

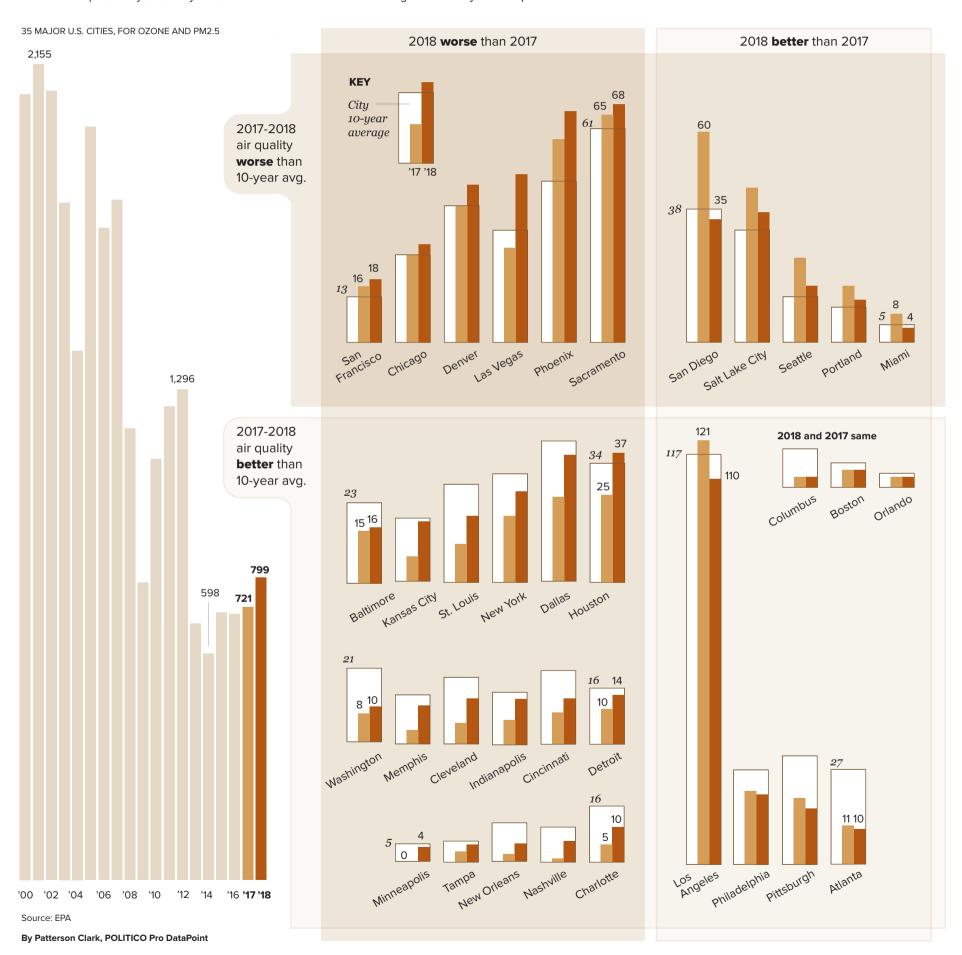
July 18, 2019

Bad air quality days increasing under Trump administration

"We have the cleanest air in the world in the United States," President Donald Trump said in June, "and it's gotten better since I'm president." That is only the case in a handful of cities. In 35 major cities, the number of days in 2018 when air quality was unhealthy for sensitive groups (or worse) rose to its highest level since 2012, according to an EPA report. Such bad air days have increased 14 percent since the last year of the Obama administration.

Number of city days with air quality that is unhealthy for sensitive groups, or worse

About half of U.S. cities have had air quality between 2017 and 2018 that was better than the 10-year average, but which has worsened in the past two years. Six cities have exceeded the 10-year average for unhealthy air days, and the air has grown worse in the past two years. Only three cities have had fewer-than-average bad air days with improvement in 2018 over 2017.



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