



## AN ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH TRACKING STORY

# CREATING MORE COMPREHENSIVE SUN SAFETY POLICIES AT DAY CARES

Monroe County, Wisconsin

## THE PROBLEM

In Monroe County, there is an average of 24 cases of melanoma for every 100,000 people each year, which is about the same as the Wisconsin average of 22 cases per 100,000 people. Like Wisconsin as a whole, the rate of melanoma in Monroe County has continued to go up over time. Sunburns—especially at young ages—are a risk factor for skin cancer.

## WHAT MONROE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT DID

Health department staff met with two day care providers in their county to discuss the importance of sun safety policies and share examples of model policies. The providers had sun safety policies in place, but health department staff noted the policies could be strengthened to reflect best practices outlined by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

After following up with these two day cares, both report they updated their policies to include guidance on sunscreen, hat, sunglasses, and protective clothing use, as well as language on limiting exposure between peak hours and educating parents about the policy.

## THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT

Since early sunburns contribute to skin cancer risk over a person's lifetime, it's critically important to not only prevent sun damage while children are at day care, but to also teach them lifelong sun safety behaviors. With these policies, parents of children at these day cares know their children will be sun safe even while they're away from home.

EXPLORE YOUR COUNTY'S  
MELANOMA DATA:

[dhs.wisconsin.gov/epht](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/epht)

WISCONSIN ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH TRACKING PROGRAM  
Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health

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