	38,8	8,0	11,1

The ratio of money use decision-makers in most households is fairly balanced, with only 3.8% men and 4.6% women handling all household money (*Table 12.6.2*). The majority of men (73.3%) and women (75.1%) pool all their money to be used by each as needed. In another 15.3% of households (for men) and 12.7% (for women) some of the money is pooled, but each partner has some separate money as well.

Money is managed individually by only 1.9% of men and 2.8% of women, this being more common among cohabiting couples than married couples.

Data show that before the pandemic, many couples managed financial resources together. Their number decreased from 79.1% for men and 80.8% for women to 70.7% for men and 72.9% for women. Thus, the pandemic has led about 10% of couples to change the way they handle their earned money from a joint to a more individual way – in the pandemic the share of those using some of the money jointly and some individually has increased from 9.6% to 15.7%; similarly the share of households not using money jointly at all has increased from 1.7% to 2.6% and of those where one partner manages the money – from 3.2% to 4.6%.

TABLE 12.6.2. Distribution of married and cohabiting people according to how money usage is decided in the household, in %

	I manage all the money and give my partner his/her share		We pool all the money together and everyone takes what each needs		We pool some of the money and keep the rest separate		We each keep our own money separate	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Total	3,8	4,6	73,3	75,1	15,3	12,7	1,9	2,8
Age group								
15-19	0,0	14,3	66,7	61,9	0,0	9,5	0,0	4,8
20-24	2,0	4,8	70,0	79,3	14,0	10,3	4,0	3,5
25-29	3,9	9,1	68,6	75,2	16,7	11,0	3,9	1,6
30-34	4,7	5,3	66,3	75,8	18,9	10,6	0,6	3,3
35-39	1,5	3,8	74,3	73,3	16,3	15,8	1,0	2,5
40-44	1,8	4,0	82,8	72,9	13,0	15,6	0,6	2,3
45-49	2,8	5,2	76,8	75,6	13,8	13,0	1,7	3,0
50-54	5,7	3,7	77,7	80,6	10,4	11,2	2,4	1,4
55-59	4,4	3,0	71,6	73,1	15,9	14,4	2,6	3,5
60-64	5,9	1,0	72,9	77,8	16,2	11,7	2,1	4,0
65-69	3,9	3,0	75,1	71,9	15,8	12,3	1,4	3,6

70-74	6,6	3,6	72,5	70,2	10,8	11,3	6,0	3,6
75-79	7,2	3,3	74,7	71,7	12,1	15,0	3,6	1,7
Region								
Chisinau	3,3	4,7	66,5	70,8	14,6	13,1	5,4	6,4
North	3,5	0,9	84,2	85,1	8,1	7,3	1,7	2,1
Centre	2,3	5,7	80,6	77,4	10,8	11,1	1,5	2,2
South	6,2	6,2	59,2	64,6	27,1	20,1	0,7	2,2
Education								
Primary	2,2	20,7	66,8	46,3	20,3	12,6	0,7	8,0
Lower secondary	5,1	5,7	77,0	76,2	12,9	9,7	0,4	2,6
General secondary	5,0	5,8	64,5	70,5	22,2	17,1	2,2	2,3
Vocational secondary	3,6	3,9	80,3	75,6	10,9	13,8	1,2	2,5
Post-secondary vocational	3,4	2,9	72,7	78,1	13,7	11,5	3,4	2,4
Higher	2,0	3,2	67,4	76,5	19,6	12,7	3,3	3,9
Marital status								
Married	3,8	4,3	74,1	76,6	15,5	12,3	1,5	2,2
Cohabitation	3,7	6,4	69,0	65,4	14,5	14,8	4,2	6,6
Occupational status								
Employee	4,1	3,5	71,3	74,8	15,1	12,3	2,9	4,4
Self-employed	2,7	2,5	76,4	80,3	12,7	13,2	0,4	1,4
Retired	4,6	1,9	74,4	73,9	14,9	13,2	2,7	3,0
Șomeră/ Another situation	2,6	5,0	74,9	74,0	17,8	14,2	0,2	3,8
Welfare quintile								
Quintile I	9,1	9,8	59,1	65,1	26,9	20,7	0,0	0,9
Quintile II	5,0	4,4	72,3	75,6	18,7	11,9	1,1	2,7
Quintile III	2,6	4,7	78,9	75,1	12,5	13,6	1,1	2,0
Quintile IV	4,0	4,8	71,1	75,8	17,6	10,8	2,8	3,4
Quintile V	3,4	4,1	72,9	76,5	12,9	11,5	3,7	3,3

Number of children in care								
0	3,3	4,5	63,6	67,0	18,6	13,6	5,1	9,3
1	5,1	4,5	70,1	73,9	17,3	14,3	1,8	2,1
2	3,7	5,1	74,0	75,5	15,3	12,9	1,4	2,0
3+	3,2	4,0	77,7	76,7	12,9	11,3	1,6	3,1
Covid								
Pre-lockdown	4,1	2,3	79,1	80,8	10,7	8,5	1,4	2,1
Post-lockdown	3,6	5,5	70,7	72,9	17,4	14,3	2,1	3,1

Expenditure is shared by both partners in 88.7% of households with no significant differences for women and men (Table 12.6.3.). Only in the case of 7.2% men and 5.6% women are the costs fully covered by themselves. The share of men covering household costs alone is about three times higher than for women in the 20-34 age group. The situation is reversed for the 55-79 age group.

TABLE 12.6.3. Distribution of married and cohabiting respondents according to the way they decide how their monthly expenses are managed, in %.

	I pay for everything myself		We share the expenses about equally	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Total	7,2	5,6	89,5	88,1
Age group				
15-19	0,0	4,8	100,0	52,4
20-24	8,0	2,1	92,0	82,6
25-29	10,6	4,7	86,5	88,2
30-34	12,4	4,8	84,6	86,3
35-39	7,4	4,9	90,1	89,1
40-44	6,0	5,7	91,7	90,4
45-49	6,6	6,3	90,1	91,1
50-54	5,7	3,7	91,4	91,2
55-59	4,8	8,7	89,7	87,7
60-64	3,8	7,3	91,2	90,2
65-69	3,2	7,8	91,6	86,8

