

Environmental Health

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ABOUT THE COVER



Rapid proliferation of hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) facilities has led to concerns about human exposure to airborne pollutants, notably fine particulates (PM_{2.5}, particles with a diameter of 2.5 μm and smaller) and crystalline silica (quartz). Fine particulates have been identified by U.S. EPA as a cause of cardiovascular and lung disease including lung cancer. In our cover feature this month, “PM_{2.5} Airborne Particulates Near Frac Sand Operations,” the authors describe their first-of-its-kind pilot study to measure PM_{2.5} around frac sand mines. Five of the six study sites had PM_{2.5} levels above the U.S. EPA annual standard of 12 μg/m³.

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