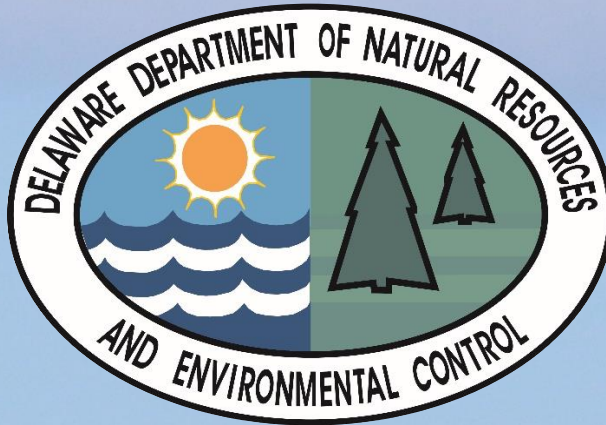


DELAWARE ANNUAL AIR QUALITY REPORT

2019



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Delaware's 2019 annual air quality report continues to document the changes and overall improvement in ambient air quality in the state. This year the report focuses on air quality monitoring, for more information on pollution sources or climate change as it relates to air quality, please visit our [website](#). In 2019 all pollutants except ozone are below the national air quality standards. Concentrations of air toxics in Wilmington continue to show generally low or declining levels.

As measured by the air quality index (AQI), there are only a few days that fall into the category of moderate or unhealthy for sensitive populations. Continuing recent trends, the number of days with good air quality continues to increase.

On October 1, 2015, the EPA strengthened the primary and secondary National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone from the 2008 NAAQS of 0.075 parts per million (ppm) over an 8-hour period to 0.070 ppm. The U.S. EPA announced on November 16, 2017 that New Castle County has been declared nonattainment for Ozone. In 2019 there were three days in Delaware that exceeded the current standard. Those three exceedances were only recorded by monitors in New Castle County.



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DELAWARE ANNUAL AIR QUALITY REPORT 2019

Introduction

In 1970, Congress passed the Clean Air Act that authorized the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA or EPA) to establish National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for pollutants shown to threaten human health and welfare. Primary standards were set according to criteria designed to protect public health, including an adequate margin of safety to protect sensitive populations such as children and asthmatics. Secondary standards were set according to criteria designed to protect public welfare (decreased visibility, damage to crops, vegetation, and buildings, etc.).

Seven pollutants currently have NAAQS: ozone (O_3), carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), particulate matter less than 10 microns (PM_{10}), particulate matter less than 2.5 microns ($PM_{2.5}$) and lead (Pb). These are commonly called the “criteria” pollutants. When air quality does not meet the NAAQS, the area is said to be in “nonattainment” with the NAAQS.

This report covers Delaware’s air quality status and trends for the criteria pollutants and some non-criteria pollutants. Non-criteria pollutants are substances that do not have standard criteria for ambient concentrations, such as air toxics. Technical details regarding monitoring activities along with references and sources of more information, are included in the appendices.



General Information

Delaware's Division of Air Quality

The Division of Air Quality (DAQ) is operated through an Air Quality Director and is organized by two main sections that are defined as:

- Planning
- Engineering and Compliance

Planning Section

Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Program

The Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Program monitors pollutants in ambient air. This is primarily accomplished by conducting long-term, fixed-site air monitoring of specific air pollutants. Most monitoring is focused on the pollutants that have standards set by the U.S. EPA to protect public health and are commonly called “criteria” pollutants. This program also conducts or assists in special short-term air monitoring studies as resources allow. The data are used to provide the public with information on current air quality conditions, assess compliance with or progress made towards meeting NAAQS, measure long term air quality trends for urban and non-urban areas, verify the effectiveness of air pollution control strategies, support State Implementation Plan development, evaluate air emission inventories, and verify computer models.

Airshed Planning and Inventory Program

As mandated by the Federal Clean Air Act, all states must achieve and maintain attainment of the NAAQS. Delaware and the surrounding states are in “non-attainment” for some of those standards. The air quality problem that requires immediate attention is ground-level ozone. Other pollutants to be addressed include fine particulate matter, regional haze and hazardous air pollutants as defined by the Environmental Protection Agency. The Airshed Evaluation and Planning Program seeks to find ways to reverse the non-attainment of an air quality standard by evaluating the combination of air pollution problems that are either generated locally or result from emissions transported through the atmosphere from distant areas. State Implementation Plans are prepared and adopted to reduce air pollution burden and to provide a plan to meet “attainment” of air quality standards.

The Emission Inventory Development Program works to develop comprehensive emission inventories of regulated pollutants from all emission source sectors, including point sources, stationary non-point sources, mobile sources and natural sources, as well as to compile periodic inventory data, procedures and documentation into comprehensive reports that are available to the public.

Area Sources Compliance Program

The Areas Source Compliance group inspects, and issues air pollution control permits for smaller sources, such as dry cleaners, auto body shops, gasoline tank trucks, open burning activity and asbestos abatement projects. Group personnel make periodic facility inspections and review data to ensure that permit and regulatory requirements are being met. Enforcement actions are initiated for violation of regulations or permit conditions when warranted.



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Greenhouse Gas, Mobile Sources, Air Toxics Program

The Greenhouse Gas, Mobile Source, and Air Toxics program identifies and develops strategies on a multi-pollutant basis (i.e., considering impacts of climate change, ozone, PM_{2.5} and toxics). The Greenhouse Gas program covers all greenhouse gas related planning and regulatory development activities, including Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) administration tasks such as management of Delaware's portion of the RGGI allowance accounts, reviewing and approving offset projects, and development of strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from outside the power sector (i.e., the sector that is regulated under RGGI). The Mobile Source program oversees land use and general/transportation conformity related planning and regulatory development activities, including identifying mitigation measures for reducing those emissions from both on-road and non-road sources. The Air Toxics program administers and implements related planning and regulatory development activities associated with the mitigation of air toxics.

Engineering and Compliance Section

Permitting and Compliance Programs

The Engineering and Compliance Section inspects, and issues air pollution control permits for minor and major stationary air pollution sources. Section personnel make periodic facility inspections and review emission test results to ensure that permit conditions are being met. Enforcement actions are initiated for violation of regulations or permit conditions when warranted.

Source Testing Program

The Source Testing Program verifies actual air pollution emission levels from industrial sources. Actual emission levels are needed to establish air pollution control permit conditions and to verify compliance with permit conditions after a permit has been issued. The program is also responsible for verifying the accuracy of source emission testing. There are a variety of source testing methods used to verify actual emissions.

Refinery Support Program

The Refinery Support Group (RSG) within the Engineering and Compliance Section inspects and issues air pollution control permits for the Delaware City Refinery (DCR) which is Delaware's largest source of air pollutant emissions. The RSG is responsible for providing regulatory and technical oversight of the DCR with respect to all air compliance issues. Because of the inherent complexity of this source, the RSG conducts a full compliance evaluation of the facility once every 3 years during which each unit operation is inspected. The RSG works in close concert with other groups within the Division as well as inter-agency groups. The RSG is also responsible for initiating enforcement action as appropriate and works closely with the Attorney General's Office and the US EPA to ensure compliance with all aspects of the Clean Air Act.



Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a “criteria” air pollutant?

A criteria air pollutant is an air pollutant that has a National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) established for it by the U.S. EPA. There are currently seven criteria pollutants: sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, ozone, lead, particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM₁₀), and particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM_{2.5}). Concentrations listed below are in either parts per million (ppm), parts per billion (ppb), or micrograms per meter cubed (µg/m³).

Table 1. National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)

Pollutant (Scientific Notation)	Primary / Secondary Standard	Averaging Time	Concentration	Form
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	Primary	8 hours	9 ppm	Not to be exceeded more than once per year
		1 hour	35 ppm	
Lead (Pb)	Primary & Secondary	Rolling 3-month period	0.15 µg/m ³	Not to be exceeded
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂)	Primary	1 hour	100 ppb	98 th percentile of 1-hour daily maximum concentrations, averaged over 3 years
	Primary & Secondary	1 year	53 ppb	Annual Mean
Ozone (O ₃)	Primary & Secondary	8 hours	0.070 ppm	Annual 4 th highest daily maximum 8-hour concentration, averaged over 3 years
Particle Pollution (PM)	Primary	1 year	12.0 µg/m ³	Annual mean, averaged over 3 years
	PM _{2.5} Secondary	1 year	15.0 µg/m ³	Annual mean, averaged over 3 years
	Primary & Secondary	24 hours	35 µg/m ³	98 th percentile, averaged over 3 years
	PM ₁₀ Primary & Secondary	24 hours	150 µg/m ³	Not to be exceeded more than once per year on average over 3 years
Sulfur Dioxide (SO ₂)	Primary	1 hour	75 ppb	99 th percentile of 1-hour daily maximum concentrations, averaged over 3 years
	Secondary	3 hours	0.5 ppm	Not to be exceeded more than once per year



2. What is the difference between a primary and secondary National Ambient Air Quality Standard?

Primary standards are set to protect human health. Secondary standards are set to protect public welfare and take into consideration such factors as crop damage, architectural damage, damage to ecosystems, and visibility in scenic areas.

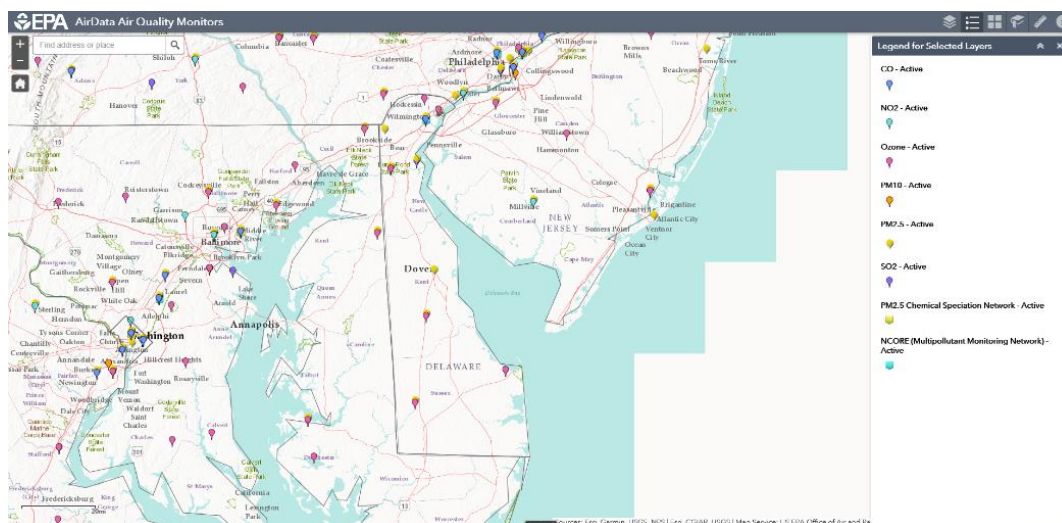
3. How is the location of an air monitoring station decided?

Multiple factors are considered when determining the location of air monitoring stations. Sites are selected based on the purpose of the monitoring (representative ambient concentrations, maximum source impact, etc.), the pollutant or pollutants to be monitored, the population density, location of other monitoring stations (including those in other states) and operational efficiency. The U.S. EPA have developed siting requirements for each of the “criteria” air pollutants. These requirements include distance from trees, buildings and roadways, distance from major point sources, and height of the sampler probe or inlet. Other factors include site security and access, availability of electricity, aesthetics and local zoning issues, and long-term (+10 years) site availability. Unfortunately, the ideal monitoring site is virtually impossible to acquire, especially in urban areas.

Air monitoring stations are primarily used to house continuous instruments that measure “criteria” air pollutants (those that have established National Ambient Air Quality Standards). Monitoring for particulate matter is often accomplished by setting up instrumentation on a sampling platform.

Delaware has had air monitoring sites located around the state since the late 1960’s. The original focus of the monitoring network was on monitoring close to “point” sources (large facilities with high emissions). As air pollution control strategies were successfully implemented and the emissions from large facilities were brought into compliance with air quality regulations, the focus has shifted to pollutants that are more of a regional problem.

To see locations of monitoring sites in Delaware and the rest of the country visit U.S. EPA’s [Interactive Air Quality Monitoring Tool](#).





4. How large an area does an air monitoring station represent?

Depending on the location of a station and the pollutant being monitored, the data from a given site can represent a large geographical area or a smaller local area impacted by specific sources.

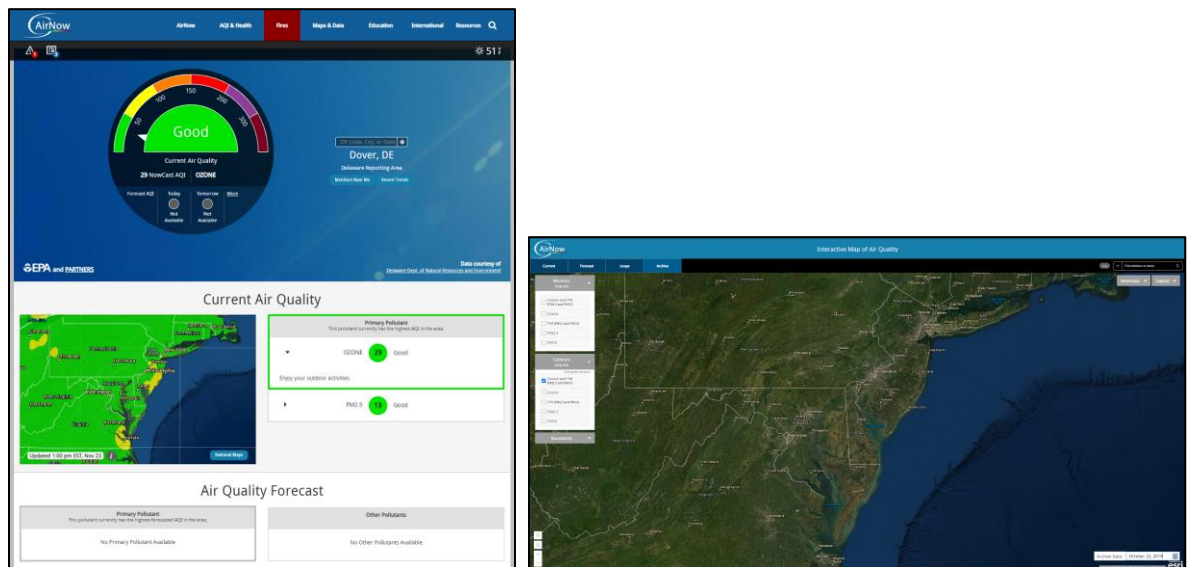
5. What do I do if I have a complaint about an odor or other air quality issues?

Odors and other environmental complaints can be reported to the Environmental Emergency and Complaints 24-hour Hotline at **1-800-662-8802**.

6. How I find current air quality data?

Near real time air quality data and other information is available on the Division of Air Quality [Air Monitoring](#) web page.

Alternatively, you can visit the [EPA's AirNow](#) site which has been updated with new graphics and features as of April 2020.

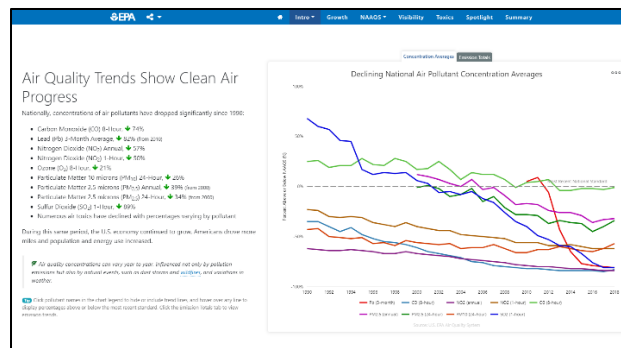


7. How can I find historical air quality data?

Historic air quality data for Delaware and other states is available on the internet from the [EPA's Air Data](#) site.

8. How can I find out how air quality compares across the country?

EPA has released a National Air Quality: Status and Trends of Key Air Pollutants report in an online interactive format since 2015. They have historical reports available as well. Visit the EPA's interactive [National Trends Report](#).



9. What is open burning and why can't I burn leaves or trash?

Open burning is conducted outside where smoke and other emissions are released directly into the air. Open burning is prohibited in Delaware from May 1 through September 30 due to its contribution to harmful summertime ozone levels. Exemptions include small camping, cooking, and ceremonial fires. Delaware's Open Burning Regulations prohibit certain types of burning at all times, to include the burning of leaves and trash which emits large amounts of harmful fine particulates and toxic air pollutants some of which may be cancer causing. Since 1968, Delaware has prohibited the burning of trash, while the burning of leaves has been prohibited statewide since 1995. Guidance for allowable burning under specific conditions can be found in a [Citizen's Guide to Residential Open Burning](#) on DAQ's website.

10. Who can I call about an indoor air quality problem?

Indoor air quality problems are handled by the Environmental Health Evaluation Section of the Division of Public Health. **(302) 744-4540**.

11. Where do I find the Division of Air Quality regulations?

The regulations are posted on the [air quality regulations web page](#).



Glossary – Acronyms & Definitions

Ambient Air: Generally, refers to the lowest layer of the atmosphere.

Annual Arithmetic Mean: The numerical average of the data for the year.

Attainment: EPA designation that an area meets the NAAQS (defined below).

24-hour Average: The average concentration for a 24-hour period.

CAA: Clean Air Act

CAAA: Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

CMSA: Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area

Chemiluminescence: Visible light produced by chemical reaction.

DAQ: Division of Air Quality

Design Value: A design value is a statistic that describes the air quality status of a given location relative to the level of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Typically, it is a 3-year average of the relevant NAAQS statistic. Design values are typically used to designate and classify nonattainment areas, as well as to assess progress towards meeting the NAAQS. More information is available at [Air Quality Design Values](#).

EGUs: Electric Generating Units

Exceedance: An incident occurring when the concentration of a pollutant in ambient air is higher than the NAAQS.

Fluorescence: The production of light in response to the application of radiant energy such as ultraviolet rays.

Infrared: Electromagnetic radiation with longer wavelengths lying just beyond the red end of the visible electromagnetic (light) spectrum.

