BURDEN FACTS

About **47 children** (age 0 to 19) develop cancer in MT each year.

MT children get cancer at the same rate as all children in the U.S.

The most common types of cancer in children in MT and the U.S. are:

1. Leukemia
2. Lymphoma
3. Brain & Central Nervous System (CNS) Cancer
4. Melanoma & Epithelial Cancer

Montana Cancer Control Program
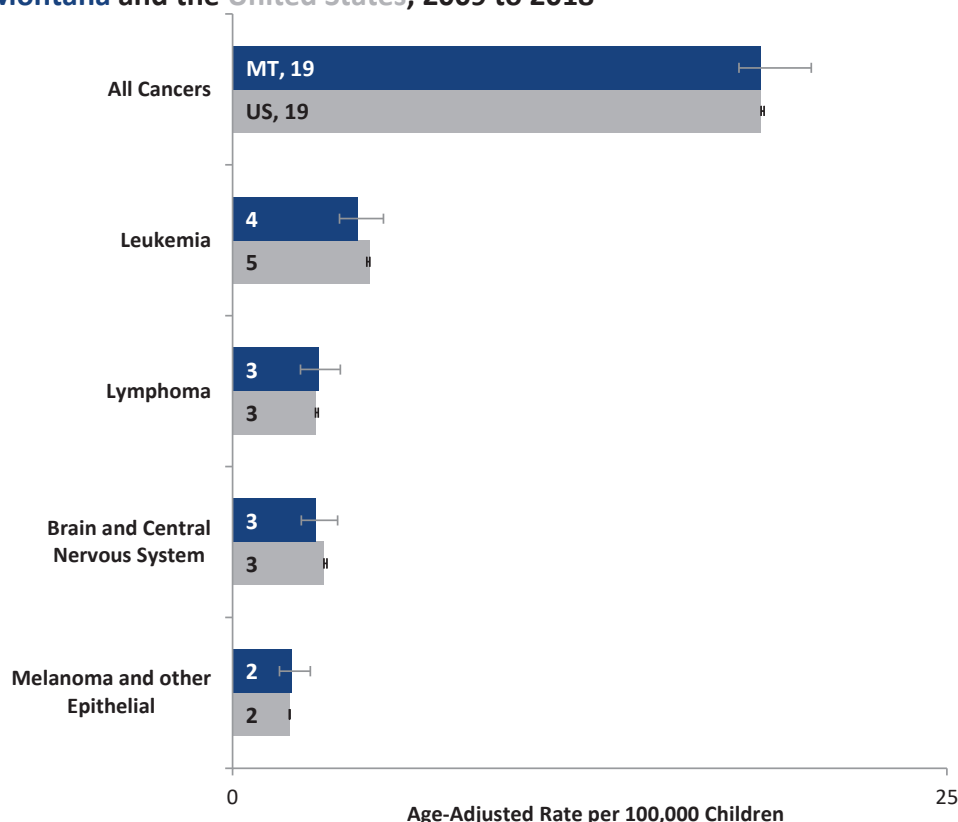
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publichealth/cancer/index.shtml

The Burden of Pediatric Cancer in Montana

About 47 Montana children aged 0 to 19 years are diagnosed with cancer each year. The incidence rate of cancer among Montana children (19 new cases per 100,000 children) was the same as the rate among all chil-dren in the United States Figure 1).

