



Maryland
Department of
the Environment

Radon

Maryland Department of the Environment
Air and Radiation Administration
Radiological Health Program

RADON OBJECTIVE

OBJECTIVE 13: By 2025, improve availability of and access to information and resources to reduce radon exposure in Maryland.

Strategies

1. Reduce radon exposure in Maryland through outreach, education about testing and remediation, and other strategies.
2. Increase public awareness about the relationship between indoor radon exposure and lung cancer.
3. Reduce radon exposure in new and existing construction by requiring radon risk reduction in building codes.
4. Increase capacity of health care providers and staff to ask about radon testing in the home and provide educational and testing resources.
5. Develop a partnership with targeted counties that are at high risk for radon.

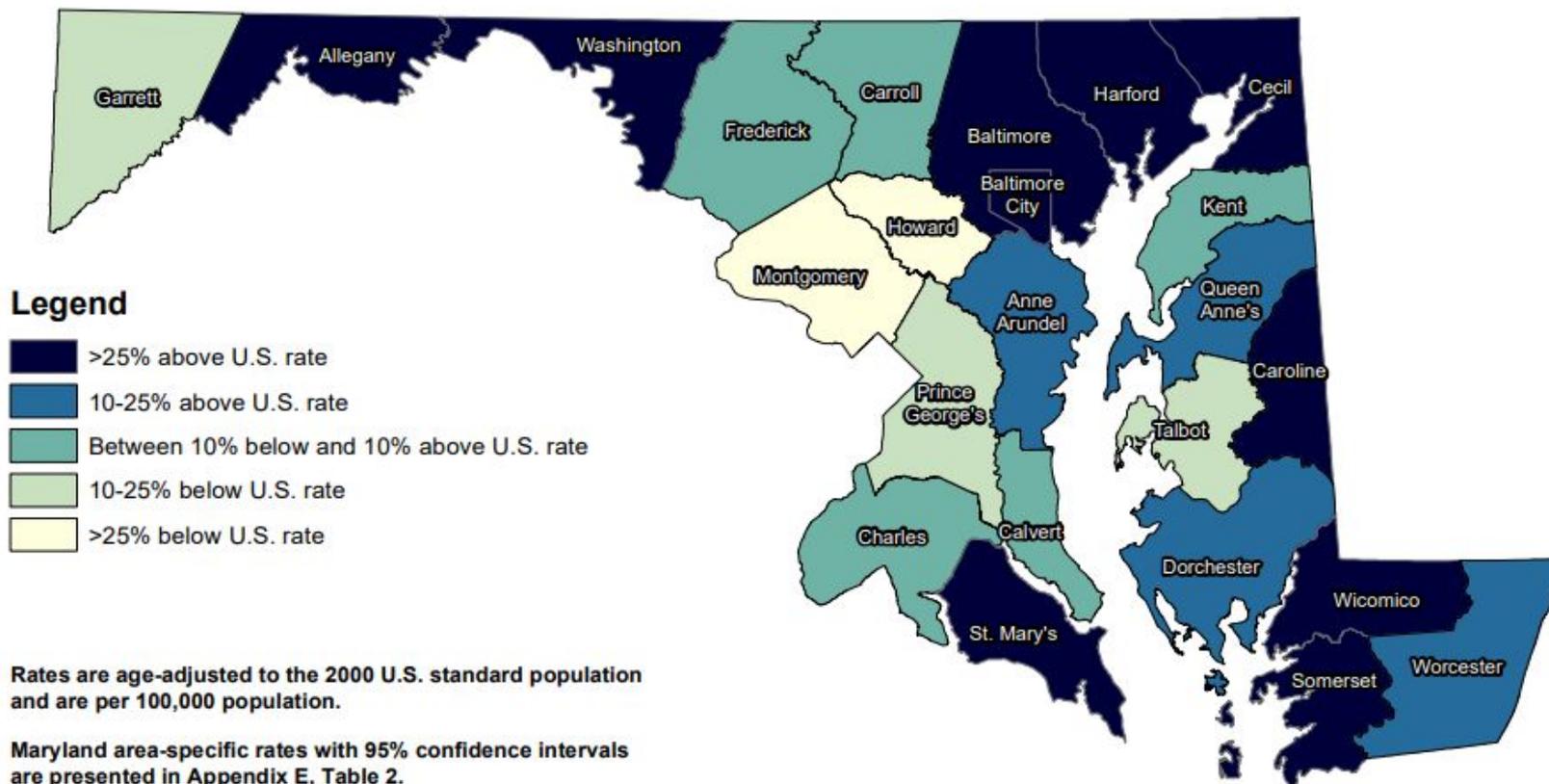
Source: [2021-2025 Maryland Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan](#), p. 63