MSA: Metropolitan Statistical Area

NAAQS: National Ambient Air Quality Standard, set by U.S. EPA to protect human health and welfare.

NCore: National Core monitoring station, part of an enhanced U.S. EPA monitoring program, successor to the National Air Monitoring Stations (NAMS) program

Nonattainment: U.S. EPA designation that an area does not meet the NAAQS.

OTR: Ozone Transport Region.



PAMS: Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations

Photometry: The measurement of the intensity of light.

Photomultiplier: A device that converts light into an electrical current, amplifying it in the process.

ppb: Parts per billion by volume.

ppm: Parts per million by volume.

Precursor: A substance that is the source of, or aids in the formation of, another substance.

RACT: Reasonably Available Control Technology.

RGGI: Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

SIP: State Implementation Plan.

SLAMS: State and/or Local Air Monitoring Stations.

SPMS: Special Purpose Monitoring Stations.

Spectrometry: The measurement of electromagnetic wavelengths (spectra).

Troposphere: The region of the atmosphere nearest to the earth in which temperature generally decreases with height.

µg/m³: Micrograms per cubic meter.

Ultraviolet: Electromagnetic radiation with shorter wavelengths lying just beyond the violet end of the visible electromagnetic (light) spectrum.

U.S. EPA: United States Environmental Protection Agency, formed in 1970 the mission of EPA is to protect human health and the environment.



Delaware's Air Quality Status

For 2019 Delaware met all of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) with the exception of the 8-hour ozone (O₃) standard, which for 2019 is right at the standard.

Over the last ten years, trends in ambient concentrations of the criteria pollutants have been either level or declining.

Note: Even though Lead (Pb) is a Criteria Pollutant, Delaware is in attainment for the NAAQS. As of 2016 U.S. EPA has ruled that official monitoring for lead is no longer required at National Core (NCore) sites. ([Federal Register Vol. 81, No. 59, 3/28/2016](#)) Monitoring continues as part of the Chemical Speciation Network, but is not reported here.

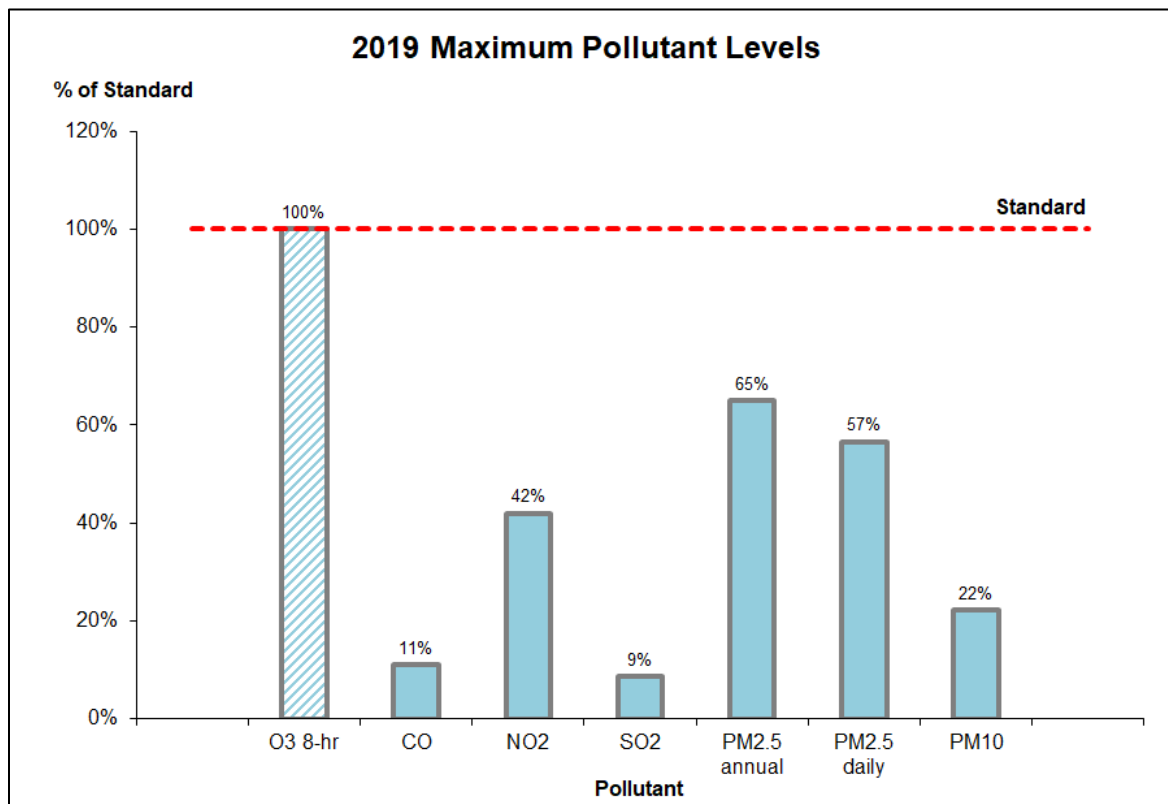


Figure 1. Maximum Pollutant Levels as percent of individual standard



Air Quality Monitoring Scenes in Delaware



U.S. EPA Air Quality Index (AQI)

Description

The Air Quality Index (AQI) was created by the U.S. EPA to ensure national uniformity of daily air quality reports. Ambient concentrations of five pollutants (O_3 , CO, NO_2 , SO_2 , and $PM_{10}/PM_{2.5}$) are used to calculate a health-related value or index. The procedures and calculations used to generate the AQI are defined by the U.S. EPA.

For each pollutant, a sub-index is calculated using a mathematical function that transforms ambient pollutant concentrations onto a scale from zero to 500, with 101 corresponding to the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS), the orange color, and “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups” category. Index ranges and descriptions are listed below.

Table 2. Air Quality Indexes and descriptions

Index Value	Name	Color	Advisory
0 to 50	Good	Green	None
51 to 100	Moderate	Yellow	Unusually sensitive individuals should consider limiting prolonged outdoor exertion
101 to 150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Orange	Children, active adults, and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should limit prolonged outdoor exertion
151 to 200	Unhealthy	Red	Children, active adults, and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should avoid prolonged outdoor exertion; everyone else should limit prolonged outdoor exertion
201 to 300	Very Unhealthy	Purple	Children, active adults, and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should avoid outdoor exertion; everyone else should limit outdoor exertion
301-500	Hazardous	Maroon	Everyone should avoid all physical activity outdoors.



Delaware Annual AQI

Delaware reports criteria pollutant concentrations from the statewide monitoring network on an hourly basis to the [EPA AirNow](#) website. AirNow uses Delaware's data to calculate an Air Quality Index (AQI) for each pollutant. The pollutant with the highest AQI determines the AQI category for the day. The charts below indicate the calculated AQI for each day in each county for 2019. In 2019 only New Castle County had days in the Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups category, due to high ozone. Some pollutants such as Ozone and Particulate Matter are influenced by seasons. During warmer months most level orange days are the result of higher Ozone concentrations. Elevated Particulate Matter levels can occur during the cooler months. More information on seasonal variation of pollutants can be found in this report under specific pollutant sub-sections.



Figure 2. Air Quality Index Calendar for New Castle County



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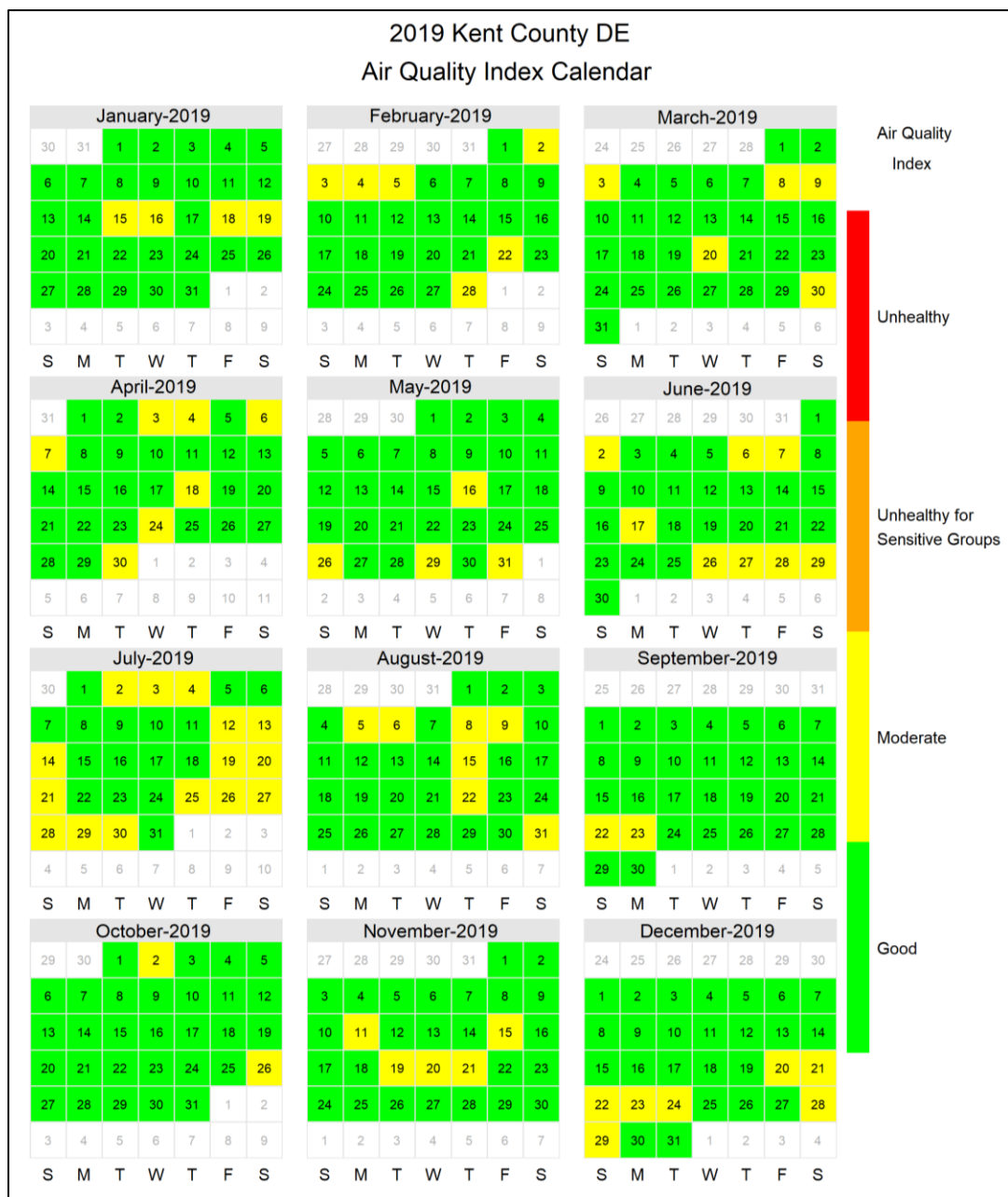


Figure 3. Air Quality Index Calendar for Kent County



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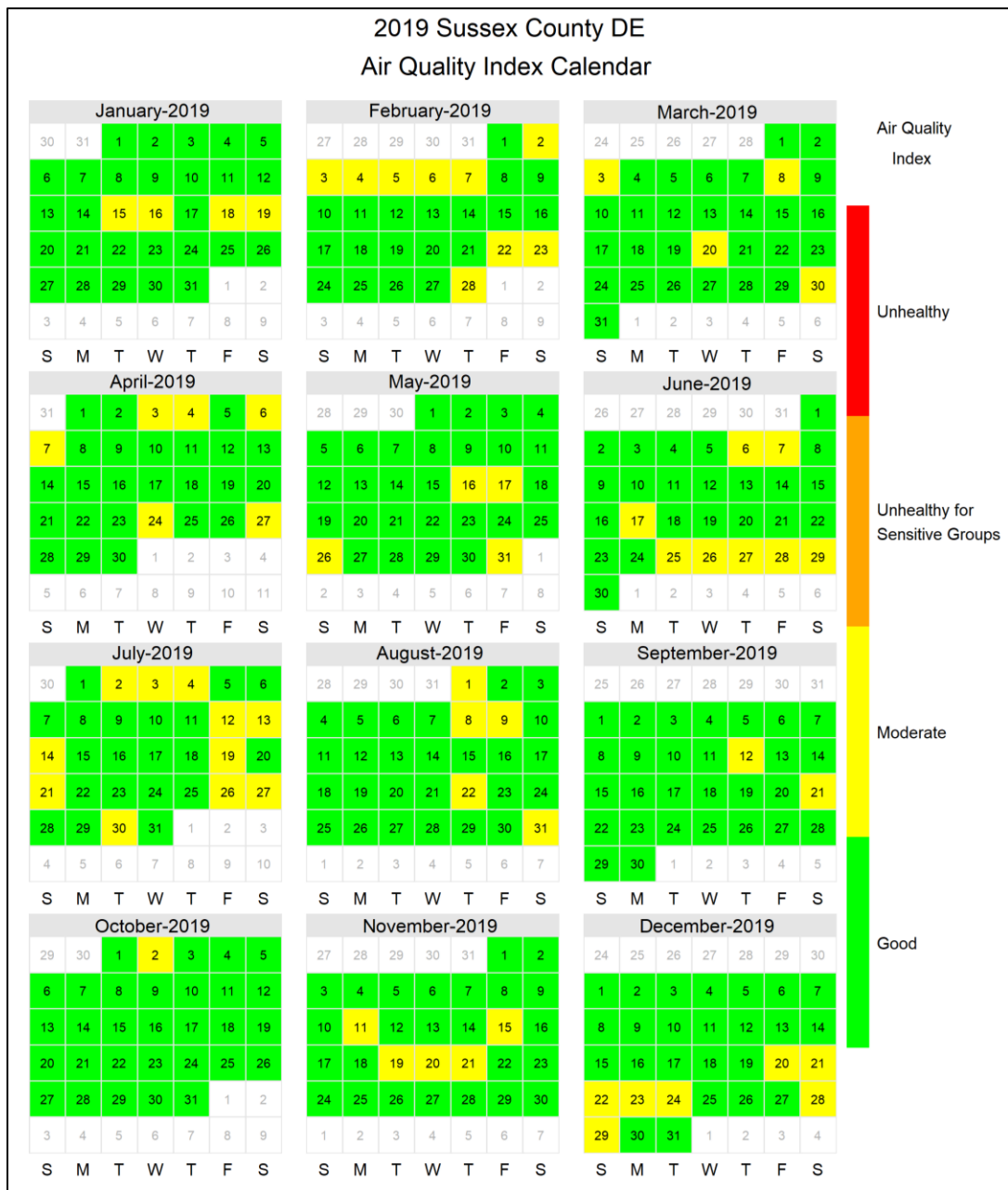


Figure 4. Air Quality Index Calendar for Sussex County



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The graph below uses the daily AQI to evaluate trends for New Castle County from 1999 through 2019, according to the definitions applicable in that year. The number of days with unhealthy air quality has been generally declining in recent years. The number of days for 2019 in each category are indicated above the corresponding bar below.

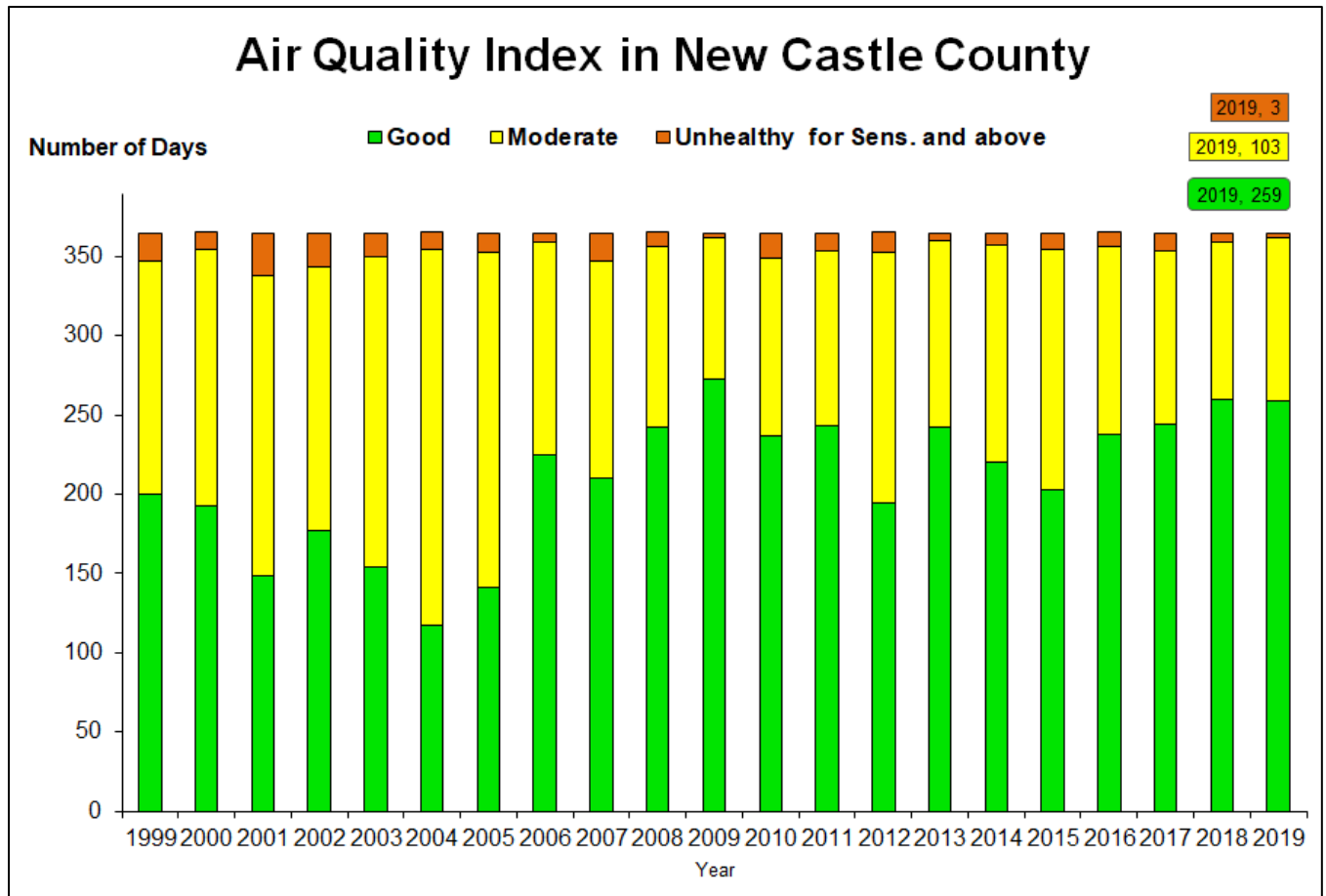


Figure 5. Annual Air Quality Index in New Castle County



Delaware Air Monitoring Network

The State of Delaware has established an air monitoring network to determine the ambient levels of pollutants for which NAAQS have been established. The earliest monitors were placed near pollution sources to measure direct impact of pollution emissions. As ambient air pollution standards became established and monitoring methods standardized, the monitoring network expanded to include monitors in both urban and suburban areas. Monitoring goals shifted to include measuring high pollution concentrations in population centers, detecting trends, and determining compliance with the new national and ambient air quality standards, as well as establishing background levels and measuring pollution transported from areas outside of Delaware.

