

New Zealand Children's Cancer Registry Snapshot 2020



National Child Cancer Network ^{NZ}

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This 'snapshot' of the New Zealand Children's Cancer Registry (NZCCR) highlights some of the key statistics concerning children diagnosed with cancer during 2020. More detail on the NZCCR, and previous snapshot reports can be viewed at childcancernetwork.org.nz/nzccr-overview

Annual cases

131

children were diagnosed with cancer in 2020

25

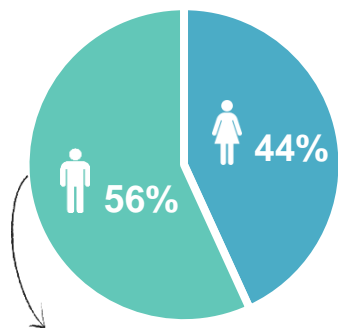
additional registrations were received for patients who commenced treatment in a paediatric oncology centre but were either over 15 years old at diagnosis or had a condition not classified as a primary malignancy.

29

child cancer relapses were recorded in 2020. The duration between date of diagnosis and relapse ranged between 8 months and 11 years. The registry also recorded the deaths of 23 child cancer patients in 2020.

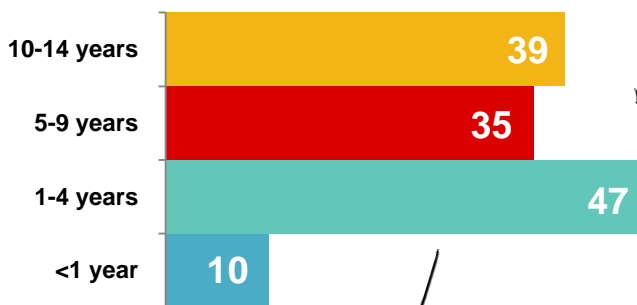


Annual cases by sex



More boys (n=75) were diagnosed with cancer than girls (n=56) in 2020.

Annual cases by age

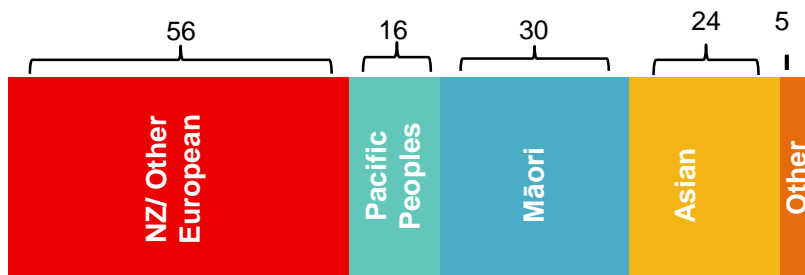


70%

of children were less than 10 years old when they were diagnosed.

Similar to previous years, the most common age bracket for a cancer diagnosis for both boys and girls was 1-4 years.

Annual cases by ethnicity



Less than half (42%) of children diagnosed in 2020 identified solely as NZ/ Other European. Nearly one in four children diagnosed with cancer were prioritised Māori ethnicity (23%), which is similar to the NZ child population as a whole.

38

Children were enrolled in **international therapeutic clinical trials.**



55

Children were enrolled in **other non-therapeutic research studies**

such as tumour biology studies, international registries and fertility preservation research.

Annual cases by diagnostic group

Leukaemias and CNS tumours were the most common cancers diagnosed among children in New Zealand in 2020

