

Exposures and Health Impacts of Unconventional Oil & Gas Development

Nicole C. Deziel, PhD, MHS

Assistant Professor, Yale School of Public Health

**HEI Scoping Meeting
January 17, 2018**

Problem Scope

- 25-30,000 wells hydraulically fractured (HF) annually in the US (EPA 2016)
- ~4 million people live within 1 mile of a HF well (Czolowski 2017)
- Drinking water sources for 9 million people within a mile of an HF well (EPA 2016)
- UOG waste water contains toxic and radioactive compounds (Shih 2015, Elliott 2016)
- HF-related activities have affected drinking water resources (e.g., Jackson 2013, Llewellyn 2015)
- UOG sites release air pollutants (e.g., carcinogens) (Elliott 2017, McKenzie 2012)
- Water and air quality monitoring and human health data are insufficient

Multiple Potential Exposures/Stressors

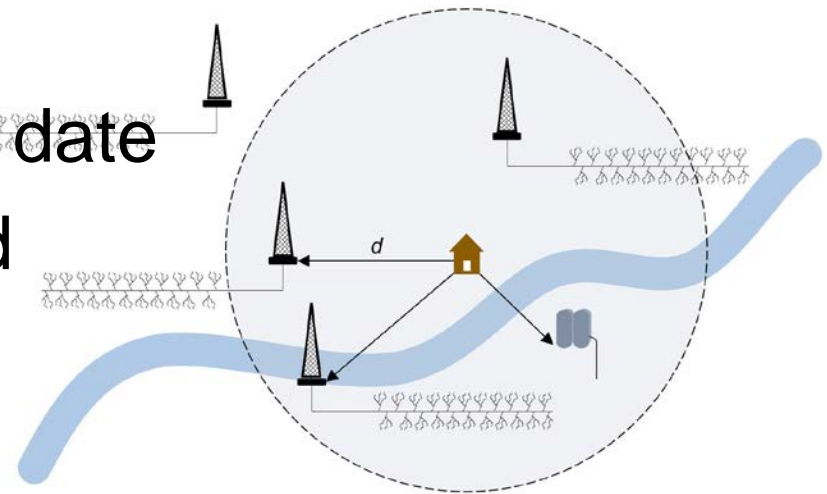


Limited but Growing Epi Literature

- **Perinatal outcomes** (McKenzie 2014, Stacy 2015, Casey 2015, Whitworth 2017, Currie 2017)
- **Childhood leukemia** (McKenzie 2017, Fryzek 2013)
- **Respiratory symptoms** (Rabinowitz 2014, Rasmussen 2016, Tustin 2016)
- **Self-reported dermal irritation** (Rabinowitz 2014)
- **Migraine, fatigue symptoms** (Tustin 2016)
- **Hospitalizations** (Jemielita 2015)
- **Risk Assessments** (McKenzie 2012, Regli 2015)

Challenges in Exposure Assessment in Epidemiologic Context

- Proximity/density metrics and models better suited for air emissions
- Models don't identify underlying etiologic agents
- Limited feasibility to conduct detailed monitoring on large-scale populations
- Only single-state studies to date
- Registry and records-based



Increasing Detail in Exposure/Activity Modeling

Physically-based hydrogeological models

Activity model (incorporates proximity, density, well attributes, literature-based emission weights)

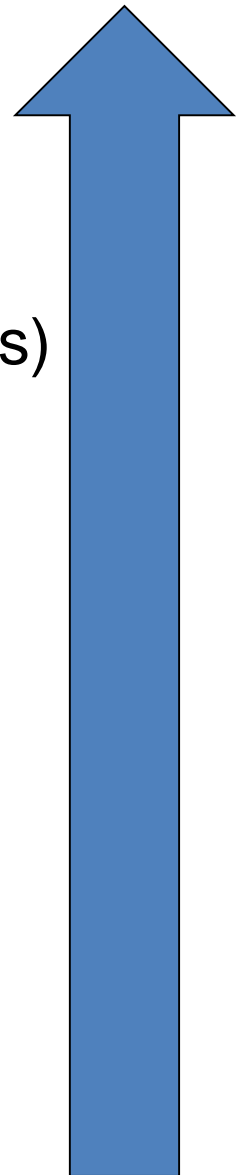
Inverse distance-weighted well count

Increasing
precision

Distance to Nearest Well

Zip code # UO&G wells

County-level # UO&G wells



Limited but Growing Water Literature*

Author Year	State	# Samples	Primary Analytes	Geospatial Analysis
Elliott submitted	OH	66	VOCs, GRO, DRO linked to reprotox/carcinogenicity	Inverse distance well count, distance to nearest well
Drollette 2015	PA	64	GRO, DRO	distance to nearest well, distance to nearest violation
Jackson 2013	PA	141	methane, ethane	distance to nearest well
Osborn 2011	PA	68	methane	distance to nearest well
Alawattegama 2015	PA	33	methane, major ions	drilling activity over time
Fontenot 2013	TX	100	major ions	distance to nearest well
Hildenbrand 2015	TX	550	metals/ions, alcohols	distance to nearest well
Hildenbrand 2017	TX	77	ions/bromides/chlorides	distance to nearest well

