

Number of Newly Diagnosed with HIV per day:

2008

1

2010

4

2012

9

2014

17

2015

21

## NEWLY DIAGNOSED HIV CASES IN THE PHILIPPINES

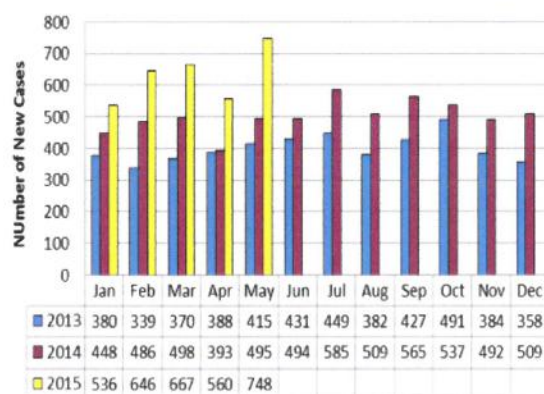
Table 1. Quick Facts

Demographic Data	May 2015	Jan-May 2015	Jan 2010 - May 2015	Cumulative Jan 1984 - May 2015
Total Reported Cases	748	3,157	21,260	25,684
Asymptomatic Cases	707	2,952	19,849	23,430
AIDS Cases	41	205	1,411	2,254
Male	717	3,025	20,212	23,443 <sup>a</sup>
Female	31	132	1,048	2,230 <sup>a</sup>
Age Range (Median)	16-69 (28)	1-73 (28)	1-82 (28)	1-82 (28)
Less than 15 y/o	0	7	25	77 <sup>b</sup>
15-24 y/o	207	857	6,011	6,736 <sup>b</sup>
25-34 y/o	409	1,690	11,167	13,025 <sup>b</sup>
35-49 y/o	121	529	3,528	4,966 <sup>b</sup>
50 y/o & above	11	74	529	806 <sup>b</sup>
Newly Started on ART	415			
Total PLHIV on ART				10,207
Reported Deaths	29	96	776	1,214

<sup>a</sup>No data available on sex for (11) cases

<sup>b</sup>No data available on age for (74) cases

Figure 1. Number of New HIV Cases by Month (2013-2015)



In May 2015, there were 748 new HIV Ab sero-positive individuals (Table 1). This was 51% higher compared to the same period last year (495) [Figure 1] and was the highest number of cases reported since 1984. Most (95%) of the cases were still asymptomatic at the time of reporting (Figure 3).

Ninety-six percent were male. The median age was 28 years old (age range: 16 years-69 years). More than half (55%) belong to the 25-34 year age group while 28% were youth aged 15-24 years old.

The regions with the highest number of reported cases for May 2015 were: NCR with 273 (37%) cases, Region 4A with 142 (19%) cases, Region 7 with 57 (8%) cases, Region 3 with 50 (7%) cases and Region 11 with 47 (6%) cases. One hundred seventy-nine (23%) cases came from the rest of the country (Figure 2).

Reported modes of transmission (MOT) were sexual contact (728) and needle sharing among injecting drug users (IDU) [20]. Eighty-six percent of the sexually transmitted cases were among males who have sex with males (MSM).

Figure 2. Percentage of Newly Diagnosed Cases per Region (May 2015)

