

Sarcoma, Soft Tissue - Statistics [1]

This section has been reviewed and approved by the [Cancer.Net Editorial Board](#) [2], 07/2014

ON THIS PAGE: You will find information about how many people learn they have this type of cancer each year and some general survival information. Remember, survival rates depend on several factors. To see other pages, use the menu on the side of your screen.

This year, approximately 12,020 people (6,550 males and 5,470 females) will be diagnosed with soft-tissue sarcoma in the United States. An estimated 4,740 adults and children (2,550 males and 2,190 females) are expected to die of the disease this year.

The five-year survival rate is the percentage of people who survive at least five years after the cancer is detected, excluding those who die from other diseases. The five-year survival rate of people localized sarcomas is 83%. The five-year survival rate for people with sarcoma that have spread to distant parts of the body is 16%. When the sarcoma starts in an arm or leg, the five-year survival rates are slightly higher for each [stage](#) [3].

It is important to note that the length of time a person lives with sarcoma depends on many factors, including the size of the tumor, where it is located, the type, how fast the tumor cells are growing and dividing, and whether it is deep. If the sarcoma is diagnosed at an early stage and hasn't spread from where it started, treatment is very effective and many people can be cured. On the other hand, if the sarcoma has spread to other parts of the body, treatment can usually control the tumor, but it is not often curable. Learn more in the [Stages and Grades](#) [3] section.

Cancer survival statistics should be interpreted with caution. These estimates are based on data from thousands of people with this type of cancer, but the actual risk for a particular individual may differ. It is not possible to tell a person how long he or she will live with sarcoma. Because the survival statistics are measured in five-year intervals, they may not represent advances made in the treatment or diagnosis of this cancer. Learn more about [understanding statistics](#) [4].

Statistics adapted from the American Cancer Society's publication, Cancer Facts & Figures 2014.

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Links:

- [1] <http://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/sarcoma-soft-tissue/statistics>
- [2] <http://www.cancer.net/about-us>
- [3] <http://www.cancer.net/node/19610>
- [4] <http://www.cancer.net/node/24961>