Blood Cancer

Key Facts

Blood cancer UK

February 2026


We're a
community
dedicated
to beating
blood cancer

About us

We’re the scientists who dedicate our careers to finding cures.

We’re the nurses who find the right words in the darkest moments.

We’re the campaigners and volunteers standing up for the people we love.

We’re the bucket-collectors, race-runners and cake-bakers who make our research possible.

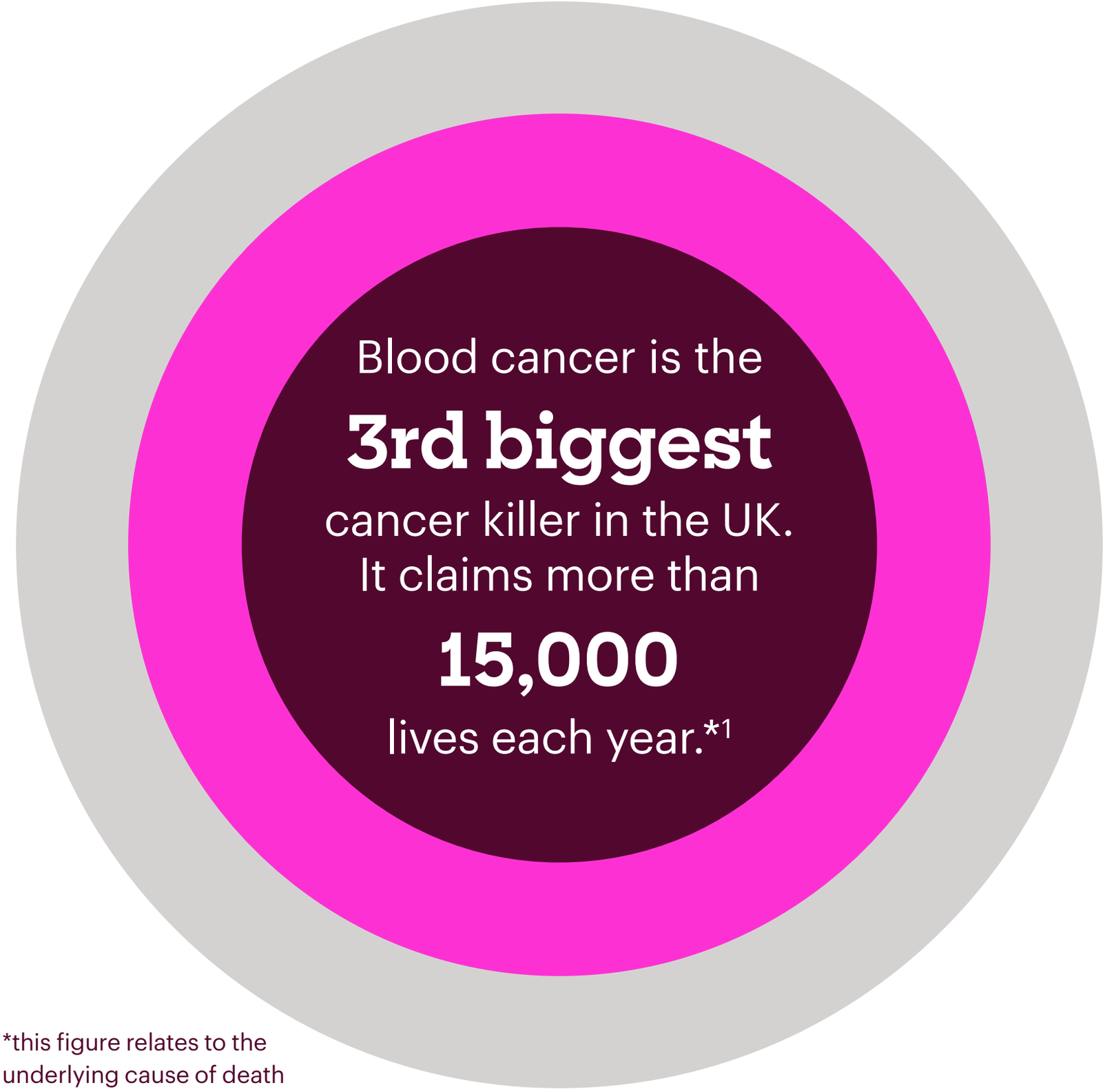
We’re the friends, parents, children and grandparents affected by blood cancer.

Why?

Because we’ve invested over £500 million in life-saving research.

Because the finish line’s in sight.

Because it’s time to beat blood cancer.



