

facts about: *Skin Cancer*

MINNESOTA

Skin cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed in the United States.¹⁻⁴ This fact sheet presents statistics about skin cancer for Minnesota and the United States as a whole.

just the facts: *Skin Cancer in Minnesota*

- **Sunburns.** A 2004 survey found that 48.7% of white adults in Minnesota had at least one sunburn in the past year—an increase from 40% in 1999.⁵ Sunburns are a significant risk factor for the development of skin cancer.⁶⁻⁸
- **New Cases of Melanoma.** An average of 1,054 state residents were diagnosed with melanoma each year from 2003–2007.⁹ Melanoma is responsible for about 75% of all skin cancer deaths.^{2,10}
 - The rate of new melanoma diagnoses is rising faster than that of any other cancer type in Minnesota. The rate of new melanoma diagnoses rose on average by more than 7% per year between 2003 and 2007.⁹
- **Deaths from Melanoma.** About 120 people in Minnesota die of melanoma every year.¹¹
 - Since 1975, the melanoma death rate has risen by an average of about 1.2% per year among state residents age 50 and over.¹¹

¹⁻⁴⁰ All references can be found on the SunWise Web site at: www.epa.gov/sunwise/statefacts.html

survivor story: *Jennifer Wunderlich*



I saw my doctor about an abnormal mole after a friend grew concerned. The mole was removed but lost before being tested. My doctor said I was fine, even when the mole came back and began to itch and bleed. Two years passed. While pregnant with my first child, I showed the changing spot to a dermatologist I worked for; she sent me for a biopsy that week. I was shocked and scared to learn I had melanoma.

Further testing was postponed since I was pregnant, but after my child was born, tests showed the cancer had spread. After a full right groin lymphectomy and year-long follow up care, I'm still cancer-free almost 9 years later!

Growing up, I spent a lot of time outdoors in the sun and went to tanning beds a few times in my twenties. Since my diagnosis, I apply sunscreen prior to going outside and seek shade when I can. I tell my family, especially my kids, about the importance of sun safety, and encourage everyone to seek out a dermatologist for any skin concerns.

Jennifer Wunderlich, a Lakeville, MN resident, was 32 years old when diagnosed with Stage III melanoma.

Annual Rate of New Melanoma Diagnoses, 2003–2007⁹
All Races, Both Sexes, All Ages



Melanoma Death Rates, 2003–2007¹¹
All Races, Both Sexes, All Ages



