



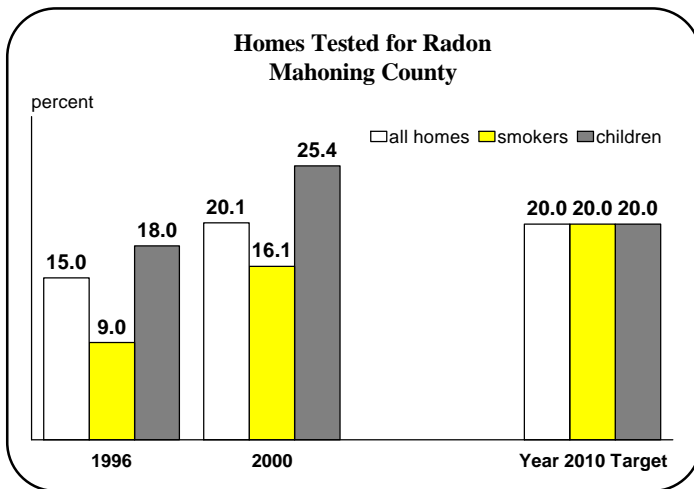
District Board of Health Fact Sheet

January 2007 is Radon Action Month

Radon in Mahoning County

Radon exposure is the second leading cause of lung cancer after cigarette smoking. The U.S. EPA estimates that radon exposure may cause between 7,000 - 30,000 deaths each year in the U.S., making it, as the graph on the next page shows, the environmental toxin responsible for more cancer deaths than pesticides, hazardous waste and air pollutants combined.

Radon gas - measured in picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - comes from the radioactive decay of uranium in soil. The gas can seep into a house through dirt floors, cracks in concrete floors and walls, floor drains, sumps, joints, and tiny cracks or pores in hollow-block walls. Radon gas can also enter water in private wells and be released into a home when the water is used.



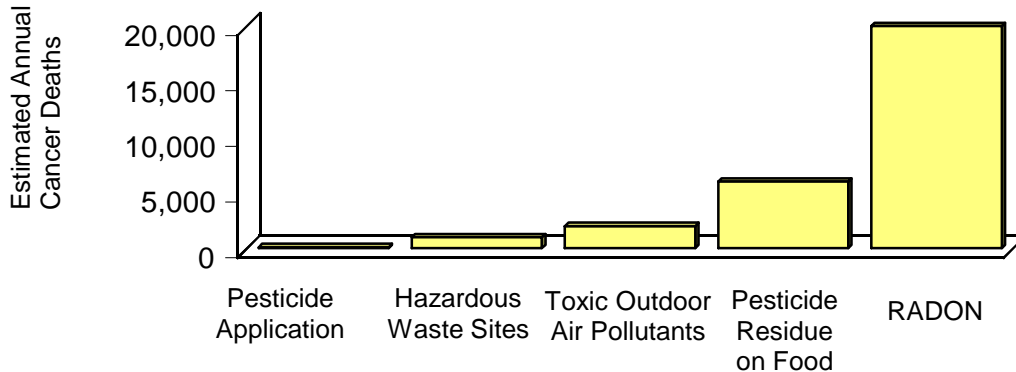
As this graph shows, more and more local homeowners are testing their homes for radon since this environmental hazard became a source of public concern in the 1980's. The test results from government agencies, university researchers, and commercial testing companies have been compiled by the Ohio Radon Information System at the University of Toledo. Their results show average radon levels in each Ohio zip code.

Radon Levels in Mahoning County Zip Codes

Zip Code	Post Office	Number	Geometric average	Maximum level
44401	Berlin Center	16	2.3	7.8
44405	Campbell	25	1.6	16.9
44406	Canfield	198	2.1	16.3
44408	Columbiana	56	3.2	234.2
44416	Ellsworth	2	1.7	1.9
44422	Greenford	2	0.8	1.7
44425	Hubbard	85	1.8	40.1
44429	Lake Milton	7	1.9	4.9
44436	Lowellville	14	2.6	15.8
44440	Mineral Ridge	17	2.1	22.6
	New			
44442	Middletown	16	2.4	8.2
44443	New Springfield	19	10.2	207.0
44449	North Benton	7	1.4	4.8
44451	North Jackson	36	1.6	5.4
44452	North Lima	19	2.7	7.3
44454	Petersburg	10	3.8	26.8
44460	Salem	104	2.5	76.7
44472	Struthers	1	4.5	5.3
44501	Youngstown	11	1.9	4.9
44502	Youngstown	21	1.1	9.9
44503	Youngstown	24	7.0	50.0
44504	Youngstown	14	1.1	2.0
44505	Youngstown	77	1.8	7.4
44506	Youngstown	4	3.8	8.4
44507	Youngstown	13	0.9	3.6
44508	Youngstown	2	1.8	1.8
44509	Youngstown	36	1.4	9.4
44510	Youngstown	6	1.6	3.8
44511	Youngstown	99	1.4	12.2
44512	Boardman	257	1.8	10.5
44514	Poland	169	1.6	12.1
44515	Austintown	144	1.9	11.7
44601	Alliance	112	1.5	16.3
44609	Beloit	13	1.0	3.7
44619	Damascus	2	6.6	10.1
44672	Sebring	6	0.7	1.8

The 932 results from Mahoning County zip codes show that radon levels in Mahoning County are lower than in most Ohio counties (Mahoning ranks 77th of 88 counties), although radon levels tend to increase in the southeastern areas bordering Columbiana County. However, indoor radon levels can vary from one home to another in the same area, so testing your home is important.

Environmental Risk Comparisons



Homeowners can buy short and long-term (more than 90 days) detectors that measure indoor radon concentrations with different levels of accuracy. Homeowners can also have radon testing done by professional testers licensed by the Ohio Department of Health.

The risk of cancer from radon exposure compares to:			
Radon Level	for smokers	for non smokers	What to do
20 pCi/L	100 times the risk of drowning	the risk of being killed in a violent crime	Fix your home
10 pCi/L	100 times the risk of dying in a house fire		Fix your home
8 pCi/L		10 times the risk of dying in a plane crash	Fix your home
4 pCi/L	100 times the risk of dying in a plane crash	the risk of drowning	Fix your home
2 pCi/L	2 times the risk of dying in a car crash	the risk of dying in a house fire	Consider fixing between 2 and 4 pCi/L
1.3 pCi/L	average indoor radon level	average indoor radon level	Reducing radon levels below 2 pCi/L is difficult
0.4 pCi/L	average outdoor radon level	average outdoor radon level	Reducing radon levels below 2 pCi/L is difficult

The EPA recommends that you take action to reduce your home's indoor radon levels if your radon test results are 4 pCi/L or higher. A variety of methods can be used to reduce radon in your home. Most homes can be fixed for about the same cost as other home repairs, like painting or having a new hot water heater installed. More information about testing and reducing radon levels in your home is available from these sources:

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| Ohio Department of Health | 800-523-4439 |
| National Hispanic Indoor Air Quality Hotline | 866-528-3187 |
| National Radon Hotline | 800-767-7236 |
| National Radon Helpline | 800-557-2366 |
| National Radon Fix-It Line | 800-644-6999 |
| Ohio Radon Information System | http://radon.utoledo.edu |
| U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | http://www.nsc.org/ehc/radon.htm |