Sun Exposure Facts!

Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States. More than 3.5 million skin cancers in over two million people are diagnosed annually.

About 90 percent of non-melanoma skin cancers are associated with exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun.

From 1970 to 2009, the incidence of melanoma increased by 800 percent among young women and 400 percent among young men.

One person dies of melanoma every hour (every 57 minutes).

Melanoma accounts for less than five percent of skin cancer cases, but the vast majority of skin cancer deaths.

One or more blistering sunburns in childhood or adolescence more than double a person’s chances of developing melanoma later in life.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer, an affiliate of the World Health Organization, includes ultraviolet (UV) tanning devices in its Group 1, a list of the most dangerous cancer-causing substances. Group 1 also includes agents such as plutonium, cigarettes, and solar UV radiation.

Currently tanning beds are regulated by the FDA as Class I medical devices\(^1\), the same designation given elastic bandages and tongue depressors.

Just one indoor tanning session increases users’ chances of developing melanoma by 20 percent, and each additional session during the same year boosts the risk almost another two percent.


---

“**You’re all orange. Have you been using that fake tanning spray?**”

Cartoon used with special permission from glasbergen.com