



NATIONAL ANTIDRUG AGENCY

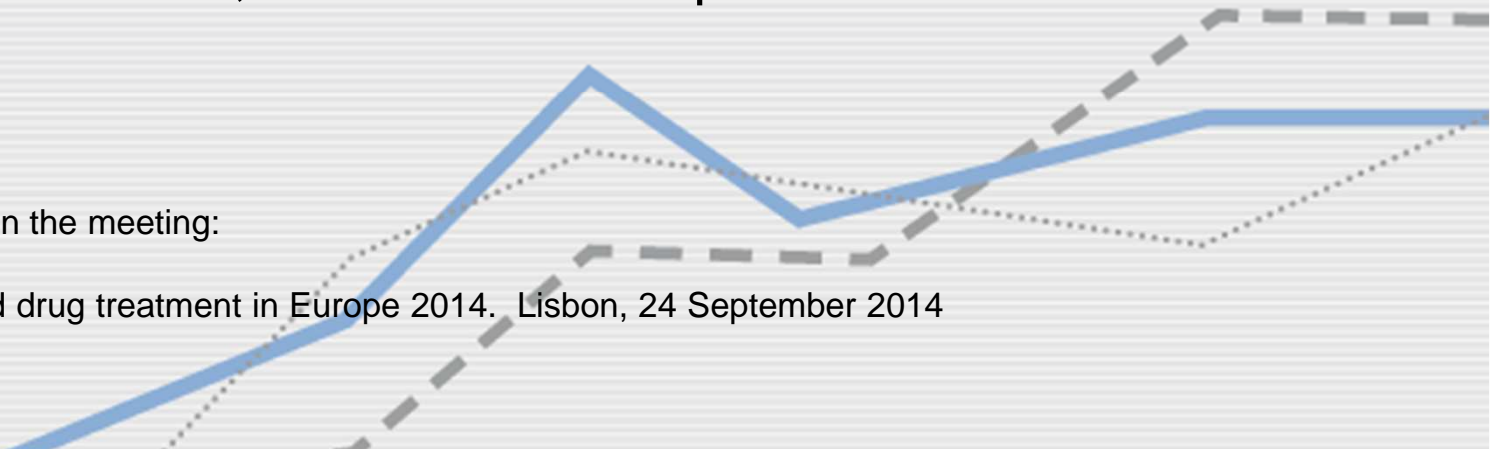
Drug use among Roma population in Romania

20 years of monitoring and communicating evidence on drugs

EMCDDA, Lisbon 21-22 September 2015

Presented previously in the meeting:

High risk drug use and drug treatment in Europe 2014. Lisbon, 24 September 2014



General characteristics of Roma population in Romania

- Roma community - one of the most significant minorities in Romania – 3,1%;
- Roma – vulnerable group;
- Problems: lack of IDs, low level of education, unemployment, poor health and housing conditions, discrimination and segregation.

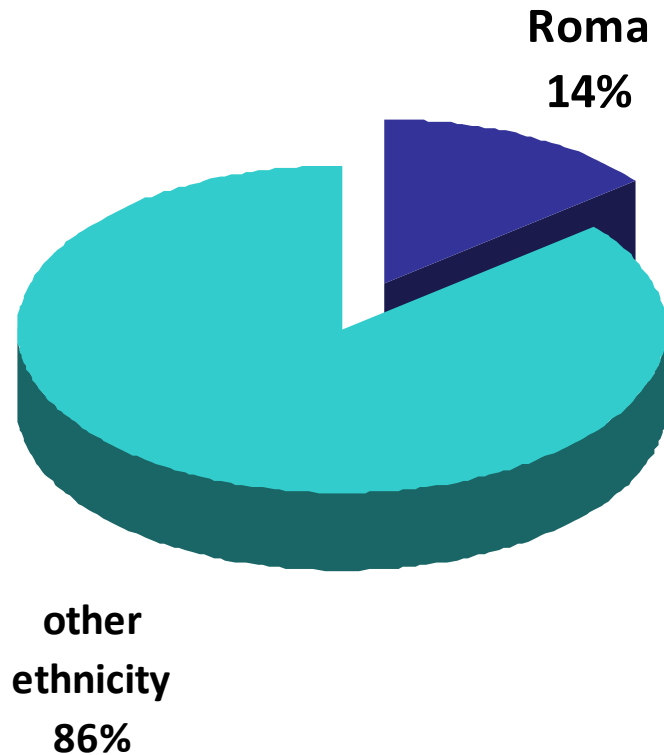
Characteristics of Roma population in Romania

- 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: marginalisation on the labour market;
- Housing situation for an important segment of the population of Roma is very serious;
- Roma represents about one-fifth of the total poor population and over a quarter of the total very poor population;



