

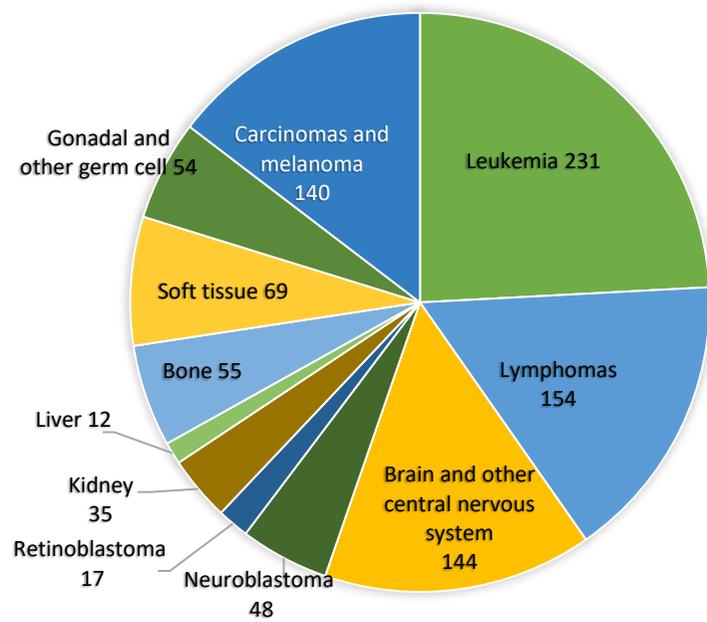
What are the most common types of childhood cancer?

Children can develop many different types of cancer. The types of cancer that children get most often are leukemia, lymphomas, and brain (and other central nervous system) tumors. Children of different ages tend to develop different types of cancer. The types of cancer that children develop most often are not the same as the types adults get most often.

Types of childhood cancer*§

Cancer is not a single disease, but a collection of many different diseases. Each different type of cancer has its own occurrence pattern, outlook, effective treatments, and risk factors. Because children are growing, the types of cancer that occur most often in children are different from the types most often found in adults. Childhood cancers are usually grouped by the type of cell that turns cancerous, rather than the organ or location in the body where the tumor starts.

- Leukemia, lymphomas (including Hodgkin lymphoma and the non-Hodgkin lymphomas), and tumors of the brain and other central nervous system are the cancers that develop most often in children. Together, these three types make up 55% of childhood cancers.
- Some childhood cancers are rarely or never seen in adults, including neuroblastoma (a cancer of a part of the nervous system that unconsciously controls body functions), retinoblastoma (a malignant tumor of the eye), bone cancer, and soft-tissue cancers.

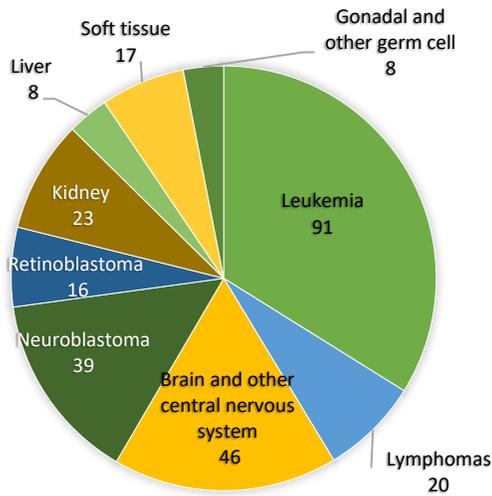


Average annual case count: 962[†]

Do children of different ages get different types of cancer?

Different types of cancer are more likely to occur at different ages. Infants and young children are more likely to get cancers involving immature or developing cells or tissues. Older teenagers develop some types of cancer that are mostly seen in adults.

