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We hope that you find the information useful. If you would like the full text of any of the abstracts listed, please let us know.

Alison Price  alison.price@lpct.nhs.uk
Janet Badcock  janet.badcock@lpct.nhs.uk

**Librarians, Lincolnshire Knowledge and Resource Service**

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Please find below the results of your literature search request. If you would like the full text of any of the abstracts included, or would like a further search completed on this topic, please let us know. A feedback form is included with these search results. We would be very grateful if you had the time to complete it for us, so that we can monitor satisfaction with the service we provide.

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**Literature Search Results**

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**Enquiry Details**
cultural influences on the health of gypsies and travellers

**Resources Searched**

- CINHAL
- MEDLINE
- EMBASE
- Google/google scholar
Opening Internet Links
The links to internet sites in this document are ‘live’ and can be opened by holding down the CTRL key on your keyboard while clicking on the web address with your mouse.

Full Text Papers
Links are given to full text resources where available. For some of the papers, you will need a free NHS Athens Account. If you do not have an account you can register by following the steps at: https://register.athensams.net/nhs/nhseng/. You can then access the papers by simply entering your username and password. If you do not have easy access to the internet to gain access, please let us know and we can download the papers for you.

Guidance on Searching within Online Documents
Links are provided to the full text of each of these documents. Relevant extracts have been copied and pasted into these Search Results. Rather than browse through often lengthy documents, you can search for specific words and phrases as follows:

**Portable Document Format / pdf. / Adobe**
Click on the Search button (illustrated with binoculars). This will open up a search window. Type in the term you need to find and links to all of the references to that term within the document will be displayed in the window. You can jump to each reference by clicking it. You can search for more terms by pressing ‘search again’.

**Word documents**
Select Edit from the menu, the Find and type in your term in the search box which is presented. The search function will locate the first use of the term in the document. By pressing ‘next’ you will jump to further references.
 Guidelines

None found

 Evidence

Gypsy and Traveller communities
One way to understand the impact of inequalities is to look at how social exclusion impacts on a specific group.

- You can discover the issues affecting Gypsy and Traveller communities in the overview below
- Find information on relevant agencies and communities
- See how others are turning principles into action in the good practice examples
- Check credible sources for guidance
- Track the social inclusion programme in the UK in the policy section
- Hear from the experiences of people from this group in the voices section.

This document also contains many useful resources listed at end.
http://www.rcn.org.uk/development/practice/social_inclusion/gypsy_and_traveller_communities

Perspectives on ageing in Gypsy families Pauline Lane et al.
13 February 2012
This Perspectives paper explores the views of a range of older Gypsies as they reflect on their past and experiences of ageing.

We hope that sharing some of these experiences will lead to a celebration of how Gypsy families support their elders. Pauline Lane spoke to Gypsy elders who look back on their nomadic life with great affection and a sense of loss for themselves and young Gypsies, who cannot follow these traditions.

Contributors talked about:

- The heart of Gypsy life being family. Most Gypsies continue to live in extended family groups and maintain traditional gender roles.
  The fact that Gypsy families have always had very strict moral codes and this continues into the present day. Young people take on adult responsibilities at the age of 16.

- Successive governments failing to deliver adequate sites for Gypsies and Travellers. The current legal system makes it nearly impossible for many of them to maintain traditional nomadic lives.
Social exclusion of Gypsies and Travellers: health impact
P. Van Cleemput
Journal of Research in Nursing July 2010 vol. 15 no. 4 315-327
There are striking inequalities in the health of Gypsies and Travellers, even when compared with people from other ethnic minorities or from socio-economically deprived White UK groups. In this paper we explore the long-term health impact associated with a history of persecution, social pathologisation and social exclusion of Gypsies and Travellers. A society that has demonstrated entrenched and widespread hostility towards Gypsies and Travellers has contributed to wariness about trust in outsiders and contributes to the communication barriers with health staff that are implicated in their poor access to healthcare. Many of the problems identified by health staff mirrored those identified by Gypsies and Travellers, particularly with regards to mismatched expectations and resulting conflicts. Whilst the Department of Health has recognised the extreme health inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers and the need for specific action to reduce them and improve access to health care, this paper emphasises the need for an associated improved effort at all levels to seriously tackle the wider determinants of health, including societal attitudes towards Gypsies and Travellers, as well as focusing on delivery of health services. Nurses are identified as needing to play a key part as role models in challenging prejudice and discrimination