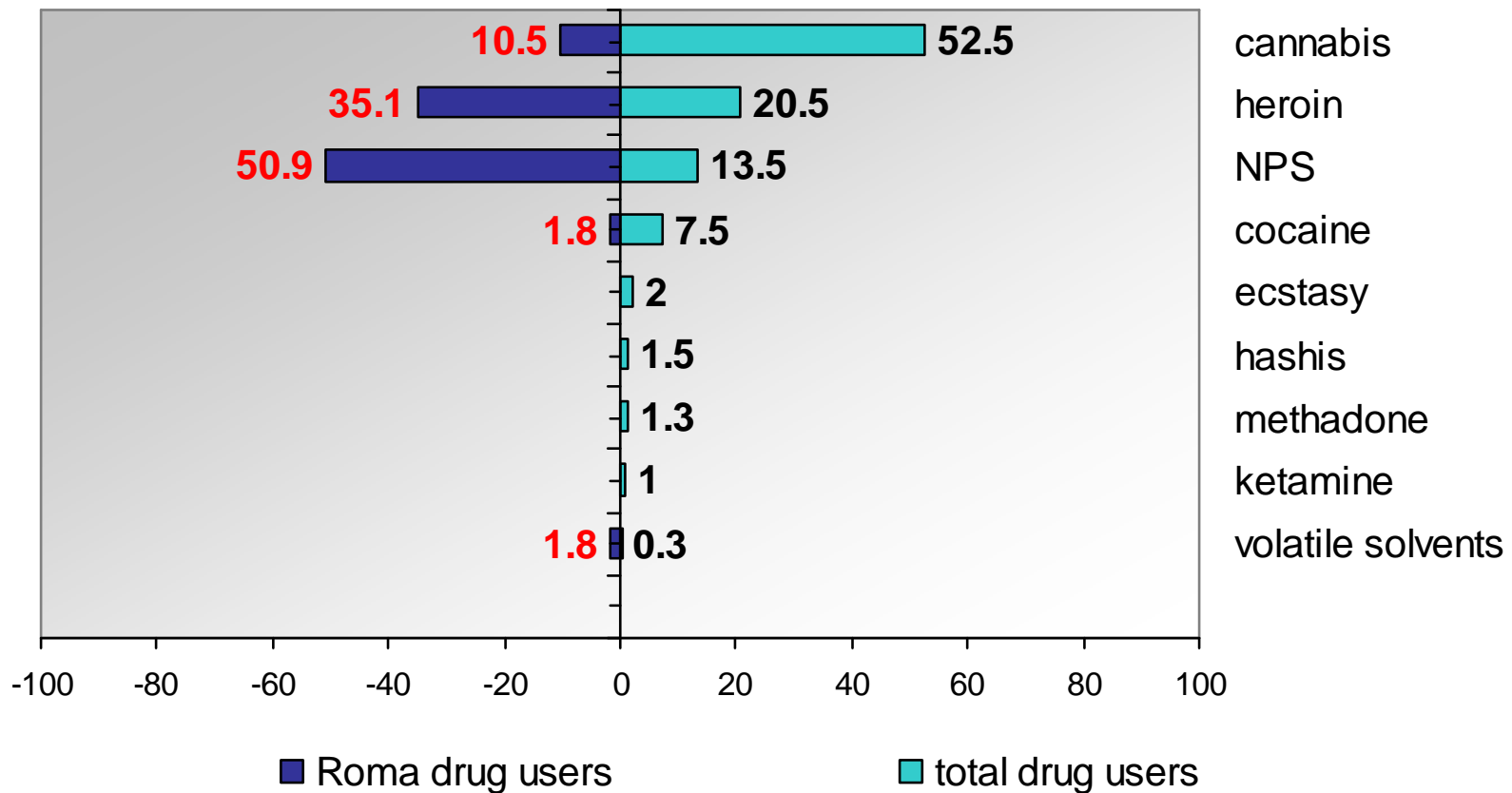
Data from drug related studies

Characteristics of Roma drug users not enrolled in treatment programs



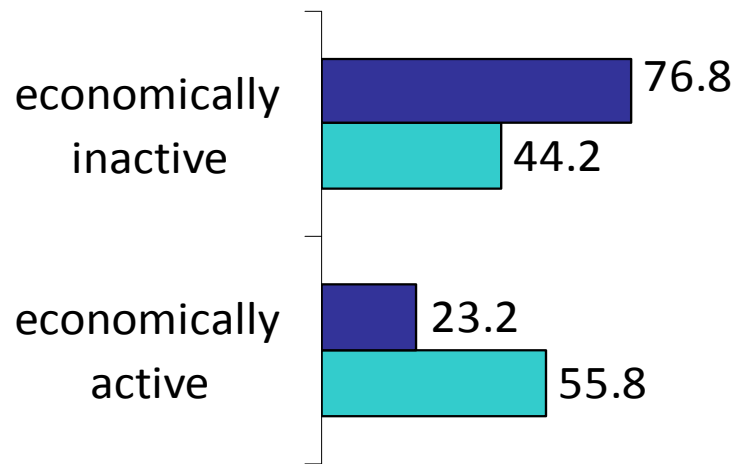
- of the 400 drug users in the sample, 14% were from the Roma ethnic group;
- almost half of Roma drug users have declared a very low level of education - primary studies (45.1%);
- by occupational status - 94.3% of Roma drug users are workers.

Type of drugs used by Roma drug users not enrolled in treatment programs



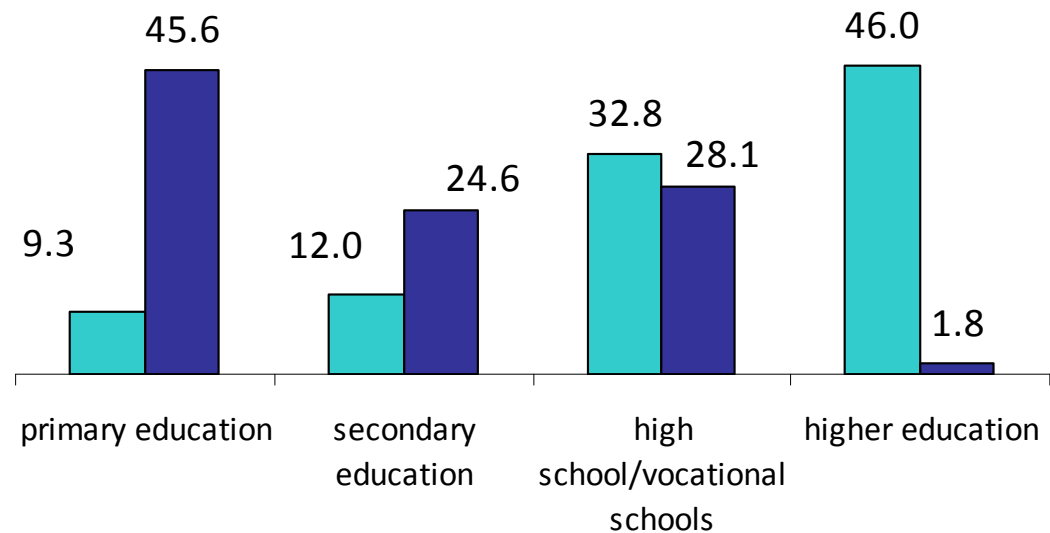
Economic status and educational level of Roma drug users not enrolled in treatment programs

