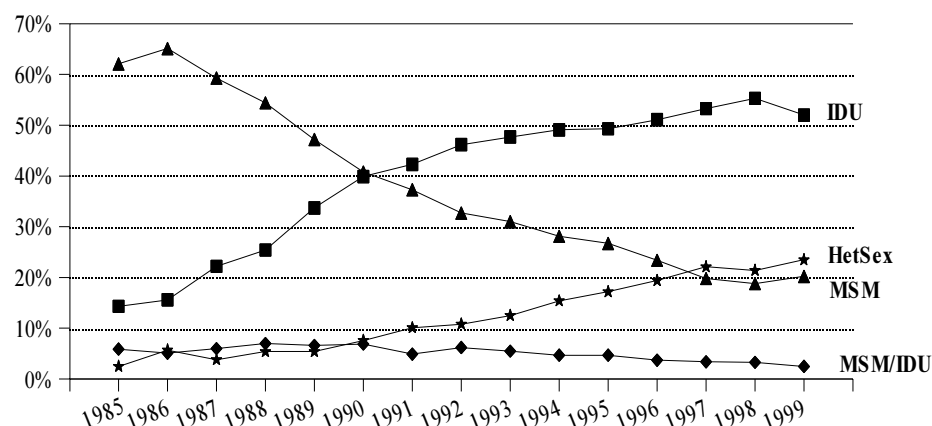


Injection Drug Use Is the Primary Cause of Maryland AIDS Cases

Since 1991, injection drug use (IDU) has been the most prevalent cause of AIDS cases in Maryland, according to data from the Maryland AIDS Administration. In 1999, the majority (52%) of Maryland AIDS cases in which an exposure category was identified were associated with IDU, while approximately one-fourth (24%) of the cases were related to heterosexual contact. More than half (52%) of the 1999 Maryland AIDS cases were from Baltimore City, which has a high rate of heroin use (see *DEWS FAX*, Vol. 1, Issue 3 and Vol. 2, Issue 1). Nationally, only one-fourth of all AIDS cases in 1999 were related to IDU.

Annual Adult/Adolescent Maryland AIDS Cases by Exposure Category, 1985-1999

(cases in which an exposure category was identified, as reported through 3/31/00)



NOTES: IDU=Injection drug use; MSM=Men who have sex with men; MSM/IDU=Men who have sex with men and are injection drug users; HetSex=Heterosexual contact with a partner who has or is at risk for HIV.

Other exposure categories not shown above that account for small percentages of AIDS cases in Maryland include hemophilia/coagulation disorder, blood transfusion recipients, pediatric transmissions, and occupational exposures. In 1999, the exposure category was identified in 83% of all AIDS cases.

The number of cases in which an exposure category was identified was: 1985 (n=203); 1986 (315); 1987 (496); 1988 (689); 1989 (905); 1990 (1166); 1991 (1456); 1992 (1947); 1993 (2267); 1994 (2201); 1995 (2127); 1996 (1847); 1997 (1455); 1998 (1233); 1999 (827).

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from the AIDS Administration, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. For more information, contact Erin Artigiani of CESAR at 301-403-8329.