70-74	4,2	9,5	93,4	85,7
75-79	2,4	10,0	91,6	86,7
Region				
Chisinau	15,0	4,8	81,4	83,2
North	5,1	5,8	93,1	91,8
Centre	4,5	4,8	91,9	88,9
South	7,9	7,5	88,0	86,3
Education				
Primary	9,0	17,8	83,9	64,7
Lower secondary	5,7	7,0	89,9	84,9
General secondary	7,1	6,1	87,8	87,6
Vocational secondary	5,4	4,2	92,1	91,8
Post-secondary vocational	6,5	6,0	92,0	89,9
Higher	12,2	3,8	84,9	89,1
Marital status				
Married	7,3	5,6	89,5	88,7
Cohabitation	6,7	5,8	89,4	83,7
Occupational status				
Employee	9,2	5,1	87,8	90,6
Self-employed	10,7	3,8	85,9	93,6
Retired	3,3	8,0	92,8	88,1
Unemployed	5,7	6,3	91,9	84,2
Another situation	4,6	5,0	90,6	86,4
Welfare quintile				
Quintile I	7,3	9,2	85,5	83,5
Quintile II	3,2	7,5	92,9	88,7
Quintile III	7,6	4,6	90,1	87,9
Quintile IV	6,9	4,4	89,5	89,2
Quintile V	8,1	6,3	90,0	88,8

Number of children in care				
0	8,3	7,5	88,8	83,7
1	6,8	6,0	89,9	84,8
2	7,9	5,2	89,0	88,9
3+	5,9	5,7	90,3	89,7
Covid				
Pre-lockdown	7,4	7,5	89,0	87,8
Post-lockdown	7,1	4,9	89,7	88,2

12.7. Income expectations for the next 3 years

Most of the population anticipates that their income will not change in the next 3 years, that is 41% of all respondents. This is worrying against the backdrop of the low-income levels and generally low quality of life reported in previous chapters, suggesting expectations that the current state of affairs will continue.

However, a good part of the population is optimistic: 40.2% expect the financial situation to improve in the coming years. Young people are the most optimistic: 67.4% of those aged 15-19, and 63.9%, 55.1% and 51.4% of those aged 20-24, 25-29 and 30-34 respectively. This makes sense, given the expectations of starting a career after school or of advancement in career. At the same time, given that, according to the National Bureau of Statistics, the population in the 25-34 age group represents the largest share of the total population working abroad, we can deduce that another source of this optimism is the clear intention to emigrate, which is most pronounced among the young population.

With advancing age, optimism gradually fades into a lack of any expectation of a change in their financial situation or into pessimism in the case of older people. Thus, the share of those who expect their financial situation to improve in the coming years decreases for older age groups and reaches minimum levels for the retired (age groups 60-64, 65-69, 70-74 and 75-79 where the shares decrease to 21.9%, 21.5%, 21.3% and 17.1% respectively). At the same time, the share of those who are pessimistic about the financial outlook or who do not expect any changes is increasing, confirming once again the vulnerability of the current pension system.

The most pronounced pessimism is observed among those whose income is already the lowest: 31.3% for those in quintile 1 and 29% for those in quintile 2. This could point to the problem of chronic poverty and the vulnerability of those on low incomes. By contrast, people in quintile 5 are the most financially optimistic (48.3% of them believe that their financial situation will improve in the next 3 years). In addition, the urban population is more optimistic than the rural population (45.1% of urban dwellers expect their financial situation to improve in the next 3 years, compared to 37.4% of the rural population), which correlates with the higher prevalence of optimism among younger and higher-income people, who are more concentrated in urban areas.

There are also some gender differences. Thus, men tend to be more optimistic about their financial situation compared to women (42% compared to 38.5%), which correlates with higher levels of optimism among those with higher incomes, given that men tend to be better off financially than women.

Expectations for the financial situation in the coming years are somewhat more optimistic for the university-educated population, which has the highest share of people with positive expectations (47.2% compared to 36.8% for those with post-secondary vocational education and 34.6% for those with secondary vocational education). This corroborates the above statement on the prevalence of optimism among higher income earners.

At the same time, no major differences were noted between the pre-pandemic and post-pandemic situation. This seemingly counterintuitive result can be explained by the fact that the majority of the population perceives the pandemic as a temporary phenomenon, and therefore irrelevant for the medium- and long-term perspective.

TABLE 12.7.1. Expectations for income improvement over the next 3 years, in %

	Men	Women	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	42,0	38,5	45,1	37,4	40,2
Age group					
15-19	69,3	65,4	65,8	68,4	67,4
20-24	66,0	61,7	67,3	61,1	63,9
25-29	56,5	53,6	61,6	50,4	55,1
30-34	52,2	50,6	55,3	48,0	51,4
35-39	41,8	45,0	44,3	42,8	43,4
40-44	44,2	37,4	48,4	36,7	40,8
45-49	32,8	35,7	38,5	32,5	34,3
50-54	25,6	26,4	25,4	26,3	26,1
55-59	26,3	23,7	29,6	22,7	24,9
60-64	20,5	23,0	20,1	22,7	21,9
65-69	22,3	21,0	17,4	23,3	21,5
70-74	22,9	20,2	22,8	20,5	21,3
75-79	20,4	15,4	14,4	18,2	17,1

Region					
Chisinau	50,0	48,5	49,9	46,2	49,2
North	35,8	31,7	42,9	26,6	33,5
Centre	47,5	41,0	53,8	41,8	44,1
South	35,1	34,7	30,7	36,5	34,9
Education					
Primary	45,3	35,6	31,0	43,3	40,7
Lower secondary	43,9	39,3	43,0	41,1	41,5
Secundar general	43,6	39,5	49,9	36,3	41,3
Vocational secondary	34,3	35,1	37,4	33,5	34,6
Post-secondary vocational	40,4	34,0	43,3	31,7	36,8
Higher	50,2	44,8	49,7	42,2	47,2
Marital status					
Married	39,1	37,4	42,5	35,9	38,2
Cohabitation	48,2	45,6	54,6	42,1	46,9
Divorced/separated	31,9	41,8	41,7	32,6	36,9
Solitary	47,8	41,1	49,0	42,6	45,0
Widow	19,6	23,6	20,6	23,5	22,8
Occupational status					
Employee	46,7	39,1	49,2	37,1	43,1
Self-employed	48,3	33,0	44,6	45,8	45,3
Retired	21,9	21,0	19,4	22,1	21,3
Unemployed	41,1	42,2	47,2	39,0	41,5
Another situation	45,3	48,9	52,8	45,2	47,5
Welfare quintile					
Quintile I	29,1	33,6	32,3	30,9	31,3
Quintile II	32,3	26,4	28,3	29,3	29,0
Quintile III	42,0	38,5	46,5	36,7	40,2
Quintile IV	42,2	41,5	47,5	38,9	41,8
Quintile V	50,5	46,4	52,9	44,6	48,3

