

HIV/AIDS in Tennessee, 1997²³

- From 1982 through 1997, a total of 6,655 Tennesseans were reported with HIV disease that progressed to AIDS. Of these persons, 3,139 were living with AIDS. Another 4,446 Tennesseans have been reported with HIV-only (not AIDS) since HIV reporting began in 1992.
- All 95 counties have reported at least one person with HIV disease.
- Comparisons of HIV-only cases, which represent more recent infections, to AIDS cases, which represent persons infected in the past, indicate increased disease among women, blacks, and persons at risk due to heterosexual intercourse or needle sharing related to injecting drug use.
- A total of 779 Tennesseans were reported with their earliest HIV positive test date in 1997 and with no clinical indicators of AIDS at initial report. Of these, 32% were females, and 62% were black.
- Six hundred and fifteen or 79% of the above group had an identified risk of exposure as follows: 51% -- men having sex with men, 30% -- heterosexual intercourse, 15% -- needle sharing and injecting drug use, 3% -- men having sex with men and injecting drug use combined, and 1% -- receiving blood products.
- Approximately 1 in 4 Tennesseans reported with HIV infection was between the ages of 13 and 25 at the time of their HIV test. Persons testing HIV positive in their early 20's were possibly infected as teens.
- A decline has been observed in the number of new cases of infants developing HIV/AIDS due to perinatal exposure (i.e., being born to an HIV infected mother).
- From 1993 through 1997, 335 HIV-infected women gave birth to 387 HIV sero-exposed infants. Fifty-two or 13.4% of these sero-exposed infants would be expected to develop HIV infection based on previous studies. So far only 27, or 7%, of these infants have been reported with HIV infection and/or an AIDS diagnosis. Because it can take up to 18 months to confirm HIV infection in a perinatal exposed infant, additional infants born during this period may be reported in the future. Numbers of infected infants by year of birth and reported through April 1998 are as follows: 1993=14, 1994=7, 1995=4, 1996=2, and 1997=0. Numbers of infected infants by year of report, regardless of when born, and reported through April 1998 are as follows: 1993=19, 1994=13, 1995=17, 1996=2, and 1997=3. These declines

²³This section was summarized from a report authored by Herb Stone. For more information, please contact: Herb Stone, STD/HIV Program, Surveillance Section, Tennessee Department of Health, 615-532-8495.