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Boston University
RADON TESTING STILL AVAILABLE FROM BOSTON UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

Boston, Mass.--The Radiation Protection Office at Boston University Medical Center (BUMC) has been awarded a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to determine why people do not test their homes for radon. "Over the past year, we have found that 17 percent of the homes and apartments we tested exceeded the acceptable screening value for radon," says Victor Evdokimoff, Ph.D., an adjunct assistant professor of public health at Boston University School of Public Health. In a state survey, the EPA found almost 22 percent of the tested homes exceeded safe levels.

Although exposure to radon--a naturally occurring radioactive gas--continues to be a national health problem, most people still have not tested their homes for it, according to the EPA. The EPA recommends that every home and apartment up to the second level be tested for radon. It estimates that 5000 to 20,000 lung cancer deaths per year may be attributed to indoor radon.

The BUMC Radiation Protection Office participates in the voluntary Radon Proficiency Program of the EPA. The cost is only $20 for a radon-gas test and analysis. A lower fee is available for students. For more information on how to obtain a radon-test cannister or a follow-up test, call (617) 638-7052.