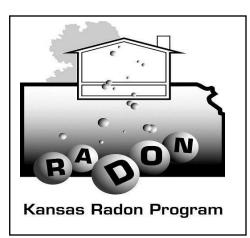
## Kansas Department of Health & Environment

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## **Kansas Radon Facts**

- U.S. Surgeon General Health Advisory (January 2005)
  - Indoor radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the United States and breathing it over prolonged periods can represent a significant health risk to families all over the country. It's important to know that this threat is completely preventable. Radon can be detected with a simple test and fixed through well-established venting techniques.
- Lung Cancer Incidence for Kansas
  - 1869 new lung cancer cases (approximate) each year in Kansas
    - Kansas Cancer Registry
  - o 200 new radon-induced lung cancer cases (approximate) each year in Kansas
    - American Lung Association (ALA)
- How Many Homes in Kansas Have High Radon Levels?
  - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that **1 in 4** homes in Kansas will test for radon concentrations above the EPA recommended reduction level of **4.0 pCi/L** 
    - Kansas has approximately **858,000** single family residences
    - Using EPA numbers it is estimated then that approximately 214,000 single family residences will test at or above 4.0 pCi/L

Actual Kansas radon data indicates that the rate of elevated radon levels is <u>higher</u> than 1 in 4.

## • How Many Radon Tests Have Been Conducted in Kansas?

- 112,791 total radon tests have been reported to date
  - Gross average indoor radon level for Kansas is 4.9 pCi/L
- 46,268 tests reported above 4.0 pCi/L (~ 41% or 2 out of every 5 homes tested)

• 2,708 tests reported above 20.0 pCi/L

- Very high radon levels which have been reported include:
- 743.6 pCi/L reported in Manhattan, February 2008
- 470.1 pCi/L reported in Ellsworth, February 2012
- 317.8 pCi/L reported in Manhattan, March 2014
- **309.0 pCi/L** reported in Olathe, May 2015

#### • Who Provides Testing and Fixing Services in Kansas? There are currently:

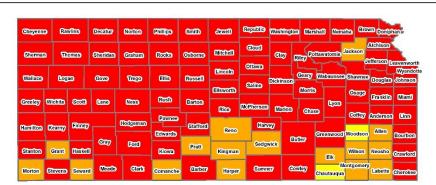
- 194 Kansas (KDHE) certified radon measurement technicians working in Kansas
- 67 Kansas (KDHE) certified radon mitigation technicians working in Kansas
- The list of Kansas certified radon professionals can be found at <u>http://www.kdheks.gov/radiation/download/Certified\_Contractor\_List.pdf</u>
- How Many Homes With High Radon Levels Have Been Mitigated Since 2005 in Kansas?
  - o 25,987 homes (estimated) had radon mitigation systems installed since 2005
  - 2,872 homes had mitigation systems installed between October 2015 and June 2016
  - Average starting radon value for homes mitigated: 9.4 pCi/L
  - Average ending radon value post mitigation: 1.4 pCi/L
- How Many Homes in Kansas Have Been Built "Radon Resistant" with Passive Radon Control Systems?
  - 5,423 homes (estimated) had passive radon control systems installed during construction since 2005

### • Are There Any State Level Requirements or Laws Regarding Radon in Kansas?

- As of July 1, 2009, all residential real property contracts must contain a specific paragraph recommending radon testing in real estate transactions and disclosure of radon test results. There are currently no legal requirements to test or to reduce elevated indoor radon levels
- As of July 1, 2011, all professionals offering radon services (measurement, mitigation or laboratory services) must be certified by KDHE, and follow KDHE-adopted standards of practice
  - If radon testing is being conducted in conjunction with a real estate contract, ONLY KDHE-certified measurement professionals can perform those tests

### • Are There Any Local Laws Regarding Radon in Kansas?

Manhattan (2001), Topeka (2006), Lawrence (2007), Salina (2013) and Junction City (2015) have passed building code ordinances requiring the use of radon-resistive techniques in new one and two family residential construction



#### 2016 Kansas Radon Average Values by County

Copyright 2016, KDHE and Kansas State University. Caution: This map has been produced from the results of a limited statewide indoor radon survey completed by KDHE in 1988, with the addition of indoor radon data collected since. As further data becomes available, revision will be necessary. This map is provided free of charge to the public and is generated for study purposes only. Permission is hereby given to reproduce this map provided it is reproduced in its entirety without modification. This map cannot be used to characterize or predict indoor radon levels at any specific area or location. Measurement must be performed to determine radon levels in any given residence or building. Contact the Kansas Radon Program at (800) 693-5343.

