

February 2019

9/11 Findings

In this issue of the World Trade Center (WTC) Health Registry's 9/11 Health E-newsletter, we look back at some highlights from this past year.

Meet Sade, a 9/11 Survivor



Sade is one of many people who survived 9/11. Sade had asthma before 9/11, but now it is much worse. Asthma is one of the many illnesses experienced by people who were exposed to dust and debris during and after 9/11. [See and hear](#) Sade's story of how 9/11 has affected her health over the years.

The Art of Remembrance

Many enrollees have channeled their 9/11 experience into art as a therapeutic way to remember.

Lady Liberty Stood Tall



Need Care?

If you're a World Trade Center Health Registry enrollee and think you may have a 9/11-related health condition, call the Registry's Treatment Referral Program at 888-WTC-7848 (888-982-7848). When you call, one of our multilingual staff members will ask you 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.

Enrollee Spotlight



Jay Alan Zimmerman

I was at a film festival panel where artists with disabilities spoke about their challenges. Someone in the audience asked how I became deaf. "I believe it's related to my exposure to the 9/11 disaster, but I really don't know," I said.

Suddenly, a woman in the audience started crying. She said, "Oh my God, I thought I was the only one who had worse hearing after 9/11."

I searched online to see if there were any other World Trade Center survivors experiencing similar hearing issues. That's when I found the World Trade Center Health Registry's website. I wanted the Registry to conduct research to help me and others. I contacted Dr. James Cone at the Registry, which led to the survivor's hearing loss study.

It wasn't always like this. As a musician, I relied on my ears. As I gradually became deaf, I was in denial.

I eventually turned to the classical musician Beethoven, who had also struggled with hearing loss. He wrote, "Let your deafness no longer be a secret even in your heart." Inspired, I took every hearing test available. Then, I asked myself what music was. I realized that the ears were only a channel that we hear through. The actual listening — to the rhythm, harmony and patterns — happens in the brain.

The memory of 9/11 is fresh, even now, almost two decades later. I'm glad that something positive came out of my experience. I have a new approach to my art. No matter what happens, there will always be music.

Billy K. is originally from New York City and, although he no longer lives there, he still feels a connection to the city. "I will never, ever forget the 343 [firefighters] who made the ultimate sacrifice [on 9/11]," he said. Billy got this memorial tattoo in San Diego, the city where Billy now lives and works as a firefighter with the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department.

Resources

The federal [World Trade Center Health Program](#), now provides monitoring and treatment, including medications, with no out-of-pocket costs for both physical and mental health conditions related to the 2001 terrorist attacks no matter where you live now. Apply online or call 888-982-4748 to have an application mailed to you.