



National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences  
*Your Environment. Your Health.*



# NIH Disaster Research Response (DR2) Program

# Regardless of the Disaster: Research is Vital!





*“Timely research is critical to prevent injury & illness and support recovery”*  
Lurie, Manolio, Patterson, Collins, Frieden. NEJM Mar 2013

Exposures /  
Stressors

Health Risks  
& Effects

**Recurrent  
Critical Research  
Needs**

Value of  
Interventions

Ecosystem  
Effects

# Need for Public Health & Earth Sciences Research

- **Is it safe?**

- For whom, what, when, and where
- Longer-term physical & mental health impacts
- Safety of homes, residences, work places

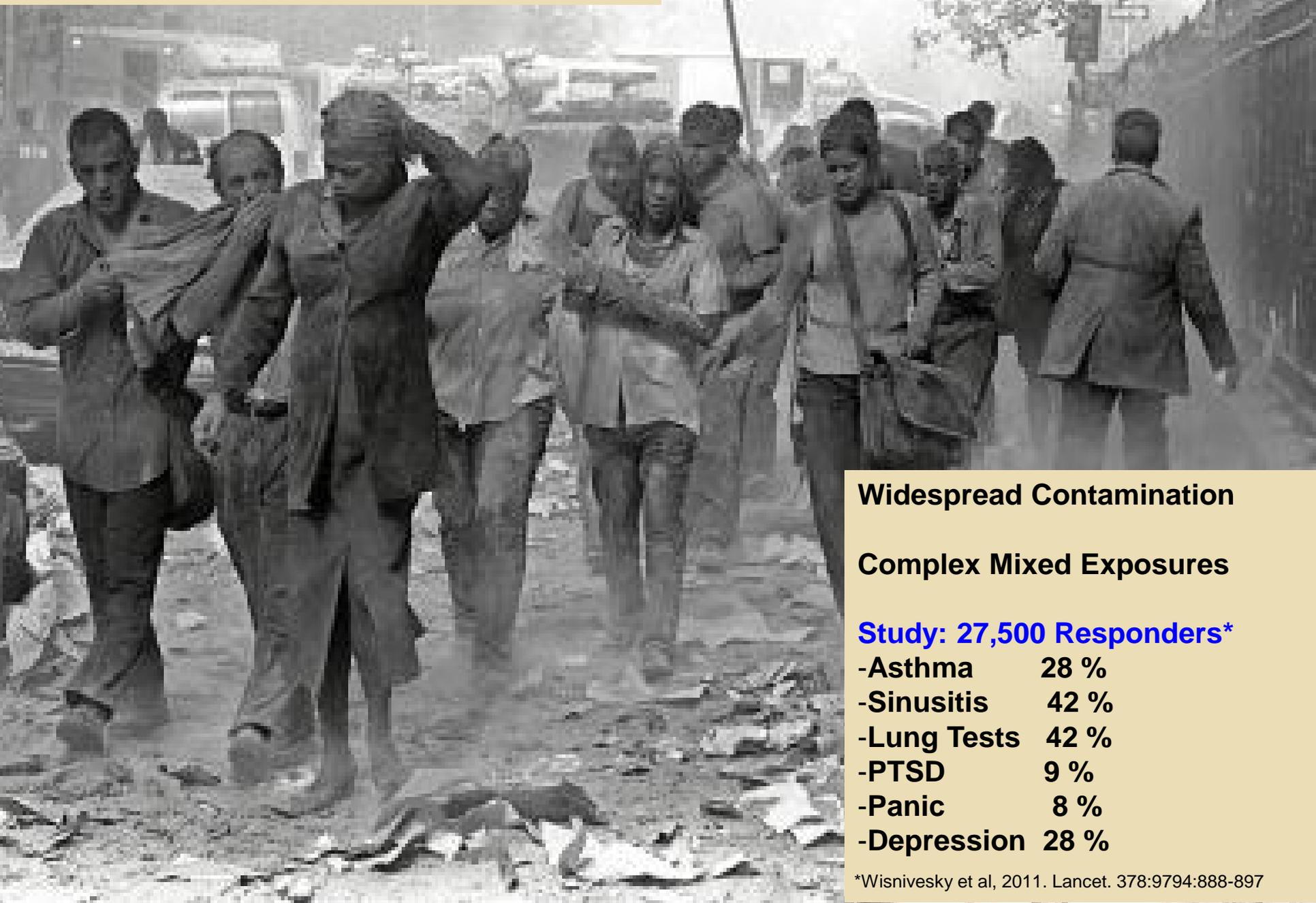


- **Did our strategies work?**

- Protect the public for the long-term
- Restore the environment
- Improve preparedness & recovery



