

J.M. OJEL-JARAMILLO, J.J CAÑAS, A. CÁNDIDO. *Traits of anxious personality predicting telecare device use. Gerontechnology 2010;9(2):320; doi:10.4017/gt.2010.09.02.159.00* **Purpose**

Telecare is a type of ICT that provides help to dependent, especially elderly, people by providing access to teams of professionals who can attend to the client's needs 24 hours a day, 365 days a year via a telephone network. The goals of these technologies are (i) to provide a system that allows the elderly to obtain and to maintain a greater degree of autonomy and well-being in their homes; (ii) to facilitate the permanence of the elderly within their social and family environments, thus avoiding many unnecessary situations in which the elderly are uprooted and cared for in an institution; and (iii) to provide the elderly with security and prompt attention in cases of emergency. The irregular use of these ICT devices for the older population is a problem. In this paper we examine if anxious personality traits are related to telecare use.

Method Participants living in Granada or Malaga Spain were contacted by personnel of Andalusia Telecare Service. The sample included 96 users of Andalusia Telecare Services (48 men and 48 women). The participants were grouped depending on the number of calls 0 calls, 1-5 calls, 6 plus calls. Then, we divided them again using each of the following three variables: age (65-80; 81+), sex (Male-Female) and level of education (without studies, Basic Level, Medium Level, University level). The age range was between 65 and 96 years (M=80.99, SD=5.95). A researcher proceeded to visit the users and took the STAI-Trait Anxiety Inventory. **Results & Discussion** We performed Kruskal-Wallis ($p=0,05$) between STAI-Trait Anxiety Inventory score and groups of calls (*Figure 1*). The differences in anxious personality traits between those groups were significant, thus users that call more have more anxious personal-ity traits.

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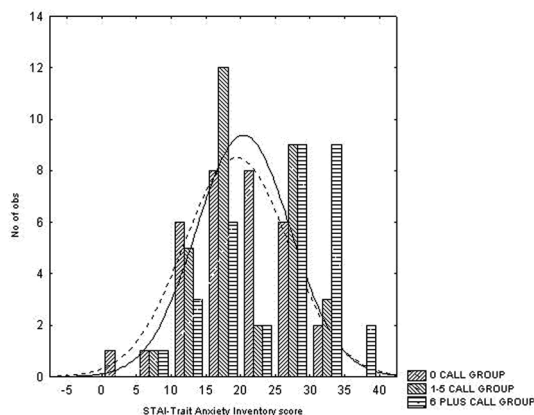


Figure 1. Anxious personality trait by group of users