Health and use of health services: a comparison between Gypsies and Travellers and other ethnic groups
Jean Petersa*, Glenys D. Parrya, Patrice Van Cleemputa, Julia Moorea, Cindy L. Coopera & Stephen J. Waltersa
Ethnicity & Health
Volume 14, Issue 4, 2009 Objectives. To examine the health status of adults from black and minority ethnic groups and from a socio-economically mixed White population, all resident in England.
Results. Of the 520 recruited age–sex matched sample (260 Gypsies and Travellers matched with 260 Pakistani Muslims, African Caribbean, and White residents), 516 were included in this analysis (173 men, 343 women). There were no differences by age between the four groups but men were approximately four years older than women. There were significant statistical differences in smoking status and educational attendance with more Gypsies and Travellers being current smokers (58% (95% confidence interval (CI) 52, 64) versus 25% (14, 38) or lower in the other groups) and having poorer regular educational attendance (61% (54, 68) versus 89% (77, 96) or higher in the other groups). For all health outcomes examined, Gypsies and Travellers had significantly poorer outcomes (after adjustment for age, sex and smoking status) compared with the White population. The health status of the Pakistani Muslims and African Caribbeans was similar to that of the Gypsies and Travellers for health in the past year, asthma, and depression, but other outcomes (cough, sputum) were significantly less prevalent. There were also significant differences in specific outcomes
between African Caribbean and Pakistani Muslim populations. Consultations with various health professionals and use of health services varied between the groups. Conclusion. Being a Gypsy or Traveller is associated with even poorer health outcomes than those seen in two other ethnic minority groups resident in England, Pakistani Muslim and African Caribbean, and they in turn have poorer health outcomes than the White residents. More remains to be done to address the health and health service needs of such black and minority ethnic groups

**Gypsies, Travellers and the State**

Health Impact of Gypsy Sites Policy in the Van Cleemput P
Social Policy and Society (2008), 7 : pp 103-117

This paper illustrates the social and health consequences of the politics and policies of Gypsy sites in the UK. Recent research concerning health status shows that Gypsies and Travellers have significantly poorer health than other UK resident English speaking ethnic minorities and economically disadvantaged white UK residents. Interview data from the qualitative study of Gypsy and Traveller experience of health and access to health care illustrate the impact of inequality and the association of accommodation factors with health outcomes health. This paper explores how policy on Gypsy sites impacts on the availability of suitable accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers and examines the practical implications for their status in society and the wider health consequences.

**Health-related beliefs and experiences of Gypsies and Travellers: a qualitative study**

Patrice Van Cleemput, Glenys Parry, Kate Thomas, Jean Peters, Cindy Cooper
J Epidemiol Community Health 2007;61:205-210

Objective: To illuminate findings of the survey of the health status of Gypsies and Travellers by exploring their health-related beliefs and experiences.

Design: Qualitative study of a purposive subsample from in-depth interviews using framework analysis.

Results: The experience of poor health and daily encounters of ill health among extended family members were normalised and accepted. Four major themes emerged relating to health beliefs and the effect of lifestyle on health for these respondents: the travelling way; low expectations of health; self-reliance and staying in control; fatalism and fear of death. These themes dominated accounts of health experience and were relevant to the experience. These themes add richness to the health status data and inform our understanding.

