

SECTION 4

FDNY RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY DATA

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343 flag-bearing FDNY members proudly march up 5th Avenue, passing the Metropolitan Museum of Art in the March 17, 2002, St. Patrick's Day Parade.



FDNY RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY DATA

SECTION 4

In the 2 years following 9/11/01, there was an unprecedented number of FDNY Firefighter retirements.

FDNY Retirements and Years of Service

DATE	EMS	FIRE	FIRE (>20 YRS.)	FIRE (>20 YRS.) Percent
9/11/99 to 9/10/00	250	534	356	67
9/11/00 to 9/10/01	269	554	352	64
9/11/01 to 9/10/02	157	1216	755	62
9/11/02 to 9/10/03	199	1201	866	72
9/11/03 to 9/10/04	139	573	318	55
9/11/04 to 9/10/05	136	603	265	44
9/11/05 to 9/10/06	108	621	315	51

In years pre-9/11 (9/11/99 to 9/10/01), there was an average of 544 annual Firefighter retirements. In the first two years post-WTC, 1216 and 1201 Firefighters retired annually. In the next three years, the average number of retirees returned to pre-WTC values and the work force now is younger with fewer members having 20 or more years of service. One third of the work force retired between 9/11/01 and 9/10/06. The number of EMS retirements has not increased after 9/11/01.

Exposed retirees may represent the most severely

affected of the more than 1500 Firefighters diagnosed with respiratory disease. From 2002-2006, 728 members qualified for permanent disability benefits under the "Lung Bill." Many of those who retired were our senior and most respected members. These figures also highlight the need to continue our outreach to FDNY retired rescue workers to make certain they continue in our medical monitoring and treatment programs. Only with early diagnosis and treatment can we hope to reduce the potential long-term impact of this exposure in later retirement years.

The traumatic events of 9/11 affected both the physical and mental health of our members. This resulted in an unprecedented number of Firefighter retirements in the two years following 9/11, as well as an increased number of disability pensions granted by the FDNY.



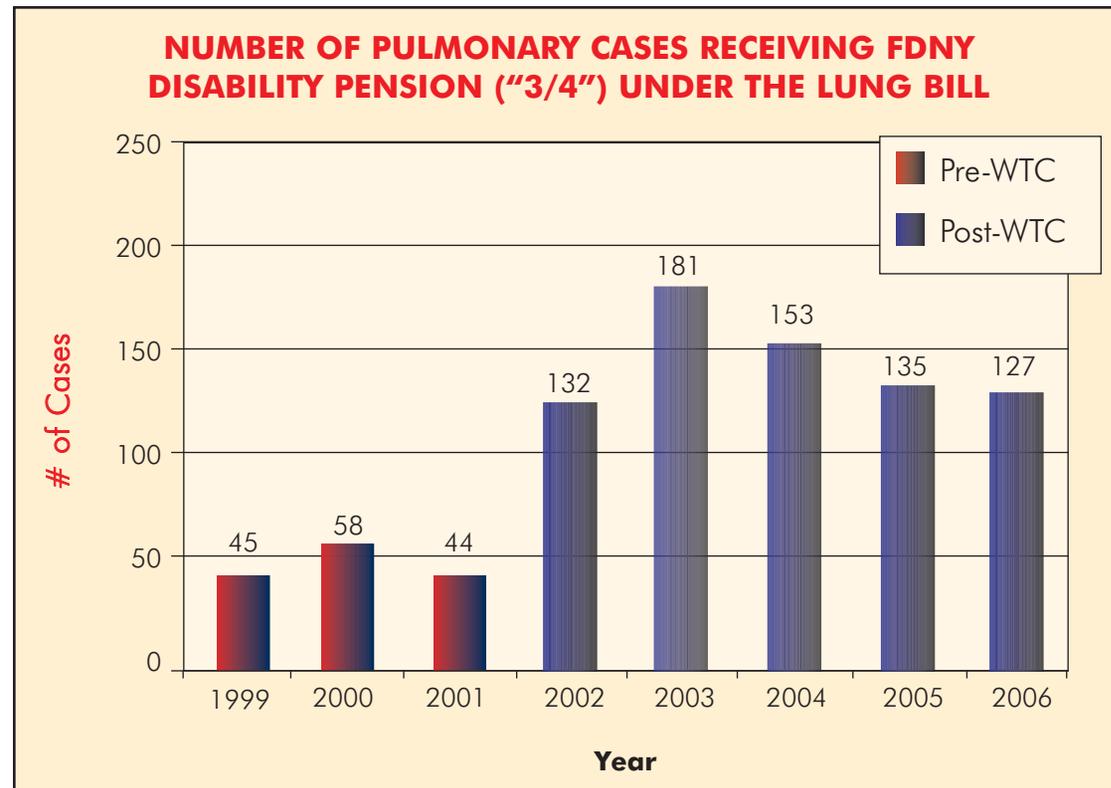
Pre-WTC

➤ An average of 49 FDNY Firefighters and Fire Officers collect disability pensions for lung problems annually

