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Post 9/11 Cancer among the World Trade Center General Responders

Potential Impact: The findings from this study may help us know which screening tests can find early stages of cancers in World Trade Center (WTC) Health Program Responders.

Research: The study looked at whether a high dose exposure to the cancer causing toxins on or after 9/11 causes more cancers among Responders in WTC Health Program. Data on cancer from WTC Responders will be linked cancer registries in New York and other state cancer registries. (Cancer registries collect data about how many people in each state have cancer). Researchers will look at how often cancer occurred among the WTC Responders compared to the general population.

Population This study looked at Responders, clean-up workers, and other workers who were in lower Manhattan in the weeks and months after 9/11. It used data from three WTC groups: FDNY, the Health Registry, and the WTC General Responders Consortium.

Findings: After 16 years from the exposure to carcinogens, an increase of cancers is observed in the three different WTC groups. For example, prostate cancer in WTC-patients is of a more aggressive type and appears at a younger age (<49 years on average) than in the non-WTC patients. A new study will create one unique WTC group where the cancer data will be studied in the same way.

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