

# SUN SAFETY PRACTICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA CHILD CARE SETTINGS



THREE YEAR IMPACT, 2017-2019

## SUN SAFETY PROGRAM

The SD Department of Health (DOH) Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (SD CCCP) funded child care programs across SD between 2017 and 2019 through a competitive application aimed at reducing exposure to ultraviolet radiation among infants and children. Programs requested up to \$500 to adopt a sun safety policy and implement education and environment strategies to support implementation of the policy.

## IMPLEMENTATION

Child care programs implemented statistically significant evidence-based policy, system, and environment changes over that past three years that have made an impact on sun safety practices that reduce exposure to UV radiation in staff, children, and parents. On average funding played a key role in supporting implementation of specific sun safety practices (Figure 1 - 3).

**29**

*Child Care Programs Funded*

**3,400**

*Infants & Children Impacted*

**\$11,000**

*Expended to support child care programs*

FIGURE 1:

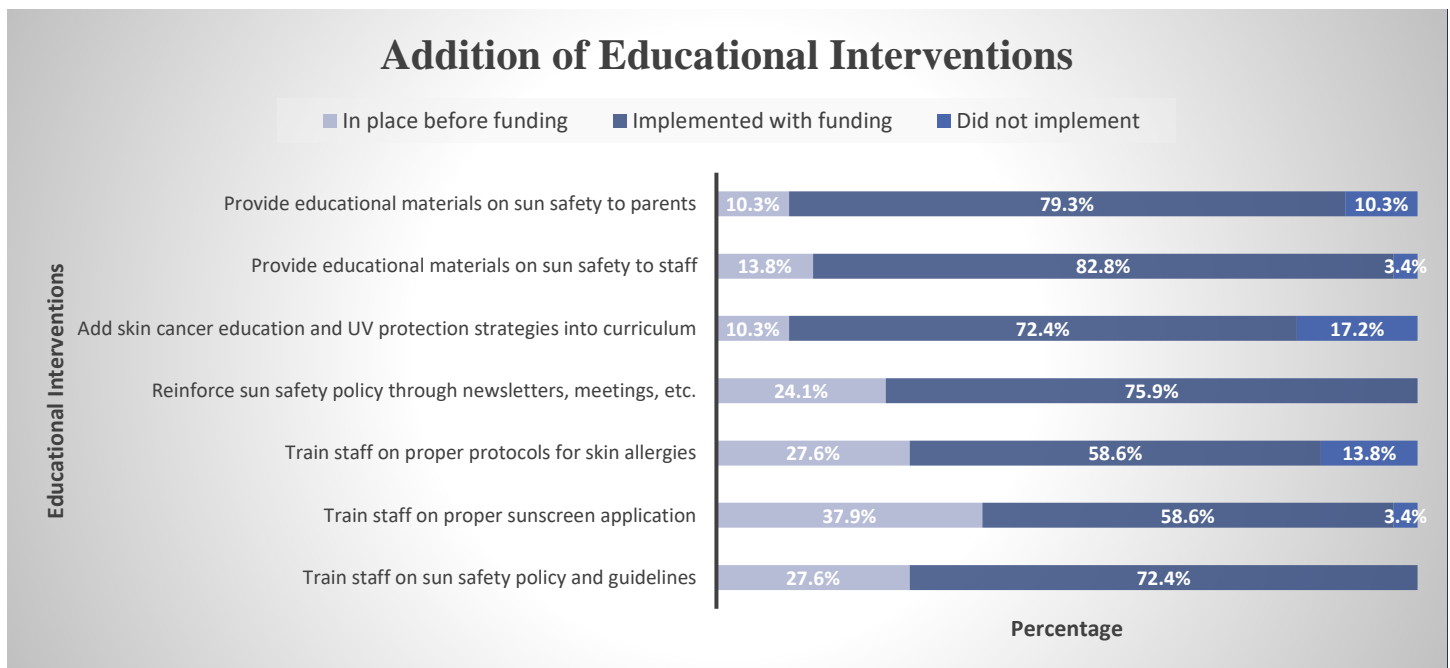


FIGURE 2:

