

RADON & CHILDREN



Learn why children are at greater risk than adults.

Why are children at greater risk?

Children have smaller lungs and they breathe faster than adults. Thus, children may get a higher dose of radiation from radon exposure. In addition, children have immature organs that may be more sensitive to radiation and more susceptible to cell mutations, potentially leading to long-term health consequences.

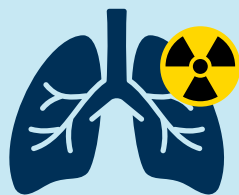


Children have a longer life expectancy than adults, allowing more time for radiation-induced effects. In other words, children exposed to radon have a greater likelihood of developing radon-induced health issues over their lifetimes. The longer a person is exposed to high levels of radon, the greater the risk of developing lung cancer later in life.

Radon-induced lung cancer is impacted by:

- age
- duration of exposure
- concentration of radon
- exposure to tobacco smoke

Now is the time to act! Children rely on adults to protect them. You can lower the risk of lung cancer developing in the children you care for as they grow into adulthood.



Where are children at risk?

Homes, daycares, and schools present the greatest risk of radon exposure for children as they spend a substantial portion of their day in these locations.

Radon may be present inside any building regardless of the geographic area.

All homes and buildings should be tested for radon and fixed when radon is greater than or equal to 4.0 pCi/L (picocuries per liter) of air.

HOME



DAYCARE



SCHOOL



How Can Health Care Providers Protect Children from Radon?

- Test your own home and tell others to test.
- Ask caregivers if the home has been tested for radon during the child's health history.
- Advise caregivers to test home for radon and fix if radon is at or above 4.0 pCi/L.
- Advise children to abstain from all tobacco use including vapes.

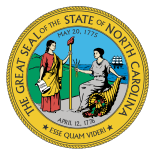
- Assess for second-hand smoke exposure in the home. If present, advise on creating a smoke- and radon-free home.



- Advise caregiver to contact a certified radon mitigation professional if high levels of home radon are found. <https://radon.ncdhhs.gov>
- Educate policymakers on the need for radon control policies which protect children.

References

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