The Current State of Pediatric Cancer

Cancer is the second-most common cause of death – and the leading cause of death by disease – among children.

Well over 10,000 children in the United States under the age of 15 will be diagnosed with cancer in 2016.

About 1,250 children under the age of 15 are expected to die from cancer in 2016.

At age 40, survivors of pediatric cancer are twice as likely as the general population to develop a second cancer.

Thanks to advancements from pediatric cancer research and participation in clinical trials, the mortality rate for some pediatric cancers has decreased by more than 50 percent since 1981.

The five-year survival rate for infants with cancer remains lower than that of pediatric cancer patients age 1-14. However, that survival rate climbed from 22 percent in 1975 to 62 percent at the turn of the century.

Most pediatric cancers are the result of DNA changes early in life, even before birth. They're only rarely linked to environmental risk factors.

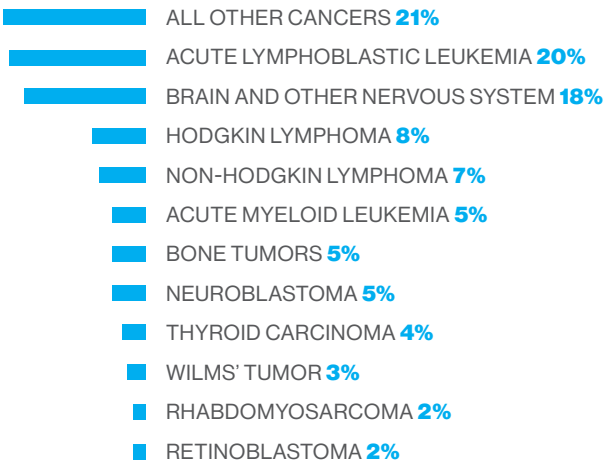
The National Cancer Institute currently spends only 4 percent of its budget on pediatric cancer research.

Since 1990, fewer than 10 drugs have been developed to treat pediatric cancer, compared to more than 200 for adults.

With the exception of the one-time increase allocated in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, federal investment in cancer research hasn't increased since 2003.

Pediatric Cancer by Type

Although overall survival rates have steadily increased, many of these cancers still offer little hope for recovery.



Source: American Cancer Society