

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (NCCCP) brings together partners to create defined and strategic plans that guide the prevention or lessen the impact of cancer in communities across the country.

NCCCP awardees are partners with numerous relevant community experts and decision makers that can help promote the use of appropriate activities and strategies to reduce radon exposure, including:



Performing radon testing in residences and buildings



Removing radon from residences where necessary



Educating the public and decision-makers about radon testing and radon-resistant construction designs



Promoting professional licensing



Requiring radon notification during real estate transactions



To achieve the goal of reducing radon-induced lung cancer, NCCCP awardees, in particular the Kentucky Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (KCCCP) and coalition partners, are working in collaboration with CDC on the following objectives outlined in the [National Radon Action Plan \(NRAP\)](#):

- Increase strategies to reduce exposure to radon in cancer action plans across NCCCP-funded cancer programs
- Develop a toolkit based on existing resources and identified needs

## Radon and Lung Cancer Quick Facts

**#1**  
cause

Lung cancer is the **leading cause** of U.S. cancer deaths.

**#2**  
risk factor

Radon is the second leading **risk factor** for lung cancer.

**21,000**  
cases each year

Radon exposure is responsible for **nearly 21,000 cases of lung cancer per year**, regardless of smoking status.

*CDC's National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (NCCCP) funds comprehensive cancer control planning in every state, the District of Columbia, 6 U.S. Associated Pacific Island Jurisdictions, Puerto Rico, and 8 tribes or tribal organizations.*



**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**  
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

## What CDC is Doing

The Environmental Protection Agency has [approximated the potential for radon exposure](#) among persons in all 50 states and the District of Columbia to help target their resources. In 2018, CDC's Radon Workgroup initiated a project to determine whether potential radon exposure was related to inclusion of radon strategies in NCCCP cancer plans.

CDC's Radon Workgroup Collaborative Geospatial Analysis Project	
<b>Workgroup Members</b>	CDC's <a href="#">Division of Cancer Prevention and Control</a> (DCPC), <a href="#">Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry</a> (ATSDR), and ATSDR's <a href="#">Geospatial Research Analysis and Services Program</a> (GRASP)
<b>Purpose</b>	To assess the relationship between inclusion of radon-related actions in NCCCP cancer plans to determine where, geographically, the greatest need for radon-related activity may exist.
<b>Findings</b>	Fifty-one percent of cancer plans recognized an association between radon and cancer risk; and included at least one measurable radon activity. Importantly, most states with the highest radon potential included radon activity in their cancer plan.
<b>Application</b>	Geologic variation and potential elevated radon levels inform cancer control efforts, allowing NCCCP awardees to more appropriately address the specific burden of radon exposure and lung cancer at the state, national, territorial, and tribal level. Equipped with such information, NCCCP awardees and their cancer coalition partners may be better able to direct resources and improve compliance with existing local radon-related policies when appropriate.

Public Health Action: Simply increasing knowledge about radon as a major risk factor for lung cancer, especially among non-smokers, may be beneficial. In areas with high potential for radon exposure, NCCCP awardees states could consider having multiple specific objectives and strategies to reduce exposure and prevent lung cancer, as resources allow.

## NCCCP Partnering for Success: Kentucky and Coalition Partners

The KCCCP and their coalition partner Cancer Survivors Against Radon (CanSAR) have demonstrated outstanding leadership inside and outside the state of Kentucky. They have established a number of initiatives to support the NRAP goal and objectives, and have shared their experiences with other NCCCP awardees.

Radon in Real Estate Transactions	Louisville Environmental Justice Project
Through partnership with the Kentucky Association of Realtors, KCCCP and CanSAR established a statute to increase notification and disclosure of radon during real estate transactions and include radon warning statements on seller disclosure forms. This approach has the potential to significantly increase residential testing and mitigation.	KCCCP and CanSAR brought together local (health departments, media, faith-based) and national (American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists) partners to increase awareness of radon-associated dangers and provide low cost testing and mitigation to lower income residents. This project will also assess whether a similar model could be broadened for a national approach.

During 2018, KCCCP worked with NCCCP staff to identify additional resources and opportunities for Kentucky's cancer action plan to reduce radon-induced lung cancer. It now includes initiatives in policy, systems and environmental changes, health equity, communication, worksite wellness, and healthcare.

To learn more about CDC's efforts to reduce radon potential and what you can do please visit [CDC's Radon website](#).