

Sun Smart Nevada 2019



University of Nevada, Las Vegas Medical School student volunteers are Sun Smart champions

Sun Smart Schools used annual analysis of key performance indicators... which in turn led to its rapid growth.



Building a Culture of Sun Safety for Nevadans

Since its inception in 2015, Sun Smart Nevada has aimed to build a culture of sun safety for Nevada's communities. It was quickly determined that schools, where young students are actively engaged in learning, were a great place to begin. So the Sun Smart Schools program was launched that same year, piloted in seven schools across the state.

Modeled after other successful sun safety programs implemented in Arizona, Colorado, and abroad in Australia, Sun Smart Schools used annual analysis of key performance indicators and participant feedback to improve and enhance the program, which in turn led to its rapid growth. In fact, during its third year Sun Smart Schools was recognized as a "Success Story" by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one of four national acknowledgments received in 2018.

In just four years Nevada Cancer Coalition's Sun Smart Schools program has educated thousands of pre-k, elementary, middle, and high school students, as well as hundreds of educators and school nurses, about sun safety and skin cancer prevention, helping them to engage in sun safe behaviors to reduce their risk of skin cancer. And delightfully, the program has done so much more, as is highlighted in this annual report and the ones preceding.

The continued growth and success of the program is thanks, in part, to a commitment to the 3 pillars of Sun Smart Schools:

1. Sun safety curriculum and education in preschool, elementary, middle, and high school systems;
2. Access to sunscreen and shade in both the school and community environment; and,
3. School and school district policies to support sun smart behavior.

Sun Smart Nevada 2019

SB 159 clarifies that sunscreen is not to be considered an over-the-counter medication at school.



Sun Safety Policy Now Required in All Nevada Schools

Students in Nevada gained an extra ounce of prevention this year when the Nevada Legislature passed Senate Bill 159. This is our state's most significant skin cancer prevention legislation since under-age indoor tanning was prohibited in 2013.

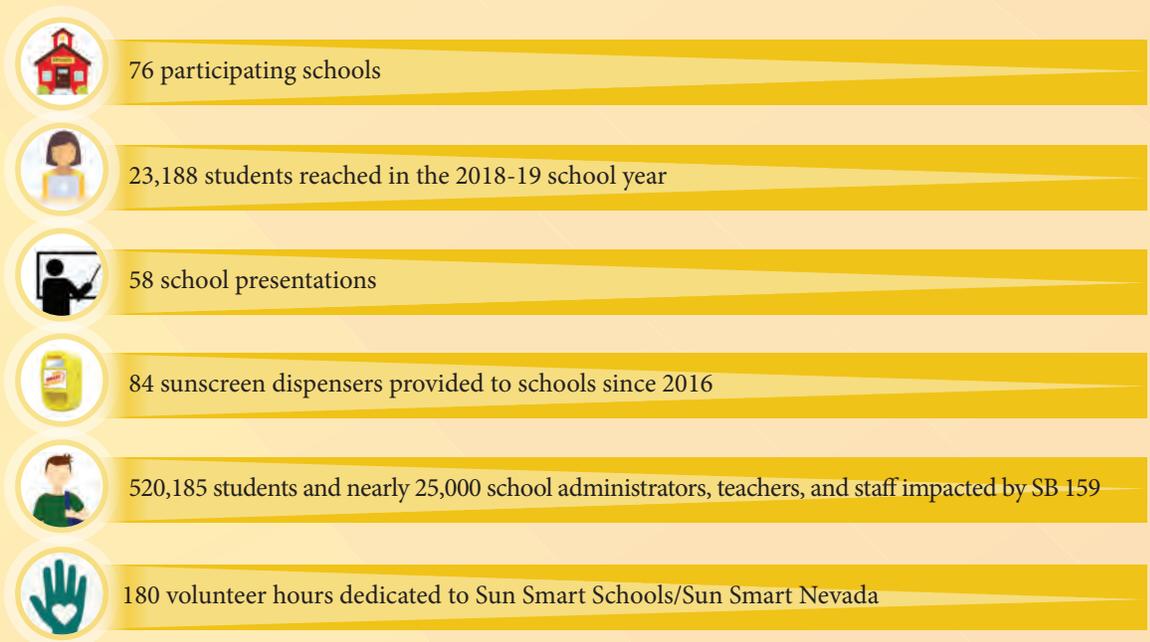
Nevada's "Sun Safety Bill" requires all public and private schools to adopt a policy concerning safe exposure to the sun in school settings, allows students to possess and use sunscreen in school, and promotes teaching students about the importance of sun safety and skin cancer prevention. The law became effective July 1, 2019 after Governor Steve Sisolak signed the bill.

