Occupational exposure to solar ultraviolet radiation (UVR) is associated with a substantial burden of nonmelanoma skin cancer (NMSC), according to a study published in the November issue of *Environment*...

Using 166 million observations from 763 cross-sectional surveys for 96 countries/areas, occupational exposure to UVR was modeled via proxy of occupation with outdoor work. By applying population-attributable fractions (PAFs) from estimates of the population occupationally exposed to UVR and the risk ratio for NMSC, the attributable NMSC burden was estimated.

The researchers found that in 2019, 1.6 billion workers were occupationally exposed to UVR globally, representing 28.4 percent of the working-age population. The PAFs for NMSC deaths and disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) were 29.0 and 30.4 percent, respectively; attributable burdens were 18,960 deaths and 0.5 million DALYs. A larger burden was seen for men and older age groups. Attributable deaths and DALYs almost doubled during 2000 to 2019.

"WHO and the ILO estimate that occupational exposure to UVR is common and leads to substantial numbers of deaths and of DALYs from NMSC," the authors write.
