

Differences	Childhood/Adolescent	Adult
Prevention & Early Detection	There are currently no known behavioral interventions or screening tests available that would result in early detection. Symptoms often mimic other childhood diseases, which delays diagnosis. Therefore, childhood cancers are often diagnosed at an advanced stage.	Lifestyle risk factors such as tobacco, diet, and exercise have been identified. In addition, screening tests such as mammograms and colonoscopies are available. Thus, some adult cancers can be diagnosed and treated at earlier stages.
Frequent Types	Blood (Leukemia, Lymphoma), Brain, Bone, Soft Tissue	Lung, Breast, Colon, Prostate, Skin, and other organs
Incidence Per Year	18,000	1,500,000
Approximate 5 year Survival Rate	75% However certain cancer types remain at <50%	50%
Percent of Patients Enrolled in Clinical Trials	70%	3%
Length of Treatment (depending upon diagnosis)	6 months to 3 years	6 months to 1 year
Long Term Effects of Treatment	Due to young age at diagnosis and highly toxic treatments, approximately 70% of survivors suffer serious long term effects impacting organ function, growth and development, reproductive outcomes, and risk of subsequent cancers.	Varies based on treatment
Research/ Drug Development	Termed an “orphan” disease and only 2 new drugs have been approved in the last 20 years. Receives 4% of National Cancer Institute budget and virtually no pharmaceutical research funds are allocated to childhood cancers.	Receives 96% of National Cancer Institute budget and multiple billions of dollars of pharmaceutical research funds are allocated to adult cancers.