

NEW YORK STATE | Workers' Compensation Board

WORLD TRADE CENTER CLAIMS IN THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM

THE OFFICE OF THE ADVOCATE FOR INJURED WORKERS

MAY 13, 2026

AGENDA

1. Introducing workers' compensation
2. Foundational information on World Trade Center benefits
3. World Trade Center claim data
4. Public education and outreach

NYS WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD

- State agency that administers and regulates the workers' compensation system
- Approximately 1,050 employees across 16 offices and hearing points statewide
- Receives reports of injuries, treatment, and payments
- Holds hearings when appropriate to adjudicate claims

NEW YORK STATE | Workers' Compensation Board

ADVOCATE FOR INJURED WORKERS

- **Ombudsman**; office helps workers with the most complex claims and fatalities
- Public education is the other primary focus
- Liaison to 9/11 community
- Meets with workers, labor advocates and attorneys, unions, health care providers, and employers, among others
- Reports directly to the Chair of the Board



WHO IS NOT IN THE STATE SYSTEM?

These responders have benefits in other systems, **not** the New York State workers' compensation system

- FDNY firefighters on active duty
- NYPD officers on active duty
- Uniformed NYC sanitation workers
- Federal employees
- National Guard

This is based on their employment at the time of response

WHO IS COVERED IN THE STATE SYSTEM?

These responders have benefits in the New York State workers' compensation system for rescue, recovery and clean-up work

- **Employees** who performed according to the criteria — covered by insurance or self-insurance
- **Volunteers** who performed according to the criteria — covered by the Volunteer Fund at the Board

This is based on their status at the time of their response

WTC-12 PRESERVES THE RIGHT TO FILE A CLAIM

- Rescue, recovery and clean-up workers who fit the criteria for location and dates should file a ***WTC-12*** with the NYS Workers' Compensation Board
- This extends your right to file a claim, if you need one, for the rest of your life, rather than two years after incident in all other claims
- **By law, the Board must receive the original, signed paper copy by 9/11/2026 – no emails, faxes, or postmarks for later delivery**
- Notarization is no longer required

WHO SHOULD FILE A WTC-12?

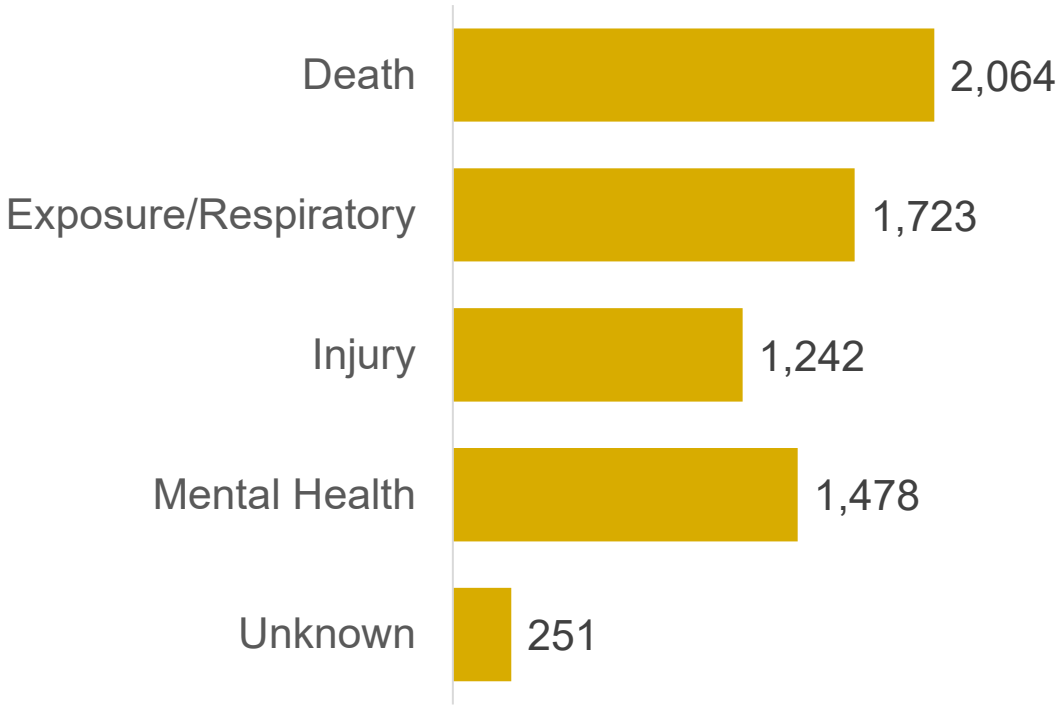
- Employees (and volunteers) who were part of the NYS workers' compensation system at that time
- These responders performed rescue, recovery and clean-up
- For service between 9/11/2001 and 9/12/2002
- For service at these locations
  - South of Canal Street to the tip of Manhattan
  - At Fresh Kills Landfill on Staten Island
  - On the barges
  - On the piers
  - At the morgues



