

STATEN ISLAND

Tottenville sees highest drop in baby boomer residents

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While many Staten Island zip codes have seen a population increase over the last five years, most of those areas also experienced a decrease in the number of baby boomers.

The highest drop in the number of baby boomer residents was 26% over five years in 10307, which covers Tottenville, according to a study by RENTCafe, a nationwide apartment search website.

"According to our research focused on Staten Island, the most striking highlight is that most zips saw an increase in the entire population, while the number of baby boomers went down," said Florentina Sarac, a research analyst and real estate writer for RENTCafe.

"That zip code [10307] is probably attracting other generations. Another example is the neighboring 10308 [Great Kills and Eltingville] where the entire population went up by 4% and the number of baby boomers decreased by 12 percent," she said.

Another interesting zip code is 10314, which covers parts of Todt Hill, Bulls Head, Graniteville, Castleton Corners, West Brighton, Westerleigh, Travis, Bloomfield, Willowbrook and Meiers Corners. That zip code boasts 17,412 baby boomers.

"It's worth mentioning that this zip [10314] also witnessed a decrease of seniors between 2012 and 2017 of 10 percent, while the population went up by 2 percent," said Sarac.

REASON FOR THE DECREASE

The reason for baby boomers fleeing the borough can be chalked up to several scenarios, from personal preference to necessity, she said.

"Despite the relatively affordable rents in the area, most Baby Boomers could feel more inclined to move to places like Manhattan, Brooklyn or Queens where there's no shortage of entertainment options, as well as plenty of senior discounts and fast transportation," said Sarac.

Many Staten Islanders also choose to retire in more affordable states.

"While a few affluent Staten Island baby boomer couples may be moving to Manhattan, many in the borough

are likely moving to more affordable attractive states, such as North Carolina and Florida," said Abraham Unger, who holds a doctorate degree and is director of urban programs and associate professor of government and politics at Wagner College.

"Staten Island is overwhelmingly a middle class borough, and a fixed income for a relatively healthy, retired baby boomer couple goes farther in cheaper southern and sunbelt states. States, such as North Carolina and Florida, are also close enough to Staten Island so that boomers can still see their children and grandchildren regularly," added Unger, who also is a visiting research scholar at Fordham University.