

Risks for girls

"Children are natural mimics who act like their parents despite every effort to teach them good manners."
Anonymous

Worldwide, tobacco use among adolescents is increasing, especially in developing countries and among girls. In much of Europe and in parts of South America, teenage girls are smoking more than teenage boys.

Obesity is a risk factor for several cancers and increases the risk of dying from many cancers. The most important long-term consequence of childhood obesity is persistence into adulthood.

A lifetime risk of skin cancer is strongly influenced by exposure to the sun during childhood and adolescence, making adequate solar protection more important in childhood than at any other time of life. Lifelong habits to prevent skin cancer should begin during childhood. Effective programmes to promote sun safety in schools exist in some parts of the world, but adolescents are less likely to protect their skin so innovative strategies proven to reduce UV exposure are needed.

An estimated 60 percent of cases of liver cancer worldwide are caused by persistent infections with the hepatitis B virus (HBV). Childhood vaccination programmes against HBV will prevent 90 to 95 percent of these infections and have already been shown to reduce the risk of liver cancer in high-incidence areas.

