Trends in peak UV index value, 1981–2017

Title
Trends in peak UV index value, 1981–2017

Publisher
New Zealand's Environment Reporting Series: The Ministry for the Environment and Statistics New Zealand

Description
Trends in daily peak UV index values at Invercargill, Lauder (Otago region), Christchurch, Paraparaumu (Wellington region), and Leigh (Auckland region). The strength of UV light is expressed as a solar UV index, starting from 0 (no UV) to 11+ (extreme). Exposure to the sun's ultraviolet (UV) light helps our bodies make vitamin D, which we need for healthy bones and muscles. However, too much exposure to UV light can cause skin cancer. New Zealand has naturally high UV levels, and monitoring UV levels helps us understand the occurrence of skin cancer. Ozone in the upper atmosphere absorbs some of the sun’s UV light, protecting us from harmful levels. The amount of UV radiation reaching the ground varies in relation to changes in the atmospheric ozone concentrations. The Antarctic ozone hole lies well to the south of New Zealand and does not have a large effect on New Zealand’s ozone concentrations. The trend was assessed using the Theil-Sen estimator and the Two One-Sided Test (TOST) for equivalence at the 95% confidence level. More information on this dataset and how it relates to our environmental reporting indicators and topics can be found in the attached data quality pdf.

Source
NIWA

Coverage
4/09/1981–28/02/2017 Invercargill (since 1981), Leigh (since 1993), Lauder (since 1994), Paraparaumu (since 2000), and Christchurch (since 2002)

Identifier
AC17/064

Type
Dataset

Language
eng-nz

Subject
skin cancer, melanoma, ozone concentrations, Environmental reporting series: Our atmosphere and climate 2017