

*I wish to be
a doctor*
Melanie, 12
kidney transplant



Wishes are Waiting: Close the Gap in Reaching More Kids



The John Dawson Foundation Incidence & Prevalence Projections Study

Make-A-Wish®
IOWA

Help Break Barriers to Reaching Every Eligible Child

At Make-A-Wish Iowa, we believe that hope is essential for children with critical illnesses. When a child's heartfelt wish is granted, they gain more than just a moment of joy — they experience renewed strength to fight, a sense of control in their medical journey, and emotional and physical benefits that can give them a better chance of overcoming their illness. Moreover, 8 out of 10 medical providers report that a wish is a necessary part of a child's treatment journey.*

Make-A-Wish Iowa granted nearly 200 life-changing wishes last year, but there are still many children waiting for their wish to be granted. The 2025 John Dawson Foundation Incidence and Prevalence Directional Study has provided critical insights into the growing number of children eligible for a wish, helping us understand the gap in reaching all those in need. Every week, an average of 5 children are diagnosed with a critical illness in Iowa, reinforcing the urgency for funding to provide wishes to every eligible child.

This comprehensive research analyzed national and chapter-level data on approximately 55 wish-eligible medical conditions, covering 98 percent of qualified referrals in 2024. By leveraging health care databases, expert medical input and U.S. Census demographics, the study identified key gaps in reach, including disparities based on geography, medical specialty and demographics such as race and age.

Together, we have the power to help children with critical illnesses replace fear with confidence, sadness with joy and anxiety with hope.

