

## CALIFORNIA CANCER REGISTRY FACT SHEET

# LEUKEMIA

### BY THE NUMBERS Leukemia in California

## 4,005

The number of people expected to be diagnosed with leukemia in California in 2013.

## 2,320

The number of deaths from leukemia expected in California in 2013.

## #8 and #6 ♂

Leukemia was the 8th-most commonly diagnosed type of cancer, and the 6th-most common cause of cancer death among males in California in 2010.

## #10 and #6 ♀

Leukemia was the 10th-most commonly diagnosed type of cancer, and the 6th-most common cause of cancer death among females in California in 2010.

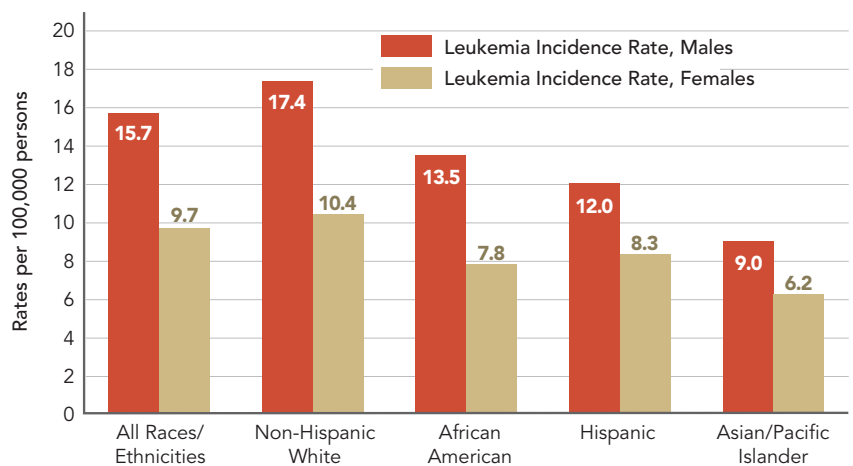
Leukemia is a cancer that starts in the tissue that forms blood. In a person with leukemia, the bone marrow makes abnormal white blood cells, or leukemia cells. Unlike normal blood cells, leukemia cells do not die when they should. They may crowd out normal white blood and red blood cells, and platelets. This makes it hard for normal blood cells to do their work.

There are different types of leukemia, grouped by how quickly the disease develops and worsens. Leukemia is either *chronic* (which usually gets worse slowly) or *acute* (which usually worsens quickly). The types of leukemia can also be grouped by the type of white blood cell that is affected. Leukemia can start in lymphoid cells (*lymphoid*, *lymphocytic*, or *lymphoblastic* leukemia), or in myeloid cells (*myeloid*, *myelogenous*, or *myeloblastic* leukemia).

### Leukemia Incidence Rates, California, 2006–2010

Between 2006 and 2010, the leukemia incidence rate for males in California was 15.7 new cases per 100,000 males per year. For females in California, the leukemia incidence rate was slightly lower at 9.7 new cases per 100,000 females per year. With respect to race/ethnicity, the highest leukemia incidence rates were found among both non-Hispanic white males and females (17.4 new cases and 10.4 new cases per 100,000 persons, respectively).

Leukemia Incidence Rates, California 2006–2010\*



\* Rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Population.

Source: California Cancer Registry, California Department of Public Health.

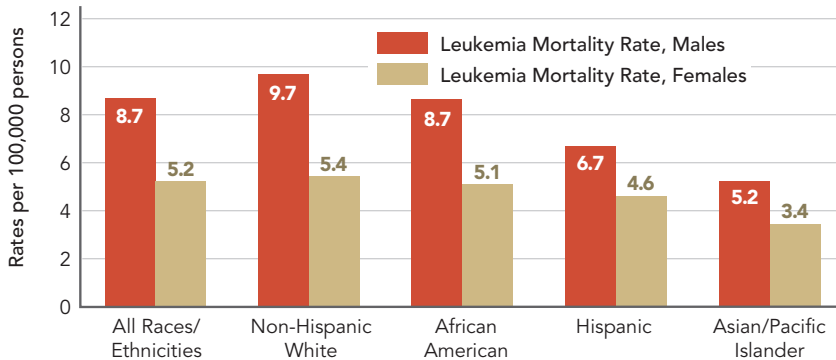
Prepared by the California Department of Public Health, California Cancer Registry.