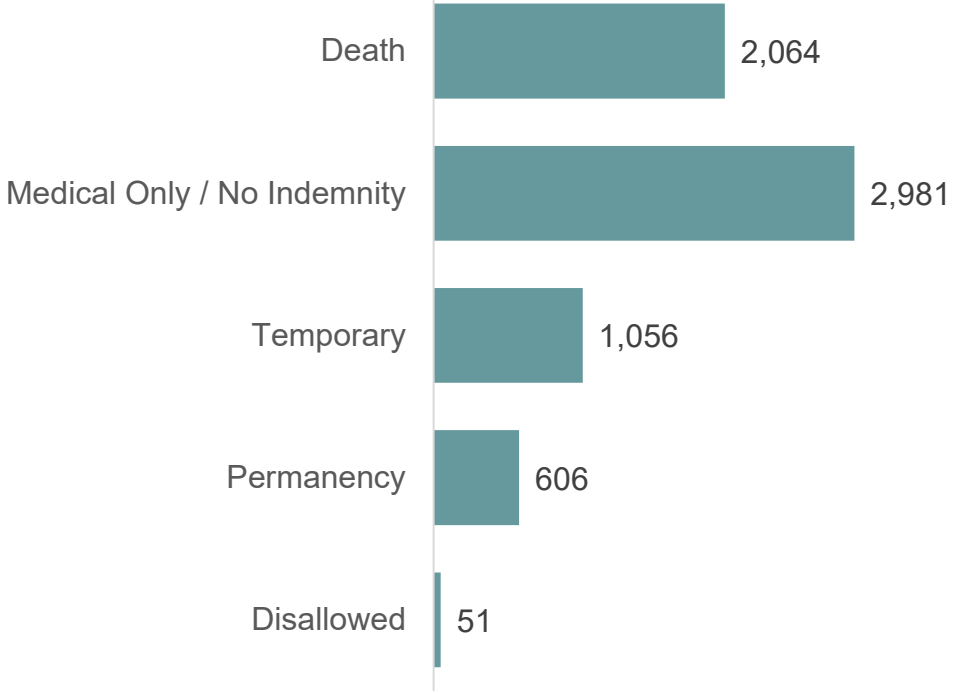
CLAIM DATA: VICTIMS OF THE ATTACKS

A total of 6,758 claims resulted from the direct attacks

Injury Type



Benefit Type



CLAIM DATA: RESCUE, RECOVERY & CLEAN-UP

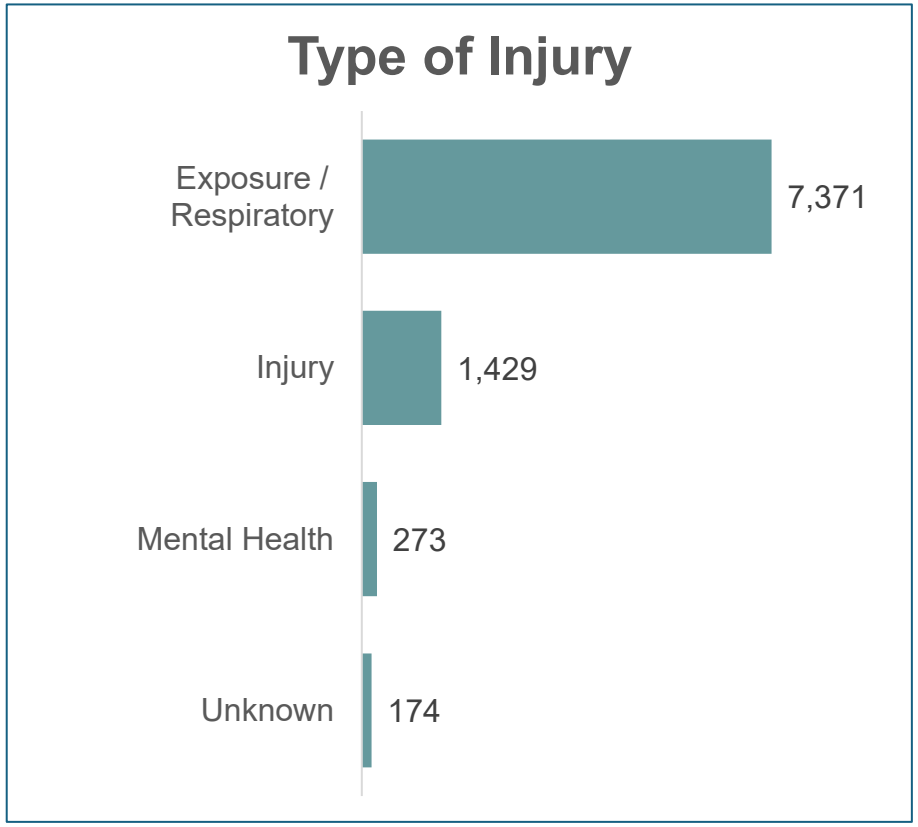
11,645 responders filed a workers' compensation claim due to illness or injury resulting from rescue, recovery and clean-up

