What It Is

Kidsdata.org provides the following data on childhood cancer:

- New childhood cancer diagnoses, as numbers and as rates per 100,000 children ages 0-19, are shown for five-year periods. These data also can be viewed by age group, by age group and race/ethnicity, and by age group and type of cancer.

- Net five-year cancer survival rates, which measure the probability that children ages 0-19 diagnosed with cancer survive for at least five years in the absence of other causes of death, are shown for eleven-year periods. These data can be viewed by type of cancer and by race/ethnicity.

Why This Topic Is Important

Advances in the treatment of childhood cancer have led to remarkable improvements in recent decades, with five- and ten-year survival rates in the U.S. now exceeding 80%. At the same time, rates of new childhood cancer continue to increase slightly, and disparities in survival rates persist. Among U.S. children ages 0-19, cancer incidence and mortality in 2021 have been estimated at more than 15,500 diagnoses and more than 1,700 deaths. After accidents, suicide, and homicide, cancer is the leading cause of death among young people ages 1-19 nationwide.

Cancer outcomes vary based on type of cancer, age at diagnosis, socioeconomic status, race/ethnicity, and other factors. Children treated by specialists at pediatric cancer centers are most likely to have positive outcomes, although some families have difficulty accessing appropriate care due to geographic distance, financial challenges, and other barriers. It also is critical that children and families receive comprehensive, multidisciplinary care (including psychosocial services) to meet their specific needs.

Nationwide, the number of survivors of childhood cancer was estimated to reach 500,000 by 2020. This growing, vulnerable population continues to need specialized, comprehensive health care, as they may experience late effects of their disease and its treatment, and they face higher risks of other chronic health conditions and premature death. In addition to the substantial burden of disease, survivors of childhood cancer also face greater risks of psychological problems, financial and...
Leukemias, lymphomas, and central nervous system cancers consistently are the most common types of cancer diagnosis among children in California, with five-year survival rates ranging from 71% to 94% for 2006-2016 diagnoses. Across all types of childhood cancer, five-year survival rates ranged from 70% (soft tissue sarcomas) to 97% (retinoblastomas) for 2006-2016 diagnoses, with an overall survival rate for all cancers at 83%. Racial/ethnic disparities persist in childhood cancer survival rates, with white children having higher probabilities of surviving for at least five years after diagnosis compared with children in other groups.

View references for this text and additional research on this topic: https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/47/cancer/summary