

# New Jersey

## 43 Percent of Students at Risk of Chemical Catastrophes

In New Jersey, 648,641 students attend school within the vulnerability zone of a high-risk chemical facility. That means that 2 in 5 students from preschool to high school face chemical leaks, gas clouds, or explosions.

The April 2013 fertilizer plant explosion in West, Texas demonstrated the unseen dangers of chemical facilities. That explosion killed 15 people, injured hundreds of others, and destroyed three schools. If the explosion had occurred during the day, many schoolchildren might have been harmed as well.



But many students and schools could be better protected from danger. Safer chemicals and technologies exist that would reduce or eliminate these vulnerability zones and leave significantly fewer children at risk, and some facilities have already made the switch. However, since these changes are not required, many other facilities continue to use dangerous chemicals and leave schools, children, and neighbors at risk. The Obama administration could require facilities to switch to safer technologies and reduce the risk to New Jersey's students.

New Jersey's kids should not have to go to school each day with the looming threat of a chemical disaster when safer technologies exist.

### Top Five Counties Where Students Are Most at Risk

County	Number of Students in Vulnerability Zones	Number of Schools in Vulnerability Zones
Hudson	100,403 (100%)	186
Camden	87,099 (99%)	210
Gloucester	49,001 (97%)	106
Union	94,099 (93%)	217
Essex	123,491 (89%)	304

Every state has locations where chemical facilities place more students at risk. The first table lists the counties in New Jersey that have the highest percentage of students attending schools in vulnerability zones. Students in Hudson County are more likely to attend school in a vulnerability zone than anywhere else in the state as its facilities put 100,403 students at risk – 100% of all school-aged children in the county.

### Top Five Schools at Risk of a Chemical Disaster

School Name	City	Number of Vulnerability Zones	Number of Students
Oldmans Township School	Pedricktown	11	228
Logan Elementary School	Logan Township	9	650
Field School	Carneys Point	9	519
Penns Grove Middle School	Penns Grove	9	516
Gov Charles C. Stratton School	Woolwich Township	9	496

View other state factsheets at: [www.foreffectivegov.org/kids-in-danger-zones-state-factsheets](http://www.foreffectivegov.org/kids-in-danger-zones-state-factsheets)

The known vulnerability zones in New Jersey put a total of 1,492 schools at risk, some of which are in more than one vulnerability zone. The second table lists the New Jersey schools that are currently located in the most known vulnerability zones in the state. Overlapping vulnerability zones, which increase the risk to the schools and communities covered, often occur around larger cities and heavily industrialized areas. In New Jersey, the schools bearing the greatest risk from such overlapping vulnerability zones include Oldmans Township School in Pedricktown, Logan Elementary School in Logan Township, and Field School in Carneys Point.

### Top Five Facilities Putting the Most Students at Risk

Facility Name	City	Number of Students in Facility's Vulnerability Zone	Number of Schools in Facility's Vulnerability Zone
Kuehne Chemical Co., Inc.	South Kearny	861,639	1,887
Thorofare Plant	West Deptford	546,854	1,283
Infineum USA L.P. Bayway Chemical Plant	Linden	361,551	765
Paulsboro Refining Company LLC	Paulsboro	360,230	869
DuPont Chambers Works	Deepwater	179,851	409

The facilities listed in the third table place the most students in New Jersey at risk of a chemical disaster. Kuehne Chemical Co., Inc. in South Kearny, which stores 2,000,000 pounds of chlorine, has 861,639 students studying in its vulnerability zone, thereby putting more students at risk than any other facility in New Jersey. Thorofare Plant in West Deptford is in second place, with 546,854 students in its vulnerability zone. Any efforts in New Jersey to better protect schools from chemical risks should include changes to reduce the vulnerability zones of these top facilities.



### What Can You Do?

First, [take action](http://bit.ly/kids-in-danger-zones-action) (<http://bit.ly/kids-in-danger-zones-action>) and urge the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to protect our children by requiring facilities to adopt safer chemical alternatives. Act now and urge others to stand up for children in New Jersey.

Second, use our [interactive map](http://tesla.foreffectivegov.org/KidsAndToxins/bin-release) (<http://tesla.foreffectivegov.org/KidsAndToxins/bin-release>) to learn more about the dangerous facilities in your area and the schools they place in harm's way.

Third, contact facilities in your area and your local officials. Demand that they establish a plan to shift to safer technologies or store smaller quantities of hazardous chemicals to reduce the vulnerability zones that place children, schools, and communities at risk.

