

 AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION®

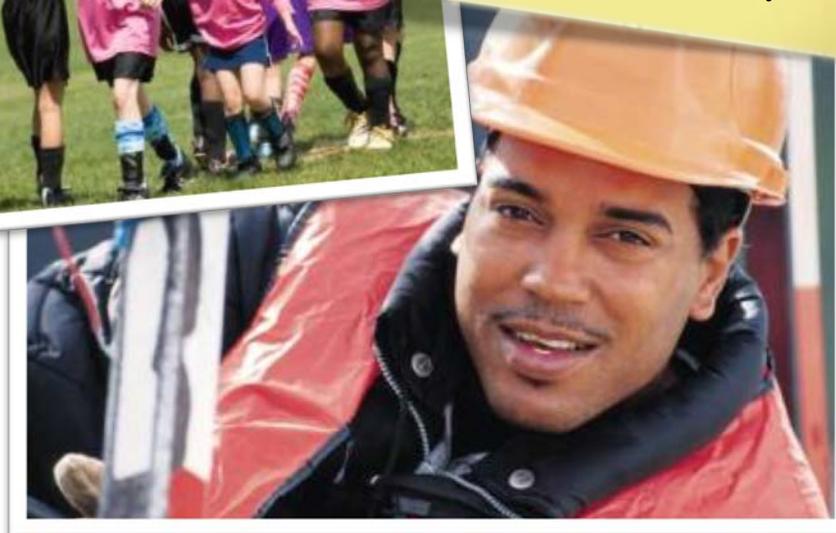
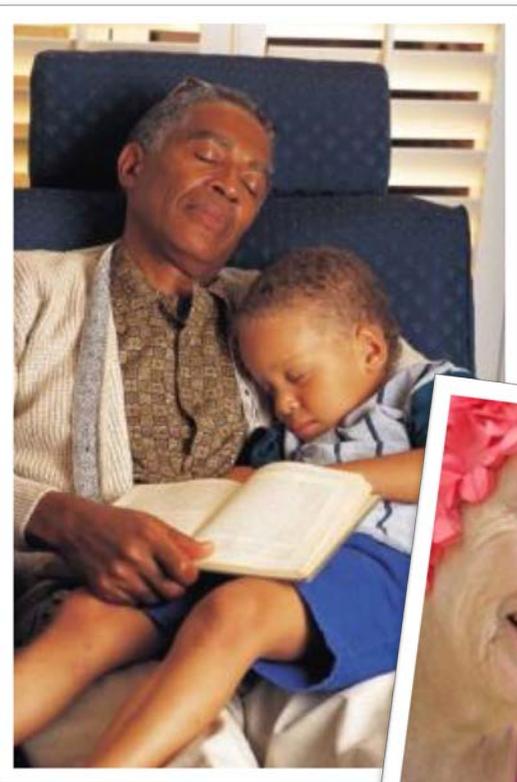


STATE
OF THE **AIR** 2019
20th ANNIVERSARY

Briefing: “State of the Air” 2019

**Lyndsay Alexander
National Assistant Vice President,
Healthy Air Campaign**

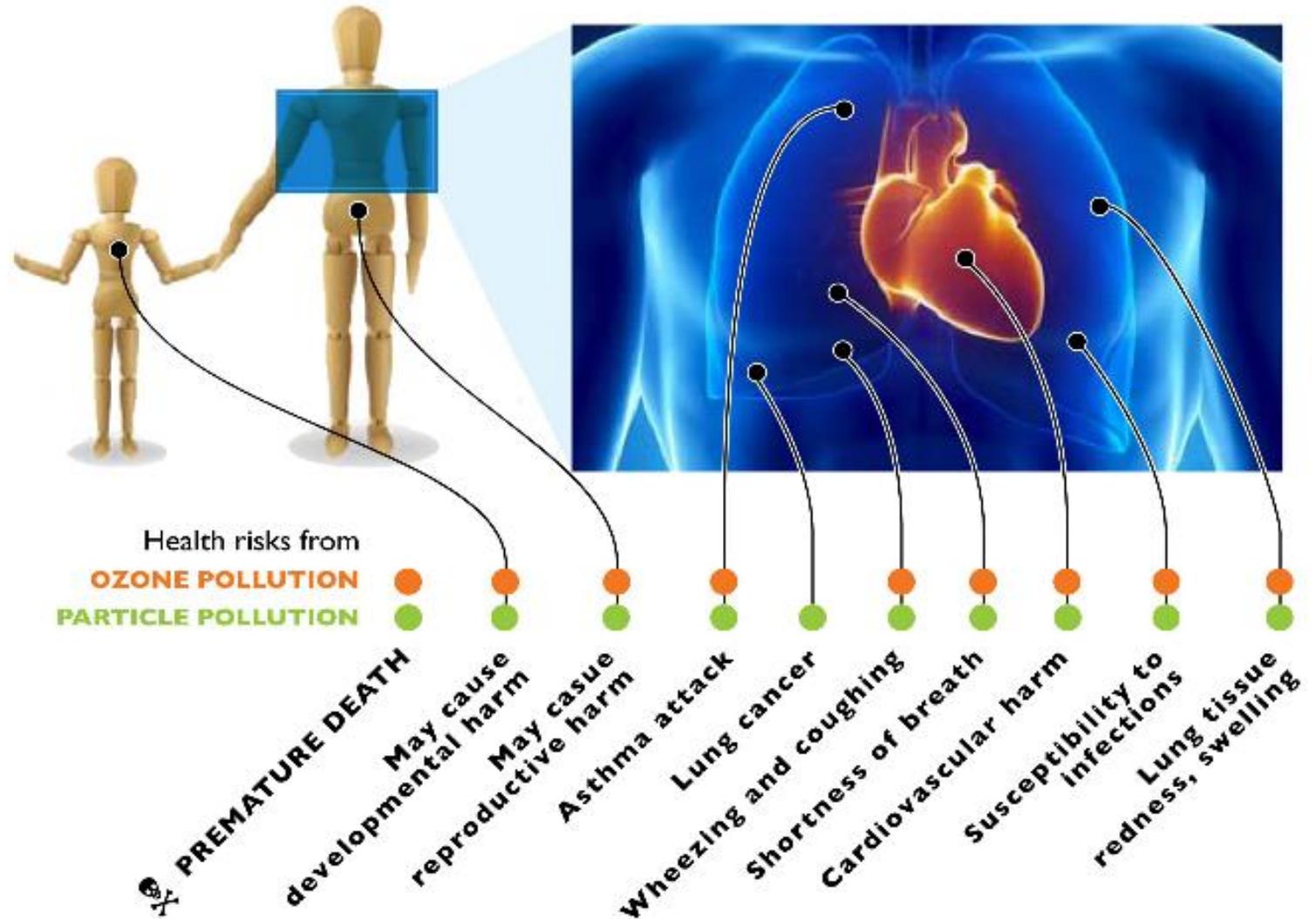
Why tell people about air quality?



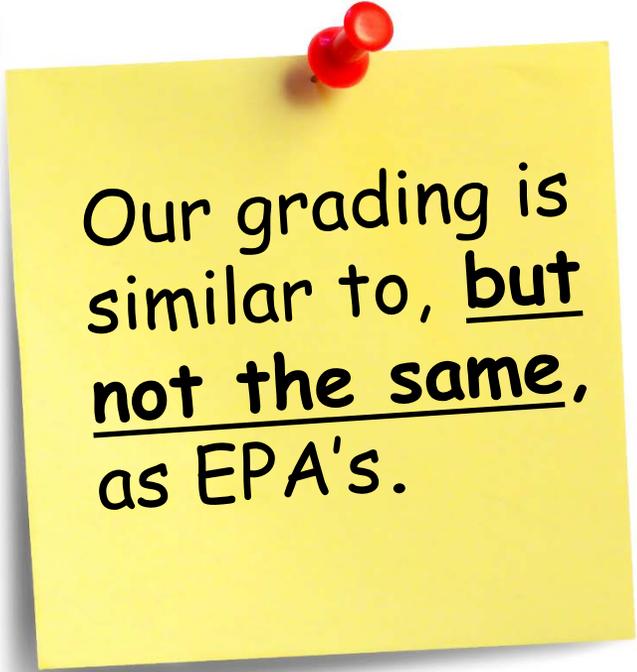
Someone in every family faces higher risk from air pollution

Reports on the two most widespread pollutants

Ozone and particle pollution can shorten life.



What we grade



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

Three categories of grading:

- **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”

What we grade

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

- We give **A-F** Grades or **Pass/Fail** to 900 counties with monitors (out of 3,069 total counties)
- Letter grades are based on EPA's Air Quality Index
- We also rank the 25 metro areas with worst pollution (& cleanest)
- We grade only air quality—not “effort to clean up”

The News

“State of the Air” 2019 shows that climate change is impacting air quality.

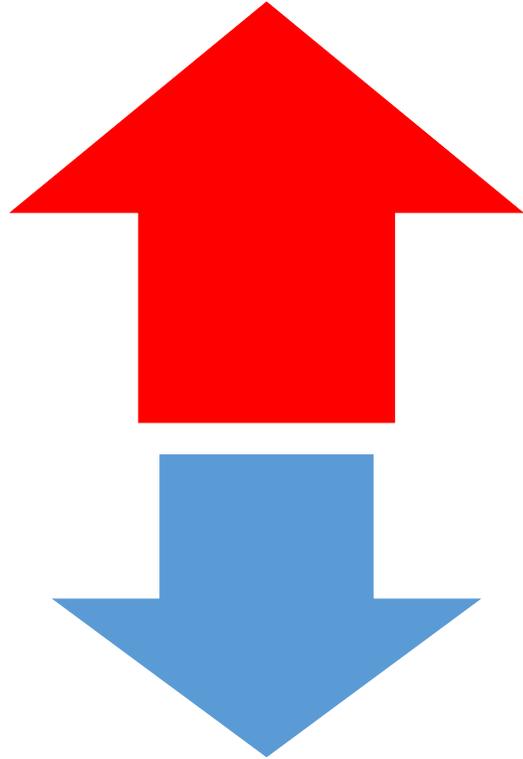
- This year’s report covers 2015, 2016 and 2017
- Many places had more/worse unhealthy air days
- 10 cities hit or tied their worst levels ever
- 141.1 million people live where unhealthy air earned an F for ozone or particle pollution.
- 20.1 million live where the air got all Fs