Post-WTC

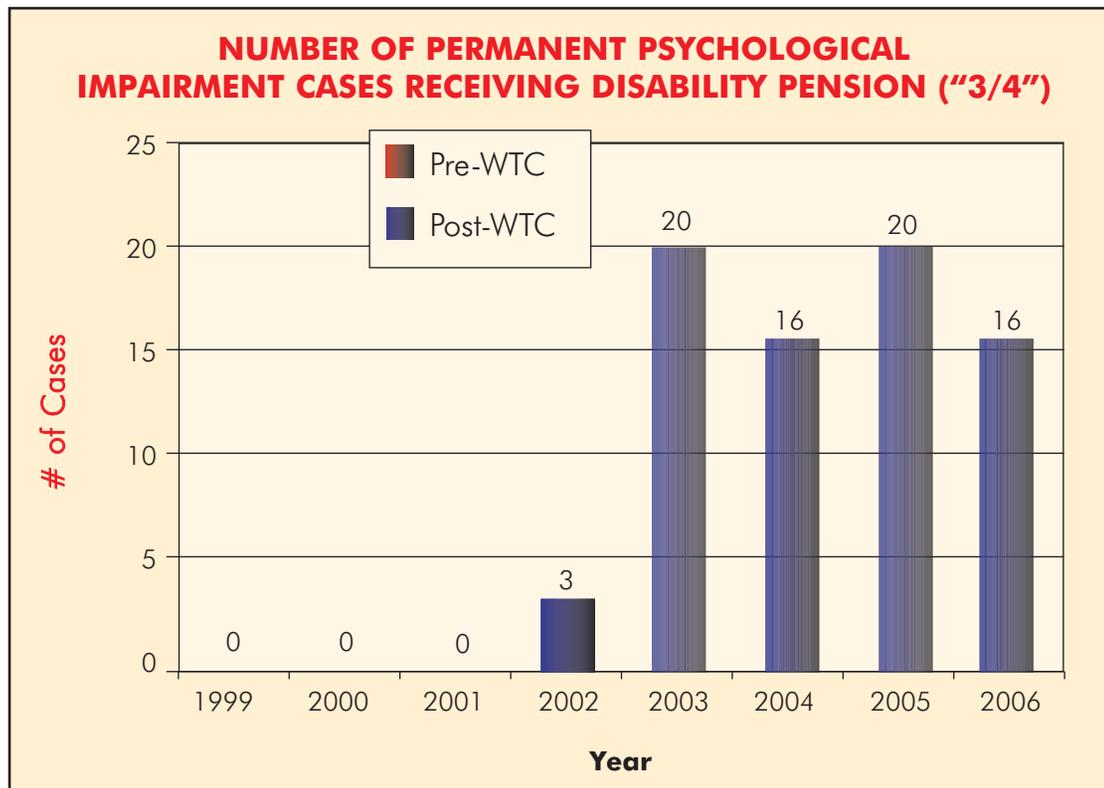
➤ An average of 146 FDNY Firefighters and Fire Officers collect disability pensions for lung problems annually

The persistent increase in disability pensions granted under the Lung Bill reflects WTC exposure and related disease.¹



Due to the nature of the profession, Firefighters inevitably are exposed to smoke and potentially at risk for severe respiratory problems. Long before the WTC attacks, Firefighters have had to turn to the FDNY disability pension system when lung problems interfered with occupational demands. The provisions of the Lung Bill recognize the hazards of firefighting, with its recurrent exposures despite protective gear and SCBA. This system provides disability pensions only after a rigorous, objective evaluation of pulmonary function. The dramatic increase noted above after 2001 is strongly tied to the WTC-related respiratory symptoms and loss of pulmonary function described previously. From 2002 to 2006, 728 members qualified for permanent disability benefits under the Lung Bill.

