

## OVERVIEW OF CHILDHOOD CANCER IN THE LOWER TOCANTINS REGION – PARÁ (2014–2024): AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL ALERT

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**Introduction:** Mapping the most prevalent neoplasms affecting children in the Lower Tocantins region of Pará reveals epidemiological patterns that require close attention. Understanding these data is essential for developing strategies aimed at mitigating disease burden, ensuring timely treatment, and reducing pressure on the regional healthcare system. **Objective:** To analyze the prevalence of the main types of cancer affecting children in the Lower Tocantins region of Pará between 2014 and 2024. **Methodology:** Data were obtained from the Hospital Information System of the Brazilian Unified Health System (SIH/SUS). The analysis focused on pediatric cancer cases recorded in municipalities of the Lower Tocantins region, including Abaetetuba, Acará, Baião, Barcarena, Cametá, Igarapé-Miri, Mocajuba, Moju, Oeiras do Pará, and Tailândia. **Results:** During the study period, 906 cases of leukemia were identified, along with 289 cases of benign neoplasms *in situ* and of uncertain behavior, 117 cases of malignant neoplasms of bone and articular cartilage, 113 cases of malignant neoplasms of the eye and adnexa, and 95 cases of malignant neoplasms of mesothelial and soft tissues. Children aged 1 to 4 years were the most affected group. This distribution represents an alarming indicator, as cancer occurring in early childhood has a profound negative impact on physical, emotional, and social development. **Conclusion:** The neoplasms identified in this study generally present a favorable prognosis when diagnosed at early stages, making timely detection a critical determinant of effective and individualized treatment. The high prevalence of cases—particularly leukemia—at very young ages underscores the urgency of implementing evidence-based interventions to reduce disease impact and alleviate strain on the healthcare system in northeastern Pará. These findings highlight the need for predictive and preventive public health policies tailored to regional realities.

Keywords: Childhood neoplasms; epidemiology; lower Tocantins region.