



Weill Cornell Medicine Children and Cancer



September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.
Learn how advancements in medicine help save lives.

The Facts

Compared to adult cancers, childhood cancer is rare.
But one child with cancer is too many.

15,780

Each year, approximately 15,780 American children ages 0–19 **are diagnosed with cancer**, a number that has increased over the last few decades.

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Somewhere in the world, **a child is diagnosed with a childhood cancer** every three minutes.

5

Common childhood cancers affect the blood (leukemia), brain and spinal cord, nerve cells, lymphatic system, bones and kidneys.

Hidden Roots

While many adult cancers are due to lifestyle choices, researchers are not sure what causes most cases of childhood cancer.

- Some childhood cancers are inherited.
- Others are rooted in external environmental factors or random changes in DNA. These changes occur for unknown reasons.



Life After Cancer

Fortunately, childhood cancer care has made great advances in recent years.

- New therapies target specific cancers and the genes that cause cancer.
- Children undergoing these targeted therapies can avoid some of the typical side effects from their treatment.
- More children are surviving and thriving after childhood cancer than ever before. Since the mid-1970s, the five-year survival rate for childhood cancer has increased by nearly 30%.



Learn more by visiting
weillcornell.org/services/pediatric-hematology-and-oncology



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