*this figure relates to the underlying cause of death recorded on death certificates

1 2 3 4

Blood cancer is the

5th

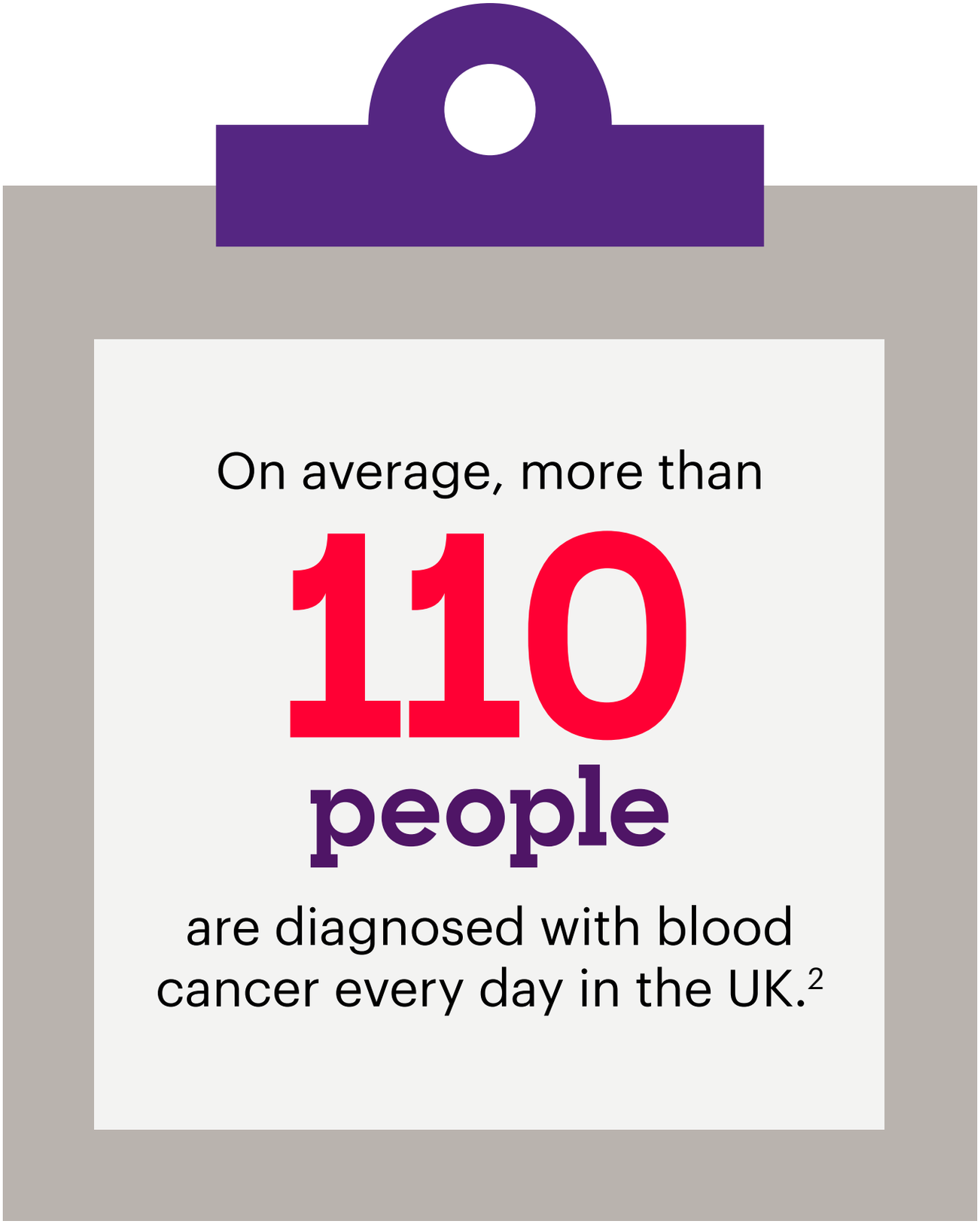
most common cancer in the UK.[2]