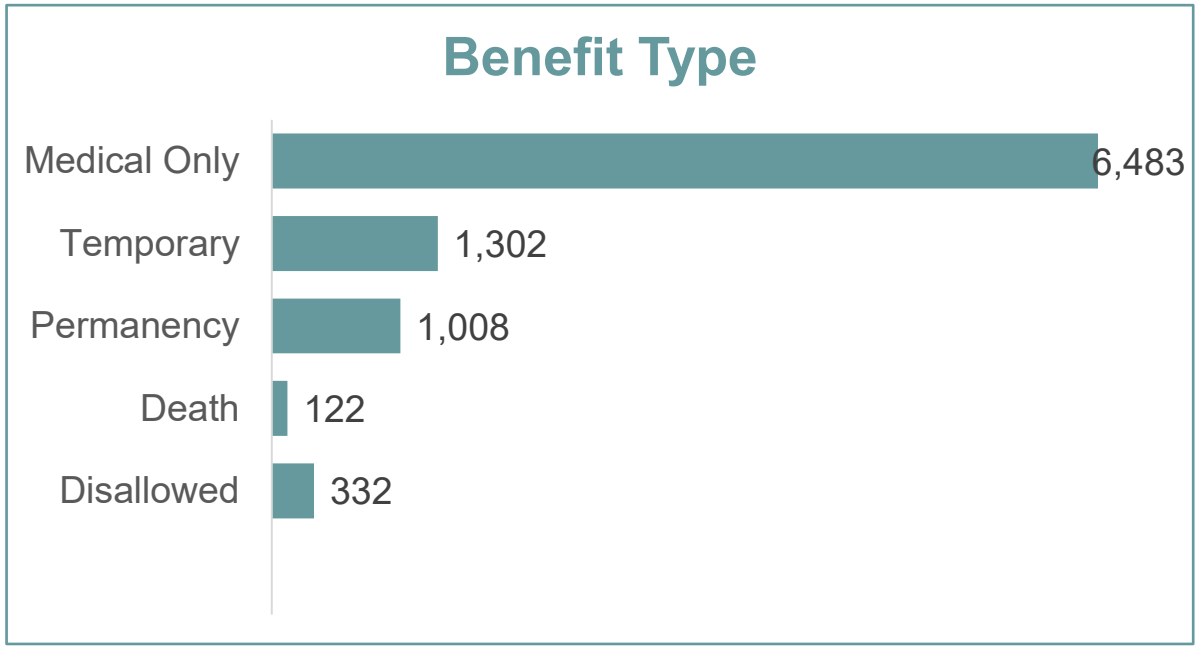


- Of those, **9,247** are from paid and/or insured workers
- Of those, **2,394** are from volunteers covered by the Volunteer Fund
- There are four new claims of indeterminate nature

CLAIM DATA: RESCUE, RECOVERY & CLEAN-UP

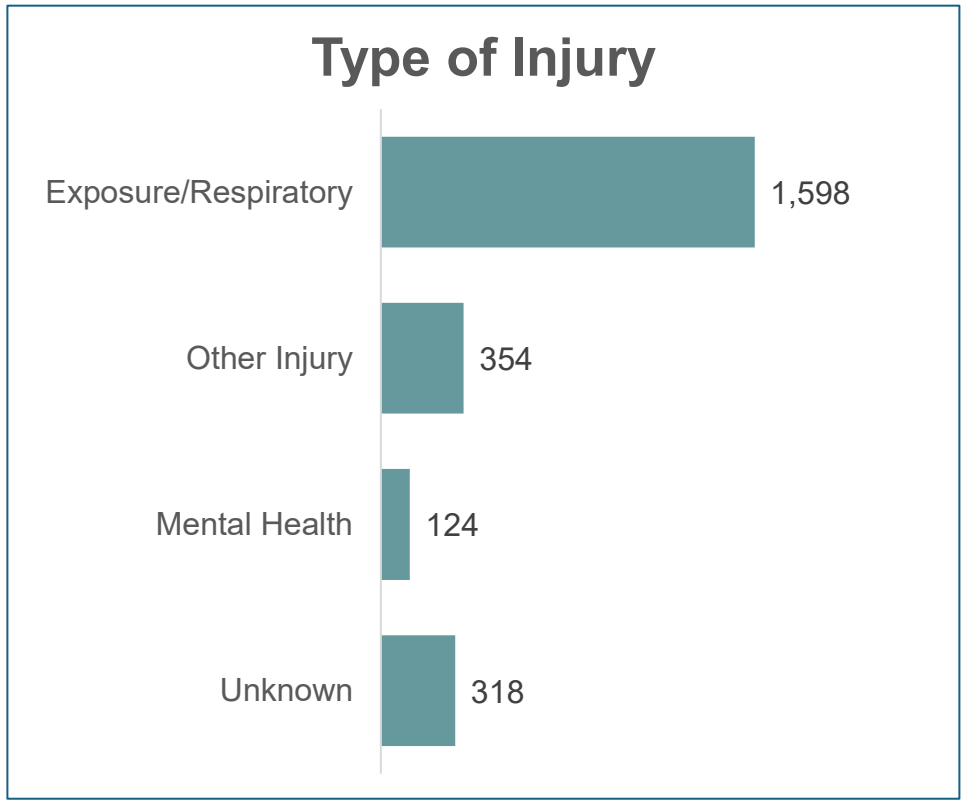
In the 9,247 claims filed by paid and/or insured workers

