Research Findings

Exposure to the 9/11 Disaster More Likely to Lead to Binge Drinking*

The relationship between traumatic exposure, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and excessive drinking is well-documented. However, little is known about these relationships in the long term. This study examines factors that increased binge drinking risk among exposed individuals a decade after 9/11. Watch the video.

*See https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2016.10.034.

The Art of Remembrance

9/11 Memorial and Museum: Five Facts

In August 2006, construction began on the 9/11 Memorial and Museum, designed by architect Michael Arad. A 10-year anniversary ceremony was held on September 11, 2011, and the memorial opened the next day. In May 2014, the museum opened its doors.

1. The memorial has the largest man-made waterfall in North America.

2. Architects from 63 nations participated in the memorial competition, with a total of 5,201 design submissions.

3. The names are not organized alphabetically, but placed “…next to each other in a meaningful way...family and friends together, as they had lived.” (Michael Arad)

4. The Survivor Tree, a Callery pear tree found in the rubble at Ground Zero, was severely damaged. It was sent to the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation for rehabilitation, and in 2010, it was replanted at the memorial, where it thrives.

5. The majority of the museum is underground. The entrance ramp leads 70 feet down to a large hall within the footprint of the North Tower.

The Continued Health Impacts of 9/11

The Registry’s health materials are one of our most popular sources of information. They describe symptoms and treatments for some of the 52 conditions (melanoma, sinusitis, sleep apnea) covered by the World Trade Center (WTC) Health Program.

Breast Cancer

Breast cancer is the second most common form of cancer for women, after skin cancer. Women can also get breast cancer, although such cases are rare.

World Trade Center (WTC) Health Registry studies show that breast cancer is more frequent in people exposed to the 9/11 disaster, when compared with the general population.

Breast cancer treatment may be covered by the WTC Health Program if a person has risk factors, as well as how to reduce your risk and where to get screened, visit nyc.gov/health and search for breast cancer.


In the United States, at least 200,000 cases of breast cancer are diagnosed each year.

Breast cancer is one of 52 health conditions covered by participating in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s WTC Health Program. The program provides medical monitoring and treatment for responders of the WTC disaster and related sites in New York City, Washington, DC, and Shanksville, PA. It also serves survivors who need assistance, apply at cdc.gov/wtc.

This health material is provided by the NYC Health Department WTC Health Registry. If you have questions about the Registry, email wtchr@health.nyc.gov.

If you are experiencing an emotional crisis at any time, call NYC Well at 888-NYC-WELL (888-692-9355) or visit nyc.gov/nycwell.

NYC Well is available 24/7, and in multiple languages.

In addition to preventive services such as mammograms, people with extremely dense breast tissue may also want to talk to their doctor about additional tests, such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).* A diagnosis of breast cancer can be confirmed through tissue, lab tests, and a biopsy in which tiny pieces of tissue are removed and examined under a microscope.
A Twin Towers Treasure

Jake Hass, a Colorado antiques dealer, came across what he thought were antique maps that had been thrown away. He said he was “[d]igging through the trash, grabbing all this stuff out of there, and then it started hitting me what I actually had.”

Hass then told a local news outlet in Denver that he found the original architectural blueprints of the Twin Towers complex, drawn up in the 1960s — they had been missing for almost two decades and he just found them in the trash. The plans, created by architect Joseph Solomon, were put up for sale in March 2020 by James Cummins Bookseller, a Manhattan dealer of rare books. Cummins sold the 500-plus documents for $250,000 at the New York International Antiquarian Book Fair.

Although the name of the buyer is unknown, the hope is that the plans will make their way into a museum.

The 2020 Health Survey

The 2020 health survey will continue to monitor the physical and mental health of enrollees. Your responses will allow us to continue to track the health impacts of 9/11 and identify gaps in health care. To find out why survey responses matter, meet Toby Smith, a Registry enrollee.

Mail’s Here

We welcome your letters and input! Please reach out to us at wtchreletter@health.nyc.gov.

To Whom It May Concern,

I’m one of those people who loves to know the who, what, where and why. I’ve done my own research and that led me to wonder if the Registry has any intention of working on monitoring enrollees and how they were affected by the COVID-19 outbreak?

— Demetrius P.

Need Care?

If you are a WTC Health Registry enrollee and think you may have a 9/11-related health condition, email the Registry’s Treatment Referral Program at trp@health.nyc.gov. When you reach out, one of our multilingual staff members will respond with questions about your health conditions. 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.

Resources

The federal WTC Health Program provides monitoring and treatment, including medications for physical and mental health conditions related to 9/11. Services are offered at no cost to you, no matter where you live now. Apply online at cdc.gov/wtc or call 888-982-4748 and we will mail you an application.

To find this e-newsletter in English, Simplified Chinese, Spanish and Traditional Chinese, visit nyc.gov/911health and click on the Research tab, then Publications, and select the E-newsletter drop-down to find PDFs.

Contact the WTC Health Registry’s 9/11 and Beyond e-newsletter at wtchr@health.nyc.gov.

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