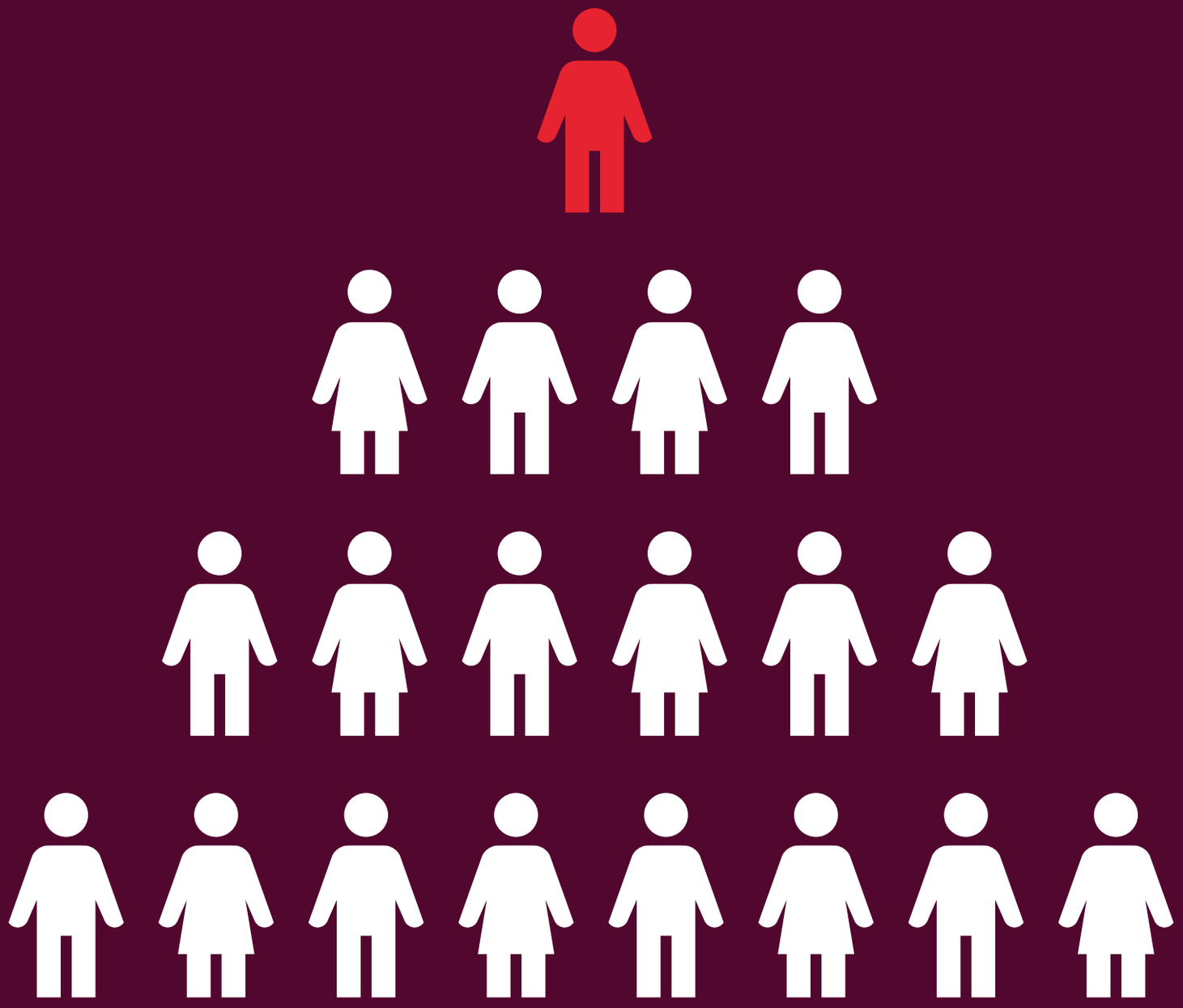
Blood cancer is the most common cancer amongst children, teenagers and young adults in the UK.[3]

Each year, more than

40,000 people

are diagnosed with blood cancer in the UK.[2]


On average, more than
110
people
are diagnosed with blood cancer every day in the UK.[2]



1 in 19 people

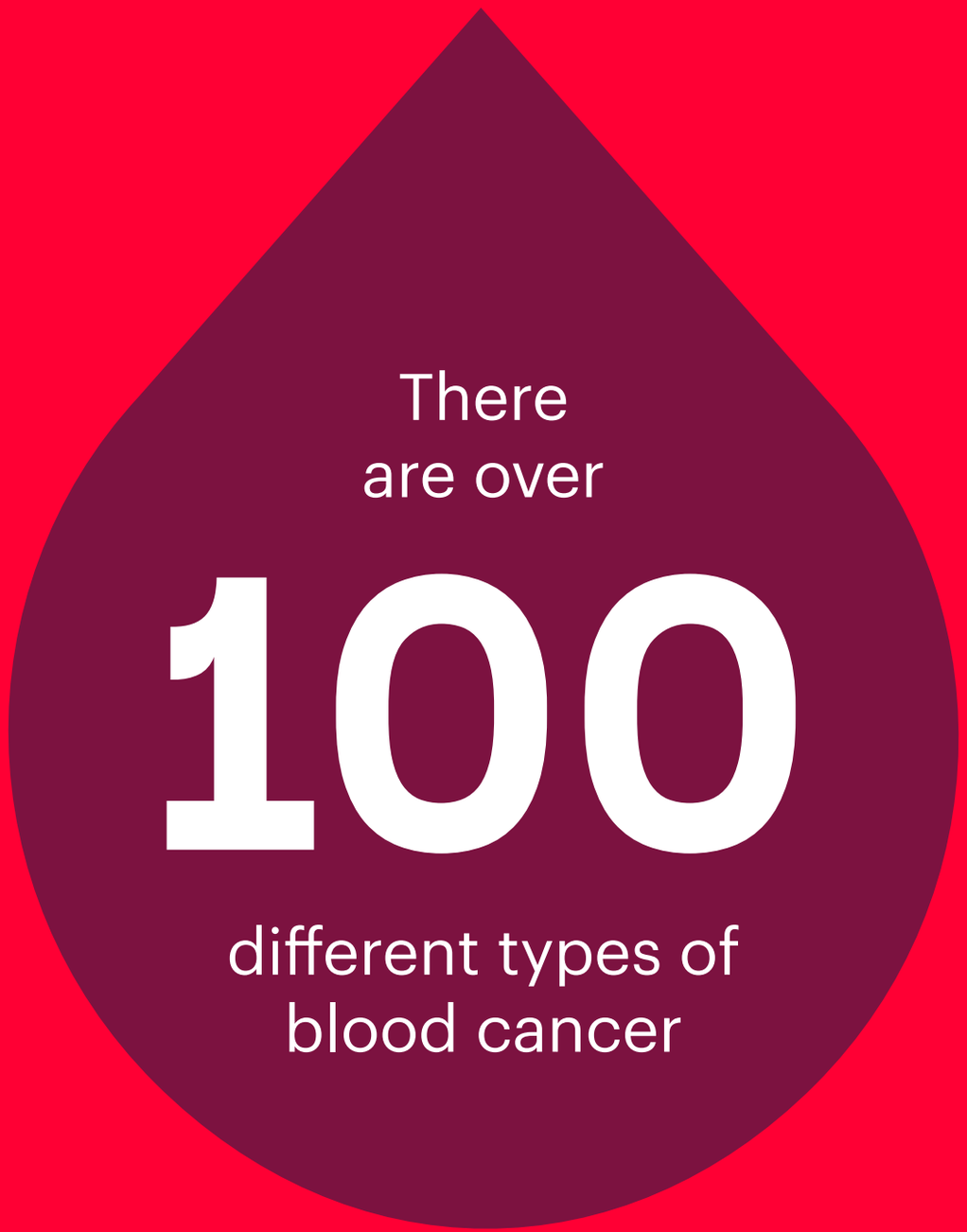
will develop blood cancer in the UK.[4]

