

Diagnosis

- o Childhood cancer is not one disease - there are more than 12 major types of pediatric cancers and over 100 subtypes. ⁽¹⁾
- o In 2023, it is estimated 9,910 children (birth to 14 years) and 5,280 adolescents (aged 15-19 years) will be diagnosed with cancer. ^(1A)
- o The overall incidence of childhood cancer is on the increase, averaging 0.8% increase per year since 1975. Children (0-14) increased 0.8%, and adolescents also increased 0.8%. Overall cancer incidence rates increased an average of 1% per year from 1997 to 2018. ^(45A) Among children aged 0-14, the incidence rate for all cancer sites combined was 17.8 cases per 100,000 persons. Among AYAs, the overall cancer incidence rate was 77.9 cases per 100,000 persons. ^(7G)
- o In 2022, there were approximately 87,050 cancer cases diagnosed and about 9,180 cancer deaths in adolescents and young adults (AYAs) ages 15 to 39 years in the US. ⁽⁴⁰⁾
- o About 1 in 260 children will develop cancer before the age of 20. ^(1a)
- o Children with Down syndrome are 10 to 20 times more likely to develop leukemia than children without Down syndrome. ⁽³⁷⁾
- o 47 children per day or 17,293 children (aged 0-19) were diagnosed with cancer in 2018. ⁽⁴⁵⁾
- o As of 2018, 4,317 children and teens under age 20 were diagnosed with CNS tumors, accounting for 25% of total cancer diagnoses in the age group 0-19. ⁽⁴⁵⁾
- o Approximately 8% of all newly diagnosed brain tumors occur under age 20 ⁽⁶⁷⁾
- o The average age at diagnosis is 10 overall (ages 0 to 19), 6 years old for children (aged 0 to 14), and 17 years old for adolescents (aged 15 to 19) ⁽⁹⁾, while adults' median age for cancer diagnosis is 66 ^(7a)
- o Most new cancer diagnoses in children are for leukemia (28.1%) and brain/CNS cancers (26.5%), while malignant epithelial neoplasms and melanomas (23.3%) and brain/CNS cancers (21.9%) are top cancers for adolescents. ⁽⁴⁵⁾
- o The most common cancer types among children (0-14) included leukemia, brain and other nervous system, and lymphoma, with cases increasing by 0.7% - 0.9% per year on average for all three during 2001-2018. ^(7G)