

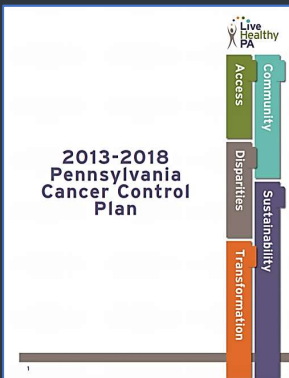
# Pennsylvania Radon Fact Sheet

## PENNSYLVANIA RADON AWARENESS PROGRAM

<http://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/RadiationProtection/RadonDivision/Pages/default.aspx>

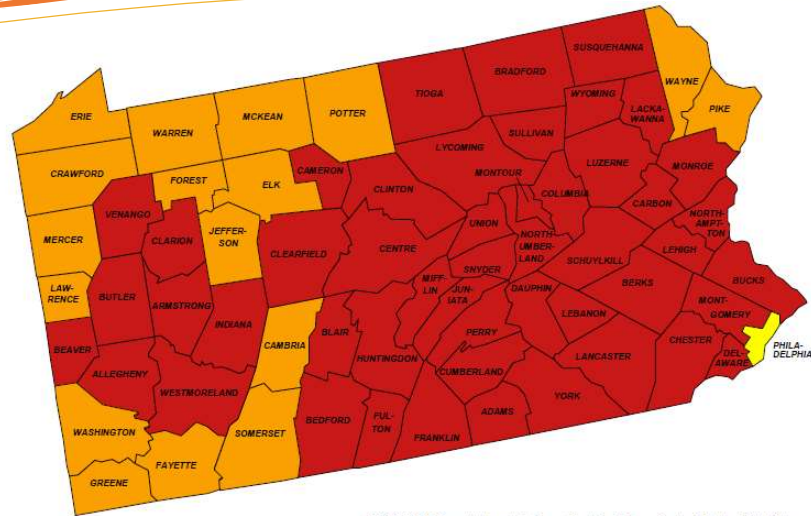
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Pennsylvania Cancer  
Control Plan

[ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Publications/Cancer/ccc/pennsylvania\\_cc\\_plan\\_2013\\_2018.pdf](ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Publications/Cancer/ccc/pennsylvania_cc_plan_2013_2018.pdf)



**IMPORTANT:** Consult the publication entitled "Preliminary Geologic Radon Potential Assessment of Pennsylvania" (USGS Open-file Report 03-202-C) before using this map. <http://energy.er.usgs.gov/radon/gr/pinfo.html> This document contains information on radon potential variations within counties. EPA also recommends that this map be supplemented with any available local data in order to further understand and predict the radon potential of a specific area.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Radiation Protection, Radon Division receives a significant amount of its funding from the US EPA through a grant, whereby 60% comes from EPA and the state matches 40%.

The PA State Radon Program Division has probably the largest, most experienced staff in the country. They provide a variety of public services including a certification program of laboratories, testers, and radon mitigators, inspections and enforcement of the regulated community, distribution of public information and providing unbiased, expert advice via phone and e-mails, and a large public outreach effort via public service announcements, public speaking engagements, and staffing various types of home shows.

Zone 1 represents the high risk counties, Zone 2 the moderate risk counties, and Zone 3 the low risk counties. This map shows that 49 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties are at high risk for radon occurrence in homes and that 17 counties are at moderate risk.

The map below shows only the highest radon values in PA homes; those being greater than 100 pCi/L. These results are at least 25 times greater than US EPA guideline of 4 pCi/L. Many homes on the map are at even higher levels. There are approximately 5,000 data points (homes) on this map. This represents a very significant radiation exposure to the homeowners if not corrected.

**Most Significant Needs:** With Pennsylvania so severely affected by radon, there are three significant gaps in the radon program:

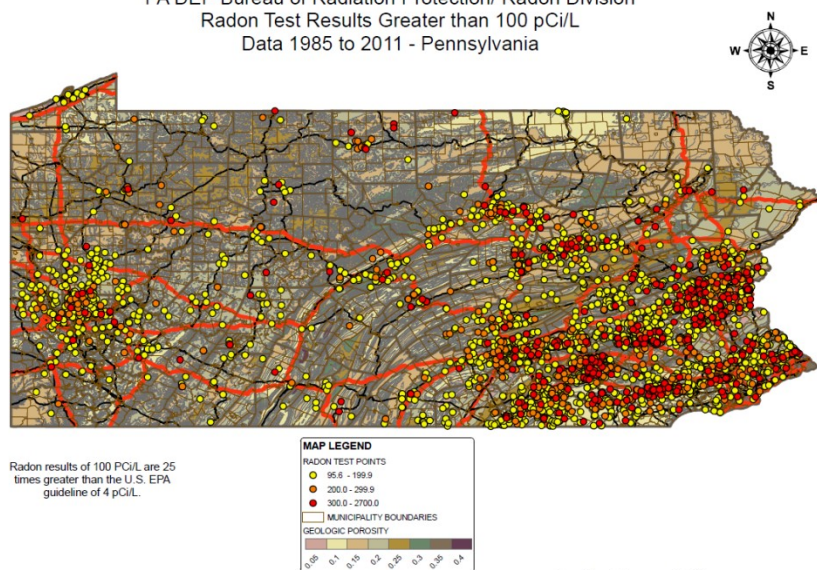
1. the lack of radon testing during all real estate transactions,
2. required testing of all school and daycare facilities, and
3. incorporation of the radon resistant new construction features into the body of the state's Uniform Construction Code (UCC).

## State Cancer Control Plan: (2013-2018)

The PA Department of Health's "2013-2018 Pennsylvania Cancer Control Plan" does not specifically mention radon. It addresses more basic means of cancer control and prevention.

A strong argument can be made that Pennsylvania may have the most severe radon problem in the country. This is based upon our large population, the relatively high average radon concentration (7 pCi/L), the "high end" data that the map below shows, and the very widespread distribution of radon occurrence throughout the Commonwealth.

PA DEP Bureau of Radiation Protection/ Radon Division  
Radon Test Results Greater than 100 pCi/L  
Data 1985 to 2011 - Pennsylvania



## Pennsylvania Enacted Legislation

**Pennsylvania Statutes, tit. 63, §§ 2001 et seq.:** Requires the Department of Environmental Resources to establish and carry out a certification program for persons who test for, mitigate, or safeguard a building from the presence of radon gas. Prohibits individuals from providing these radon services unless certified under the program. Requires certified radon testers to provide test results to the Department and provides for confidentiality of the information. Regulations adopted under the law (25 Pa. Admin. Code 240) establish the certification program.