



The Maryland State Medical Society

News: For Immediate Release

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2017 SKIN CANCER PREVENTION PROGRESS REPORT

BALTIMORE, September 27, 2017 — In 2014, the Office of the Surgeon General released *The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent Skin Cancer* and established skin cancer prevention as a high priority for our nation. The *Call to Action* described prevention strategies in protecting Americans from ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun and artificial sources, like indoor tanning devices. Since the release of the *Call to Action*, a growing amount of partners have taken great strides towards advancing skin cancer prevention in the United States.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released the third annual "Skin Cancer Prevention Progress Report," which provides the latest updates since *The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent Skin Cancer*. The report provides a comprehensive summary of the most recent data available and highlights developments and success stories following the *Call to Action* and the 2016 Progress Report. By updating the report annually, progress can be monitored, successes can be celebrated, areas for improvement can be recognized, and opportunities to work with partners in government, health care, education, business, and the community can be identified.

Key findings from the 2017 Progress Report include:

- The incidence of melanoma has decreased slightly among younger adults, but has continued to increase steadily among older adults.
- The prevalence of indoor tanning among adults and high school students has declined.
- 17 US states and the District of Columbia have prohibited indoor tanning for minors under 18.
- Over 50% of high school students and 33% of adults get sunburned each year.
- The percentage of schools providing sun safety and skin cancer education has decreased.

Gene Ransom, MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society's Chief Executive Officer explained, "MedChi and the Center for a Health Maryland have a long history of skin cancer prevention efforts through schools, community, and media. MedChi strongly supports reasonable restrictions on tanning bed use and responsible tanning."

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. It is the largest physician organization in Maryland. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.