

MARRIAGES AND DIVORCES ACCORDING TO AGE IN NORTH MACEDONIA (2010, 2015, 2020, 2022)

Arlinda IBISHI^{1*}, Resul HAMITI¹, Meribe MUSTAFI¹, Mireme RUSHITI¹

Department of, Geography-Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, University of Tetova, RNM.

**Corresponding author e-mail: arlinda.ibishi@unite.edu.mk*

Abstract

The subject of this paper is marriages and divorces according to age in the Republic of North Macedonia. The main goal is to analyze these components throughout the years 2010, 2015, 2020, and 2022, to see mainly the age of marriage of couples and also the age which marks a higher number of divorces.

Marriage is the legal union of a woman and a man, in spouses, family, and society, and as such it represents a very important demographic process for society, which, in case of dysfunction leads to divorce as another social process. A divorce is a civil act that separates spouses from their marriage, usually involving the annulment or reorganization of the legal duties and responsibilities of marriage.

The methods used in this paper are: descriptive, analytical, statistical, graphic, and cartographic, where the data obtained from the state statistics agency of North Macedonia are analyzed.

Based on these parameters, we note that the age of entry into marriage is mainly from 25 to 29 years, while the age most affected by divorces is from 40 to 49 years according to age groups. The number of marriages in the age group up to 20 years is higher in the female gender compared to the male one, while the opposite happens in the age group over 55 years. This result is also presented to us in divorces.

From the analysis we can conclude that young people enter into marriage at a later age, mainly 25-29 years old, we also see a high number of divorces, therefore we recommend that young people be provided with the basic conditions for life, work and safety and to be stimulated to continue their growth in the family.

Keywords: marriage, divorce, age group, Republic of North Macedonia

1. Introduction

The study of demographic issues is very important for the social understanding and development of any country and people. In any country, demography, as a science of the complex development of people, occupies a good place among the social sciences.

Marriage is the sharing of the same environment and the cohabitation of two people with different personal characteristics, where due to these changes in personal characteristics, various conflicts come to the fore, which lead to divorce.

These two processes depend on the total number of the gender structure of the population, ethnic structure, age, religion, education, etc.

In general, the number of coronations is decreasing because young people in recent times enter marriage at a late age, seek to have a more stable standard of living, higher education, better profession, etc.

The structure of the population according to age is important in demographic and socio-economic processes. The past, present and future development of the population movement can be seen from this structure.

According to data from the State Statistics Agency in the last censuses in the Republic of North Macedonia according to the age structure, the largest percentage of the population are in the 40-44 age group. A curiosity is that 51 people over 100 years old are registered in North Macedonia.

2. Marriages in RNM

Marriage is the legal union of a woman and a man, in a spouse, family and society. Marriage establishes rights and obligations between them, as well as their children, and between them and the couple's parents. The definition of marriage varies between cultures and religions, and over time. Individuals may marry for several reasons, including legal, social, emotional, financial, spiritual, and religious purposes. [4]

Table 1. Marriages in the Republic of North Macedonia by age

	2010		2015		2020		2022		2010-2022	
	M ¹	F ²	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Total	14 155		14 186		10 278		12 882		-1273	
up to 20 years	329	1957	223	1331	143	856	175	864	-154	-1 093
20-24	3640	5315	2946	4777	2019	3380	2240	3963	-1 400	-1 352
25-29	5299	4183	5288	4650	3780	3295	4721	4263	-578	+80
30-34	2831	1596	3272	1973	2285	1391	3094	1979	+263	+383
35-39	1039	516	1216	676	954	588	1214	781	+175	+265
40-44	472	262	512	335	429	313	596	458	+124	+196
45-49	211	157	131	229	265	216	310	254	+99	+97
50-54	131	83	160	104	163	128	242	169	+111	+86
Over than 55	203	86	256	111	240	111	290	151	+87	+65

Source ESRNM data (edited by the authors)

From the table, we can see that the number of marriages in 2015 was 14,155, of which 5299 belong to men in the age group 25-29 years, and 5315 belong to women in the age group 20-24 years. If we look at the year 2015, we will see that we have the lowest number of marriages for men in the age group 45-49 years, where this number is 131, and for women in the age group 50-54 years, 104 marriages.

