

PRESS RELEASE

Croatian Medical Journal
Zagreb University School of Medicine
Šalata 3b
10000 Zagreb
Croatia

Phone: ++385-1-4590-254

Fax: ++385-1-4590-222

Mail: dario.sambunjak@mef.hr

All articles published in the Croatian Medical Journal
are freely available at www.cmj.hr

Bajash Roma in Croatia live in poor sanitary conditions

ZAGREB – Sanitary living conditions of Bayash Roma in Baranja and Međimurje parts of Croatia: only a half of them have the access to public waterlines, and less than 2% to the public sewage system, shows a study published in the new, thematic issue of Croatian Medical Journal on poverty and human development.

The study was conducted by the researchers from the Institute of Anthropological Research in Zagreb, Croatia. They interviewed 266 Bayash Roma from villages Dardi, Torjanci, Beli Manastir and Boldman in Baranja, and 164 in Kuršanec in Međimurje.

A fifth of the male and more than 40% of female Bayash Roma never attended school, and the schooling years of those who were enrolled in the education system amounted to 5.3 years. Only 10% of Bayash Roma in this study finished the elementary school.

On average, Bayash women marry young, with 16.8 years, and give birth to 3.9 children. Financially, Bayash primarily rely on social welfare support allowance and child allowance, while merely 2% are permanently and 23% occasionally employed. The most commonly reported health burdens are frequent headaches, stomach pain, anxiety or insomnia, hypertension and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

“Our results indicate poor inclusion of the Bayash in the essential service sectors of society such as health care, education and employment as well as substandard living conditions and unfavorable health-related behavior”, conclude the authors of the study.

According to the 2001 census the Roma are a national minority which makes up 0.21% of the total Croatian population. However, estimates suggest a significantly larger number of the Roma in Croatia, between 30,000 and 40,000. About 3000 Bayash Roma live in Baranja, and 5000 in Međimurje. New study found that almost 90% of examinees were born within the region of residents, and as much as 70% of their parents were also born within the region. This is an indication that the life style of Bayash Roma in Baranja and Međimurje are autochthonous and sedentary, and not semi-nomadic or nomadic.

Correspondence to:

Tatjana Škarić-Jurić

Institute for Anthropological Research,

Gajeva 32, 10000 Zagreb

Croatia

Tel.: (+3851) 5535-135

Fax: (+3851) 5535-105

tanja@inantro.hr