



Australian Firefighters' Health Study Bulletin No 4

Welcome to the fourth bulletin of the Australian Firefighters' Health Study, a publication designed to keep you informed about the progress of the Australian Firefighters' Health Study.

Study progress

The study has made progress on several fronts:

- In collaboration with participating firefighting agencies, the Monash study team has been assembling a cohort of former and current, career, part-time and volunteer firefighters.
- Most agencies have provided a dataset including necessary information such as names, dates of birth and post code of firefighters and some agencies have provided service history information such as job title, number and type of fires attended.
- Recent efforts at Monash have concentrated on obtaining missing data variables and on data cleaning to prepare the data for matching with national cancer and mortality data and analysis.
- A secure study database has been established and most data have been uploaded into it.
- Procedures for data validation and querying have been drawn up and documented to ensure that we have a good quality final dataset suitable for analysis and data linkage.
- Ethics approval has been granted by all but one state and territory Cancer Registry Human Research Ethics Committees (HREC).
- Once the approval from the AIHW HREC has been obtained, applications to the Justice HREC and the final territory HREC will be submitted for approval.
- The first Scientific Reference Group meeting was held in March 2013 and the third Advisory Committee meeting took place in April 2013. The purpose of both meetings was to review data issues and discuss eligible job titles and different methods of exposure assessment.
- As part of the discussion of different exposure assessment metrics, Monash has sent out an exposure group questionnaire to all agencies asking for their input.
- Additional representatives of CFA and Defence have joined the Advisory Committee to ensure the views of all participating agencies are represented and the outcomes are communicated to them.

To learn more about the study or to find copies of this and other bulletins, visit our study website: <http://www.coeh.monash.org/ausfirefr.html>. If you have any questions or comments, please send an email to firefighterstudy@monash.edu.

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The data collection phase is well underway

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