

Central Texas Air Quality Updates

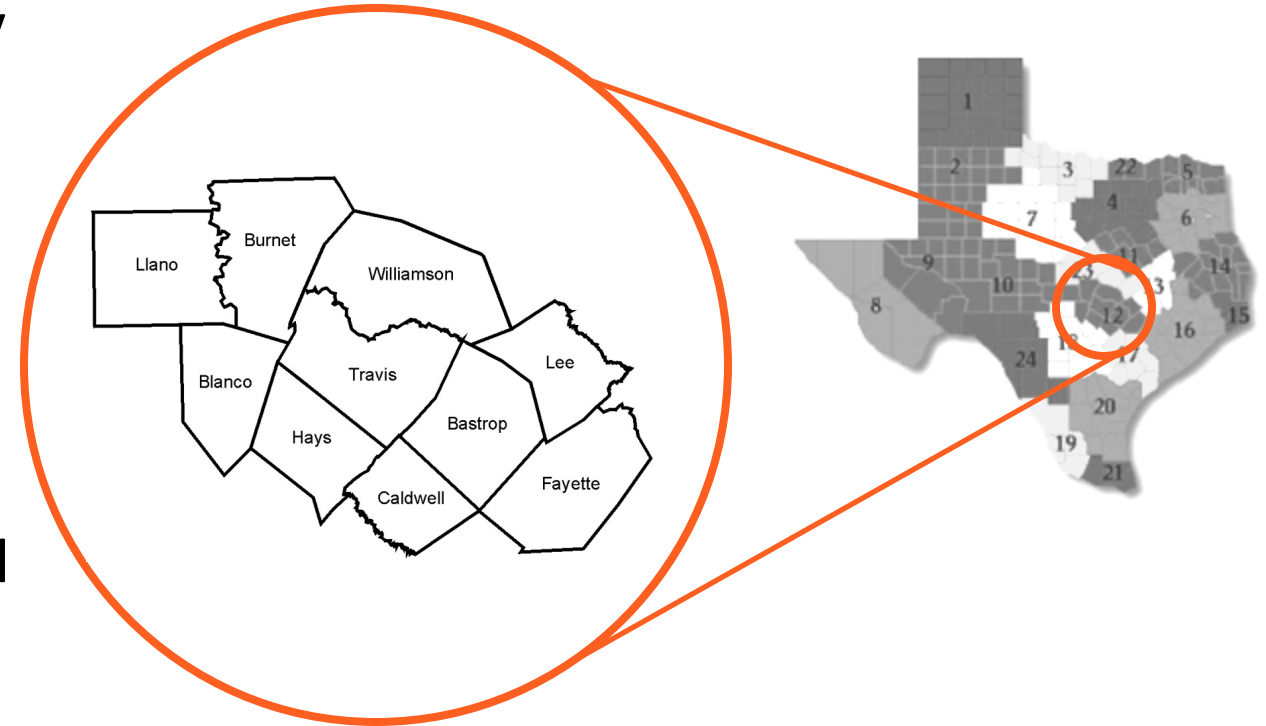
Clean Air Force – Meteorologist Luncheon
June 28, 2023



CAPCOG – Regional Planning Commission in Statute; more often called a COG.



- Emergency Communications 9-1-1
- Area Agency on Aging/Aging & Disability Resource Center
- Homeland Security Planning & Training
- Regional Law Enforcement Academy
- **Air Quality Planning**
- Solid Waste Planning
- Economic Development Analysis & Technical Assistance
- Transportation Planning



Local Government officials have come together to improve AQ in the region



Central Texas Clean Air Coalition (CAC) is a national leader in pro-active, voluntary efforts to improve air quality and stay in attainment of the standards

Goal: Maintaining compliance with the NAAQS, improve air quality, provide guidance

- Inspection and maintenance program, vehicle replacement programs, point source controls
- CAPCOG's air quality program conducts air quality monitoring, technical work, planning, and outreach



Supporting Members



- Austin White Lime
- Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Capital Metro
- City of Lago Vista
- City of Sunset Valley
- City of Taylor
- Clean Air Force of Central Texas
- Huston-Tillotson University
- Lower Colorado River Authority
- Lonestar Clean Fuels Alliance
- Public Citizen
- Sierra Club – Lonestar Chapter
- South-central Partnership for Energy Efficiency as a Resource
- St. Edward's University
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Texas Department of Transportation
- Texas Lehigh Cement Company
- Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
- US Environmental Protection Agency

CAPCOG's AQ program



- **Provide technical assistance to CAC members**
 - Monitor Pollution levels in the region
 - Technical reports (**Annual Report, Annual Data Analysis**)
- **Preform Studies and Planning Activities**
 - Emissions and Control Strategies (In partnership with **EPA** and **TCEQ**)
 - Modeling Analysis (2015-2020 Ozone conceptual Model, PM 2.5 Conceptual Model, **Cost of Non-Attainment**)



2019-
2026

Addendum to
Austin-
Round Rock-
Georgetown
MSA
Regional Air
Quality Plan

Outreach and Education



The **CAC** wants to educate everyone on **the dangers of air pollution!**

Air Central Texas (ACT) is an initiative to reduce exposure to air pollution in Central Texas through voluntary actions. Our partners include local governments, regional and state government agencies, non-profit groups, businesses, and institutions.

