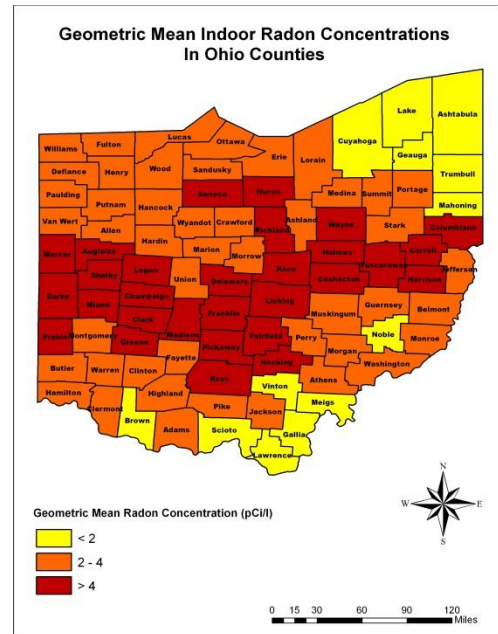


RADON IN OHIO

The prevalence of radon in Ohio is especially high: Fifty-three of Ohio's 88 counties are considered EPA zone 1, areas with the highest potential for radon exposure and a predicted average indoor radon screening level greater than 4 pCi/L. Home testing data collected by the Ohio Department of Health, Indoor Radon Program since 1990 shows that elevated levels of radon can be found in all of Ohio's 88 counties. The data also shows that approximately 50% of all homes tested every year in Ohio have elevated levels of indoor radon.

Ohio Indoor Radon Program

The Indoor Radon Program (IRP) is located in the Bureau of Radiation Protection at the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). The program has two major components, licensing (regulatory) and Outreach & Education.



2013-2014 Highlighted Achievement

On May 20, 2014 Union County Officials unanimously adopted Resolution number 14-168, Radon Resistant Construction Standards as part of their county building codes. Effective as of January 1, 2015 all homes built in Union County will have a passive radon mitigation system installed. The Indoor Radon Program helped support the committee looking into the adoption of radon resistant new construction into the county building codes by serving on the committee and providing Union County specific radon information.

Licensing: Radon licensing is mandated by Chapter 3723 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) and Chapter 3701-69 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC). A current radon license is required by all individuals perform radon testing or installing radon mitigation systems in property they do not own and for companies installing radon mitigation systems. Laboratories analyzing radon test kits must obtain approval from ODH as do radon measurement and mitigation training courses.

Outreach & Education: The mission of ODH is to protect and improve the health of all Ohioans. The Indoor Radon Program supports the mission by providing radon outreach and education pass through funding to 4 county health departments and their coalition members representing a total of 24 county health departments. The Indoor Radon Outreach & Education Program operates with 1 full-time employee spending approximately 75% of their time on outreach & education.

Ohio has seen a dramatic increase in the number of homes being tested since the inception of focused outreach and education efforts by the Indoor Radon Program. Data collected by the program shows an increase in the number of homes tested from 648 in 1990 to 23,494 in 2011. Even with this significant increase, the total number of homes tested in Ohio remains just over 6%.

Partnerships

Ohio Partners for Cancer Control

The Indoor Radon Program is an active member of the Ohio Partners for Cancer Control (OPCC). OPCC is a public/private coalition of individuals and organizations throughout Ohio whose main focus is cancer. This coalition was responsible for writing the current Ohio Cancer Plan 2011-2014 which includes a radon objective.

Ohio Healthy Homes/Lead Prevention Program

The Ohio Department of Health, Healthy Home and Lead Prevention Program (OHHLPP) and the Indoor Radon Program collaborate on cross-program objectives. Our partnership has afforded us several additional radon outreach & education opportunities. OHHLPP's primary focus is prevention and intervention of lead poisoning. Their program is also involved with the Healthy Homes federal initiative. One of the seven components of a healthy home is "keep harmful substances out" which includes radon. . Together, we have developed a special project to share the cost of providing radon mitigation systems to low-income, minority or health desperate homeowners.

Ohio Association of Realtors

A primary focus of the Indoor Radon Program outreach has been realtors. The Ohio Association of Realtors (OAR) has been very welcoming of the radon message. The Indoor Radon Program has had a booth at the OAR state convention for the past four years and will be attending the convention again this year. Attendance at the realtors state convention has provided several education opportunities and helped with the promotion of the Indoor Radon Program's approved continuing education course for realtors.

Contact information:

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<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/rp/radlic/radon.aspx>