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Health Department Asks Residents to Answer the Call and Participate in Survey

PITTSBURGH – The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) today asked county residents to answer the call, and participate in the Department’s Allegheny County Health Survey. The Survey is being conducted by phone by the Evaluation Institute at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health and seeks information from residents on a variety of subjects including overall health, physical activity, tobacco and alcohol use, health care access and cancer screenings, to name a few.

“The information gathered through residents’ participation in the Allegheny County Health Survey will give the Health Department data that can be used to gauge the effectiveness of current programs and determine areas in need of improvement to best meet the needs of the residents,” said Director of the Health Department, Dr. Karen Hacker. “This effort can only be successful with the participation of residents, which is why we are asking for the public’s help in helping us complete this survey.”

The Evaluation Institute has already begun making calls and will be contacting approximately 9,000 Allegheny County residents using both land lines and cell phones. Random digit phone dial methodology is used by the Institute. Residents with Caller ID will see the University of Pittsburgh reflected on the call screen. Individuals participating in the approximately 25-minute call will remain completely anonymous. Calls will be made seven days a week, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., with the vast majority of the calls being placed on evenings and weekends.

The main priority for ACHD is the health and well-being of all Allegheny County residents. It is through the Allegheny County Health Survey and other data-gathering initiatives that the Department can learn what is necessary to help those most vulnerable. This survey was last conducted in 2009, and is being performed again thanks to the support of the following contributing partners: The Highmark Foundation, UPMC, the Richard King Mellon Foundation and the contributors to the Public Health Improvement Fund of the Pittsburgh Foundation.

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