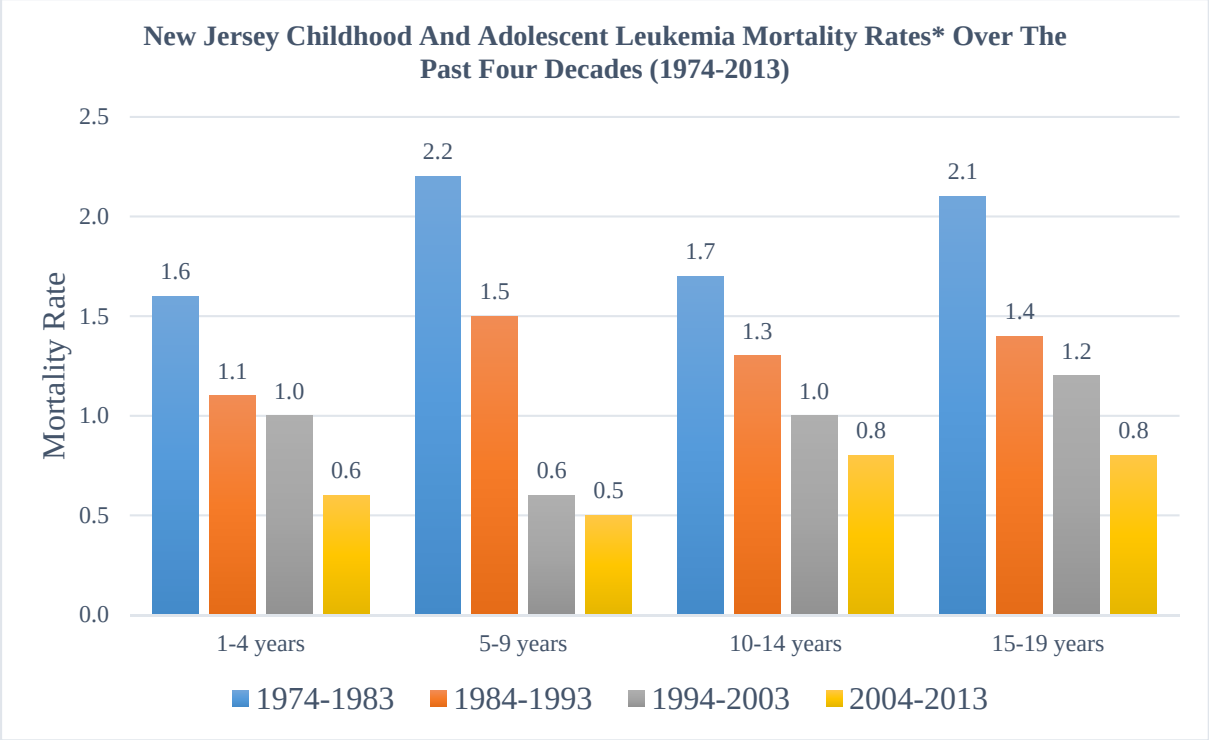
New Jersey State Cancer Registry Data Brief - Childhood Leukemia Mortality



*Underlying mortality data were provided by the National Center for Health Statistics (www.cdc.gov/nchs). Rates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 US Std Population (19 age groups - Census P25-1130) standard. Rates were not displayed for infants (< 1 years) due to fewer than 10 cases in each time period. Rates include all leukemias and both male and female children or adolescents of all races.

- Leukemias are cancers of the blood, and are designated as acute or chronic. Leukemias are the most common childhood cancer accounting for approximately 21% of all childhood cancers in New Jersey in 2013. Acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL) is the most common subtype of leukemia, comprising approximately 65% of childhood leukemia cases in New Jersey during 2013. Most remaining cases were acute myeloid leukemia (AML) at approximately 16%. Chronic leukemias are extremely rare in children.

- Mortality rates for children with leukemia have markedly improved over the past four decades. This is primarily because of improvements in treatments, which have raised the 5-year survival rates for children[1].

- Children aged 5-9 years experienced the greatest decline in leukemia mortality, from more than 2 deaths per 100,000 between 1974 and 1983 to fewer than one death per 100,000 in the most recent time period of 2004 to 2013.

- Older children and adolescents (aged 10-19 years) continue to experience higher leukemia mortality rates than younger age groups; this is likely because of the type of leukemia and complications from treatment.

Reference

1. *Childhood Leukemia Survival Rates Improve Significantly*. American Cancer Society, Atlanta, GA. Available online at http://www.cancer.org/cancer/news/childhood-leukemia-survival-rates-improve-significantly, accessed August 12, 2016.