



**PAVEE POINT**  
TRAVELLER AND ROMA CENTRE

# Travellers in Ireland

- 36,224 Travellers in Ireland
- 4 – average family size
- 42 % of Travellers under the age of 15 (21% of the general population)
- Only 8 Travellers over the age of 85
- 73.3% of Travellers live in a house
- Suicide rate is 7 times higher than the general population.



# Education

- 55% of Travellers had completed their education by the age of 15
- Only 13% of Traveller children complete secondary education in comparison with 92% of the general population.
- Traveller children along with immigrant children are more likely to experience bullying in school (State of the Nations Children, 2012)
- **62%** of Travellers felt that they were discriminated against in school (AITHS, 2010)
- 115 Travellers had completed third level education in 2011  
**less than 1%**

# Roma

The term “**Roma**” used at the Council of Europe refers to Roma, Sinti, Kale and related groups in Europe, **including Travellers** and the Eastern groups (Dom and Lom), and covers the wide diversity of the groups concerned, including persons who identify themselves as “Gypsies”.



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➔ Animated History of Travellers and Roma

# Roma

- Estimated 10-12 million Roma live in Europe.
- Estimated 5,000 Roma in Ireland.
- Roma in Ireland come from different countries: Romania, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland...
- Roma in Europe are a variety of different religions i.e. Muslim, Catholic, Orthodox.....



# Roma Experience in Europe

- Coercive Sterilisations: Between 1971 and 1991 in Czechoslovakia, “reduction of the Roma population” through surgical sterilization. Estimated that more than 90,000 women from former Czechoslovakia became infertile as a consequence of such interventions.
- Anti-Roma speeches
- Segregated Education: In Slovakia, Roma constitute 60% of all students in special education and up to 80% of children in special classes in mainstream schools are Roma.
- Forced Evictions
- Unemployment
- Poverty

# Challenges for Traveller and Roma pupils

- Low expectations – parents and teachers
- Bullying
- Isolation within the education system
- Distrust of the education system
- Parents capacity to support their children
- Insecure home environment





A close-up photograph of a young boy's face, looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. He has light skin and blue eyes. The text "BIGGER. FATTER. GYPSIER" is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of his face.

**BIGGER. FATTER. GYPSIER**

*Billboard advertising My Big Fat Gypsy Wedding*



# Traveller children in DEIS

- The educational attainment of Travellers remains significantly lower than that of their settled peers in both reading and mathematics *(Report on the first Phase of Evaluation on DEIS, 2011)*
- 53% of Traveller pupils in 274 of the DEIS primary schools.
- 3 DEIS primary schools: 50% of their enrolment are Travellers.
- 21 DEIS schools where 20% of their enrolment are Travellers pupils.
- Approximately 50% of Travellers are NOT in DEIS schools.

# Roma in DEIS schools

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# Why collect data on Travellers and Roma?

- To find out what works and what doesn't!
- Ensure equality of outcomes.
- Evidence Based Policy: Without data there is no evidence base to support the continuation of programmes or the introduction of targeted supports.
- Collecting data in the UK since 2003: *Pupils who are fearful and who have to deny their identity in the school setting are destined to under achieve.* (The Inclusion of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Children and Young People, Department for Children, schools and families, UK )



# Recommendations for DEIS

- A comprehensive review of the educational outcomes for Traveller pupils in DEIS schools.
- Expansion of targeted education supports for non DEIS schools with Traveller and Roma pupils.
- The inclusion of Traveller and Roma culture in the formal curriculum.
- Anti-racism and cultural awareness training for teachers.
- Positive action measures to increase the number of Travellers and Roma employed in schools as teachers, SNAs, administrative staff, etc.
- The collection and analysis of data on Roma pupils in DEIS school