NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

A Snapshot of Leukemia

Incidence and Mortality Rate Trends

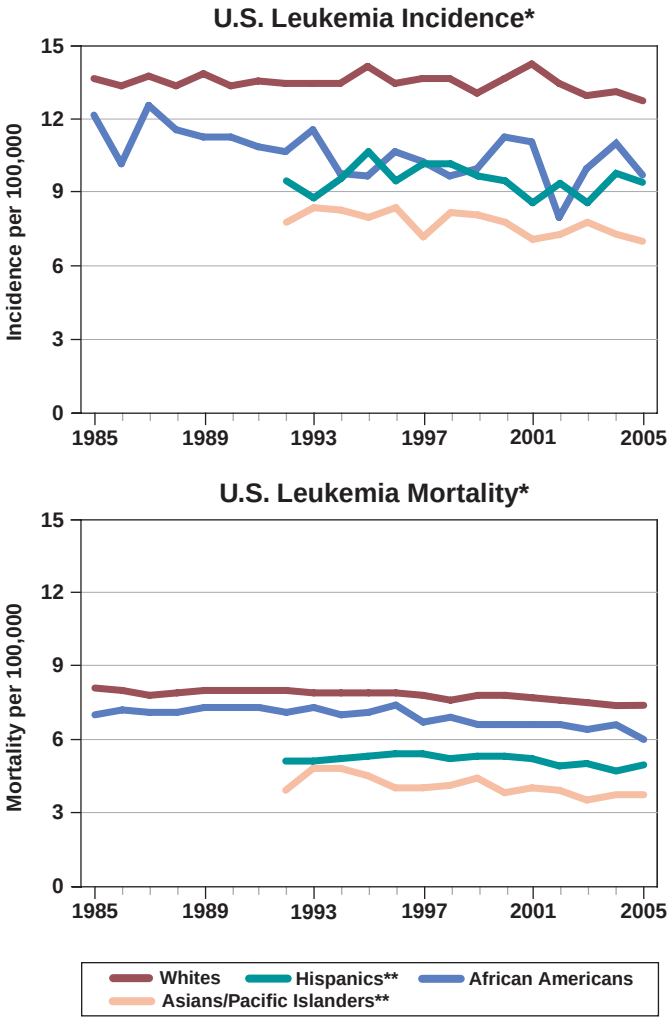
Leukemia, the most common blood cancer, includes several diseases. The four major types are acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL), chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), acute myelogenous leukemia (AML), and chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML). Although affecting approximately 10 times more adults than children, leukemia is the most common cancer among children, with ALL accounting for approximately 72 percent of all childhood leukemias. The most common type of leukemia in adults is AML, followed by CLL, CML, and ALL.

The incidence and mortality rates for leukemia have decreased slightly over the last 20 years and are higher in whites than in other racial and ethnic groups. Overall, men are more susceptible than women to leukemia.

It is estimated that approximately $2.6 billion[1] is spent in the United States each year on treatment for leukemia.

Source for incidence and mortality data: Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program and the National Center for Health Statistics. Additional statistics and charts are available at http://seer.cancer.gov/.

[1]Cancer Trends Progress Report (http://progressreport.cancer.gov), in 2004 dollars, based on methods described in *Medical Care* 2002 Aug; 40 (8 Suppl): IV-104-17.



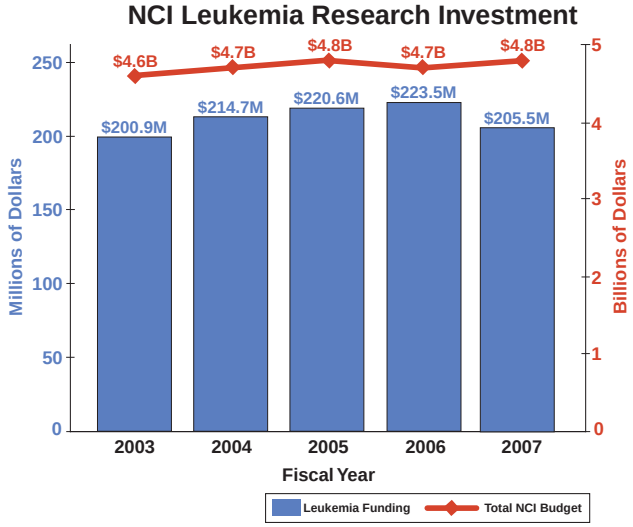
*Significant data for American Indians/Alaskan Natives not available.
**Data for Hispanics and Asians/Pacific Islanders not available before 1992.

Trends in NCI Funding for Leukemia Research

The National Cancer Institute's (NCI's) investment[2] in leukemia research increased between fiscal years 2003 and 2006 but decreased to $205.5 million in fiscal year 2007.

Source: NCI Office of Budget and Finance (http://obf.cancer.gov/).

[2]The estimated NCI investment is based on funding associated with a broad range of peer-reviewed scientific activities. For additional information on research planning and budgeting at the National Institutes of Health, see http://www.nih.gov/about/.



Developed by NCI's Office of Science Planning and Assessment (OSPA) with assistance from SAIC. Snapshots can be found online at: http://planning.cancer.gov/disease/snapshots.shtml.