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 children1.

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