

4.4 Sun Exposure

4.4 Sun Exposure

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate 90% of all skin cancers can be attributed to the sun with 50% of lifetime exposure to ultra violet light occurring during childhood and adolescence.¹

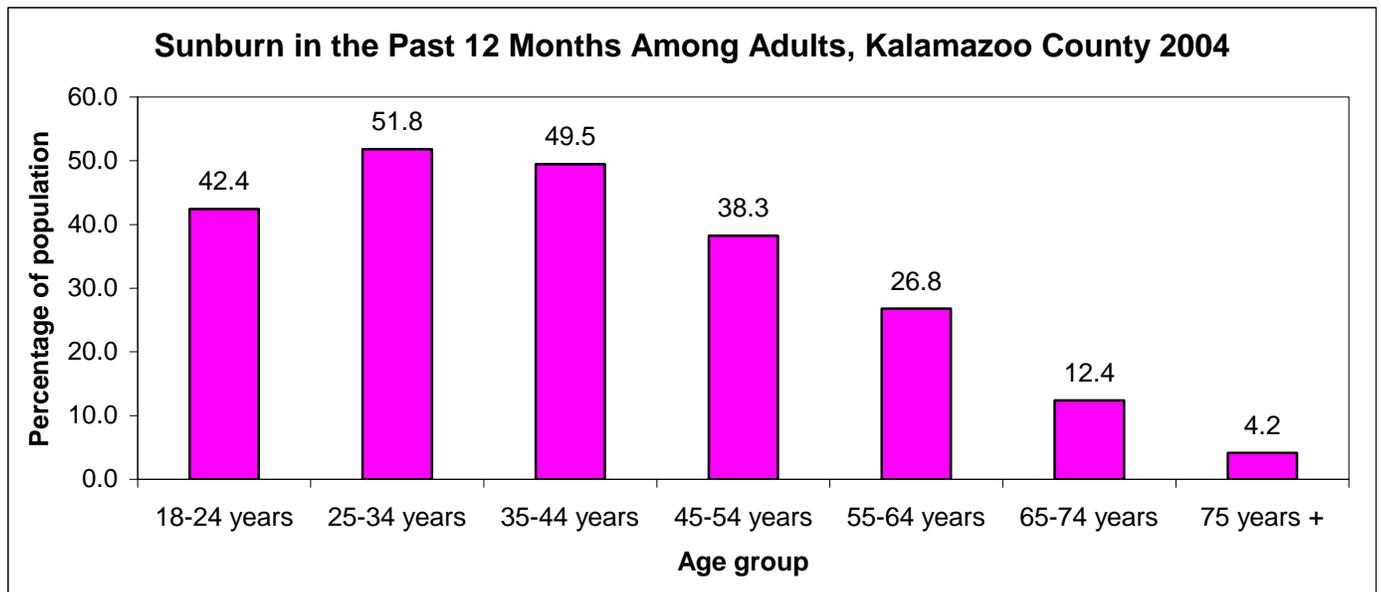
Risk factors for skin cancer, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, include: all skin types and ethnic groups, people with fair skin or skin that burns or freckles easily, people with a history of getting blistered as a child (just one incident of blistering as a child greatly increases the chances of developing skin cancer later by as much as 75%), prior skin cancers, working or playing outdoors, family history, geographic location (example: the sun in Georgia is more intense than in some other areas of the U.S.), age (skin becomes more delicate and susceptible with aging), medications, and tanning beds or sun lamps.²

¹ Sun Sense and Skin Cancer, 2006, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, accessed on the web at <http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/docs/d000101-d000200/d000155/sun.html>.

² Sun Sense and Skin Cancer, 2006, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, accessed on the web at <http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/docs/d000101-d000200/d000155/sun.html>.

