

## GENDER AND AGE GROUP STRUCTURE IN HARGHITA COUNTY, AT THE 2011 CENSUS

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**Abstract:** The study at hand aims to present the gender and age structure of the population of Harghita County, recorded at the 2011 Census. For better emphasis, following geographical logic, we shall commence by bringing forward the essential characteristics of gender structure, more exactly both genders (BG), followed by the male population (M) and the female population (F), as well as age groups, encompassing the 0-19 group (young people), 20-59 group (adult) and the over 60 group (elderly). The data is first presented at the larger territorial level, then the analysis shifts focus towards the evolution of each administrative-territorial unit’s population, as well as the urban-rural situation.

**Key words:** population, male, female, age groups, 2011 Census

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### INTRODUCTION

The gender and age structures represent two of the basic geodemographic characteristics of a population from any given territory, having a crucial importance from demographic and social-economic points of view. The presentation of the evolutions of these two elements is based on the statistical data from the Population and Household Census of 2011, official data provided by the National Institute of Statistics<sup>1</sup> and by the Harghita County Statistical Department<sup>2</sup>.

In terms of methodology, data collection was followed by their systematization into tabular and graphical form, which enabled a proper analysis of the issue at hand. One must also point out

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.recensamanromania.ro/rezultate-2>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.harghita.insse.ro/main.php>

that, for this scientific endeavour, several articles, papers and studies have been used as references, some of them (made into doctoral theses) even being focused on some parts of the territory taken into consideration here (Șeer, 2004; Tofan, 2013; Holirca, 2014; Mara, 2014).

Two monograph studies on Harghita County were used as reference, them being part of the Romanian Counties Collection, published at the Romanian Academy Publishing House (Pișotă et al., 1976; Cocean et al., 2013). Additional studies include research on neighbouring areas (Niță, 2007, 2010). As guidance, we used the studies of Pop et al., 1973; Pop, 2002; Pop et al., 2015, as well as the methodological books written by Vert, 1995, 2001.

## GENDER AND AGE GROUP STRUCTURE IN HARGHITA COUNTY, AT LAU (LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS) 2 LEVEL

### Entire population of Harghita County

a) *The young group (0-19 years)*, with a percentage of 22.64% at county level (70 391 out of a total of 310 867 inhabitants), has different values when it comes to level 2 LAUs.

Thus, values above the average (22.64%) were registered in 22 settlements: Miercurea Ciuc, Gheorgheni, Toplița, Odorheiu Secuiesc, Băile Tușnad, Cristuru Secuiesc, Bilbor, Cârța, Ciumani, Dănești, Dârjiu, Ditrău, Joseni, Lăzarea, Lueta, Merești, Mihăileni, Șarmaș, Siculeni, Subcetate, Suseni, and Tulgheș, and also in 17 other settlements: Bălan, Vlăhița, Brădești, Ciceu, Feliceni, Gălăuțaș, Lupeni, Mădăraș, Mărtiniș, Mugeni, Păuleni Ciuc, Racu, Remetea, Sâncrăieni, Sândominic, Tomești and Zetea.

