

## The Florida Department of Health Radon Program

The Radon Program is part of the Bureau of Environmental Health in the Division of Disease Control and Health Protection. It was created by the State Legislature in 1988 to be a public resource for accurate information about radon, its health effects, how to test for radon, and how to fix radon problems.

### The Radon Program was Created with Three Primary Missions:

1. To educate and inform the public about radon and its health effects.
2. To protect the public from deceptive radon measurement and mitigation practices by certifying radon professionals.
3. To administer the state mandatory radon testing program of all state licensed, regulated, owned, or operated 24-hour care facilities, public and private schools spanning grades K through 12, and state licensed day care centers.

### Cancer Burden in Florida

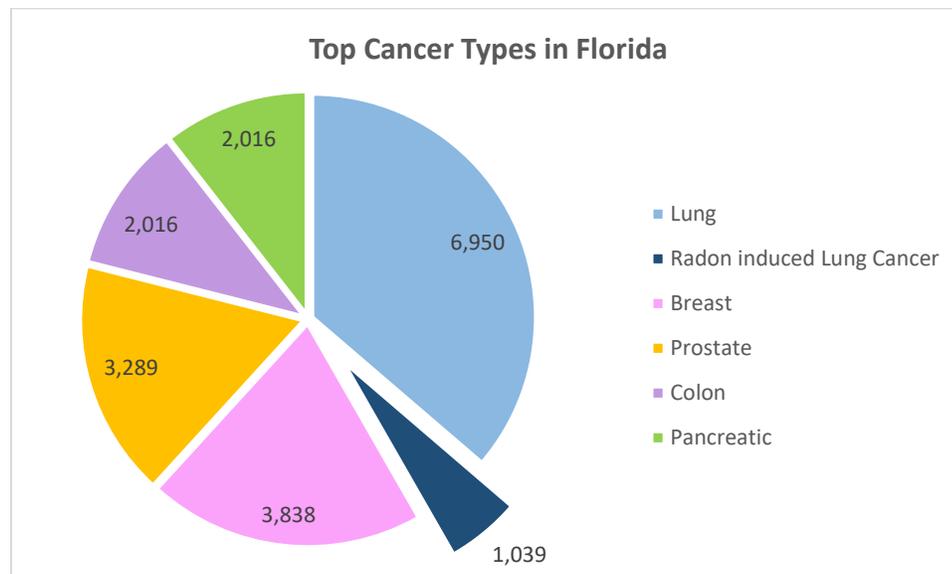


Figure 1. Types of cancer in Florida, Source: Florida Cancer Data System, 2014. <http://fcds.med.miami.edu/inc/welcome.shtml>

- Cancer is the leading cause of death in Florida.
- As shown in Figure 1, lung cancer causes more deaths than colon, breast, pancreatic, and prostate cancer combined.
- Radon-induced lung cancers are estimated to represent 13% of all lung cancers. Looking at the pie chart, about 1,039 lung cancer deaths in 2014 were from radon. Since smoking rates are decreasing in Florida, the overall lung cancer deaths are also declining.

## Florida Radon Facts

Figure 2 shows that most Florida radon testing mostly occurs in heavily populated areas, with 84% of Florida's population represented in the shaded counties. Over the past 22 years of data, over a quarter of Florida's residences had elevated radon levels. This map, though, does not fully illustrate the extent of elevated radon levels in Florida, elevated radon levels can be found everywhere. The only way to determine the level of radon concentration in a building is to test.

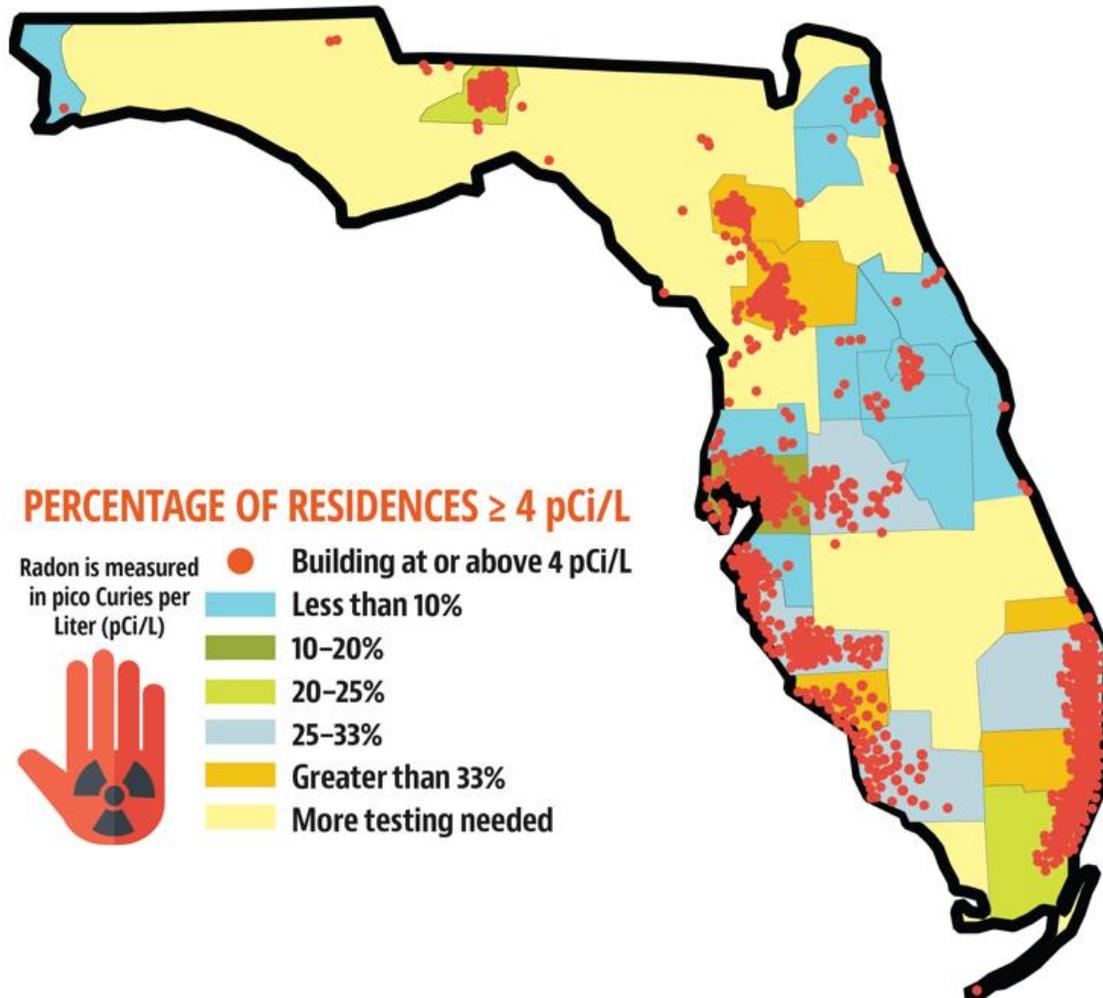


Figure 2. Homes tested with elevated radon levels from 1994-2016, Source: Florida Department of Health Radon Measurement Database (there were over 69,000 radon measurements, and of those, over 17,000 were 4 pCi/L or greater).

- You can't see it. You can't smell it. You can't taste it. Radon, a Class A carcinogen, is the second leading cause of lung cancer behind smoking tobacco.
- Radon is responsible for more than 21,000 lung cancer deaths annually nationwide.
- Statewide, elevated radon levels are found in **1 out of 5** Florida homes tested.

- Elevated levels are found in different types of Florida structures, such as single-family homes and the 23rd floor of condominiums.

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