



WORLD
TRADE
CENTER
HEALTH REGISTRY



Spring 2022

9/11 Town Hall

Dear Registry Enrollee,

In September the Registry participated in a town hall with Dr. Dave Chokshi, former Commissioner of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, to honor the 20th anniversary of 9/11 and share Registry findings.

Dr. Chokshi acknowledged that the success of the Registry remains with you, the enrollee, because of what you teach us as well as the dedication and support you have demonstrated over many years. He said, “You have never been forgotten, and our gratitude and commitment to you have never waned.”

Dr. Chokshi’s full message is available at youtube.com/watch?v=k-G_dUP-0s8. You can watch a 15-minute highlights version at youtube.com/watch?v=9xXmxP_XR8k.

We remain grateful for your continued participation in the Registry.

Sincerely,

Mark Farfel, ScD
Director

Hearing Loss

An early Registry study found that dust cloud exposure among survivors who evacuated damaged and destroyed buildings was associated with self-reported hearing problems.

To read our hearing loss handout as well as handouts on other health topics, visit nyc.gov/911health and search for **health materials**.

Getting Care

Do you suffer from 9/11-related health issues? The Registry cares about your health and would like to help you get care for specific 9/11-related health conditions. Treatment is provided through the federal World Trade Center (WTC) Health Program at no cost.

How does it work? If you are an enrollee and think you have a 9/11-related health condition, contact the Registry’s Treatment Referral Program at trp@health.nyc.gov or 888-982-7848. Depending on your needs, eligibility and how you were affected by 9/11, we will refer you to the WTC Health Program for Survivors or the WTC Health Program for Responders.

Can I reach the WTC Health Program directly? Yes. Call 888-982-4748 or email wtc@cdc.gov. For more information about the program, visit cdc.gov/wtc.

Can I still get compensation for my 9/11 injuries or a loved one’s death? Yes. Although it has been 20 years since the WTC disaster, you can still submit a claim to the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund. You may need to meet specific registration and claim filing deadlines. For more information, visit vcf.gov or call 855-885-1555.

Hearing Loss

An early World Trade Center (WTC) Health Registry study found that dust cloud exposure among survivors who evacuated damaged and destroyed buildings was associated with self-reported hearing issues.¹ Two recent publications from the WTC Health Registry reported that among enrollees who were rescue and recovery workers,² residents, passersby and area workers,³ an increase in WTC exposure and being unable to hear in the dust cloud were associated with greater odds of hearing issues.

A study by the Fire Department of the City of New York (FDNY) found that workers who were most exposed to the WTC disaster had greater odds of constant ear symptoms.⁴ An analysis of FDNY medical surveillance data found that FDNY responders with high levels of exposure were at greater risk of constant reductions in hearing sensitivity.⁵

Hearing loss is a condition that affects adults and children. It is usually caused by inner ear or nerve damage. Hearing loss is not currently recognized as a covered condition by the WTC Health Program. Other causes besides exposure to the 9/11 disaster include:

- Exposure to loud noises (such as heavy machinery or loud music), which can result in sudden hearing loss
- A punctured eardrum from objects inserted into the ear
- Ear wax (fluid) buildup
- Certain medications, infections, allergies and childhood diseases

The Art of Remembrance

See a few examples below of the unique ways communities around the world expressed respect for all those who lost their lives or were injured on 9/11.

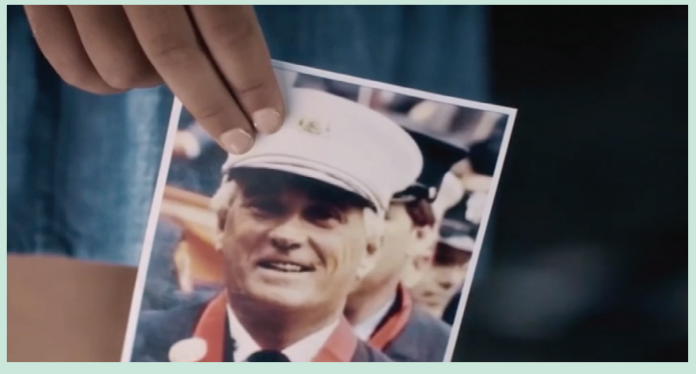
Ringo Chiu/Shutterstock



23 Tons of Wreckage – Yorba Linda, California

The Richard Nixon Foundation held a ceremony that included a display of 23 tons of wreckage from the WTC site.