Economic status



■ Roma drug users
■ total drug users

Educational level

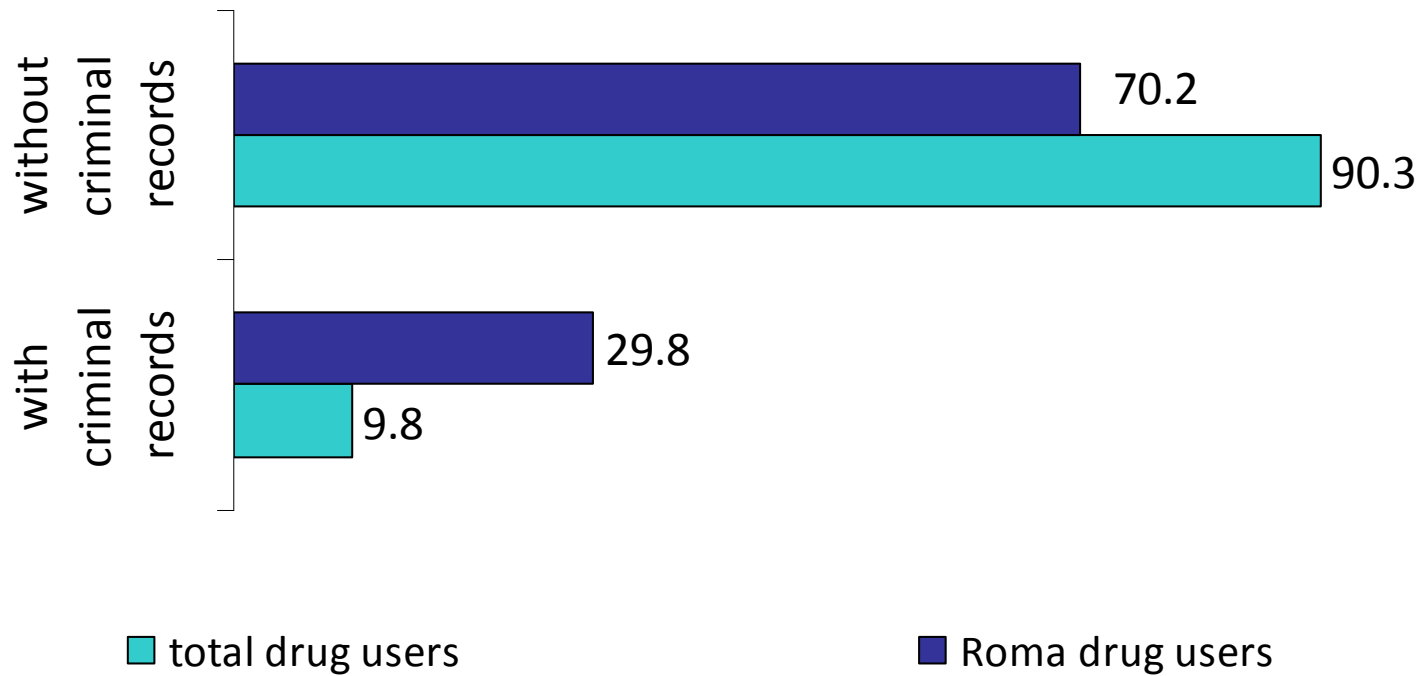


■ total drug users ■ Roma drug users

Existence of identity documents of Roma drug users not enrolled in treatment programs

| | Existence of identity documents | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|-------|-------|
| | yes | no | total |
| Roma | 84,2% | 15,8% | 100% |
| Other ethnicity | 97,7% | 2,3% | 100% |
| Total | 95.5% | 4,3% | 100% |