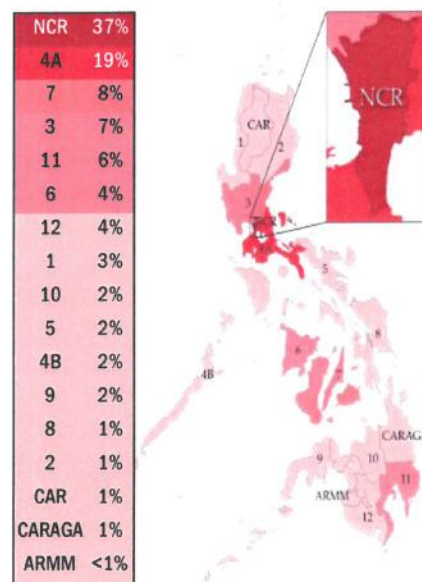
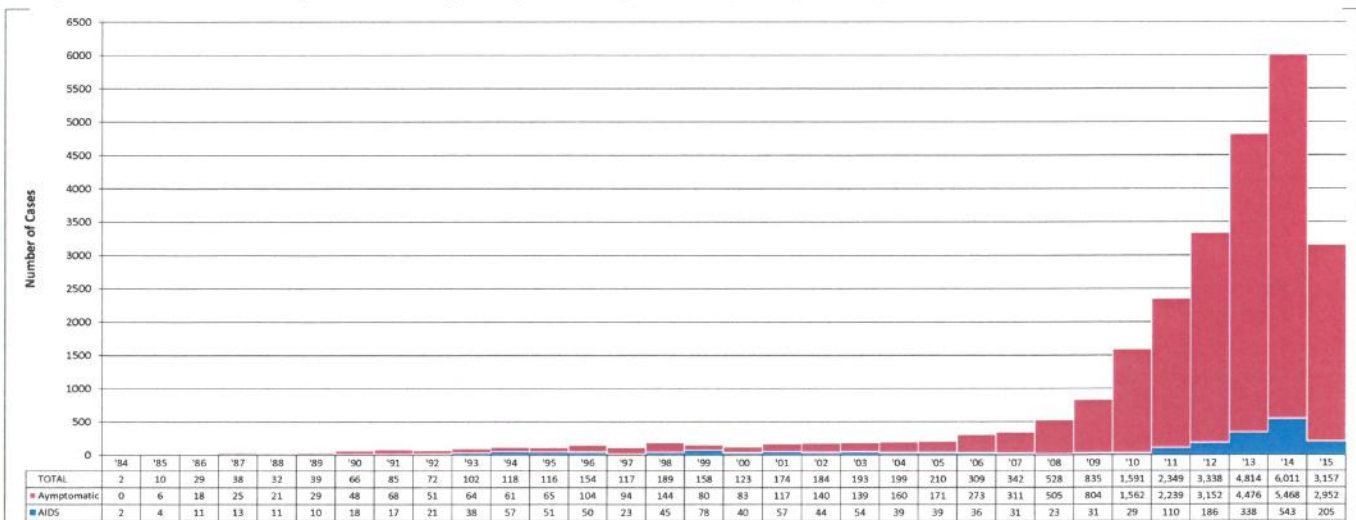


Figure 3. Number of HIV Cases Reported in the Philippines by Year, January 1984 to May 2015 (N=25,684)





## PLHIV on Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART)

As of May 2015, there were 10,207 People Living with HIV (PLHIV) presently on ART. This is the total number of adult and pediatric patients currently enrolled and accessing antiretroviral drugs (ARV) in the 22 treatment hubs. It does not include patients who were previously taking ARV but have already died, have left the country, or opted not to take ARV anymore.

### List of Treatment Hubs in the Philippines

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center    | 13. Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital |
| 2. Cagayan Valley Medical Center                  | 14. Western Visayas Medical Center                        |
| 3. Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center     | 15. Gov. Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital             |
| 4. Jose B. Lingad Medical Center                  | 16. Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center                 |
| 5. James L. Gordon Memorial Hospital              | 17. Zamboanga City Medical Center                         |
| 6. Makati Medical Center                          | 18. Southern Philippines Medical Center                   |
| 7. Philippine General Hospital                    | 19. Northern Mindanao Medical Center                      |
| 8. Research Institute for Tropical Medicine       | 20. Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center               |
| 9. San Lazaro Hospital                            | 21. Butuan Medical Center                                 |
| 10. The Medical City                              | 22. CARAGA Regional Hospital                              |
| 11. Marikina City Satellite Treatment Hub         |   |
| 12. Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital |   |

## HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC TRENDS IN THE PHILIPPINES (Jan 1984–May 2015)

The first case of HIV infection in the Philippines was reported in 1984. From January 1984 to May 2015, there has been 25,684 HIV Ab sero-positive cases reported to the HARP (Table 1). Ninety-one percent (23,430) of the total reported cases were asymptomatic at the time of reporting. Most (23,443 or 91%) were male\*. The median age\* was 28 years old (age range: 1 year-82 years). More than half (13,025 or 51%) were from the 25-34 year age group while 6,736 (26%) were youth aged 15-24 years old (Figure 4).

