



# The 100 Radon Test Kit Challenge Program Performance

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## Program Goals

- 1) Distribute radon test kits in communities where there is a risk of elevated radon, but where testing has been limited.
- 2) Raise radon awareness in the community.
- 3) Generate data for both urban and rural communities - small and large - where data was not available.
- 4) Inspire communities to continue raising radon awareness and create legacy programs.



# Steps in the Program

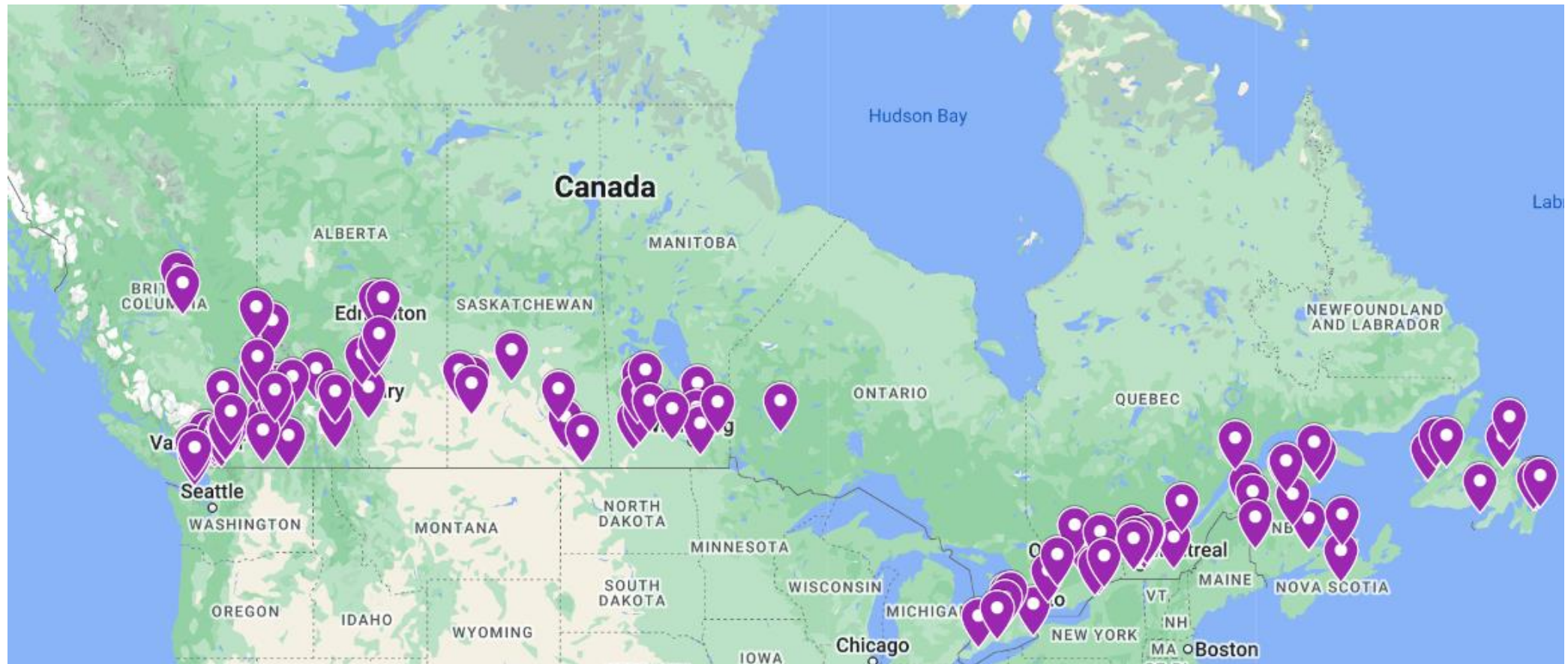
- Information session for community representatives
- Distribution of radon information and awareness materials
- Announcement of the 100 Radon Test Kit Challenge program
- Online registration form
- Letter to the mayor and press release
- Publication of articles in local newspapers
- Information session for participants
- Distribution of radon kits
  
- Winter radon testing
  
- Collection of kits and dispatch of personalized reports
- Analysis of results with community representatives
- Publication of community report
- Presentation of community report to mayor and councillors
- Letters sent to elected officials





