

Effects of Fracking on our Health

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Objectives:

By the end of the presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the process of fracking.
2. Discover how fracking affects our health.
3. Consider how it may stress our healthcare system.
4. Review different levels at which doctors and healthcare workers can take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Fracking can affect people's lives and health during the establishment of a well and also during the drilling phase and exploitation

- Bridges and roads damages
- Pollution by diesel
- Sleep disorders cause by the noise of trucks and machinery, light pollution
- Stress, anxiety, depression
- Damages to lungs and cancer caused by silicium (sand)
- Pollution of the water by many chemical pollutants
- Exposition to radioactive material like Radon, which can cause lung cancer
- Contamination of air, soil, indoor houses...
- Through spills, evaporation or wastewater leakage or flaring

Fracking utilise enormous amount of water and chemical pollutants

- Causing water shortage
- Ground water contamination
- 1000 unknown chemical as well as at least 14 known to be toxic are used in fracking fluid
- 1-2% of 10-20 millions of litres = 100,000 – 400,000 litres of chemical Toxicants
- 1-2% of 70 billions US gallons = 0.7-1.4 - billion of litres

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In the chemical for which toxicological data were available:

- 43 % were known potential reproductive toxicants
- 40 % were known developmental toxicants.
- Other can induce inflammation and/or
- Disrupt hormonal activity in human

Even after being closed, the wells can affect people's health:

- Wells are still leaking Methane and other polluting chemical.
- Higher levels of fracking toxicants are found in urine, hair, home tap water and air of pregnant people in Northern BC, specially First Nations.

Living close to the hydraulic fracking industry exposed people and their children and future babies to numerous adverse health outcomes

- Increase rate of respiratory disease like asthma
- Increase cardiovascular illnesses
- Increase incidence of cancer (eg ALL in children)
- Impact on the genitourinary system
- Impact on pregnancies like preterm birth, SGA, congenital heart defect and many others.