

2.1. AIDS in Tennessee: The National Context

CDC publishes an annual year-end HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report that profiles AIDS in the nation. This section of Tennessee's HIV/AIDS report draws largely on CDC's **HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report** for 1995, in which national data are based on cases REPORTED through 1995, rather than on cases DIAGNOSED through 1995. The distinction is critical because the time lag between when a case is diagnosed and the time it is reported to CDC means that the case counts and rates based on date of report differ from those based on date of diagnosis. Subsequent sections of this report present Tennessee AIDS data by date of diagnosis, with no adjustment for reporting delay. This will lead to some variation between AIDS case counts reported by CDC and those reported by TDH. In addition, CDC counts as Tennessee cases only those in which HIV or AIDS was first diagnosed in Tennessee, regardless of current residence. The TDH definition of Tennessee cases is broader, including persons who were first diagnosed in Tennessee (regardless of current residence), and cases among current Tennessee residents (regardless of residence at first diagnosis). For a more complete discussion of issues regarding dates of report and diagnosis, see Section 2.2.2 below.

The rate of reported AIDS cases for Tennessee in 1994 was 14.5 per 100,000 population (Table 2.1.1). Tennessee emerged as the median state (twenty-sixth) based on AIDS rate rankings for the 50 states plus the District of Columbia. Its rate was approximately half the national rate of 29.8.¹² In 1995 the rate of Tennessee AIDS cases had risen to 17.1 per 100,000 population, a 19 percent increase over the previous year. In contrast, the national rate declined 9 percent between 1994 and 1995 to 27.2 per 100,000. Tennessee was among 22 states where reported AIDS case rates increased between 1994 and 1995. A majority of states in the medium tier, which included Tennessee, registered an annual rate increase. By contrast, a clear preponderance of states in the high and low tiers manifested declining rates. Tennessee recorded the twenty-first highest rate of reported AIDS cases in 1995.

Tennessee reported a cumulative total of 4,712 AIDS cases through December 1995. Corresponding figures for New York and California, the states with the highest aggregate of cases, were 94,751 and 88,933. Florida, Texas and New Jersey were among the states with the highest accumulation of cases reported through 1995. Tennessee ranked twenty-second in cumulative cases. Pediatric AIDS cases represent less than 1% of reported cases in Tennessee; 42 cases among children under 13 years of age were reported through 1995.¹³ This compared with 1,779 cases for New York, 1,112 for Florida, 623 for New Jersey and 486 for California. Tennessee ranked twenty-first by state in total cumulative cases of pediatric AIDS. Considering only adult/adolescent AIDS cases, states with the highest accumulation through 1995 were

¹² Excludes the U.S. territories of Guam, Puerto Rico, the Pacific Islands and the Virgin Islands.

¹³ The Tennessee TDH reports 43 pediatric AIDS cases to residents from 1982 through 1995 based on year of diagnosis rather than year of report and using a less restrictive definition of residence.