Reach  
to Date

*6 years*



*135+ community programs*

*More than 20 000 kits distributed*

*10 provinces*

*8+ First Nations*

*2 Métis groups*

18 janvier 2021 - 13:30 | Mis à jour : 15:07

Des trousse de dépistage sont disponibles

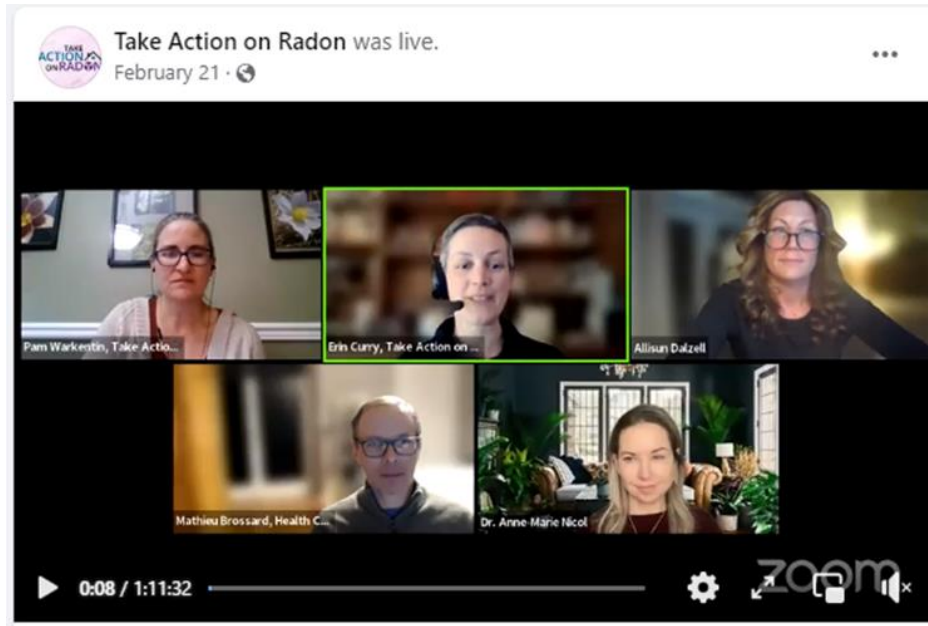
## La Ville de Lorraine prend action contre le radon

Par Jessica Brisson, Journaliste



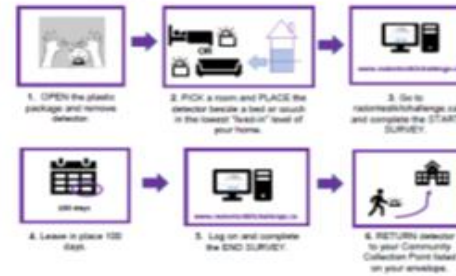
- Photo: Archives

AAA



### Radon Test Instructions: Quick Start Guide

1. Open the test kit package and RECORD THE DATE on the test kit envelope. ONCE THE PACKAGE IS OPEN, THE DETECTOR IS ACTIVE. Keep the envelope ON YOUR PRICKE until you have received your test results from the lab.
2. PICK a room and a location in your home and PLACE your detector.
3. Log on to [www.radonchallenge.ca](http://www.radonchallenge.ca) and complete the START SURVEY!
4. Leave the detector in-place for the next 100 days to complete measurement.
- On the date you are ready to bring the detector off at the Community Collection location:
5. Complete the online END survey and RECORD the date on the test kit envelope.
6. RETURN the detector to the Community Collection Point location listed on your envelope.



Questions? Contact Take Action on Radon: [info@takeactiononradon.ca](mailto:info@takeactiononradon.ca) or 1-888-722-6777



# Community Reports for Each Community



## 257 HOMES

participated by testing for radon gas during the winters of 2020 and 2021. This represents approximately 3% of the community dwellings.

