

Peak BR Historical Ozone Values

It is highly likely that the Baton Rouge area experienced occasional ground-level ozone levels exceeding 200 parts per billion (ppb) in the early 1980s.

During that period, the area was characterized by high industrial emissions, and, while national air quality has improved significantly since 1980, such levels were not uncommon in heavily industrialized, non-attainment areas before strict regulations took full effect. [1, 2, 3]

Key context regarding this likelihood includes:

- **Significant Air Pollution History:** The Baton Rouge region (including Iberville, West Baton Rouge, and Ascension parishes) has a long history of poor air quality, with numerous industrial facilities in what is known as "Cancer Alley".
- **"Nonattainment" Status:** The Baton Rouge area has consistently struggled with ozone standards, with the number of parishes in non-attainment for ozone reaching around 20 in the late 1980s.
- **Comparison to Modern Standards:** While modern standards often focus on an 8-hour average (e.g., 70-75 ppb), 1-hour peak concentrations in the 1970s and 1980s were frequently much higher before major emission reductions in the 1990s.
- **Significance of 200+ ppb:** Concentrations above 200 ppb are classified in extremely high, "Very Unhealthy" categories. In the context of the high-pollution environment of 1980s Louisiana, such spikes would likely have occurred during intense summer heatwaves. [1, 2, 4, 5, 6]

Although the search results emphasize the high number of non-attainment days and the reduction of pollutants from the 1980s onwards, they confirm that the area was notorious for high ozone pollution during that era. [7, 8, 9]

AI responses may include mistakes.

[1] <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/2025/the-shocking-hazards-of-louisianas-cancer-alley>

[2] <https://www.lsu.edu/ces/publications/2008/CES-RN-2008-2.pdf>

[3] <https://www.epa.gov/air-trends/air-quality-national-summary>

[4] <https://www.krvs.org/louisiana-news/2024-04-24/baton-rouge-metro-area-has-heavy-ozone-and-particle-pollution-new-report-says>

[5] https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/epa-finds-baton-rouge-area-is-out-of-compliance-with-ozone-standards-to-industrys-chagrin/article_3ec1ec10-eb47-11e7-b666-7f6f82142e2a.html

[6] <https://www.lung.org/getmedia/dabac59e-963b-4e9b-bf0f-73615b07bfd8/State-of-the->

[7] <https://www.wafb.com/story/8263662/baton-rouge-rates-as-one-of-the-worst-us-cities-for-ozone/>

[8] <https://www.wafb.com/story/8263662/baton-rouge-rates-as-one-of-the-worst-us-cities-for-ozone/>

[9] <https://brainly.com/question/23578018>