Conclusions: Among Gypsies and Travellers, coherent cultural beliefs and attitudes underpin health-related behaviour, and health experiences must be understood in this context. In this group, ill health is seen as normal, an inevitable consequence of adverse social experiences, and is stoically and fatalistically accepted. The provision of effective healthcare and improvement of poor health in Gypsies and Travellers will require multi-agency awareness of these issues.

http://jech.bmj.com/content/61/3/205.full.pdf+html
Health status of Gypsies and Travellers in England

Glenys Parry, Patrice Van Cleemput, Jean Peters, Stephen Walters, Kate Thomas, Cindy Cooper

Objective: To provide the first valid and reliable estimate of the health status of Gypsies and Travellers in England by using standardised instruments to compare their health with that of a UK resident non-Traveller sample, drawn from different socioeconomic and ethnic groups, matched for age and sex.

Design: Epidemiological survey, by structured interview, of quota sample and concurrent age–sex-matched comparators.

Setting: The homes or alternative community settings of the participants at five study locations in England.

Participants: Gypsies and Travellers of UK or Irish origin (n=293) and an age–sex-matched comparison sample (n=260); non-Gypsies or Travellers from rural communities, deprived inner-city White residents and ethnic minority populations.

Results: Gypsies and Travellers reported poorer health status for the last year, were significantly more likely to have a long-term illness, health problem or disability, which limits daily activities or work, had more problems with mobility, self-care, usual activities, pain or discomfort and anxiety or depression as assessed using the EuroQol-5D health utility measure, and a higher overall prevalence of reported chest pain, respiratory problems, arthritis, miscarriage and premature death of offspring. No inequality was reported in diabetes, stroke and cancer.

Conclusions: Significant health inequalities exist between the Gypsy and Traveller population in England and their non-Gypsy counterparts, even when compared with other socially deprived or excluded groups, and with other ethnic minorities.

http://jecho.bmj.com/content/61/3/198.full.pdf+html

Health care needs of Travellers

Patrice Van Cleemput
Arch Dis Child 2000;82:32-37

Who are Travellers? The 1968 Caravan Sites Act ignored ethnicity and cultural distinctiveness by defining Travellers as: “persons of nomadic habit, whatever their race or origin”.1 However, in 1989, when the Commission for Racial Equality determined that Gypsies formed a distinct ethnic group, differences between “real Gypsies” and other more recent groups of Travellers were emphasised.2 There are two main groups: new Travellers and traditional Travellers. The inclusive term “Traveller” is acceptable to most and is used here.

http://adc.bmj.com/content/82/1/32.full

Gypsy Culture and Health Care

Anderson, Gwen; Tighe, Bridget

American Journal of Nursing February 1973 - Volume 73 - Issue 2

Relatives, their relatives, and friends of a Gypsy flock around his hospital bed because their culture is highly family centered. Nursing care must therefore also be highly family centered.
Search Results

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Search History

1. EMBASE; CULTURAL FACTOR/ OR CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY/; 77710 results.
2. EMBASE; GIPSY/; 561 results.
3. EMBASE; HEALTH/ OR HEALTH BEHAVIOR/ OR HEALTH BELIEF/; 128959 results.
4. EMBASE; 1 AND 2; 44 results.
5. EMBASE; 3 AND 4; 5 results.
6. EMBASE; ATTITUDE TO HEALTH/; 66379 results.
7. EMBASE; 4 AND 6; 9 results.
8. CINAHL; GYPSIES/; 111 results.
9. CINAHL; CULTURAL VALUES/ OR CULTURAL DIVERSITY/; 10246 results.
10. CINAHL; 8 AND 9; 19 results.
11. CINAHL; 8 AND 10; 19 results.
12. MEDLINE; GYPSIES/; 541 results.
13. MEDLINE; CULTURE/; 24103 results.
14. MEDLINE; HEALTH/ OR HEALTH BEHAVIOR/; 43452 results.
15. MEDLINE; 12 AND 14; 11 results.
16. MEDLINE; 12 AND 13; 13 results.
1. Trichinellosis, a Romanian never-ending story. An overview of traditions, culinary customs, and public health conditions.