*I wish to have an
Easter egg hunt*

**Ayla, 3
cancer**

*Make-A-Wish 2022 Wish Impact Study (rounded figures), wish.org/impactstudy

Predicted Annual Gross Incidence Snapshot

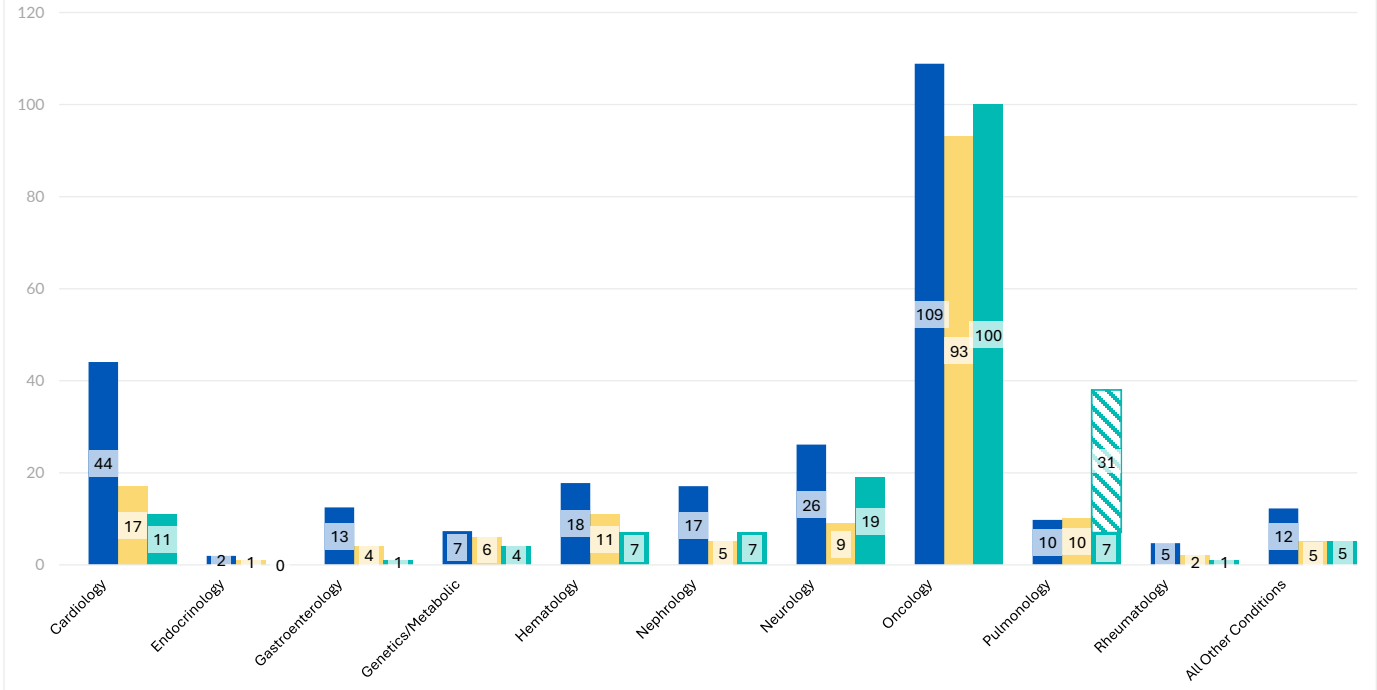
Iowa

Population Age 2.5-17 645,386
 Predicted Annual Gross Incidence 269
 Predicted Annual Gross Incidence Per 100,000 41.7