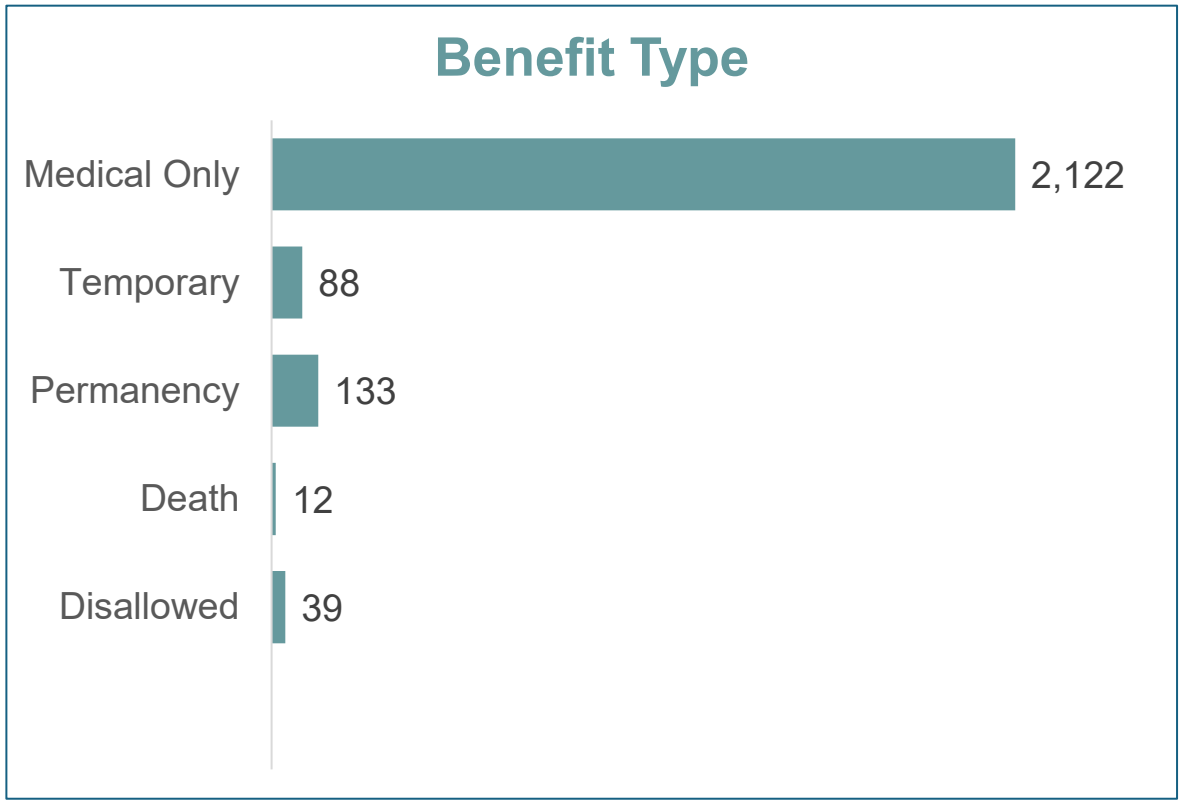




CLAIM DATA: RESCUE, RECOVERY & CLEAN-UP

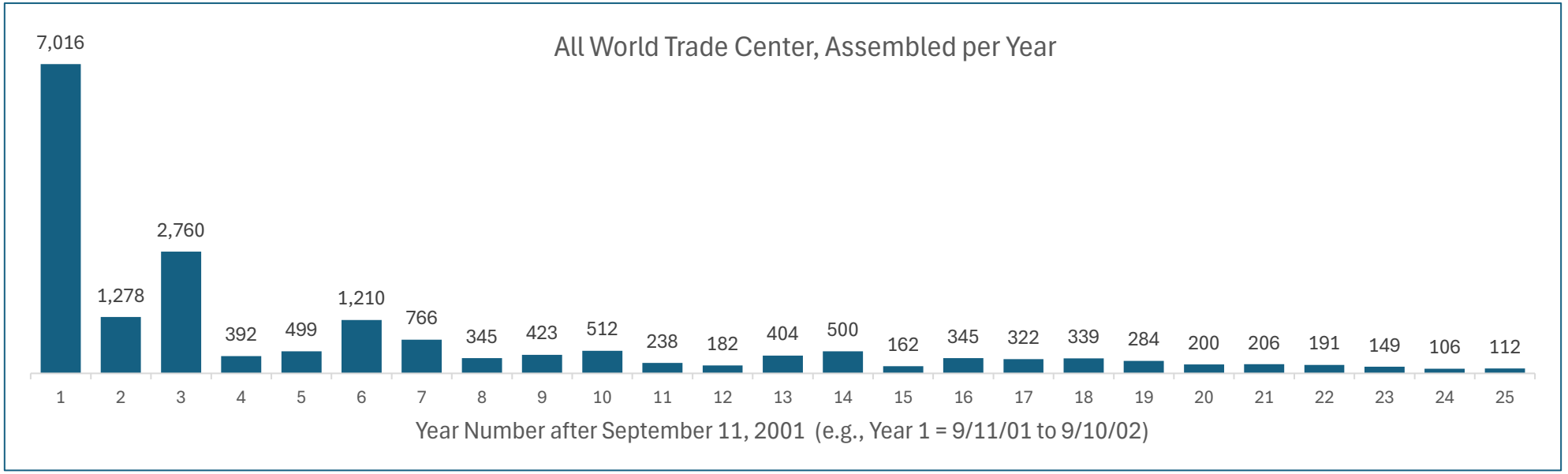
In the 2,394 claims filed by volunteers





CLAIM DATA: WHEN CLAIMS WERE ASSEMBLED - ALL

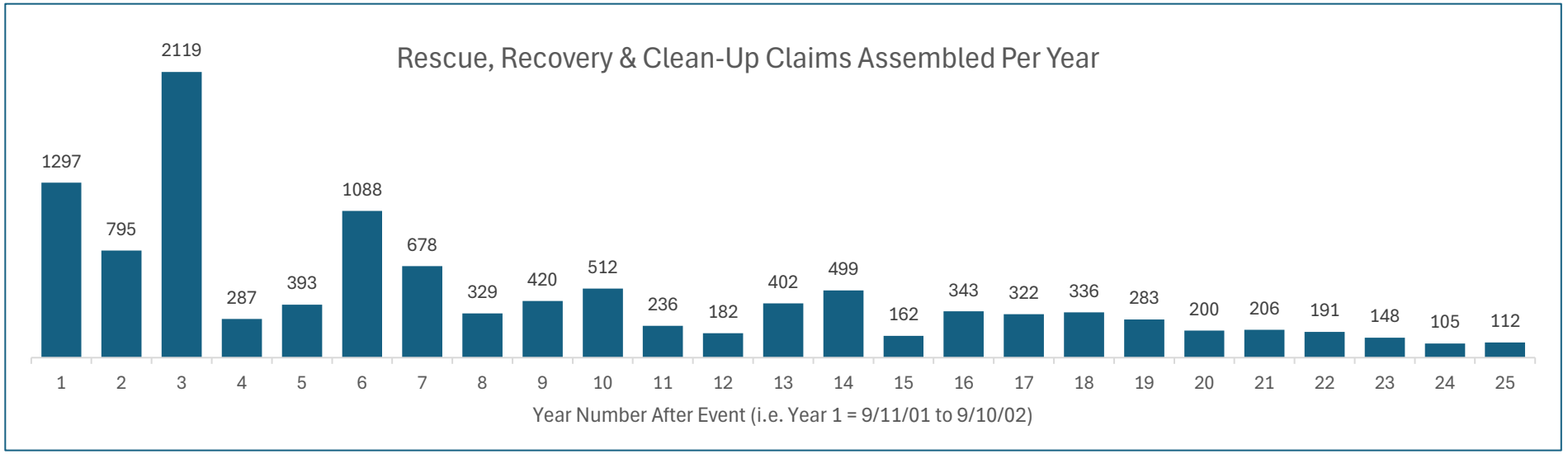
When all the **18,938** claims were assembled, by year, beginning 9/11/2001 – 9/10/02



- A **total** of **18,938** World Trade Center claims were assembled (includes anomalies)
- During Year 1 (9/11/01 to 9/10/02), a total of **7,016** claims were assembled
- Since 2010, all but **13** of the claims are for RRCU workers