**Citation:** Foodborne Pathogens & Disease, September 2010, vol./is. 7/9(999-1003), 1535-3141;1556-7125 (2010 Sep)

**Author(s):** Neghina R

**Language:** English

**Abstract:** Over the years, pork was the most frequent source of human trichinellosis in Romania. Cases generally occurred in foci, family, and group clusters and were rarely aggregated in extensive outbreaks. A study regarding the social consequences of trichinellosis in humans concluded that 84.8% of the patients diagnosed with the condition required an average of 53 days of sick leave. Cardiac complications are the most frequent causes of significant health status impairment. "Pig's alms," a specific custom representing the thanksgiving meal offered to relatives, friends, or neighbors who participated in the slaughtering process may be a very good source of infection with Trichinella parasites, leading to unfortunate consequences, especially when animals are not veterinary tested. Beside pork, other concerns for acquiring the disease are represented by game meat and horsemeat, the latter was introduced in public consumption in 2001. Although in Romania Trichinella sp. infection was documented for the first time in horses in 1993, no consequent human cases were detected at that time. Numerous trichinellosis outbreaks involve individuals from the gipsy community, most of whom are very poor, illiterate, unemployed, and live in unsanitary conditions raising backyard pigs without any compliance with hygienic rules. Measures aimed at limiting the spread of the infection in humans and animals should be widely available to be known, understood, and adequately applied by the great mass of pig breeders, hunters, and consumers.

**Publication Type:** Journal Article; Review

**Source:** MEDLINE

2. Does socioeconomic status fully mediate the effect of ethnicity on the health of Roma people in Hungary?.

**Citation:** Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health, June 2009, vol./is. 63/6(455-60), 0143-005X;1470-2738 (2009 Jun)

**Author(s):** Voko Z; Csepe P; Nemeth R; Kosa K; Kosa Z; Szeles G; Adany R

**Language:** English

**Abstract:** BACKGROUND: Several models have been proposed to explain the association between ethnicity and health. It was investigated whether the association between Roma ethnicity and health is fully mediated by socioeconomic status in Hungary. METHODS: Comparative health interview surveys were performed in 2003-04 on representative samples of the Hungarian population and inhabitants of Roma settlements. Logistic regression models were applied to study whether the relationship between Roma ethnicity and health is fully mediated by socioeconomic status, and whether Roma ethnicity modifies the association between socioeconomic status and health. RESULTS: The health status of people living in Roma settlements was poorer than that of the general population (odds ratio of severe functional limitation after adjustment for age and gender 1.8 (95% confidence interval 1.4 to 2.3)). The difference in self-reported health and in functionality was fully explained by the socioeconomic status. The less healthy behaviours of people living in Roma settlements was also related very strongly to their socioeconomic status, but remained significantly different from the general population when differences in the socioeconomic status were taken into account, (eg odds ratio of daily smoking 1.6 (95% confidence interval 1.3 to 2.0) after adjustment for age, gender, education, income and employment). CONCLUSION: Socioeconomic status is a strong determinant of health of people living in Roma settlements in Hungary. It fully explains their worse health status but only partially determines their less healthy behaviours. Efforts to improve the health of Roma people should include a focus on socioeconomic status, but it is important to note that cultural differences must be taken into account in developing public health interventions.
3. Gypsies and Travellers: cultural influences on health

Citation: Community practitioner: the journal of the Community Practitioners' & Health Visitors' Association, June 2008, vol./is. 81/6(31-34), 1462-2815 (Jun 2008)

Author(s): Dion X.

