

# Do parents' education, perceived discrimination and hopelessness explain worse self-rated health in Roma adolescents compared to the majority population



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**Background:** The worse health of ethnic minorities living in extremely deprived areas is frequently associated with lower education. Discrimination and hopelessness may also negatively affect their health. Our aim is to explore whether parents' education, perceived discrimination and hopelessness contribute to worse self-rated health in Roma adolescents living in settlements compared to non-Roma adolescents.

**Methods:** A cross-sectional survey was performed among Roma adolescents (N=330, mean age=14.5) and non-Roma adolescents (N=722, mean age=14.9) from elementary schools. Roma adolescents were selected from segregated and separated Roma settlements. The effect of ethnicity on self-rated health (SF-36) was analysed using logistic regres-

sion models adjusted for gender. We examined the effect of adding the highest education of parents, perceived discrimination (ISRDI) and hopelessness (Hopelessness Scale for Children) to this model.

**Sample description:**

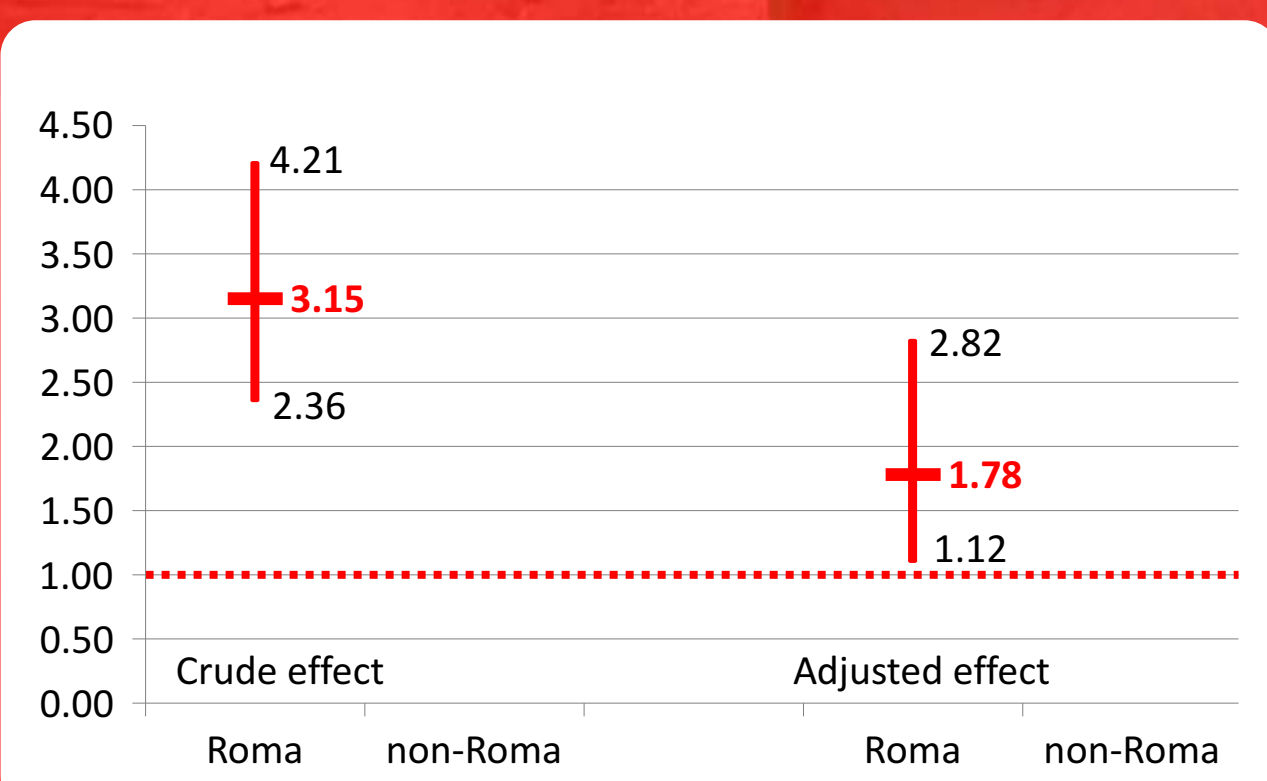
Poor health was reported by 50% of Roma and 26% of non-Roma respondents. While more than 80% Roma reported not higher than apprentice education of parents, non-Roma mostly reported secondary or university education of parents. Discrimination was reported by one third of Roma, but less than 10% of non-Roma respondents.

Roma reported significantly higher hopelessness in comparison to non-Roma (t-test).

**Results:** Being a Roma adolescent living in a settlement significantly increased the likelihood of having poor health compared to non-Roma adolescents. The effect of ethnicity decreased, but remained statistically significant after adding parents' highest education, perceived discrimination, and hopelessness into the model. Those reporting discrimination and a higher level of hopelessness had a higher probability of poor health. The effect of parents' education was not significant.

**Conclusion:** Parents' education, perceived discrimination and hopelessness only partially explained the worse self-rated health of Roma adolescents living in settlements compared to non-Roma adolescents.

Figure 1: The effect of ethnicity on self-rated health.



Note: Both models are adjusted to gender.



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