

April 8, 2025

Testimony for LD 1407 An Act to Direct the Board of Occupational Safety and Health to Develop Indoor Air Quality Standards for Buildings in the State in Which Public Sector Workers Work

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development:

Question asked to OpenAI Chat Smith :

"Is indoor Air Pollution really a problem?"

Chat " Yes, Indoor air pollution is quite a significant problem, though it often doesn't get the attention it deserves. Here's why it's important:

1. ****Health Impact****: The air indoors can be more polluted than outdoors due to trapped pollutants. This can lead to respiratory issues, allergies, and even cardiovascular problems over time. Poor air quality can particularly affect children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing health conditions.
2. ****Sources****: Common sources of indoor air pollution include cooking stoves, tobacco smoke, cleaning products, building materials, and even certain types of furniture. Additionally, outdoor air pollution can seep indoors, adding to the problem.
3. ****Lack of Awareness****: Many people are unaware of the air quality inside their homes and offices. Without proper ventilation or air purification systems, pollutants can accumulate, often unnoticed.
4. ****Global Concern****: In many parts of the world, especially in developing countries, the use of biomass fuels for cooking and heating is a major source of indoor air pollution. This has severe health implications, contributing to millions of deaths worldwide each year.
5. ****Regulation and Policy****: While outdoor air pollution receives significant regulatory attention, policies specifically targeting indoor air quality are less common. This can lead to insufficient measures to address indoor pollution comprehensively.
6. ****Simple Solutions****: Improving ventilation, using air purifiers, reducing the use of harsh chemicals, and ensuring regular maintenance of HVAC systems can help mitigate indoor air pollution.

Addressing indoor air pollution can significantly improve quality of life and health outcomes. It's a manageable issue with increased awareness and practical changes in lifestyle and product choices.

