



Childhood and Adolescent Cancer in Wisconsin

Overview

The types of cancers that occur in children (0-14 years) and adolescents (15-19 years) vary greatly from those seen in adults. The most common cancers among individuals under the age of 20 are brain and central nervous system tumors, leukemia, and lymphomas, which together account for about 60% of all cases. Because of significant advances in therapy, 80% of these children will survive five years or more, an increase of 40% since the early 1970s. Despite its rarity and the impressive improvements in treatment, cancer is still the leading cause of death from disease in children under the age of 15.

While cancers occurring in adults are classified by site of the primary tumor, cancers in children and adolescents are classified by histology (tissue type) into 12 major groups using the International Classification of Childhood Cancers (Visit **seer.cancer.gov/iccc/iccc-who2008.html** for more information). For the leukemias and lymphomas, the categories are similar, but for solid tumors the categories can be quite different. Rates for childhood cancer are also presented per million (1,000,000) children, whereas rates for adult cancer are presented per hundred thousand (100,000).

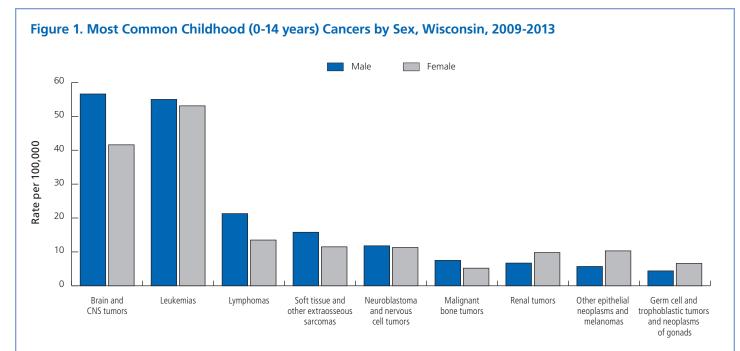
Burden of Childhood Cancer in Wisconsin

During 2009-2013, approximately 219 children and 103 adolescents were diagnosed with cancer each year in Wisconsin. The number of deaths each year among children was 24 and among adolescents, 10 deaths. The average age-adjusted incidence rate for childhood cancer was 186.6 and for adolescent cancer, 262.3, per 1,000,000 population. The average cancer mortality rate was 21.6 among children and 24.4 among adolescents, per 1,000,000.

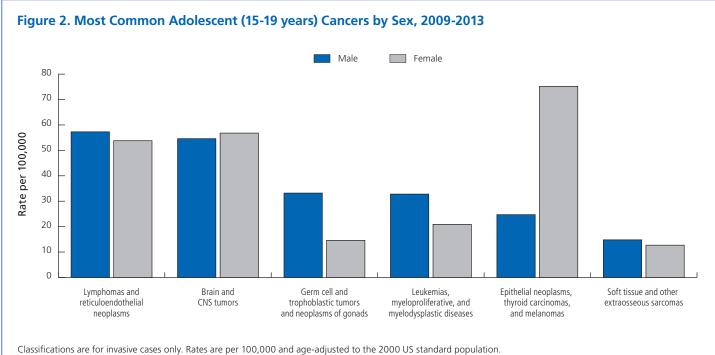
Leading Childhood Cancers

Figure 1 shows the leading childhood cancers during 2009-2013 in Wisconsin. Among the major types of childhood cancers, leukemia and cancers of the brain and central nervous system accounted for more than half of all new cases. Over one-third of childhood cancers were leukemias, and the most common type was acute lymphoblastic leukemia. The most common solid tumors were brain tumors.

The leading cancers among adolescents were lymphomas, along with brain and central nervous system tumors (Figure 2). Female adolescents had comparably higher rates of thyroid carcinoma and melanoma compared with male adolescents.



Classifications are for invasive cases only. Rates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 US standard population. **Source:** Wisconsin Cancer Reporting System, Office of Health Informatics, Division of Public Health, Department of Health Services



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