

## **Age-Adjusted Skin Cancer Rates from 2010 to 2012**

"If I could offer you only one tip for the future, sunscreen would be it. The long-term benefits of sunscreen have been proved by scientists, whereas the rest of my advice has no basis more reliable than my own meandering experience."

So begins a hypothetical commencement speech by Mary Schmich, written to college graduates in the Chicago Tribune in June of 1997. Although nearly twenty years has passed since her writing, the advice to wear sunscreen continues to be just as relevant to all Americans.

According to the American Academy of Dermatology, an estimated one out of every five Americans will develop skin cancer in their lives, and exposure to both natural and artificial ultraviolet (UV) light is a risk factor for all kinds of skin cancer. Nationwide, there are about two million diagnosed cases of nonmelanoma skin cancer. Skin cancer is highly curable and there is a 98 percent five-year survival rate of people whose melanoma is detected and treated before spreading to the lymph nodes.

This map of California shows the skin cancer rate by county for the state of California, where there were a total of 25,799 cases of skin cancer (excluding basal and squamous). The state skin cancer rate per 100,000 people is 22.80. By using the rate per 100,000 people, it is possible to better compare counties within the state. Skin cancer rates are higher in northwestern California and along the coast of southern California. The highest skin cancer rates are found in Marin, Sonoma, Shasta, and San Luis Obispo Counties. Looking at the map, those counties found in green are either below or very near the state rate, while those counties in orange and red are all above the state rate.

*This data comes from the California Cancer Registry, Skin Cancer (excluding basal and squamous) rate per 100,000 for 2010-2012, age-adjusted to 2000 U.S. Standard Million Population.*

Sources:

<http://www.ccrca.org/>

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/columnists/chi-schmich-sunscreen-column-column.html>

<https://www.aad.org/media-resources/stats-and-facts/conditions/skin-cancer>