

Where do we go with State of the Air?



Janice Nolen
National Assistant Vice President, Policy

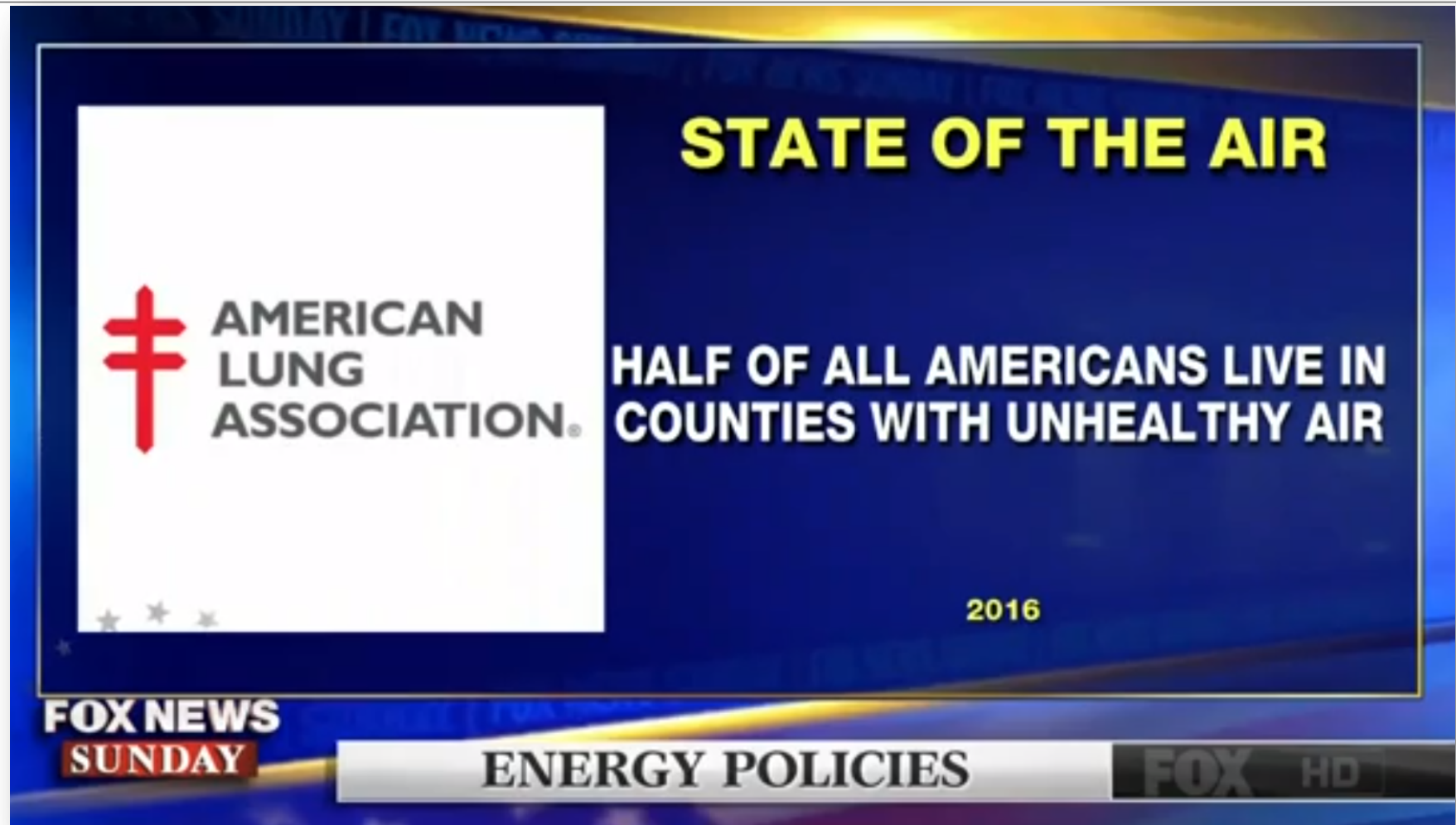
What State of the Air Does



- Puts air pollution information into everyday language
- Provides very local information
- Focuses attention on ozone and particle pollution

Media coverage great & continues all year

Two weeks before the 2017 report came out, Fox News Chris Wallace cited the 2016 report in an interview with EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt.



Why State of the Air?

Why tell people about air quality?

