Main Questions

• How many top colleges and universities have indoor tanning salons, either on-campus or in off-campus college housing?
• Can students pay for indoor tanning using campus cash cards?
• How often are the use of these indoor tanning salons included as part of rent?
• Which schools are more likely to have easy access to indoor tanning salons? How does geography, school ranking or the presence of a school of public health influence the likelihood that colleges or universities would provide easy access to tanning salons?

The Bottom Line

Almost half of the 125 top colleges or universities (48%) had indoor tanning salons in either on campus or in off-campus housing. Many top colleges and universities are passively encouraging tanning behavior that greatly increase student risk of skin cancer. Just as tobacco-free policies have reduced the number of people smoking, tanning-free policies on college campuses may greatly reduce skin cancer risk among young adults.

Spotlight on Results

• Almost half (48%) of colleges had indoor tanning facilities either on campus, in off-campus housing, or both.
• Twelve percent (12%) of colleges offer indoor tanning on campus property.
• Off-campus housing offering indoor tanning facilities was found among 42% of the colleges who offered off-campus housing.
• Campus cash cards could be used to purchase tanning locally for 14.4% of colleges.

Call for Action

Indoor tanning bans for minors have reduced adolescent tanning. Colleges and universities should consider banning indoor tanning salons from college and university campuses.