**51%** of homes tested above Health Canada's guideline of 200 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>.



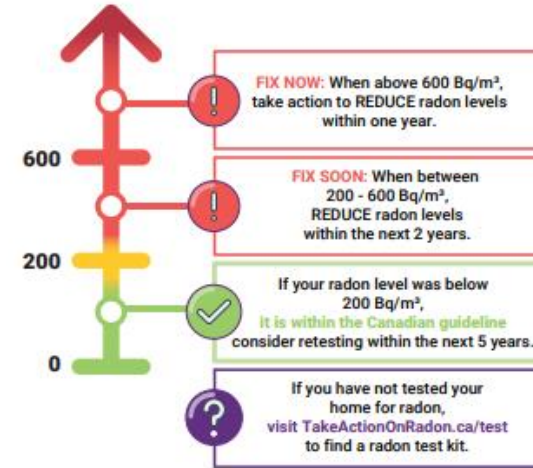
Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that comes from the ground.



Exposure to elevated levels of radon is linked to increased chances of developing lung cancer.



Levels can vary between neighbouring houses. The only way to know your radon level is to test.



Radon gas levels are reduced the most by installing a **radon mitigation system**. Research shows that **certified radon professionals** can reduce levels by over 90%. Other steps, such as increasing ventilation and sealing cracks, can help in the short-term but are less effective.

For more information, go to: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/publications/health-risks-safety/residential-radon-mitigation-actions-follow-up-study.html>



Go to: [www.TakeActionOnRadon.ca/test/find-a-radon-mitigation-professional/](http://www.TakeActionOnRadon.ca/test/find-a-radon-mitigation-professional/)

Certified radon mitigation professionals are trained to properly assess your home, and design systems to efficiently and effectively reduce your radon level.

The BC Building Code requirements for radon vary by year and region. Some homes have a radon stub pipe or an extended pipe that runs through the house. These features are the beginning of a radon mitigation system and can

A **radon mitigation system** is installed with a fan that draws air (and radon) up from beneath the foundation and discharges the radon to the outdoors. This system reduces radon levels by preventing radon from entering your home.

This report shows data from two years of testing. The data is broken down as following:

	2021-2022	2020-2021	TOTAL
	# of tests	# of tests	
Lake Country	43	214	257

### Missed your chance to test?

Check out Take Action on Radon's website for more information on how to access a long-term (91-day) test kit in your region and how to properly test your home.

[TakeActionOnRadon.ca/test](http://TakeActionOnRadon.ca/test)



### Already tested and want to help?

If you are willing to share your data to help us better understand radon in your community, submit your information to our online radon depository.

[TakeActionOnRadon.ca/share](http://TakeActionOnRadon.ca/share)

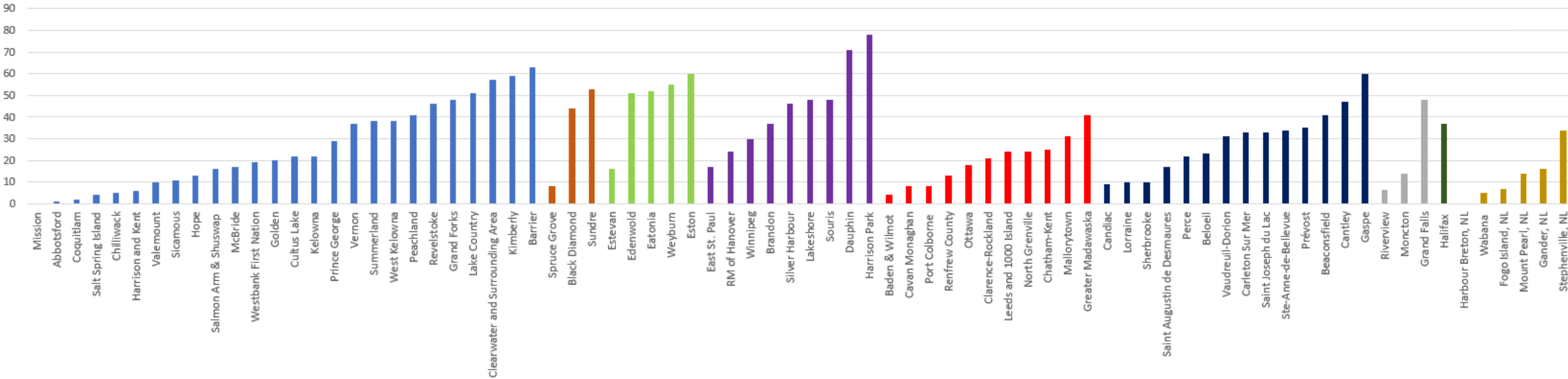


This project was supported by the BC Lung Foundation and a partial funding provided by the Vancouver Foundation and British Columbia Real Estate Foundation.