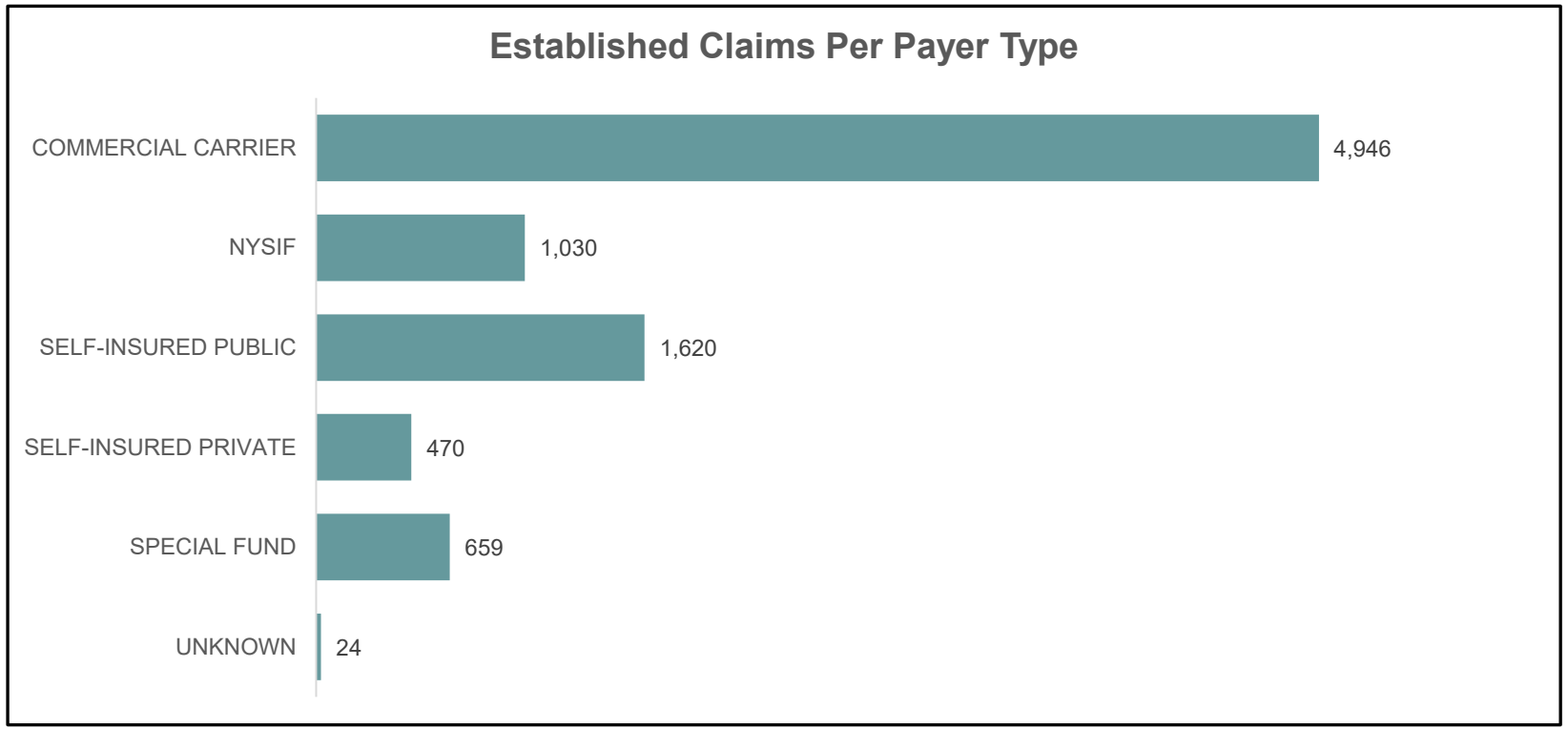
CLAIM DATA: WHEN ASSEMBLED - RRCU ONLY

The **11,645** rescue, recovery and clean-up worker claims assembled by year, beginning 9/11/2001 – 9/10/02



- A total of **11,645** claims were from rescue, recovery & clean-up workers
- On average, **170** claims per year were assembled over Years 20 to 24
- Year 25 (9/11/2025 to 9/10/2026) is on pace to exceed this recent average

CLAIM DATA: INSURERS OF RRCU WORKERS



COMMERCIAL	56.5%
NYSIF	11.7%
S-I PUBLIC	18.5%
S-I PRIVATE	5.3%
SPEC FUND	7.5%
UNKNOWN	2.7%

CLAIM DATA: WTC-12s FILED

Responders who file a *Form WTC-12 are saying they were there, as well as preserving their right to then file a claim due to illness or injury**

- **40,545** unique *WTC-12* forms are on file without a resulting claim
- This means 40,545 individual responders who said they were there have not filed claims to date with the Board
- Another **8,923** *WTC-12* forms are in claim folders
- This means 8,923 responders preserved their filing rights by filing claims using a *Form WTC-12*

**Registration of Participation in World Trade Center Rescue, Recovery and/or Cleanup Operations: Sworn Statement Pursuant to WCL §162 (Form WTC-12)*