Criminal records of Roma drug users not enrolled in the treatment programs



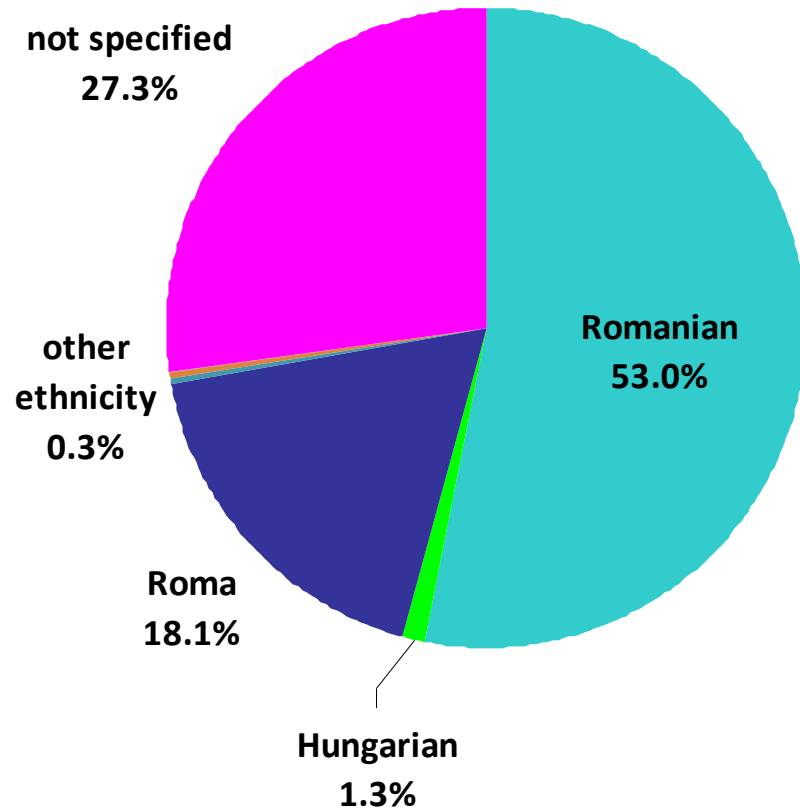


Routine monitoring data

Routine monitoring data

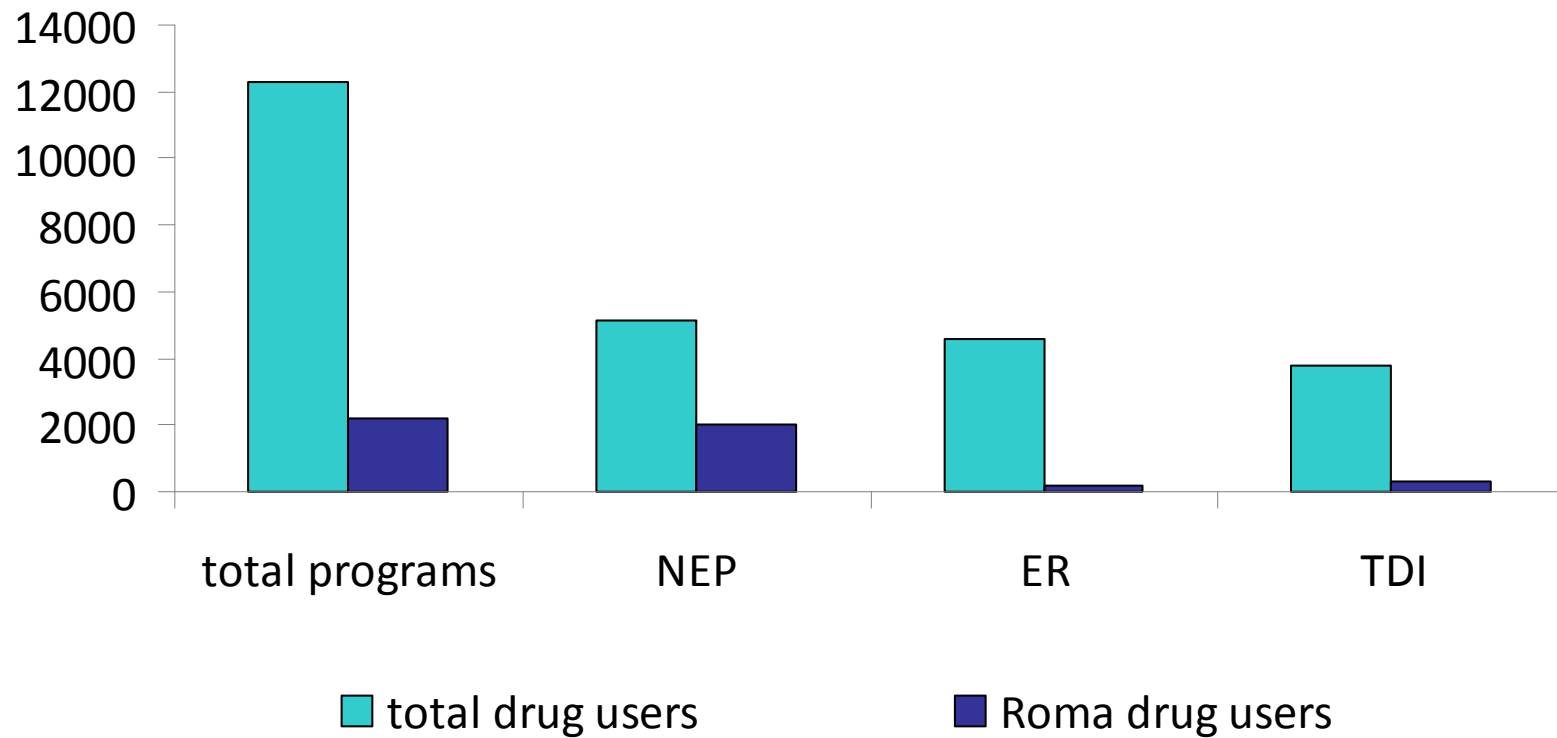
- People who have requested treatment for drug use (TDI data);
- People who attended emergency rooms for drug use (ER data);
- People who have accessed needle exchange programs (NEP data).

Drug users in different treatment programs in 2013 by ethnicity

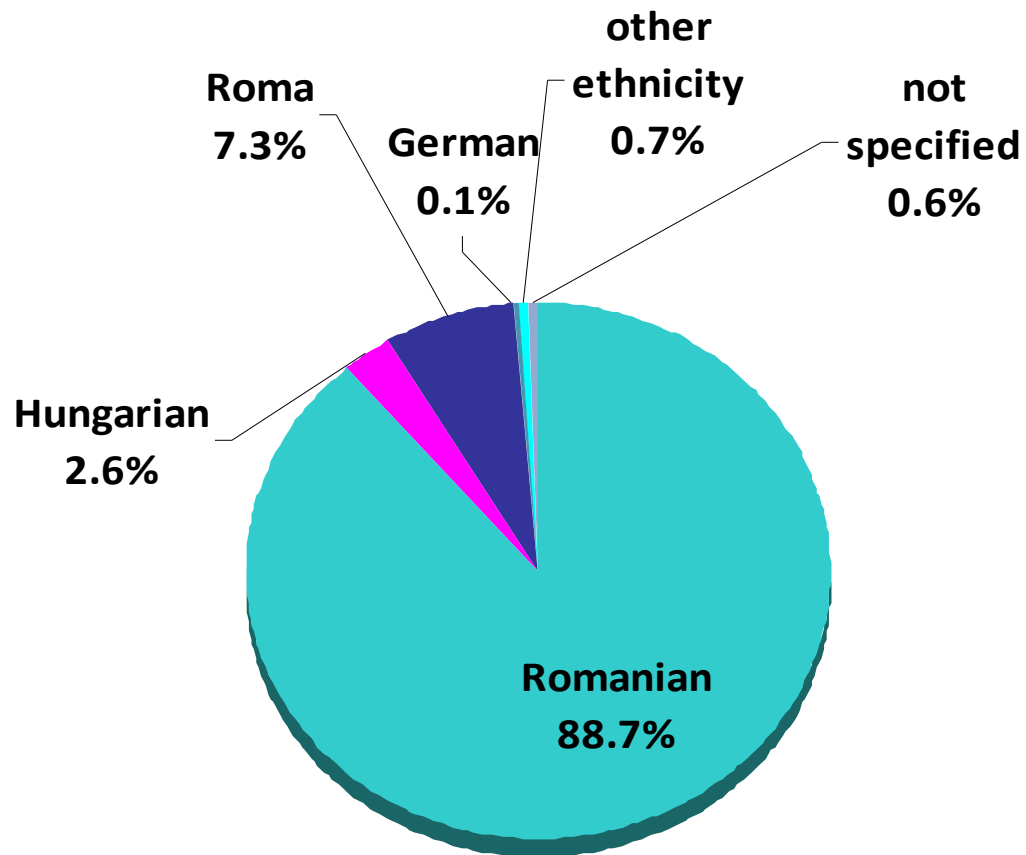


- During 2013, 2226 Roma drug users attended following types of services: medical care units, needle exchange programs, emergency services; representing the second ethnic group (18.1%).