In this resilient population, certain members developed permanent psychological impairments and were granted service-connected disability pensions for these problems.²



With rare exceptions, FDNY did not provide disability pensions for stress-related cases until after the events of 9/11/01. This began in acknowledgement of the harrowing events experienced by FDNY-WTC Firefighters and Fire Officers, including the loss of friends and coworkers and personally witnessing vast amounts of death and destruction. From 2002 to 2006, 75 members qualified for permanent disability benefits due to psychological impairment.

Pre-WTC

- No cases of permanent psychological impairment received disability pension

Post-WTC

- An average of 15 annual permanent psychological impairment cases receive disability pension

² Data analysis collected from FDNY Fire pension records.

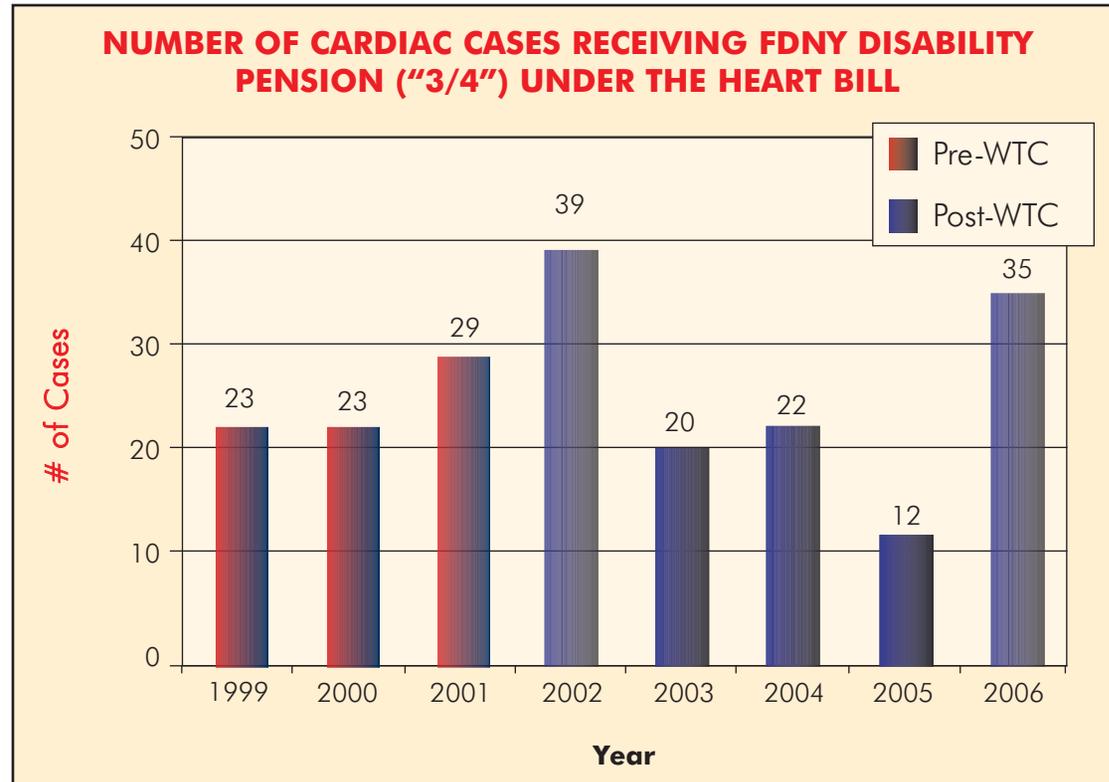
Pre-WTC

➤ An average of 25 FDNY Firefighters and Fire Officers collect disability pensions for cardiac problems annually

Post-WTC

➤ An average of 26 FDNY Firefighters and Fire Officers collect disability pensions for cardiac problems annually

Following the WTC attacks, the average number of cardiac cases receiving FDNY disability pension under the Heart Bill has remained unchanged, but there were spikes in years 2002 and 2006 that we are studying more closely.³