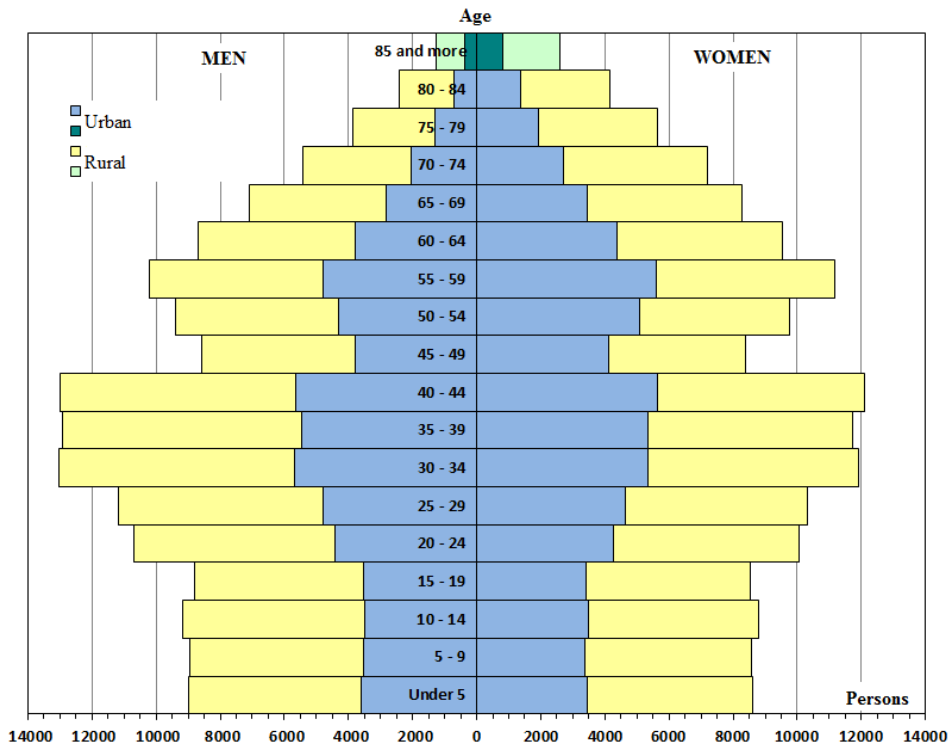
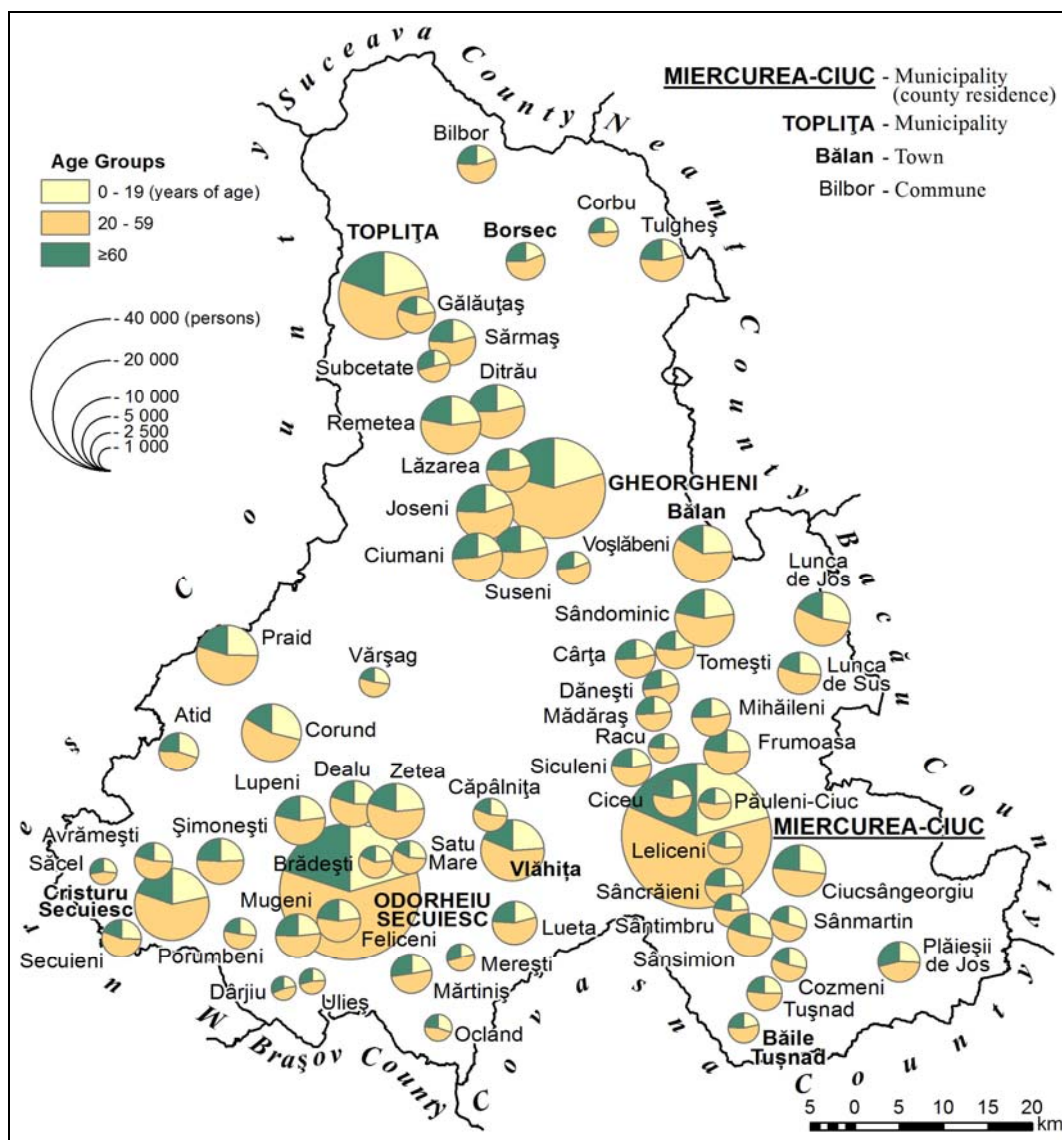


