

# Knowledge Translation and CAREX Canada

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[www.carexcanada.ca](http://www.carexcanada.ca)



Related tables: [Life expectancy and deaths](#), [Births and deaths](#).

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## Leading causes of death, by sex (Both sexes)

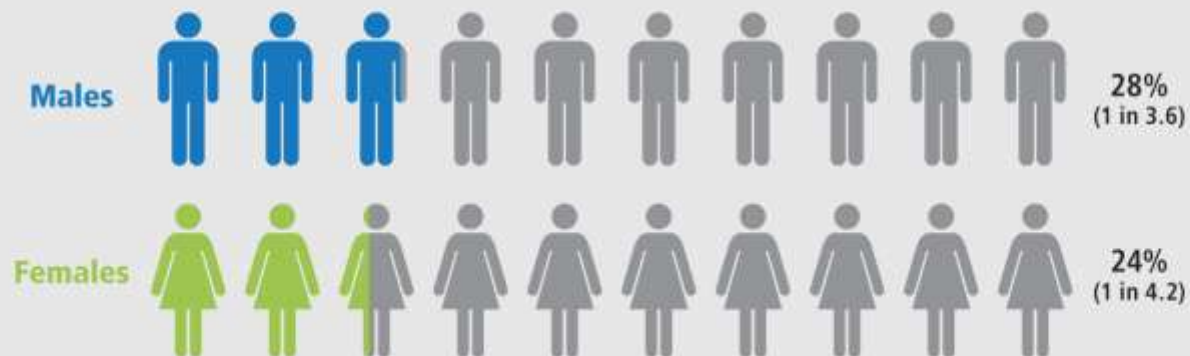
	2011		
	Both sexes		
	rank	number	%
<b>Total, all causes of death</b>	...	<b>242,074</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Malignant neoplasms (cancer)	1	72,476	29.9
Diseases of heart (heart disease)	2	47,627	19.7
Cerebrovascular diseases (stroke)	3	13,283	5.5
Chronic lower respiratory diseases	4	11,184	4.6
Accidents (unintentional injuries)	5	10,716	4.4
Diabetes mellitus (diabetes)	6	7,194	3.0
Alzheimer's disease	7	6,356	2.6
Influenza and pneumonia	8	5,767	2.4
Intentional self-harm (suicide)	9	3,728	1.5
Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis (kidney disease)	10	3,294	1.4

**Notes:** Causes of death are coded to the 10th revision of the World Health Organization's International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10).

**Sources:** Statistics Canada, CANSIM table [102-0561](#).

Last modified: 2014-01-28.

**FIGURE 3.1** Lifetime probability of dying from cancer, Canada, 2007



**Analysis by:** Chronic Disease Surveillance and Monitoring Division, CCDP, Public Health Agency of Canada

**Data source:** Canadian Vital Statistics Death database at Statistics Canada

Canadian Cancer Statistics 2013

# CAREX Canada – a brief overview

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CANADIAN PARTNERSHIP  
AGAINST CANCER



PARTENARIAT CANADIEN  
CONTRE LE CANCER

Originally funded as a pilot project by WorkSafe BC in 2003

Fully funded by CPAC in 2008 (renewed 2012)

# Project goal and questions

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**Our goal:** To help lower Canadians' exposures to known and suspected carcinogens in workplaces and communities.

The projects looks to identify:

- **What** carcinogens are Canadians exposed to, both at work and in the community?
- **Where** in Canada do these exposures occur?
- **How many** people are exposed?
- **How much** are people exposed to?



# Workplace cancer burden

Author and Location		Attributable Fraction (%) By Cancer Site and Gender					
		Lung	Leukemia	Bladder	Skin (NMSC)	Nasal	Total
Nurminen et al (2001) Finland	Male	29	18.5	14.2	13.1	24	13.8
	Female	5.3	2.5	0.7	3.8	6.7	2.2
Steenland et al (2003) United States	Male	8-19.2	0.8-2.8	5.6-19	1.2-6	31-43	3.3-7.3
	Female	2	0.8-2.8	5.6-19	-	-	0.8-1.0
Rushton et al (2010) United Kingdom	Male	21.1	0.9	7.1	7.1	46.0	8.2
	Female	5.3	0.5	1.9	1.1	20.1	2.3
Alberta Health Services, AHS (2010), Alberta	Male	6-33	1.8-18.5	1.2-27	1.2-13.1	24-64.3	3.3-13.8
	Female	1-5.5	0.5-3	0.4-19	3-3.8	2-18.4	0.1-2.2

Courtesy of the Occupational Cancer Research Centre (OCRC)

# Financial burden of occupational disease

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Direct medical cost associated with these - estimated \$15.6 million

- Excludes loss of productivity and allied costs

The Ontario Cancer Research Centre (OCRC) has applied the Alberta predictions to Ontario and results suggest:

- 500-2300 Ontarians will die of workplace cancer each year

# Environmental cancer burden

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## Lung Cancer mortality

- 16% attributed to Radon (Health Canada 2012)
- 7.4% attributed to **Air Pollution-PM<sub>2.5</sub>** (Almaskut 2012)



## Other cancer sites and exposures less clear

- Drinking water exposures (**arsenic, disinfection by-products**) (Boyd 2007)
  - Potential sites include skin, kidney, bladder
  - Exposures vary: well water versus municipal systems

# How does CAREX Canada select carcinogens?

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- Based on evaluations made by:

International Agency for Research on Cancer



- We focus on 72 substances, ranked by IARC
- Substances were selected based on:
  - Potential for O & E exposure in Cdn setting
  - Feasibility of assessing exposure

# How does CAREX Canada carry out its work?

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## Where does CAREX get its data?

- We use existing data, mostly provincial and federal Canadian government data, and published data
- Transparency a key aspect of mandate

## How is CAREX knowledge and dissemination reviewed?

- Scientific Advisory Committees
- Peer-reviewed publications
- Knowledge Translation Advisory Committee

# What tools and resources has CAREX created?

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- Substance profiles
- Occupational exposure estimates, approach, methods
- Environmental exposure estimates, approach, methods
- Media scan of exposures (Carcinogens in the News)
- Interactive tools to explore and use CAREX data:



## Potential uses

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- Identify groups at risk of high exposure
- Help to set priorities for prevention
- Inform exposure reduction policies
- Assess impact of changing regulations on exposures
- Identify data gaps and research priorities
- Predict future cases of disease
- Enable interprovincial (or international) comparisons

# CAREX Canada – Knowledge Translation

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## CAREX Staff:

Anne-Marie Nicol

Alison Palmer

Joanne Telfer



- End-of-grant KT (guided by CIHR)
- Objectives:
  - Enhance access to and awareness of O&E exposure estimates
  - Build capacity to apply these estimates to guide and evaluate decisions about cancer prevention research, programs, and policies

