



Reduction of Health Inequalities in the Roma Community

Publication Details

Title:	A Cigarra e a Formiga. Contributos para a reflexão sobre o entrosamento da minoria étnica cigana na Sociedade Portuguesa.
Author(s):	Pinto, Maria de Fátima
Publication date:	July 2000
Country:	Portugal
Language:	Portuguese
Contact address if more information is required: (where applicable)	REAPN – Rede Europeia Anti-Pobreza/Portugal Rua Costa Cabral, 2368 4200 – Porto Tel: 22 5403269 Fax: 22 5403250
Published by:	Cadernos REAPN, Porto
Bibliography: ⁽¹⁾	

⁽¹⁾ In the case of a magazine article, include name, number, volume and date. If it is a chapter of a book, include the title and references.

Type of document (mark with an X):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Article
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Book
<input type="checkbox"/>	Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	Study / Public administration report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Study / NGO report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Presentations or communications
<input type="checkbox"/>	Doctoral thesis
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

Summary (Description of the study and most relevant results)

This study is the result of a dissertation made under a Master in Social Politics and Social Work. This is a research on a social work practice developed with the Roma community, in the end of 80's.

This book highlights the necessity of new social structures and of different concept of citizenship based on the recognition of social and cultural diversity. Thus, the report aims at the reflection on the possibilities of construction of social work practices capable of understanding and mitigating the social and economic constraints Roma communities suffers.

Along the report is presented characteristics that this communities exhibit, namely the relationship between the Roma population and the health services.

Thus, in this study are references of the following characteristics related with health:

-the hospitalization is stressful since the family experience a grief that only ends when the

patient comes back home;

-in the length of time that it is not allow to visit the patient, the family remains at the hospital entrance where they receive the solidarity from other relatives and friends. They only live the hospital entrance when the patient's health becomes stable;

-in case of illness, childbirth, or other health condition, is possible to recognize the unity and the cohesion of the community;

-in circumstances where there isn't severe illness, they turn to their own health traditions and to the utilization of plants (tee and herbs) and other products;

-they turn to witch doctors to "keep away the illness"

-many diseases are imputed to the supernatural phenomena, "spells", envies, and curse.



Reduction of Health Inequalities in the Roma Community

Publication Details

Title:	A Comunidade Cigana e o Etnocentrismo da Instituição Médica de Saúde Comunitária
Author(s):	SILVA; Luísa Ferreira da; SOUSA, Fátima; OLIVEIRA Luísa; MAGANO; Olga
Publication date:	2000
Country:	Portugal
Language:	Portuguese
Contact address if more information is required: (where applicable)	
Published by:	Associação Portuguesa de Sociologia, IV Congresso Português de Sociologia, Coimbra, 2000 (Portuguese Sociological Association, IV Portuguese Congress of Sociology, Coimbra, 2000)
Bibliography: ⁽¹⁾	

⁽¹⁾ In the case of a magazine article, include name, number, volume and date. If it is a chapter of a book, include the title and references.

Type of document (mark with an X):

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	Study / Public administration report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Study / NGO report
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Presentations or communications
<input type="checkbox"/>	Doctoral thesis
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

Summary (Description of the study and most relevant results):

This paper explore the relation between the Roma population and the health institutions, i.e., an investigation of the interaction of the Roma population and the health care services based on the analysis of Roma population's health behaviour and practice.

Thus, it should be highlighted the following items:

-The health care services, in general, criticises the lack of concern of the Roma population with their health and describe them as insubordinate to the bureaucratic organization of the services, as refractory to medical treatment, specially to the medical prescription and health behaviour, as persons that only accepts the hospital assistance in borderline situations, and without prevention behaviours in an attitude of general indifference, except in severe situations. The research observed a great predominance of diseases related with their way of living and with poverty, such as pulmonary and rheumatic diseases, diabetes, hypertension, obesity in child and adolescent, skin infection and dental caries. There is also a predominance of gastric problems probably related with nutrition practices that are irregular and unbalanced and with psychological problems such as anxiety.

-The currently health and illness practices of the Roma population are different from the general population. The pregnancy is not usually a reason for a medical attendance, although there are an increasing number of women that attend to health services to confirm the pregnancy, in the beginning, and to verify if everything is ok, at the end of the pregnancy. The use of birth control methods is not usual among Roma population, although it starts to be more frequently among young women.

-The regular paediatric attendance is not obeyed, as well as the vaccination calendar.

-The hospitalization is the worst condition since it signifies integration in a hostile environment – dominated by non Roma persons – and removed from their family group. This is particularly difficult since in the Roma society the individuality is assimilated by the family group where a constant solidarity prevails. Thus, the illness is experienced as a humiliation, an impure condition that damage the person and the group and that both of them are ashamed of and try to deny when possible.



Reduction of Health Inequalities in the Roma Community

Publication Details

Title:	A Etnia Cigana e a prevenção da toxicodependência. Uma experiência no terreno.
Author(s):	MARTINS, Mário
Publication date:	1995
Country:	Portugal
Language:	Portuguese
Contact address if more information is required: (where applicable)	
Published by:	Edições Afrontamento
Bibliography: ⁽¹⁾	"A Etnia Cigana e a prevenção da toxicodependência. Uma Experiência no terreno", in <i>O Povo Cigano: Cidadãos na Sombra</i> , 1995, Edições Afrontamento, pp-21-25

⁽¹⁾ In the case of a magazine article, include name, number, volume and date. If it is a chapter of a book, include the title and references.

Type of document (mark with an X):

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Book
<input type="checkbox"/>	Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	Study / Public administration report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Study / NGO report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Presentations or communications
<input type="checkbox"/>	Doctoral thesis
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

Summary (Description of the study and most relevant results):

The subject of drug addicts inside the Roma community is only vaguely approached by the present paper. This approach is based on informal conversations, personal contacts and some opinions made under this scope, with the aim of developing an approach of this phenomenon in Roma communities.

In this way, the paper describe some characteristics of this community (selling tradition, capability of handling chemical substances, frequent contacts with marginalized social groups, hiding activities habits, etc) that support the participation of Roma persons in drug traffic and its consequences. The drug abuse and traffic are considered as a threat for the community unity because of the following items:

- strengthen the sociability and complicity links with the non Roma groups generally connected with deviant and/or illegal activities;
- destroy the family unity, provoking families and between families cleavages;
- emphasize the community stigmatization
- produce impact in the family economy
- originate more frequent imprisonment that can instigate more economical difficulties (fewer family members contributing for the family budget)
- produce a smaller amount of shared business profit because it is a hidden activity.
- perturb structural ancient values



Reduction of Health Inequalities in the Roma Community

Publication Details

Title:	A Saúde dos ciganos portugueses
Author(s):	SILVA, Luísa Ferreira da
Publication date:	November 2001
Country:	Portugal
Language:	Portuguese
Contact address if more information is required: (where applicable)	Centro de Estudos das Migrações e Relações Interculturais Universidade Aberta Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia
Published by:	
Bibliography: ⁽¹⁾	

⁽¹⁾ In the case of a magazine article, include name, number, volume and date. If it is a chapter of a book, include the title and references.

