GOAL: PROTECT YOUTH FROM THE DANGERS OF INDOOR TANNING

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified UV-emitting indoor tanning devices with the highest level of cancer risk “carcinogenic to humans,” just like tobacco and asbestos.

Tanning devices deliver UVA radiation that penetrates below the top layer of skin and cumulative exposure to UVA increases the risk of melanoma.

Individuals younger than 25 using indoor tanning devices increase their risk of developing melanoma by 59%. The rates are higher for those using tanning devices before the age of 25.

In Missouri, 21% of females in 11th grade and 30% of females in 12th grade have used an indoor tanning device in the past one year, higher than the national rate of 16% of 12th graders.

13 states have already passed strong laws to protect youth under 18 from indoor tanning devices.

The AAP recommends banning indoor tanning for anyone under the age of 18.

Approximately 1.6 million adolescents use indoor tanning every year.

Missouri’s current law is inadequate, allowing youth to use indoor tanning with parental consent. To protect youth from harmful effects of artificial UV radiation, the law needs to prohibit usage for all children under 18 years of age.