



# SWPA-EHP

[www.environmentalhealthproject.org](http://www.environmentalhealthproject.org)

## Addressing Health Concerns in the Face of Fracking Uncertainties Now

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**SWPA-EHP**

SOUTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROJECT

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**Our mission is to respond to individuals' and communities' need for access to accurate, timely and trusted public health information and health services associated with natural gas extraction.**



## What we do

**Our nurse practitioner offers exams and consultations to people who think their health may be compromised by nearby gas drilling activities. She provides referrals, helps clients navigate the health care system and consults with environmental health specialists about residents' medical conditions.**

# SW Environmental Health Project

## Health Evaluation and Support

- Nurse practitioner
- Health exams
- Consultations
- Referrals for health services
- Health provider education
- Clinical toxicity profiles

## Accurate, Trusted, & Timely Public Health Information

- Identification of exposure pathways
- Measurement tools
- Consultation on water reports
- Assessment of air exposures
- Evaluation of health risks
- Information assessment



## A statement from Dave Brown, SWPA EHP Toxicologist

“This is not about what’s **going to** happen.  
This is about what **is** happening today.

This is our reality now.

Irrespective of the debate, there are sick  
people who need to be treated. Now.

**Now.”**



## Health Symptoms Temporally Associated with Gas Drilling Activities

- Most common symptoms experienced by individuals and families evaluated by Denise DeJohn, CRNP

Symptom	% of Individuals
Skin rash or irritation	48%
Nausea or vomiting	45%
Abdominal pain	38%
Breathing difficulties or cough	41%
Nosebleeds	21%



# EHP Pilot Data: Human Health Impacts

Other common complaints from our client population include:

- Anxiety/Stress
- Nervous system including headaches and dizziness
- Eye irritation
- Throat irritation

# Our results are consistent with the following research study results (and more):

- Investigating Links between Shale Gas Development and Health Impacts through a Community Survey Project in Pennsylvania, by Nadia Steinzor, Wilma Subra, and Lisa Sumi, **New Solutions**, Vol. 23, No. 1, 2013; and
- Assessment and longitudinal analysis of health impacts and stressors perceived to result from unconventional shale gas development in the Marcellus Shale region, by K. Ferrar, J. Kriesky, C. Christen, L. Marshall, S. Malone, R. Sharma, D. Michanowicz, and B. Goldstein, **International Journal of Occupational and Environmental Health**, 2013.





# Animal Health Impacts

- At least 7 reported incidents of pets dying
- Respondents reported dogs getting “sicker” and then dying or disappearing
- One report of multiple goats, kids, and a horse dying unexpectedly.
- 2 goats had evidence of spontaneous abortions
- One dog had 2 litters which included stillborn pups
- At least 3 reports of dogs and cats throwing up regularly, reports of stray animals throwing up, and a cat with diarrhea
- Three reports of skin rash/irritation/hair loss
- Reports of chronic sinus infections and a report of a horse with a nosebleed



# What can WE do NOW?

- Perform a Household assessment
  1. Air and water monitoring
  2. Model air pollution sources
  3. General and specific water tests
  4. Noise/light pollution
  5. Health assessment



# What can impacted residents do NOW?

- Exposure Reduction Interventions

1. Improve your water quality
2. Monitor air quality, filter indoor air
3. Reduce exposure to contaminated surfaces, indoors and outdoors
4. Reduce noise/light pollution in home
5. Relocate (temporarily/permanently)



# Medical Assessment

- Health Evaluation and Referral
- Exposure Assessment
- Specific public health interventions
  1. TDS meters for water monitoring
  2. Recommendations on air and water filters
  3. Air monitoring devices



# For More Information

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