Language: English

Abstract: In comparison to other population groups in the UK, the health of Gypsies and Travellers is among the worst in the country. The government's current agenda to reduce unacceptable inequalities in health through far-reaching, cross-cutting and costly measures is still not making a significant difference. If improving the health of the worst off and most marginalised members of society is to be achieved, then there has to be personalised and tailored health service provision to specific target population groups. This is unlikely to be effective without identifying the factors that contribute to their poor health status and understanding specific cultural values, attitudes, beliefs and behaviours relating to health. To this end, a research study was undertaken among a group of Gypsies and Travellers. Nine women were interviewed initially, and a further three to validate emerging theory. Interviews were transcribed and analysed using grounded theory methodology. This article focuses on several key factors identified that help explain the inequitably poor health status of Gypsies and Travellers. These include having a fatalistic outlook on life and health, the relationship between fatalism and stress, the culture of passing health-related information from one generation to the next that can perpetuate 'unhealthy' practices, and the difficulty in saying 'no' to children.

4. Gypsy and traveller women: The road to better care

Citation: Practising Midwife, January 2008, vol./is. 11/1(12-14), 1461-3123 (January 2008)

Author(s): McLeish J.

Language: English

Publication Type: Journal: Article

Source: EMBASE

5. Changing times.

Citation: Nursing in the Community, 01 January 2008, vol./is. 9/1(8-9), 16490657

Author(s): Gleeson P

Language: English

Abstract: Although it is slowly improving, there are still many obstacles to overcome to improve healthcare in the Travelling community.

Publication Type: journal article

Source: CINAHL

6. Moving past stereotypes with the Roma.

Citation: Nursing Spectrum -- Philadelphia Tri -- State Edition, 05 November 2007, vol./is. 16/23(16-18), 1074858X
7. Rapid health impact appraisal of eviction versus a housing project in a colony-dwelling Roma community.

Citation: Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health, November 2007, vol./is. 61/11(960-5), 0143-005X;0143-005X (2007 Nov)

Author(s): Kosa K; Molnar A; McKee M; Adany R

Language: English

Abstract: BACKGROUND: During implementation of a community development project involving a severely disadvantaged Roma community, the community was threatened with eviction. Two scenarios, eviction with placement on the waiting list for social housing versus a replacement housing development, were identified and specified. A health impact assessment (HIA) was carried out to inform subsequent negotiations. AIMS: To assess the health effects of eviction in comparison with that of a housing project for a Roma community; to make recommendations on short-term and long-term benefits of the two scenarios in order to inform the local government; and to develop a demonstration HIA that can act as a model for other disadvantaged Roma populations. METHOD: A prospective assessment, based on a broad model of health, was carried out to assess health effects of a housing project compared with eviction. By design, it ensured full involvement of members of the community, local decision makers and relevant stakeholders. RESULTS AND CONCLUSION: This HIA identified numerous positive and some probable negative health effects of a housing project. Despite the uncertainty around some of its predicted effects, the overall health benefit of a housing project clearly outweighed that of eviction. Although the immediate financial advantages of eviction for the municipal government are clear, this example provides further evidence to support the adoption of a statutory requirement to assess both economic and health outcomes. It also provides an example that other Roma communities can emulate.


Citation: Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health, March 2007, vol./is. 61/3(205-10), 0143-005X;0143-005X (2007 Mar)

Author(s): Van Cleemput P; Parry G; Thomas K; Peters J; Cooper C

Language: English

Abstract: OBJECTIVE: To illuminate findings of the survey of the health status of Gypsies and Travellers by exploring their health-related beliefs and experiences. DESIGN: Qualitative study of a purposive subsample from in-depth interviews using framework analysis. SETTING: The homes or alternative community settings of the participants in five geographically dispersed study locations in England. PARTICIPANTS: 27 Gypsies and Travellers with an experience of ill health, purposively sampled from a larger population participating in an epidemiological survey of health status. RESULTS: The experience of poor health and daily encounters of ill health among extended family members were normalised and accepted. Four major themes emerged relating to health beliefs and the effect of lifestyle on health for these respondents: the travelling way; low
expectations of health; self-reliance and staying in control; fatalism and fear of death. These themes dominated accounts of health experience and were relevant to the experience. These themes add richness to the health status data and inform our understanding.

