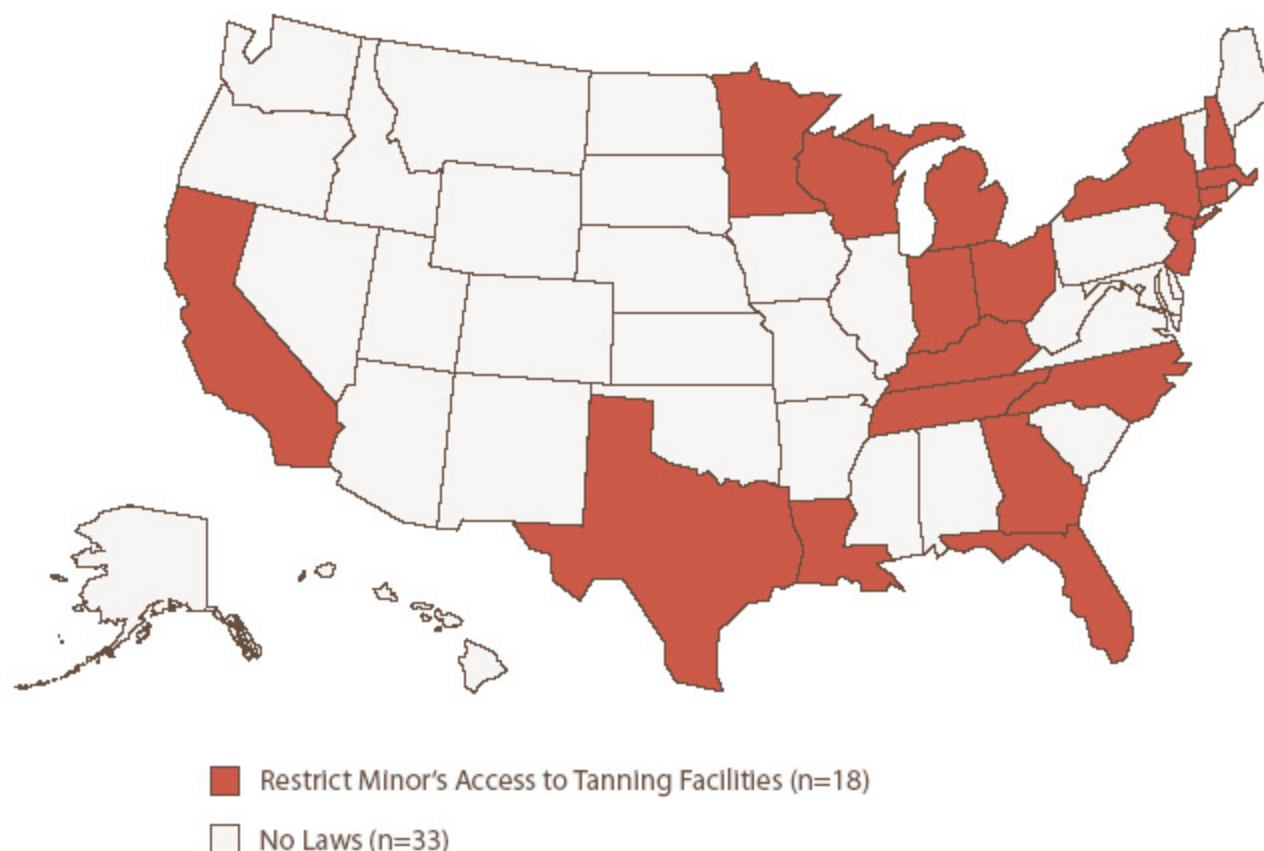


Legislative Data Byte

States with Laws Addressing Minors' Access to Tanning Facilities

(as of September 30, 2006)



Non-melanoma skin cancer is the most common form of cancer, as 40 to 50 percent of Americans who live to age 65 will have the disease at least once in their lifetime.¹ It is predicted that of the more than 1 million cases of skin cancer diagnosed in the United States in 2006, more than 62,000 will be melanoma.^{2,3} Additionally, an estimated 7,910 of the 10,710 predicted deaths attributed to skin cancer will be melanoma-related—making it the deadliest and most serious form of skin cancer.^{2,3}

Long-term exposure to ultraviolet rays, either from tanning beds or the sun, increases the risk of developing skin cancer. Women who use tanning beds more than once a month are 55 percent more likely to develop malignant melanoma.¹ According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 2005 National Health Interview Survey, 8.7 percent of teens aged 14 to 17 used indoor tanning devices; girls in this age group were seven times more likely to use such devices than boys in the same age group.

Currently, 18 states have enacted laws related to minors' access to tanning facilities. Of those states, three (**California, New Jersey, and New York**) prohibit minors under age 14 from using tanning facilities and one state (**Wisconsin**) prohibits use by individuals under age 16. **North Carolina**

law prohibits persons less than 13 years of age from using tanning equipment without a written prescription from the person's physician specifying the nature of the condition requiring treatment. The laws in **New Hampshire** and **Texas** are similar in that the use of tanning facilities by minors under specified ages is prohibited unless a written medical order is provided and a parent or guardian accompanies the minor.

Eight states have laws that restrict the use of tanning facilities by minors at specified ages unless the minor is accompanied by a parent or guardian. Sixteen states have provisions authorizing the use of tanning facilities by minors in specified age ranges (in general, ages 14 to 18) with written parental or guardian consent.

¹ National Cancer Institute—<http://www.cancer.gov/newscenter/tip-sheet-tanning-booths>

² National Cancer Institute—http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/pdq/screening/skin/HealthProfessional/page2#Section_7

³ American Cancer Society—http://www.cancer.org/docroot/PED/content/ped_7_1_What_You_Need_To_Know_About_Skin_Cancer.asp