



Tuberculosis in Roma communities in Europe

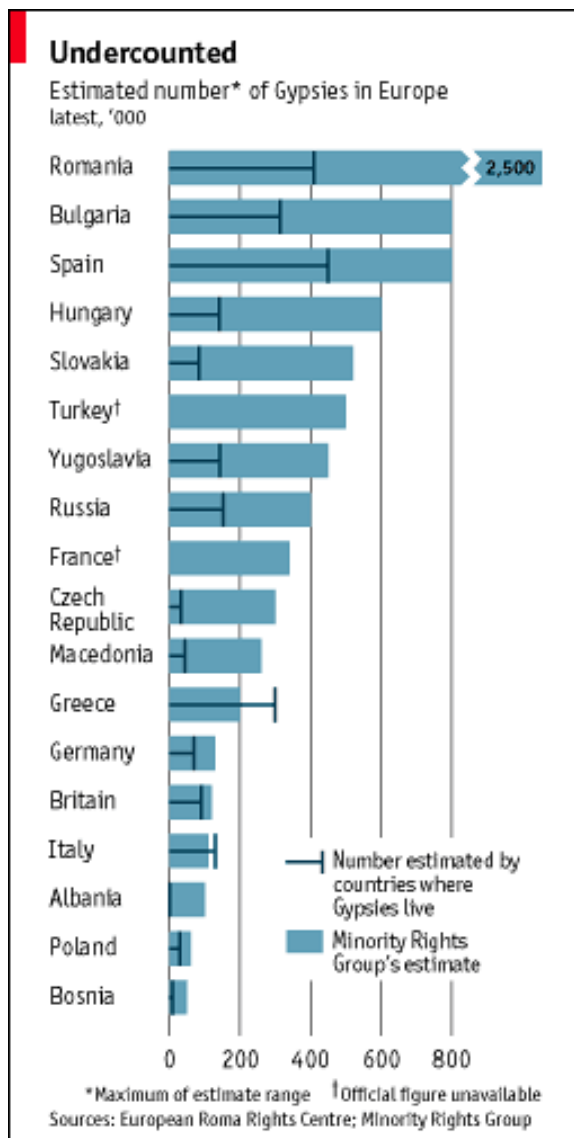
Traian Mihaescu, Victor Turcanu, Brian Douglas



The Roma population represents an ethnic group of 10 million individuals living in almost all European countries:

“the most populous marginalised community in Europe having some of the greatest health needs”