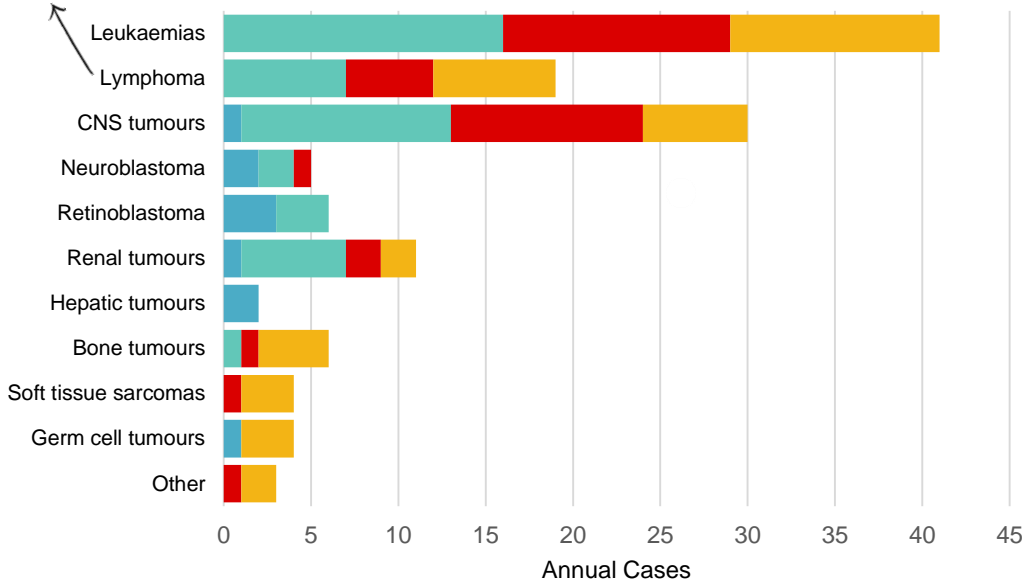
Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis (LCH)

In 2020 the ICD-O-3-2 reclassified LCH from a malignant neoplasm (9751/3: ICCG group IId miscellaneous lymphoreticular neoplasms) to a borderline malignancy (9751/1: ICCG group not classified). In keeping with previous snapshot reports 2010-2019, children diagnosed with LCH (n=5) have remained within ICCG Group II.

Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL)

ALL was the most common diagnostic subgroup accounting for 73% of leukaemia cases.

23% of all child cancer diagnosis in 2020 were ALL.



The spectrum of cancers diagnosed varied by age group. Although leukaemia was the most common cancer overall, retinoblastoma was the most common cancer diagnosed among infants less than 1 year of age. Renal tumours were most common among children aged 1-4 years. Most (67-75%) bone tumours and soft tissue sarcomas were diagnosed in children aged 10-14 years of age.

Treatment centre and residence at diagnosis

46% of families did not usually live in the Auckland or Christchurch region and needed to travel to the specialist cancer centres for at least some of their child's cancer treatment.

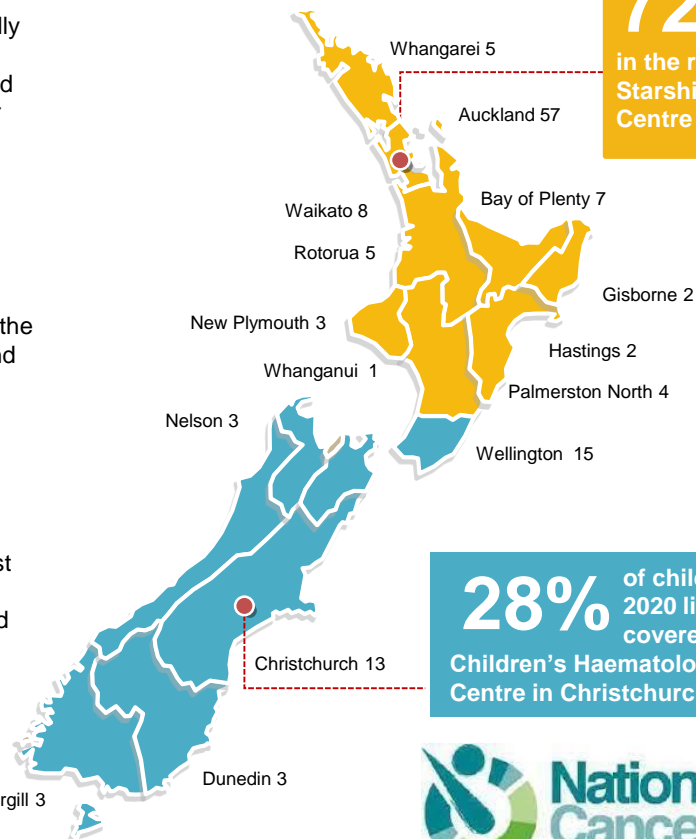
>100 km

These families travelled over 100km to the specialist cancer centres in Auckland and Christchurch.

Wellington

The shared care centre with the highest number of new patients in 2020 was Wellington. In contrast, Whanganui had only one new patient.

72% of children diagnosed in 2020 lived in the region covered by Starship Blood & Cancer Centre



28% of children diagnosed in 2020 lived in the region covered by the Children's Haematology Oncology Centre in Christchurch