Tanning Salons

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Child Fatality Task Force
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Questions Arose During/After Last Meeting

- How does NC compare to other states for skin cancer rates?
- Who says tanning bed use is unsafe for teens?
- What does NC do to regulate tanning bed use among teens?
- What’s the experience of other states?
- Could other/different restrictions be imposed?
How does NC compare to other states in terms of skin cancer rates? *(2003-2007)*

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<th>N.C.</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
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<td>Melanoma</td>
<td>16.2 melanoma cases per 100,000 females</td>
<td>15.4 melanoma cases per 100,000 females</td>
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<td>2.0 deaths per 100K females</td>
<td>(range: VT 28.1 to LA 9.4)</td>
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<td>1.7 deaths per 100K females</td>
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http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/uscs/cancersrankedbystate.aspx
Who says tanning bed use is dangerous for teens?

- **Groups supporting a ban**
  - American Academy of Dermatology
  - American Academy of Pediatrics
  - American Cancer Society
  - NC Dermatology Association
  - NC Medical Society
  - NC Pediatrics Society
  - World Health Organization

- CDC says teens should not use tanning beds
Who Says Tanning Beds Are Dangerous?

- **State of NC**

The NC Radiation Protection Act requires warning signage and users must sign that they’ve had an opportunity to review the warning. The specified language includes the following:

- Avoid overexposure. As with natural sunlight, overexposure can cause eye and skin injury and allergic reactions. **REPEATED EXPOSURE MAY CAUSE PREMATURE AGING OF THE SKIN AND SKIN CANCER.**

- Wear protective eyewear. **FAILURE TO USE PROTECTIVE EYEWEAR MAY RESULT IN SEVERE BURNS OR LONG-TERM INJURY TO THE EYES.**

- Medications or cosmetics may increase your sensitivity to the ultraviolet radiation. Consult a physician before using sunlamp or tanning equipment if you are using medication or have a history of skin problems or believe yourself to be especially sensitive to sunlight.

- If you do not tan in the sun, you are unlikely to tan from the use of this product.

- Consumers should report to the agency any injury for which medical attention is sought or obtained resulting from the use of registered tanning equipment. This report should be made within five working days after the occurrence.
What does NC do to regulate tanning salon use among teens?

- Parental consent required
- 3 inspectors for >1400 facilities (not teen specific)
  - One inspection every two years
  - Program paid with fees
- Dosages can be higher than recommended

A North Carolina specific study found that doses of rays from tanning beds were stronger than expected by the researchers and that 95% of tanners stayed in the beds longer than recommended. [http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0846/is_7_23/ai_113650894/](http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0846/is_7_23/ai_113650894/)
Lack of compliance not unique to NC

What do other states do?

- 10 states have stricter bans than NC
  - CA bans any youth <18 from using tanning beds
  - 3 states ban for youth <14 (IL, ME, NJ)
  - 3 states ban for older youth (<16 NY, WI; 15.5 TX)
  - 3 states require doctor prescription <14 (DE, NH, ND)
- Many states considering new bans
  - 2 ban <16 (MO, ID)
  - 3 require prescription <18 (OJ, OH, RI)
  - 8 ban <18 (AZ, IL, MN, NJ, NY, PA, WA, WV)
  - 3 proposed bans failed (FL, WV, WA)
What has been the experience of states with bans/restrictions?

- According to research from the School of Public Health at San Diego State University, residing in a state with restrictions for youth access laws was not significantly related with overall use. The authors call for complete bans on tanning bed use by youth.  
What has been the experience of other states with bans/restrictions?

- Compliance may be weak in parental consent states
  - >80% of salons sold to an “underage” patron without parental consent in MA and MI
    - [Link](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17097392)

- Compliance may be stronger in a “ban” state
  - <30% of salons in WI sold to an “underage” patron
    - [Link](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19770438)
What has been the experience of other countries with bans?

- “Results of statistical modeling have suggested that effective regulation of the indoor tanning industry in Australia including banning minors’ use, could substantially reduce skin cancer incidence and associated costs.”

AJPH; Mayer et. al., March 18, 2011

Adolescent Use of Indoor Tanning
Other info on bans

- WHO recommends banning tanning beds for youth under age 18
- “better laws are needed, preferably in the form of bans for those under age 18”

AJPH; Mayer et. al., March 18, 2011

Adolescent Use of Indoor Tanning
Could other/different restrictions be imposed?

- Mostly governed by NC law and rule
- More requirements could result in more/higher fees to facilities
- Limits on how often/strong a teen tans?
  - Compliance with existing rules not always 100%
  - Records kept for a single salon on number of visits, but no shared data base between independently owned salons
Other miscellaneous information

- Number of tanning beds declined about one-third over past decade in NC.
- HIPPA requirements apply to all prescriptions.
- Girls more likely to use tanning beds than boys; use increases with age of teen; use linked to perception of attractiveness of tan and caregiver use of tanning beds; less likely to use sunscreen.
- Knowledge of risk of skin cancer positively associated with tanning bed use.
- Tanning rules found in the NC Radiation Protection Act 15A NCAC 11.1400.
  
  [Link](http://ncradiation.net/Tanning/rules/sec1400index.htm)