

75

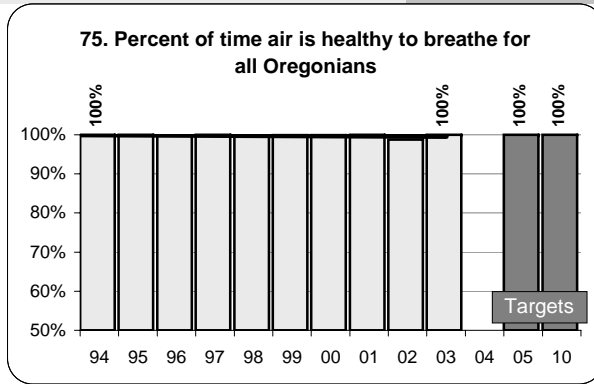
**Air Quality**

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>	<b>2002</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<i>* "Non-attainment" status is a legal designation and does not necessarily reflect current air quality conditions in a county.</i>
<b>OR</b>	25.8%	19th	
<b>WA</b>	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

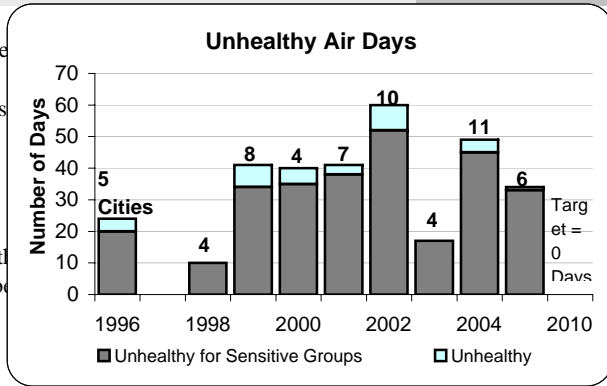
## Air Quality - National Standards

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:			
<b>OR</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>6</b>	Grants Pass	1 day	Eugene-Springfield	17 days
<b>WA</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>	Klamath Falls	10	Portland	1
<b>ID</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>9</b>	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

# 75b

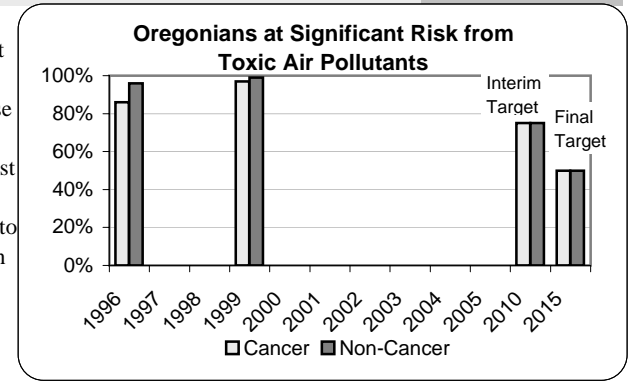
## Air Quality - Toxic Air Pollutants

Percent of Oregonians at significant risk from toxic air pollutants

Making Progress?

No Finding

Everyone breathes air containing toxic chemicals but only a few are concentrated enough to cause harm. Because those few come from motor vehicles and from burning most Oregonians have significant health risk. Control strategies to reduce air toxics are already in place but meeting our target will be difficult.



### How Oregon Compares, 1999

U.S. EPA, National-Scale Air Toxics Assessment

	Non-Cancer Hazard Index	Cancer - Risk per million
<b>OR</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>WA</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>41</b>

### Endnote:

#### 75b – Percent of Oregonians at significant risk from toxic air pollutants

**Explanation:** Toxic air pollutants, or air toxics, are those pollutants that cause or may cause cancer or other serious health effects. New science has identified a wide array of these contaminants in the air, in addition to the traditional (criteria) air pollutants measured by Part a of this benchmark. The air toxics affecting most Oregonians are Polycyclic Organic Matter (POM) which causes cancer, and Acrolein which causes serious respiratory effects. Both are released from all types of burning. Although they are also widespread, this measure does not include Benzene and Diesel Particulate, which are released from vehicle engines. This benchmark measures the number of people living in counties with an average cancer risk of more than ten in one million and that are above the non-cancer effect level. They are considered to be breathing air with “significant risk.” **Target:** Targets set by Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. **Data Source:** US Environmental Protection Agency, National-Scale Air Toxics Assessment

Proposed change