Roma and Travellers Survey 2019
Selected results on the health situation of Roma in 6 countries

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The role of FRA

- **Within FRA’s mandate** (Council Regulation (EC) 168/2007) to **collect**, record, analyse and disseminate relevant, objective, reliable and comparable information and **data on fundamental rights issues** in the EU.

- **2013 Council Recommendations** (2013/C 378/01) suggests FRA to support Member States in monitoring progress achieved in the implementation of their national Roma integration strategies.

- **2016 Council Conclusions** (15406/2016) urges Member States to use FRA’s surveys and analysis for reporting and indicators to assess the effective use of funds.

- **2020 EU Roma strategic framework** for equality, inclusion and participation: asks Member States to monitor and evaluate their strategies using the **portfolio of indicators** developed by FRA in the Roma working party. Targets are linked with the indicators.
2011 - Roma survey in 11 EU MS

2016: Roma in the EU-MIDIS II in 9 EU MS

2019: Roma and Travellers survey in 6 EU MS

2020/2021: Roma survey in 8 EU MS + BG, SK

Based on self-identification!
General findings of the surveys

• Roma are facing adverse living, working and housing conditions more often than the general population:
  – Less often in stable working conditions
  – Adverse housing conditions
  – Poverty
  – Discrimination and harassment

• Living, working and housing conditions, as well as access to adequate health services, are important elements for good health and long life expectancy.
• Roma and Travellers are often disproportionately affected by the pandemic
  – Because of the measures taken to contain the virus
  – Because of the higher risk of infection due to their specific vulnerability
• Measures chosen to contain the pandemic (national and local lockdowns (particularly during the first wave of the pandemic)
  – Due to higher shares of unstable, informal employment
  – Enforced local lockdowns affected Roma settlements in several countries
• Higher risks of infection due to adverse living conditions (particularly in segregated settlements) and general health status
  – Substandard housing, housing deprivation
  – Overcrowding
  – Limited access to tap water within the dwelling
  – Poorer subjective assessment of health status, more limitations due to health in the Roma population
• Limited access to health services and information about the pandemic
  – Insufficient coverage by medical insurance
  – Due to discrimination
Antigypsyism and discrimination

In the past 12 month, out of 100 Roma and Traveller...

100

... every fourth Roma felt discriminated in EU-9 MS

26

... almost half felt discriminated in EU-5 MS

45

One out of ten Roma was discriminated when accessing health services in the 12 months prior to the survey.

EU-9 MS 2016: BG, CZ, EL, ES, HR, HU, PT, RO, SK
EU-5 MS 2019: BE, FR, IE, NL, SE

How people feel to have a Roma as a neighbour - EU-27

- (totally) uncomfortable: 46%
- neither nor: 16%
- (totally) comfortable: 37%

Source: FRA, FRS 2019
- **61%** (EU-9) and **35%** (EU-5) live in *deprived housing* conditions (vs. 18% in the general population): That means that the accommodation has either not enough daylight, or damp walls or rot in windows or floors or a leaking roof, or no bath/shower or no indoor toilet.

- **25%** (EU-9) and **21%** (EU-5) live in households which are affected by pollution, grime or other environmental problems.

- **78%** (EU-9) and **48%** (EU-5) live in overcrowded households.

- **30%** of EU-9 and **8%** of EU-5 have *no access to tap water*. 
How does this affect the health of Roma?

- Roma **assess their own subjective health worse** than the general population and report **more limitations in activities people usually do** than the general population.

- Given that Roma and Travellers are on average younger than the general population, the **difference is larger** than it seems when looking only at the averages.
# Life expectancy

## Table 3: Life Expectancy at Birth, Estimates for 2016, by Country (years)\(^{a,b,c}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Difference in years</th>
<th>Roma and Travellers</th>
<th>General population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Men</td>
<td>Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BE</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>70.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FR</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>74.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IE</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>75.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NL (Travellers and Sinti)</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>74.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>74.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>75.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**

\(^a\) Estimates for Roma and Travellers based on the orphanhood method (Luy 2009 & 2010).

\(^b\) Because of small sample sizes, Caravan dwellers and Roma in Belgium are merged and the estimates for Roma in the Netherlands are not published.

\(^c\) Details about the specific estimates are in the Annex.

**Source:** FRA, RTS 2019 (unweighted data); General population: Human Mortality Database (data downloaded: 4 March 2020)
Concluding remarks

- Generally, we observed only few improvements of the situation of Roma over the last decade, which aggravates the situation of Roma during the Pandemic.
- Focus on dismantling prejudice through cooperation and building trust between communities at local and national level.
- Invest in local level networks of Roma mediators to provide (health, education, social) services to the communities as well as creating employment opportunities.
- There is an urgent need for intensified work on equal access to basic services (water, health, sanitation).
- The new framework on Roma inclusion as well as the EU funds provide a window of opportunity to implement measures to overcome the disadvantages the Roma population face.
- Clear targets in a new framework require effective monitoring, and this monitoring should be on all levels: structure, process, outcome. Participation at all stages also in monitoring and data collection.