

25-YEAR INAUGURAL CHILDHOOD CANCER REPORT

SOUTH CAROLINA CHILDHOOD CANCER TASKFORCE UNITES LEADERS IN PEDIATRIC CANCER, EPIDEMIOLOGY and PUBLIC HEALTH STATEWIDE

Data provided by the South Carolina Central Cancer Registry

Statewide Progress in Childhood Cancer

- 84% relative survival at 5 years from childhood cancer diagnosis.
- This marks a 11% improvement in survival (1996-2016).
- The mortality for childhood cancer has declined 21% (1996-2020).
- Survival improved for 8 of 11 cancer types.

Childhood Cancer Survivors

- More and more patients are becoming childhood cancer survivors.
- These survivors come from across SC with 15% diagnosed in rural areas.
- Among those who survived at least 5 years from cancer diagnosis, 2,812 are still alive while 150 patients have died.
- Black patients had a relatively higher risk of death beyond 5 years from cancer diagnosis.
- Most childhood cancer survivors will face a serious health condition by middle age due to cancer treatments in childhood.

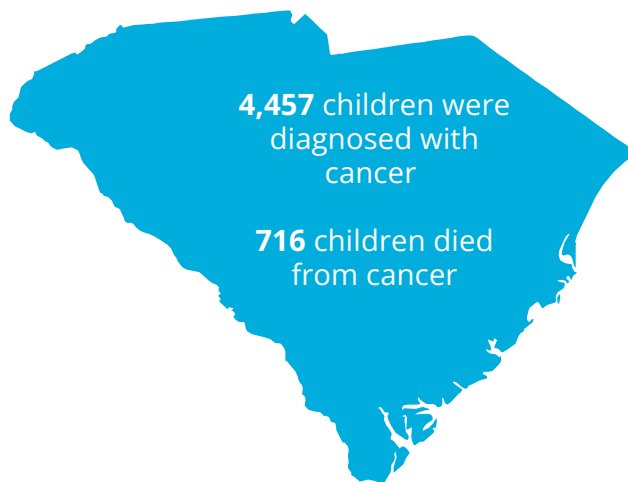
Changes in Childhood Cancer Epidemiology

- Between 2001-2020 the incidence rate of childhood cancer increased 11% in South Carolina, 13% in the South Atlantic Region, and 8% in the United States.
- The incidence rate of childhood cancer in SC remained lower than the Region/US.
- We identified rising state incidence trends for childhood lymphoma and leukemia.

Cancer Disparities

- Though the gaps have narrowed, relative survival among Black and Hispanic children in South Carolina remained lower than White children with cancer. Black children had the lowest survival of all groups.
- White children had the highest incidence of childhood cancer; the incidence gap between White and Black children has widened over time. Childhood cancer incidence was also persistently higher in urban as compared to rural areas.

Between 1996 and 2020 in South Carolina



Percentage Change from 1996-2016
Childhood cancer survival 11% ↑

Percentage Change from 1996-2020
Childhood cancer mortality 21% ↓

Race and Ethnicity	Incidence Rate	5-year Relative survival	Mortality Rate
Non-Hispanic White	18.1	86%	2.2
Non-Hispanic Black	12.7	80%	2.5
Hispanic	13.4	83%	^

Rates per 100,000 individuals at risk (2016-2020), survival estimates for cases diagnosed (2012-2016), ^suppressed due to fewer than 16 cases



SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH



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South Carolina Patient and Parent Voices



Leilani, now 10 years old, was treated for neuroblastoma as a young child. When she was diagnosed, her little brother was an infant and her father was working nights. Her family credits the tremendous community support in addition to the support of their doctors and nurses with getting them through treatment.

Collin was diagnosed with a brain tumor at age 2, facing multiple relapses over his life and passing away at age 15. Despite his long medical journey, his upbeat attitude was contagious when he would declare his plans to “wake up, kick butt, repeat!” His mother wished there was more support along the way for him do activities like art or yoga to help with his anxiety. She continues their fight as a clinical trials research nurse for pediatric cancer.



Emma remains on treatment for childhood leukemia and is in a remission. Her mother describes the shock of the initial diagnosis and the isolation she has sometimes felt during the treatment journey. She is grateful Emma is feeling more like herself. Treatment for Emma’s type of leukemia lasts for approximately 2.5 years.

Kaycen was diagnosed with neuroblastoma at age 8 and completed over 2 years of treatment. He is now 11 years old and thriving as a straight A student who loves playing baseball. His mother remembers the challenges of frequent travel to and from the oncology clinic and the long hospital stays made more challenging during the COVID-19 pandemic. She acknowledges her faith and his medical team for getting her family through the scariest time of their lives.



Ellie is a childhood cancer survivor, now 12 years old, who was treated for a germ cell tumor at 2 years of age. Her mother remarks how cancer will always be part of their story. Ellie has side effects of her cancer treatments and required a hip replacement as a result. Ellie uses her creative strengths to raise awareness about childhood cancer and plans to be a child life specialist to help other children when she grows up.

Skyla was treated for leukemia and reached a remission though subsequently developed treatment-related acute myeloid leukemia and died at 8 years of age. She was well known to her care team for her adventurous nature and pranks during hospital stays. Her parents founded the Skyla Strong Foundation to support other parents and children facing childhood cancer.