- ✓ To tell people how to protect themselves—millions face high risk of harm
- ✓ To tell people how to fight for healthy air
- ✓ To encourage and support programs to cut pollution and improve air quality

Why tell people about air quality?



Someone in
every family
faces higher
risk from air
pollution

Into the Weeds



- Where we get the data
- What we do with it
- How we grade and rank

What is the State of the Air report?

- Annual look at air pollution since 2000
- Gives **A- F** Grades or **Pass/Fail** to 900 counties with monitors (out of 3,069 counties)
- Ranks 25 metro areas with worst pollution (& cleanest)
- Access county, state info by zip code
- See local trends in air quality

Where we got the data for 2018 report

**States Collect Air Pollution Data in
2014, 2015 & 2016**



EPA Reviews & Posts Data Online



Our Consultant Downloads the Data from EPA for Us



We Calculate Grades & Rankings

Once we get the data

We Calculate Grades

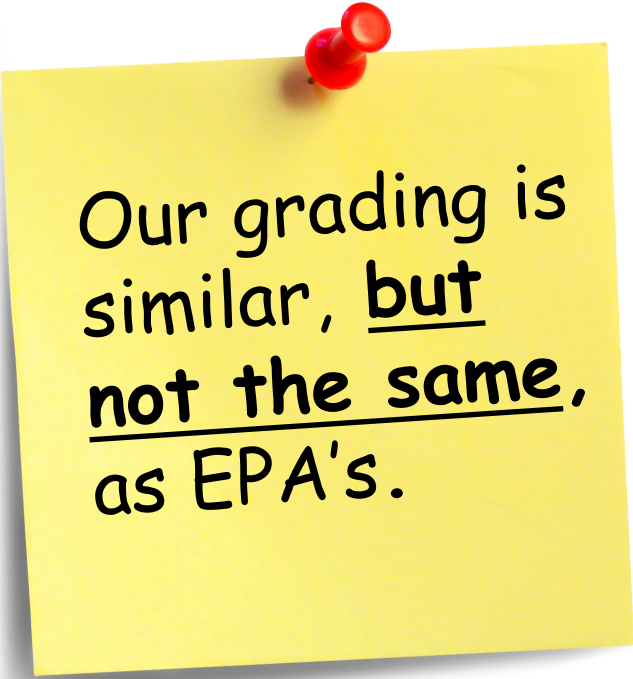


**Staff Share Grades With
State/Local Air Agencies
for their Review**



We Confirm Grades and Calculate Rankings