Freman's photo: Courtesy of the 9/11 Tribute Museum



Hope. Resilience. Unity – New York, New York

The 9/11 Memorial & Museum created a short video that reflects the museum's role as a recorder of history and an inspiration for healing. To watch the video, visit 911memorial.org/20th-anniversary.

Glynis Jones/Shutterstock



The Annual Honor Ride – New York, New York

Bikers from Raging Knights Fire Fighter MC and various motorcycle clubs gathered in lower Manhattan to pay respect with the Annual Honor Ride.



Ringo Chiu/Shutterstock

The Waves of Flags – Pepperdine, California

Pepperdine University paid tribute with "The Waves of Flags," featuring 2,977 flags placed in the university's Alumni Park. The exhibit has one flag placed for each person who died on 9/11 and a national flag for each country that lost a citizen.



Aleksandr Antanovich/Shutterstock

The Memoria e Luce of Padua – Padova, Italy

A 20-foot beam of twisted steel retrieved from the WTC site is mounted within a pair of 50-foot glass walls that resemble an open book and light up at night. The "pages" of the book open in the direction of the Statue of Liberty in New York.

Our Latest Research Results

Despite the continuing challenges of the COVID-19 public health emergency, Registry staff have remained dedicated, working to complete valuable research resulting in 14 published papers in 2021. Below are some highlights.

Effects of 9/11-Related Injury on Retirement Patterns Among WTC Health Registry Enrollees

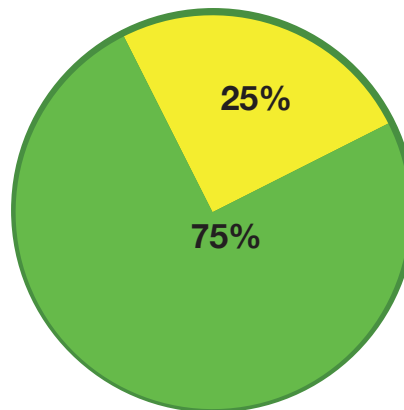
This study included 3,297 enrollees who participated in the Registry's 2017-2018 Health and Employment Survey, which focused on employment and retirement, and the 2017 Health and Quality of Life Survey, which focused

on 9/11-related injuries and quality of life. We found that enrollees injured on 9/11 were at greater risk of retiring at a younger age compared to enrollees who were not injured.

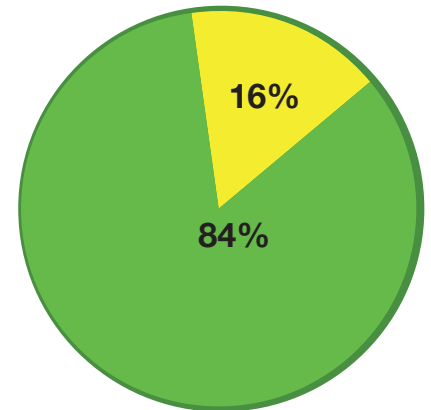
We also found that enrollees who were injured were less likely to work again after retiring.

Seil K, Yu S, Brackbill R, Alper H, Maqsood J. Effects of 9/11-related injury on retirement patterns among World Trade Center Health Registry enrollees. *Am. J. Ind. Med.* 2021;64(10):873-880. doi: 10.1002/ajim.23288.

Retired Permanently



Retired, Then Worked Again



● Not Injured on 9/11

● Injured on 9/11

Cancer Survival Among World Trade Center Rescue and Recovery Workers

A collaborative study with the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) and Mount Sinai consortium looked at cancer survival among WTC rescue and recovery workers who had a cancer diagnosis between 2005 and 2015. The research combined data on workers enrolled in the WTC Health Registry and the WTC Health Program Centers of Excellence in the New York City area (FDNY and Mount Sinai). The New York State (NYS) Cancer Registry provided information on cancer cases.

Through 2016, the study found that workers who were members of a WTC Center of Excellence had better cancer survival rates than those who were not. Their cancer survival rate was also better than the general population in NYS.

