

# Radon in Cancer Control Plans: State Radon Program Perspectives

## **Minnesota**

Dan Tranter, MN Department Of Health

## **Pennsylvania**

Denise Bleiler, PA Department of Environmental Protection

# Incorporating Radon into Cancer Control Plans

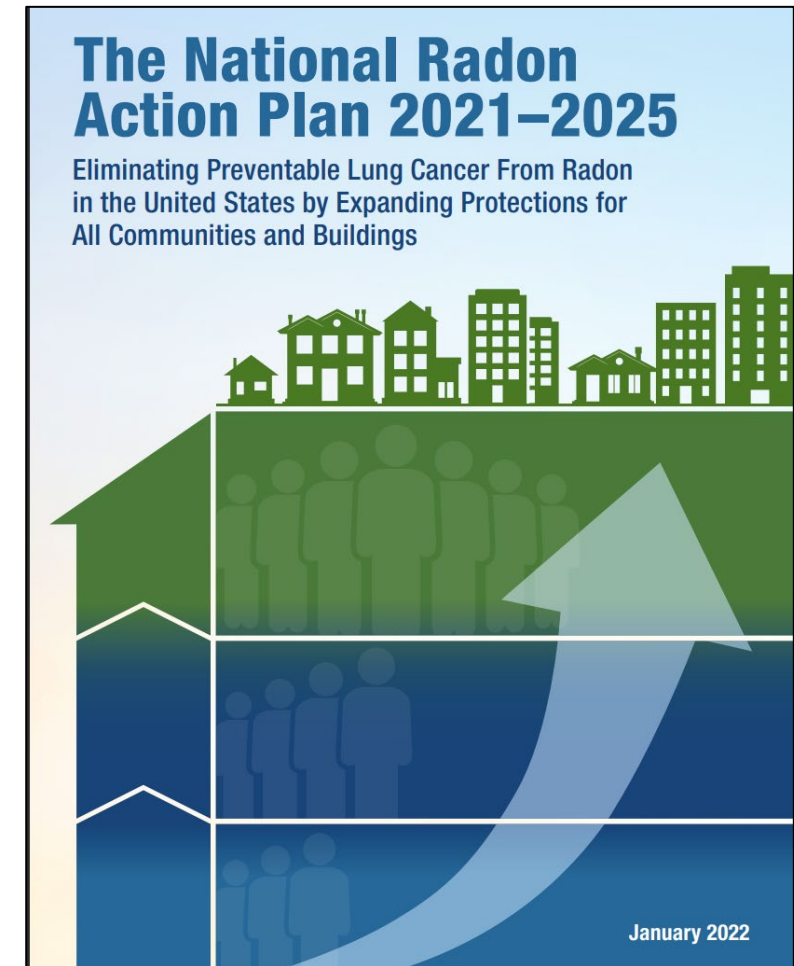


# State Cancer Control Plans / Coalitions

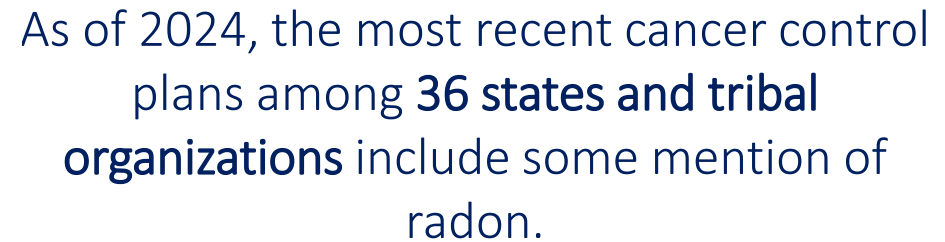
- **Cancer Control Plan** – a comprehensive strategy developed by state health agencies to reduce the burden of cancer within a specific state. These plans outline goals, objectives, and actions focused on cancer prevention, early detection, treatment, and survivorship.
- **Cancer Control Coalitions** – create comprehensive cancer control plans to help lower the number of people affected by cancer. Each plan is tailored to meet the needs of the communities it covers addressing the risk factors and types of cancers that pose the highest burden.

# Radon Risk Reduction in Cancer Control Plans

- The National Radon Action Plan serves as the framework to guide nationwide action to eliminate preventable lung cancer from radon in the U.S. by expanding protections for all communities in all buildings.
- One NRAP strategy is to support including radon risk reduction interventions in state cancer control plans.
- The intended outcome is to ensure that all state cancer control programs include radon risk reduction interventions in their primary prevention strategies for lung cancer.



