

## Don't Get Burned, It's Time to Learn!



As the summer months approach and things are heating up outside, it's important to keep your skin protected and help prevent against skin cancer. While there are many types of skin cancer, Melanoma is the most deadly form. Each year more than 68,000 Americans are diagnosed with Melanoma, and another 48,000 are diagnosed with an early form of the disease that

involves only the top layer of skin.<sup>1</sup> A person's risk for melanoma doubles if he or she has had five or more sunburns in their lifetime.<sup>2</sup> With that being said, a recent study conducted by The Skin Cancer Foundation revealed that 42 percent of people polled get sunburnt at least once a year.<sup>3</sup> Applying an ample amount of sunscreen during outdoor activities or sun exposure can help prevent you from developing skin cancer. It's quick and easy, so don't forget to lather up!

### A Few Burning Facts

- One person dies from Melanoma almost every hour.<sup>4</sup>
- Skin Cancer accounts for nearly 50% of all cancers combined.<sup>4</sup>
- Skin Cancer is most deadly for African Americans, Asians and Latinos.<sup>4</sup>
- Men are twice more likely to develop skin cancer than women.<sup>4</sup>
- Over the past 31 years, more people have had skin cancer than all other cancers combined.<sup>2</sup>
- In adults 65 or older, Melanoma treatment costs total approximately \$249 million annually. About 40 percent of the annual cost for Melanoma goes to treating stage IV (advanced) cancers, though they account for only three percent of Melanomas.<sup>2</sup>

#### References:

1. National Cancer Institute. "What You need to Know about Melanoma and Other Skin Cancers." <http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/wyntk/skin/page1>
2. The Skin Cancer Foundation. "Skin Cancer Facts." (2011) <http://www.skincancer.org/Skin-Cancer-Facts/>
3. The Skin Cancer Foundation. "Facts about Sunburn and Skin Cancer." <http://www.skincancer.org/facts-about-sunburn-and-skin-cancer.html>
4. Fayed, Lisa. *About.com Guide*. "Top 8 Shocking Facts about Skin Cancer." (May 25, 2010). <http://cancer.about.com/od/skincancermelanoma/tp/skincancerfacts.htm>



9841 Broken Land Parkway, Columbia, MD 21046  
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