

# Heat-related mortality in Moldova: the summer of 2007

November 19th, 2013



The impact of the extremely hot summer of 2003 in Western Europe on heat-related mortality has been studied well; the impact of the hot summer of 2007, which concentrated more significantly in south-eastern Europe, has not received as much attention. This year was one of the warmest in the history of instrumental observations in Greece, Romania and Moldova; in the latter, practically all temperature records were broken in winter, spring and especially in summer. The monthly temperatures in 2007 exceeded the baseline climate (1961-1990) by  $2.5-4.0\sigma$ , and the summer temperature by  $5\sigma$ .

On the whole, in May to September six heat waves and two individual heat days, with a total duration of 47 days, were observed. The enumerated heat events caused 146 excess deaths in Chişinău, the capital of Moldova, or about 77% of the total number in the warm period of 2007. It was estimated that about 17-25% of the total excess deaths refer to a frail subset of the population who would have died shortly thereafter anyway. It was concluded that excess

**human mortality was higher due to relative high temperatures during the night than during the day.**

**Source: Corobov et al., 2013. International Journal of Climatology 33: 2551-2560.**

**Photo: Guttorm Flataboe ([www.stckr.com](http://www.stckr.com))**