



GLOBAL SKIN HEALTH

A FOLLOW UP OF SUNSCREEN USE AND SUN-PROTECTION PRACTICES IN DARWIN

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Background: Australia has the highest incidence of Non- melanoma skin cancer (NMSC) and melanoma in the world. 1 2This incidence increases with proximity to the equator, leaving residents of Darwin at highest risk. Previous research found that further education regarding sun protection was required among the fair skinned population in the Northern Territory.

Objective: This study aimed to follow up on the survey conducted in 1994 to investigate if sun protection practices have changed and to determine sun protection practices in the Indigenous population.

Methods & Materials: Surveys were completed by attendees of Parap and Rapid Creek Markets between August to September 2016.

Results: A total of 137 market attendees were included in the study. Median age was 34 years (range 1 to 81). Northern Territory residents were more likely to employ sun protection practices when compared to non- NT residents. However, residents were more likely to hold false beliefs and demonstrated poorer understanding of sun safety than non- NT residents.

Conclusion: Skin cancer protection practices have improved since the last study was conducted in 1994 but ongoing education is still required to improve understanding of sun exposure safety.

