

Pediatric Cancer Statistics *

Leukemia

Children. From 2003 to 2007, leukemia represented 28 percent of all of the types of cancer occurring among children younger than 20 years.

- Leukemia is the most common cancer in children less than 20 years old.
- In 2010, about 3,317 children less than 15 years old will be diagnosed with leukemia throughout the US. About 31 percent of cancer cases in children aged 0 to 14 years are leukemia.
- In the 17 SEER regions of the US, excluding Louisiana,* from 2003 to 2007 there were 4,989 children under the age of 20 years diagnosed with leukemia, including 3,780 diagnosed with ALL.
- ALL is the most common cancer in children 1 to 7 years old.
- The incidence of ALL among 1- to 4-year-olds is nearly eight times greater than the rate for young adults 20 -24 years?

Adolescents and Young Adults. ALL incidence is higher in children from 0 to 14 years than it is in people aged 15 years through young adulthood. AML incidence is lower in children from 0 to 14 years than it is in people aged 15 years through young adulthood.

- In 2003 to 2007, among 15- to -19-year-olds, ALL incidence was more than twice that of AML.
- In 25- to -29-year-olds, AML incidence was 43 percent higher than that of ALL.
- From 1975 to 2007, the incidence of AML declined slightly for all age-groups.
- The leukemia death rate for children from 0 to 14 years in the US has declined 76 percent from 1969 to 2007.
- Despite this decline, leukemia causes more deaths than any other cancer among children and young adults less than age 20 years.

Hodgkin and Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma

Children. Lymphoma (Hodgkin lymphoma, 7.2 percent; NHL, 6.6 percent) is the third most common cancer in children 0-19 years of age.

- In 2010, children younger than 15 years will constitute 3.8 percent of all cases of Hodgkin lymphoma expected to be diagnosed and 4.3 percent of all NHL cases expected to be diagnosed. The number of cases expected to be diagnosed in children younger than 15 years is 460 for NHL and 406 for Hodgkin lymphoma.
- Five-year relative survival is 96.1 percent for Hodgkin lymphoma in people younger than 20 years. Five-year relative survival is now 96 percent for Hodgkin lymphoma in children aged 0 to 14 years. In children aged 0 to 19 years, five-year relative survival for NHL is now 84.1 percent. This represents a significant improvement in the rate of recovery. As recently as the mid-1970s, most children with NHL did not survive five years after they were diagnosed

The incidence of Hodgkin lymphoma among young people under 20 years was 1.2 per 100,000 children in 2007. The incidence in young people under 20 years has remained fairly constant between 1975 and 2007, with the exception of a significant decrease in incidence in 1995 and 2005 (0.9 percent, each of these years).

Adolescents and Young Adults. Older children and adolescents are more commonly diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma than younger children.

- In 2003 to 2007, 2.4 cases of NHL per 100,000 people occurred in 20- to 24-year-old individuals.
- The lymphoma rates (Hodgkin lymphoma and NHL), for the years from 1998 to 2007, were higher for the 20- to 24-year-old age-group (7.4 per 100,000) than for the 15- to 19-year-old age-group (4.8 per 100,000).
- There was an overall decrease in the incidence of lymphoma for people between the ages of 15 years and 39 years during the span of years from 1998 to 2007.

** From The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society *Facts 2010-2011* Booklet