In 2006 the EPA introduced a requirement to establish the National Core (NCore) monitoring stations. NCore is a national multi-pollutant network that integrates several advanced measurement systems for particulates, gaseous pollutants, and meteorology. The purpose of this requirement was to enhance ambient air quality monitoring to better serve current and future air quality needs. Delaware's Wilmington site was configured to meet NCore requirements and began monitoring in 2010.

Although monitoring takes place statewide, most of the stations are concentrated in the northern urban/industrial areas, which have the highest population and number of pollutant sources. Different stations also monitor different pollutants, depending on sources, population, and monitoring goals for the station. As the air quality has improved and ambient levels continue to be well below standards, monitoring for certain pollutants such as CO and NO_x are only monitored at the NCore monitoring site in Wilmington. More detailed information on the network is available in the [Delaware Air Monitoring Network Description report](#) which can be found under the Delaware Air Quality Monitoring Network heading of the [monitoring website](#). See also question 3 in the FAQ section for more information on how and why monitors are sited.

This network is maintained and operated by the Air Monitoring Program within the Planning Section of the Division of Air Quality (DAQ). The gaseous criteria pollutants, along with wind speed and wind direction, are measured continuously with hourly averages computed and reported via a telemetry system to the central data storage computer in the DAQ New Castle office. Particulates are either collected as 24-hour samples that run every third day or collected continuously with hourly averages. The Delaware Air Monitoring Network consists of the sites and monitors listed in the following table and figure.



360° View from the roof of the Seaford Monitoring Station



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Table 3. Delaware air monitoring network and pollutants monitored

Site	O ₃	CO	NO ₂	SO ₂	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	Wind Speed/ Direction
Brandywine Creek State Park (SP)	X						X
Bellefonte I & II — <i>River Road Park (I)</i>					X		
<i>Bellevue State Park (II)</i>	X			X			
MLK National Core (NCore) Wilmington	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Newark					X		
Delaware City Route 9				X	X		X
Lums Pond State Park (SP) Summit Bridge	X			X	X		X
Dover					X		
Killens Pond State Park (SP) Felton	X				X		X
Seaford	X				X		X
Lewes	X			X			X

“X” indicates pollutant monitored



Examples of monitoring sites in Delaware

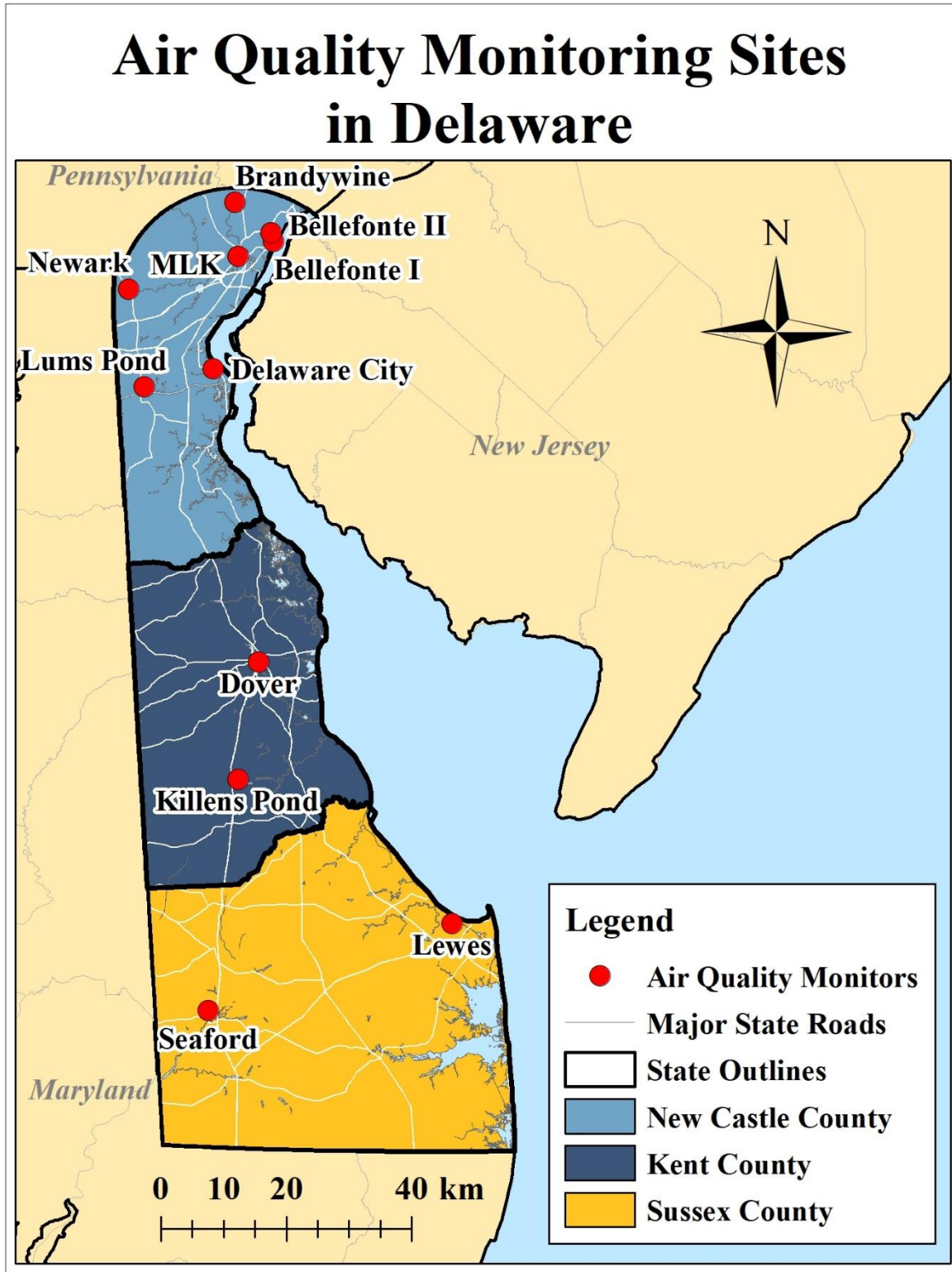


Figure 6. Map of Delaware Air Quality Monitoring Sites



Air Quality – Pollutants that Exceed Standards

Ozone (O₃)

Description

Ozone (O₃) is a highly reactive gas that is the main component of smog. Ozone in the lower atmosphere (troposphere) is considered a pollutant and is distinct from the ozone layer in the upper atmosphere (stratosphere) where it acts as a shield from ultraviolet radiation. Ozone is a strong respiratory irritant that affects healthy individuals as well as those with impaired respiratory systems. It can cause respiratory inflammation and reduce lung function.

Ozone also adversely affects trees, crops (soybeans are a particularly sensitive species), and other vegetation. The national agricultural loss from ozone pollution is estimated by the U.S. EPA to be several billion dollars annually. It is also implicated in white pine damage and reduced growth rates for red spruce; studies have shown forest and ecosystem damage can result from high ozone concentrations.

Standards

Primary NAAQS:

- Maximum eight-hour average = 0.070 ppm
 - The eight-hour standard is achieved when the annual fourth highest daily eight-hour concentration, averaged over three years, is less than or equal to the standard.

State standard:

- Maximum one-hour = 0.12 ppm, former NAAQS, current Delaware AAQS.
 - *Note: EPA revoked the one-hour standard for ozone in June 2005. Delaware has maintained the one-hour standard in its regulations (Regulation 1103) due to historical non-attainment designations and continues to track and record these values.*
 - The one-hour standard is achieved when the expected number of days, averaged over three years, with a maximum hourly average of greater than 0.120 ppm (235 µg/m³) is less than or equal to one.

Sources

Ozone is not generally emitted directly from a pollution source but is formed in the lower atmosphere by the reaction of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the presence of sunlight and warm temperatures. When temperature and sunlight are not sufficient to form ozone, these same compounds destroy ozone, which may be referred to as “scavenging”. Sources of nitrogen oxides include automobiles, power plants and other combustion activities. VOCs can come from automobiles, gasoline vapors, and a variety of large and small commercial and industrial sources that use chemical solvents, paint thinners, and other chemical compounds. These compounds or “precursors of ozone” can travel for miles before chemical reactions in the atmosphere form ozone.

Controlling ozone is a complex task due to the wide variety of sources for nitrogen oxides and VOCs as well as the long-distance transport of ozone and its precursors. Control methods include

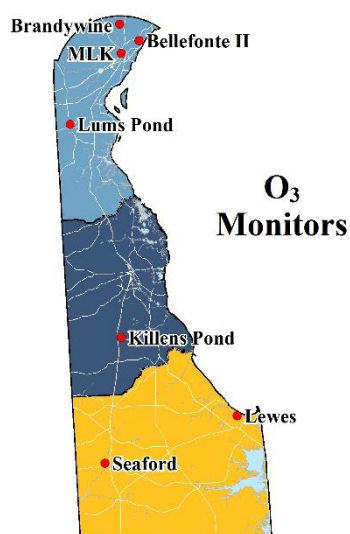


Figure 7. Map of Delaware Ozone Monitors

regulation to control gasoline vapor emissions, inspection and maintenance programs for motor vehicle exhausts, and regulation of VOC and NO_x emissions from industrial sources.

Locations

Ozone is monitored throughout the state. Monitors are located away from or at some distance downwind of urban areas and major traffic corridors in order to avoid “scavenging” of ozone by NO_x emissions. While short-term 1-hour average peak ozone levels are usually highest in New Castle County, longer-term 8-hour averages are close to or above the standard throughout Delaware.

Delaware Air Quality and Trends

Trends in ozone concentrations can be difficult to discern because of meteorology. Hot, dry weather and stagnant air conditions favor the formation of ozone, and the greatest number of exceedance days typically occurs during the hottest and driest summers.

Overall, Delaware ozone levels have shown a downward trend, with fewer exceedance days even as the standard has been lowered twice in the past two decades.

Eight-hour Ozone Data and Trends

2008 NAAQS: Prior to 2008, a measured 8-hour average concentration would have exceeded the 0.08 ppm standard if the concentration was equal to or greater than 0.085 ppm. This is due to numerical rounding to two decimal places. In 2008 the 8-hour standard was revised to 0.075 ppm with numerical rounding to three decimal places.

Current NAAQS: In October 2015 the 8-hour NAAQS was strengthened to 0.070 ppm (continuing with numerical rounding to three decimal places). Currently a measured 8-hour average concentration above 0.070 is an exceedance of the standard. Exceedances in 2015 are counted based on the 2008 standard since the NAAQS was not enacted until after the 2015 Ozone Season.

In 2019 ozone exceedances occurred on three days in New Castle County with no exceedance days in Kent or Sussex County. Therefor New Castle County accounted for the State’s total of three exceedance days.

In the chart below, the total number of statewide exceedances is shown as a bar chart in gray based on the applicable standard. The lines for each county do not necessarily correspond with the statewide count because an exceedance in a particular county may not have occurred on the same day as another county. For example, if Sussex had two exceedances one each on a Monday & Tuesday, Kent had three each Wednesday to Friday, and New Castle had one on Friday, the statewide total would be 5 but Sussex = 2, Kent = 3, New Castle =1.

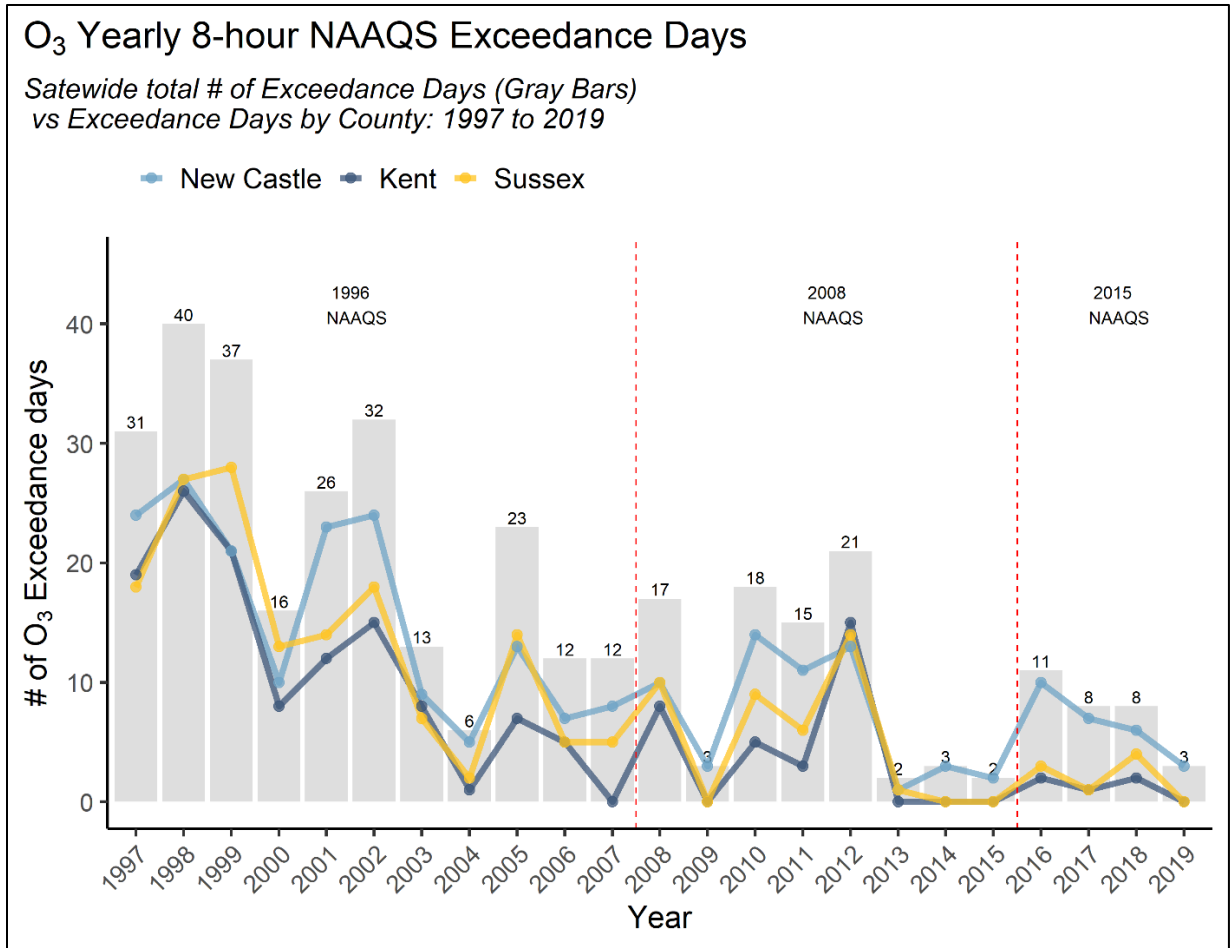


Figure 8. Number of Days Exceeding 8-hr Ozone NAAQS

The “Ozone Design Value by County” numbers in the chart on the following page are the annual fourth highest (4th Maximum) daily 8-hour concentration, averaged over three years, referred to as the Design Value (see Glossary). If the Design Value is less than or equal to the standard, the 8-hour standard is achieved or met. Based on 2017 – 2019 data New Castle County meets the ozone 8-hour NAAQS at 0.070 ppm.

However, New Castle County is part of the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which may also be listed as Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, PA-NJ-MD-DE. If any monitor’s Design Value in the MSA exceeds the standard, the highest Design Value determines the classification for the entire MSA. For 2017 - 2019 the MSA Design Value was 0.076 ppm which exceeds the 0.070 ppm standard.

