

THE FLOOD OF OCTOBER 1 - 2009 IN MESSINA AND GIAMPILIERI, PSYCHOPATHOLOGY AND MENTAL DISORDERS

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The psychological-psychiatric implications represent an important aspect of the environmental disasters. A team consisting of psychiatrists and psychologists (Complex Operative Unit of Psychiatry of the 'AOU Policlinico "G. Martino "of Messina and the Department of Mental Health South of Messina ASP Messina) traveled for three years in the various hotels where refugees were housed, offering their psychological and psychiatric support. From this experience it is then developed an epidemiological survey focused on psychopathological aspects of a significant sample of people involved in the flood that hit tragically Messina, Giampileri and surrounding towns (33 victims). The team of volunteers conducted structured interviews using as a tool the Mini International Neuropsychiatric Interview MINI which was designed as a short interview structured for psychiatric disorders are most relevant from the statistical viewpoint, both for the 'Axis I DSM-IV both for the ICD-10. We did three evaluations: 1) immediately after the catastrophe, 2) after 5-6 months and 3) after more than one year, the disorders most recorded are: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder PTSD (42%), Major Depressive Disorder (34%), Disorder Panic Attacks (DAP 32%), Generalized Anxiety Disorder GAD (14%). Following these disorders in one year it was found that PTSD and DAP undergo to a significant reduction, Major Depressive Disorder, although slightly reduced, remains stable, while the DAG tends to increase significantly. The frequency of pathological conditions is the same reported in the literature. From these data it is possible to do some significant reflections: in the months immediately following the catastrophe the disorders most represented were those of the "acute phase" as depression and crisis of anxiety while in the following months these disorders tend to fade sharply and instead we observed an increase of "basic anxiety" which can be seen as "chronic phase". On the other hand, it was also noted that the presence of major depression in anamnesis may be a risk factor for the development of a new depressive episode. In terms of comorbidity subjects who developed PTSD showed in the three observations also significant levels of major depression.