

Summary of effects on mental health

World Health Organization (WHO) Report issued in 2006 upon the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl NPS accident

- **Anxieties and medically unexplained physical symptoms including depression and Post Traumatic Stress Disorders (PTSD) are increasing as stress-related disorders among the group of disaster victims, compared to a control group.**
- **The effects of the Chernobyl NPS Accident on mental health have been the biggest health issue for the residents.**

Source: World Health Organization: Mental, psychological and central nervous system effects. Health effects of the UN Chernobyl accident and special health care programmes: report of the UN Chernobyl forum expert group "Health" (eds. Bennett B., et al), 93-97, WHO, Geneva 2006

The effects of the Chernobyl NPS Accident are often cited as an example of psychological effects of nuclear disasters.

According to summaries by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and WHO, psychological effects surpassed direct health effects of radiation.

After the Chernobyl NPS Accident, many complained about health problems because of mental stress. This was not caused solely by the effects of radiation but is considered to have resulted from a complex combination of multiple factors including social and economic instability brought about by the collapse of the USSR at the time, which caused a great deal of mental stress to people.

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