

THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH AND SHALE GAS DEVELOPMENT

A NEWSLETTER FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND PUBLIC HEALTH WORKERS

Issue 5: PA Health/Mental Health Literature Reviews, County Health Risk Assessments 1st Quarter | January 2019

Keep abreast of studies regarding health impacts of shale gas development on both physical and mental health of residents living, working, and playing in areas of shale gas development.

[Compilation of UNGD Health Studies Using Pennsylvania Data](#)

Abstracts for 30 peer-reviewed studies conducted using PA data between 2012 and 2018. Exploration of multiple health issues, including birth outcomes, infant health and mortality, asthma, risky behavior, mental health, and more.

[Mental Health Literature Review: Unconventional Oil and Gas Development \(UOGD\)](#),

A summary of the growing body of peer-reviewed literature contributing to a better understanding of the mental health impacts of shale gas development. Includes investigation of reported symptoms of stress, anxiety, feelings of powerlessness and depression in shale gas communities.

The evidence clearly demonstrates that the processes of fracking contribute[s] substantially to anthropogenic harm, including climate change and global warming, and involve[s] massive violations of a range of substantive and procedural human rights and the rights of nature. Thus the industry has failed to fulfill its legal and moral obligations. The evidence also shows that governments have, in general, failed in their responsibility to regulate the industry so as to protect "people, communities and nature."

[Human Rights and Fracking in England: The Role of the Oregon Permanent People's Tribunal](#)
[Health and Human Rights Journal](#), M Aczel, K Makuch, 2018

EHP's COUNTY HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENTS

EHP's toxicologist, David Brown, ScD, and data team have been sampling, monitoring and analyzing PA shale gas emissions since 2012. EHP has developed an air model which can approximate shale gas emission exposure in a location for median (50% of the time or better) and peak (10% of the time or better) exposures. It is vital that you know your patients' zip code and what industry or pollution sources are active within it. EHP's County Health Risk Assessments can help quantify the risk from shale gas development. [Westmoreland County Health Risk Assessment](#) and [Washington County Health Risk Assessment](#) are available. Additional counties will be added shortly. Watch EHP's website for updates.

HOW CAN EHP BEST ASSIST YOU & YOUR PATIENTS?

FAQs about EHP's Information & Services

EHP has been working with health care providers and clients since 2012 to address and document health impacts related to environmental exposure from shale gas development.

If you have questions about how EHP may be of service to you and/or your patients, visit the Health Care Provider's [Frequently Asked Questions](#), or contact Debbie Larson, Medical Outreach Coordinator, at 724-260-5504.

Note: All EHP information and most services are provided at no cost to Southwest Pennsylvania residents and health care providers.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MEDICAL TOOLKIT

CME/CEU Credit

1. Understand the contribution of shale gas development exposure to disease causation or exacerbation.
2. Utilize environmental health and exposure history as a systematic risk assessment in care of patients.
3. Identify environments of concern and potential exposure hazards.
4. Identify susceptibility of populations to specific exposures.
5. Recognize illnesses related to environmental exposure.

The University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine designates this enduring material for a maximum of 1.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™.

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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