

# Childhood Cancer Incidence

## Childhood Cancer Incidence in Aotearoa, New Zealand 2015 – 2019

This 'snapshot' highlights some of the key statistics relating to the incidence of children with cancer in Aotearoa, New Zealand between 2015-2019. The full report can be viewed at [childcancernetwork.org.nz](http://childcancernetwork.org.nz)

### KEY FACTS

#### On average 153 children are diagnosed with cancer each year

There were 1522 children diagnosed with cancer between 2010 and 2019, giving an overall child cancer age standardised incidence rate of 169 diagnoses per million children per year.

#### Most childhood cancers are diagnosed in children under the age of 5 years

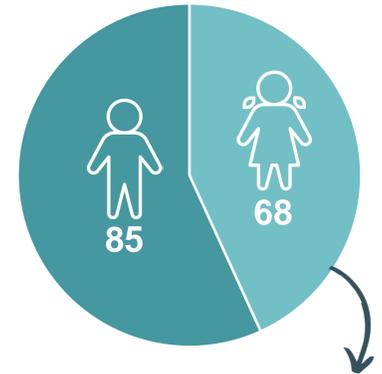
The childhood cancer incidence rate is higher among children aged 0-4 years than children aged 5-9 years and 10-14 years. Between 2015 and 2019, 44% of all childhood cancers were diagnosed in children under 5 years of age.

#### The most common cancers are leukaemias, brain tumours and lymphomas

The incidence of different childhood cancers varies between age groups (0-4, 5-9 and 10-14 years). Younger children (<10 years of age) experience a higher incidence of neuroblastoma, kidney and liver tumours than older children (>10 years) who experience higher incidence of malignant bone and germ cell tumours.

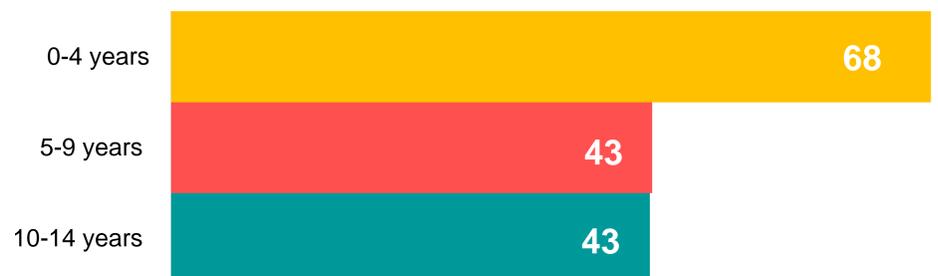
#### How many boys and girls are diagnosed with cancer each year?

In Aotearoa New Zealand it is estimated that there are 25,000 people diagnosed with cancer each year meaning children account for less than 1% of all cancers diagnosed annually



More boys are diagnosed with cancer than girls. This pattern is normal and reflects data from other countries.

#### On average how many children are diagnosed with cancer each year per age group?

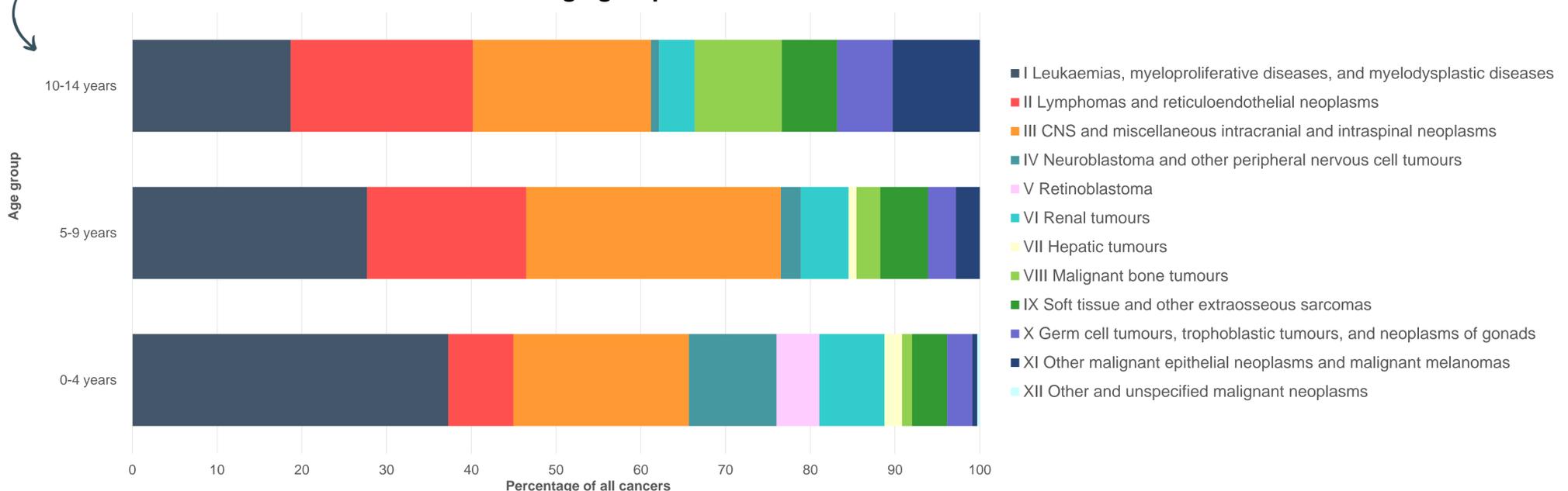


#### On average how many children are diagnosed with cancer each year per prioritised ethnicity group?

One in four children (26%) diagnosed with cancer were prioritised Māori ethnicity. Eleven percent of children identified as Pacific peoples. Most children (63%) diagnosed with cancer identify as non-Māori.

'Prioritised ethnicity' means that people are allocated to single ethnic group in an order of priority, even if they identify with more than one ethnicity. The priority order used in Aotearoa is Māori, Pacific Peoples, NZ European and Other. For example, if someone identifies as Māori and Tongan, they're reported as Māori only.

#### What are the most common cancers in each age group?



#### Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL)

ALL is the most common type of leukaemia accounting for 82% of all leukaemia cases

#### Hodgkin lymphoma Non-Hodgkin lymphoma Burkitt lymphomas

15% of childhood cancers diagnosed are lymphomas

#### Astrocytomas & embryonal tumours

More than half of brain tumours diagnosed in children are either astrocytomas or embryonal tumours