Cancer

Cancer is a collection of related diseases in which some of the body’s cells begin to divide without stopping and spread into surrounding tissues. Individually and collectively, cancers take a staggering toll on Americans and populations across the globe. Researchers have made astounding progress against cancer, but continued advances hinge on robust federal and private sector investment.

Research Delivers Solutions

Cancer research is advancing in extraordinary ways, fueled by such breakthroughs as immunotherapy, nanotechnology, robotic surgery and cutting-edge techniques to identify gene mutations and understand the inner workings of cells in order to predict which treatments will be more effective.

These breakthroughs, which build on decades of previous research, are working to increase survival rates and seed unprecedented hope for the future. For example, immunotherapy doubles survival rates for patients diagnosed with melanoma that has metastasized to the brain.

Advances in detection techniques and treatments have increased the 5-year survival rate for childhood cancer from approximately 58% in the 1970s to over 80% today.

Progress in understanding and treating cancer empowered a 26% decrease in the US cancer-related death rate between 1991 to 2015.

An estimated 40% of cancers diagnosed in the U.S. have a link to tobacco use. Researchers have shown that counseling methods and medication for treating tobacco dependence are more effective when used together than when either is deployed independently. Smoking cessation programs, if offered by every state, could save over $711 million annually.

COST

$147.3 billion: Total amount spent on cancer care in the United States in 2017.

The cost of cancer care is expected to increase to $174 billion by the year 2020.

$3,200: The excess annual medical expenditure per adolescent and young adult cancer survivor.

Half of Americans Willing to Pay Additional Taxes to Support Medical Research

Would you be willing to pay $1 per week more in taxes if you were certain that all of the money would be spent on additional medical research?

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2019
Then. Now. Imagine.

**THEN**
In the early 1960s, the 5-year survival rate for children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia was less than 10%.

**NOW**
Thanks to advances in research, the 5-year survival rate for children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia is more than 85%.

**IMAGINE**
A cure.

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**Estimated Number of New Cancer Cases, 2019**

Source: American Cancer Society


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**Survival 5 years after Childhood Cancer Diagnosis**


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The Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation is a founding partner in this series of fact sheets. www.laskerfoundation.org

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