

September 12, 2017

September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

MOBILE, Alabama — Childhood Cancer Awareness Month is being observed in September. Each year, more than 15,000 children and young adults are diagnosed with cancer — that is about 42 per day.

Though the five-year-survival rate for childhood cancers has reached 80 percent, nearly 2,000 children under age 19 die each year. This makes cancer the leading killer of children by disease.

And that is just in the United States. In 2016, more than 300,000 kids and young adults were diagnosed worldwide.

Childhood cancer is still a big problem because:

- Children’s cancer cannot be treated exactly like adult cancers (where most of federal research funding goes). Current treatments are toxic, affect a child’s development and can be decades old. To treat childhood cancer in the best way possible, there is a need to create specialized treatments just for children.
- The causes of childhood cancer are largely unknown. Researchers need to study what causes childhood cancer to understand what treatments work best.
- Many childhood cancer survivors in the U.S. suffer from lifelong damage to their organs, mental health and more. Researchers need to understand how treatments affect children long-term so we can prevent latent effects.

There are many forms of childhood cancers. These include neural and brain tumors, leukemia, lymphomas and sarcomas.

To learn more about the groundbreaking research and services that enhance healing and care, please visit <https://childrenscancer.org/childhood-cancer-awareness-month/>