*partial list

Challenges & Opportunities for Water Exposure Studies

- Shift emphasis from methane to contaminants of greater public health concern
- Use hydrologic-based inferences to:
 - Reduce uncertainty in contaminant source attribution
 - Strengthen proximity-based metrics of exposure
- Leverage new analytical techniques to identify chemicals in frac fluids and UOG wastewater

Limited but Growing Air Quality Studies*

Author Year	State	Example Compounds
Ahmadi & John 2015	TX	ozone
Brantley 2015	CO	VOCs, HAPs
Brown 2014	PA	PM2.5, VOCs
Bunch 2014	TX	VOCs
Eapi 2014	TX	methane, hydrogen sulfide
Elliott submitted	OH	VOCs
Goetz 2015	PA	methane, VOCs, NOx
Halliday	CO	benzene
Karion 2015	TX	methane
Lavoie 2015	TX	methane
Macey 2014	AK, CO, OH, PA, WY	VOCs
Walters 2015	WI	PM

*partial list

Challenges & Opportunities of Air Exposure Studies

- Differences in:
 - Modeling vs measurements
 - Reported UO&G proximity information
 - Sampling location
 - Sampling methods
 - Sampling duration
 - Target analytes

Study Quality

- Peer review
- Existing standards
 - STROBE (2007)
 - Journal guidelines
 - Navigation Guide (Woodruff 2014)

References

- Alawattegama SK, Kondratyuk T, Krynock R, Bricker M, Rutter JK, Bain DJ, et al. 2015. Well water contamination in a rural community in southwestern pennsylvania near unconventional shale gas extraction. *Journal of environmental science and health Part A, Toxic/hazardous substances & environmental engineering* 50:516-528.
- Casey JA, Savitz DA, Rasmussen SG, Ogburn EL, Pollak J, Mercer DG, et al. 2016. Unconventional natural gas development and birth outcomes in pennsylvania, USA. *Epidemiology (Cambridge, Mass)* 27:163-172.
- Czolowski ED, Santoro RL, Srebotnjak T, Shonkoff SBC. 2017. Toward consistent methodology to quantify populations in proximity to oil and gas development: A national spatial analysis and review. *Environmental health perspectives* 125:086004.
- Drollette BD, Hoelzer K, Warner NR, Darrah TH, Karatum O, O'Connor MP, et al. 2015. Elevated levels of diesel range organic compounds in groundwater near marcellus gas operations are derived from surface activities. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 112:13184-13189.
- Elliott EG, Ettinger AS, Leaderer BP, Bracken MB, Deziel NC. 2016. A systematic evaluation of chemicals in hydraulic-fracturing fluids and wastewater for reproductive and developmental toxicity. *Journal of exposure science & environmental epidemiology*.
- Elliott EG, Trinh P, Ma X, Leaderer BP, Ward MH, Deziel NC. 2017. Unconventional oil and gas development and risk of childhood leukemia: Assessing the evidence. *Science of The Total Environment* 576:138-147.
- Fontenot BE, Hunt LR, Hildenbrand ZL, Carlton DD, Jr., Oka H, Walton JL, et al. 2013. An evaluation of water quality in private drinking water wells near natural gas extraction sites in the barnett shale formation. *Environmental science & technology* 47:10032-10040.
- Fryzek J, Pastula S, Jiang X, Garabrant DH. 2013. Childhood cancer incidence in pennsylvania counties in relation to living in counties with hydraulic fracturing sites. *J Occup Environ Med* 55:796-801.
- Hildenbrand ZL, Carlton DD, Jr., Fontenot BE, Meik JM, Walton JL, Taylor JT, et al. 2015. A comprehensive analysis of groundwater quality in the barnett shale region. *Environmental science & technology* 49:8254-8262.
- Hildenbrand ZL, Carlton DD, Jr., Meik JM, Taylor JT, Fontenot BE, Walton JL, et al. 2017. A reconnaissance analysis of groundwater quality in the eagle ford shale region reveals two distinct bromide/chloride populations. *The Science of the total environment* 575:672-680.
- Jackson RB, Vengosh A, Darrah TH, Warner NR, Down A, Poreda RJ, et al. 2013. Increased stray gas abundance in a subset of drinking water wells near marcellus shale gas extraction. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 110:11250-11255.
- Jemielita T, Gerton GL, Neidell M, Chillrud S, Yan B, Stute M, et al. 2016. Unconventional gas and oil drilling is associated with increased hospital utilization rates. *PLoS one* 10:e0131093.
- Llewellyn GT, Dorman F, Westland JL, Yoxheimer D, Grieve P, Sowers T, et al. 2015. Evaluating a groundwater supply contamination incident attributed to marcellus shale gas development. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*.
- McKenzie LM, Witter RZ, Newman LS, Adgate JL. 2012. Human health risk assessment of air emissions from development of unconventional natural gas resources. *The Science of the total environment* 424:79-87.
- McKenzie LM, Allshouse WB, Byers TE, Bedrick EJ, Serdar B, Adgate JL. 2017. Childhood hematologic cancer and residential proximity to oil and gas development. *PLoS one* 12:e0170423.
- Osborn SG, Vengosh A, Warner NR, Jackson RB. 2011. Methane contamination of drinking water accompanying gas-well drilling and hydraulic fracturing. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 108:8172-8176.
- Rabinowitz PM, Slizovskiy IB, Lamers V, Trufan SJ, Holford TR, Dziura JD, et al. 2015. Proximity to natural gas wells and reported health status: Results of a household survey in washington county, pennsylvania. *Environmental health perspectives* 123:21-26.
- Rasmussen SG, Ogburn EL, McCormack M, Casey JA, Bandoen-Roche K, Mercer DG, et al. 2016. Association between unconventional natural gas development in the marcellus shale and asthma exacerbations. *JAMA internal medicine* 176:1334-1343.
- Stacy S, Brink L, Larkin J, Sadovsky Y, Goldstein B, Pitt B, et al. 2015. Perinatal outcomes and unconventional natural gas operations in southwest pennsylvania. *PLoS one* 10.
- Tustin AW, Hirsch AG, Rasmussen SG, Casey JA, Bandoen-Roche K, Schwartz BS. 2016. Associations between unconventional natural gas development and nasal and sinus, migraine headache, and fatigue symptoms in pennsylvania. *Environmental health perspectives*.
- Whitworth KW, Marshall AM, E S. 2017. Maternal residential proximity to unconventional gas development and perinatal outcomes among a diverse urban population in texas. *PLoSOne Under Review*.

