American Lung Association
Nationwide *Initiatives and State Indoor Radon Grant Programs*

Indoor Environments 2025 Radon and Vapor Intrusion Symposium

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National Radon Action Plan (NRAP)

About NRAP

Build in Radon Risk Reduction

Support Radon Risk Reduction

Build Capacity to Test and Mitigate Using Professional Radon Services

Increase Awareness of Radon Risk and Control Strategies

NRAP 2025-2026 Activities

NEWS > NATIONAL NEWS

Invisible danger: American Lung Association calls for radon testing in schools

Radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S., with 21,000 annual deaths, making testing for this invisible gas critical in schools.

- ✓ Radon in Schools Campaign
  - Digital advertising targeting school administration
  - News coverage
- ✓ Radon in State Cancer Control Plans webinar
- ✓ In-person NRAP Leadership Council Meeting
- ✓ Minor revisions to NRAP goal areas & strategies

NRAP 2025-2026 Activities

Convene NRAP members to implement strategies for advancing radon policies, education, workforce, resources and more.

Convene community cohorts to address radon-related focus areas.

Support decision makers in prioritizing radon risk reduction efforts through a policy backgrounder.

Identify community barriers to addressing radon and develop community engagement tools and learning opportunities.

Resources

Lung.org/radon

Finding Funding to Fix Radon Problems (Webinar)

Learn about federal funding opportunities that can help support efforts to improve indoor air quality, including radon testing

Radon Testing Disparities in States

This series of state reports on testing disparities has been developed to help decisionmakers identify communities most in need of additional attention.

Figure 1

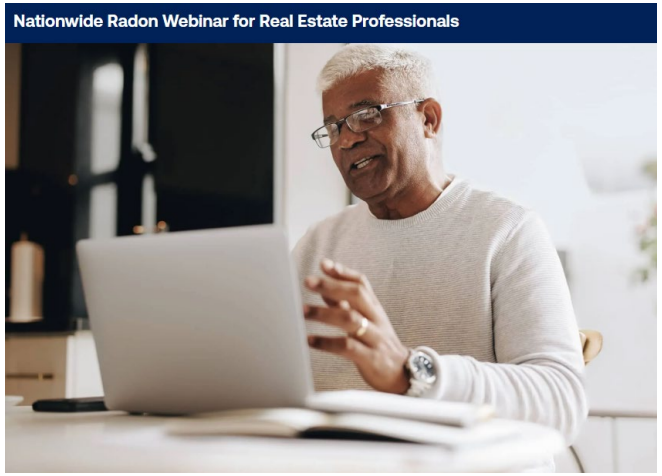
Visit the CDC's Comprehensive Cancer Control Programs to view a complete list of state, territory, and tribal cancer control plans.

Cancer Control Plans Are a Key Strategy within the National Radon Action Plan

The National Radon Action Plan (NRAP) serves as framework to guide nationwide action to eliminate preventable lung cancer from radon in the U.S. by expanding protections for all communities and buildings.

One of the NRAP strategies to achieve these goals is to support state cancer control programs in including radon indicators and risk reduction interventions. 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. To help achieve this goal, the NRAP Leadership Council has developed a list of evidence-based interventions for radon awareness that cancer control coalitions should consider when creating or updating their cancer control plans.

Incorporating Evidence-based Interventions for Radon into Cancer Control Plans.
The list of evidence-based interventions is organized according to the NRAP priority goal areas and includes ten measures of success (indicators) and actionable intervention strategies for each indicator.



American Lung Association.

Using Data to Save Lives:
Expanding Radon Information in the Environmental Public Health Tracking Network

Radon is a colorless and odorless radioactive gas that is the leading environmental cause of lung cancer in the United States. Radon occurs naturally in rocks and soil and can enter homes and other buildings undetected, where it can be found in dangerous amounts. High levels of radon indoors can be measured and fixed, meaning most cases of radon-related lung cancer can be prevented.

In the late 1980's the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Surgeon General began recommending that every home be tested for radon. Since then, people have performed millions of radon tests, assessing levels in their homes, schools, and workplaces. Many buildings with elevated radon have been fixed. Unfortunately, millions of people are still exposed to elevated radon levels where they live, work and go to school. Many homes and other buildings have not even been tested let alone fixed, and radon continues to be a significant public health concern in the United States.

A great amount of testing data has been, and will continue to be, collected by states and tribes, businesses and laboratories. Over the years, radon leaders—public officials, industry champions, and health advocates—increasingly recognized that a systematic organization of this data would be beneficial. Those stakeholders understood that beyond data's use in each individual case, the information could have so much greater usefulness once it was collated, analyzed, and disseminated for widespread use. Therefore, the leaders not only saw that there was a need for data stewards such as state agencies, local and tribal authorities, and radon testing laboratories to participate in a well-managed program of data sharing, but they set in motion the steps to establish just such a program.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recognized the following advantages of tracking radon information:

- Increasing public awareness of radon prevalence, risk, and action steps,
- Increasing radon testing, leading to people taking radon reduction measures, and
- Helping public officials make informed decisions and take action to protect public health from radon.

