



## AN ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH TRACKING STORY

# PART OF THE PLAN: INCLUSION OF TRACKING DATA IN STATEWIDE CANCER CONTROL PLAN

### THE PROBLEM

Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers, but many people are unaware that radon is linked to lung cancer. The Wisconsin Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan (WI CCC Plan), which is Wisconsin's framework for action in cancer prevention and control, had not previously included decreasing exposure to radon among its priorities.

The Wisconsin Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (WI CCC) wanted to include radon prevention in its 2015-2020 Plan but lacked the baseline metrics needed for evaluation of the problem.

### WHAT TRACKING DID

The Wisconsin Environmental Public Health Tracking Program and the Wisconsin Radon Program, both housed within the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), worked together to determine baseline measures for several radon metrics. We established measures for the number of houses tested and reported to DHS annually, the number of home mitigations performed by certified contractors and reported to DHS annually, and the percent of adults whose household air has been tested for radon gas.

These three measurements and the landscape of radon prevention in Wisconsin were further outlined in a collaborative issue brief, [Lung Cancer Risk and Radon in Wisconsin: The Need for Increased Testing and Improved Reporting](#).

### THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT

Using the data detailed in the issue brief, WI CCC included, for the first time, decreasing exposure to radon as one of its 13 priorities. The addition of radon as a priority in the WI CCC Plan has implications for decreasing radon exposure for Wisconsinites. The WI CCC Plan is tied to numerous funding opportunities; however, projects are seldom funded without a clear link to the WI CCC Plan's priorities. With radon included as a priority, funding for specific projects to decrease radon is much more available. For example, agencies at the local level can now cite radon-related activities as a priority in the WI CCC Plan when applying for cancer prevention funding.



Increasing the awareness of the connection between radon and cancer risk is important in Wisconsin.

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