

LEUKEMIA

Table 18: Leukemia Incidence and Mortality Summary, 2011

Leukemia			Incidence			Mortality		
			Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
South Dakota	Total	# Cases / Deaths	150	84	66	77	51	26
		Age Adjusted Rate	16.4	19.2	13.8	7.8	11.6	4.6
	White	# Cases / Deaths	140	78	62	75	49	26
Age Adjusted Rate		16.5	19.3	14.1	8.0	11.9	4.8	
American Indian	# Cases / Deaths	8	5	3	2	2	0	
	Age Adjusted Rate	14.4	19.1	9.5	5.6	13.3	0.0	
United States	Total	Age Adjusted Rate	13.0	16.5	10.3	* 6.9	* 9.3	* 5.2
	White	Age Adjusted Rate	13.6	17.2	10.7	* 7.2	* 9.6	* 5.4
	American Indian	Age Adjusted Rate	7.1	8.2	6.3	* 5.5	* 8.4	* 3.8

Rates per 100,000 age-adjusted to 2000 US standard population and 2011 SD estimated population.

* US Mortality rates are from 2010, the 2011 rate is not available at this time. US rates www.seer.cancer.gov

Source: South Dakota Department of Health

Descriptive Epidemiology

Stage at Diagnosis: Leukemias are not staged because they may involve bone marrow throughout the body. Doctors classify them by type and subtype in an attempt to determine the prognosis and a recommended level of treatment. Chronic myelogenous leukemia is grouped by phases and chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) uses a Rai classification. Leukemia is a type of cancer of the blood. It is defined by how quickly the disease progresses. Leukemia is either chronic (disease progresses slowly) or acute (progresses quickly).

Incidence: Leukemias are a diverse group of cancers and are subtyped by histology. Subtypes have different etiology, treatment, and prognosis. Leukemias accounted for 3.5% of the cancers reported in 2011 for South Dakota. The American Cancer Society estimated that there would be 140 new cases of leukemia in South Dakota during 2011 and 44,600 cases nationwide.

Mortality: Leukemia accounted for almost 5% of the cancer deaths in South Dakota in 2011. The subtype of acute myeloid leukemia was the most frequent cause of leukemia death. Almost 72% of the deaths associated with leukemia occurred at the age of 65 or older.

Leukemia is clinically and pathologically subdivided into a variety of large groups. The first division is between the acute and chronic forms.

Chronic Leukemia: Early in the disease process, the abnormal blood cells still have normal processes. Slowly, chronic leukemia does get worse. It causes symptoms as the number of abnormal cells in the blood rises. In South Dakota in 2011, there were 79 new cases of chronic leukemia.

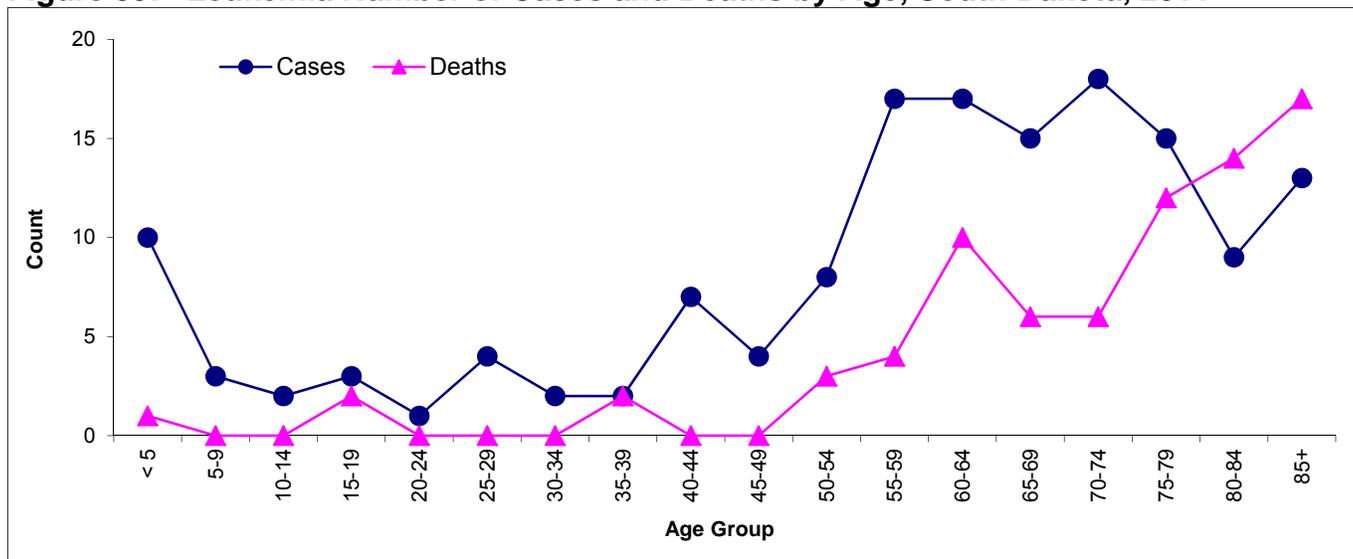
Acute Leukemia: The blood cells are very abnormal. The blood cells cannot carry out their normal processes. The number of abnormal cells increases rapidly. Acute leukemia worsens quickly as do the symptoms. There were 66 new cases of acute leukemia in South Dakota in 2011.

