

Legislative Data Byte

States with Laws Addressing Skin Cancer and Skin Cancer Prevention (enacted as of June 30, 2008)

State	Tanning Facilities	Prevention	School Health	Awareness	Health Education	Screening Reimbursement
Arizona		•	•			
California	•	•				•
Connecticut	•					
Florida	•			•	•	
Georgia	•					
Indiana	•					
Kentucky	•	•	•			
Louisiana	•					
Maryland	•	•				
Massachusetts	•					
Michigan	•					
Minnesota	•					
New Hampshire	•					
New Jersey	•					
New York	•	•	•	•	•	
North Carolina	•					
North Dakota	•					
Ohio	•					
Rhode Island		•				
Tennessee	•					
Texas	•					
Utah	•					
Virginia	•					
Wisconsin	•					
Total	22	6	3	2	2	1

Skin cancer is the most common type of cancer in the United States. More than 1 million new cases are diagnosed each year.¹ The three major types of skin cancer are basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, and melanoma. While melanoma accounts for less than five percent of skin cancer cases, it causes the majority of all skin cancer deaths.² According to National Cancer Institute estimates, the percentage of people who develop melanoma has more than doubled in the past 30 years.³ Overexposure to ultraviolet radiation, both from the sun and tanning devices, is thought to be the biggest risk factor for most melanomas.⁴

As of June 30, 2008, 24 states have enacted laws addressing awareness, education, prevention, or screening for skin cancer. To date, no states have passed laws explicitly mandating coverage for skin cancer treatment or establishing screening or treatment programs. However, **California** has a law mandating third-party insurance reimbursement for all generally medically accepted cancer screening tests.

Two states—**Florida** and **New York**—have enacted laws aimed at educating the public about skin cancer and its causes, while three states—**Arizona**, **Kentucky**, and **New York**—have passed laws promoting or requiring skin cancer education in schools.

Florida and **New York** have also passed laws creating permanent efforts to raise skin cancer awareness among the general public. In addition to these two states, an increasing number of states adopt annual *resolutions* designating May as Melanoma and Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month. During the first and second quarters of 2008, four states—**Delaware**, **Louisiana**, **Pennsylvania**, and **Wisconsin**—adopted such resolutions.

A number of states have taken legislative action to help prevent the occurrence of skin cancer. Minors' access to tanning facilities has now been addressed by laws in 22 states, while 6 states have enacted laws aimed specifically at preventing skin cancer caused by overexposure to the sun.

1. National Cancer Institute. (n.d.). *Skin cancer*. Retrieved July 10, 2008, from <http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/types/skin>

2. American Cancer Society. (2008). *How many people get melanoma skin cancer?* Retrieved July 10, 2008, from http://www.cancer.org/docroot/CRI/content/CRI_2_2_1X_How_many_people_get_melanoma_skin_cancer_50.asp

3. National Cancer Institute. (2003). *What you need to know about melanoma*. Retrieved July 10, 2008, from <http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/wyntk/melanoma>

4. American Cancer Society. (2008). *What causes melanoma skin cancer?* Retrieved July 10, 2008, from http://www.cancer.org/docroot/CRI/content/CRI_2_2_2X_What_causes_melanoma_skin_cancer_50.asp?sitearea=