

Top German court upholds sunbed ban for under-18s

19 January 2012

Germany's highest court ruled Thursday that minors should be banned from visiting tanning studios due to health concerns, upholding a law that caused controversy in one of Europe's top sunbed markets.

The [German government](#) adopted the law in 2009 after a study showing that people under the age of 30 had 75 percent more chance of contracting [skin cancer](#) from regular sunbed use than older people.

The Constitutional Court dismissed a complaint brought by tanning studio operators, judging that the ban was justified on public health grounds.

The court also threw out an appeal from a 17-year-old girl who said her human rights were affected by the ban.

It said that child-protection legislation aimed to prevent minors from harming themselves.

Germany is one of the top markets for artificial tanning, with 3,500 studios and 50,000 tanning cabins, if those in [swimming pools](#), fitness centres and hotels are included.

The sector employs some 32,000 people and the main manufacturers of tanning machines are headquartered in Germany.

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APA citation: Top German court upholds sunbed ban for under-18s (2012, January 19) retrieved 1 December 2020 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2012-01-german-court-sunbed-under-18s.html>

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