Number of children în întreținere					
0	52,6	51,5	56,5	48,6	52,2
1	43,9	41,6	44,9	40,6	42,6
2	35,4	35,6	38,3	34,0	35,5
3+	34,5	33,3	38,9	32,3	33,8
Covid					
Pre-lockdown	40,2	37,1	38,1	39,1	38,6
Post-lockdown	42,8	39,1	49,2	36,8	40,9

List of GGS indicators

N°	Indicator name	Definition of indicator	SDG indicator*	Value	Unit of measurement
1. PARTNERSHIP RELATIONS					
1.1.a	Early marriage	Share of 15-79-year-olds who were married or cohabiting before age 18		2,9	%
1.1.b				14,2	%
1.1.c		Share of 20-24-year-olds who were married or cohabiting before age 18	5.3.1 Early marriage rates up to age 15 and 18 for women aged 20-24, by area of residence, ethnicity	2,9	%
1.1.d	Men			3,3	%
1.1.e	Women			2,7	%
1.1.f	Total			14,2	%
1.1.g	Urban			9,6	%
1.1.j	Rural	16,9	%		
1.2.a	Average age at first marriage	Average age at first marriage		24,5	years
1.2.b				21,8	years
1.3.	Non-residential partnership	Share of 15-79-year-olds married or in a relationship but not living together		8,4	%
1.4.a	Average age at first divorce	Average age at first divorce		37,0	years
1.4.b				32,1	years
1.5.a	Age difference of partners	Share of married or cohabiting 15-79-year-olds whose partner is ...		35,0	%
1.5.b				29,8	%
1.6.a	Average number of partners	Average number of partners a man/woman has had in his/her lifetime		0,86	partners
1.6.b				0,89	partners
1.7.	Intention to marry	Share of people aged 15-79 in a relationship and unmarried who intend to marry in the next 3 years		51,8	%
1.8.	Intention of cohabitation	Share of people aged 15-79 who are in a relationship and unmarried and intend to cohabit in the next 3 years		70,8	%

1.9.	Relationship satisfaction	Share of 15-79-year-olds satisfied with their relationship with their partner (satisfaction level between 10 and 8)		91,4	%
1.10.a	Relationship disagreements¹	Share of married or cohabiting people who have had disagreements with their partner in the last 12 months about ...	household matters	63,8	%
1.10.b			relationships with parents	25,4	%
1.10.c			the decision to have children	19,3	%
1.10.d			child rearing	25,2	%
2. REPRODUCTIVE BEHAVIOUR OF THE POPULATION					
2.1.	Average number of live births	Average number of live births per lifetime per woman aged 15-49 years	Total	1,74	children
			Urban	1,47	children
			Rural	1,92	children
2.2.a	Average age at birth	Average age of women aged 15-49 at childbirth, calculated according to reported data, the-se being...	level 1 data	22,6	years
2.2.b			level 2 data	26,4	years
2.2.c			level 3 data	29,6	years
2.3.	Protonetic interval	Time interval between the date of marriage registration and the date of birth of the first child indicated by the respondents.		9,83	months
2.4.a	Intergenetic interval	Time interval between successive births	between 1st and 2nd child	54,2	months
2.4.b			between 2nd and 3rd child	62,3	months
2.5.a	Teenage births	Share of women aged 15-49 who reported having given birth to a child in their teens		13,9	%
2.5.b		Share of women aged 15-19 who reported having given birth to a child	Total	5,3	%
2.5.c			Urban	1,2	%
2.5.d			Rural	7,9	%
2.5.e		Share of women aged 15-79 who reported having given birth to a child/children by age 18		5,9	%

¹ Indicators 1.10.a and 1.10.b refer to the population aged 15-79 and 1.10.c and 1.10.d – to the population aged 15-49.

2.6.a	Extramarital births	Share of women aged 15-49 who reported having had a child/ children out of wedlock			26,0	%
2.6.b		Share of women aged 15-49 who reported having had a child/ children out of wedlock			0,43	children
2.7.a	Ideal number of children	Distribution of 15-49-year-olds according to the ideal number of children in the family	0 children	Men	0,4	%
2.7.b				Women	0,4	%
2.7.c			1 child	Men	3,0	%
				Women	1,9	%
2.7.d			2 children	Men	44,0	%
	Women	40,2	%			
	3 and more children	Men	52,6	%		
	Women	57,5	%			
2.8.a	Average number of intended children	Average number of children, including biological and adopted children, that respondents aged 15-49 generally intend to have	Total		2,42	children
2.8.b			Men		2,38	children
2.8.c			Women		2,45	children
2.9.a	Reproductive intentions	Share of 15-49-year-olds planning to have children in the next 3 years, by number of children had at time of survey	People without children		12,9	%
2.9.b			People with 1 child		8,1	%
2.9.c			People with 2 and more children		15,6	%
2.10.a	Desire to limit (stop) births	Share of people who no longer wish to have children, by number of children had (biological and adopted)	People without children	Men	6,0	%
2.10.b				Women	5,7	%
2.10.c			People with 1 child	Men	17,4	%
				Women	18,2	%
2.10.d			People with 2 child	Men	39,9	%
				Women	45,3	%
2.10.e	People with 3 child	Men	42,6	%		
2.10.f	People with 4 child	Women	54,3	%		
		Men	31,6	%		
	People with 5 and more children	Women	42,6	%		
	Men	48,2	%			
	Women	70,4	%			

3. FAMILY PLANNING

3.1.a	contraceptive prevalence rate	Number of married or cohabiting women aged 15-49 currently using any method of contraception out of the total number of married or cohabiting women aged 15-49		3.7.1 Share of women of childbearing age (15-49 years) with family planning needs met by modern methods of contraception	55,1	%
3.1.b		Number of married or cohabiting women aged 15-49 using modern methods of contraception out of the total number of married or cohabiting women aged 15-49			42,2	%
3.1.c		Number of married or cohabiting women aged 15-49 using traditional methods of contraception out of the total number of married or cohabiting women aged 15-49			12,7	%
3.2.a	Unmet need for family planning	Share of women of reproductive age (15-49 years) who do not use any method of contraception but wish to postpone their next pregnancy or who wish to avoid pregnancy	Total	3.7.1 Share of women of childbearing age (15-49 years) with family planning needs met by modern methods of contraception	16,9	%
3.2.b			Married or cohabiting women		21,9	%
3.2.c			Married or cohabiting women		4,6	%
3.3.a	Unmet need for limitation	The share of women of reproductive age (15-49 years) who are not using any method of contraception and:	Total	3.7.1 Share of women of childbearing age (15-49 years) with family planning needs met by modern methods of contraception	11,4	%
3.3.b		- are not pregnant, are not postpartum amenorrheic, are fecund and say they do not want any more children or	Married or cohabiting women		15,1	%
3.3.c		- are pregnant and say they do not want any more children or - are postpartum amenorrheic and say they do not want any more children	Unmarried women		2,6	%

