

Childhood Cancer Facts:

Incidence:

- Currently, one in every 330 children in the United States develops cancer before the age of nineteen. The incidence of cancer among children is increasing. Each school day, enough children are diagnosed with childhood cancer to empty two classrooms!

(According to www.ChildCancer.org)

Survival Rate:

- Depending on the type of cancer and the development upon diagnosis, the ACS estimates that approximately 2,300 children will die from cancer in the year 2000. The number of children diagnosed with cancer in the U.S. each year puts more potential years of life at risk than any single type of adult cancer. (According to www.ChildCancer.org)

Causes:

- Largely unknown. Currently, there are no established guidelines for childhood cancer prevention. (According to www.ChildCancer.org)

Description:

- Childhood cancers are mostly those of the white blood cells (leukemia's), brain, bone, the lymphatic system and tumors of the muscles, kidneys and nervous system. Each of these behaves differently. Cancers in very young children are highly aggressive and behave unlike malignant disease seen at other times of life. The median age for childhood cancer is six. Children frequently have a more advanced stage of cancer when they are first diagnosed. 80% of children show that cancer has spread to distant sites in the body when the disease is first diagnosed. (According to www.ChildCancer.org)

Current Treatment Options:

- A child with cancer must be diagnosed precisely and treated by clinical and laboratory scientists who have expertise in the management of children with cancer. Advances in treatment have been made in some childhood cancers; however, many cancer types offer very aggressive treatments with lower survival rates. Many treatments include: several rounds of chemotherapy, tumor removal, radiation therapy, bone-marrow-transplantation, and various clinical procedures. (According to www.ChildCancer.org)

Cancer Facts/Statistics:

- Each school day, 46 children are diagnosed with cancer. (According to www.Candlelighters.org)
- One in 330 children will develop cancer by age 20. (According to www.Candlelighters.org)
- Each year in the U.S. over 12,600 children are diagnosed with cancer. (According to www.Candlelighters.org)
- Although the 5 year survival rate is steadily increasing, one quarter of children diagnosed with cancer will die 5 years from the time of diagnosis. (According to [Candlelighters.org](http://www.Candlelighters.org))
- Cancer remains the number one disease killer of America's children - more than Cystic Fibrosis, Muscular Dystrophy, Asthma and AIDS combined. (According to www.Candlelighters.org)
- 80% of children have metastatic disease at time of diagnosis as compared to only 20% of adults. (According to www.Candlelighters.org)
- There are currently more than 270,000 childhood cancer survivors in the U.S. (According to www.Candlelighters.org)

- Late effects of childhood cancer treatment are common in survivors, and approximately one-third are moderate to severe. (According to www.Candlelighters.org)
- Worldwide, 160,000 kids are diagnosed with cancer each year. (According to www.StBalricks.org)
- Childhood cancer kills more U.S. children than any other disease – more than AIDS, asthma, diabetes, cystic fibrosis and congenital anomalies, combined. (According to www.StBalricks.org)