

Headline	1,172 new HIV cases recorded in March – DOH	
MediaTitle	Manila Bulletin(www.mb.com.ph)	
Date	18 May 2019	
Section	NEWS	
Order Rank	1	
Language	English	
Journalist	N/A	
Frequency	Daily	

1,172 new HIV cases recorded in March – DOH

By Analou De Vera

More than 1,100 new cases of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) were recorded in March alone, the Department of Health (DOH) said.

“In March 2019, there were 1,172 newly confirmed HIV-positive individuals reported in the HIV/AIDS Registry of the Philippines. Eighteen percent (215 cases) had clinical manifestations of advanced HIV infection,” the DOH-Epidemiology Bureau stated in its latest report.

During the same period last year, only 739 cases were recorded.

Meanwhile, the DOH also reported 11 deaths from HIV/AIDS for the month of March.

The report noted that sexual contact has remained as the predominant mode of transmission with 1,148 cases or 98 percent.

Other modes of transmission were sharing of infected needles with 11 cases; and mother-to-child transmission with four cases.

Meanwhile, there were nine cases that had no data on the mode of transmission.

The health department cited a global report by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in 2017, stating that the Philippines had “the fastest growing HIV epidemic in the Asia and the Pacific region with the highest percent increase (133 percent) of new HIV infections between 2010 and 2016.”

“By the end of 2019, an estimated 93,400 Filipinos are living with HIV,” the DOH noted.

The health department urged individuals who tested positive for HIV to avail the free treatment, care, and support services offered in DOH-designated HIV treatment facilities.

“Accessing medications and treatment is a basic human right of every people living with HIV, said Health Secretary Francisco Duque III.