CONCLUSIONS: Among Gypsies and Travellers, coherent cultural beliefs and attitudes underpin health-related behaviour, and health experiences must be understood in this context. In this group, ill health is seen as normal, an inevitable consequence of adverse social experiences, and is stoically and fatalistically accepted. The provision of effective healthcare and improvement of poor health in Gypsies and Travellers will require multi-agency awareness of these issues.

Publication Type: Journal Article; Research Support, Non-U.S. Gov't
Source: MEDLINE
Full Text: Available in print at Lincolnshire Knowledge & Resource Service
Available in fulltext at Highwire Press
Available in fulltext at National Library of Medicine

9. Primary health care as a factor of the reproductive behavior and health culture forming in the Gypsies

Citation: General Medicine, 2005, vol./is. 7/1(6-8), 1311-1817 (2005)
Author(s): Semerdjieva M.
Language: Bulgarian
Abstract: Demographic peculiarities of the Gypsies population define this minority as precarious regarding their health. The aim of this study is to examine the primary health care as a factor of the reproductive behavior and health culture forming in the Gypsies. The large family is a tradition. The lack of knowledge concerning contraception devices, their price and the low level of sexual culture make their use occasional and subsequently abortion-on-demand becomes the main method in gipsy family planning. Serious work targeted on primary health care is necessary for Roma minority for solving reproductive behavior problems providing individual help or by workgroups, that are consistent with the culture and family peculiarities among this ethnos.

Publication Type: Journal: Article
Source: EMBASE


Citation: EDTNA/ERCA Journal of Renal Care, 01 October 2004, vol./is. 30/4(230-233), 1019083X
Author(s): Ho TM; Cordovilla L
Language: English
Abstract: Cultural diversity is nowadays a common phenomenon in most developed countries. Its impact is felt in daily life, as well as in health care settings. Hospital del Mar, due to its geographical location, receives some of the 34.7% of immigrants from a varied cultural background. Endeavours are made to promote cultural awareness among staff and to facilitate communication. However, a Spanish Gypsy group, albeit not immigrants, are by large the problematic cultural group. A questionnaire study was conducted to validate the difficulty in treating these Gypsies versus migrant patients. The questionnaire was distributed to different health care professionals in the hospital. The result is not surprising. The problems encountered with the migrant patients are mainly due to language barrier. Concerning these Gypsies who speak fluent Spanish, the problems are by far more extensive. These are often generated by their abiding cultural values, distinctive lifestyle, low educational level and rejection of the shared norms of the majority. Any attempt to encourage adherence to hospital rules are often futile as a result of the gypsies' negative attitudes. Staff have expressed occasional feelings of weariness when dealing with such situations.

Publication Type: journal article
Source: CINAHL
11. Gender roles and HIV sexual risk vulnerability of Roma (Gypsies) men and women in Bulgaria and Hungary: an ethnographic study.

Citation: AIDS Care, February 2004, vol./is. 16/2(231-45), 0954-0121;0954-0121 (2004 Feb)
Author(s): Kelly JA; Amirkhanian YA; Kabakchieva E; Csepe P; Seal DW; Antonova R; Mihaylov A; Gyukits G
Language: English
Abstract: Roma, the largest ethnic minority group in Central and Eastern Europe, have cultures that are traditional, often closed, and autonomous of majority populations. Roma communities are characterized by pervasive social health problems, widespread poverty, limited educational opportunities, and discrimination. Although some evidence suggests high levels of HIV sexual risk behaviour among Roma, little is known about the cultural and social context in which risk behaviour occurs. In-depth interviews were used to elicit detailed information about types of sexual partnerships and sexual risk behaviour practices occurring in them, use and perception of protection, knowledge and beliefs about AIDS and STDs, and sexual communication patterns in a sample of 42 men and women aged 18-52 living in Roma community settlements in Bulgaria and Hungary. Analysis of the interview data revealed that men have great sexual freedom before and during marriage, engage in a wide range of unprotected practices with primary and multiple outside partners, and have much more relationship power and control. In contrast, women are expected to maintain virginity before marriage and then sexual exclusivity to their husbands. Condom use is not normative and is mainly perceived as a form of contraception. Although awareness of AIDS was common, it was generally not perceived as a personal threat. Misconceptions about how HIV is transmitted are widespread, and women - in particular - had very little knowledge about STDs, HIV transmission, and protective steps. There is an urgent need for the development of HIV prevention programs culturally sensitive to Roma populations in Eastern Europe, where HIV rates are rapidly rising.

