

Diaz and Rivera Celebrate Third Year of Bronx Health Initiative

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Ask any Bronx politician and they will tell you the health of their constituents is at the very top of their list of issues that need to be addressed. The statistics are dire: The Bronx has led city rates for obesity, diabetes and asthma for years.

A new study by the city's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene found that the Bronx's 10457 zipcode has the highest number of people with two sexually transmitted diseases in the city.

It is reports like that that motivated Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz and Sen. Gustavo Rivera to team up to create [The Bronx Change Attitudes Now Health Initiative](#) focused on getting residents exercising, eating right, and participating in free health screenings.

The initiative was started in July 2011 in response to a [report by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#) that found the Bronx to be the unhealthiest county in New York State. The same study found that the Bronx is still the unhealthiest county in the state this year.

This year the kickoff event for will be held at Crotona Park from 12 to 4 p.m. tomorrow. The event will now features STD testing along with other health testing, exercise classes, martial arts demonstrations and face painting for the kids.

"Year after year our borough is found to be the unhealthiest in the state," said Sen. Gustavo Rivera. "We must continue to encourage members of our community to make those lifestyle changes — whether big or small — that will help them lead a healthier life and that is what the Bronx CAN Health Initiative hopes to accomplish."

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