

Hamilton and Knox Counties followed Shelby and Davidson Counties in volume of AIDS cases.

The Mid Cumberland region generally had the highest case numbers among the non-metropolitan regions.

Individual non-metropolitan counties with high numbers of AIDS cases relative to their counterparts are: Washington, Sullivan, Rutherford, Madison, Montgomery, Sumner, Bradley and Blount Counties.

Davidson County had a higher percentage of AIDS cases than would be expected based on its share of the State population. Knox and Hamilton Counties had similar percentages of the population as of AIDS cases. Remaining regions had lower proportions of AIDS cases than would be expected given their population representation.

The regions with the highest AIDS case rates (per 100,000 population) for 1994 were Davidson, followed by Shelby, Knox and Hamilton Counties. Rates for 1995 followed the same relative trends with the exception of low 1995 rates for Knox County, which may well be a product of reporting lag. The highest case rates in 1995 were 43 per 100,000 in Davidson County, 29 per 100,000 in Shelby County, and 27 per 100,000 in Hamilton County.

Among the non-metropolitan county clusters, highest rates were observed for 1995 in Northeast Tennessee and Northwest Tennessee. Lowest rates for 1995 were observed in East Tennessee and Mid Cumberland regions.

5.8. HIV Surveillance in Tennessee

The National Institutes of Health currently estimates that between 630,000 and 900,000 adults and adolescents, including 107,000 to 150,000 women, were HIV-infected nationwide as of January 1993. This estimate covers all HIV-infected persons, including those with full-blown AIDS. Corresponding estimates for Tennessee range from 7,600 to 14,000, with a point estimate of 11,400.

Based on HARS data, a total of 3,398 HIV-only cases had been reported in Tennessee from 1992 through 1995. These HIV-only cases are those who were HIV-infected but had not been reported with AIDS as of March 1996. Cumulatively, males comprised 75% of all HIV-only cases. Sixty-one percent of cases were reported among blacks, 38% among whites and 1% other races.

The most common source of exposure to HIV was MSM (40%), followed by IDU at 19%, with 4% exposed through MSM and IDU. Sixteen percent of all HIV-only cases were attributed to heterosexual sex transmission. Less than 1% received contaminated blood or blood products, while exposure risk for 21% remained unidentified.