

June 17, 2025

WHO INTERSUN

Report on activities in Finland from July 2024 to June 2025

Research activities related to optical radiation and health

Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (STUK) performs a survey on sun protection habits, attitudes and sunbed usage among the general population (age 15–79 years) every second year. The latest survey was conducted in November 2024 and showed that Finns are more aware of the health risks of UV radiation from the sun and protect themselves better than earlier, but protection of children has decreased. Only around 1 % of Finns had used a sunbed during the last 12 months period.

According to a Cancer Risk Factors and Prevention survey commissioned by Cancer Society of Finland in 2024, most Finns know that UV radiation from the sun increases the risk of cancer. In addition, just under half of respondents identified fair skin as a risk factor. Older respondents were more likely than younger respondents to identify the cancer risk of sunbeds.

The Finnish Cancer Registry collects and publishes yearly the national registry of all the diagnosed cancer cases, including skin cancers. According to the latest cancer statistics, nearly 1,800 melanomas, over 2,100 squamous cell carcinomas and about 9,400 basal cell carcinomas were diagnosed in Finland in 2024.

New relevant policies and legislation

No new policies or legislation.

New communication activities

During the year 2025, Finland is preparing a national programme to reduce the incidence of skin cancers caused by UV radiation. STUK is coordinating the preparation of the programme. The preparation involves extensive consultation with relevant stakeholders. The programme will start in 2026 and run until 2030.

STUK, Cancer Society of Finland, and Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI) organized a common media event and published a press release regarding UV index, sun protection habits, cancer risk awareness and incidence of skin cancers in May 2025.

A campaign called #suniho (#yourskin) was continued in collaboration with STUK, Cancer Society of Finland, and FMI during the summers 2024 and 2025. The website <http://www.suniho.fi> was updated and it was promoted on social media channels in 2024 and 2025.

All institutions have their own webpages on UV radiation related health hazards and sun protection. They are also promoting sun protection actively on their social media channels.

Health effects of UV radiation have been an issue of some public concern. Experts from STUK and other institutions have been interviewed several times by the media on adverse health effects of exposure to sun or sunbeds.

STUK

SÄTEILYTURVAKESKUS
STRÅLSÄKERHETSCENTRALEN
RADIATION AND NUCLEAR SAFETY AUTHORITY

Osoite | Adress | Jokiniemenkuja 1, 01370 Vantaa | Änäsgränden 1, 01370 Vantaa
Address | Jokiniemenkuja 1, 01370 Vantaa, FINLAND
Puh. | Tfn. | Tel. | (09) 759 881, +358 9 759 881 | www.stuk.fi