

Healthy People 2010 Operational Definition

8-19. Increase the number of new homes constructed to be radon resistant.

National Data Source	National Association of Home Builders Research Center Survey, National Association of Home Builders (NAHB).
State Data Source	Not identified.
Healthy People 2000 Objective	Adapted from 11.12 (Environmental Health).
Changes since the 2000 Publication	None.
Measure	Number.
Baseline (Year)	1,400,000 (1997)
Target	2,100,000
Target-Setting Method	50 percent improvement. For a discussion of target-setting methods, see Part A, section 4.
Numerator	Number of new single-family detached housing units built using methods to prevent radon entry or to vent radon to the outside.
Denominator	Not applicable.
Population Targeted	Not applicable.
Questions Used To Obtain the National Baseline Data	Not identified—see Comments.
Expected Periodicity	Annual.
Comments	Radon-resistant home construction methods are characterized by (1) sealing the basement and other parts of the home that are underground to prevent radon from seeping into the house and (2) incorporation of systems that provide a path for radon generated in the soil beneath the foundation to vent to the outside of the home rather than entering the dwelling.

The NAHB Research Center (<http://www.nahbrc.org>) conducts an annual survey of home builders to gather information on a wide variety of home building practices. The survey collects information such as types of houses built, lot sizes, foundation designs, types of doors and windows used by builders, types of lumber used by builders, etc. The survey includes two questions regarding the inclusion of radon-resistant design features in new houses. Radon-resistant features are defined as (1) passive stack subslab/submembrane depressurization, (2) active subslab/submembrane depressurization, and (3) rough-in for subslab depressurization.

The survey sample is divided into the nine U.S. Census divisions. The survey results are weighted to the Census Bureau's data for housing starts in each Census Division. Survey results are presented by Census Division, State-market areas, and the three EPA radon zones. There are thirty-two State-market areas composed of groups of smaller States, larger States (for example, California and Texas) divided into two areas, and the remaining States.

Because survey results can be skewed by large production builders, responses from these builders are limited.

This objective differs from Healthy People 2000 objective 11.12, which called for States to adopt radon-resistant building standards.

See Appendix A for focus area contact information.