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Objectives: Asylum Seekers (AS) often experience stressful situations that may lead to psychiatric disorders. Our hypothesis is that the subjective perception of stressors and the resulting psychiatric symptoms may depend on the length of staying, length of the journey, level of education and age.

Methods: 45 AS, guests of a reception center in Borgo Mezzanone (Foggia, Italy), were assessed by means of: Addiction Severity Index, MINI, SCL-90-R and Davidson Trauma Scale (DTS). We investigated the length of the voyage and the number of nations they passed through before reaching the final destination.

Results: 35,6% of the patients reported PTSD, 75,6% current Major Depressive Episode, 90,5% GAD, 2,3% psychotic symptoms, 15,6% alcohol abuse and 11,1% cannabis abuse; moreover, 26,7% attempted suicide at least once. Younger ones were less concerned about physical health and scored higher at most of SCL-90-R subscales. People who have been migrated for less time are more worried about family members left home and have higher scores at DTS subscales intrusion ($p=0,02$), hyperarousal, frequency, as well as total score. The number of nations they passed through or stayed in during their journey, negatively correlates with DTS hyperarousal and total gravity scores. Migrants with higher education showed lower scores in SCL somatization subscale.

Conclusions: younger people seems to have more severe psychiatric symptoms despite minor concerns about health and it seems that concerns about family members and various PTSD symptoms tend to decrease with time. Moreover a higher level of education may be protective from the tendency to somatize.