



**pennsylvania**

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Bureau of Radiation Protection

# EPA Region III Radon Stakeholder Meeting

September 26, 2023

Maria Coons, PA DEP/BRP

Radon Division, Certification Section Chief

# DEP/BRP Radon Division

## Radon Testing

- January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019
  - 133,878 houses tested
  - 461 “other” buildings tested
  - 1,618 school buildings tested
- January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020
  - 123,992 houses tested
  - 371 “other” buildings tested
  - 2,156 school buildings tested
- January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022
  - 86,046 houses tested
  - 728 “other” buildings tested
  - 1,506 school buildings tested

Pre-COVID

COVID

2022



**pennsylvania**

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

# DEP/BRP Radon Division

## Radon Mitigation

- January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019
  - 13,462 houses mitigated
  - 292 “other” buildings mitigated
  - 0 school buildings mitigated
- January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020
  - 11,620 houses mitigated
  - 13 “other” buildings mitigated
  - 7 school buildings mitigated
- January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022
  - 7,406 houses mitigated
  - 47 “other” buildings mitigated
  - 4 school buildings mitigated

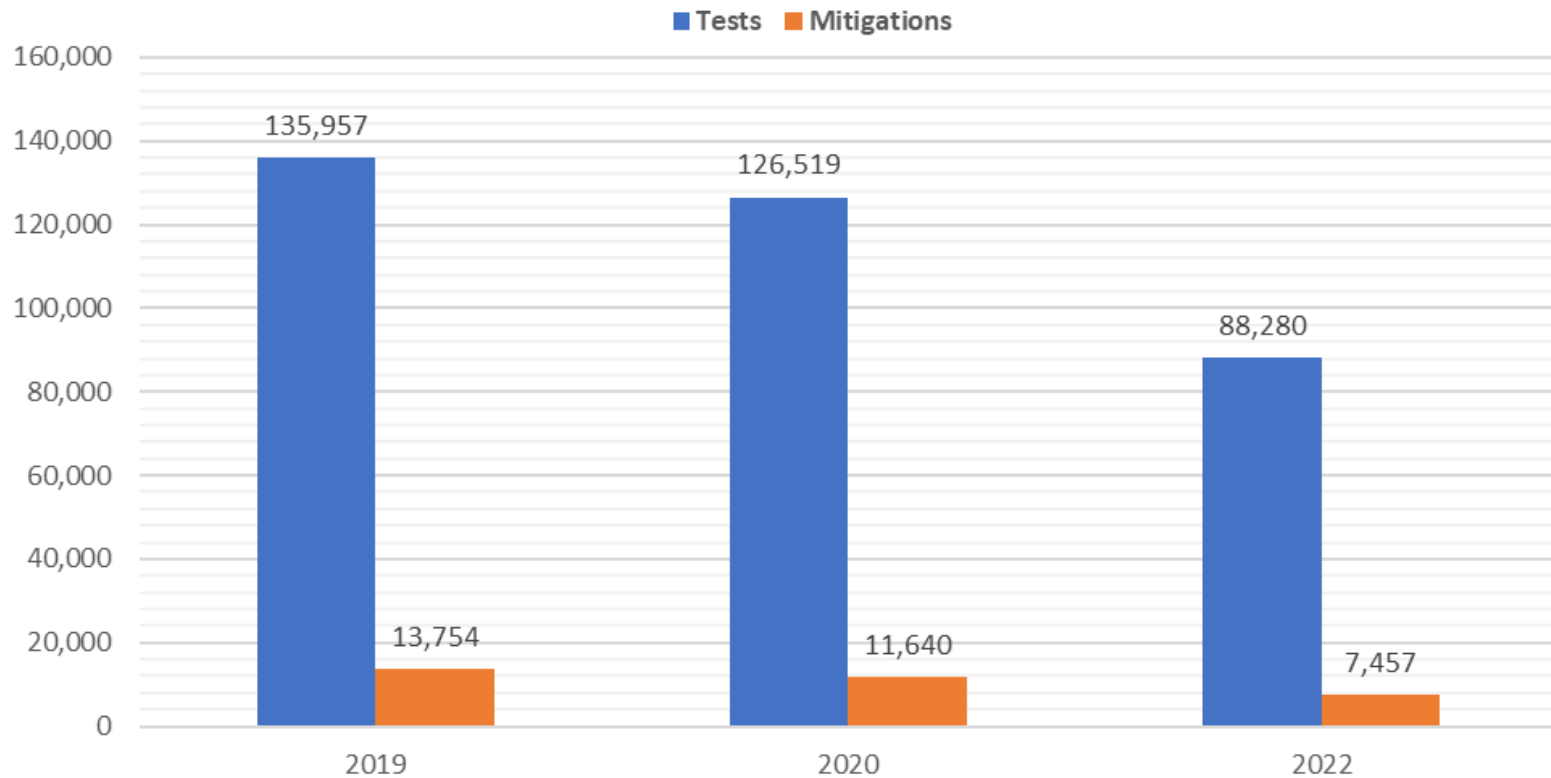
**Pre-COVID**

**COVID**

**2022**

# DEP/BRP Radon Division

## Total Tests & Mitigations (2019, 2020, & 2022)



**pennsylvania**

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

# DEP/BRP Radon Division

## Radon Certification Section

- 417 Certified Testing Individuals
- 98 Certified Mitigation Individuals
- 20 Certified Laboratory Individuals

# DEP/BRP Radon Division

## Radon Monitoring Section

- September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023
  - 131 inspections/desk audits
