Students 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).

Students are Surrounded by Oil and Gas

Jefferson Elementary School in Hobbs has **161** wells within one mile.

Southern Heights Elementary in Hobbs has **78** wells within one mile.

Eunice High School has **141** wells within 1 mile.

Lybrook Elementary School in Counselor has **19** wells within one mile.

Oil and Gas Production Pollutes

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

Oil and Gas Pollution Harms People

More than 50 peer-reviewed epidemiologic studies report 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, studies have shown that:

- Researchers found 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)
- Children who live within 1 mile (5,280 feet) of an unconventional 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 unconventional gas wells are 2 times more likely to develop **lymphoma** than unexposed children. Talbott et al. (2023).

Oil and Gas Pollution Harms People

- Increased risk of having a child **with birth defects** for people residing within 6 miles of unconventional oil and gas development (fracked wells) during pregnancy. Gaughan et al. (2023); Cairncross et al. (2022).
- Increased risk of **asthma exacerbations** during unconventional 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 unconventional natural 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 an unconventional 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 Flaunt the Law

In April of this year, a joint NMED/EPA six-month inspection initiative found 75 of the 124 facilities investigated had illegal emissions of 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 oil and gas sites they visited were violating air pollution laws.

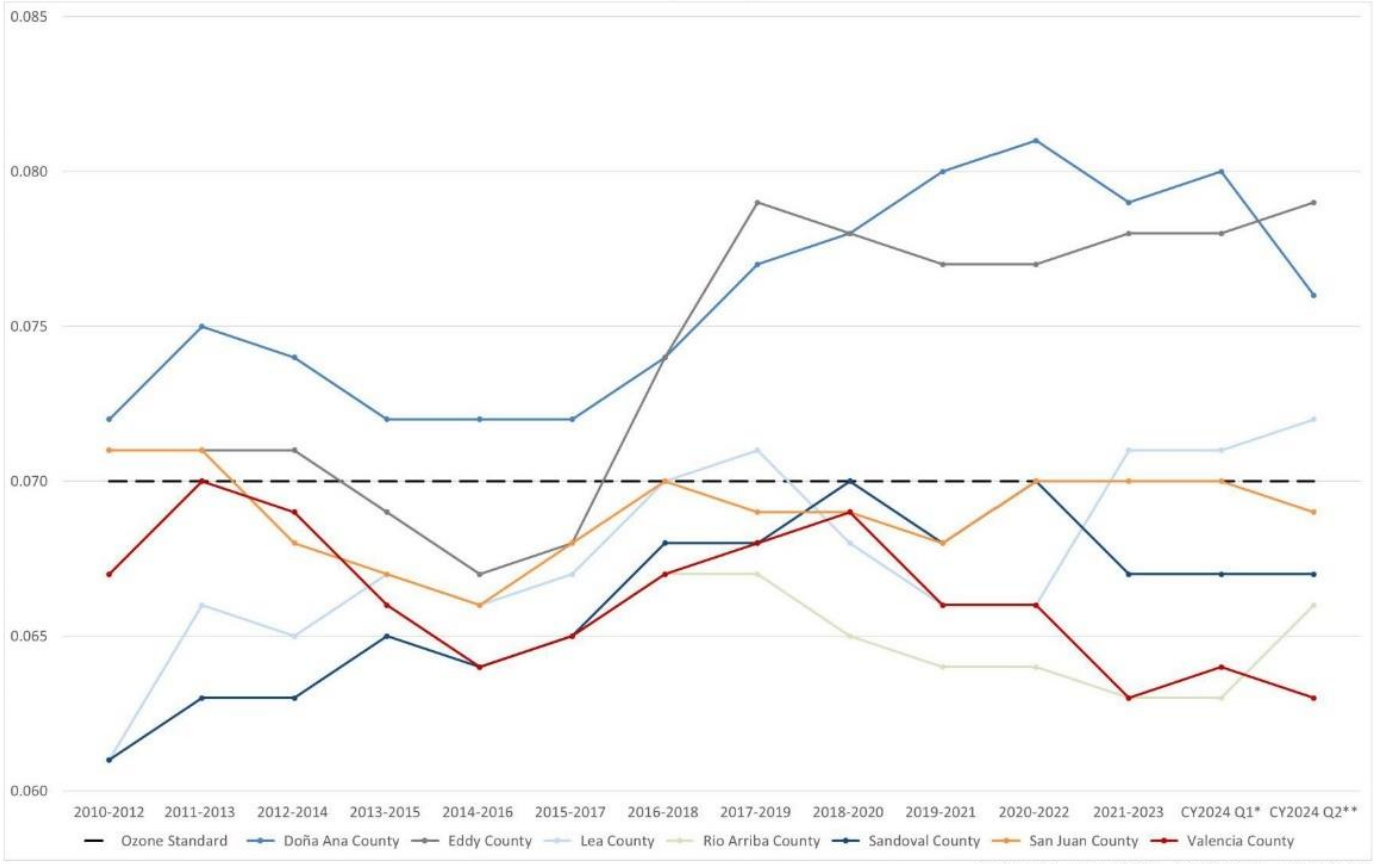
NMED regulates over 55,000 oil and gas sites with 6 enforcement staff. It would take roughly a decade to visit every site they are supposed to be regulating.

Ozone Levels are Increasing

New Mexico Environment Department

SCIENCE | INNOVATION | COLLABORATION | COMPLIANCE

Ozone NAAQS Design Values



*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.

Students Need Health Protection Zones

There is no state-wide health protection zone rule or law. Some counties and cities implement buffer zones of a few hundred feet that are inadequate and unsupported by the science.

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

A **one-mile health protection zone** would reduce the harm caused by oil and gas pollution to our students.

Thank You

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