Eighty-three percent (21,260) of all the 25,684 diagnosed cases in the Philippines were reported in the past five years, from January 2010 to May 2015 (Table 1). Most (93%) of these cases were still asymptomatic at the time of reporting.

\*Note: From 1984–May 2015, 74 did not report AGE, 11 did not report SEX while 10 did not report both AGE and SEX

In the early years of the epidemic (1984-1990), 62% (133 of 216 cases) were female. Beginning in 1991, more males were reported to be infected with HIV in the Philippines (Figure 5). From 2010 to 2015, males comprised 95% (20,212) of the reported 21,260 cases.

The age group with the biggest proportion of cases has become younger: from 2000 to 2004, it was 30-39 years; from 2005 to 2009, it was 25-34 years; and from 2010 to 2015, it was 20-29 years (Figure 4). Notably, the proportion of PLHIV in the 15-24 year age group increased from 12% in 2005-2009 to 28% in 2010-2015.

Figure 4. Distribution of PLHIV by Age Group, Jan 1984-May 2015

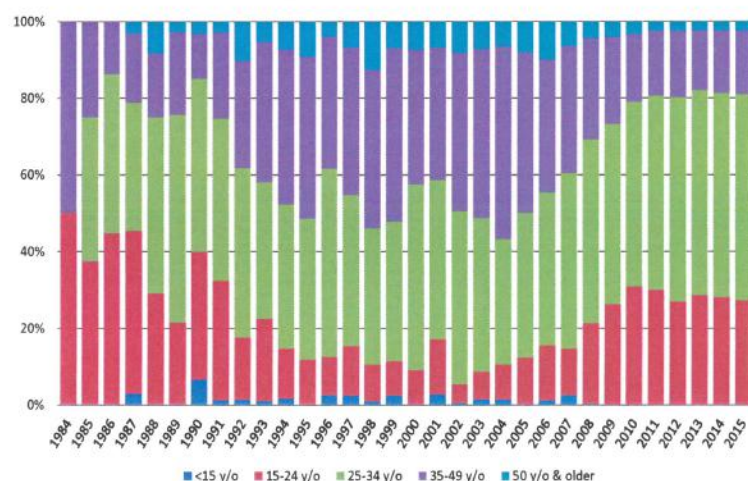
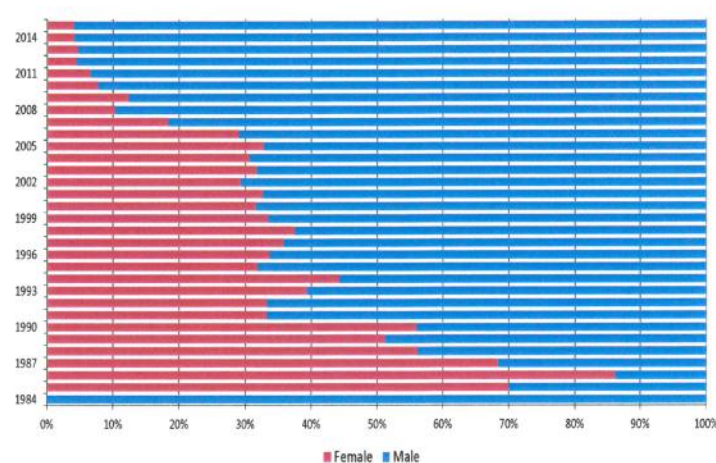


Figure 5. Distribution of PLHIV by Sex, Jan 1984-May 2015



## Geographical Distribution

From January 1984 to May 2015, the regions with the most number of reported cases were NCR with 11,354 (44%) cases, Region 4A with 3,372 (13%) cases, Region 7 with 2,317 (9%) cases, Region 3 with 2,075 (8%) cases, and Region 11 with 1,507 (6%) cases. Fifteen percent (3,912) of the cases came from the rest of the country (ROTC) while 1,147 (4%) had no data on region (Table 2).

