



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Health Department Responds to State of the Air Report Issued Today**

**PITTSBURGH** – Allegheny County Health Department Director Dr. Karen Hacker issued the following statement in response to the release of the American Lung Association’s “State of the Air” report, released earlier today:

“We are gratified to see this continued improvement in the region’s air quality. While it’s evident that we have much more work to do, it’s also rewarding to see that we are headed in the right direction. Specifically, the report showed that our region has improved in year-round and short-term particle pollution, one of only four areas in the nation which had a reduction from the previous report. Our region also reported the fewest number of unhealthy days in the report’s history.

“The American Lung Association report is based on only one of eight geographically dispersed fine particulate monitoring stations which has yet to meet federal attainment; the Liberty monitor. We expect that, by 2016, that monitor will have reached the three-year average attainment with PM 2.5 and even greater improvement will be seen.

“The Allegheny County Health Department is committed to a healthier community and will continue to prioritize air quality improvement across the county. Our employees work around the clock to perform monitoring and enforcement duties in regards to air pollution. We take very seriously our role in ensuring that these improvements continue into the future and that the health of our over 1.2 million residents benefits from those advancements.”

The full report can be found at [www.stateoftheair.org](http://www.stateoftheair.org).

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