

Aotearoa's Youngest Fighters

Understanding the Landscape of Childhood Cancer in New Zealand

153

Annual Diagnoses

On average, this many children aged 0-14 are diagnosed with cancer each year.

<1%

Of All Cancers

Childhood cancer is rare, but it is the leading cause of death by disease for Kiwi kids.

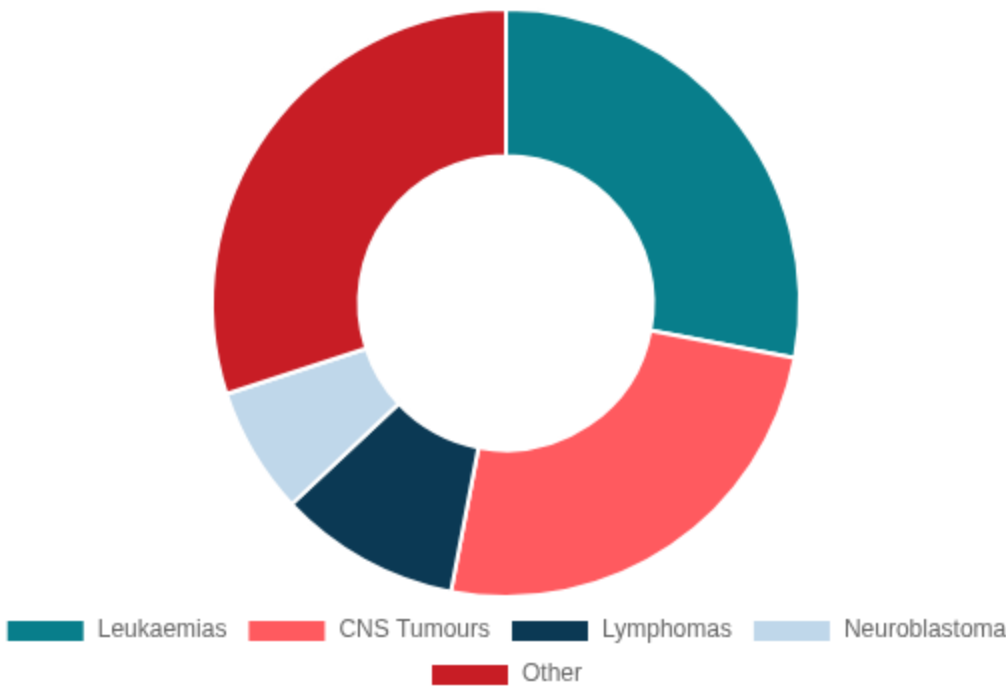
86%

5-Year Survival

Outcomes in NZ are world-class, thanks to dedicated national care networks.

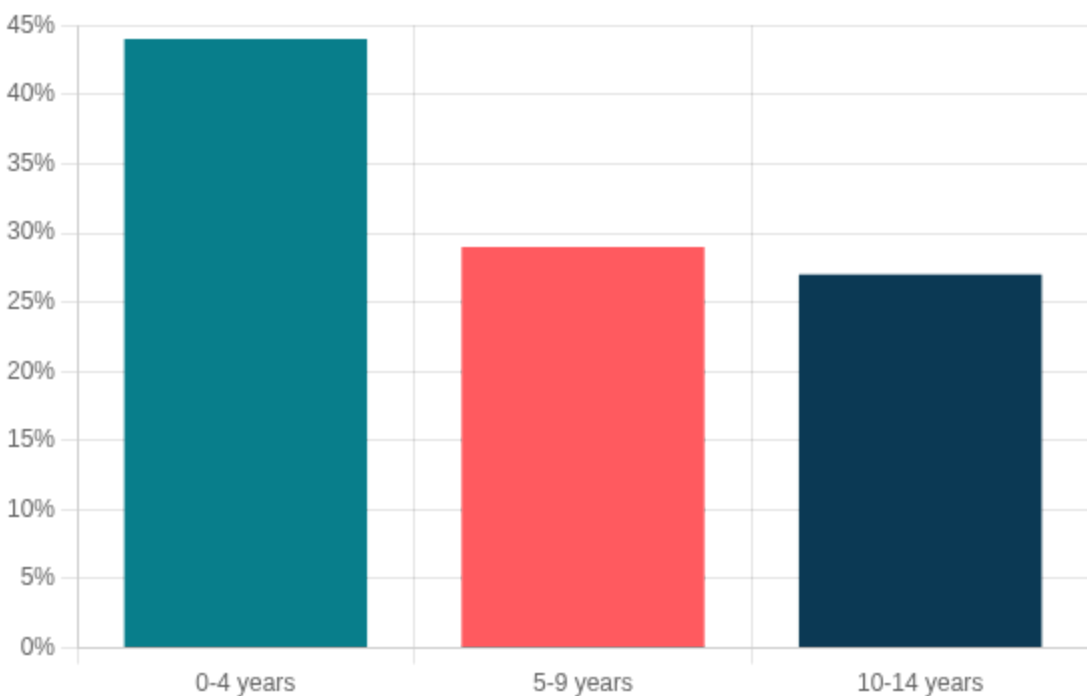
Most Common Cancer Types

Leukaemias and Central Nervous System (CNS) tumours are the most frequently diagnosed childhood cancers in New Zealand, each accounting for over a quarter of all cases.