of UK adults cannot name any symptom of blood cancer.[5]

There are more than

310,000

people living with, or in remission from blood cancer in the UK.[6]



The main three blood cancer groups are leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma.[7]

recommendations for blood cancer treatments have been positive (recommended, optimised, or recommended for the Cancer Drugs Fund).[8]

Blood cancer research funded by ourselves and others has made a significant improvement to survival rates.

	10-year survival for patients in England and Wales, 1971-72 diagnoses[9]	Predicted 10-year survival for patients in England and Wales, 2018 diagnoses[9]
Leukaemia	9%	49%
Hodgkin Lymphoma	49%	82%
Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma	23%	65%
Myeloma	9%	38%

These are broad categories. Survival rates vary considerably between subtypes and by factors such as age.

Survival rates have largely improved:

Under 15-year-olds in the UK diagnosed with leukaemia have a 5-year survival of nearly

90%[10]

But, there is still more work to be done:

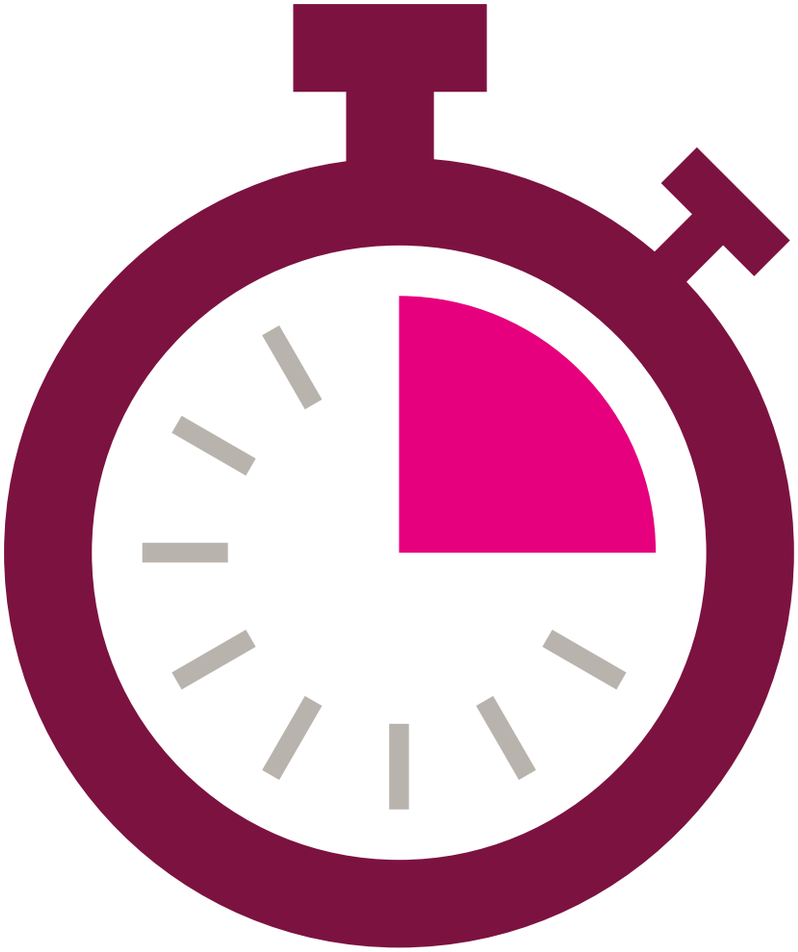
People diagnosed with mantle cell lymphoma in England have a 5-year survival of

57%[11]

People diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia in England have a 5-year survival of

22%[11]

Diagnosis and treatments

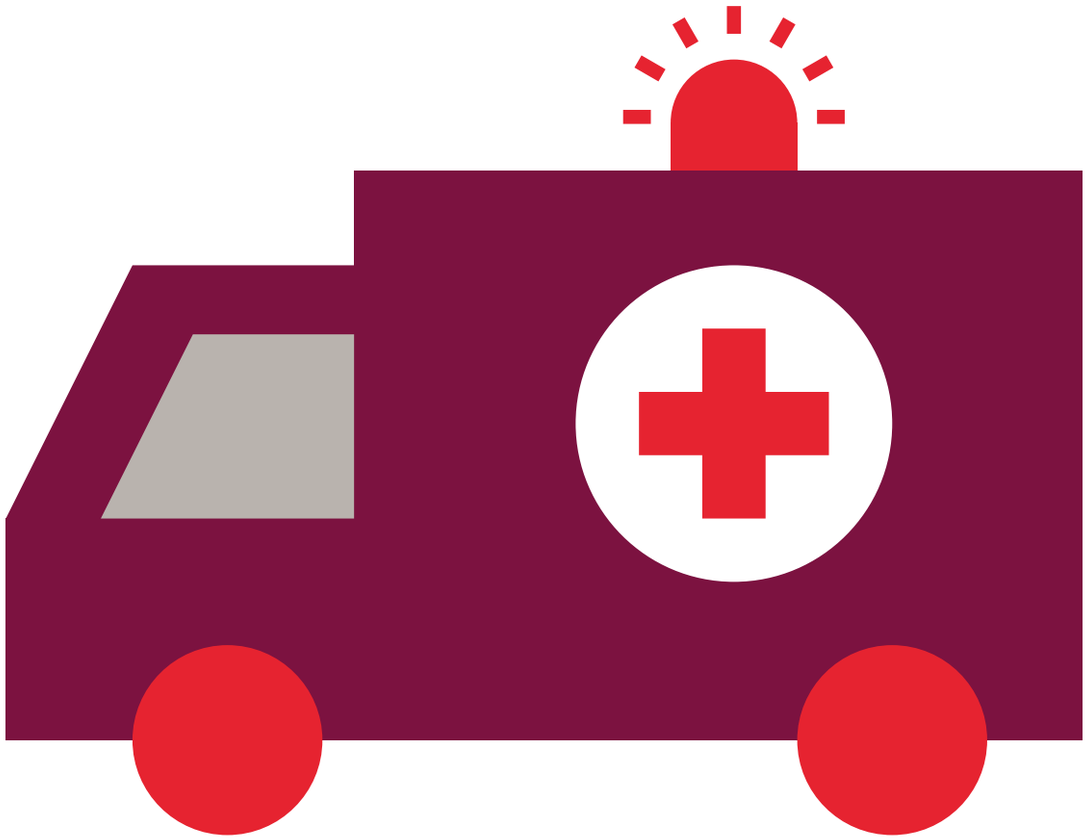


Over

53,000

people with blood cancer are on ‘active monitoring’ in the UK.

Active monitoring, which is also referred to as ‘watch and wait’, is a way of monitoring people with blood cancer or related conditions who do not need treatment straight away.[12]



In England and Northern Ireland, almost

30% of people

with blood cancer are diagnosed through presenting to hospital as an emergency.[13]