¹ M- refers to male

² F- refers to female

In 2020, the highest number of marriages was 3780 among men aged 25-29 years, while the lowest number was 111 among women over the age of 55. Out of a total of 12,882 marriages that took place in 2022, the highest number of marriages took place in the 25-29 age group for both sexes. Marriages at a young age bring responsibilities that couples did not think they would have and this is another reason to go to court for divorce, but these two processes are present and unavoidable all over the world. [2]

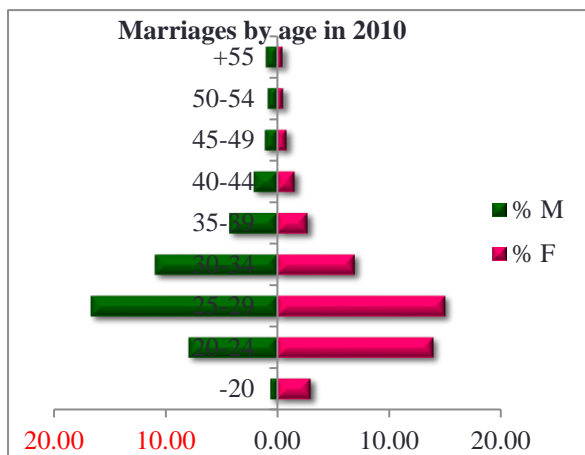


Figure 1. Marriages by age in 2010

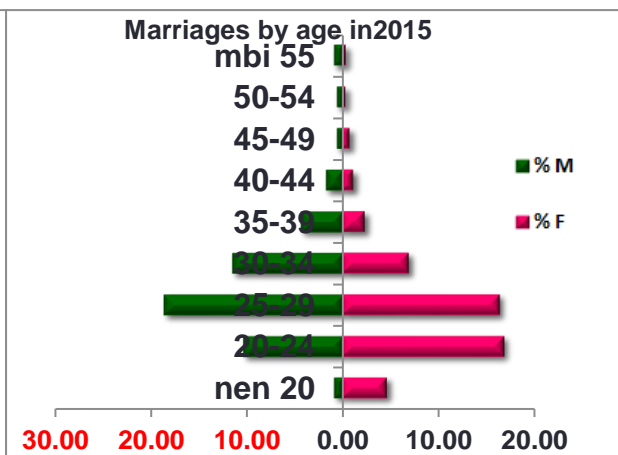


Figure 2. Marriages by age in 2015

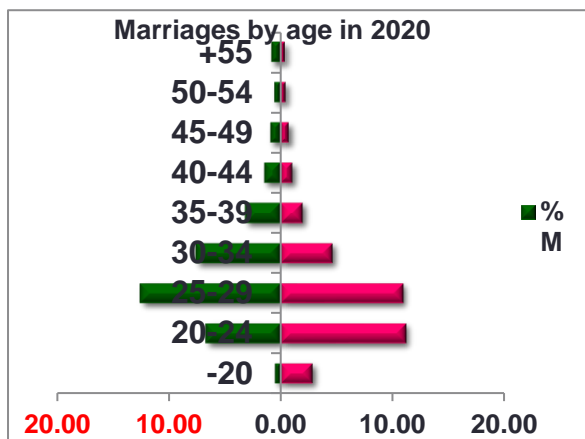


Figure 3. Marriages by age in 2020

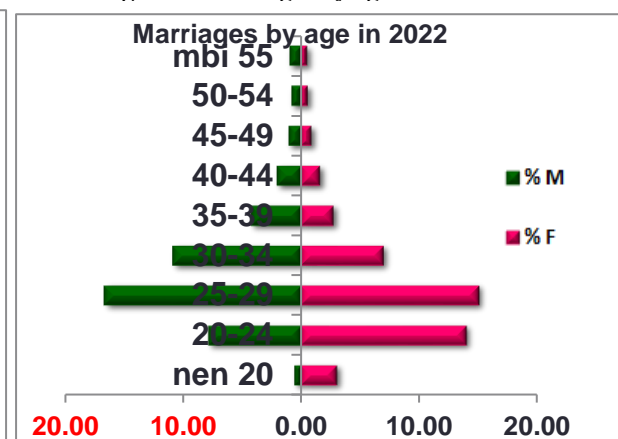


Figure 4. Marriages by age in 2022

When we analyze the period 2010-2022, we can see from the data that we have a decrease in the number of marriages by -1,273 fewer marriages, where the biggest decrease is among men in the age group of 20-24 years (-1,400 marriages).

