

RESEARCH REPORT

Health-related beliefs and experiences of Gypsies and Travellers: a qualitative study

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Worldwide there are more than 100 groups of Gypsies and Travellers who collectively form part of a wider Romani population, estimated at 12 million people. The Gypsies and Travellers in this study comprise English and Welsh Gypsies, Irish Travellers and Scottish Gypsy Travellers. English and Welsh Gypsies and Irish Travellers form an estimated population of 500 000 in England and Wales.^{1–3} Nomadism and caravan (trailer) dwelling, although not defining them, are features of their cultural heritage rather than a lifestyle choice; many live in houses and others live on authorised or non-authorised residential caravan sites.⁴ They are among the UK's most socially excluded groups⁵ despite legal protection as a result of their ethnic minority status.

There are many previous studies of health meanings, values and practices among different cultural groups, and studies concerning beliefs and views about specific health problems. However, there seems to be little information concerning general views and perceptions of health and influences on the health of Gypsies and Travellers.

This was not a comparative or theoretically informed study, but a descriptive qualitative strand of an applied policy mixed methods study designed to estimate the current health status of Gypsies and Travellers. The key finding from the health status survey was the high burden of ill health among Gypsies and Travellers.⁶ We designed the qualitative study using a framework approach⁷ to put their health status into context by purposively selecting a sample to explore how ill health was experienced and understood by this minority group.

There are few previous qualitative studies on the health of Gypsies or Travellers in the UK and Ireland,^{8–11} and most report anecdotal data from practitioner accounts.^{12–14}

Objective: To illuminate findings of the survey of the health status of Gypsies and Travellers by exploring their health-related beliefs and experiences.

Design: Qualitative study of a purposive subsample from in-depth interviews using framework analysis.

Setting: The homes or alternative community settings of the participants in five geographically dispersed study locations in England.

Participants: 27 Gypsies and Travellers with an experience of ill health, purposively sampled from a larger population participating in an epidemiological survey of health status.

Results: The experience of poor health and daily encounters of ill health among extended family members were normalised and accepted. Four major themes emerged relating to health beliefs and the effect of lifestyle on health for these respondents: the travelling way; low expectations of health; self-reliance and staying in control; fatalism and fear of death. These themes dominated accounts of health experience and were relevant to the experience. These themes add richness to the health status data and inform our understanding.

Conclusions: Among Gypsies and Travellers, coherent cultural beliefs and attitudes underpin health-related behaviour, and health experiences must be understood in this context. In this group, ill health is seen as normal, an inevitable consequence of adverse social experiences, and is stoically and fatalistically accepted. The provision of effective healthcare and improvement of poor health in Gypsies and Travellers will require multi-agency awareness of these issues.

METHODS

Participants and setting

The sampling frame comprised 269 Gypsies and Travellers participating in a parallel study of their health status conducted at five English locations: the survey sample was itself constructed to include quotas of men and women, Irish and British, across roadside, official, private and housed accommodation. Within this frame, anyone who reported a recent or current health problem and therefore had cause to access health services was eligible for inclusion in the qualitative study (ie, intensity sampling). Maximum variation purposive sampling¹⁵ was also used across the study localities to ensure a representative final sample (table 1). A variety of health problems or unidentified symptoms were reported among the final sample (appendix A). Interviews were distributed over a 12-month period to capture any seasonal variation in mood and health states.

Research governance approval (including multicentre research ethics committee ethical review) was obtained with secondary approval from primary care trusts and local research ethics committees in each location where health visitors worked.

Interviews

Data were collected by individual in-depth semistructured interviews with participants in their own homes or at a venue of their choice. The interviews were carried out within 2–3 weeks of completion of the Health Survey Questionnaire. A topic guide was developed from five sources: personal practitioner experience; previous pilot study¹⁶; other published evidence; advice from the project advisory team, which included Gypsy Travellers; and initial pilot interviews. Non-directive interview questions allowed the exploration of

