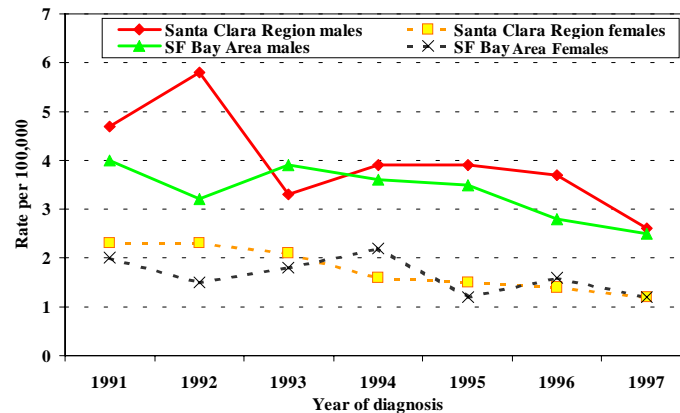




Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia in the Greater Bay Area, 1991-1997

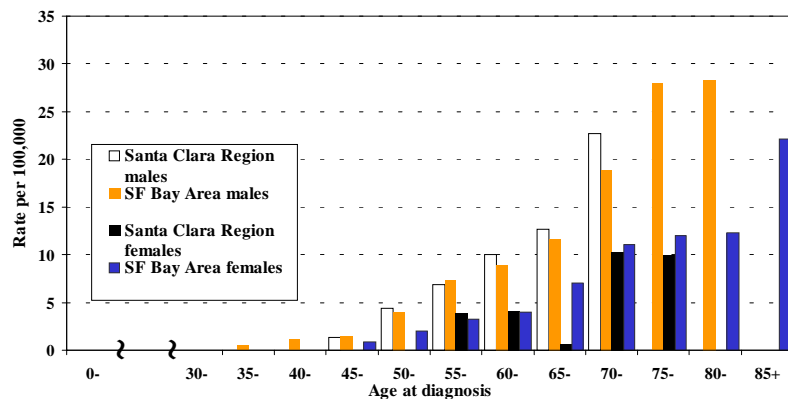
Chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) is one of the more common forms of leukemia occurring in adults. During the period 1991-1997, almost 1,100 people in the Greater Bay Area were diagnosed with the disease.

Figure 1. Age-adjusted incidence rates of chronic lymphocytic leukemia, by year of diagnosis, region, and sex, 1991-1997



The incidence rate of CLL was twice as high in males as in females. Overall, there was a slight decrease in rates from 1991 to 1997 (Figure 1, above). The average annual age-adjusted incidence rate of CLL in the San Francisco Bay Area, defined as Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco and San Mateo counties, was 2.3 cases per 100,000. A similar rate of 2.4 per 100,000 was reported in the Santa Clara Region (Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties).

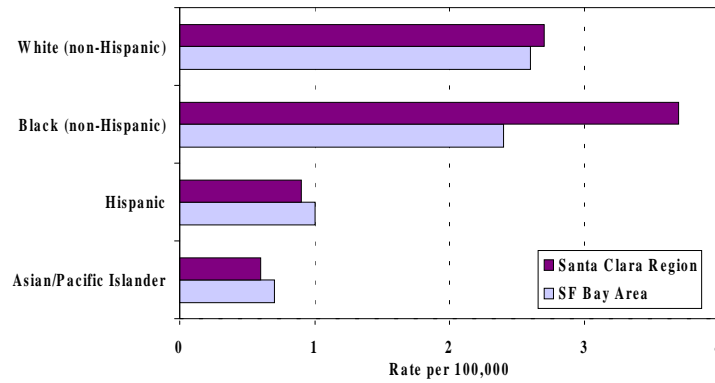
Figure 2. Average annual age-specific incidence rates of chronic lymphocytic leukemia, by age, region, and sex, 1993-1997*



* Data not shown for rates based on fewer than 5 cases or for age-specific population totals less than 100,000

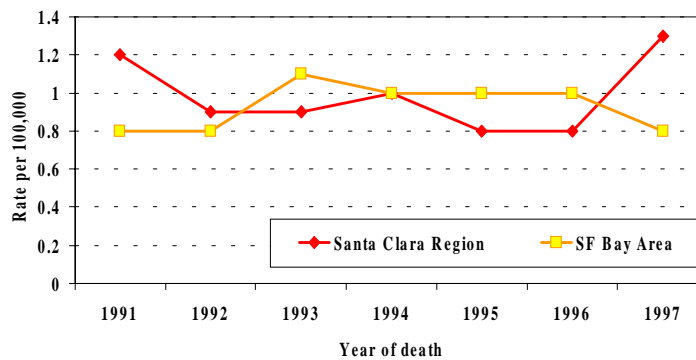
Unlike other types of leukemia that occur in both children and the elderly, CLL is common only in the elderly (Figure 2).

Figure 3. Average annual age-adjusted incidence rates of chronic lymphocytic leukemia, by race/ethnicity and region, 1993-1997



In the Greater Bay Area, whites and blacks have higher rates of CLL than Hispanics and Asian/Pacific Islanders (Figure 3, above). Incidence rates of CLL were similar for Hispanics and Asian/Pacific Islanders.

Figure 4. Age-adjusted mortality rate from chronic lymphocytic leukemia, by year of death and region, 1991-1997



Rates of mortality from CLL have remained essentially unchanged from 1991-1997 (Figure 4).

Technical Notes -- Because age distributions vary by population, a standard statistical procedure called “age-adjustment” was used so that we can examine differences in cancer incidence and mortality rates due to factors other than age. Rates are age-adjusted unless noted to be age-specific.

About the data -- Cancer data have been collected in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo counties since 1973, and in Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz counties since 1988, forming two parts (Regions 1 and 8) of the California Cancer Registry. These counties, referred to as the Greater Bay Area are also part of the National Cancer Institute’s Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) registry program.

The **Northern California Cancer Center**’s mission is to reduce the burden of cancer through surveillance, epidemiology, prevention research and education. Essential to this mission is collaboration with partners in cancer research, education, and the community.