Skin cancer
by the numbers

Melanoma and nonmelanoma (basal and squamous cell carcinoma) skin cancers are among 24 skin
diseases or disease categories examined in the Burden of Skin Disease report commissioned by the
American Academy of Dermatology. The report examined prevalence, economic burdens, and mortality
for skin disease in the U.S. using 2013 health care claims data drawn from insurance enrollment and claims
databases and found that:

• 84.5 million Americans — one in four — saw a physician for skin disease; 50% of them are over
65 and have an average of 2.2 skin conditions.

• Skin disease cost the U.S. health care system $75 billion in medical, preventative, and prescription
and non-prescription drug costs.

• One in three Americans with skin disease were seen by a dermatologist, who collaborate with
other physicians throughout the health care system in caring for these patients.

Skin cancers are among the costliest skin diseases and represent the leading cause of mortality from skin
disease in the US. In 2013:

• 4,737,019 people, 1.51 percent of the U.S. population, received care for skin cancer, although the
total prevalence for the disease is likely higher since many patients may not have sought treatment
due to individual preference or lack of access to medical care.
  o 3,663,141 cases of nonmelanoma skin cancer were diagnosed.
  o 1,073,875 patients received a melanoma diagnosis.
  o 13,770 patients died from skin cancer.

The charts that follow provide topline data on how melanoma and nonmelanoma skin cancers contribute
to the overall burden of skin disease.

The full report includes data on prescription and non-prescription drug costs, and how age and insurance
status and provider relate to the burden associated with skin cancer and skin disease broadly. To purchase
the report visit www.aad.org/BSD.
Prevalence

NUMBER OF CARED-FOR INDIVIDUALS

- **NONMELANOMA SKIN CANCER**
- **MELANOMA**
- **OTHER SKIN DISEASES**

![Graph showing number of cared-for individuals by category.]

*This category is clinically broad in nature and includes, among other diseases: benign neoplasms, melanocytic nevi (unspecified), pilar cysts, pilonidal cysts (with or without abscess), scars and fibrosis, etc.*

SKIN CANCER PATIENTS BY AGE*

- **NONMELANOMA SKIN CANCER**
- **MELANOMA**

![Graph showing percentage of skin cancer patients by age group.]

*Percentage of nonmelanoma skin cancer and melanoma patients seen by a physician by age group.*
**TOTAL MEDICAL COST***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease Category</th>
<th>Cost (in millions USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nonmelanoma Skin Cancer</td>
<td>$8,135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melanoma</td>
<td>$7,015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Skin Diseases</td>
<td>$6,398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cutaneous Infections</td>
<td>$1,467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-cancerous Skin Growths**</td>
<td>$4,585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wounds and Burns</td>
<td>$5,442</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*In millions of dollars compared to most costly skin diseases.

**Includes warts, skin tags, cysts, lymphomas, etc. This category is clinically broad in nature and includes, among other diseases: benign neoplasms, melanocytic nevi (unspecified), pilar cysts, pilonidal cysts (with or without abscess), scars and fibrosis, etc.

***Represents combined data for melanoma and nonmelanoma skin cancer.

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**COST OF SKIN DISEASE PER AFFECTED PERSON***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease Category</th>
<th>Cost (in millions USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nonmelanoma Skin Cancer</td>
<td>$1,366.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melanoma</td>
<td>$1,251.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Skin Diseases</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Compared with most costly skin diseases.

**Represents combined data for melanoma and nonmelanoma skin cancer.
MORTALITY*

* Provides the total number of deaths and average age of death from skin cancer compared with other skin diseases with highest mortality.

YEARS OF POTENTIAL LIFE LOST*

* Estimate/projected number of life years lost due to skin disease as compared to top skin diseases leading to early death; projected based on prototypical lifespan of 75 years.
**LOST PRODUCTIVITY (OPPORTUNITY COST)**

- **NONMELANOMA SKIN CANCER**
- **MELANOMA**
- **OTHER SKIN DISEASES**

*Time lost by patients and/or caregivers multiplied by average wages in 2013 ($192/day); In millions of dollars compared with skin diseases leading to the most loss of productivity.

**This category is clinically broad in nature and includes, among other diseases: benign neoplasms, melanocytic nevi (unspecified), pilar cysts, pilonidal cysts (with or without abscess), scars and fibrosis, etc.