Publication Type: Journal Article; Research Support, U.S. Gov't, P.H.S.
Source: MEDLINE
Full Text: Available in fulltext at Ingenta
Available in fulltext at EBSCOhost

12. The crossroads of culture and health among the Roma (Gypsies)

Citation: Journal of nursing scholarship : an official publication of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing / Sigma Theta Tau, 2004, vol./is. 36/1(86-91), 1527-6546 (2004)
Author(s): Vivian C.; Dundes L.
Language: English
Abstract: PURPOSE: To alert health care providers to commonly encountered cross-cultural impediments to optimal health care delivery for the Roma (also known as Gypsies) and to offer suggestions for avoiding culturally based problems in treating this subculture. ORGANIZING FRAMEWORK: Understanding of sociocultural bases of health-related behaviors is necessary for culturally competent and effective health care. METHODS: Review of literature and personal interviews. FINDINGS: Cultural factors that can affect health care delivery include: concepts of pollution, cleanliness, ideal weight, death, and views of medical procedures such as immunizations and surgery. Responsiveness of health care providers to expectations of Roma about their involvement of family and the hierarchy of age and sex also can enhance patient-provider relationships that in turn can improve compliance and satisfaction with health care regimens. CONCLUSION: The Roma have some culturally distinct beliefs and behaviors related to their health and health care. Knowledge of these characteristics and accommodations to cultural differences are important in their health care.
13. Genetic studies of the Roma (Gypsies): A review

Citation: BMC Medical Genetics, April 2001, vol./is. 2/, 1471-2350 (02 Apr 2001)
Author(s): Kalaydjieva L.; Gresham D.; Calafell F.
Language: English
Abstract: Background: Data provided by the social sciences as well as genetic research suggest that the 8-10 million Roma (Gypsies) who live in Europe today are best described as a conglomerate of genetically isolated founder populations. The relationship between the traditional social structure observed by the Roma, where the Group is the primary unit, and the boundaries, demographic history and biological relatedness of the diverse founder populations appears complex and has not been addressed by population genetic studies. Results: Recent medical genetic research has identified a number of novel, or previously known but rare conditions, caused by private founder mutations. A summary of the findings, provided in this review, should assist diagnosis and counselling in affected families, and promote future collaborative research. The available incomplete epidemiological data suggest a non-random distribution of disease-causing mutations among Romani groups. Conclusion: Although far from systematic, the published information indicates that medical genetics has an important role to play in improving the health of this underprivileged and forgotten people of Europe. Reported carrier rates for some Mendelian disorders are in the range of 5-15%, sufficient to justify newborn screening and early treatment, or community-based education and carrier testing programs for disorders where no therapy is currently available. To be most productive, future studies of the epidemiology of single gene disorders should take social organisation and cultural anthropology into consideration, thus allowing the targeting of public health programs and contributing to the understanding of population structure and demographic history of the Roma. 2001 Kalaydjieva et al, licensee BioMed Central Ltd.