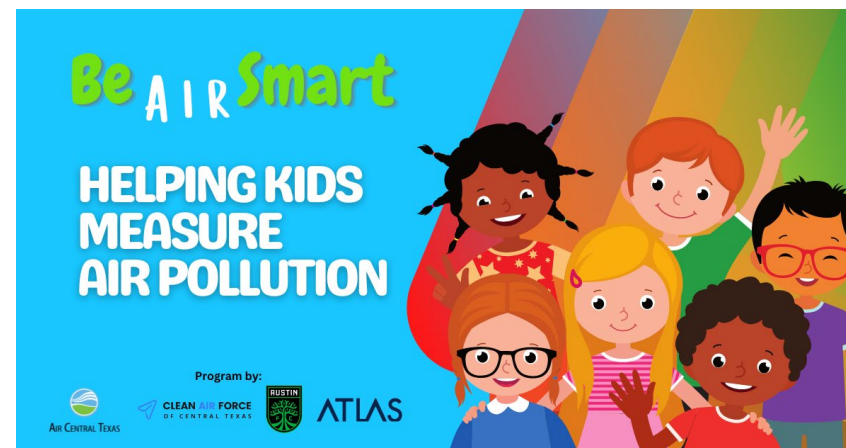
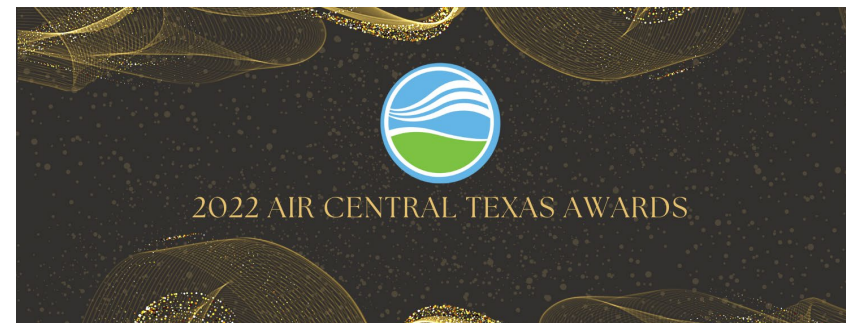
Our mission

- Provide the public with information about Central Texas Air Quality
- Support existing air quality programs
- Motivate everyone to make decisions that are Air Aware.

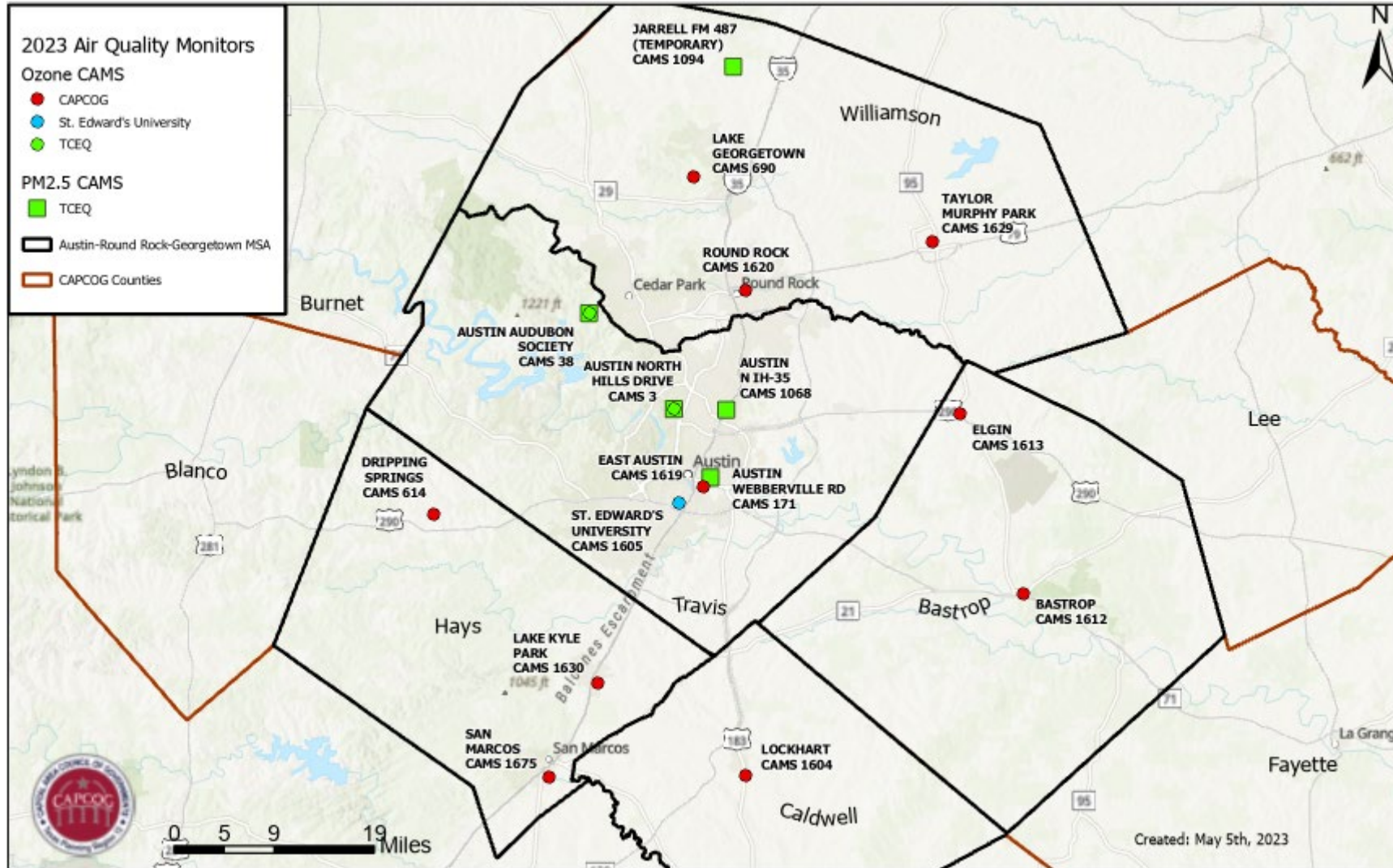
Visit our [website](#) to learn more about air pollution in our region!