Take Action on Radon is a national initiative funded by Health Canada with a mandate to bring together stakeholders and raise awareness on radon across Canada. The current advisory team is made up of the Canadian Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (CARST), CAREX Canada and the Canadian Cancer Society.

Percentage of homes tested with radon levels above 200 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>, per province



Some communities don't wish to appear on our lists – this doesn't include this year's communities.



## Measuring the program's success

Looking back to the program goals:

1) Distributing test kits to communities.

*- to date, more than 20 000 test kits distributed*

2) Educating local populations about radon.

*- Hundreds of webinars, articles, info-letters, social media ads, radon interviews, etc.*

3) Generating data for both urban and rural areas

*- average return rate of 74%, with over 15 000 data points and growing*

4) Inspiring legacy programs in participating communities

*- many participating communities have run awareness campaigns in following years, offering subsidized test kits or even offered mitigation funding at a municipal level*

The program has successfully achieved its goals. However, testing is only the first step for homeowners. For those who test above the guideline level, the next step is mitigation.



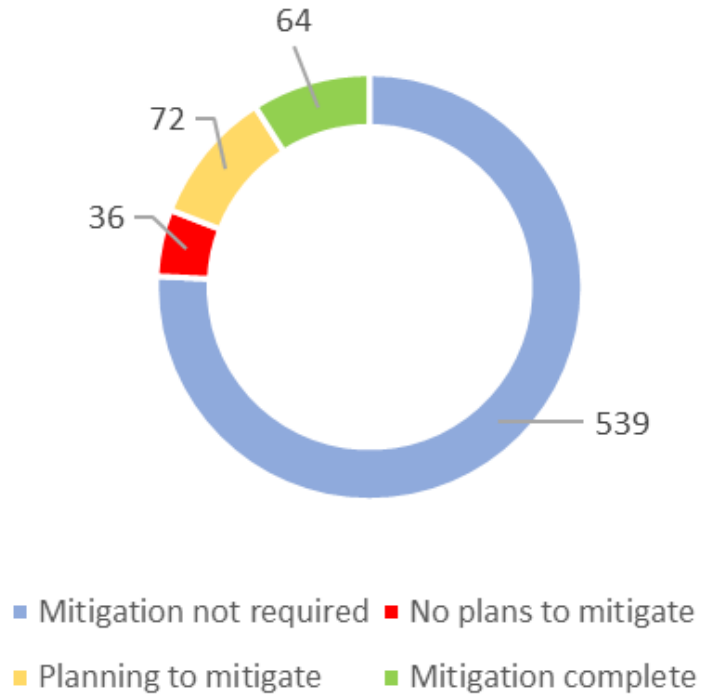
## September 2022 : Mitigation Follow-up Survey

We contacted participants from the past 4 years of the program who had given permission for future communication (approximately 3 250 people).

In total, we received 765 responses (a 24% response rate).

