

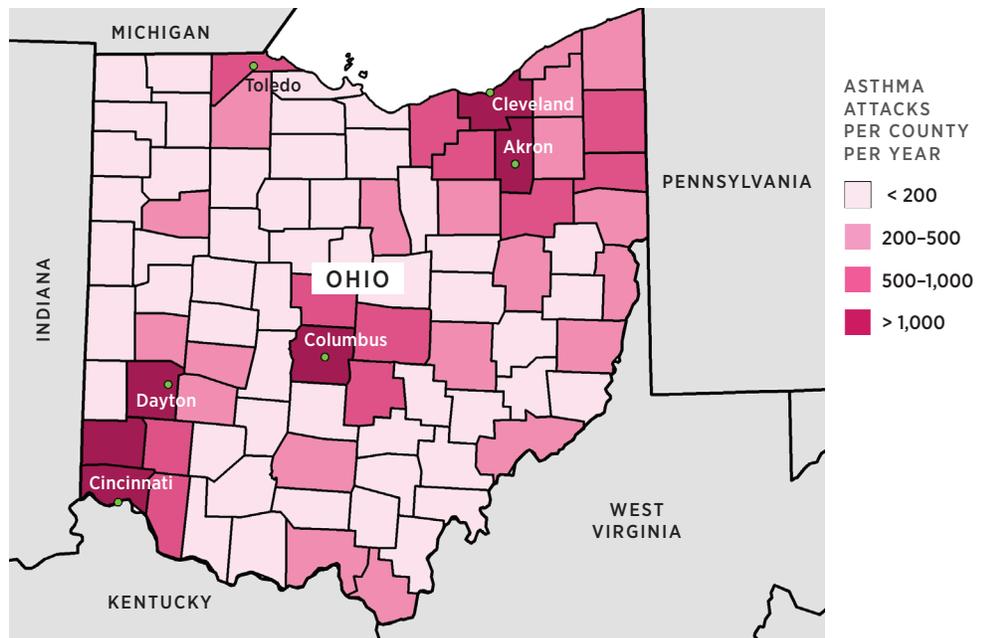
The Injustice of Ohio Oil and Gas Air Pollution

In the United States, the oil and gas industry dumps millions of tons of air pollutants into our air each year. This mix of pollutants includes methane, a very potent climate pollutant, and enormous amounts of toxic air pollutants and pollutants that cause ozone smog. Toxic air pollutants cause cancer and other diseases, while ozone smog can cause a variety of health problems, such as asthma attacks and worsening the effects of bronchitis and emphysema. The impact of oil and gas air pollution is not felt equally by all communities—proximity to oil and gas operations and underlying socioeconomic factors can exacerbate the impact of this air pollution.

Communities living near active oil and gas operations experience a higher frequency of acute health impacts. Air pollution from the oil and gas industry also includes hazardous toxic air pollutants, such as benzene, formaldehyde, and acetaldehyde. According to EPA's data for 2011, over 160 tons of hazardous toxic air pollution—benzene, formaldehyde, and acetaldehyde and other compounds—were emitted from over 90,000 oil and gas sites in Ohio. Toxic air pollution emissions can directly affect the health of individuals living, working, or going to school adjacent to sources.

- More than 3.1 million people in Ohio live within a half-mile of active oil and gas operations. This includes more than 272,000 African Americans, 77,000 Latinos, and 23,000 Native Americans.
- Children are especially vulnerable to air pollution exposure: 733,000 children live within a half-mile of oil and gas operations and over 2,500 schools in Ohio are located within a half-mile of oil and gas operations.

FIGURE 1
Ozone-induced Childhood Asthma Attacks Attributed to Oil and Gas Emissions in Ohio Counties



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Oil and gas pollution also causes health problems in areas more distant from wells, compressor stations, and other industrial sites, as air pollution travels across the state and country. Citizens across the Ohio are harmed by ozone smog originating from oil and gas pollution from the industry in Ohio and across much of the central and western US:

- Nearly 30,000 Ohio children per year will suffer asthma attacks due to ozone from this industry, including 5,000 attacks for African American children and 1,500 attacks for Latino children.
- Adults are also harmed by ozone exposure, with over 61,000 person-days of restricted activity in Ohio linked to breathing higher levels of ozone, including 7,300 for African American adults and 1,900 for Latino adults.
- Unfortunately, no community in the state escapes from the ozone pollution produced by the oil and gas industry.

Individuals living below the poverty line or without health insurance are particularly burdened by the effects

of air pollution. Studies have found that children living in poverty or without insurance are more likely to end up in the emergency room because of asthma attacks, because poverty and lack of quality health insurance can make it hard to keep asthma in control, resulting in more severe attacks and visits to the hospital. Thus, even for the same health risk, the health burden is greater for kids living in poverty.

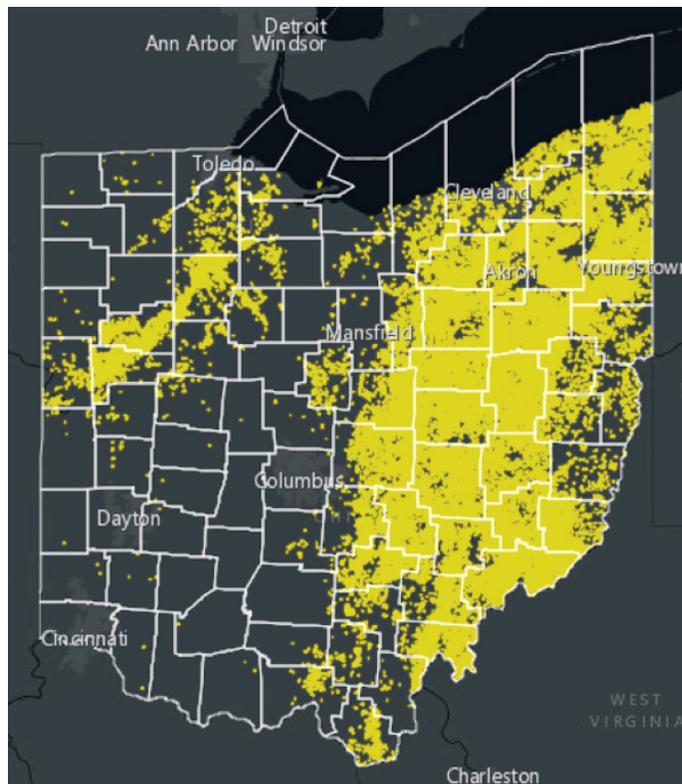
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The bottom line: across Ohio, air pollution from the oil and gas industry affects all communities. Ohio has worked to reduce pollution from newer oil and gas equipment, but those state rules can't protect kids in Ohio from air pollution from other states. Ohioans need strong federal standards for air releases from the oil and gas industry. The Bureau of Land Management recently finished rules to limit releases of these pollutants from oil and gas wells in National Forests and other federal lands, where industry data shows that [pollution levels are particularly high](#).

Ohioans need these standards, and standards from EPA for new wells and equipment, to remain in place.

FIGURE 2

Ohio Threat Radius—The Area within a Half Mile of Active Oil and Gas Wells, Compressors, and Processing Plants



SOURCE: www.oilandgasthreatmap.com