

Wisconsin Radon Program

Region V Meeting | July 15, 2025

Amanda Koch, MPH & Kim Dawson, MPH
Radon Program
Wisconsin Department of Health Services



Amanda Koch, MPH

DHS Radon Program Manager

BS, UW-Madison (Go Badgers!)
MPH, UIC School of Public Health

Began Radon Program Manager position in May 2024

9th year at the WI DHS in environmental public health



Kim Dawson, MPH

DHS Radon Outreach Specialist

BS, Marquette University

MPH, University of Washington

Previous public health experience:

Environmental health

COVID response and prevention

Health communications and designing for
behavior change



Agenda



PROGRAM
STRUCTURE

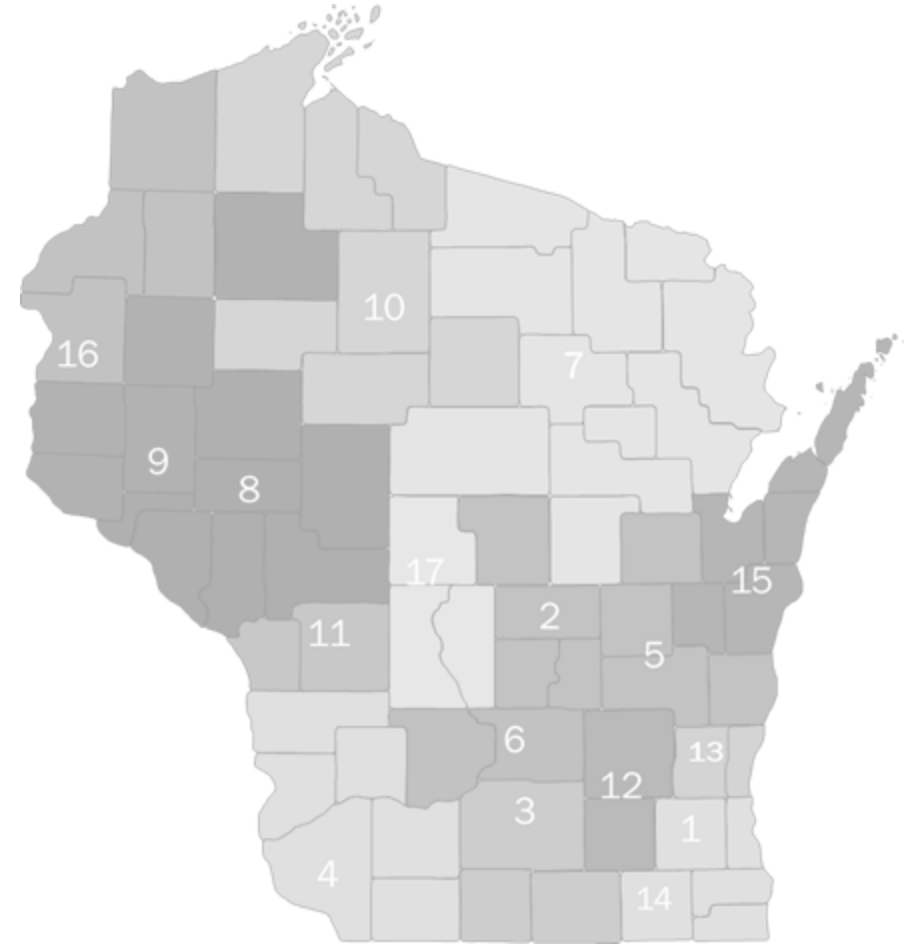


ACTIVITY
HIGHLIGHTS

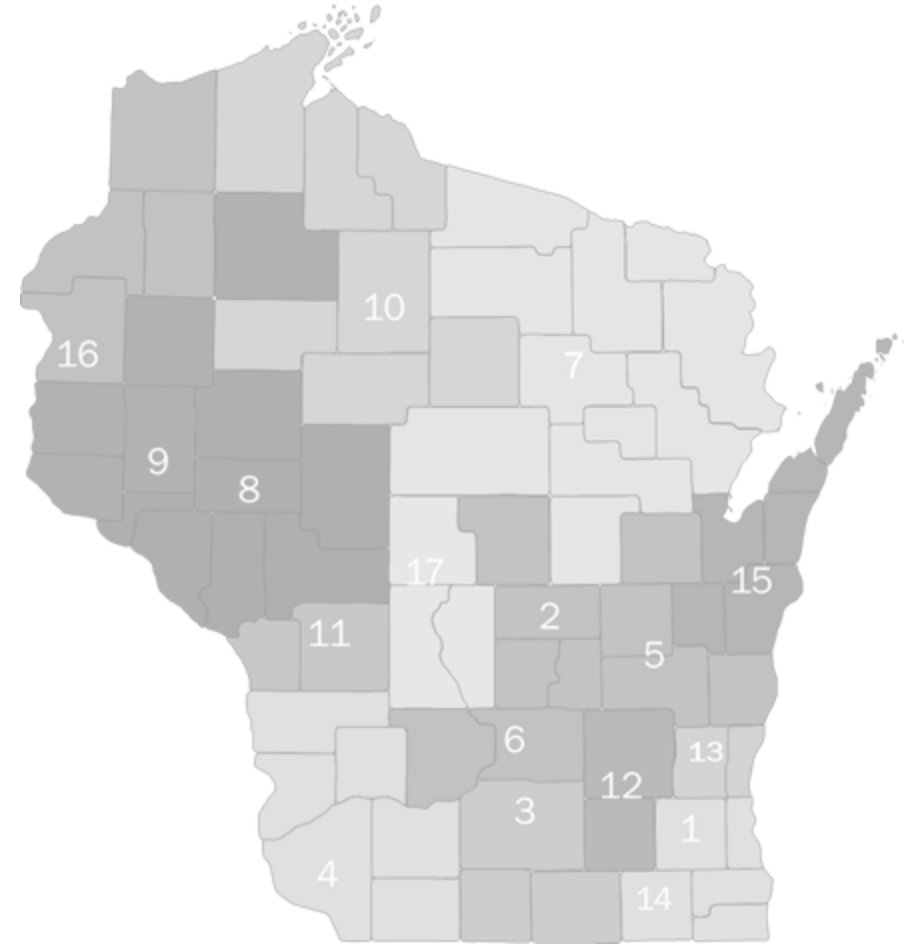


UPCOMING
PROJECTS AND
PARTNERSHIPS

Wisconsin Radon Program Structure

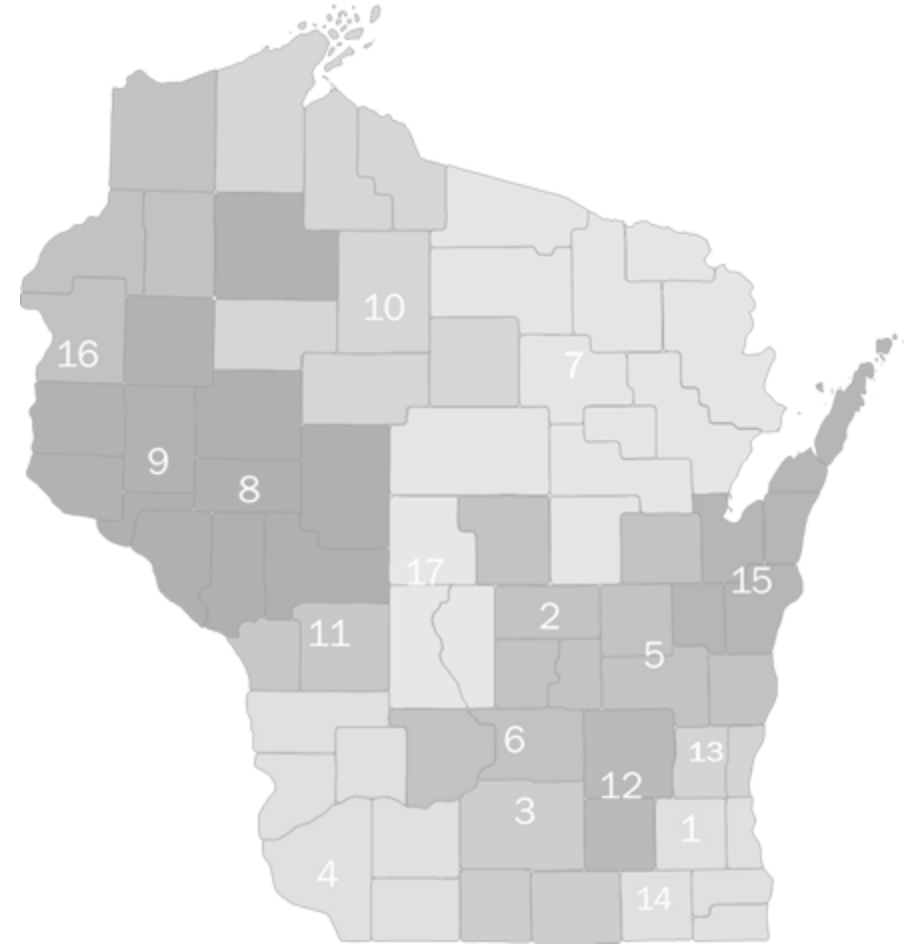


Not a credentialing state



Not a credentialing state

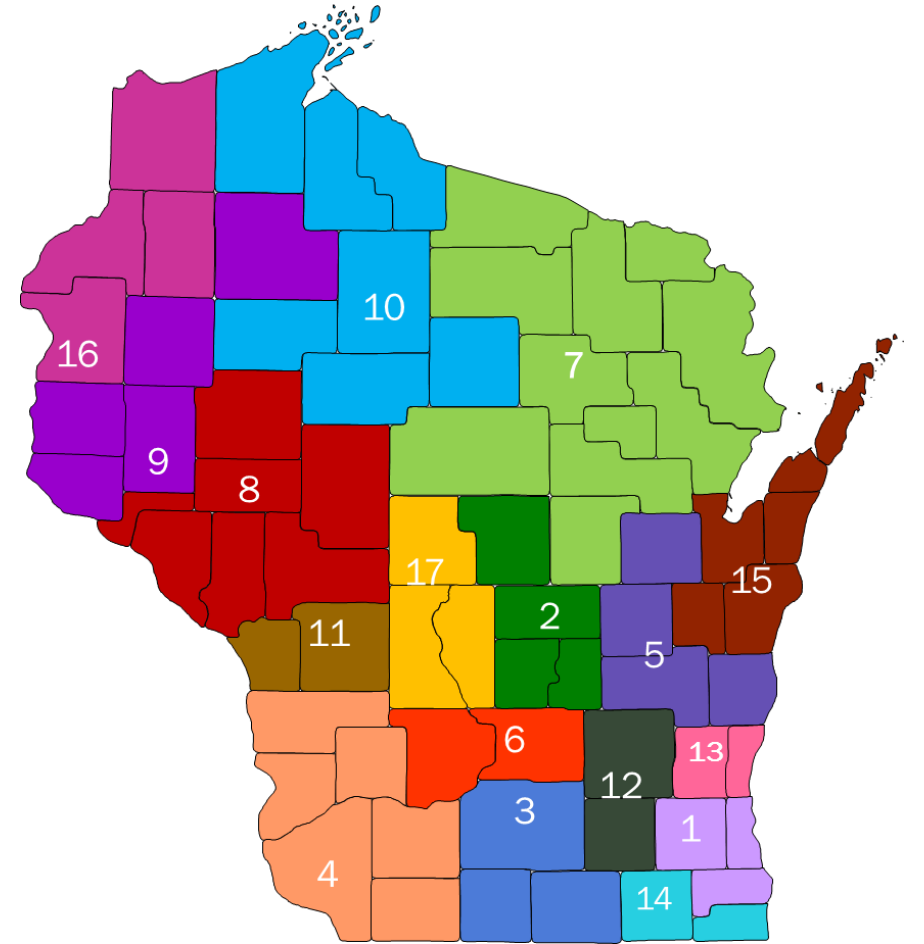
2 full-time DHS staff



Not a credentialing state

2 full-time DHS staff

17 Regional “Radon
Information Centers”
(RICs)



2024-2025 RIC Highlights

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RIC 1

Coordinated a food pantry giveaway where food item donors received a free test kit.

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RIC 2

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RIC 3

Worked with the Sokaogon Chippewa Community to provide radon education and a test kit demonstration.

2024-2025 RIC Highlights

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RIC 3

Worked with the Sokaogon Chippewa Community to provide radon education and a test kit demonstration.

RIC 4

Developed a plan for a local ordinance for radon resistant new construction.

RICs distributed 7,209 short-term test kits, of which 5,580 were returned—a 77.4% return rate.



