The research analyzed the relationships among stress, social relations, and mortality in a probability sample of 4,049 Taiwanese adults, aged 60 and over. The baseline survey was conducted in 1989 and the survival status of the respondents was ascertained during the subsequent 4 years. Death of a spouse or a child was found to increase the risk of dying directly and indirectly, whereas major financial difficulty during the past 5 years and current financial strain influenced mortality indirectly through their effects on self-rated health disability. In addition to their direct effect on mortality, marital status and work status lowered the probability of dying through decreased disability and subjective ill health. Finally, no buffering effects of social support were substantiated.