



## Summary

## Statistics

**Resilience and quality of life among the displaced population of L'Aquila rehoused in the C.A.S.E. and M.A.P. transitional housing projects.**



**L'Aquila  
December 2010**

## Key Findings

### Respondent Profile:

The sample population were 81% beneficiaries of the C.A.S.E. (base-isolated antiseismic) transitional housing and 19% resident in the M.A.P. prefabs (not base-isolated, Table1).

The sample of interviewees comprised 281 people

Male: 46%; Female: 54%

Mean age: 43 years (SD 16.2) range 18-86 years

Some 37% were in the age-group 18-34 yrs, 36% were 35-54 years old, and 27% were 55 years and over.

The mean age of males was 44 years (SD 17.4)

The mean age of females was 43 yrs (SD 15.2)

### General Findings:

The general information sought included questions on level of educational attainment and present occupation: 21% had a middle school diploma, 50% a high school diploma, 9% a first degree and 20% a post-graduate degree. Some 53% of respondents were regularly employed, 24% were unemployed or pensioners, 13% were students and 10% were worker-students.

**Table 1 Location of residence of interviewees.**

C.A.S.E. PROJECT	M.A.P.
Cese di Preturo	Cansatessa
Coppito3	S. Rufina
Pagliare di Sassa	Camarda
Paganica1/sud	Monticchio
Paganica2	Poggio Santa Maria
S.Elia 1	Tempera
S.Elia 2	Pianola
Sassa nsi	San Gregorio
Coppito 2	
Bazzano	
Roio Poggio	
Assergi	



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## Key Findings: DTS (Davidson Trauma Scale)

The Davidson Trauma Scale (DTS) gave a total score of 41.44, which is above the threshold for post-traumatic stress disorder (Table 2).

Table 2 DTS Analysis

DTS n=271	MEAN	STD. DEV.
Frequency	21.02	13.72
Seriousness	20.42	14.66
Intrusion	16.61	11.12
Avoidance	13.14	11.23
Hypervigilance	14.02	10.75
<b>DTS TOTAL</b>	<b>41.44</b>	<b>27.25</b>

Using the Davidson Trauma Scale (DTS) we estimate that 43% of the respondents (CI: 36.9%-48.7%) are subject to stress (mean score >40). Stress is more prevalent in women (66%) than in men (p=0.002). (Table 3).

Table 3 Presence or absence of stress in the sample population

STRESS	FREQ.	%
NO (DTS ≤40)	155	57
YES (DTS >40)	116	43
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>100</b>



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## Key Findings: DTS (Davidson Trauma Scale)

On average, subjects with PTSD do not have a different mean age to those without it. The presence of stress does not correlate with the type of transitional housing assigned to the subject, or to level of educational attainment or type of occupation.

Males seem less likely to develop PTSD than do women (OR=0.45; CI:0.29-0.71).

**Table 4 Characteristics of the sample with presence or absence of PTSD.**

	with PTSD		without PTSD		test statistic	
	mean/%	std dev	mean/%	std		p
age	43.30	15,5	42,80	17,1	F=0,04	0,833
sex					chi=10,05	<b>0.002</b>
men	34.50		53.90			
women	65.60		46.20			
Housing type					chi=0,006	0.936
C.A.S.E.	81.00		80.70			
M.A.P.	19.00		19.40			
Education					chi=0,0488	0.825
low	20.40		21.50			
high	79.70		78.50			
Occupation					chi=2,2908	0.130
yes	71.30		79.30			
no	28.70		20.70			

Intrusion and avoidance are the two characteristics of PTS most related to the traumatic event, and they are significantly more important in subjects with PTSD. As expected, the same is true for hypervigilance.



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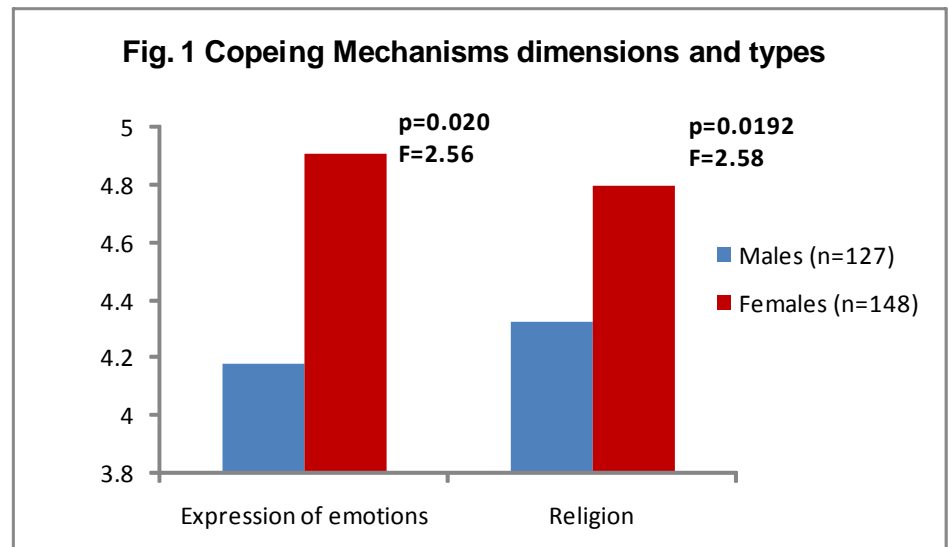