# Indoor Environments™ 2024 - Radon and Vapor Intrusion Symposium



There are **12 states** that either do not mention radon in their plans or have not updated their plans in several years.



# Word Cloud: Radon-related Strategies in Current Cancer Control Plans



# Common Radon-related Strategies in Current Plans

Conduct educational awareness campaigns

Promote the use of radon testing in high-risk and underserved communities

Provide access to low-cost radon mitigation systems and radon test kits

Promote local construction ordinances that include radon-resistant materials

Educate health professionals and policy makers

Encourage discussions between healthcare providers and patients on the risks of radon


Encourage radon testing for schools

Require radon testing for every x number of years for private residences

# Evidence-based Interventions (EBIs)

- One way that cancer control coalitions can accelerate radon risk reduction and prevent lung cancer is to incorporate evidence-based interventions into their cancer control plans.
- NRAP leadership has created a list of evidence-based interventions that are organized according to NRAP priority goal areas and includes ten measures of success (indicators) and actionable intervention strategies for each indicator.
- ALA paper: NRAP's recommended evidence-based interventions →



<div><div>American Lung Association.</div><div>Incorporating Evidence-based Interventions for Radon into Cancer Control Plans</div></div>		
<p>This document provides a menu of proven-effective indicators and interventions that are aligned with the goals and strategies in the <a href="#">National Radon Action Plan</a> (NRAP) and supported by radon leaders from federal and state agencies, nonprofit organizations and the radon services industry.</p> <p>By working from this concise set of actionable interventions, state cancer control programs can accelerate progress on radon risk-reduction, and prevention of incidence and death from the leading environmental cause of lung cancer.</p>		
NRAP Goal Area	Indicators (Measures)	Evidence-based Interventions
<b>Build in Radon Risk Reduction</b>  Goal: Maximize risk reduction for all buildings by testing, sharing information about and reducing radon risks through repairs when building transactions occur between homeowners or between landlords and renters, or when repairs and rehabilitations and construction projects are financed.	<p>Number of laws and policies requiring radon notification, health risk warning statements and radon test result disclosure, in real estate sales and rental transactions.</p> <p>Number of lending entities that require radon testing and mitigation in all residential, educational, and commercial buildings.</p> <p>Number of cities and counties with building codes that require radon-resistant features in new construction.</p> <p>Number of homes, schools and other buildings that are tested for radon.</p>	<p>Promote laws and policies that require radon notification, warning statements and disclosure during real estate sales and rental transactions.</p> <p>Educate real estate professionals, home inspectors and builders about notification, disclosure and testing requirements.</p> <p>Encourage lending entities (e.g., housing, finance, and insurance industries) to require radon testing and mitigation in all residential, educational, and commercial buildings.</p> <p>Promote legislation requiring that building codes include ANSI-AARST or Appendix F radon standards.</p> <p>Encourage policies and codes that require all existing buildings to be tested for radon and mitigated as needed.</p> <p>Promote radon testing requirements for schools and childcare settings.</p>
<b>Support Radon Risk Reduction</b>  Goal: Focus on the critical need for increasing access to government-backed and other sources of housing financing, identifying new funding sources and help for states and tribes to fund radon controls in all buildings, and directing cancer prevention resources toward radon risk reduction.	<p>Amount of financial support available for mitigation assistance in low-wealth communities.</p> <p>Number of property owners that are able to obtain financing for testing and mitigation of low-income housing.</p> <p>Number of state and local home rehabilitation and repair programs that include radon mitigation among their services.</p>	<p>Provide or secure funding to offset the cost of radon mitigation in low wealth communities.</p> <p>Promote use of Community Development Block Grants to support radon testing and mitigation in low wealth communities.</p> <p>Educate mortgage lenders and property owners about available funding sources for radon services. Collaborate with cities and housing departments to develop initiatives that provide financial assistance for radon testing and mitigation.</p> <p>Provide grants or loans to community-based organizations providing low cost/no cost radon mitigation in low wealth communities.</p> <p>Promote radon training and certification to home rehabilitation and repair service providers.</p>
<div>1</div> <div>1-800-LUNGUSA   Lung.org</div>		



# EBIs: Building in Radon Risk Reduction

- Promote laws and policies that require radon notification, warning statements and disclosure during real estate sales and rental transactions.
- Educate real estate professionals, home inspectors and builders about notification, disclosure and testing requirements.
- Encourage lending entities (e.g., housing, finance, and insurance industries) to require radon testing and mitigation in all residential, educational, and commercial buildings.
- Promote legislation requiring that building codes include ANSI-AARST or Appendix F radon standards.
- Encourage policies and codes that require all existing buildings to be tested for radon and mitigated as needed.
- Promote radon testing requirements for schools and childcare settings.