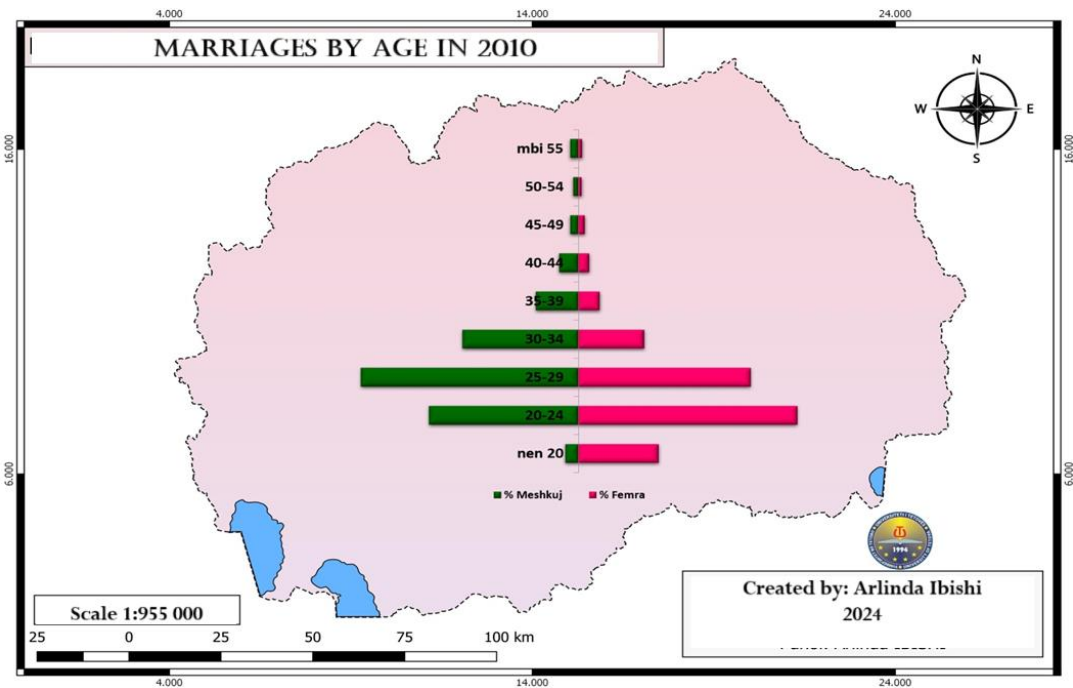
An increase in marriages has occurred among women in the 30-34 age group, where we have +383 more marriages.

Every society encounters major changes, and society in our country is also going through the stages of its development. The changes that our society is going through have not left the demographic flows untouched, especially marriages and divorces. The age to enter into marriage is constantly postponed and the average age for entering into this process is over 25 years. [6]

