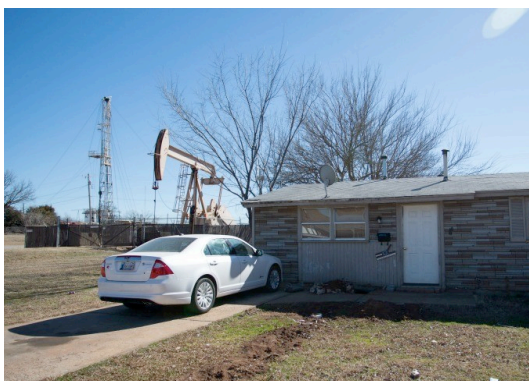


A baby born near oil and gas wells is 40 to 70% more likely to have congenital heart defects, new study shows.

<https://www.damascuscitizensforsustainability.org/2019/07/22/babies-born-near-oil-and-gas-wells-are-up-to-70-more-likely-to-have-congenital-heart-defects/>

Researchers at the University of Colorado studied pregnant women who are among the 17 million Americans living within a mile from an active oil or gas well



"Looking at where mothers lived immediately before pregnancy and during the first critical weeks after conception and what was going on at nearby fracking wells, researchers found startling patterns," said public health advocate Dr. Sandra Steingraber. (Photo: J. Pat Carter/Getty Images)

**NOTE: THERE ARE VERY HIGH NUMBERS OF FRACKED GAS WELLS AND OTHER OIL & GAS INFRASTRUCTURE IN SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA. This could be the situation in the Delaware River Basin (DRB). Help us fight to get a full ban in the DRB - no fracking, no waste import and no water for fracking elsewhere. Please Donate today!**

FROM: 5/14/19 Pittsburg Post-Gazette: **Risk and exposure in the gas lands**

"...coal still accounts for most pollution deaths in southwestern Pennsylvania. But what are we being exposed to from fracking?

In addition to the CMU study, "The Human Toll: Exposure and risks in the gas lands" ... will look at the health impacts of this growing industry" - parts 1 & 2 done and see DamascusCitizens.org for more as they are published.

**ARE THE 27 CASES OF EWING SARCOMA NEAR PITTSBURGH A CLUSTER?**

by David Templeton and Don Hopey May 13, 2019

<https://www.pressreader.com/usa/pittsburgh-post-gazette/textview>

**CHILDHOOD CANCER STALKS SOUTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA**

by David Templeton and Don Hopey May 12, 2019

<https://www.pressreader.com/usa/pittsburgh-post-gazette/20190512/textview>



There are high numbers of childhood cancers — some of them rare — in mostly rural areas of southwestern Pennsylvania, and no one knows why.

Most notably, the Canon-McMillan School District in Washington County has seen six rare Ewing sarcoma cases in a decade, including two diagnosed in 2018; only 250 cases are diagnosed each year in the U.S. And 10 other students and preschoolers currently living in the district have other types of cancers.

In addition, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette has confirmed seven young cancer patients in recent years in and near the Fort Cherry School District, a smaller, rural school district next to Canon-McMillan. And over the past decade, as many as 12 students living in Bethlehem-Center School District in southern Washington County have had cancer.

## AND THERE ARE LARGE GLOBAL CLIMATE IMPACTS FROM FRACKING

-> new R.W. Howarth (Cornell University) paper on methane from fracking-posted on DCS website - peer reviewed journal publication here:

<https://www.biogeosciences-discuss.net/bg-2019-131/bg-2019-131.pdf>

**QUOTE: ...emissions from shale gas production in North America over the past decade may well be the leading cause of the increased flux of methane to the atmosphere.**

### AND FROM THE CONCLUSIONS:

Note that while methane emissions are often referred to as “leaks,” emissions include purposeful venting, including the release of gas during the flowback period immediately following hydraulic fracturing, the rapid release of gas from blowdowns during emergencies but also for routine maintenance on pipelines and compressor stations (Fig. 4-A), and the steadier but more subtle release of gas from storage tanks (Fig. 4-B) and compressor stations to safely maintain pressures (Howarth et al. 2011). This suggests large opportunities for reducing emissions, but at what cost? Do large capital investments for rebuilding natural gas infrastructure make economic sense, **or would it be better to move to phase natural gas out as fuel and instead invest in a 21st Century energy infrastructure that embraces renewable energy and much more efficient heat and transportation through electrification?** (Jacobson et al. 2013)

In October 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued a special report, responding to the call of the United Nations COP21 negotiations to keep the planet well below 2 degrees C from the preindustrial baseline (IPCC 2018). They noted the need to reduce both carbon dioxide and methane emissions, and they recognized that **the climate system responds more quickly to methane: reducing methane emissions offers one of the best routes to immediately slowing the rate of global warming** (Shindell et al. 2012).

...Given our conclusion that the oil and gas industry is more likely responsible for recent increases in these emissions, we suggest that **the best strategy is to move as quickly as possible away from natural gas, reducing both carbon dioxide and methane emissions.** Doing so will in fact make it easier to reach the COP21 target than predicted by the IPCC (2018).

Finally, in addition to contributing to climate change, methane emissions lead to increased ground-level ozone levels, with significant damage to public health and agriculture. Based on the social cost of methane emissions of \$2,700 to \$6,000 per ton (Shindell 2015), our baseline estimate for increased emissions from shale gas of 11 Tg per year has resulted in **damage to public health, agriculture, and the climate** of \$30 to \$65 billion USD per year for each of the past several years. This **exceeds the wholesale value for this shale gas over these years.**

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