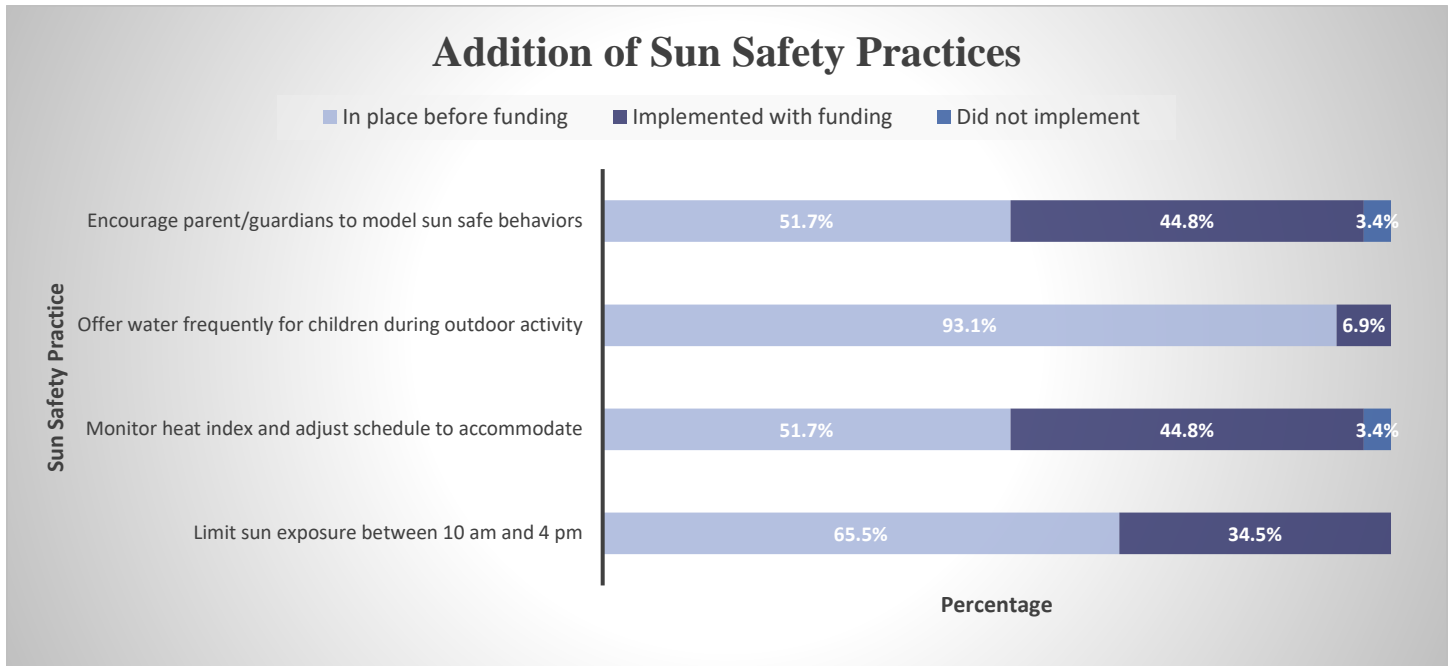
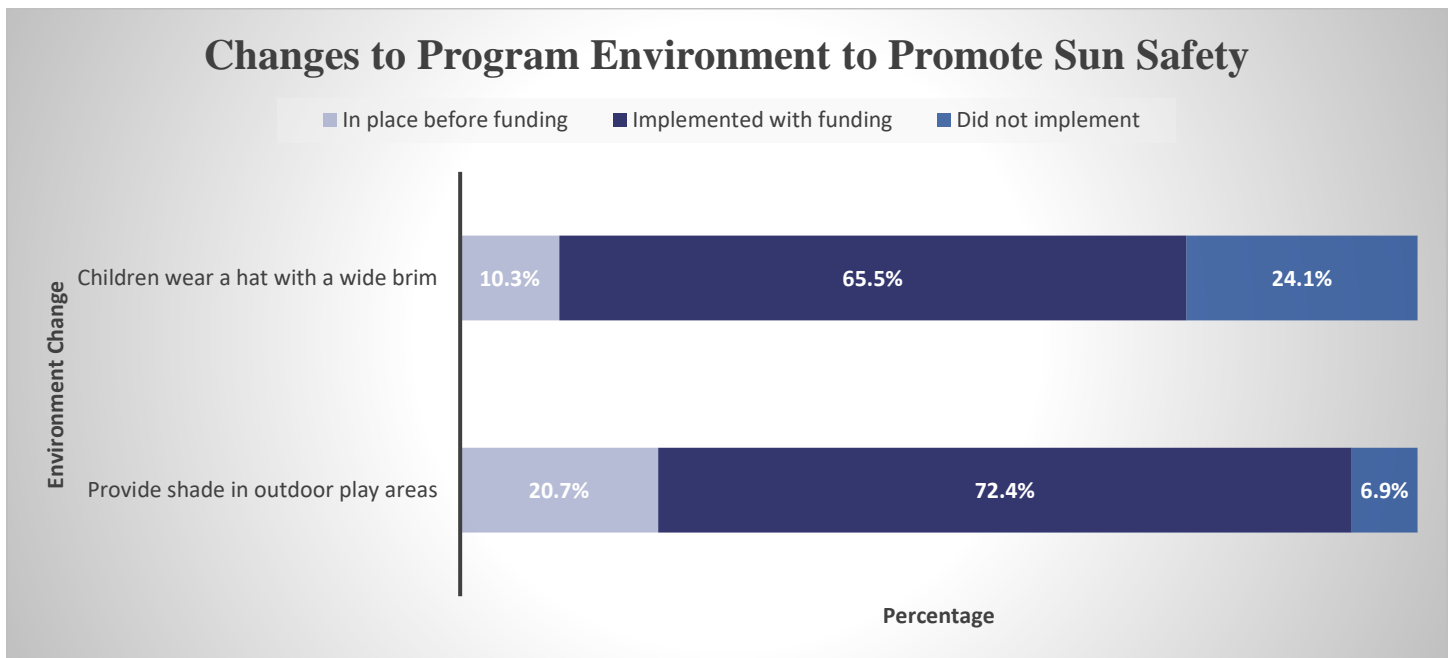