4.4 Sun Exposure

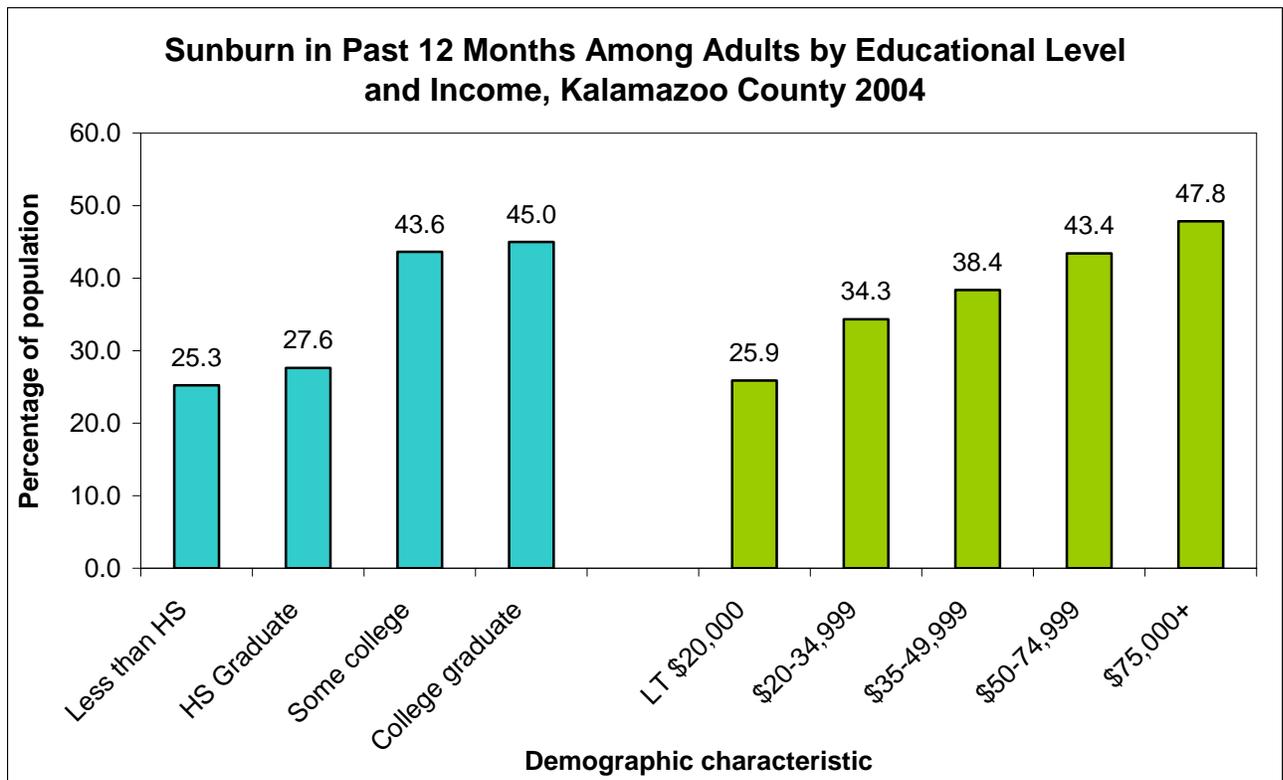
Among adults in Kalamazoo County in 2004, more than one third (37.6%) reported having been sunburned in the past twelve months. The proportion of the population who reported sunburn varied with age; the highest percentage age group of adults reporting sunburn in the past year included adults 25-34 years of age at 51.8%, and following closely behind were adults 35-44 years of age with 49.5% reporting sunburn in the past year. The age group with the lowest reported prevalence of sunburn in the past year included adults 75 years of age and older (4.2% reported having been sunburned in the past year).



Source: Kalamazoo County 2004 Behavioral Risk Factor Survey

Prevalence of sunburn differed by race. Among the white population, 41.6% reported having been sunburned in the past year, and only 5.3% of adults among the black population reported having been sunburned in the past year. Adults living within the City of Kalamazoo had a lower rate of reported sunburn in the past year compared to adults living in the rest of Kalamazoo County (33.4% vs. 40.5%).

The percentages of the population reporting have been sunburned varied by educational level and by income. As educational level and income increased, the percentages of the population who were sunburned increased. Among college graduates, 45.0% of adults reported having been sunburned in the past year, whereas only 25.3% of adults with less than high school level education reported having been sunburned in the past year. Among adults earning less than \$20,000, 25.9% have had a sunburn in the past year. In contrast, among adults earning over \$75,000, 47.8% reported having been sunburned in the past year.



Source: Kalamazoo County 2004 Behavioral Risk Factor Survey

Excess Sun Exposure Among Adults, Kalamazoo County 2004

Demographic Characteristics	Had Sunburn in Past Year ^a	
	%	95% C.I.
Total	37.6	(34.1 - 41.0)
Age		
18-24 years	42.4	(31.2 - 53.7)
25-34 years	51.8	(42.8 - 60.8)
35-44 years	49.5	(41.7 - 57.2)
45-54 years	38.3	(30.8 - 45.7)
55-64 years	26.8	(19.4 - 34.2)
65-74 years	12.4	(6.0 - 18.8)
75 years +	4.2	(0.4 - 7.9)
Gender		
Male	39.8	(34.3 - 45.3)
Female	35.5	(31.1 - 39.9)
Race		
White	41.6	(37.8 - 45.4)
Black	5.3	*
Education		
Less than HS	25.3	(14.3 - 36.2)
HS Graduate	27.6	(21.3 - 33.9)
Some college	43.6	(36.9 - 50.4)
College graduate	45.0	(39.7 - 50.3)
Income		
LT \$20,000	25.9	(18.2 - 33.6)
\$20-34,999	34.3	(26.5 - 42.1)
\$35-49,999	38.4	(29.1 - 47.7)
\$50-74,999	43.4	(34.8 - 52.0)
\$75,000+	47.8	(40.1 - 55.5)
City/Out-County		
City of Kalamazoo	33.4	(28.2 - 38.6)
Rest of County	40.5	(35.9 - 45.2)
Within City of Kalamazoo		
White in City	42.3	(36.1 - 48.6)
Black in City	4.8	*

^a The proportion who had at least one sunburn during the past 12 months.

*Confidence interval exceeds possible limits

Source: Kalamazoo County 2004 Behavioral Risk Factor Survey