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Summary (Description of the study and most relevant results)

The report presents the result of a research developed between October' 99 and October' 2000 in the scope of a Research Program on Gipsies Communities, financed by Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia. The research intend at the convergence between interviewees and health professionals and services with the purpose of assessing their state of health, promoting access to this services, increasing information about health issues and promoting health.

This study identified a situation of great exclusion related with health. Here, health is understood as essential norms for the basic living conditions.

It was identified the following aspects:

-distance from health preventive institutions. There is an alienation attitude and not a withdrawal attitude, since these communities turn to these services in cases of considerable necessity.

-precocious maternity without medical attendance during the pregnancy or post-parturition periods

-high average number of child
-lack of vaccination and paediatrics' attendance
-lack of concern related with health or indifference with disease prevention
-health behaviour and attitudes has a traditional rationality that follows the concern with avoiding and fleeing from diseases. Thus, the gypsy population only attend to doctors in case of a compulsory necessity, i.e., when they are sick and need a medical attention (sense of urgency)
-they wait till the last to go to a medical consultation, they want to be attended immediately and they are always going to the urgency services until there are healthy once again.
-to be healthy is a matter of "destiny", "lucky" and not possible to prevent.



Reduction of Health Inequalities in the Roma Community

Publication Details

Title:	A situação de prevenção e tratamento da toxicodependência na etnia cigana
Author(s):	FREITAS; Francisco Jorge TEIXEIRA, Ana Mestre
Publication date:	1997
Country:	Portugal
Language:	Portuguese
Contact address if more information is required: (where applicable)	REAPN – Rede Europeia Anti-Pobreza Rua de Costa Cabral, 2368 4200-288 Porto Telf: 225420800 Fax: 225403250
Published by:	
Bibliography: ⁽¹⁾	

⁽¹⁾ In the case of a magazine article, include name, number, volume and date. If it is a chapter of a book, include the title and references.

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Summary (Description of the study and most relevant results):

This paper is essentially about drug addiction in Roma communities. With the 80's the drug traffic began in some Roma communities, especially in communities settled in shanty neighbourhoods. The traditional vend, the smuggling and the contact with marginalized social groups can be the reason for the spreading of this business in these communities.

Some features to remember:

- the drug traffic was considered as "natural", as another illicit business and a new source of income;
- it is the youngsters between 16 and 29 years that become drug addicts, specially injected, hashish and cocaine intravenously or smoke;
- the drug traffic and consumption between members of the Roma communities are responsible for different consequences:
 - at the internal level, it disintegrates the community, the relation between and inside families and the value structure: the leaders of the communities lose their leadership;

with the change in the power relation some old solidarities are dissolved and the frequent imprisonment weaken the familiar surroundings that are already in precarious conditions;

- at the external level, in a feed-back of relationships often intensified by the media, it results in many attitudes and actions taken by the local communities and public organisms considered as racists and xenophobe by some persons

In the research developed with institutions established in median and large urban spaces (from the 20 public institutions, 18 are institutions with prevention services and drug addict treatment; from the 16 private institutions, 56.25% are NGOs and the rest of them are organizations with the mission of drug addicts or HIV infected treatment and prevention), it is highlighted the following topics:

-The AIDS arise as a problem of little importance and with only one emphasize for some institutions near these communities that mention the emergence of some cases of HIV and hepatitis between women and children;

-The AIDS prevention actions are treated jointly or secondarily to the addiction prevention and treatment;

-In the addiction treatment, the family, in the beginning of the process, is engaged to take the drug addict to treatment. The addiction treatment is understood as the last recourse and as a miraculous cure. It is only attributed individual causes for the condition of the drug addict and there isn't capability to add social causes for this condition. It should be highlighted the mothers effort "to free their sons" from their addiction. Latter, the family shows some reserve in taking part of the family therapy process caused by the tendency to solve the problems inside the community;

-Some resistances offered to the addiction treatment are due to the relation between the institutions and Roma communities, the group cohesion and closeness, the incomprehension about some cultural code and the illiteracy.

To contradict this condition: i) is necessary to turn the networks between the public and private institutions, healthy and treatment institutions and social promotion institutions, more dense in order to promote new harmonized and mainstreamed answers and projects; ii) is necessary a better knowledge about the Roma communities in Portugal; iii) is necessary a publicly valorisation of the Roma communities cultural qualities.



Reduction of Health Inequalities in the Roma Community

Publication Details

Title:	A Contextualização da Problemática – Estado da Situação das Comunidades Ciganas em Portugal,
Author(s):	AIRES, Sérgio REAPN
Publication date:	30 th of June 1998
Country:	Portugal
Language:	Portuguese
Contact address if more information is required: (where applicable)	REAPN – Rede Europeia Anti-Pobreza Rua de Costa Cabral, 2368 4200-288 Porto Telf: 225420800 Fax: 225403250
Published by:	
Bibliography: ⁽¹⁾	in Seminário Internacional Intercultural – As minorias étnicas e sociais no território escolar do Concelho de Espinho (2º e 3º ciclo ensino secundário) do <i>Projecto Inter-Culture, a Igualdade na Diversidade</i> , 30 de Junho de 1998

⁽¹⁾ In the case of a magazine article, include name, number, volume and date. If it is a chapter of a book, include the title and references.

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Summary (Description of the study and most relevant results):

In a first moment, this speech does one contextualization of the situation in Portugal of ethnic minorities. These groups are exposed to poverty and social exclusion situations: lower level of education and qualification; unemployment; employment at informal economy; barriers access to health system; lower housing conditions, etc.

Gypsies are one of the larger minorities in the Portuguese society. In spite of the lack of data, the statistics points to a number between 20 000 and 30 000 of gypsy people. Nowadays, these communities experience strong situations of exclusion and social disqualification. Most of the gypsies live in a situation of structural detachment in what concerns formal labour market and have strong relations to *illegal economy*. Because of this scenario the Portuguese European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) has been giving a special attention to this minority, mainly in what concerns health, and within this the prevention and treatment of drug addiction.

