Drug consumption among roma population

High risk drug use and drug treatment in Europe 2014
Special populations and drug problems

Lisbon, 24 September 2014
General characteristics of the population of ethnic Roma from Romania

• The Roma community is, together with the Hungarian, one of the most significant minorities of Romania – 3.1%;

• Roma is the category that most commonly occurs in situations of vulnerability;

• Problems: lack of identification documents, low levels of education, unemployment, poor health and housing conditions, discrimination and segregation.
Profile of Roma from Romania

- Level of education extremely low: one-quarter of the population belonging to the Roma minority says it doesn’t know how to read and write;

- Level of employment of the Roma population is about 25%;

- Lack of qualifications-the vast majority of Roma has no qualifications, marginalising them on the labour market;

- Housing situation for an important segment of the population of Roma is very serious;

- Roma account for about one-fifth of the total poor population and over a quarter of the total population very poor;
Data from studies relating to drug users of Roma ethnicity
Drug users of Roma ethnicity, which are not included in treatment programs

- Of the total of 400 consumers polled, 14% were from the Roma ethnic group;
- Nearly half of Roma consumers have at most primary studies (45.1%);
- 94.3% of Roma ethnicity consumers are workers (skilled and unskilled).
Type of drugs consumed by the Roma ethnic group, which are not included in treatment programs

- cannabis
- heroin
- NPS
- cocaine
- ecstasy
- hasis
- methadone
- ketamine
- volatile solvents

Graph showing the percentage of Roma drug users and total drug users for each type of drug.
Economic Status and educational level of the Roma ethnic consumers, which are not included in treatment programs

**Economic status**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economically active</th>
<th>Roma drug users</th>
<th>Total drug users</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23.2%</td>
<td>55.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>44.2%</td>
<td>76.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Educational level**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Roma drug users</th>
<th>Total drug users</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary education</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>45.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary studies</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
<td>24.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school/vocational</td>
<td>24.6%</td>
<td>32.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher education</td>
<td>28.1%</td>
<td>46.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Roma drug users**
- **Total drug users**
Existence of identity documents among consumers of Roma ethnicity, which are not included in treatment programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Existence of identity documents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roma</td>
<td>84.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other ethnicity</td>
<td>97.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>95.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Criminal record of drug users from ethnic Roma, which are not included in treatment programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Roma Drug Users</th>
<th>Total Drug Users</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>With Criminal Records</td>
<td>29.8</td>
<td>90.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

70.2
Routine monitoring data relating to the drug users of Roma ethnicity
Drug users of Roma ethnicity, which are included in treatment programs

- People who have requested treatment due to drug use;
- People who received emergency medical services as a result of problems arising from drug use;
- People who have accessed needle exchange programs.
The size of the population studied in 2013, which are included in treatment programs

- During the year 2013, services to drug users, syringe exchange programs, emergency services, integrated support have been accessed by 2226 Roma ethnics, representing the second ethnic group as share (18.1%).
Distribution of the population being monitored, depending on the accessed assistance services

![Graph showing the distribution of drug users across different services: Total services, NSP, ER, TDI.]

- **Total services:** 12309
- **NSP:** 5145
- **ER:** 4580
- **TDI:** 3800

- **Total unique drug users:**
  - **NSP:** 2043
  - **ER:** 163
  - **TDI:** 277

- **Roma unique drug users:**
  - **NSP:** 2226
  - **ER:**
  - **TDI:**
Drug users of the Roma ethnic group who have been in treatment in 2013

- Of the total of those who have received treatment in 2013 as a result of drug use, 7% were of Roma ethnicity;
- 64.9% are male, while 35.1% are female.
Type of drug consumed by the Roma ethnic group who have been in treatment in 2013
Economic Status and educational level of the Roma ethnic consumers who have been in treatment in 2013

**Economic status**

- Economically inactive: Roma drug users (90.2%), Total drug users (78.9%)
- Economically active: Roma drug users (9.8%), Total drug users (21.1%)

**Educational level**

- Primary education: Roma drug users (14.7%), Total drug users (61.2%)
- Secondary studies: Roma drug users (27.8%), Total drug users (25.7%)
- High school/vocational schools: Roma drug users (47.1%), Total drug users (10.1%)
- Higher education: Roma drug users (8.1%), Total drug users (2.9%)
- Not specified: Roma drug users (2.9%), Total drug users (2.4%)
Criminal record of drug users from ethnic Roma who have been in treatment in 2013

- Without criminal records: 42.8% Roma drug users, 75.2% total drug users
- With criminal records: 57.2% Roma drug users, 24.8% total drug users
HBV, HVC, HIV prevalence among drug users from ethnic Roma who have been in treatment in 2013

- HBV+: 37.8%
- HVC+: 62.2%
- HIV+: 23.5%
- HVB+ HVC+ HIV+: 76.5%
- HVB+ HVC+ HIV+: 14.0%
- HVB+ HVC+ HIV+: 86.0%

Legend: 
- Roma
- Other ethnicity
Drug users of Roma ethnicity, who received emergency medical services in 2013

- Of the total number of people who received emergency services, in 2013, as a result of problems caused by drug use, 3.6% were ethnic Roma.
Type of drug consumed by the Roma ethnic group who received emergency medical services in 2013

- Unreported: 72.6%
- Policonsumption: 14.4%
- Other drugs: 7.6%
- NPS: 2.9%
- Heroin: 2.5%
- Total drug users: 34.5%
- Roma drug users: 26.8%

Legend:
- # Blue: Roma drug users
- # Green: Total drug users
Economic Status and educational level of the Roma ethnic consumers who received emergency medical services in 2013

**Economic status**

- Economically active: 4.6% Roma drug users, 12.9% total drug users
- Economically inactive: 95.4% Roma drug users, 87.1% total drug users

**Educational level**

- Primary education: 5.2% Roma drug users, 21.7% total drug users
- Secondary studies: 17.2% Roma drug users, 15.8% total drug users
- High school/vocational: 8.1% Roma drug users, 18.6% total drug users
- Higher education: 0.5% Roma drug users, 2.7% total drug users
Drug users of Roma ethnicity, which benefited in 2013 of needle exchange programs.
Type of drug consumed by the Roma ethnic group which benefited in 2013 of needle exchange programs.
HBV, HVC, HIV prevalence among drug users from ethnic Roma which benefited in 2013 of needle exchange programs
CONCLUSIONS

• The consumer of the Roma ethnic group can be described as: male, with very low educational level (maximum completed primary studies), economically inactive (in particular, no occupation), with a criminal record;

• Drug users of Roma ethnicity presents an increased risk of social exclusion, in comparison with the other category of drug users;

• Social vulnerabilities is because on one hand, belonging to the Roma ethnic group, but are exacerbated by drug use;
CONCLUSIONS

• The pattern of consumption of most ethnic Roma is injectable heroin/ NPS;
• Accessibility of the Roma ethnicity to consumer assistance services do not provide limitations for this population segment, the Roma ethnicity is very well represented in relation to its representation in the Romanian population;
• The population of Roma ethnicity, access services, in particular, to reduce the risks associated with drug use and less specialized treatment services of dependence.
Thank you for your attention!

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