Figure 1. The age pyramid of Harghita County, in 2011

The highest concentration of young people, over 24%, were found in most of these areas (26), more prominently in Atid and Ocland, where young people representation registered values above 30% (30.17% and 30.24%) (figure 2). The lowest values, below 20%, were found in Borsec (18.84%) and in Voșlăbeni (19.03%), due to intense emigration and an aging populace (Cocean et al., 2013).



**Figure 2.** Age group structure in Harghita County, LAU 2 level, at the 2011 Census  
(Data source: 2011 Census).

*b) The adult group (20-59 years)* has the highest representation, with a relative value of 56.10% (174 391 inhabitants out of the total of 310 867).

Compared to the already mentioned average, there were 14 administrative-territorial units that revolved around that figure, 55-57%: Borsec, Bilbor, Ciceu, Joseni, Lelicieni, Lueta, Lupeni, Remetea, Sândominic, Sărmaș, Satu Mare, Secuieni, Siculeni, and Zetea. Values between 57-60% can be found only in Gheorgheni, Toplița, Odorheiu Secuiesc, Bălan, Vlăhița, Cristuru Secuiesc, Brădești and Gălăuțaș. Most settlements (44) registered values below 55%, the lowest being registered in Săcel (44.84%), Ocland (45.94%) and Atid (45.69%), while in Miercurea Ciuc, the adult population held a value above 60% (60.78%).

*c) The elderly group (over 60 years of age)* has an average representation of 21.26% (66 085 inhabitants). There are 11 units with values between 20 and 22%: Gheorgheni, Avrămești,

Ciceu, Lelicieni, Lupeni, Porumbeni, Praid, Remetea, Sândominic, Vârșag and Zetea, values below 20% being found in 18 units, the lowest percentages in Bălan (16.24%) and Corund (16.67%), followed by 24 units with 22-25%, while 13 communes have above 25%: Cârța, Ciumani, Corbu, Dănești (the highest value, 31.56%), Dârjiu, Mădăraș, Mărtiniș, Merești, Plăieșii de Jos, Săcel, Subcetate, Ulieș and Voșlăbeni, as well as the town of Borsec.

### **The male population of Harghita County**

It holds a value of 49.40% (153572 inhabitants) and its structure is as follows: 35 891 inhabitants and 23.37% are young people, 88 964 inhabitants or 57.93% are adults, 28 717 and 18.70% are elderly.