3.4.a	<p>Unmet need for spacing</p> <p>The share of women of reproductive age (15-49 years) who are not using any method of contraception and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - are not pregnant and have not given birth, are not postpartum amenorrhoeic, are fecund and say they want to wait 3 or more years for their next birth or - are not pregnant, are not postpartum amenorrhoeic, are fecund and are sure they do not want another child or - are pregnant and say the pregnancy was unexpected: would have liked to wait or - are postpartum amenorrhoeic and say the birth was unexpected: would have liked to wait 	Total	3.7.1 Share of women of childbearing age (15-49 years) with family planning needs met by modern methods of contraception	5,5	%	
3.4.b				Married or cohabiting women	6,9	%
3.4.c				Unmarried women	2,0	%
3.5.a	<p>Demand for family planning satisfied with modern methods</p> <p>Share of women of childbearing age (15-49 years) who want either to stop having children or to postpone having their next child and who are using a modern method of contraception</p>	Total	3.7.1 Share of women of childbearing age (15-49 years) with family planning needs met by modern methods of contraception	54,6	%	
3.5.b				Married or cohabiting women	60,0	%
3.5.c				Unmarried women	40,9	%
3.6.a	<p>Unmet need for limitation</p> <p>Share of women of reproductive age (15-49 years) who are using (or whose partners use) modern methods of contraception, including female or male sterilisation, and who do not want any more children or report not being fecund</p>	Total	3.7.1 Share of women of childbearing age (15-49 years) with family planning needs met by modern methods of contraception	27,1	%	
3.6.b				Married or cohabiting women	31,0	%
3.6.c				Unmarried women	17,6	%

3.7.a	Share of women of reproductive age (15-49 years) who are using (or whose partners use) modern methods of contraception and who want to have more children or are not sure.	Total	3.7.1 Share of women of childbearing age (15-49 years) with family planning needs met by modern methods of contraception	27,5	%
3.7.b		Married or cohabiting women		29,3	%
3.7.c		Unmarried women		23,4	%
3.8.	Share of women aged 15-49 (married or cohabiting) who report making decisions independently or with their partner about sexual relations, contraceptive use and sexual and reproductive health	Women's ability to make independent decisions about reproductive health, contraceptive use and sexual relations	5.6.1 Share of women aged 15-49 who make independent decisions about sexual relations, contraceptive use and sexual and reproductive health	73,3	%
4. PARENTS AND CHILDREN					
4.1.a	Average number of biological children and stepchildren per person aged 15-79 at the time of the survey	Men	Biological children Stepchildren Total children	1,69	children
4.1.b		Women		0,11	children
4.1.c				1,80	children
4.1.d				1,98	children
4.1.e				0,11	children
4.1.f				2,09	children
4.2.a	Share of households according to the distribution of early childhood care tasks between partners, out of all households with children	Dressing children	Women's responsibility Men's responsibility Together	57,3	%
4.2.b				1,3	%
4.2.c				41,3	%

4.2.d		Staying at home with the children when they are ill	Women's responsibility	67,7	%
4.2.e			Men's responsibility	2,7	%
4.2.f			Together	29,7	%
4.2.g		Playing with the children and/or taking part in leisure activities with them	Women's responsibility	24,9	%
4.2.h			Men's responsibility	2,9	%
4.2.i			Together	72,2	%
4.2.j		Helping the child with homework	Women's responsibility	51,0	%
4.2.k			Men's responsibility	3,7	%
4.2.l			Together	45,3	
4.3.a	Satisfaction with the way childcare tasks are shared	Men		84,7	%
4.3.b		Women		67,2	%
4.3.c	Share of people with young children who are dissatisfied with the way childcare tasks are shared	Men		15,2	%
4.3.d		Women		32,6	%
4.4.a	Regular help with childcare	Grandparents		14,4	%
4.4.b		Care institutions		34,5	%
4.4.c		Nanny		0,7	%
4.4.d		Nursery/preschool institution		24,2	%
4.4.e		After-school care centre		9,1	%
4.5.	Satisfaction with relationship with children	Share of people satisfied with the relationship with their children aged 0-18 years (satisfaction level between 8 and 10)		89,2	%

5. INTERGENERATIONAL						
5.1.a	Satisfaction with relationship with parents	Share of 15-79-year-olds satisfied (satisfaction level between 10 and 8) with their relationship with living parents	Mothers	93,1	%	
5.1.b			Fathers	83,1	%	
5.1.c	Communication with parents	Share of 15-79-year-olds dissatisfied (dissatisfaction level between 1 and 3) with their relationship with living parents	Mothers	0,5	%	
5.1.d			Fathers	2,1	%	
5.2.a	Living with parents	Share of 15-79-year-olds communicating at least weekly with living parents	Mothers	94,1	%	
5.2.b			Fathers	82,4	%	
5.2.c			Mothers	2,1	%	
5.2.d			Fathers	4,9	%	
5.3.a	Intention to live with parents	Share of 15-79-year-olds living with parents (with both or at least one parent)	Share of 15-79-year-olds living with parents (with both or at least one parent)			
5.3.b			Share of 15-79-year-olds living separately from parents			
5.4.a	Financial aid	Share of people aged 15-79 who intend (definitely and probably) in the next 3 years to start living with their parents, out of all people with at least one living parent who are not living with either parent	Share of people aged 15-79 who intend (definitely and probably) in the next 3 years to start living with their parents, out of all people with at least one living parent who are not living with either parent			
5.4.b			Share of people aged 15-79 who (definitely and probably) intend to live separately from their parents in the next 3 years, out of all people with a living parent living with parents			
5.5.	Help with personal care	Share of people aged 15-79 who received financial aid of at least MDL 750 in the last 12 months	Share of people aged 15-79 who received financial aid of at least MDL 750 in the last 12 months			
5.6.a			Percentage of people aged 65 and over who received help with personal care (dressing, bathing/toilet use, getting out of bed, eating, etc.) in the last 12 months	Percentage of people aged 65 and over who received help with personal care (dressing, bathing/toilet use, getting out of bed, eating, etc.) in the last 12 months		
5.6.b				under 75 years of age	8,8	%
5.6.c	aged 75 and over		aged 75 and over			
5.7.	Ajutor în întreținerea gospodăriei	Ponderele persoanelor de 15-79 ani care au oferit ajutor regulat (cel puțin o dată pe lună) membrilor familiei în întreținerea gospodăriei, în ultimele 12 luni	18,1 %			