Of the 2,230 females reported with HIV, 532 (24%) were from NCR, 399 (18%) were from Region 3, 237 (11%) were from Region 7, 192 (9%) were from Region 4A and 870 (39%) were from other regions.

The regions with the most number of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) reported to the HARP were NCR with 1,298 cases, Region 4A with 586 cases, Region 3 with 358 cases, and Region 6 with 185 cases.

Table 2. Percentage of HIV Cases per Region

Region	May 2015 (N=748) <sup>a</sup>	Jan-May 2015 (N=3,157) <sup>b</sup>	Jan 2010 - May 2015 (N=21,260) <sup>c</sup>	Cumulative Jan 1984– May 2015 (N=25,684) <sup>d</sup>
NCR	273 (37%)	1,262 (40%)	9,678 (46%)	11,354 (44%)
4A	142 (19%)	510 (16%)	2,916 (14%)	3,372 (13%)
7	57 (8%)	289 (9%)	2,137 (10%)	2,317 (9%)
3	50 (7%)	256 (8%)	1,613 (8%)	2,075 (8%)
11	47 (6%)	178 (6%)	1,390 (7%)	1,507 (6%)
ROTC	178 (23%)	659 (21%)	3,358 (16%)	3,912 (15%)

<sup>a</sup>In May 2015, no particular region was reported for 1 case

<sup>b</sup>From January-May 2015, no particular region were reported for 3 cases

<sup>c</sup>From January 2010-May 2015, no particular region were reported for 168 cases

<sup>d</sup>From January 1984-May 2015, no particular region were reported for 1,147 cases



