

February 3rd Research Group

Homelessness – the Roma – Child Poverty

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Hungary

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The February 3rd Working Group (F3) has carried out survey-based research among people sleeping in homeless services or sleeping rough in Hungary **since February 3rd 1999** – on a voluntary basis.

In 2016 **10 041 homeless people** responded.

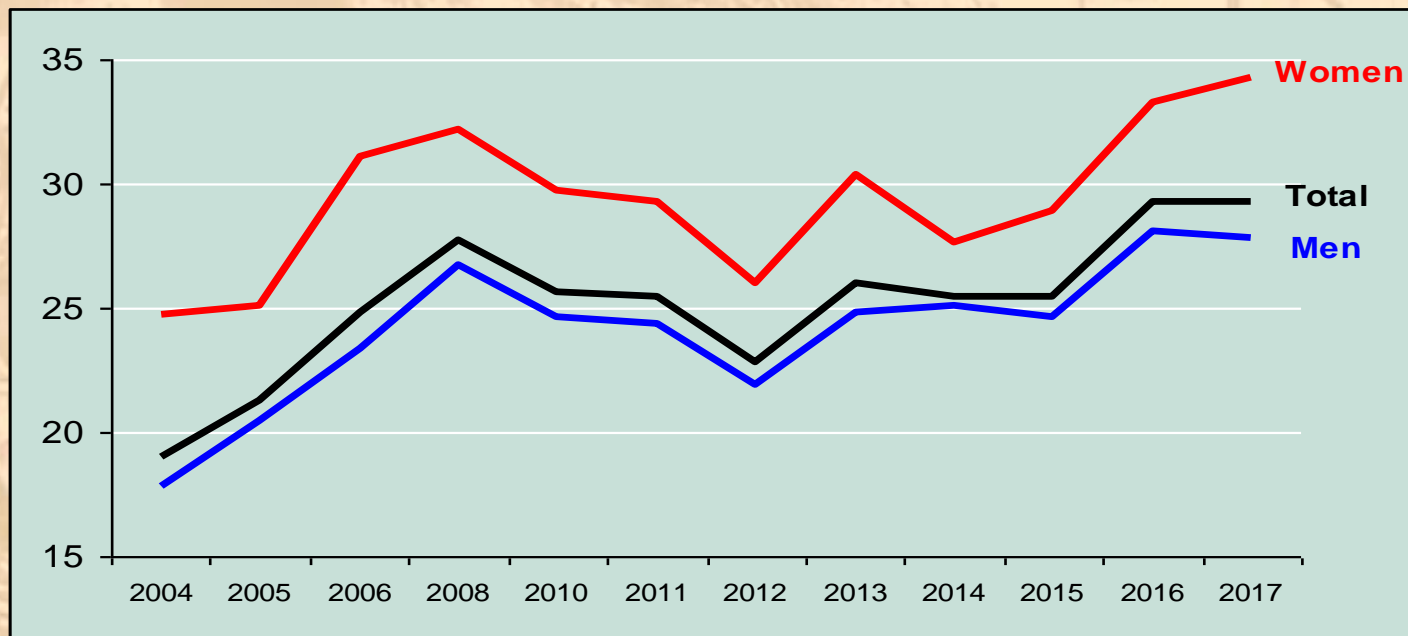
This presentation is a short summary of Péter Győri's study, Homelessness – the Roma – Child Poverty, based on these responses.

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The ratio of Roma among the homeless people has been gradually increasing, **especially among homeless women**

