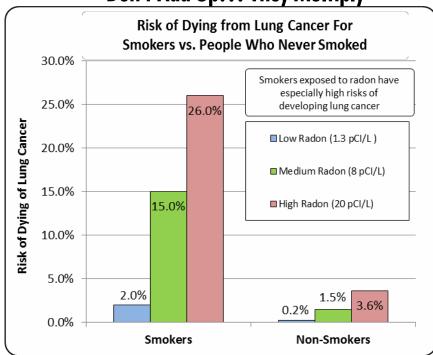
# **Radon and Smoking: A Risky Combination**



# Radon & Smoking: Lung Cancer Risks Don't Add Up... They Multiply



Based on Lifetime risk from EPA Assessment of Risks from Radon in Homes (EPA 402-R-03-003)

If you smoke and your home has high levels of radon, your risk of getting lung cancer is especially high.\*

The EPA estimates that 86% of radon-related lung cancer deaths occur among current or former smokers.\*

The risk of lung cancer to nonsmokers increases drastically as radon levels in the home increase.

\*Source: US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), A Citizen's Guide to Radon, 2009

### **Take Action**

Lung cancer due to smoking and radon *can* be prevented.

- Quitting smoking is the best way to reduce your risk of lung cancer.
- ✓ Test your home for radon.

# Lung Cancer: The #1 Cause of Cancer Death

Lung cancer kills more people in New Jersey than any other kind of cancer.

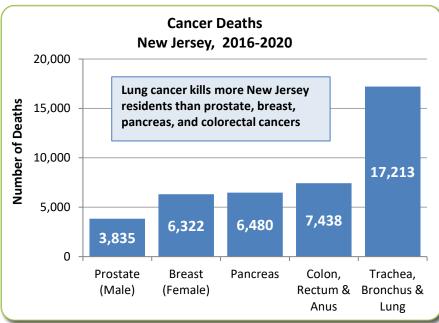
Nearly 90% of lung cancer cases are due to smoking. †

Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. †

Each year, there are an estimated 566 radon related deaths among New Jersey residents. †

Cancer is the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death after heart disease in New Jersey.

<sup>†</sup>Source: US EPA. *EPA Assessment of Risks From Radon in Homes*. 2003.



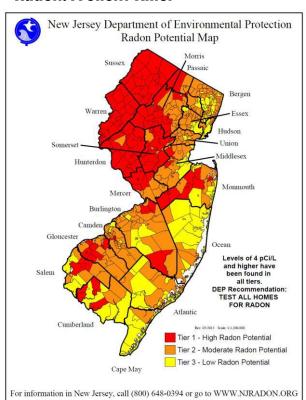
<sup>\*</sup>Source: US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), A Citizen's Guide to Radon, 2009.

# **Radon and Smoking: A Risky Combination**



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## Radon: A Silent Killer



One in 6 New Jersey homes has elevated levels of radon \*

\*exceeds the EPA action level of 4pCi/L of air.

- 72% of New Jersey homes have never been tested for radon.
- Testing your home is the only way to know your home's radon level is high.
- All homes should be tested for radon.
- Radon problems can be fixed by installing a radon mitigation system.

### What is radon?

Radon is a naturally occurring, cancer-causing radioactive gas with no color, odor or taste.



Radon moves from the soil and into your home through cracks and openings in the foundation.

# **Lung Cancer Risk by Radon Level and Smoking**

Radon Level (pCi/L)	Odds for non-smokers*	Odds for smokers*
	of developing lung	of developing lung
	cancer due to radon if	cancer due to radon if
	exposed to this level	exposed to this level
	over a lifetime	over a lifetime**
20	1 in 27	1 in 5
8	1 in 68	1 in 13
4	1 in 135	1 in 26
2	1 in 270	1 in 52
0.4***	1 in 1,350	1 in 260

<sup>\*</sup>Smokers are defined as individuals who have smoked at least 100 cigarettes in a lifetime; non-smokers have never smoked or smoked less than 100 cigarettes in a lifetime

Source: US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), A Citizen's Guide to Radon, 2009.

### Resources

### New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Information on radon in New Jersey can be found at: <a href="mailto:njradon.org/">njradon.org/</a>

A listing of radon testing and mitigation businesses in New Jersey can be found at: bit.ly/NJDEPCertRadonList

or call: 1-800-648-0394

New Jersey's Quitline offers free services to help you quit smoking. njquitline.org/

1 866-NJSTOPS (657-8677)

<sup>\*\*</sup>In addition to the risk of lung cancer from smoking itself.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>Average outdoor radon concentration.