

During the research we identified 7 children with different malformations and anomalies: anal atresia, pyloric stenosis, deaf-mutism, Down syndrome, kidney or ureteric malformations, cryptorchism. None of the affected families have been consulted by a medical or a genetics specialist. There are two patients with severe progressive muscular dystrophy who have been tested clinically, have been consulted by a genetics specialist and their disability has been evaluated and certified by the Medical Academy in Sofia.

There are no injection drug users in the Senovo Roma neighborhood, but 2.3% of men have a drinking problem.

3.6% of the people in the neighborhood have different types of disabilities and receive medical pensions. Disabilities are usually the result of pulmonary or cardiovascular diseases, traumas, tuberculosis, oncological diseases or malformations. In fact the percentage of disabled people would have been at least twice as high, if everyone affected were evaluated. The research revealed several serious cases, which have been neither diagnosed, nor treated: a 10-year old child with osteomyelitis, another child with developmental difficulties, a man suffering from thrombophlebitis with huge varicose ulcerations, a woman with severe thyrotoxicosis, etc.

95% of Roma have not visited a dentist for several years or go only to have their teeth pulled out. Some even bragged about how they pull their teeth alone. They all refrain from seeking dental treatment because they have no money.

The majority of Roma in Senovo are not satisfied with the healthcare reform and experience serious problems in receiving medical assistance. Healthcare is not a priority for them because they can hardly feed themselves.

### **Tulovo Village, Muglitz Municipality, Stara Zagora Region**

The population of Senovo numbers 1,405 people, 495 of them are Roma. They live in 87 houses some of which are in a miserable condition, without running water, sewerage or electricity. Most of the Roma population in the village belong to the Horohane group. Only one family is from the Kalajdzii group. 40% of the people are below the age of 18; 55.3% are between 18 and 64 years of age and only 0.7% are above 70.

The health status of Roma in the town of Senovo was investigated by conducting interviews in all 87 houses. Interviews were also held with the village general practitioner and the dentist.

### **Healthcare Services in Tulovo**

There is a primary healthcare unit in Senovo with a general practitioner, a nurse, and a dentist. The emergency aid unit, which serves the village, is situated in the town of Muglitz. Patients who need specialized lab tests or hospitalization are referred to the regional hospital in Kazanlak or the university hospital in Stara Zagora. Health insurance for nearly 90% of Roma is covered by the municipality because they are unemployed. The remaining 10% have no health insurance because they have not been registered with the local Employment Bureau or their personal documents are invalid or incomplete. Approximately 50% of the people have a family dentist; only 5% have sought medical assistance in private medical practices.

### **Problems and Violations in the Provision of Healthcare Services**

85% of the Roma population in Tulovo are disappointed by their general practitioner and want to shift to another physician. Most of the people complain that he is treating them rudely and has a discriminatory attitude. Approximately 60% claim that the general practitioner had refused to see them in their homes, when their condition prevented them from going to the primary healthcare unit. The majority of Roma feel that they are being examined with negligence, that preference is given to Bulgarian patients, and that there is a difference in the way medical staff treats Bulgarians and Roma. The 15%, who are satisfied with the healthcare services provided in the village, are more well-to-do and more educated than the others.