  - Courtesy inspections are performed on newly certified individuals and are aimed at correcting deficiencies before they become violations

# DEP/BRP Radon Division

## Radon Monitoring Section

- Test kits are distributed via the following programs:
  - Newborn Program continues to provide parents of newborns with a free test kit with 290 test kits mailed out since September 2022
  - Remedial Program continues to provide free alpha track detectors to homeowner with successfully installed active radon mitigation systems

# DEP/BRP Radon Division

## Daycare Program

- The Radon Monitoring Section has collaborated with organizations such as “Woman for a Healthy Environment”
  - Work with childcare centers in areas considered to be environmental justice areas
  - Letters mailed to facilities in these areas, encouraging radon testing
  - Attended webinars held by the Southeastern Pennsylvania Early Childhood Coalition (SEPECC)



# DEP/BRP Radon Division

## American Lung Association (ALA) Target Survey

- 6 municipalities in 6 Pennsylvania counties provided a total of 13,952 addresses
  - 1,925 radon test kits sent
  - Only 14% of the kits were returned; typically, 30-40% have been returned during past targeted surveys
- Contacted school districts in participating municipalities to offer training in radon testing- there was no interest

# DEP/BRP Radon Division

## 2023 National Radon Action Month (NRAM)

### Public Service Announcement (PSA)

- Theme: “Putting a Face to Radon” with Jackie Nixon
- 1.5 million times, video viewed to completion
- 48,442 clicks on DEP website, “Radon in the Home” page
- 16.9 million impressions (advertisements seen by audience)
- 884 times aired on television
- 13 digital billboards displayed
- PSA Spanish version third year in a row



2023 PSA had 65% more clicks than the 2022 Campaign



**pennsylvania**

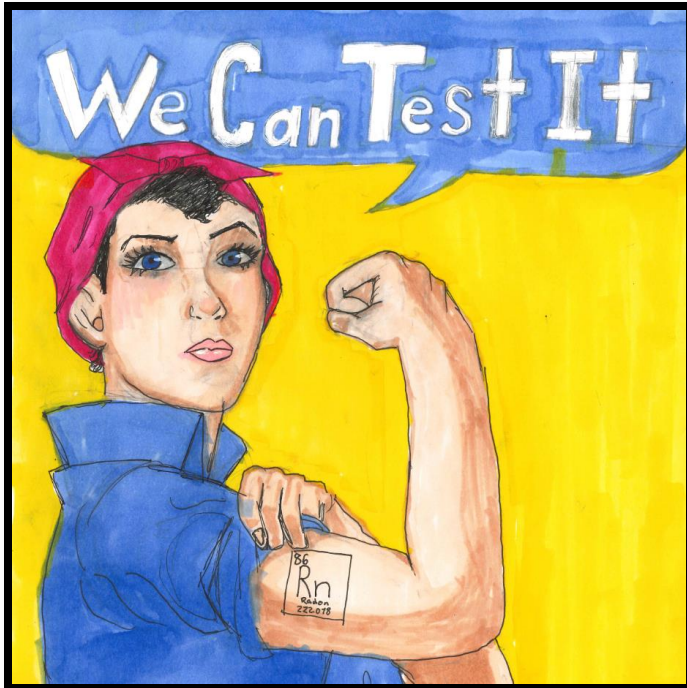
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

