



Childhood Cancer Fact Sheet

- More children die each year from cancer than any other disease.
- 12,500 children are diagnosed with cancer in the United States every year – that’s two classrooms of children every day.
- Leukemia is the most common type of childhood cancer; one third of all cases are leukemia.
- The most common solid tumors are brain tumors.
- The number of new cases (per thousand) has increased in the last 20 years.
- In the past three decades, there has been more research progress on pediatric cancer than any other disease, other than pneumonia.
- Five-year survival rates have improved dramatically. For all childhood cancers, the 5-year survival rates for all childhood cancers combined increased from 55.9 percent in 1974–1976 to 78.6 percent in 1995–2001.
- Still, more than one in four children diagnosed with cancer does not survive. No national database of survivors exists beyond the five-year period following diagnosis.
- Many adult cancer treatments used today started as pediatric cancer clinical trials, including chemotherapy and some tumor suppressor drugs.
- Treatments for many children with cancer typically last between three and four years.
- With recent discoveries comes great hope in research for better treatments and the doctors say they will find cures within our lifetime – if the needed funding for pediatric cancer research can be secured.

Sources: National Cancer Institute, American Cancer Society