Some important aspects:

- The drug abuse within Roma community is contributing, at great level, to the complete dysfunction of their families and to the worsening of their poverty and social exclusion. This problem quarrels a specific way of being and acting, breaking and putting in consideration many of the traditional values of this people;
- as well as in many other areas (such education, housing, labour, etc) Roma community doesn't have access to the proper services that have the competence to help them facing their situation;
- Roma community has a problem that doesn't know how to solve it. On one side, there is a refuse in facing this problem (whether their specific characteristics – shame in take over a problem, effort in giving a solution inside the community, etc...), on the other side, there are a total incapacity in solving this problem because:
 - they don't have access to the attendance services;
 - these ones are not available to listen them (waiting lists);
 - there are a permanent fear in establishing a connection between addiction and traffic;
 - the services are not prepare to answer (whether for stereotypes, ignorance, or for lack of capacity to direct interfere near the locals where we can find these phenomena) taking into account the characteristics of this ethnic.
- Roma Communities search for some alternatives which are more accessible for them:
 - home treatments (following one logic of solitude and escape from the problem face the rest of the society);
 - private clinics (especially in Spain);
 - treatments on the base of religious ideologies;
 - adoption of some strategies of personal acquaintance. They look for private doctors that, because they develop some empathy with these communities, they attend them and they try answer to their problems. Sometimes this happens in an isolate and occasional way.
- in a study developed by the Portuguese EAPN in 1997 (near 51 Organisations, public - 39.2% and private – 60.8%), the majority of the Organisations say that doesn't exist specific measures in what concerns drug abuse of roma people.
- the Organisations that had answered to the study and that develop activities with these communities say that they don't have specific prevention and treatment projects of drug abuse related with roma people. However, they say that they deal with serious problems in what concerns this issue and they think that is necessary act, specifically, on this matter.
- for those entities that do prevention work, they think that prevention is educate gypsy children. Although this is not totally wrong, this doesn't mean prevention measures specifically turned to the health matter.



Reduction of Health Inequalities in the Roma Community

Publication Details

Title:	Avaliação de Impactos do rendimento Mínimo Garantido – “Caracterização dos Perfis dos Beneficiários RMG: Minorias Étnicas
Author(s):	Instituto para o Desenvolvimento Social
Publication date:	April 2002
Country:	Portugal
Language:	Portuguese
Contact address if more information is required: (where applicable)	Instituto para o Desenvolvimento Social Rua Castilho, nº.5 – 3º 1250-66 Lisboa Tel: 213184900 Fax: 213139559
Published by:	Ministério da Segurança Social e do Trabalho
Bibliography: ⁽¹⁾	

⁽¹⁾ In the case of a magazine article, include name, number, volume and date. If it is a chapter of a book, include the title and references.

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Study / NGO report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Presentations or communications
<input type="checkbox"/>	Doctoral thesis
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Summary (Description of the study and most relevant results):

This report was developed in the scope of Minimum Income Impact Assessment and presents some results of interviews made with minimum income beneficiaries from ethnic minority's communities (14 of Roma communities and 5 of African communities). These results are essentially concerned with paths for social inclusion, with the relation of these social groups with the minimum income and the impact of this income in the different social life spheres, namely, basic needs, scholar qualification and professional training and health.

In relation to health, it is important to remember the following topics:

-Most of the interviewees declared to have sickness conditions in their households. For the minimum income beneficiaries, these conditions affect the incapacity for work. For the minimum income beneficiary sons, the sickness raises difficulties for the mother inclusion in the labour market. The research reveals that if in some cases the families felt a higher medical attendance, in other cases the families reported an ordinary medical attendance.

-In relation to child, it was reported a better attendance with regard to vaccination and medicine

possible to acquire with their income or complementary support for the acquisition of important equipment for the people wellbeing (eye-glasses, hearing aid, and others)

- It was identified some cases for which there were no health complementary attendance but was considered as necessary for the beneficiaries.
- It was reported two cases of severe illness that the diagnosis and the inclusion plan was unsuccessful.



Reduction of Health Inequalities in the Roma Community

Publication Details

Title:	Caracterização Sócio-Demográfica e Cultural da Comunidade Cigana do Alentejo
Author(s):	AMIGUINHO, Abílio
Publication date:	December 1993
Country:	Portugal
Language:	Portuguese
Contact address if more information is required: (where applicable)	Centro Regional de Segurança Social do Alentejo
Published by:	Centro Regional de Segurança Social do Alentejo
Bibliography: ⁽¹⁾	

⁽¹⁾ In the case of a magazine article, include name, number, volume and date. If it is a chapter of a book, include the title and references.

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Study / NGO report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Presentations or communications
<input type="checkbox"/>	Doctoral thesis
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other: Relatório do Projecto da Iniciativa Horizon

Summary (Description of the study and most relevant results):

The research aimed at supporting the intervention in the Roma community with accurate data. The study was made under the scope of Centro Regional de Segurança Social de Portalegre project and promoted by Instituto de Emprego e Formação Profissional. It embraces the totality of Alentejo region and attempts to make a description of these communities' problems, with the purpose to find out ways to overcome or mitigate them. Thus, this was an action oriented research.

Some conclusions:

- Higher fertility and birth-rate in Roma communities compared with the rates existing for the non-Roma communities. These differences are more notable between the younger stratum.
- it is between the age of 15 and 19 that 50% of women declare to have the first child;
- the average of child per marriage is 4.8 (for the rest of the population the rate is 2%)
- it is among the families still working in the traditional vendos and in the commerce that there are the highest percentages of marriages with higher number of child (10 or more);
- if there is an aging of the non-Roma population, among the Roma people there are an inverse phenomenon;

-70.9% of the Roma women marry before the age of 20; 20.6% marry before the age of 15; and more than 50% do it between 15 and 19 years old. Among the boys, 40.79% marry between the age of 15 and the age of 24 and 31.25% marry between 20 and 24 years old.

-Regarding health issues:

- there are families that only seek a medical attendance in case of emergency;

- although much childbirth takes place in the hospitals, some of them still happen in the traditional way;

- the newborn babies don't have health care;

- the percentage of families that declare to follow the compulsory vaccination is very low (65.56%). The main reason for this behaviour is the lack of knowledge about it.

- there isn't a practice of systematic health support for the babies. The mothers only seek a health care when the children are truly sick

- In almost 17% of households there are disable people. However, the most part of the disable people don't have any health care (47.50%)



Reduction of Health Inequalities in the Roma Community

Publication Details

Title:	Ciganos em Privação de Liberdade
Author(s):	MOREIRA; J.J. Semedo
Publication date:	1999
Country:	Portugal
Language:	Portuguese
Contact address if more information is required: (where applicable)	Direcção Geral dos Serviços Prisionais Direcção de Serviços de Planeamento, Documentação, Estudos e Relações Internacionais
Published by:	Ministério Público, Editorial Minerva
Bibliography: ⁽¹⁾	Separata da Revista do Ministério Público, nº. 77

⁽¹⁾ In the case of a magazine article, include name, number, volume and date. If it is a chapter of a book, include the title and references.

Type of document (mark with an X):

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	Study / Public administration report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Study / NGO report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Presentations or communications
<input type="checkbox"/>	Doctoral thesis
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other: Separata Revista

Summary (Description of the study and most relevant results):

This paper makes a sociological characterization of Roma prisoners, tracing the most important aspects of their criminal, judicial and prison situation. The paper seeks to understand how these variables reveal the cultural and social differences and how they are transferred towards the prison.

The research applied objective variables: personal data, crime data, etc. This knowledge was complemented with others, such as narcotic consumption and the relation between prisoner's families.

Some conclusions of the research are:

-Among the Roma prisoners, 21% are women and 79% are men

-5.5% of the population in prison are Roma population. Because the number of Roma population is unknown in Portugal, it isn't possible to know the percentage of prisoners among the Roma population. However, it is estimated that this percentage is higher among the Roma population than among the non-Roma population. However, it doesn't justify the stereotype of Roma communities as criminals since the most part of Roma criminals are recidivists and have blood relation.