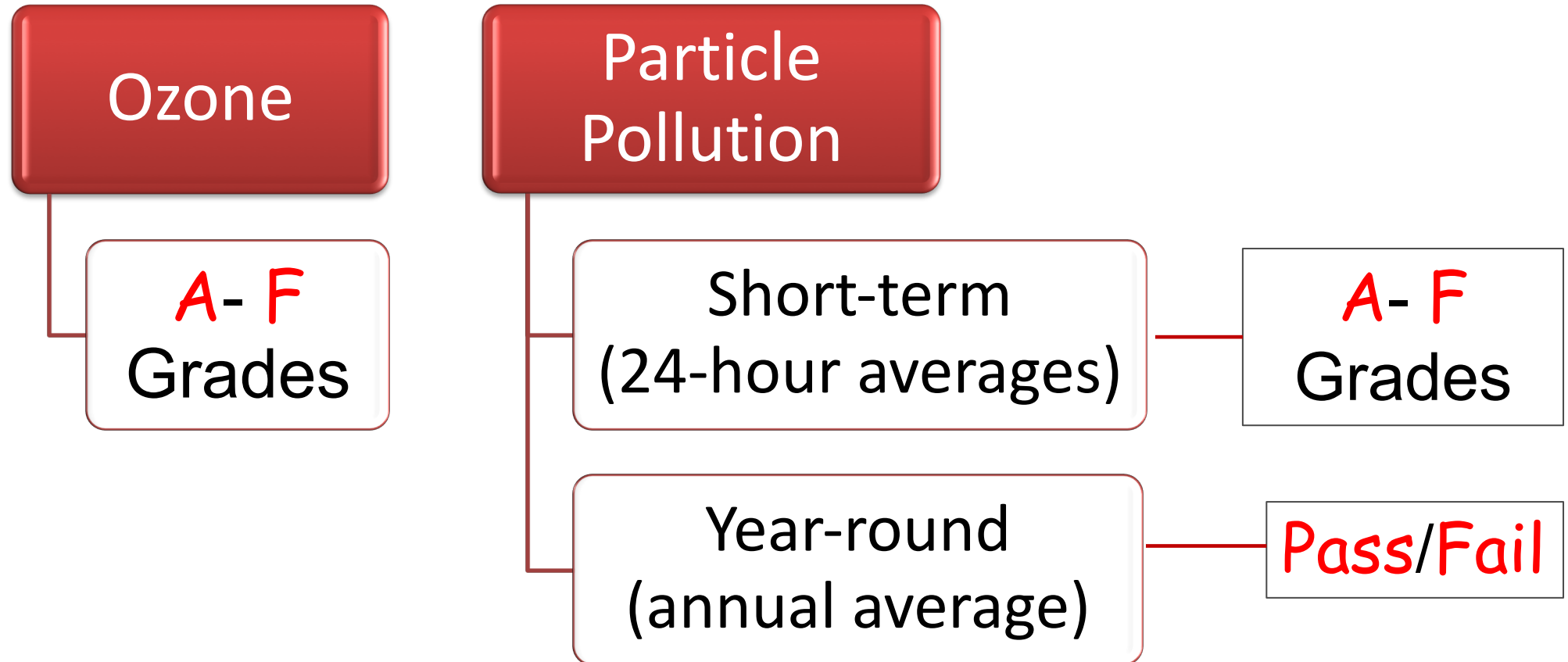
What we grade



Our grading is similar, but not the same, as EPA's.

- **Ozone (smog)**
 - Number of days with high 8-hour averages
- **Particle pollution (soot, PM_{2.5})**
 - Short-term (24-hour) measures –number of days with high 24-hr averages, AKA “spikes”
 - Year-round (annual average) measures “day-in and day-out”
- Only counties with monitors get grades
- Grade only air quality—not “effort to clean up”

How we grade



A-F Grades are Based on the Air Quality Index

Air Quality Index (AQI) Values	Levels of Health Concern
<i>When the AQI is in this range:</i>	<i>..air quality conditions are:</i>
0-50	Good
51-100	Moderate
101-150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups
151 to 200	Unhealthy
201 to 300	Very Unhealthy
301 to 500	Hazardous

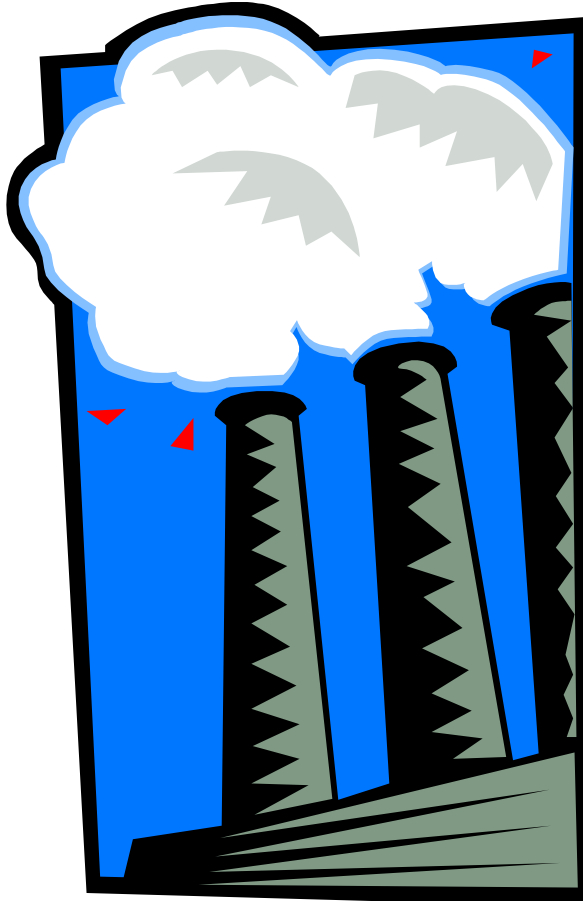
- EPA yardstick for reporting air quality
- Translates monitored pollution levels into recommendations for action
- Used across the nation
- We use this for grading ozone & short-term particles (**A- F** grades)

How we grade

What do the **A-F** grades mean?