Parekh N, Rose T. Cent Eur J Public Health 2011



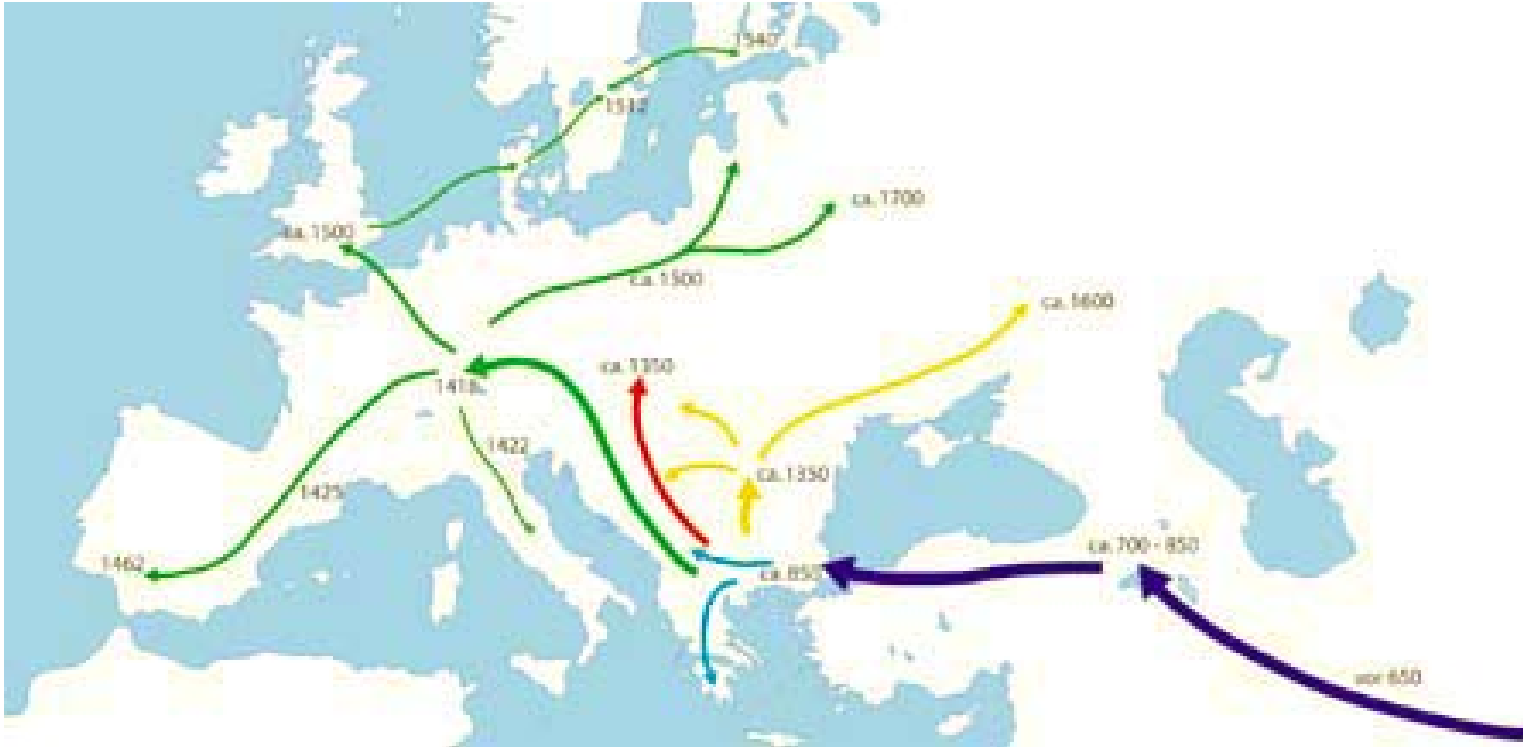
The Economist, 2001



Linguistic, anthropological, historical and genetic evidences point out India* as the origin of the Roma populations, which may have left the continent approximately between the 5th–10th centuries . After leaving India, the Roma migration route passed through Persia, Armenia, Greece and the Balkans.

*the Punjab state, in North-western India

Mendizabal I *et al.* PLoS One. 2011





In UK and Ireland

Gypsies and Travellers report poorer health on standardised measures than comparable groups of residents from socially deprived inner city areas, other ethnic minorities and rural residents.

Poorer health status was reported in relation to long-term illness, health problems that limit daily activities or work, health-related quality of life, chest pain, respiratory problems, arthritis, miscarriage and premature death of offspring.

Parry G et al. J Epidemiol Community Health 2007



Incidence of TB, AIDS, imprisonment and injecting drug use in a Roma population.

Barcelona (1985–2008)

Rate/100 000pyf (95% CI) Global

TB	90.9 (68.5–113.2)
AIDS	104.1 (80.1–128.0)
Imprisonment	642.0 (579.7–704.3)
IDU	239.8 (203.0–276.6)

Casals M *et al.* Eur J Publ Health 2011



In 126 gypsy patients, aged over 15, registered with TB in two districts of Bucharest, Romania

- 83% of bacteriological confirmed cases were smear positive**
- 48% success rate**
- 66.7% associated diseases/co-morbidities**

Dediu I *et al.* Pneumologia 2000



**A prospective study of detection of TB infection
in the roma community fom the west of
Romania (July 2009-December 2010):**

- **1417 persons surveyed**
- **700 (49,40%) with positive TST**
- **73.42% no BCG scar**
- **51.43% positive TST - men**
- **71,20% had recently tb contact**

Nini G *et al.* ERS Congress 2011



Active TB screening in Roma population, Belgrade, Serbia:

- **407 registered adults**
- **167 (41%) presented and had chest X-ray**
- **8 subjects suspected – no TB case M-/C-**

- **224 children**
- **202 examined**
- **16 TST positive – none diagnosed with TB**

Curcic RV *et al.* ERS Congress 2005



Active TB screening in Roma population, Vojvodina, Serbia:

- 3958 registered adults
- 870 (22%) with suspect chest X-ray
- 7 active cases confirmed (176.9/100000)

Pavlovic S et al. ERS Congress 2005



Tuberculosis in a gypsy community (rural, Romania) has an unpredictable course, primary tuberculosis is prevalent, and the illness develops in isolated foci requiring targeted and sustained surveillance.

Ionita M *et al.* ERS Congress 2001



Published research on the health needs of the Roma population is sparse!

Hajioff S . J Epidemiol Community Health 2000

A limitation .. which exists in all studies about the Roma population, is that follow-up is hindered by the fact that subject information is found under different names, shared names and many do not appear in the registers.

Casals M. Eur J Publ Health 2011

Defining the Roma population is quite difficult.

Idzerda L.BMC International Health and Human Rights 2011



“The common trait of the Gypsies, one that gives them identity, is a way of life different from that of other ethnic communities, and most of all a different strategy of life that has survived to this day, even if in modern shapes.”

Achim V. The Gypsies in the history of Romania, Ed
Enciclopedica, 1998

It is important for public health across Europe that the health needs of the Roma are prioritised by governments concerned.

Parekh N, Rose T. Cent Eur J Public Health 2011



“Family was found to be an important factor influencing the survival rates..”

Casals M et al. Eur J Public Health 2011



The absence of data and comprehensive efforts addressing TB in the Rroma community is striking.

Schaaf M. Open Society Institute 2007



Thank you !



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