

facts about: *Skin Cancer*

SOUTH CAROLINA

Skin cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed in the United States.¹⁻⁴ This fact sheet presents statistics about skin cancer for South Carolina and the United States as a whole.

just the facts: *Skin Cancer in South Carolina*

- **Sunburns on the Rise.** A 2004 survey found that 41.6% of white adults in South Carolina had at least one sunburn in the past year—an increase from 33% in 1999.⁵ Sunburns are a significant risk factor for the development of skin cancer.⁶⁻⁸
- **New Cases of Melanoma.** The rate of new melanoma diagnoses—responsible for 75% of all skin cancer deaths—was 17% higher in South Carolina than the national average from 2002-2006 and was the 12th highest in the U.S.^{9,10} An estimated 1,090 state residents were diagnosed with melanoma in 2009.²
 - Among whites—who are at the highest risk for melanoma—South Carolina had the 4th highest rate of new melanoma diagnoses in the U.S. from 2002-2006.⁹
 - Beaufort County has the highest rate of new melanoma diagnoses in the state and ranks among the highest 4% of counties nationwide.⁹
- **Deaths from Melanoma.** About 110 people in South Carolina die of melanoma every year.¹¹ The melanoma death rate has increased about 1% per year among state residents over the age of 50 since 1975.¹¹
 - York County has the highest melanoma death rate in the state, 37% higher than the national average.¹¹

¹⁻⁴¹ All references can be found on the SunWise Web site at: www.epa.gov/sunwise/statefacts.html

survivor story: *Sally Hogg*



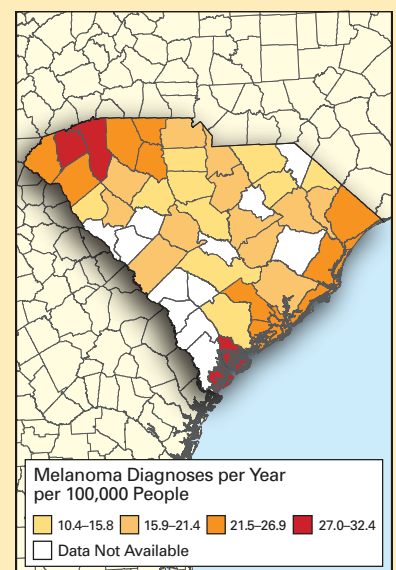
In the summer of 2004, I received the shocking news that I had Stage III melanoma. I couldn't believe it; I felt numb. The melanoma had spread from a spot on my upper right arm to the lymph nodes on the underside of my arm. There was also a three inch tumor in my right breast. I underwent a radical mastectomy to remove my entire breast and the lymph nodes, and also had the spot on my arm surgically excised. I have been cancer-free now for over five years.

Growing up I spent a lot of time in tanning beds and outside in the sun. But since my diagnosis, I've been careful to limit my time in the sun, especially in the summer. When I do spend more time outdoors, I make sure I'm well covered with a hat and long sleeves.

I also visit my oncologist regularly for check-ups. I'm always afraid "it" will be back, but am so thankful to be reaching my five year mark. Melanoma is treatable if it's caught early enough, so I encourage my friends and family to see a doctor if they discover any odd skin changes, and I constantly remind people of the dangers of tanning beds and overexposure to the sun.

Sally Hogg, a Manning, South Carolina resident, was 60 years old when she was diagnosed with Stage III melanoma.

Annual Rate of New Melanoma Diagnoses, 2002–2006⁹ All Races, Both Sexes, All Ages



Melanoma Death Rates, 2002–2006¹¹ All Races, Both Sexes, All Ages