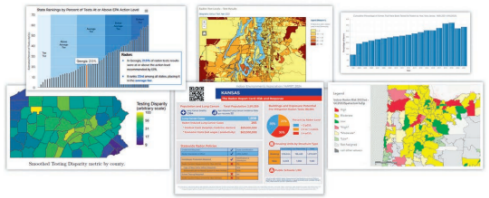
Making use of the data

As the CDC Tracking Program emphasizes:

"Analyzing, collecting, and disseminating radon testing information is the first step to developing policies and educational resources that can help prevent the harmful health effects related to elevated radon exposures. For example, tracking radon data in a standard way over time can help us identify areas with low testing that might have high levels of radon. These data can inform planning and implementation of public health actions for areas with the greatest need."

Many states have used tens or hundreds of thousands of radon test results to help identify areas of higher risk or special need. Organizations working to protect public health from radon exposure have also made use of the data supplied to the CDC Tracking Program. A few examples include:

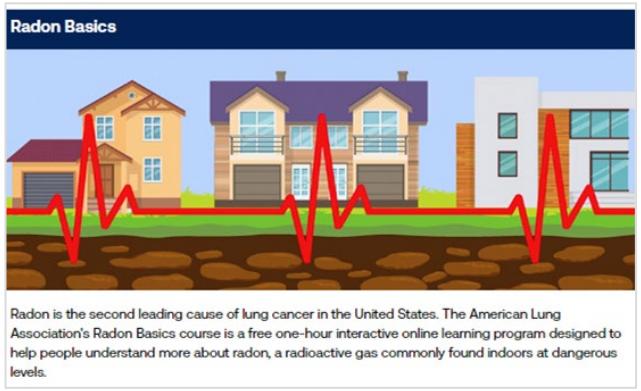
- The development of maps showing radon hazards for areas smaller than counties such as ZIP Codes and U.S. Census tracts, with resulting news coverage about them helping to raise public awareness and spur testing. (Oregon, and map)
- Combining tracked radon data with other information to identify previously unknown locations of higher risk where little or no testing had been conducted. (Washington, and map)
- Using tracking information to evaluate progress with respect to objectives set forth in state health programs or comprehensive cancer control plans. (New Jersey)
- Developing metrics with which 1) to show radon exposures that should be reduced to help people avoid lung cancer and 2) to demonstrate where undertesting, given the expected levels of radon, appears to be more significant, and where public officials may consider devoting more resources. (American Lung Association report and tools)
- Educating policymakers about the levels of radon and approximate radon-related lung cancer mortality in their states and localities to emphasize the extent of the problem and to support further preventive policies and laws. (Indoor Environments Association)

