

### Ionizing Radiation Exposure in the United States

| Source  | Estimated average annual exposure<br>in the U.S. population<br>(millirem) |
|---|---|
| Natural sources                                 |   |
| Radon   | 200   |
| Internal radiation                              | 39  |
| Cosmic radiation                                | 31  |
| Terrestrial radiation                           | 28  |
| Manmade:  |   |
| X-rays and nuclear medicine                     | 50  |
| Consumer products<br>(including drinking water) | 11  |
| Miscellaneous                                   | 1   |
| <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>360</b>  |

*Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Radiation: Risks and Realities, August 1993.*

The percentage contribution to the annual average exposure from various radiation sources is illustrated in the pie chart.

- Looking at the pie chart, what percentage of the annual average exposure comes from natural sources of radiation (radon, cosmic, terrestrial, internal)?

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- What is the percentage for man-made sources?

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- What is our annual internal exposure, in millirem?

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- What is the average exposure we get annually from radon and its decay products in the air we breathe in millirem?

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