

Supplementary Text

UV-B values were not directly estimated for some states; therefore values from nearby states were imputed for 4 states and Puerto Rico. Specifically, Maryland values were imputed for Delaware; Pennsylvania and Ohio values were averaged for New Jersey; Arizona and Alabama were averaged for Mississippi; and Virginia, Kentucky and Maryland values were averaged for West Virginia. New Mexico values were imputed for Puerto Rico.

RA incidence between each 2-year questionnaire cycle was related to the cumulative average of UV-B calculated from all of the preceding questionnaires. Therefore, RA incidence during the 1989-1991 time period was related to the UV-B from the state of residence reported on the 1989 questionnaire. RA incidence during the 1991-1993 time period was related to the average UV-B from the 1989 and 1991 questionnaires. RA incidence during the 1993-1995 time period was related to the average UV-B from the previous 3 questionnaires (1989, 1991 and 1993).