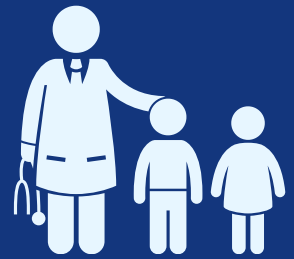


FRACKING AND PEDIATRIC HEALTH



BACKGROUND

Unconventional Oil & Gas Development (UOGD), more frequently called “fracking,” is a large industry in Pennsylvania. As of 2022, PA is the 2nd largest producer of natural gas in the nation. To date, over 12,000 unconventional wells have been drilled in the state, and about 1.5 million people live within a half mile of an unconventional well.

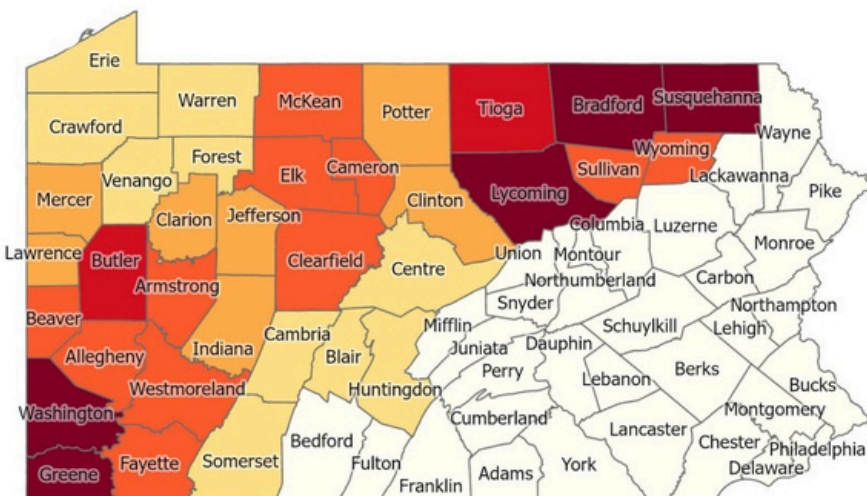
HEALTH IMPACTS

While current research yields varying results, many studies have found that individuals living near UOGD may be at risk for negative health impacts. Children and babies born to mothers living near UOGD during pregnancy are more vulnerable to these impacts than other children. Studies suggest impacts may include new onset asthma and increased asthma exacerbation, low birth weight, preterm birth, early infant death, and certain types of pediatric cancer. Resource-limited communities are more likely to be affected.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PHYSICIANS

Healthcare providers may want to use the following suggestions while evaluating patients with UOGD-related health concerns:

- Ask about the [distance to the closest well pad](#) from the patient’s home.
- Use the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) [PA Environmental Health Indicators Map](#) to identify additional exposures near the patient’s residence and/or school.
- Take an [exposure history](#) to ensure accurate patient diagnosis, treatment, and exposure reduction or elimination.
- Suggest parents or guardians track the air quality in their area with [AirNow.gov](#).
- Close windows and run air purifiers when air quality is poor.
- Contact the PA DOH Division of Environmental Health Epidemiology (DEHE) for additional guidance.



Active Unconventional Oil and Natural Gas Wells in Pennsylvania as of 12/31/2023

*Based on the number of active wells from DEP Spud Data Report, Wells Drilled by County



Scan to visit our [UOGD website](#).