



Sunshine Health Foundation

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Office of Science Quality
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
InfoQuality@cdc.gov

This is a submission of an information quality request for correction.

Detailed description of the specific information that needs to be corrected.

The information that needs to be corrected is as follows:

The video of Dr. Iskander and Dr. Richardson at <https://www.cdc.gov/grand-rounds/pp/2015/20150421-skin-cancer.html> under the heading “Beyond the Data – Prevention and Control of Skin Cancer.” In this video presentation, Dr. Richardson advises African-Americans to get less sun exposure by wearing a hat and sunglasses, applying sunscreen and covering themselves up with protective clothing whenever they are out in the sun.

The specific reasons for believing the information does not comply with OMB, HHS or CDC guidelines and is in error.

The information does not comply with OMB, HHS and CDC guidelines because it is harmful to the health of African-Americans. African-Americans need more sun exposure, not less.

The entire nation is currently suffering from inadequate sun exposure which is the nation’s #2 public health problem, accounting for 340,000 preventable deaths per year and hundreds of thousands of preventable cases of colorectal cancer, high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, Alzheimer’s disease, asthma, and multiple sclerosis [1].

The prevalence of colorectal cancer in the United States is 25% higher in black Americans than in white Americans [2]. The prevalence of high blood pressure in the United States is 37% higher in black Americans than in white Americans [3], and mortality due to high blood pressure and its consequences is 4 to 5 times more likely in black Americans than in white Americans [4]. Notably, the prevalence of high blood pressure in black-skinned persons is far lower in Africa and increases in a consistent gradient from Africa to the Caribbean to the United States [5]. The prevalence of type 2 diabetes in the United States is 100% higher in black

Americans than in white Americans [6]. The prevalence of Alzheimer's disease in the United States is 100% higher in black Americans than in white Americans [7]. The prevalence of asthma in the United States is 35% higher in black Americans than in white Americans. The mortality rate of asthma is 400% higher for black Americans [8]. The prevalence of multiple sclerosis in the United States is 47% higher in black Americans than in white Americans [9]. Minority populations in the United States have a higher incidence of multiple sclerosis compared with their ancestral countries of origin [10].

Melanoma is rare among black Americans, with incidence rates of 1.2 per 100,000 for men and 1.0 per 100,000 for women, compared with 33.0 per 100,000 for men and 20.2 per 100,000 for women among white Americans [11].

Since more than 90% of serum 25(OH)D in the human body is produced by sun exposure, the level of 25(OH)D in a person's body is the best measure of the amount of that person's sun exposure. The prevalence of 25(OH)D levels less than 30 ng/mL is 97% for black Americans vs. 77% for white Americans, and the prevalence of 25(OH)D levels less than 10 ng/mL is 29% for black Americans vs. 6% for white Americans [12]. Traditionally living populations near the equator in Africa have a mean serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D concentration of 46 ng/mL [13].

References:

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- [8] Silvers SK, Lang DM. Asthma in African Americans: What can we do about the higher rates of disease? *Cleveland Clin J Med* 2012; 79:193-201.
- [9] Khan O, Williams MJ, Amezcua L, Javed A, Larsen KE, Smrtka JM. Multiple sclerosis in US minority populations. *Neurol Clin Pract* 2015; 5:132-142.
- [10] Amezcua L, Lund BT, Weiner LP, Islam T. Multiple sclerosis in Hispanics: a study of clinical disease expression. *Mult Scler* 2011; 17:1010-1016.
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- [12] Ginde AA, Liu MC, Camargo CA. Demographic Differences and Trends of Vitamin D Insufficiency in the US Population, 1988-2004. *Arch Intern Med* 2009; 169:626-632.

[13] Luxwolda MF, Kuipers RS, Kema IP, Dijck-Brouwer DAJ, Muskiet FAJ. Traditionally living populations in East Africa have a mean serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D concentration of 115 nmol/l. Br J Nutr 2012; 108:1557-1561.

The specific recommendation for correcting the information

The entire video should be deleted.

Description of how the person submitting this complaint is affected by the information error

The Sunshine Health Foundation is dedicated to the purpose of educating the public on the risks and benefits of sun exposure. Accomplishment of this purpose requires correction of inaccurate information on the CDC's website concerning the risks and benefits of sun exposure.

The name, mailing address, telephone number and e-mail address of the person making this complaint

The person making this complaint is the Sunshine Health Foundation, which is a charitable foundation. The mailing address, telephone number and e-mail address of the Sunshine Health Foundation is:

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Respectfully submitted,

Sunshine Health Foundation

By:



Allen Miller, President