CLAIM DATA: GRAND TOTALS, RRCU

The total number of responders on file with the Board is 52,190

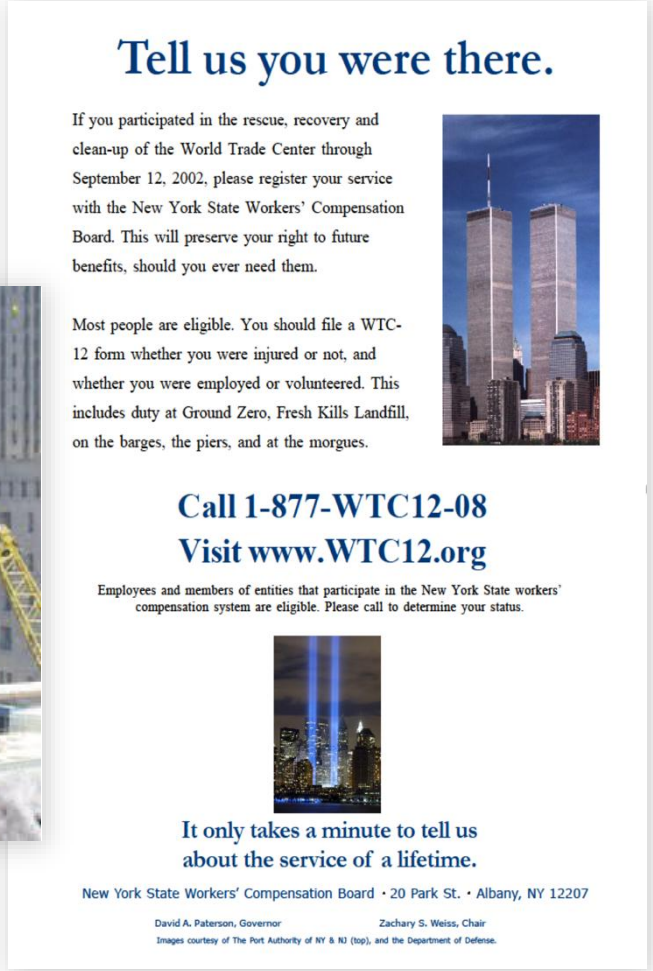


- The Board has **11,645** rescue, recovery and clean-up worker claims
- The Board has **40,545** *WTC-12* forms from other rescue, recovery and clean-up workers on file
- Therefore, the Board has filings from **52,190** responders in total

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

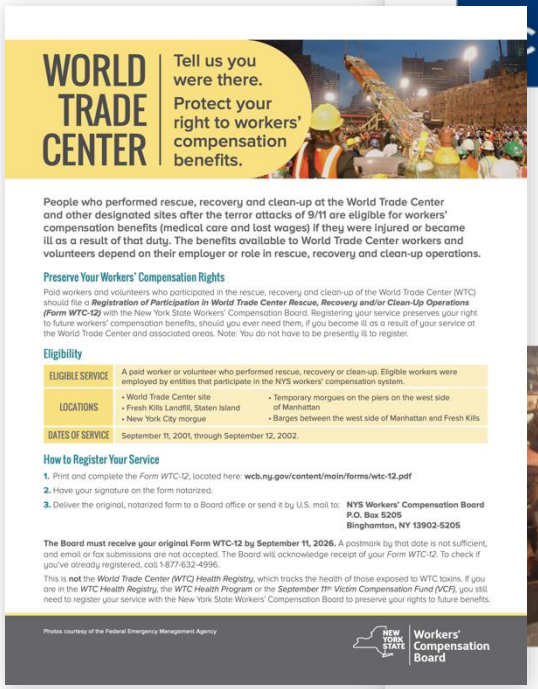
- The Board ran the national ***Tell Us You Were There*** campaign in 2008 to promote filing the *Form WTC-12*
- Along with print and PR, former Yankee **Bernie Williams** did television and radio spots in English and Spanish
- Filings increased by **700%**
- New statewide campaigns ran again in 2010, 2014, and 2018





PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION (cont'd)

- The Board published two research reports on claims, as well as fact sheets
- Board staff are recognized in the Well of the Legislature for 9/11 service
- Partnerships proliferate; outreach has been performed with state, federal and local partners, as well as unions, advocates and institutions
- Events are planned and occurring now, including just last week


WORLD TRADE CENTER

Tell us you were there.

Protect your right to workers' compensation benefits.

People who performed rescue, recovery and clean-up at the World Trade Center and other designated sites after the terror attacks of 9/11 are eligible for workers' compensation benefits (medical care and lost wages) if they were injured or became ill as a result of that duty. The benefits available to World Trade Center workers and volunteers depend on their employer or role in rescue, recovery and clean-up operations.

Preserve Your Workers' Compensation Rights

Paid workers and volunteers who participated in the rescue, recovery and clean-up of the World Trade Center (WTC) should file a ***Registration of Participation in World Trade Center Rescue, Recovery and/or Clean-Up Operations (Form WTC-12)*** with the New York State Workers' Compensation Board. Registering your service preserves your right to future workers' compensation benefits, should you ever need them, if you become ill as a result of your service at the World Trade Center and associated areas. Note: You do not have to be presently ill to register.

Eligibility

ELIGIBLE SERVICE	A paid worker or volunteer who performed rescue, recovery or clean-up. Eligible workers were employed by entities that participate in the NYS workers' compensation system.
LOCATIONS	• World Trade Center site • Fresh Kills Landfill, Staten Island • New York City morgue • Temporary morgues on the piers on the west side of Manhattan • Barges between the west side of Manhattan and Fresh Kills
DATES OF SERVICE	September 11, 2001, through September 12, 2002.