COMPONENT	IDENTIFYING NEEDS		DATA MAINTENANCE		KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER + EXCHANGE		MONITORING + EVALUATION	
	Develop and refine resources and tools based on target audience needs and cancer prevention priorities		Maintain estimates of exposure to known and suspected carcinogens in workplaces and communities		Mobilize CAREX resources and tools to support evidence-informed decision-making via creation of actionable knowledge and capacity building		Track and evaluate impact of CAREX through a continuous improvement cycle	
	↓		↓		↓		↓	
ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Identify knowledge gaps</li><li>Identify specific resource and tool needs and gaps</li><li>Collaborate with experts</li><li>Engage stakeholders</li><li>Develop partnerships</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Data retrieval, integration and quality assurance</li><li>Compliance with international evaluations/classification</li><li>Literature reviews</li><li>Consult with experts</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Knowledge product development</li><li>Dissemination of knowledge products</li><li>Capacity building activities</li><li>Provide expert advice to stakeholders</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Develop evaluation plan and framework</li><li>Develop data collection tools</li><li>Collect and analyze data</li><li>Report on impact and progress</li></ul>	
	↓		↓		↓		↓	
OUTPUTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Consultation meetings</li><li>Needs assessments</li><li>Stakeholder maps, KTE plans</li><li>Working groups</li><li>MOUs, joint grant applications</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Databases maintained</li><li>Online tools maintained</li><li>Timely responses to requests</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Online O+E exposure estimates, tools</li><li>eBulletins, Twitter</li><li>Peer-reviewed and non-peer-reviewed publications</li><li>Training modules, webinars</li><li>Tailored workshops, webinars</li><li>Scientific presentations</li><li>Responses to data and/or information inquiries</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Evaluation framework and plan</li><li>Data collection tools</li><li>Evaluation reports</li><li>Knowledge user case studies</li></ul>	
STOs	↑access to occupational + environmental carcinogen exposure estimates in Canada (CPAC: improved access to evidence-based prevention strategies)							
	↑knowledge among stakeholders of occupational + environmental carcinogen exposures							
	↑awareness of CAREX Canada initiative and knowledge products							
					↓			
MTOs	↑ skills to apply occupational + environmental carcinogen exposure estimates to work (capacity strengthened)							
	↑use of CAREX’s occupational + environmental exposure estimates to guide and evaluate decisions about cancer prevention research, programs and policies							
					↓			
LTOs	↑ programs, policies, and practices related to occupational + environmental carcinogen exposures informed by CAREX Canada’s data and tools (includes agenda-setting)							
					↓			
IMPACT	Enhanced population-based cancer prevention							
	↓							
	Reduced incidence of cancer							

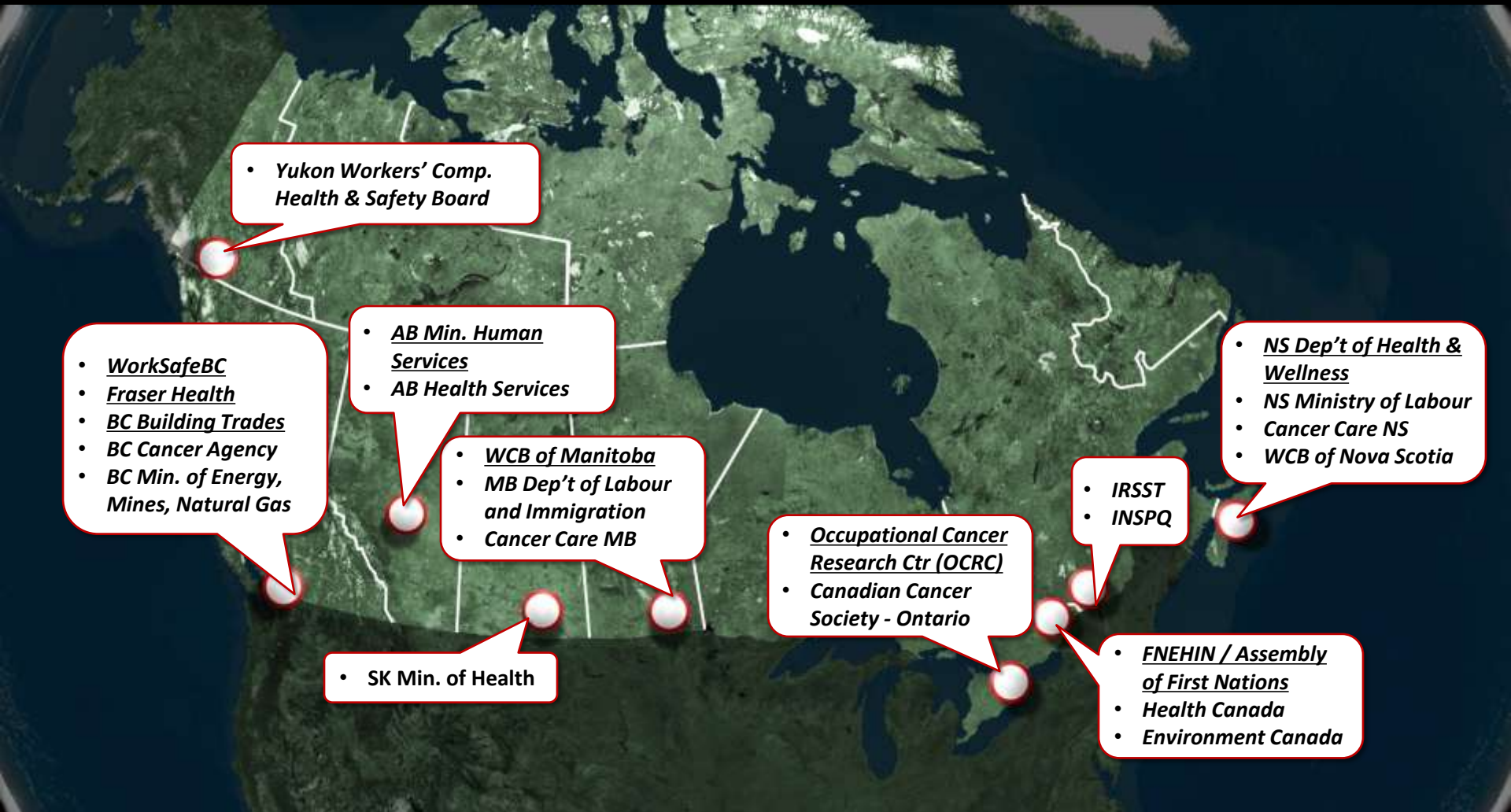
# Knowledge Translation and Exchange Strategy

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Applying a combination of approaches:

- **Diffusion:** keeping resources updated, credible, accessible
  - website, publications, videos, tools
- **Dissemination:** engaging users, building capacity
  - webinars, workshops, package summaries
- **Application:** collaboration, partnership
  - working groups (e.g. WorkSafeBC)
  - spinoff projects (e.g. OCRC burden grant, FNEHIN training)
  - user networks (future)

Performing annual needs assessments, rigorous evaluation



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**CAREX Canada** is a national surveillance project that estimates the number of Canadians exposed to substances associated with cancer in workplace and community environments. These estimates provide significant support for targeting exposure reduction strategies and cancer prevention programs.

#### OUR TOOLS:



#### LATEST UPDATES:

- ▶ View our January e-Bulletin, featuring exposures via outdoor air, our new exposure reduction resources page, and more
- ▶ Our team is part of an international partnership recently funded by the IDRC
- ▶ We've enhanced our resources with a new tool called eWORK Online - please test and share your feedback
- ▶ Our environmental exposures team has released a new report on data priorities



# New resource: Package summaries

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Intent: respond to user needs for specific information

Summarizes results, profiles, tools, methods, references

Prototypes developed and currently being tested:

- Occupation (O): welder
- Industry (O): wood product manufacturing, mining
- Cancer site (O): lung
- Exposure pathway (E): outdoor air, indoor air
- Province: Nova Scotia (O&E), BC (O), Quebec (E)

## British Columbia's Industry Overview

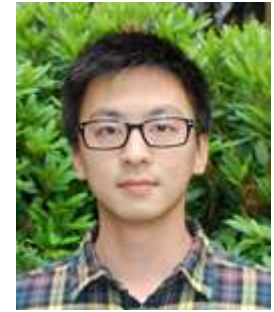
BC's primary resource industries, such as forestry, fishing, and agriculture, are no longer leading the province's economic growth and employment. According to the BC Government, in 2006 a majority of the workforce was employed in the retail trade, health care services, and manufacturing sectors. The industries in BC with the

# CAREX Canada – Occupational estimates

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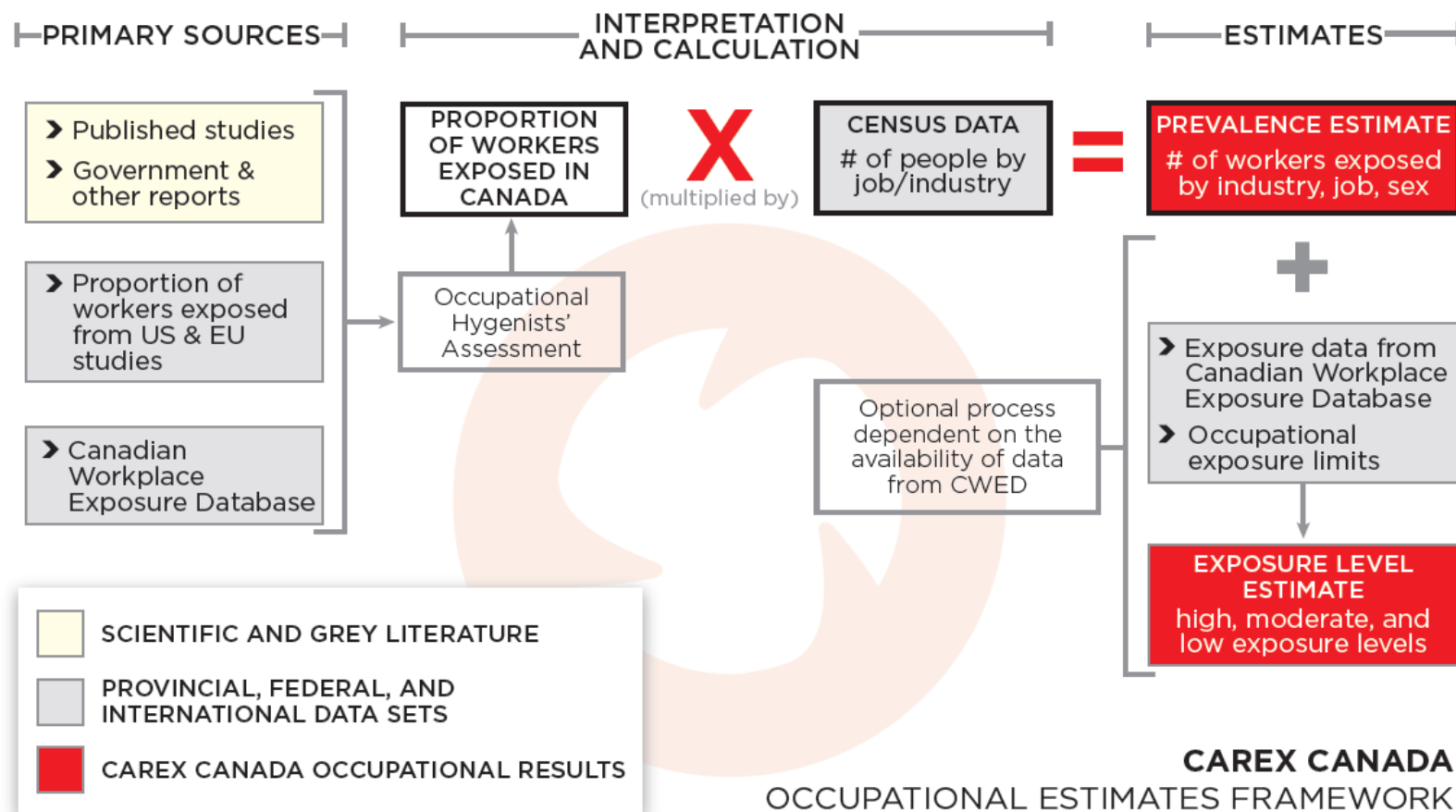


**CAREX Staff:**  
Cheryl Peters  
Calvin Ge



- How many people are potentially exposed at work?
- Where do they work (industry); what do they do (occupation)?
- Where do they live and work in Canada?
- What levels are they exposed to?

# Occupational approach – overview



# Who is at risk?

## # exposed and cancer sites (Canada)

Known or suspected carcinogen	# Exposed	Confirmed	Suspected
Shiftwork with potential circadian disruption	1,900,000		Breast, prostate
Solar radiation	1,500,000	Skin	
Diesel engine exhaust	804,000	Lung	
Silica (crystalline)	380,000	Lung	Others?
Benzene	375,000	Acute non-lymphatic leukemia	ALL, multiple myeloma, NHL
Wood dust	340,000	Sinonasal, nasopharynx	
Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)	307,000	Lung, skin, bladder	
Lead	277,000		Lung, stomach
Asbestos	152,000	Lung, mesothelioma, larynx, ovary	Pharynx, colon, rectum, stomach
UV radiation (artificial sources)	141,000	Skin, eye	

# Who is at risk?

## # exposed and cancer sites (Ontario)

Known or suspected carcinogen	# Exposed	Confirmed	Suspected
Shiftwork with potential circadian disruption	845,000		Breast, prostate
Solar radiation	449,000	Skin	
Diesel engine exhaust	263,000	Lung	
Benzene	147,000	Acute non-lymphatic leukemia	ALL, multiple myeloma, NHL
Silica (crystalline)	142,000	Lung	Others?
Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)	120,000	Lung, skin, bladder	
Lead	102,000		Lung, stomach
Wood dust	92,000	Sinonasal, nasopharynx	
Ethylbenzene	77,000		Lung, liver, kidney
Formaldehyde	63,000	Nasopharynx, leukemia	Sinonasal

# eWORK Excel

The screenshot displays the Microsoft Excel interface with the file name "CarexCube\_Canada.xlsx". The ribbon includes tabs for File, Home, Insert, Page Layout, Formulas, Data, Review, View, Developer, PowerPivot, Options, and Design. The PowerPivot tab is active, showing the PivotTable Tools contextual tabs: Options and Design. The main workspace shows a PivotTable with "Row Labels" and "Sum of TotPopExp". A data table is visible below the PivotTable, listing various industries and their corresponding population exposure values. The PowerPivot Field List pane on the right shows the available data fields and their current selection status.

Row Labels	Sum of TotPopExp
11-Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	1,930
21-Mining and oil and gas extraction	21,138
22-Utilities	4,005
23-Construction	235,932

**PowerPivot Field List:**

- ☐ Carcinogen
  - ☒ Carcinogen
- ☐ ExposureLevel
  - ☐ Exposure Level
- ☐ Industry
  - ☒ IndustryLevel1
  - ☐ IndustryLevel2
  - ☐ IndustryLevel3
  - ☐ TotalIndustry
- ☐ Occupation
- ☒ REQUIREDCanadaData

# eWORK Online



## eWORK Online

Use the selection boxes below to filter results by Industry, Occupation, Exposure Level and CAREX Agent. For more information on a certain agent, hover or select one of the areas in the visualization below. For each CAREX agent, detailed exposure estimates and methods are available on our Profiles and Estimate page: [http://www.carexcanada.ca/en/profiles\\_and\\_estimates/](http://www.carexcanada.ca/en/profiles_and_estimates/).

### Industry

(All)

### Occupation

(All)

### Exposure Level

(All)

### CAREX Agent

- ☒ (All)
- ☒ Benzene
- ☒ Chromium VI compounds
- ☒ Cobalt
- ☒ Formaldehyde
- ☒ Lead and lead compounds, inorganic

### Canadian Occupational Exposure

Filter settings: [CAREX Agent: All] [Industry: All] [Occupation: All] [Exposure Level: All]

**Solar radiation**  
1,476,131 exposed

**Silica, crystalline**  
381,550 exposed

**Lead and lead compounds, inorganic**

Visit [www.carexcanada.ca/en/tableau](http://www.carexcanada.ca/en/tableau) to test this new tool.

	<b>Benzene</b> 374,444 exposed		
		<b>Nickel compounds</b> 116,928 exposed	<b>Styrene</b> 89,009 exposed
	<b>Wood dust</b> 338,486 exposed	<b>Chromium VI compounds</b> 111,645 exposed	<b>Cobalt</b> 32,668

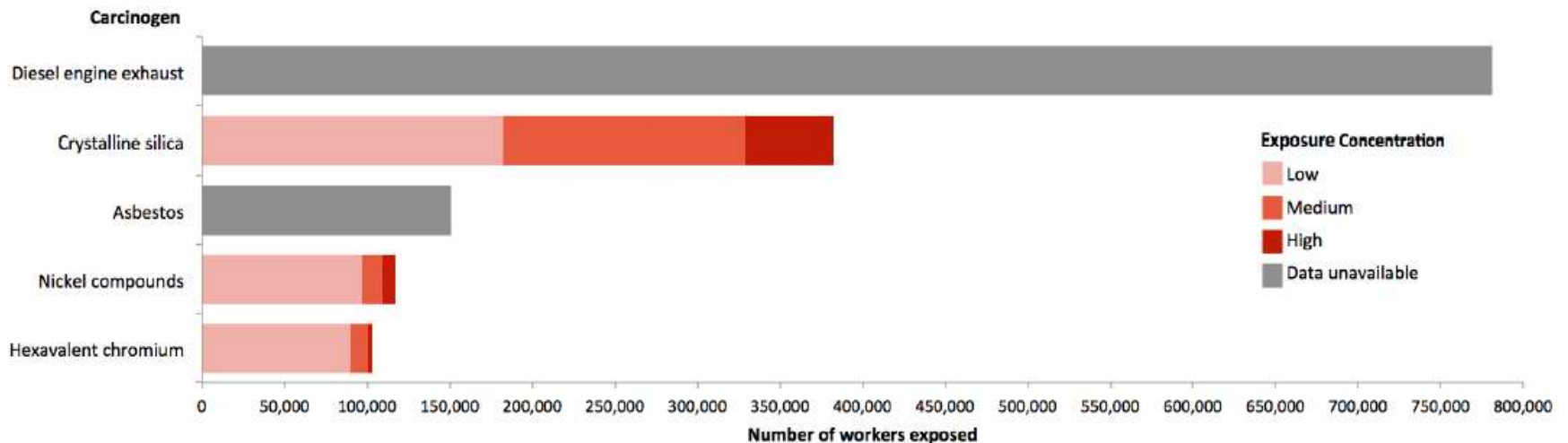
# Package sample – Lung cancer



*Surveillance of environmental and occupational exposures for cancer prevention*



## Lung Carcinogens Occupational Exposure Summary Package



# Package sample - Welder

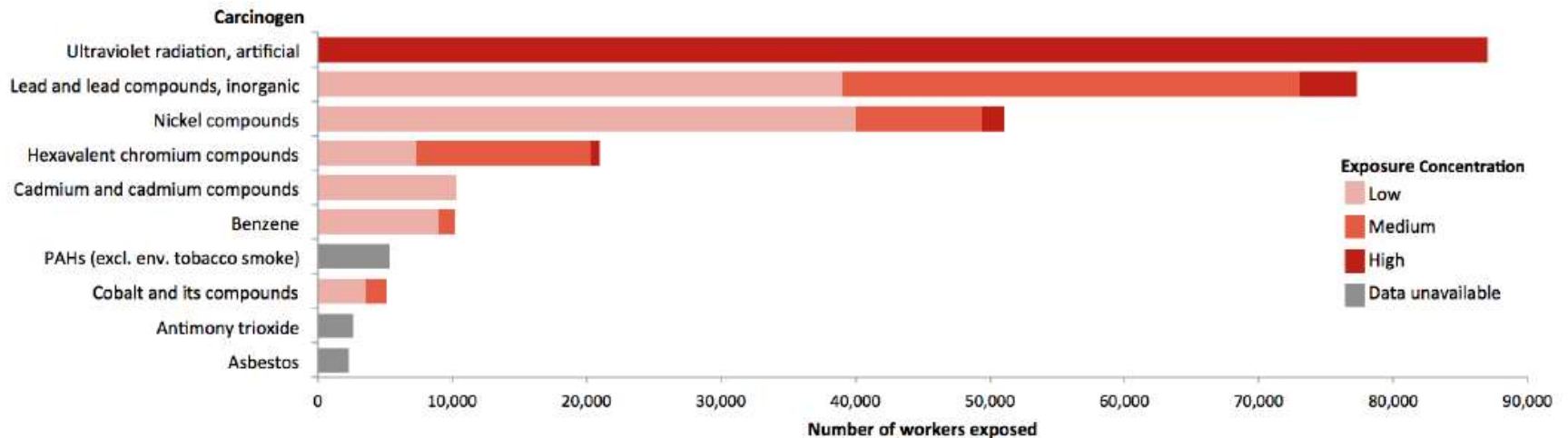


*Surveillance of environmental and occupational exposures for cancer prevention*

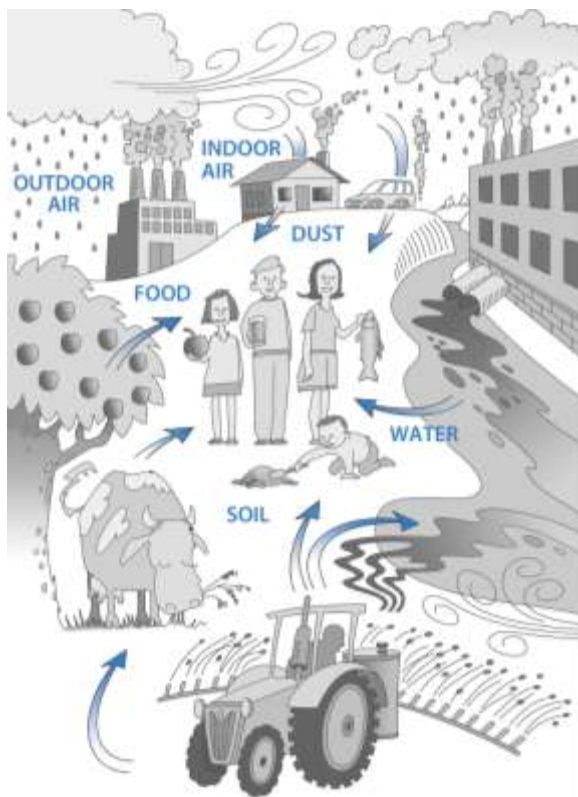


## Welders and Related Machine Operators

Industry Summary Package



# CAREX Canada – Environmental Estimates



**CAREX Staff:**  
Eleanor Setton  
Karla Poplawski



- How many people are exposed or potentially exposed, and where are they?
- What levels are they exposed to?
- Which exposure pathways are important?

# Environmental Indicators

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Working with two types of data:

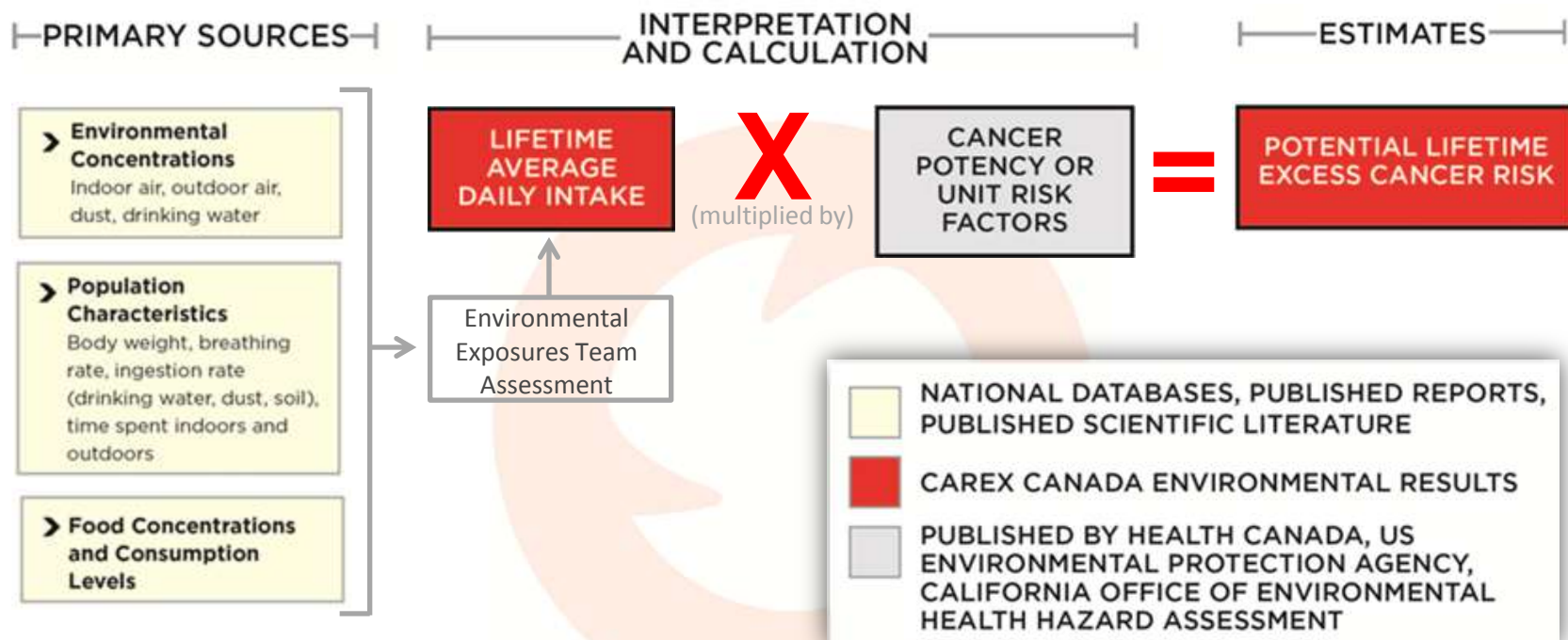
1) Measured levels in exposure pathways:

Risk estimates  
Compare substances graphs  
eRISK tool  
Outdoor air models

2) Emission sources and levels in outdoor environments:

Relative toxicity maps  
Emissions Mapping Project

# Risk estimates indicator approach – Overview



**CAREX CANADA**  
ENVIRONMENTAL ESTIMATES FRAMEWORK

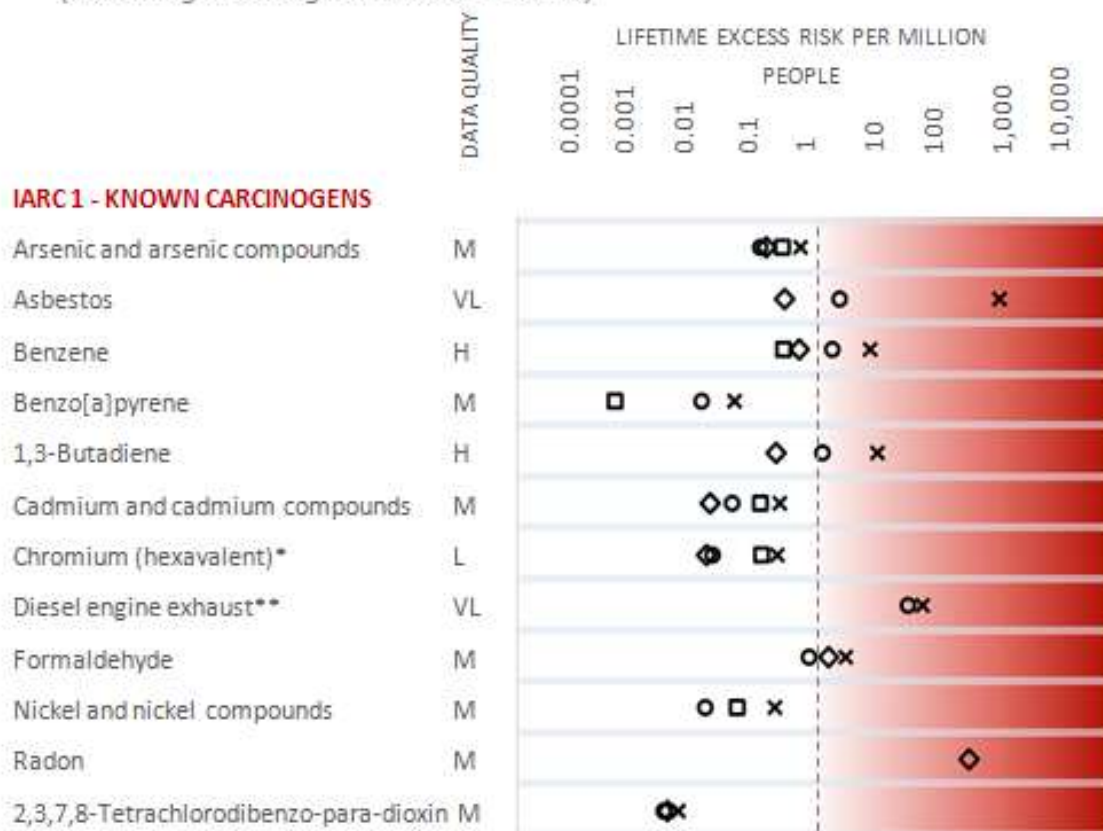
# Risk estimates – Comparison tables

**How many extra cancers** in a population of 1 million people vs unexposed population

**National average** and maximum risk, based on actual measured data for each substance & exposure pathway (circa 2011)

## Indicator: Potential Lifetime Excess Cancer Risk

(assuming no change in measured levels)



# Exploring the risk estimates – eRISK tool

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- MS Access application available to users on request, with supporting manual
- Contains all the input data used for the indicators
- Audience: those working in environmental health and air quality at federal, provincial, municipal, and First Nations levels
- Allows users to change cancer potency factors, measured levels, add new foods etc.

Email us at [info@carexcanada.ca](mailto:info@carexcanada.ca) for access

# Package sample – Outdoor air

Priority	Carcinogenic Agent	Rationale	Possible Actions
Higher	Benzene, 1,3-butadiene, formaldehyde, and radon	LECR > 1 per million Medium to high data quality	More Detailed Risk Assessment
	Asbestos, diesel engine exhaust, and hexavalent chromium	LECR > 1 per million and/or Very low to low data quality	Additional Research or Monitoring
Lower	Asbestos	Large differences between LECR estimates	Local Exposure/Risk Assessment
	Asbestos, benzene, 1,3-butadiene, and formaldehyde	Disagreement in data sources	Toxicological or Epidemiological Research
	Arsenic, cadmium and nickel (and compounds), 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (TCDD), and benzo[a]pyrene	LECR < 1 per million Medium data quality	Continued surveillance

at home, drinking water, and food and beverages. The risk estimates for each substance are national in scope and represent annual average measured levels for each carcinogen, which means that they don't capture the geographical variations that may exist across Canada. Some of our modeling work, however, does capture

