



**Connecticut
Public Health
Association**

Promoting Public Health in Connecticut Since 1916

Connecticut Public Health Association

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Hartford, CT 06106

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Banning the Use of Indoor Tanning Devices for Minors

The Connecticut Public Health Association (CPHA) supports **S.B. 872, “An Act Concerning the Use of Indoor Tanning Devices by Persons under Eighteen Years of Age.”** S.B. 872 would protect Connecticut children and teens from the harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation of indoor tanning devices, which will subsequently help to prevent skin cancer.

Skin Cancer: The Facts

- Skin cancer is the most common type of cancer in the United States, with more than 2 million new diagnoses each year.¹ This exceeds the number of new diagnoses for all other cancers combined.²
- Approximately 12,000 people in the United States died of the disease in 2012, and 9,000 of these deaths were from melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer.¹
- The incidence of melanoma has increased 60% over the last 30 years. There has been an especially rapid increase in women age 15-39, with a 3% increase annually since 1992.³
- The incidence rate of melanoma in **Connecticut** is the **8th highest** in the country and is **31% higher than the national average**.⁴
- More children and young adults are being diagnosed with melanoma than ever before. It is the most common form of cancer in young adults age 25-29.^{5,6}
- Non-melanoma skin cancers are among the top 5 most costly cancers to treat in the Medicare population.²

Indoor Tanning Devices and UV Radiation: The Facts

- People who use indoor tanning devices have a 29% increased risk of developing basal cell carcinoma and a 67% increased risk of developing squamous cell carcinoma, compared to those who never use indoor tanning devices. This risk is greatly increased in child and young adult indoor tanners.⁷
- Those who tan indoors have a 74% increased risk for developing melanoma, compared to those who have never used an indoor tanning device. Additionally, people who spend 50+ hours tanning indoors throughout their life have three times the risk of developing skin cancer.⁸
- The World Health Organization’s International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classifies indoor tanning devices as “carcinogenic to humans,” the highest and most harmful classification an item can receive. Other carcinogens in this classification category include tobacco, asbestos and benzene.⁹
- The percentage of high school age children who report using indoor tanning devices doubles between 9th and 12th grade (10.5% to 21.7%).¹⁰
- Currently, 36 states regulate indoor tanning for children and teens. In 2012, California and Vermont passed laws similar to **S.B. 872**, banning indoor tanning for children under eighteen years old. New York state passed a ban on indoor tanning for children under 17 years old.^{11,12,13}
- Many national public health and medical organizations support the restriction of indoor tanning for minors, including the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the World Health Organization, the American Academy of Dermatology Association (AADA) and the American Medical Association (AMA).^{12, 14,15,16}

Recommendations

CPHA strongly supports public policies that reduce skin cancer risk for Connecticut citizens, particularly for children and teenagers. Exposure to UV radiation from tanning beds before eighteen poses the greatest risk of developing costly non-melanoma skin cancers and deadly melanomas later in life. CPHA strongly recommends banning children and teens under the age of eighteen from exposure to UV Radiation from indoor tanning devices—a cancer-causing exposure that is completely preventable. Preventing skin cancer is a life-long effort, and passing SB 827 will ensure that Connecticut’s children will be one step ahead on this path.



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