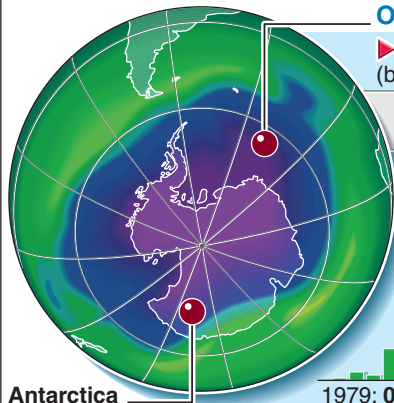


Ozone hole in Antarctica sets new records

U.S. scientists have reported that this year's Antarctic ozone hole is the biggest ever. The ozone layer, which protects life on Earth by blocking the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays, has been severely depleted by human-produced gases such as chlorine and bromine in the upper atmosphere

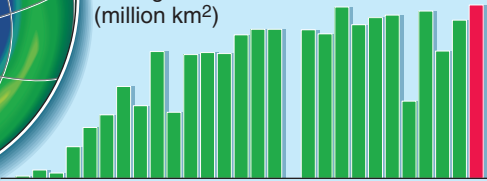


OZONE HOLE: September 21-30

▶ **Largest average area:** 27.4 million km²
(bigger than North America)

▶ **Lowest depth of ozone:** 85 Dobson Units* (down from 300 in July)

▶ **Annual record since 1979** 2006
Average ozone hole area
(million km²) **26**



Antarctica

1979: 0 No data for 1995. 2006 figure is preliminary

Source: NASA *Measure of ozone amounts above fixed point in atmosphere © GRAPHIC NEWS