

times more females (3%) than males (0.5%) were diagnosed while teenagers (ages 13 to 19).

Between 1982 and 1995, 24% of males were diagnosed before age 30 and 5% before age 25. In contrast, of females diagnosed from 1982 through 1995, 36% were diagnosed before age 30 and 14% before age 25.

Although whites accounted for the majority of AIDS cases in Tennessee, the proportion of cases represented by blacks has increased over the last decade. In 1985, blacks comprised 20% of all AIDS cases. By 1994, this figure had more than doubled to 46 percent. Preliminary data for 1995 suggest a further increase in the proportion of AIDS cases represented by blacks to nearly half of all AIDS cases. By comparison, blacks comprise 16% of the Tennessee population.

The increase in the proportion of AIDS cases in blacks complements a corresponding decline in the proportion of AIDS cases in whites. This shift in the AIDS epidemic in Tennessee from whites to minorities parallels a similar trend nationwide.

Blacks were over-represented among AIDS cases in every region. Statewide, 2.3 times more blacks have been diagnosed with AIDS than would be expected based on their share of the State's population.

## **5.5. AIDS Mortality and Survival in Tennessee**

National trends in deaths attributed to HIV infection and the complications of AIDS in 1994 and 1995 continue to increase. AIDS was the eighth leading cause of death overall, accounting for 2% of all deaths nationally. Among persons aged 25-44 years, AIDS was the leading cause of death, accounting for 19% of deaths in this age-group. In 1994 nationally, AIDS became the fourth leading cause of years of potential life lost before age 65.

In 1994, the death rate from AIDS per 100,000 population among persons aged 25-44 years was about four times as high for black males as white males and nine times as high for black females as for white females. Compared to 1993, rates for white males remained constant, while rates for black males and white and black females continued to rise, increasing by 13%, 30% and 28%, respectively. The rate for black females aged 25-44 years surpassed that for white males in that age-group.

AIDS was the second leading cause of death for Tennessee residents in the 25-34 year age-group in 1995 (all race and sex categories grouped together). Infectious diseases accounted for a larger percentage of deaths among the 25-34 year age-group for both black males and black females than for white males.

Infectious diseases were the leading cause of death for black females aged 25-34 years and accounted for 23% of their deaths. Deaths from the complications of AIDS