



Staten Island Advance

Heart disease a rampant killer on Island

by Staten Island Advance

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Blame it on smoking, obesity or lack of exercise.

Whatever the cause, heart disease is more prevalent on Staten Island than almost anywhere else in the city, with the borough reporting more than 350 heart disease deaths per 100,000 people in 2005, well above the city's average, according to a study released earlier today by [Comptroller William Thompson](#).

The study divided the Island into four neighborhoods, and all four were among with the highest rates of death blamed on heart disease.

The neighborhood with the highest was Rockaway in Queens, with 476.7 deaths per 100,000, but the Island's four sections followed, with South Beach, Tottenville and other South Shore areas reporting 399.1 deaths per 100,000, Stapleton, St. George and other North Shore communities showing 382.1, Willowbrook reporting 367.9 and Port Richmond with 354.3.

Bedford-Stuyvesant in Brooklyn had 357.3, rounding out the top six, according to Thompson's findings. The study also linked the areas to income, and other than Port Richmond, the three Island areas were in the city's top income bracket. Port Richmond fell in the middle.

"I would say that the smoking rate, because Staten Island does have the highest rate, would definitely be a contributing factor. I don't think you could come to any other conclusion," said Kerry Gillespie, director of Staten Island University Hospital's Center for Complementary Medicine and the Tobacco Cessation Center.

--Contributed by Sally Goldenberg