National Radon Action Month

January 2025

Partnered with Wisconsin
Broadcasters Association

[Governor's proclamation](#)

Social media

Digital ads in English & Spanish

[DHS press release](#)



 **Derrick Rose News** · Follow
January 9 · 🌐

SILENT KILLER.
Approximately 962 Wisconsinites have lung cancer because of it.
Its at elevated levels in 10% of homes.
Children are more sensitive to it compared to adults.
But it's easy to detect and mitigate.
Good discussion today with Amanda Koch from [Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#) on [#Radon](#).
[WISN 12 NEWS](#)



RADON TESTING ALERT
DHS: 1 IN 10 WISCONSIN HOMES HAS ELEVATED LEVELS

RIGHT NOW



0:16 / 4:08

Live media interviews:

Wisconsin Public Radio

Wisconsin Radio Network

WISN-Milwaukee News

MiWisconsin Latino News

<https://www.wpr.org/news/test-radon-gas-dhs-wisconsin>

Altogether, we estimate that our campaign efforts targeted over 1.3 million Wisconsinites, roughly 20% of the population of our state.

Partnership with the Wisconsin Cancer Collaborative

[Lung Cancer in Wisconsin Webinar](#) (1/30/2025)

Currently working on an updated policy brief



Website
redesign

Goals

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Increase the impact of content users can quickly glean

Guiding question: Our users on average skim a page for 45 seconds. How do we make sure they're getting the most useful or impactful content in that time?

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Improve navigation

Guiding question: How do we make our site a place that users can find exactly what they want right away and exit? As well as carve suggested pathways for those who want to explore and dive deeper?

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Guiding question: How do we make our site a place that users can find exactly what they want right away and exit? As well as carve suggested pathways for those who want to explore and dive deeper?

Make it prettier

Guiding question: Why not? Sure, we all have templates and communications style regulations, but there's still room to push our government platforms to be more aesthetic.

Highlights – Home Page

[Home](#) > [Prevention & Healthy Living](#) > [Environmental Health](#) > [Radon](#) > Revision of Radon Information for Wisconsin from March 23, 2023

Radon: Home

Radon & Your Health

Testing for Radon

Radon Mitigation

Find a Contractor

Radon in Schools

Radon in Child Care

Radon Professional Certification

Resources

Talk to a Radon Expert

Revision of Radon Information for Wisconsin from March 23, 2023

Section	Is latest revision	Current state	Change to
DPH	No	Published	<div>Draft</div> <div>Apply</div>

About 1 out of 10 homes in Wisconsin has high radon levels

Radon is a naturally occurring gas that is radioactive and can cause lung cancer.

Radon can leak into your home and is common in Wisconsin.

While you can't see or smell it, you can protect yourself from it.

Testing for radon is common when [buying or selling a home](#), but you should take action now by [testing your home](#).

Test your home


Contact a [Radon Information Center](#) to get a test kit for around \$20; [certified measurement professionals](#) are also available.

Fix a radon problem

If your radon levels are high, a contractor can fix it. Check out the [certified contractor listings](#).

Save a life

Radon is the second leading cause of [lung cancer](#) in the United States.



[View our interactive map](#) of radon test results to see where radon levels are the highest.

Where does radon come from?

Radon is [naturally occurring from the ground](#), and although you cannot see it or smell it, it can be present in your home.

New resources

- Looking to test your school for radon? Our [Radon in Schools](#) page can help you get started.
- Health care professionals: [Reducing the Risk From Radon: Information and Interventions](#). [C](#)
- Shareable fact sheet: [Is Your Home Radon Safe?](#) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also has [customizable fact sheets, infographics, and images](#). [C](#) Highlighting the risks of radon.

[Experts are available](#) statewide to answer your questions and provide test kits to the general public.

Have questions or need help? Get in touch with a radon expert by calling 1-888-LOW-RADON (1-888-569-7236).

Last revised July 30, 2025

Before

[Radon: Home](#)

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Radon Information for Wisconsin

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DPH	Yes	Published	<div>Draft</div> <div>Apply</div>

What is radon?

Radon is a radioactive gas that comes from the natural breakdown of uranium in the ground. It is a natural part of the air we breathe and is the largest source of an average person's exposure to background radiation. While we are always exposed to very low levels of radon, breathing in high levels of radon can cause [lung cancer](#). This typically happens when radon enters through a building's foundation and builds up to high levels in the indoor air. Exposure to high levels of radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, after cigarette smoke.