@AirCentralTexas



O₃ and PM_{2.5} 2023 Monitoring Locations



Air Quality Index (AQI)

AQI is EPA's index for reporting air quality.

- The higher the AQI value, the greater the level of air pollution and the greater the health concern.

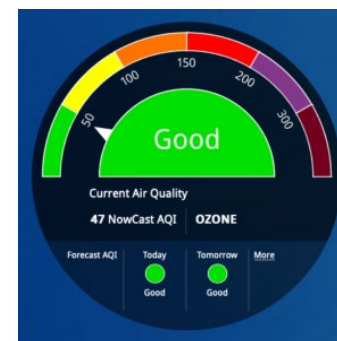
Provided by **AirNow.gov**

AirNow is a partnership of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other air quality agencies around the country.

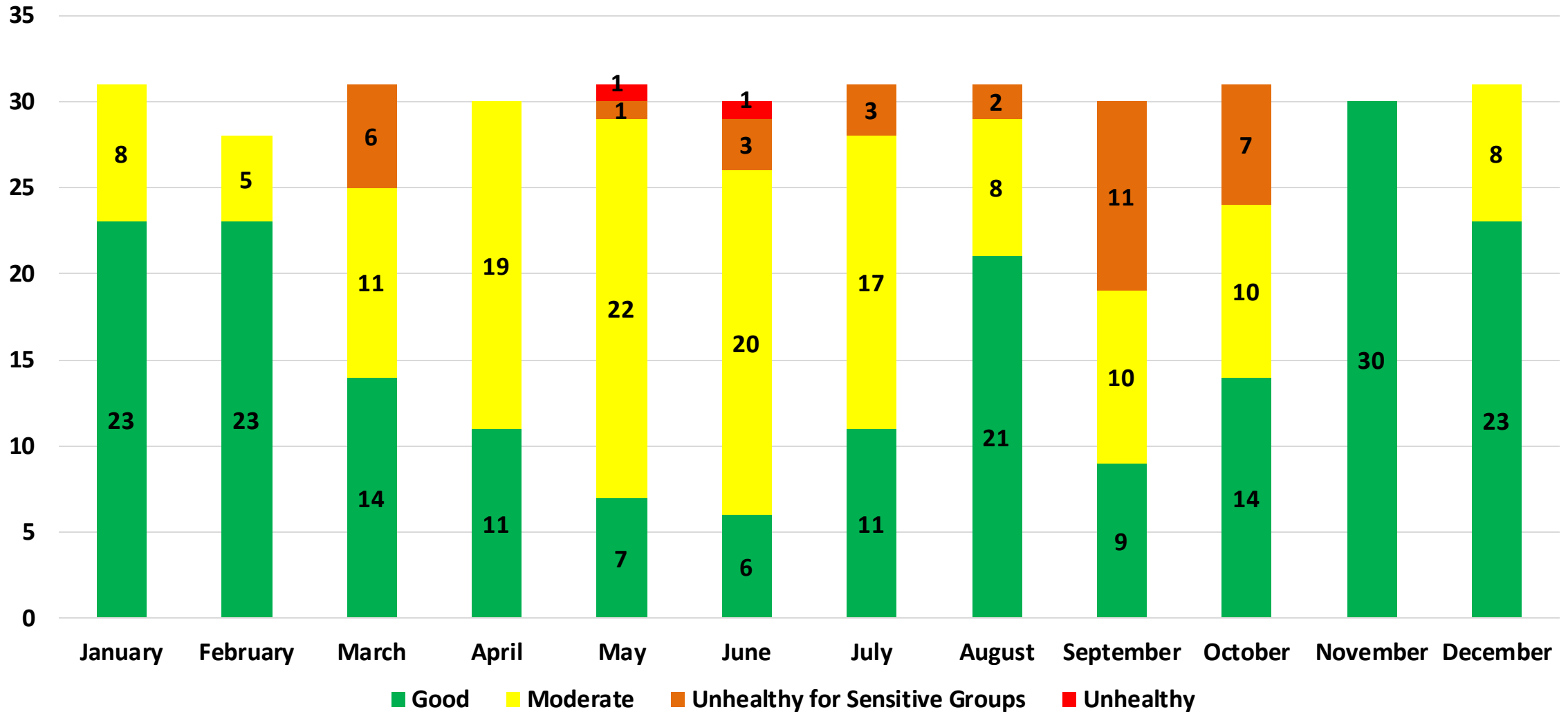
It provides:

- Year round 24/7 coverage delivers real-time data
- Next-day Air Quality forecasts for over 400 cities in the summer and 300 cities year-round
- State-of-the-science information about air pollution health effects

Daily AQI Color	Levels of Concern	Values of Index	Description of Air Quality
Green	Good	0 to 50	Air quality is satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
Yellow	Moderate	51 to 100	Air quality is acceptable. However, there may be a risk for some people, particularly those who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Orange	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 to 150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is less likely to be affected.
Red	Unhealthy	151 to 200	Some members of the general public may experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Purple	Very Unhealthy	201 to 300	Health alert: The risk of health effects is increased for everyone.
Maroon	Hazardous	301 and higher	Health warning of emergency conditions: everyone is more likely to be affected.