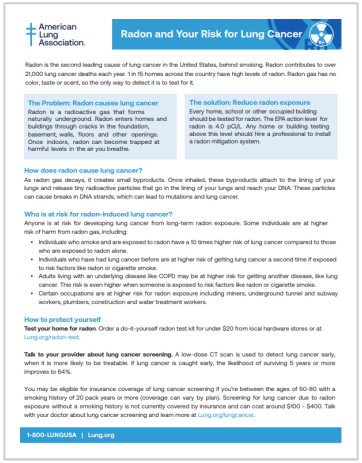


Nationwide Radon Resources

Resources for the Public

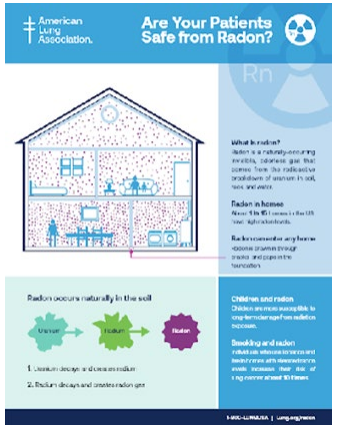
Lung.org/radon





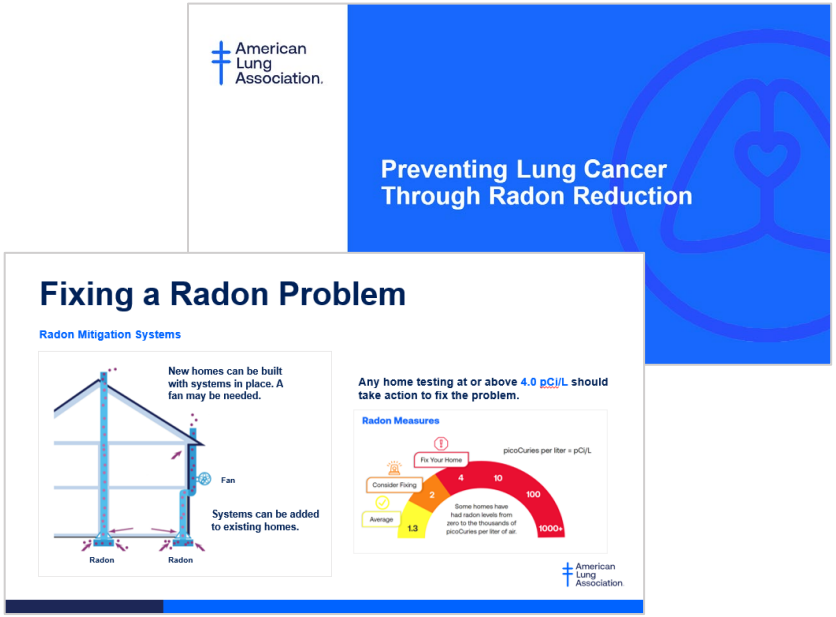
- **Radon Basics:** FREE, online learning module to learn more about radon
- **Radon and Lung Health:** educational video about radon risks, testing and mitigation
- **What is Radon:** educational factsheet about finding and fixing radon problems
- **Radon and Your Risk for Lung Cancer:** handout educating those at high-risk for lung cancer

