

# blood cancer facts 2016-2017

Blood cancers, such as leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma or myelodysplastic syndromes, can affect the bone marrow, blood cells, lymph nodes and other parts of the lymphatic system.

An estimated 1,290,773 people in the US are either living with, or are in remission from, leukemia, lymphoma or myeloma.

## Leukemia

- An estimated 363,794 people are either living with, or in remission from, leukemia in the US.
- Leukemia is the second leading cause of cancer death among children, adolescents and young adults younger than 20 years.
- More males than females are diagnosed with leukemia and die of leukemia.

## Hodgkin and Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma

- An estimated 816,634 people are either living with, or in remission from, lymphoma in the US.
- An estimated 186,607 people are either living with, or are in remission from, Hodgkin lymphoma (HL).
- An estimated 630,027 people are either living with, or are in remission from, non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL).
- The five-year relative survival rate for people with HL has more than doubled from 40 percent in the early 1960s to 88.5 percent from 2006 to 2012.
- The five-year relative survival rate for NHL patients rose from 31 percent in the early 1960s to 72.6 percent from 2006 to 2012.

## Myeloma

- An estimated 110,345 people are either living with, or in remission from, myeloma in the US.
- The median age at diagnosis is 69 years; myeloma is seldom diagnosed in people under age 40.
- The incidence of myeloma in blacks was 115.4 percent greater than myeloma incidence in whites in 2013.
- Overall, mortality from myeloma has been decreasing slightly from 2004 to 2013 (the most recent data available).

## Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS)

- There were an estimated 15,351 new cases of myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) diagnosed each year from 2009 to 2013.
- The overall age-adjusted incidence rate of MDS is 4.9 cases per 100,000 population. White males have the highest MDS incidence rates (7.0 per 100,000 population).

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) exists to find cures and ensure access to lifesaving therapies for all blood cancer patients with one goal in mind: A world without blood cancers.

Our mission: Cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families.

New effective therapies, once unimaginable, are saving the lives of blood cancer patients today, not someday.

## **Finding Cures**

LLS-funded research has led to the discovery and development of lifesaving therapies, including targeted therapies that selectively kill cancer cells and immunotherapy drugs that help a patient's immune system destroy cancer cells.

LLS has invested more than \$1 billion in research since our inception 68 years ago.

Some of the therapies first approved for blood cancer patients are now helping patients with different types of cancers and other serious diseases.

## **Ensuring Access**

LLS is the leading source of free blood cancer information, education and support, helping patients nationally and in their communities through our chapters across the US and Canada.

LLS is the voice for all blood cancer patients, advocating for policies that accelerate the approval of new blood cancer treatments and ensure patient access to quality, affordable and coordinated care.

To find the nearest LLS chapter or obtain more information, call one of our Information Specialists at (800) 955-4572, Monday through Friday, 9 am to 9 pm ET, or visit [www.LLS.org](http://www.LLS.org).



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