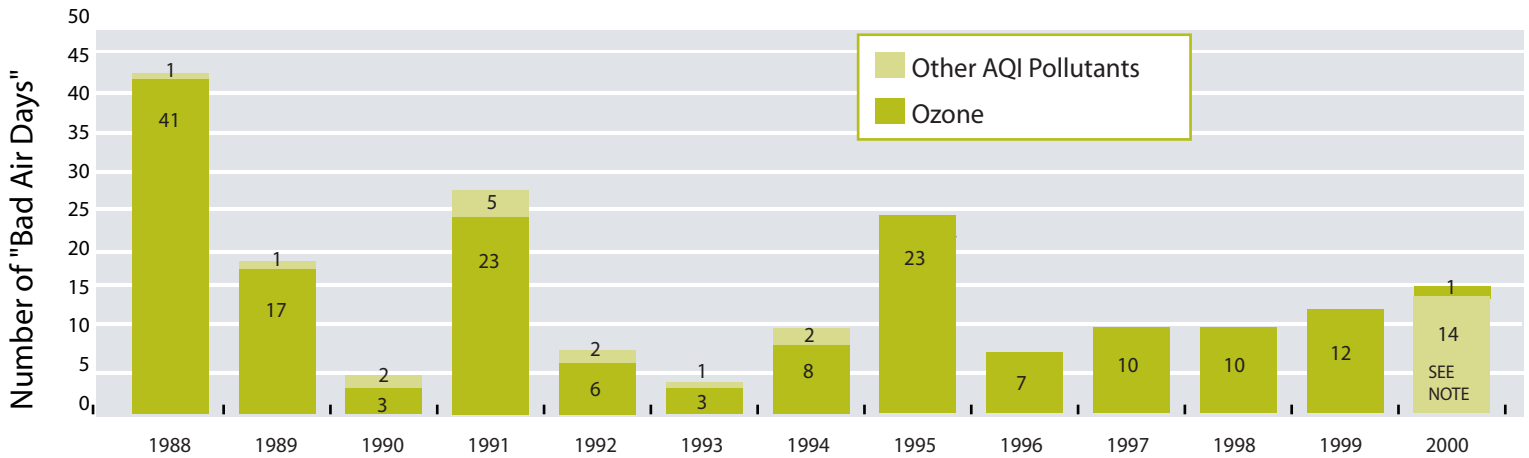


## OZONE POLLUTION DECLINES

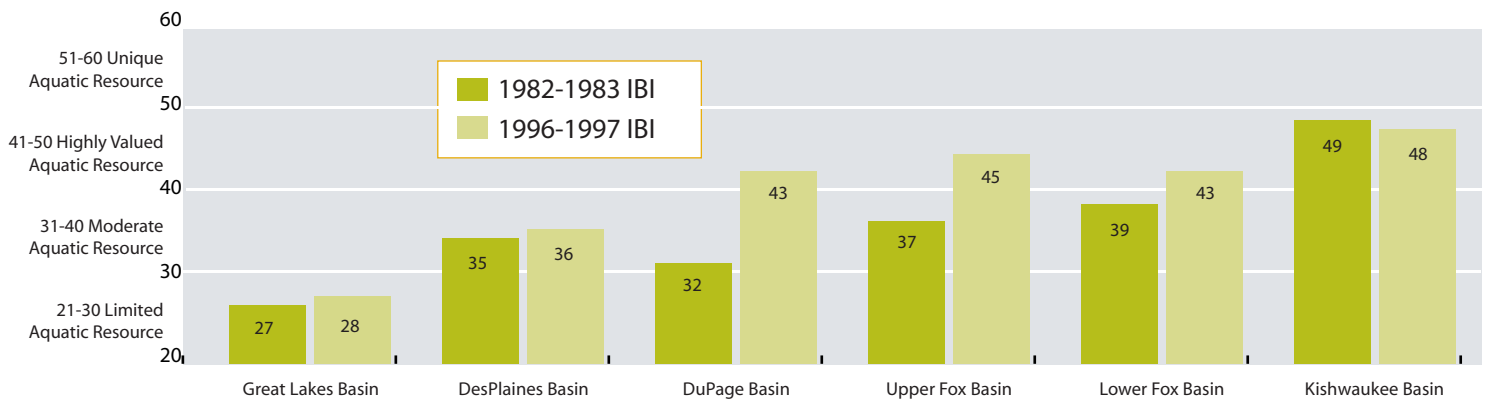


An Air Quality Index (AQI) of greater than 100 at any of the more than 70 air quality monitoring stations in the region is considered at least moderately dangerous, triggering a "bad air day." A new measure for particulate matter was introduced to the AQI in 2000.

The non-ozone AQI for 2000 cannot be compared with earlier years.

Source: Illinois EPA

## STREAM WATER QUALITY IMPROVES

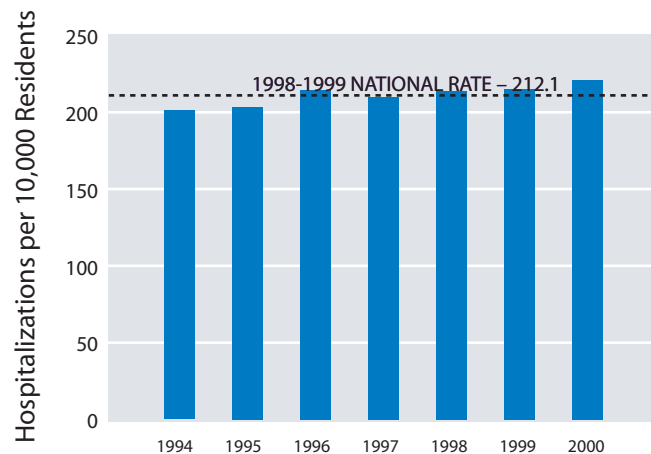


Average Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) score of monitoring stations used both in 1982-1983 and 1996-1997.

IBI consists of 12 biological metrics related to the presence and health of fish species in streams.

Sources: Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Illinois EPA

## REGION'S STROKE RATES RISE



Hospitalizations of persons 65 and over where stroke is the primary diagnosis per 10,000 residents 65 and older.

Sources: Illinois Department of Public Health (1994-1997); Illinois Health Care Cost Containment Council (1998-2000)