

News

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U.S. Surgeon General issues

"Call to action"

To prevent skin cancer

Skin cancer rates rising: most cases are preventable

- Skin cancer, the most commonly diagnosed cancer in the United States, is a major public health problem that requires immediate action.
- Even though most skin cancers can be prevented, rates of skin cancer, including melanoma, are increasing in the United States.
- It is also one of the most common types of cancer among U.S. teens and young adults.
- Anyone can get skin cancer—Over the last three decades, the number of Americans who have had skin cancer is estimated to be higher than the number for all other cancers combined.
- "While many other cancers, such as lung cancer, are decreasing, rates of melanoma -- the deadliest form of skin cancer -- are increasing.
- Almost all of these cancers were caused by unnecessary ultraviolet radiation exposure, usually from excessive time in the sun or from the use of indoor tanning devices."

"We want all Americans to lead healthy, active lives," Dr. Lushniak said, "We all need to take an active role to prevent skin cancer by protecting our skin while being outdoors and avoiding intentional sun exposure and indoor tanning."

The report calls on all sectors of Americans society, including the business, health care, education, government and nonprofit sectors, as well as families and individuals, **to do more**. Examples include communities providing shade in outdoor settings, health care providers counseling patients on the importance of using sun protection, and educational institutions discouraging indoor tanning.



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F O U N D A T I O N

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