Last year in England,

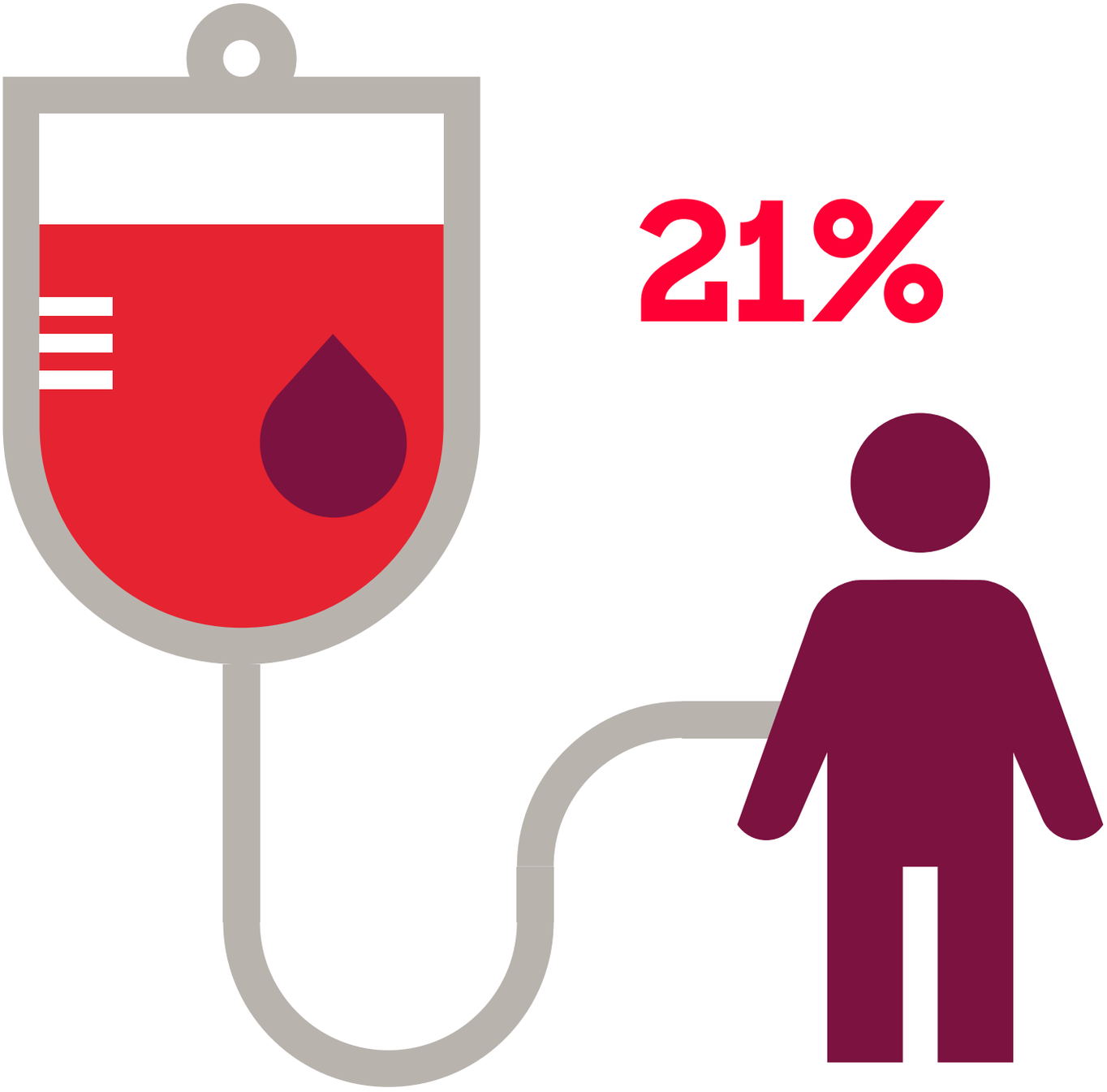
38%

of people with blood cancer, including **49%** of people with myeloma, saw their GP **3 or more times** before being diagnosed.[14]

Last year in England,

29% of people

with blood cancer waited at least 3 months between first thinking something might be wrong with them and contacting their GP practice.[15]



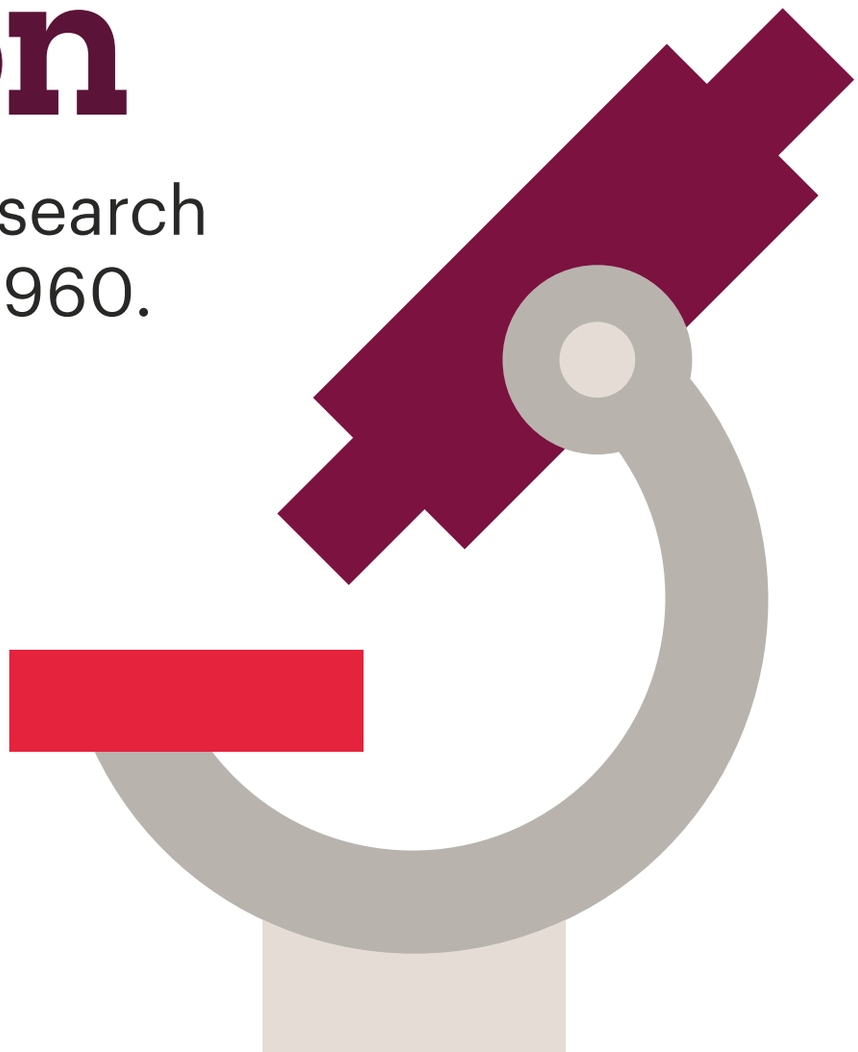
of donated red blood cells are given to blood cancer patients.[16]

Our impact

In total, we've spent more than

£500 million

on blood cancer research since forming in 1960.