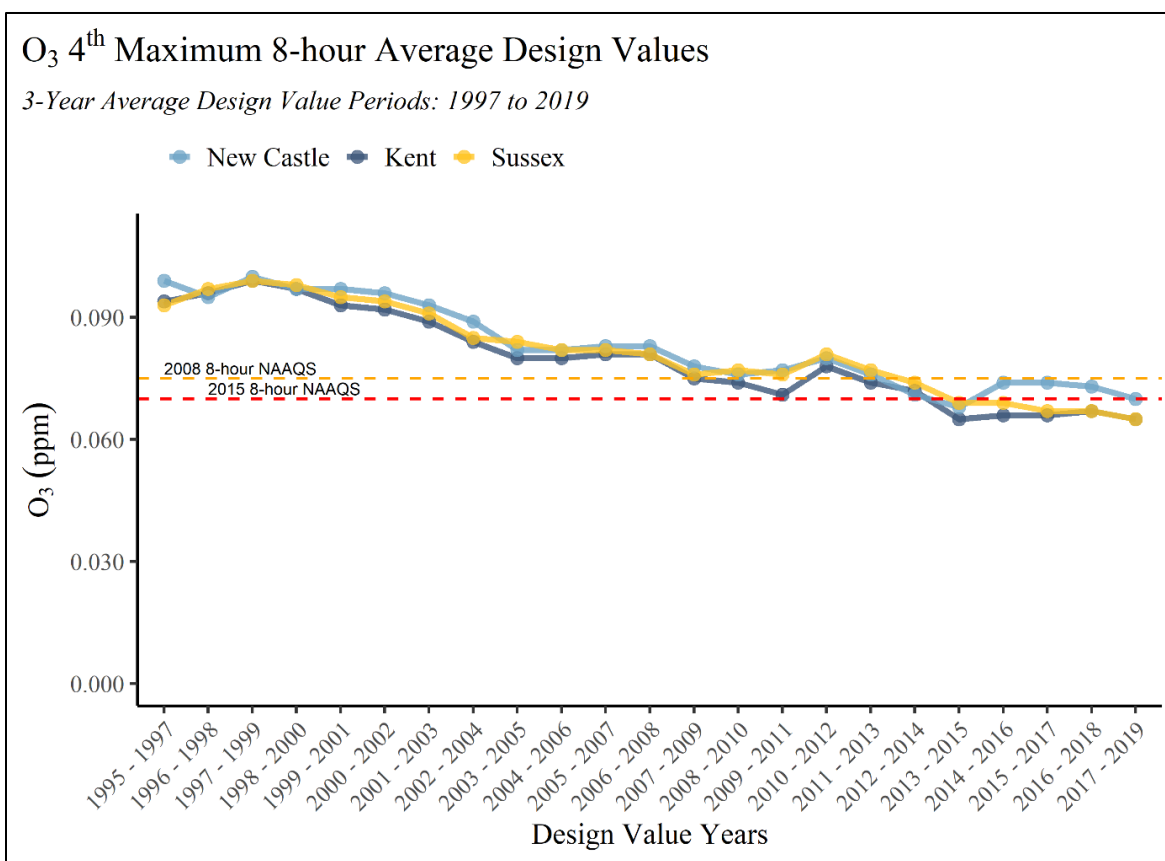


Figure 9. Ozone Design Value by County

The following tables contain more information on the 8-hour standard and trends for each monitoring site.

Table 4. Ozone Eight-hour Average Exceedance Days and Maxima, 2015 Standard (ppm)

Site	# Exceedances > 0.070 ppm	1st Maximum	2nd Max.	3rd Max.	4th Max.
Brandywine Creek SP	1	0.075	0.069	0.068	0.067
Bellefonte II	3	0.081	0.072	0.072	0.068
Lums Pond SP	1	0.075	0.067	0.064	0.064
MLK NCore	2	0.080	0.071	0.070	0.067
Killens Pond SP	0	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.062
Seaford	0	0.068	0.067	0.066	0.065
Lewes	0	0.067	0.059	0.058	0.058

Exceedances = Number of days with at least one 8-hour average > 0.070 ppm.



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Table 5. 3-year Design Values: 4th Highest Daily Max. Eight-hour Avg. (ppm)

2008 NAAQS = 0.075 ppm, 2015 NAAQS = 0.070 ppm

Note: Official EPA Design Values may vary due to data completeness rules for calculations. For historical consistency those complexities are not detailed or indicated in this document, unless a value is unavailable.

Site	2007 - 2009	2008 - 2010	2009 - 2011	2010 - 2012	2011 - 2013	2012 - 2014	2013 - 2015	2014 - 2016	2015 - 2017	2016 - 2018	2017 - 2019
Brandywine SP	0.078	0.076	0.075	0.078	0.073	0.071	0.069	0.074	0.074	0.073	0.069
Bellefonte II	0.074	0.075	0.077	0.080	0.076	0.071	0.068	0.070	0.071	0.072	0.070
Lums Pond SP	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.080	0.075	0.071	0.066	0.068	0.067	0.068	0.068
*MLK NCore				0.079	0.074	0.071	0.069	0.071	0.072	0.071	0.069
Killens Pond SP	0.075	0.074	0.072	0.082	0.074	0.072	0.065	0.066	0.066	0.067	0.065
Seaford	0.076	0.077	0.076	0.082	0.075	0.070	0.064	0.065	0.065	0.066	0.065
Lewes	0.076	0.077	0.076	0.081	0.077	0.074	0.069	0.069	0.067	0.067	0.063

* Monitoring began in 2011.

How does Delaware's air quality compare to nearby monitored areas?

Ozone levels recorded by Delaware monitors in 2019 were similar to those recorded at other monitoring sites in the region.

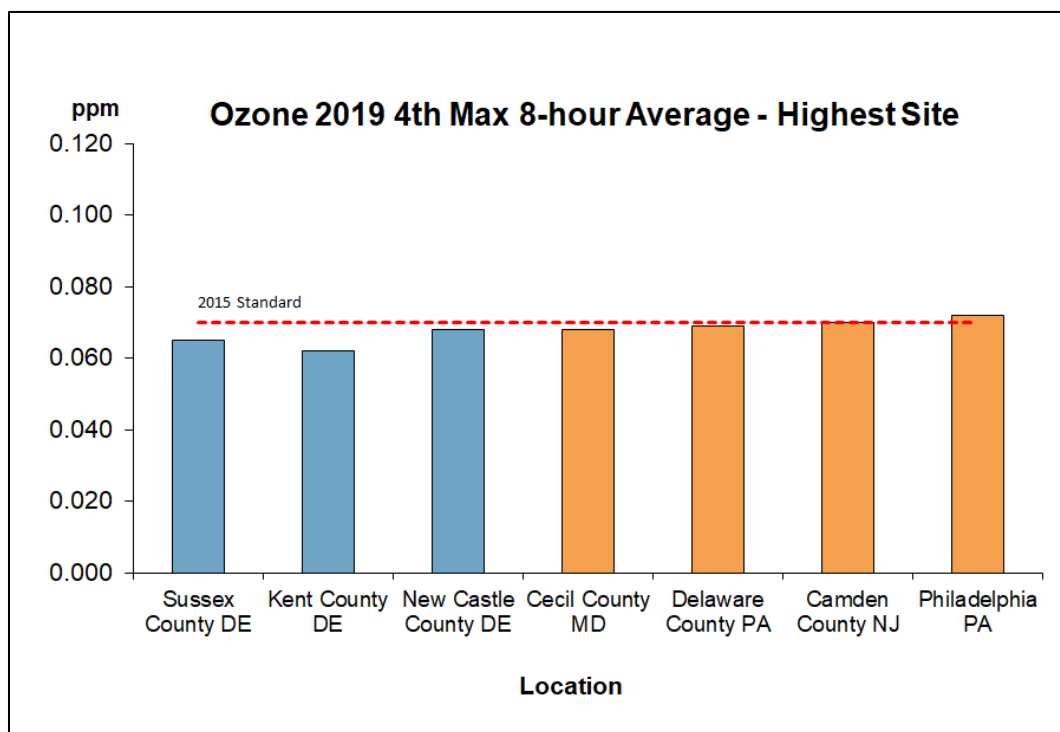


Figure 10. Ozone compared to nearby monitored sites



Ozone Mapping Project (AirNow)

The Ozone Mapping Project has been integrated into EPA's AirNow website and includes particulate matter data as well as ozone. Participating states and local agencies submit real-time pollutant data to the AirNow database where the data is converted into color-coded maps based on the Air Quality Index (page 15). These maps are then distributed by AirNow to local television stations for inclusion in the weather segment of the news program. Stations are most likely to broadcast the map during periods of poor air quality.

The purpose of AirNow is to increase awareness of elevated ozone concentrations so people can take protective measures and to educate the public about the regional nature of ozone formation and transport. For more information, current and historical maps, please visit the EPA [AirNow](#) web site.

Following is an example of an ozone map from the updated AirNow system showing the regional nature of ozone episodes.

Air Quality Index Ozone Peak Values – June 28, 2019

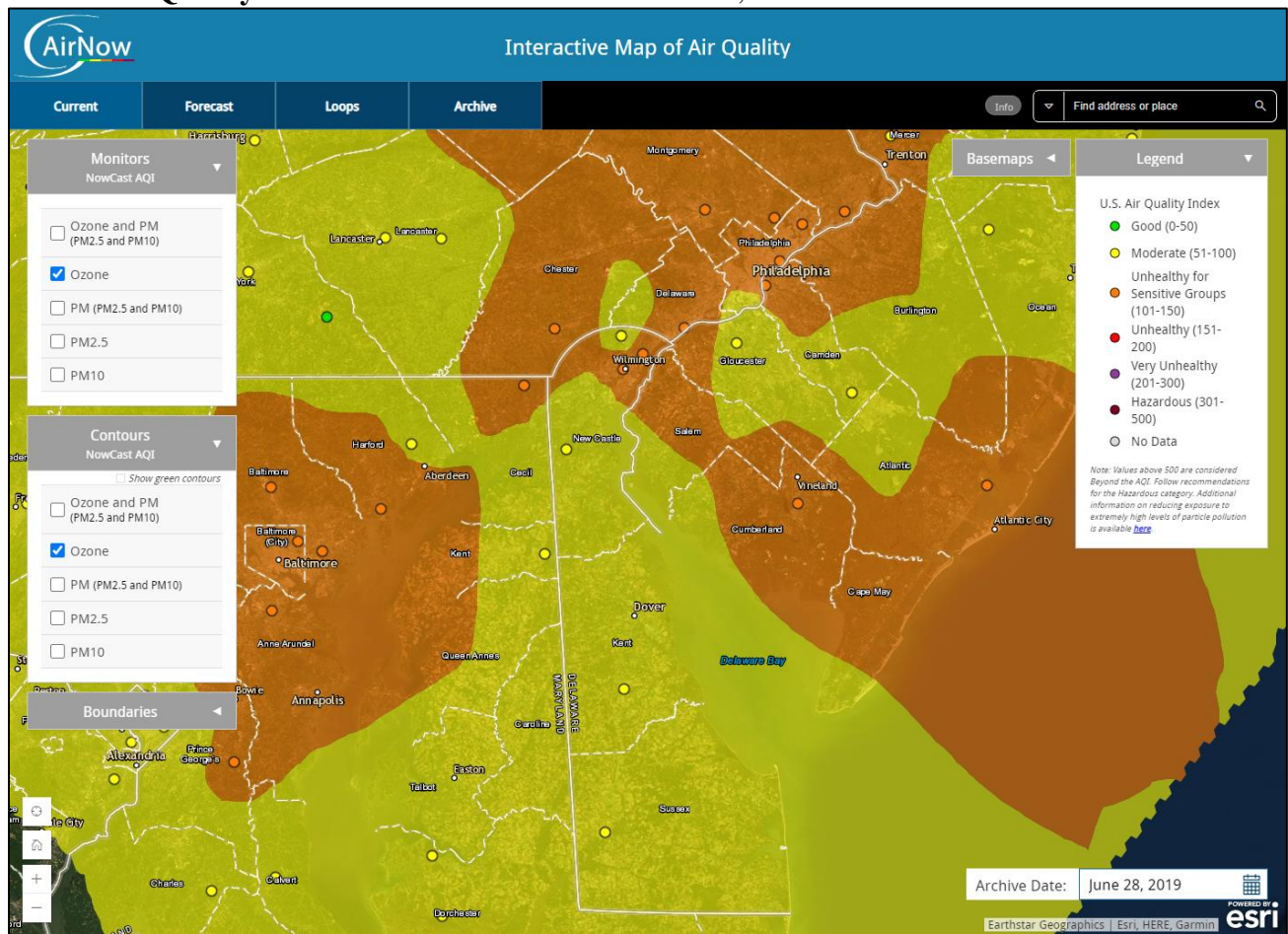


Figure 11. Air Quality Index Ozone Peak Values Example

Source: EPA AirNow website [Maps](#). Archived maps are available in the menu at the bottom right as seen in the screen capture above.

Air Quality – Pollutants that Meet Standards

Carbon Monoxide (CO)

Description

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas produced by incomplete combustion of fossil fuels. It reduces the blood's ability to carry oxygen. Exposure can cause fatigue, headache, and impaired judgment and reflexes at moderate concentrations; at high levels unconsciousness and death can result. People with heart disease, angina, emphysema and other lung or cardiovascular diseases are most susceptible.

Standards

Primary NAAQS:

- 8-hour average = 9 ppm ($10 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) (Not to be exceeded more than once per year)
- 1-hour average = 35 ppm ($40 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) (Not to be exceeded more than once per year)

Sources

Carbon monoxide is formed when carbon in fuel is not completely burned. The U.S. EPA estimates that approximately 60% of all CO emissions are from motor vehicle exhaust. Other sources include incinerators, wood stoves, furnaces, and some industrial processes.

Concentrations are highest along heavily traveled highways and decrease significantly with increasing distance from traffic. Therefore, CO monitors are usually located close to roadways or in urban areas.

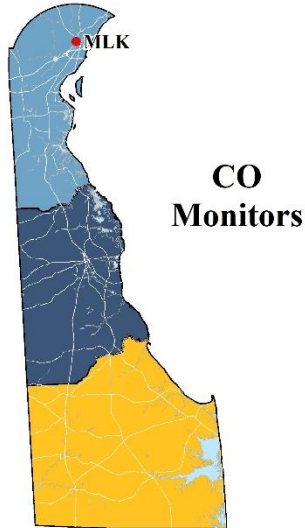


Figure 12. Map of Delaware CO Monitors

Locations

The monitor for CO is located at the Wilmington MLK NCore site.



MLK NCore Station



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Delaware Air Quality and Trends

Mobile sources cause most of the ambient CO detected at the Wilmington MLK site.

There has been a slight downward trend in CO concentrations since monitoring began in the 1970's, and no violations of the ambient standards have occurred since 1977. Improvements are largely due to cleaner burning engines in cars and tighter automobile emission standards. Relatively stable low year-to-year concentrations continued in 2019.

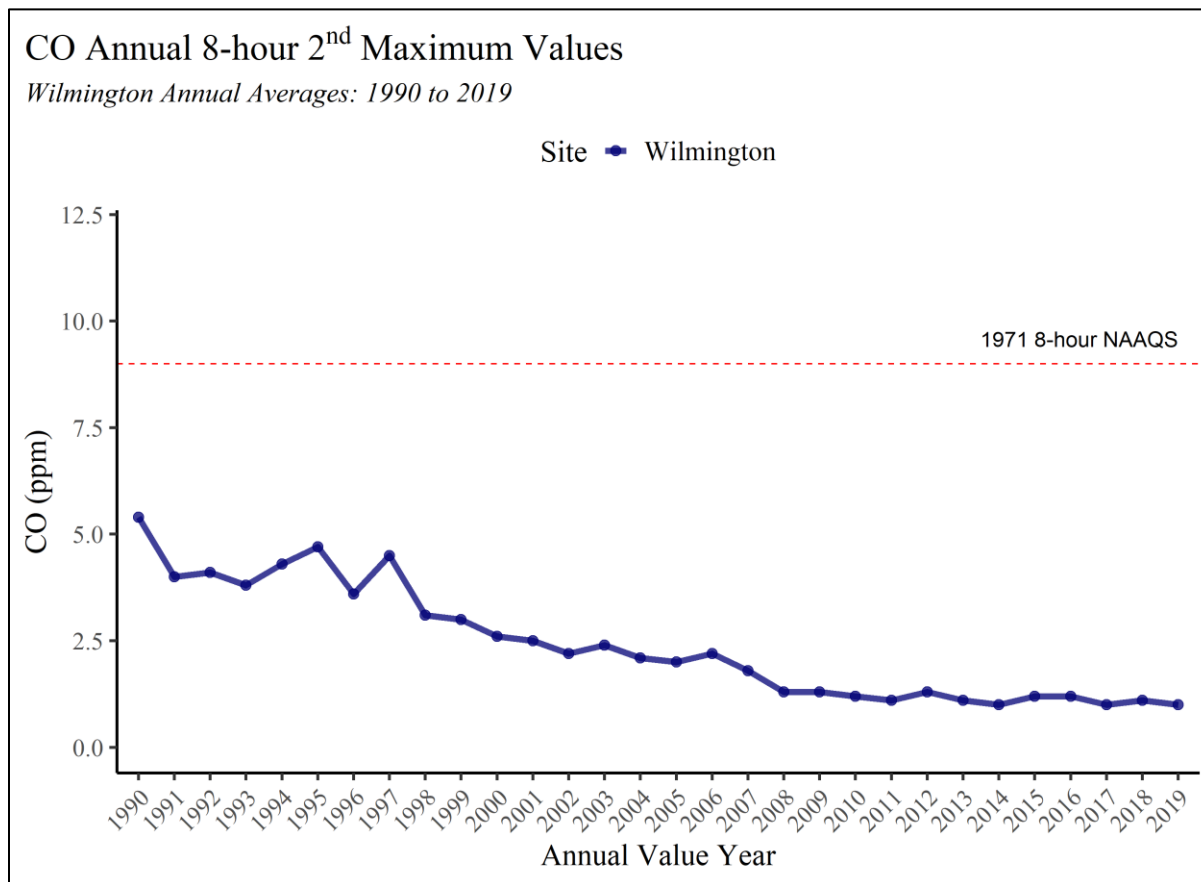


Figure 13. Delaware CO Trends Annual 2nd Maximum

Table 6. Delaware CO Annual Maximum Values (ppm)

Site	1-Hour Avg. NAAQS = 35 ppm		8-Hour Avg. NAAQS = 9 ppm	
	1 st Max.	2 nd Max.	1 st Max.	2 nd Max.
MLK NCore	1.423	1.230	1.1	1.0



How does Delaware's air quality compare to nearby monitored areas?

Most CO monitors are located in urban areas. CO concentrations monitored in Wilmington are similar to those concentrations reported in nearby cities.

