

Air Quality Summary

Youngstown - Warren: December 2005

December 2005 was cooler and drier than normal. The mean temperature was 26.8°F (-3.6 degrees below normal) and 1.41 inches of precipitation were received (1.55 inches below normal).

The maximum AQI reached Moderate on 16% of the days and did not reach Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups at all. The AQI reached Moderate on more days in December 2005 than in both December 2004 and 2003. However, some of the apparent increase in days with Moderate AQI levels can be attributed to the recent addition of the Warren-Draper St. monitor to the monitoring network. Maximum daily AQI values were highest at the Warren-Draper St. monitor on all but two days during the month.

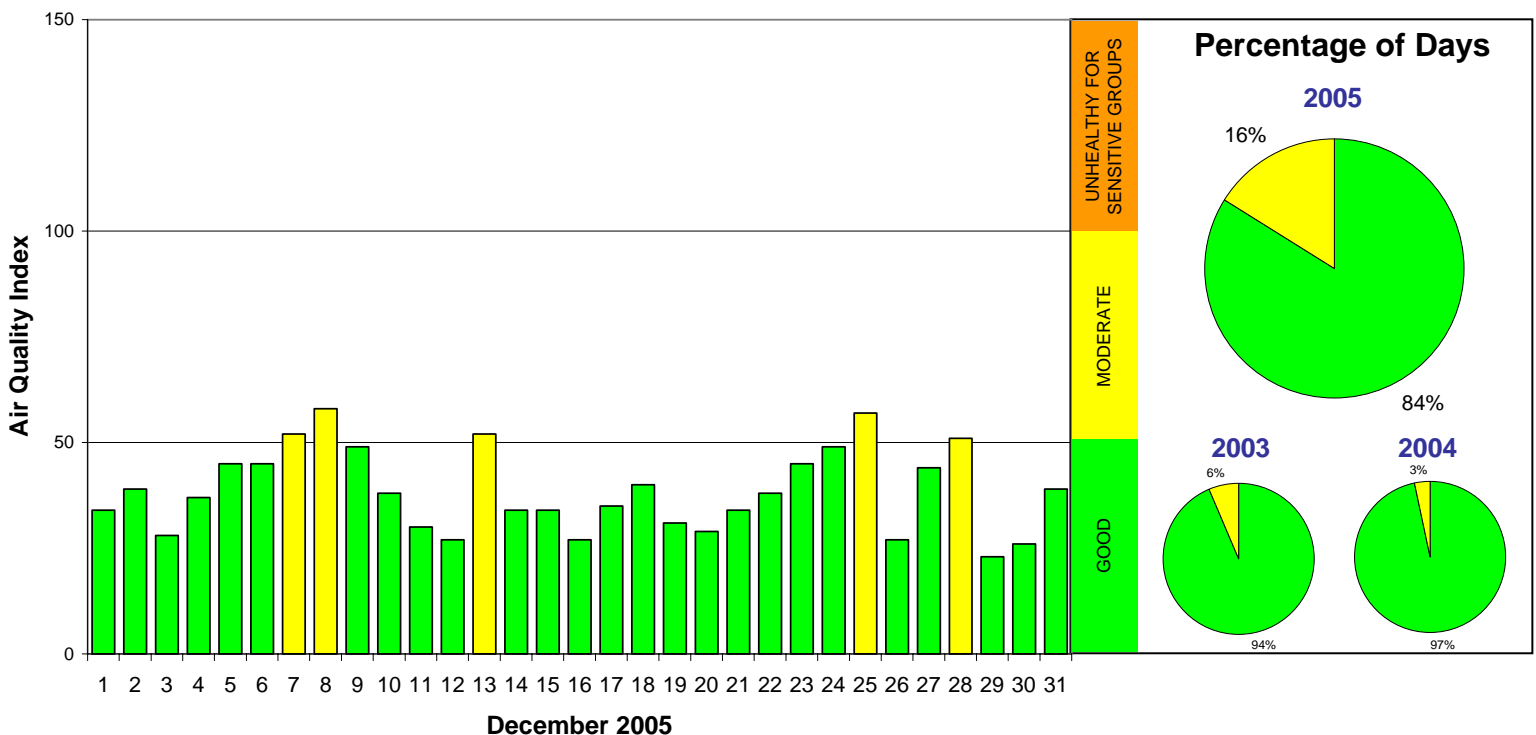


0 - 50	Good
51 - 100	Moderate
101 - 150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups
151 - 200	Unhealthy
201 - 300	Very Unhealthy

Highest AQI Days This Month

Date	AQI	Pollutant	Monitoring Site
12/8/2005	58	PM _{2.5}	Warren - Draper St.
12/25/2005	57	PM _{2.5}	Youngstown - Head Start
12/7/2005	52	PM _{2.5}	Warren - Draper St.
12/13/2005	52	PM _{2.5}	Warren - Draper St.
12/28/2005	51	PM _{2.5}	Warren - Draper St.

Daily Maximum AQI in December



PM_{2.5} Standard Update

The U.S. EPA recently proposed revisions to national air quality standards for particle pollution. The proposal was made after thousands of scientific studies about the risks associated with exposure to particle pollution were reviewed, including: aggravated asthma, chronic bronchitis, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, heart attack, and premature death in people with heart or lung disease.

Presently, standards exist for fine particles (particles 2.5 micrometers in diameter and smaller), and for coarse particles (particles 10 micrometers in diameter and smaller). The proposed revisions lower the 24-hour fine particulate standard, phase out the coarse particulate standard, and introduce a new standard for “inhalable coarse” particles (particles between 2.5 and 10 micrometers). A summary of the present and proposed standards is presented in the table below. It is still unknown what effect, if any, changes to the standards will have on the concentration breakpoints used for categories on the Air Quality Index (AQI).

		PM _{2.5}	PM _{2.5-10}	PM ₁₀
Present	24-hour	65 µg/m ³	--	150 µg/m ³
	annual	15 µg/m ³	--	50 µg/m ³
Proposed	24-hour	35 µg/m ³	70 µg/m ³	--
	annual	15 µg/m ³	--	--

Present and proposed particle standards.

Changes to the standards will not affect the present attainment status of counties located in the Youngstown area. The Youngstown-Warren-Boardman Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes Mahoning, Mercer, and Trumbull counties, was designated in attainment of the fine particulate standard in April, 2005. Attainment of the coarse standard was demonstrated previously. As such, the Youngstown-Warren-Boardman MSA is presently designated attainment for all applicable standards.