The News

In 2015-2017,
more than
4 people in 10
live in counties with an
“F” for air quality



More days with high ozone



- 17 of the 25 cities most polluted by ozone had more unhealthy days in 2015-2017
- 8 cities had fewer unhealthy days
 - 3 had their fewest days ever
- Most polluted city: Los Angeles-Long Beach, California

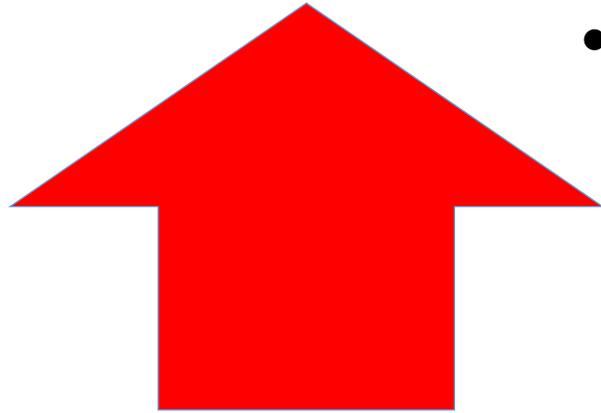
Reason for more ozone?

Warmer temperatures

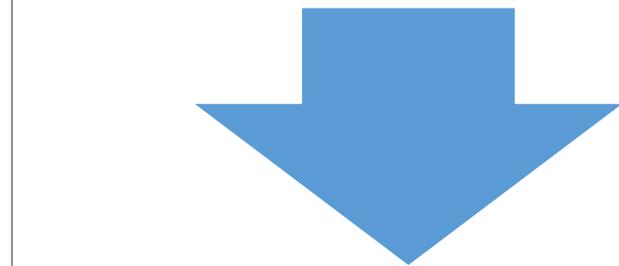
- 2015-2017 were the three warmest years on record globally.
- Ozone forms more easily and is harder to clean up when the weather is warmer.



More spikes in particle pollution



- 20 of the 26 cities most polluted by short-term levels had more high particle days in 2015-2017
 - 8 cities hit their highest number on record
- 6 had fewer unhealthy days
 - One had its fewest days ever
- Most polluted city: Bakersfield, California



The News

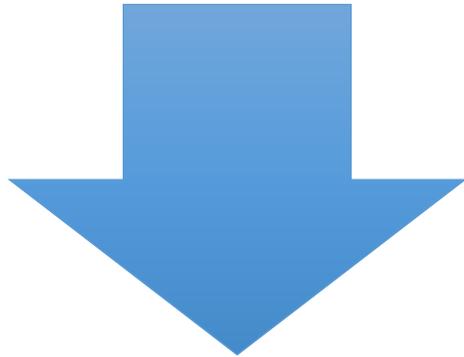
Reason for more spikes in particles?

Climate change fostered dry conditions → Wildfires

2017 → devastating fires & smoke → high particles in the West

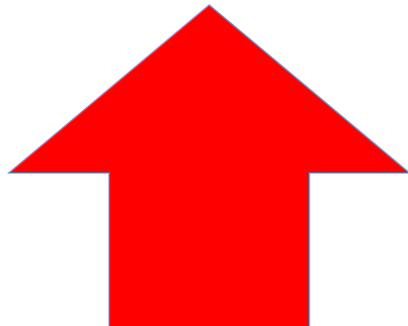


Less Particle Pollution Year-round



- 14 of the 25 cities most polluted by particles year-round had improved annual levels in 2015-2017

- 9 cities reached or matched their lowest levels ever



- 11 cities had increased year-round levels
 - Two cities tied for their worst ever
- Most polluted city: Fresno-Madera-Hanford, CA

The News

Reason for improvement: the Clean Air Act tools at work:

- New emissions control equipment on coal-fired power plants
- Retirement of fleets of old, dirty diesel trucks, buses, trains, barges, tractors and heavy equipment
- *But*, increased wildfires and weather patterns increased some annual levels



Cleanest Cities

- Bangor, ME
- Burlington-South Burlington, VT
- Honolulu, HI
- Lincoln-Beatrice, NE
- Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville, FL
- Wilmington, NC

Why do we publish “State of the Air”?



Millions of reasons

Questions