Resources for Healthcare Professionals

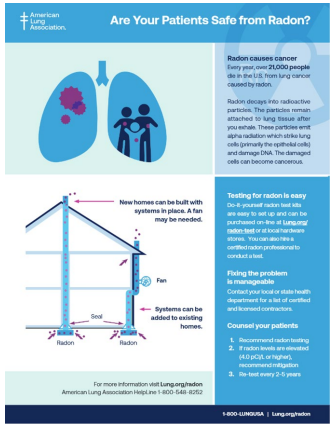


Patient Video

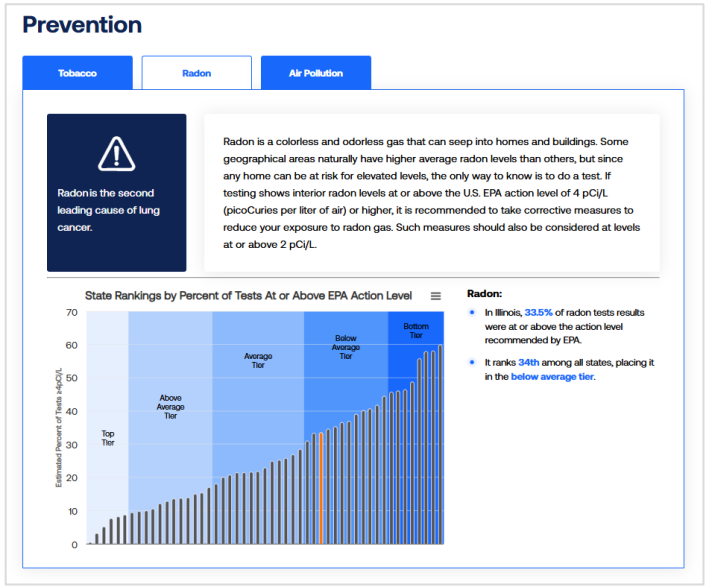
Decision Support Tool



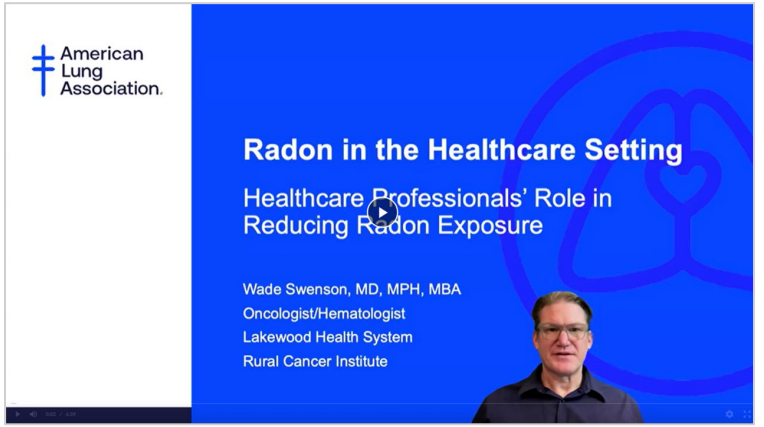
Educational Presentation Slide Deck



HCP Handout

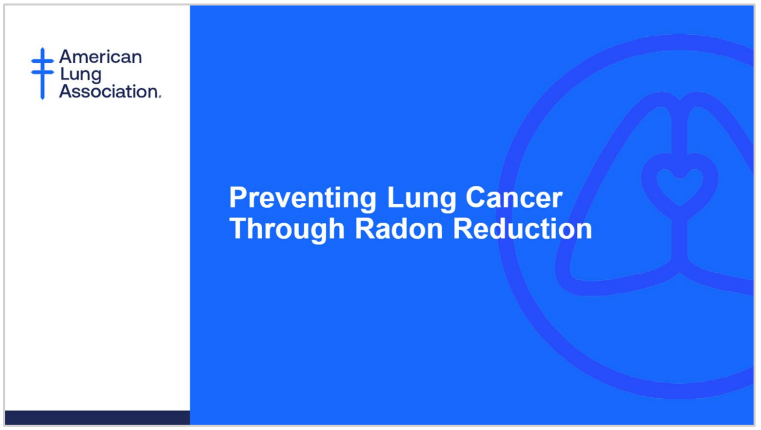


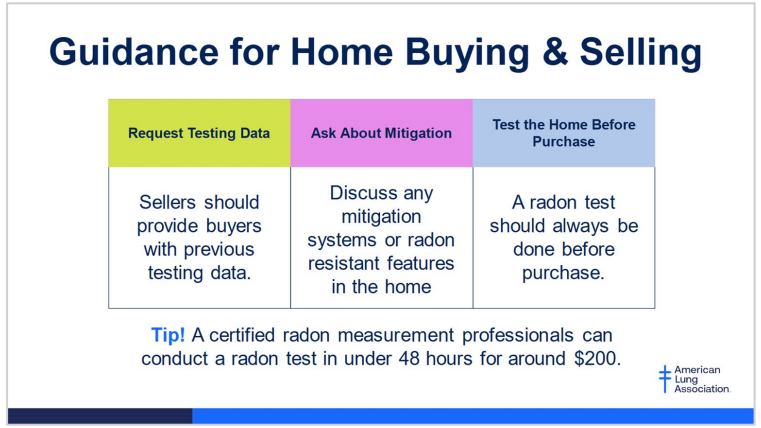
State of Lung Cancer Report



HCP Educational Video

Resources for Real Estate

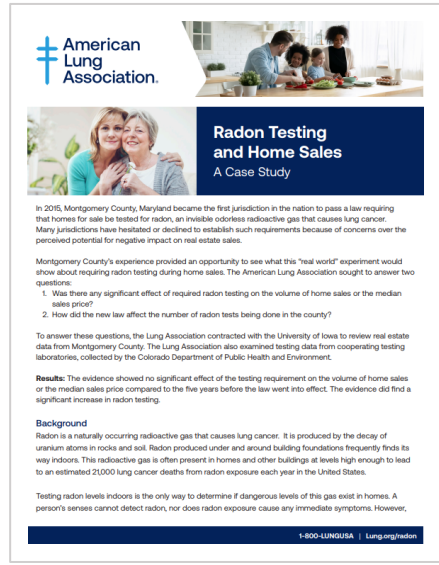




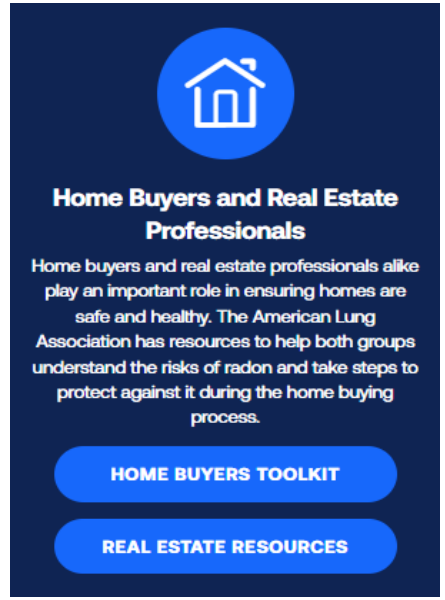
Educational Presentation Slide Deck

Webpage

Webinar



Case Study



Resource Toolkit

Resources for Schools

American Lung Association.

Radon Measurement Guidance for Schools

This guidance provides schools with an overview of the expectations, measurement process and requirements for radon testing.

What is Radon?

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas released in rock, soil, and water from the decay of uranium. It moves up through the ground and enters school buildings through cracks in the foundation, floors, walls, basement or other openings. Once indoors, it can become trapped at dangerous levels. Any building can have a radon problem, regardless of building age, foundation type, or presence of a basement.

Why Test Schools for Radon?

There are no immediate symptoms from radon, but long-term exposure can lead to lung cancer. Over time, radon breaks down into radioactive particles known as radon decay products. These decay products can become trapped in the lungs when inhaled and damage lung tissue by emitting radiation. Children have higher breathing rates and different lung sizes, which could cause children to breathe more radon into their lungs when exposed.