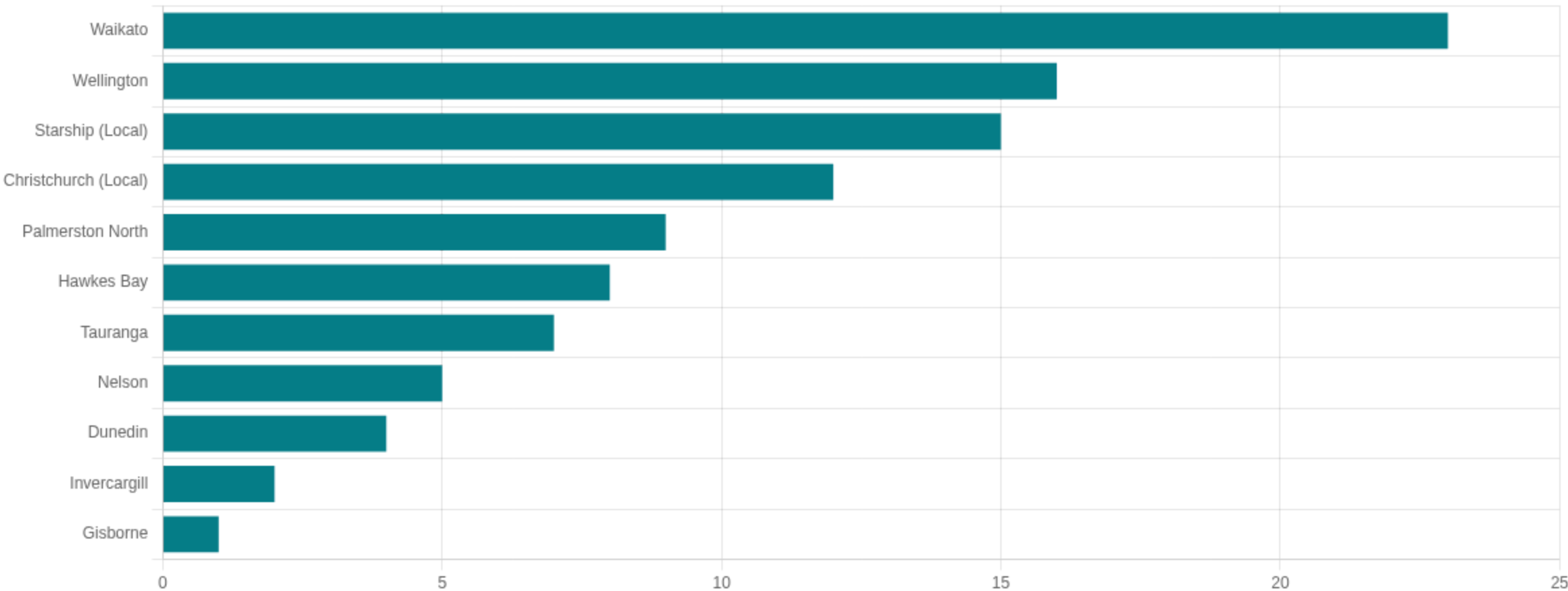
Diagnosis by Age

The highest incidence of childhood cancer occurs in the youngest age bracket (0-4 years), which accounts for nearly half of all diagnoses.



Geographic Distribution of Cases

With specialist treatment centres in Auckland and Christchurch, families from across the country face the challenge of travel. This chart shows the number of new patients from each shared-care region, highlighting that Waikato, outside the main centres, manages the highest number of new patients regionally.