How to Register Your Service

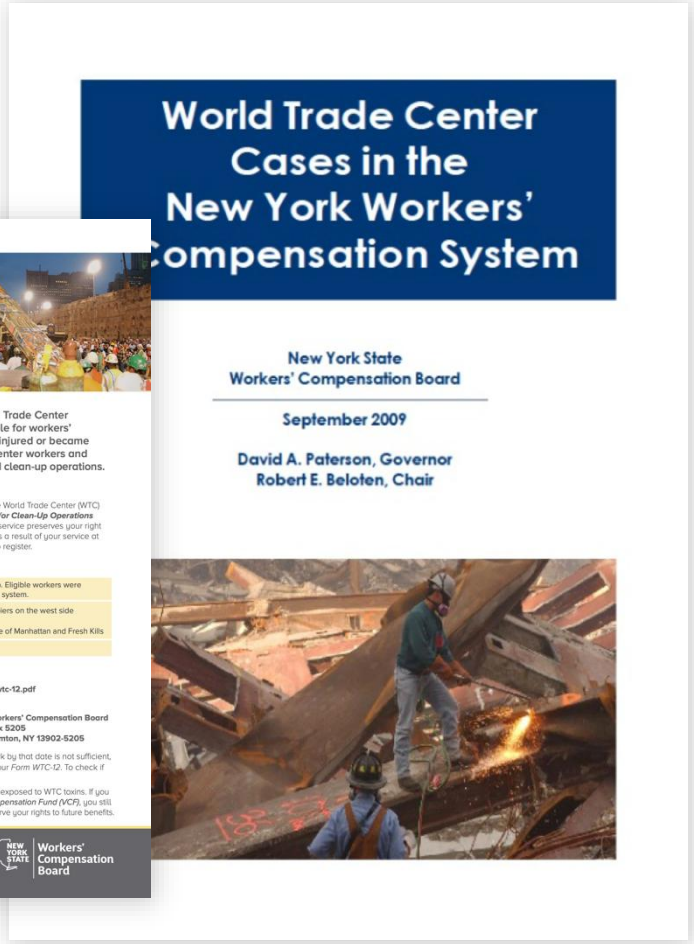
1. Print and complete the *Form WTC-12*, located here: **wcb.ny.gov/content/main/forms/wtc-12.pdf**
2. Have your signature on the form notarized.
3. Deliver the original, notarized form to a Board office or send it by U.S. mail to: **NYS Workers' Compensation Board P.O. Box 5205 Binghamton, NY 13902-5205**

The Board must receive your original Form WTC-12 by September 11, 2026. A postmark by that date is not sufficient, and email or fax submissions are not accepted. The Board will acknowledge receipt of your *Form WTC-12*. To check if you've already registered, call 1-877-632-4996.

This is **not** the *World Trade Center (WTC) Health Registry*, which tracks the health of those exposed to WTC toxins. If you are in the *WTC Health Registry*, the *WTC Health Program* or the *September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (VCF)*, you still need to register your service with the New York State Workers' Compensation Board to preserve your rights to future benefits.

Photos courtesy of the Federal Emergency Management Agency

NEW YORK STATE | Workers' Compensation Board


World Trade Center Cases in the New York Workers' Compensation System

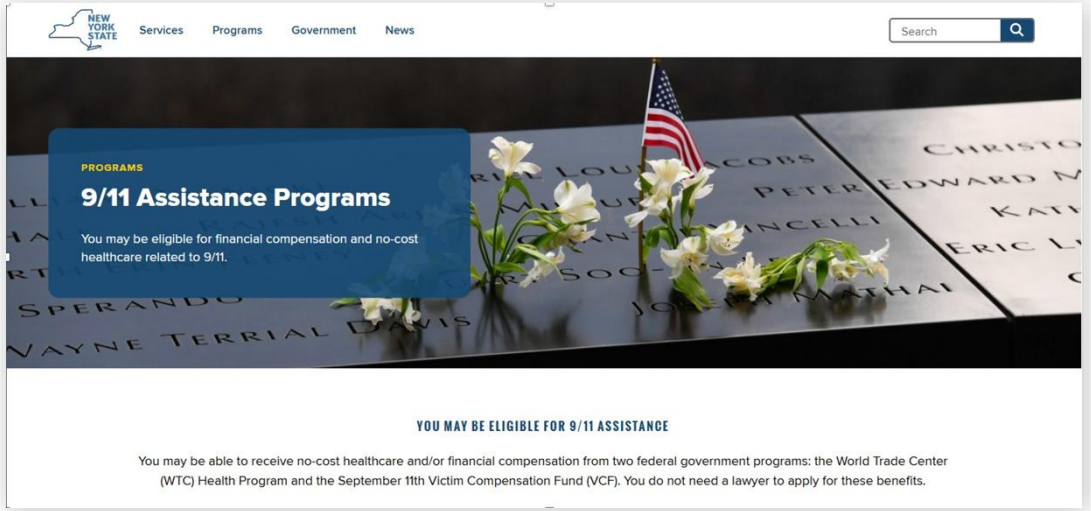
New York State
Workers' Compensation Board

September 2009

David A. Paterson, Governor
Robert E. Beloten, Chair

NEW YORK STATE AND FEDERAL SUPPORT

- The State of New York remembers — The Advocate covers World Trade Center in all public education
- Employers must make eligible employees aware of the federal supports
- The **September 11th Victim Compensation Fund** compensates responders and survivors for physical illnesses or deaths
- The **World Trade Center Health Program** provides no-cost medical monitoring and treatment to eligible responders and survivors



MORE INFORMATION
ADVOCATE FOR INJURED WORKERS

HELPLINE: (877) 632-4996

EMAIL: AdvInjWkr@wcb.ny.gov

WEBSITE: wcb.ny.gov/afiw

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THANK YOU

QUESTIONS?

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