State Testing Requirements in Schools

Several states have laws that require schools to conduct radon testing, install mitigation systems or to incorporate radon-resistant new construction (RRNC) techniques. For a summary of current state radon testing requirements in schools, visit the Environmental Law Institute.

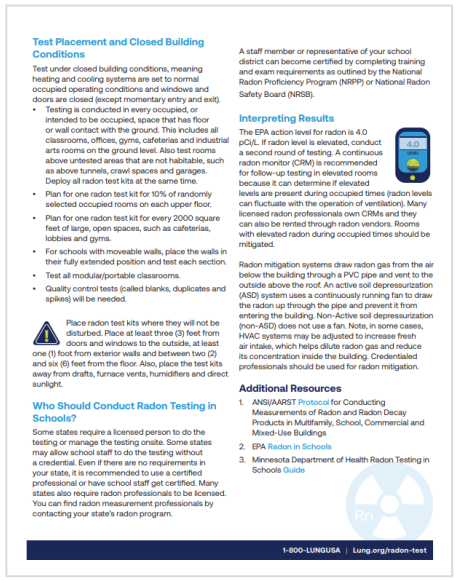
Where to Purchase Test Kits?

Short-term (3-7 days) charcoal-based radon test kits are recommended for school testing. Many test kits will be needed to cover testing areas for the building. Test kits may be purchased through state radon programs or the American Lung Association at Lung.org/radon-test.

When to Test?

- The best time for testing is between November 1 and March 31. These are colder months when the building's HVAC system is running, which helps assess radon levels in normal conditions.
- Test on school days, when students occupy the building, not during weekends or holidays.
- Testing from Monday through Thursday is recommended, with overnight shipping so the devices are analyzed on Friday.
- Test when HVAC maintenance and filter changes are current.
- Schools should be tested every five (5) years if the initial radon level is under 4.0 pCi/L (picocuries per liter of air). Test sooner if there are significant changes that affect radon levels, such as soil, HVAC system or foundation. Test sooner if untested areas start to be occupied. If a mitigation system is installed, radon testing should be conducted within 24 hours – 30 days from the installation and then every two (2) years.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a nationwide survey estimates one in five schools has at least one schoolroom with a short-term radon level above the action level of 4.0 pCi/L. The EPA estimates that more than 70,000 schoolrooms in use today have high short-term radon levels. The only way to detect radon in your school is to test.



Test Placement and Closed Building Conditions

Test under closed building conditions, meaning heating and cooling systems are set to normal occupied operating conditions and windows and doors are closed (except momentary entry and exit).

- Testing is conducted in every occupied, or intended to be occupied, space that has floor or wall contact with the ground. This includes all classrooms, offices, gyms, cafeterias and industrial arts rooms on the ground level. Also test rooms above untested areas that are not habitable, such as above tunnels, crawl spaces and garages. Deploy all radon test kits at the same time.
- Plan for one radon test kit for 10% of randomly selected occupied rooms on each upper floor.
- Plan for one radon test kit for every 2000 square feet of large, open spaces, such as cafeterias, lobbies and gyms.
- For schools with moveable walls, place the walls in their fully extended position and test each section.
- Test all modular/portable classrooms.
- Quality control tests (called blanks, duplicates and spikes) will be needed.

Place radon test kits where they will not be disturbed. Place at least three (3) feet from doors and windows to the outside, at least one (1) foot from exterior walls and between two (2) and six (6) feet from the floor. Also, place the test kits away from drafts, furnace vents, humidifiers and direct sunlight.

Who Should Conduct Radon Testing in Schools?

Some states require a licensed person to do the testing or manage the testing onsite. Some states may allow school staff to do the testing without a credential. Even if there are no requirements in your state, it is recommended to use a certified professional or have school staff get certified. Many states also require radon professionals to be licensed. You can find radon measurement professionals by contacting your state's radon program.

A staff member or representative of your school district can become certified by completing training and exam requirements as outlined by the National Radon Proficiency Program (NRPP) or National Radon Safety Board (NRSB).

Interpreting Results

The EPA action level for radon is 4.0 pCi/L. If radon level is elevated, conduct a second round of testing. A continuous radon monitor (CRM) is recommended for follow-up testing in elevated rooms because it can determine if elevated levels are present during occupied times (radon levels can fluctuate with the operation of ventilation). Many licensed radon professionals own CRMs and they can also be rented through radon vendors. Rooms with elevated radon during occupied times should be mitigated.

