

# Coverage of Roma women in the Program for cervical cancer screening



Association for emancipation, solidarity and equality of women - ESE

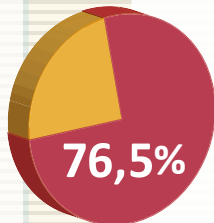
in the period 2012-2014



## Coverage of Roma women with services from PRIMARY HEALTH CARE GYNECOLOGISTS

one fourth of Roma women rarely or do not

SEE A GYNECOLOGIST AT ALL.



of Roma women HAVE SELECTED a GYNECOLOGIST in the PRIMARY HEALTH CARE. ✓

Namely, 10% of Roma women have never seen a gynecologist, and 15,5% see a gynecologist very rarely.

Although the gynecological check-up is

FREE OF CHARGE, still

56,2%

of Roma women stated that the gynecologist IS CHARGING them for every check-up.



## The coverage of Roma women with the activities of the Program for cervical cancer screening is VERY LOW.

Among the women who have selected their own gynecologist in the primary health care,

only 37,2% received an INVITATION

for

PAP test

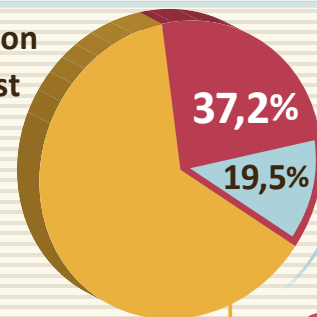
based on the

Program for cervical cancer screening in the period

from 2012 to 2014.

received invitation

took the PAP-test

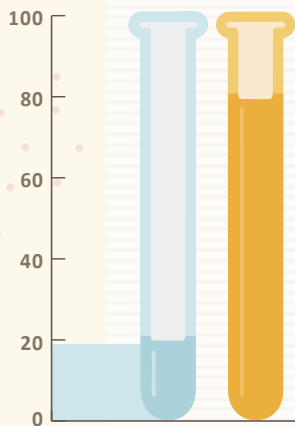


There is high response among the women who received an invitation for PAP test, that is 70,1% of invited women saw a gynecologist after having received the invitation.

70,1%

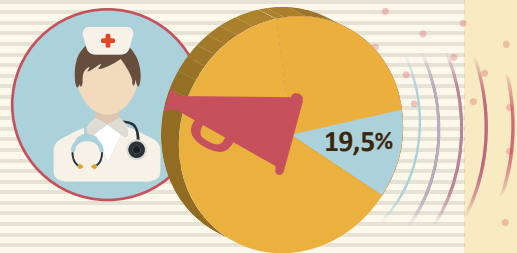


# Coverage of Roma women in the Program for cervical cancer screening in the period 2012-2014

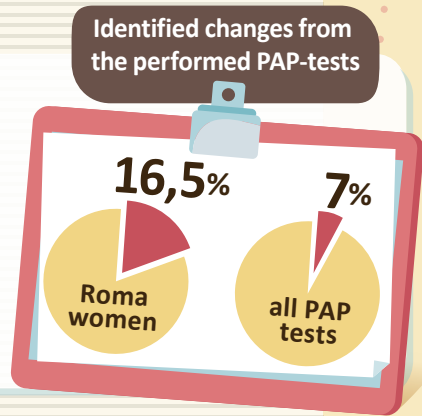


Out of the total number of Roma women, **only 19,5%**

took the PAP-test according to the Program for cervical cancer screening of the Ministry of health.



The rate of identified changes from the performed PAP-tests among Roma women is **very high**. Namely, in **16,5%** of the Roma women who took the **PAP-test**, **changes were identified** (positive findings with identified abnormal epithelial cells).



In comparison, according to the Report of the Public Health Institute in **2013**, from all performed **PAP-tests** in R. Macedonia according to the Program, **abnormal epithelial cells were identified in 7%**.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The information that Roma women have about their rights according to the Program is on **very low level**, and only **42,3%** of Roma women know that they have the right to take a **free PAP-test** after having received an **invitation** from the **gynecologist** according to the Program.



Specific activities need to be introduced for coverage of Roma women and other vulnerable categories of women in the **Program for cervical cancer screening**, with special focus on **strengthening the system for sending invitations to Roma women** and their **health education and information about the rights from the Program**.

## ABOUT THE SURVEY

At the beginning of 2015, the Association for emancipation, solidarity and equality of women - ESE, the Centre for democratic development and initiatives - CDRIM and NGO KHAM conducted a survey among Roma women aged 24-60 in order to assess the coverage of Roma women with the Program for cervical cancer screening of the Ministry of finance in the period from 2012-2014. The survey included 240 women from the municipality Suto Orizari and 170 women from the municipalities Delcevo, Vinica and Pehcevo (village Crnik).

According to the Program for cervical cancer screening (component of the Program for early detection of malign diseases), women in Republic of Macedonia are entitled to free PAP-test after having received invitation from the gynecologist every three years. In the period from 2012, 2013 and 2014, it was foreseen that the Program would cover women aged 24-60, divided per age groups for every year.

Публикацијата е финансиски поддржана од:

