

# Comparative study about sun beds

## Project details

**Full project title:** Comparative study into the differences in the regulations of sunbeds across the UK nations and their impact on reducing underage sunbed use

**Sponsor:** Cancer Research UK

**BSMC team:** [Katie Collins](#) and [Alan Tapp](#)

## The background

Cancer Research UK has taken a lead in highlighting the harms of sunbeds. The WHO identified sunbeds as carcinogenic to humans, and evidence shows that the increased use of sunbeds is one of the key causes of the rise of skin cancer in the UK. A report from the Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment (COMARE) along with growing concern (87% supported a ban on under-18 sunbed use) and campaigning by Cancer Research UK led to the passage of the Sunbed (Regulations) Act 2010 in England and Wales. The Act, which came into force in April 2011, banned under-18s from using sunbed.

## The research

BSMC has undertaken research to understand whether the ban on underage sunbed use has been effective in the different constituent nations of the UK. The research also aims to understand what impact the reforms have had on attitudes and awareness of the legislation and the dangers of sunbed use. This project also has three further interlocking objectives:

- To determine whether the laws have led to a reduction in usage or just changed how under-18s access sunbeds in Scotland, England and Wales. This should build on previous research showing the use of sunbed among under-18s.
- To understand the extent to which the implementation of the regulations in the Act are a priority for local authorities across Scotland, England and Wales and how they have implemented these regulations.
- To determine the awareness of current sunbed regulations among the British public. Understand the attitudes to sunbed use and the awareness of its harm. Examine the degree of concern about underage sunbed use and the appetite for further regulations of sunbeds in the different nations.