Introduction
- Skin Cancer is "out of control growth of abnormal cells in the epidermis, the outermost skin layer, caused by unrepaired DNA damage that triggers mutations" (1).
- Skin Cancer is the most common cancer in the U.S. with 1 in 5 Americans to develop it in their lifetime (2).
- Three main types: (1): Basal Cell Carcinoma, Squamous Cell Carcinoma, Melanoma (the most deadly).
- Ultraviolet rays are the biggest risk factor for the development of skin cancer, from both the sun and artificial sources such as tanning beds (3).

Methods
- A 12 question survey that received IRB approval was sent to educators via school principals in the Calloway County School District. The grade range for the educators is K-8th and the type of information gathered related to content being learned in sun safety lessons and accessibility to sunscreen/sun safe materials.

Results
- Around half of the educators surveyed indicated that students have access to sunscreen, hats, and sunglasses during outdoor activities.
- When asked if students are instructed on the dangers of exposing themselves to ultraviolet rays in an attempt to develop a tan, 57% of responses indicated no.
- Videos were the most popular instructional method used for sun safety education, followed by handouts and PowerPoint presentations.
- 100% of respondents indicated that they are not aware of any state or district guidance that encourages education of safety from ultraviolet ray exposure.

Recommendaions & Conclusions
- Educators should be made aware of KRS 158.301 which is the Kentucky Academic Standard related to sun safety education.
- All students should have access to sunscreen & other sun safety protection clothing on any day where the UV index is a 3 or higher.
- Lessons should include the following key points that include sun safety techniques & how to detect the early signs of skin cancer (ABCDE’s of Melanoma).
- Parents should be informed of the sun safety lessons in the classroom and the early signs of skin cancer to watch for.

- Studies have found that sun safety behaviors were more common in children with families that actively converse and participate in sun protection methods (7).

References
- American Academy of Dermatology. (2022, April 22). UV Indexes in Calloway County. [https://www.aad.org/media/stats-skin-cancer](https://www.aad.org/media/stats-skin-cancer)
- United States Census Bureau QuickFacts: Calloway County, Kentucky. [https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/callowaycountykentucky](https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/callowaycountykentucky)
- Kentucky Academic Standard related to sun safety education. Preventive Medicine, 59, 303-309. [https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ypmed.2014.09.010](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ypmed.2014.09.010)
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