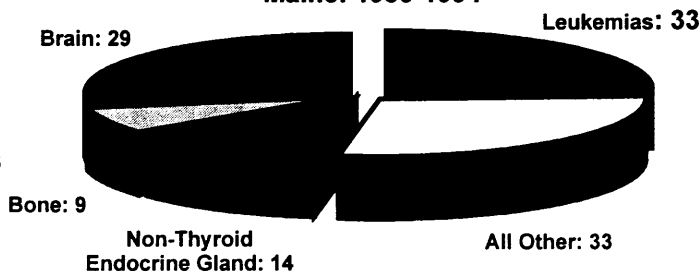


CHILDHOOD CANCER DEATHS

Maine, 1985 - 1994

- ➔ A goal of the *Healthy Maine 2000* effort is to reduce the rate of cancer mortality in the state.
- ➔ During the decade 1985 - 1994, 118 Maine residents younger than 20 years old died of cancer. This resulted in a death rate of 3.4/100,000 population. This compares to a national rate of 3.8¹ (1992). 56% of these victims (66) were male.
- ➔ During that same period, 2,387 Maine youths under the age of 20 died from all causes; cancer accounted for 5% of those deaths. The majority of all childhood deaths are attributed to congenital anomalies or problems from the perinatal period (1,058) and to injuries (855). Of the remaining disease-caused deaths, 25% resulted from cancer.
- ➔ The greatest number of childhood cancer deaths were attributable to leukemias (33) and cancers of the brain (29). These two types of cancers accounted for more than 52% of all cancer deaths to Maine's youth.
- ➔ The number of cancer deaths to Maine's youth during the 10 year period ranged from 25 deaths to children 10 - 14 years old to 36 deaths to youths 15 - 19. The cancer death rate was highest (4.5/100,000) among young males 15 - 19 years old.

Childhood Cancer Deaths by Type
Maine: 1985-1994



Deaths and Death Rates Due to Cancer by Age
Maine, 1985 - 1994

Age	Number and Percent of Deaths	Death Rate/100,000 Population
birth - 4 years old	31 (26%)	3.7
5 - 9 years old	26 (22%)	3.0
10 - 14 years old	25 (21%)	2.9
15 - 19 years old	36 (31%)	4.0

- ➔ Maine's childhood cancer death rates are comparable to national rates¹ for each age group.

NOTE: All rates are for underlying cause of death, for whites only and are age-adjusted to the US 1940 standard population; these are rates that have been standardized to eliminate differences due solely to variations in the age composition of the populations. Age specific rates cannot be age adjusted. Unless noted, differences in rates are not statistically significant, i.e., they could be accounted for by chance alone.

Footnote 1: A full citation will be provided upon request.

For further data on this topic, please contact:

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