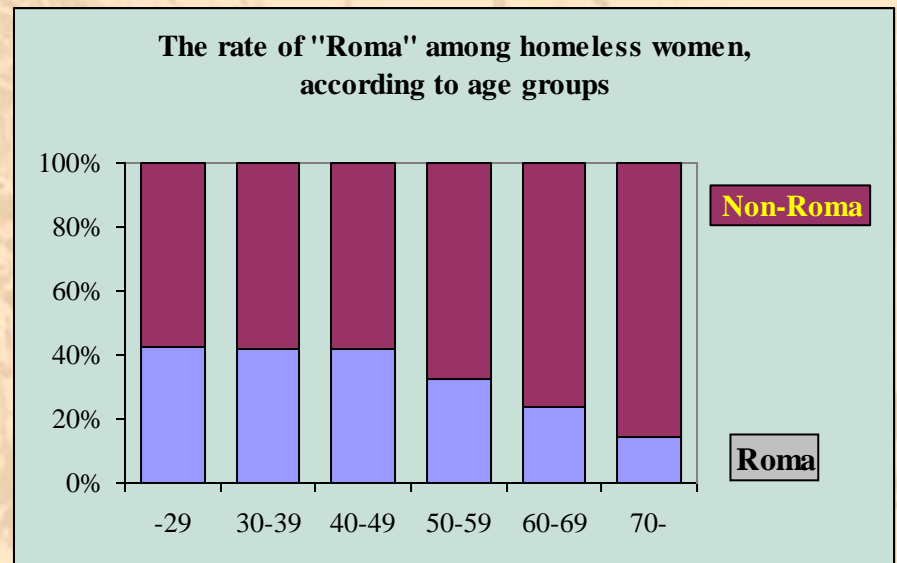
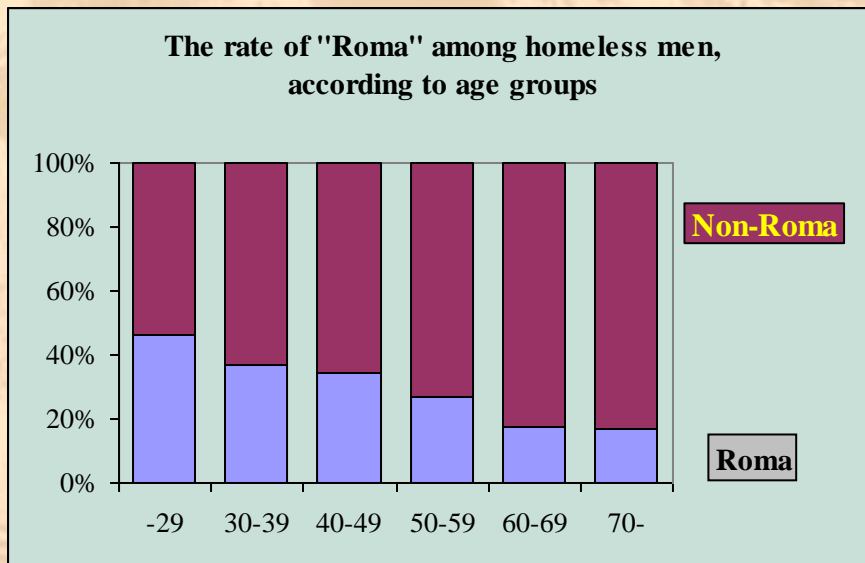
„Has anyone ever called you Roma?“

Yes answers, among all respondents, **by gender (%)**



The ratio of Roma people among homeless people is **five times** that of their ratio in the whole population

The ratio of Roma has been increasing
among younger homeless people



The ratio of the Roma among homeless people is likely to increase even more.

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The most important indicator of social status (employment, salary, etc) in Hungary today is the **level of education**.

The level of schooling of the Hungarian Roma **is well below** that of the general population.

The level of schooling of Roma homeless people **is alarmingly low**.

The level of schooling of homeless Roma women **is critically low**.

The majority (**63%**) of homeless „Roma” men have no higher than 8 grades, **77%** of homeless „Roma” women have not finished more than 8 grades at the most, and **29%** not even that!

The parents of Roma homeless people also have very low levels of education – but their homeless children have not even got as far in school as their parents!

Highest level of schooling of „Roma” and „Non-Roma” respondents (February 3rd and National Census)

F3-2016	Highest level of finished schooling of homeless people						
	Lower than 8 elementary	8 grades of elementary	Trade school	Bac/A levels	College/ University	Total	N
„Roma”	19%	47%	27%	5%	1%	100%	2 715
„Non-Roma”	6%	35%	42%	14%	4%	100%	6 536
Total	10%	38%	37%	11%	3%	100%	9 251
Census of 2011	General population aged 15 or older						
Roma	23%	58%	13%	5%	1%	100%	213 259
Hungarian	5%	27%	21%	30%	17%	100%	7 288 179