# DEP/BRP Radon Division

## 2023 Pennsylvania Radon Poster Contest

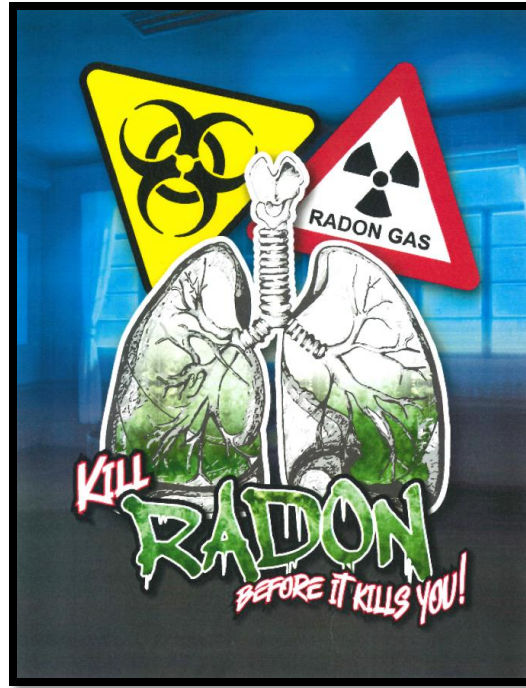
First Place Winner

Jazmin Gagney, 9th Grade  
Monroe County



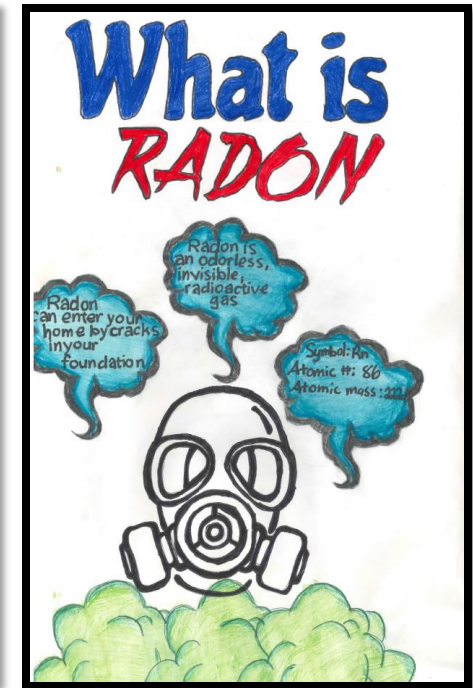
Second Place Winner

Joslynn Yurescko, 9th Grade  
Monroe County



Third Place Winner

Grace Owens, 7th Grade  
Wayne County



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

# DEP/BRP Radon Division

## 2023 NRAM Press Release



# DEP/BRP Radon Division

## Outreach Events

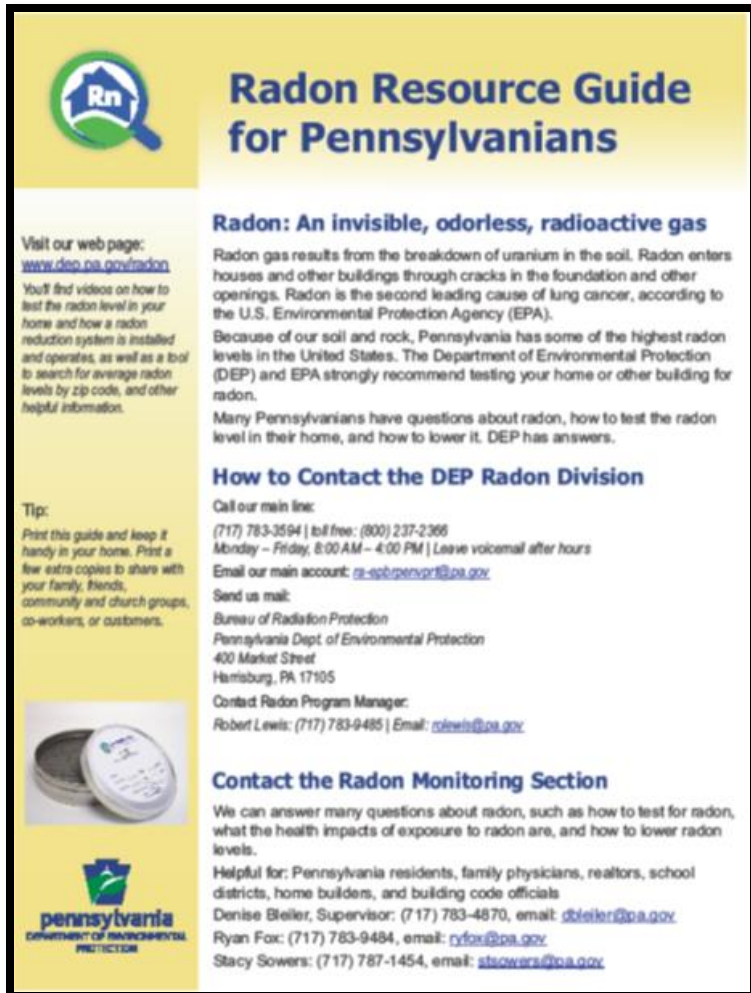
- Pennsylvania Home and Garden Design Expo
  - Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, in March
- 50 Plus Expos
  - Dauphin County in April
  - Lancaster County in May and September
  - Chester County in June
- Health Equity Event in Cumberland County




