

AIR QUALITY REPORT

CALIFORNIA 2017

Southern California retained the dubious distinction of having the worst air quality in the nation, according to a report released Wednesday by the American Lung Association. For the second year in a row, Los Angeles, Riverside, Ventura, San Bernardino and Orange counties recorded the nation's highest number of unhealthy days for ozone, the caustic, lung-damaging gas that cause shortness of breath and in the long term is associated with asthma, and lung cancer.

Health groups, the California Air Resources Board, the South Coast Air Quality Management District and Southern California Edison have advocated for more electric car sales and for building additional electric charging stations. The electrification of transit is a part of the SCAQMD's plan for reducing ozone and particles.

"The good news is we have 500,000 zero emission cars on the road. There are 30 models of electric and hybrid-electric vehicles. In a few years we will be up to 100 models," she said. "We are going away from fossil fuels."
Source: airnow.gov



About the graph

The data shown on the pie charts further enhances recent news on air quality, especially in Southern California. In the Riverside area, research has reported 27 days of very unhealthy* air which is the highest record across the State of California. In other nearby reported areas, the majority is moderate* air in which San Diego also holds the highest record of 220 days.

*The EPA calculates a daily Air Quality Index based on five major pollutants regulated by the Clean Air Act: ground-level ozone, particle pollution, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide. The values start at 0-50 for "good" and rise in increments of 50 until reaching the fifth category, "very unhealthy." Anything above 150 is considered potentially harmful for the public, with adverse health effects that could include respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.