Lung Cancer in Calvert County

Statistic	Calvert County	Maryland
Number of Cases, 2014 - 2018	278	19,154
Age-Adjusted Incidence Rate, 2018		
All	52.7	54.1
Males	56.7	59.9
Females	51.1	49.9

Source: [Maryland Department Health, Cancer Restitution Fund: 2021 Cancer Data](#)

Maryland Lung Cancer Incidence Rates by Geographical Area: Comparison to U.S. Rate, 2014-2018



Rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population and are per 100,000 population.

Maryland area-specific rates with 95% confidence intervals are presented in Appendix E, Table 2.

U.S. lung cancer incidence rate, 2014-2018: 51.4 / 100,000

Maryland lung cancer incidence rate, 2014-2018: 54.1 / 100,000

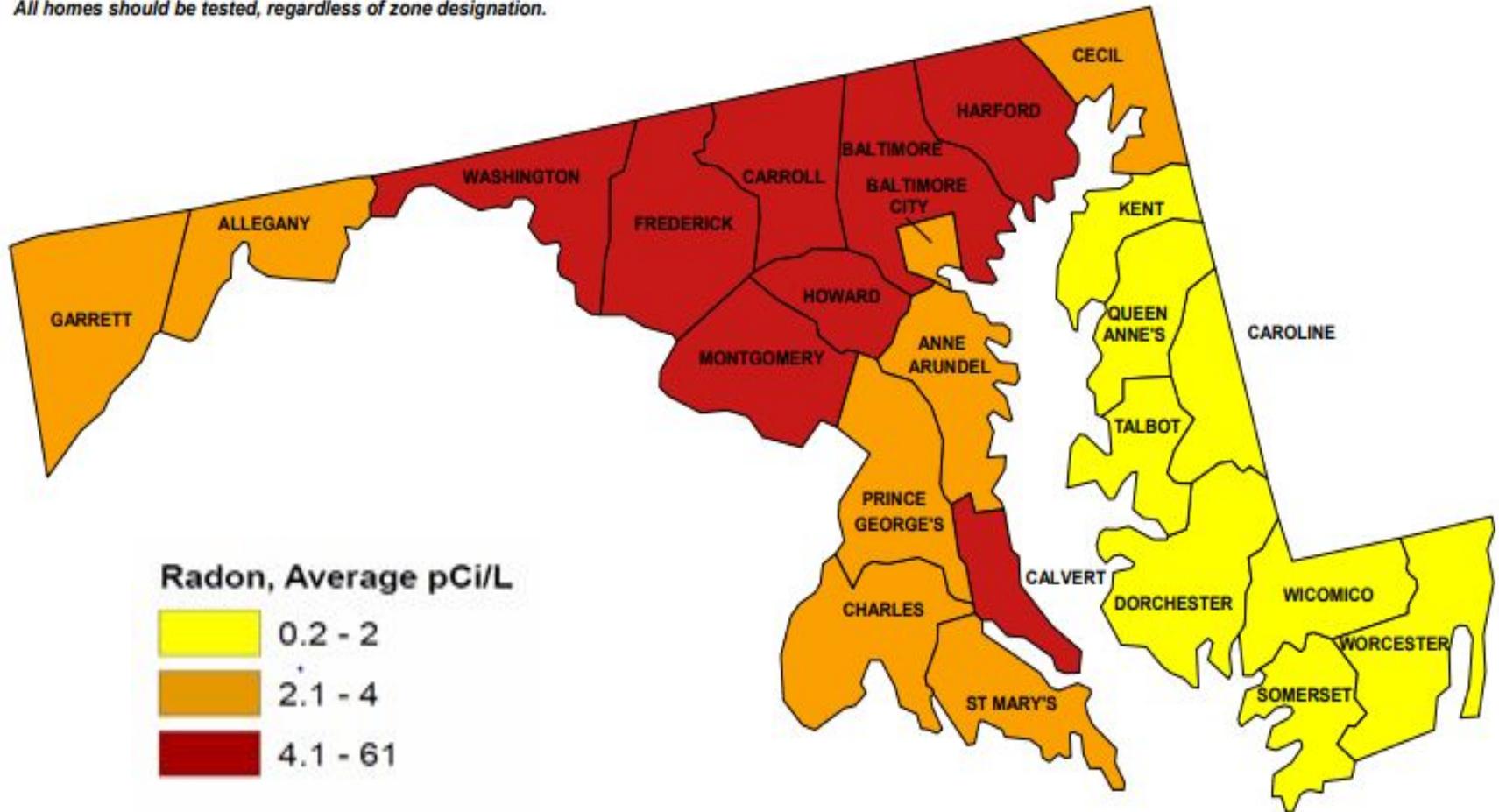
Sources: Maryland Cancer Registry
U.S. SEER, SEER*Stat Database