# DEP/BRP Radon Division

## Pennsylvania Realtors

- The Pennsylvania Association of Realtors (PAR) distributed the Radon Resource Guide to 40 local realtor associations throughout the state
- Participated in a PAR Meeting



 **Radon Resource Guide for Pennsylvanians**

Visit our web page:  
[www.dep.pa.gov/radon](http://www.dep.pa.gov/radon)

You'll find videos on how to test the radon level in your home and how a radon reduction system is installed and operates, as well as a tool to search for average radon levels by zip code, and other helpful information.

**Radon: An invisible, odorless, radioactive gas**

Radon gas results from the breakdown of uranium in the soil. Radon enters houses and other buildings through cracks in the foundation and other openings. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Because of our soil and rock, Pennsylvania has some of the highest radon levels in the United States. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and EPA strongly recommend testing your home or other building for radon.

Many Pennsylvanians have questions about radon, how to test the radon level in their home, and how to lower it. DEP has answers.

**How to Contact the DEP Radon Division**

Call our main line:  
(717) 783-3594 | toll free: (800) 237-2369  
Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM | Leave voicemail after hours

Email our main account: [ra-spb@pennvrtr@pa.gov](mailto:ra-spb@pennvrtr@pa.gov)

Send us mail:  
Bureau of Radiation Protection  
Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection  
400 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17105



Contact Radon Program Manager:  
Robert Lewis: (717) 783-9485 | Email: [rlewis@pa.gov](mailto:rlewis@pa.gov)

**Contact the Radon Monitoring Section**

We can answer many questions about radon, such as how to test for radon, what the health impacts of exposure to radon are, and how to lower radon levels.

Helpful for: Pennsylvania residents, family physicians, realtors, school districts, home builders, and building code officials

Denise Bleiler, Supervisor: (717) 783-4670, email: [dbleiler@pa.gov](mailto:dbleiler@pa.gov)  
Ryan Fox: (717) 783-9484, email: [ryfox@pa.gov](mailto:ryfox@pa.gov)  
Stacy Sowers: (717) 787-1454, email: [ssowers@pa.gov](mailto:ssowers@pa.gov)



# DEP/BRP Radon Division

## Department of Health

- Pennsylvania Cancer Control, Prevention and Research Advisory Board meets quarterly
- Pennsylvania Cancer Coalition (PCC)
  - New Cancer Control Plan (2023-2033) for Pennsylvania approved this month
  - Lung Health Workgroup meets monthly
  - Integrating Radon and Tobacco Cessation
- Radon Literature Distributed to Several Tobacco Cessation Programs

# DEP/BRP Radon Division

## Premier Youth Ambassadors (PYA)

- Empowers youth to accelerate their learning and development in community radon awareness
- PYA is founded and organized by Jackie Nixon



# DEP/BRP Radon Division

## Premier Youth Ambassadors (PYA)



PYA group photo with Representative Mike Schlossberg presenting recognition to Brian Yang for his radon and geology project

