



# Florida Radon Fact Sheet

## FLORIDA RADON AWARENESS PROGRAM

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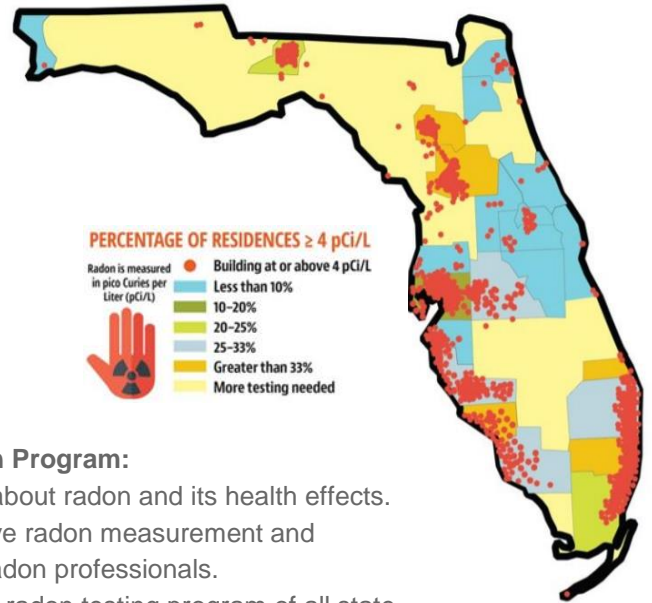
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Bureau of Environmental Health  
Radon Program  
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Florida Cancer Control and Research Plan

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/cancer/cancer-control-florida.html>

The Florida Radon Program is part of the Bureau of Environmental Health in the Division of Disease Control and Health Protection. It is funded by the U.S. EPA State Indoor Radon Grant (SIRG) and Florida meets the 40% matching funds requirement. It was created by the Florida 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.



### Three Primary Missions of the Radon Program:

- To educate and inform the public about radon and its health effects.
- To protect the public from deceptive radon measurement and mitigation practices by certifying radon professionals.
- 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.

### Florida Radon Map & Facts:

Most radon testing in Florida occurs in heavily populated areas. While the map above shows areas still in need of testing, nearly 84% of Florida's population is represented through the radon testing performed in the shaded counties. Based on the data collected since 1994, over a quarter of Florida's residences had elevated radon levels. The state radon map is a useful tool, however it does not fully illustrate the extent of elevated radon levels in Florida, elevated radon levels can be found everywhere. In fact, today 1 in 5 homes has elevated radon levels in Florida. The only way to determine the level of radon concentration in a home or building is to test.

### Cancer Burden in Florida:

- Cancer is the leading cause of death in Florida.
- 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. Approximately 1,039 lung cancer deaths in 2014 were from radon.

## Cancer Control and Research Plan

The Best Defense is a Great Offense (Prevention)

Goal #2 – Promote healthy lifestyles and policies for Floridians to reduce the risk of cancer. Support education and policies aimed to reduce non-tobacco associated risk factors for cancer including certain infections, obesity, excessive ultraviolet light radiation, and radon.



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## Florida Enacted Legislation

### **Florida Statutes § 404.056:**

Authorizes the Department of Health to establish environmental radiation standards for buildings and to conduct programs designed to reduce human exposure to harmful environmental radiation. Requires persons who perform radon measurement and mitigation to be certified by the department and to report radon test results to the department. Requires the department to administer a program designed to educate and inform the public concerning radon gas. Requires radon testing of all public and private schools, 24-hour care facilities owned or regulated by the state, and state-licensed day care centers located in designated counties. Requires that a specified radon notification statement be provided prior to the sale or lease of a residential property. Regulations adopted under the law establish certification requirements (Rule 64E-5.1201-1208, Florida Administrative Code (FAC)). Regulations also establish that radiation exposure to the public from naturally occurring radioactive materials shall be maintained as low as reasonably achievable and that the annual average radon decay product concentration in a building shall not exceed 0.02 WL (4.0 pCi/L) (Rule 64E-5.1001, FAC).

### **Florida Statutes § 409.175:**

Requires the Department of Children and Family Services to adopt licensing rules for family foster homes that must include safety and health standards that provide for the physical well-being of the children served. Rules adopted by the agency (Chapter 65C-13, FAC), establishing standards for licensed out-of-home caregivers require family foster homes to be tested for radon as required by Chapter 404.056, FAC. Establishes that radon must be at a level that does not affect the safety and well-being of children in the homes.

### **Florida Statutes § 553.98:**

Provides funds to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation for activities incidental to the development and implementation of building codes for radon-resistant buildings. Regulations implementing the law (Chapter 61-38, FAC) adopt a voluntary, model Standard for Passive Radon-Resistant New Residential Building Construction. Requires that local jurisdictions that choose to adopt requirements for radon-resistant new construction use the model standard adopted by the state.