

#### **2.5.4.1. AIDS Cases Among Men Who Have Sex with Men**

Table 2.5.3 shows that whites comprised 70% of AIDS cases attributed to men having sex with men diagnosed in 1982 through 1995, a share which is declining. In 1995, provisionally, whites represented 58% of cases involving MSM. Blacks comprised an increasingly larger proportion of AIDS cases involving MSM; they represented 30% of all MSM cases, but 41% in 1995. Other races represented proportions close to 1% in both cumulative and 1995 data.

The cumulative distribution of MSM cases by age at diagnosis is similar to the distribution for the most recent year (1995). The largest proportion of MSM cases fell in the five-year age-group 30-34 cumulatively, and 35-39 in 1995.

The regional distribution of MSM cases follows the regional distribution of all AIDS cases. MSM cases represented three-quarters of AIDS cases in Knox County and 67-68% in Davidson and Hamilton Counties, respectively. Of all regions, Northwest Tennessee had the lowest relative percentage of MSM AIDS cases as a percentage of all AIDS cases, at 51% (Table 2.5.4).

#### **2.5.4.2. AIDS Cases Among Injecting Drug Users**

Persons with AIDS whose risk was injecting drug users (IDUs) were much more likely to be male than female. Cumulatively, 76% of IDUs were male, close to the percentage male IDUs in 1995 (77%). They were also more likely to be black -- 60% of all cases attributed to IDUs were among blacks, compared to 37% among whites and 2.5% among other races. In 1995, blacks represented 63% of AIDS cases among IDUs, with about 36% among whites and 1.6% among other races (Table 2.5.5).

Cumulatively, more than half of IDU AIDS cases in Tennessee were between 30 and 39 years of age at the time they were diagnosed with AIDS; and nearly one-quarter were aged 40 to 49 years. The 25 to 29 year age-group represented 15% of cumulative AIDS cases among IDUs, while the 13-24 year-olds represented another 5% of IDU cases. Only 4% of cases were 50 years of age and over.

As of March 1996, the 1995 data seemed to reveal a dramatic drop in IDU exposure cases in the youngest age-groups, i.e., 13-29 (from 20% cumulatively to 14%) and a corresponding increase in cases in the 40 and over age-group from 27% to 39%. If the final data for 1995 support this trend, then this shift in the incidence of IDU AIDS from younger to older age-groups should be viewed in light of changes in HIV incidence.

Table 2.5.6 shows that regions with the highest percentage of AIDS cases attributed to IDU are, in order, Southwest Tennessee (22%), Davidson (16%), Mid Cumberland and Northwest (both with 15%). Madison County (7%) had the lowest proportion of IDU AIDS cases as a share of all AIDS cases.