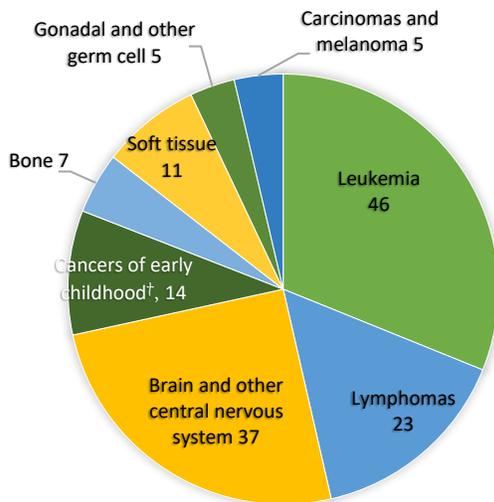
Children under 5 years of age **§



Average annual case count: 274[†]

- Leukemia is the most common cancer type by far in children under 5 years, accounting for about one third of cases.
- Neuroblastoma (a cancer of a part of the nervous system that unconsciously controls body functions), retinoblastoma (a malignant tumor of the eye), and certain types of kidney and liver cancers are mostly found in young children. Together these four types account for over a quarter of cancers in children under age 5.

Children aged 5-9 years**§



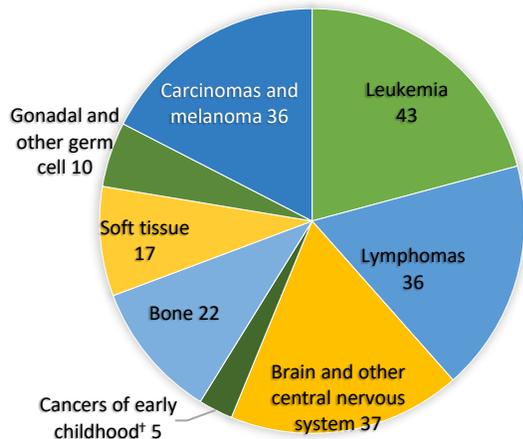
Average annual case count: 148[†]

- The number of cancers occurring in children between the ages of 5 and 9 is the smallest of any childhood age group.
- Together, leukemia, lymphomas, and brain and other central nervous system tumors make up over 70% of cancers in children between the ages of 5 and 9.



Department
of Health

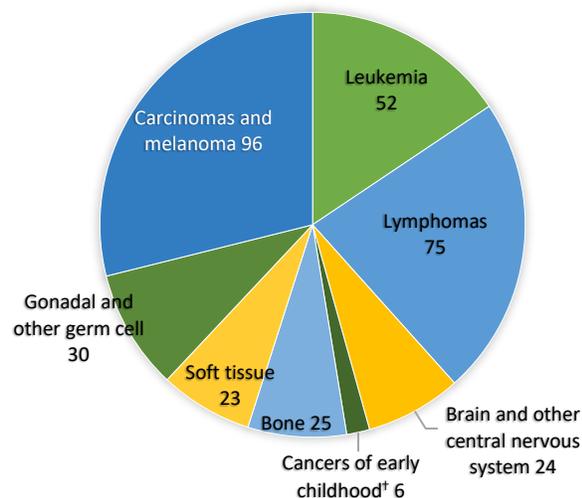
Children aged 10-14 years**§



Average annual case count: 207‡

- Bone cancer becomes more common among growing teenagers.
- Cancers of early childhood, including neuroblastoma, retinoblastoma, and kidney and liver cancers, become less common.

Children aged 15-19 years**§



Average annual case count: 333‡

- Lymphomas, including Hodgkin lymphoma and non-Hodgkin lymphomas, are the most frequently occurring type of cancer in children between the ages of 15 and 19, accounting for almost one quarter of all cases.
- Some cancers that are found mostly in adults, including cancers of the gonads (testes and ovaries) and carcinomas such as thyroid cancer and melanoma, begin to occur in larger numbers in the late teenage years.

Footnotes

* Average annual cancer cases by age group, children ages 0-19, New York State, 2016-2020.

** Average annual childhood cancer cases by age group, New York State, 2016-2020.

§ Data Source: New York State Cancer Registry. Data provisional, November 2022. Cancers are grouped according to the International Classification of Childhood Cancer.

‡ Includes cases of other, unspecified and unknown types not shown on chart.

† Includes neuroblastoma, retinoblastoma, kidney cancer and liver cancer.



Department
of Health