*a) Young people group (ages 0-19)* has a percentage of 23.37 (35 891 inhabitants). Percentages around that average (22-24%) can be found in: Miercurea Ciuc, Toplița, Băile Tușnad, Cristuru Secuiesc, as well as in Brădești, Cârța, Ciceu, Dârjiu, Ditrău, Feliceni, Lupeni, Mihăileni, Mugeni, Păuleni Ciuc, Remetea, Sâncrăieni, Sândominic, Sântimbru, Siculeni, Suseni, Tomești and Zetea communes, while 24-26% can be found in 15 settlements: Bălan, Vlăhița, Corbu, Dealu, Frumoasa, Lelicieni, Lunca de Sus, Mădăraș, Plăieșii de Jos, Racu, Satu Mare, Secuieni, Șimonești, Tușnad, and Vârșag. Values above 26% young people were found in 13 communes, with the highest values above 30% only in Ocland and Cozmeni (30.81%, 30.14%), and the lowest, below 22%, in 16 settlements, such as Bilbor (19.82%) (figure 3).

*b) The adult group (ages 20-59)* had an average of 57.93% (88 964 inhabitants), with values close to the average, 56-58%, in 17 communes: Avrămești, Corund, Dealu, Feliceni, Lelicieni, Lunca de Sus, Mărtiniș, Remetea, Sândominic, Sărmaș, Secuieni, Siculeni, Tomești, Tulgheș, Vârșag, Voșlăbeni and Zetea. Values below 56% were registered in 33 settlements, Atid commune having the lowest value, 48.93%. Values between 58-60% were found in nine areas (Borsec, Vlăhița, Bilbor, Ciceu, Joseni, Lăzarea, Lueta, Lupeni and Satu Mare), while those above 60%, in eight areas: Miercurea Ciuc, Gheorgheni, Toplița, Odorheiu Secuiesc, Bălan, Cristuru Secuiesc, Brădești and Gălăuțaș.

*c) The elder group (over 60 years of age)* held a percentage of 18.70% (28 717 inhabitants), with 13 settlements within the 17-19% range: Gheorgheni, Toplița, Odorheiu Secuiesc, Căpâlnița, Dealu, Lelicieni, Lunca de Sus, Lupeni, Praid, Remetea, Sândominic, Sânmartin, and Zetea. In comparison to the above mentioned situation, 13 settlements were below 17%, such as Corund with only 14.09%. Higher values than the average 19-21% (14 settlements) and above 21% (25 settlements), with the highest values registered in Merești (25.38%) and Plăieșii de Jos (25.76%).