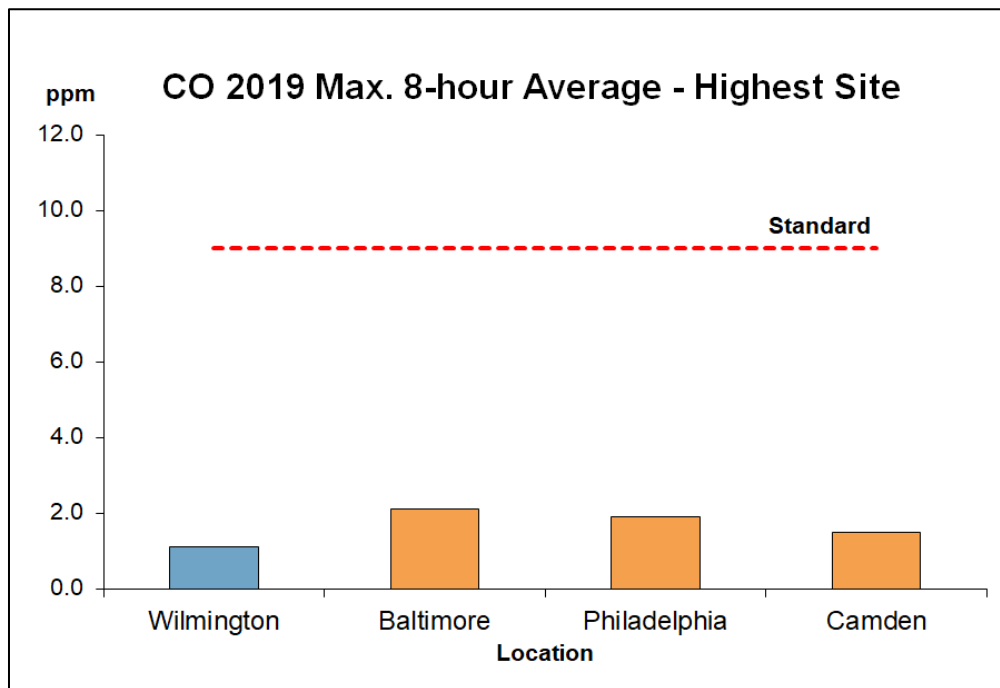


Figure 14. CO compared to nearby monitored sites

Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)

Description

Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) is a reddish-brown toxic gas that is part of a group of gases containing nitrogen and oxygen called oxides of nitrogen or NO_x. Nitrogen dioxide irritates the lungs and upper respiratory system and lowers resistance to respiratory infections. It can be fatal in high concentrations. Nitrogen dioxide is also known to damage vegetation by stunting growth and reducing seed production. It acts to reduce visibility. Reactions between nitrogen dioxide and other compounds in the atmosphere can form nitric acid, which contributes to the acid rain problem. Oxides of nitrogen can also have a significant impact on fine particulate matter concentrations, most notably in the western areas of the United States.

One of the most important features of NO_x is their ability to react with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) to form ozone. Air quality computer models have shown that control of NO_x is necessary in many areas of the United States to reach attainment of the ozone standard.

Atmospheric deposition of oxides of nitrogen has recently been estimated to be a significant source of nitrogen to bodies of water such as the Chesapeake Bay and Delaware's Inland Bays. Nitrogen acts as a nutrient and contributes to excess nutrient loading and algal blooms in estuary systems.

Standards

Primary NO₂ NAAQS:

- Annual arithmetic mean = 53 ppb
- 1-hour average = 100 ppb (98th percentile of 1-hour daily max. concentration averaged over 3 years. *In 2011: 1-hour average and standards changed from ppm to ppb*)

Sources

Oxides of nitrogen are produced during high-temperature burning of fuels. Sources of NO_x include motor vehicles and stationary sources that burn fossil fuels such as power plants and industrial boilers.

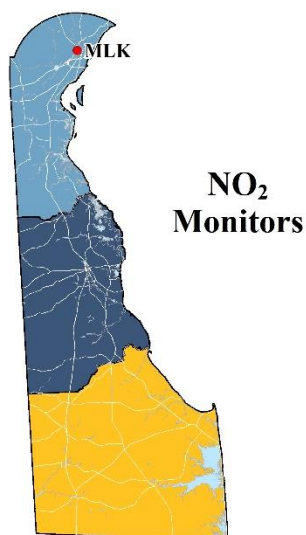


Figure 15. Map of Delaware NO₂ Monitors

Locations

Delaware monitors NO₂ at the Wilmington MLK NCore site.



MLK NCore Criteria Gas Analyzers



Delaware Air Quality and Trends

Nitrogen dioxide levels in Delaware have remained well below the NAAQS since monitoring began. In 2019, levels continued to remain well below the standard with a slight downward trend in the Design Value.

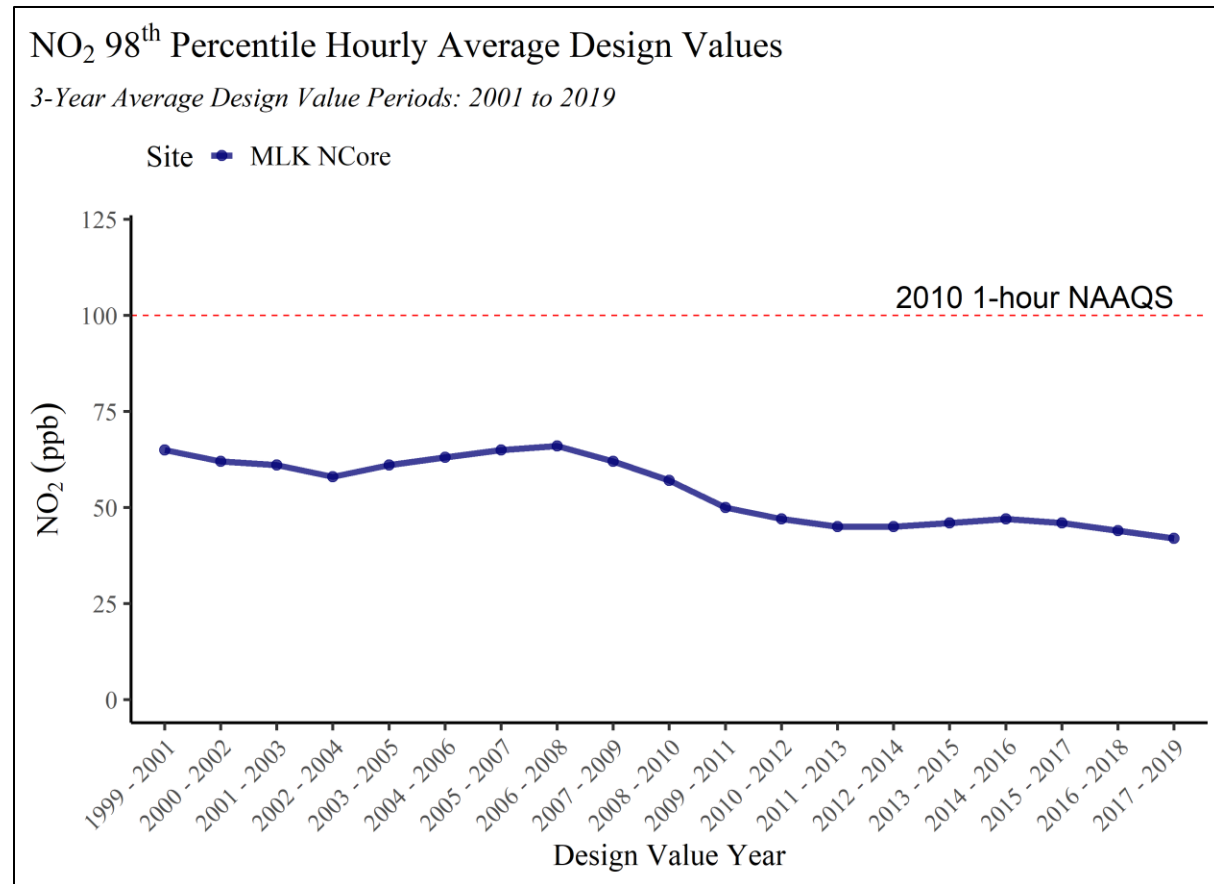


Figure 16. NO₂ Trends, 3-year Design Values: 98th Percentile

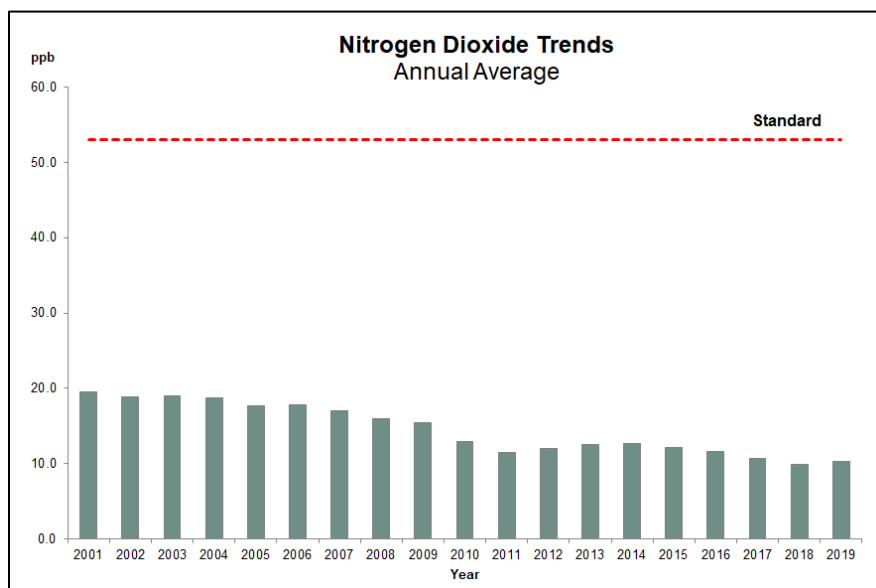


Figure 17. NO₂ Trends, Annual Average



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Table 7. Delaware NO₂ Trends, Annual Arithmetic Means & 98th Percentile (ppb)

Site Form	Year										
MLK NCore	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Annual Arithmetic Mean	15.5	12.9	11.4	12.0	12.5	12.7	12.2	11.6	10.7	9.9	10.3
98 th Percentile	40	50	45	48	46	45	47	48	42	42	42

Note: Not Design Values, annual averages based on the relevant statistic

How does Delaware's air quality compare to nearby monitored areas?

Most NO₂ monitors are located in urban areas. NO₂ concentrations monitored in Delaware are similar to or lower than those in nearby monitored areas.

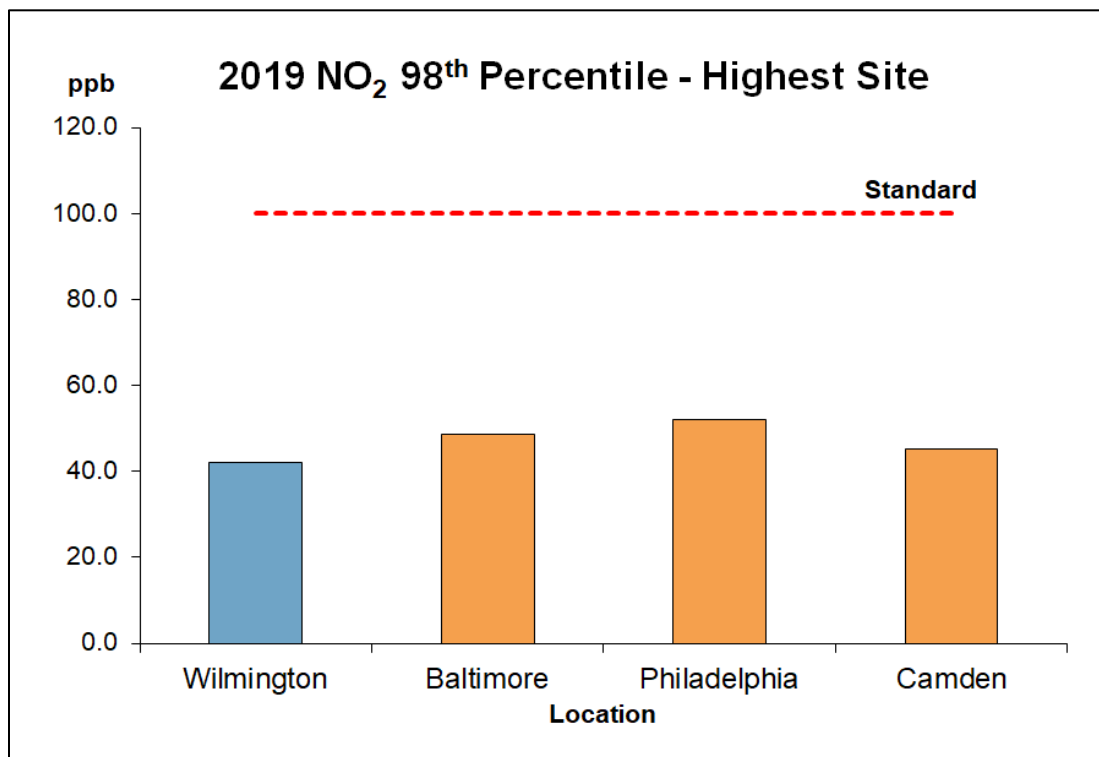


Figure 18. NO₂ compared to nearby monitored sites

Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂)

Description

Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) is a pungent, poisonous gas. It is an irritant that can interfere with normal breathing functions even at low levels. It aggravates respiratory diseases such as asthma, emphysema, and bronchitis. These effects can be magnified by high particulate levels. High SO₂ levels can obstruct breathing passages and cause increased death rates among people with existing heart and lung disease.

Sulfur dioxide can bind to dust particles and aerosols in the atmosphere, traveling long distances on the prevailing winds. It can also be oxidized to SO₃ and combine with water vapor to form sulfuric acid and fall as acid rain, causing materials damage and harming aquatic life. Sulfur compounds contribute to visibility degradation in many areas including national parks. Sulfur dioxide in the atmosphere can also cause plant chlorosis (loss of green color) and stunted growth.

Standards

Primary NAAQS:

- 1-hour average = 75 ppb (3-year average of the 99th percentile 1-hour avg.)

Secondary NAAQS:

- 3-hour average = 0.5 ppm (Not to be exceeded more than once per year)

Note: In 2010 EPA revoked the annual average (0.03 ppm) and 24-hour average (0.14 ppm) standards, but these still remain in Delaware's regulations regarding ambient air quality standards.

Sources

The main sources of SO₂ are combustion of coal and oil (mostly by power plants), refineries, smelters, and industrial boilers. Nationally, two thirds of all sulfur dioxide emissions are from power plants, and coal fired plants account for 95% of these emissions.

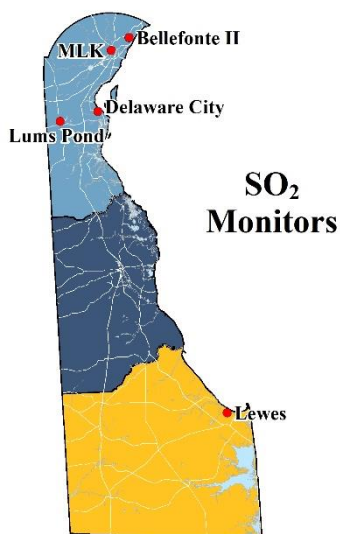


Figure 19. Map of Delaware SO₂ Monitors

Locations

Delaware's SO₂ monitors are located at the MLK NCore, Bellefonte II, Lums Pond SP, and Delaware City sites. Due to resource restrictions, there was no monitoring at the Lums Pond SP site in 2009. Monitoring in Sussex County began at the Lewes site in 2012.



Lums Pond SP Monitoring Station



Delaware Air Quality and Trends

Delaware is in attainment with the NAAQS for SO₂. Over the last decade, measured ambient levels have remained well below the old annual average standard of 0.03 ppm, with a slight downward trend. Locally, higher levels are found only in areas impacted by a single large source (such as a coal burning power plant or oil refinery).

In 2019, SO₂ levels remained well below the current standards.

In comparing the 1-hour averages to the 2010 standard, a significant improvement can be noted at the Delaware City site when additional emission controls were added to the nearby oil refinery.

