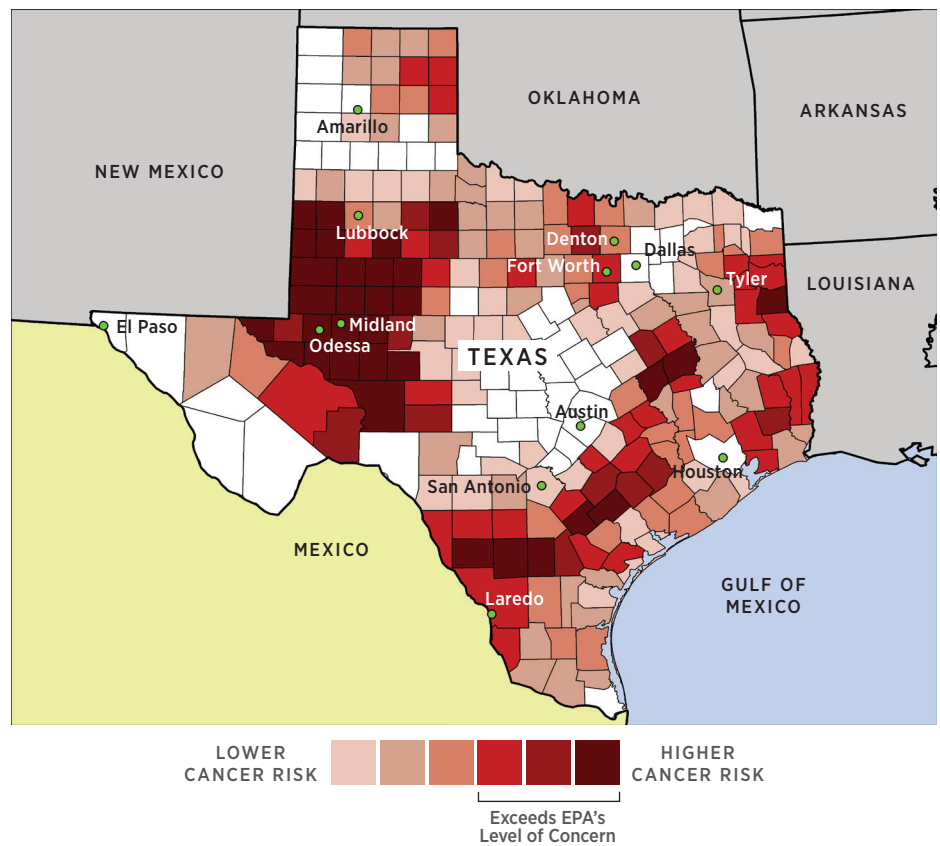


Health Risks in Texas from Oil and Gas Industry Air Pollution

SUMMARY: Air pollution from the oil and gas industry harms the health of people throughout Texas, increasing the cancer risk for millions of people and forming ozone smog that causes asthma attacks and other health problems across the state. Last year, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) put important standards in place to reduce air pollution from over seven thousand newer oil and gas sites across Texas, but the Trump Administration recently suspended these commonsense measures, further endangering the health of children and adults in Texas.

FIGURE 1
Cancer Risk from Oil and Gas Toxic Air Pollution in Texas Counties



The oil and gas industry dumps millions of tons of air pollutants into our nation's 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 pollution. These toxic pollutants, such as benzene, cause cancer and other diseases, while ozone smog can cause a variety of health problems, such as asthma attacks and worsened bronchitis and emphysema.

With over a third of the nation's oil and gas wells, compressor stations, and gas processing facilities spread throughout the state, Texans bear a huge portion of the health risks caused by oil and

natural gas industry air pollution. As the industry grows, these problems will get worse without standards to limit pollution from these sites.

According to EPA's data for 2011, over 8,500 tons of hazardous toxic air pollution—benzene, formaldehyde, and acetaldehyde and other compounds—were emitted by the Texas oil and gas industry. Rapid expansion of the industry in the Permian basin, the Eagle Ford shale, and many other areas of the state since 2011 means that this pollution has probably increased. Exposure to these toxic gases spewed by the oil and gas industry raises the cancer risk above EPA's level of

concern in 82 Texas counties (see map above).

