



9/11 Health Crisis Fact Sheet

Number of 9/11 Responders:

- Responders came from **all 50 states** and from all but four Congressional districts.
- There are an estimated **70,000** responders who served over the 9-month recovery period: Firemen, police, emergency workers, sanitation, Red Cross, Salvation Army, iron & steelworkers, engineers, truckers, clean-up workers, volunteers, etc.
- The World Trade Center (WTC) Health Registry estimated in 2007 that **410,000 people were 'heavily exposed'** to the toxins of 9/11. (Source: *Addressing the Health Impacts of 9/11* Report to Mayor Bloomberg.)
- **71,000** people are registered at the **WTC Health Registry**, of which more than **10,000** are from outside the Tri-State area (NY, NJ, CT).

WTC Deaths:

- **817 WTC workers have died** as of September 2009. (source: WTC Responder Fatality Investigations)

Number of Sick Responders: (Source: *Fact Sheet: The 9/11 Health Crisis*, released by the New York Congressional Delegation 9.28.08)

- **16,000+** responders and **3,500** community members are currently sick and under treatment within the World Trade Center programs. (**approx. 20,000 total**).
- **40,000+** are currently enrolled in medical monitoring.

Breakdown of 'First Wave' Illnesses:

(Source: WTC Mt. Sinai Medical Monitoring director Jacqueline Moline)

- 70% of responders suffer from upper respiratory conditions.
- 33% have mental health problems, including PTSD and depression.
- 48% suffer from gastrointestinal conditions.
- 61% have multiple WTC-related conditions

Second and Third Wave Illnesses:

(Source: Robin Herbert, M.D., co-director WTC Mt. Sinai Medical Monitoring program)

- Second-wave: **Interstitial lung diseases**, such as Pulmonary Fibrosis & Sarcoid-like Granulomatous Disease.
- Third wave: **Cancers of the hematologic system** (leukemia, multiple myeloma), & **lymphatic system** (lymphoma).

Mental Health of Responders:

- PTSD is **severe and chronic** in many cases.
- Disability and depression are common.
- Statistic of 33% of responders having Mental Health problems is most likely underreported. (source: Mt. Sinai program)

Why are Responders Sick?

- Responders were exposed to toxins in concentrations and combinations that have **never before been encountered** in US history.
- Toxins in the dust cloud derived from the pulverized building materials include **benzene, asbestos, hydrochloric acid, PCBs, heavy metals such as mercury and lead**, and thousands of others.
- As recovery and cleanup progressed, **combustion-derived pollutants** from the fires at the site released toxic compounds such as **dioxins, volatile organic compounds, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)**, and various other known carcinogenic compounds.

Why Didn't Responders Wear Protective Masks?

The government (via the EPA--Environmental Protection Agency) and the city of New York announced the air and dust had been tested and that it was safe.

Current 9/11 Treatment Programs:

Responders: **WTC Medical Monitoring & Treatment program.** (Federally-funded; often referred to as the 'Mt. Sinai' program). Includes the FDNY, and the 'Centers of Excellence': Mt. Sinai, Bellevue, Queens College, SUNY Stony Brook, the Robert Wood Johnson center (NJ), and the new WTC clinic in Staten Island.

Community: The NYC-run **WTC Environmental** program monitors and treats *non-responder* community members affected by 9/11. Centers are located at Bellevue, Gouverneur and Elmhurst hospitals in NYC.

Out-of-State: **Logistics Health, Inc. (LHI)** is currently under contract to monitor and treat the 10,000+ 'National' responders.

WTC Detoxification Programs:

Serving Those Who Serve: Herbal detoxification program developed specifically for the 9/11 community by world-renowned physicians, with goal of ridding the body of heavy metals and other toxins absorbed by exposure to Ground Zero and WTC sites. Program has had widespread success with over 1900 people, including 1000 FDNY members. Free to anyone who served in any capacity at 9/11. Available to others at cost (\$30/month.) www.stws.org

NY Rescue Workers Detoxification Project: Non-profit organization dedicated to helping men and women regain their health and quality of life through a scientifically-proven detoxification program incorporating exercise, sauna therapy and vitamin, mineral and oil supplements. Free to Responders. Also offered to individuals who lived or worked in the area near the World Trade Center. www.nydetox.org

Why is Current 9/11 Treatment Considered Inadequate?

- Since *no 9/11 health legislation has yet been passed at the federal level*, 9/11 health care programs have thus far been funded by a **year-to-year appropriations process**.
- Programs are **underfunded**--many close due to lack of funding renewal, and quality doctors cannot be retained.
- Funding to this point has been mostly for **monitoring**, NOT treatment.
- **Treatment parameters are currently small**--limited to respiratory, gastrointestinal, and certain musculoskeletal ailments. If a responder has cancer or other ailments, it is not covered by the program.
- The National Program took years to implement. It is currently run by **Logistics Health, Inc. (LHI)**, but has been erratic, slow and inefficient.
- In spite of the **majority of the responders' health problems being the result of toxic exposures**, no government efforts are being made to address the key issue of detoxification.

Proposed 9/11 Health Legislation:

The James Zadroga 9/11 Health & Compensation Act of 2009 (H.R. 847)

- Named for NYPD detective James Zadroga, who succumbed to WTC-related illness at age 34 after logging over 400 hours at Ground Zero.

If passed, the bill would:

- Provide a stable, ongoing federally-funded monitoring and treatment program for responders and affected community members.
- Fund an ongoing national program to care for the over 10,000 responders who hail from outside the NY area.
- Fund ongoing research on WTC-related diseases.
- Reopen the Victims Compensation Fund to provide for economic loss and damages.