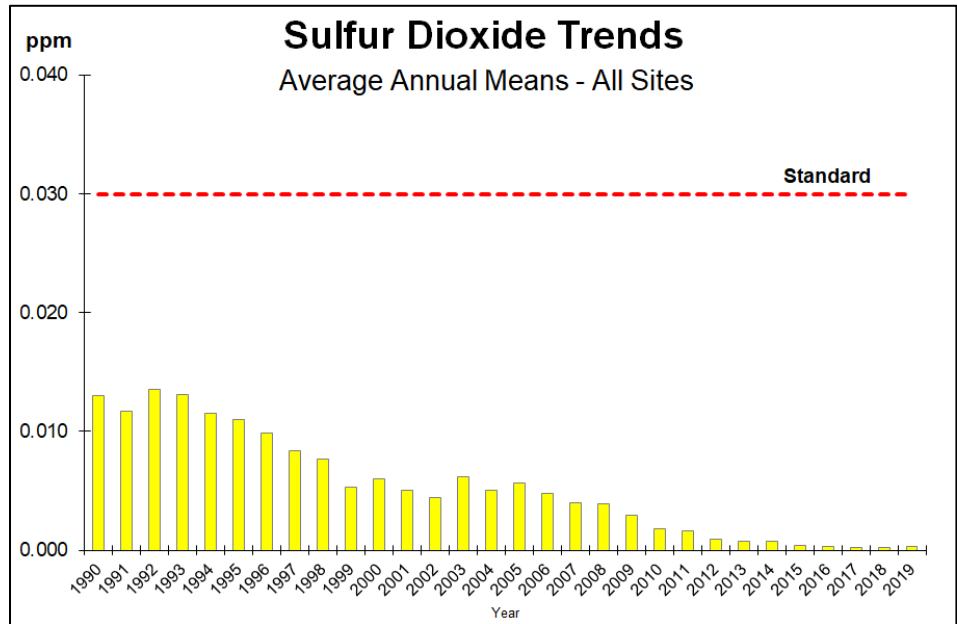


Figure 20. SO₂ Trends, annual average with old annual standard

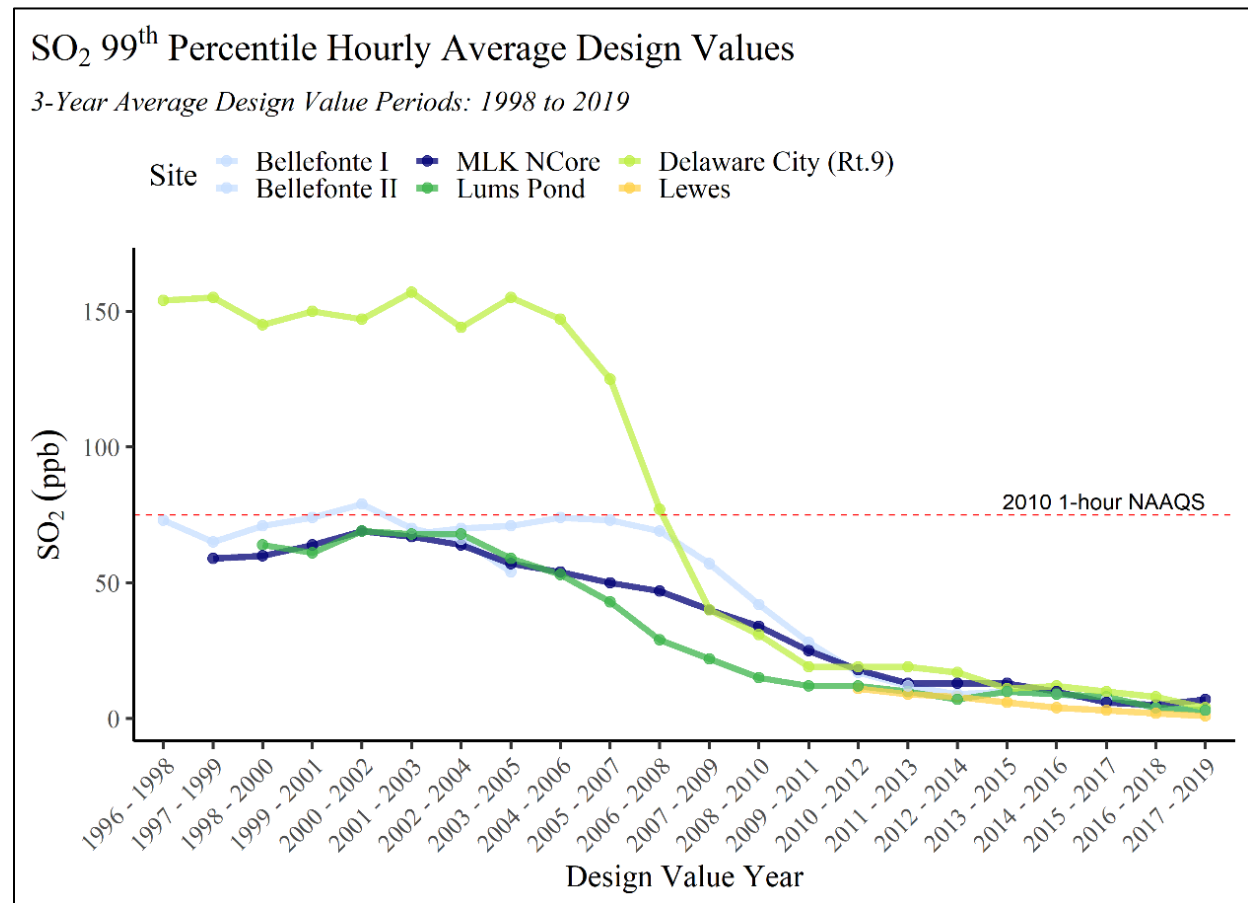


Figure 21. SO₂ Trends, 3-year Design Values: 99th Percentiles



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Table 8. SO₂ Annual 99th Percentile 1-hour Average (ppb)

Site	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Bellefonte II	77	69	60	41	25	19	8	7	10	11	6	3	4	4
MLK NCore	47	50	43	28	31	14	9	13	14	10	5	4	6	10
Lums Pond SP	42	29	*ND	*ND	*ND	*ND	*ND	7	7	14	5	3	3	2
Delaware City	139	41	51	28	13	15	29	13	11	10	14	4	4	5
Lewes							11	7	7	4	2	2	1	1

*ND=No Data

Table 9. SO₂ 3-year Design Values: 99th Percentile (ppb)

Site	Years (NAAQS = 75 ppb)										
	2007- 2009	2008- 2010	2009- 2011	2010- 2012	2011 - 2013	2012 - 2014	2013 - 2015	2014 – 2016	2015 – 2017	2016 - 2018	2017 - 2019
Bellefonte II	57	42	28	18	12	9	10	9	7	4	3
MLK NCore	40	34	25	18	12	12	13	10	6	5	7
Lums Pond SP	22	15	*ND	*ND	10	7	10	9	8	4	3
Delaware City	40	31	19	19	19	17	11	12	10	8	4
Lewes					9	8	6	4	3	2	1

Note: Official EPA Design Values may vary due to data completeness rules for calculations. For historical consistency those complexities are not detailed or indicated in this document, unless a value is unavailable.

How does Delaware's air quality compare to nearby monitored areas?

SO₂ concentrations in Delaware are similar to those in nearby monitored areas.

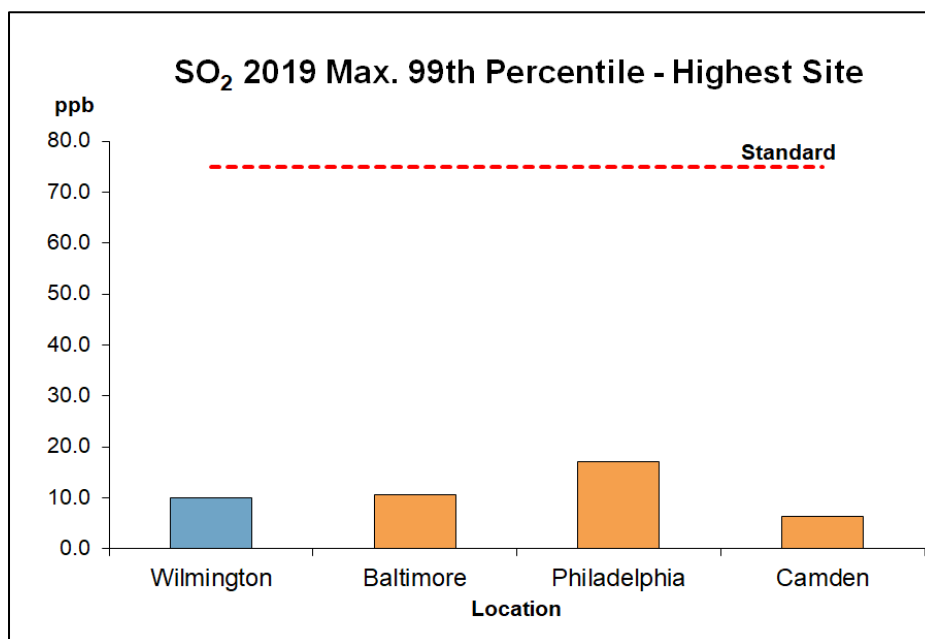


Figure 22. SO₂ compared to nearby monitored sites

Particulate Matter - Fine (PM_{2.5})

Description

Fine particulate matter is made up of particles smaller than 2.5 microns in diameter. These fine particles, also called PM_{2.5}, penetrate more deeply into the lungs than coarse particles (2.5 - 10 microns) and are more likely to contribute to health effects. Health effects of concern associated with particulate matter pollution demonstrated in recent community studies include premature death and increased hospital admissions and emergency room visits, primarily by the elderly and individuals with cardiopulmonary disease, increased respiratory symptoms and disease in children and individuals with cardiopulmonary disease, and decreased lung function and alterations in lung tissue and structure, particularly in children and people with asthma. The graphic at right illustrates a comparison of the different size classes of particulate matter compared to a human hair and beach sand.

Source: U.S. EPA Particulate Matter Basics

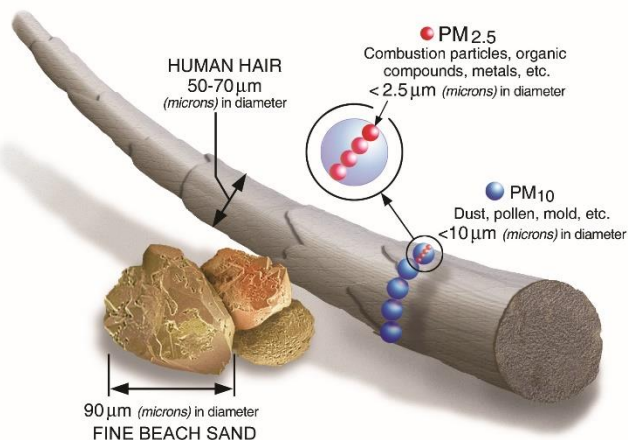


Figure 23. Particulate Matter Size Comparison

Standards

Primary NAAQS:

- Annual arithmetic mean = 12.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (Averaged over three years)
- 24-Hour maximum = 35 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (The 98th percentile averaged over three years)

Sources

Fine particles (PM_{2.5}) are generally emitted from combustion activities (such as industrial and residential fuel burning and motor vehicles) while coarse particles come from dust emitted during activities such as construction and agricultural tilling. PM_{2.5} can also form in the atmosphere from precursor compounds (substances that are the source of another substance), such as SO₂ and NO_x, through various physical and chemical processes.

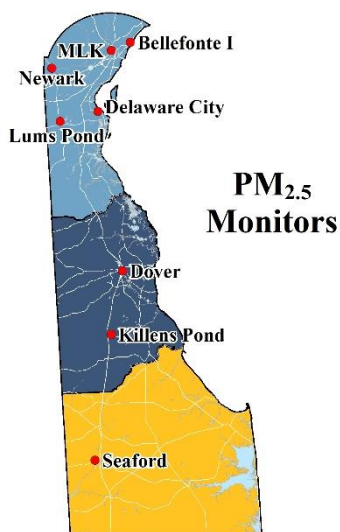


Figure 24. Map of Delaware PM_{2.5} Monitors

Locations

Monitors are located throughout Delaware, with the majority of monitors in New Castle County where the highest concentrations occur.



Bellefonte I Monitoring Platform



Delaware Air Quality and Trends

Delaware's monitoring network began collecting data in January 1999. Three years of complete data are required for comparison to the national standard.

Annual Average

New Castle County was originally designated non-attainment for PM_{2.5} based on the 16.0 µg/m³ three-year average of the annual averages for 2001 to 2003 at the urban Wilmington MLK site. For the most recent three-year period (2017 - 2019), the highest average occurred in New Castle County (7.8 µg/m³ at the MLK NCore site). Currently, all sites in Delaware meet the annual average standard.

The trends chart below shows the 3-year averages or Design Value for the Annual Averages. The highest site remains the Wilmington MLK NCore site in dark blue. There is a downward trend showing continued air quality improvement across all sites. This reflects the significant correlation between average concentrations at all monitoring sites in Delaware. Both local and regional sources of fine particulate matter and its precursors contribute to concentrations seen in Delaware.

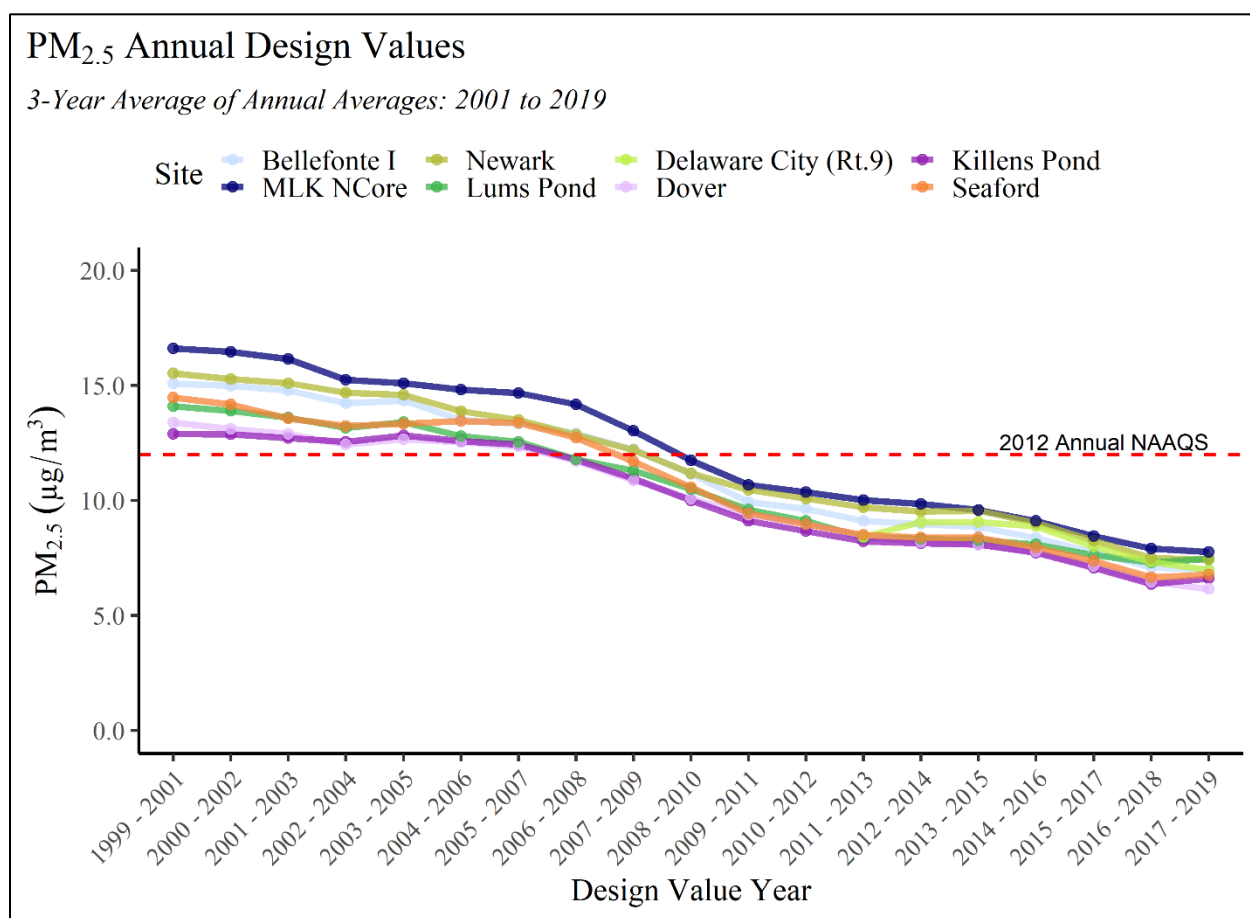


Figure 25. PM_{2.5} 3-year Design Values: Annual Averages



24-hour Average

The current 98th percentile 24-hour average PM_{2.5} standard was met at all monitoring sites in Delaware as calculated with the 2016 – 2018 PM_{2.5} data.

Similar to the annual average data, there is significant correlation between 24-hour concentrations measured at all sites throughout Delaware. In other words, if high concentrations of PM_{2.5} are recorded at one site, all other sites in Delaware usually record high concentrations on that same day.



Killens Pond SP site PM_{2.5} Monitoring on Roof

As with the annual average standard, three years of data are averaged (Design Value) to determine compliance with the NAAQS. The most recent three-year (2017 – 2019) average for the 98th percentiles at MLK NCore was 20 µg/m³ and 19 µg/m³ at both the Newark and Bellefonte I sites. In the chart below the trend is generally downward with a slight uptick in the most recent Design Value year.

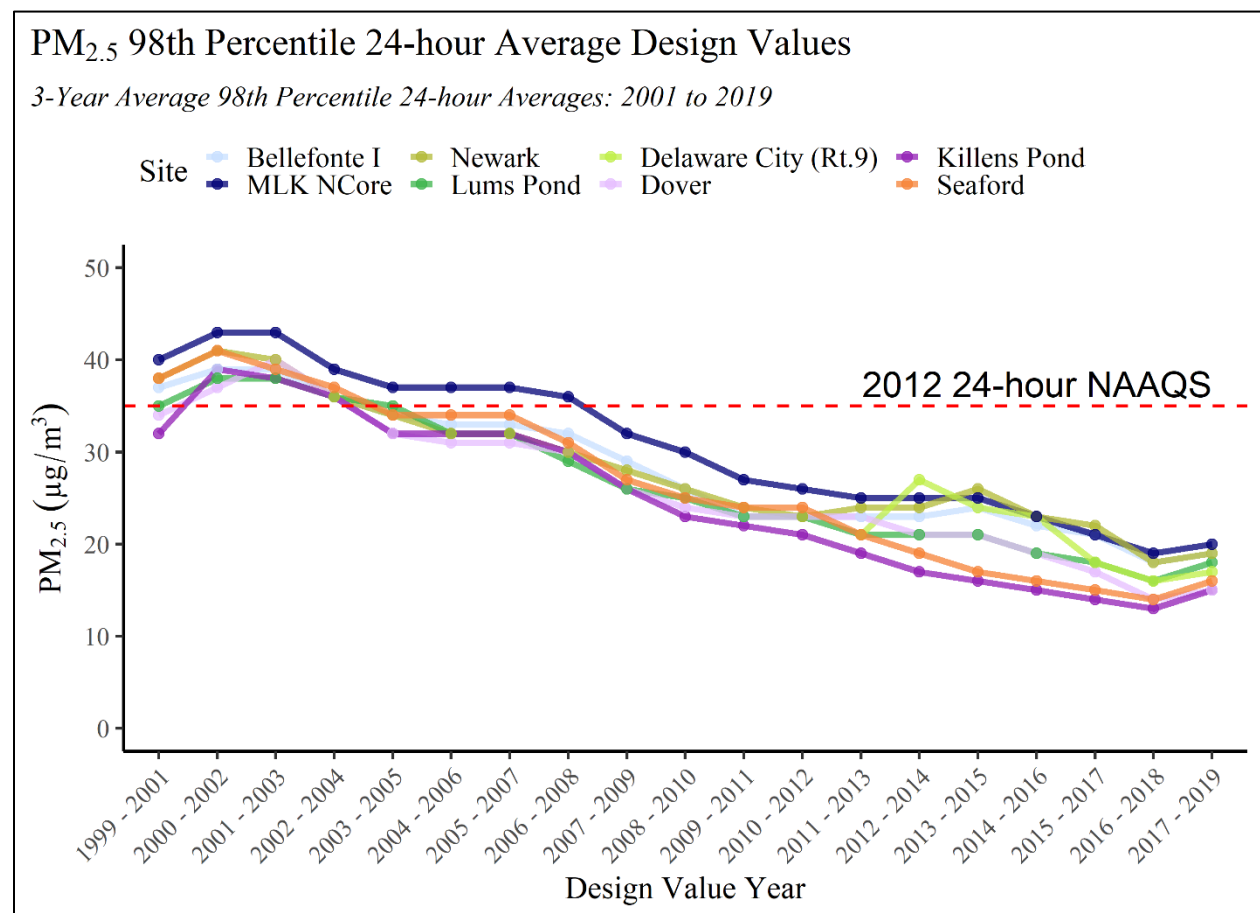


Figure 26. PM_{2.5} 3-year Design Values: 98th Percentile 24 hr. Averages



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Table 10. PM_{2.5} 3-year Design Values: Annual, Data Summary Table

Site	Design Value Years: Annual Averages (NAAQS = 12 µg/m ³)										
	2007- 2009	2008- 2010	2009- 2011	2010- 2012	2011 - 2013	2012 - 2014	2013 - 2015	2014 - 2016	2015 - 2017	2016 - 2018	2017 - 2019
Bellefonte I	12.2	11.2	9.9	9.6	9.1	9.0	8.9	8.34	7.8	7.1	7.0
MLK NCore	13.0	11.7	10.7	10.4	10.0	9.9	9.6	9.1	8.5	7.9	7.8
*Delaware City (Rt. 9)					8.4	9.1	9.1	8.9	8.0	7.3	7.0
Newark	12.2	11.2	10.5	10.1	9.7	9.5	9.6	9.0	8.3	7.5	7.4
Lums Pond SP	11.3	10.5	9.6	9.1	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.1	7.6	7.3	7.5
Dover	10.9	10.1	9.4	9.0	8.4	8.2	8.1	7.9	7.2	6.5	6.2
Killens Pond SP	11.0	10.0	9.1	8.7	8.2	8.1	8.1	7.7	7.1	6.4	6.6
Seaford	11.7	10.6	9.5	9.0	8.5	8.4	8.4	8.0	7.4	6.7	6.8

*Monitoring began in 2013

Note: Official EPA Design Values may vary due to data completeness rules for calculations. For historical consistency those complexities are not detailed or indicated in this document, unless a value is unavailable. Applies to both tables.

