

the two physicians experience serious problems when they have to send Roma patients for hospitalization. There have been complaints that Roma women are being separated from the rest of the patients in the maternity ward of the hospital in Sliven.

In 1999 Dr. Panayotov and Dr. Manolov established the Roma Health Foundation whose mission is to introduce a health promotion system in the Roma community and improve the health status of Roma. The activity of the organization will be targeted to:

1. Conducting research studies on the health risks within the Roma community
2. Organizing meetings and seminars and carrying out projects and programs to improve prophylaxis and sexual health
3. Promoting reproductive health and family planning
4. Prophylaxis and treatment of mental diseases
5. Prophylaxis, diagnosis and treatment of socially significant diseases within the Roma community (TB, hereditary diseases, diabetes, hypertonia, epilepsy, etc.)
6. Prophylaxis, diagnosis and treatment of drug and alcohol dependence and behavioral disorders
7. Participation in public debates on health reform, stressing the specific needs and characteristics of Roma
8. Humanitarian donation of food and medicines

Based on the cases examined by Dr. Manolov and Dr. Panayotov from July 1 to September 30, 2000, the most common health problems among Roma in Nadezhda are as follows:

Disease	Number of patients	% out of 3000 or 100%
Total number of cases examined	1200	40
Including:	Number	% out of 1200 or 100%
Oncologic diseases	30	2,5%
Diabetes	68-72 – insulin treatment	6%
Mental disorders	85	7%
Tuberculosis	22	1.8%
Hypertonia	219	18.25 %
Ischemic heart disease	29	2.4 %
Cerebrovascular diseases	25	2 %
Pneumonia	23	1.9%
COPD	92	7.6%
Respiratory infections	44	3.6%
Gastroenterologic diseases	81	7.6%
Traumas and poisoning	51	4.2%
Skin infections	19	1.6%

Based on the above data the following conclusions were drawn:

1. There is a significant increase in the number of people suffering from hypertonia – every fifth patient who came to the consulting room had high blood pressure with diastolic readings above 105 mm.
2. The percentage of pulmonary diseases is higher than average
3. 3.6% of the patients suffer from diabetes, 90% of them depend on insulin treatment.