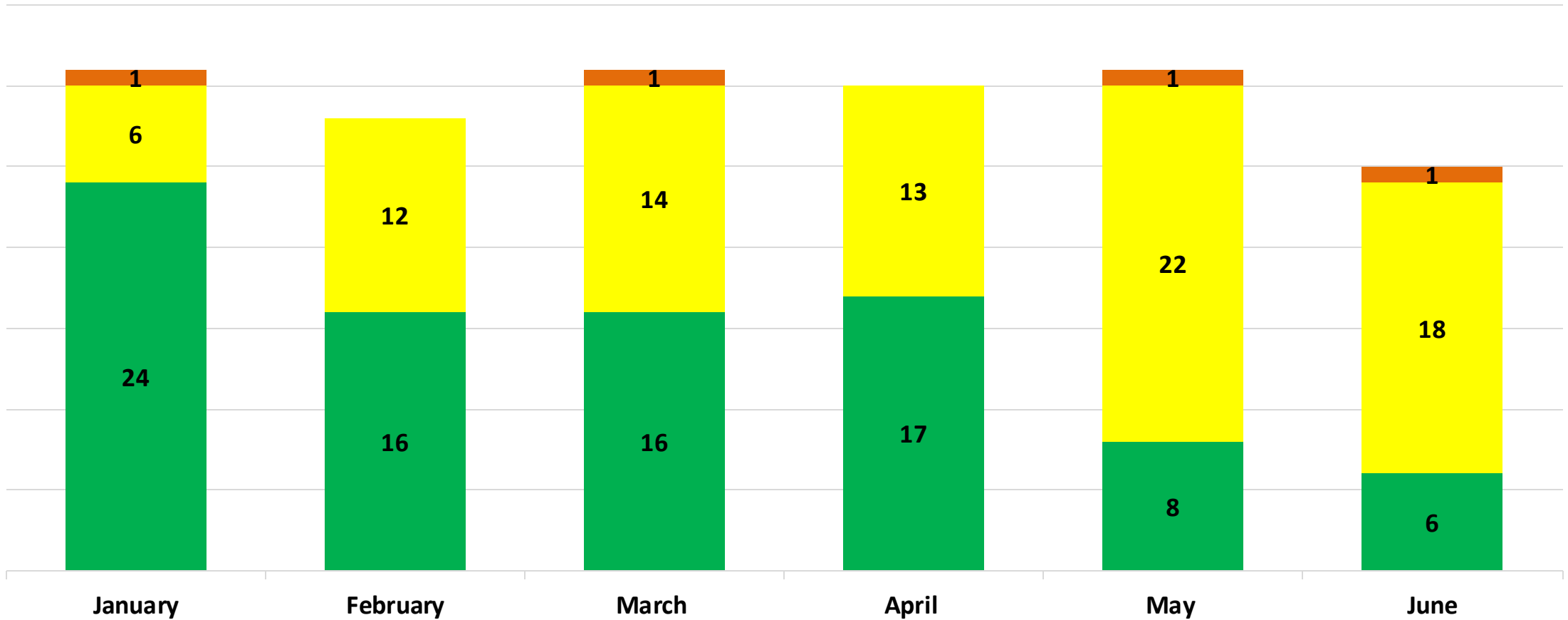
2022 AQI Days by Month



2023 AQI Days by Month



■ Good ■ Moderate ■ Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups ■ Unhealthy

