



# Public Awareness

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# PURPOSE

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- It is hypothesized that skin cancer is not understood well in the community.
- Many do not understand the recognition and potential consequences
- Purpose of Project:
  - Assess understanding of community concerning melanoma and it's prevention
  - Educated them on prevention, recognition, treatment & complications



# METHODS

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- The public was invited through local newspapers & newsletters
- Questionnaire was given prior to lecture
- Used two locations
  - Civic Center in Grand Tower, IL
  - University of Illinois Home Extension in Murphysboro, IL



# METHODS

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- Content of lecture:
  - What is Melanoma?
  - Recognition
  - Treatments available
  - Consequences
  - Prevention
- Post Lecture:
  - Allotted time for question & answer
  - Participants given sun protection pamphlets & samples of sun block



# BACKGROUND

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- Melanoma
  - Most dangerous skin cancer
  - Affects 50,000 per year
  - Around 7,600 deaths per year
  - Caused by mutation & proliferation of melanocytes
  - Can be easily removed if identified early in development



# BACKGROUND

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- Primary risk factor:
  - UVA & UVB radiation
  - Believed to cause >65% of cases
- Prevention:
  - Sun block
  - Protective clothing
  - Regular skin self-exams

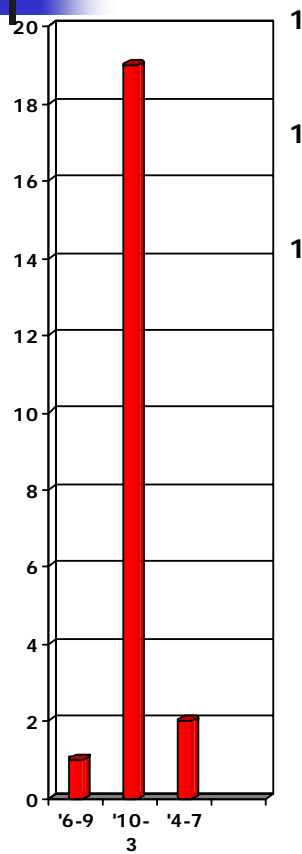


# RESULTS FROM SURVEY

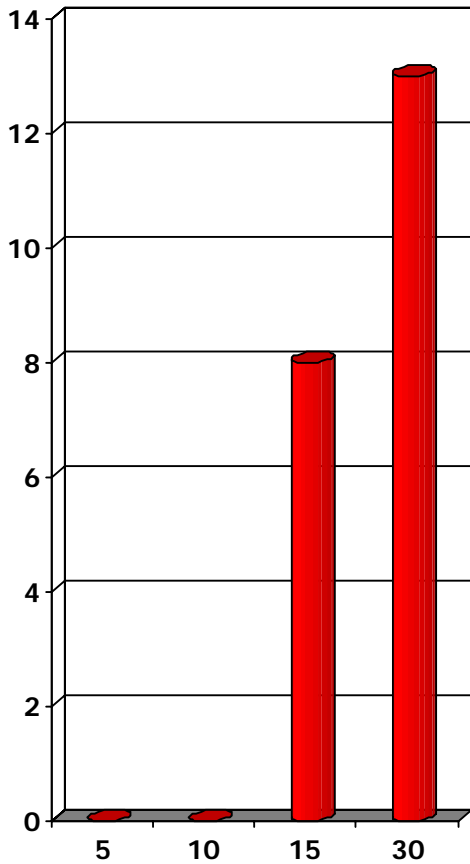
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- Number of participants 60
  - Only 22 surveys were completed
  - 19 knew melanoma was a form of skin cancer
  - 16 personally knew someone with skin cancer
  - 3 still worked where they are exposed to an increased amount of UV radiation

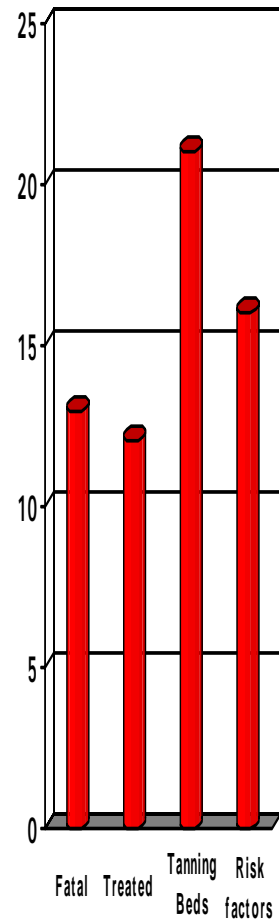
# RESULTS FROM SURVEY



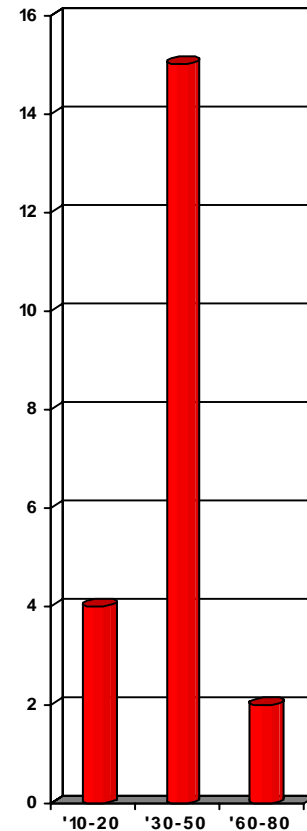
■ UV Radiation Times



■ Sunblock



■ Melanoma



■ Age Damage



# CONCLUSION

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- Many aspects of melanoma are unclear to general population
- Participants did not understand:
  - Age sun damage usually occurs
  - Proper application & usage of sun block
  - Treatment for melanoma
  - Common locations
- Participants had an understanding of:
  - Melanoma was skin cancer
  - Recognizing some attributes of atypical mole
  - UV is damaging to skin



# CONCLUSION

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- Following the presentation it was felt that participants were more proficient in these areas
- Knowledge gained will serve to help themselves & others in:
  - Recognition
  - Prevention of cancerous lesions