The Gypsies In Sweden A Sociomedical Study

Shyam Singh Shashi



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The Gypsies in Sweden John Takman,Lars Lindgren,1976 Social and cultural anthropology Monograph on the Gypsies in Sweden examines living conditions health conditions environmental factors housing conditions occupational structure use of health services the social adjustment to Swedish society etc Illustrations references and statistical tables **The to Z of the Gypsies (Romanies)** Donald Kenrick,2010-04-09 The A to Z of the Gypsies Romanies seeks to end such prejudice by clarifying the facts about this nomadic people Through a chronology an introductory essay a bibliography and hundreds of cross referenced dictionary entries on significant persons places events institut **Historical Explorations of Modern Epidemiology** Heini Hakosalo,Katariina Parhi,Annukka Sailo,2023-04-10 This volume explores the history of epidemiology from the mid twentieth century to the present Epidemiology has exerted major influence on the way that both infectious and chronic diseases are conceptualized and controlled and more generally on the way that people in modern societies think about health behavior longevity and risk This collection consists of a series of in depth analyses of the roots development and impact of epidemiological research illuminating the complex relationship between medical research and data on the one hand and social and cultural factors on the other The thematical and geographical scope of the book ranges from indigenous and participant perspectives to the visualization of pandemics and from Circumpolar North to East Africa The book identifies significant historical changes and the driving forces behind them charting forms of science society interaction that characterize modern epidemiology Chapter 1 and chapter 4 are available open access under a Creative Commons Attribution 4 0 International License via link [springer com](https://www.springer.com) **Historical Dictionary of the Gypsies (Romanies)** Donald Kenrick,2007-07-05 Originating in India the Gypsies arrived in Europe around the 14th century spreading not only across the entirety of the continent but also immigrating to the Americas The first Gypsy migration included farmworkers blacksmiths and mercenary soldiers as well as musicians fortune tellers and entertainers At first they were generally welcome as an interesting diversion to the dull routine of that period Soon however they attracted the antagonism of the governing powers as they have continually done throughout the following centuries The second edition of the Historical Dictionary of the Gypsies Romanies seeks to end such prejudice by clarifying the facts about this nomadic people Through a list of acronyms a chronology an introductory essay a bibliography and hundreds of cross referenced dictionary entries on significant persons places events institutions and aspects of culture society economy and politics the history of the Gypsies and their culture is told [The Gypsies in Sweden](#) John Takman,Lars Lindgren,1976 Social and cultural anthropology Monograph on the Gypsies in Sweden examines living conditions health conditions environmental factors housing conditions occupational structure use of health services the social adjustment to Swedish society etc Illustrations references and statistical tables *The Politics of Disability in Interwar and Socialist Czechoslovakia* Victoria Shmidt,2025-10-01 By focusing on the politics of disability as a pillar of Czechoslovak identity The Politics of Disability in Interwar and Socialist Czechoslovakia Segregating in the Name of

the Nation reflects upon the vicissitudes of nation building over the twentieth century that led to extreme forms of institutional violence against minorities mainly the Roma such as forced sterilization The authors trace the intersectionality of ethnicity and disability which proliferated across diverse realms of public life positioning the continuities and ruptures of interrogating propaganda and racial science during the interwar and post war periods as establishing and reinforcing the border between a healthy Czech majority and a disabled Roma minority The book critically revises this border that remains observable but unapproachable until it operates as a part of constructing the authenticity of a nation Lifelong Learning and the Roma Minority in Western and Southern Europe Andrea Óhidy,Katalin R. Forray,2019-11-22 This book offers an in depth exploration into the current educational climate and the impact of these policy measures for Roma people in seven Western and Southern European countries and seeks to raise awareness of this forgotten minority and to assess the policies implemented to integrate the Roma people into the education system *Current Developments in Anthropological Genetics* Michael H. Crawford,James H. Mielke,2012-12-06 This volume examines the interrelationship of ecology subsistence patterns and the observed genetic variation in human populations Hence the book is divided conceptually into the following categories nonhuman primates hunters and gatherers nomads swidden agriculturalists peasants and farmers religious isolates and modern and urban aggregates While many of these populations have experienced and are experiencing acculturation as a result of contact with technologically more advanced groups the genetic structures described in this volume attempt to reconstruct the traditional patterns as well as genetic changes because of contact Most chapters also integrate biological genetic social and demographic data within an ecological frame thus presenting a holistic view of the population structures of ecologically distinct groups The first chapter examines the body of early nonhuman primate literature that emphasized ecological determinism in effecting the population structure of our primate ancestors relatives It also examines more recent literature since 1970 in which it became apparent that greater flexibility exists in primate social structure within specific environmental frameworks Thus it appears that our nonhuman primate evolutionary heritage is not one of ecological determinism in social organization but one of flexibility and rapid change suggesting the evolutionary success of our species is based upon a system of flexibility and that social adaptations can be accomplished in a number of diverse ways

