



# Illinois Radon Fact Sheet

## ILLINOIS RADON AWARENESS PROGRAM

[www.radon.illinois.gov](http://www.radon.illinois.gov)

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Illinois Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan, 2012-2015  
August 2012



Illinois Cancer Control Plan

[http://www.idph.state.il.us/cancer/IL\\_CCC\\_Plan\\_2012-2015.pdf](http://www.idph.state.il.us/cancer/IL_CCC_Plan_2012-2015.pdf)

**Radon in Illinois:** The prevalence of radon in Illinois is especially high, with 73 of Illinois' 102 counties having an average indoor radon concentration greater than the USEPA action level of 4.0 pCi/L. The professional home testing data collected by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) Radon Program since 2003, shows that 41% of all homes tested in the state of Illinois are greater than 4.0 pCi/L and that the state average is 4.9 pCi/L, also above the USEPA action level. Using this data, IEMA and USEPA estimate that as many as 1,160 Illinois citizens are at risk of developing radon related lung cancer each year.

**The Illinois Radon Program** is located within the Bureau of Radiation Safety, Environmental Management Section of the

Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA). The Radon Program has a licensing, regulatory, and compliance component and well as an outreach and education component.

The IEMA Radon Program distributes federal funding to 19 sub-grantees, mostly county health departments and non-profit organizations, to promote radon education and testing.

IEMA Radon Program staff also provides specific trainings for real estate agents, home inspectors, home builders, daycare providers, and home construction trade groups all around the state; as well as participation in health fair/ home show type events.

Radon licensing is mandated by the Radon Industry Licensing Act, and adopted rules for administration and enforcement are found in 32 Illinois Administrative Code 422. A current radon license is required by all individuals providing radon or radon progeny measurement, mitigation, or laboratory services in Illinois. All radon measurement and mitigation training courses must also be approved by IEMA.

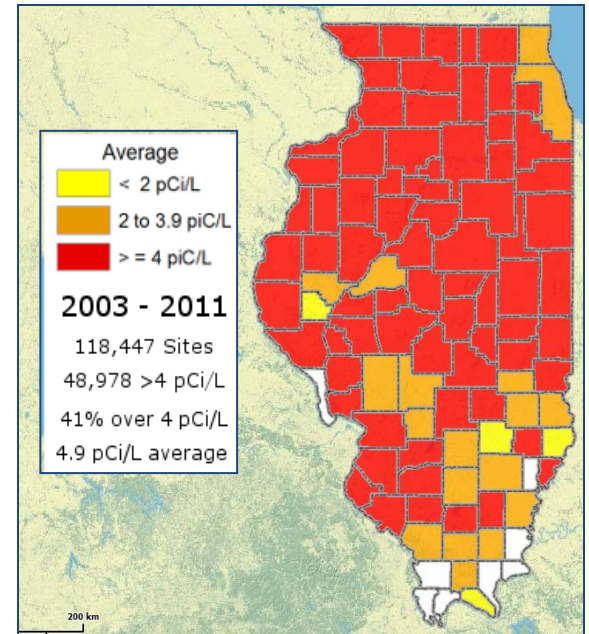
## State Cancer Control Plan: (2012-2015)

Radon is defined (pg. 19) and mentioned as a specific goal (pg. 21) in the Prevention section of the plan.

**PREVENTION GOAL 3:** Decrease the proportion of Illinois residents who are exposed to unsafe levels of environmental carcinogens.

**Objective 2:** Reduce exposures to radon in all indoor areas.

- Strategy 1: Increase the number of homes tested for radon levels and mitigated if elevated levels are found.
- Strategy 2: Increase the number of rental units, schools, work places, and day care centers tested and mitigated if elevated levels are found.
- Strategy 3: Develop programs to assist economically challenged homeowners to test and mitigate if elevated radon levels are found.
- Strategy 4: Establish statewide standards to include radon control features in new construction.





# Illinois Enacted Legislation

Illinois has been a leader in passing radon related legislation and is considered one of the premiere states in the nation regarding radon awareness and protection laws. The major laws include:

**Radon Industry Licensing Act** Gives the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) regulatory authority for radon licensing. Requires all individuals providing radon or radon progeny measurement, mitigation, or laboratory services in Illinois to be licensed by IEMA. IEMA established rules for licensing, found in 32 Illinois Administrative Code 422. Also creates and sets members and parameters for the Task Force on Radon –Resistant Building Codes (see Radon Resistant Construction Act).

**Radon Awareness Act** Requires the buyer of residential real property to receive the IEMA pamphlet titled “Radon Testing Guidelines for Real Estate Transactions” and for seller, buyer, and both real estate agents to sign the Disclosure of Information on Radon Hazards form stating whether or not a known elevated radon concentration and/ or a radon mitigation system is present in the dwelling. Also requires lessor of a dwelling unit to disclose the existence of a known radon hazard to lessees.

**Radon Amendment to School Code** Recommends that every occupied school building of a school district be tested for radon every 5 years. Test results are to be submitted to the State Board of Education, who in turn prepares a report of these results to be submitted to the General Assembly and the Governor every 2 years. Also recommends that new schools be built using radon resistant construction techniques and allows for licensure exemption for school employee that completes specific training requirements outlined in the code.

**Radon Resistant Construction Act** Requires all new residential construction in Illinois to include passive radon resistant construction. IEMA is responsible for promulgation of rules necessary for administration and implementation of the requirements in the Act with the recommendations concerning the adoption of rules for building codes presented by the Task Force on Radon-Resistant Building Codes (32 ILAC 422.160).

**Radon Amendment to The Child Care Act of 1969** Requires all daycares licensed with the Illinois Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) to test the facility for radon every 3 years and submit a copy of most recent test results with their license renewal documentation or application for initial licensure. The test result report must also be posted in the facility next to their license issued by DCFS.

## Summary of Illinois Emergency Management Agency Radon Program State Indoor Radon Grant Activities

Illinois contributes a 60% in kind match of State Indoor Radon Grant (SIRG) funds received. Accomplishments from SIRG grant funds received in federal fiscal year 2017:

- 580 estimated lives saved since 2005.
- 2,593 number of public inquiry responses (telephone).
- 35,989 number of Illinois Radon webpage visits.
- 94,626 total reported number of radon tests performed in Illinois.
- 15,799 total reported number of radon mitigation jobs performed in Illinois.
- 25,313 homes built using radon resistant construction techniques.