

75

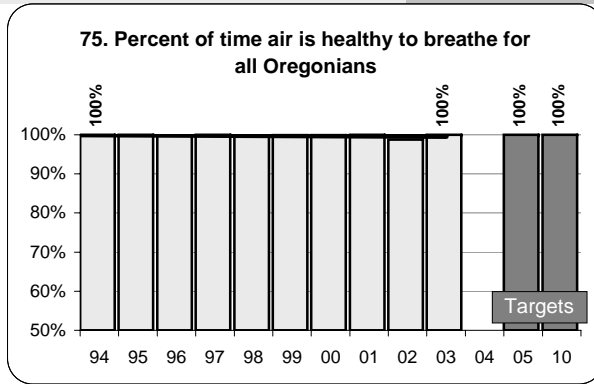
Air Quality

Percent of time that the air is healthy to breathe for all Oregonians

Making Progress?

Yes

In 2002, forest fires and air stagnation for two weeks caused the air quality to drop below the normal 100% clean. Nationally, Oregon ranked 19th among states for the percent of the population living in EPA-designated "nonattainment" areas, Washington 16th.



How Oregon Compares

Percent of persons in "non-attainment" counties*

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

<i>1st=best</i>	2002	Rank	<i>* "Non-attainment" status is a legal designation and does not necessarily reflect current air quality conditions in a county.</i>
OR	25.8%	19th	
WA	11.8%	16th	<i>CFED, Development Report Card</i>

Endnote:

75 Percent of time that the air is healthy to breathe for all Oregonians

Explanation : This benchmark measures the percent of time that air in Oregon meets current health-based air quality levels for three pollutants: carbon monoxide, ozone and particulate. New air quality science and monitoring data will likely require adjustment of the benchmark to measure air quality more comprehensively. **Target :** Target set by Oregon Progress Board. **Data Source :** Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Air Quality Division.

Current Benchmark

75a

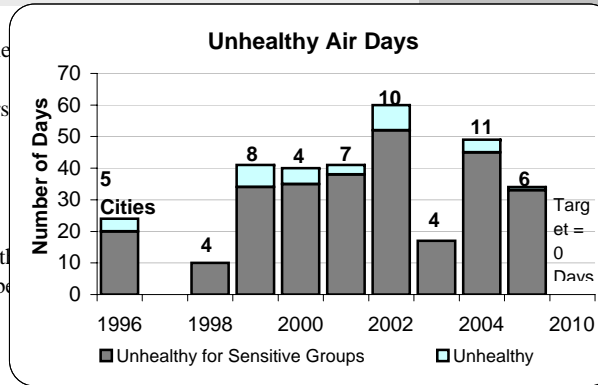
Air Quality - National Standards

Number of days when air is unhealthy in Oregon cities

Making Progress?

Yes, but

After significant air quality improvements prior to 1996 the graph shows the lack of progress over the past ten years with a few cities still having a few bad air days each year. Stagnant weather is partially responsible but pollution controls are not keeping up with population growth and it will be difficult to meet the target.



How Oregon Compares, 2005

U.S. EPA, Air Data Air Quality Index

	# of days	# of cities	Number of days per city:			
OR	33	6	Grants Pass	1 day	Eugene-Springfield	17 days
WA	15	8	Klamath Falls	10	Portland	1
ID	37	9	Lakeview	4	LaGrande	1

Endnote:

75a - Number of days when air is unhealthy in Oregon cities

Explanation: This benchmark measures whether the outdoor air that Oregonians breathe meets the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for the traditional, or “criteria”, air pollutants (carbon monoxide, ozone, particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and lead). The impact of forest fires has been removed from this data. Recent science has led the US EPA to propose new health-based particle standards for the nation. DEQ monitoring data indicate the air in several areas of the state will soon be considered unhealthy on many more days when compared to the new standards.

Target: Targets set by Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. *Data Source:* US Environmental Protection Agency – Air Data Air Quality Index

Proposed change