



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Response to Healthy Allegheny Teen Survey Overwhelmingly Positive

PITTSBURGH – The Allegheny County Health Department is pleased to report that the response to the Healthy Allegheny Teen Survey (HATS) has been overwhelmingly positive since the study was launched in February.

The countywide research study of adolescents 14 to 19 years of age, which is aiming to reach about 1,600 randomly selected youths over a 12-month period, has already conducted 473 interviews, with an equal number of males and females participating. Participants thus far proportionately represent Pittsburgh and the county's suburban areas and also reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of the region.

"We are very excited about the response to the survey thus far. The data will help us understand and improve the health and wellbeing of youth in our region," said Health Director Dr. Karen Hacker.

The survey is voluntary, secure and being conducted by telephone, using both landline and cellular numbers. It asks questions about young people's health, behaviors and other factors that affect health such as neighborhood, school environment and social support.

The information collected is confidential and will be used by the Health Department and other health organizations to improve services based on needs identified in the survey. No names are connected to the survey.

The survey typically takes 30 minutes to complete. Participants are asked for their name and address only so they can receive a \$20 gift card in the mail for taking part in the survey, and are never asked for their social security number or any financial information.

Anyone asked to participate in the survey can call the Health Department at **412-687-ACHD** or visit its web site, www.achd.net, to verify the legitimacy of a call and rule out the possibility of a scam or prank.

The survey has been approved by the University of Pittsburgh's Institutional Review Board. If you have any questions or do not want to be contacted, please call **412-624-3126** or email HATS@pitt.edu.

The Health Department's partners in the survey include the Graduate School of Public Health at the University of Pittsburgh, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC and several local foundations.

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