Source: [Maryland Department Health, Cancer Restitution Fund: 2021 Cancer Data](#), p. 37

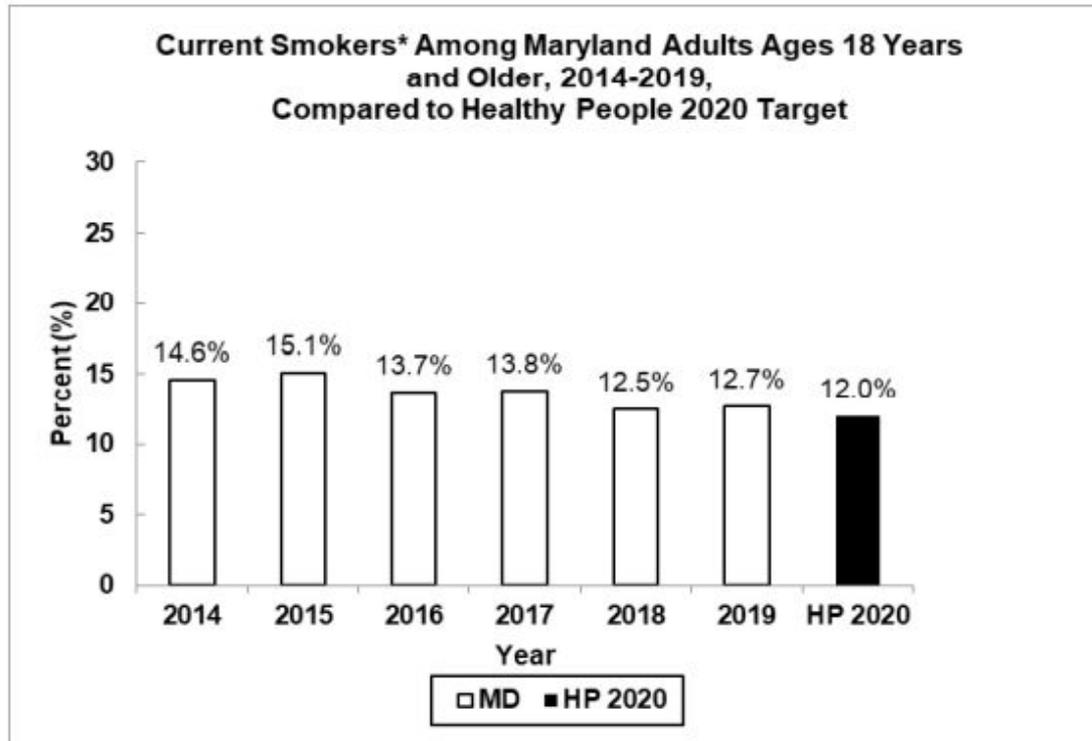


Radon Map of Maryland (2005-2016)

All homes should be tested, regardless of zone designation.



Adult Smoking



Smoking Prevalence Among Maryland Adults

One Healthy People 2020 target is to reduce the percentage of adults who are current smokers to 12.0%. Although Maryland has not yet attained this goal, the percentage of adult smokers has decreased from 14.6% in 2014 to 12.7% in 2019.