### **The female population of Harghita County**

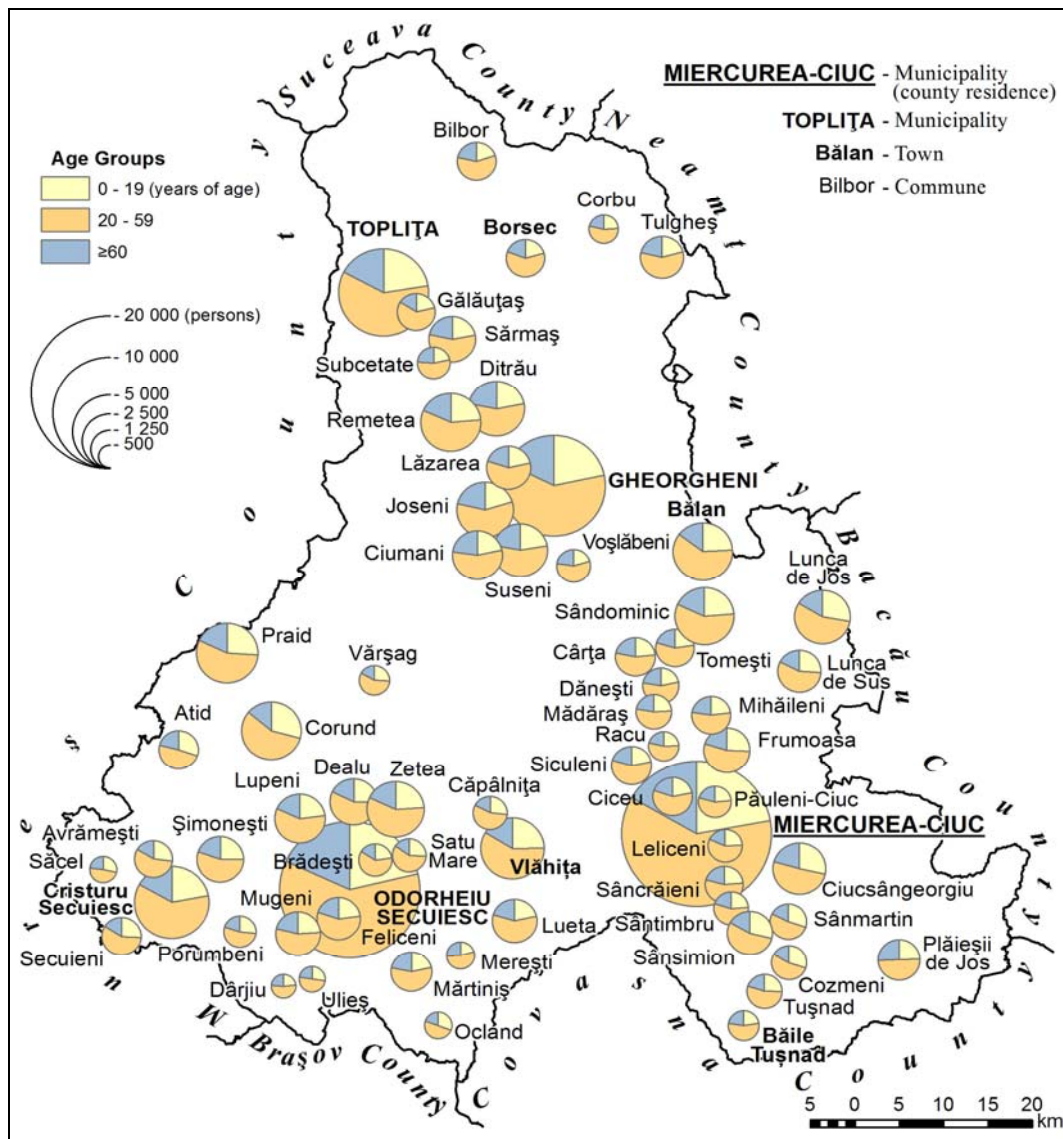
There were 157 295 females, meaning 50.60% out of a total of 310 867 inhabitants in the entire county. The female population structure was as follows: 21.93% (34 500 people) were young, 54.31% (85 427 people) of adult age and 23.76% (37 368 people) were elderly.

*a) The young group (0-19 years of age)*, with an average of 21.93%, had values of 20-22%, in 18 settlements: Toplița, Băile Tușnad, Cristuru Secuiesc, Bilbor, Dănești, Dârjiu, Ditrău, Lăzarea, Lueta, Mădăraș, Merești, Mihăileni, Sândominic, Siculeni, Subcetate, Suseni, Tulgheș and Ulieș, values of 22-24% in 17 settlements, two of them urban (Bălan and Vlăhița), while the rest being rural (Brădești, Ciceu, Feliceni, Frumoasa, Gălăuțaș, Lelicieni, Lupeni, Mărtiniș, Mugeni, Racu, Remetea, Sâncrăieni, Șimonești, Tomești and Zetea).

Lower values, below 20%, were registered in four urban areas (Miercurea Ciuc, Gheorgheni, Odorheiu Secuiesc and Borsec) and five rural areas (Cârța, Ciumani, Joseni, Sărmaș and Voșlăbeni), while higher values, first 24-26% (in 11 units) and then above 26% (in 12 communes, the highest, 30.35%, found in Atid).