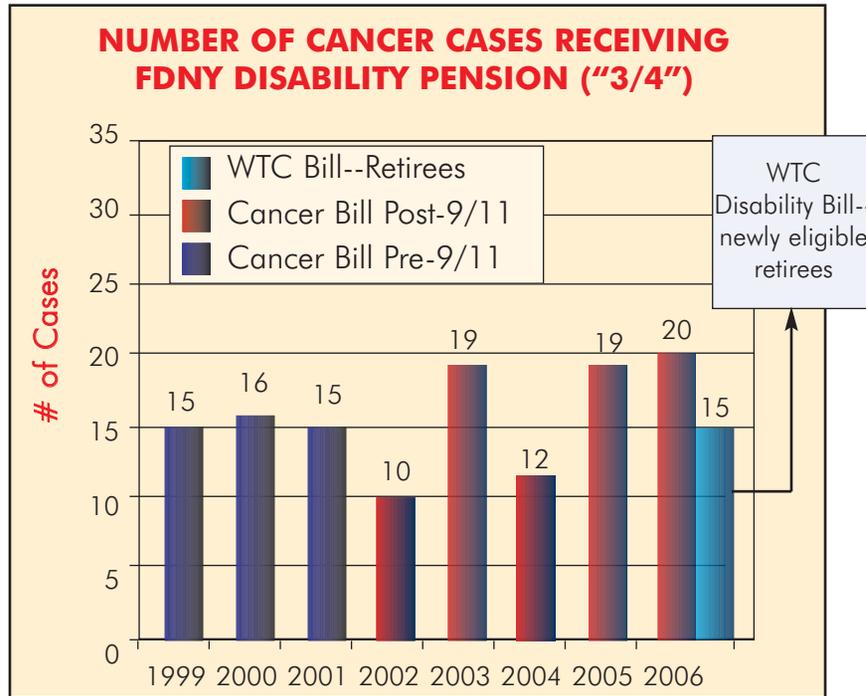
Under the provisions of the Heart Bill, FDNY disability pensions are granted only for coronary artery disease. Members with other cardiac illness, such as cardiomyopathy and cardiac rhythm problems, currently do not fall under the provisions of the Heart Bill. WTC monitoring will continue to evaluate members to look for patterns of cardiac health after this exposure. At periodic medical evaluations, FDNY-BHS continues to stress efforts to modify cardiac risk factors (obesity, sedentary lifestyles, elevated cholesterol levels, smoking, etc.). In 2002, there was a spike in numbers, with a return to pre-WTC levels in 2003-2004. Members with known cardiac problems may have deferred retirement for one year to help with the rescue and recovery effort post-WTC. Numbers decreased in 2005 and then increased in 2006. We continue to study this issue.

FDNY-BHS is closely monitoring late onset diseases, such as cancers, to look for emerging patterns post-WTC.⁴

The Cancer Bill (1994) is a presumptive bill that was enacted in recognition of Firefighters' daily occupational exposures to known carcinogens. The WTC Bill (June 2005) is also a presumptive bill that was enacted in recognition of WTC exposures and encompasses many ailments, including disabilities related to the lungs, upper respiratory system and cancer. The Cancer Bill is available only to active members who have a disabling cancer. The WTC Bill is available to any active or retired FDNY member who was on active duty during the rescue and recovery effort and then developed a covered disabling condition. In 2006, Firefighters first became eligible for the WTC Bill.

The number of members retiring due to cancer has been high for a work force this size, both pre- and post-9/11/01, reflecting the exposures to smoke and toxins consistently experienced by our members. In 2006, there was a marked increase in the number of pensions granted due to cancer; however, this is the first year of broadened eligibility due to the WTC Bill and a significant portion of the increase appears to be due to previously ineligible retirees who now are eligible. Of the 15 WTC Bill cancer pensions granted in 2006, more than two-thirds were awarded to retired members seeking reclassification of their retirement status. Before 2006, these reclassifications were not possible and cancers among retirees were not tracked. Very recently, these data have become available to us (June 2007) and it is too soon to comment on patterns or types of cancers. We are in the process of intensive investigation and will continue to obtain information from active members and retirees before finalizing our statistical analyses. A full report will be forthcoming in the near future.

Cancer is a late-emerging disease that may take years or even decades to manifest in an individual, highlighting the need for FDNY rescue workers to continue in this monitoring program. This is especially true of our retired members, who--until now--we have had no way to monitor following prior exposures. The federal funding provided for the FDNY WTC Program has created the opportunity for retired members to continue their monitoring for late-emerging diseases. This is the only way we can determine if cancer post-WTC has increased and the only way to provide early diagnoses, which can improve outcomes. Also, for those few who smoke, we highly recommend participation in our free WTC Tobacco Cessation program to reduce future additional carcinogenic exposures. In prior environmental/occupational disasters, the highest cancer rates have been in smokers.