Highest level of schooling of „Roma” and „Non-Roma” homeless respondents

F3-2016		Highest level of schooling of homeless people						Total	N
		Lower than 8 elementary	8 grades, elementary	Trade school	Bac/A levels	College/ University			
Men	„Roma”	16%	47%	31%	5%	1%	100%	1961	
	„Non-Roma”	5%	32%	46%	13%	4%	100%	5023	
	Total	8%	37%	42%	11%	3%	100%	6984	
Women	„Roma”	29%	48%	17%	5%	1%	100%	706	
	„Non-Roma”	9%	42%	27%	17%	4%	100%	1408	
	Total	16%	44%	23%	13%	3%	100%	2114	
Total	„Roma”	19%	47%	27%	5%	1%	100%	2667	
	„Non-Roma”	6%	35%	42%	14%	4%	100%	6431	
	Total	10%	38%	37%	11%	3%	100%	9098	

25% of Roma households have no running water, **21%** of their homes only have one room, the rate of segregation has not changed significantly.

Between 2003-2013 the rate of Roma living in rented accommodation **has decreased with 25%**, while the rate of Roma households living without any entitlement doubled (10% in 2013) – this often is the entry way into homelessness.

„Roma” homeless people live under worse circumstances than „non-Roma” homeless people:

37% of the „Roma” homeless **sleep rough** in Budapest, and **43%** of the „Roma” homeless people sleep rough in the countryside

**Results of the February 3rd national homeless survey
prove that in Hungary the mechanisms of**

**Ethnic discrimination
Segregation and exclusion in schools
Barriers in employment
Spatial segregation
Housing exclusion**

**have together built
a strong and closed system of exclusion.**

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Generally homeless people are thought to be lonely, having no family, children, relationships, maybe only a dog...

In reality, most homeless people **have children, and homeless women tend to have larger families (3 or more children) (31%)**

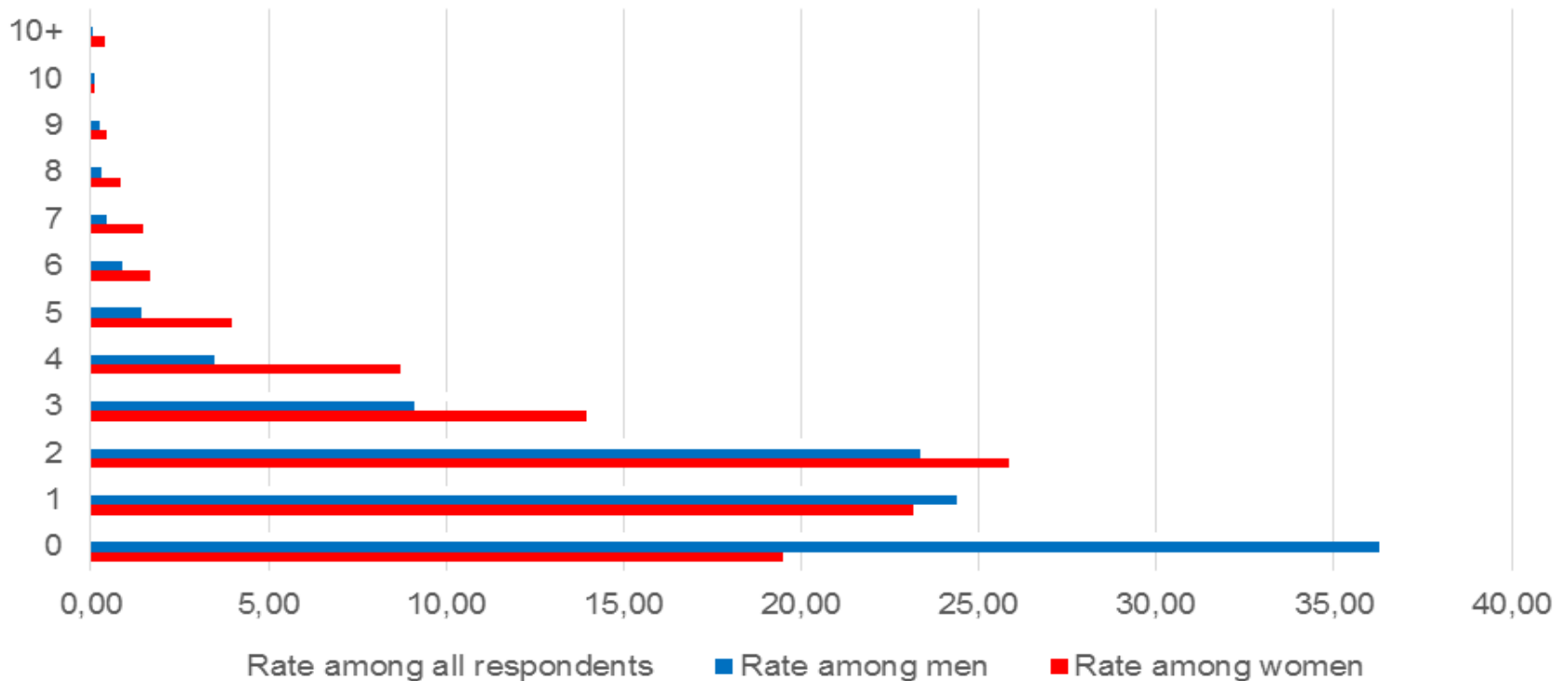
While these people live in homeless shelters or sleep rough.