Pediatric cancers are classified by the type of cells that have become cancerous rather than the area of the body where the tumor started. The most common type of cancer among children is leukemia, cancer that starts in blood forming cells inside bone marrow. Leukemia accounts for 24% of all pediatric cancers in Montana. The next most common pediat-ric cancers are lymphoma (cancer that starts in immune cells called lym-phocytes), brain and central nervous system (CNS) cancers, and melano-ma or other cancers of epithelial cells (skin cells and cells that line the digestive system and other organs). Lymphoma, CNS cancers, and epi-thelial cancers account for another 43% of pediatric cancers in Montana.
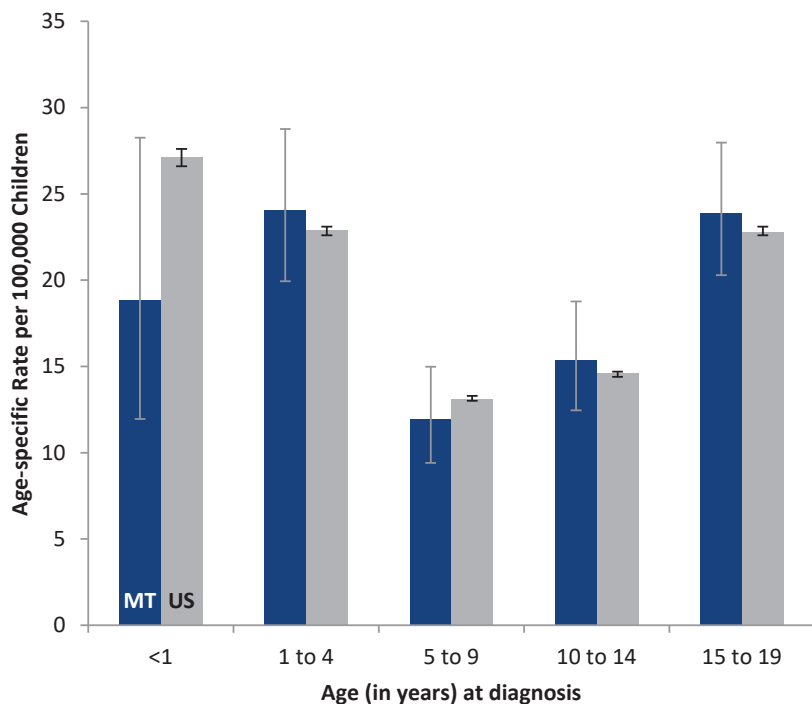
Figure 1: Age-adjusted Cancer Incidence (new cases) among Children in Montana and the United States, 2009 to 2018

Data Sources: Montana Central Tumor Registry, 2009—2018; United States Cancer Statistics, 2008—2017, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Cancer Institute. Available at www.cdc.gov/uscs

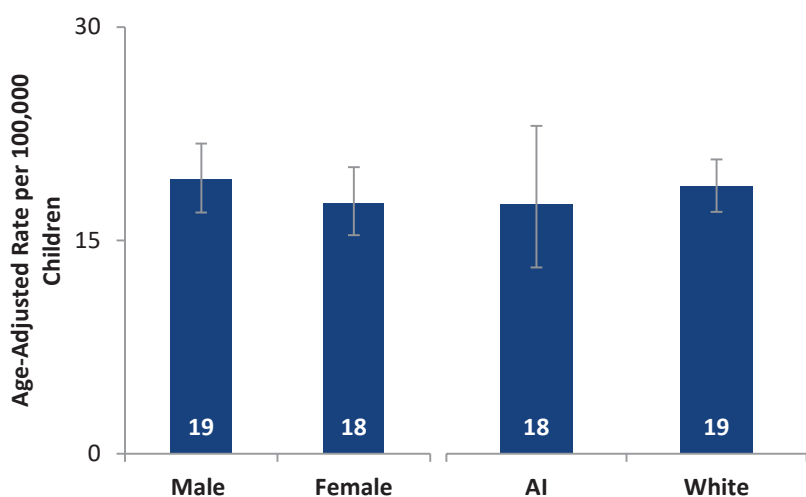**Figure 2: Age-specific Cancer Incidence among Children in Montana and the United States, 2009 to 2018**

Children aged 4 or younger and adolescents aged 15 to 19 had higher incidence of cancer in Montana and the United States than children aged 5 to 14 (Figure 2). Leukemia and CNS cancers are most common among younger children in Montana. Epithelial cancers and lymphoma are most common among adoles-cents (Table 1).