Important components of SB 159 that support the practice of sun safety in schools and school settings include:

- Sun protective clothing, including hats and sunglasses, is allowed to be worn while outdoors.
- Sunscreen is not to be considered an over-the-counter medication, even though it is regulated by the Food and Drug Administration. Students may bring and self-administer sunscreen, and schools may provide sunscreen for student and staff use.
- Sun safety and skin cancer prevention education is promoted in schools.

The bill was sponsored by Senator Joyce Woodhouse, a former elementary school principal who knows the importance of sun safety. Her husband died from melanoma, the most serious form of skin cancer. The bill also received support from Nevada Cancer Coalition (of course!), with lots of leadership from Executive Director Cari Herington, as well as the Nevada Association of School Superintendents, Nevada Association of School Administrators, American Cancer Society – Cancer Action Network, the Nevada Society for Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery, Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada, and many, many more. Several University of Nevada, Reno, medical students even attended hearings and spoke in support.

Measuring Success



Program Participation Goes Beyond the Classroom

The heart of Sun Smart Schools activities began in traditional school environments: in the classroom and at assemblies. Sun Smart Schools teacher toolkits and organized assemblies have provided learning opportunities for thousands of students across Nevada.

In 2019, however, learning opportunities extended even farther. Students in the largest after-school program in Clark County School District at C.P. Squires Elementary School learned all about being sun smart after they'd left the classroom for the day. The program was led by medical student ambassadors from University of Nevada, Las Vegas's Dermatology Student Interest Group.

Educators in Washoe County School District engaged with Sun Smart Schools during their annual teacher training, resulting not only in greater implementation of the program during the school year, but also increased awareness of sun safety and skin cancer among those adult participants. One educator even found his own melanoma thanks to the presentation, and was able to get treatment before the cancer progressed.

As Sun Smart Schools continues to grow, we are excited to bring the program to even more diverse learning environments.

Medical School Students Become Ambassadors

Students participating in Sun Smart Schools activities come in all ages. Since its inception, the program has worked to involve medical and nursing students as program interns and volunteers, which has led to sun safety education throughout Nevada. Participation increased dramatically in 2019 thanks to new institutional partnerships and continued support from physician mentors.

Future physicians and medical professionals from University of Nevada, Las Vegas, University of Nevada, Reno, and Touro University Nevada all lent support to Sun Smart Schools. Here's a look at some of the amazing work they helped us achieve:

- One might say UNR is the first Sun Smart School at the university level thanks to students' and faculty's continued commitment to the program. In 2019, nearly a dozen UNR medical students hosted the first-ever on-campus Skin Check Screening Clinic. Twenty-two patients, including students, faculty and staff from several colleges and departments got their skin checked by providers from Skin Cancer and Dermatology Institute. The event featured a short educational session about skin cancer and sun safety presented by physician partners Drs. Whitney Hovenic and James B. Harris.
- UNR medical students educated northern Nevada youth and families about sun safety at several regional events including National Girls & Women in Sports Day, the Dragon Boat Races at Sparks Marina, and multiple Family Health Festivals.
- Medical students from Touro University in Las Vegas became Sun Smart Schools ambassadors after they were trained by NCC Skin Cancer Task Force member Abigail Guida, and then led a Sun Smart Assembly for 200 second grade students at Mater Academy of Nevada — Mt. Vista.
- Medical students in UNLV's Dermatology Student Interest Group also trained to be Sun Smart Schools ambassadors, then applied their new skills and knowledge to teach students about being Sun Smart during the C.P. Squires after-school program.