# DEP/BRP Radon Division

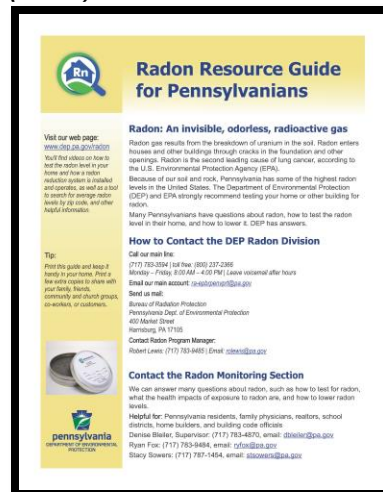
## Consumer Radon Device Evaluation



# DEP/BRP Radon Division

## Radon Division Contact Information

- **Radon Program Manager**
  - Robert Lewis: (717) 783-9485, Email: [rolewis@pa.gov](mailto:rolewis@pa.gov)
- **Radon Monitoring Section**
  - Denise Bleiler, Supervisor: (717) 783-4870, Email: [dbleiler@pa.gov](mailto:dbleiler@pa.gov)
  - Ryan Fox: (717) 783-9484, Email: [ryfox@pa.gov](mailto:ryfox@pa.gov)
  - Stacy Sowers: (717) 787-1454, Email: [stsowers@pa.gov](mailto:stsowers@pa.gov)
- **Radon Certification Section**
  - Maria Coons, Supervisor: (717) 425-5365, Email: [macoons@pa.gov](mailto:macoons@pa.gov)
  - Jamie Ruminski: (717) 787-4936, Email: [jruminski@pa.gov](mailto:jruminski@pa.gov)
  - Elaine Crane: (717) 787-4937, Email: [ecrane@pa.gov](mailto:ecrane@pa.gov)



**Radon Resource Guide for Pennsylvanians**

**Radon: An invisible, odorless, radioactive gas**

Radon gas results from the breakdown of uranium in the soil. Radon enters houses and other buildings through cracks in the foundation and other openings. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Because of our soil and rock, Pennsylvania has some of the highest radon levels in the United States. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and EPA strongly recommend testing your home or other building for radon.

Many Pennsylvanians have questions about radon, how to test the radon level in their home, and how to lower it. DEP has answers.

**How to Contact the DEP Radon Division**

Call our main line:  
(717) 783-3594 (or toll free (800) 227-2266)  
Hours: MON-FRI 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM. Leave a message after hours.  
Email our main account: [radon@pa.gov](mailto:radon@pa.gov)

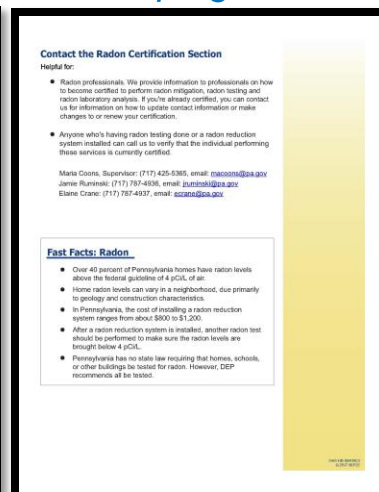
Send us mail:  
Bureau of Radiation Protection  
Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection  
400 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17103  
Contact Radon Program Manager:  
Robert Lewis (717) 783-9485, Email: [rolewis@pa.gov](mailto:rolewis@pa.gov)

**Contact the Radon Monitoring Section**

We can answer many questions about radon, such as how to test for radon, what the health impacts of exposure to radon are, and how to lower radon levels.

Helpful for: Pennsylvania residents, family physicians, realtors, school districts, home builders, and building code officials.

Denise Bleiler, Supervisor: (717) 783-4870, email: [dbleiler@pa.gov](mailto:dbleiler@pa.gov)  
Ryan Fox: (717) 783-9484, email: [ryfox@pa.gov](mailto:ryfox@pa.gov)  
Stacy Sowers: (717) 787-1454, email: [stsowers@pa.gov](mailto:stsowers@pa.gov)



**Contact the Radon Certification Section**

Helpful for:

- Radon professionals. We provide information to professionals on how to become certified to perform radon mitigation, radon testing and radon laboratory analysis. If you're already certified, you can contact us for information on how to update contact information or make changes to or renew your certification.
- Anyone who's having radon testing done or a radon reduction system installed can call us to verify that the individual performing these services is currently certified.

Maria Coons, Supervisor: (717) 425-5365, email: [macoons@pa.gov](mailto:macoons@pa.gov)  
Jamie Ruminski: (717) 787-4936, email: [jruminski@pa.gov](mailto:jruminski@pa.gov)  
Elaine Crane: (717) 787-4937, email: [ecrane@pa.gov](mailto:ecrane@pa.gov)

**Fast Facts: Radon**

- Over 40 percent of Pennsylvania homes have radon levels above the federal guideline of 4 pCi/L of air.
- Home radon levels can vary in a neighborhood, due primarily to geology and construction characteristics.
- In Pennsylvania, the cost of installing a radon reduction system ranges from about \$800 to \$1,200.
- After a radon reduction system is installed, another radon test should be performed to make sure the radon levels are brought below 4 pCi/L.
- Pennsylvania has no state law requiring that homes, schools, or other buildings be tested for radon. However, DEP recommends all be tested.



**pennsylvania**

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION