



EPIDEMIOLOGY

TRENDS IN KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND BEHAVIOR AMONG 15-75 AGED FRENCH SUNBED USERS: CANCER BAROMETER, 2010-2015

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Cutaneous melanoma and operated cortical cataract are rising in France. The most preventable risk factor is the excessive exposure to ultraviolet radiation (UV, both natural and artificial. Little is known about the exposure in the French population.

The aim of this study was to describe the prevalence of French sunbed users (SU) and factors associated with sunbed use, and on risk factors, attitude and awareness of risk among SU and non-users (NU).

The Cancer Barometer (BC), a nationwide repeated survey, was conducted in France by telephone interviews among a representative sample of 3931 French residents aged 15-75 years from May to October 2015. The BC questions were about their use of sunbed and of sun-protective measures, their knowledge and different opinions. Data were weighted by age, sex and educational level for bivariate and multivariate analyses to ensure the national representativeness of the sample. Results were compared with those from the BC-2010.

In 2015, 14.0% of the respondents were SU at least once in their lifetime (as in 2010) and 1.6% were recent (i.e. over the last twelve months) SU (vs 3.4% in 2010, $p < 0.001$); 4.7% among those <18 years of age was lifetime SU, despite the legal prohibition for minors. Misconceptions about artificial UV remained common among SU: 41.8% lifetime SU (vs 21.0% for NU, $p < 0.001$) and 69.8% recent SU (vs 23.2% for NU, $p < 0.001$) believed that 'artificial tanning before vacation protects the skin from sunburn'. Positive determinants of both SU were younger age, female sex, high household income and educational level.

If the state of knowledge and the perception of risk by the French population are correct, the misconceptions need to be combated. Low risk awareness among teenagers and young adults suggests the need for targeted interventions to reduce or discontinue sunbed use to change tanning perception and behavior.