5.8.	Help with childcare	Share of 15-79-year-olds who provided regular help (at least once a month) in caring for minor child/children in the last 12 months		17,8	%
6. POPULATION HEALTH					
6.1.a	Perceived health	Share of 15-79-year-olds who perceive their own health as good or very good		52,3	%
6.1.b		Share of 15-79-year-olds who perceive their own health as bad or very bad		9,5%	%
6.2	Autonomy in making decisions about ones own health	Share of married or cohabiting 15-79-year-olds who make decisions about their own health jointly with their partner		63,1	%
6.3.	Presence of chronic conditions	Share of 15-79-year-olds reporting at least one chronic disease		47,2	%
7. WELFARE					
7.1.	Happiness	Share of people aged 15-79 who regard themselves as happy or somewhat happy	Total	47,2	%
			Men	47,1	%
			Women	47,3	%
7.2.a	Feeling lonely	Percentage of people aged 15-79 who have recently experienced loneliness	Moderat	14,8	%
7.2.b			Sever	3,1	%
7.3.	Depression	Share of people aged 15-79 who experienced depression in the past week	Total	11,9	%
			Men	8,7	%
			Women	14,9	%
7.4.a	Communication	Share of married or cohabiting 15-79-year-olds discussing important personal issues with their partner		86,1	%
7.4.b		Share of 15-79-year-olds discussing important personal issues with their child/children		36,2	%
7.4.c		Share of people aged 15-79 who discuss important personal issues with their parents, out of all people with living parents		43,3	%
7.4.d		Share of 15-79-year-olds who discuss important personal issues with friends, acquaintances, neighbours or colleagues		12,5	%
7.5.	Satisfaction with life	Percentage of 15-79-year-olds satisfied with their life (satisfaction level between 8 and 10)		66,4	%

8. DIFFICULTIES IN FUNCTIONING AND RESTRICTIONS IN PARTICIPATION IN DAILY ACTIVITIES

8.1.a	Prevalence of difficulties in carrying out day-to-day activities	Share of 15-79-year-olds who have difficulties in carrying out normal daily activities (walking, self-care, seeing, hearing, remembering) due to physical or mental problems	Severe	1,6	%
8.1.b			Moderate	8,1	%
8.1.c			Minor	40,9	%
8.2.a	Physical difficulties	Share of 15-79-year-olds who have physical difficulties in carrying out normal daily activities	Severe	0,2	%
8.2.b			Moderate	3,9	%
8.2.c			Minor	13,9	%
8.3.a	Vision difficulties	Percentage of people aged 15-79 who have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses, in carrying out normal daily activities	Grav	0,1	%
8.3.b			Moderate	3,7	%
8.3.c			Minor	29,1	%
8.4.a	Hearing difficulties	Percentage of people aged 15-79 years who have hearing difficulty, even if using a hearing aid, in carrying out normal daily activities	Severe	0,1	%
8.4.b			Moderate	1,0	%
8.4.c			Minor	8,6	%
8.5.a	Difficulty remembering and/or concentrating	Share of people aged 15-79 who have difficulty remembering and/or concentrating when carrying out normal daily activities	Severe	0	%
8.5.b			Moderate	1,2	%
8.5.c			Minor	15,9	%
8.6.a	Self-care difficulties	Share of 15-79-year-olds who have difficulty with self-care activities of daily living	Severe	0,1	%
8.6.b			Moderate	0,7	%
8.6.c			Minor	4,1	%
8.7.	Multiple difficulties	Share of 15-79-year-olds experiencing multiple difficulties (2 or more types of difficulties, of any severity, including minor) in carrying out daily activities	Total	22,0	%
			Men	18,2	%
			Women	25,4	%

9. ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE ROLE OF WOMEN AND MEN IN SOCIETY						
9.1.a.	Perceptions on gender stereotypes	Share of 15–79-year-olds who agree that ...	women are better political leaders		12,5	%
9.1.b			men are better political leaders		33,8	%
9.1.c			higher education is more important for women than for men		6,7	%
9.1.d			higher education is more important for men than for women having a job is more important for men than for women		6,5	%
9.1.e	Trust in people	Share of 15–79-year-olds holding strong stereotypical beliefs about the role of women in society	Total		10,5	%
9.1.f			Men		12,2	%
9.1.g			Women		8,8	%
9.1.j			Total		47,6	%
9.1.h			Men		50,8	%
9.1.i			Women		44,7	%
9.2.a		Share of 15–79 year olds who feel they can trust most people			7,8	%
9.2.b			Share of 15-79 year olds who believe that one should be cautious when dealing with people		92,2	%
10. WORK AND FAMILY LIFE						
10.1	Satisfaction with occupational status	Share of 15–64-year-olds involved in work for pay/wages who are satisfied with their occupational status			44,7	%
10.2.a	Work schedule	Share of employed people aged 15-64 with fixed starting and finishing times			74,5	%
10.2.b			Share of employed people aged 15-64 with no fixed work pattern			25,2
10.3.a	Night work	Share of employed people aged 15-64 working at least 2 hours in the evening or at night between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.			10,0	%
10.3.b			Share of employed people aged 15-64 working from home for at least 2 hours in the evening or at night between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.			3,0

10.4.a	Night work	Share of employed people aged 15-64 working on Saturdays or Sundays		12,7	%
10.4.b		Share of employed people aged 15-64 working on Saturdays or Sundays from home		3,6	%
10.4.c		Share of 15-64-year-olds whose partner works on Saturdays or Sundays		10,5	%
10.5.a	Work-life balance	Share of employed people aged 15-64 who indicated that in the last 3 months at least several times a week/month they were too tired after work to do housework	Total	56,3	%
10.5.b			Men	51,3	%
10.5.c			Women	61,9	%
10.5.d		Share of employed people aged 15-64 who indicated that in the last 3 months, at least a few times a week/month, found it difficult to do household chores because of too much time spent at work	Total	40,7	%
10.5.e			Men	36,2	%
10.5.f			Women	46,5	%
10.5.g		Share of employed people aged 15-64 who indicated that in the last 3 months at least several times a week/month they were too tired from housework to work	Total	20,3	%
10.5.j			Men	17,1	%
10.5.h			Women	24,4	%
10.5.i		Share of employed people aged 15-64 who indicated that in the last 3 months at least several times a week/month they had difficulty concentrating at work due to family responsibilities and problems	Total	15,5	%
10.5.k			Men	13,1	%
10.5.l			Women	18,6	%
10.6.a	Flexible working schedule	Share of employed 15-64-year-olds whose employers accepted the possibility of flexible working hours for personal reasons	Total	48,2	%
10.6.b			Men	49,7	%
10.6.c			Women	46,6	%
10.7.a	Commuting time to work	Average commuting time from home to the main place of work	Total	31,2	minutes
10.7.b			Men	33,0	minutes
10.7.c			Women	29,8	minutes