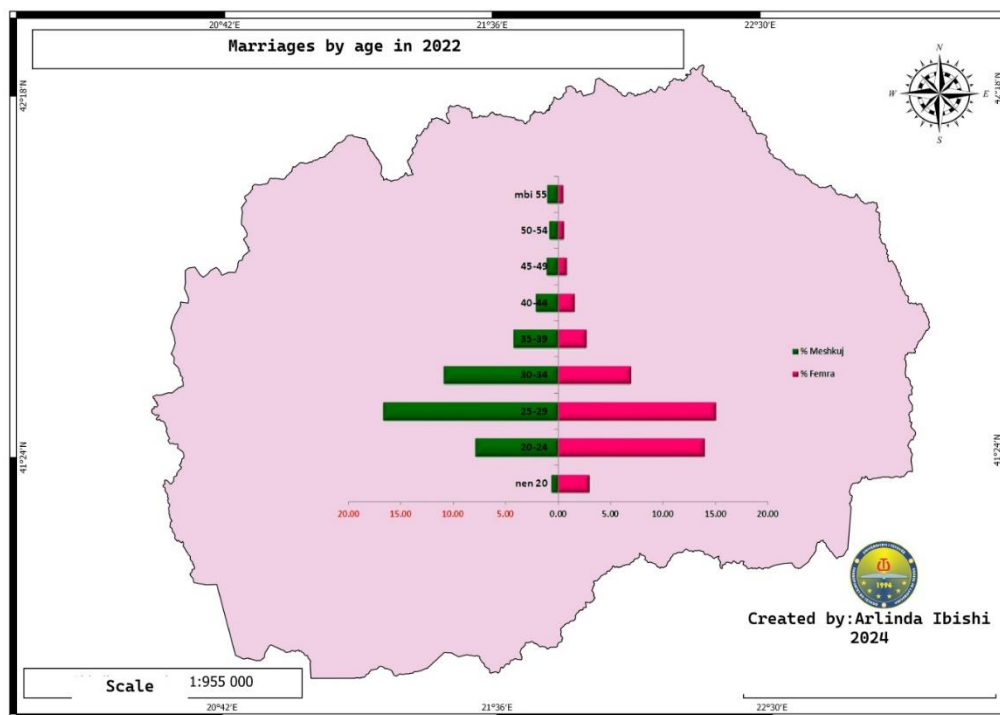
From the analyzed years, we can see that the largest number of marriages is present between the ages of 25-29 years, both for male and female genders, this means that the average age of marriage in RNM is 25-29 years.

Matrimonies can usually take place after many months or years of marriage, and the act of marriage is related to the profession of the couple, their educational level, age, place of residence, etc. Marriages in our population usually take place in the summer and early spring

months, which is related to free time and the arrival of young people from the outside world.
[1]



Map 1. Marriages by age in 2010



Map 2. Marriages by age in 2022

3. Divorces in RNM

A divorce is a civil act that separates spouses from their marriage, usually involving the annulment or reorganization of the legal duties and responsibilities of marriage, thereby dissolving the marriage bonds between a married couple under the rule of law of a particular country or state.

Divorce as a social problem affects all structures of the population, and as such there are cases that appear even in those marriages that have a duration of more than 20 years. The main causes that lead to divorce are different such as: adultery, emancipation, emigration, economic situation and other cases. [3]

Table 2. Divorces in the Republic of North Macedonia by age

	2010		2015		2020		2022		2010-2022	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Total	1720		2200		1569		1613		-107	
up to 20 years	6	31	2	21	1	11	3	14	-3	-17
20-24	125	278	97	232	56	144	52	126	-73	-152
25-29	290	336	274	380	185	227	178	252	-112	-84
30-34	319	327	418	436	237	275	281	298	-38	-29
35-39	324	263	404	400	262	278	268	269	-56	+6
40-49	416	325	635	501	480	419	478	422	+62	+97
50-59	181	131	272	188	236	158	242	166	+61	+35
over than 60	59	29	98	42	112	57	111	66	+52	+37

Source ESRNM data (edited by the authors)

From the data presented in the table, we can see that out of a total of 1,720 divorces that took place in 2010, the highest number is 336 and belongs to women in the age group of 25-29 years, while the lowest number is 6. and belongs to men under 20 years old.

In 2015, out of a total of 2,200 divorces, the male gender was the one that recorded the highest number of divorces and the one with 635 divorces in the 40-49 age group. The lowest number of divorces in 2020 for both sexes was in the age group of less than 20 years.

