

CDC Partners Promote Sun Safety for Youth: The Michigan Sun Safety Project



School Partners in Skin Cancer Prevention

In 2002, CDC released the *Guidelines for School Programs to Prevent Skin Cancer*, which outlined seven guidelines that schools can use to reduce skin cancer risk among students. These guidelines provide resources and suggestions for how schools can work to improve sun safety practices in seven major areas: policy, environmental change, education, family involvement, professional development, health services, and evaluation. To foster implementation of these guidelines, the CDC's Division of Cancer Prevention and Control and the Division of Adolescent and School Health made funds available to states with the Coordinated School Health Program (CSHP) to conduct pilot skin cancer prevention activities. Beginning in late 2003 through early 2007, the Department of Education in three states—Colorado, Michigan, and North Carolina—were awarded funds to pilot activities for addressing the seven skin cancer guidelines. Each state was required to develop a partnership with their respective state Comprehensive Cancer Control program to draw from the expertise of each program and promote sun safe behaviors among youth.

Goals

1. Build partnerships among key stakeholders in health and education to reduce risk for skin cancer and promote sun safety among youth through the CSHP.
2. Facilitate state and local district adoption and implementation of policies and programs to promote sun safety and reduce exposure to UV radiation among youth through CSHP.
3. Provide age-appropriate education to students as part of CSHP, which teaches the knowledge, attitudes, and behavioral skills needed to prevent skin cancer and incorporate opportunities for practicing sun safety behaviors into curricula and school activities.
4. Increase dissemination of effective core messages, programs, policies, strategies, and resources regarding sun safety and skin cancer prevention through CSHP.

Activities

Skin Cancer Guideline	Activity
Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Added sun safety to online Healthy School Action Tool (HSAT).• Mini-grant recipient wrote and presented a sun safety policy to its school board.
Environmental Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Added items to HSAT to examine schools' changes to their physical environments aimed at addressing sun safety.• Mini-grant recipient installed shade structures onto school playgrounds.
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developed and distributed sun safety lessons for the <i>Michigan Model for Comprehensive School Health Education</i> for all grades (K-12 and alternative high schools).• Collaborated with the Michigan Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance to develop a sun safety component for <i>Safety Guidelines for Physical Education</i> in Michigan.
Family Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partnered with the Michigan Parent Teacher Student Association to issue mini-grants to PTA groups.• Conducted sun safety activities with 4-H groups.
Professional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaborated with the Michigan High School Athletic Association to develop a mini-module about sun safety during outdoor sports.• Held sun safety training at the Michigan Educational Special Services Association staff wellness conference.
Health Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provided mini-grants to teen health centers to conduct sun safety activities with teens and parents.• Provided sun safety resources to the Michigan Association of School Nurses.
Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partners met regularly to plan for evaluation activities and discuss issues and next steps.

Primary Partners

- Michigan Department of Education
- Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Control Program
- American Cancer Society, Great Lakes Division

Resources

MI Educational Resources Center: <http://www.emc.cmich.edu/sunsafety/>*

MI Health School Action Tool: <http://www.mihealthtools.org/hsat/>*

MI Sun Safety school success stories: <http://www.mihealthtools.org/schoolsuccess/default.asp?tab+selectstories>*

CDC Skin Cancer: <http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/skin/>

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