Swedish Immigration Research Tomas Hammar,Kerstin Lindby,1979 The Gypsies in Sweden ,1976 **Journal of the Gypsy Lore Society** ,1977 Social Work and Minorities R.D. Johnson Mark,Haluk Soydan,Charlotte Williams,2002-01-31 Social Work and Minorities examines the new challenges presented to Social Workers throughout Europe by the complex problems occasioned by increased migration and settlement and the growing awareness of the specific needs of refugees and asylum seekers Contributors use illustrative examples from throughout Europe to examine key concepts such as globalization assimilation visibility multiculturalism racism marginalization and social exclusion Social Work and Minorities will be an essential resource for social work students practitioners and educators working with migrant

communities throughout Europe **Report on Studies of the Human and Cultural Aspects of Migrations in Western Europe (1918-1979)** Michel Oriol, 1981 Social research literature survey on sociological aspects and cultural factors of migrations in Western Europe 1918 to 1979 covers social integration of migrants linguistics studies social and cultural anthropology approaches psychological aspects migrant education interethnic relations racial discrimination political aspects etc Bibliography pp 161 to 230 and graphs **Dwelling in Mobile Times** Sybille Frank, Lars Meier, 2019-05-16 In an era of increasing mobilities places of residence are still vital Unlike commuting migrating or travelling dwelling usually evokes at least in modern Western thought the idea of an immobile private place to rest This book explores the places spaces and practices of dwelling in mobile times and considers dwelling under the umbrella of broader transformations in society The manifestations of these transformations are carved out on the level of everyday practices and experiences Bringing together eight case studies from Europe the USA and Asia on subjects such as gentrification homelessness and displaced persons multi local and diasporic lifeworlds professional elites and tourism the book explores various and complex entanglements of mobilities and dwelling in detail In doing so the contributors critically analyse who may be or has to be mobile under which circumstances at present This book thus demonstrates that mobility is more than movement between localities and that to dwell is more than to be at a locality Instead mobilities and dwelling are both shaped and challenged by strong but shifting power relations and are thus deeply contested This book was originally published as a special issue of Cultural Studies

Current Catalog National Library of Medicine (U.S.), First multi year cumulation covers six years 1965 70 **The Gypsy-American** David J. Nemeth, 2002 This study is a regional ethnography that focuses on an ambiguously defined ethnic group in the United States Rom Gypsies whose survival strategies and stratagems appear to center ideally on the secrecy and mobility of its members The study focuses primarily on the activities of Thomas Nicholas a self ascribed Rom Gypsy American and his family and offers extraordinary insight into the Gypsy American ethnos The book also addresses complex issues in Gypsy studies social science scholarship provides a critique of its mission and accomplishments and offers a unique window into the lives of some typical Gypsy scholars **Roma, the Gypsy World** Shyam Singh Shashi, 1990 The first Gypsy anthropological study of Roma the Gypsies of the world is the result of an extensive socio anthropological survey covering twenty five countries of Europe America and the USSR This is a vivid account of the Banjara and other nomadic communities of India and the world The scholar who is an eminent social scientist and a creative writer has not only applied successfully the traditional techniques of research of participant and non participant observations but also his own approach and methodology The book is based on his 11 year long research centered on Roma the Gypsies who have preserved and lead their nomadic or semi nomadic life throughout the world even in advanced countries This is a study in depth in the context of Indian nomads who migrated from their motherland wave after wave to other parts of the world carrying with them the culture of their times with the inter mingling of local traditions and customs Dust jacket **Current Developments in**

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Sweden Leland B. Sather, Alan Swanson, 1987 Romani Studies, 2001

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