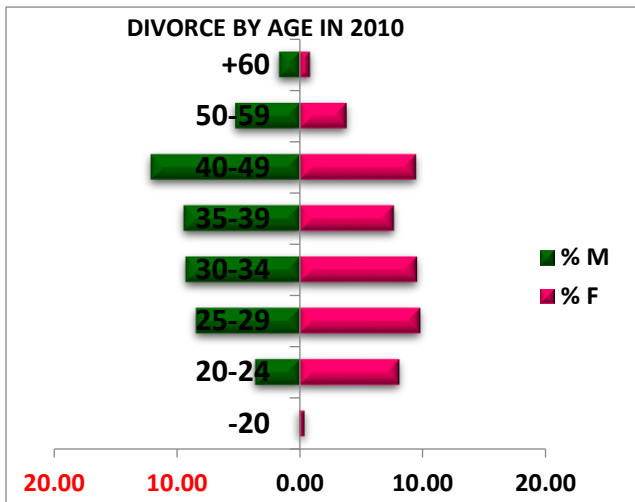


Figure 5. Divorces by age in 2010

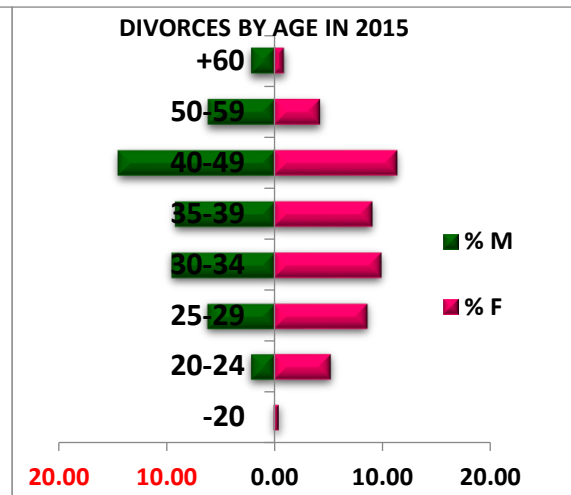


Figure 6. Divorces by age in 2015

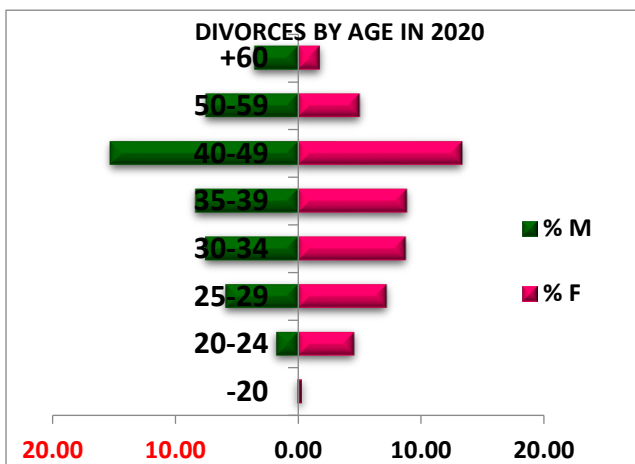


Figure 7. Divorces by age in 2020

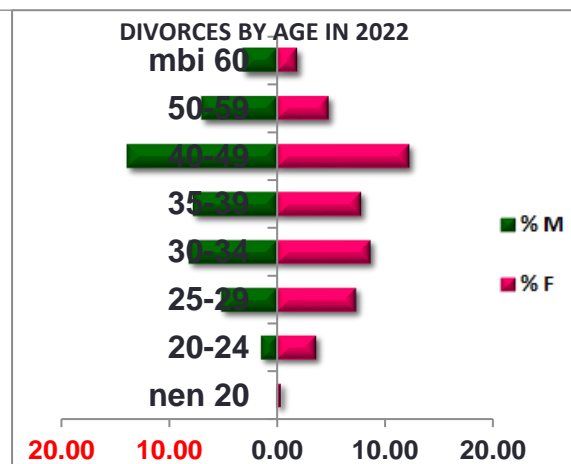


Figure 8. Divorces by age in 2022

From the analysis of the period 2010-2022, we can see that we have a decrease in the number of divorces by -107 divorces less, where the biggest decrease was recorded by men in the 25-29 years age group who have -112 divorces less.

