

## **facts about: *Skin Cancer*** **West Virginia**

### **References**

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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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