



July 2, 2020

Allen Miller, President
Sunshine Health Foundation
2500 Fairmount Street #417
Dallas, TX 75219

Re: Information Quality Request for Correction, dated 2/1/2020

Dear Mr. Miller:

This letter is in response to the recent Information Quality Request for Correction, dated February 1, 2020. This request will be listed as #74 on the HHS website on Information Quality Requests at:

<https://aspe.hhs.gov/information-requests-corrections-and-hhs-responses>.

Your letter references the Beyond the Data – Prevention and Control of Skin Cancer video from the 2015 CDC Public Health Grand Rounds and the information presented that African-Americans could “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.” You state that this information is not in compliance with OMB, HHS, and CDC guidelines.

After careful consideration of scientific evidence, we respectfully disagree. Excessive exposure to the sun can lead to sunburns (1). Sunburns are caused by ultraviolet (UV) radiation, which has been classified as a human carcinogen by the International Association of Cancer Research (2, 3). African Americans report fewer sunburns (4, 5) and report using fewer sun protective measures (4, 5) than other racial/ethnic groups in the United States. Among non-Hispanic black adults who reported having sun sensitive skin, 38% reported one or more sunburns in the past 12 months (6).

If you wish to appeal this response to your requests for correction, you may submit a written hard copy or electronic request for reconsideration within 30 days of receipt of the agency’s decision. The appeal must state the reasons why the agency response is insufficient or inadequate. You must attach a copy of your original request and the agency’s response to it. Clearly mark the appeal with the words, “Information Quality Appeal” and send the appeal by e-mail to InfoQuality@cdc.gov or to: CDC/ATSDR, Attn: Mailstop H21-8 (attn.: Office of Science Quality); 1600 Clifton Road, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30333.

Thank you for your interest in the quality of information disseminated by CDC.

Sincerely,

/S/

Nicole F. Dowling, Ph.D.

Associate Director for Science

Division of Cancer Prevention and Control (DCPC)

National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP)

cc:

Lisa C. Richardson, MD, MPH, Director, DCPC

Rachel Kaufmann, PhD, Associate Director for Science, NCCDPHP

References

1. International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). *IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans: Solar and Ultraviolet Radiation*. Lyon, France: IARC; 1992
2. El Ghissassi F, Baan R, Straif K et al (2009) A review of human carcinogens—part D: radiation. *Lancet Oncol* 10:751–752.
3. IARC (2012) IARC monographs on the evaluation of carcinogenic risks to humans. 100: a review of human carcinogens. Part D: radiation. IARC, Lyon.
4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Sunburn and sun protective behaviors among adults aged 18-29 years—United States, 2000-2010. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep*. 2012;61(18):317-322.13.
5. Buller DB, Cokkinides V, Hall HI, et al. Prevalence of sunburn, sun protection, and indoor tanning behaviors among Americans: review from national surveys and case studies of 3 states. [J Am Acad Dermatol](#). 2011 Nov;65(5 Suppl 1):S114-23. doi: 10.1016/j.jaad.2011.05.033.
6. [Holman DM](#), [Ding H](#), [Guy GP Jr](#), [Watson M](#), [Hartman AM](#), [Perna FM](#). Prevalence of Sun Protection Use and Sunburn and Association of Demographic and Behavioral Characteristics with Sunburn Among US Adults. *JAMA Dermatol*. 2018 May 1;154(5):561-568. doi: 10.1001/jamadermatol.2018.0028.