- **A** = 0 days with unhealthy levels over 3 years
- **B** = 1 to 2 unhealthy days
- **C** = 3 to 6 unhealthy days
- **D** = 7 to 9 unhealthy days
- **F** = 9 or more unhealthy days

Year-round particle pollution is different



- Day in and day out levels averaged over a year
- Grades are compared to national standard and either **Pass** or **Fail**
- We use EPA's calculation for each county's—called a *design value*
- Fail means county has more than official limit of $12.0 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

No grades = No data = No grades

- **No monitors = no grades.** Fewer than 1/3 of counties have monitors
 - 3,069 counties, but only about 900 with monitors
 - Not all counties with monitors have both ozone & particle monitors
- **EPA & states decide which counties get monitors—not us**
- **No data = no grades.** This year, 2 states & some counties had bad data for particle pollution, so not used

Looking at Milwaukee County, WI

Wisconsin: Milwaukee

Milwaukee County

Milwaukee-Racine-Waukesha, WI

If you live in Milwaukee County, the air you breathe may put your health at risk.

Ozone



Particle Pollution 24-hour



Particle Pollution Annual



Here are the 3 categories and the grades for each

The air you breathe needs your support.

You can make a difference in the air that you breathe.

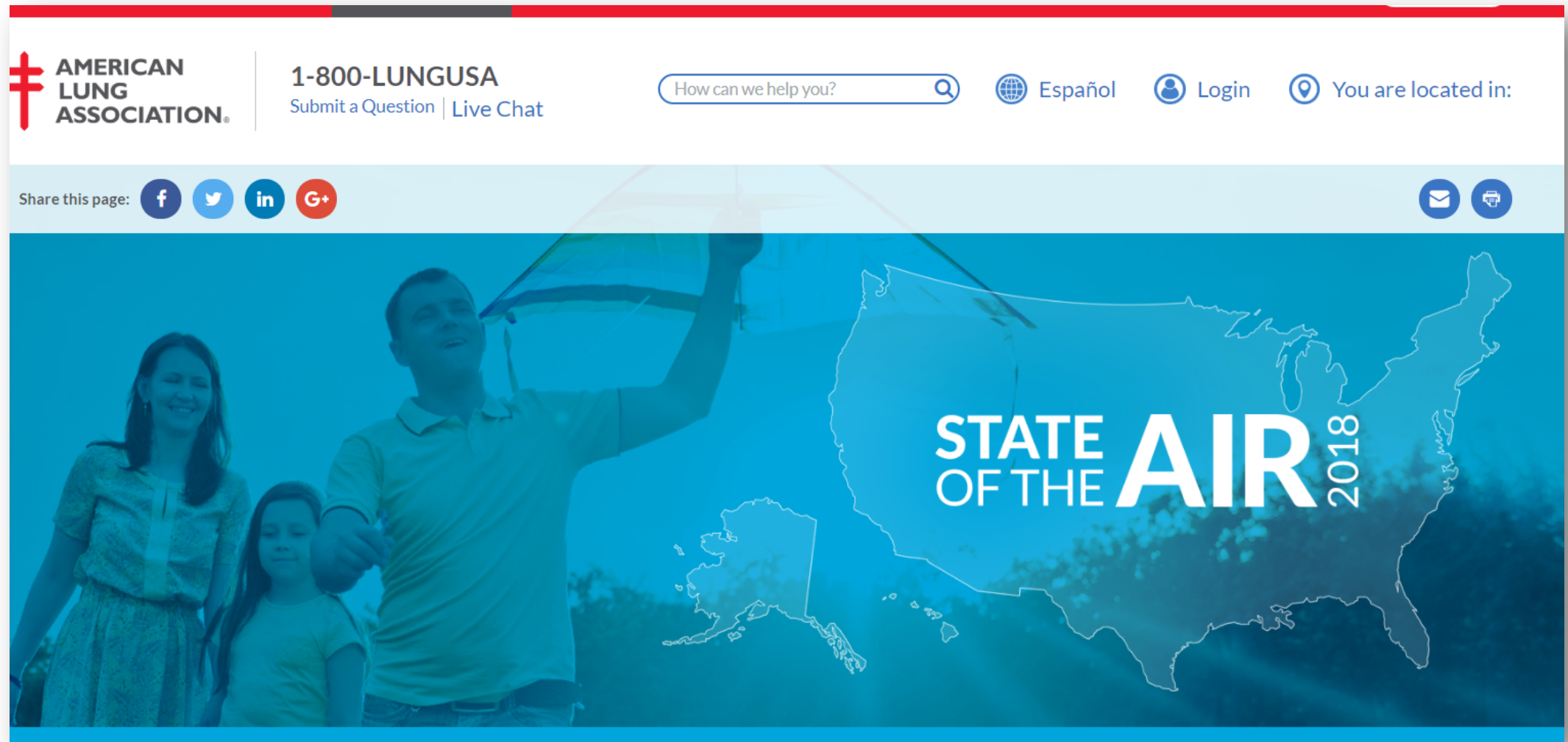
Help us fight for air

Share your story

How we rank cities

- We have **separate rankings** for ozone, short-term particles and year-round particles
- We rank cities by their most polluted county.
 - Cities usually have more than one county.
 - We rank them by the weighted average or design value of the most polluted county in the metropolitan area
- We follow U.S. Census definitions of city
 - Metropolitan Statistical Area
 - Combined Statistical Area (may have more than one “city”)

www.stateoftheair.org or www.Lung.org/sota



How to find the grade

- On the home page, **scroll down to this question** and click to see the menu of states.
- Scroll down to select a state. Or type in a zip code.
- State gets you to all the counties in that state, including those without monitors

For 19 years, the American Lung Association has analyzed data from official air quality monitors to compile the "State of the Air" report. The more you learn about the air you breathe, the more you can protect your health and take steps to make our air cleaner and healthier.

What's the State of Your Air?

State:



Zip code:



What's on the site?

Key Findings



More than four in 10 people live where pollution levels are too often dangerous to breathe.

[Learn More](#)

City Rankings



