

# blood cancer facts 2013

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

Almost 1,130,000 people in the US are living with, or are in remission from, a blood cancer.

## Leukemia

- There are more than 310,000 people living with, or in remission from, leukemia in the US.
- Leukemia causes almost one-third of all cancer deaths in children and adolescents younger than 15 years.
- More males than females are diagnosed with leukemia and die of leukemia.

## Hodgkin and Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma

- There are more than 731,000 people today living with, or in remission from lymphoma in the US.
- Almost 173,000 people have or are in remission from Hodgkin lymphoma (HL).
- More than 558,000 people have or are in remission from non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL).
- The five-year relative survival rate for patients with HL has more than doubled from 40 percent in the early 1960s to 87.6 percent between 2003 and 2009.
- The five-year relative survival rate for NHL patients rose from 31 percent in the early 1960s to 71.2 percent between 2003 and 2009.

## Myeloma

- More than 88,000 people are living with, or in remission from, myeloma in the US.
- The median age at diagnosis is 69 years; myeloma rarely occurs in people under age 45.
- The incidence of myeloma in blacks was 126 percent greater than myeloma incidence in whites in 2010.
- Overall, mortality from myeloma has been decreasing from 1995 to 2010 (the most recent data available).

## Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS)

- More than 14,000 new cases of myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) were diagnosed each year from 2006 to 2010.
- The estimated overall incidence rate of MDS is 4.8 cases per 100,000 population. White males have the highest MDS incidence rates (6.7 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 immunotherapies that help a patient's immune system destroy cancer cells.

Since 1954, LLS has invested almost \$1 billion in blood cancer research.

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, touching patients 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 6 pm ET, or visit [www.LLS.org](http://www.LLS.org).

**someday  
is today**



LEUKEMIA &  
LYMPHOMA  
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**fighting blood cancers**

Source: SEER (Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results),  
Cancer Statistics Review, 1975-2010. National Cancer Institute, 2013.