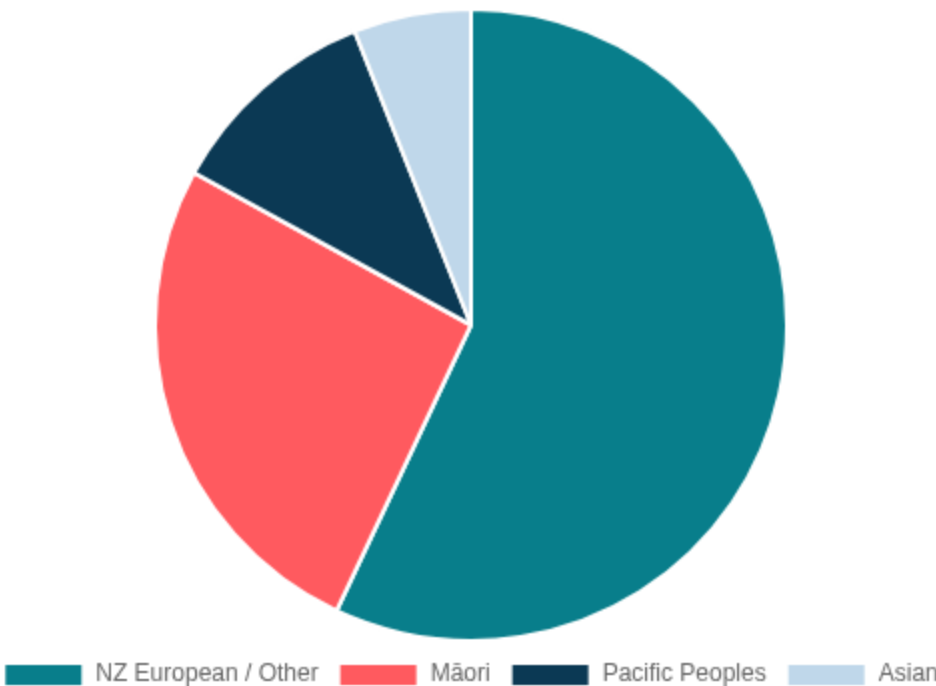


70%

of families must travel away from their home region for specialist cancer treatment.

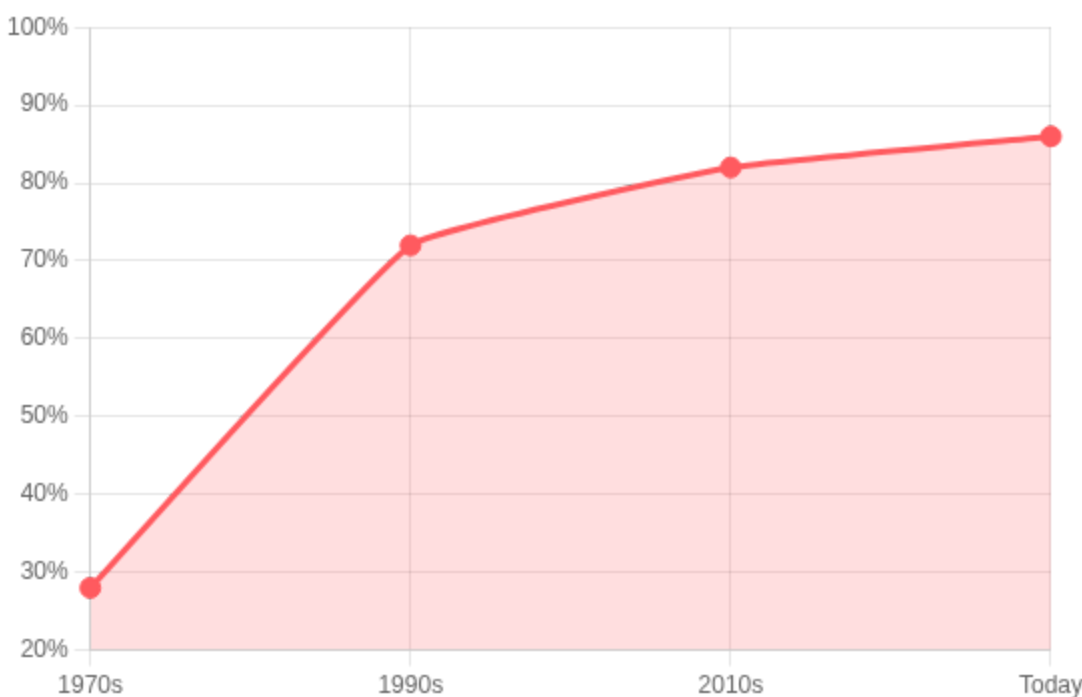
Breakdown by Ethnicity

The ethnic distribution of diagnoses is varied, with around one in four children identifying as Māori. Addressing health equity remains a key focus in paediatric oncology.



Survival Rate Improvements

Thanks to clinical trials and better treatments, 5-year survival has dramatically improved over the last 50 years, showcasing remarkable medical progress.



Information & Support

Families are not alone. These organisations provide vital support across Aotearoa.

Child Cancer Foundation Cancer Society NZ

Data sourced from the National Child Cancer Network's 2021 Snapshot & 2015-2019 Incidence Report.