Distribution of drug users in treatment programs by type of service

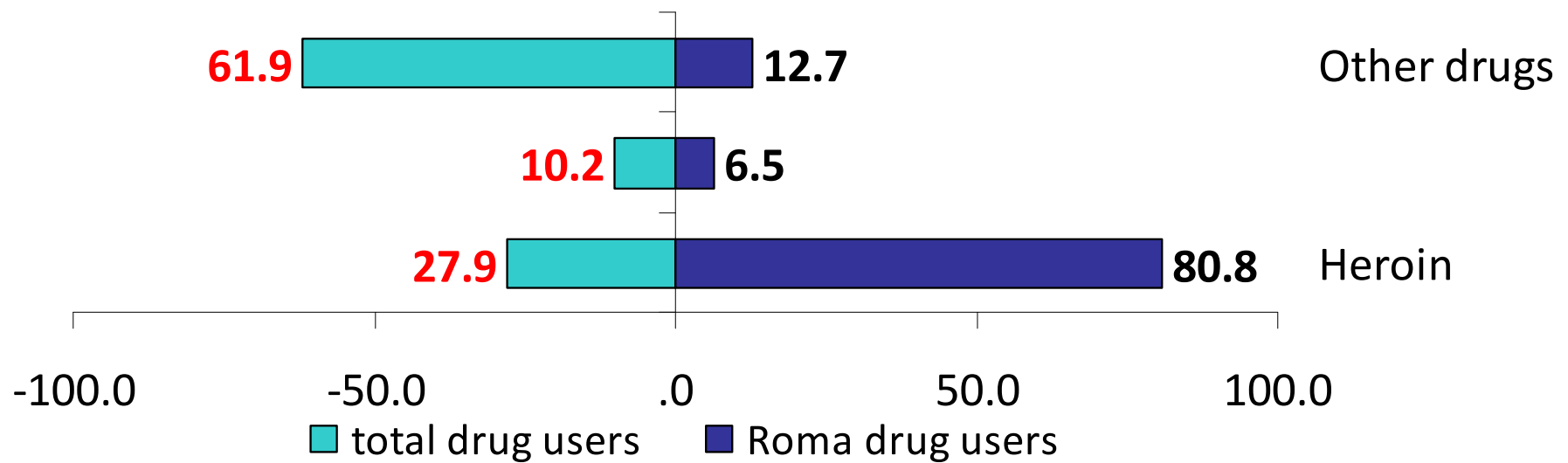


Distribution of drug users in TDI in 2013 by ethnicity



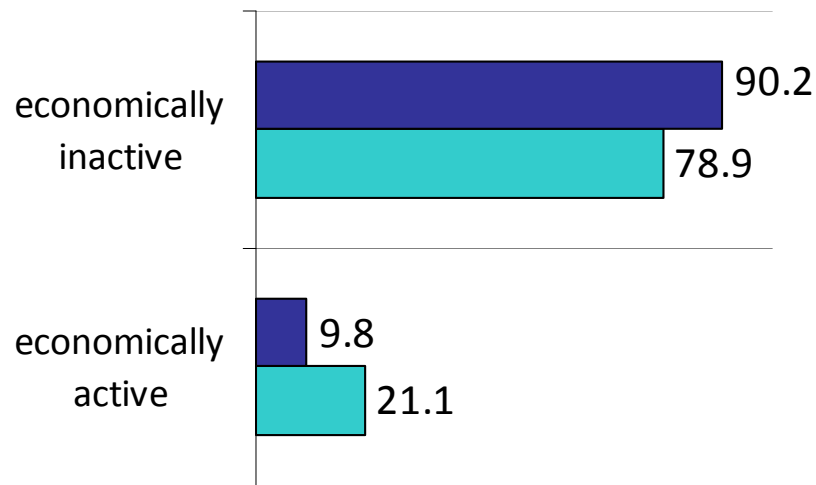
- Of the total drug users who have received treatment in 2013, 7% were of Roma ethnicity;
- 64.9% were male, while 35.1% were female.

Distribution of Roma drug users compared to total population in TDI in 2013 by type of drug



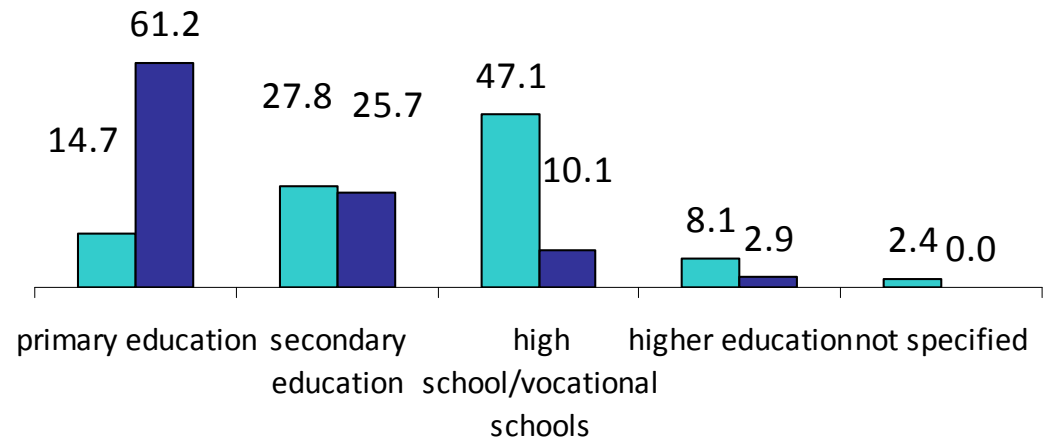
Distribution of Roma drug users compared to total population in TDI in 2013 by economic status and educational level