With the industry spread around the state, many Texans are directly affected by these toxic gases:

- 2.3 million Texans live within a half-mile of active oil and gas operations. Toxic air pollution emissions can directly affect the health of individuals living adjacent to sources.

- Children are especially vulnerable to air pollution exposure and **over 900 schools in Texas** are located within a half-mile of oil and gas operations.

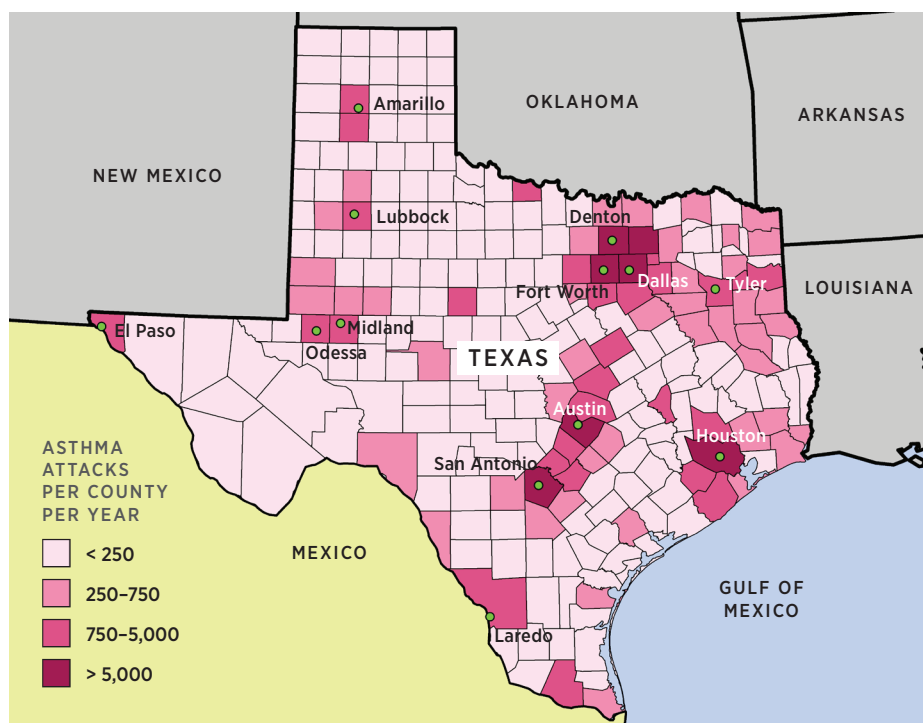
Texans are also exposed to harmful ozone smog from oil and gas pollution:

- **Texas children will suffer nearly 145,000 asthma attacks** per year due to ozone from this industry (see map at right).
- Adults are also harmed by ozone smog from this industry: Texans suffer **over 280,000 person-days of restricted activity** linked to breathing higher levels of pollution from this industry.
- The kids harmed by this pollution live across the state. For example, oil and gas pollution causes **over 45,000 asthma attacks per year** in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex, almost **22,000 attacks** in the Houston area, **over 15,000 attacks** in Greater San Antonio, and almost **4,800 attacks** in the Midland-Odessa area. People are harmed by ozone from this industry in every county in the state.

The bottom line: air pollution from the oil and gas industry affects young and old and those living near and far from industry activities. Texans need strong standards to prevent unnecessary harm-

FIGURE 2

Texas Asthma Attacks in Kids Attributed to Oil and Gas Air Pollution



ful pollution from these sites. EPA's standards from last year were a key step in limiting this pollution from new wells and other oil and gas sites, requiring common-sense measures like regularly inspecting oil and gas sites for harmful leaks of methane and other air pollutants. They would have reduced pollution from over seven thousand industry sites spread across 184 Texas counties.

Unfortunately, the Trump Administration is working to suspend key aspects of those rules for years. **You can help: contact EPA or your local paper to let them know that EPA should protect local communities, and should not suspend these rules.**