



**RUDY REACTS TO CANCER MAPS WITH
EXTRA \$2M**

By KENNETH LOVETT, DEBORAH ORIN and DAVID SEIFMAN

Mayor Giuliani, pouncing on an issue critical to women voters, yesterday allocated an extra \$2 million to a groundbreaking cancer study.

The mayor said he was reacting to the state Health Department's release of breast-cancer rates by zip code.

Unexpectedly, the data showed a higher prevalence of the disease in the city's wealthiest enclave - on the Upper East Side from 60th to 96th streets - as well as in the southern end of Brooklyn, a mid-section of Staten Island and the Rockaway peninsula in Queens.

"We will put together a task force that will do outreach and concentrate ... in the parts of the city that appear to be the most affected," Giuliani said.

"It's very hard to understand why there's a big difference between Queens and Nassau County.

"They share the same border. Many of the things are the same. Queens, very low incidence. Nassau County, very high incidence."

In November 1998, the city provided \$12 million to a consortium of 25 schools and medical centers for the launch of a 20-year cancer research study involving 300,000 people.

Giuliani said the extra money for the New York Cancer Project will speed up research and provide added services, including counseling and testing.

The mayor said the cancer maps will create more awareness of the disease. so part of the \$2 million

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will go toward mammography exams.

A number of state Democrats expressed concern about the data.

Assemblyman Richard Brodsky, chairman of the Environmental Conservation Committee, said the maps give "a false sense of security to some and a false sense of fears to others."

In Washington, Democratic Rep. Carolyn Maloney, whose district includes the Upper East Side, says she wants more study of environmental factors like dry-cleaning chemicals.

She pointed to a 1999 study by the nonprofit Silent Spring Institute that found upper-income women in Newton, Mass., who regularly took their clothes to a professional dry cleaner had a higher breast-cancer rate.

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NEWS

**MYSTERIOUS CLUSTER WORRIES EAST
SIDE WOMEN**

By ERIC LENKOWITZ and LINDA MASSARELLA

The Upper East Side may be one of the priciest places to live in the world -- but it's also one of the riskiest places in the city for developing breast cancer, new state maps show.

The area with ZIP codes 10128, 10028 and 10021 has a scary 15 to 50 percent higher rate of breast cancer than the rest of the state.

Women who live in that zone -- East 60th Street to East 96th Street between Central Park and the FDR Drive -- were alarmed at the news.

No reason, environmental or otherwise, was given for the higher risk.

"I don't get it," said Anne Sfakianaki, 32, who lives on East 82nd Street and York Avenue.

"There are no factories here, no toxic waste dumps, nothing like that. It's all just overpriced apartments."

Indeed, one of the few large businesses or facilities in the area is New York Hospital on York Avenue and East 65th Street.

"We're all white, rich and eat badly, maybe that's why," said Carrie Prendergast, 48, who lives on East 78th Street and whose mother, aunt and cousin -- none of whom live in the area -- all developed breast cancer.

She added that she has no plans to move simply because a map shows a cluster of cases.

"When they figure something out 10 years down the line, then I'll worry about it," she said.

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pire, didn't worry about it," she said.

Brenda Levi, 58, who lives on East 81st Street, also saw her mother, aunt and cousin contract breast cancer.

"Maybe it's the traffic of the 59th Street Bridge. Maybe it's the water," she said.

Alyssa Tullin, of Second Avenue and 78th Street, added: "It would be nice if [Senate candidates Mayor Giuliani] or Hillary [Clinton] address this in the campaign."

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NEWS

MAP SHOWS BREAST-CANCER RATES

By KENNETH LOVETT

ALBANY -- A new state breast-cancer map, broken down for the first time by ZIP code, shows elevated rates in parts of the city and surrounding suburbs.

The map shows higher than normal breast-cancer rates in parts of the Upper East Side, southern Brooklyn, southeastern Staten Island and eastern Queens.

It also shows elevated rates in large swaths of Long Island and in southern and western Westchester County.

In unveiling the map, which tracks breast-cancer incidences across the state between 1993 and 1997, state health officials say the information allows them to pinpoint problem areas.

But the map does not help determine why cancer rates are higher in some parts of the state than others, Health Commissioner Antonia Novello said.

Breast cancer claims the lives of 3,500 New York women a year. About 12,000 are diagnosed every year. Nationally, experts estimate that 1 in 8 women will develop the disease in their lifetime.

'Cancer maps can do many things," Novello said. 'They can show us the pattern of cancer incidence across the state, help health officials plan services and suggest areas for further research.

'They cannot, by themselves, tell us what is causing cancer, but they can help us ask the right questions."

Novello urged women living in high incidence areas 'not to panic."

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She said subsequent research as part of the state's \$4 million Cancer Surveillance Improvement Initiative will help answer the questions raised by the maps.

Assembly Health Committee Chairman Richard Gottfried (D-Manhattan) said the map would have been more useful breaking down incidences of cancer by neighborhoods, not ZIP codes.

Environmental Conservation Committee Chairman Richard Brodsky (D-Westchester) agreed, calling the new map "completely bogus" and saying that "by doing it [by] ZIP code, they're hiding the truth from neighborhoods all across the state."

But many breast-cancer advocates say the ZIP-code map -- the first of its kind in the country -- is a significant step to helping research problem spots.

"While this new geographic distribution of cancer cannot tell New Yorkers the whole cancer story, it can get us closer to finding more answers," said Dave Momrow, senior vice president for the American Cancer Society of New York and New Jersey.

Momrow urged the Health Department to quickly begin "deeper" research and analysis in the communities with elevated incidence of breast cancer to identify risk factors causing the disease.

Long Island breast cancer-activists agreed on the need for more study.

"It was a first step," said Debbie Basile, president of the Babylon Breast Cancer Coalition. "The only thing the maps tell you are the numbers. They won't tell you why."

The latest breast-cancer map will be followed by similar ZIP-code-guided maps detailing incidence of colorectal, prostate and lung cancer.

The Pataki administration in December drew criticism when it released its first set of cancer maps that showed county-by-county breakdowns. Critics said the county-based maps were too expansive to detect clusters.

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