*b) The adult group (20-59 years of age)*, with a total number of 85 427 inhabitants, or 54.31%, positioned around values of 53-55% in nine rural territorial-administrative units: Căpâlnița, Ciceu, Gălăuțaș, Lelicieni, Praid, Sărmaș, Satu Mare, Siculeni, and Zetea; most

settlements (50) had values below 53%, the lowest having been registered in Plăieșii de Jos (41.91%), Ocland (41.75%) and Dârjiu (40.79%). In the higher range, above 55%, we found seven urban areas (Miercurea Ciuc, Gheorgheni, Toplița, Odorheiu Secuiesc, Bălan, Cristuru Secuiesc and Vlăhița), as well as Brădești commune (56.20%) (figure 4).

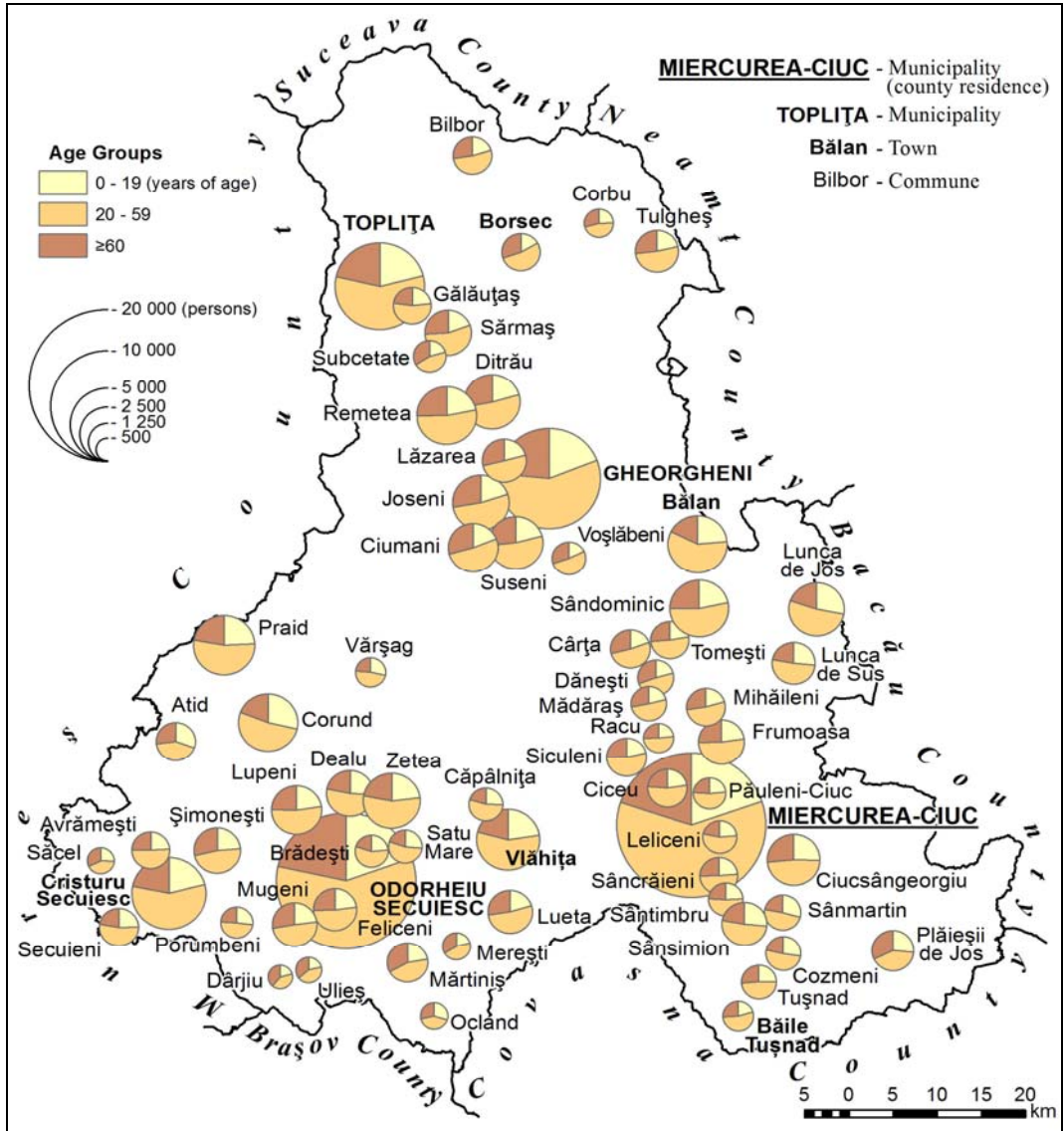


**Figure 3.** The age group structure of the male population of Harghita County, LAU 2 level, at the 2011 Census  
(Data source: 2011 Census)

*c) The elderly group (above 60 years of age), represented 23.76% (37 368 females out of a total of 157 295), was structured as follows: 10 settlements registered values close to the average 22-24% (Gheorgheni, Ciceu, Dealu, Gălăuțaș, Leliceni, Lunca de Sus, Praid, Sânsimion, Secuieni and Zetea). The below 22% range was found in 13 areas (Miercurea Ciuc, Toplița, Odorheiu Secuiesc, Bălan, Cristuru Secuiesc, Vlăhița, Brădești, Căpâlnița, Corund, Cozmeni, Lunca de Jos,*



Sânmartin, and Satu Mare). Above average value, or within the 24-26% range, were 13 units (Avrămești, Feliceni, Frumoasa, Lupeni, Păuleni Ciuc, Porumbeni, Racu, Remetea, Sâncrăieni, Sântimbru, Siculeni, Tușnad, and Vârșag), while the above 26% range comprised 31 settlements, such as Dârjiu (38.72%), Subcetate (33.83%), and Merești (33.58%).