FIGURE 3:



## SUSTAINABILITY

Child care programs who participated in the project in 2017 and 2018 were followed up with via survey, one year after initial project implementation to assess sustainability of policy, system, and environment changes. One-year outcomes identified by respondents are outlined in Table 1.

**TABLE 1: SUSTAINABILITY OF UV ACTIVITIES**

ACTIVITY	YEAR	
	2017 (N=8)	2018 (N=7)
IMPLEMENTED ALL GUIDELINES IN CHILD CARE UV POLICY	6	8
ENHANCED OR STRENGTHENED SUN SAFETY POLICY	3	2
EDUCATED STAFF ON THE SUN SAFETY POLICY	4	7
EDUCATED PARENTS ON THE SUN SAFETY POLICY	5	4
CHILD CARE UV POLICY UPDATED SINCE FIRST IMPLEMENTED	1	3

Successes achieved by respondents since implementation of sun safety policies include an increase in sun safety awareness and consistent sun safety practices, less sunburns experienced by staff and children, installment of shade structures, improved policy and staff education regarding sun safety practices, and children asking to wear sun safe hats before going outside.

## CONCLUSION

Three-year data highlights the average impact a sun safety program can have on a child care program to support policy, system, and environment change. A small amount of funding combined with technical assistance, access to resources, and collaboration with staff and parents highlights the short-term impact the program has had on participating SD child care programs and children in their care. Sustainability of child care UV policy, system, and environment changes continues to support sun safety practices and reduce the burden of skin cancer for children and staff. The long-term impact of these policies in reducing the burden of skin cancer will continue to be measured over time.

To learn more about the South Dakota Cancer Coalition, visit:  
[www.cancersd.com](http://www.cancersd.com)