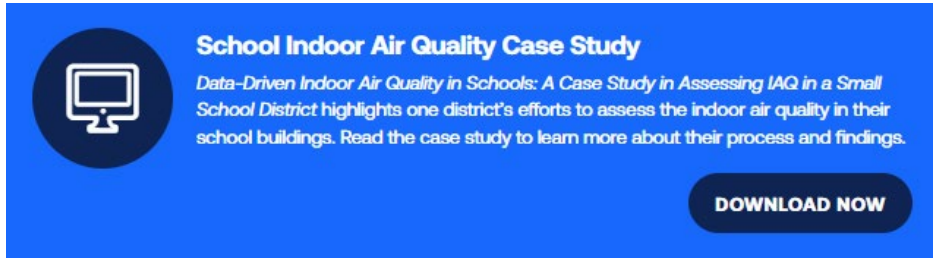
Radon mitigation systems draw radon gas from the air below the building through a PVC pipe and vent to the outside above the roof. An active soil depressurization (ASD) system uses a continuously running fan to draw the radon up through the pipe and prevent it from entering the building. Non-Active soil depressurization (non-ASD) does not use a fan. Note, in some cases, HVAC systems may be adjusted to increase fresh air intake, which helps dilute radon gas and reduce its concentration inside the building. Credentialed professionals should be used for radon mitigation.

Additional Resources

1. ANSI/AARST Protocol for Conducting Measurements of Radon and Radon Decay Products in Multifamily, School, Commercial and Mixed-Use Buildings
2. EPA Radon in Schools
3. Minnesota Department of Health Radon Testing in Schools Guide

1-800-LUNGUSA | Lung.org/radon-test

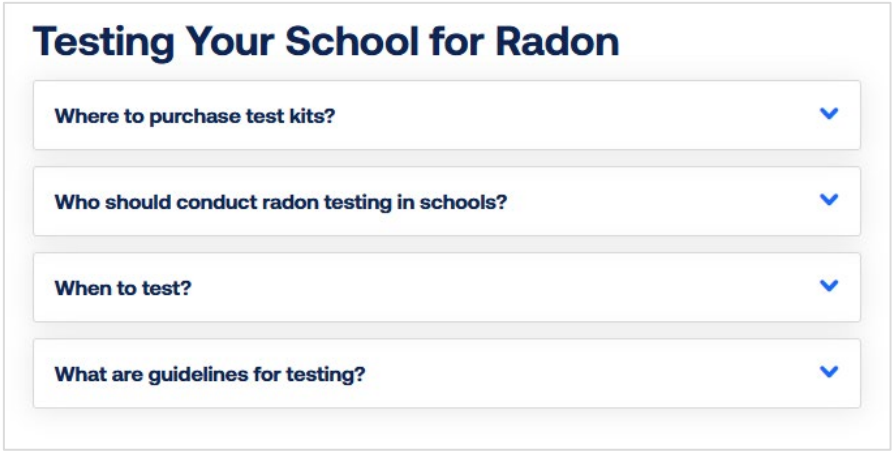
Measurement Guidance Handout



School Case Study

Educational Video

School Resource Website

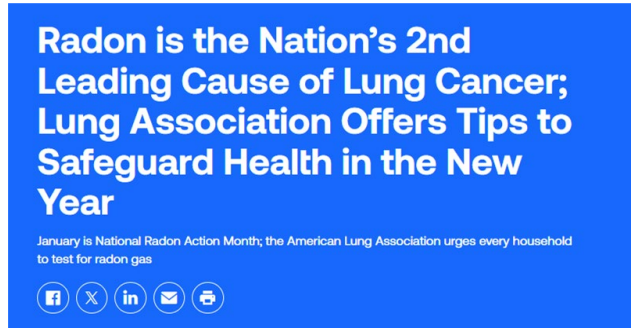


Nationwide Radon Initiatives

National Radon Action Month

NRAM 2025 Activities

- Press Releases
- Virtual Media Tour – 5 states and nationwide coverage
- Digital advertising campaigns – 4 states
- Organic social media
- Frontline/Family Physician Magazine articles
- Partner toolkits



Radon Test Kit Program

The Lung Association operates a nationwide radon test kit store at **Lung.org/radon-test**.

- Short-term charcoal test kits: **$18**
- Long-term Alpha Track Detectors: **$30**

Through **State Indoor Radon Grants (SIRG)** the Lung Association offers FREE or discounted radon test kits to residents and/or local health departments in select states.

Key Distribution Statistics:

Time Period	# of Kits Sold
July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024	**7,038**
July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025	**12,999**

Lung Helpline and Tobacco Quitline

Free information and support from lung health experts.

