

# Moving Processes and Conditions of Households under the Housing Lease Program for Disaster Victims in Iwate Prefecture due to the Great East Japan Earthquake

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## 1. Foreword

In order to understand the reality of the "Housing Lease Program for Disaster Victims" (which supplied private rental houses as temporary housing) of which more units were provided than the temporary housing being newly built as emergency homes due to the Great East Japan Earthquake, a questionnaire survey was conducted on the tenant households and analyzed.

The research was conducted jointly with the Housing Section of Iwate Prefecture, targeting 3,458 cases of a total of 4,051 cases leased by the prefecture until October 2013, excluding those that left before October 2012, and was distributed by mail/collected in November 2013. Of these, 3247 cases were effectively forwarded/1658 cases effectively collected, with a collection rate of 51.1%.

## 2. The period for tenants moving into temporary leased housing

As Figure 1 indicates, there is a high concentration of people who began looking for homes in the middle of March, the end of March and the beginning of April, or a total of 807 cases (55.7% of the total) in less than a month after the disaster. Most people began living in the rented houses at the start of April (239 cases), and 597 cases (38.5%) began living in their new homes by the end of April. Approximately one month is required to secure the housing. As well, as 925 cases (57.0%) of the tenants found out about the housing lease program "after they rented," hence the majority secured their homes without knowing.

Regarding the reason of why they were searching for

housing (multiple answer) most people chose "You can move in faster than prefab houses" (651 cases and 40.2% of the total answers). The answer ratio was higher than "You can choose your house and location" (selectivity 22.0%) "The quality of the housing and residential environment is good" (selectivity 21.6%), placing especial importance on the speed of moving in.

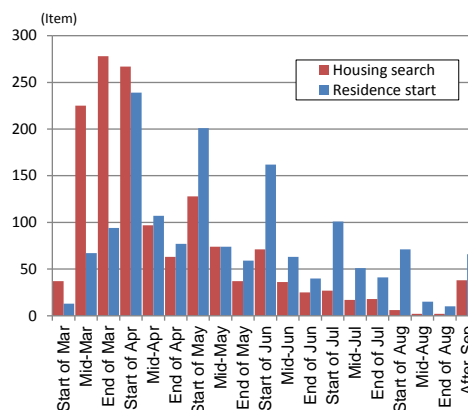


Figure 1: Period when people began searching for housing and moved in

## 3. Securing methods of property to move into

Regarding the search for housing (Figure 2 top), "1. I consulted with relatives and friends" took roughly 60% of the poll. Relatively few people replied: "2. I consulted with a real estate agent" or "3. I consulted with people at the municipal office." Regarding their relation with the owner (Figure 2 bottom) roughly 60% replied "3. No relation and not an acquaintance," and 20% replied "1. A relative related by blood" and "2. An acquaintance/friend" respectively. As 68.5% for those who replied "1.Relatives and acquaintances," were either relatives/acquaintances of the owner, it can be said

that in the aftermath and confusion of a disaster that securing methods center largely on human relations.

(Reference) Fumitake Meno: Moving Processes and Conditions of Households under the Housing Lease Program for Disaster Victims in Iwate Prefecture, Urban housing sciences No. 87, pp.133-138, 2014.10

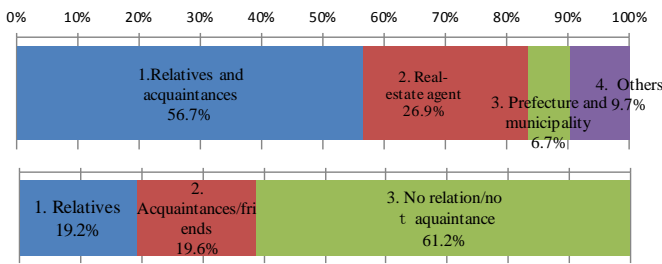


Figure 2 Search for housing (top) Relation with the owner (bottom)

#### 4. The location and residential environment of the new home

When questioned if their housing was located in the same municipality as before, half replied "1. Same" and "2. Different" respectively, with a little less than half of the respondents who actually moved out (Figure 3 top). When asked the reasons for moving away (multiple answer), the most common answers were "There was a housing I could move into quickly" (selectivity 35.3%) and "There were relatives/friends I could depend on" (selectivity 32.3%), reflecting their moves were based on the need for housing and support.

Regarding their life in the rented housing, roughly 60% answered "1. Satisfied" and "2. A little dissatisfied but generally satisfied" (Figure 3 bottom). Regarding the reasons why they had "3. Some dissatisfaction" or "4. Much dissatisfaction" (multiple answer), the answers were, in order from the top down: "The building is old" (selectivity 50.2%), "The room is too small" (selectivity 44.0%) and "There are deficiencies and breakdowns in the facility" (selectivity 43.3%), showing greater dissatisfaction about the housing hardware rather than the residential environment.

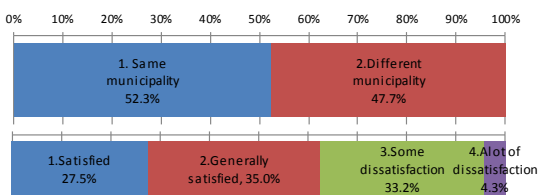


Figure 3: The location of the housing (top) and living satisfaction (bottom)