

Childhood Cancer in SC



South Carolina has made tremendous progress in the fight against childhood cancer. Childhood cancers are cancers that affect children from birth through age 19 years.

Annually, in SC

184

Children are diagnosed with cancer

28

Children die from cancer

Top 3 Childhood Cancer Types in SC

Leukemia

25.0%

Lymphoma

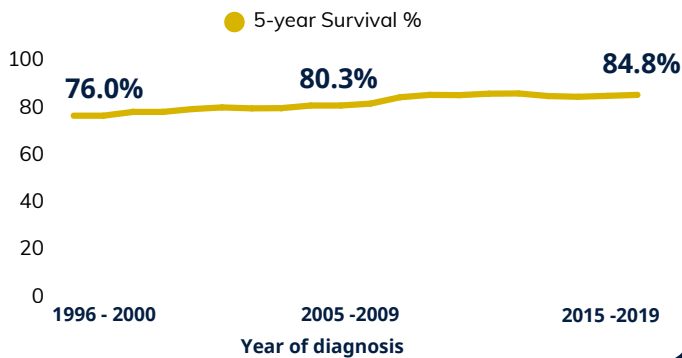
16.2%

Brain and Spinal Cord Tumors

16.7%

85% survive past 5 years in SC

Similar to national statistics



Most children with cancer survive, though the vast majority develop one or more chronic health conditions in adulthood as a result of cancer or its treatment.

Source: American Association of Cancer research

All counties in SC have been impacted by Childhood cancer. However, survival rate varies by residence at diagnosis and race/ethnicity

Survival by Race/Ethnicity in SC, 2015-2019

Non-Hispanic White Children

87.2%

Non-Hispanic Black Children

78.4%

Hispanic Children

85.8%

Rural areas, 2015-2019
79.1% Survive past 5 years



Urban areas, 2015-2019
85.7% Survive past 5 years

South Carolina Patient and Parent Voices



Emma remains in a remission from childhood leukemia. Her mother describes the shock of the initial diagnosis and the isolation she has sometimes felt during the treatment journey. She is grateful Emma is feeling more like herself. Treatment for Emma's type of leukemia lasts for about two and a half years.

Collin was diagnosed with a brain tumor at age 2, facing multiple relapses over his life and passing away at age 15. Despite his long medical journey, his upbeat attitude was contagious when he would declare his plans to "wake up, kick butt, repeat!" His mother wished there was more support along the way for him do activities like art or yoga to help with his anxiety. She continues their fight as a clinical trials research nurse for pediatric cancer.



Kaycen was diagnosed with neuroblastoma at age 8 and completed over two years of treatment. He is now 11 years old and thriving as a straight A student who loves playing baseball. His mother remembers the challenges of frequent travel to and from the oncology clinic and the long hospital stays made more challenging during the COVID-19 pandemic. She acknowledges her faith and his medical team for getting her family through the scariest time of their lives.

In SC, from 2020-2024

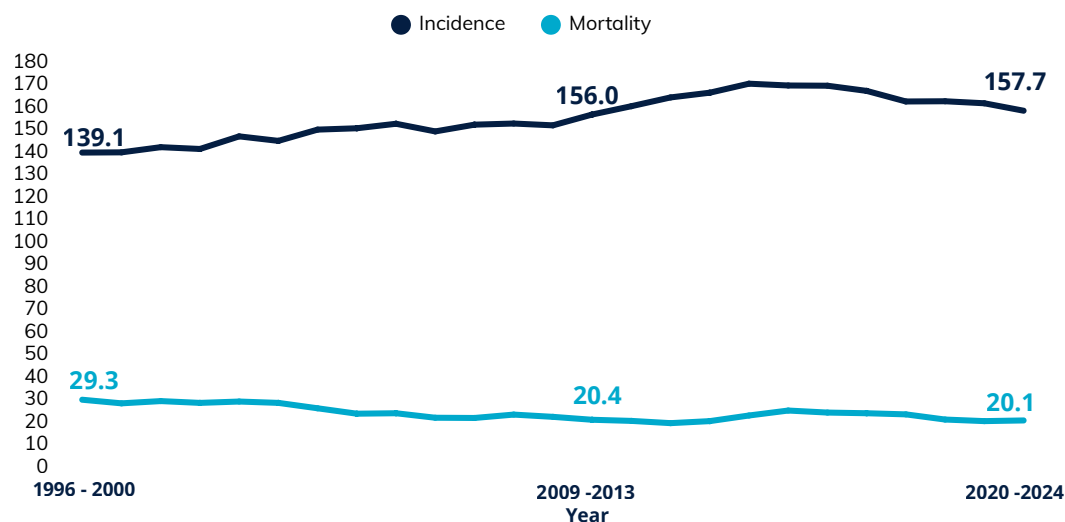
Cancer impacted children of all ages; however, the majority (34%) were diagnosed at age 15 - 19 years

New childhood cancer diagnosis rate is the highest in non-Hispanic White children though death rate from cancer is highest in non-Hispanic Black children



At Cancer Diagnosis
 43% had Medicaid
 43% had Private insurance
 5% had TRICARE
 4% were Uninsured

Trends in Childhood Cancer Incidence and mortality in SC 1996-2024



*Rates are per 1,000,000 population at risk and age-adjusted to the U.S. Standard Population.

The increase in childhood cancer incidence in SC mirrors national trends



Mortality rate is consistently trending downward in SC

Resources for Childhood Cancer Survivors

South Carolina has three survivorship programs for ongoing care of childhood cancer survivors to support the ongoing medical and psychosocial needs after cancer treatment. Survivorship care generally starts three to five years after cancer treatment ends.

**Prisma Health
 Midlands Children's Hospital**
 7 Richland Medical Park Drive
 Columbia, SC 29203
 Phone: 803-434-3533
 Fax: 803-434-3094

**Prisma Health
 Upstate Children's Hospital**
 900 W. Faris Road
 Greenville, SC 29605
 Phone: 864-455-8898
 Fax: 864-455-5164

MUSC FACT clinic
 2250 Mall Drive
 Charleston, SC 29406
 Phone: 843-792-7194
 Fax: 843-985-4255