10.8.a	Decisions on time spent in paid work	Share of married or cohabiting 15-79-year-olds who 'always' or 'usually' decide on their time in paid work	I decide on my time spent in paid work	Women	37,2	%
10.8.b				Men		
10.8.c				Women		
10.8.d				Men		
11. HOUSING AND HOUSEHOLDS						
11.1.a	Domestic mobility	Share of people aged 15-79 who have changed residence/address within the country in the last 3 years			14,7	%
11.1.b		Share of population intending to change residence/address within the country in the next 3 years			13,7	%
11.2.a	Emigration experience	Share of people aged 15-79 who have lived abroad in the last 3 years			0,9	%
11.2.b		Share of 15-79-year-olds planning to move to another country in the next 3 years	Total		15,5	%
11.2.c	Men			18,8	%	
11.2.d	Women			12,4	%	
11.3.a	Fixed Internet connection	Share of 15-79-year-olds whose household has a fixed internet connection	Total		69,1	%
11.3.b	Urban			76,7	%	
11.3.c	Rural			64,7	%	
11.4.a	Internet use	Share of 15-79-year-olds using the internet	Total		73,7	%
11.4.b			Urban		84,7	%
11.4.c			Rural		67,4	%
11.5.a	Division of housework	Share of married or cohabiting 15-79-year-olds who 'always' or 'usually' do the household chores	Food preparation Housekeeping/cleaning Doing the laundry Making small repairs in and around the house	Men	4,7	%
11.5.b				Women	82,6	%
11.5.c				Men	4,2	%
11.5.d				Women	79,6	%
11.5.e				Men	4,3	%
11.5.f				Women	88,6	%
11.5.g				Men	61,8	%
11.5.j	Women	9,8	%			

11.6.a	Satisfaction with the division of household work	Share of married or cohabiting 15-79-year-olds satisfied with the way tasks/jobs are shared in the household	Total	68,3	%	
11.6.b				Men	77,7	%
11.6.c				Women	60,0	%
11.7.	Covering basic needs	Share of households whose income is sufficient to cover basic needs		28,9	%	
11.8.	Income expectations	Share of 15-79-year-olds who believe their income will improve in the next 3 years		40,2	%	
		Share of 15-79-year-olds who believe their income will stay the same in the next 3 years		41,0	%	

ASSESSMENT OF THE ACCURACY OF ESTIMATES

The sample selected for the GGS, wave 1, is only one of the possible samples that could have been selected from the same population using the same design and sample size. Each of these samples would yield results that differ somewhat from the results of the actual sample selected. Probability theory provides a number of indicators to measure this variability, called accuracy indicators or sampling errors. Although the extent of variability is not known precisely, it can nevertheless be estimated with some probability, statistically speaking, based on the research data.

To get an idea of the magnitude of the sampling errors, the following indicators are presented in this annex:

Standard Error of Estimation (SE) – sampling errors are usually measured in terms of standard errors for a given estimator (mean, proportion, rate, etc.). The standard error is the square root of the variance estimate. The Taylor linearization method was used to estimate the standard error;

Coefficient of Variation (CV) – is a relative measure of sampling error and is determined as the ratio of the standard error to the estimate obtained;

Design effect (deff) – is the ratio of the actual variance of an estimate, under the sampling design used in the research, to the theoretical variance determined under the assumption of using simple random sampling. The square root of the design effect (*deft*) is used to show the efficiency of the sample design used in relation to the precision obtained in the simple random survey. A *deft* value of 1 indicates that the sample design is as efficient as a simple random sample, while a *deft* value greater than 1 indicates a decrease in sample efficiency, i.e. lower precision, using the same sample volume compared to the simple random survey.

The Confidence Interval is the range that contains the true population parameter with a certain pre-specified probability (usually 95%). For any statistic estimated in the survey, its value will fall within plus or minus approximately two standard errors in 95 percent of all possible samples of the same size and identical design.

To determine the sampling errors in the GSS data, we used the ReGenesees tool of the R software, developed by ISTAT (Italian Statistical Institute) for variance estimation in complex design survey research. The results are presented in the following tables.

Table no.	Indicator name	Area	estimate GGs	Eroarea standard	CV, %	Confidence Interval		Deff	deft
						Lower limit	Upper limit		
Table 12.3.1.	Share of the population who indicated that their household has a fixed Internet connection	Total	69.1%	1.5%	2.2%	66.2%	72.2%	11.7784	3.4320
Table 12.3.1.	Share of the population who indicated that their household has a fixed Internet connection	Men	66.8%	1.8%	2.7%	63.3%	70.3%	5.7451	2.3969
Table 12.3.1.	Share of the population who indicated that their household has a fixed Internet connection	Women	71.2%	1.6%	2.2%	68.2%	74.4%	8.5574	2.9253
Table 12.3.2.	Share of population using the Internet	Total	73.7%	0.8%	1.1%	72.2%	75.3%	3.6379	1.9073
Table 12.3.2.	Share of population using the Internet	Men	72.6%	1.2%	1.7%	70.3%	75.1%	2.7952	1.6719
Table 12.3.2.	Share of population using the Internet	Women	74.7%	0.9%	1.2%	73.0%	76.4%	3.0175	1.7371
Table 12.2.2.	Share of population intending to change residence/address within the country in the next 3 years	Total	13.7%	0.8%	5.9%	12.1%	15.3%	5.0679	2.2512
Table 12.2.2.	Share of population intending to change residence/address within the country in the next 3 years	Men	14.7%	1.1%	7.5%	12.5%	16.9%	3.7157	1.9276
Table 12.2.2.	Share of population intending to move to another country in the next 3 years	Women	12.8%	0.9%	7.2%	11.0%	14.7%	3.8055	1.9508
Table 12.2.4.	Share of population intending to move to another country in the next 3 years	Total	15.5%	0.8%	5.3%	13.9%	17.1%	5.2267	2.2862
Table 12.2.4.	Share of population intending to move to another country in the next 3 years	Men	18.8%	1.2%	6.6%	16.4%	21.3%	4.1540	2.0381