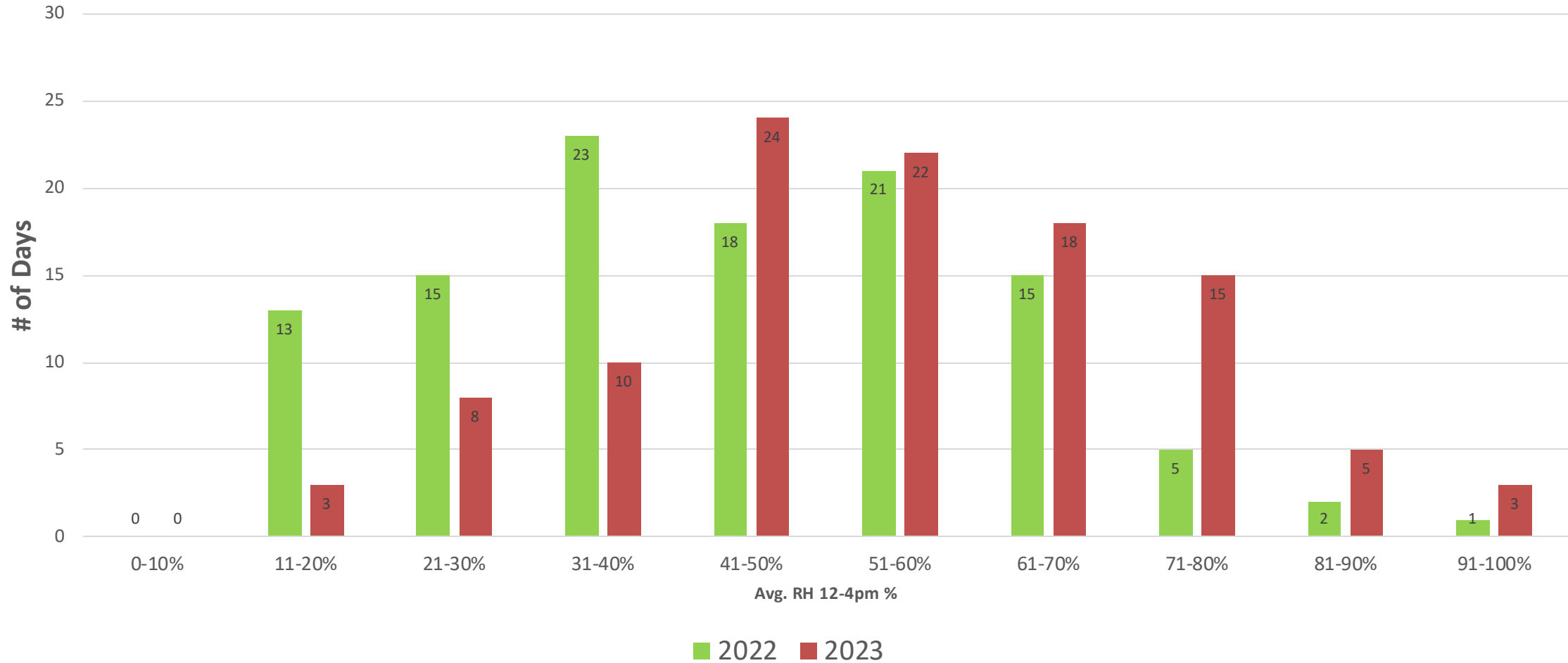


*Through June 25, 2023

Relative Humidity Comparison



CAMS 690

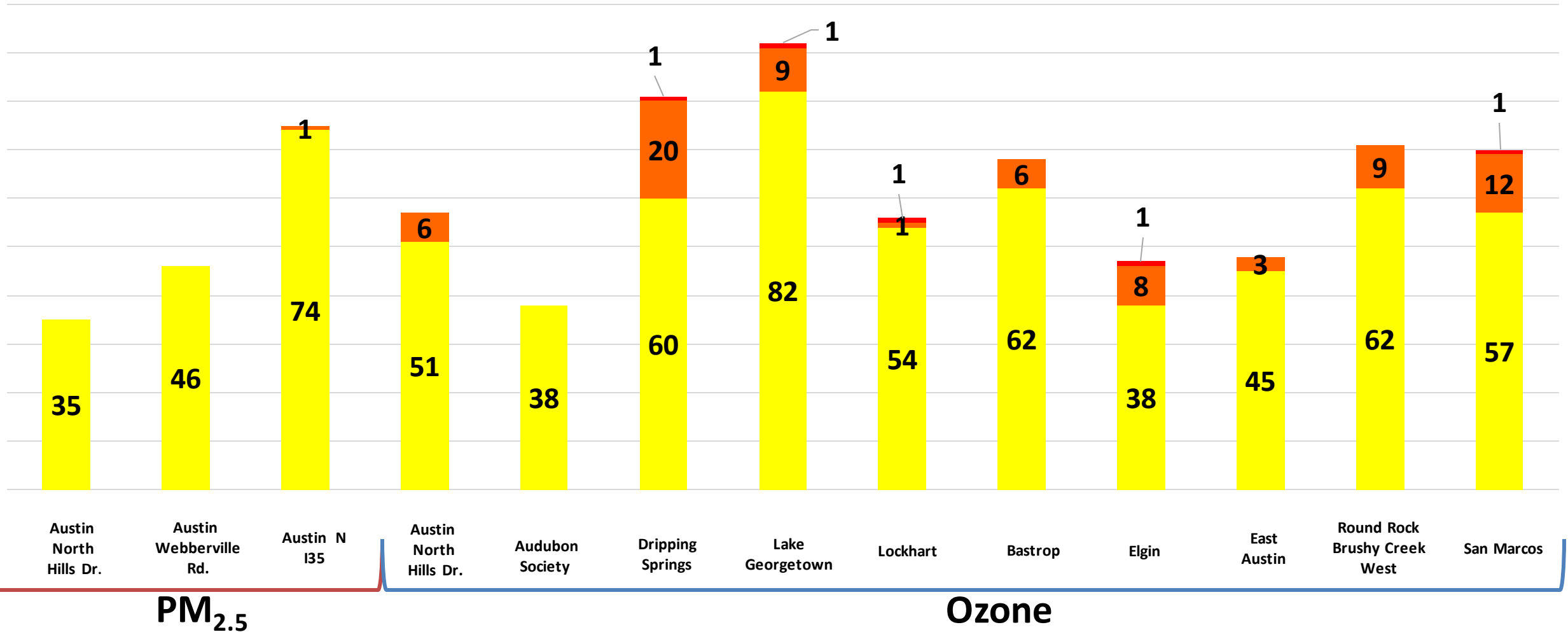


*Through June 25, 2023

2022 Moderate or Worse AQI Days by Monitor



