



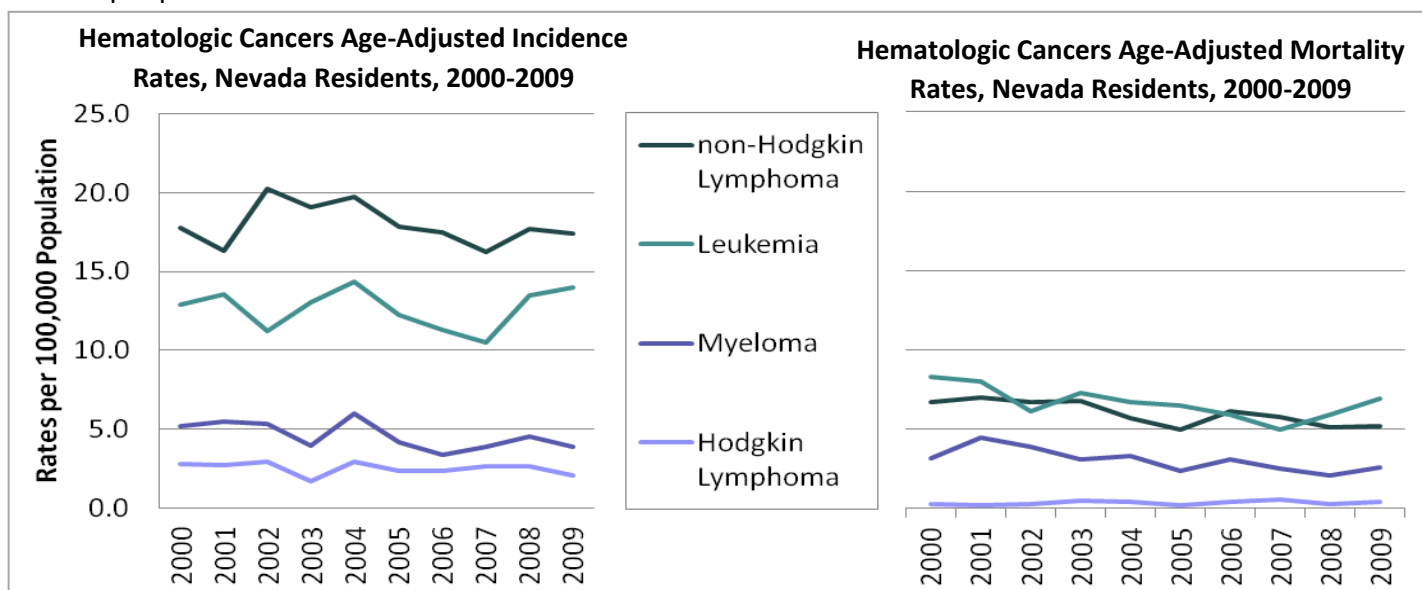
# Hematologic Cancers in Nevada 2000-2009

## Leukemia, Lymphoma, and Myeloma

Brian Sandoval, Governor  
Michael J. Willden, Director  
Department of Health and Human Services

Richard Whitley, MS, Administrator  
Tracey D. Green, MD, State Health Officer  
Nevada State Health Division

Cancers of the blood, bone marrow, and lymph nodes—also known as hematologic cancers—include leukemia, lymphoma, and myeloma. In 2009, 995 hematologic cancer cases were diagnosed in the Nevada, and 379 people died from these cancers.



Of the newly diagnosed cases in 2009, 46.6% were non-Hodgkin Lymphoma, making it the leading hematologic cancer in Nevada. Of the deaths attributed to hematologic cancers, leukemia accounted for 45.4%, making leukemia the leading cause of hematologic cancer-related deaths in Nevada.

Although hematologic cancers can affect people at any age, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, leukemia, and myeloma were diagnosed most often in Nevada residents between the ages of 65 and 74, while Hodgkin lymphoma was diagnosed most often between the ages of 25 and 34.

**Leukemia is a cancer of the bone marrow and blood.** The two main types of leukemia are lymphocytic leukemia and myelogenous leukemia—also known as myeloid or myelocytic leukemia. Lymphocytic leukemia involves an increase of white blood cells called lymphocytes; and myelogenous leukemia involves an increase in white blood cells called granulocytes. Leukemia can be acute or chronic. Acute forms of leukemia progress rapidly, while chronic forms of leukemia progress slowly.<sup>1</sup> Scientists have not fully identified all the causes of leukemia, but research has found many associations. For example, chronic exposure to benzene at work and exposure to large doses of radiation have been shown to cause leukemia in some cases. Benzene in cigarettes has been associated with an increased risk of leukemia of myeloid cells.<sup>1</sup>

**Lymphoma is a general term for cancers that start in the lymph system**—mainly the lymph nodes. The two main types of lymphoma are Hodgkin lymphoma and non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Hodgkin lymphoma spreads in an orderly manner from one group of lymph nodes to another. Non-Hodgkin lymphoma spreads through the lymphatic system in a non-orderly manner. The causes of lymphoma are unknown.<sup>1</sup>

**Myeloma is a cancer of the plasma cells.** In myeloma, the cells overgrow, forming a mass or tumor that is located in the bone marrow. Bone marrow is the spongy tissue found in the center of the bone, where red cells, white blood cells, and platelets are made.<sup>1</sup> Age is the most significant risk factor for developing myeloma. People under age 45 rarely develop the disease. Those aged 67 years or older are at greatest risk of developing myeloma. Men are more likely than women to develop myeloma, and myeloma is about twice as common among African Americans as among Caucasians.<sup>1</sup>

Reports on related topics can be obtained from the Nevada State Health Division website at:  
[www.health.nv.gov/FP\\_Publications.htm](http://www.health.nv.gov/FP_Publications.htm)

**For additional resources regarding hematologic cancers, contact:**

*Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Southern Nevada Chapter*  
6280 S Valley View Blvd Ste 342  
Las Vegas NV 89118  
(702) 436-4220 ext 102

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's mission is to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and to improve the quality of life of patients and their families. The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Co-Pay Assistance Program assists patients in meeting their private insurance or Medicare premiums and co-pay obligations for prescription medications and allowable costs. The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society also offers patient financial aid to help patients with significant financial needs that are under a doctor's care for a confirmed blood cancer diagnosis and helps people find additional sources of financial help.

*Multiple Myeloma Support Group*  
11:00am-1:00pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday monthly  
  
The Caring Place  
4425 S Jones Blvd Ste 1  
Las Vegas NV 89103  
(702) 871-7333

**Technical Notes:**

- Data are from the Nevada Central Cancer Registry.
- The International Classification of Diseases for Oncology (ICD-O) Codes are used to code site (topography) and histology (morphology) of neoplasms, usually obtained from a pathology report.
- Following the criteria of the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR), only invasive cases are included in this report.

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). CDC Features. *Blood Cancers: Leukemia, Lymphoma, and Myeloma* [Internet]. [accessed 2012 July 26]. Available from: [www.cdc.gov/Features/HematologicCancers/](http://www.cdc.gov/Features/HematologicCancers/).