Which cities have the highest levels of air pollution? Which are the cleanest? Check out the lists here.

[Learn More](#)

What's on the site?

Health Risks



Ozone and particle pollution are the most widespread pollutants—and among the most dangerous.

[Learn More](#)

For the Media



Journalists can access press releases, experts available for interview, b-roll, the full "State of the Air" report and more.

[Learn More](#)

What's on the site?

Join Our Fight



The American Lung Association fights to clean up the air we breathe. We fight because dirty air harms our health and can threaten life itself. Would you join us in the fight for air?

[Learn more](#)

Share Your Story



We all have a reason to fight for clean air. People just like you have shared some personal stories that highlight the need for healthy, safe air. Read the stories they have shared or share your own.

[Learn more](#)

Most polluted/ cleanest rankings

Most Polluted Cities

Choose a city below to learn more about its ranking.

By Ozone	By Year Round Particle Pollution	By Short-Term Particle Pollution
#1: Los Angeles-Long Beach, CA	#1: Fairbanks, AK	#1: Bakersfield, CA
#2: Bakersfield, CA	#2: Visalia-Porterville-Hanford, CA	#2: Visalia-Porterville-Hanford, CA
#3: Visalia-Porterville-Hanford, CA	#3: Bakersfield, CA	#3: Fresno-Madera, CA
#4: Fresno-Madera, CA	#4: Los Angeles-Long Beach, CA	#4: Fairbanks, AK

Most polluted/ cleanest rankings

Cleanest Cities

Best Rankings

Choose a city below to learn more about its ranking.

Cleanest U.S. Cities for Ozone Air Pollution	Top 25 Cleanest U.S. Cities for Year-round Particle Pollution	Cleanest U.S. Cities for Short-term Particle Pollution
Anchorage, AK	#1: Cheyenne, WY	Albany-Schenectady, NY
Bangor, ME	#2: Urban Honolulu, HI	Albuquerque-Santa Fe-Las Vegas, NM
Bellingham, WA	#3: Casper, WY	Alexandria, LA
Bowling Green-Glasgow, KY	#5: Bismarck, ND	Altoona, PA

County & Metro Web Pages

This shows report card for the 7-county Milwaukee Metro area.

We include the ranking for the metro area for each pollutant.

Wisconsin: Milwaukee

Milwaukee County

Milwaukee-Racine-Waukesha, WI

The air you breathe needs your support.

You can make a difference in the air that you breathe.

Help us fight for air

Share your story

- Ranked 34 for high ozone days out of 227 metropolitan areas
- Ranked 83 for 24-hour particle pollution out of 201 metropolitan areas
- Ranked 63 for annual particle pollution out of 187 metropolitan areas

[Make a donation](#)

[Local air quality](#)

[Contact Your Local Lung Association: Wisconsin](#)

Users can send a message to support healthy air and share their own story.

Metro area page lets people compare the air

Check out current air quality info at AirNow.gov.

