

# Preventing Skin Cancer: Interventions Targeting Children's Parents and Caregivers

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## Task Force Finding

### Intervention Definition

These activities focus primarily on supporting parents and caregivers in changing the sun-protective behavior of the children in their care. Caregivers for children may include nannies, other family members, lifeguards, and teachers and coaches. Such individuals play an important role in protecting children from UV radiation, including reducing children's UV exposure, incorporating sun-protective behaviors into routines, and modeling healthy behavior. They may be amenable to the provision of information; to activities to change knowledge, attitudes, and intentions; and to environmental or policy approaches, such as scheduling outdoor activities to avoid peak UV hours.

### Task Force Finding (July 2002)\*

The reviewed reports provided insufficient evidence to determine the effectiveness of interventions for parents or caregivers because there were too few reports and findings were inconsistent. Although not recommendation outcomes, the reports demonstrate that the intervention did lead to improvements in children's attitudes or beliefs, as well as sun-safety measures and environmental supports at outdoor recreational centers and swimming pools.

\*From the following publication:

Task Force on Community Preventive Services. Recommendations to prevent skin cancer by reducing exposure to ultraviolet radiation. *Am J Prev Med* 2004;27(5):467-70.

### Publications

CDC. [Preventing skin cancer. Findings of the Task Force on Community Preventive Services on reducing exposure to ultraviolet light](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5215a1.htm) [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5215a1.htm]. *MMWR* 2003;52(RR-15):1-12.

Saraiya M, Glanz K, Briss PA, et al. Interventions to prevent skin cancer by reducing exposure to ultraviolet radiation: a systematic review. *Am J Prev Med* 2004;27(5):422-66.

Task Force on Community Preventive Services. Recommendations to prevent skin cancer by reducing exposure to ultraviolet radiation. *Am J Prev Med* 2004;27(5):467-70.

Task Force on Community Preventive Services. Cancer. In: Zaza S, Briss PA, Harris KW, eds. *The Guide to Community Preventive Services: What Works to Promote Health?* Atlanta (GA): Oxford University Press;2005:143-87 (Out of Print).

### Disclaimer

The findings and conclusions on this page are those of the Community Preventive Services Task Force and do not necessarily represent those of CDC. Task Force evidence-based recommendations are not mandates for compliance or spending. Instead, they provide information and options for decision makers and stakeholders to consider when determining which programs, services, and policies best meet the needs, preferences, available resources, and constraints of their constituents.

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