

FOCUS_{on}health

WINTER 2020

Physicians Caring for Kentucky

PEDIATRIC CANCER

Pediatric cancer is cancer in a child or teen who is younger than 20 years of age. Many different types of cancer can occur in young people, including cancers that are often seen in adults as well as cancers that are unique to children. More than 15,000 cases of pediatric cancer are diagnosed in the United States each year. The most common types are leukemia, lymphoma, and brain cancer.

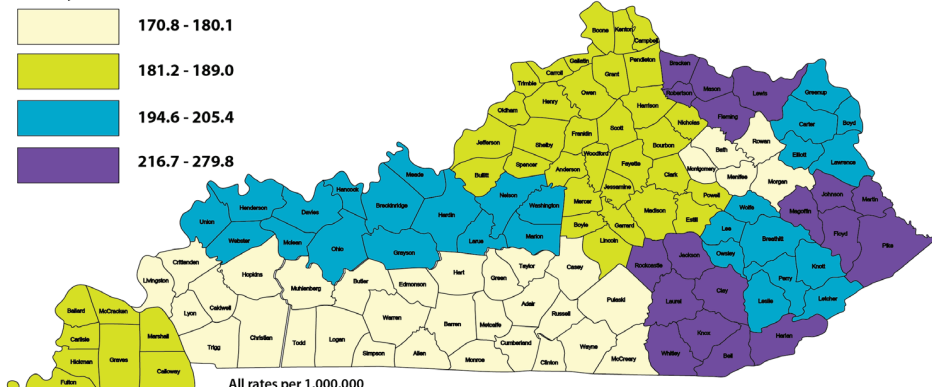
Kentucky Pediatric Cancer Rates

Childhood cancer is relatively rare, with less than 1 percent (2,152/260,351) of all cancers diagnosed in Kentucky occurring among children under the age of 20 during the years 2007-2016. During this time, cancer occurred more frequently among males (54 percent) than females (46 percent). Over 83 percent of children diagnosed with cancer survive at least five years, yet cancer remains the leading cause of disease-related death among U.S. children. Brain and central nervous system tumors have recently overtaken leukemia as the leading cause of cancer-related death among children.

A cancer diagnosis is severely burdensome for children and their families. In addition to the side effects from surgeries, chemotherapeutics and/or radiation on developing body systems, there are often lifelong economic and social costs.

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and the Kentucky Cancer Registry's Childhood Cancer in Kentucky report

Age-Adjusted Childhood Cancer Incidence Rates in Kentucky
All Sites, 2007 - 2016
By Area Development District
Age-Adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Million Population
Kentucky Rate: 188.3 / 1,000,000



