Best Practices for Residents: Pennsylvania

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Pennsylvania is Pennsylvania

The U.S. Fracking Explosion at a Glance

This map shows just how widespread the fossil fuel extraction method known as fracking has become in the United States since it became commercially viable in the 1990s. Fracking now occurs in 22 states, and could soon begin in five more. New York is the only state with known natural gas reserves to ban fracking.

FRACKING STATUS
- Active
- Could soon begin
- Banned
- No economically feasible reserves
- Other*
- Local bans or moratoria

*Little or no modern fracking occurs here, it's technically allowed, but drillers tend to use other techniques such...
Pennsylvania’s extraction legacy

Mining coal in Pennsylvania since the 1700’s.

PA was the U.S. leading coal producer - anthracite production dominated the Commonwealth's coal output for most of the nineteenth century.
Coal built many rural PA towns
Development and destruction
Environmental Legacy of PA Coal
Coal’s Legacy on health
And then comes natural gas extraction......
PA Health Professional Organizations

- PA Medical Society
- PA State Nurses Association
- Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments (national)
- Physicians for Social Responsibility (PRS) – Philadelphia
- Various specialty organizations (School nurses, PA Public Health Association)
- Southwest PA Environmental Health Project
What’s going on in Pennsylvania?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pennsylvania</th>
<th>Maryland</th>
<th>New York</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy (2015)</td>
<td>78.5 (28)</td>
<td>78.8 (26)</td>
<td>80.5 (6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infant mortality (2015)</td>
<td>6.9/1000</td>
<td>6.5/1000</td>
<td>5/1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean household income (2014)</td>
<td>$50,228 (23)</td>
<td>$70,004 (1)</td>
<td>$55,246 (17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Bachelors degree (2009)</td>
<td>87.9% (24)</td>
<td>88.2% (22)</td>
<td>84.7% (34)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26.2% (26)</td>
<td>35.7% (3)</td>
<td>32.4% (4)</td>
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Community based participatory approach

- Engage community members
- Listen to their needs and concerns
- Help, direct, facilitate, collaborate in
  - Defining the problem
  - Steps to addressing the problem
  - Find the resources
  - Meeting the goals to the solution
- Community owns the problem, the resources, the solution and the success.
Former state health employees say they were silenced on drilling

JUNE 19, 2014 | 5:00 AM
BY KATIE COLANERI

Two retirees from the Pennsylvania Department of Health say its employees were silenced on the issue of Marcellus Shale drilling.

One veteran employee says she was instructed not to return phone calls from residents who expressed health concerns about natural gas development.

“We were absolutely not allowed to talk to them,” said Tammi Stuck, who worked as a community health nurse in Fayette County for nearly 36 years.

Another retired employee, Marshall P. Deasy III, confirmed that.

Deasy, a former program specialist with the Bureau of Epidemiology, said the department also began requiring field staff to get permission to attend any meetings outside the department. This happened, he said, after an agency consultant made comments about drilling at a community meeting.

https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2014/06/19/former-state-health-employees-say-they-were-silenced-on-drilling/
Organizations came together

- Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
- PSR- Philadelphia
- Penn Environment
- Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project
- SEIU – Service Employees Union International
PA Health Professionals of a Livable Future

- A public health registry to report health impacts associated with natural gas activities in Pennsylvania.

- Training of health professionals regarding the health impacts of natural gas.

- Addressing the known public health risks: Banning open air waste pits.

- Remove the gag order from Act 13.

- Remove exemptions from key environmental laws

- Require a minimum setback of one mile for all fracking operations and associated infrastructure relative to schools, child care providers, hospitals and nursing care facilities.
Questions?

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