

New Mexico Schoolchildren are Surrounded by Oil and Gas

34,584 students attend school within one mile of an oil well.

848 wells are within one mile of a school, affecting **34,584 students**.

Just over 1% (848 out of 67,400) of the oil and gas wells in New Mexico are endangering the health of over 11% of New Mexico's school children (34,584 out of 308,913).

Children are Surrounded by Oil and Gas

Permian Basin:

Lea County: **28 schools** with **402 unique oil or gas wells** within 1 mile, affecting **11,288 students.**

Eddy county: **9 schools** with **81 unique oil or gas wells** within 1 mile, affecting **4,591 students.**

Jefferson Elementary School in Hobbs: **161 wells** within 1 mile.

Children are Surrounded by Oil and Gas

San Jaun Basin:

44 out of 68 schools in San Juan County have one or more wells within 1 mile of their school, affecting **18,631 students**.

In the Farmington, Aztec, and Bloomfield school districts **all 34 schools** have at least one well within 1 mile.

Lybrook Elementary: **19 wells** within 1 mile.

Oil and Gas Production Pollutes

- Oil and gas production releases hundreds of air contaminants, including:
 - **Volatile Organic Compounds** - this includes hundreds of chemicals, among them carcinogens like benzene
 - **Nitrogen Oxides**
 - **Particulate Matter**
 - **Sulfur Dioxide**
 - **Hydrogen Sulfide**
 - **Ozone** - formed by Volatile Organic Compounds and Nitrogen Oxides interacting in the atmosphere.

Oil and Gas Pollution Harms Children

More than 50 peer-reviewed epidemiologic studies have found associations between proximity to oil and gas wells and increased adverse pregnancy outcomes, childhood cancer incidence, hospitalizations, asthma exacerbations, and mental health issues.

For example:

- Children who live within 1 mile of a fracked gas well are 5-7 times more likely to develop **lymphoma, a cancer of the blood**, than unexposed children. Children living within 2-5 miles of a fracked gas well are 2 times more likely to develop **lymphoma** than unexposed children. (Talbot et al. 2023).
- There are higher concentrations of ambient air pollutants within 2 miles (13,123 feet) of preproduction wells and within 1 mile (6,561 feet) of producing wells. (Gonzales et al. 2022).

Oil and Gas Pollution Harms Infants and Adults

- Increased risk of having a child **with birth defects** for people residing within 6 miles of oil and gas development (fracked wells) during pregnancy. (Gaughan et al. 2023; Cairncross et al. 2022).
- Increased risk of **asthma exacerbations** during oil and gas production at exposure zones of 1 mile, 2 miles, 5 miles, and 10 miles. (Buchanich et al. 2023).
- Increased risk **for low birth weights** and **small gestational age births** when individuals reside within 2, 5, and 10 miles of oil and gas production. (Buchanich and Talbott 2023).
- Increased risk of **adverse health outcomes for infants** when individuals reside at distances of up to 12 miles, with greater harms within a half-mile. (Apergis et al. 2019).
- Increased risk of **low birthweight, a significant decline in average birthweight, and decreased overall health index for infants** born to individuals living within a half-mile of a fracked well site, and elevated risks for infants born to mothers living at up to 2 miles from well sites. (Currie et al. 2018).

Oil and Gas Companies Break the Law

In April of this year, a joint NMED/EPA six-month inspection initiative found that 75 of 124 investigated oil and gas sites were illegally releasing volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and were out of compliance with the federal Clean Air Act and state Air Quality Control Act.

More than 60% of investigated oil and gas sites were violating air pollution laws.