Table 3. Reported Modes of HIV Transmission

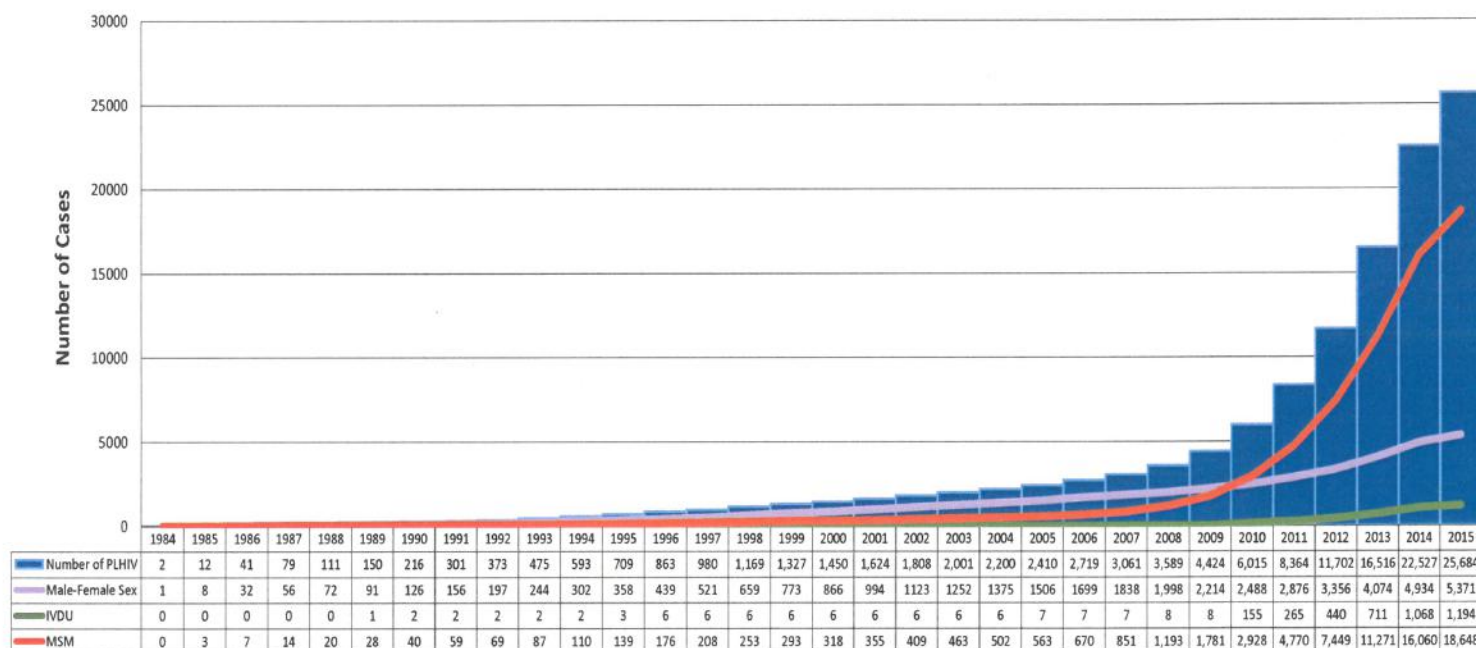
Mode of Transmission	May 2015 (N=748)		Jan-May 2015 (N=3,157)		Jan 2010-May 2015 (N=21,260)		Cumulative Jan1984–May 2015 (N=25,684)*	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
<b>Sexual Contact</b>	697	31	2,902	123	19,068	956	21,993	2,026
Heterosexual	72	31	314	123	2,201	956	3,345	2,026
Homosexual	364	0	1,581	0	10,215	0	11,387	0
Bisexual	261	0	1,007	0	6,652	0	7,261	0
<b>Blood/Blood Products</b>	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	15
<b>Sharing of Needles</b>	20	0	120	6	1,110	76	1,116	78
<b>Needle Prick Injury</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
<b>Mother-to-Child</b>	0	0	3	3	13	11	40	33
<b>No Data Available</b>	0	0	0	0	21	4	287	77

Note: From January 1984–May 2015, 11 did not report sex

From January 2010 to May 2015, 84% (16,868) of infections through sexual contact were among MSM. From 2005 to 2009, MSM comprised 60% (1,279) of sexual transmissions. Fifty-four percent (9,170) of the MSM cases from 2010 to 2015 were among the 25-34 years age group while 5,070 (30%) were among youth aged 15-24 years old. Meanwhile, cases among IDU also increased from <1% in 2005 to 2009 to 6% within the past five years.

Different modes of transmission are predominant in different regions. More than half (51%) of the MSM ever reported were from NCR; while 99% of the IDUs were from Region 7; and 49% of females who engaged in transactional sex were from Region 3.

Figure 6. Cumulative Number of HIV Transmission by Year, January 1984-May 2015 (N=25,684)



## REPORT ON SPECIAL POPULATIONS

### Youth (15-24 years old)

In May 2015, 207 (28%) cases were among youth aged 15-24 years. Most (96%) were male. Ninety-nine percent (206) were infected through sexual contact (21 heterosexual, 103 homosexual, 82 bisexual) and 1 (<1%) through needle sharing among IDUs.

From January 1984–May 2015, 6,736 (26%) of the reported cases were 15-24 years old. Eighty-nine percent (6,011) of all the youth were reported in the last five years (2010-2015). A steep increase in cases among youth was seen in 2008, wherein the total number of cases (111) is 171% higher than that in 2007 (41). From 1984 to 2002, more than half of the cases among the youth were females (179 or 71%). However, in 2003, there was an equal number of males and females reported. Since then, the trend reversed to male predominance. Ninety-four percent (6,318) were infected through sexual contact (865 heterosexual, 3,395 homosexual, 2,058 bisexual); and 358 were infected through sharing of infected needles among IDUs.

