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Conference Abstract

Roma Attitudes to health and interventions program in Roma settlements

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Abstract

Purpose: Identify the attitudes and Roma health needs, create one intervention program for promoting healthy lifestyle in Roma settlements and analysed the outcome data after intervention.

Theory: Knowledge of culture, tradition and values of Roma is important to understand their relationship to health and to the health system, especially if we would like to promote a healthy lifestyle in their community. In 2002, we prepared one intervention program for the community to promote a healthy lifestyle. We invited also the Roma to participate at the activities, but nobody from their settlements came. So, together with the Roma representatives we created an intervention program for their settlements 10 Years later.

Methods: I made a prospective intervention case - control study and combined the quantitative and qualitative research methodology. First I did 25 interviews and tried to identify the needs of Roma on Health and Healthcare System. After creating the intervention program I invited 650 Roma to answer a survey questionnaire and then I determined an intervention group and a control group. One month after finishing the project, I collected a second questionnaire within both groups. My questionnaire was performed from validated EuroQol and EUROPREV questionnaires with added issue of knowledge about normal values of blood pressures, blood sugar, body temperature and cholesterol. Data were analysed with a computer ATLAS program for qualitative with help from two independent researchers and Computer program SPSS 20.0 for quantitative data.

Findings: 21/25 interviewed Roma think that everybody is responsible for his own health, 21/25 did not have problems with discriminations at the health institutions and the Roma gave us some very good tips for Roma health improvement. After the intervention program we can find changes in knowledge of some medical issues in the Roma settlements.

Discussion: Our intervention program was made with help of Roma representatives and findings from the qualitative part of research work. After finishing the intervention we compared the collected quantitative Data from the control group with the intervention group and find out statistical important changes in knowledge at the intervention group and good participation from Roma in activities in settlements. If the program was made at the settlements we reached more Roma with the information and activities, we established good trust with the people at the settlements and we tried to get to know their community. The information we found is very important for better cooperation of health staff with Roma by health improvement of the Roma.

Keywords:

roma, attitudes to health, intervention program, knowledge

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