Economic status



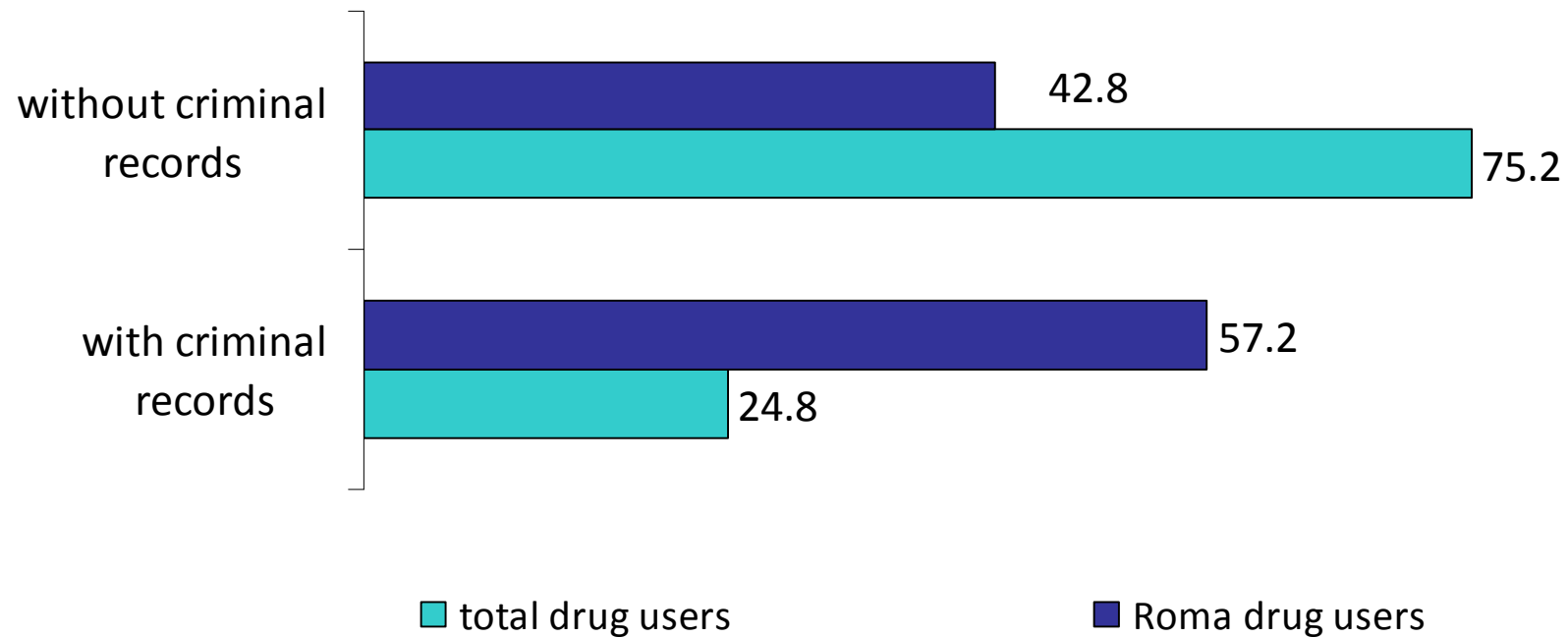
■ Roma drug users
■ total drug users

Educational level

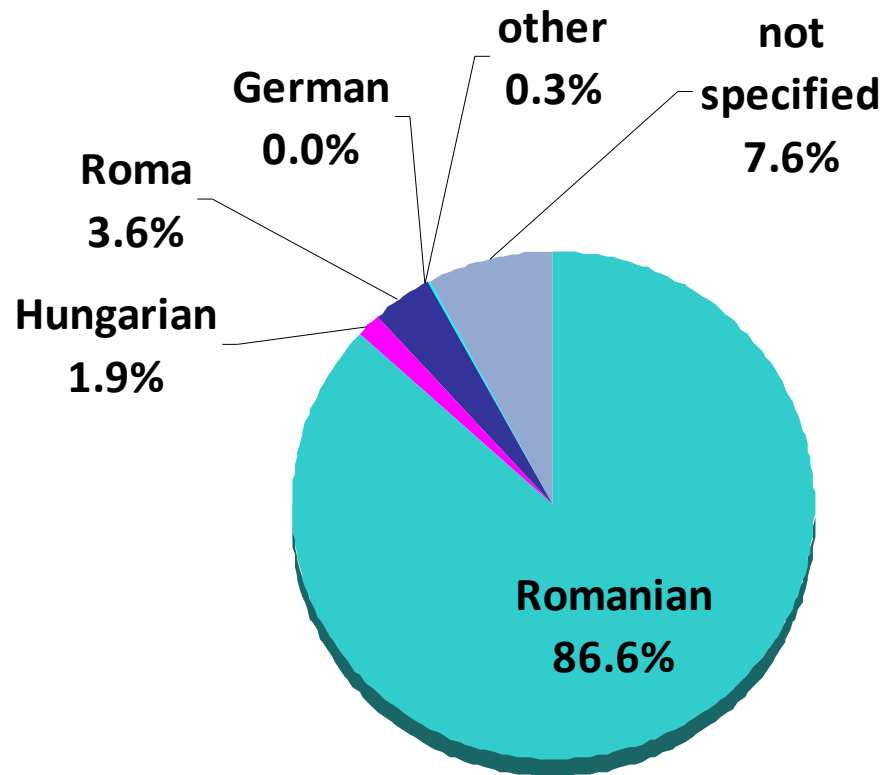


■ total drug users ■ Roma drug users

Distribution of Roma drug users compared to total population in TDI in 2013 by criminal records

