

NAGA

Press release

“Citizens without rights. Naga Report 2018. Immigration and (in)security: housing, work, health.”

Milan, 13/12/2018. This fourth edition of the Report analyses data on 7,955 undocumented foreign citizens accessing for the first time the Naga medical clinic between 2014 and 2017. As in previous editions, the analysis provides information on nationality, age, gender, family situation, years since migration, education, housing and work status of the sample. Furthermore, for the first time, the report provides evidence on how these socio-economic characteristics are related to medical conditions for more than 2,000 patients who visited Naga in 2017.

*“Overall, we observe that **the number of irregular foreign citizens who have been in Italy for less than a year has increased from 28% in 2014 to 37% in 2017. At the same time, we also document a decrease in the share of long-term residents (in Italy for 4 or more years), from 43% in 2014 to 32% in 2017**”, say the authors of the study, Carlo Devillanova (Bocconi University), Francesco Fasani (Queen Mary University London) and Tommaso Frattini (University of Milan). “In this report, like in previous editions, we still find that irregular migrants and Italians have comparable educational levels: 36% of immigrants have completed secondary education, whilst 10% have received at least some university education. However, we also see **a gradual reduction in the share of migrants with secondary education, from 43% in 2000 to 36% in 2017**”, note the authors.*

“Moreover, the sample's housing conditions have significantly worsened, with a clear trend towards insecurity. The percentage of homeless people goes from 19% in 2014 to 22% in 2017, with a dramatic rise for homeless men going from 23% to 31% in the period considered.

*The labour market situation, on the other hand, has improved over the last years. In 2017, 35% of the migrants who visited Naga for the first time had a job, against 28.5% in 2014. **Even though irregular migrants are forced to have informal work relationships, having a secondary education seems to be a guarantee in securing a better placement, with a 41% of those who have secondary education who are in employment. 'Length of migration' is then another crucial determinant of employment status: whilst the employment probability is less than 20% among those who have been in Italy for less than year, this share increases to about 42% for immigrants who have been in Italy for two years, and to 49% among those with 3-4 years of residence.***

As stressed in previous Reports, although in Italy almost all employed migrants work in unskilled occupations, many were employed in high skilled jobs in their origin countries. Despite the increase in the number of employed immigrants, only 23% of those at work consider their job as permanent, whilst the large majority perceive their jobs as temporary or casual, or are street vendors”, conclude the researchers.

This Report for the first time analyses the incidence of diseases among the irregularly resident foreign citizens who first approached the Naga clinic in 2017. *“These data are a precious source of information and represent the **widest dataset on medical conditions of non-hospitalized undocumented foreign citizens. Data show that at least 10% of these patients display clinical conditions such as chronic diseases (e.g. diabetes or hypertension) which require second level intervention in a hospital setting.** Therefore, it is likely that in the absence of the visit to Naga's clinic these patients would have not properly treated their conditions, which would have contributed to worsening them up to the point of having to be admitted to Emergency Departments.*

*“Examining socio-economic evidence, we note that **more disadvantaged housing conditions and insecure employment are associated with higher frequency of certain pathologies**”, says Dr. Anna Spada, volunteer at Naga. “Homeless patients have much higher frequency of respiratory and skin conditions than those who can rent a place or stay at their employer's, likely due to having to endure cold weather and to the lack of hygienic facilities. Furthermore, homeless people's vulnerability is also documented by a high frequency of psychological and behavioural problems (10% vs 5,5% of people in rented accommodations). The type of occupation is also associated with a different frequency of medical conditions: for instance, respiratory diseases are far more common among street vendors (22%) than among those with a temporary (11%) or permanent job (5.5%). Common to all groups is the extreme scarcity of infectious diseases (0.016% in our sample) and especially tuberculosis”, continues Dr Spada. “Our study shows, with the strength of empirical data, that **irregular foreign citizens in Milan have the same health problems as the Italian population**, but the type and frequencies of their pathologies appear to be influenced by their living conditions. For this reason, as well as for equalitarian principles, we at Naga believe that the most appropriate and easily achievable solution would be to give access to our system of G.P.s to irregular foreign citizens as well”, says Spada.*

“Once again, our direct and daily contact with irregular migrants gives us the chance to provide a snapshot of the reality of their lives is – a picture that appears to be quite different from what is routinely proposed by the mainstream narrative, biased by prejudices and unverified informations” says Naga President Sabina Alasia. “The people we meet are not a problem for the 'safety' of this country, on the contrary what is in danger is their own safety: their possibility to enjoy basic rights and to live a decent life” Alasia continues. “Once again we provide a very different picture of migrations than the one we are usually provided: undocumented immigrants are not a threat for anyone, rather they are themselves under threat.”

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