Lung HelpLine

- Staffed with bilingual, licensed healthcare professionals
- Direct to local services like lung cancer screening and tobacco cessation
- Assist with healthcare coverage
- Answer lung health and lung disease questions

Radon Specifics

- Ordering radon tests
- Interpreting test results & recommending action
- Directing to local resources and certified radon professionals
- Finding financial assistance for mitigation

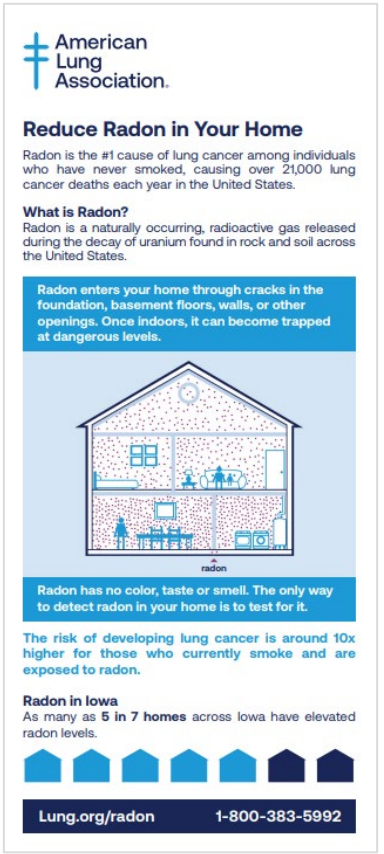
Radon HelpLine Call Statistics:

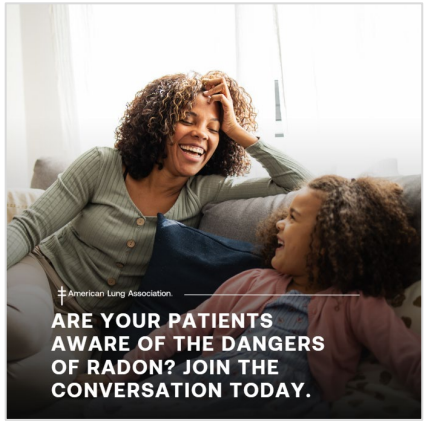
Time Period	# Radon HelpLine Calls
July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024	**952**
July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025	**1,141**

State Indoor Radon Grants

What does the Lung Association do with SIRG funds?

1. Facilitate awareness & education campaigns
2. Provide free/discounted radon test kits to communities
3. Manage state Radon HelpLine and webpages
4. Targeted outreach to radon stakeholders
5. Collaborate with local health departments/coalitions
6. Develop targeted resources and toolkits
7. Manage Radon Poster & Video Contests
8. Support school radon training, testing and remediation





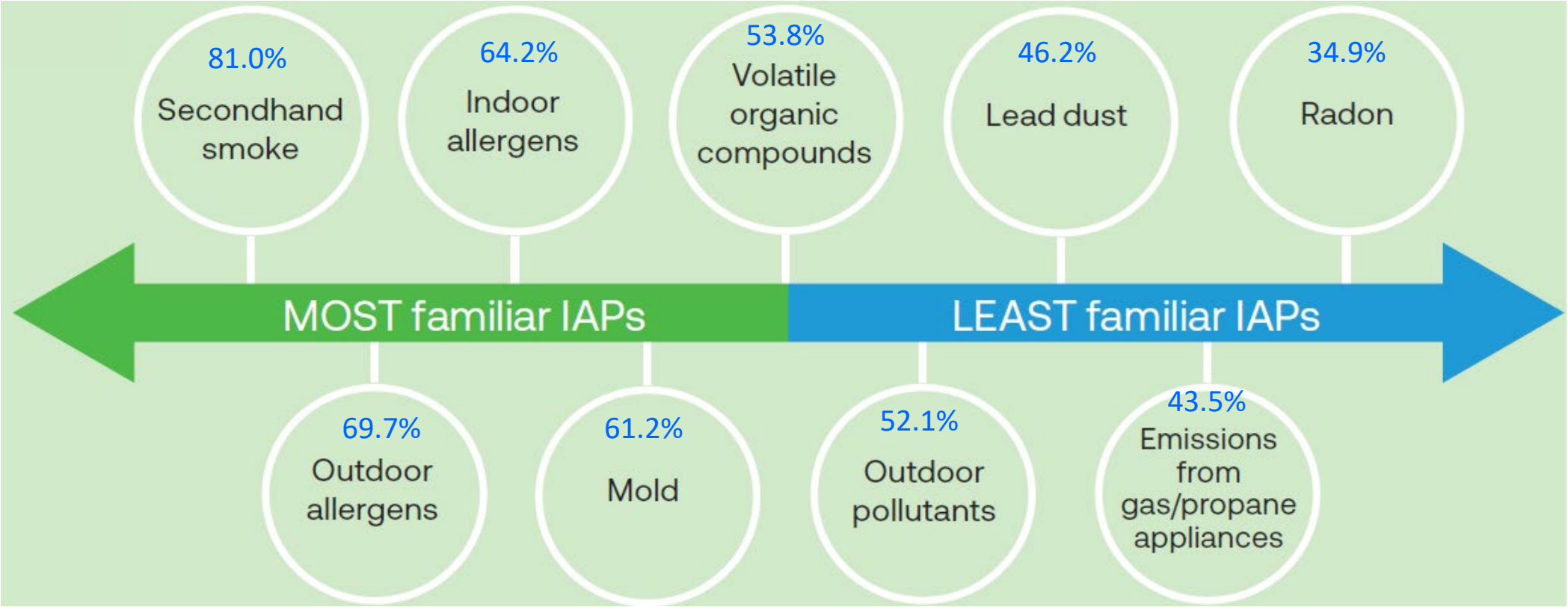
Colorado Radon Healthcare Forum

Are you a healthcare professional interested in radon prevention, education, testing, mitigation, and research?