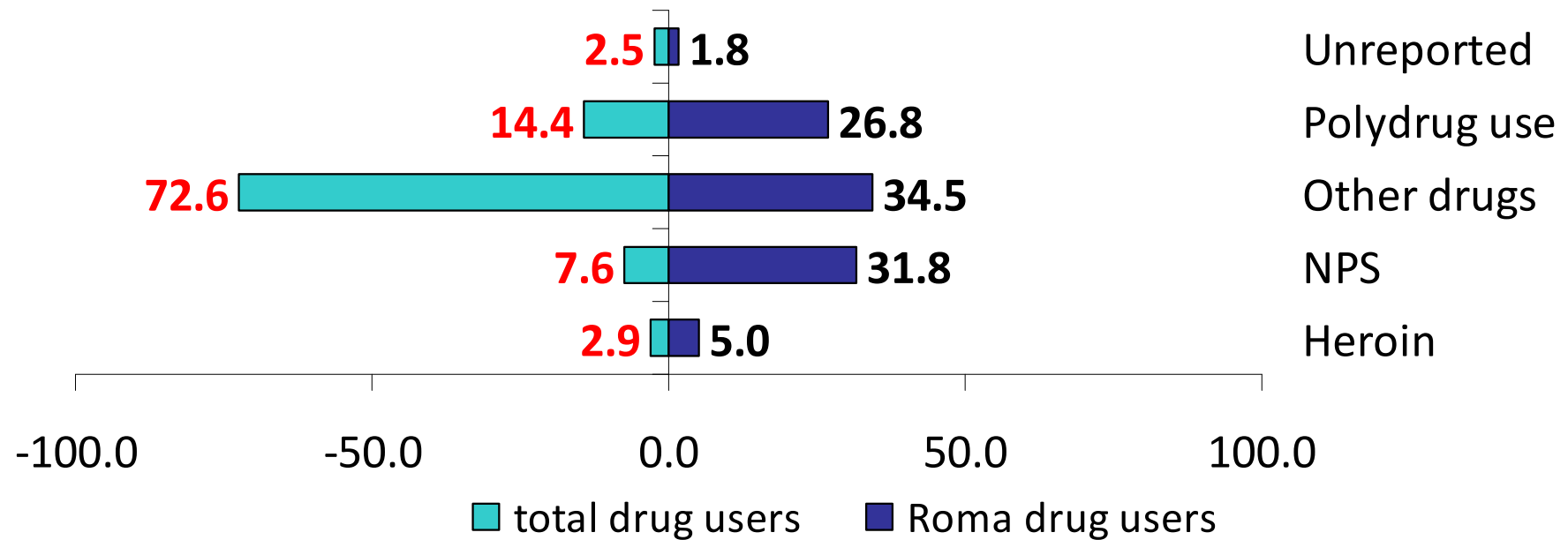


Distribution of Roma drug users compared to total population in emergency services in 2013 by ethnicity

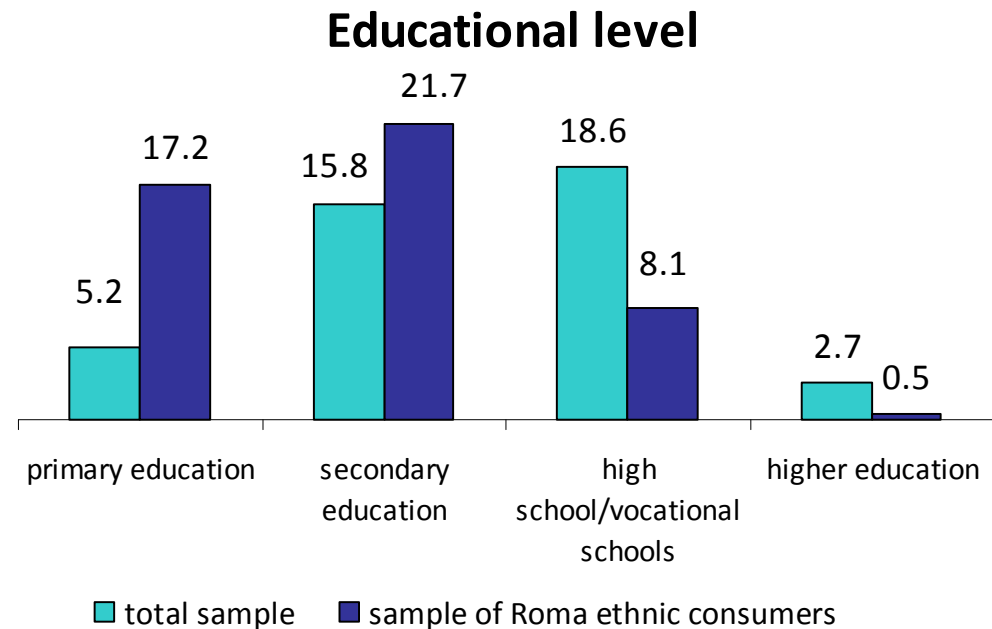
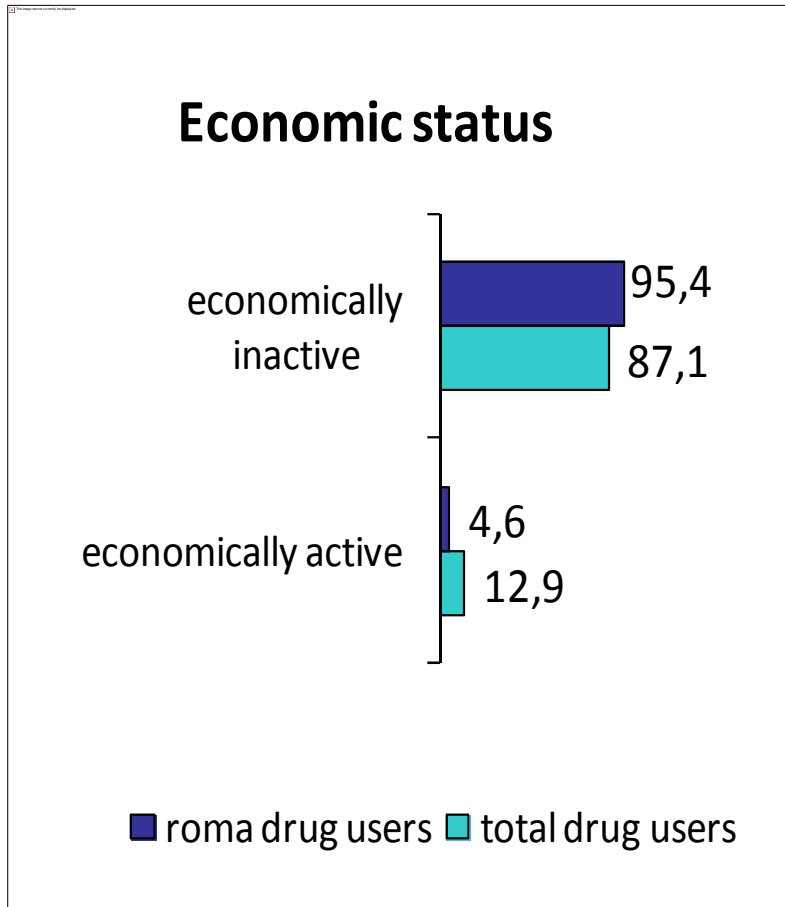


- Of the total number of people who received emergency services in 2013 for drug use, 3.6% were Roma.