[Make a donation](#) | [Local air quality](#) | [Contact Your Local Lung Association: Wisconsin](#)

Select your state ▼

Select your county ▼

Compare Your Air

You can compare 2 cities

Trend Charts show progress

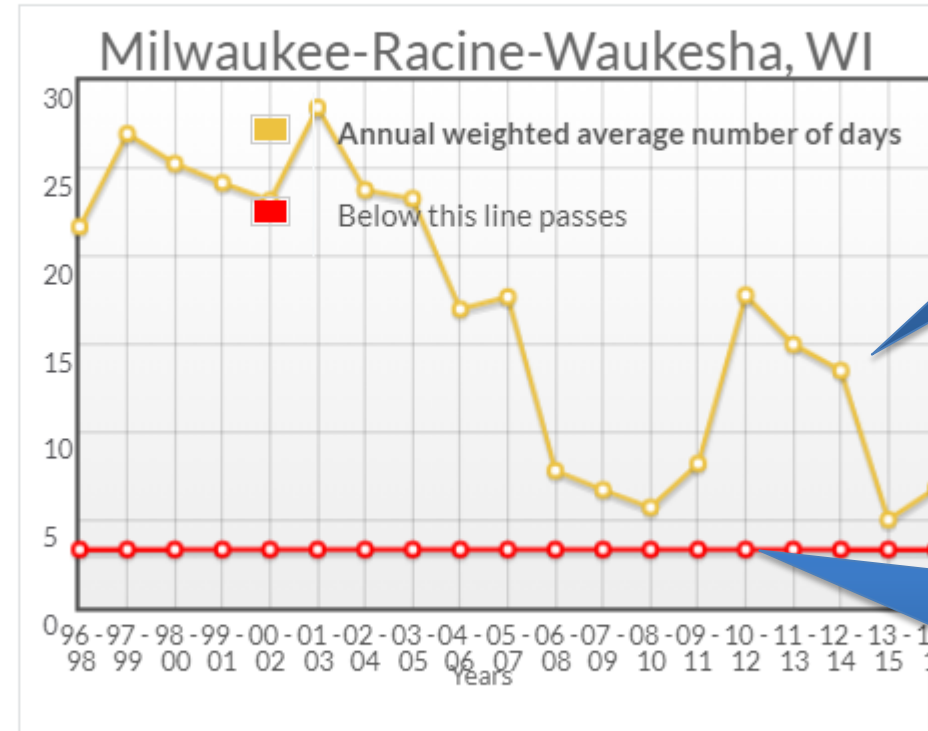
High Ozone Days

[Learn More](#)



On this map, colors show the grades for each county with a monitor in the metro area.

Change since 1996: 14.9 fewer days this year



The Yellow Line shows weighted average # of days/year

The Red Line is the goal for a passing grade.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Resources for our field

- **Toolkit**
 - Swiss Cheese press materials
 - Talking points, FAQs, Fact Sheets
 - Webinars on the basics and each year's findings
- **Embargoed & state PDFs of the report in Tool Kit**
 - You can share with reporters, speakers, but they must respect the embargo
- **Regional briefings**

We Analyze Trends for Each Region

State of the Air 2018: Notes for the Northeast

¶

Data Notes: This report covers 2014-2016. Last year's report covered 2013-2015. All ozone data were compared to the 2015 ozone air quality index all the way back through the 1996-1998 data used in the first SOTA report. That index reflects the stronger ozone standard adopted in 2015. ¶

■ Key Findings ¶

The Northeast mirrors much of the rest of the nation in 2014-2016: continued progress on particle pollution; backtracking on ozone. The cities benefited from ongoing steps under the Clean Air Act that help cut particle pollution: especially cleaning up power plants and retiring old, dirty diesel engines. However, 2016 was the second warmest year on record in the United States, and that added heat increased the ozone. ¶



STATE OF THE **AIR** 2018

We'll go over these with each region's advocacy and communications team.

What do we do with State of the Air?

- **Get local media coverage**
 - Local grades—county by county
 - Provides comparisons to other areas
- **Mention grades in advocacy outreach**
 - Op-eds, letters to editor, letters to officials
- **Share on social media**
- **Get coverage all year long**

Why do we publish State of the Air?

Millions of reasons

**So where else can we
(reasonably) go?**

Our Credo

We will breathe easier when the air in every
American community is clean and healthy.

We will breathe easier when people are free from the addictive
grip of tobacco and the debilitating effects of lung disease.

We will breathe easier when the air in our public spaces and
workplaces is clear of secondhand smoke.

We will breathe easier when children no longer
battle airborne poisons or fear an asthma attack.

Until then, we are fighting for air.