

Central nervous system tumors in children

Primary [central nervous system tumors](#) are among the most common and lethal types of [cancer](#) in children.

The following types of CNS tumors are most common among children:

[Astrocytoma](#)

[Brainstem glioma](#)

[Ependymoma](#)

[Germ cell tumor](#)

[Medulloblastoma](#)

The existence of health disparities in [central nervous system tumor](#) by [race](#) or [ethnicity](#) remains poorly understood.

A [systematic review](#) sought to determine whether racial and ethnic disparities in [incidence](#), healthcare access, and [survival](#) exist among pediatric patients diagnosed with [CNS tumors](#).

A search of MEDLINE, Embase, CINAHL, Web of Science, and Scopus was conducted. Inclusion criteria selected for studies published between January 1, 2005 and July 15, 2020 that focused on pediatric populations in the US, evaluated for potential differences based on racial or ethnic backgrounds, and focused on CNS tumors. A standardized study form was used to collect study information, population of interest, research design, and quality of analysis, sample size, participant demographics, pathology evaluated, and incidence or outcomes observed.

A total of 30 studies were included. Studies suggest White children may be more likely to be diagnosed with a CNS tumor and Hispanic children to present with advanced-stage disease and have worse outcomes. The degree of influence derived from socioeconomic factors is unclear. This review was limited by few available studies that included race and ethnicity as a variable, the overlap in databases used, and unclear categorization of race and ethnicity.

This review identified notable and at times contradicting variations in racial/ethnic disparities among children with CNS tumors, suggesting that the extent of these disparities remains largely unknown and prompts further research to improve health equity ¹⁾.

¹⁾

Nieblas-Bedolla E, Christophers B, Williams JR, Power-Hays A, Jimenez N, Rodriguez A. Racial and ethnic disparities among children with primary central nervous system tumors in the US. *J Neurooncol*. 2021 Mar 28. doi: 10.1007/s11060-021-03738-2. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33774801.

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