

Air Pollution in Georgia

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Georgia Value:

8.2

Average exposure of the general public to particulate matter of 2.5 microns or less, measured in micrograms per cubic meter

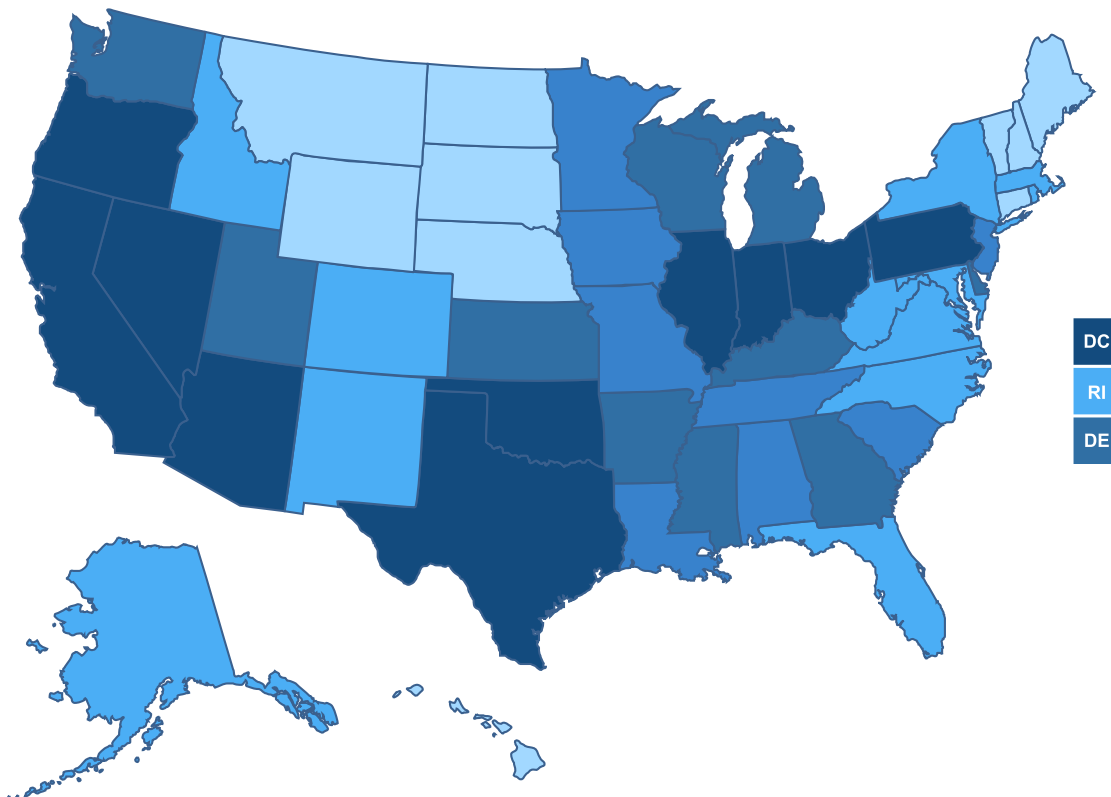
Georgia Rank:

33

Air Pollution by State

Average exposure of the general public to particulate matter of 2.5 microns or less, measured in micrograms per cubic meter

Air Pollution
Average exposure of the general public to particulate matter of 2.5 microns or less, measured in micrograms per cubic meter



<= 6.2

6.3 - 7.3

7.4 - 7.8

7.9 - 8.5

>= 8.6

Top States

	Rank	Value
Hawaii	1	3.8
New Hampshire	2	4.6
Wyoming	3	4.7

Your State

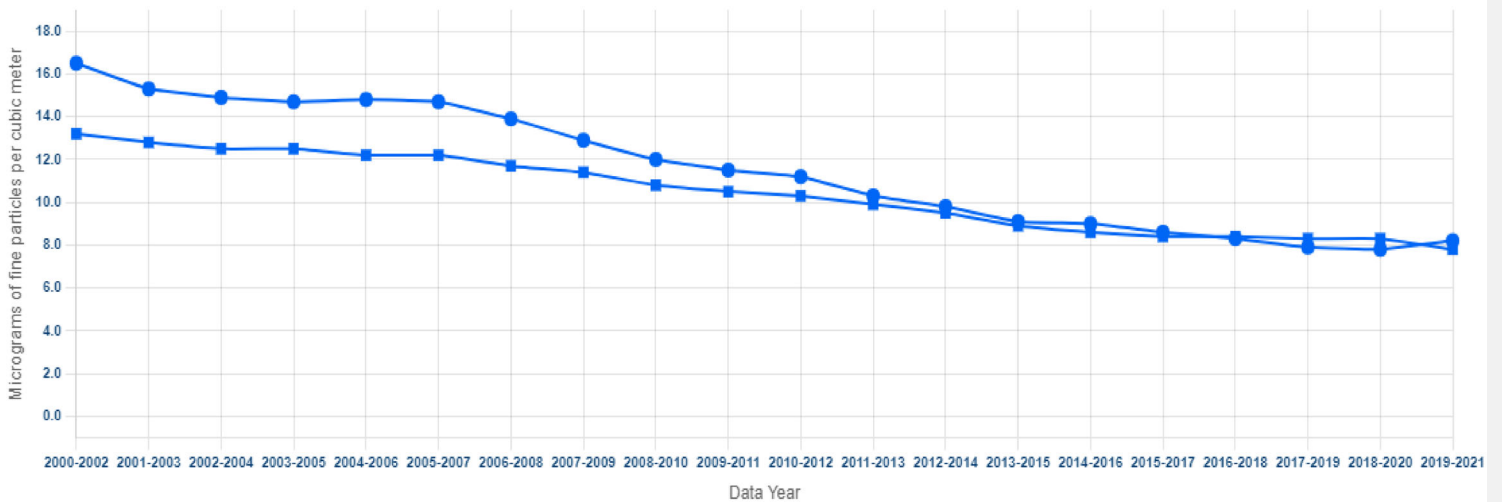
	Rank	Value
Washington	32	8.0
Utah, Michigan, Mississippi, Georgia	33	8.2
Kentucky, Arkansas	37	8.3