Source: Maryland BRFSS, 2014-2019
Healthy People 2020, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

*Current smoker is defined as a person who smokes cigarettes every day or some days

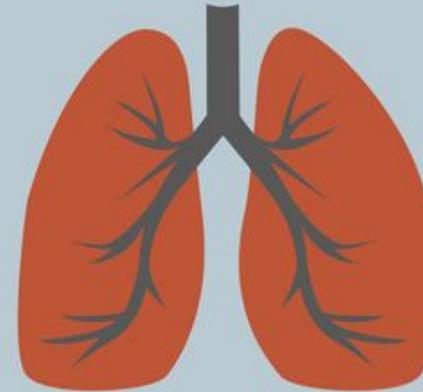
Source: [Maryland Department Health, Cancer Restitution Fund: 2021 Cancer Data](#)



Radon Background Information

- May be present in the home in high levels
- Enters the home through cracks in the basement/lower levels
- Can cause lung cancer
- Smoking cigarettes along with radon exposure puts an individual at higher risk of developing cancer

Radon is the leading preventable cause of lung cancer after smoking



Based on prior test results or new construction in your home, radon testing is recommended every five years.

Learn more: mde.maryland.gov/radon

#MDRadonAwareness #Test4Radon



Radon Awareness Month Activities

- MDE celebrates National Radon Awareness Month every January through the following actions:
 1. Governor Proclamation
 2. Billboards
 3. Facebook Trivia
 4. Radon T-Shirts
 5. Newspaper Ads
 6. Presentations and Webinars
 7. Partner with The American Lung Association
 8. Fact Sheets/Flyers/Brochures
 9. Work with State Health Departments
 10. Radon Booth at Library and Lowes
 11. Partner w/ Department of Housing & Community Development
 12. Discounted test kits!
- Most activities are ongoing, however more emphasis is applied during January!



Radon Awareness Month Billboard

RADON GAS may be in your home **RIGHT NOW!**

- 2nd leading cause of lung cancer
- Odorless
- Colorless

**TEST YOUR
HOME TODAY!**



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mde.maryland.gov/radon



Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



MDE Radon Homepage

Radiological Health

- > Dental Machine Guidelines
- > Informational Memos
- > Licensing Guidelines
- > Radioactive Materials Licensing Forms
- > Radon
- > Regulations for Control of Ionizing Radiation
- > X-ray Application Forms and Guidance
- > Radiological Health Home



State of Maryland
Proclamation for Radon Gas

Radon Exposure in Your Home....What's Your Radon Risk?

Radon exposure is a health hazard with a simple solution. Radon is an invisible, odorless radioactive gas in the earth that can enter into lower level rooms of your home, like a basement. The longer you and your family are exposed to radon, the greater risk you have of developing lung cancer. Testing for radon is easy, affordable and the best way to protect your family from exposure. Radon test kits are available at home improvement stores or online.

ORDER YOUR RADON TEST KIT HERE!!

Radon exposure is a health hazard -
Test your home today!

Maryland Department of the Environment
MARYLAND Department of Health

TEST YOUR HOME TODAY! (Video)



Radon Test Results

Less than 2 pCi/L

- No further action needed
- Consider another test if condition of home changes

Between 2 and 4 pCi/L

- No further action needed
- Retest every 5 years

4 pCi/L or higher

- Considered an elevated/dangerous level
- Do another test to confirm the results
- Consult a radon mitigation contractor if 2nd test shows similar results or higher

What's Your Number?