# Relative toxicity & dynamic mapping indicator

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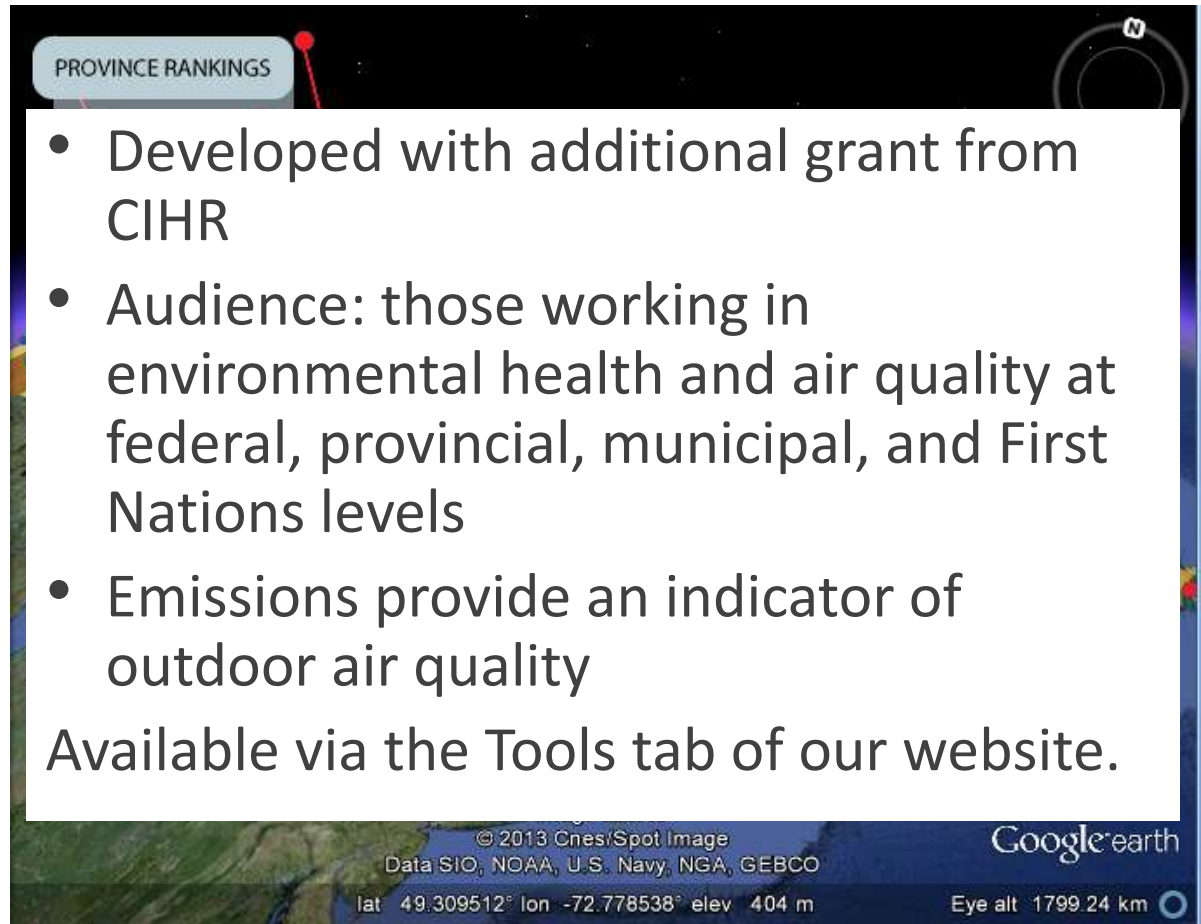


EMISSIONS  
MAPPING  
PROJECT

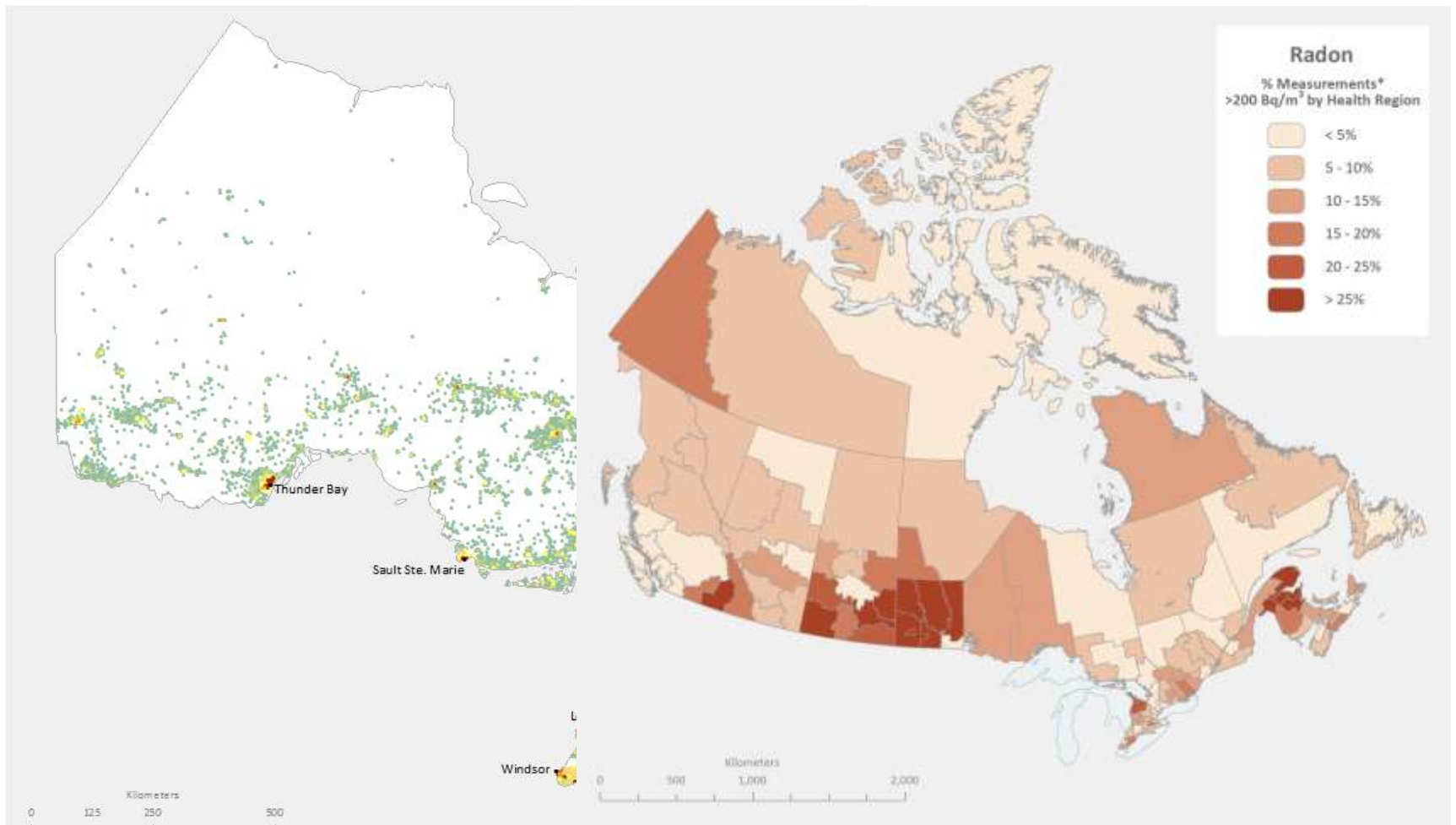
## PROVINCE RANKINGS

- Developed with additional grant from CIHR
- Audience: those working in environmental health and air quality at federal, provincial, municipal, and First Nations levels
- Emissions provide an indicator of outdoor air quality

Available via the Tools tab of our website.



