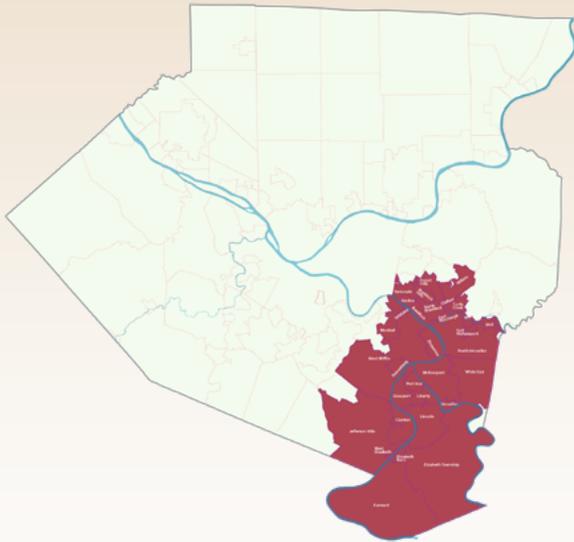


The Mon Valley Rule:

The Mon Valley sees more days of yellow and orange than other parts of the county.

In order to help alleviate the amount of pollution in the area when an orange day is predicted or is happening, the Health Department is now requiring that pollution sources in the area enact a pollution mitigation plan and that municipalities in the area enforce a temporary no open burning rule (like use of a fire pit).



200
150
100
50



Air Quality Program

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Find us online at www.achd.net/air



Air Quality Index

How to understand our air



What Is The Air Quality Index?

The first national index for air quality started in 1976 by the EPA. Cities and regions across the country used different indexes, though. In 1999 the EPA standardized the Air Quality index and updates it as needed based on the latest health-based research.

How Is Numerical Value Determined?

The AQI takes two factors into account: the amount of ground level ozone (smog) over an 8-hour period, and microscopic particulate matter (PM2.5) over a 24-hour period. The levels of each are combined to give us the Air Quality Index value.

Monitoring In Allegheny County

There are 10 permanent monitors in the county that update hourly at achd.net/air for PM2.5, Ozone, and Sulfur Dioxide.

In Allegheny county we only average 11.6 days with an AQI above 100 based on monitor with highest AQI from 2016-2020. This means that most areas of the county experience less AQI days over 100.

Air Quality Index Levels of Health Concern	Numerical Value	Meaning
Good	0-50	Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
Moderate	51-100	Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101-150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected.
Unhealthy	151-200	Everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Very Unhealthy	201-300	Health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected.
Hazardous	301-500	Health alert: everyone may experience more serious health effects.



If you are interested in getting alerts for days and locations with an AQI over 100 and other public information, sign up for our community communication system:



Info you want the way you want it
www.alleghenycounty.us/alerts