

# Rhode Island Radon Fact Sheet

## RHODE ISLAND RADON AWARENESS PROGRAM

<http://www.health.ri.gov/healthrisks/poisoning/radon/>

Bonnie Cassani Brandt

Bonnie.CassaniBrandt@health.ri.gov

Rhode Island

Department of Health

3 Capitol Hill

Providence, RI 02908



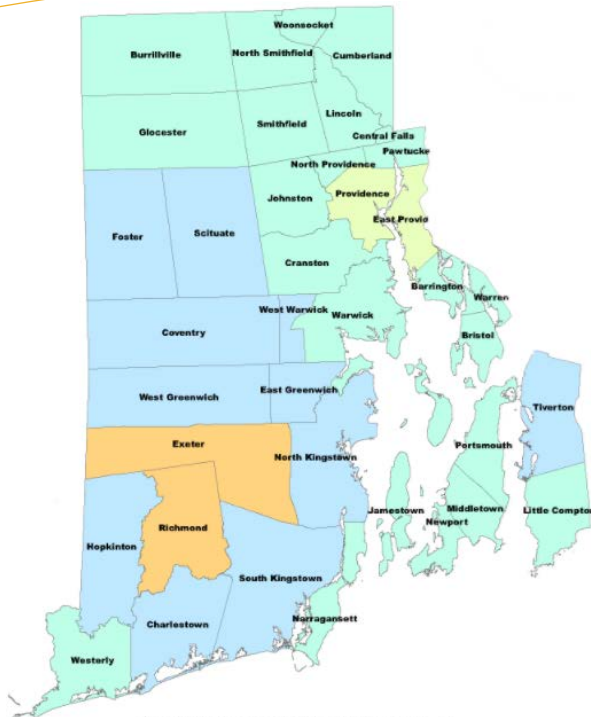
RHODE ISLAND CANCER PREVENTION AND CONTROL

2013-2018 STRATEGIC PLAN

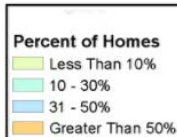


Rhode Island Cancer Control Plan

<http://health.ri.gov/publications/strategicplans/2013-2018RhodeIslandCancerPreventionAndControl.pdf>



Percentage of Homes Tested Equal to or Greater Than 4.0 pCi/L of Radon-222. Rhode Island Average 3.55 pCi/L



Screening Indoor Radon Data by Town  
Number of Houses Tested = 56,219  
Database date 04/18/2016

One in four homes in Rhode Island contain radon at or above the Environmental Protection Agency action level of 4.0 pCi/L. This is significantly higher than the national average of one in fifteen homes.

In Exeter and Richmond, more than 50% of tested homes exceeded the Environmental Protection Agency's action level.

## Rhode Island Cancer Control Plan

Objective 12: By 2018, reduce unhealthy radon exposure by increasing the percentage of homes with unacceptable radon levels greater than or equal to 4.0 pCi/L that receive mitigation to 80% (Baseline: 65%, Rhode Island Department of Health Radon Database 2010).

Strategies:

- 12.1 Promote the adoption of radon-resistant new construction requirements.
- 12.2 Educate the public about radon, testing, mitigation, and cancer-related exposures.
- 12.3 Promote the continued radon surcharge fee assessment on new construction

The Radon Control Program's mission is to protect Rhode Islanders from lung cancer due to radon exposure by ensuring that no homes, schools, or other high priority public buildings have unacceptable radon levels.

Through a EPA State Indoor Radon Grant, the Radon Control Program:

- Implements and enforces the mandatory radon testing and mitigation requirements for public and high priority buildings.
- Certifies, and controls quality of, the licensed radon professional infrastructure.
- Promotes radon testing and mitigation in residential properties through education and outreach campaigns.
- Promotes radon resistant new construction in homes, schools and public buildings.
- Manages and maintains a comprehensive radon database of public/high priority and residential test results.
- Collaborates with, and supports, the EPA's Protecting People and Families from Radon Initiative.

## Rhode Island Enacted Legislation

**Rhode Island General Laws § 16-60-4** Authorizes the state Board of Regents to approve standards for the design and construction of school buildings. Regulations adopted under the law (RIDE School Construction Regulations, R.I. Admin. Code 21-2-41:1.04--1.05) require all new school construction and school renovation projects that cost more than \$500,000 to incorporate a radon mitigation strategy if the site is located in an area with moderate or high radon potential. Regulations also require compliance with certain high performance construction standards, including protecting IAQ during renovation of occupied buildings.

**Rhode Island General Laws § 23-1-5.1** Authorizes the Department of Health to provide, upon request, laboratory services for voluntary testing of indoor air pollutants, including radon. Authorizes the Department to establish fees to fund such activities.

**Rhode Island General Laws §§ 23-61-1 et seq.** Authorizes the Department of Health to undertake a variety of radon-related activities, including: conducting a voluntary radon testing program; undertaking radon testing; requiring that owners of "public or high priority buildings" test for radon; recommending radon-resistant construction standards; developing a public information program; and issuing radon standards for air and water. Requires state certification or licensure of radon professionals and establishes monetary fines and other penalties for violations. Requires the state to establish regulations requiring the evaluation of all public buildings, schools, and day care centers for elevated radon levels. Establishes a fee on new residential construction. Regulations promulgated under the law establish licensing and certification requirements for radon mitigation and measurement professionals and radon analytical services (R.I. Admin. Code 31-1-25:B.1--B.8/R23-61-RC). Regulations establish radon standards; measurement and mitigation protocols; and requirements for testing and mitigation of high radon levels in public buildings, schools, and child care facilities. [See also R.I. Admin Code 31-1-37:28.0/R16-21-SCHO and 21-2-57:III.]

**Rhode Island General Laws §§ 5-20.8-1--8** Requires sellers of residential real estate to provide buyers with a disclosure form explaining all known deficient conditions, including radon, urea-formaldehyde foam insulation, asbestos, and hazardous contaminants. Provides that disclosure form must include the statement: "Radon has been determined to exist in the State of Rhode Island. Testing for the presence of radon in residential real estate prior to purchase is advisable."