

# Understanding the Air Quality Index (AQI)

## What is the Air Quality Index (AQI)?

The U.S. Air Quality Index (AQI) is an important tool made by the Environmental Protection Agency to help people understand how clean or dirty the air is and how it might affect their health.

## What do the different colors mean?

The index uses six colors to show different levels of air quality. Each color stands for a certain range of numbers, making it easy for people to quickly see if the air is unhealthy.

## What does a higher or lower AQI mean?

A higher AQI number means the air has more pollution and could be more harmful to your health. For example, a number of 50 or less means the air is clean, but a number over 300 means the air is very dangerous.

## What is considered unhealthy AQI?

Air quality is okay when the AQI is 100 or less. If the number goes over 100, the air can be unhealthy. At first, it mostly affects people who are more sensitive, but as the number gets higher, it can harm more people.

