

# Public Health, Air Quality, and Transportation in North Carolina

## Metro Areas in North Carolina Ranked by the Highest Number of Days of Unhealthy Air

Rank	Metro Area	Total Number of Days of Unhealthy Air Quality (2000 - 2002)
11	Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, NC-SC MSA	92
32	Greensboro--Winston-Salem--High Point, NC MSA	52
34	Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill, NC MSA	50
	Norfolk-Virginia Beach-Newport News, VA-NC MSA	27

## North Carolina Residents Exposed to Unhealthy Air Over Ten Years

Metro Area	Days of Unhealthy Ozone Levels		
	Avg 1993-1997	Avg 1998-2002	Percent Change
Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, NC-SC MSA	22.4	35.6	58.9%
Greensboro--Winston-Salem--High Point, NC MSA	12.6	19.6	55.6%
Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill, NC MSA	16.0	23.6	47.5%
Norfolk-Virginia Beach-Newport News, VA-NC MSA	10.4	11.4	9.6%

## Air Pollution Affects Public Health in North Carolina's Metro Areas

Metro Area	Percentage of Adults Who Have Ever Been Diagnosed with Asthma (2002)
Asheville, NC MSA	13.6%
Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, NC-SC MSA	11.3%
Fayetteville, NC MSA	9.4%
Greensboro--Winston-Salem--High Point, NC MSA	10.4%
Greenville, NC MSA	10.8%
Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC MSA	13.5%
Norfolk-Virginia Beach-Newport News, VA-NC MSA	11.9%
Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill, NC MSA	9.3%
Rocky Mount, NC MSA	7.1%
Wilmington, NC MSA	9.5%

Urbanized Area	Transportation-Related Public Health Costs (2001)
Asheville, NC	\$38,535,788
Burlington, NC	\$22,567,038
Charlotte, NC	\$124,933,113
Durham, NC	\$52,556,350
Fayetteville, NC	\$43,000,650
Gastonia, NC	\$29,950,988
Goldsboro, NC	\$11,280,325
Greensboro, NC	\$49,107,100
Greenville, NC	\$9,447,113
Hickory, NC	\$24,700,463
High Point, NC	\$30,136,225
Jacksonville, NC	\$9,881,463
Kannapolis, NC	\$23,531,550
Raleigh, NC	\$101,018,313
Rocky Mount, NC	\$8,367,625
Wilmington, NC	\$22,362,638
Winston-Salem, NC	\$48,225,625

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## Transportation's Contribution to Air Pollution in North Carolina's Metro Areas

Metro Area	Total Criteria Pollutants* from Transportation (tons per year) (1999)	Total Criteria Pollutants from Transportation per capita (pounds per year) (1999)	Percent of all Criteria Pollutants from Transportation (1999)
Fayetteville, NC MSA	104,660	738	57.9%
Asheville, NC MSA	103,829	965	52.6%
Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill, NC MSA	387,553	701	50.5%
Jacksonville, NC MSA	34,251	481	49.4%
Norfolk-Virginia Beach-Newport News, VA-NC MSA	445,872	571	45.3%
Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, NC-SC MSA	491,648	694	44.9%
Greenville, NC MSA	36,100	564	44.5%
Greensboro--Winston-Salem--High Point, NC MSA	425,335	721	43.7%
Rocky Mount, NC MSA	56,779	772	41.9%
Hickory-Morganton-Lenoir, NC MSA	130,631	802	35.0%
Wilmington, NC MSA	74,585	672	34.8%
Goldsboro, NC MSA	37,279	667	32.4%

\*Criteria Pollutants are carbon monoxide, ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, particulate matter, and lead

## Federal Policy and Funding to Improve Air Quality in North Carolina

The *Clean Air Act* sets standards for air quality to protect public health, and requires metro areas which fail to conform to these standards to improve their air quality over time. The conformity process has allowed transportation planners to be part of the solution by ensuring that transportation plans and investments reduce air pollution. Current proposals from the Bush Administration and some members of Congress would **undermine the Clean Air Act** by the frequency with which transportation plans must be reviewed, and excuse metropolitan areas and states from having to consider the long-term impacts of transportation projects.

Under **ISTEA & TEA-21**, the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement program (CMAQ) funds transportation projects that help North Carolina meet clean air goals. North Carolina has received **\$150.2 million in CMAQ dollars** since 1992. **North Carolina's demand for CMAQ funding** is expected to **grow by 187.5 percent** under new EPA air quality standards and proposed changes to weighting factors for pollutants (holding population steady).