

NZCCR REPORT 2017

SUPPORT FOR NEW ZEALAND RESEARCH

The New Zealand Children's Cancer Registry (NZCCR) holds verified diagnostic, demographic and treatment information for children diagnosed with cancer since the year 2000.

The NZCCR Working Group, under the governance of the National Child Cancer Network, is responsible for monitoring the ongoing collection of registry data to support New Zealand childhood cancer research.

CHILD CANCER INCIDENCE AND SURVIVAL

In 2017 the NZCCR working group released two new incidence and survival reports, updating our first outcome analysis which covered the 2000-2009 period. The reports are available on the NCCN website www.childcancernetwork.org.nz but we would also like to share some important numbers with you.

Child Cancer Incidence 2010-2014

152: the average number of children aged 0-14 years who are diagnosed with cancer each year

5: the median age at diagnosis

1 in 3 children with cancer are diagnosed with leukaemia

1 in 2 children diagnosed with cancer do not reside in Auckland or Christchurch (where the specialist child cancer centres are located)

Child Cancer Survival 2005-2014

84%: overall five-year survival for children diagnosed with cancer

+3%: the improvement in overall 5-year survival compared to the 2000-2009 period

+11%: the improvement in 5-year survival for children diagnosed with bone tumours

+9%: the improvement in 5-year survival for children diagnosed with neuroblastoma

Although many people are aware that our two specialist centres participate in international collaborative clinical trials, it is less well-known that each year there are many other studies which are conducted by New Zealand researchers to improve the outcomes for children with cancer.

This includes not only research which utilises the NZCCR but also laboratory-based research, summer studentship projects, and single-centre studies conducted by staff at Starship and CHOC. As an ongoing project, the NZCCR working group are endeavouring to record and showcase this research on the NCCN website. Do check back regularly to the website to learn more about the research that is being undertaken right here in NZ.

Research involving the NZCCR that was completed in 2017 includes;

- A study describing 20 years of experience of treating bilateral Wilms' Tumours at Starship Hospital which was presented by Dr Jenni Perrin the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons 2017 Scientific Congress in May
- Research led by Dr Tristan Pettit to identify ethnic differences in cytogenetic abnormalities in paediatric ALL which was published in the Journal of Paediatric Blood & Cancer in June
- The NZCCR Paediatric Cancer Staging Pilot which was presented at the Australia New Zealand Children's Haematology Oncology Group Congress in June
- An analysis of AYA 25-29 year incidence and survival which was published in the New Zealand Medical Journal in January

As always, if you have any questions about the registry or wish to find out more about how to request registry data, please contact me at kirsten.ballantine@cdhb.health.nz

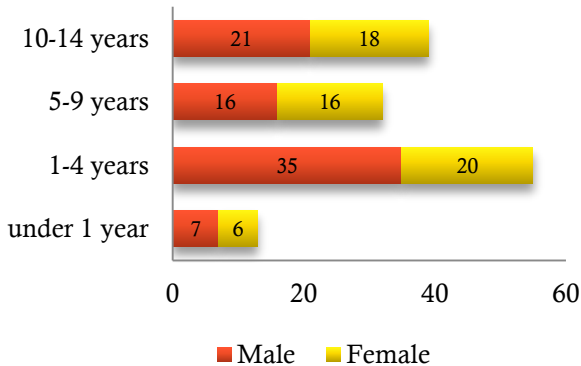
Kirsten Ballantine
NZCCR Manager / Analyst
on behalf of the NZCCR Working Group.

NZCCR SNAPSHOT 2017

Note: this snapshot relates to New Zealand children aged 0-14 years newly *diagnosed with cancer* in 2017. It does not include patients referred to our paediatric oncology centres from overseas, those who are aged 15 years and over, or children who are diagnosed with a non-malignant/other haematological condition. As many childhood cancers require several years of treatment, the number of patients *undergoing treatment* each year is significantly higher.

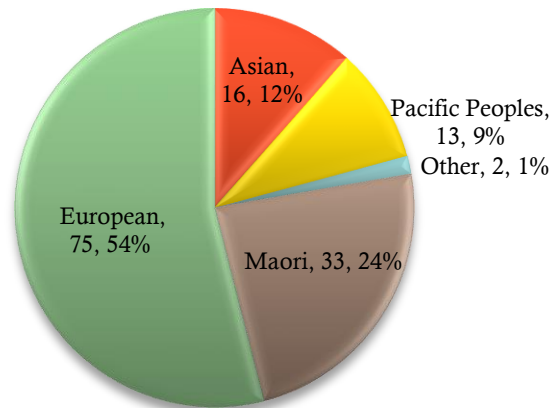
AGE AND GENDER

139 children under the age of 15 were diagnosed with cancer in 2017. More boys (79, 57%) were diagnosed than girls (60, 43%). Overall, just under half (68, 49%) of the children were under the age of 5 years old when they were diagnosed.



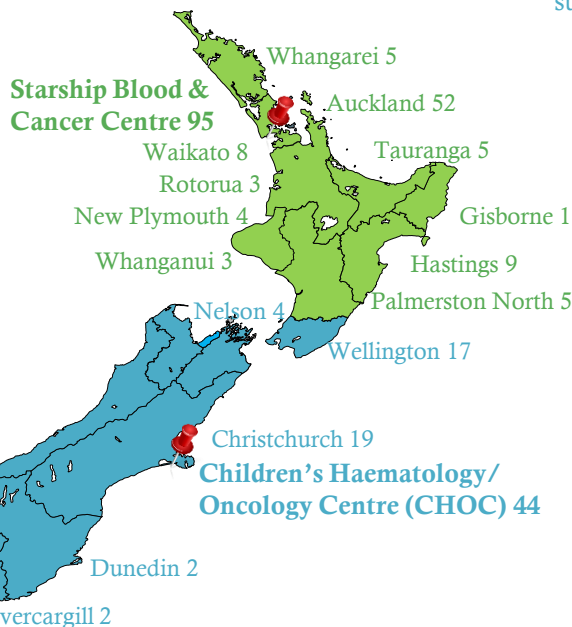
ETHNICITY

By prioritised ethnicity, 24% of children diagnosed in 2017 were Maori, 9% Pacific Peoples, 12% Asian, 1% African/Middle Eastern, and 54% NZ European/Other European. This is consistent with the ethnic composition of NZ's child population.



RESIDENCE AT DIAGNOSIS

95 of the children diagnosed with cancer in 2016 resided in the geographical area covered by Starship Blood and Cancer Centre and 44 in the area covered by CHOC. In a small number of cases both centres were involved in the child's cancer diagnosis and treatment.



DIAGNOSTIC GROUP

Compared to 2016, there were fewer blood cancers diagnosed (55, down from 78) but more Central Nervous System tumours were registered (42 compared to a particularly small number of 22 cases in 2016). Around half (48%) of the CNS tumours were malignant. The remaining 52% were childhood tumours of benign or uncertain behaviour such as Juvenile Pilocytic Astrocytoma.