Table 1: Number of New Cases of Selected Cancers Within Each Age Group, Montana, 2009 to 2018

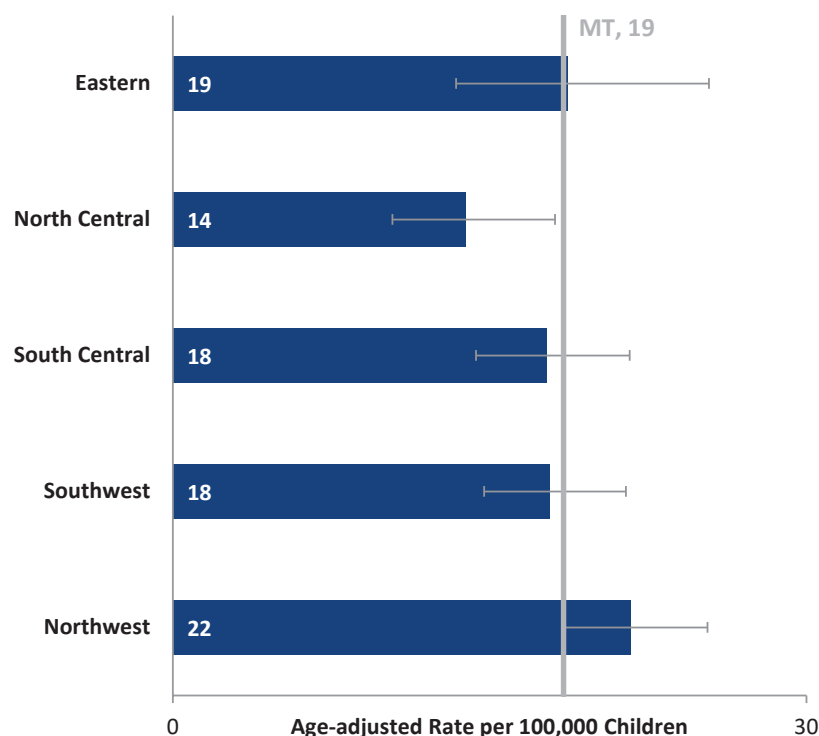|	0 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 19
Leukemia	49	22	22	18
Lymphoma	9	10	23	34
CNS Cancers	19	22	15	18
Epithelial cancers	< 5	< 5	12	40

The cancer with the most cases within each age group is shaded dark gray and the next most common is shaded lighter gray.

Figure 3: Age-adjusted Cancer Incidence among Children by Sex and Race, Montana, 2009 to 2018

Montana girls and boys were diagnosed with cancer at the same rate (Figure 3). There was also no significant difference in the rate of cancer among American Indian (AI) children and white children.

Figure 4: Age-adjusted Cancer Incidence among Children by Region compared to Montana, 2009 to 2018

There was no significant difference in the rate of pediatric cancers within any region of Montana compared to the state as a whole (Figure 4).

Addressing Pediatric Cancers in Montana

Because Montana is a rural state and there are few cases of pediatric cancer it is difficult for children with cancer to get treatment without having to trav-el. In fact, most Montana children with cancer (52%) travel out of state for all of their cancer treatment. This puts additional burden on children and families already dealing with an incredibly difficult situation.

The Montana Cancer Coalition Pediatric Cancer Team is working to improve access to care for Mon-tana children who have cancer. Their goal is to en-sure children with cancer are provided patient-centered treatment and survivorship services that improve quality of life. They aim to do that by in-creasing Montana's capacity to provide a continuum of care for youth with cancer from diagnosis through long-term survivorship, and by increasing education on the physical, emotional, and cognitive impact of childhood cancer to schools, families, and medical providers.

Find resources and learn more at www.mtcancercoalition.org/pediatric-cancer