Reviewer’s report

Title: Persistent Mental and Physical Health Impact of Exposure to the September 11, 2001 World Trade Center Attacks

Version: 0 Date: 11 Oct 2018

Reviewer: R. Lucchini

Reviewer's report:

This article reports the results of a survey conducted by the WTC Registry among responders to the 9/11 attack and residents in lower Manhattan.

The manuscript is well written with methods clearly described and results adequately reported.

The discussion should remark the main limitation of self-reported data, and comment on potential divergence from objectively collected health data in this population.

More in details:

In 'Data source and study sample' please indicate the exact time period of enrollment in Wave 1.

In '9/11-related exposures', the definition of 'Personally witnessing a traumatic event' does not include visual or physical contact with human remains. Please explain why.

On page 8, line 9 please clarify who are the 'non participants' to Wave 4: subjects enrolled in Wave 1 but not participating in Wave 4?

On page 10, line 20-24 - clarify where are the data supporting the statement "Among rescue/recovery workers, the prevalence increased with longer duration of work and earlier date of arrival for work"? Data are not reported also for other observed dose/duration-responses.

In the discussion, page 13, line 48, the estimate of 162,000 individuals possibly affected by 9/11 conditions seems much larger than the number of individuals attending the WTC clinical centers for treatment. Please comment on this apparent discrepancy.

On page 14 please report also the age-adjusted lifetime prevalence of asthma reported in the 2015 National Health Interview Survey and the 2014 New York City Community Health Survey.

On page 15, line 46, please briefly explain what is the 'Registry's Treatment Referral Program'.
Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

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