

World Trade Center Health Registry 2011 Report





Dear Enrollees:

Thank you for your continued commitment to the Registry.

In this report you'll find recent 9/11 health findings from Registry publications and details on how to get care for 9/11-related health problems.

The Registry is now surveying enrollees to learn more about their health status 10 years after the disaster. A separate survey has been sent to parents and guardians of enrollees younger than 18 years of age. Your responses will help assess gaps in care and refer enrollees to treatment services.

So far, more than 50% (36,500 enrollees) have [responded](#). We encourage all enrollees to complete their surveys now.

Findings from the Registry's first and second health surveys helped support passage of the [James L. Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act](#). The Act established the federally funded World Trade Center Health Program to provide medical monitoring and treatment for those affected by the disaster.

Questions? Need more information? Contact us at 866-NYC-WTCR (866-692-9827) or wtdhr@health.nyc.gov, or visit nyc.gov/9-11HealthInfo.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Sincerely,

Mark Farfel, ScD
Director

About the Registry

The World Trade Center Health Registry is the largest post-disaster public health registry in United States history, tracking the health of more than 71,000 people directly exposed to the WTC disaster. The Registry was established by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health has funded the Registry since May 2009.

Our Mission

- Identify and track the long-term physical and mental health effects of 9/11
- Share findings and recommendations with enrollees, others affected, the public and policymakers
- Respond to health concerns and assess gaps in care for 9/11-related health problems
- Offer guidance to public health professionals in planning for potential future emergencies

WTC Health Program

The federal WTC Health Program provides medical services for 9/11-related health problems at no cost to eligible responders and survivors. For more information, call 888-982-4748 or visit cdc.gov/niosh/topics/wtc/.

Recent Findings

- Many adults directly exposed to the WTC attacks developed lasting heartburn, indigestion, acid reflux and other symptoms of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) (*American Journal of Gastroenterology*, 2011).
- Lower Manhattan residents and area workers with persistent respiratory symptoms were more likely to have abnormal lung function than those without these symptoms five to six years after 9/11 (*American Journal of Respiratory Critical Care Medicine*, 2011).
- Rescue and recovery workers who worked on the debris pile on 9/11 were at increased risk for sarcoidosis (*Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*, 2011).
- Rescue and recovery workers who wore respirators on 9/11 were less likely to report respiratory problems five to six years after 9/11 than those who went without adequate respiratory protection (*American Journal of Industrial Medicine*, 2011).
- WTC tower workers who evacuated from higher floors, evacuated late or worked for a company that sustained fatalities were at higher risk for post-traumatic stress disorder (*American Journal of Epidemiology*, 2011).
- Volunteers not affiliated with an organization were more highly exposed to the WTC disaster than volunteers affiliated with recognized organizations and were at greater risk for developing physical and mental health conditions after 9/11, including asthma and post-traumatic stress symptoms (*Preventive Medicine*, 2011).
- Initial findings from our ongoing mortality study indicate that the mortality rate among enrollees living in New York City upon Registry enrollment was significantly lower than in the general New York City population during 2003-2009. Non-rescue/recovery workers who were more highly exposed to the WTC disaster may be at an increased mortality risk, especially cardiac-related, in comparison to those less exposed (*The Lancet*, 2011).

More information about all 23 of the Registry's published papers may be found at nyc.gov/9-11HealthInfo.



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New 2011
Registry Findings

9/11 Treatment Referral Program

The Registry's 9/11 Treatment Referral Program was created to help enrollees and others get care for 9/11-related health problems at no out-of-pocket cost to eligible people.

So far, we've helped more than 600 enrollees find services and get care. Your care options, which include the federal WTC Health Program, depend on your needs, eligibility and how you were affected by 9/11.

If you think you, a loved one or someone you know may have a 9/11-related health problem, contact the 9/11 Treatment Referral Program at 888-WTC-7848 (888-982-7848).