

2.5.4.3. AIDS Cases Attributed to Both MSM and IDU

Table 2.5.7 shows that whites predominated among the combined exposure category of MSM and IDU at 61% of the cumulative totals and 51% of 1995 cases. Cumulatively, while this joint exposure was less common in the youngest (ages 13-24) and the oldest (ages 50-60+) age-groups (6% and 3%, respectively), it was most frequent in 30 to 34 year-olds, as was the case for both MSM only and IDU only exposures. A shift is possible toward the older ages -- 31% in the age-group 40 and over in 1995 compared to 17% in that age-group in the cumulative cases (Table 2.5.7).

Regionally, Northeast Tennessee and Upper Cumberland had the highest proportions of AIDS cases in this exposure category at 16% and 13%, respectively. The Mid Cumberland region, along with Knox and Hamilton Counties, East Tennessee and Southwest Tennessee were at the low end of the spectrum at 6% (Table 2.5.8).

2.5.4.4. AIDS Cases Attributed to Heterosexual Transmission

Of all AIDS cases attributed to heterosexual transmission, the majority (62%) were among females. Sixty-one percent were among blacks, 37% among whites, and 2% among persons of other races. More than 40% of AIDS cases with this exposure risk were between the ages of 25 and 34. Thirteen percent were under 25 and 10% were 50 and over (Table 2.5.9). Data for 1995 show a similar sex distribution of AIDS cases with this exposure risk. Slightly fewer blacks and more whites and persons of other races were included in this exposure category in 1995, as were slightly more teenagers (13-19 years of age).

The highest proportions of AIDS cases attributed to heterosexual sex transmission were in Southeast Tennessee (16%) and Shelby County (13%). The regions with the lowest proportions were Knox County and Mid Cumberland at 6% each (Table 2.5.10).

Breaking down the heterosexual sex exposure category, risks are distributed differentially by sex (Figure 2.5.4). For males, having sex with an injecting drug user and having sex with a person with unspecified HIV/AIDS risk were equally represented at 49% each in cumulative AIDS cases. Risk of AIDS from sex with hemophiliacs or transfusion recipients was rare at around 2% of overall male cases. In 1995, provisionally, 73% of heterosexually transmitted HIV in males with AIDS was attributed to sex with a female with HIV/AIDS and unspecified risk. Only 27% was attributed to sex with a female whose risk was injecting drug use.

Among females, a similar situation to that documented among males is evident. Cumulatively, 44% of AIDS cases among females were attributed to having sex with an HIV-infected partner whose risk for HIV/AIDS was unidentified, and 43% to having heterosexual sex with an HIV-infected injecting drug user. Eleven percent