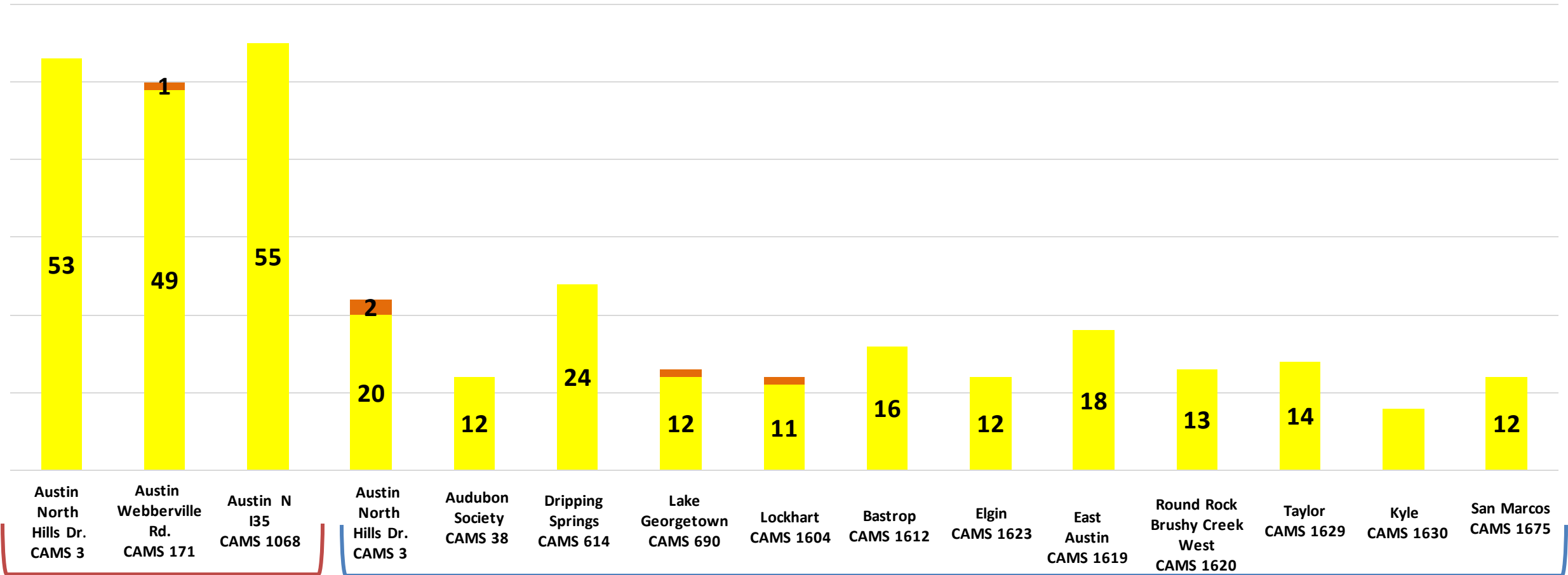
■ Moderate
 ■ Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups
 ■ Unhealthy



2023 Moderate or Worse AQI Days by Monitor*



■ Moderate
 ■ Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups
 ■ Unhealthy

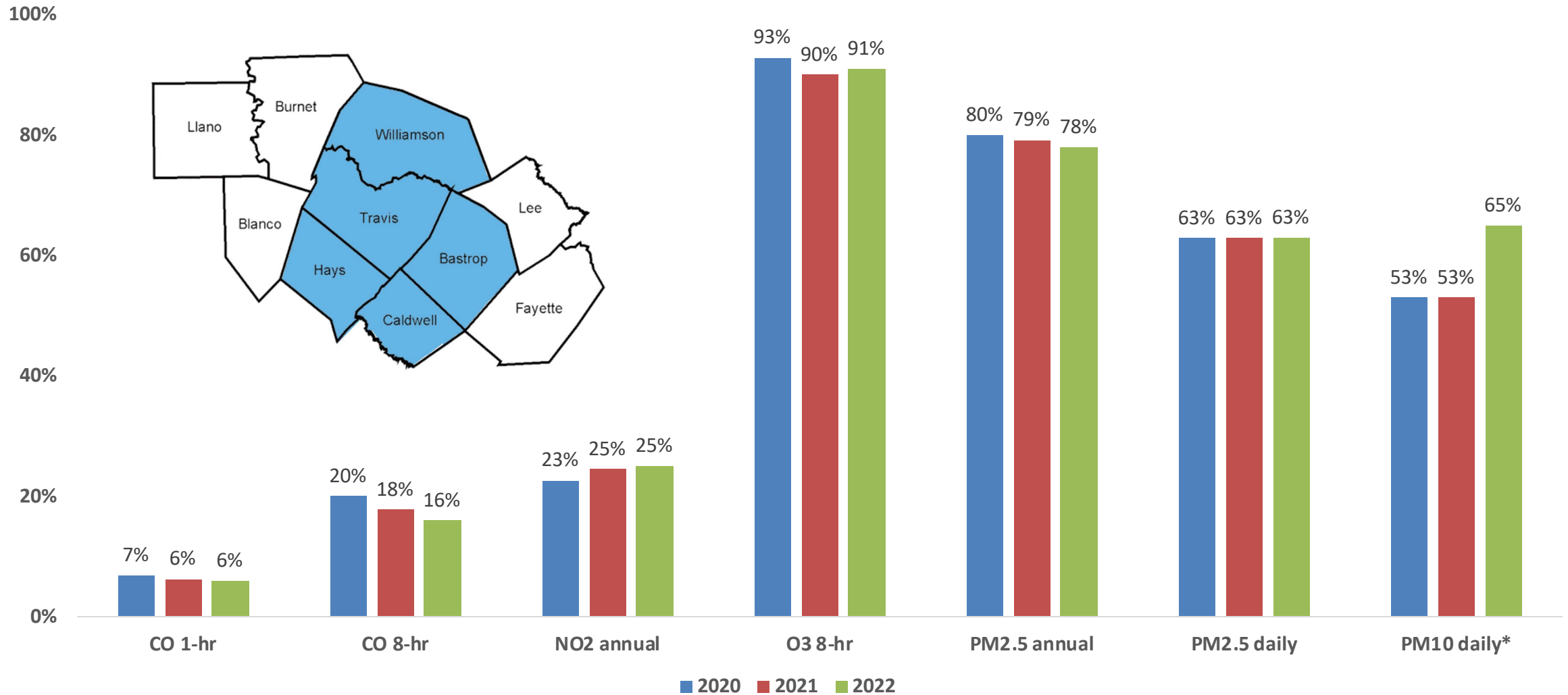


PM_{2.5}

Ozone

*Through June 25, 2023

Compliance with Federal Standards



2023 PM NAAQS Proposal – Key Details



- On Jan. 5, 2023, EPA released its proposal for **new Particulate Matter (PM) standards**
- EPA Comments
 - Annual PM_{2.5} - asking for comment on a revision as low as 8 µg/m³ and as high as 11 µg/m³
 - 24-hr PM_{2.5} - asking for comment on a revision as low as 25 µg/m³
- EPA hopes to **finalize standards later this year or early 2024**

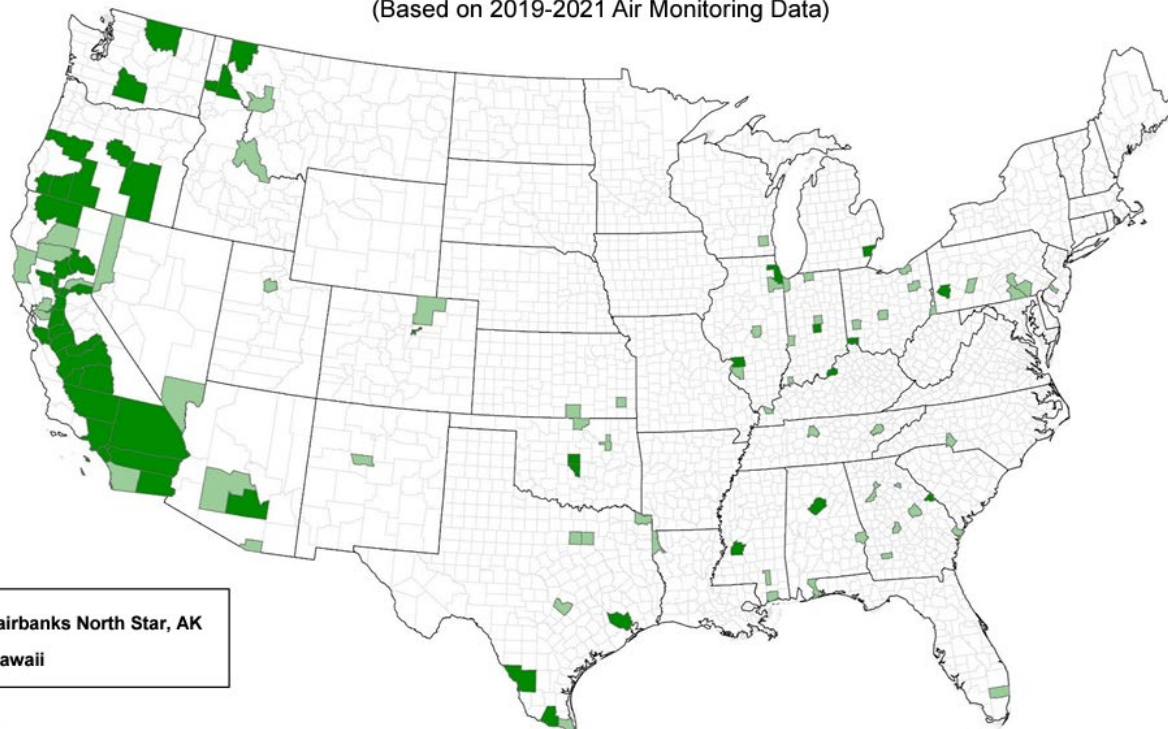
	Current Standard	Proposed Standard	2022 Austin MSA Levels
Annual PM _{2.5}	12.0 µg/m ³	Within the range of 9.0 to 10.0 µg/m ³	9.3 µg/m³
24-hr PM _{2.5}	35 µg/m ³	No Change Proposed	22 µg/m ³
24-hr PM ₁₀	150 µg/m ³	No Change Proposed	99 µg/m ³

Counties Not Meeting the PM_{2.5} Proposal



Current Air Monitoring Data Show Some Counties Would Not Meet Proposed Primary Fine Particle Standards

(Based on 2019-2021 Air Monitoring Data)