About 1 out of 10 homes in Wisconsin has high radon levels. You can't see or smell radon, so **testing is the only way to know if you are being exposed to high levels**. Test for radon in places where people spend a lot of time: homes, child care centers, schools, and workplaces.



Watch this American Lung Association video to learn more about radon and its impacts on lung health.

Test


Radon test kits are inexpensive, accurate, and widely available. You can buy a test kit for \$10-\$30 online, at your local hardware store, or through your regional [Radon Information Center](#). Many centers provide test kits for free or reduced cost and are staffed with professionals that can help answer all your radon questions. Visit ["Testing for Radon"](#) for more information.

Fix

If your radon levels are high (above 4 pCi/L), a contractor can help lower them by installing a [radon mitigation system](#). The contractor will install a pipe through your building's foundation. The pipe pulls radon gas from the soil below the foundation and vents it to the outside air, using a fan. In new buildings with piping already installed, a contractor might add a fan to turn the passive system into an active one. [Find a contractor](#) to help install a radon mitigation system.

Save a life

Radon is the second leading cause of [lung cancer](#) in the United States and the leading cause of lung cancer among nonsmokers. An estimated 21,000 people die each year in the United States from lung cancer due to radon exposure. People who smoke or vape are at a greater risk. If you live in a home with high radon, smoking raises your risk of lung cancer by 10 times. Protect yourself from radon exposure and [get help to quit smoking or vaping](#).




Homeowners, renters, and landlords

We recommend that all Wisconsinites test their home for radon, and mitigate if needed.

For homeowners:


- [Consumers Guide to Radon: How to Fix Your Home \(PDF\)](#). [C](#)
- [Wisconsin Home Buyers and Sellers Brochure, P. 01139 \(PDF\)](#)



Child care providers and school administrators

For most school children and staff, the second largest contributor to their radon exposure is likely their school or child care environment. Children have smaller lungs and faster breathing rates, which increases the dose of their radon exposure.

Testing for radon is the first step in protecting child and



Health care providers and health educators

Health care providers and health educators are trusted messengers amongst their patients and community.

Talk with your patients about radon.

- [Radon and Health](#)
- [CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Radon information for healthcare providers](#). [C](#)

After

Highlights – Radon & your health page

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Home > Prevention & Healthy Living > Environmental Health > Radon > Revision of Radon and Your Health from January 8, 2020

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Revision of Radon and Your Health from January 8, 2020

Section: DPH

Is latest revision: No

Current state: Published

Change to: Draft

Apply

Radon can cause lung cancer

Radon can lead to lung cancer after many years of breathing it. Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers and the [second leading cause of lung cancer](#) overall. The most important thing you can do is to [test your home](#) and find out if your home has high levels of radon.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Surgeon General strongly recommends all homes be tested for radon. Homes with radon levels of four picocuries per liter (4 pCi/L) or higher should be fixed.

Smoking combined with radon is a serious health risk

The best way to reduce your risk of lung cancer is to stop smoking and [lower your radon levels](#). Protect yourself from radon exposure and get [help to quit](#) smoking.

Lung cancer causes more preventable deaths than any other cancer. The burden of lung cancer is felt differently between men and women. Lung cancer is the [leading cause of cancer deaths in women, P-2329](#), killing more women each year than breast, uterine, and ovarian cancer combined.

Radon and Smoking: A Dangerous Combination

10 pCi/L in a home with high radon levels increases your risk of lung cancer by 10 times.

Like this image? The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has other [customizable factsheets](#), [infographics](#), [press releases](#) and more!

Smokers are more at risk for lung cancer than nonsmokers

EPA Risk Estimates for Long-Term Radon Exposures in Homes

Average Radon Exposure	Lifetime Risk of Lung Cancer from Radon	
	Persons who Never Smoked	Current Smokers
8 pCi/L	15 in 1,000	120 in 1,000
4 pCi/L	7 in 1,000	62 in 1,000
2 pCi/L	4 in 1,000	32 in 1,000
1.3 pCi/L	2 in 1,000	20 in 1,000

Based on 1999 NAS Report

[Experts are available](#) statewide to answer your questions and provide test kits to the general public.

Have questions or need help? Get in touch with a radon expert by calling 1-888-LOW-RADON (1-888-569-7230).

Last revised April 9, 2025

Before

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Radon can cause lung cancer

Exposure to high levels of radon over long periods of time can cause lung cancer.

Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers and the second leading cause of lung cancer overall. Radon is responsible for about 21,000 lung cancer deaths every year in the United States.

About 2,900 of these deaths occur among people who have never smoked. For people who smoke, having exposure to high radon increases the risk of lung cancer by 10 times.

Lung cancer is by far the leading cause of cancer deaths, accounting for 1 in 5 of all cancer deaths in the U.S. In Wisconsin, lung cancer deaths outnumbered all colon, breast, and prostate cancer deaths combined. [Wisconsin Cancer Collaborative: Lung Cancer in Wisconsin Report](#)

The most effective ways to reduce your risk of lung cancer are to quit smoking or vaping, and to test your home for radon.

For homes with radon levels of four picocuries per liter (4 pCi/L) or higher, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) recommends [radon mitigation](#).

Risk of lung cancer from radon

Average Radon Exposure	Lifetime risk of lung cancer from radon for persons who never smoked	Lifetime risk of lung cancer from radon for current smokers
10 pCi/L	18 in 1,000	150 in 1,000
8 pCi/L	15 in 1,000	120 in 1,000
4 pCi/L	7 in 1,000	62 in 1,000
2 pCi/L	4 in 1,000	32 in 1,000
1.3 pCi/L	2 in 1,000	20 in 1,000

Based on 1999 NAS Report

Lung cancer screening

The goal of lung cancer screening is to find cancer at an earlier stage, when it may be easier to treat. Screening for lung cancer is done with a low-dose computer tomography (CT) scan. For this scan, a person lays on a table in a donut-shaped machine where a computer takes detailed images of the lungs. A doctor reviews the image looking for abnormal spots that may be cancerous cell clusters. It is not an invasive procedure. No IV or needles are involved.

A person may qualify for free lung cancer screening if they:

- Are 50–80 years of age
- Have a 20 pack-year history of smoking (one pack a day for 20 years or two packs a day for 10 years)
- Are a current smoker or has quit within the last 15 years

If you think you qualify, talk to your doctor to learn more.

Those who do not qualify for free screening can explore payment options with or without insurance by calling a [Lung Health Navigator](#) at the American Lung Association (ALA). Visit ALA's website for more information on [low-dose lung cancer screening](#).

A low-dose CT lung cancer screening could save your life

If lung cancer is caught before it spreads, the likelihood of surviving five years or more improves to 64 percent.

Resources


Get lung cancer screening

Get your home tested for radon

Get help to quit commercial

After

Highlights – RLCs page


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OF HEALTH SERVICES**

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Revision of Wisconsin Radon Information Centers from July 18, 2024

Region DPH	Is listed region No	Current status needs Review	Change to <input type="button" value="Draft"/> <input type="button" value="Apply"/>
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Experts are available to help answer your questions and sell low-cost test kits to the general public. Find your county within the list of regions below the map and you will be directed to the lead contact and information center for your area.

(1) Serving Milwaukee, Racine, and Waukesha Counties

Steve Todd

stodd@waukeshahealth.org

Skylar Behm

sbehm@waukeshahealth.org

[South East Wisconsin Radon Information Center](#)

Waukesha County Environmental Health Division

262-896-8300

Waukesha, WI 53188 [Map It](#)

(2) Serving Green Lake, Marquette, Portage, and Waushara Counties

Mary Robl

MRobl@wausharacounty.wi.gov

[Tul County Radon Information Center](#)

Tri-County Environmental Health

920-787-0590

Wautoma, WI 54682 [Map It](#)

(3) Serving Dane, Green, and Rock Counties

Clint Marshall

cmarshall@publichealthmdc.com

Brendan Macomber

bmacomber@publichealthmdc.com

[South Central Radon Information Center](#)

Public Health Madison and Dane County

608-243-0392

Madison, WI 53713 [Map It](#)

(4) Serving Crawford, Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland, and Vernon Counties

Troy Morris

Tmorris@grant.wi.gov

[Southern Wisconsin Radon Information Center](#)

Grant County Public Health Department

608-723-6416

Lancaster, WI 53813 [Map It](#)

(5) Serving Fond du Lac, Outagamie, Sheboygan, and Winnebago Counties

Mayra Castenda

Mayra.Castenda@fdl.wisconsin.gov

(6) Serving Barron, Dunn, Pierce, Sawyer, and St. Croix Counties

Jeff Robb

jrobb@dcs.dunn.wi.us

Alby Becker

albecker@dunn.wi.us

[Northwest Wisconsin Radon Information Center](#)