F3-2016	Children born alive according to age of respondents						
Number of children born alive	Age of respondents						Total
	-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-	
None	69	55	39	27	21	20	32
1	17	20	23	25	26	28	24
2	8	11	20	27	31	27	24
3	3	7	9	11	12	13	10
4 -	3	7	10	10	10	13	10
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
N	423	857	2058	2989	2257	357	8941

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**Homeless men are more likely not to have children.
Homeless women are more likely to have more than one child.**

How many children had respondents of the 2016.
February 3rd survey had?



The fertility rate of homeless women is **37% higher** than that of all women in Hungary.

The biggest difference can be observed among women who are younger than 30: **three times as many children born alive among 100 homeless women** than the same age group of the general population

F3-2016 and National Census	Age (women)						Total
	-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-	
Number of children born alive/100 <u>homeless</u> women	112	165	230	214	210	194	206
Number of children born alive/100 homeless women	38	139	190	194	188	184	150
Fertility rate of homeless women/all women	2,95	1,19	1,21	1,1	1,12	1,05	1,37

While homeless people (especially homeless women) have more children than the general population, most of them (54%) also come from large families (with 3 or more children)

This is especially frequent among the younger generations of homeless people:

56% of those 30-39 years old

66% of those 20-29

come from large families.

Today **most homeless people** have at least one family member – especially a sibling or a child – **who is also homeless.**

Every fifth homeless person has **a child who is also homeless.**

Homeless women are **twice as likely to have** a child who is also homeless than homeless men.