RESOURCES

**American Cancer Society
Cancer Helpline:**
800-227-2345

**Educational Issues Following
Treatment:**
<http://bit.ly/34oBsXw>

**Returning to School After Cancer
Treatment:**
<http://bit.ly/2rweRtG>

Family Resources:
<http://bit.ly/35yPar1>

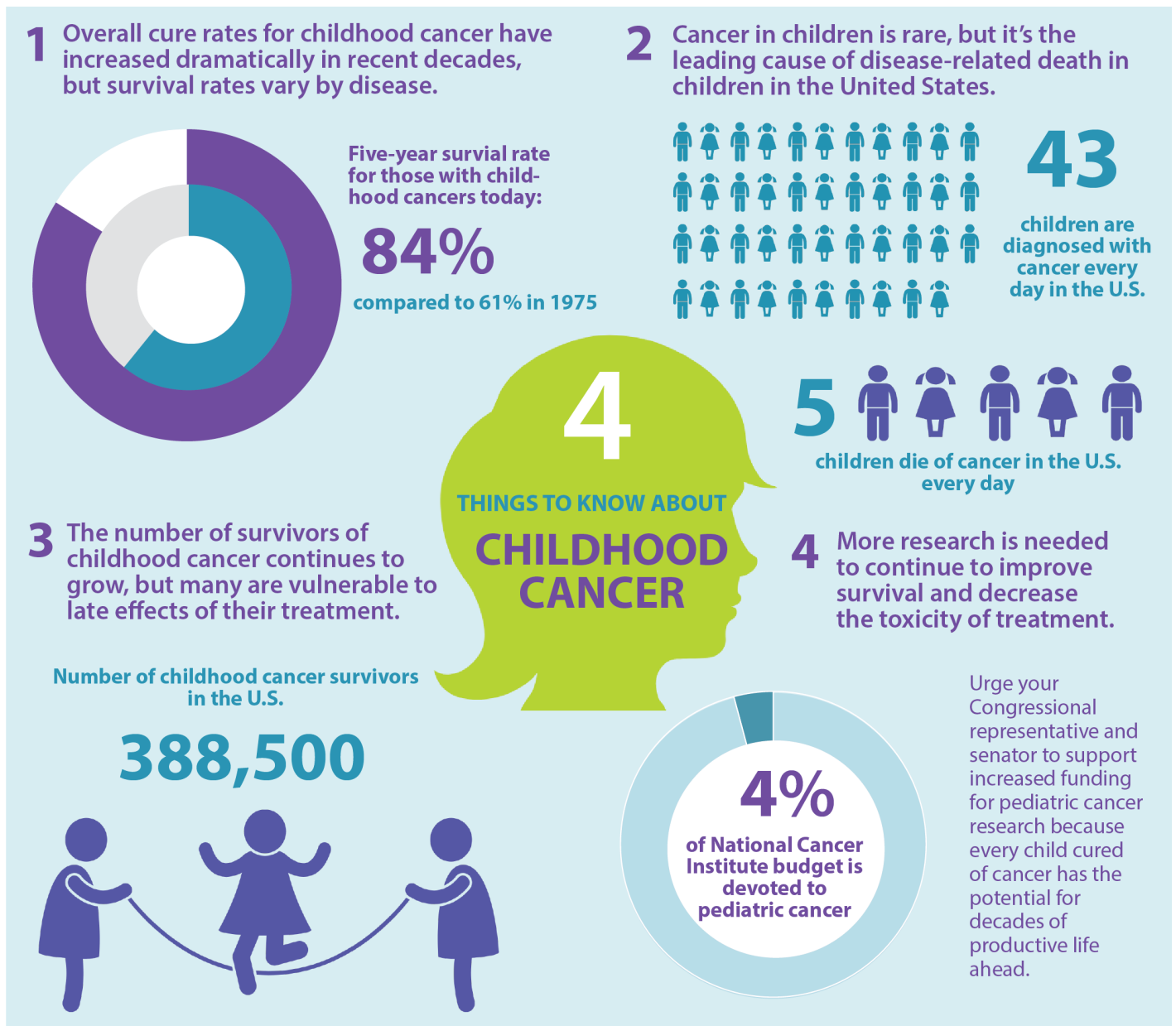
Clinical Trials in Kentucky:
<http://bit.ly/33oVj7u>

National Cancer Institute:
<https://www.cancer.gov/types/childhood-cancers>

WORKING WITH YOUR HEALTH CARE TEAM

- **Build strong partnerships**
Give and expect to receive respect from the people on your child's health care team. Open and honest communication will also make it easier for you to ask questions, discuss options, and feel confident that your child is in good hands.
- **Take advantage of the many specialists who can help your child**
Work with them to help your child learn about cancer, how it will be treated, prepare for tests, manage side effects, and cope.
- **Keep your child's pediatrician updated**
Ask for updates to be sent to your child's regular pediatrician.
- **If you get information online, make sure the source is credible**
It's important to get accurate information that you understand and can use to make decisions. Share what you find with the health care team to confirm that it applies to your child.
- **Make sure you understand what your child's health care team tells you**
Speak up when something is confusing or unclear, especially when decisions need to be made. Ask to see pictures or videos to help understand new medical information.

Source: <https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/coping/caregiver-support/parents#talking>



Infographic source: Dana-Farber/ Boston Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Center