

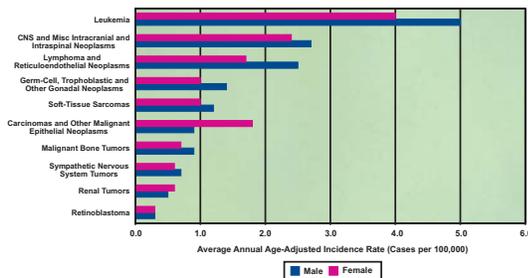


Childhood Cancer

Although cancer is rare among children, each year over 1,500 California children and adolescents are diagnosed with cancer and approximately 320 die of cancer. While the rates of childhood cancer overall in California have been stable since 1988, the childhood cancer death rates have decreased due to better treatments and improved survival.



Ten Most Common Cancers in California Children and Adolescents, Ages 0-19 Years, by Diagnostic Category and Sex, All Races Combined, California, 1988-2003

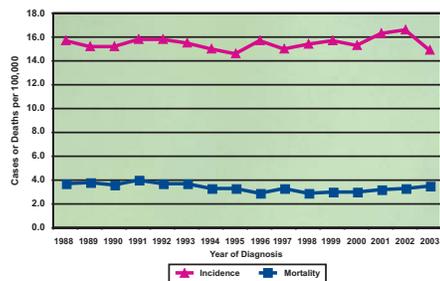


Source: California Cancer Registry (Apr 2006) Prepared by California Department of Public Health, Cancer Surveillance Section, 2006.

Progress in the treatment of childhood cancer over the last 30 years has greatly improved survival rates of many forms of childhood cancer. The majority of children diagnosed with cancer now grow to adulthood and lead productive lives.



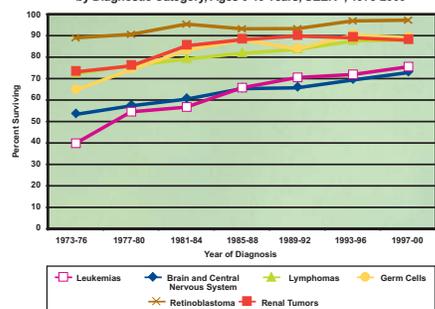
Trends in Annual Age-Adjusted Childhood Cancer Incidence and Mortality, Ages 0-19 Years, California, 1988-2003



Source: California Cancer Registry (Apr 2006) and California Department of Health Services Center for Health Statistics. Prepared by California Department of Public Health, Cancer Surveillance Section, 2006.

Rates of specific cancers among children vary by age, sex, and race/ethnicity. For example, acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL), the most common childhood cancer, is more frequently diagnosed among the youngest children (under 4 years of age) than among older children, is more common in boys than girls, and is less frequently diagnosed among non-Hispanic black children than among children of other race/ethnic groups.

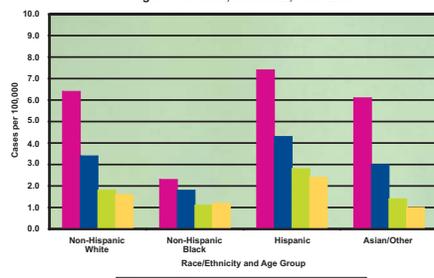
Trends in 5-year Relative Cancer Survival in Children and Adolescents, by Diagnostic Category, Ages 0-19 Years, SEER*, 1975-2000



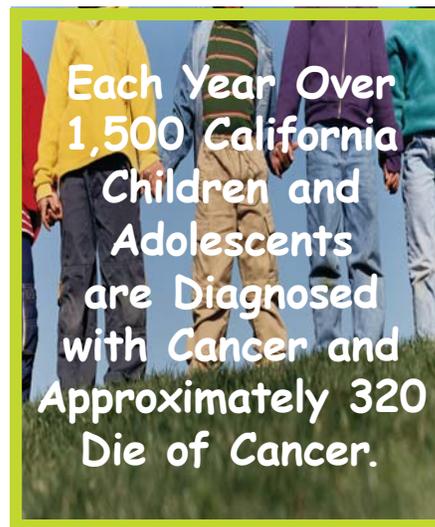
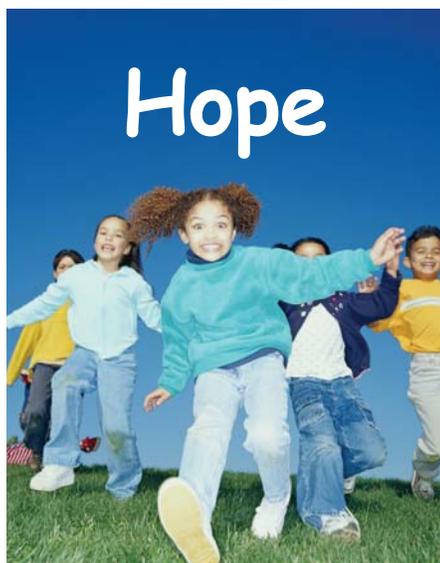
Source: SEER 17 Regions Public-Use Files (Nov 2005). *SEER: Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program of the National Cancer Institute. Prepared by California Department of Public Health, Cancer Surveillance Section, 2006.

Childhood cancer, like adult cancer, is not one disease, but a spectrum of different malignancies, varying by cell type and site of disease origin. The most common cancers diagnosed among children under age 20 years are leukemias, central nervous system tumors, and lymphomas, which together account for about 60 percent of all cancers in California children and adolescents.

Average Annual Incidence of ALL, by Age and Race/Ethnicity, Ages 0-19 Years, California, 1988-2003



Source: California Cancer Registry (Apr 2006). Prepared by California Department of Public Health, Cancer Surveillance Section, 2006.



Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor
State of California
Kimberly Belshé, Secretary
California Health and Human Services Agency
Mark B. Horton, MD, MSPH, Director
California Department of Public Health