Note: From January 1984–May 2015, 60 did not report mode of transmission

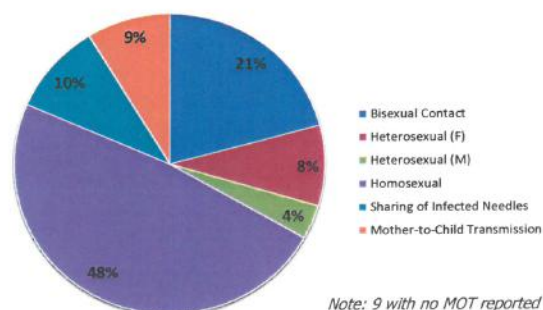


**REPORT ON SPECIAL POPULATIONS (continuation)****Children (<10 years old) and Adolescents (10-19 years old)**

In May 2015, 26 adolescents aged 16-19 years old were reported to HARP; among these adolescents, 25 were male. All adolescents were infected through sexual contact (2 heterosexual, 13 homosexual, 11 bisexual).

From January 1984 to May 2015, 851 (3%) of the reported cases were 19 years old and below. Of these, 74 (9%) were children. Eighty-four percent of these children and adolescents were reported in the past five years (2010 to 2015). Seventy-one children were infected through mother-to-child transmission, 1 through blood transfusion and 2 did not specify MOT. Among the adolescents, 695 (89%) were male and majority (88%) were infected through sexual contact (104 heterosexual, 406 homosexual, 176 bisexual); 82 (11%) were through sharing of needles and 2 through mother-to-child transmission (Figure 7).

Figure 7. Modes of Transmission Among Children and Adolescents, Jan 1984–May 2015 (N=851)

**Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW)**

Fifty-six OFWs were reported to the HARP in May 2015, comprising 7% of the total newly diagnosed cases for the month (Figure 8). Majority (89%) were male. All were infected through sexual contact (14 heterosexual, 21 homosexual, 21 bisexual) (Figure 9). The ages of male OFWs ranged from 20 years-51 years (median: 30 years) and more than half (66%) belonged to the 25-34 year age group. Among female OFWs, ages ranged from 26 years-43 years (median: 33 years).

From January 1984 to May 2015, out of the 25,684 cases, 3,565 (14%) were HIV positive OFWs. Of these, 2,942 (83%) were male. More than half (52%) were MSM (1,048 homosexual contact and 793 bisexual contact). The ages of male OFWs ranged from 18 years-80 years (median: 33 years). Among female OFWs, ages ranged from 14 years-73 years (median: 34 years old).

Figure 8. Number of Reported OFW diagnosed with HIV, Jan 1984–May 2015 (N=3,565)

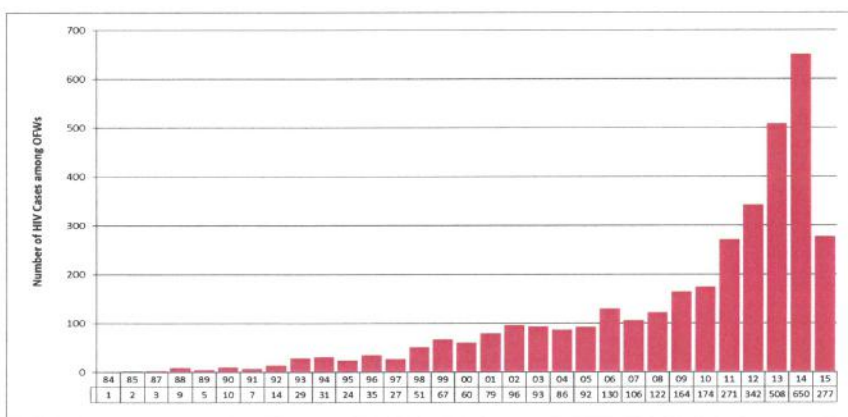
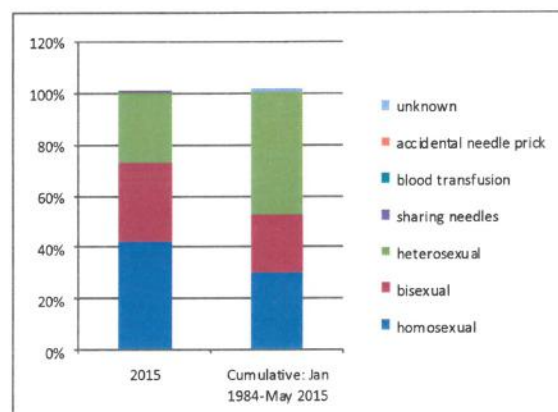


