North Carolina Radon Research Presentations

July 31, 2025
11 a.m. to 12:30
Registration Required
https://forms.gle/7egEMKg5Js3rXoNp7

Six Master of Public Health candidates from the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill conducted their practicums with the NC DHHS Radon Program. They will present their findings on various radon-related issues in North Carolina. Below are brief summaries of their projects.

Andrew McCrae analyzed county-level radon testing trends in North Carolina from 2010 to 2025. He compared radon test data with the number of single-family and multi-family housing units, revealing disparities in testing frequency across counties. His recommendations emphasize the need for targeted public outreach and improved data infrastructure to better align testing efforts with housing risk.

Beth Allen designed and conducted a comprehensive survey of all North Carolina county environmental health programs to assess their interest, needs, and capacity for radon awareness efforts. She also conducted a literature review on best practices for stakeholder engagement and collaborated with the North Carolina Radon Program and other public health officials. The survey collected data on current initiatives, barriers, resource gaps, and preferred outreach and collaboration methods.

Courtney Bagans examined how radon is integrated into Community Health Assessments (CHAs) across North Carolina. Through a policy and stakeholder analysis, she assessed the extent to which CHAs currently address radon risk and identified counties where it is overlooked. She engaged with public health and environmental professionals to understand barriers and opportunities for improvement.

Olivia Schaffer focused on improving radon awareness in North Carolina's Latine communities through a literature review of effective public health education strategies. She evaluated community-based, culturally tailored approaches that promote environmental health behavior change, highlighting the importance of trusted messengers, language accessibility, and diverse media channels. Her final report offers evidence-based recommendations for public health agencies to enhance radon awareness and testing among Latine residents.

Devon Davis, MD, analyzed the North Carolina Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) to evaluate disparities in radon awareness among different racial and ethnic groups. She compared state data to national trends. Her work highlights the need for culturally tailored outreach and greater investment in radon education for underserved communities.

Julia Bass translated technical radon guidance into a single plain-language template covering well water, indoor air, pet safety, children's vulnerability, smoking interactions, and testing/mitigation. She designed targeted social-media concepts using county risk rankings to drive engagement in the highest-need areas. She built an interactive web tool that generates customized radon-risk summaries based on users' home type, ownership status, county, and testing history.