

# Air Quality Facts

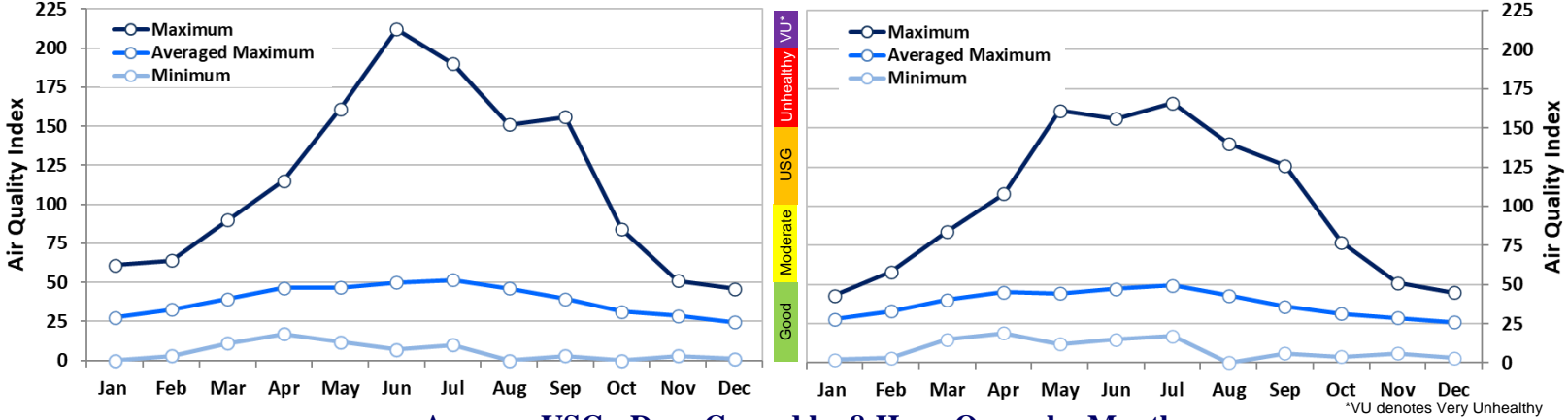
## OZONE – SEASONAL CLIMATOLOGY

### WHEN IS GROUND-LEVEL OZONE THE WORST ANNUALLY?

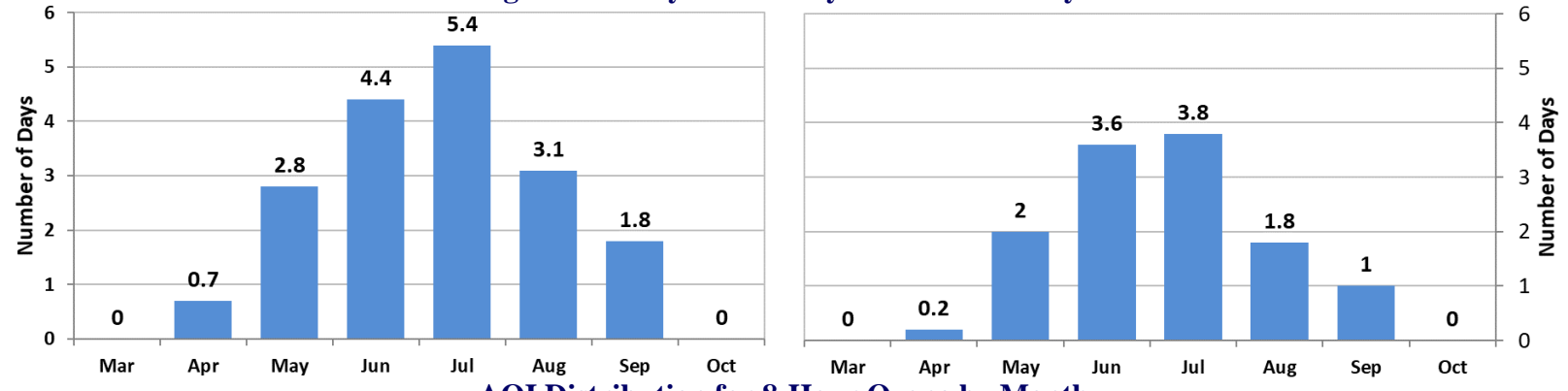
Ground-level ozone is a summer-time air pollutant. In Maryland, bad air days caused by ozone pollution typically exhibit a maximum from June through August. Although, scattered bad air days can also occur during April, May, and September. A bad air day for ozone occurs when the Air Quality Index (AQI)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

10-Year Period (2012-2021) | 5-Year Period (2017-2021)

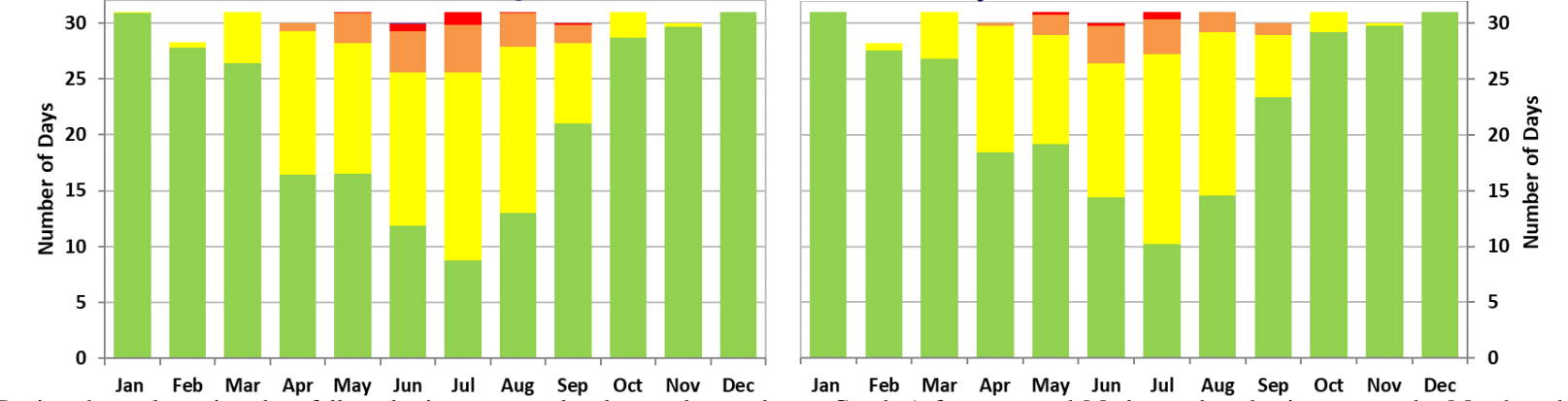
#### Basic AQI Statistics for 8-Hour Ozone by Month



#### Average USG+ Days Caused by 8-Hour Ozone by Month



#### AQI Distribution for 8-Hour Ozone by Month



During the early spring, late fall, and winter, ozone levels are almost always Good. A few scattered Moderate days begin to occur by March and become more prevalent during the summer months. By April, 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 or above AQI are most likely to occur during these months due to long daylight hours and conducive weather patterns. Roughly 70 percent of the bad air days caused by ozone in Maryland occur during these months. In September ground-level ozone generally tapers off as days shorten and temperatures decrease resulting in a reduced number of ozone bad air days. From October through February ozone levels are consistently Good. Protect your health by knowing the current air quality conditions and forecasts: see [MDE's air quality forecast](#) or visit [Airnow](#).

#### Air Quality Index (AQI)

0-50 Good	51-100 Moderate	101-150 USG	151-200 Unhealthy	201-300 Very Unhealthy	301-500 Hazardous
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