# World Trade Center 9/11/01



**Widespread Contamination**

**Complex Mixed Exposures**

**Study: 27,500 Responders\***

- Asthma 28 %
- Sinusitis 42 %
- Lung Tests 42 %
- PTSD 9 %
- Panic 8 %
- Depression 28 %

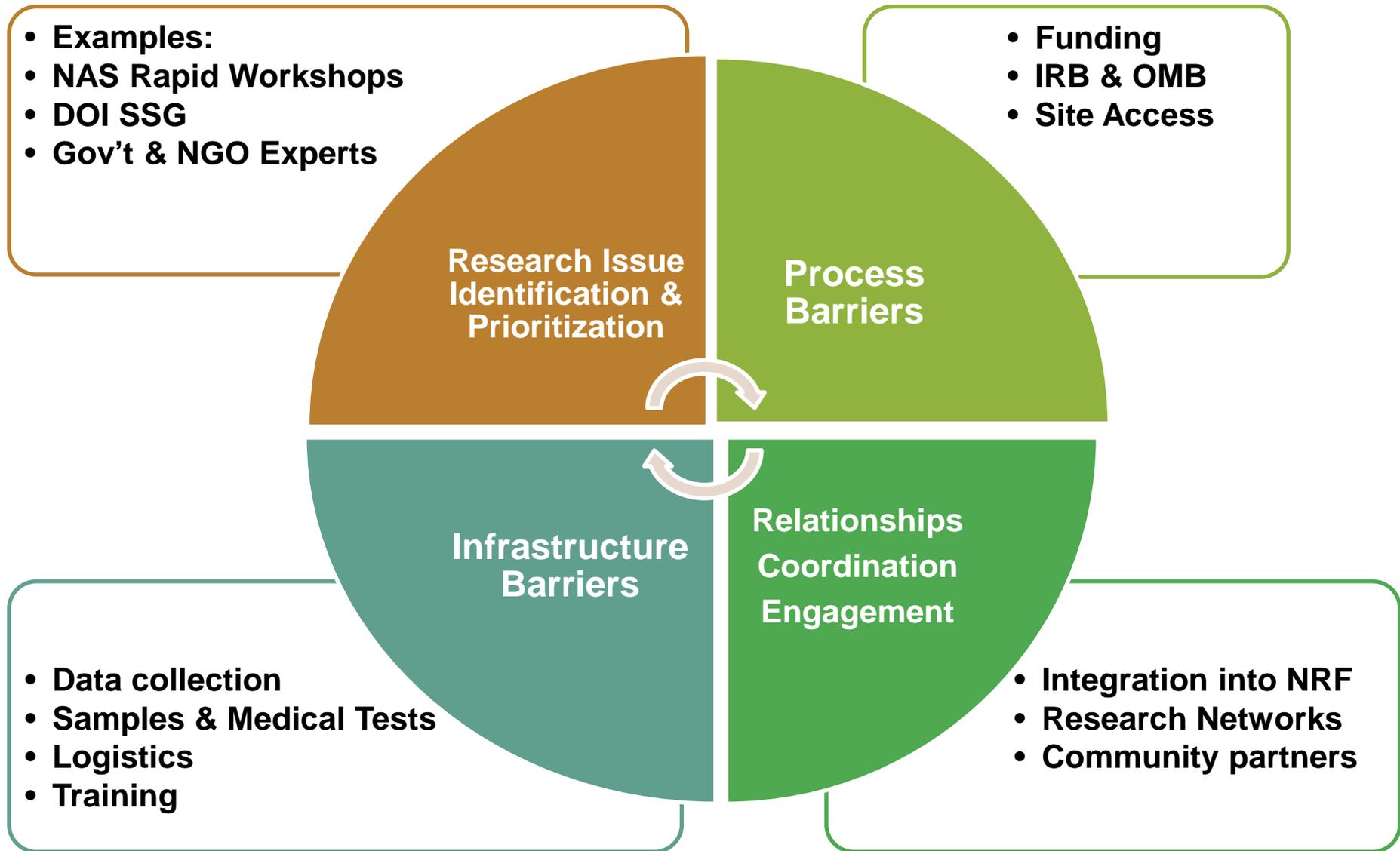
\*Wisnivesky et al, 2011. Lancet. 378:9794:888-897