By leveraging partnerships with medical schools and engaging medical students in sun safety education, Sun Smart Schools is able to reach more of Nevada's youth with valuable lessons to protect their future health.

Top photo—Cold Springs Middle School

Middle and bottom photos—UNR Skin Cancer Screening Clinic, Photos by Brin Reynolds

One educator even found his own melanoma thanks to a Sun Smart presentation, and got treatment before the cancer progressed.





Sunscreen Partner Spotlight



Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada, based in Las Vegas, has proven itself as a statewide pioneer and leader in making access to sunscreen in community settings the norm. Comprehensive began their sunscreen program in 2014 with a sunscreen station at the popular Wet n' Wild Water Park in Las Vegas. The following year, dispensers were installed in Downtown Summerlin, the Las Vegas 51s Cashman Field, and Springs Preserve. In the past five years Comprehensive's outreach has grown exponentially to include placement of nearly 70 automatic sunscreen dispensers across the Las Vegas Valley.



Reno's Dr. Whitney Hovenic has been a valuable partner to Sun Smart Schools over the past several years, engaging other physicians, medical students, and even her children's school in sun safety and skin cancer prevention activities. Dr. Hovenic's tireless advocacy on behalf of the dermatology profession in Nevada led to the establishment of the Nevada Society for Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery in 2019. As NSDDS's President and Founding Member, Dr. Hovenic and fellow NSDDS members are promoting education and advocacy for dermatology-related issues in Nevada, and were prominent supporters of SB 159. In addition, Dr. Hovenic has served as an expert lecturer, on-site clinician, medical student mentor, and generous volunteer.



Anita Savell has been working with the Sun Smart Nevada and Sun Smart Schools programs since 2017 when she and fellow students involved in UNR Med's Dermatology Student Interest Group first burst onto northern Nevada's skin cancer prevention scene. Anita is a dedicated Sun Smart volunteer at community-based health, education and sporting events for kids and adults. She regularly shares information with fellow students and recruits them as Sun Smart volunteers, and served as a sounding board for medical students in southern Nevada building their own Dermatology Student Interest Group. During the 2019 Nevada legislative session, Anita wrote personal and compelling letters to state legislators in support of SB 159 and coordinated a letter of support sent from UNR's Dermatology Student Interest Group. She is a valued member of NCC's Skin Cancer Task Force.



Sun Smart Partners Expand Sunscreen Access

City of Reno's Traner Pool lifeguards and SCDI supporters

There are now more than 80 sunscreen dispensers at locations throughout Nevada, including public parks and swimming pools, sports arenas, community clinics, and municipal after-school programs.

Sunscreen Access at School and Beyond

Access to sunscreen, one of the three pillars of Sun Smart Schools, became much easier to implement in Nevada after passage of SB 159 during the 2019 legislative session. It's now easier for schools to permit installation of automatic sunscreen dispensers on campus, giving students and staff greater ability to practice sun safety.

But we know that kids and teens need access to sunscreen beyond the school playground and sporting fields. That's why, in partnership with Bright Guard and sun safety advocates across the state, we've worked to place sunscreen dispensers at locations frequented by children and adults alike. There are now more than 80 sunscreen dispensers installed at locations throughout Nevada, including community pools and parks, sports arenas and stadiums, water parks, community clinics, municipal after-school programs, and in small communities and towns. In 2019, in partnership with Nevada Cancer Coalition, sunscreen dispensers were installed at Urban Roots teaching farm in Reno. And **Skin Cancer & Dermatology Institute** donated dispensers to the City of Reno's Traner and Idlewilde pools.





Thank You to Our Sponsors & Donors

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Sun Smart Nevada, and its youth component Sun Smart Schools, is a program of Nevada Cancer Coalition, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

For more information visit www.SunSmartNevada.org or call 775-737-4580. 2520 Neil Rd., Suite 203, Reno, NV 89502 www.NevadaCancerCoalition.org

