



AMERICAN RESPIRATORY ALLIANCE  
of WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

*We're All About Breathing*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**2010 Recognized as “Year of the Lung”**

The American Respiratory Alliance of Western Pennsylvania, located in Cranberry, reminds the community there is an urgent need for public awareness about the importance of lung health.

Respiratory diseases rank second (after cardiovascular diseases) in deaths worldwide. “Sadly, within our own community, there are thousands of people suffering from treatable and preventable respiratory diseases. Because of a lack of awareness about these diseases, there can be a barrier in diagnosing, treating and caring for people who have a lung disease,” says Executive Director of the American Respiratory Alliance, Christine Weaver.

Each year, hundreds of millions of people struggle for breath because of a lung disease. The most common lung diseases include: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (most commonly referred to as COPD), asthma, pneumonia, influenza, lung cancer and tuberculosis. More than 10 million people die each year from lung-related diseases.

The ARA encourages individuals to consider these facts:

- 250,000 people die each year from asthma; many of these deaths are attributed to lack of proper treatment.
- Pneumonia kills more than 2 million children under 5-years-of-age each year.
- Most of the 250,000 asthma-related deaths annually can be attributed to lack of proper treatment and improper asthma management.
- While tobacco use remains legal, it kills more than 5 million people each year, including 1.3 million who die of lung cancer, and it affects the health of hundreds of thousands of others who are exposed to its effects secondhand;
- More than 9 million new cases of tuberculosis were diagnosed in 2007. This curable disease kills more than 1.7 million individuals annually worldwide.
- By 2020, COPD will be the 3rd leading cause of death worldwide. COPD is frequently not diagnosed.

The American Respiratory Alliance is dedicated to the prevention and control of lung disease through education, training, direct services, research funding and advocacy. For more information, contact the ARA at 724-772-1750 or click on [www.healthylungs.org](http://www.healthylungs.org). We care because “We’re All About Breathing.”®