Table 12.2.4.	Share of population intending to move to another country in the next 3 years	Women	12.4%	0.7%	5.9%	11.0%	13.9%	2.9230	1.7097
Table 2.1.4.	Average age at first marriage, in years	Men	24.5%	0.1%	0.5%	24.3%	24.8%	2.1219	1.4567
Table 2.1.4.	Average age at first marriage, in years	Women	21.8%	0.1%	0.4%	21.6%	22.0%	2.7627	1.6621
Table 2.3.2.	Average number of partners for those with cohabitation experience (married or in a relation-ship)	Total	1.12	0.01	0.7%	1.11	1.14	2.3426	1.5306
Table 2.3.2.	Average number of partners for those with cohabitation experience (married or in a relation-ship)	Men	1.12	0.01	1.2%	1.10	1.15	2.5097	1.5842
Table 2.3.2.	Average number of partners for those with cohabitation experience (married or in a relation-ship)	Women	1.13	0.01	0.8%	1.10	1.14	1.8375	1.3555
Table 2.4.1.	Share of population with cohabitation experience, in %	Men	71.6%	0.9%	1.2%	69.9%	73.3%	2.1815	1.4770
Table 2.4.1.	Share of population with cohabitation experience, in %	Women	78.0%	0.7%	1.0%	76.6%	79.5%	2.2913	1.5137
Table 2.5.1.	Distribution of population who are in a relationship and are not married but intend to marry in the next 3 years	Total	51.8%	3.0%	5.7%	46.0%	57.7%	1.8727	1.3685
Table 2.5.1.	Distribution of population who are in a relationship and are not married but intend to marry in the next 3 years	Men	51.1%	4.3%	8.3%	42.8%	59.4%	1.8544	1.3617
Table 2.5.1.	Distribution of population who are in a relationship and are not married but intend to marry in the next 3 years	Women	52.4%	3.4%	6.5%	45.8%	59.1%	1.7247	1.3133
Table 2.5.2.	Share of unmarried people who are in a relationship and intend to cohabit in the next 3 years	Total	70.8%	2.2%	3.2%	66.4%	75.2%	1.3961	1.1816

Table 2.5.2.	Share of unmarried people who are in a relationship and intend to cohabit in the next 3 years	Men	70.8%	3.2%	4.5%	64.6%	77.1%	2.2301	1.4934
Table 2.5.2.	Share of unmarried people who are in a relationship and intend to cohabit in the next 3 years	Women	70.7%	3.3%	4.7%	64.3%	77.3%	2.1861	1.4785
Table 3.5.1.	Percentage distribution of women aged 15-49 who reported having given birth to a child in their teens, overall and by area of residence, in %	Total	13.9%	0.6%	4.4%	12.7%	15.1%	2.1861	1.4785
Table 3.7.2.1.	Distribution of the population aged 15-49 by average number of children, including biological and adopted children, that they generally intend to have	Total	2.42	0.04	1.5%	2.35	2.49	3.2034	1.7898
Table 3.7.2.1.	Distribution of the population aged 15-49 by average number of children, including biological and adopted children, that they generally intend to have	Men	2.38	0.05	1.9%	2.29	2.47	2.3330	1.5274
Table 3.7.2.1.	Distribution of the population aged 15-49 by average number of children, including biological and adopted children, that they generally intend to have	Women	2.45	0.04	1.6%	2.37	2.53	2.3283	1.5259
Table 3.7.1.1.	Distribution of men and women who think that the ideal number of children in the family is 1	Men	3.0%	0.3%	11.6%	2.3%	3.7%	2.0710	1.4391
Table 3.7.1.1.	Distribution of men and women who think that the ideal number of children in the family is 1	Women	1.9%	0.3%	18.3%	1.2%	2.5%	3.5812	1.8924

Table 3.7.1.1.	Distribution of men and women who think that the ideal number of children in the family is 2	Men	43.7%	1.8%	4.2%	40.1%	47.2%	5.1403	2.2672
Table 3.7.1.1.	Distribution of men and women who think that the ideal number of children in the family is 2	Women	39.8%	1.4%	3.4%	37.2%	42.5%	4.8499	2.2023
Table 3.7.1.1.	Distribution of men and women who think that the ideal number of children in the family is 3 and more	Men	52.6%	1.9%	3.7%	48.4%	56.0%	5.7328	2.3943
Table 3.7.1.1.	Distribution of men and women who think that the ideal number of children in the family is 3 and more	Women	57.5%	1.5%	2.6%	53.9%	59.7%	5.5916	2.3647
Table 4.5.1	SDG 5.6.1 Share of women aged 15-49 (married or cohabiting) who report making decisions independently or with their partner about sexual relations, contraceptive use and sexual and reproductive health.	Women	73.3%	2.2%	3.1%	69.0%	77.7%	3.6251	1.9040
Table 4.4.1.1.	Distribution of married and cohabiting women aged 15-49 with unmet need for family planning and the demand for family planning met with modern methods of contraception, in %	Women	21.9%	1.3%	5.9%	19.4%	24.4%	2.0113	1.4182
Table 4.4.3.1.	Distribution of all women aged 15-49 with unmet need for family planning and the demand for family planning met with modern methods of contraception, in %	Women	16.9%	0.8%	4.8%	15.3%	18.5%	3.0891	1.7576
Table 12.4.2.	Distribution of women and men in marriage or cohabitation who 'always' or 'usually' perform tasks such as cooking, in %	Men	4.7%	0.6%	13.6%	3.4%	6.0%	1.7401	1.3191

Table 12.4.2.	Distribution of women and men in marriage or cohabitation who 'always' or 'usually' perform tasks such as cooking, in %	Women	82.6%	1.3%	1.5%	80.1%	85.0%	3.2289	1.7969
Table 12.4.2.	Distribution of women and men in marriage or cohabitation who 'always' or 'usually' perform tasks such as house cleaning, in %	Men	4.2%	0.6%	14.1%	3.0%	5.4%	1.6235	1.2741
Table 12.4.2.	Distribution of women and men in marriage or cohabitation who 'always' or 'usually' perform tasks such as house cleaning, in %	Women	79.6%	1.3%	1.6%	77.1%	82.1%	3.0171	1.7370
Table 12.4.2.	Distribution of women and men in marriage or cohabitation who 'always' or 'usually' perform tasks such as doing laundry, in %	Men	4.3%	0.6%	13.3%	3.2%	5.4%	1.6405	1.2808
Table 12.4.2.	Distribution of women and men in marriage or cohabitation who 'always' or 'usually' perform tasks such as doing laundry, in %	Women	88.6%	1.0%	1.1%	86.6%	90.6%	2.9021	1.7035
Table 12.4.3	Distribution of married and co-habiting respondents who 'always' or 'usually' are responsible for making small repairs in and around the house, in %	Men	61.8%	2.2%	3.6%	57.4%	66.1%	4.5246	2.1271
Table 12.4.3	Distribution of married and co-habiting respondents who 'always' or 'usually' are responsible for making small repairs in and around the house, in %	Women	9.8%	0.9%	9.3%	8.0%	11.6%	3.4801	1.8655

