



# Chronicle of Indiana Cancer Control

July 2024

## Sarcoma and Bone Cancer

July is national sarcoma and bone cancer awareness month. The American Cancer Society's estimates for primary cancer of the bones and joints for 2024 in the United States are about 3,970 new cases diagnosed (2,270 in males and 1,700 in females). This will also account for about 2,050 deaths (1,100 deaths in males and 950 in females). Primary bone cancers, cancers that start in the bones, are uncommon, and account for less than 1% of all cancers. In adults, cancers that spread to the bones from other organs are much more common than primary bone cancers.<sup>1</sup>

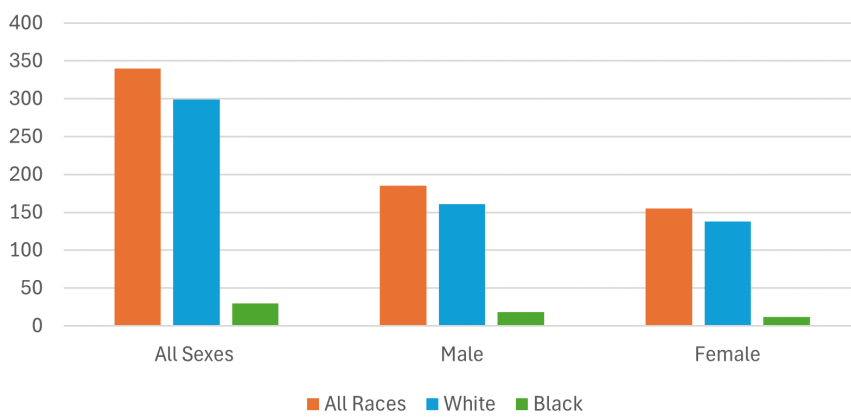
<sup>1</sup> [American Cancer Society](#)

## Risk Factors and Bone Health

- Most known risk factors for bone cancer such as age and certain bone diseases and inherited conditions cannot be changed. Other than exposure to radiation, there are no known lifestyle-related or environmental causes of bone cancer.<sup>1</sup>
- The skeleton is made of bones that help protect soft organs like the brain, heart, and lungs from injury
- Bones are also responsible for working with muscles to hold up the body when we walk or run
- Bones house bone marrow which is responsible for making blood cells<sup>2</sup>
- Cancer and its treatments can lead to bone loss

<sup>2</sup> [National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases](#)

2016-2020 Bone Cancer Incidence Rate in Indiana



Data source: Indiana State Cancer Registry  
Note: Excludes in situ and benign cancers

## Upcoming Local Events For Survivors

- [Cancer Support Community Indiana](#) hosts many in person and virtual events and has many resources on their website.
- [Crafters Corner](#): In partnership with Franciscan Health (in person) - August 21
- Visit [cancersupportindy.org/calendar](https://cancersupportindy.org/calendar) for more summer events for cancer survivors

To **promote**, **protect**, and **improve** the health and safety of all Hoosiers

Indiana Department of Health

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