



World Trade Center Health Registry 2012 Report





Dear Enrollees:

We have completed our 2011-12 adult and adolescent health surveys, which we couldn't have done without you. Your responses will help us learn even more about the health of people who were directly exposed to the World Trade Center (WTC) disaster.

More than 43,100 enrollees [responded](#) to our 2011-12 adult survey. Eighty-four percent of these enrollees also completed our two previous surveys in 2003-04 and 2006-07. More than 500 parents and nearly 500 adolescents responded to our adolescent survey, and 81% also participated in our two previous surveys. Now we can examine the course of reported health conditions across three points in time for adults and children.

This summer, the Federal Government awarded the Registry a four-year extension to continue our work. This funding will support multiple Registry activities, including analyzing and sharing findings from our 2011-12 survey, a fourth health survey in 2015, and expanding treatment referral outreach to thousands of additional enrollees.

If you have any questions, please contact us at 866-NYC-WTCR (866-692-9827) or wtchr@health.nyc.gov, or visit nyc.gov/9-11HealthInfo.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the Registry.

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/wtc.

Recent Findings

- An exploratory study found that two to six years after the 9/11 disaster, measures of dust exposure, injury on 9/11 and PTSD each were associated with an elevated risk of non-fatal heart disease among adult enrollees (*Preventive Medicine*, 2011).
- Twelve percent of 42,025 Registry adult enrollees reported post-9/11 skin rash in 2003-04, 16% reported skin rash in 2006-07 and 6% reported it at both times. Among enrollees without PTSD or other psychological distress, increased risk for early skin rash was independently associated with intense dust cloud exposure, damage to the home or workplace, and working at least 31 days at the WTC site (*Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*, 2012).
- A Registry case control study of nearly 800 Lower Manhattan residents and area workers found that both acute and chronic WTC exposures were independently associated with lower respiratory symptoms up to six years after 9/11. The risk for lower respiratory symptoms increased both with the severity of dust cloud exposure and the thickness of dust in the home or workplace (*American Journal of Public Health*, 2012).
- More than 25% of residents, office workers and passers-by enrolled in the Registry who had either lower respiratory symptoms or probable post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) had both conditions five to six years after 9/11. Also, enrollees who had both conditions were much more likely to report 14 days of activity lost in the 30 days before being surveyed than enrollees with one of these conditions (*American Journal of Public Health*, 2012).
- A longitudinal study of nearly 3,000 police responders found that PTSD prevalence doubled from 7.8% in 2003-04 to 16.5% in 2006-07. Female police were significantly more likely than male police to report PTSD symptoms in the first survey, but this gender difference disappeared by the second survey. PTSD risk factors included post-9/11 unemployment and disability (*American Journal of Industrial Medicine*, 2012).
- In focus groups with both responders and survivors, participants reported barriers that prevented them from accessing 9/11 services: lack of visibility and accessibility of 9/11 health programs; fear of stigma related to receiving mental health care; unfamiliarity with 9/11-related health conditions; and few referrals from primary care providers (*BMC Public Health*, 2012).

More information about all 29 of the Registry's published [papers](#) may be found at nyc.gov/9-11HealthInfo.



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& MENTAL HYGIENE

New Findings
Inside!

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 1,000 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 Registry's [9/11 Treatment Referral Program](#) at 888-WTC-7848 (888-982-7848).