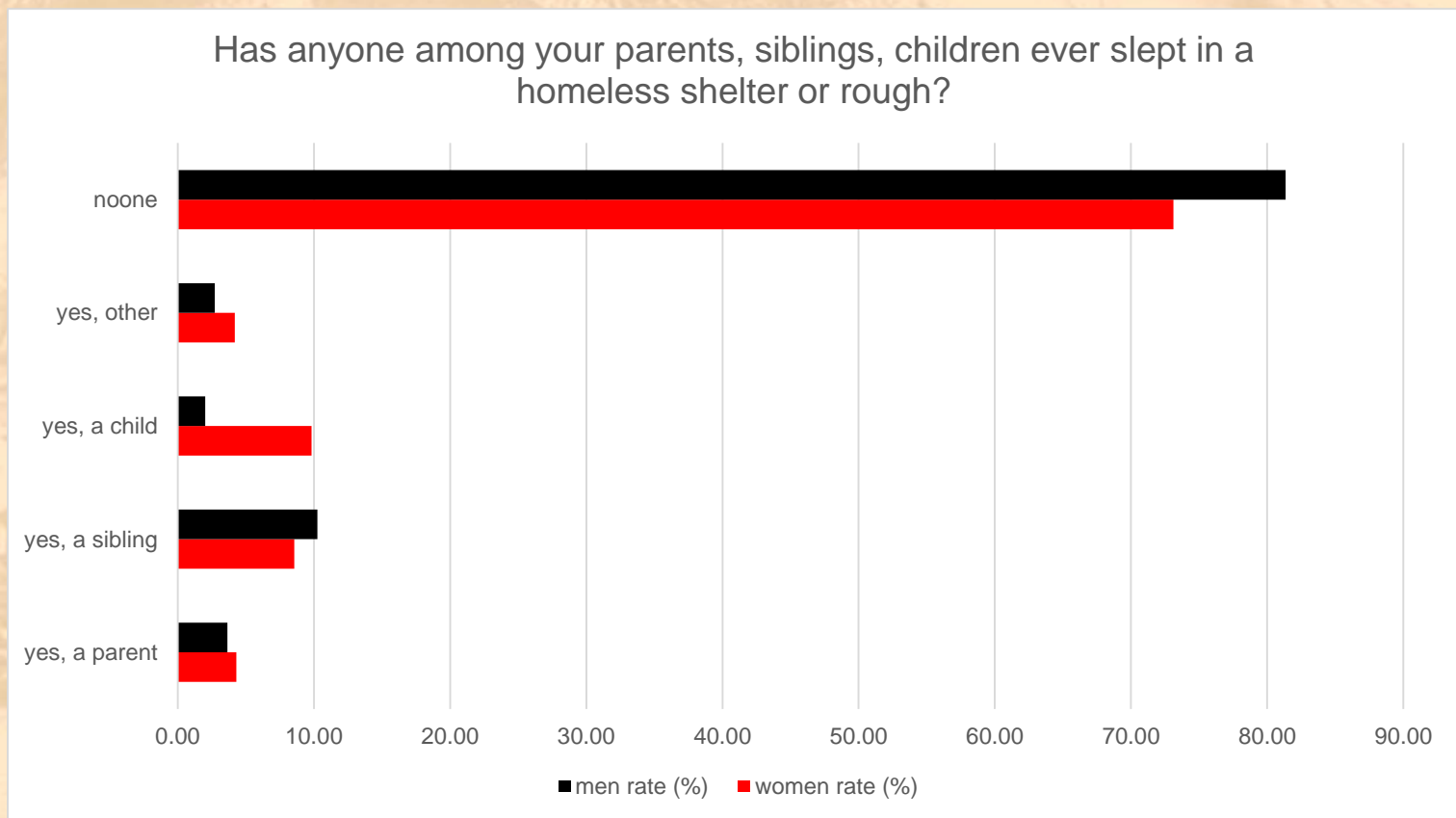
Every third homeless woman has **a child who is homeless.**

36% of the (adult) child of homeless women with one child is homeless, but at least one child of the majority of women with four or more children is also homeless.

This means that

in the case of every fifth homeless person homelessness is passed on to the next generation in the family!

Homeless family members



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The 10041 respondents to the February 3rd survey in 2016
had 13 500 children.

The parents, father, mothers of both of these children are
homeless.

Children cannot be homeless in Hungary – this means that there
cannot be any children sleeping rough.

According to the Census of 2011

2258 children and 1970 adults

lived in social services called „temporary homes for children” and
„temporary homes for families”

More than **7000 children** go through these services every years.

There are about **twice as many Roma children** in temporary services than their ratio in the whole population.

„It seems that children of the Roma minority are more likely to be found in temporary social services. The reason behind this could be that the Roma population is more hit by poverty and insufficient housing circumstances” – states the National Statistical Office (NSO).

„the most frequent problem was that of housing: ... every second child in temporary care had had a housing problem.” (NSO)

Summing up:

In families with children living in poverty there is a strong link between

**the low level of schooling,
the lack of employment and an income,
the lack of social support,
the insecurity of housing,
and the exclusion of the parents and their children.**

Today the homelessness of parents enforces this vicious circle.

**As a result,
homelessness is transferred and regenerated between
generations.**

In the recent decades,

there have been changes among the profiles of homeless people in Hungary

so that the rate of the systematically excluded „Roma” has increased significantly,

and

a large group is made up of people coming from large, impoverished and also socially excluded families.

These have resulted in vicious circles even more difficult to break than earlier.

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Thank you for your attention!

For more information, please visit

<http://www.bmszki.hu/hu/eves-adatfelvetelek>