A building’s construction is a key factor in how well it can withstand the forces produced by earthquakes. Unreinforced masonry buildings are the most at risk in an earthquake because the walls are prone to collapse outward. Steel and wood buildings have more ability to absorb the energy from an earthquake. Wood buildings with proper foundation ties have rarely collapsed in earthquakes.

The figures on this page show the distribution of each of the primary building types within the study region. For each case, the total replacement values are listed in the upper left corner.