

## Heroin Abuse Touches All of Staten Island

**Did you know almost half of all drug arrests in Richmond County are for heroin?**

Last year NYPD arrested over 1,000 defendants for either selling or possessing heroin. Heroin is easily the most prevalent of drug offenses on Staten Island overtaking narcotic prescription drugs as the drug of choice in Richmond County.



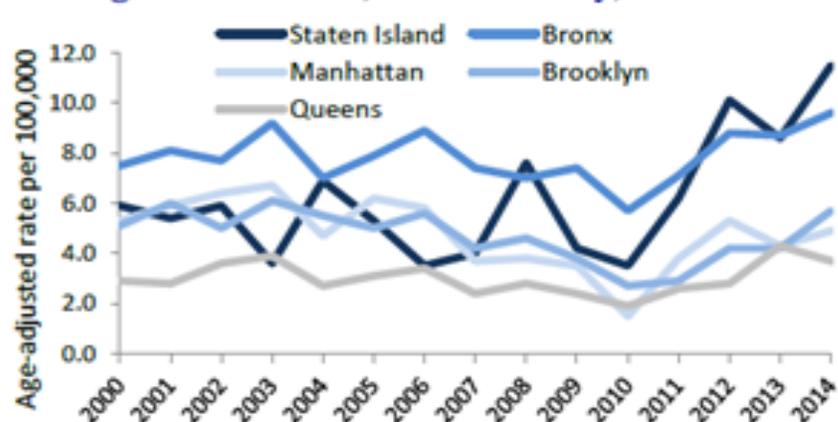
**Heroin abuse is occurring all over Staten Island.**

Each of the four precincts on Staten Island had over 100 heroin arrests in 2015. There were over 100 arrests for heroin in the 123 Precinct and almost 200 arrests for heroin related charges in the 122 Precinct. Almost one third of all drug arrests were misdemeanors related to heroin, and there were almost 300 felony arrests on Staten Island for heroin related offenses.

**The rate of heroin related overdose deaths is rising.**

The tragic consequence of heroin addiction on Staten Island is that there is a generation of Staten Islanders touched by heroin addiction. Using life-saving Naloxone, since 2014, the NYPD has been able to save the lives of over 70 overdose victims. Sadly, not every heroin addicted youth can be saved and the epidemic is growing. Staten Island has the highest rate of heroin and opioid addiction in the City and the highest rate of overdoses.

**Unintentional overdose deaths involving heroin by borough of residence, New York City, 2000–2014\***



\* Data for 2014 are preliminary and subject to change

Source: NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and NYC DOHMH Bureau of Vital Statistics

**THE RCDA DRUG HOTLINE: (718) 876-5839**

**Report Drug Activity – [www.rcda.nyc.gov/initiatives/drugs.html](http://www.rcda.nyc.gov/initiatives/drugs.html)**

# The Richmond County District Attorney's Office is here to help.



**The No D Initiative:** All Assistant District Attorneys participate in a series of lectures to students in grades 5 through 12 at public and private schools about the real life horrors of drug addiction. The presentation is grounded in the realities that our borough is facing and provides them with guidance to make the right choices.

**Drug CAP:** Those arrested for first time misdemeanor opiate offenses may be mandated as a condition of their sentence to attend a two hour panel where they hear from speakers who address the legal, medical, and social consequences of drug addiction. Family members who have lost loved ones due to heroin abuse participate to confront offenders with the pain and serious consequences that may result from their opiate addiction.

**Treatment Court:** Those arrested for felony and misdemeanor offenses who qualify as drug abusers, and not dealers, with non-violent convictions, are eligible to enter an intensive court-mandated and monitored treatment regimen that emphasizes treatment as an alternative to incarceration. Those who participate experience a low re-offender rate and are provided with an opportunity to undergo treatment and at the end of their treatment, have their progression to graduation, have their criminal convictions dismissed and sealed. Our goal is to prevent crime, increase public safety, and save lives by addressing addiction before it is too late.



**Overdose Response Initiative:** A first-of-its-kind in the City of New York, this program, in conjunction with the NYPD, investigates suspected overdoses as crime scenes in an effort to discover who is dealing drugs on Staten Island, as well as provide comfort and support to grieving families.

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