Figure 9. Modes of Transmission among OFW, Jan 1984–May 2015

**People who Engage in Transactional Sex**

People who engage in transactional sex are those who report that they regularly accept payment for sex, pay for sex, or do both.

In May 2015, 11% (82) of the reported cases engaged in transactional sex. All were male (Table 4) whose ages ranged from 18 years-56 years (median: 29 years). Fifty-five percent of males who engaged in transactional sex were the ones who paid for sex.

A total of 2,022 cases reported in HARP from October 2012 to May 2015 were people who engaged in transactional sex. Ninety-five percent were male. Of the 2,022 cases, 1,106 (55%) paid for sex, 597 (30%) accepted payment for sex, and 319 (16%) engaged in both.

Table 4. HIV Cases Among People who Engage in Transactional Sex

Type of Transactional Sex	May 2015 (N=82)	Jan-May 2015 (N=412)	Cumulative : Oct 2012–May 2015 (N=2,022)
Accepted payment for sex only:	23 (28%)	125 (30%)	597 (30%)
Male	23	111	543
Female	0	14	54
Age Range (Median) in Years	18-38 (28)	17-56 (27)	15-67 (25)
Paid for sex only:	45 (55%)	216 (52%)	1,106 (55%)
Male	45	215	1,097
Female	0	1	9
Age Range (Median) in Years	18-56 (31)	18-73 (32)	17-79 (31)
Engaged in both:	14 (17%)	71 (17%)	319 (16%)
Male	14	68	288
Female	0	3	31
Age Range (Median) in Years	20-45 (28)	19-59 (29)	18-59 (28)

\*Inclusion of transactional sex in the HARP database was initiated in October 2012



## DEATHS AMONG PEOPLE WITH HIV

The Department of Health (DOH) established a separate reporting mechanism for deaths in 2012. Prior to this, deaths were infrequently reported to the HIV/AIDS Registry. It is likely that the number reflected here is an underestimate of the total number of deaths among people with HIV in the Philippines.

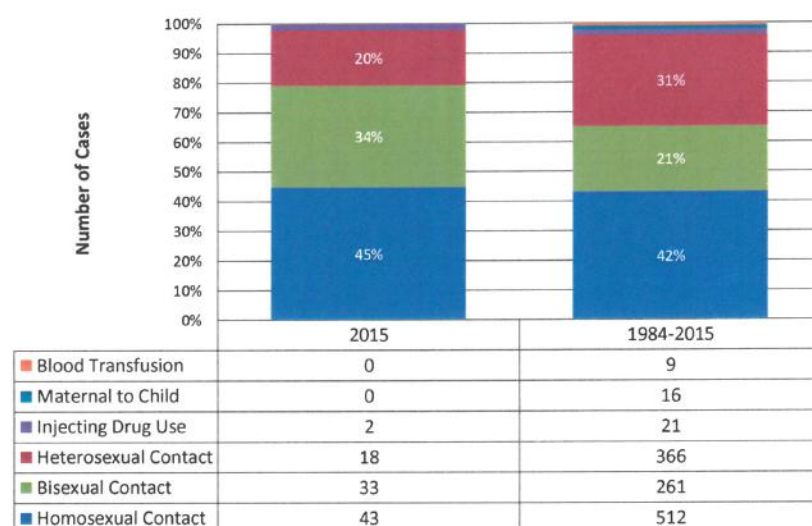
For the month of May 2015, there were 29 reported deaths. Of the 29 reported deaths, 28 (97%) were male. (Table 5). The highest number of deaths occurred in the 25-34 years (66%) age group. This was followed by the 35-49 years (21%) and the 15-24 years (10%) age groups. Almost all (97%) were infected through sexual contact (10 bisexual, 14 homosexual, 4 heterosexual) [Figure 10].