# Maps – modeled outdoor air, actual indoor air (radon)



Full Profile

Quick Summary

# Radon

RADIATION – Known Carcinogen (IARC 1)

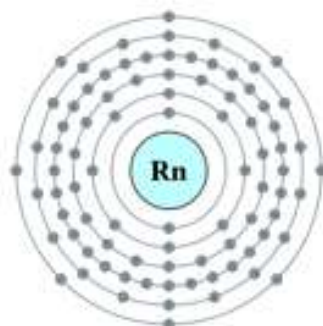
PROFILE

ENVIRONMENTAL ESTIMATE

CAS No. 10043-92-2

86: Radon

2,8,18,32,18,8



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[Regulations and Guidelines](#)

[Main Uses](#)

[Occupational Exposures](#)

[Environmental Exposures](#)

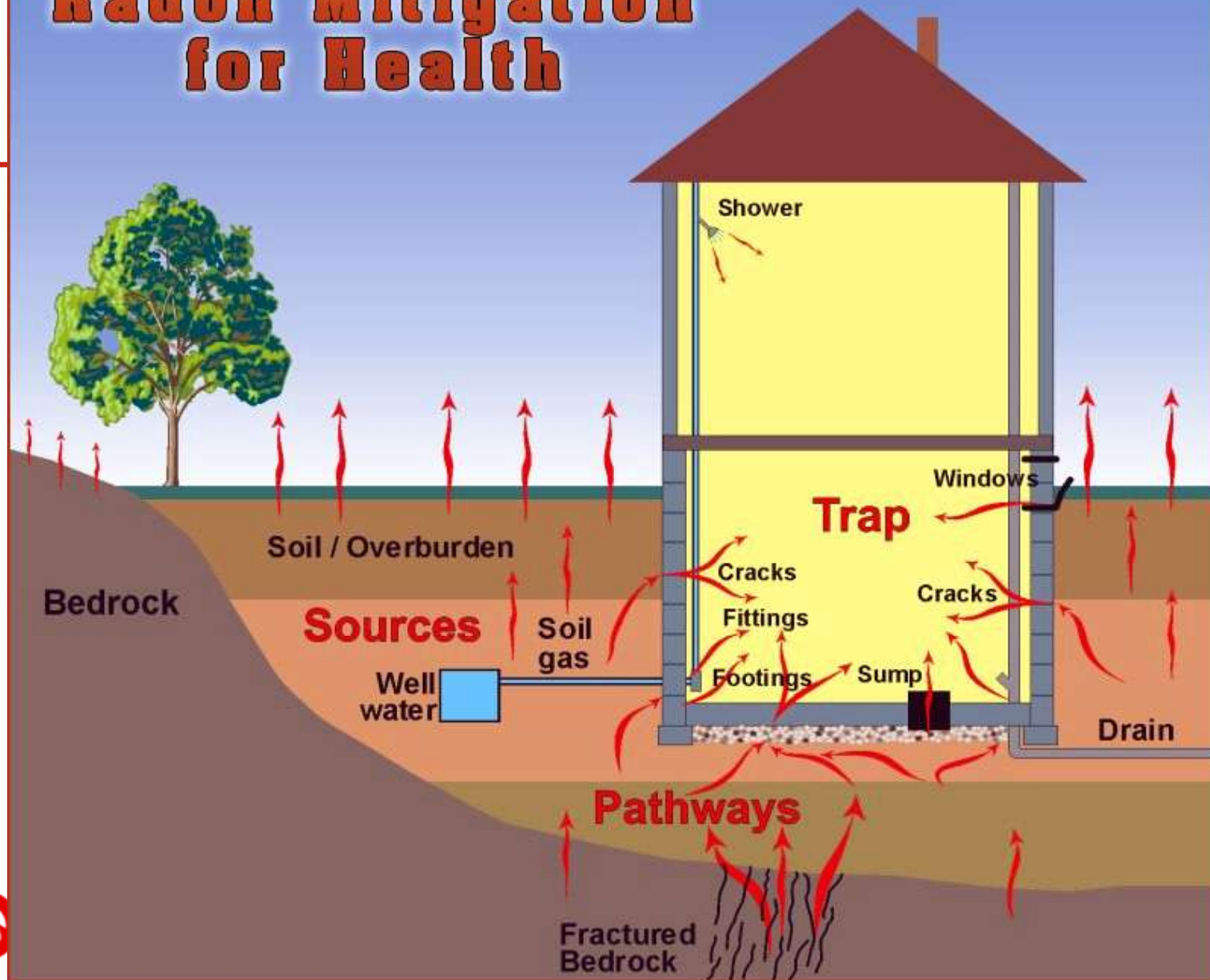
[Sources](#)

Photo: Wikimedia Commons<sup>[1]</sup>

IARC Monograph Vol. 78, 2001 (Group 1)

IARC Monograph Vol. 100D, 2012 (Group 1)

# Radon Mitigation for Health



# Lifetime Excess Cancer Risk by Substance – Indoor Air

## Average Risk:

based on average intake  
X cancer potency or unit  
risk factor from:

Health Canada

CA OEHHA

US EPA

## Maximum Risk:

based on maximum  
intake X highest cancer  
potency factor or unit  
risk factor

## IARC 1 - KNOWN CARCINOGENS

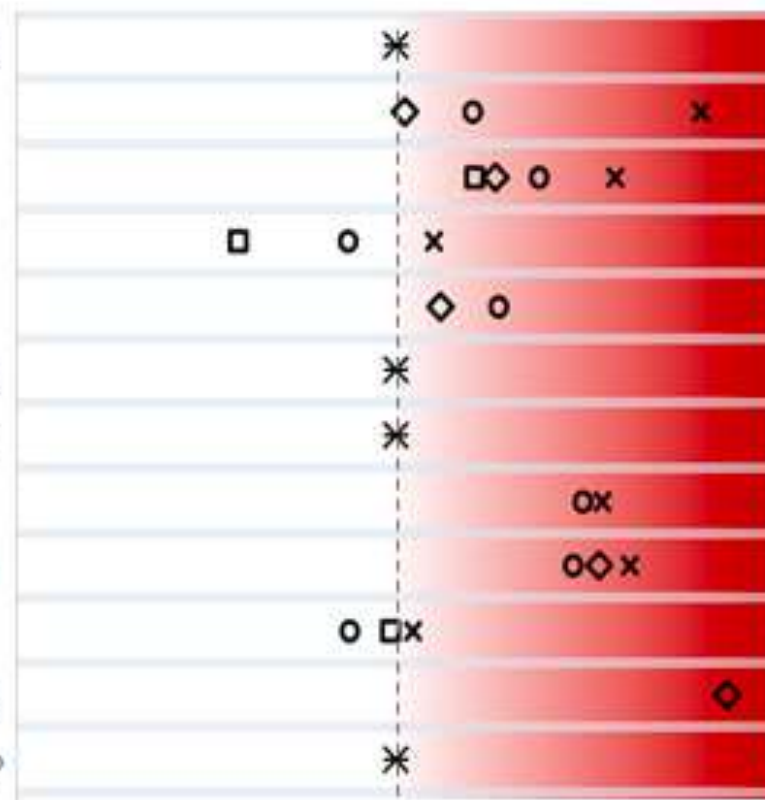
Arsenic and arsenic compounds	GAP
Asbestos	VL
Benzene	M
Benzo[a]pyrene	VL
1,3-Butadiene	L
Cadmium and cadmium compounds	GAP
Chromium (hexavalent)	GAP
Diesel engine exhaust*	VL
Formaldehyde	L-M
Nickel and nickel compounds	L
Radon	M-H
2,3,7,8-Tetrachlorodibenzo-para-dioxin	GAP