We currently fund over

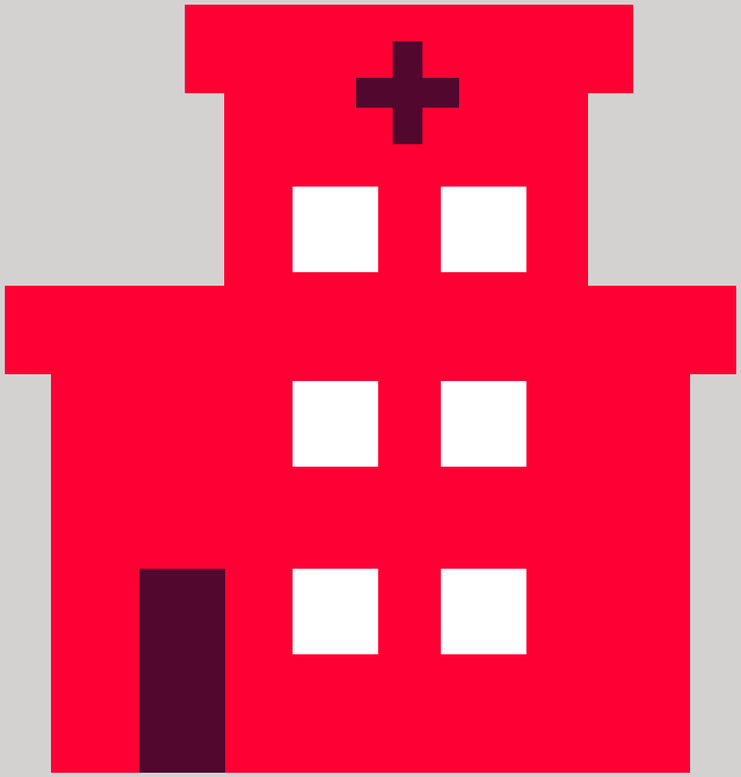
100 different

blood cancer research projects worth over

£35 million

This funding supports the work of over

350 researchers



based at over

25 institutions

across the UK

In 2025, we sent over

53,500

health information resources to hospitals and people affected by blood cancer across the UK.

Nearly

1.2 million

people visited our online health information

They viewed nearly

1.5 million

webpages

Sources

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3 – National Disease Registration Service. Children, teenagers and young adults UK cancer statistics report 2021. https://digital.nhs.uk/ndrs/data/data-outputs/cancer-publications-and-tools/ctya-uk-cancer-statistics-report-2021. (2021)

4 – Haematological Malignancy Research Network. Updated analysis, similar analysis accessible at: https://hmrn.org/findings/lifetime_risk. (2026)

5 – Blood Cancer UK / YouGov. Over half of UK adults unable to name single blood cancer symptom. https://bloodcancer.org.uk/news/over-half-of-uk-adults-unable-to-name-single-blood-cancer-symptom/. (2023)

6 – England: National Disease Registration Service. England Cancer Prevalence Statistics, 2022. https://nhsd-ndrs.shinyapps.io/prevalence/. (2025)

Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales: Freedom of Information requests received December 2025 and January 2026.

7 – Haematological Malignancy Research Network. Classification of haematological malignancies. https://hmrn.org/about/classification. (2026)

8 – NICE. Record number of positive recommendations for blood cancer treatments. https://www.nice.org.uk/news/articles/record-number-of-positive-recommendations-for-blood-cancer-treatments. (2025)

9 – Coleman, M. P. et al. Trends over 48 years in a one-number index of survival for all cancers combined, England and Wales (1971-2018): a population-based registry study. The Lancet Regional Health – Europe. (2025)

10 – National Disease Registration Service. Children, teenagers and young adults UK cancer statistics report 2021. https://digital.nhs.uk/ndrs/data/data-outputs/cancer-publications-and-tools/ctya-uk-cancer-statistics-report-2021. (2021)

11 – National Disease Registration Service. Detailed Statistics from the Get Data Out programme. https://digital.nhs.uk/ndrs/data/data-outputs/cancer-data-hub/get-data-out. (2025)

12 – Haematological Malignancy Research Network. Bespoke analysis. (2026)

13 – England: National Disease Registration Service. Detailed Statistics from the Get Data Out programme. https://digital.nhs.uk/ndrs/data/data-outputs/cancer-data-hub/get-data-out. (2025)

Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland Cancer Registry. Routes to diagnosis of cancer. https://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/nicr/cancer-information/routes-to-cancer-diagnosis/. (2025)

14 – NHS England. National Cancer Patient Experience Survey. https://www.ncpes.co.uk/latest-national-results/. (2025)

15 – NHS England. National Cancer Patient Experience Survey. https://www.ncpes.co.uk/latest-national-results/. (2025)

16 – NHS Blood and Transplant. On request. (2025)

Notes

1 – Based on the average annual number of deaths due to blood cancer in the UK during 2019, 2021 and 2022. Blood cancer is defined by ICD10 codes C81-C96, D45-D47 (England), C81-C86, C90-C95 (Northern Ireland and Scotland) and C81-C96 (Wales).