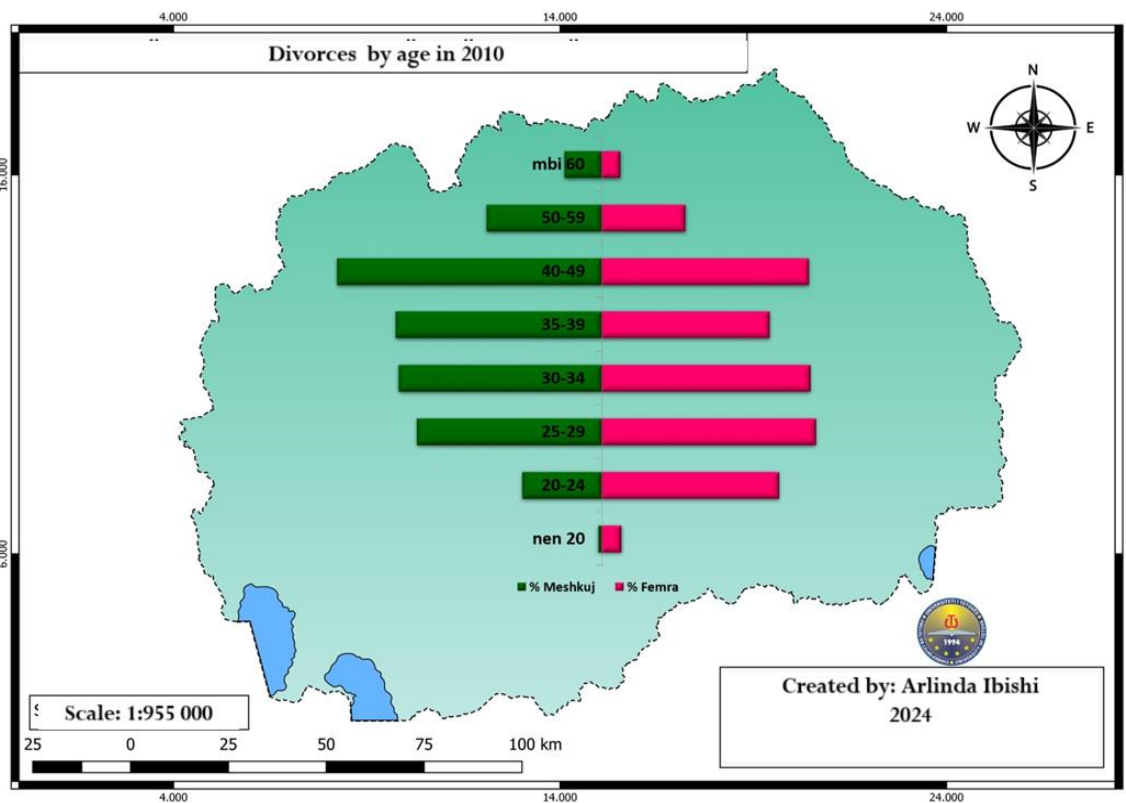
Women in the 40-49 age group during this period had the largest increase in the number of divorces and +97 more divorces.

From all the analyzed years, we can see that the highest number of divorcees over the age of 60 was in 2020, 112 men, while for the female gender, the least divorced at this age was in 2010, only 29 women divorced over 60 years.

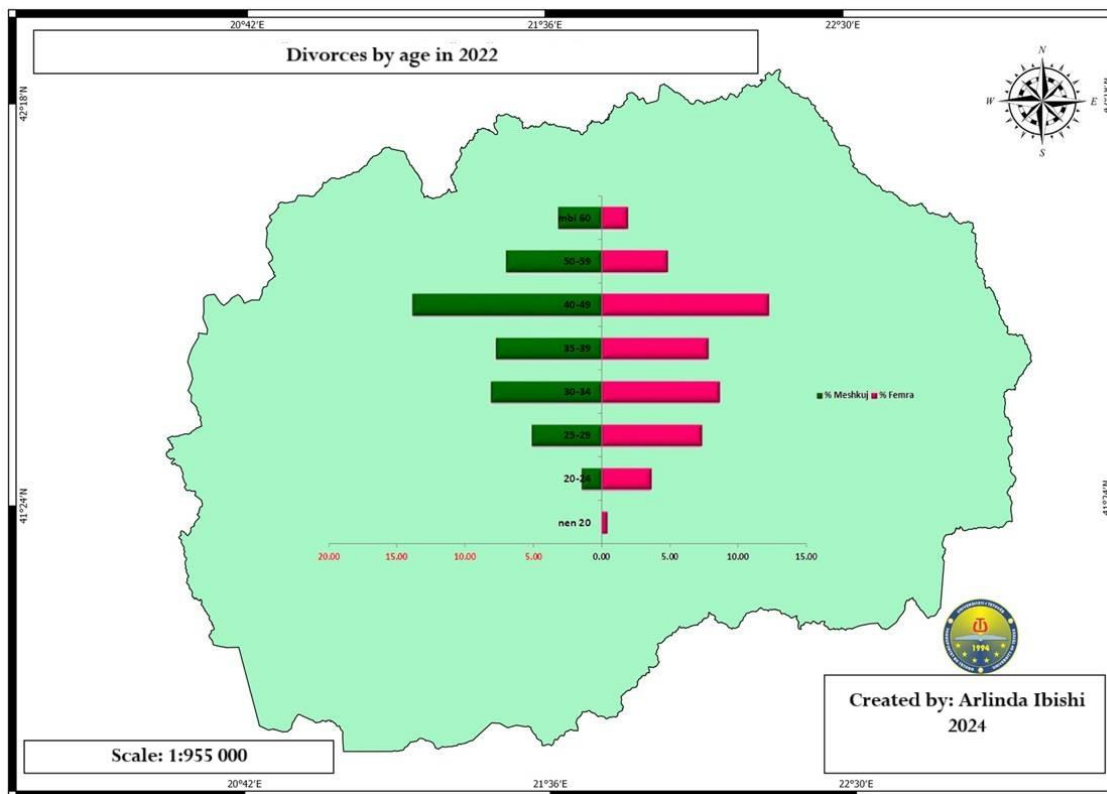
A more difficult situation for the divorced is presented to the female gender due to the high rate of unemployment represented by them, as well as those with lower incomes as well as the lack of a housing solution.

