

facts about: *Skin Cancer*

## KANSAS

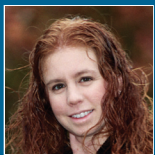
**Skin cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed in the United States.**<sup>1-4</sup> This fact sheet presents statistics about skin cancer for Kansas and the United States as a whole.

### just the facts: *Skin Cancer in Kansas*

- **Sunburns on the Rise.** A 2004 survey found that 41.4% of white adults in Kansas had at least one sunburn in the past year—an increase from 34.2% in 1999.<sup>5</sup> Sunburns are a significant risk factor for the development of skin cancer.<sup>6-8</sup>
- **New Cases of Melanoma.** The rate of new melanoma diagnoses—responsible for 75% of all skin cancer deaths—was 9% higher in Kansas than the national average from 2002-2006 and was the 18<sup>th</sup> highest in the U.S.<sup>9,10</sup> An estimated 610 state residents were diagnosed with melanoma in 2009.<sup>2</sup>
  - Among whites—who are at the highest risk for melanoma—Kansas had the 26<sup>th</sup> highest melanoma incidence rate in the U.S. from 2002-2006.<sup>11</sup>
- **Deaths from Melanoma.** Approximately 80 people in Kansas die of melanoma every year.<sup>12</sup> Since 1975, the melanoma death rate has risen about 2% per year among state residents over the age of 50.<sup>13</sup>
  - Among state residents over the age of 50 the melanoma death rate was about twice as high for males as for females in 2006.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>1-42</sup> All references can be found on the SunWise Web site at: [www.epa.gov/sunwise/statefacts.html](http://www.epa.gov/sunwise/statefacts.html)

### survivor story: *Kristyn Gore*



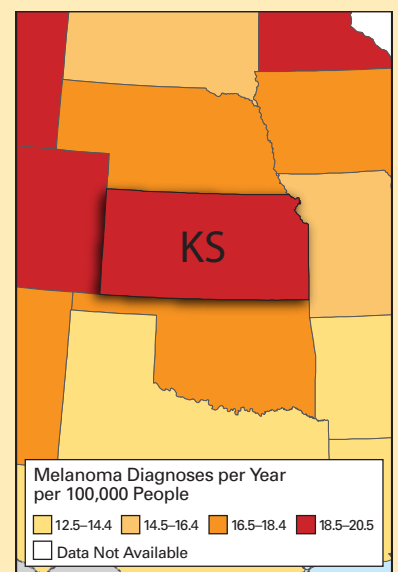
In 2007, not long after I got married, I noticed a small, pimple-like cyst on my neck. I didn't think much of it at the time, but after family members expressed their concern, I made an appointment to have it checked out. In the meantime, I found out I was pregnant. I was thrilled, but the very next week I received devastating news: I had Stage IV metastatic melanoma.

My husband and I were determined to treat the cancer while continuing my pregnancy, so during my second trimester, a surgeon removed the cyst and the lymph nodes in my neck and shoulder. After my son was born, I began radiation and then chemotherapy. Two more surgeries later—along with X-rays and PET scans every two months—the cancer cells were gone.

Now I always cover my skin and wear sunscreen, sunglasses and a hat when I'm outside. My son loves being outside, so I make sure he's safe from the sun too. Take it from me: if you notice skin changes on yourself or a loved one, don't wait to get them checked out.

*Kristyn Gore was 25 years old when she was diagnosed with Stage IV melanoma.*

#### Annual Rate of New Melanoma Diagnoses, 2002–2006<sup>11</sup> All Races, Both Sexes, All Ages



#### Melanoma Death Rates, 2002–2006<sup>11</sup> All Races, Both Sexes, All Ages