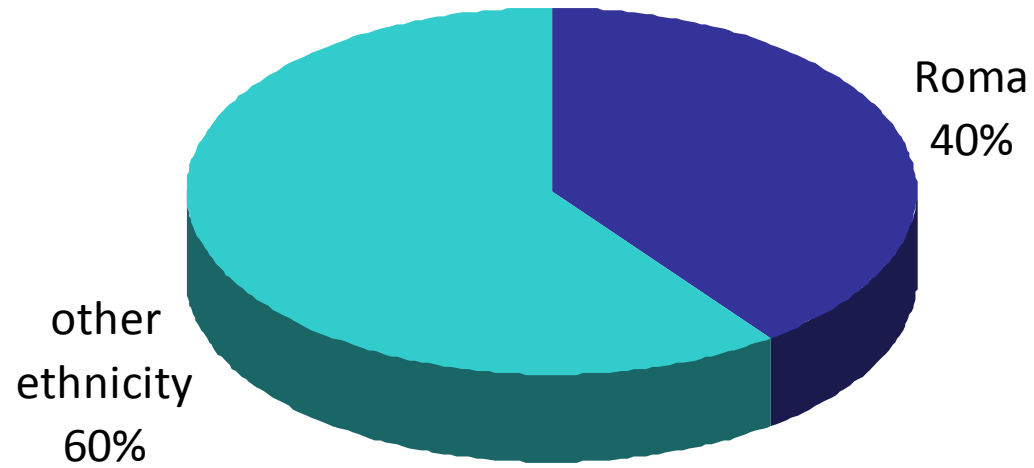
Distribution of Roma drug users compared to total population in emergency services in 2013 by type of drug



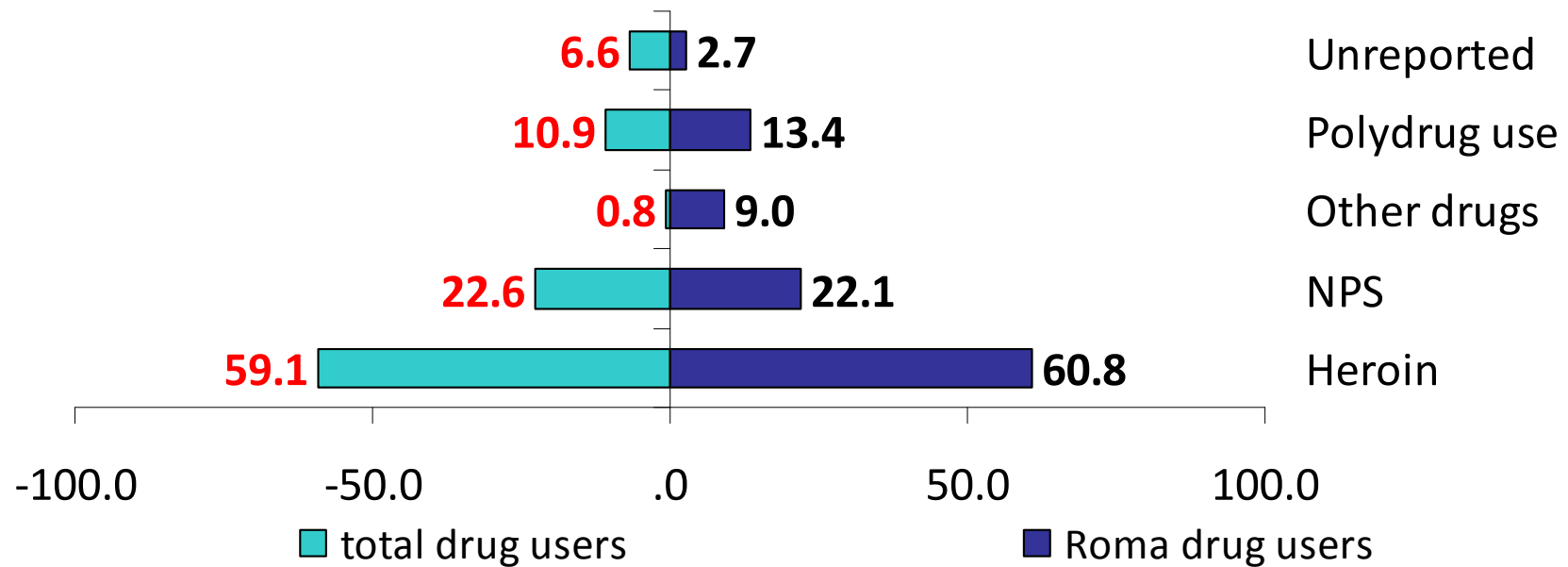
Distribution of Roma drug users compared to total population in emergency services in 2013 by economic status and educational level



Distribution of drug users in NEP in 2013 by ethnicity



Distribution of Roma drug users compared to total population in NEP in 2013 by type of drug



CONCLUSIONS

- The Roma drug user has the following characteristics: male, very low educational level (primary studies), economically inactive (in particular, no occupation), criminal records;
- The Roma drug user has an increased risk of social exclusion, in comparison with other groups of drug users;
- Social vulnerabilities are provided by their ethnicity and are exacerbated by drug use;

CONCLUSIONS

- The pattern of use for the most Roma drug users is heroin/ NPS by injection;
- 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;
- Most of the Roma drug users are attending the services designed to reduce the risk associated with injectable drug use and less the specialized treatment care of dependence.



NATIONAL ANTIDRUG AGENCY

Thank you!

Ruxanda Iliescu
Milica Georgescu
Bogdan Gheorghe