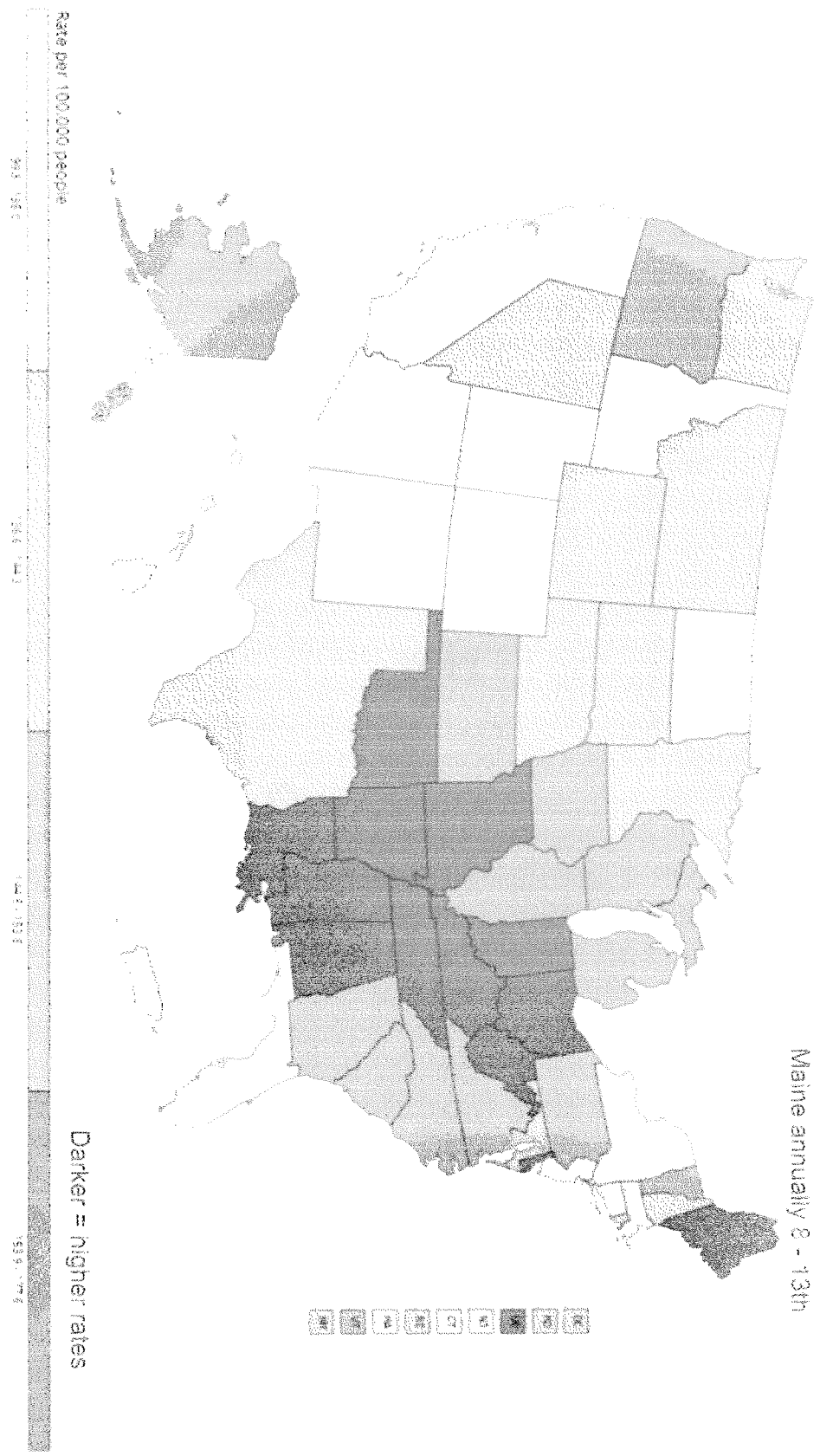
Created by Chat Smith

<https://bit.ly/chat-smith>

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Rate of Cancer Deaths in the United States, 2022

All Types of Cancer, All Ages, All Races and Ethnicities, Male and Female
Rate per 100,000 people



- ME
- VT
- NH
- MA
- CT
- RI
- NY
- PA
- DE
- MD
- DC
- VA
- NC
- SC
- GA
- FL
- AL
- MS
- LA
- TX
- OK
- MO
- IL
- IN
- OH
- MI
- WI
- ND
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- MT
- UT
- NM
- AZ
- CA
- OR
- WA
- AK
- HI

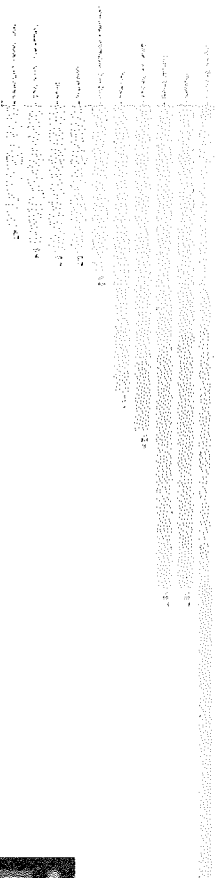
Current Adult Asthma by State

- In 2018, current asthma rates among adults ranged from 7.4 percent in Texas to 12.3 percent in Maine and West Virginia. [Source: CDC, 2018](#)



Top 10 Cancers by Rates of Cancer Deaths

United States, 2012. All Races and Ethnicities. Age- and Sex-Adjusted Rates per 100,000 people



Footnotes

Suggested Citation

U.S. Cancer Statistics Working Group. U.S. Cancer Statistics Data Visualizations Tool. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Cancer Control and Prevention. Cancer Statistics, 2019. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2019.

Scientifically rigorous peer-reviewed epidemiologic studies (described in the section "The Science Behind the Risk Estimates") performed since the 1960s provided a solid scientific foundation for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 2003 risk assessment, which estimates that out of a total of 157,400 lung cancer deaths nationally in 1995, 21,100 (13.4%) were radon related. More recent, direct estimates of the risk posed by radon, obtained from residential case-control studies performed globally, generally align with the 2003 EPA risk estimates. When compared to cancer mortality from all causes, radon-related lung cancer, if it were treated as a distinct disease category, would rank among the top 10 causes of cancer mortality and is considered a leading environmental cause of cancer mortality in the United States.¹

Cancer Type	Estimated U.S. Deaths in 2020 ¹
1. Lung and Bronchus	136,720
2. Colon and Rectum	53,200
3. Pancreas	47,060
4. Breast	42,690
5. Prostate	33,330
6. Liver and Intrahepatic Bile Duct	30,160
7. Leukemia	23,100
8. Lymphoma (Combined Hodgkin & Non-Hodgkin)	21,100
9. Brain & Other Nervous System	20,910
10. Urinary Bladder	18,020
11. Esophagus	17,980
12. Kidney and Renal Pelvis	16,170
13. Ovary	14,830
	13,940

¹The 21,100 radon-induced lung cancer deaths, based on risk estimates using U.S. demographic information from 1985, are included in the estimate of lung and bronchus cancer deaths.