Table 11. PM_{2.5} 3-year Design Values: 98th Percentile, Data Summary Table

Site	Design Value Years: 98 th Percentile (NAAQS = 35 µg/m ³)										
	2007- 2009	2008- 2010	2009- 2011	2010- 2012	2011 - 2013	2012 - 2014	2013 - 2015	2014 - 2016	2015 - 2017	2016 - 2018	2017 - 2019
Bellefonte I	29	26	23	23	23	23	24	22	21	18	19
MLK NCore	32	30	27	26	25	25	25	23	21	19	20
*Delaware City (Rt. 9)					21	27	24	23	18	16	17
Newark	28	26	24	23	24	24	26	23	22	18	19
Lums Pond SP	26	25	23	23	21	21	21	19	18	16	18
Dover	26	24	23	23	23	21	21	19	17	14	15
Killens Pond SP	26	23	22	21	19	17	16	15	14	13	15
Seaford	27	25	24	24	21	19	17	16	15	14	16

*Monitoring began in 2013



How does Delaware's air quality compare to nearby areas?

Air quality in Delaware is similar to nearby areas.

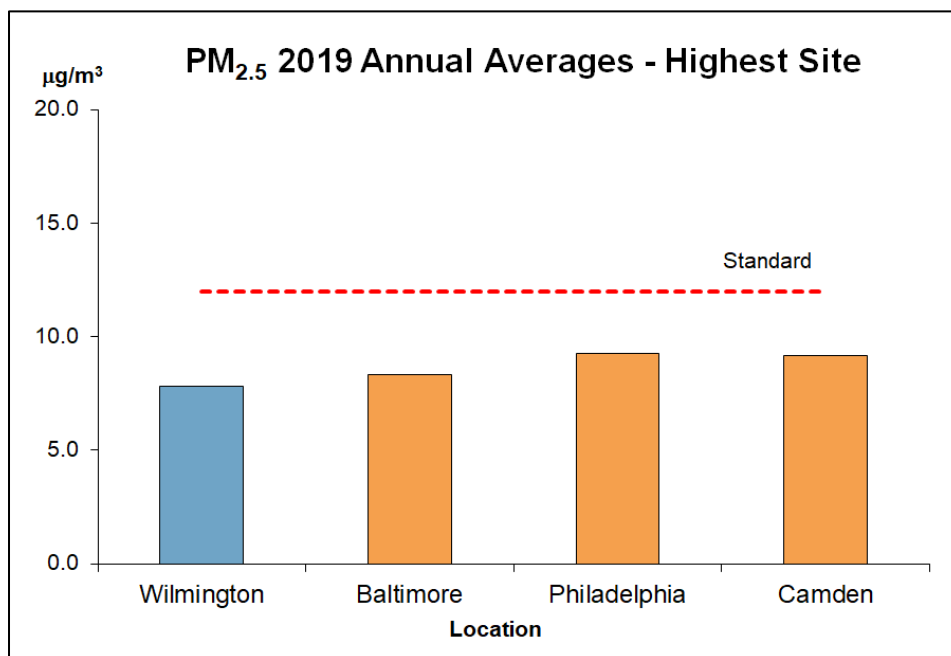


Figure 27. Highest Site PM_{2.5} Annual Averages compared to nearby monitored sites

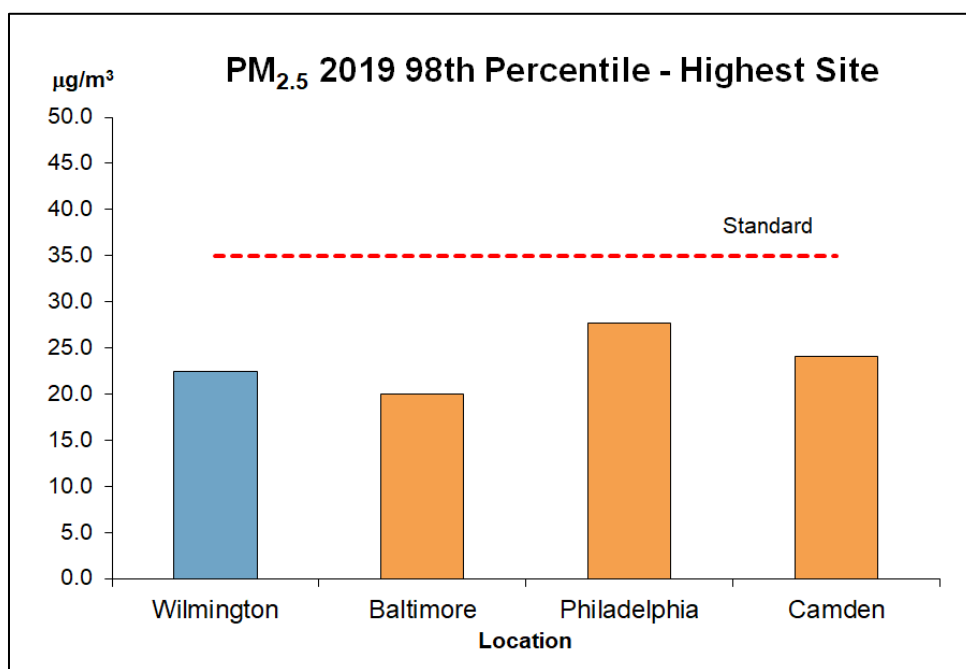


Figure 28. Highest Site 24-hour PM_{2.5} 98th Percentile compared to nearby monitored sites

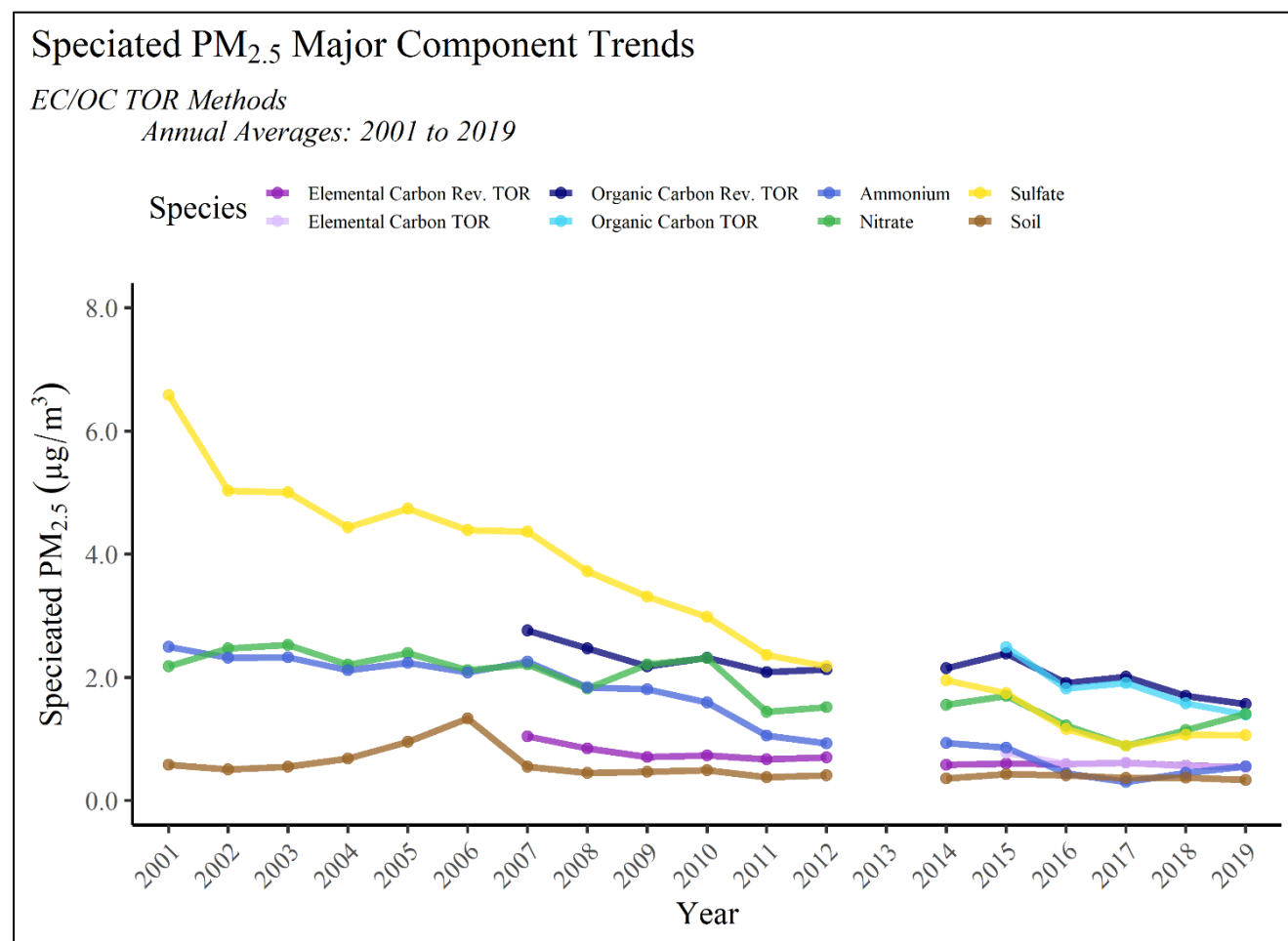


PM_{2.5} Speciation

To understand the nature of fine particle pollution and possible sources, U.S. EPA initiated a program to monitor the major components, or “species”, that make up PM_{2.5}. The main objectives of the PM_{2.5} speciation monitoring program are to provide additional information to characterize the annual and spatial aspects of PM_{2.5}, detect and track trends in aerosol component concentrations, and provide information to develop and evaluate emission control programs.

The PM_{2.5} speciation program in Delaware consists of monitors at one site: MLK NCore (Wilmington, DE). Samples are collected on filters for 24 hours every 3rd day. The filters are sent to a contract laboratory for chemical analyses. The target species are ions (sulfate, nitrate, ammonium, sodium, and potassium), trace elements/metals, and carbon (elemental and organic carbon). There are no ambient air quality standards for the chemical components of PM_{2.5}.

The following chart indicates trends for some of the major components of PM_{2.5}. Trends for most major components are declining, with the exceptions of nitrate and ammonium which are showing a slight increase. Because of different analytical methods and historical consistency, two different methods for elemental and organic carbon are listed. Analysis of the data is ongoing.



Note: Insufficient data to calculate trends in 2013

Figure 29. Annual Average Trends for some of the target PM_{2.5} species

Particulate Matter (PM₁₀)

Description

PM₁₀ is the fraction of total suspended particulate matter (TSP) that is less than 10 microns in diameter, which is about 1/7 the diameter of a human hair. See graphic on page 38 under the PM_{2.5} section. Particles of this size are small enough to be inhaled into the lungs. Particulate matter can include solid or liquid droplets that remain suspended in the air for various lengths of time.

Particulates small enough to be inhaled can carry other pollutants and toxic chemicals into the lungs while larger particulates can cause coughing and throat irritation. Major effects of PM₁₀ listed by EPA include aggravation of existing respiratory and cardiovascular disease, alterations in immune responses in the lung, damage to lung tissue, carcinogenesis and premature mortality.

The most sensitive populations are those with chronic obstructive pulmonary or cardiovascular disease, asthmatics, the elderly, and children. Particulates are also a major cause of reduced visibility and can be involved in corrosion of metals (acidic dry deposition).

Standards

Primary NAAQS:

- 24-Hour maximum = 150 µg/m³ not to be exceeded more than once per year averaged over three years.

Sources

Major sources include steel mills, power plants, motor vehicles, industrial plants, unpaved roads, and agricultural tilling. The wide variety of PM₁₀ sources means that the chemical and physical composition of the particles is highly variable.

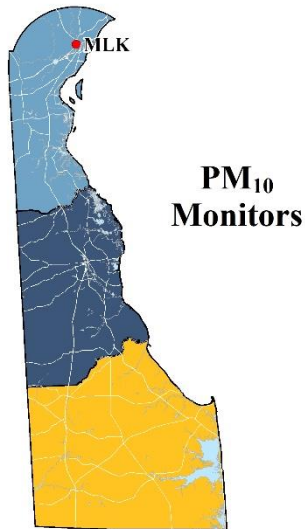


Figure 30. Map of Delaware PM₁₀ Monitors

Locations

Because resources were shifted to support PM_{2.5} monitoring, and PM₁₀ concentrations have been consistently below the standard, PM₁₀ is currently monitored only at the urban Wilmington MLK NCore site.



Particulate Monitoring at MLK NCore



Delaware Air Quality and Trends

Delaware is in attainment with the PM₁₀ NAAQS. The increases in concentrations in 2005 - 2007 were probably related to construction and road improvement projects in the Riverfront area, which is close to the monitor location. Construction may account for the slight uptick in 2019.

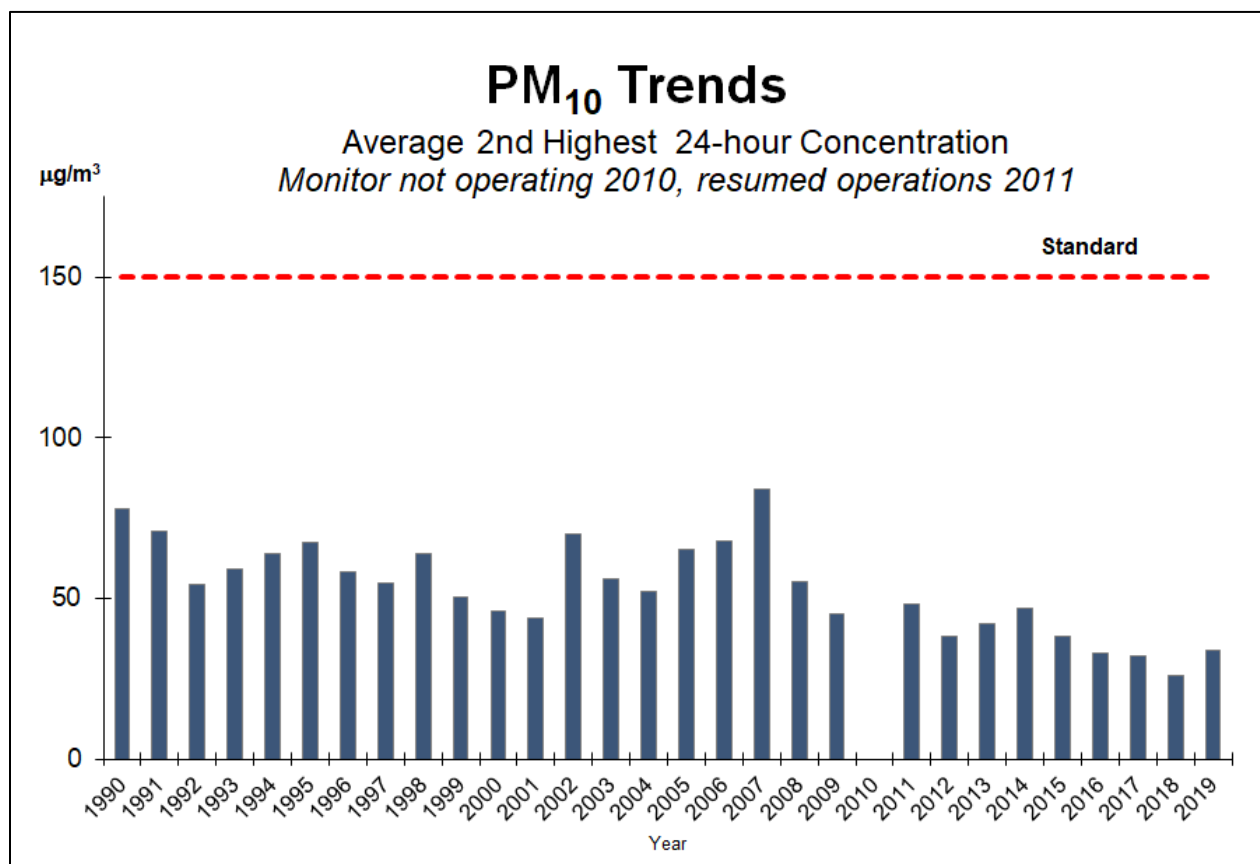


Figure 31. Delaware PM₁₀ Trends 2nd Highest 24hr Concentration

Table 12. Delaware PM₁₀ Trends

Site	Annual 24-hr Averages (NAAQS = 150 µg/m³)												
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
MLK NCore	23.2	19.8	16.7	*No data	17.4	17.1	14.4	16.9	17.1	14.2	14.0	12.7	14.3

*No data for 2010 due to monitor failure; data collection resumed in January 2011.