**Figure 4.** The age group structure of the female population of Harghita County, LAU 2 level, at the 2011 Census (Data source: 2011 Census)

**CONCLUSIONS**

At the 2011 census, out of a total stable population of 310 867 inhabitants, 49.40% (153 572) were male, while 50.60% (157 295) female. For a clearer representation of the male-female ratio, we employed the femininity index. Thus, in 2011, the femininity index (for the entire area) registered 102 women for 100 men. The young group (0-19 years of age) and the adult group both

had the same ratio 96 women/100 men, while the elder group ( $\geq 60$  years) registered 130 women/100 men. After analyzing the major age groups in Harghita County, we came to the following situation: both genders had, in the order of the main age groups taken into account (young, adult and elder), 22.64% (70 391 inhabitants out of the county's total of 310 867), 56.10% (174 391) and 21.26% (66085) (table 1).

**Table 1.** The gender and age group structure of Harghita County at the 2011 Census  
(Data source: 2011 Census)

Harghita County	Gender	Total stable population	Age groups					
			0-19	%	20-59	%	$\geq 60$	%
TOTAL	BG	310867	70391	22.64	174391	56.10	66085	21.26
	M	153572	35891	23.37	88964	57.93	28717	18.70
	F	157295	34500	21.93	85427	54.31	37368	23.76
Urban	BG	132418	27865	21.04	78899	59.58	25654	19.37
	M	64103	14137	22.05	38895	60.68	11071	17.27
	F	68315	13728	20.10	40004	58.56	14583	21.35
Rural	BG	178449	42526	23.83	95492	53.51	40431	22.66
	M	89469	21754	24.31	50069	55.96	17646	19.72
	F	88980	20772	23.34	45423	51.05	22785	25.61

BG = both genders, M = male, F = female.

The entire male population (153 572 people), in the same age group order, had the following values: 23.37% (35 891), 57.93% (88 964) and 18.70% (28 717), while the female populace (157 295 people) registered 21.93% (34 500 young people), 54.31% (85 427 adults), and 23.76% (37 368 elderly).

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