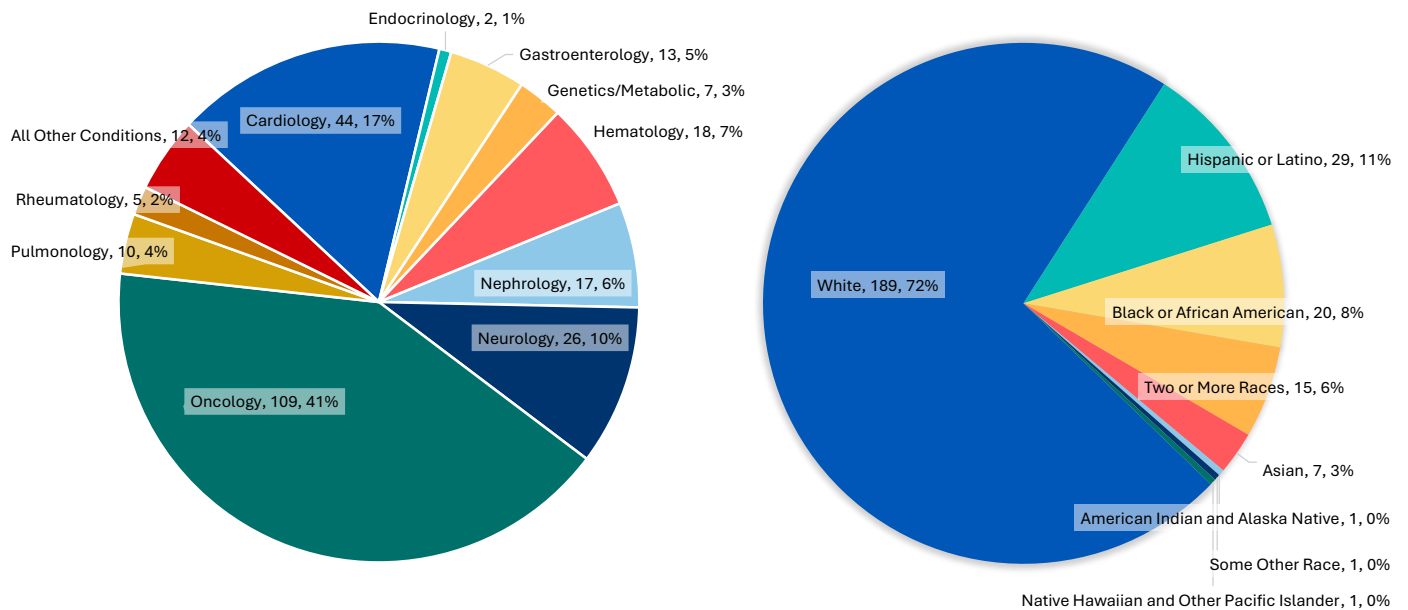
Wishes Granted



Predicted versus Qualified Annual Incidence by Medical Specialty/RGS



Directional Incidence by Medical Specialty/RGS and Race/Ethnicity



Conditions	FY26 Predicted Incidence	FY25 Qualified	FY24 Qualified	Opportuni- ties For Growth
Cardiology	44	17	11	27
Cardiomyopathy	4	-	0	4
Fontan Heart Surgery*	10	7	3	3
Heart Failure	12	2	1	10
Heart Transplant*	5	3	1	2
Severe Congenital Heart Disease	13	5	6	8
Endocrinology	2	1	0	1
Pancreas Transplant*	0	-	0	0
Panhypopituitarism	1	-	0	1
X-Linked Adrenoleukodystrophy	0	1	0	-
Gastroenterology	13	4	1	9
Familial Adenomatous Polyposis (FAP) with Polyps*	1	1	0	0
Intestinal Transplant*	0	-	0	0
Liver Transplant*	5	2	0	3
Severe Crohn's and Ulcerative Colitis	3	-	1	3
Short Bowel Syndrome with Total Parenteral Nutrition (TPN) Dependence*	2	1	0	1
Genetics/Metabolic	7	6	4	1
Hunter Syndrome (MPS II)*	0	1	0	-
Hurler Syndrome (MPS I)*	0	-	0	0
Leigh Disease*	1	-	1	1
Rett Syndrome*	2	3	2	-
Sanfilippo Syndrome (MPS III)*	1	2	0	-
Trisomy 13*	1	-	0	1
Trisomy 18*	2	-	1	2
Hematology	18	11	7	7
Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis (HLH)*	1	2	2	-
Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis (LCH)	3	2	0	1
Other Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT)/Stem Cell Transplant (SCT)*	3	4	2	-
Severe Aplastic Anemia*	6	3	2	3
Sickle Cell Anemia	5	-	1	5
Nephrology	17	5	7	12
End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD)/Dialysis-Dependent Renal Disease*	9	5	4	4
Kidney Transplant*	8	-	3	8
Neurology	26	9	19	17
Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD)*	4	2	9	2
Leukodystrophy	2	-	1	2
Moyamoya Disease*	0	-	0	0
Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinosis (Batten Disease)*	1	1	0	-
Refractory Motor Seizures/Epilepsy	13	5	8	8
Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA Type 1 and 2)*	4	1	0	3
Tuberous Sclerosis	2	-	1	2
Oncology	115	93	100	16
Acute Lymphoid Leukemia (ALL)*	27	24	29	2
Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML)*	5	8	9	-
Bone Cancer (Examples: Ewings, Osteosarcoma, Chondrosarcoma)*	6	9	6	-
Brain Stem Glioma (DIPG/DMG)*	5	3	4	2
Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML)/ Chronic Myeloproliferative Diseases*	2	-	0	1
Kidney Cancer (Wilms Tumor/Nephroblastoma)*	4	4	7	0
Liver Cancer (Hepatoblastoma, Hepatic Carcinoma)*	2	2	2	-
Lymphoma (Burkitt Lymphoma, Hodgkins Lymphoma, Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma)*	17	10	17	7
Malignant Brain Tumor (Examples: Ependymoma, Astrocytoma, Medulloblastoma)*	17	12	12	2
Myelodysplastic Diseases and Syndromes*	1	1	0	-
Other Neoplasm*	20	16	9	2
Retinoblastoma	1	-	1	1
Soft Tissue Sarcoma (Examples: Fibrosarcomas, Rhabdomyosarcomas, Peripheral Nerve Sheath Tun	8	4	4	3
Pulmonology	10	10	38	-
Active Pulmonary Hypertension	1	2	1	-
Chronic Respiratory Failure with Ventilator Dependence*	8	8	6	-
Cystic Fibrosis (CF)	1	-	31	1
Lung Transplant*	0	-	0	0
Rheumatology	5	2	1	3
Chronic Vasculitis	1	-	1	1
Severe Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA)	2	1	0	1
Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE)	1	1	0	0
All Other Conditions	13	5	5	7
All Other Conditions	13	5	5	7
Grand Total	269	163	193	100

* denotes auto-qualifying condition