KidsData

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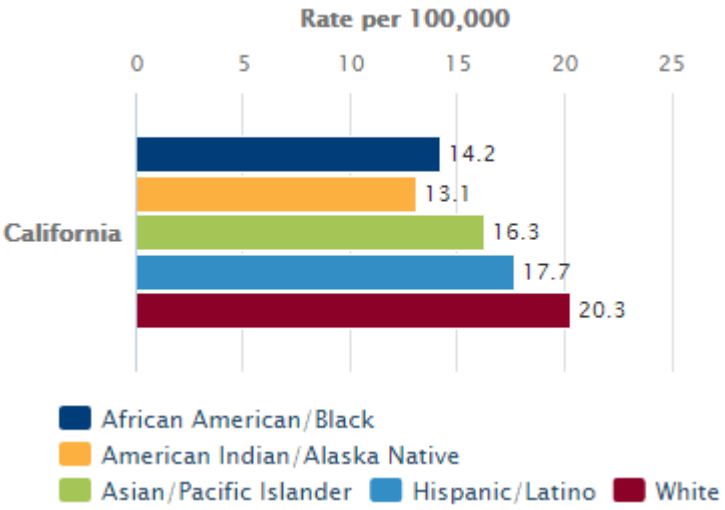
Childhood Cancer in California

Rate of New Childhood Cancer Diagnoses: 2012-2016

Locations	Rate per 100,000
California	18.2
Alameda County	17.6
Contra Costa County	20.2
Fresno County	16.7
Kern County	17.0
Los Angeles County	18.0
Orange County	20.1
Riverside County	16.1
Sacramento County	18.2
San Bernardino County	17.0
San Diego County	19.4
Santa Clara County	19.0

Definition: Number of new cancer diagnoses per 100,000 children ages 0-19 over a 5-year period (e.g., in 2012-2016, there were 18.2 new cancer diagnoses per 100,000 California children).
Data Source: National Cancer Institute, Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program Research Data (Nov. 2018); U.S. Cancer Statistics Working Group, U.S. Cancer Statistics Data Visualizations Tool (Jun. 2018).

Rate of New Childhood Cancer Diagnoses, by Race/Ethnicity: 2012-2016



Definition: Number of new cancer diagnoses per 100,000 children ages 0-19 over a 5-year period, by age group and race/ethnicity (e.g., in 2012-2016, there were 16 new cancer diagnoses per 100,000 Hispanic/Latino children ages 0-14 in California).
Data Source: National Cancer Institute, Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program Research Data (Nov. 2018).

Net Five-Year Childhood Cancer Survival Rate, by Type of Cancer: 2006-2016

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

California	Survival Rate
Leukemias	82.6%
Lymphomas and Reticuloendothelial Neoplasms	93.6%
Central Nervous System, Intracranial, and Intraspinal Neoplasms	70.6%
Neuroblastomas and Peripheral Nervous System Tumors	77.9%
Retinoblastomas	97.0%
Renal Tumors	86.6%
Hepatic Tumors	73.8%
Malignant Bone Tumors	68.3%
Soft Tissue Sarcomas	70.3%
Germ Cell, Trophoblastic, and Gonadal Tumors	91.9%
Other Malignant Epithelial Neoplasms and Melanomas	91.9%
Other and Unspecified Malignant Neoplasms	86.3%
Total for All Cancers	82.5%

Definition: Probability of children ages 0-19 diagnosed with cancer surviving for at least 5 years in the absence of other causes of death, by type of cancer (e.g., among California children diagnosed with leukemias between 2006-2016, 82.6 out of 100 are likely to live for at least 5 years after diagnosis).
Data Source: National Cancer Institute, Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program Research Data (Nov. 2018).

employment difficulties, low educational attainment, limited health insurance, and other quality of life issues throughout adulthood.

How Children Are Faring

Between 2012 and 2016, 9,296 new cancer diagnoses were recorded among California children ages 0-19. The state's diagnosis rate increased from 16.5 per 100,000 children in 2000-2004 to 18.2 per 100,000 in 2012-2016, mirroring national trends. At the county level, new childhood cancer rates ranged from fewer than 15 diagnoses per 100,000 to more than 25 per 100,000 across regions with data in 2012-2016. Statewide, adolescents ages 15-19 generally have higher rates of new cancer diagnosis than children ages 0-14. White children also tend to have the highest rate of cancer diagnosis among racial/ethnic groups with data.

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