References

- Brantley SL, Yoxtheimer D, Arjmand S, Grieve P, Vidic R, Pollak J, et al. Water resource impacts during unconventional shale gas development: The Pennsylvania experience. *International Journal of Coal Geology* 2014; 126: 140-156.
- Brown DR, Lewis C, Weinberger BI. Human exposure to unconventional natural gas development: A public health demonstration of periodic high exposure to chemical mixtures in ambient air. *J Environ Sci Health A Tox Hazard Subst Environ Eng* 2015; 50: 460-72.
- Bunch AG, Perry CS, Abraham L, Wikoff DS, Tachovsky JA, Hixon JG, et al. Evaluation of impact of shale gas operations in the Barnett Shale region on volatile organic compounds in air and potential human health risks. *Sci Total Environ* 2014; 468-469: 832-42.
- Eapi GR, Sabnis MS, Sattler ML. Mobile measurement of methane and hydrogen sulfide at natural gas production site fence lines in the Texas Barnett Shale. *J Air Waste Manag Assoc* 2014; 64: 927-44.
- Goetz JD, Floerchinger C, Fortner EC, Wormhoudt J, Massoli P, Knighton WB, et al. Atmospheric emission characterization of Marcellus shale natural gas development sites. *Environ Sci Technol* 2015; 49: 7012-7020.
- Halliday HS, Thompson AM, Wisthaler A, et al. Atmospheric benzene observations from oil and gas production in the Denver Julesburg basin in July and August 2014. *J Geophys Res Atmos*. 2016.
- Karion A, Sweeney C, Kort EA, Shepson PB, Brewer A, Cambaliza M, et al. Aircraft-based estimate of total methane emissions from the Barnett Shale region. *Environ Sci Technol* 2015; 49: 8124-8131.
- Lavoie TN, Shepson PB, Cambaliza MO, Stirm BH, Karion A, Sweeney C, et al. Aircraft-based measurements of point source methane emissions in the Barnett Shale Basin. *Environ Sci Technol* 2015; 49: 7904-7913.
- Macey GP, Breech R, Chernaik M, Cox C, Larson D, Thomas D, et al. Air concentrations of volatile compounds near oil and gas production: a community-based exploratory study. *Environ Health* 2014; 13: 82.
- Walters K, Jacobson J, Kroening Z, Pierce C. PM 2.5 airborne particulates near frac sand operations. *J Environ Health* 2015; 78: 8-12.
- Vandenbroucke JP, von Elm E, Altman DG, Gøtzsche PC, Mulrow CD, Pocock SJ, Poole C, Schlesselman JJ, Egger M; STROBE initiative. Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (STROBE): explanation and elaboration. *Ann Intern Med*. 2007 Oct 16;147(8):W163-94
- Woodruff TJ, Sutton P. 2014. The Navigation Guide systematic review methodology: a rigorous and transparent method for translating environmental health science into better health outcomes. *Environ Health Perspect* 122:1007–1014