

VIEWS AND ATTITUDES OF THE POMURJE POPULATION TOWARDS NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
MURSKA SOBOTA

6 f U b] g ` U j U 5 ' b 6] W U c ' j :] i ^ ž g ' ž ' G a] ` ^ U b U ' 5 ` U X] ž ' H U h ^ U b U ' ? f U ^ b W ' B] _ c `]
Institute of Public Health Murska Sobota

Environment and health

Environment is one of the major health determinants, beside genetics, lifestyle and socioeconomic determinants. Damaged health caused by environmental influences is mostly the result of a long term intake of small amounts of harmful substances and their accumulation in our organism. Health damages are seen over long periods of time. Environment protection is crucial for life quality of present and future generations.

This research also presents the implementation of strategic goal targeting environment from document »Health promotion strategy and action plan for tackling health inequalities in Pomurje region«.

The objective is to research the views and attitudes of the Pomurje population towards natural environment and use this research as one of the bases for preparation of the programs and activities that will raise awareness about the protection of natural environment.

Methods and respondents

The research was done with the help of anonymous survey which included 285 adult inhabitants of the Pomurje region. The data are computer-processed with the SSPS program for Windows.

Results

Respondents valued soil as natural resource with greatest value, followed by forests, biological and animal welfare, while water took the last place. More than a half of respondents think nature in Pomurje is well preserved.

They think groundwater and rivers are threatened the most by pollution, while forests are in good condition. Traffic has been seen as most important pollutant, followed by industry and agriculture. Problem solving strategy would include introducing filters in industry facilities, building water supply undertakings, regulating the waste disposals and promotion of ecological agriculture. The respondents connect illness with environmental impacts on health, in the first place with polluted water and air and with lifestyle.

Results of the research serve as a basis for programs, which are used for raising awareness in the field of natural environment protection.