14. Gypsies and drug addictions. Study of the adherence to treatment

Citation: European addiction research, March 2000, vol./is. 6/1(34-41), 1022-6877 (Mar 2000)
Author(s): Iraurgi I.; Jimenez-Lerma J.M.; Landabaso M.A.; Arrazola X.; Gutierrez-Fraile M.
Language: English
Abstract: AIMS: To compare the retention in a Naltrexone Maintenance Programme (NMP) between a gipsy and a 'paya' (non-gypsy) population in the province of Alava (Basque Country, Spain). HYPOTHESIS: The exposure factor 'to be a gypsy' is no different from the factor 'to be "payo" (non-gypsy)' with regard to the response in the continuation of treatment with opiate antagonists. DESIGN AND PARTICIPANTS: Based on a retrospective follow-up study, two cohorts were considered based on the ethnic group to which one belonged. The cohort of gypsies was made up of 52 cases, for whom by means of a matching process 52 'payo' (non-gypsy) subjects were selected to form the other cohort. The matching variables were age, sex, the family support, and HIV+ status. After a period of detoxification, all the subjects participated in a NMP and the retention in this programme was evaluated. FINDINGS: The survival analysis showed a continuation probability that was higher for the non-gypsy group than for the gypsy group, even though the differences were not significant but they did show a tendency (p < 0.06). The
post-hoc tests showed differences between the continuations shown by both cohorts between 4 and 8 weeks, with this not being observed at other times. A subsequent proportional risks regression analysis showed a strong influence of the previous treatments variable, the effect of which was greater in the gypsy group, with this finally causing a correction in the continuation curves that reduced the differences.

CONCLUSIONS: The results are discussed with regard to the context of the gypsy ethnic group, and suggestions are made with regard to the need for establishing preventive and informative measures that manage to reach the idiosyncrasy of the gypsy culture.

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15. Dealing with cultural diversity: a hospital chaplain reflects on Gypsies and other such diversity

Citation: Journal of pastoral care, June 1999, vol./is. 53/2(175-181), 0022-3409 (1999 Summer)

Author(s): Belgium D.

Language: English

Publication Type: Journal: Article

Source: EMBASE

Full Text: Available in fulltext at EBSCOhost


Citation: British Dental Journal, October 1997, vol./is. 183/7(252-7), 0007-0610;0007-0610 (1997 Oct 11)

Author(s): Edwards DM; Watt RG

Language: English

Abstract: OBJECTIVE: To explore Gypsy Travellers' perceptions of dental health and dental service use within the context of culture, environment and the use of other services.SETTING: The author was a community dental officer and the study formed part of a MSc dissertation in dental public health.SUBJECTS AND METHODS: Information was obtained from semi-structured interviews with 43 Gypsy Travellers supplemented by a questionnaire and clinical screening of 72 Travellers.MAIN OUTCOME MEASURES: Place of residence, registration with GMP and GDP, school attendance, caries, normative and perceived barriers to care.RESULTS: The Travellers in the study had a high level of unmet need, low dental registration and very little use of preventive services. Travellers have no cultural barriers to dental care. Control of their travelling was the major factor determining access to education and health services.CONCLUSIONS: There is inequity of dental health and dental service use with more disadvantage being experienced by Travellers on unauthorized and transit sites.

Publication Type: Journal Article; Research Support, Non-U.S. Gov't

Source: MEDLINE

17. When the gypsies come: an insider's view into a mysterious culture.

Citation: Journal of Christian Nursing, 01 October 1996, vol./is. 13/4(4-9), 07432550

Author(s): Burger JM

Language: English

Publication Type: journal article

Source: CINAHL

18. Cultural identity, resistance, and "good theory": implications for intercultural communication theory from Gypsy culture.
A brief critique of intercultural communication theories clarifies ways in which the new paradigm of communication theory contrasts with the traditional paradigm, particularly regarding intercultural communication (ICC) theory. The analysis considers three aspects of ICC theory: the nature of identity, assumptions about the function of ICC, and the conceptualization of culture. It describes the history and culture of Gypsies, and presents a case of a Gypsy ICC encounter to provide new data for testing extant approaches to ICC theory. The Gypsy experience challenges the traditional assumptions of unitary, authentic, and stable identities in ICC encounters. It also calls into question the traditional paradigm view that individuals in ICC encounters aim to reduce uncertainty and achieve mutual accommodation. Gypsy ICC indicates further that theory should embrace the structuration of power relationships in culture and ICC encounters.