



# Mission Information

## Research Statistics and Patient Services

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### What are Blood Cancers?

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Leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma are cancers that originate in the bone marrow and lymphatic tissues. Cancers have two features in common: cells that are abnormal because of altered DNA and cells that accumulate in excessive amounts.

Leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma are considered to be related cancers because they involve the uncontrolled growth of cells with related functions and origins. The diseases result from an acquired genetic injury to the DNA of a single cell, which becomes abnormal (malignant) and multiplies continuously. The accumulation of malignant cells interferes with the body's production of healthy blood cells and makes the body unable to protect itself against infection.

For more information about blood cancers, visit [www.lls.org](http://www.lls.org).

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### New Cases, Survival and Deaths

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- An estimated 137,260 people in the United States are living with leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma this year.
- New cases of leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma account for 9% of the 1,529,560 new cancer cases diagnosed in the United States this year.
- Every four minutes one person is diagnosed with a blood cancer.
- An estimated 957,902 Americans are living with, or are in remission from, leukemia, Hodgkin and non-Hodgkin lymphoma, and myeloma and myelodysplastic syndromes.
- Leukemia, lymphoma or myeloma will cause the deaths of an estimated 53,240 persons in the United States this year.
- Every 10 minutes, someone dies from a blood cancer. That's 148 people each day, or more than six people every hour.
- Blood cancers will account for 9.5 percent of deaths from cancer each year, based on the total of 569,490 cancer-related deaths.

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### We're Making a Difference!

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- The overall five-year survival rate for children under five years old with acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL) was 3% in 1964 – today it's 89%! The five-year survival rate for leukemia has nearly quadrupled in the past 49 years, from 14% in 1960 to 55% in the 1999-2006 timeframe. Statistics have shown a significant improvement in the five-year survival rates of patients with myeloma – up from 12% in 1960 to 38.5% today.
- Hodgkin lymphoma is now considered to be one of the most curable forms of cancer. The five-year survival rate for a person diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma has more than doubled from 40% in 1960 to 88% today. In children ages 0 to 14, the five-year survival rate for Hodgkin lymphoma is 96%.
- In children from 0 to 19 years, five-year survival for non-Hodgkin lymphoma is now 84.1%. This represents a significant improvement: even in the mid-1970s, most children with NHL did not live five years after diagnosis.

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### A Directory of Patient Services

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- The **Patient Financial Aid Program** Provides \$150 assistance for all blood cancer patients regardless of income. Requires an annual application completed by your doctor. *To learn more about Co-Pay Assistance, call (877) 557-2672, email [copay@LLS.org](mailto:copay@LLS.org) or visit [www.lls.org/co-pay](http://www.lls.org/co-pay).*
- **Family Support Groups** are facilitated by healthcare professionals and are open to any patient, family member or friend who has been affected by a blood cancer. Groups may be general blood cancer or disease-specific and provide information/support and encourage greater communication among patients, families, friends and healthcare providers. Call the chapter for a complete listing. *Call your local chapter office at 310-846-4704 to find a support group near you or speak with a First Connection volunteer.*
- **First Connection** is a peer to peer support program brings patients and survivors together on the road to recovery. The Society links newly diagnosed patients with a peer volunteer who has "been there" to share information and support. *Call your local chapter office at 310-846-4704 to find a support group near you or speak with a First Connection volunteer.*
- Health professionals who work at the **Information Resource Center** provide accurate, up-to-date information on blood cancers via the phone and online. *Call (800) 955-4572 or chat online and download materials at [www.lls.org](http://www.lls.org).*
- We offer **education materials and programs** free of charge to help clarify treatment options and strengthen decision-making and coping skills for patients and their families. In addition, LLS sponsors national telephone education and Internet-based programs, offering patients, caregivers and healthcare professionals the most current treatment and survivorship information. *For more information, visit [www.LLS.org/programs](http://www.LLS.org/programs). Programs also offer CEUs for nurses.*
- **Public Policy** advocates contact their elected representatives to promote government research funding and improvements in public health policy. *Become an advocate today at [www.lls.org/advocacy](http://www.lls.org/advocacy).*
- **Welcome Back: Facilitating the School Experience for Childhood Cancer Survivors** educates school personnel and parents to improve the transition of childhood cancer survivors from clinic to classroom.