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PDF generated on July 26, 2016 from
<http://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/gastrointestinal-stromal-tumor-gist/statistics>

[Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor - GIST - Statistics](#) [1]

This section has been reviewed and approved by the [Cancer.Net Editorial Board](#) [2], 12/2015

ON THIS PAGE: You will find information about how many people are diagnosed with this type of tumor each year. You will also learn some general information on surviving the disease. Remember, survival rates depend on several factors. To see other pages, use the menu on the side of your screen.

Each year, approximately 4,000 to 5,000 adults in the United States will be diagnosed with a GIST. About 60% of GISTs begin in the stomach, and approximately 30% develop in the small intestine. The remaining types of GISTs mostly start in the rectum, colon, and esophagus.

The 5-year survival rate tells you what percent of people live at least 5 years after the cancer is found. Percent means how many out of 100. The 5-year survival rate for people with a GIST depends on several factors, including specific biologic characteristics of the tumor, the type of [treatment](#) [3] given, and the risk of the tumor coming back after treatment.

The American Cancer Society's most recent data available is from 2003 to 2009, and this means that these survival rate estimates do not show the results of better diagnosis or treatment available since then. Based on that data, the overall 5-year survival rate of people diagnosed with a malignant GIST has been estimated to be 76%. If the tumor has not spread from the organ where it started, the 5-year survival rate is 91%. If the cancer has spread to a distant part of the body when it was first diagnosed, the survival rate has been estimated at 48%.

It is important to remember that statistics on how many people survive this type of tumor are an estimate. The estimate comes from data based on thousands of people with GIST in the United States each year. So, your own risk may be different. Doctors cannot say for sure how long

anyone will live with a GIST. Learn more about [understanding statistics](#) [4].

Source: American Cancer Society website (2016).

The [next section in this guide is Risk Factors](#) [5]. It explains what factors may increase the chance of developing this disease. Or, use the menu to choose another section to continue reading this guide.

Links

[1] <http://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/gastrointestinal-stromal-tumor-gist/statistics>

[2] <http://www.cancer.net/about-us>

[3] <http://www.cancer.net/node/18876>

[4] <http://www.cancer.net/node/24961>

[5] <http://www.cancer.net/node/18872>