

New Zealand Children's Cancer Registry Snapshot 2021

This 'snapshot' of the New Zealand Children's Cancer Registry (NZCCR) highlights some of the key statistics concerning children diagnosed with cancer during 2021. More detail on the NZCCR, and previous snapshot reports can be viewed at childcancernetwork.org.nz/nzccr-overview

Annual cases

159

children were
diagnosed with
cancer in 2021

21

child cancer relapses
were recorded in
2021

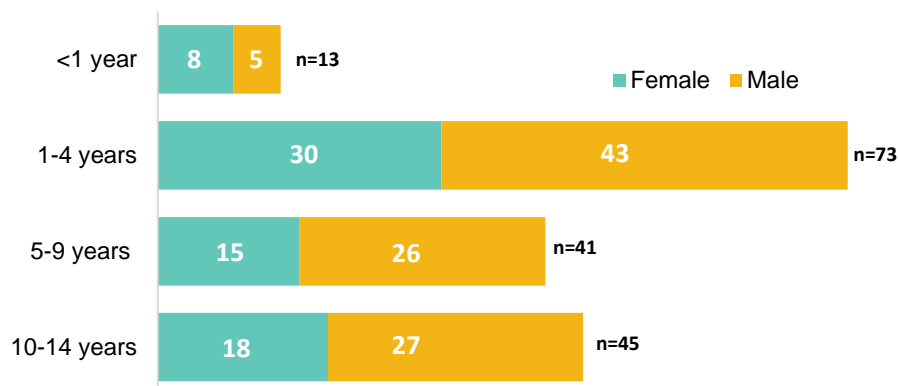
30

The registry also
recorded the
deaths of 30 child
cancer patients in 2021

29

Additional registrations were entered into NZCCR but were either over 15 years old at diagnosis or had a condition classified as a non-cancerous or haematological condition.

Annual cases by sex and age



Similar to previous years more boys (n=96) were diagnosed with cancer than girls (n=63) in 2021.

70%

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

Study enrolment

42

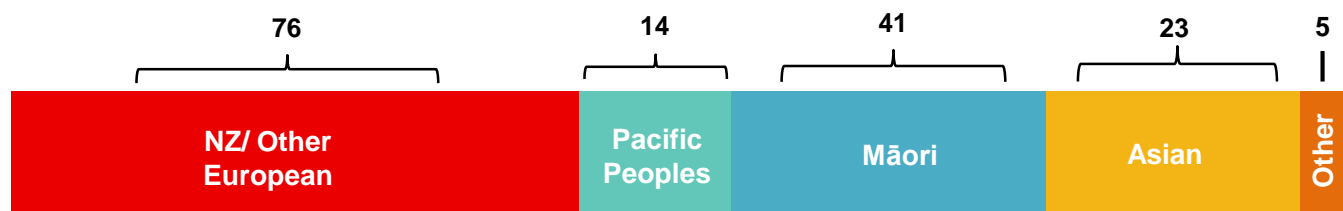
Children were
enrolled in
therapeutic
clinical trials.



The most common age bracket for a cancer diagnosis for both boys and girls was 1-4 years.

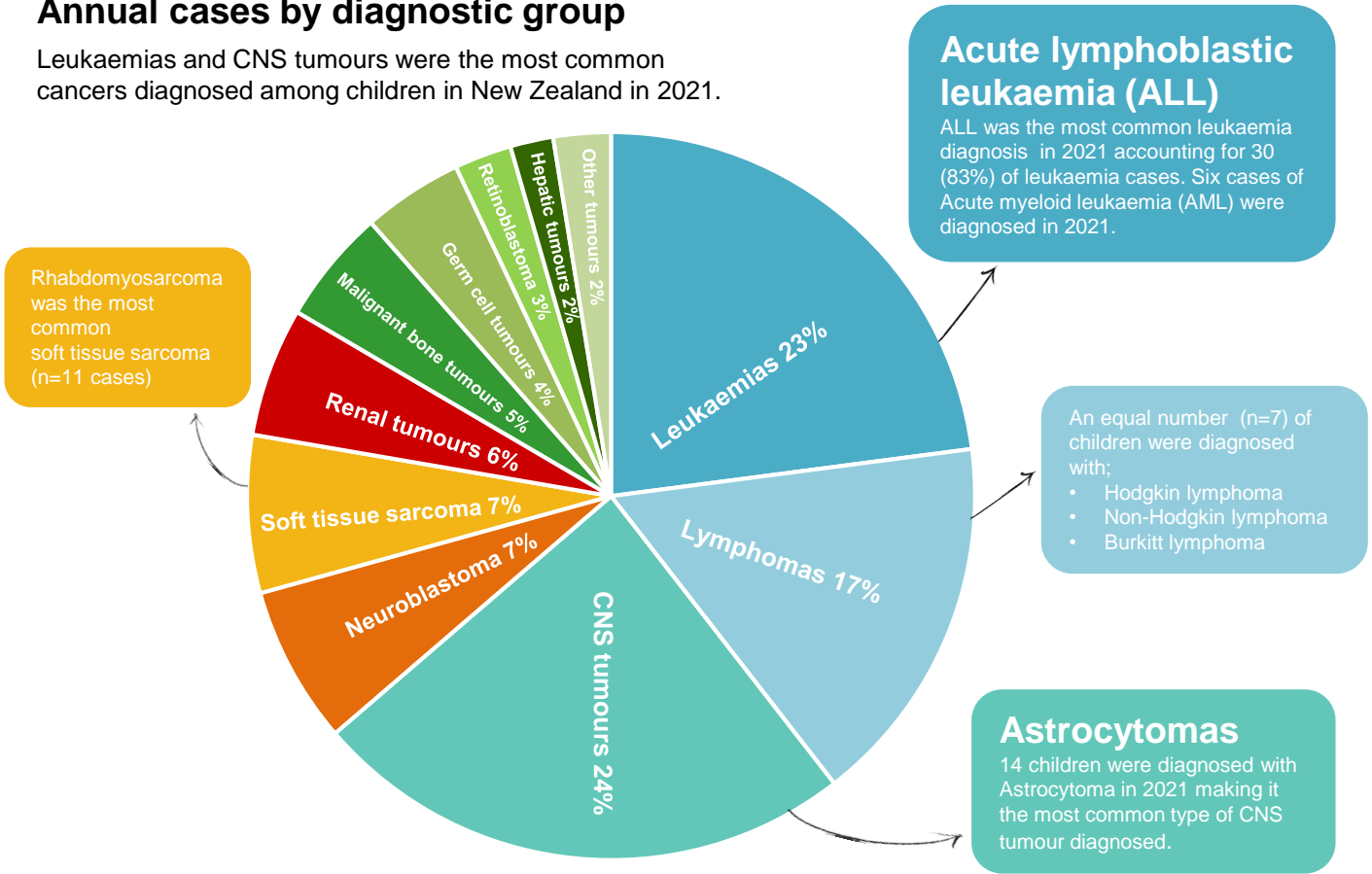
Annual cases by ethnicity

Less than half (47%) of children diagnosed in 2021 identified solely as NZ / Other European. Approximately one in four children diagnosed with cancer were prioritised Māori ethnicity (25%), which is similar to the NZ child population as a whole.



Annual cases by diagnostic group

Leukaemias and CNS tumours were the most common cancers diagnosed among children in New Zealand in 2021.



The types 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 and bone tumours and soft tissue sarcomas were more common among children aged 10-14 years of age.

Treatment centre and residence at diagnosis

49% 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.

Waikato

The shared care centre with the highest number of new patients in 2021 was Waikato. In contrast, Gisborne had only one new patient.

