



CHILDHOOD CANCER FACT SHEET

- Each year, approximately 12,500 children and adolescents in the United States are diagnosed with cancer. This is the equivalent of 2 typical school classrooms each day.
- In the United States, cancer is responsible for more childhood deaths per year than any other disease (2,300/year); more deaths than asthma, diabetes, cystic fibrosis and AIDS combined.
- Childhood cancer is underfunded as there is limited commercial interest in developing treatments for relatively rare diseases. In addition, the causes and treatments of children's cancers are different from adult cancers.
- The most common pediatric cancers are leukemias, lymphomas, tumors of the brain and nervous system, kidney tumors, and tumors of the bone and muscles.
- Nearly 80 percent of children diagnosed with leukemias and lymphomas, the most common childhood cancers, are cured. The prognosis for all other cancers is much lower (for example, neuroblastoma 50%).
- The 80 percent survival rate is a reflection of current research efforts. In the 1950's, only 10 percent of children with cancer were cured.
- The causes of most childhood cancers are unknown.
- Over 90% of children with cancer are enrolled in clinical trials in specialty hospitals across the country, which must collaborate and share research with one another due to the limited patient population. This means that funding given to any one research institution helps children nationwide.
- Further information regarding childhood cancer can be found at www.curesearch.org.