



# ALLEGHENY COUNTY

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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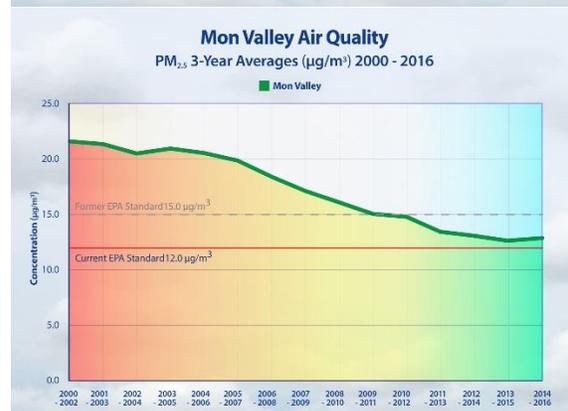
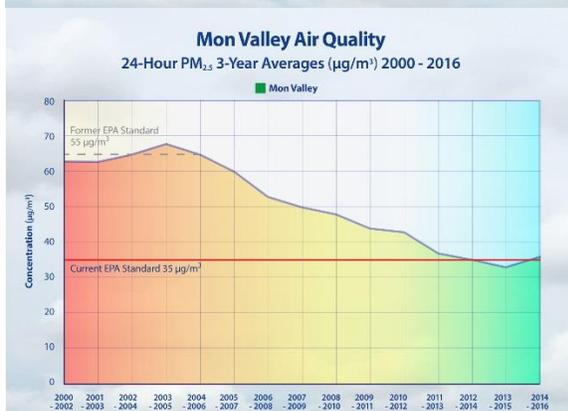
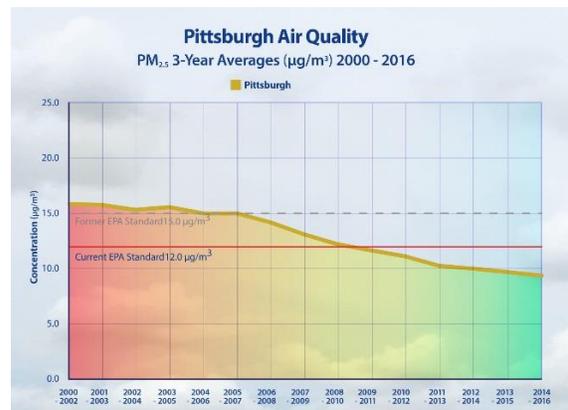
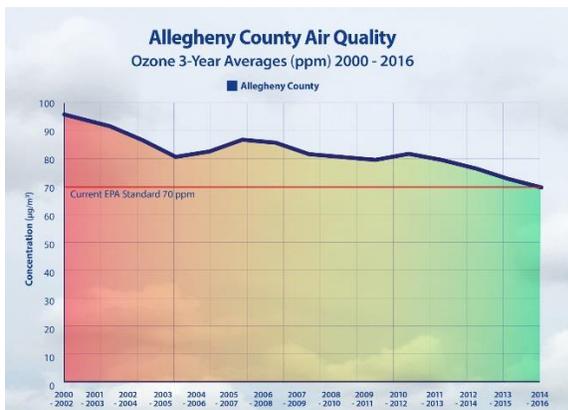
## Health Department Response to State of the Air Report

**PITTSBURGH** – Dr. Karen Hacker, Director of the Allegheny County Health Department, provided the following response to the recently issued American Lung Association’s State of the Air Report:

“The American Lung Association (ALA) plays an important role in raising the awareness of the health impacts of harmful pollutants in our air and on our population. Their work is part of a greater effort of many organizations committed to improving our air quality. Likewise, the Allegheny County Health Department is committed to air quality improvement. While we recognize that our county and region continue to have air quality issues, we are pleased to note that our ALA rankings continue to improve and demonstrate real emission reductions.

“As noted in the ALA report:

*‘Fortunately, eight cities improved with fewer days of spikes in particle levels in 2013-2015 than in 2012-2014. Six of these are western cities: Fresno-Madera, CA; Modesto-Merced, CA; Missoula, MT; Yakima, WA; Eugene, OR; and Phoenix, AZ. Two cities in Pennsylvania also improved: Harrisburg-York-Lebanon; and notably, Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh, which had been ranked the most polluted city in the same category in the 2008 report, experienced its fewest unhealthy days ever in 2013-2015.’*



“Each year, the region and the county have shown improvements in ALA rankings. We have seen our region’s 24 hour PM 2.5 ranking drop from 10 in 2015 to 17 in 2017. For annual PM 2.5, the county dropped from 11 in 2015 to 13 in 2017 and we have not been among the top 25 regions or county for ozone in the last three years. In addition, we recently met the short term fine particulate EPA standard and the ozone EPA standard. We soon expect to meet the annual particulate value.

“While we are proud of these improvements, and thank our public advocates and industry for their contributions, we still have much to do. Simply meeting the standard is not enough and we will continue to work with all stakeholders to improve the air quality in Allegheny County that impacts the health of the public.”

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