

## THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH AND SHALE GAS DEVELOPMENT

A NEWSLETTER FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND PUBLIC HEALTH WORKERS

Issue 3: Exploring Health Impacts on Children, Mental Health Impacts, and more

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter | July 2018

Rapid growth in shale gas development in the Marcellus Shale formation by way of unconventional horizontal fracking has resulted in significantly higher levels of air emissions and water use than previous methods of extraction. Accumulation of human health studies related to this latest method of gas extraction has been building.

*"... hydraulic fracturing of shale gas and oil bring industrial activity into close proximity to residences, schools, daycare centers and places where people spend their time. Multiple gas production sources can be sited near residences. Health care providers evaluating patient health need to know the chemicals present, the emissions from different sites and the intensity and frequency of the exposures."*

[Human exposure to unconventional natural gas development:  
A public health demonstration of periodic high exposure to chemical mixtures in ambient air](#)

D. Brown, C. Lewis, B Weinberger, 2015



### 2018 SHALE AND PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE

Wednesday Nov 14, 2018 | 9 AM to 5 PM (registration at 8:30)  
University of Pittsburgh's University Club

*Presented by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania  
Hosted by the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public  
Health*

The conference is free and features new research and practical applications. The optional buffet lunch is \$14.

EHP will be leading the break-out session for health professionals. We would like to know what interests you most regarding tools EHP has developed. Please share your input on our survey [HERE](#).

Other highlights of the conference will include:

- Nicole Deziel, PhD, Yale School of Public Health, presenting a study on shale gas activity and sexually transmitted infections in Ohio
- Research on Childhood Cancer in Pennsylvania
- Public Health and the Plastics Lifecycle
- Improving access to health information and treatment
- Break-out session for health professionals (Please check box in registration form if you are interested in receiving information about professional credit hours for attendance.)
- And more.....

[REGISTER HERE](#)

## EXPLORING HEALTH IMPACTS OF SHALE GAS DEVELOPMENT ON CHILDREN

On June 6<sup>th</sup>, EHP hosted an educational training, [Exploring Health Impacts of Shale Gas Development on Children](#), for over 25 health professionals at the Allegheny County Medical Society in Pittsburgh. Health professionals attending this event included: physicians, nurses, and social workers.

The following speakers addressed new research and data analysis on children's health and shale gas development:

### [Hydraulic Fracturing – “Fracking” – and Children’s Health](#)

Peggy Slota, DNP, RN, FAAN  
Director, DNP Graduate Studies  
Associate Professor at Georgetown University

### [Examining the Association Between Unconventional Natural Gas Development and Health](#)

Irena Gorski, MPH, PhD Student  
Department of Environmental Health & Engineering  
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

### [Fracking and Health: Policy Practice in New York](#)

Larysa Dyrszka, MD  
Former Director of Pediatrics at Holy Name Hospital, NJ  
Ned Ketyer, MD, FAAP  
SWPA Environmental Health Project Consultant

## MENTAL HEALTH IMPACTS ON SHALE GAS COMMUNITIES

Mental health symptoms increase the closer one is to shale gas development. Residents have reported symptoms of anxiety, stress, anger, and depression related to changes in their living and societal conditions after shale gas activity begins in their communities.

Click [HERE](#) for a review of literature contributing to an understanding of mental health impacts associated with shale gas development.

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## PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACTS OF SHALE GAS EMISSIONS

Exposure to shale gas emissions can vary greatly depending on weather patterns, density of infrastructure, and types of infrastructure. The following handouts explain further:

### [Aggregate/Combination Air Pollution](#)

### [Emissions Control & Regulation](#)

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**The Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project (EHP)** is a nonprofit public health organization that assists and supports residents of Southwestern Pennsylvania and beyond who believe their health has been, or could be, impacted by unconventional oil and gas development (UOGD, or Fracking).

#### Services offered by EHP

- [Medical ToolKit – Screening & Assessment Tools – Reference Materials](#)
- [CME/CEU Credits](#)
- [National Shale Gas & Oil Health Registry](#)
- [Latest health studies related to UOGD](#)



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