



2023 estimates for sarcomas in the United States

Sarcoma accounts for 1% of adult cancers diagnosed in the United States and 15% of childhood cancers.

This year, an estimated 17,370 people in the United States will be diagnosed with sarcoma.¹

It is estimated that 7,280 deaths from this disease will occur in the United States this year.²

At any one time, more than 200,000 patients and their families are struggling with sarcoma.^{8,9}

Sarcoma is sometimes curable by surgery (about 20% of the time), or by surgery with chemotherapy and/or radiation (another 50-55%), but about half the time they are totally resistant to all of these approaches—thus the extreme need for new therapeutic options.

Sarcoma is considered one of the deadliest rare cancers.

Soft Tissue Sarcoma (STS)

This year, an estimated 13,400 people (7,400 men and boys and 6,000 women and girls) in the United States will be diagnosed with STS.³

It is estimated that 5,140 deaths (2,720 men and boys and 2,420 women and girls) from this disease will occur in the United States this year.⁴

Sarcomas are described as being localized, locally advanced, or metastatic when they are first found. Localized means the tumor is only in one area of the body.

Locally advanced means the tumor involves or attaches to nearby tissues or organs. This often means it is not possible to remove the tumor because of its location, size, or the organs it involves.

Metastatic means the sarcoma has spread to parts of the body far away from where the sarcoma started.⁴

Survival Rate

The overall five-year survival rate for sarcoma is 65%.

- About 60% of sarcomas are found as a localized sarcoma. The five-year survival rate for people with localized sarcoma is 81%.
- About 18% of sarcomas are found in a locally advanced stage. The five-year survival rate for people with locally advanced sarcoma is 56%.
- About 15% of sarcomas are found in a metastatic stage. The five-year survival rate for people with metastatic sarcoma is 16%.⁴

It is important to note that the length of time a person lives with a soft tissue sarcoma depends on many factors, including the type of STS, the size, where it is located, and how quickly the tumor cells are growing and dividing, called the grade 4. If the sarcoma is found at an early stage and has not spread from where it started,

surgical treatment is often very effective, and many people are cured. However, if the sarcoma has spread to other parts of the body, treatment can usually control the tumor, but it is often incurable.

Primary Bone Sarcoma

Primary bone sarcoma is cancer that starts in the bone. Less than 1% of all cancers are primary bone sarcomas.⁶

This year, an estimated 3,970 people of all ages (2,160 men and boys and 1,810 women and girls) in the United States will be diagnosed with primary bone sarcoma. In 2020, it was estimated that about 400 of these cases occurred in people ages 15 to 19.

It is estimated that 2,140 deaths (1,200 men and boys and 940 women and girls) from this disease will occur in the United States this year.⁶

Survival rates in the United States for bone sarcoma depend on many factors, including the type and stage of bone sarcoma that is diagnosed.

- If the cancer is diagnosed at the localized stage, the five-year survival rate is 84%.
- If the cancer has spread to surrounding tissues or organs and/or the regional lymph nodes, the five-year survival rate is 71%.
- If the cancer has spread to distant parts of the body, the five-year survival rate is 31%.
- If the cancer is unstaged, the five-year survival rate is 62%⁷

1. <https://cancerstatisticscenter.cancer.org/#!/data-analysis/NewCaseEstimates>
2. <https://cancerstatisticscenter.cancer.org/#!/data-analysis/DeathEstimates>
3. <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/soft-tissue-sarcoma/about/key-statistics.html>
4. <https://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/sarcomas-soft-tissue/statistics#:~:text=Sarcomas%20are%20described%20as%20being,to%20nearby%20tissues%20or%20organs.>
5. <https://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/sarcomas-soft-tissue/types-treatment>
6. <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/bone-cancer/about/key-statistics.html>
7. https://seer.cancer.gov/statistics-network/explorer/application.html?site=50&data_type=4&graph_type=5&compareBy=stage&chk_stage_104=104&chk_stage_105=105&chk_stage_106=106&chk_stage_107=107&series=9&sex=1&race=1&age_range=1&adopt_precision=1&adopt_show_ci=on&hdn_view=1#resultsRegion1
8. https://seer.cancer.gov/statistics-network/explorer/application.html?site=51&data_type=5&graph_type=11&compareBy=age_range&chk_age_range_1=1&chk_age_range_9=9&chk_age_range_141=141&chk_age_range_157=157&series=9&sex=1&adopt_precision=1&hdn_view=1#resultsRegion1
9. https://seer.cancer.gov/statistics-network/explorer/application.html?site=50&data_type=5&graph_type=11&compareBy=age_range&chk_age_range_1=1&chk_age_range_9=9&chk_age_range_141=141&chk_age_range_157=157&series=9&sex=1&adopt_precision=1&hdn_view=1#resultsRegion1