

The curves for all females and black males parallel each other and are lower and less steep in slope than for white males. From 1993 through 1995, 40% of AIDS cases among white males, 54% among black males, 59% among white females and 63% among black females were diagnosed.

5.4. AIDS Diagnosis Rates by Sex, Age and Race

Nationally, males continued to represent the majority of AIDS cases; 81% of AIDS cases in the U.S. in 1995 were among adult and adolescent males.

AIDS incidence is increasing more rapidly among females than among males. Females accounted for 19% of AIDS cases reported in 1995--the highest proportion ever reported for that sex. This represents nearly three times the proportion reported a decade earlier (7% in 1985).

In Tennessee, as reported through March 1996, 4,573 AIDS cases have been diagnosed among adult and adolescent males (90%) and 514 among adult and adolescent females. For 1995 alone, 668 cases have been diagnosed among males (85%) and 117 among females, as reported through the end of March 1996.

Fifty-eight percent of all adult and adolescent AIDS cases diagnosed in Tennessee through December 1995 were among white males. Black males accounted for 31% of diagnosed cases. Black females accounted for 6% of cases, and white females accounted for 4% of cases. Males of other races, including Hispanics, Asian/Pacific Islanders, American Indian/Alaska Natives and others, represented about 1% of total cases and females, 0.1% of cases.

With the exception of a slight decline between 1987 and 1988, the proportion of AIDS cases diagnosed among females has increased steadily over time, with females comprising 13% of Tennessee AIDS cases in 1994 and 15% in 1995 compared to only 2% in 1985 and 4% in 1987.

Overall, the highest number of AIDS cases was diagnosed among Tennesseans aged 30-34. The fewest cases were diagnosed in the oldest age-groups (65 and over) and the youngest (under 19).

Eighty-six percent of the 43 pediatric AIDS cases diagnosed up through 1995 were in infants and children under 5. A majority of these cases (67%) were in males; 56% were among black children, and 42% were among white.

Males were diagnosed at older ages than females. Eighty percent of all AIDS cases among males diagnosed from 1982 to 1995 involved persons between the ages of 25 and 44 as compared to 72% among females. Females were between two and three times more likely than males to have received a diagnosis at ages 20-24. Five