Pre-WTC

- An average of 15 FDNY Firefighters and Fire Officers collect disability pensions due to cancer annually

Post-WTC

- An average of 16 FDNY Firefighters and Fire Officers collect disability pensions due to cancer annually
- In 2006, there were an additional 15 cases due to newly eligible retirees under the WTC Bill

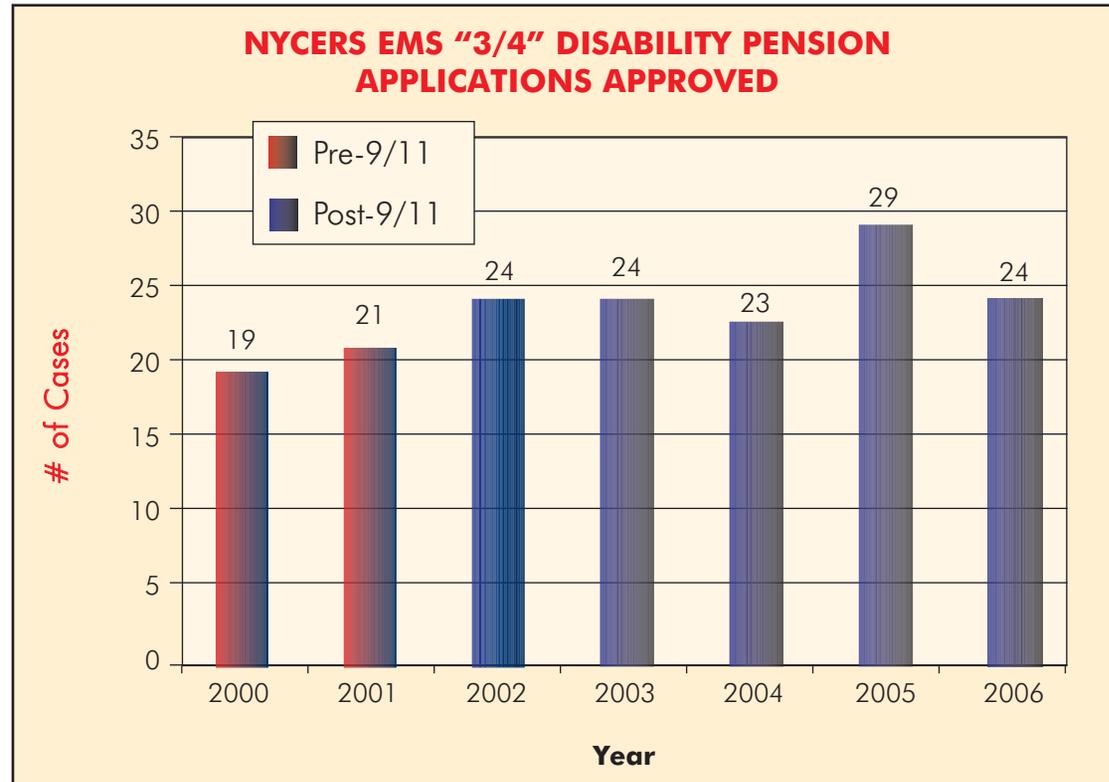
⁴Data analysis collected from FDNY Fire pension records.

Pre-WTC

➤ An average of 20 EMS personnel collect “3/4” disability pensions annually

Post-WTC

➤ An average of 25 EMS personnel collect “3/4” disability pensions annually. 9 EMS personnel collect “3/4” disability pensions under the WTC Bill



EMS personnel collect disability pensions through New York City Employees’ Retirement System (NYCERS). Like the FDNY system for Firefighters, disability pensions for EMS personnel are approved only after rigorous, objective health evaluations have been reviewed by an independent board. The numbers in the above graph include disability pensions collected for respiratory ailments, permanent psychological impairment and disabling cancers, as well as pensions collected under the Heart Bill and, beginning in 2006, the WTC Bill. Prior to 2006, disability pensions from WTC-related injuries and illnesses were not distinguished from non-WTC causes. Between 1/1/06 and 7/30/07, 9 EMS personnel were granted pensions under the WTC Bill. NYCERS could not provide us with diagnoses due to confidentiality issues, but of these 9 cases, FDNY-BHS had diagnosed 4 with asthma, 2 with sarcoidosis, 1 with cancer, 1 with PTSD and 1 with both asthma and PTSD.