These types of leukemia are further divided by the type of white blood cell that is affected.

Risk and Associated Factors: People who are exposed to very high levels of radiation are more likely to develop leukemia. Working with certain chemicals and exposure to high levels of benzene in the workplace can cause leukemia. Benzene is used widely in the chemical industry. Workers exposed to formaldehyde may also be at greater risk of leukemia. Chromosomal abnormalities, such as Down's syndrome and certain other genetic diseases may increase the risk of leukemia.

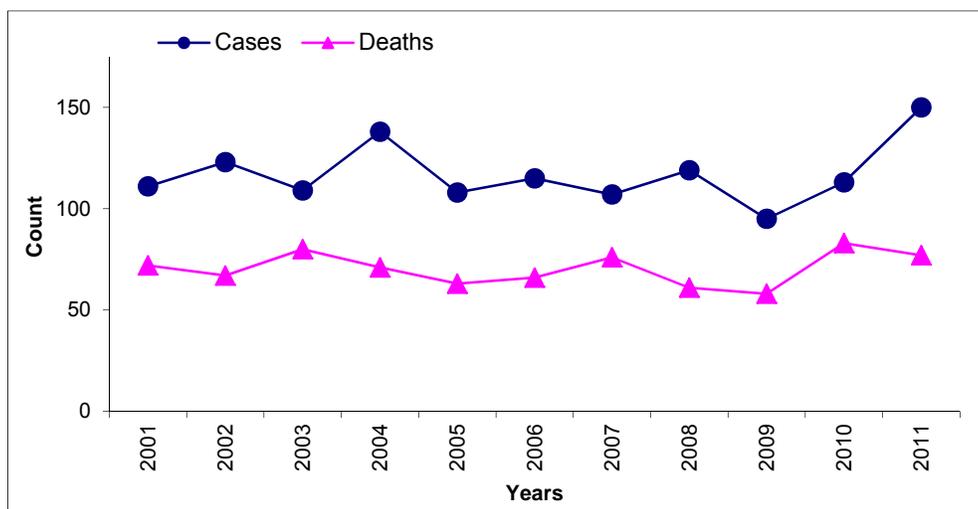
Prevention and Early Detection: There are no early detection or prevention strategies. Often symptoms are the same as for many other health problems, thus early detection is difficult. Diagnosis is made using blood tests and bone marrow biopsies.

Figure 39: Leukemia Number of Cases and Deaths by Age, South Dakota, 2011



Source: South Dakota Department of Health

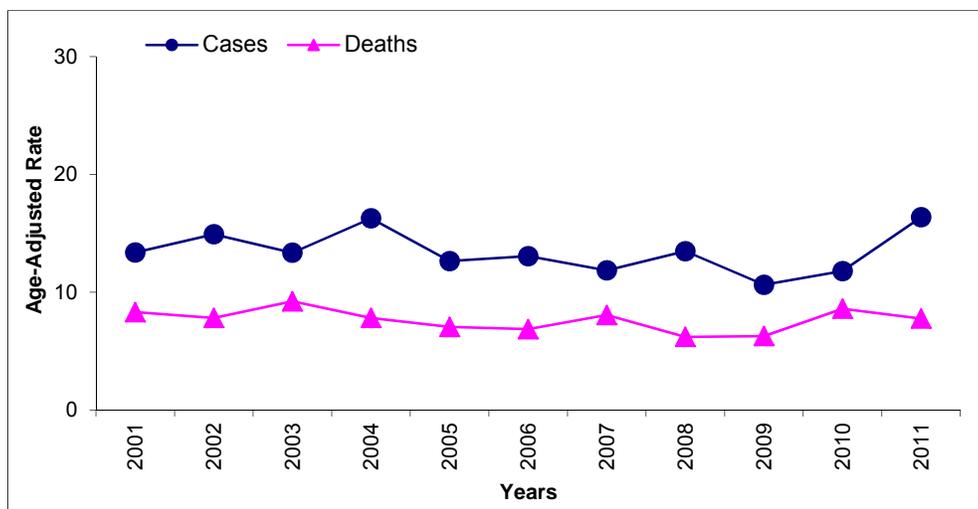
Leukemia is frequently diagnosed in children, but as with all malignancies it is a disease of the elderly. Deaths from leukemia steadily increase after the age of 74.



Source: South Dakota Department of Health

Figure 40: Leukemia Cases and Deaths by Year, South Dakota, 2001 - 2011

The incidence peak for leukemia occurred in 2011.



Rates per 100,000 age-adjusted to 2000 US standard population and SD estimated populations.
Source: South Dakota Department of Health

Figure 41: Leukemia Age-Adjusted Rates, Cases, and Deaths by Year, South Dakota, 2001 - 2011