

NORWAY

Report on Optical radiation activities June 2024 – May 2025

General research activities in Norway related to optical radiation health

There are ongoing research activities, by universities and university hospitals, Cancer Registry of Norway, Norwegian Cancer Society (NCS), Norwegian Institute for Air Research, Nordic Institute of Dental Materials and Norwegian Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (DSA) among others. It covers epidemiologic studies related to melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers, use of sunbeds, sun-related behaviour, UV and optical radiation related to the climate, UV and optical effect and hazard studies. Quality assured, historical data from the Norwegian UV monitoring network are used in national and international studies and are available for research purposes at [github](#). A report from DSA summarizing [30 years of UV monitoring in Norway](#) is recently published, in which one important finding is increased UV levels in southern Norway in spring and decreased levels at Svalbard.

New policies and legislations regarding optical radiation

New regulations on infringement fees linked to violations of the radiation protection regulations, including those related to sunbeds and use of lasers, have been out for consultation and awaits decision on date of entry into force.

On behalf of the Ministry of Health and Care Services, DSA has submitted for consultation, a proposal for stricter regulation of sunbeds to reduce the incidence of skin cancer. The proposal includes amendments to the Radiation Protection Act by introducing a ban on advertising for sunbeds and the closure of sunbed businesses in case of violation of the age verification requirement. The consultation note also contains amendments to the Radiation Protection Regulations by introducing a supervision fee, a requirement for information to customers about risk factors when using sunbeds, before payment is made, and two alternative solutions for better age verification: a requirement for age verification using self-declared eID or a requirement for manned service.

Areas of public concern and national responses

An overall [national cancer strategy](#) (2025-2035) was published in February 2025. Regards prevention of skin cancer, it points to the [national UV- and skin cancer strategy](#).

DSA performed a survey of sun habits and attitudes among adults, age 50+ in the autumn 2024. It confirms previous findings that women more than men protect themselves against the sun, get less sunburned and check their skin more often. Middle aged and older people are more concerned with getting a tan than younger people, and those above the age of 70 years has less knowledge about the fact that previous skin cancer increases the risk of new skin cancer and believe that their skin is protected after much sun exposure.

New public information activities

DSA carried out a campaign in social media during the summer 2024, using three TikTok-profiles to promote correct use of UV forecast and encourage sun protection. The campaign was targeted towards young people, 13-24 years of age, and reached out to many in this age group.

Both DSA, the Norwegian Cancer Society, Norwegian Meteorological Institute and Norwegian Institute for Air Research publish news regarding the expected UV situation and related sun protection advice prior to the Easter and summer holidays.

Both news regarding the survey on sun habits among adults and regarding 30 years of UV monitoring in Norway resulted in much attention by media.

There has been much media attention regards misuse of UV forecast by adolescents, as some of them use the forecast to go outdoors when the UV index is high. Influencer's posts on SoMe have claimed that sunscreen use can increase, instead of decrease, risk of skin cancer and that sunbed use and sun exposure can increase overall life expectancy. Countering such misinformation has required much time and effort from professional bodies working with skin cancer prevention.