# Mitigation

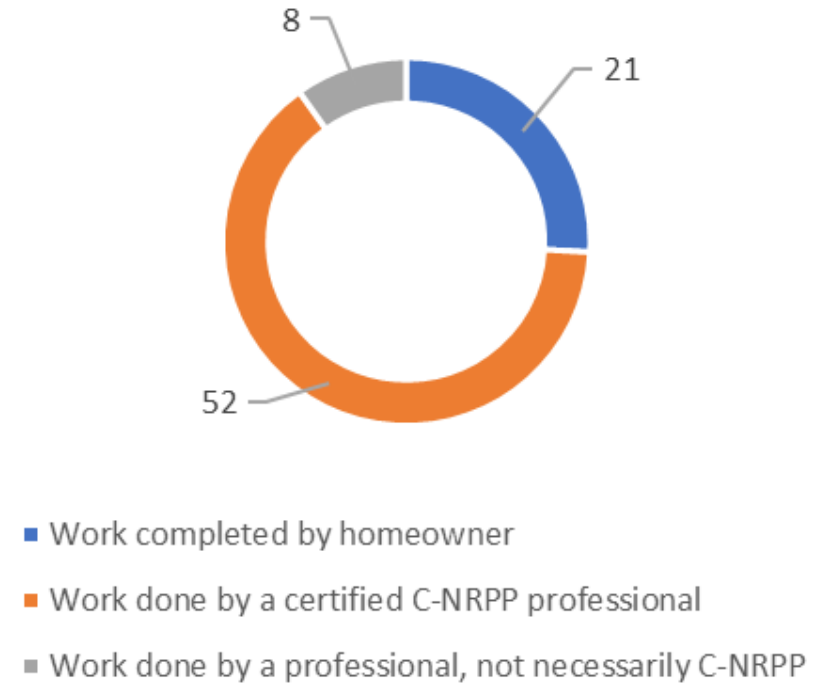
Status of Mitigation



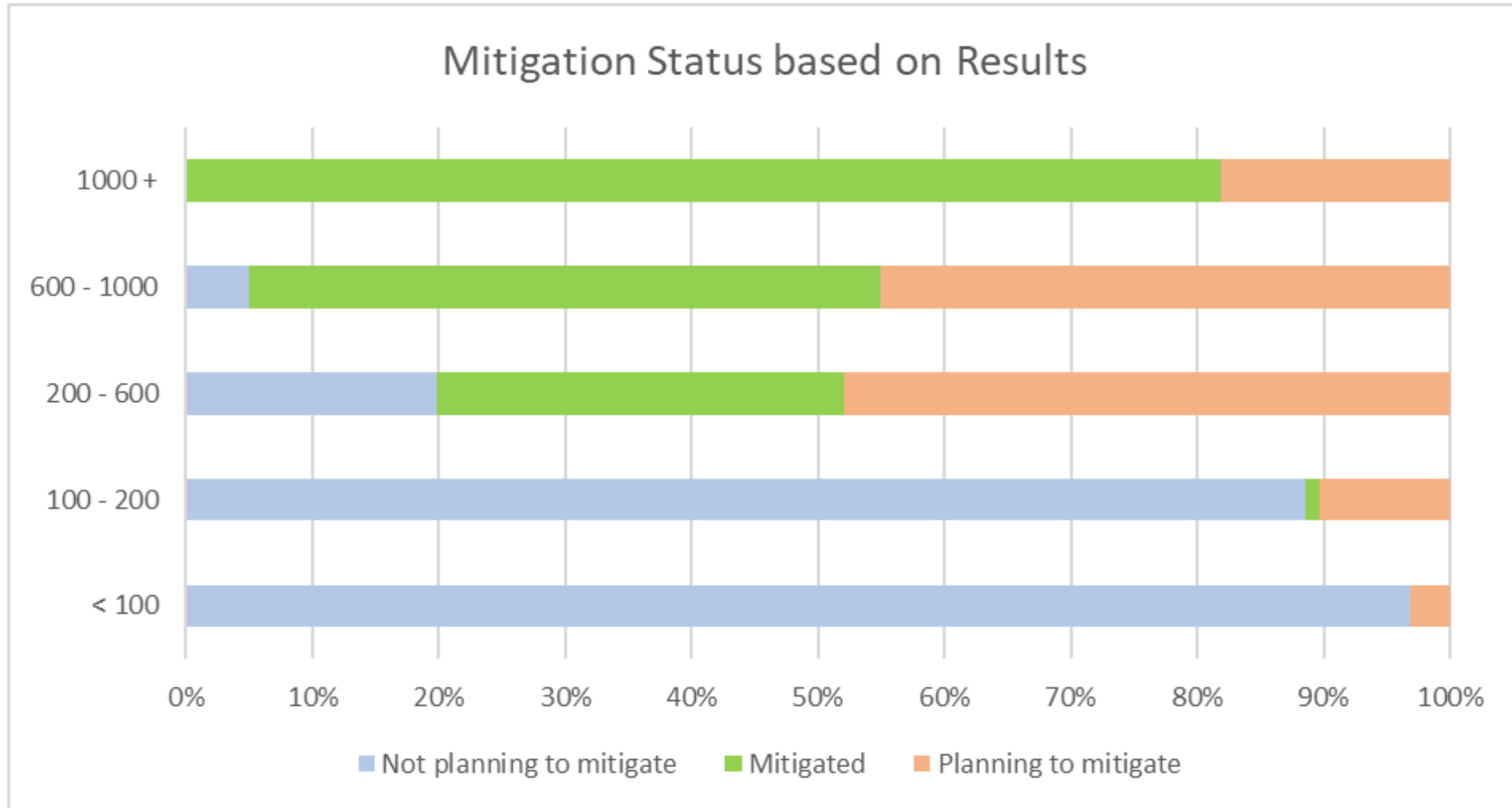
n = 705

64 of the 166 people (39 %) who needed to mitigate had already done so

Mitigation Work

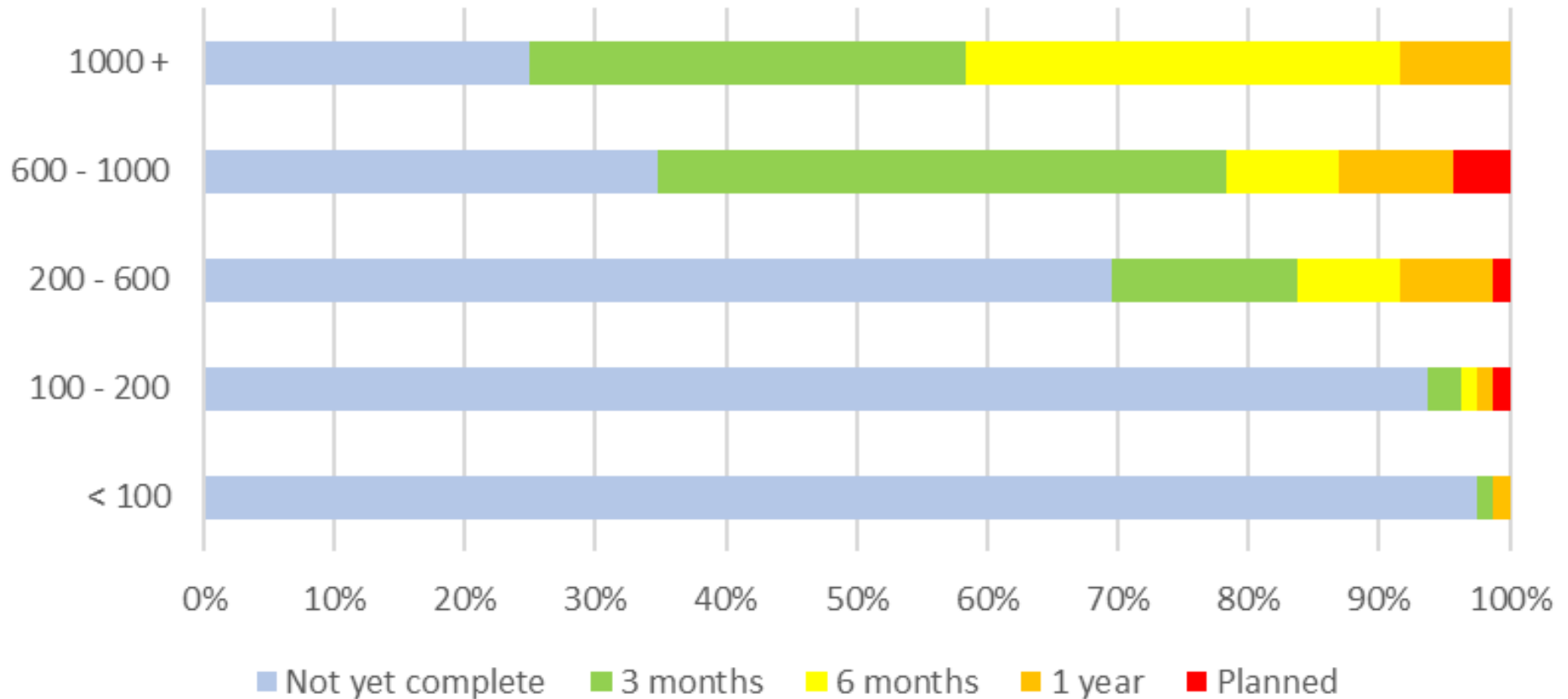


n = 81\*



n = 656

### Mitigation Timeline based on Results





## Next Steps?

We plan to conduct another version of the survey this year, to gather data from several more years of participants, and re-connect with past participants to gather more mitigation data several years on.

The 100 Radon Test Kit Challenge is meeting with communities to launch the program in the fall of 2024.

The number and variety of legacy programs continue to grow: community-run radon awareness campaigns, discounted/free test kits, mitigation financing, etc.