# NIH Disaster Research Response (DR2) Project

## Objectives

1. Identification of important research questions and priorities
2. Improved access to data collection tools for researchers
3. Improved NIEHS & partner capability to quickly collect data
4. Trained researchers versed in disaster tools and issues
5. Integration into planning and emergency response systems
6. Research process including public health, academia, and impacted workers and communities





# NIH Disaster Research Response Program

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services www.hhs.gov

**NIH Disaster Research Response** National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences  
U.S. National Library of Medicine

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**Tools & Resources**

A searchable database of federally reviewed research tools including surveys, questionnaires, clinical forms, etc., meant to help establish baselines and cohorts for research following disasters. [Click for more](#)

**Find Tools & Resources**



**Training & Exercises**

Training and Exercise materials designed and utilized to prepare scientists to conduct research in the post-disaster field environment. Materials are now available for nationwide researcher and disaster planner use.

**Learn More**



**Protocols**

An NIH initiative to develop pre-approved research study protocols and research design templates. These tools will be available for use in the planning and rapid implementation of time-sensitive data collection and research after a disaster. Research study protocols will undergo IRB and OMB review and approval for immediate use after an event.

**Learn More**



**Networks**

The Environmental Health Science Disaster Research Network is a new group consisting of NIEHS-sponsored research centers, grantees, and academic partners interested in facilitating improved national research capabilities and responding to environmental emergencies and disasters.

**Learn More**



**Collaboration & Projects**

Information on initiatives to advance disaster research capabilities across the federal government including:

- ▶ HHS Science Preparedness Research Intra-agency Team (SPIRIT)
- ▶ The NIOSH Disaster Science Research Initiative to Enhance Responder Safety & Health
- ▶ Intra-NIH Disaster Interest Group (I-DIG)

**Learn More**



**News & Events**

Click for a full list of upcoming Disaster Research Response (DR2) events as well as summaries and archived materials from past events.

Next Event: Interagency Federal Partners meeting: January 16, 2015, 1:00 p.m., Natcher Center, Room D, NIH, Bethesda, MD

**Learn More**

**New**

**Tools & Resources**

**Training & Exercises**

**Protocols**

**Networks**

**Collaborations & Projects**

**News & Events**

<http://dr2.nlm.nih.gov>

Metadata | Permanence level: Permanence Not Guaranteed

# Research Responder Training & Education

- **Training & Education** “those involved in research/data collection”
  1. National response plans and HHS mechanisms
  2. Training to use DR2 and other data collections tools, protocols, etc.
  3. Site/Situation Specific Health and Safety Issues
- **Training Exercises** on identified scenarios and issues

## Training Exercises

- 2014 Los Angeles & 2015 Houston
- Participants: federal, state, local, academia and community, industry
- Evaluate State and partner research capabilities & DR2 concepts & training tools
- Discussion: integration & issues of concern





# DR2 Outreach, Implementation, & Integration with Partners

## Environmental Health Science (EHS) Network

### What: working with our partners to...

- Help develop and prioritize DR2 concepts, tools, website, training materials
- Build off acute response “Public Health Practice” (surveillance, x-sectional surveys)
- Get timely environmental exposure and toxicology data to support health research

### Who:

- **New EHS Network Workgroup**
  - NIEHS Training Program, Academic Centers, & Grantees
- **Federal Partners (HHS Agencies and Others)**
- **Other Stakeholders**
  - Public Health, Responders, & Community (incl. “citizen science”)





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**THANK YOU!**

**CAPT Aubrey Miller, MD, MPH**  
**[miller.aubrey@nih.gov](mailto:miller.aubrey@nih.gov)**

**DR2 Project Webpage**  
**<http://dr2.nlm.nih.gov>**

