

**PRESS RELEASE No. 311**

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## Global burden of cutaneous melanoma in 2020 and projections to 2040

**Lyon, France, 30 March 2022** – A new study by scientists from the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and partners predicts that the number of new cases of cutaneous melanoma per year will increase by more than 50% from 2020 to 2040. The study, published today in the journal *JAMA Dermatology*,<sup>1</sup> provides global patterns of cutaneous melanoma in 2020 as well as projections of the numbers of new cases and deaths for 2040.

“Although many cases are preventable, cutaneous melanoma remains the most serious type of skin cancer and accounts for approximately 1 in 5 skin cancers,” says Dr Melina Arnold, an epidemiologist in the Cancer Surveillance Branch at IARC and a co-author of the article. “These global estimates help to better understand the scale and profile of the disease and reinforce global prevention efforts.”

Skin cancers are the most common groups of cancers diagnosed worldwide, with more than 1.5 million new cases estimated in 2020.

In 2020, an estimated 325 000 new cases of melanoma were diagnosed worldwide and 57 000 people died from the disease. There are large geographical variations in incidence rates across countries and world regions.

In most world regions, melanoma occurs more frequently in men than in women.

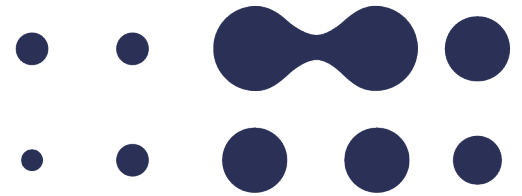
The highest incidence rates per 100 000 were observed in Australia and New Zealand (42 in men and 31 in women), followed by Western Europe (19 in both men and women), Northern America (18 in men and 14 in women), and Northern Europe (17 in men and 18 in women).

Melanoma continues to be rare in most countries in Africa and Asia, where incidence rates are commonly below 1 per 100 000.

On the basis of global population changes, the scientists estimated that more than 500 000 new cases of melanoma per year and almost 100 000 deaths from melanoma should be expected worldwide by 2040.

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<sup>1</sup> Arnold M, Singh D, Laversanne M, Vignat J, Vaccarella S, Meheus F, et al. Global burden of cutaneous melanoma in 2020 and projections to 2040. *JAMA Dermatol*. Published online 30 March 2022; <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamadermatol.2022.0160>



“Melanoma is an important public health issue, particularly in fair-skinned populations who are exposed to ultraviolet radiation,” says Dr Arnold. “The expected increase in incidence highlights the urgent need for targeted melanoma control measures.”

**For more information, please contact**

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