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The Health Status of the Population in the Southern Development Region of the Republic of Moldova

Irina Tabără [1,*]

[1] Institute of Ecology and Geography, State University of Moldova
* Correspondence: irinutaroman@yahoo.com;

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Abstract: The study analyzes the health status of the population in the Southern Development Region (SDR) of the Republic of Moldova during the period 2010–2023, based on key epidemiological indicators: prevalence, incidence, and general mortality. The research highlights the influence of ecological factors and the quality of medical services on public health, emphasizing the negative impact of environmental pollution, limited access to clean drinking water, and healthcare services, particularly in rural areas. Statistical data show a significant increase in overall prevalence, from 5,352 cases per 10,000 inhabitants in 2010 to 11,041 in 2022, with a notable acceleration during the COVID-19 pandemic. The most common diseases are cardiovascular (26% of total), respiratory (15.6%), and digestive (11.3%), all showing upward trends. General incidence increased by 62.5% over the analyzed period, with respiratory diseases accounting for the largest share (38.4%), followed by COVID-19 and cardiovascular diseases. Overall mortality increased by approximately 25%, peaking in 2020, the year the pandemic began. The leading causes of death are cardiovascular diseases (56% of total), tumors (15%), and digestive diseases (9%). In 2021, COVID-19 became the second leading cause of death, surpassing tumors. The study's conclusions emphasize the need for policies aimed at reducing ecological risk factors, improving access to healthcare services, and promoting a healthy lifestyle. SDR faces significant public health challenges, and strategic interventions are essential to improving the population's quality of life.

Keywords: Southern Development Region; Epidemiological Trends; Environmental Health Risks; COVID-19 Impact; Policy Interventions.