

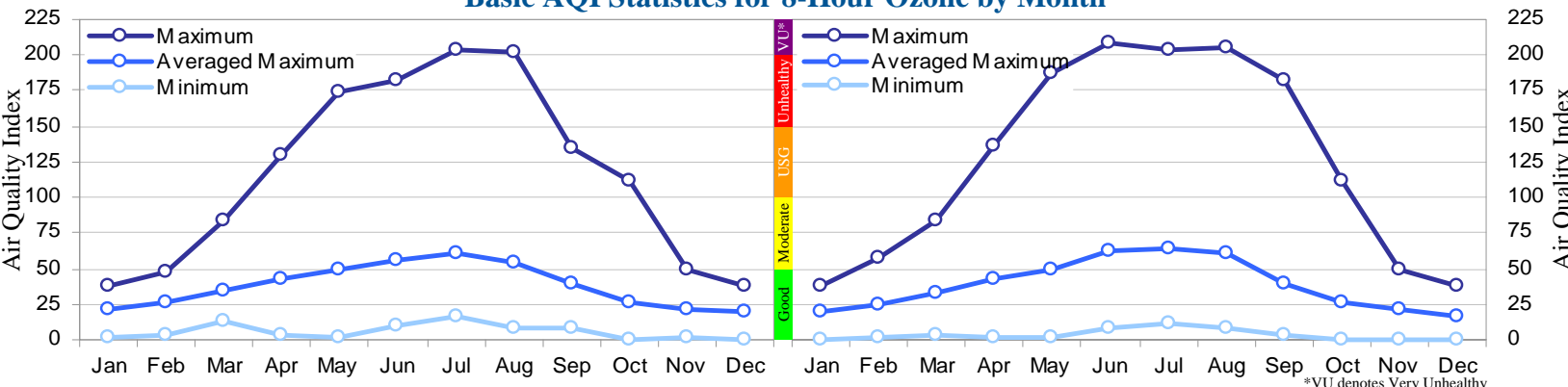
Air Quality Facts

OZONE – SEASONAL CLIMATOLOGY

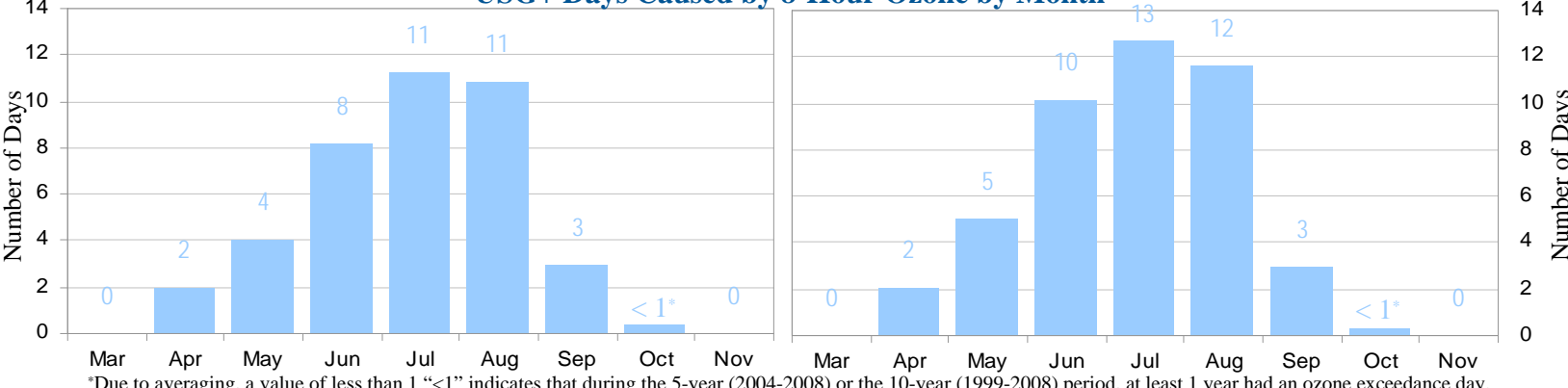
WHEN IS GROUND-LEVEL OZONE THE WORST DURING THE YEAR?

Ground-level ozone is a summer-time air pollutant. In Maryland, bad air days caused by ozone pollution typically exhibit a maximum from *June* through *August*. Although, scattered bad air days also occur during *April*, *May*, *September*, and *October*. A bad air day for ozone occurs when the Air Quality Index (AQI) for daily peak 8-hour ozone reaches 101 (Unhealthy for Sensitive Group, USG) or above.

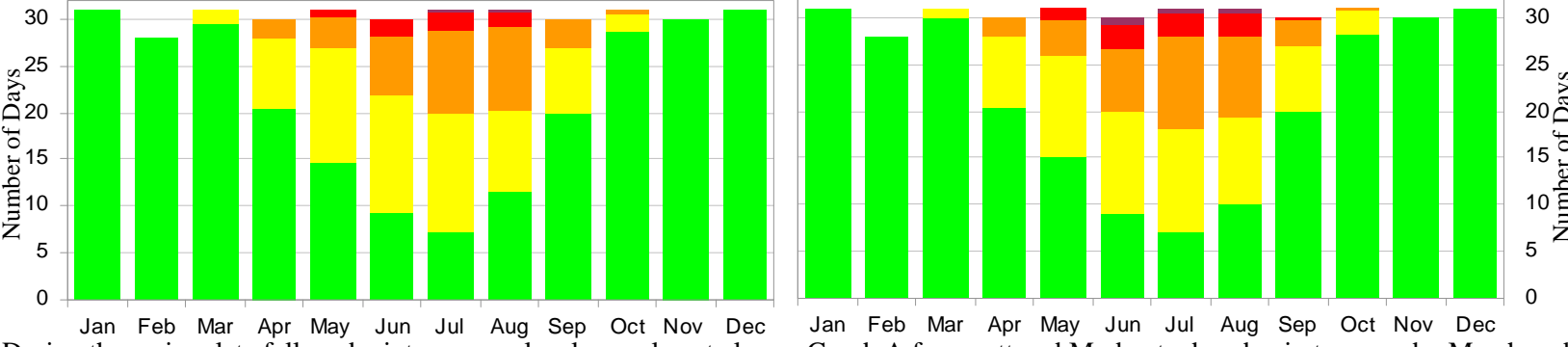
5-Year Period (2004-2008) | 10-Year Period (1999-2008)
Basic AQI Statistics for 8-Hour Ozone by Month



USG+ Days Caused by 8-Hour Ozone by Month



AQI Distribution for 8-Hour Ozone by Month



During the spring, late fall, and winter, ozone levels are almost always Good. A few scattered Moderate days begin to occur by March and increase over the summer months. By April, a few USG days can also occur as hours of daylight get longer and temperatures increase. The worst months for ground-level ozone typically occur from June through August. USG AQI or above are most likely to occur during these months due to long daylight hours, conducive weather patterns, and westerly/southerly transport of pollutants. Roughly 75% of the bad air days caused by ozone in Maryland occur during these months. By September and October, ground-level ozone generally begins to taper off as hours of daylight shorten and temperatures decrease. The number of bad air days caused by ozone decrease to minimum. By November, ozone levels are consistently Good. This pattern persists through February. Protect your health by knowing the current air quality conditions and forecasts. Visit www.cleairpartners.net or call the air quality hotline at 410-537-3247.

Air Quality Index (AQI)



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
1800 Washington Boulevard | Baltimore, MD 21230
410-537-3000 | 1-800-633-6101

Martin O'Malley, Governor | Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor | Shari T. Wilson, Secretary

