Ultraviolet (UV) radiation is a major risk factor for melanoma of the skin. About 230,000 cases and 55,000 deaths from melanoma are estimated to occur each year worldwide. UV radiation also causes keratinocytic (also known as non-melanoma) skin cancers, the most common types of cancer in humans with about 1.3 million cases each year. While rarely fatal, keratinocytic cancers impose a significant burden of morbidity and economic cost.

The major source of UV radiation is the sun. The amount of solar radiation reaching any point on the Earth’s surface depends on latitude and altitude, time of day and year, cloud cover, and sea pollution. UV radiation levels also depend on the protective stratospheric ozone layer.

Personal exposures to “artificial” UV radiation can occur through the use of tanning devices. Although classified as a human carcinogen, they occur through the use of tanning devices. Just a few serious sunburns in childhood can increase a person’s risk of skin cancer later in life.

Both boys and girls in some countries use sunbeds, which increases the risk of developing skin cancer later in life.

In some countries, melanoma rates continue to increase among older males while rates among younger males show signs of decreasing.

1. While rarely fatal, keratinocytic cancers impose a significant burden of morbidity and economic cost.
2. Both boys and girls in some countries use sunbeds, which increases the risk of developing skin cancer later in life.
3. Rates among younger males are decreasing in Australia, New Zealand, and Denmark. Rates remain low in Japan for both younger and older males. Similar trends are seen for females in these countries.

Support and education for sun protection are necessary from all aspects of society: families, healthcare systems, schools, workplaces, community organizations, and the mass media.”

— Cynthia M. Jarjoura, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention