

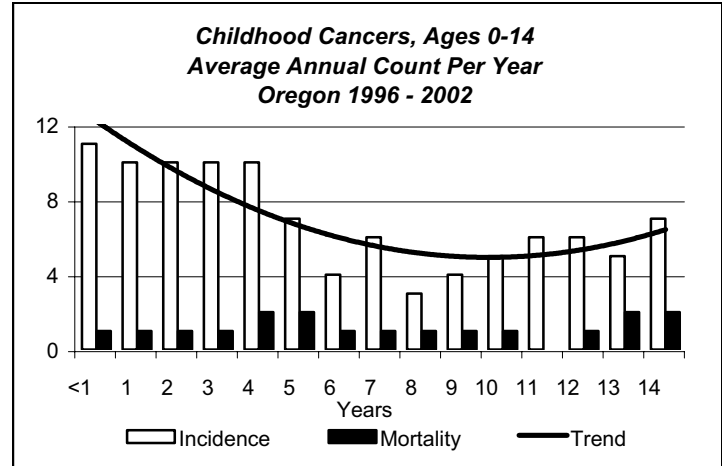
VI. CHILDHOOD CANCERS

The incidence of cancers among children in Oregon (0-14 years of age) is low compared to adults. In 2002, there were 115 invasive cancers diagnosed in Oregon children, and 19 children died from cancer. The 1998-2002 incidence rate for cancers in Oregon children was 14.9 per 100,000; similar to the national five-year 1997-2001 aggregate rate of 14.8. This represents a 1% annual increase for the period 1996 through 2002 for Oregon. Oregon's 2002 childhood cancer mortality rate of 2.7 was also similar to the 2002 national rate of 2.6.

During 1996-2002, about half of all childhood cancers in children under 14 years of age occurred in children less than 5 years of age. (See Figure VI-1.) Incidence counts were higher at very young ages (<6). Incidence then increases again during the teenage years. These patterns were similar to national data. Mortality among children due to cancer is low. Half of the deaths occurred in children less than 7 years of age.

Nationally, childhood cancer survival rates have shown a dramatic increase over the past few decades. Since the 1960's, the five-year relative survival rate has increased from 30% to approximately 70%. Currently, the Registry does not collect follow-up data, so Oregon-specific survival data are not available.

FIGURE VI-1



CHILDHOOD CANCERS

FIGURE VI-2

Childhood Cancers in Oregon, (0-14 Years of Age)
Incidence, Average Number of Cases per Year

Invasive Cancers (Primary Site)	Total*	Male	Female	Synopsis
Leukemia <i>Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia (ALL)</i>	34 28	18 15	16 13	Nationally, acute leukemias are the most frequent childhood cancers with a higher incidence among boys than girls. Children with certain genetic disorders, particularly Down Syndrome, are at a higher risk for ALL.
Brain and Central Nervous System (CNS)	22	12	10	Nationally, brain and CNS cancers are the 2 nd most common cancers among children and are more common among boys than girls. Nationally, nearly 17% of these malignancies develop in children under 20 years of age.
Lymphoma <i>Hodgkin Lymphoma (HL) Non-Hodgkin (NHL)</i>	10 4 3	8 3 3	3 2 0	Nationally, lymphoma is the 3 rd most common cancer among children. NHL rates are generally higher among males than females. HL is fairly rare in early childhood with a peak frequency at age 25-29 and again late in life.
Sympathetic Nervous System	7	4	3	Nationally, neuroblastomas account for approximately 8% of all childhood cancers and normally arise during fetal life.
Soft Tissue Sarcomas	6	3	3	Nationally, 7% of childhood cancers are soft tissue sarcomas with rhabdomyosarcomas being the most common.
Renal Tumors (Wilms Tumor)	6	2	3	Nationally, kidney/renal tumors account for 6% of childhood cancers. Wilms tumors are the most common form of renal cancer in children with a peak incidence occurring under 5 years of age.
Carcinomas/Other Malignant Epithelial Neoplasms	4	2	2	Nationally, thyroid cancer and malignant melanomas are the most common carcinomas of children. Generally, carcinomas are more common among girls than boys.
Germ Cell, Trophoblastic/ Other Gonadal Neoplasms (GCTOG)	4	2	1	Nationally, 4% of childhood cancers are GCTOG tumors. GCTOG tumors are more common in the adolescent years (15-19 year age group) and constitute about 16% of cancer cases in that age group.
Malignant Bone Cancers <i>Ewing sarcomas Osteosarcoma</i>	5 3 2	3 2 1	2 1 1	Nationally, bone tumors constitute about 6% of all childhood cancers with osteosarcoma and Ewing sarcoma predominating.
Retinoblastomas	2	1	1	Nationally, 11% of retinoblastoma cancers occur in the first year of life.
Hepatic Tumors	2	1	1	Liver tumors are rare in children. Nationally, only 1% of childhood cancers are liver tumors; hepatoblastoma is the most common in children younger than 4 years of age.

*Due to rounding, counts for total may not equal male and female combined; calculations are rounded to the nearest whole case.