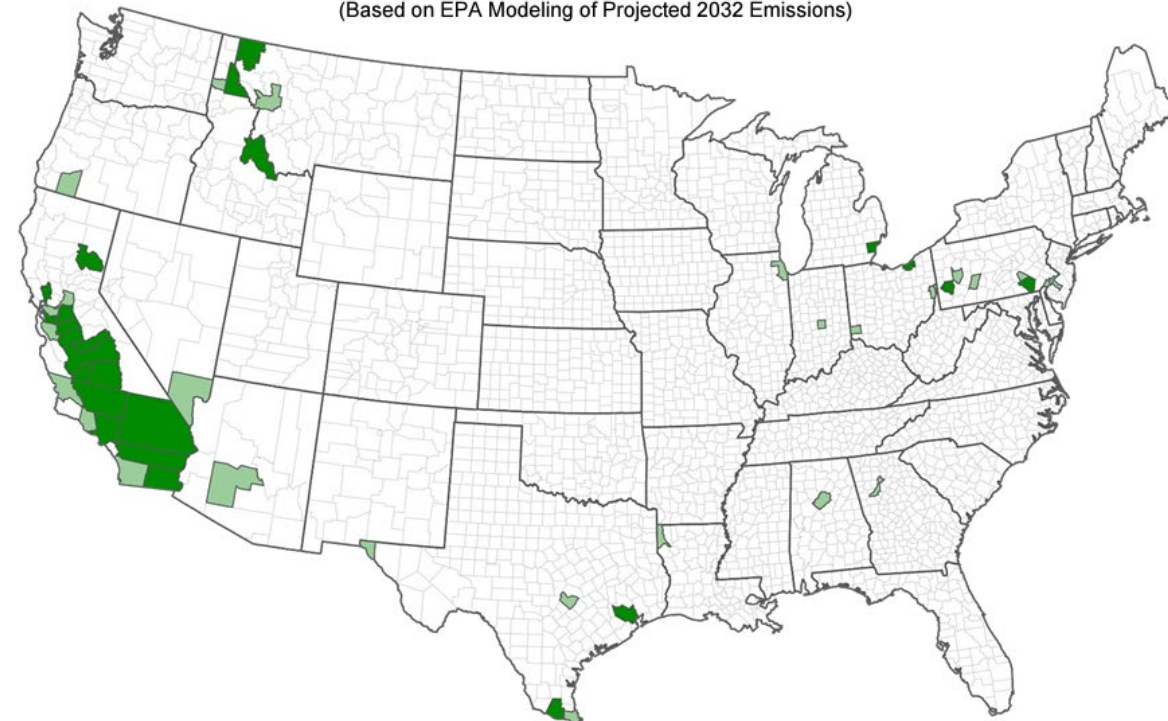


● Fairbanks North Star, AK
○ Hawaii

■ 50 counties do not meet a proposed annual fine particle standard of 10.0 ug/m³
■ 62 additional counties do not meet a proposed annual fine particle standard of 9.0 ug/m³

EPA Projections Show Most Counties Would Meet the Proposed Primary Fine Particle Standards in 2032

(Based on EPA Modeling of Projected 2032 Emissions)



■ 24 counties are projected not to meet a proposed annual fine particle standard of 10.0 ug/m³ in 2032
■ 27 additional counties are projected not to meet a proposed annual fine particle standard of 9.0 ug/m³ in 2032

PM_{2.5} NAAQS Reconsideration Timeline

<https://casac.epa.gov/ords/sab/f?p=113:19:14538376097957:::19:P19 ID:961>



Key Milestones in the PM NAAQS Reconsideration		
Date	EPA	CASAC and Public Review
June 2021	Announcement of Reconsideration	
September 30, 2021	Release of Draft PM ISA Supplement	Comment period closes November 29
October 8, 2021	Release of Draft PA	Comment period closes December 14
October 14, 2021		CASAC Public Meeting: Overview of Reconsideration and Draft PM ISA Supplement and Draft PA
November 17-19 and December 1-2, 2021		CASAC Meeting to Review the Draft PM ISA Supplement and Draft PA
Winter 2022		CASAC Follow-up Meeting Final CASAC Letters
Spring 2022	Final PM ISA Supplement	
	Final PA	
Early 2023	Proposed decision	Public comment period and public hearings
2023/24	Final decision	



O₃ NAAQS Reconsideration



- [On Nov. 1st, 2021 EPA announced its decision to reconsider the previous administration's decision to retain 2015 O₃ NAAQS](#)
 - EPA is targeting the end of 2023 to complete this reconsideration
- On April 29, 2022, EPA released their [draft policy assessment](#) for reconsideration of the 2020 O₃ NAAQS. In this document they concluded that the **2015 primary standard was adequate to protect public health**
- In November 2022, the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) reviewing the O₃ NAAQS submitted its recommendation on the 2020 O₃ NAAQS – stating that it “**not recommending that the 2020 ISA, which is a final document, be reopened and revised.**”
- In March 2023, EPA released their [draft policy assessment v2](#) for reconsideration of the 2020 O₃ NAAQS. In this document they concluded that the **newly available evidence does not lead to different conclusions regarding the respiratory effects of O₃**



O₃ NAAQS Reconsideration Timeline

Key Milestones in the O₃ NAAQS Reconsideration

Date	EPA	CASAC and Public Review
October 2021	Announcement of Reconsideration	
April 28, 2022	Release of Draft PA	Initiation of CASAC review and public comment period
April 29, 2022		CASAC Public Meeting: Overview of Reconsideration and Draft PA
Sep. 12, 14, & 16, 2022		CASAC Meeting to Review the Draft PA
✓ Fall 2022		CASAC Follow-up Meeting Final CASAC Letters
→ Early 2023	Final PA	
Spring 2023	Proposed decision	Public comment period and public hearings
December 2023	Final decision	

Thank You



Capital Area Council of Governments

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