In the end, we come to the results that the consequences of divorce are many and different, depending on the economic situation of the divorced couple and their age. Among the consequences that are most pronounced after divorce are: the reduction of the female's reproductive capacity, the renunciation of remarriage, the renunciation of births in remarriage,

the appearance of stress, boredom, insufficient care of children, silence, and finally the spread of negative phenomena such as prostitution, drugs, alcohol and others. [7]



Map 3. Divorces by age in 2010



Map 4. Divorces by age in 2022

4. Conclusions

As a historical human phenomenon, the contracting of marriage, as well as its termination, is widespread, repeated, and unstoppable.

During the years that have been researched and presented in the paper, it is seen that in RMV the number of coronations is always higher compared to divorces, and this is positive and beneficial to society.

The number of coronations in the state for the analyzed years shows a decrease of 1,273 in coronations and 107 in divorces, while in 2020 we see a decrease in both processes, both at the state and regional level.

The age to get married is constantly postponed and the average age for entering into this process is over 25 years. According to the data, we conclude that marriages with large age differences in most cases do not work properly and end in divorce, while marriages where both parties are closer in age are the most successful in our country.

The main causes that lead to divorce are betrayal, incompatibility of character, family problems, difficult economic situations, emigration, etc., while the consequences that are mostly expressed after divorce are: the spread of negative phenomena, emotional disorders, reduction of reproductive capacity of women, psychological consequences for children, etc.

From the analysis we can conclude that young people enter marriage at a later age, mainly 25-29 years old, looking for a more stable standard of living, we also see a high number of divorces, therefore we recommend that young people be provided with the basic conditions for life, safe work and are stimulated to continue their growth in the family.

References

- [1] Gllopeni, B., 2010. Shkaqet dhe pasojat e shkurorëzimit në Kosovë në periudhën 1950-2007, Shkup.
- [2] Kadriu, I., 2009. Sociologjia e familjes, Tetovë.
- [3] Korkut, G., 2021. Ndhima e parë psikologjike në divorc, Prizren.
- [4] Korucu, M., 2011. Dashuro martesën tone, Prizren.
- [5] Republic of North Macedonia State Statistical Office. (2011,2016 & 2021). Regions of the Republic of North Macedonia 2010, 2015 &2020. Statistical review for the analyzed years (2010, 2015 & 2020). Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia: Republic of North Macedonia State Statistical Office. Retrived March, 2023 from
- [6] Skenderi, F., 2009. Demogjeografia, Tetovë.
- [7] Матилев, Н., 2002. Брак и семејство, Скопје.
- [8] <https://makstat.stat.gov.mk/PXWeb/pxweb/mk/MakStat/?rxid=46ee0f64-2992-4b45-a2d9-cb4e5f7ec5ef>
- [9] <https://www.stat.gov.mk/PublikaciiPoOblast.aspx?id=32&rbrObl=37>