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**ABSTRACT BOOK**

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Title of Paper	<b>Population Based Study Of General Health Of Children From Rural Area In Macedonia</b>
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Abstract	<p>Aim of the study is to evaluate general health status of children who live in rural area in the proximity of Bitola. In the study were included all children aged 0-6 years who live in 11 villages with less than 1000 inhabitants.</p> <p><b>Methodology:</b> We gathered healthcare information about 116 children with a structured questionnaire designed for the study. The data was given by the children's parents.</p> <p><b>Results:</b> 92 (56,4%) of the children are male and 71 (43,6%) are female. Average age is 37,04 months. 2.43 % of all children are not vaccinated. 28,22 % were born with caesarean section, 20% were born prematurely. 8,59 % were not breastfed at all, 41.6% were breastfed less than 6 months. The majority of children 72,18 %, were exposed to cow's milk before they were 1 year old. Identified morbidities in children from rural</p> <p><b>Population:</b> anemia – 1,84 %, cardiovascular diseases 0,61 %, allergies – 2,45%.</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b> The general health of rural population of children is generally good. The rate of vaccination and breastfeeding is disturbingly low. The educational level about the early childhood nutrition is also low. The numbers of caesarean section deliveries seems high and the reasons for this situation should be explored more thoroughly.</p> <p><b>Conclusion:</b> We have explored the general health status of children from the rural areas and identified educational needs of families with young children in rural areas. Nurses should target the rural population with educational programs concerning early childhood nutrition, vaccination programs and the benefits of breastfeeding and vaginal delivery.</p>
Keywords	public health, vaccination, rural population, breastfeeding