



Approved Statistics and Talking Points, 2023

General Statistics

In 2023, it is estimated that 15,190 children and adolescents ages 0 to 19 will be diagnosed with cancer.ⁱ

-AND-

Each year in the U.S. approximately 16,000 children are diagnosed with cancer.

-AND-

In 2020, there were approximately 89,500 new cancer cases in adolescents and young adults ages 15 to 39 years in the United States.ⁱⁱ

Approximately 1 in 263 children in the U.S. are diagnosed with cancer before their 20th birthday.ⁱⁱⁱ

Overall, incidence rates from 2010 through 2019 have stabilized in children after increasing since 1975 but continued to rise in adolescents by 1% per year, although trends vary by cancer type.^{iv}

Among children and adolescents (ages 0 to 19) in the United States, the most common types of cancer are leukemias, brain and central nervous system tumors, and lymphomas.^v

Global Impact

Globally, it is estimated that there were more than 413,000 cases (diagnosed and undiagnosed) of childhood cancer in 2020.^{vi} This equates to 13.7 million new cases of childhood cancer globally between 2020 and 2050, of which 9.3 million of these children will live in low-to-middle-income countries (LMICs).

-AND-

Globally, it is estimated that approximately 328,000 children died from cancer in 2020 (diagnosed and undiagnosed), with a projected rise to 390,000 deaths per year by 2050. This equates to 11.1 million children's deaths from cancer by 2050 if no additional investments are made to improve access to diagnosis and treatment.^{vii}

Globally, only 44% of children with cancer are correctly diagnosed.^{viii}

Childhood cancer is the leading non-communicable disease killer of children around the world, regardless of where they live.^{ix}

In high-income countries, where comprehensive services are generally accessible, more than 80% of children with cancer are cured. In low- and middle-income countries, an estimated 15-45% are cured.^x



Survivorship

Unfortunately, cancer remains the most common cause of death by disease among children in the United States.^{xi}

Unfortunately, 1 in 5 children diagnosed with cancer in the U.S. will not survive, and for the ones who do, the battle is never over.

By the age of 50, more than 99% of survivors have had a chronic health problem, and 96% have experienced a severe or life-threatening condition caused by the toxicity of the treatment that initially saved their life, including brain damage, loss of hearing and sight, heart disease, secondary cancers, learning disabilities, infertility and more.^{xii} By the time a child in treatment for cancer *today* reaches the age of 50, we want these statistics to be far less grim.

Nearly 500,000 survivors of childhood and adolescent cancer (diagnosed at ages 0 to 19 years) are alive in the United States today.^{xiii}

Today, 1 in every 680 adults in the U.S. between the ages of 20 to 50 is a childhood cancer survivor.^{xiv}

-AND-

An estimated 1 in 900 people in the United States is a survivor of childhood cancer.^{xv}

Federal Funding

Although the National Cancer Institute has more than doubled its investment in childhood cancer research in recent years due to greater advocacy and awareness, more research funding is needed to develop new, safer therapies for kids with cancer.^{xvi}



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- ⁱ Cancer Facts & Figures 2023, American Cancer Society, <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/research/cancer-facts-and-statistics/annual-cancer-facts-and-figures/2023/2023-cancer-facts-and-figures.pdf>
- ⁱⁱ “Special Section: Cancer in Adolescents and Young Adults.” Cancer Facts & Figures 2020, American Cancer Society, <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/research/cancer-facts-and-statistics/annual-cancer-facts-and-figures/2020/special-section-cancer-in-adolescents-and-young-adults-2020.pdf>.
- ⁱⁱⁱ Accessed here: https://seer.cancer.gov/archive/csr/1975_2017/results_merged/topic_lifetime_risk.pdf
- ^{iv} Cancer Facts & Figures 2023, American Cancer Society, <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/research/cancer-facts-and-statistics/annual-cancer-facts-and-figures/2023/2023-cancer-facts-and-figures.pdf>
- ^v Siegel RL, Miller KD, Fuchs HE, Jemal A. Cancer Statistics, 2021. *CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians* 2021; 71(1):7–33. (also cited here: <https://www.cancer.gov/types/childhood-cancers/child-adolescent-cancers-fact-sheet#r1>)
- ^{vi} Atun, Rifat, et al. Sustainable Care for Children with Cancer: a Lancet Oncology Commission. Apr. 2020, [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanonc/article/PIIS1470-2045\(20\)30022-X](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanonc/article/PIIS1470-2045(20)30022-X).
- ^{vii} Atun, Rifat, et al. Sustainable Care for Children with Cancer: a Lancet Oncology Commission. Apr. 2020, [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanonc/article/PIIS1470-2045\(20\)30022-X](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanonc/article/PIIS1470-2045(20)30022-X).
- ^{viii} Atun, Rifat, et al. Sustainable Care for Children with Cancer: a Lancet Oncology Commission. Apr. 2020, [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanonc/article/PIIS1470-2045\(20\)30022-X](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanonc/article/PIIS1470-2045(20)30022-X).
- ^{ix} Atun, Rifat, et al. Sustainable Care for Children with Cancer: a Lancet Oncology Commission. Apr. 2020, [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanonc/article/PIIS1470-2045\(20\)30022-X](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanonc/article/PIIS1470-2045(20)30022-X).
- ^x Lam CG, Howard SC, Bouffet E, Pritchard-Jones K. Science and health for all children with cancer. *Science*. 2019 Mar 15;363(6432):1182–1186. doi: 10.1126/science.aaw4892. PMID: 30872518.
- ^{xi} <https://www.cancer.gov/types/childhood-cancers/child-adolescent-cancers-fact-sheet#r1>
- ^{xii} Bhakta, Nickhill, et al. “The Cumulative Burden of Surviving Childhood Cancer: An Initial Report from the St Jude Lifetime Cohort Study (SJLIFE).” *The Lancet*, vol. 390, no. 10112, 2017, pp. 2569–2582., Accessed here: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(17\)31610-0/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(17)31610-0/fulltext)
- ^{xiii} Howlader N, Noone AM, Krapcho M, et al. (eds). SEER Cancer Statistics Review, 1975–2018, National Cancer Institute. Bethesda, MD, https://seer.cancer.gov/csr/1975_2018/, based on November 2020 SEER data submission, posted to the SEER web site, April 2021. (also cited here: <https://www.cancer.gov/types/childhood-cancers/child-adolescent-cancers-fact-sheet#r1>)
- ^{xiv} Armstrong, Gregory T, et al. “Long-Term Effects of Radiation Exposure among Adult Survivors of Childhood Cancer: Results from the Childhood Cancer Survivor Study.” *Radiation Research*, U.S. National Library of Medicine, Dec. 2010, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3080029/>.
- ^{xv} Armstrong, Gregory T, et al. “Long-Term Effects of Radiation Exposure among Adult Survivors of Childhood Cancer: Results from the Childhood Cancer Survivor Study.” *Radiation Research*, U.S. National Library of Medicine, Dec. 2010, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3080029/>.
- ^{xvi} For many years, our community has used the phrase “More Than Four” to urge the federal government to spend more than 4% of the NCI budget on childhood cancer. Thanks to the great advocacy of our community, this number is no longer correct.