From January 1984 to May 2015, there were a total of 1,214 reported deaths. One thousand fourteen (84%) were male (Table 5). In total, there has been 15 (1%) reported deaths among children less than 10 years old, 13 (1%) reported deaths in adolescents (10-19 years old) and 149 (12%) reported deaths among youth (15-24 years old). The highest number of deaths occurred in the 25-34 years (45%) and was followed by the 35-49 years (30%) age group. Sexual contact (94%) was the most common mode of HIV transmission (366 heterosexual, 512 homosexual, 261 bisexual). There were 21 reported deaths among IDU (Figure 10).

Table 5. Demographic data of reported deaths among PHIV

Demographic Data	May 2015	Jan-May 2015	Cumulative* Jan 1984- May 2015
Total Reported Deaths	29	96	1,214
Male	28	87	1,014
Female	1	9	200
Children <10yo	0	0	15
Adolescents 10-19yo	0	0	13
Youth 15-24yo	3	11	149

Figure 10. Modes of transmission of reported deaths among PHIV\*\*



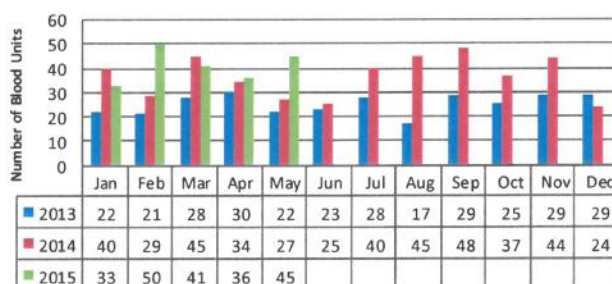
\*\*Note: No mode of transmission reported for 29 cases.

## BLOOD UNITS CONFIRMED FOR HIV

In May 2015, 45 blood units were confirmed positive for HIV by RITM. There is no available data yet on the total number of blood units donated.

These were confirmed positive blood units, not blood donors. One donor can donate more than one blood unit. HIV positive blood donors are not in the HIV & AIDS Registry unless they underwent voluntary counseling and testing.

Figure 11. Number of Confirmed HIV Positive Blood Units by Month (2013-2015)



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### HIV/AIDS & ART Registry of the Philippines (HARP)

The Philippine HIV/AIDS & ART Registry of the Philippines (HARP) is the official record of the total number of laboratory-confirmed HIV positive individuals, AIDS cases and deaths, and HIV positive blood units in the Philippines. All individuals in the registry are confirmed by the STD/AIDS Cooperative Central Laboratory (SACCL) at San Lazaro Hospital. While all blood units are confirmed by the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM). Both are National Reference Laboratories (NRL) of the Department of Health (DOH).

Mandatory HIV testing is unlawful in the Philippines (RA 8504). The process of reporting to the HARP is as follows: All blood samples from accredited HIV testing facilities that are screened HIV reactive are sent to SACCL (individuals) or RITM (blood units) for confirmation. Confirmed HIV positive individuals and blood units are reported to the DOH-Epidemiology Bureau (EB), and are recorded in the HARP.

The HARP is a passive surveillance system. Except for HIV confirmation by the NRL, all other data submitted to the HARP are secondary and cannot be verified. An example would be an individual's reported place of residence. The HARP is unable to determine if this reported address is where the person got infected, or where the person lived after being infected, or where the person is presently living, or whether the address is valid. This limitation has major implications to data interpretation. Thus, readers are cautioned to carefully weigh the data and consider other sources of information prior to arriving at conclusions.