

CHAPTER 20: SUNBURN

Sunburn: Experienced sunburn with redness lasting at least 12 hours in the past 12 months.

State Prevalence **38.1%** (95% CI: 36.1-40.0); 20th among 54 BRFSS participants. National prevalence: 33.4% (95% CI: 33.0-33.7). Between 2002 and 2003, the prevalence of sunburn increased significantly from 28.4% to 38.1%.

Gender **Men 44.6%** (95% CI: 41.5-47.6); **Women 32.1%** (95% CI: 29.7-34.5). Women were significantly less likely than men to have experienced sunburn.

Age The prevalence of sunburn significantly decreased after age 44. Approximately 60% of young adults aged 18 to 24 experienced sunburn, compared with about 9% of the elderly. Men had a significantly higher rate of sunburn than women at the two oldest age groupings (55-64 and 65+).

Education The risk of sunburn significantly increased as educational attainment increased. College graduates were nearly twice as likely as adults without a high school diploma to have had sunburn in the past year (46.8% versus 24.2%). The prevalence of sunburn was significantly higher among men than women at the two lowest levels of education.

Household Income Generally, the prevalence of sunburn increased as household income increased. Adults in the wealthiest homes were significantly more likely to have experienced sunburn than those with an income less than \$35,000.

Quick Stats

- Of those adults who experienced sunburn during the past year, 40.8% had only one burn, while 13.4% had five or more sunburns.

Table 20.1: Experienced sunburn lasting at least 12 hours in the past 12 months: WVBRFSS, 2003

Characteristic	Men			Women			Total		
	# Resp.	%	95% CI	# Resp.	%	95% CI	# Resp.	%	95% CI
TOTAL	1,318	44.6	(41.5-47.6)	2,020	32.1	(29.7-34.5)	3,338	38.1	(36.1-40.0)
Age									
18-24	92	60.2	(49.3-71.1)	111	59.6	(49.3-69.9)	203	59.9	(52.4-67.4)
25-34	186	64.2	(56.9-71.5)	268	51.0	(44.7-57.4)	454	57.6	(52.7-62.5)
35-44	233	54.5	(47.6-61.4)	321	46.2	(40.2-52.1)	554	50.3	(45.7-54.8)
45-54	284	42.6	(36.4-48.8)	387	31.5	(26.5-36.4)	671	37.0	(33.0-41.0)
55-64	249	35.5	(29.1-41.9)	394	17.4	(13.3-21.5)	643	26.3	(22.5-30.2)
65+	273	14.0	(9.3-18.6)	528	5.4	(3.4-7.4)	801	8.9	(6.6-11.2)
Education									
Less than H.S.	242	32.5	(24.9-40.1)	390	16.3	(12.0-20.7)	632	24.2	(19.7-28.7)
H.S. or G.E.D.	528	46.2	(41.4-50.9)	789	31.7	(27.9-35.5)	1,317	38.7	(35.6-41.7)
Some Post-H.S.	264	46.8	(40.0-53.6)	476	37.5	(32.3-42.7)	740	41.6	(37.4-45.7)
College Graduate	281	51.3	(44.9-57.7)	364	42.0	(36.2-47.8)	645	46.8	(42.5-51.2)
Income									
Less than \$15,000	170	27.9	(19.9-36.0)	354	21.9	(16.5-27.2)	524	24.4	(19.8-29.0)
\$15,000- 24,999	261	37.2	(30.6-43.7)	460	25.8	(21.1-30.4)	721	30.7	(26.8-34.6)
\$25,000- 34,999	194	42.6	(35.1-50.2)	269	33.7	(27.4-40.0)	463	37.9	(33.0-42.8)
\$35,000- 49,999	210	55.0	(47.7-62.3)	266	45.9	(39.2-52.5)	476	50.7	(45.7-55.7)
\$50,000- 74,999	168	49.0	(40.9-57.2)	224	35.8	(28.9-42.8)	392	42.4	(37.0-47.8)
\$75,000+	183	55.0	(47.0-63.0)	146	44.6	(35.8-53.3)	329	51.3	(45.2-57.4)