



Staten Islanders still have longest commute in nation, census finds

Deborah Young/Staten Island Advance By **Deborah Young/Staten Island Advance**

on December 15, 2010 at 9:55 AM, updated December 15, 2010 at 3:16 PM

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- If you left work yesterday while the sun was still out and got home long after dark -- cold, tired, hungry and frustrated -- you are entitled to complain: Staten Islanders yesterday cemented their status as having the longest commute in the nation.

The typical Richmond County resident, according to new U.S. Census data, spends a grueling hour and a half each day traveling to and from work.

And that 42.5 minutes in each direction is an average, taking into consideration lucky ducks whose jobs are only a block from home as well as South Shore 9-to-5 types who couldn't get to work on the express bus in that amount of time, even without another car on the road.

Despite being linked to the city's heart by a subway system, residents of Queens, Brooklyn and the Bronx don't have it that much better, also spending an average of more than 40 minutes a day getting from point A to point B.

It's enough to make you want to move to King County, Texas, the place with the shortest commute in the nation. Residents of this sleepy, agricultural area get to work in 3.4 minutes, according to the 2005-2009 American Community Survey.

"The problem with Staten Island is it's been up there for a long time. It's like taking the temperature for the fifth time at the hospital and the readings don't change," said Jonathan Peters, a demographer at the College of Staten Island who studies Census data. "This is a confirmation that things aren't getting better."

Islanders claimed the mantle of the longest commute a decade ago, when the U.S. Census released data from the decennial 2000 count. Then, we spent an average of 43.9 minutes traveling in each direction.

The data released yesterday was the most extensive since that time, culling four years' worth of surveys to be



Advance file photo

Borough residents spend an average of 90 minutes daily traveling to and from work.

able to provide a fuller portrait of the social, economic and housing characteristics of areas in the county even as small as individual neighborhoods.

"The data provided through the ACS (American Community Survey) provide a statistical foundation to evaluate our nation's needs, and we now share them with communities across the country as a powerful resource for decision making," said U.S. Census Bureau Director Robert Groves.

The data was based on sample surveys mailed to about 3 million addresses in the country between 2005 and 2009, and replaces the information which once was released every 10 years by tabulating responses to the census "long form." The "short form" questionnaire from the 2010 Census, did not include the same level of detail. Population data from that 2010 count is set to be released in February.

© 2015 SILive.com. All rights reserved.