

Announcements

Childhood Cancer Awareness Month — September 2017

September marks Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Each year, approximately 15,000 U.S. children and adolescents aged <20 years receive a cancer diagnosis; leukemia, brain tumors, and lymphoma are the most common types of cancers that affect this age group (1). During the past 4 decades, largely because of advances in the efficacy of treatment and supportive care, 5-year relative survival for childhood cancers increased from 62% to 85% (2). However, for some childhood cancers, such as brain or bone tumors, 5-year relative survival remains <75% (2). In addition, child and adolescent cancer survivors often face long-term complications, including heart disease, infertility, or secondary cancers related to their treatment, and need lifelong survivorship care planning (3).

CDC addresses the needs of children and adolescents living with, through, and beyond cancer by collecting and analyzing data and using scientific knowledge to develop and implement interventions. CDC works with local, state, and national partners to address disparities in referral to, enrollment in, and availability of childhood cancer clinical trials. To strengthen cancer survivorship care for children and adolescents, CDC collaborates with partner agencies to research barriers to clinical trial enrollment and interventions to improve care planning and self-management after completion of cancer treatment.

United States Cancer Statistics surveillance data (<https://nccd.cdc.gov/uscs/>) are important for monitoring childhood cancer incidence and mortality. CDC's Pediatric and Young Adult Early Case Capture program (<https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/npctr/early-case-capture.htm>) specializes in rapid reporting of childhood cancer data, which can provide clinicians, researchers, and public health professionals with timely, relevant data. Additional information is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/>.

References

1. US Cancer Statistics Working Group; CDC; National Cancer Institute. United States cancer statistics: 1999–2014 incidence and mortality web-based report. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2017. <https://nccd.cdc.gov/uscs/>
2. Howlader N, Noone AM, Krapcho M, et al., eds. SEER cancer statistics review, 1975–2014. Bethesda, MD: National Cancer Institute; 2017. https://seer.cancer.gov/csr/1975_2014

National Child Passenger Safety Week — September 17–23, 2017

In 2017, National Child Passenger Safety Week is being observed during September 17–23. In the United States, motor vehicle–related injuries are a leading cause of death among children (1). In 2015, a total of 663 passenger-vehicle occupants aged ≤12 years died as a result of a crash (2), and nearly 132,000 were injured (1). Among the children who died in 2015, 35% were known to be unrestrained (2). To keep child passengers as safe as possible, drivers should use age- and size–appropriate restraints for all child passengers until adult seat belts fit properly (lap belts should lay across upper thighs, not abdomen, and shoulder belts should lay across the middle of the shoulder and chest, not the neck or face) and follow the American Academy of Pediatrics' child passenger safety recommendations (3). Children aged <13 years should be properly restrained in the back seat.

As part of National Child Passenger Safety Week, September 23 has been designated “National Seat Check Saturday.” On this day, drivers with children who ride in car seats or booster seats are encouraged to visit a child safety seat inspection station to have a certified technician inspect their car seat for proper installation and proper use, free of charge. Additional information and an inspection station locator are available from CDC at https://www.cdc.gov/motor-vehiclesafety/child_passenger_safety and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration at <https://www.safercar.gov/parents/index.htm>. Campaign promotional materials in English and Spanish are available at <https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/child-car-safety/child-passenger-safety-week>.

References

1. CDC. Web-Based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS). Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2017. <https://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/>
2. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Traffic safety facts: 2015 data. Occupant protection in passenger vehicles. Washington, DC: US Department of Transportation; 2017. <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/812374>
3. Durbin DR; Committee on Injury, Violence, and Poison Prevention. Child passenger safety. *Pediatrics* 2011;127:e1050–66. <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2011-0213>