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Radon Concentration in Basements

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This summer I am studying radon gas concentrations in basements in the Valparaiso community area. Radon is known to be the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking. After several years (more than twenty) of continuous radon inhalation, the human lungs can be impaired and can become cancerous. This study will help people be aware of a potential radon problem in their homes. The EPA recommends having a concentration of four picocuries per liter or less in each home. The experiment is performed by using an EPA approved radon testing apparatus that records the concentration each hour for up to 90 hours. The study also includes finding which areas of Valparaiso have the highest concentrations. Initial results show that concentrations change as a function of time. This project will help understand what those parameters are.

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