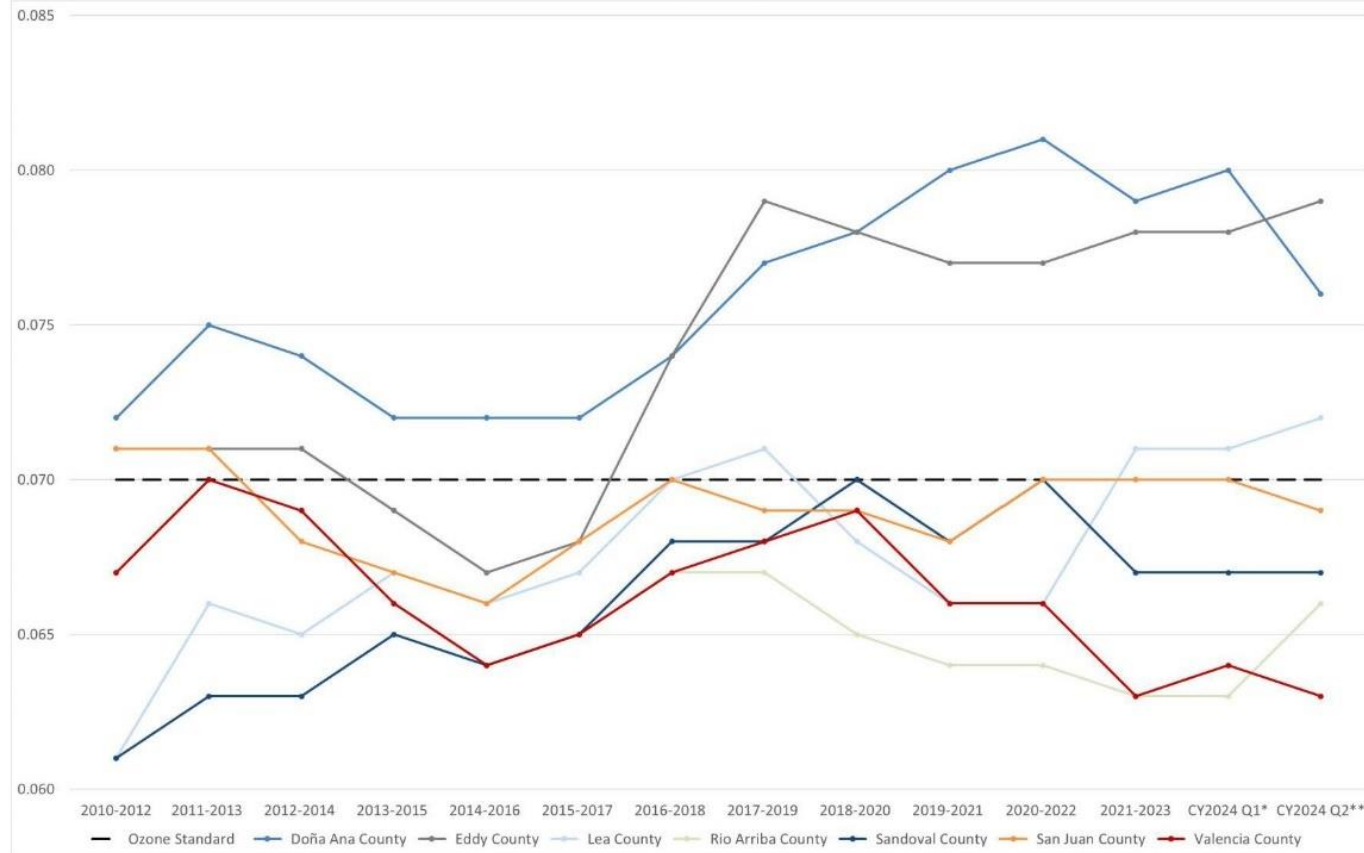
NMED regulates over 55,000 oil and gas sites with 6 enforcement staff. It would take roughly a decade to visit every site they are supposed to be regulating.

Ozone Levels are Increasing



New Mexico Environment Department
SCIENCE | INNOVATION | COLLABORATION | COMPLIANCE

Ozone NAAQS Design Values



Eddy

Lea

San Juan

*4/1/2021 - 3/31/2024, **7/1/2021 - 6/30/2024

A design value is a statistic that describes the air quality status of a given location relative to the level of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Design values are typically used to designate and classify nonattainment areas, as well as to assess progress towards meeting the NAAQS.

This graph is updated quarterly and newly added data has not been certified by U.S. EPA. All data displayed should be considered preliminary and used with discretion. The New Mexico Environment Department is not responsible for the accuracy of the data or any interpretations or conclusions that may be drawn from the data.

Schoolchildren Need Protection from Oil and Gas Pollution

There is no state-wide law mandating health protection zones for schoolchildren. Some counties and cities have oil and gas buffer zones of a few hundred feet that are inadequate and unsupported by science.

The State of New Mexico must protect its schoolchildren while they are in the State's care.

A **1-mile health protection zone** would reduce the harm caused by oil and gas pollution to New Mexico schoolchildren.

Thank You

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