Table 12.6.1.	Distribution of married and cohabiting respondents who 'always' or 'usually' are responsible for paying bills and handling money, in %	Men	24.4%	1.4%	5.9%	21.5%	27.2%	2.6026	1.6133
Table 12.6.1.	Distribution of married and cohabiting respondents who 'always' or 'usually' are responsible for paying bills and handling money, in %	Women	28.2%	1.4%	5.1%	25.4%	31.1%	3.4252	1.8507
Table 5.5.1.	The way in which responsibilities for dressing children, so that they are dressed appropriately, are distributed in %	Together	41.3%	1.9%	4.6%	37.6%	45.0%	2.8145	1.6777
Table 5.5.1.	The way in which responsibilities for dressing children, so that they are dressed appropriately, are distributed in %	Men are the ones responsible	1.3%	0.3%	21.6%	0.8%	1.9%	1.2267	1.1075
Table 5.5.1.	The way in which responsibilities for dressing children, so that they are dressed appropriately, are distributed in %	Women are the ones responsible	57.3%	1.9%	3.2%	53.7%	61.0%	2.6548	1.6293
Table 6.6.2.	Share of the population aged 15-79 who provided regular help in the last 12 months with personal care for people under 75, in %	Total	8.8%	0.7%	8.5%	7.4%	10.3%	6.4819	2.5460
Table 6.6.2.	Share of the population aged 15-79 who provided regular help in the last 12 months with personal care for people under 75, in %	Men	8.9%	0.9%	10.6%	7.0%	10.7%	3.8916	1.9727
Table 6.6.2.	Share of the population aged 15-79 who provided regular help in the last 12 months with personal care for people under 75, in %	Women	8.8%	0.8%	8.7%	7.3%	10.3%	4.2112	2.0521

Table 9.1.1.	Share of people aged 15-79 who 'have difficulty in carrying out usual daily activities' due to physical or mental health problems, by gender and area of residence, in %	Total	43.3%	1.0%	2.4%	41.3%	45.3%	4.38663	2.0943
Table 9.1.1.	Share of people aged 15-79 who 'have difficulty in carrying out usual daily activities' due to physical or mental health problems, by gender and area of residence, in %	Men	37.0%	1.3%	3.6%	34.4%	39.7%	2.7705	1.6645
Table 9.1.1.	Share of people aged 15-79 who 'have difficulty in carrying out usual daily activities' due to physical or mental health problems, by gender and area of residence, in %	Women	49.0%	1.2%	2.5%	46.6%	51.4%	3.7548	1.9377
Table 9.1.2.	Share of people aged 15-79 who 'have moderate difficulties in carrying out normal daily activities' due to physical or mental health problems, by gender	Total	8.1%	0.5%	6.1%	7.2%	9.1%	2.9870	1.7283
Table 9.1.2.	Share of people aged 15-79 who 'have moderate difficulties in carrying out normal daily activities' due to physical or mental health problems, by gender	Men	7.2%	0.6%	9.0%	5.9%	8.5%	1.8357	1.3549

Table 9.1.2.	Share of people aged 15-79 who 'have moderate difficulties in carrying out normal daily activities' due to physical or mental health problems, by gender	Women	9.0%	0.6%	6.5%	7.8%	10.1%	2.6687	1.6336
Table 9.1.2.	Share of people aged 15-79 who 'have minor difficulties in carrying out normal daily activities' due to physical or mental health problems, by gender and severity of difficulties, in %	Total	40.9%	1.0%	2.5%	38.8%	42.9%	4.4108	2.1002
Table 9.1.2.	Share of people aged 15-79 who 'have minor difficulties in carrying out normal daily activities' due to physical or mental health problems, by gender and severity of difficulties, in %	Men	34.7%	1.3%	3.8%	32.1%	37.3%	2.7803	1.6674
Table 9.1.2.	Share of people aged 15-79 who 'have minor difficulties in carrying out normal daily activities' due to physical or mental health problems, by gender and severity of difficulties, in %	Women	46.5%	1.2%	2.6%	44.1%	48.9%	3.7613	1.9394
Table 8.2.1.	Severe feelings of loneliness reported by people aged 15-79, by sex and area of residence, in %	Total	3.1%	0.3%	8.3%	2.6%	3.6%	2.5621	1.6007
Table 8.2.1.	Moderate feelings of loneliness reported by people aged 15-79, by sex and area of residence, in %	Total	14.8%	0.9%	6.1%	13.0%	16.6%	7.0772	2.6603

Table 11.2.5.1	Distribution of employed women and men aged 15-64 whose employers accept the possibility of flexible working hours, in %	Total	48.2%	2.2%	4.5%	44.0%	52.5%	4.9788	2.2313
Table 11.2.5.1	Distribution of employed women and men aged 15-64 whose employers accept the possibility of flexible working hours, in %	Men	49.7%	2.5%	5.1%	44.7%	54.6%	2.9472	1.7167
Table 11.2.5.1	Distribution of employed women and men aged 15-64 whose employers accept the possibility of flexible working hours, in %	Women	46.5%	2.4%	5.2%	41.8%	51.3%	3.5502	1.8842
Table 11.2.1.1.	Distribution of employed women and men aged 15-64 with fixed starting and finishing working hours	Total	74.5%	1.2%	1.6%	72.1%	76.9%	2.2672	1.5057
Table 12.5.1.	Distribution of population by sufficiency of income to cover basic needs, in %	Total	28.9%	1.4%	4.9%	26.1%	31.7%	9.5813	3.0954
Table 12.5.1.	Distribution of population by sufficiency of income to cover basic needs, in %	Men	31.4%	1.7%	5.4%	28.1%	34.7%	5.0864	2.2553
Table 12.5.1.	Distribution of population by sufficiency of income to cover basic needs, in %	Women	29.6%	1.5%	5.7%	23.7%	29.7%	6.9878	2.6434

GGGS

The logo consists of the letters 'GGGS' in a bold, sans-serif font. A thick, light-colored curved line starts under the first 'G' and sweeps upwards and to the right, ending under the 'S'.

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