Bottom States

	Rank	Value
Illinois	48	9.8
Arizona	49	10.5
California	50	12.8

Air Pollution Trends

Average exposure of the general public to particulate matter of 2.5 microns or less, measured in micrograms per cubic meter



● Georgia ■ United States

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

About Air Pollution

US Value: 7.8

Top State(s): Hawaii: 3.8

Bottom State(s): California: 12.8

Definition: Average exposure of the general public to particulate matter of 2.5 microns or less, measured in micrograms per cubic meter

Data Source and Years: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2019-2021

Suggested Citation: America's Health Rankings analysis of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United Health Foundation, AmericasHealthRankings.org, accessed 2023. ([Copy Citations](#))

Why does this matter?

Air pollution was responsible for [6.7 million](#) early deaths worldwide in 2019, the majority of pollution-related mortality. Large pollutant particles (i.e., PM10) in the air can cause [irritation and discomfort](#), while small, fine pollutants (i.e., PM2.5) from sources such as auto exhaust, power plants and smoke from [wildfires](#) can penetrate deeply into lung tissue and enter the bloodstream. Exposure to fine particle air pollution has been linked to [heart and lung](#) problems, including decreased lung function, asthma, irregular heartbeat and heart attack.

The [environment](#) is also impacted by air pollution, as particles are carried from one area to another. Examples include increasing acidification in lakes and streams and changing nutrient patterns in soil.

Fine particle air pollution originating from human activity was responsible for an estimated [107,000 premature deaths](#) in the United States — at a cost of \$886 billion to society — in 2011. The U.S. [Office of Management and Budget](#) found that regulations issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) limiting air pollution generated between [\\$157 billion and \\$777 billion](#) (in 2010 dollars) in benefits to the U.S. economy, mainly by reducing the health risks of exposure to fine particulate air pollution.

Who is affected?

Certain populations are [more susceptible](#) to health risks from air pollution:

- Individuals with heart and respiratory conditions tend to experience more severe side effects from pollution.
- Older adults are more likely to be hospitalized because of high levels of air pollution.
- Children are more likely to have complications from air pollution due to developing lungs, high activity levels and high rates of asthma.
- Particulate pollution is associated with [infant mortality](#) and [increased NICU admissions](#).

The following populations are more likely to be exposed to air pollution:

- Adults living in [urban areas](#) compared with those living in rural areas.
- [Racial and ethnic minorities](#), particularly those living in neighborhoods with high levels of segregation. Another study reported neighborhood characteristics such as racial composition and level of residential segregation

played a bigger role in explaining individual [exposure to air pollution](#) than individual race or income levels. Non-white individuals were also found to have been exposed to significantly higher concentrations of [nitrous oxide emissions](#) compared with white individuals.

What works?

The health and environmental benefits of lower air pollution are significant. Studies have shown that decreasing the [concentration of fine particulates](#) in the air leads to [lower risk of all-cause mortality](#), lung cancer and death from cardiovascular disease. The EPA estimates that the Clean Air Act [prevented](#) an estimated 200,000 heart attacks, 2.4 million asthma attacks and 17 million lost workdays in 2020.

Air quality standards and environmental protection policies have helped [reduce air pollution](#) over the last four decades, but pollution remains high in many areas. [Actions in recent years](#) have eroded some of the progress made in the past 50 years, with industry consultants replacing scientists on the EPA's advisory groups. This has made it more difficult for scientists to provide expert recommendations to the EPA.

Individuals can reduce their contribution to air pollution by decreasing fossil fuel consumption or participating in local energy conservation programs. Individuals can try to limit their exposure to [air pollution](#) by:

- Monitoring local air quality at www.AirNow.gov and staying indoors as much as possible on days with poor air quality.
- Avoiding long periods of strenuous [exercise](#) near busy streets and on days with poor air quality.

Goals

Healthy People 2030 has an objective to reduce the [number of days](#) people are exposed to unhealthy air. Other goals focus on [reducing](#) toxic airborne emissions and [increasing](#) the use of public transportation among commuters.

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