

## Cancer in Children

About 12,400 children and adolescents in the United States were diagnosed with cancer in 2001. Cancer is the third leading cause of death in children between 1 and 19 years of age (*Figure 1*).

We estimate that about 325 children are diagnosed with and more than 50 children die from cancer each year in Georgia.

Because of significant advances in therapy, over 75% of children diagnosed with cancer will survive 5 years or more, an increase of almost 40% since the early 1960's.

The types of cancers that occur in children differ from those most commonly seen in adults. Leukemias, central nervous system tumors, and lymphomas account for almost 50% of all childhood cancer diagnoses and over 60% of childhood cancer deaths.

The stage of growth and development is an important difference between adults and children; the immaturity of children's organ systems has important treatment implications.

Because treatment for some childhood cancers is more successful than for others, survival rates differ between cancer types.

The cause of most childhood cancers is not known. Radiation exposure contributes to a few types of childhood cancers. Some are the result of a familial predisposition.

Mortality rates for all childhood cancers combined decreased steadily from 1979 to 1999 in Georgia. This decrease results from improvements in treatment and survival for most childhood cancers, especially leukemia and lymphoma.

Incidence rates for all childhood cancers combined increased steadily from

1975 to 1998 in Metro Atlanta. Some of this increase is due to changes in diagnostic technology, reporting, and classification.

Between 1993 and 1997, there were 730 cancer diagnoses among children aged 0 to 19 years living in selected counties in Georgia. The age-adjusted incidence rate for this time period was 154.5 per 1,000,000 (*Table 1*).

The highest cancer incidence rate was for leukemia, followed by CNS neoplasms.

Overall, males had a higher cancer incidence rate than females. This difference was most apparent in soft tissue sarcomas, leukemias, and lymphomas.

Children aged 0 to 4 years were most likely to be diagnosed with leukemias, neuroblastomas, or renal tumors. Children aged 15 to 19 years were more likely to be diagnosed with lymphomas, especially Hodgkin lymphoma.

Figure 1. Childhood Mortality by Cause Ages 1 to 19 Years, Georgia 1999

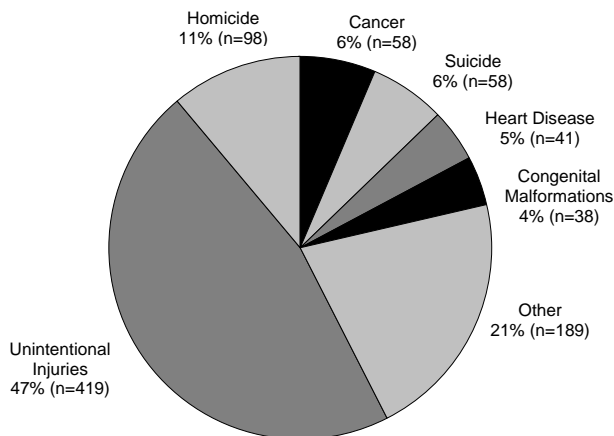


Table 1. Age-Adjusted Childhood (Ages 0 to 19) Cancer Incidence Selected Counties\* in Georgia 1993-1997

Site	Cases	Rate**
All Types	730	154.5
Leukemias	164	34.2
Lymphoma and other reticuloendothelial neoplasms	91	20.4
CNS & Misc. Intracranial & Intraspinial Neoplasms	108	23.5
Sympathetic Nervous System Tumors	52	9.8
Retinoblastomas	20	3.6
Renal Tumors	52	9.9
Hepatic Tumors	10	--
Malignant Bone Tumors	38	8.7
Soft Tissue Sarcomas	60	12.7
Germ Cell, Trophoblastic & Other Gonadal Neoplasms	48	10.2
Other Epithelial & Unspecified Neoplasms	86	19.1

\* Selected counties include: Bryan, Bulloch, Burke, Chatham, Clayton, Cobb, Columbia, DeKalb, Effingham, Evans, Fulton, Glascock, Greene, Gwinnett, Hancock, Jasper, Jefferson, Jenkins, McDuffie, Morgan, Putnam, Richmond, Screven, Taliaferro, Warren, and Washington.  
 \*\* Average annual rate per 1,000,000, age-adjusted to the 1970 US standard population.

## Special Bulletins

**Cancer Data on the Internet.** For quick stats, check out NAACCR's CINA+ Online at [www.naacr.org/CINAPlus/index.html](http://www.naacr.org/CINAPlus/index.html). CINA+ Online is an interactive, online query system where users will be able to

request specific cancer information by year, geography, sex, race, cancer type, and age and by any combination of these variables.

