

Hi, I am Cameron Butler, secretary of the IEA NC Chapter and an employee of a company that measures radon in people's homes.

Today, I stand before you to address a silent but serious threat to public health: radon exposure. This colorless, odorless gas is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States, claiming more than 20,000 lives each year. It seeps into homes and buildings, often unnoticed until it's too late.

I am submitting data from an accredited measurement lab based here in North Carolina showing some of the extent of the known radon problem in our state.

To combat this invisible danger, I urge the State to consider requiring certification by a national EPA-recognized certification program for radon testing and mitigation to ensure that professionals in our state are equipped with the most up to date knowledge and skills needed to accurately assess radon levels and implement effective mitigation strategies. By standardizing training and certification, we can foster a culture of safety and accountability.

There are two national EPA-recognized certification groups, the NRPP (National Radon Proficiency Program) and the NRSB (National Radon Safety Board). There is no evidence that any other certification bodies are equivalent to these programs. For example, both the NRPP and NRSB require annual CE courses to maintain certification. This is but one example of what DHHS should require of any certification programs that it approves and posts on its website.

Once EPA announces new criteria for its certification program approvals, NC should defer to EPA and no longer replicate the federal role.

We cannot afford to leave public health to chance; the State of North Carolina must provide clear guidelines for who performs radon measurement and mitigation work and how it is performed.

Investing in national radon certifications is not just about compliance – it's about safeguarding lives. Together, let's take a proactive step towards a healthier future, ensuring that every citizen has a safe place to call home

Thank you

NORTH CAROLINA

The Radon Report Card: Risk and Response



Population and Lung Cancer **Total Population: 10,381,615**

+ Lung Cancer Deaths: **5,189**

i Age-Adjusted Lung Cancer Incidence Rate (per 100,000) **62**

Lung Cancer Cases **8,186**

Radon-Induced Lung Cancer Cases **685**

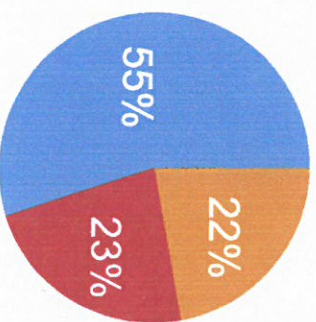
*** Medical Costs (hospital, medicine, doctors)** **\$138,000,000**

*** Economic Costs (lost wages / productivity)** **\$145,000,000**

Statewide Radon Policies

Credentialed Required	X	None
Radon Standards in Effect	X	None
Homebuyer Protection Required	✓	Disclosure Only
Radon System Requirement for New Homes	X	No
Type of New Home Where Required		N/A
Standard/Code for Radon System in New Homes		N/A
School Testing Required	X	No
Radon System Requirement for New Schools	X	No

Buildings and Exposure Potential
Pre-Mitigation Radon Tests: 73,139



Percent by Radon Level

- < 2 pCi/L
- ≥ 2 to < 4 pCi/L
- ≥ 4 pCi/L

Housing Units by Structure Type

	1 to 4 Units	5 or More Units	Total
Existing	4,018,809	605,200	4,624,009
New	52,262	19,045	71,307

Public Schools: 2,682

EPA and ANSI-AARST Radon Measurement Standards recommend fixing a building with a radon level ≥ (above or equal to) 4 pCi/L and consider fixing it if any radon level is ≥ 2 and < (below) 4 pCi/L.

Total Population: Lung Cancer Deaths, Age-Adjusted Lung Cancer Rate (per 100,000): Lung Cancer Deaths: CDC US Cancer Statistics (2019). Estimated Radon-Induced Lung Cancer Cases: Lung Cancer Cases weighted by scaled mean radon levels, CDC Environmental Public Health Tracking Network (2008-2017), National Cancer Institute, Cancer Trends Progress Report (2022) and Productivity Costs of Cancer Mortality in the US (2008), Statewide Radon Policies: IEA staff compilation, 2024, Pre-Mitigation Radon Tests from Labs: CDC Environmental Public Health Tracking Network (2008-2017), Existing Housing Units and New Housing Units: US Census (2019), Public Schools: National Center for Educational Statistics (2020-2021).

Carman Butler

North Carolina Radon Test Result Summary 1986-2024

County	TOTAL TESTS	AVG pCi/L	EPA RISK	0-1.9 pCi/L	2-3.9 pCi/L	4.0-7.9 pCi/L	8.0+ pCi/L
Unknown	290	2.0	UNKNOWN	223	36	20	11
Alamance	925	0.6	LOW	863	48	14	0
Alexander	512	7.3	MODERATE	233	148	75	56
Alleghany	762	5.2	HIGH	298	188	153	123
Anson	28	1.0	LOW	26	1	0	1
Ash	1254	3.4	MODERATE	635	270	230	119
Avery	1392	5.0	MODERATE	623	323	263	183
Beaufort	89	0.4	LOW	85	4	0	0
Bertie	17	1.2	LOW	15	0	2	0
Bladen	70	0.5	LOW	67	3	0	0
Brunswick	149	0.4	LOW	144	5	0	0
Buncombe	21760	3.2	HIGH	10553	5559	3863	1785
Burke	1638	3.3	MODERATE	697	499	336	106
Cabarrus	1637	1.5	LOW	1247	241	113	36
Caldwell	2316	3.3	MODERATE	945	792	442	137
Camden	8	1.3	LOW	6	1	1	0
Carteret	131	0.4	LOW	127	4	0	0
Caswell	100	2.6	MODERATE	51	28	18	3
Catawba	4570	2.4	MODERATE	2574	1172	675	149
Chatham	497	1.2	LOW	388	94	12	3
Cherokee	1448	4.5	HIGH	508	428	312	200
Chowan	14	0.3	LOW	14	0	0	0
Clay	529	4.0	MODERATE	223	115	120	71
Cleveland	916	4.6	MODERATE	354	224	195	143
Columbus	75	0.4	LOW	73	1	1	0
Craven	154	0.5	LOW	150	3	0	1
Cumberland	301	1.5	LOW	229	39	30	3
Currituck	15	0.6	LOW	14	1	0	0