# LEUKEMIA

## Leukemia Mortality Rates, California, 2006–2010

Between 2006 and 2010, the leukemia mortality rate for males in California was 8.7 deaths per 100,000 males per year, compared with the female leukemia mortality rate of 5.2 deaths per 100,000 females per year. With respect to race/ethnicity, the highest leukemia mortality rates were experienced by non-Hispanic white males and females (9.7 deaths and 5.4 deaths per 100,000 persons per year, respectively).

Leukemia Mortality Rates, California 2006–2010\*

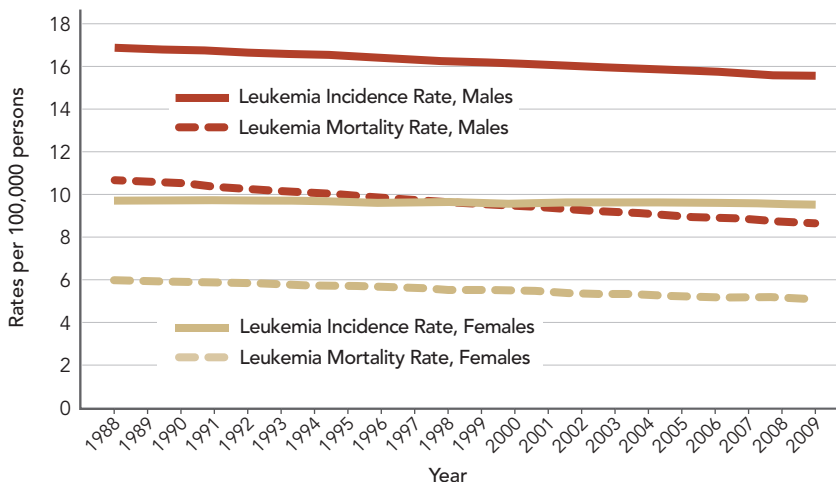


## Trends in Leukemia Incidence and Mortality, California, 1988–2009

From 1988 to 2009, the incidence rate of leukemia for males in California declined slightly, albeit at a statistically significant rate. Among females, the incidence rate remained relatively stable over the same period.

Mortality rates for leukemia decreased at a statistically significant rate between 1988 and 2009, for both males and females in California.

Leukemia Incidence and Mortality Trends, California 1988–2009\*



\* Rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Population.  
Source: California Cancer Registry, California Department of Public Health.  
Prepared by the California Department of Public Health, California Cancer Registry.

## Leukemia in California

# Five-Year Relative Survival Rates CALIFORNIA, 2001–2010

Unlike other cancers, all leukemias are staged as "distant," reflecting the involvement of the bone marrow throughout the body.

The 5-Year  
Survival Rate\* is:

Childhood Leukemia  
(0–19 years of age) **79%**

Adult Leukemia  
(20+ years of age) **49%**

Overall **54%**

\* Follow-up is through December 2010.

## Risk Factors

Certain factors have been shown to be associated with an increased risk of certain types of cancer. The majority of known cancer risk factors are related to individual characteristics (such as age, race/ethnicity, or family history/genetic susceptibility) and behaviors (such as smoking, diet, physical inactivity, unsafe sex, and sun exposure).

## For more information

on leukemia risk factors, prevention, screening, symptoms, and treatment:

### ❖ National Cancer Institute

Check out the NCI's *What You Need to Know About™* Cancer Index at:

[www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/wyntk](http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/wyntk)

or call the NCI Cancer Information Service:

1-800-4-CANCER

### ❖ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

### ❖ American Cancer Society (ACS)

[www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)

or call

1-800-227-2345