**ROADS Manual Updates** may be found on the AcoS website at [www.facs.org](http://www.facs.org). Click on "Commission on Cancer" then "ROADS Updates". There are revised pages for tumor size.

## FAQ's

**Q:** What should be included in the text areas of an abstract?

**A:** In general, text is required and should justify ALL coded data fields. For diagnostic procedures, text should include date, name of procedure and findings pertinent to the cancer. Pathology text should include date of surgery, specimen number, tumor size, histology, grade, extent of disease including lymph node involvement. Treatment text should include date and type of treatment given. See GCCR Policy and Procedure Manual, Section IV, Required Data Set.

**Q:** What guidelines should I use to code grade/differentiation?

**A:** There is detailed information about coding grade in ICDO3 pages 30 – 31 and ROADS manual pages 111 – 113. The SEER Program Code manual pages 102 - 104 covers the same information, but gives much more detail regarding coding grade for prostate, breast, lymphoma and astrocytoma cases. To order a SEER Program Code Manual (3rd Edition 1998) go to the SEER website [www.seer.cancer.gov](http://www.seer.cancer.gov) and select Publications/Hardcopy Publications Ordering Form.

**Q:** If a date of initial diagnosis is not clear, should the diagnosis date be estimated and if so what are the guidelines?

**A:** The diagnosis date should be approximated. GCCR recommends using the full date (month, day and year) that best describes the documentation in the medical record (rather than 9's for one or more segments of the date and rather than the date the patient was first seen at the reporting facility as indicated in ROADS page 102).

Example 1: Current admission date of 03/05/02. Medical record states that patient was diagnosed last month. Use 02/01/02 as the estimated diagnosis date and justify in text.

Example 2: Current admission date of 04/20/01. Medical record state that patient was diagnosed last year. Use 01/01/00 as the estimated diagnosis date and justify in text.

If there is absolutely no information regarding the date of diagnosis use all 9's (99/99/9999).

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## Mark Your Calendars...

### **NCRA Annual Meeting**

May 21-24, 2002

Nashville, Tennessee

<http://www.ncra-usa.org>

### **NAACCR Annual Meeting**

June 9-15, 2002

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

<http://www.naacccr.org>

### **Cancer Registry Training**

*Advanced Cancer Registry Training Program*

August 5-7, 2002

Complete details are available at <http://cancer.sph.emory.edu>.  
Financial assistance is available. Contact your regional coordinator.

### **Registry Training on the Web**

Cancer registry training is always available on SEER's website at:  
<http://training.seer.cancer.gov>

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# Star

**The following electronic reporters have submitted timely, accurate, and complete data every month from Sept 2001 through Feb 2002:**

- Athens Regional Medical Center
- Camden Medical Center
- Coliseum Medical Center
- Henry Medical Center
- Houston Medical Center
- John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital
- Medical Center of Central Georgia
- Memorial Health University Med Ctr
- Middle Georgia Hospital
- NE Georgia Medical Center
- Palmyra Medical Center
- Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital
- SE Georgia Regional Medical Center
- South Georgia Medical Center
- St Francis Hospital
- St Joseph's Hospital – Atlanta
- St Mary's Healthcare System
- Tift General Hospital
- VA Medical Center – Dublin
- Wellstar Health System

**The following photocopy reporters have submitted timely and complete data every month from Sept 2001 through Feb 2002:**

- Baptist Hospital Worth County
- Brooks County Hospital
- Calhoun Memorial Hospital
- Charlton Memorial Hospital
- Clinch Memorial Hospital
- Coffee Regional Medical Center
- Dodge County Hospital
- Early Memorial Hospital
- Emory Adventist Hospital
- Flint River Community Hospital
- Grady General Hospital
- Irwin County Hospital
- Jefferson County Hospital
- Jenkins County Hospital
- Kindred Hospital
- McDuffie Regional Medical Center
- Meadows Regional Medical Center
- Memorial Hospital of Adel
- Miller County Hospital
- Minnie G Boswell Memorial Hospital
- Mitchell County Hospital
- Monroe County Hospital
- Morgan Memorial Hospital
- Newton General Hospital
- North Georgia Medical Center
- Peach Regional Medical Center
- Perry Hospital
- Polk Medical Center
- Putnam General Hospital
- Screven County Hospital
- Southwest GA Regional Medical Center
- Tattnall Memorial Hospital
- Walton Medical Center
- Washington County Regional Med Ctr
- Wills Memorial Hospital

**Great job! Keep up the good work!**

# Thank You Note from the Georgia Comprehensive Cancer Registry

GCCR thanks the following hospitals for submitting cancer data at least two months out of three (Dec 2001, Jan and Feb 2002).

