

Skin Cancer Prevention Update Fact Sheet

Men, Women and Melanoma Research

- According to recent research, men tend to develop more melanomas on the head, neck and upper back – suggesting they are not wearing sun-protective clothing, particularly wide-brimmed hats, or using adequate sunscreen on these areas¹
- Women are now more likely to develop melanoma on their chests and upper backs, which indicates that they might be favoring the latest styles that expose more skin on these areas and forgoing proper sun protection in favor of fashion²

TAN Act

On September 27, 2007, President Bush signed the Tanning Accountability and Notification (TAN Act) into law

- The TAN Act calls for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to determine if the current language and positioning of warning labels on indoor tanning devices is adequate to effectively warn consumers of the known dangers of indoor tanning, including the risk of skin cancer

Sunscreen Rule

The FDA has proposed new regulations for formulating, testing and labeling over-the-counter sunscreens

- Includes requirements for ultraviolet A (UVA) coverage in sunscreens and increases the Sun Protection Factor (SPF) allowed for sunscreens
 - SPF currently only measures the protection against ultraviolet B (UVB) rays
- Offers a one-to-four star rating of a sunscreen's UVA protective effect to allow consumers to more easily understand the degree of protection a particular product provides

- more -

General Skin Cancer Facts

More than 1 million new cases of skin cancer will be diagnosed in the United States this year.³

- 1 in 5 Americans will develop some form of skin cancer during their lifetime.⁴
- There will be about 108,230 new cases of melanoma in 2007 – 48,290 in situ (noninvasive) and 59,940 invasive (33,910 men and 26,030 women).⁵ In 2007, at current rates, a person has a one in 33 chance of developing melanoma (both in situ and invasive). The risk of developing invasive melanoma is one in 63.
- Invasive melanoma is the sixth most common cancer in men and women.^{6 **}
- Melanoma is the second most common cancer in women aged 20-29.⁷
- One American dies of melanoma almost every hour (every 65 minutes). In 2007, 8,110 deaths will be attributed to melanoma – 5,220 men and 2,890 women.⁸ Older Caucasian males have the highest mortality rates from melanoma.
- An estimated 10,850 people will die of skin cancer this year, 8,110 from melanoma and 2,740 from other skin cancers.⁹
- The World Health Organization estimates that as many as 60,000 people a year worldwide die from too much sun, mostly from malignant skin cancer. Of these deaths, 48,000 are from melanoma, and 12,000 are from other skin cancers. About 90 percent of these cancers are caused by ultraviolet light from the sun.^{10,11}
- The incidence of melanoma has increased 690 percent from 1950 to 2001, and the overall mortality rate increased 165 percent during this same period.¹¹
- More than 75 percent of skin cancer deaths are from melanoma.¹²
- Both basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma have a better than 95 percent five-year cure rate if detected and treated early.¹³
- The five-year survival rate for people whose melanoma is detected and treated before it spreads is 99 percent.¹⁴
- Between 1996 and 2002, the five-year survival rate for melanomas detected at all stages increased to 92 percent from 82 percent between 1975 and 1977.¹⁵
- In 2004, the total direct cost associated with the treatment for non-melanoma skin cancer was \$1.5 billion. Of that, \$1.2 billion is attributed to care received in physician offices.¹⁶

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^{1, 2} Clark LN, Shin DB, Troxel AB, Khan S, Sober AJ, Ming ME. Association between the anatomic distribution of melanoma and sex. J Am Acad Dermatol 2007; 56:768-773.

^{3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 14, 15} Source: American Cancer Society's 2007 Facts & Figures

⁴Robinson JK. Sun Exposure, Sun Protection, and Vitamin & D. 2005 JAMA. Vol.294, No. 12

⁷Source: National Cancer Institute, SEER database, 1996-2000.

¹⁰Source: Global burden of disease from solar ultraviolet radiation, World Health Organization, 2006.

^{11, 16}Source: The Burden of Skin Diseases 2004, Copyright 2006, the Society for Investigative Dermatology and the American Academy of Dermatology Association.

¹³Wong CS, Strange RC, Lear, JT. Basal cell carcinoma. BMJ 2003; 327(7418): 794-8.

**Excluding basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma, which together are the most common cancers in both sexes.

For more information about skin cancer prevention, visit the American Academy of Dermatology's Web site at www.aad.org or SkinCancerNet at www.skincarephysicians.com.