

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2007 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

Mary E. Smith

Project Number

J1226

Project Title

Sun Protection on the Courts: A Test of Colors and Materials in Tennis Clothing

Objectives/Goals

Abstract

My objective was to find out if people who play tennis consider their clothing as a means of sun protection. I also wanted to test whether the color and material made a difference in blocking out the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays.

Methods/Materials

I used two methods in this project to determine my objective:

- 1. survey of individuals who play tennis
- 2. experiment using solar paper under various colors and materials

Results

From my survey I found that people are concerned about skin cancer, but that they do not choose their tennis clothing based on protecting them from the sun. From my experiment I discovered that the dark blue shirt blocked out the most ultraviolet rays.

Conclusions/Discussion

I am under 21 years old, and I learned that most people my age are not concerned about skin cancer. After researching the disease, I discovered that skin cancer is very serious, and can be life-threatening. Sun protection all the time is very important. I found that putting on sunscreen is not enough. All of us should protect ourselves on the court by choosing sun-protective clothing.

Summary Statement

My project tested the best materials and colors for sun protection.

Help Received

Mother helped purchase supplies and gave suggestions for organizing results.