

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Healthy Allegheny Teens Survey Results to be Shared at Public Forum

**PITTSBURGH** – The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD), in partnership with the Division of Adolescent and Young Adult medicine at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC and Pitt Public Health, will release the findings of the Healthy Allegheny Teens Survey (HATS) at a public forum on Wednesday evening. The first Countywide survey of adolescent health, the HATS results will provide information on whether our teens are healthy, and how they compare with the state and nation. The forum, which is open to the public, is being held at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU), 475 East Waterfront Drive, Homestead, PA 15120 on Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

The HATS is an anonymous random digit dial phone survey that was conducted in 2014. Over 1,600 participants, 14-19 years of age, provided information to help assess the health of the county’s adolescent population. The survey gathered data on topics such as physical activity, nutrition, injuries and violence, substance use including tobacco, and sexual health behaviors. Additional topics included educational status and factors that help promote adolescent health such as quality of social supports and school connectedness.

“It has been challenging to fully understand the health needs of the county’s teens because of the striking lack of data,” said Dr. Hacker, ACHD Director. “This survey is the first effort to have real data about teen health behaviors and we are eager to share the results with the public.”

Given the anonymity of the survey and the sample size, it is impossible to draw any conclusions about individual municipalities or schools. It does, however, offer the first glimpse into the health of our teen population. Dr. Hacker will be joined by Dr. Elizabeth Miller, Chief of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC to provide a presentation on survey findings.

“To date, the only data we had about the health of youth in our county were teen births, HIV infection, other sexually transmitted infections, homicides, and suicides,” Dr. Miller noted. “Now we have our first snapshot of the health behaviors of young people in this county to guide our prevention and intervention programs.”

The ACHD collaborated with the Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC and the Institute for Evaluation Science in Community Health at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health (Pitt Public Health) to conduct this one-time cross sectional survey of English-speaking youth in the county. The project was supported with funding from Heinz Endowments, Fisa Foundation, Grable Foundation, and Hillman Foundation.

More information about the HATS survey and its results will be available following the public forum at <http://www.achd.net/hats/>.

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