If so, please join our Radon Healthcare Forum!

Radon and Indoor Air Quality

Healthcare Professional Survey



Indoor Air Quality Resource Hub for Healthcare Professionals

Lung.org/IAQResources

Download tools for healthcare professionals:

- Indoor Air Quality Action Plan
- Decision support tools
- Patient education tools
- Videos
- Factsheets

Invisible Risks: The Health Impacts of Indoor Air Quality

Continuing Education Credits available!

FREE, one-hour, online learning module with CEs for physicians, physician assistants, nurses, nurse practitioners, and respiratory therapists.

Download toolkits and take the Lung Association's online learning course at **Lung.org/IAQResources.**

Clean Air School Challenge

Lung.org/CASC

The **Clean Air School Challenge** meets schools where they are in their IAQ and energy management journeys.

Schools receive support and guidance as they work their way through the 3 program phases: assess, plan, and act.

Scan the QR code to learn more!
Questions? Contact **CASC@lung.org**

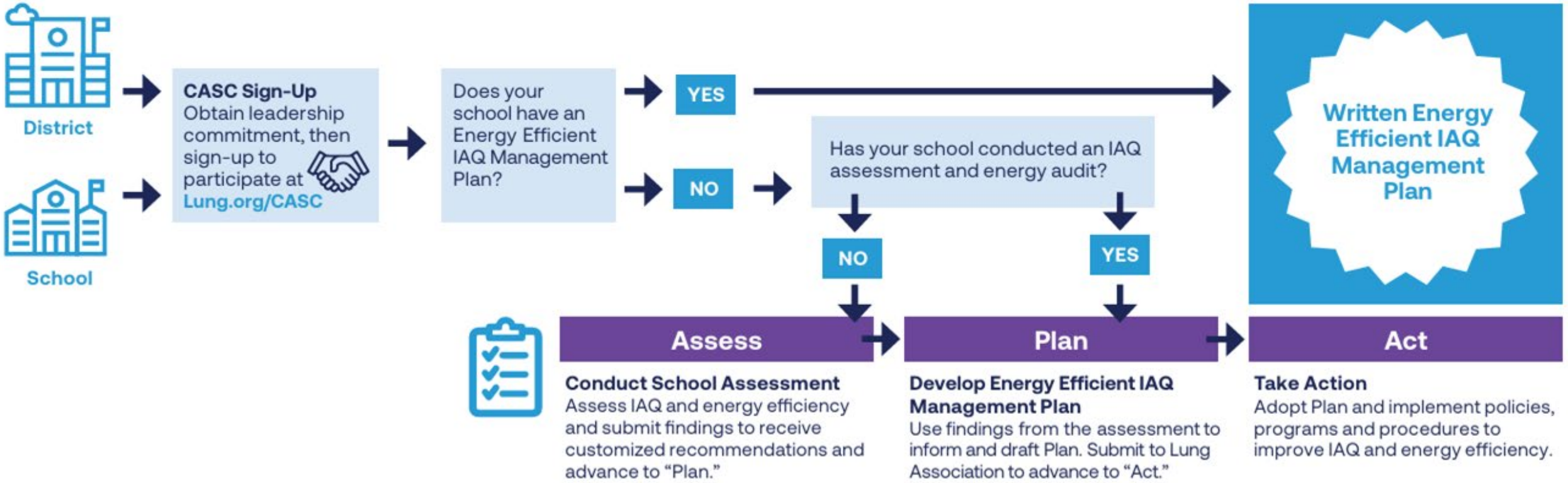
Mini-grant funding available (up to $9500 per school)!

Non-competitive, no match requirements

Mini-grants can be used for:

- Radon mitigation
- Secondary radon testing
- HVAC maintenance
- Lead or mold assessment & removal
- Other IAQ support!

CASC Program Overview



Benefits of Participation

- Recognition
- Peer mentorship
- Education and Training
- Technical assistance
- Access to Lung Association programs and services
- Mini-grants*
- Learning collaboratives*

Learn more at Lung.org/CASC

Have questions? Contact CASC@Lung.org

**Opportunity exclusive to select schools via application process*

Thank you!

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