How does Delaware's air quality compare to nearby areas?

PM₁₀ concentrations in Delaware have been similar to those in nearby areas.

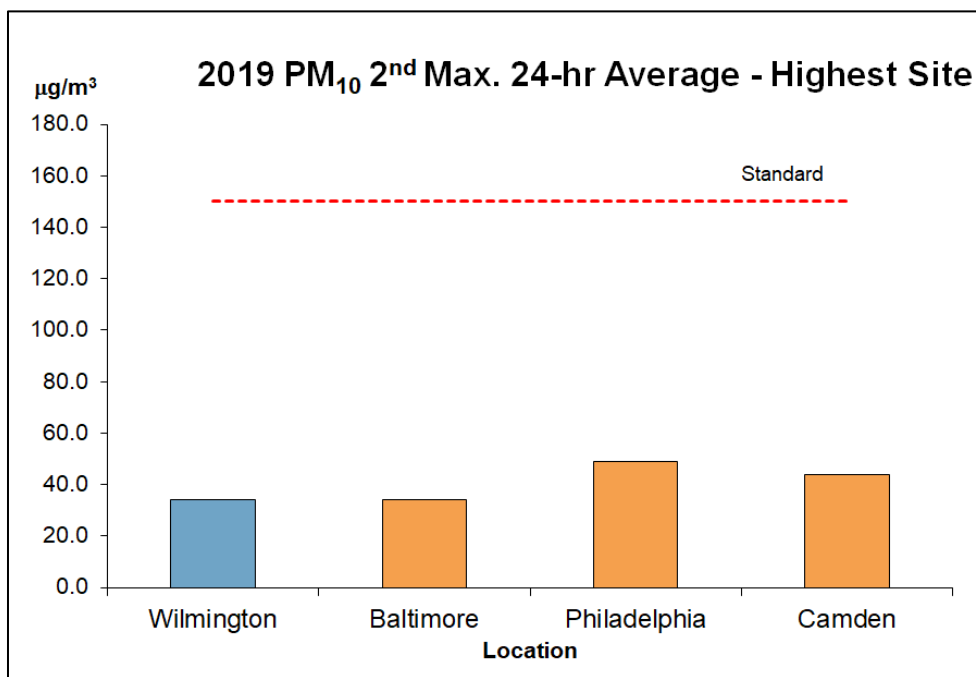


Figure 32. PM₁₀ compared to nearby monitored sites

Air Quality – Pollutants without Ambient Standards

Air Toxics

Description

Toxic air pollutants, also called air toxics or hazardous air pollutants, are pollutants that are known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health effects, such as reproductive effects or birth defects, or adverse environmental effects. In 1990, Delaware began developing a routine ambient air sampling program for selected volatile organic compounds (VOCs). In 2000, this program was updated by changing the sampling and analytical method to detect a greater number of VOCs. In 2003, the program was expanded to include other types of chemical compounds such as carbonyls and heavy metals.

Sources

Sources of ambient air toxics include both stationary and mobile types. Stationary industrial sources can include power plants, chemical manufacturing plants, and refineries. There are many smaller stationary sources (sometimes referred to as "area" sources) such as dry cleaners, printers, and automobile paint shops. Mobile sources include both on-road and off-road motor vehicles as well as boats and aircraft.

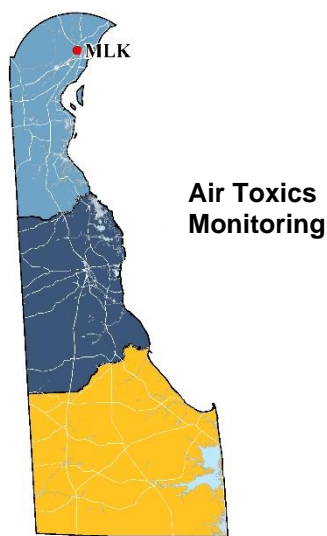


Figure 33. Map of Delaware Air Toxics Monitoring Site

Locations

The history of air toxics collection in Delaware has changed as requirements and methods varied as well as with restrictions in resources. Since 1990 VOC samples continue to be collected at the MLK NCore (Wilmington) site. Since 2003 heavy metals continue to be monitored at the MLK NCore site. Additionally at the MLK NCore site, monitoring for carbonyls beginning in 2003 was discontinued in 2015 due to resource restrictions. Historical data is available for certain pollutants at other sites in Delaware.

Delaware Air Quality and Trends

Ambient VOC levels are consistently below 10 ppb for all monitored compounds, and most are below 1 ppb.

Control programs that focus on improving ambient ozone levels by reducing emissions of VOCs, as well as programs specifically aimed at controlling emissions of hazardous air pollutants, are continuing to reduce ambient concentrations of many air toxics. In 2019 ambient concentrations of most VOCs continued their downward trend at the MLK NCore site. A slight increase in the average of some compounds was observed in 2018 but has not continued into 2019. Monitoring and analysis are ongoing.



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Table 13. Air Toxics Data, MLK NCore site (Wilmington, DE)

Compound Name	Average <i>ppb</i>	Maximum <i>ppb</i>
Dichlorodifluoromethane	0.59	0.89
Chloromethane	0.61	1.09
1,2-Dichloro-1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethane	0.01	0.06
Chloroethene	0.00	0.01
1,3-Butadiene	0.00	0.05
Trichlorofluoromethane	0.28	0.42
Acetone	3.82	13.46
Methylene Chloride	0.08	0.33
1,1,2-Trichloro-1,2,2-trifluoroethane	0.06	0.13
2-methoxy-2-methyl-Propane	ND	ND
Hexane	0.07	0.79
Chloroform	0.02	0.17
Tetrahydrofuran	0.02	0.35
1,2-Dichloroethane	0.00	0.03
1,1,1-Trichloroethane	0.00	0.04
Benzene	0.19	0.42
Carbon tetrachloride	0.09	0.15
Cyclohexane	0.01	0.12
1,2-Dichloropropane	ND	ND
Trichloroethene	0.01	0.31
Heptane	0.04	0.24
Cis-1,3-Dichloro-1-Propene	ND	ND
Trans-1,3-Dichloro-1-Propene	ND	ND
Toluene	0.42	0.90
1,2-Dibromoethane	0.00	0.01
Tetrachloroethylene	0.01	0.07
Chlorobenzene	0.00	0.03
Ethylbenzene	0.06	0.38
m & p- Xylene	0.12	0.63
Styrene	0.32	1.24
1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane	0.00	0.02
o-Xylene	0.04	0.17
1-Ethyl-4-Methylbenzene	0.01	0.10
1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene	0.01	0.09
1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene	0.04	0.37
1,4-Dichlorobenzene	0.00	0.03

ND = Not Detected

Wilmington MLK NCore Air Toxics Trends - Annual Averages Selected Compounds

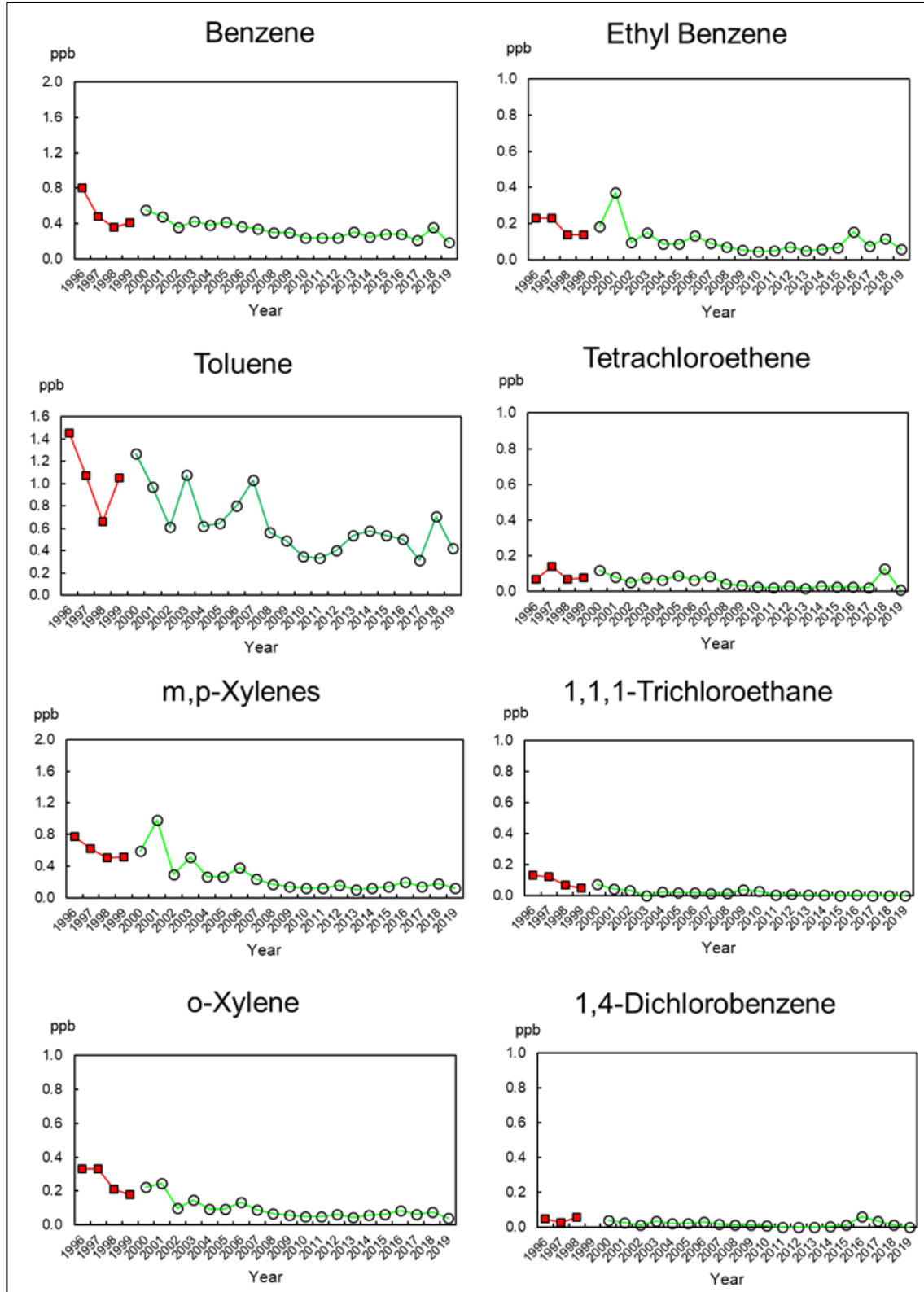


Figure 34. Wilmington Air Toxics Trends - Annual Averages Selected Compounds

Note: Color difference indicates method changed in 2000.



Appendix A - Monitoring Methods

Ozone (O₃)

Ozone is measured by ultraviolet absorption photometry. Air is drawn through a sample cell where ultraviolet light (254 nm wavelength) passes through it. Light not absorbed by the ozone is converted into an electrical signal proportional to the ozone concentration.

In Delaware, the ozone season runs from March 1 to October 31 during which monitors are required to be in operation (see section Delaware Air Monitoring Network). Delaware currently maintains monitoring year-round at all sites to provide additional information for trends analyses.

Carbon Monoxide (CO)

Carbon monoxide is measured by infrared absorption photometry. Air is drawn continuously through a sample cell where infrared light passes through it. Carbon monoxide molecules in the air absorb part of the infrared light, reducing the intensity of the light reaching a light sensor. The light is converted into an electrical signal related to the concentration of carbon monoxide.

Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)

Nitrogen oxides are measured using the chemiluminescence reaction of nitric oxide (NO) with ozone (O₃). Air is drawn into a reaction chamber where it is mixed with a high concentration of ozone from an internal ozone generator. Any NO in the air reacts with the ozone to produce NO₂. Light emitted from this reaction is detected with a photo multiplier tube and converted to an electrical signal proportional to the NO concentration. Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) must be measured indirectly. Total nitrogen oxides (NO_x) are measured by passing the air through a converter where any NO₂ in the air is reduced to NO before the air is passed to the reaction chamber. By alternately passing the air directly to the reaction chamber, and through the converter before the reaction chamber, the analyzer alternately measures NO and NO_x. The NO₂ concentration is equal to the difference between NO and NO_x.

Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂)

Sulfur dioxide is measured with a fluorescence analyzer. Air is drawn through a sample cell where it is subjected to high intensity ultraviolet light. This causes the sulfur dioxide molecules in the air to fluoresce and release light. The fluorescence is detected with a photo multiplier tube and converted to an electrical signal proportional to the SO₂ concentration.

Particulate Matter - Fine (PM_{2.5})

PM_{2.5} is sampled by drawing air through a specially designed inlet that excludes particles larger than 2.5 microns in diameter. The particles are collected on a Teflon® microfiber filter that is weighed to determine the particulate mass. The normal sampling schedule is 24 hours every third day, however, at one site (MLK NCore) samples are collected for 24 hours every day.

Particulate Matter (PM₁₀)

PM₁₀ is sampled in the same manner as PM_{2.5} but with a different inlet that excluded particles larger than 10 microns in diameter.



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Air Toxics

There are no EPA "reference" methods for monitoring ambient air for VOCs. In Delaware's program from 1991 through 1999, samples were taken on sorbent tubes once per week, rotating Monday through Thursday, for 24 hour intervals. The tubes were analyzed by the DNREC Environmental Services Laboratory using a gas chromatograph/mass spectrometer (GC/MS). Quality control measurements included collocated samplers, travel and laboratory blanks, spiked tubes, internal and various calibration standards. This method was replaced in 2000 by EPA Method TO-15a, which collects 24-hour samples once every six days using stainless-steel canisters followed by GC/MS analysis.



Appendix B – Further Information

References and Reports

Air Quality Index (AQI) - A Guide to Air Quality and Your Health, U.S. EPA,
<https://www.airnow.gov/aqi/aqi-basics/>

National air quality and emissions trends, U. S. EPA,
<https://www.epa.gov/air-trends>

Delaware Toxics Release Inventory Report, Delaware DNREC,
<http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/SERC/Pages/Reports.aspx>

Delaware Annual Air Quality Reports, Delaware DNREC,
<https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/air/quality/monitoring/>

Air Quality Related World Wide Web Sites

AIRData - Access to national and state air pollution concentrations and emissions data
<http://www.epa.gov/airdata/>

American Lung Association
<http://lung.org>

Delaware State Climatologist
<http://climate.udel.edu/>

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
<http://www.dvrpc.org/>

Delaware Air Quality Forecast (Seasonally May – September)
<https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/air/quality/forecast/>

Air Quality Partnership
<http://www.airqualitypartnership.org/>

State of Delaware Division of Air Quality current hourly monitoring data
<http://apps.dnrec.delaware.gov/AirMonitoring/>

US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Environmental Research Laboratories,
www.arl.noaa.gov

USEPA Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards “AirNow” - ozone maps, real-time data
<http://airnow.gov>

USEPA Office of Transportation and Air Quality
<http://www.epa.gov/air-pollution-transportation>

USEPA Region III
<https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-3-mid-atlantic>



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USEPA Ambient Monitoring Technology Information Center (AMTIC Web formerly TTN)
<https://www.epa.gov/amtic>

List of Websites Linked to in this Report

Interactive Air Quality Monitoring Tool
<https://www.epa.gov/outdoor-air-quality-data/interactive-map-air-quality-monitors>

DNREC Environmental Navigator (DEN)
<http://www.nav.dnrec.delaware.gov/DEN3/>

Division of Air Quality web page
<http://apps.dnrec.delaware.gov/AirMonitoring/>

EPA's AirNow
<http://www.airnow.gov/>

EPA's Air Data
<https://www.epa.gov/outdoor-air-quality-data>

National Trends Report
<https://www.epa.gov/air-trends>

Citizens' Guide to Residential Open Burning
<https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/air/open-burning/residential/>

Delaware Air Quality Regulations
<http://regulations.delaware.gov/AdminCode/title7/1000/1100/index.shtml>

Division of Air Quality
<https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/air/>

Delaware Ambient Air Monitoring Network Plan
<http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/Air/Documents/2020-delaware-air-monitoring-network-description.pdf>

Archived AirNow Maps (No longer separate page, but a tab in the map view)
<https://gispub.epa.gov/airnow/?tab=0&clayer=ozonepam&mayer=none>

EPA Particulate Matter Basics (graphic source)
<https://www.epa.gov/pm-pollution/particulate-matter-pm-basics#PM>

Delaware Open Data Portal
<https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/dnrec-open-data/>



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PM_{2.5} SIP Development – Natalie Ephraim, New Castle

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Air Toxics Controls – Mallory Pinkowski, Dover

Green House Gas & Climate Change

Greenhouse Gas Mitigation – Christian Wisniewski, New Castle

Clean Transportation – Ajo Rabemiarisoa, New Castle

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Mobile Source Controls – Marvinna Cephas, Dover

Mobile Sources (on-road) – Jolyon Shelton, New Castle

Air Monitoring Program

Program Manager - Chuck Sarnoski, New Castle Office