DATA QUALITY

LIFETIME EXCESS RISK PER MILLION

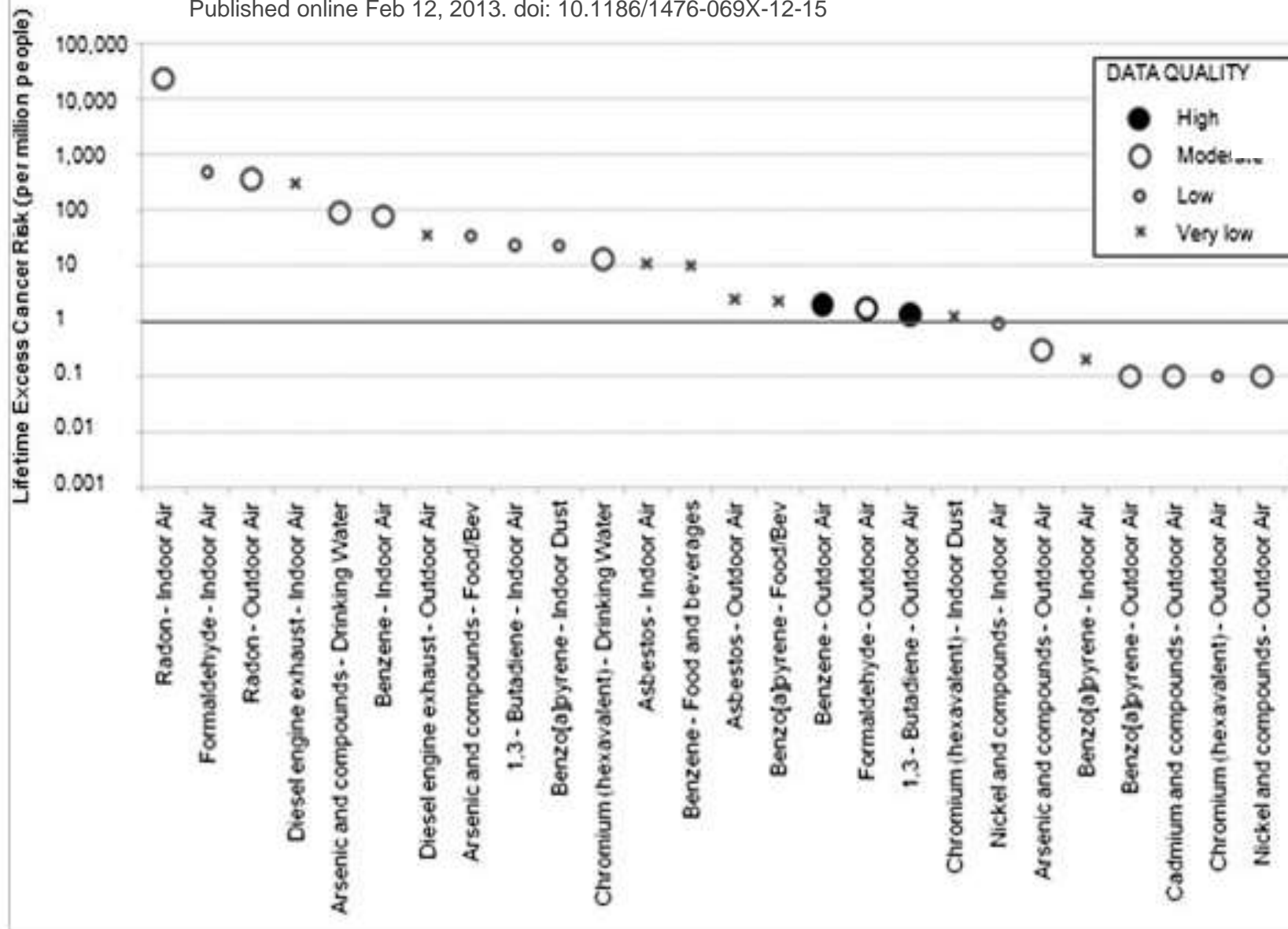
PEOPLE

0.0001 0.001 0.01 0.1 1 10 100 1,000 10,000



Setton E et al. *Environ Health*. 2013; 12: 15. Risk-based indicators of Canadians' exposures to environmental carcinogens.

Published online Feb 12, 2013. doi: 10.1186/1476-069X-12-15



## Special Topics KT: Radon

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- Radon is now recognized as a significant public health problem in Canada
  - 16% of lung cancer deaths per year (Chen 2012) ~ 3500 people
  - Leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers
- Risk increases as exposure increases
- Preventable: Lower indoor levels will lower risk

# Canadian risk awareness

Statistics Canada (HES 2009)

- “41% of Canadian had heard of radon and were aware of its impact on health”

**Table 11**  
**Household awareness and testing for radon, Canada and provinces**

	Aware of radon <sup>1</sup>	Tested <sup>2</sup>
	percent	
<b>Canada</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>11</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	41	F
Prince Edward Island	49	F
Nova Scotia	55	10 <sup>E</sup>
New Brunswick	48	F
Quebec	20	F
Ontario	45	14
Manitoba	51	13
Saskatchewan	54	12
Alberta	49	11
British Columbia	46	11

1. As a percentage of all households that did not live in an apartment.

2. As a percentage of all households that were aware of radon.

**Source(s):** Statistics Canada, Environment Accounts and Statistics Division, Households and the Environment Survey, 2007, CANSIM Table 153-0061.

# Connecting agencies

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# Growing public and occupational health interest in Radon exposures...



**Radiation Safety  
Institute of Canada**

Institut de radioprotection du Canada



In collaboration with the Ted Rogers School of Management's Centre for Labour Management Relations at Ryerson University, and with the support of the Ontario Lung Association.

## **Ontario: Building A Comprehensive Provincial Policy on Radon**

**Date:**

May 1, 2014

**Time:**

8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

**Location:**

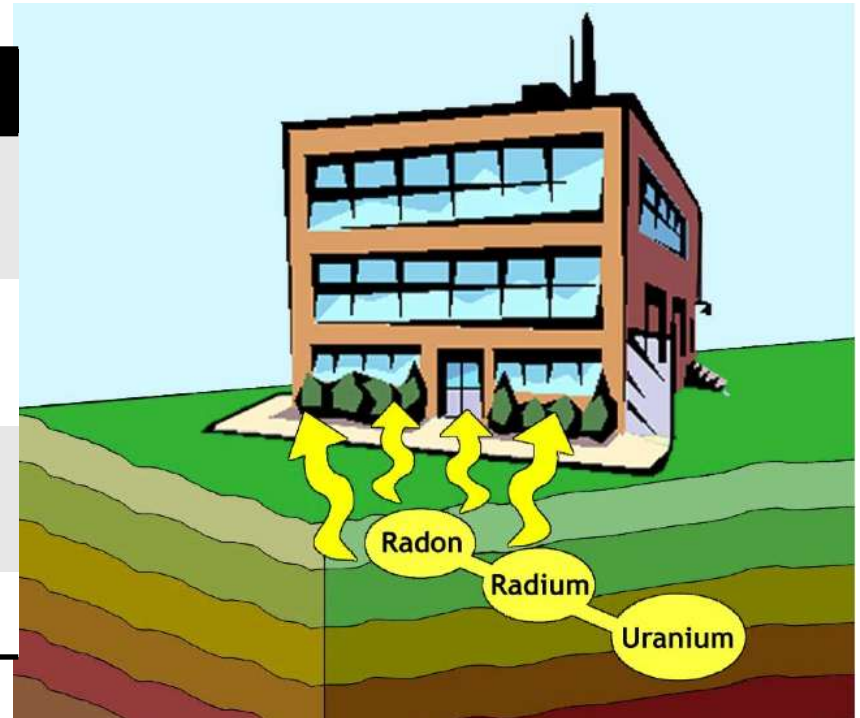
Ted Rogers School of Management; 55 Dundas Street West (Suite 1-148, 7th Floor), Toronto, ON M5G 2C5



# Occupational Radon Exposure Literature Review- Canada

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Industry and Code	Number of Studies
Oil and Gas extraction- 2111	2
Metal Ore Mining (uranium)-2122	5
Non-ferrous Metal Production- 3314	1
Schools – 6111	3



# Underground work: non-mining

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Worksites that have measured higher levels of radon include:

- Subway/tunnel/ workers
- Underground nuclear depositories
- Caving
- Telecom cabling crews
- Electrical power generation
- Excavation



# Water-related worksites reporting elevated exposures

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Radon is soluble in water and can be released into air through aeration, bubbling, and mixing.

Water specific worksites that have been found to have high radon levels are:

- Spas and Thermal Baths
- Fish Hatcheries
- Water Treatment Facilities

(Copes et al. 2011)



# Thank-you

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**Follow-up questions can be directed to:  
[anicol@sfu.ca](mailto:anicol@sfu.ca)**