2 – Based on the average annual or daily number of blood cancer cases diagnosed in the UK during 2019, 2021 and 2022. Blood cancer is defined by ICD10 codes C81-C86, C90-C95 (Northern Ireland and Scotland) and C81-C96 (Wales). For England, blood cancer is defined based on ICD-O3 morphology and behaviour codes.

3 – Based on the number of cancer cases diagnosed in the UK among children, teenagers and young adults under 25 years of age, between 1997 and 2016. Leukaemias, myeloproliferative diseases and myelodysplastic diseases are the most common cancer type among this age group and lymphomas and reticuloendothelial neoplasms the fourth most common. Cancer site definition is based on ICD-O3 morphology and behaviour codes.

4 – Estimated based on patients newly diagnosed with blood cancer between 2005 and 2024 in the region covered by the Haematological Malignancy Research Network.

5 – 55% of UK adults surveyed said they did not know any common signs of blood cancer.

6 – Based on the 20-year prevalence of blood cancer, calculated as the number of people alive at the end of 2022 who were diagnosed with blood cancer in the past 20 years (from the start of 2003). Blood cancer is defined by ICD10 codes C81-C96, D45-D47 (Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales), C81-C85, C88, C90-C96, D45-D47 (England 2003-2012) and based on ICD-O3 morphology and behaviour codes (England 2013-2022).

7 – Most common blood cancer groups based on blood cancer diagnoses in the region covered by the Haematological Malignancy Research Network, classified by ICD10 site groupings.

8 – Data up to December 2024. 92% of blood cancer treatment recommendations made by NICE since 2015 have been positive, representing 97 positive recommendations for blood cancer treatments over the last decade. This figure excludes terminated approvals.

9 – Based on the age- and sex-standardised net survival for adults (aged 15-99) diagnosed with cancer in England and Wales. Net survival represents the probability of surviving cancer in the absence of other causes of death.

10 – Based on 5-year overall survival of 88% for children (aged 0–14) diagnosed with leukaemias, myeloproliferative diseases and myelodysplastic diseases in the UK between 2012 and 2016. Leukaemias, myeloproliferative diseases and myelodysplastic diseases are defined based on ICD-O3 morphology and behaviour codes. Survival varies by leukaemia subtype with a 5-year overall survival of 92% for lymphoid leukaemia and 72% for acute myeloid leukaemia.

11 – Based on the net survival of patients (aged 0-99) diagnosed with mantle cell lymphoma or acute myeloid leukaemia in England between 2014 and 2016. Mantle cell lymphoma and acute myeloid leukaemia are defined based on ICD-O3 morphology and behaviour codes. Net survival represents the probability of surviving cancer in the absence of other causes of death.

12 – Estimated using the prevalence of blood cancer based on patients newly diagnosed between 2005 and 2024 in the region covered by the Haematological Malignancy Research Network. UK figures have been estimated by applying estimates for the Haematological Malignancy Research

Network population to the UK population.

13 – Based on the proportion of blood cancer patients diagnosed via an emergency presentation in 2019 in England (27%) and Northern Ireland (28%). Blood cancer is defined by ICD10 codes C81-C96 for Northern Ireland and based on ICD-O3 morphology and behaviour codes for England.

14 – Based on the latest results from the English National Cancer Patient Experience Survey, including patients aged 16+ with a cancer diagnosis who were discharged after an inpatient or day case attendance for cancer related treatment in April, May or June 2024. Only responses where the individual had a known number of GP attendances were included. Blood cancer is defined by ICD10 codes C81-C83, C85 and C90-C95.

15 – Based on the latest results from the English National Cancer Patient Experience Survey, including patients aged 16+ with a cancer diagnosis who were discharged after an inpatient or day case attendance for cancer related treatment in April, May or June 2024. Only responses where the individual had contact with their GP and a known waiting time were included. Blood cancer is defined by ICD10 codes C81-C83, C85 and C90-C95.


Because we
give people
the support
they need

Get in touch

For free and confidential support, and information on blood cancer and life after a diagnosis, call us on **0808 2080 888** or email us at **support@bloodcancer.org.uk**

Join our online forum and talk to others affected by blood cancer at **forum.bloodcancer.org.uk**

Because we'll beat it together

To help us fund this lifesaving research and give vital support, visit **bloodcancer.org.uk/donate** or call us on **0808 2080 888**.

Because we can beat it

For free and confidential support,
contact us on 0808 2080 888
(Mon–Fri, 10am–4pm, Wed, 10am–1pm)
support@bloodcancer.org.uk

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

For anything else, contact us on **0808 2080 888**
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The information in this booklet was correct at the time it was printed (February 2026)

Blood cancer UK