# EBIs: Supporting Radon Risk Reduction

- Provide or secure funding to offset the cost of radon mitigation in low wealth communities.
- Promote use of Community Development Block Grants to support radon testing and mitigation in low wealth communities.
- Educate mortgage lenders and property owners about available funding sources for radon services. Collaborate with cities and housing departments to develop initiatives that provide financial assistance for radon testing and mitigation.
- Provide grants or loans to community-based organizations providing low cost/no cost radon mitigation in low wealth communities.
- Promote radon training and certification to home rehabilitation and repair service providers.

# EBIs: Building Capacity for Testing & Mitigation

- Support policies to require radon testing and mitigation be conducted in accordance with the consensus radon standards.
- Promote policies to require radon testing and mitigation be done by professionals certified by an EPA-recognized proficiency program.
- Educate mortgage lenders, home inspectors, housing providers and the public about the availability of certified measurement and mitigation professionals.

# EBIs: Increasing Awareness

- Partner with home inspectors and real estate agents to educate clients regarding benefits of radon testing and mitigation.
- Educate healthcare providers about radon- induced lung cancer and the importance of testing and mitigation in lung cancer prevention.
- Distribute informational radon materials to healthcare providers and lung cancer screening centers to share with lung cancer patients and families.
- Develop and disseminate culturally tailored resources on radon risk and control strategies

# Current Evidence-based Interventions

## Goal 1:

Build in Radon Risk Reduction

## Goal 2:

Support Radon Risk Reduction

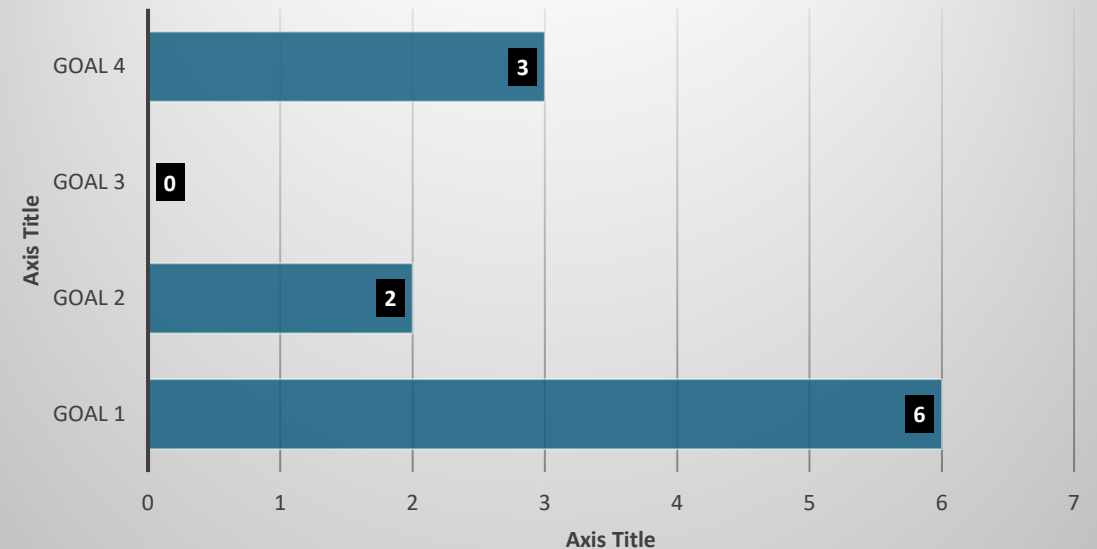
## Goal 3:

Build Capacity to Test and Mitigate Using Professional Radon Services

## Goal 4:

Increase Awareness of Radon Risk and Control Strategies

Number of EBI's currently in cancer control plans in relation to NRAP priority areas





# How to Influence Your State's Cancer Control Plan

- ❑ Look up the cancer control plan created for your state here →
- ❑ Review the plan to determine if and how radon risk reduction is included.
- ❑ Connect with the cancer coalition within your state and:
  - Offer to provide radon education to coalition members.
  - Share the Evidence-based Interventions for Radon document with cancer coalitions.
  - If able, offer to help draft the next update of the plan.
- ❑ Encourage your community partners to do the same.



CDC's Cancer Control  
Programs webpage



ALA paper:  
Radon EBIs