The WTC Health Program offers 9/11-related medical monitoring and treatment at no out-of-pocket costs, and may provide unique benefits in improving survival among cancer patients. See the Getting Care section of this newsletter for information on how to enroll in the WTC Health Program.

Goldfarb DG, Zeig-Owens R, Kristjansson D, Li J, et al. Cancer survival among World Trade Center rescue and recovery workers: A collaborative cohort study. *Am. J. Ind. Med.* 2021;64(10):815-826. doi: 10.1002/ajim.23278.

Responder Cancer Survival as Compared to the New York State Population

Member of a WTC Center of Excellence

**28%
Less
Chance
of Dying
From
Cancer**

Not a Member of a WTC Center of Excellence

**No
Difference
in the
Chance
of Dying
From
Cancer**

Video About 9/11 and Sleep Apnea

According to a 2014 study, people who were at the WTC disaster site were more likely to develop severe sleep apnea. See the video [here](#), or visit nyc.gov/911health and search for **sleep apnea video**.

Another study found that people with 9/11-related health conditions, such as:

GERD
gastroesophageal reflux disease

and

PTSD
post-traumatic stress disorder

were more likely to develop obstructive sleep apnea.

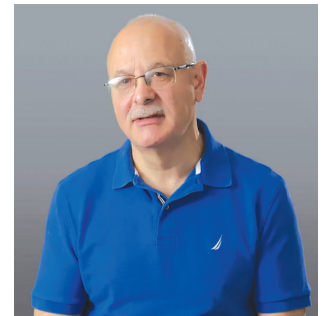
Mail's Here

Hi, Thank you for the invitation to the WTC video testimony — it is something I have never done before. I wanted to thank you all for the work you do. The responsibility of any government is the well-being of its citizens, and I am grateful for the financial resources given to the WTC Health Registry. The work the Registry does will ultimately save lives by early detection of any illness. 9/11 was a tragedy, but the Registry is making a positive difference and the best of a bad situation.

Thank you, again.
Phil

Watch Phil's video at youtube.com/watch?v=piEdMGacMHE.

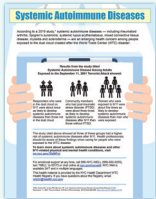
We welcome you to send us emails about your experiences: wtchreletter@health.nyc.gov.



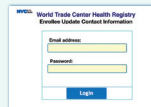
Let's Stay Connected



Take Our Surveys: Many Registry enrollees have responded to our surveys. This information helps us conduct research on 9/11-related health conditions and respond to enrollee health needs. Registry findings also help inform health care policy, including federal support for the WTC Health Program.



Read Our Health Materials: These informative handouts are our most popular way of getting important health information to our enrollees. To view materials and fact sheets about 9/11-related health conditions, including sinusitis, breast cancer and sleep apnea, visit nyc.gov/911health and search for **health materials**.



Update Your Contact Information: Go paperless and receive Registry communications via email. To update your contact information, call 866-692-9827, email wtchr@health.nyc.gov or visit nyc.gov/911health and click on **Enrollees** — under the **Your Care** tab, click on **Update Contact Information** in the left sidebar.

Read Our E-newsletter: Read the Registry's e-newsletter for our latest research findings, 9/11-related news, and interviews with fellow enrollees. For details, email wtchreletter@health.nyc.gov.

Use Our Health Data Tools: Data tools from the Registry's 2004, 2008, 2012 and 2016 major surveys, along with other specialized surveys, are available for use. For confidentiality, personal information is removed before publishing.

Mission Statement

With ongoing support from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, the Registry continues its mission to:

- Identify and track the long-term physical and mental health effects of 9/11 and gaps in care for 9/11-health related conditions.
- Share findings and recommendations with enrollees, the public, the WTC Health Program and policymakers.
- Respond to enrollees' health concerns and refer enrollees to the WTC Health Program.
- Offer guidance to public health professionals in planning for future emergencies.

To find PDFs of this material in English, Simplified Chinese, Spanish and Traditional Chinese, visit nyc.gov/911health and click on the **Research** tab, then choose **Publications** from the top menu and select **e-Newsletter** from the drop-down. To contact the Registry, email wtchr@health.nyc.gov.