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Dr. Simona L. Perry, Rennselaer Polytechnic Institute, "It's like we're losing our love," Bradford County social impacts from shale boom. 11/11

Compares to trauma of abusive relationships.

Rapid transformation of landscape from rural, agricultural to industrial with greatly increased truck traffic and more dangerous and inconvenient travel as well as dust, diesel fumes, and noise major source of aggravation, stress and fear.

Have experienced irreversible changes in connections they had with families' history, childhood memories, land, and neighbors, as well as with present and future. The fear of losing land, health, and children's future gave members of a focus group a "death" feeling. One member described it as a dread in the pit of her stomach. "It feels like we're losing our love. The things we love the most may be taken away." One resident described the situation as **Deception desecration, and denial**. Broken hearts. Story of man arrested and incarcerated for 5 days with a diagnosis of bipolar disorder. Given bill for roadwork for hampering workers using his land as a staging ground. Cycle of abuse.

medpagetoday.com/PublicHealthPolicy/EnvironmentalHealth/30010:

Perry said that the unequal distribution of Marcellus money has put a huge strain on the local community in Bradford County. While one farmer might be getting a monthly check for \$30,000, his neighbor may be receiving only \$4,000. Or nothing.

The resulting journal articles and government reports paint a not-very-pretty picture of crime, alcoholism, homelessness, and domestic abuse, among other ills.

In December 2010, the Royal Society of Canada (analogous to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences) sponsored a review of impacts in the "oil sands" region of Alberta, which began to be developed seriously in the mid-1990s.

One community heavily affected by the boom was Fort McMurray, which saw population growth approaching 9% annually from 2001 to 2006.

The review cited several studies that found, in the words of one, "many of the effects associated with boom town style development including inflation, extreme housing shortages, labor shortages in all sectors, family stress, drug and alcohol abuse, [and] increased crime."

Another review by Penn State researcher Jeffrey Jacquet, PhD, examined the experience in Wyoming's Sublette County, a thinly populated area where shale gas in the Jonah Basin has been extensively drilled since 2001.

He found that the monthly number of ambulance runs increased linearly with the number of drilling rigs in operation.

The annual number of arrests increased exponentially with the number of rig-months.

An earlier study, published in the journal *Administration in Mental Health* in 1983 and conducted during the boom years in western Colorado, found that the per capita mental health caseload doubled in four years among people not employed in the oil and gas industry.

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Bernard D. Goldstein, MD - "[Public Health, Sustainability and the Marcellus Shale](#)"

“Missing from the Table: Role of the Environmental Health Community in Governmental Advisory Commissions Related to Marcellus Shale Drilling,” Bernard Goldstein et al., J. Krieski, and B. Pavliakova. Of 52 members of three commissions (federal, Pa, and Md.), there is no member of the public health community or health organizations represented.

- Allen Robinson, PhD - "[Regional air pollution emissions from the development and production of Marcellus Shale](#)"
- Adam Law, MD - "[Endocrine and Metabolic Disruption](#)"
- Charles Wertz, DO, MPH - "[Worker Health Concerns in Marcellus Shale Work](#)"
- William Burket, CFPS - "[Industry Safety Initiatives and Community Emergency Preparedness](#)"
- Simona Perry, PhD - "[It's like we're losing our love': Documenting and Evaluating Social Change in Bradford County, PA during the Marcellus Shale Gas Boom \(2009-2011\)](#)"
- Kathy Brasier, PhD - "[Community Impacts of Natural Gas Development in the Marcellus Shale: A Research Summary](#)"
- Tom Biksey, MPH - "[A Risk Assessment of Fracing Fluid Flowback Water from an Operation in an Asian Pacific Setting](#)"
- Myron Arnowitt, MPH - "[Review of the Citizens Marcellus Shale Commission board report](#)"
- Robert Boulware; Joe Osborne, JD; and Raina Rippel - "[Research Needs Panel](#)"