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Dare	61	2.3	LOW	51	1	3	6
Davidson	1312	2.3	LOW	836	257	150	69
Davie	834	2.4	LOW	498	200	95	41
Duplin	26	0.8	LOW	25	0	0	1
Durham	2932	1.2	LOW	2434	355	100	43
Edgecombe	45	0.8	LOW	40	3	1	1
Forsyth	7824	3.2	MODERATE	4056	1903	1251	612
Franklin	307	1.9	MODERATE	212	57	23	15
Gaston	1706	2.5	MODERATE	1047	382	188	89
Gates	7	0.3	LOW	7	0	0	0
Graham	268	5.2	MODERATE	108	64	50	46
Granville	150	1.5	LOW	112	22	13	3
Greene	18	1.1	LOW	14	3	0	1
Guilford	11767	1.4	LOW	9317	1480	697	271
Halifax	179	3.1	LOW	99	32	30	18
Harnett	323	0.8	LOW	291	28	2	2
Haywood	4728	3.8	MODERATE	2351	1070	787	520
Henderson	15301	5.3	HIGH	5079	4104	3472	2646
Hertford	10	1.3	LOW	9	0	1	0
Hoke	37	0.8	LOW	33	4	0	0
Hyde	20	0.3	LOW	19	0	1	0
Iredell	1868	2.3	MODERATE	1101	439	264	64
Jackson	4470	2.9	MODERATE	2446	1061	677	286
Johnston	1065	1.2	LOW	851	152	49	13
Jones	6	1.0	LOW	6	0	0	0
Lee	211	1.0	LOW	181	23	6	1
Lenoir	50	0.5	LOW	49	0	0	1
Lincoln	1682	3.4	MODERATE	860	420	248	154

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Macon	4155	2.2	MODERATE	2660	877	446	172
Madison	743	2.4	MODERATE	483	142	70	48
Martin	28	6.9	LOW	21	3	3	1
McDowell	1697	4.7	MODERATE	625	433	390	249
Mecklenburg	7442	1.3	LOW	6001	956	382	103
Mitchell	1718	2.9	HIGH	1050	320	201	147
Montgomery	125	1.8	LOW	82	30	9	4
Moore	184	1.3	LOW	145	29	9	1
Nash	314	1.1	LOW	272	30	5	7
New Hanover	373	0.9	LOW	341	9	16	7
Northampton	109	5.7	LOW	41	28	20	20
Onslow	143	1.2	LOW	133	2	2	6
Orange	2281	1.7	LOW	1687	364	172	58
Pamlico	15	0.3	LOW	15	0	0	0
Pasquotank	29	0.7	LOW	29	0	0	0
Pender	40	0.4	LOW	38	2	0	0
Perquimans	11	0.2	LOW	11	0	0	0
Person	401	1.7	LOW	286	73	33	9
Pitt	383	0.8	LOW	331	49	3	0
Polk	2027	3.5	MODERATE	863	517	462	185
Randolph	517	1.3	LOW	404	82	20	11
Richmond	107	0.8	LOW	99	6	1	1
Robeson	172	0.4	LOW	165	6	1	0
Rockingham	1791	3.6	HIGH	786	493	333	179
Rowan	1290	2.1	LOW	854	250	126	60
Rutherford	1320	3.1	MODERATE	625	371	225	99
Sampson	63	0.3	LOW	62	1	0	0
Scotland	103	1.1	LOW	83	18	2	0

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Stanly	439	2.7	LOW	227	121	69	22
Stokes	693	2.5	MODERATE	398	164	93	38
Surry	1771	3.5	MODERATE	794	452	385	140
Swain	390	4.0	MODERATE	175	96	74	45
Transylvania	12990	6.4	HIGH	4115	3401	2954	2518
Tyrrell	6	0.0	LOW	6	0	0	0
Union	1391	1.4	LOW	1077	207	81	26
Vance	234	2.3	MODERATE	160	50	12	12
Wake	19432	1.6	MODERATE	14468	3196	1333	435
Warren	41	2.1	MODERATE	25	9	7	0
Washington	6	2.2	LOW	4	0	2	0
Watauga	3427	6.1	HIGH	1246	736	699	746
Wayne	235	0.8	LOW	211	18	6	0
Wilkes	730	3.9	MODERATE	276	201	169	84
Wilson	140	1.7	LOW	89	30	21	0
Yadkin	259	3.1	MODERATE	122	80	37	20
Yancey	953	3.5	MODERATE	525	180	145	103
Grand Totals	3.1			95607 56.4%	36319 21.4%	24001 14.2%	13589 8.0%

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