- Porto and Lisbon are the districts with more Roma residents

-The prisoner's age range between 16 and 78, but the majority has between 21-39 years old.

-80% of prisoner never attended school and 52% don't know how to write their name. 19.6% have compulsory school attendance, but only few of them finished it.

-77% of Roma prisoners were hawkers.

-80.9% are married by the "Roma laws".

-Nearly 70% are recidivists and only 30% are in prison for the first time

-Drug traffic is becoming the most important cause for confinement. 32.5% of Rom confinement is related with the narcotic consumption, especially heroine (29%) and a mix of heroine and cocaine (2.1%)

-Only 9.6% of Roma prisoners aren't drug addicts. Among the group of non-drug addict's Roma prisoners includes older persons and persons responsible for other kind of crimes.

-While only 3.1% are female drug addicts, 40.4% are male. Thus, the drug addiction is seen as a male problem that drags women to crime.



Reduction of Health Inequalities in the Roma Community

Publication Details

Title:	Ciganos.pt
Author(s):	AIRES, Sérgio; ALVES, Isabel (coord.)
Publication date:	September 2002
Country:	Portugal
Language:	Portuguese
Contact address if more information is required: (where applicable)	REAPN – Rede Europeia Anti-Pobreza/Portugal Rua Costa Cabral, 2368 4200-218 Porto
Published by:	REAPN – Rede Europeia Anti-Pobreza/Portugal
Bibliography: ⁽¹⁾	

⁽¹⁾ In the case of a magazine article, include name, number, volume and date. If it is a chapter of a book, include the title and references.

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Study / NGO report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Presentations or communications
<input type="checkbox"/>	Doctoral thesis
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other: Review

Summary (Description of the study and most relevant results):

The first number of *Ciganos.pt* shows some working groups concerning Roma subject in Portugal. Since 1997, REAPN partakes in the European Network SASTIPEN and, approximately at the same time, the Interinstitutional Working Group on Roma Communities – SINA was created. The participation and collaboration on these two working groups has allowed to inform and to guide the work made with this ethnic minority. The review makes an analysis of the work carried out and shows the main conclusions of different thematic meetings, namely health, education and housing.

Ciganos.pt presents some projects related to Roma communities developed by REAPN. In relation to health, is possible to find a small concise diagnostic on the priorities and needs for the intervention with these communities.

The health problems that usually reach this population are:

-Congenital malformation

- Few prenatal care
- Low immunization
- Inadequate feeding and nutrition
- Inadequate personal and environment hygiene and salubriousness
- Higher incidence and predominance of chronic illness. These illness are related to the lack of on time treatment and preventive measures
- Higher incidence of psychological problems, such as emotional instability
- High tobacco and alcohol consumption
- High narcotic consumption



Reduction of Health Inequalities in the Roma Community

Publication Details

Title:	A Comunidade Cigana do Largo da Feira – Integração Sócio-Económica das Minorias Étnicas
Author(s):	Câmara Municipal de Moura - Projecto Novos Rumos
Publication date:	
Country:	Portugal
Language:	Portuguese
Contact address if more information is required: (where applicable)	Câmara Municipal de Moura Praça Sacadura Cabral 7860 Moura Telf:285 251702 Fax: 285 250040
Published by:	
Bibliography: ⁽¹⁾	

⁽¹⁾ In the case of a magazine article, include name, number, volume and date. If it is a chapter of a book, include the title and references.

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Doctoral thesis
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

Summary (Description of the study and most relevant results):

Novos Rumos – Integração Sócio-económica das Minorias Étnicas is a Project that seeks the intervention at Bairro das Boeiras, in Moura (Alentejo Region) with the aim of improving the integration and the living conditions of this community. Moura is the place where one of the biggest Roma communities lives. The intervention is made at different levels, such as education, employment, professional training, health and hygiene, and bear in mind the specific culture of this ethnic group. In relation to health, it aims at the development of activities of: information on health and personal hygiene education; child vaccination sessions; family planning; blood pressure and diabetes check up; awareness raising sessions which will enable to guide this Roma community for the primary health care services.

Through the analysis is possible to verify the following aspects:

- This community doesn't turn anymore to the traditional medicine to solve their health problems
- The majority of the 57 Roma families living in Bairro Boeiras have medical care (53 families). 29 families have frequent medical attendance and only 3 families declare to have rarely medical attendance.
- The majority of these families vaccinate their children and attend to family planning more and more.



Reduction of Health Inequalities in the Roma Community

Publication Details

Title:	Comunidade Cigana na Diocese de Lisboa
Author(s):	MARQUES, Cesariana; CORREIA, Joaquina Rosa; REIS, Maria de Fátima
Publication date:	December 1996
Country:	Portugal
Language:	Portuguese
Contact address if more information is required: (where applicable)	Secretariado Diocesano de Lisboa - Obra Nacional para a Pastoral dos Ciganos
Published by:	Secretariado Diocesano de Lisboa - Obra Nacional para a Pastoral dos Ciganos/Departamento de Acção Social da Câmara Municipal de Lisboa
Bibliography: ⁽¹⁾	

⁽¹⁾ In the case of a magazine article, include name, number, volume and date. If it is a chapter of a book, include the title and references.

Type of document (mark with an X):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Article
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Study / Public administration report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Study / NGO report
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Doctoral thesis
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Summary (Description of the study and most relevant results):

This report was developed in the scope of Horizon Program. The *Secretariado Diocesano de Lisboa da ONPC* developed a research on the social-economic condition of Roma families of Lisbon Diocese. In this Diocese, 1446 families (6043 persons) were contacted for the research. The study embraced different social-economic subjects, including health.

Thus, these communities show the following characteristics:

- The majority of Roma families (77.67%) present themselves as healthy, specially their children. Among the reported diseases, the most mentioned was rheumatism and cardiovascular problems.
- There are some Roma families that declare they aren't embraced by any social security system.

Only 76.03% are social security beneficiaries.

-In illness condition, they preferably turn to the hospitals urgency services (78.35%) and/or to the family doctor (57.54%) in the Health Care Local Center.

-The preventive medicine practices are hardly used by Roma families. The vaccination is the preventive measure most accepted by Roma families (67.93%). Only few mothers go to family planning attendance and have health care throughout pregnancy.

-Although the majority of women had their children at the maternity hospitals or hospitals, it is still important the number of women that gave birth to their children at home (13.05%).



Reduction of Health Inequalities in the Roma Community

Publication Details

Title:	Comunidades Ciganas: representações e dinâmicas de exclusão/integração
Author(s):	DIAS; Eduardo Costa et al
Publication date:	March 2002
Country:	Portugal
Language:	Portuguese
Contact address if more information is required: (where applicable)	REAPN – Rede Europeia Anti-Pobreza/Portugal
Published by:	Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia
Bibliography: ⁽¹⁾	

⁽¹⁾ In the case of a magazine article, include name, number, volume and date. If it is a chapter of a book, include the title and references.

Type of document (mark with an X):

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Study / NGO report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Presentations or communications
<input type="checkbox"/>	Doctoral thesis
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other:

Summary (Description of the study and most relevant results)

This research has the purpose to know and to reflect upon the living conditions of Roma population, the public measures and programs and the organizational practices under the perspective of social exclusion / inclusion. It attempts to make a characterization of the whole dimensions of social life, namely education, employment, professional training, housing, health and justice.

Some conclusions:

-The early school drop out and the low qualification levels held by Roma communities are related to cultural differences, rhythms and life styles of Roma persons compared with the standard that the school is based on.

-Regarding employment, it is conceived the desire for integration or inclusion on the labour market that isn't always coincident with the Roma expectations and projects. In many Roma communities there are an internal organization that aims to ensure the access to income and social protection. This is based on models of rationality and of personal identity development different from the models existing in a wage earner society. The employment access isn't an aim for the majority of Roma persons.

-Housing – it is important to bear in mind some specificities of the Roma culture, namely their usual economic activities. It highlights the importance and the functionality of some outside spaces of the house in process of rehousing of Roma communities.

- Regarding health, there is a deep lack of knowledge between the Roma communities and health care services. This lack of knowledge leads to a reactive hostility, caused by a set of bias and fears. Thus, there is predominance of a lack of communication between the Roma communities and the health care services and vice versa.

-20 interviewees are registered in their Health Care Local Center, where they usually turn to (although some of them go directly to hospitals in more severe circumstances)

-Regarding children vaccination, only two interviewees answered that their children didn't have the vaccination up-to-date, in opposition to 10 interviewees that declared their descendant were with the vaccination up-to-date.

-21 interviewees reported discrimination situations in their contact with health care services

-Some conclusions of this research don't match with the reality of the majority of Roma communities. The Roma families that usually turn to the family doctor and have the vaccination up-to-date are exceptions. In general, these communities only turn to hospital in urgency situations and they often attempt self-medication.

-It is possible to observe the belief in "external" factors (such as bad luck, spell, evil eye) to explain diseases

-Drug addiction is the problem that worries the most the Roma communities. On the one hand, it leads to social and familiar disintegration. On the other hand, it encourages the bias of the non Roma communities that identify the Roma persons always as drug dealers and never as drug addict



Reduction of Health Inequalities in the Roma Community

Publication Details

Title:	Reflectir para Agir – “Comunidades Ciganas e Inserção Social no âmbito do RMG”
Author(s):	Comissão Nacional do Rendimento Mínimo
Publication date:	30 th of April 1998
Country:	Portugal
Language:	Portuguese
Contact address if more information is required: (where applicable)	Rua Castilho, 5, 3 ^o 1250-066 Lisboa Tel. 21 3184900
Published by:	
Bibliography: ⁽¹⁾	

⁽¹⁾ In the case of a magazine article, include name, number, volume and date. If it is a chapter of a book, include the title and references.

Type of document (mark with an X):

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Study / Public administration report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Study / NGO report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Presentations or communications
<input type="checkbox"/>	Doctoral thesis
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

Summary (Description of the study and most relevant results):

The Minimum Income National Commission developed a set of meetings on the subject of “Think to Act”, as a result of the necessity of reflection on important issues for the insertion programs. “The Roma communities and the social insertion under the scope of Minimum Income” was the first meeting developed. This meeting intended to be a meeting point for different professionals that work with these communities. The aim was to help to find the best answers taking into account the legal framework and the Roma families’ interests. Through out the meeting, the Roma communities’ values and life stile were approached. In this regard, it is important to highlight the relation of this community with the health care system. The hospitalization condition is extremely disturbing for the patient as well as for the community. The closest family relatives start a mourning process that only ends when the patient returns home. They visit the patient every day, and when the visits are forbidden they stay at the hospital entrance, where they receive the support and solidarity from friends and families. In childbirth conditions, there is cohesion and unity on the community. In Roma community there isn’t yet a generalized pregnancy attendance and observation and, usually, the women only go to the hospital when the childbirth begins.



Reduction of Health Inequalities in the Roma Community

Publication Details

Title:	Encontro Temático sobre os Ciganos de Leste
Author(s):	ALVES, Isabel REAPN
Publication date:	20 th March 2003
Country:	Portugal
Language:	Portuguese
Contact address if more information is required: (where applicable)	REAPN – Rede Europeia Anti-Pobreza Rua de Costa Cabral, 2368 4200-288 Porto Tel.: 225420800 Fax: 225403250
Published by:	
Bibliography: ⁽¹⁾	

⁽¹⁾ In the case of a magazine article, include name, number, volume and date. If it is a chapter of a book, include the title and references.

Type of document (mark with an X):

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Study / Public administration report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Study / NGO report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Presentations or communications
<input type="checkbox"/>	Doctoral thesis
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Summary (Description of the study and most relevant results):

This meeting follows the idea that it still exist a lack of knowledge about the origins of east roma. So, the Portuguese European Anti-poverty Network in the scope of the activities developed by Sastipen European Network/Working Group SINA had organised at 20th of March 2003, in the Associação Social Recreativa Cultural Cigana de Coimbra, the second meeting - II Ciclo de Encontros Temáticos - under the issue "East Roma". With the purpose of think, debate and go through knowledge's about east roma communities in Portugal, it were invited and presented a set of different Organisations.

Main Conclusions:

- the majority of east roma that we found in Portugal are from Romania. However, there are no data about the number of these persons that are spread in the country, because it's difficult recognise between Romanian immigrants who are roma;

- Romanian gypsies live similar experiences to the others illegal immigrants. However their situation is more serious because when they leave their countries they are already in a disadvantage situation, with low levels of education and work qualifications, and a life history with a lot of rejections and prejudice episodes. These situations take them to assume defensive and close attitudes.
- that are also a lack and inadequate access to health conditions. A lot of chronic tendencies appear in roma communities. Among these appear a high number of diseases, bad nutrition and child mortality. This situation reflects the bad life conditions of roma, but also the inadequacy of the services toward roma population. So, it's urgent take care of hygienic conditions, drinkable water and medical care.
- in what concerns the situation of roma women, it's necessary some improvements, not only in what concerns instant medical care, such as the higher incidence of pregnancy, even when this is not desirable, but also, generally in what concerns gender issues;
- the health standards between roma are, in a negative way, influenced by the high rates of poverty, low levels of education and restrict access to services and health care. Attitudes of discrimination and prejudice are key factors in the exclusion of some roma persons of the health campaigns and public programs;
- contagious diseases, such as tuberculosis, hepatitis, polio and measles predominate among roma communities in all countries. While the number of tuberculosis cases are increasing, in wester, centre and east Europe are the most vulnerable, social and economically, groups, like roma, that are in great risk, not only in what concerns rates of contagion, but also in what concerns recovery.
- the high rate of unemployment between roma, besides it's contribution for a higher social exclusion, marginalization and poverty, it has also a direct impact in health conditions. The type of employment that roma have access brings some risks to health. In the years 60 and 70 a large number of roma of Central and East Europe had to deal with several diseases as a consequence of their job in hard industry. Roma that gets ill in so precarious job conditions stay confined in a vicious circle: on one hand, the lack of security, of records or illegal agreements, makes difficult the access to health centres whenever they need; on the other hand, with a weak health and the vulnerability that this one provokes makes harder the search for another secure job.
- roma that not speak the common language are in a disadvantage situation in what concerns access to health care; even when the language is not the problem, the different points of view and expectations, by roma and medical professionals, relatively health care makes difficult communication;
- other roma people are excluded of health public services because they don't have birth register, identity cards and other legal documents that can prove their residence; some communities also experience some practical problems in what concerns health access because of their isolation.



Reduction of Health Inequalities in the Roma Community

Publication Details

Title:	Intervenção na Comunidade em Promoção de Saúde – relato de uma experiência em Lisboa Ocidental
Author(s):	Silva, Maria Leonor Correia
Publication date:	1999
Country:	Portugal
Language:	Portuguese
Contact address if more information is required: (where applicable)	Fundação Nossa Senhora do Bom Sucesso Avenida Doutor Mário Moutinho 1400-136 Lisboa Tef: 213031420
Published by:	Fundação Nossa Senhora do Bom Sucesso
Bibliography: ⁽¹⁾	

⁽¹⁾ In the case of a magazine article, include name, number, volume and date. If it is a chapter of a book, include the title and references.

Type of document (mark with an X):

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Study / Public administration report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Study / NGO report
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Summary (Description of the study and most relevant results):

This book presents the main conclusions of a practice developed by the Foundation N^o. Sr^a. do Bom Sucesso. This Organisation set off in 1981 a new program of Health Promotion in 2 locals of western Lisbon. This program was called "Program for Intervention in Community". The book gives the context and the details of the activities of health promotion developed in Santa Maria de Belém and S. Francisco Xavier. In parallel of the social and demographic characterization of the population, it's cultures and sub-cultures, it was identified, in a first place the main health indicators and, in a second place, the main necessities and health priorities felt by the population. This Program went beyond two difficult issues with which the professionals in health area usually deal: the first one related with women role that usually is seen as someone that

lends assistance than receiving assistance; and the second one is related with ethnic minorities that involves African groups from the Portuguese ex-colonies and roma groups.

In what concerns roma population, this program presents some elements:

- health for these communities means disease absence and they are not aware to prevention;
- 14 of the children that live in settlements (0-6 years old), 8 of them are register, but only one does, regularly, health vigilance and 5 has all the vaccines;
- 18 of the women that are in the age of fertility, 12 of them are register in the foundation, 9 don't make health vigilance and only 3 do this vigilance;
- in these families, exist 3 drug addicts, one of them is arrested for drug dealing and 3 cases of serious alcoholism;
- the state of health of family members is, generally, precarious and have a set of situations of disease that are not very well determined and that are repeated;
- frequently they go to Emergency services because there it's more easy for them to be attended on any occasion;
- taking in account the characteristics of roma communities, health professionals deal with some difficulties, namely suspicion, to keep aside for the persons that are no roma and their life styles.



Reduction of Health Inequalities in the Roma Community

Publication Details

Title:	O Doente de Etnia Cigana
Author(s):	FERNANDES, João José
Publication date:	2000
Country:	Portugal
Language:	Portuguese
Contact address if more information is required: (where applicable)	Associação Portuguesa de Enfermeiros Rua Duque de Palmela, nº. 27, 4º Dtº 1250-097 Lisboa
Published by:	
Bibliography: ⁽¹⁾	

⁽¹⁾ In the case of a magazine article, include name, number, volume and date. If it is a chapter of a book, include the title and references.

Type of document (mark with an X):

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	Study / Public administration report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Study / NGO report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Presentations or communications
<input type="checkbox"/>	Doctoral thesis
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Summary (Description of the study and most relevant results):

This book is based on a research developed under the scope of a Master in Health Communication.

The major goal of the research is to identify the hospital nurses' stereotypes related with the Roma communities and the way they face the hospital confinement. The research was based on contact with confinement circumstances of Roma persons and on the importance of knowing the particular way of being of the Roma community. The purpose is to improve the reception of the Roma population at health care services, especially hospitals.

Main Results:

-only a small number of nurses have some training on Roma culture, although most of nurses have some contact with Roma patients

-the most important nurse's representation of Roma patients are: noisy, distrustful, merchant,

revengeful and traditionalist. The most important emotions that nurses experience through the contact with Roma patient are: distrust; comprehension, solidarity, curiosity, anxiety and empathy.

-These representations demonstrate that the nurses keep their stereotypes acquired before the beginning of their professional life. However, it seems that professional training and performance mitigate their emotions. Despite the insecurity caused by the lack of knowledge about the other, the profession's background values clearly have influence upon these emotions.

The book presents some recommendations for the health institutions, based upon the research results:

-Development of professional training at health care services with the aim of making analyses of Roma patient that could improve the understanding of cultural difference.

-Awareness raising of persons on charge of health services on Roma culture particularities with the purpose of making a better interaction

-Roma mediator recruitment, professional training and employment with the aim of establishing a connection between the Roma patient and family and the hospitals professionals

Regarding nurses training, the book also presents some suggestions, namely, the inclusion of multiculturalism thematic, especially on Roma culture, both in the beginner level and in the advanced level.



Reduction of Health Inequalities in the Roma Community

Publication Details

Title:	O Povo Cigano
Author(s):	NUNES, Olímpio
Publication date:	January 1996
Country:	Portugal
Language:	Portuguese
Contact address if more information is required: (where applicable)	
Published by:	
Bibliography: ⁽¹⁾	

⁽¹⁾ In the case of a magazine article, include name, number, volume and date. If it is a chapter of a book, include the title and references.

Type of document (mark with an X):

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Study / NGO report
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Summary (Description of the study and most relevant results):

This book had as main aim present all the aspects of roma culture, since it's origins, their migrations to the west, their arrive in Europe and their spreading in the world. At the same way it tried to study their social behaviour and the particularities of their culture, in order to obtain a better and precise knowledge about these communities.

Besides these characteristics, the author refers some roma issues related with disease and death, namely:

- remains in roma tradition the idea of a demoniac origin for the most diseases that touch the human being. To diseases it's given a supernatural explanation. Rom tries to explain the disease as an embody in the patient of an evil spirit;

- the therapeutics employed by the roma traditional medicine changes according to the nature of the disease. For the common cases, it's used herbs; the most serious cases demands the intervention of the quack (medicine woman) or the witch.



Reduction of Health Inequalities in the Roma Community

Publication Details

Title:	Os Príncipes do Nada Contributo para o estudo de um trabalho social de reinserção de populações ciganas
Author(s):	ANTUNES, Adelino
Publication date:	May 1997
Country:	Portugal
Language:	Portuguese
Contact address if more information is required: (where applicable)	Associação Integrar
Published by:	Associação Integrar
Bibliography: ⁽¹⁾	

⁽¹⁾ In the case of a magazine article, include name, number, volume and date. If it is a chapter of a book, include the title and references.

Type of document (mark with an X):

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Study / Public administration report
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Summary (Description of the study and most relevant results)

This book talks about the history of roma in Portugal and it gives some contributes for the understanding of roma culture and identity. These contributions focus, besides other issues, in health and traditional medicine. In what concerns this question the author points the follow elements:

- health issue is one of the most difficult problem to resolve because these communities don't believe in medical professionals (medical, nurses, etc) not even in health services;
- they don't understand complementary diagnostic methodologies;
- they only accept appeal to medical or health schemes when their own medicines are not effective or they ignore the origin of the disease;
- the believe in traditional medicine, added to superstitions, prayers and conjuring, make very difficult the intervention of health structures near these communities. Because of that, it's important emphasize the prevention of child diseases and primary health care.



Reduction of Health Inequalities in the Roma Community

Publication Details

Title:	Realojamento da Comunidade Cigana do vale do Forno: a partilha de uma experiência
Author(s):	DIAS, Isabel DEPGR – Divisão de Estudos Programação e Gestão de Realojamentos – Câmara Municipal de Lisboa
Publication date:	
Country:	Portugal
Language:	Portuguese
Contact address if more information is required: (where applicable)	
Published by:	
Bibliography: ⁽¹⁾	

⁽¹⁾ In the case of a magazine article, include name, number, volume and date. If it is a chapter of a book, include the title and references.

Type of document (mark with an X):

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	Program
	Study / Public administration report
	Study / NGO report
X	Presentations or communications
	Doctoral thesis
	Other:

Summary (Description of the study and most relevant results):

This text consists of a synthesis of work developed in a transitory housing quarter named Vale do Forno, within the scope of the Special Rehousing Program (PER) of the Lisbon City Council. This work, carried out by The Division of rehousing Studies, programming and Management (DEPGR) of the Lisbon City Council, intends to share a genuinely *sui generis* experience of rehousing, given the specific characteristics of the population under study: not only due to its being composed exclusively of ethnic gypsies, but also given the group's peculiar "residential trajectory". We refer to the fact that its task became a Rehousing Process that obliged us to elaborate consecutive readjustments/reformulations of the PER basic rehousing criteria. This experience led the DEPGR technical team to deep reflection with regard to the City Council's current answers concerning the matter of relodging and the continuous to the needs of the population to be relodged, regarding diversity and difference. Nevertheless, we are aiming always towards greater residential and social integration of the ethnic minorities living in our Council.

Among other aspects of social sphere, health aspects were approached in the research.

Regarding specifically the Roma community, it was highlighted the following issues:

-It was mentioned mainly chronic diseases, such as diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular diseases, respiratory diseases and obesity, etc.

-The majority of this community's members are healthy

-Besides the mentioned chronic diseases, it is important to highlight other health problems, namely, disable conditions, alcoholism, epilepsy and drug addiction.



Reduction of Health Inequalities in the Roma Community

Publication Details

Title:	Relatório do Projecto Dignidade
Author(s):	Obra Nacional da Pastoral dos Ciganos
Publication date:	December 2000
Country:	Portugal
Language:	Portuguese
Contact address if more information is required: (where applicable)	
Published by:	
Bibliography: ⁽¹⁾	

⁽¹⁾ In the case of a magazine article, include name, number, volume and date. If it is a chapter of a book, include the title and references.

Type of document (mark with an X):

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Presentations or communications
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Summary (Description of the study and most relevant results):

Projecto Dignidade is a project launched in 1999, by Obra Nacional da Pastoral do Ciganos, an institution that devoted itself to social development of the Portuguese Roma communities for the past 30 years. The project goal is to help to afford water and electricity to Roma families groups settled in specific spaces for more than two years. This report intends to make aware of the most worrying housing conditions of the Roma population in Portugal. All regions and spaces where Roma persons were living in precarious housing conditions were visited.

From the listening process of Roma population is possible to highlight some insufficiencies common to all settlements.

-The persons receiving the Minimum Income aren't motivated or put in social insertion process.

-The Roma persons reported mainly the water shortage and the absence of bathrooms to make their personal hygiene. Without these conditions they feel they will always going to be

marginalized. The Roma persons living in urban spaces have as aggravating circumstance the fact of being surrounded by houses that doesn't allow the necessary privacy.

- There are frequent problems related with the Minimum Income in which the social services request bureaucratic aspects that are unattainable to Roma persons due to the illiteracy existing among these communities; or, regarding rehousing opportunities, they are asked to give up of their way of live, for example, when they embrace cattle breeding and need pasture to survive.

-Very often the Minimum Income instalment is stopped because the beneficiaries aren't at home when the social workers visit them or when the beneficiaries declare health reasons for not been capable of attending school.

-The majority of Roma persons contacted by the research doesn't have voter card, doesn't know its importance and doesn't know that the electoral registration is obliged for any Portuguese person with more than 18 years old. These situations happen even when they are minimum income beneficiaries or have children attending school. After informing and encouraging the Roma persons to regularize their situation, some Roma persons declared that the Town Hall didn't register them to vote.

-It is possible to declare that there aren't itinerant Roma persons in Portugal, beside what is declare by the Town Halls and other social structures. Due to the existence of Roma groups not register to vote, it is possible to declare the lack of knowledge about the existence of permanent Roma encampment. However, when these Roma groups are contacted, they confirm to be living in the same municipality, and often in the same place, for many years.

-There are many Roma individuals that don't have access to water, electricity and sanitation conditions. In addition, they are living below the poverty threshold, in spaces with a high risk for the public health because of the existence of focus of diseases. These situations are usually known by the Town Hall.

-After being expelled from place to place, many Roma families united themselves and, with the Minimum Income, they bought lands where they built their own tents.



Reduction of Health Inequalities in the Roma Community

Publication Details

Title:	Relatório do Grupo de Trabalho para a Igualdade e Inserção dos Ciganos
Author(s):	Grupo de Trabalho Para a Igualdade e Inserção dos Ciganos
Publication date:	1998
Country:	Portugal
Language:	Portuguese
Contact address if more information is required: (where applicable)	ACIME - Alto Comissariado Para a Imigração e as Minorias Étnicas
Published by:	Governo Civil de Braga
Bibliography: ⁽¹⁾	

⁽¹⁾ In the case of a magazine article, include name, number, volume and date. If it is a chapter of a book, include the title and references.

Type of document (mark with an X):

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Study / NGO report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Presentations or communications
<input type="checkbox"/>	Doctoral thesis
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

Summary (Description of the study and most relevant results):

This report joints some of the conclusions of the Working Group for the Equality and Insertion of Roma, that was created by the Portuguese Government through the Alto Comissariado para a Imigração e Minorias Étnicas. This group was composed by Ministries representatives, by the Alto Comissário, organizations linked to roma work, like the Obra Pastoral dos Ciganos, Charitable Associations, NGO's, Associação Nacional de Freguesias e Associação de Municípios.

These conclusions focus, essentially, in the difficulties related with the insertion of roma in the Portuguese society. These difficulties are presented in education, housing, labour situation and medical assistance. In what concerns health, this working group base itself in some studies developed by the Secretariado Diocesano de Lisboa da Pastoral dos Ciganos. These studies

refer that only 57.5% of the families declared have medical attendance, while 78.4% of them declared go to emergency services and only 11,8% go to private doctors. This report analyses, also, those actions that are being developed in order to assure the equality and the insertion of roma and the presentation of proposals that contribute for the eradication of social exclusion situations.



Reduction of Health Inequalities in the Roma Community

Publication Details

Title:	Sastipen Ta li saúde e Liberdade. <i>Ciganos, números, abordagens e realidades.</i>
Author(s):	SOS Racismo
Publication date:	2001
Country:	Portugal
Language:	Portuguese
Contact address if more information is required: (where applicable)	SOS Racismo
Published by:	
Bibliography: ⁽¹⁾	

⁽¹⁾ In the case of a magazine article, include name, number, volume and date. If it is a chapter of a book, include the title and references.

Type of document (mark with an X):

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Study / NGO report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Presentations or communications
<input type="checkbox"/>	Doctoral thesis
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Summary (Description of the study and most relevant results):

This book presents the actualization of a study made in 1996 – a survey made in Municipalities about the number of gypsies in Portugal. This book also includes some articles (23) about the situation of gypsies, made by gypsies, non gypsies, responsables institutions and experts. And presents an abstract of newspaper articles about 3 well known cases with gypsies: Francelos, Vila Verde e Aldoar, between 1997-2001.



Reduction of Health Inequalities in the Roma Community

Publication Details

Title:	Saúde/Doença é uma questão de Cultura Atitudes e Comportamentos de saúde materna das mulheres Ciganas em Portugal
Author(s):	SILVA, Luísa Ferreira da
Publication date:	April 2005
Country:	Portugal
Language:	Portuguese
Contact address if more information is required: (where applicable)	ACIME, Alto Comissariado para a Imigração e Minorias Étnicas Rua Álvaro Coutinho, 14 1050-025 Lisboa Telefone: 21 8106100
Published by:	Colecção Olhares, nº. 2, ACIME, Alto Comissariado para a Imigração e Minorias Étnicas, Abril de 2005
Bibliography: ⁽¹⁾	

⁽¹⁾ In the case of a magazine article, include name, number, volume and date. If it is a chapter of a book, include the title and references.

Type of document (mark with an X):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Article
<input type="checkbox"/>	Book
<input type="checkbox"/>	Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	Study / Public administration report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Study / NGO report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Presentations or communications
<input type="checkbox"/>	Doctoral thesis
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other: Estudo da Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia

Summary (Description of the study and most relevant results):

This study has as main objective to know and understand the relation between the Portuguese roma community and health. This will be done through the analysis of the attitudes and behaviours of adult roma women, with different ages, in what concerns maternal and child health. The purpose was evaluate not the state of health of the people interviewed, but their own perception about it and about health performance (attitudes and actions). The reason for the study of these two issues - motherhood and first childhood – was because of its importance as general health indicators. It were developed, in different regions of the country, 91 interviews

with roma married women, i.e., living or had lived a married life with a man. The survey is very young, with the majority of women with ages lower than 40 and almost a third part of women with less than 26 years old.

Some Conclusions:

- the study had identified a situation of great exclusion in the health matter, understood this one as something fundamental to live in conditions. Life conditions of almost half of the population interviewed are affected by the lack of reply in what concerns sanitation, housing and access to drinkable water;
- roma population keep a relation of some distance with health services, specially in its preventive area;
- this distance reflects some isolation in what concerns the modern social structures, for a non scientific understanding about their own body and their resistance to the common standard of "rule" the body;
- they appeal to health services only in situations of necessity and urgency (treatment only in cases of sickening; don't go to medicals when they are ok);
- roma population behaviours in what concerns health are consistent with their understanding of the world and with their own culture. This aspect raises objections to accessibility and assimilation of information;
- insubordination in what concerns rules of health services (wait for their turn; respect of professionals statutes);
- no respect for medical instructions;
- the relation between roma and health services it's marked by a claiming attitude in order to be quickly served. In a general way, roma population hardly uses this services, only in cases of disease, preferring the access to emergency services rather than attendance of primary care;
- the disrespected behaviour of roma people is understood as threatening and provoking;
- roma feel the attitudes of health professionals as discriminatory;
- taking this into account it can be said that roma behaviours and attitudes towards health can be seen in a logic of "poverty culture". Authors characterized this by fatalism and inability of prevention action;
- this research discovered tendencies in a sense of changing attitudes and behaviours in terms of health. But this change it's not a result of a higher integration in the prevailing current and in the medical information disseminated. They use contraception because it's effective in reduce the number of pregnancies; they accept hospital childbirth because it avoid premature death; they accept child vaccination because it's a school demand and it's frequency is necessary to access to social benefits, etc.

So, and having in consideration this context, the authors say that changing in health field can be encouraged through inter-culture informative actions, capable of putting in dialogue medical knowledge's and it's preventive logic with roma informal notions about this issue.



Reduction of Health Inequalities in the Roma Community

Publication Details

Title:	Sida – Percepção e Incidência na Comunidade Cigana
Author(s):	REIS; Fernanda Eugénia Nunes MARQUES, Cesarina
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Contact address if more information is required: (where applicable)	Rua Cidade de Bolama, 5, 2 ^o esq. 1800 Lisboa Tel. 21 8406698
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Bibliography: ⁽¹⁾	

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Article
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Study / Public administration report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Study / NGO report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Presentations or communications
<input type="checkbox"/>	Doctoral thesis
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

Summary (Description of the study and most relevant results):

This book presents the conclusions of a study developed by the Secretariado Diocesano de Lisboa da Obra Nacional para a Pastoral dos Ciganos. The purpose of the study was testing the know-how of roma communities about the existence of AIDS, evaluate the degree of understanding of its meaning and know their perception about the real danger that AIDS can have to roma society. This was done by making a list of the number of mortal cases known by each person, as well as the number of roma that are ill. The base of the study was the young adult population with ages between 16 and 25 years old (namely, 238 persons of both sexes, living in some social quarters of Lisbon).

The questionnaire was very simple and this little book only presents the statistics and some conclusions, such as:

- the word AIDS it's known by 98% of the persons, but only 2% knows it's true meaning;
- 17% don't know or don't answer on how it's possible to get the disease and there are some confusion in what concerns the way of infection;
- 14% don't know how to avoid the infection, but establish a connection with risk behaviour (21% say that don't "share syringe" and 19% don't "share needles");
- 65% of the persons said that knew roma that died with AIDS, but only 26% answered that knew, at the moment of the questionnaire, roma sick with AIDS.