## L'Aquila

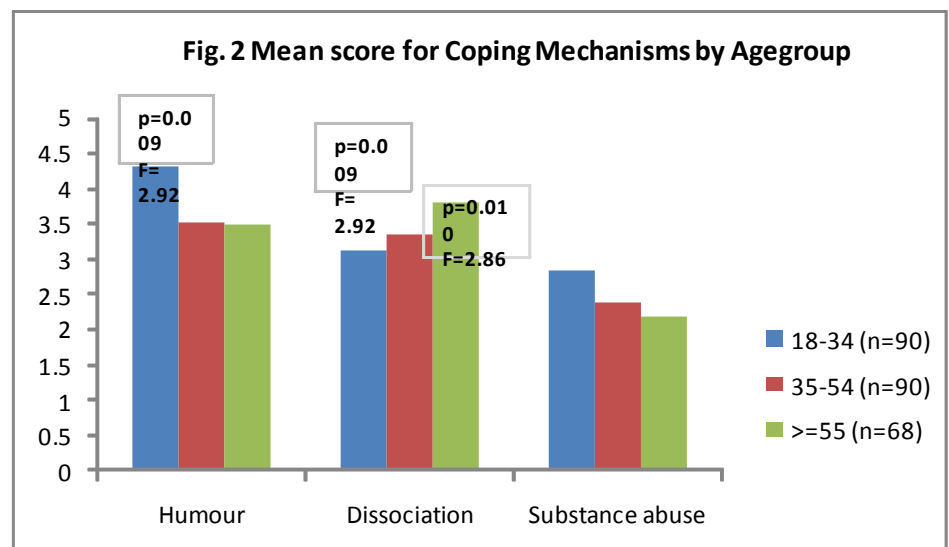
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## Key Findings: COPING MECHANISMS

Faced with a stressful event, women seek comfort in religious faith more often than do men, and they show more need to express their emotions (Figure 1).



Among the youngest respondents the tendency is to make fun of or joke about stressful situations and to make use of alcohol or drugs. Older people, on the other hand, tend to react in disadaptive ways, for example by manifesting detached forms of behaviour (Figure 2).





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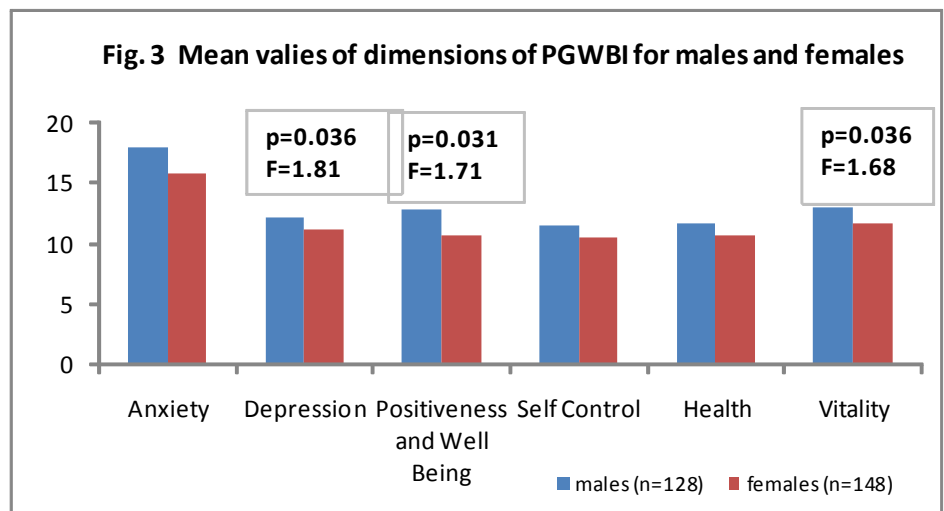
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## Key Findings: PGWBI (Psychological General Well-Being Index)

The use of PGWBI in the questionnaire shows that the state of health of women is worse than that of men, both in general and with specific respect to the factors studied in the questionnaire (Table 5, Figure3).

Table 5 Mean value of general index of health, by sex.

SEX	n	mean	STD.DEV.	Test statistic	p
Male	128	79.24	16.89	F=15.54	0.0001
Female	148	70.55	19.35		



The state of health measured with the index of general health is significantly worse among old people (F=4.34; p=0.0140): old people appear to be more depressed than young people (F=6.52;p=0.0017), and they have less self control (F=3.06; p=0.0487).





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## Key Findings: Resiliency

The scale of Dispositional Resiliency enabled us to construct a general picture of the capacity of interviewees to react to a traumatic event.

Faced with the propositions: "Sometimes life seems to be without meaning" and "Sometimes I feel helpless," women are more in agreement than men (Figures 4 and 5). Despite all, most of the interviewees demonstrated a strong impetus to reclaim their lives and overcome the difficulties posed by the earthquake, which they mostly regarded as representing a force for personal development. These positive attitudes were prevalent in both men and women.

