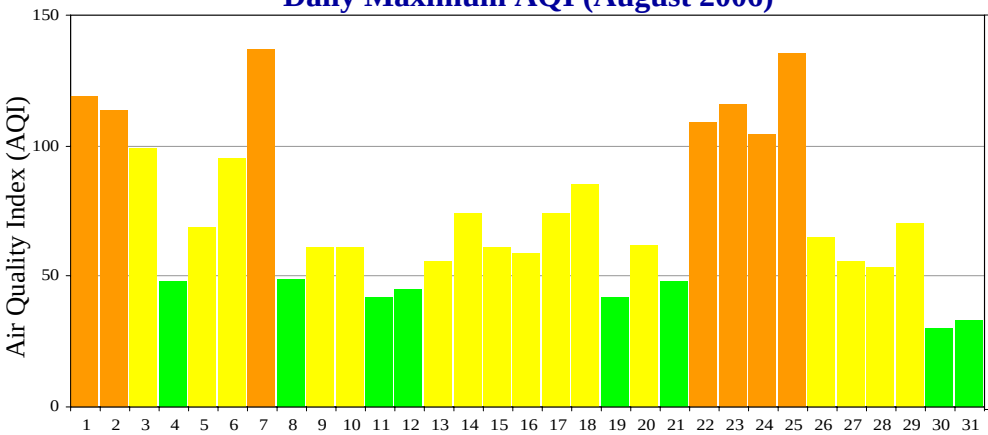
Quality of Air

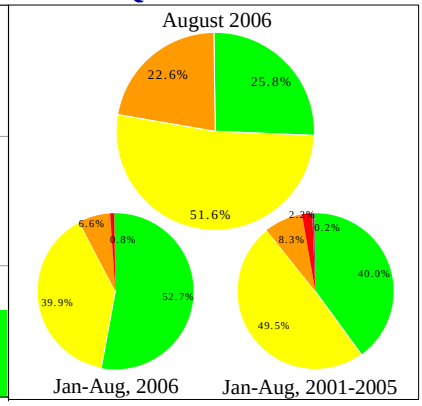
MARYLAND
Department of the Environment

for Baltimore Forecast Region, August 2006

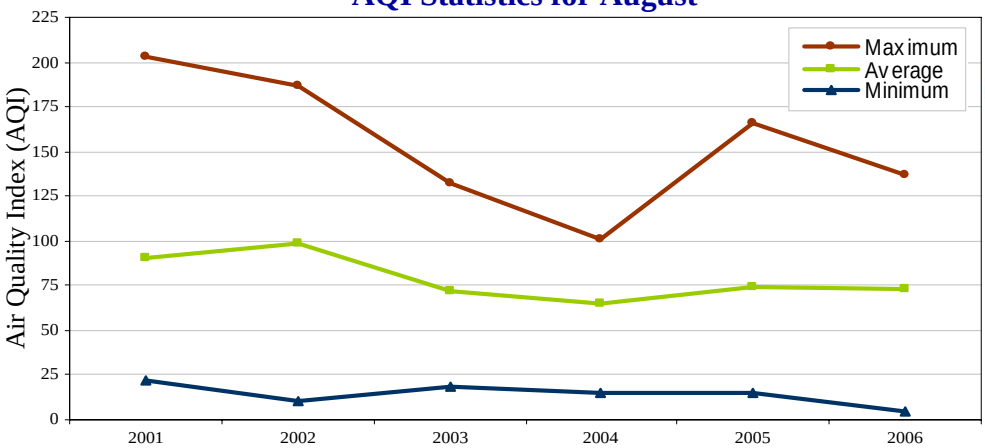
Daily Maximum AQI (August 2006)



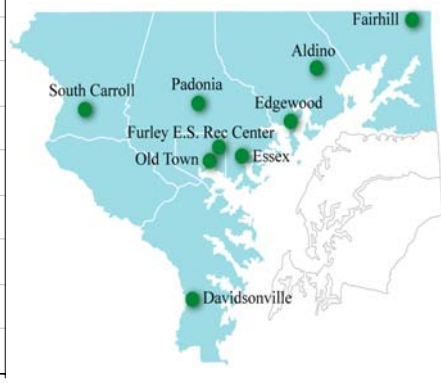
AQI Distribution



AQI Statistics for August



Baltimore Forecast Region and Monitors



Number Days Above 100 AQI vs. Days ≥ 90 F at BWI (2006 Data)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
8-hr Ozone	0	0	0	0	3	4	4	6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	17
24-hr PM Fine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2
Both Pollutants[1]	0	0	0	0	3	4	4	7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	18
Day ≥ 90 F	0	0	0	0	2	6	18	13	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	39

In August, the Baltimore Forecast Region (BFR) observed hot and dry conditions. These weather conditions helped set the stage for AQI levels to reach Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups on seven days. The first air quality episode (Aug 1-2) was the result of extended warm weather running from the last week of July through the first week of August. Similar conditions lead to a 4-day episode during the 22nd through the 25th of August. The highest AQI day occurred on August 7th as direct result of westerly transport and local emissions. On the other hand, cool weather on the 30th followed by strong NE winds from Tropical Storm Ernesto on the 31st lead to Good air quality across the BFR for both days. How does air quality thus far in 2006 compare to historical data? Historical data (Jan-Jul, 2001-2005) showed Moderate AQI levels or above occurring on approximately 60% of the days. Thus far in 2006, the data shows Moderate AQI levels or above have occurred on 47% of the days, a decrease of 13% when compared to the historical data. The MDE Air Monitoring Program also established an ozone monitoring station in Baltimore City at Furley E.S. Recreation Center on August 21. MDE's motivation was to establish a monitor in a secure location within the city limits, while meeting EPA's siting criteria. Visit www.air-watch.net for the current air quality conditions and forecast or call the air quality hotline at 410-537-3247.

Air Quality Index (AQI)

0-50 Good	51-100 Moderate	101-150 USG[2]	151-200 Unhealthy	201-300 Very Unhealthy	301-500 Hazardous

Note: [1]Either one or both pollutants are USG or above. [2]Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups. Data presented for 2006 are preliminary.

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