

## **facts about: *Skin Cancer***

### **MASSACHUSETTS**

#### **References**

1. This statement is widely accepted, including by the American Cancer Society (ACS), National Cancer Institute, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).<sup>2-4</sup> More than 1 million cases of skin cancer were estimated to be diagnosed in 2008. While registry data on non-melanoma skin cancers are not currently systematically tracked by the United States Cancer Statistics registries, registry data collected in the past were used to develop these estimates.
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26. Randomized trials are required to provide conclusive evidence that melanoma screening saves lives. In the absence of such trials, however, it is well-accepted that finding melanoma early (at less than 1 mm) is associated with five-year survival rates ranging from 95% to 100% and that a combination of education, awareness, skin self-examination, and physician examination have all been instrumental in the shift toward earlier detected lesions.<sup>27-30</sup> Most recently, a large surveillance program was associated with a steady and sustainable reduction in the incidence of thick melanoma resulting in a statistically significant decrease in mortality that persisted for at least three years.<sup>31</sup> Modeling studies have found that one-time melanoma screening of the general population older than 50 years is cost-effective compared with other cancer screening tests.<sup>32</sup>
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