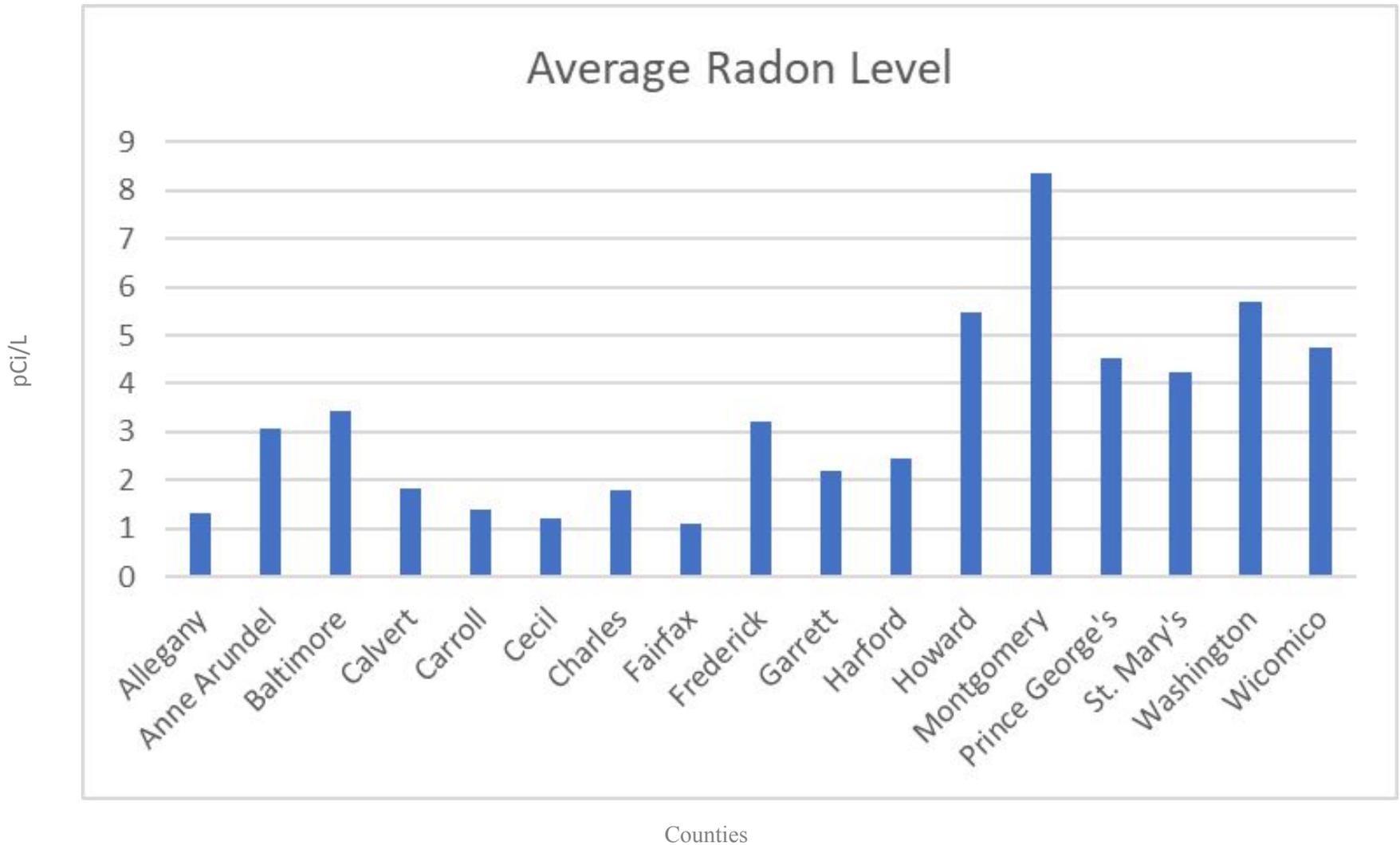
A radon test result of 4 pCi/L or more requires a certified radon mitigation contractor.

Learn more: mde.maryland.gov/radon

#MDRadonAwareness #Test4Radon



Radon Levels by County (May 2021 – December 2021)





Current Test Kit Numbers

- Initially free
 - 3,406 distributed
 - 1,196 analyzed
 - 35.11% return rate
- Starting in March 2021, a \$3 charge per kit (hoping for an increase in return rate)
 - 948 distributed
 - 454 analyzed
 - 47.89% return rate



Challenges

- Closures related to COVID-19 (schools, daycares, medical, state events, etc.)
- Adjustments in outreach (mostly virtual)
- County Health Departments
 - Increasing involvement & educating local health departments in promoting radon awareness
 - Response and willingness to post the kit link
- Realtors, Builders, Mitigators
 - Minimal response or willingness
 - First reaction/reply is positive then sometimes no reply



Moving Forward

- MDE's goal is to protect public health by providing radon awareness
- Continue contacting stakeholders to gain support/interest
- Present or provide flyers to any interested parties
- Resume in-person outreach and events
- Possible school and daycare outreach
- Continue collaboration with MDH & the medical community
- Maryland radon map



Thank you,

Be sure to test your home for Radon Today!

<https://drhomeair.fmbetterforms.com/#/maryland-discount>

Contact for questions:
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