<b>Hospitals Reported Three Months Out of Three</b>		
Athens Regional Medical Center	Fayette Community Hospital	Palmyra Medical Center
Augusta State Medical Prison	Flint River Community Hospital	Peach Regional Medical Center
Baptist Hospital Worth County	Floyd Medical Center	Peachtree Regional Hospital
Baptist Medical Center	Georgia Baptist Meriwether Hosp	Perry Hospital
Barrow Medical Center	Gordon Hospital	Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital
Berrien County Hospital	Grady General Hospital	Piedmont Hospital
Bleckley Memorial Hospital	Grady Health System	Polk Medical Center
Brooks County Hospital	Gwinnett Medical Center	Putnam General Hospital
Burke County Hospital	Habersham County Medical Ctr	Rabun County Memorial Hospital
Calhoun Memorial Hospital	Hamilton Medical Center	Redmond Regional Medical Ctr
Camden Medical Center	Hart County Hospital	Rockdale Hospital
Candler County Hospital	Henry Medical Center	Screven County Hospital
Candler Hospital – Savannah	Houston Medical Center	SE Georgia Regional Medical Ctr
Central State Hospital	Hutcheson Medical Center	Smith Hospital
Charlton Memorial Hospital	Irwin County Hospital	South Georgia Medical Center
Chatuge Regional Hospital	Jasper Memorial Hospital	Southwest GA Regional Med Ctr
Children’s Healthcare of Atl at Egleston	Jeff Davis Hospital	Southwest Hospital & Medical Ctr
Children’s Healthcare of Atl at Scottish Rite	Jefferson County Hospital	Spalding Regional Hospital
Clinch Memorial Hospital	Jenkins County Hospital	St Francis Hospital
Coffee Regional Medical Center	John D. Archbold Memorial Hosp	St Joseph’s Hospital – Atlanta
Coliseum Medical Center	Kindred Hospital	St Joseph’s Hospital – Augusta
Colquitt Regional Medical Center	Macon Northside Hospital	St Joseph’s Candler Health Sys
Crawford Long Hospital	McDuffie Regional Medical Center	St Mary’s Healthcare System
Crisp Regional Hospital	Meadows Regional Medical Ctr	Stephens County Hospital
DeKalb Medical Center	Medical Center of Central Georgia	Stewart Webster Hospital
Dodge County Hospital	Medical College of Georgia	Sumter Regional Hospital
Donalsonville Hospital	Memorial Health Univ Med Ctr	Sylvan Grove Hospital
Dorminy Medical Center	Memorial Hospital and Manor	Tattnall Memorial Hospital
Early Memorial Hospital	Memorial Hospital of Adel	Taylor-Telfair Regional Hospital
East Georgia Regional Medical Center	Middle Georgia Hospital	The Medical Center
Effingham County Hospital	Miller County Hospital	Tift General Hospital
Emanuel Medical Center	Minnie G Boswell Mem Hospital	University Hospital
Emory Adventist Hospital	Mitchell County Hospital	Upson Regional Medical Center
Emory Cartersville Medical Center	Monroe County Hospital	VA Medical Center – Dublin
Emory Eastside Medical Center	Morgan Memorial Hospital	Walton Medical Center
Emory Northlake Reg Med Ctr	Mountainside Medical Center	Washington County Reg Med Ctr
Emory Parkway Medical Center	NE Georgia Medical Center	Wayne Memorial Hospital
Emory University Hospital	Newton General Hospital	Wellstar Health System
Evans Memorial Hospital	North Georgia Medical Center	Wesley Woods Geriatric Hospital
Fairview Park Hospital	Northside Hospital	Wildwood Lifestyle Center & Hosp
Fannin Regional Hospital	Oconee Regional Medical Center	Wills Memorial Hospital
<b>Hospitals Reported Two Months Out of Three</b>		
Appling Health Care System	Emory Dunwoody Medical Center	Southern Regional Medical Center
Bacon County Health Services	Liberty Regional Medical Center	Tanner Health System
Cobb Memorial Hospital	Murray Medical Center	Taylor Regional Hospital
Decatur Hospital	Newnan Hospital	Union General Hospital
Doctor’s Hospital Augusta	North Fulton Regional Hospital	VA Medical Center – Atlanta
Doctor’s Hospital Columbus	Satilla Regional Medical Center	West Georgia Health System
Elbert Memorial Hospital	South Fulton Medical Center	Wheeler County Hospital