

AIR QUALITY IN SOUTH CAROLINA: WHY IT MATTERS

MONITORING PM2.5 AND OZONE TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH

UNDERSTANDING MONITORING GAPS

Not every county in South Carolina has an air quality monitoring station.

Most monitors are located in larger cities or areas with more industry.

Because monitors are fixed in certain locations, air pollution levels may not fully represent the entire county.

Some data may be missing if it was not collected or did not meet reporting standards.

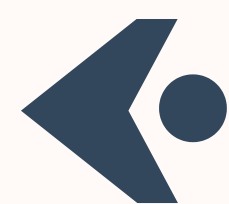
PROTECT YOUR HEALTH TODAY

Check your county's air quality regularly at dph.sc.gov/tracking.

Try to limit outdoor activities when ozone levels are high.

Reduce vehicle pollution by carpooling, combining trips, or using public transportation when possible.

Get involved in or support clean air efforts in your community.



UNDERSTANDING THE AIR AROUND US

PM2.5: Very small air particles that can travel deep into the lungs and even enter the bloodstream. Data is updated each month using EPA-approved air monitors.

Ozone (O₃): A gas that becomes harmful at ground level. The national air quality standard is 0.070 ppm based on an 8-hour average.

Air pollution data comes from fixed monitoring stations, which are mostly placed in highly populated areas of South Carolina.

HOW OZONE LEVELS ARE MEASURED

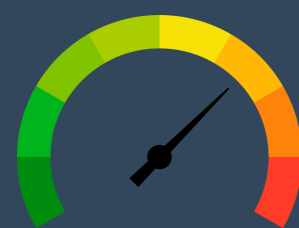
Ozone levels are grouped based on how many days the 0.070 ppm standard was exceeded:

0 days (no exceedances)

1–15 days

16–30 days

31 or more days



THE HEALTH RISKS YOU CAN'T SEE

Can trigger asthma attacks and cause breathing irritation.

Makes COPD and other long-term lung conditions worse.

Increases the risk of heart-related problems.

Children, older adults, and people with existing health conditions are at the greatest risk.