Dunn County Health Department

715-231-6455

Menomonie, WI 54751 [Map It](#)

(10) Serving Ashland, Bayfield, Iron, Lincoln, Price, Rush, and Taylor Counties

Margaret LaMothe

margaret.lamoth@bayfieldcounty.wi.gov

Northern Wisconsin Radon Information Center

Bayfield County Health Department

715-373-0109

Washburn, WI 54891 [Map It](#)

(11) Serving La Crosse and Monroe Counties

Lindsay Netzel

lnetzel@lacrossecounty.org

Melinda Malloy

malloy@lacrossecounty.org


[Southwest Wisconsin Radon Information Center](#)

La Crosse County Health Department

La Crosse, WI 54601 [Map It](#)

(12) Serving Dodge, Watertown

Before


**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES**

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Station

DPH

Updated version

Yes

Current date

Published

Change to

Draft

Apply


There are **17 Radon Information Centers** across Wisconsin.

A health department serves as the information center for several neighboring counties.

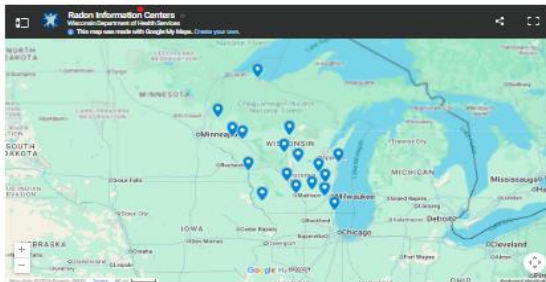
For example, Polk County Health Department is the Northwest Wisconsin Radon Information Center. They serve Burnett, Douglas, Polk, and Washburn residents with radon resources.

Experts are available to answer your questions and provide low-cost radon test kits.

Use the map or sortable table below to find your county's Radon Information Center.



Interactive map



Sortable table

Radon Information Centers

#	County	Radon Information Center	Address	Contact	All counties served
17	Adams	Central Wisconsin Radon Information Center C	Wood County Health Department 111 W Jackson St Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54480 C	Kate Carlson kcarlson@co.wood.wis.us 715-421-8911	Wood, Adams, and Juneau Counties
10	Ashland	Northern Wisconsin Radon Information Center C	Bayfield County Health Department 117 E 6th St Washburn, WI	Margaret LaMothe Margaret.Lamoth@bayfieldcounty.wi.gov 715-373-6108	Ashland, Bayfield, Iron, Lincoln, Price, Rusk, and Taylor Counties

After

2025 Wisconsin Radon Conference



Save the date!

Wisconsin Radon Conference

Hotel Mead

November 12 - 13th, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

451 E Grand Ave, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

*Day 1 (Nov 12) is **optional**. We'll be offering two 4-hr continuing education (CE) courses in the morning and afternoon for those interested in enrolling.

The morning course (8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.) will focus on radon measurement in large buildings. The afternoon course (1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.) covers mitigation design and diagnostics.

Day 2 (Nov 13) will be the main **conference day** of presentations and networking. This event also offers CE credit.

Who should attend?

Radon measurement and mitigation professionals, state and local health department officials, Tribal Nations, and members of professional organizations and consortiums

Which topics to be covered?

Radon policy, lung cancer, addressing radon service deserts, bolstering your radon business, quality assurance and quality control

Registration to come! Email questions to
dhsradon@dhs.wisconsin.gov

Past, Current, and Future Activities

2024-Early 2025 Outlook

- ☒ Hire and train Outreach Specialist
- ☒ Hold meeting(s) with RICs
- ☒ Plan conference for 2025
- ☒ Share resources and trainings to support DCF child care rule
- ☐ Revamp interactive Wisconsin Radon GIS Map **(in progress!)**

...and more!

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...and more!

2025-Early 2026 Outlook

- ☐ Execute 2025 Wisconsin Radon Conference
- ☐ Finalize changes to interactive Wisconsin Radon GIS Map
- ☐ Meet with all RICs and their partner LHDs
- ☐ Create how-to video on test kit placement

THANK YOU!

Amanda.Koch@dhs.wi.gov
608-267-2487

