

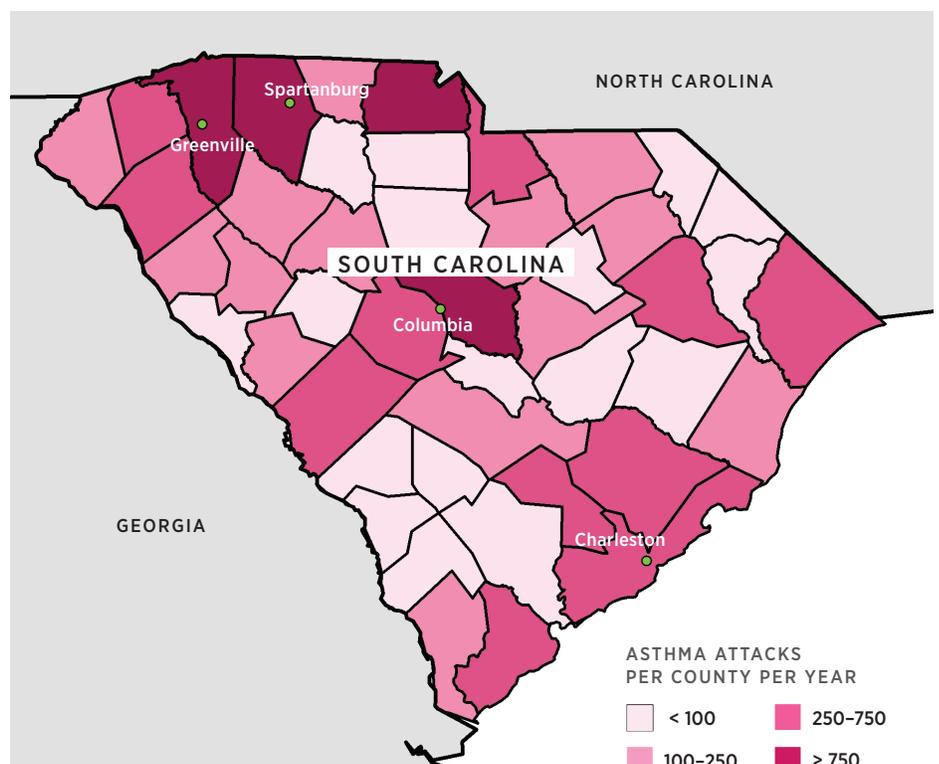
Health Risks in South Carolina from Oil and Gas Air Pollution

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.

While these pollutants cause health problems in states with oil and gas booms and intense activity, they also cause problems elsewhere, as air pollution travels across state borders. Although South Carolina does not have oil and gas wells operating in the state, the health of state residents is still affected by the air pollution released by the oil and gas industry:

- South Carolina kids will suffer over 12,000 asthma attacks every summer due to ozone from this industry (see Figure 1).
- These kids live across the state—oil and gas air pollution causes almost 2,700 asthma attacks per year in the Greenville area, over 1,900 attacks per year in the Columbia area, and almost 1,400 attacks per year in the Charleston area.
- Unfortunately, no county in the state escapes from the ozone pollution produced by the oil and gas industry—

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



every county has asthma attacks attributable to oil and gas air pollution.

- Adults are also harmed by ozone exposure, with over 25,000 person-days of restricted activity in South Carolina linked to breathing higher levels of ozone.

South Carolinians need protection from this air pollution. **Federal standards**

to reduce air pollution from oil and gas wells, compressors, and processing plants are essential. These include standards from the Bureau of Land Management, which would reduce smog causing pollutants from wells in national forests, other federal lands, and tribal lands by hundreds of thousands of tons. South Carolina needs those standards to stay in place.