

**NEWLY DIAGNOSED HIV CASES IN THE PHILIPPINES**

Table 1. Quick Facts

Demographic Data	December 2015	Jan-Dec 2015	Jan 2010 - Dec 2015	Cumulative Jan 1984 - Dec 2015
Total Reported Cases	650	7,829	25,932	30,356
Asymptomatic Cases	623	7,326	24,223	27,804
AIDS Cases	27	503	1,709	2,552
Male	629	7,507	24,694	27,925
Female	21	322	1,238	2,420 <sup>a</sup>
Age Range (Median)	2-78(27)	1-78(28)	1-82(28)	1-82(28)
Less than 15 y/o	1	20	38	90 <sup>b</sup>
15-24 y/o	183	2,215	7,369	8,094 <sup>b</sup>
25-34 y/o	356	4,130	13,607	15,465 <sup>b</sup>
35-49 y/o	98	1,291	4,290	5,728 <sup>b</sup>
50 y/o & above	12	173	628	905 <sup>b</sup>
Newly Started on ART	290			
Total PLHIV on ART				12,533
Reported Deaths	46	461		1,530

<sup>a</sup>No data available on sex for (11) cases  
<sup>b</sup>No data available on age for (74) cases

In December 2015, there were 650 new HIV Ab sero-positive individuals (Table 1). This was 28% higher compared to the same period last year (509) [Figure 1]. Most (96%) of the cases were still asymptomatic at the time of reporting (Figure 3).

Ninety-seven percent were male. The median age was 27 years old (age range: 2 years-78 years). More than half belong to the 25-34 year age group while 28% were youth aged 15-24 years.

Figure 2. Percentage of Newly Diagnosed and Cumulative Cases per Region (December 2015)

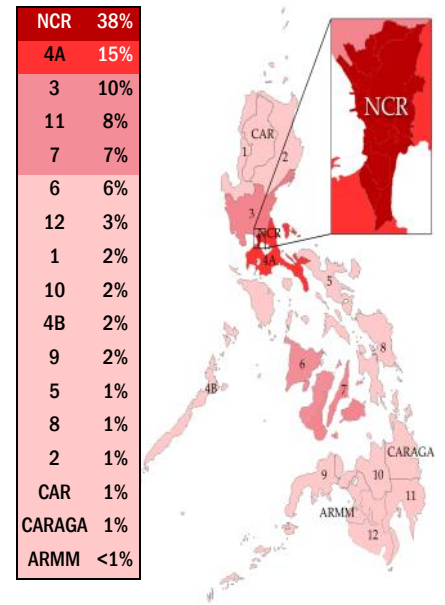
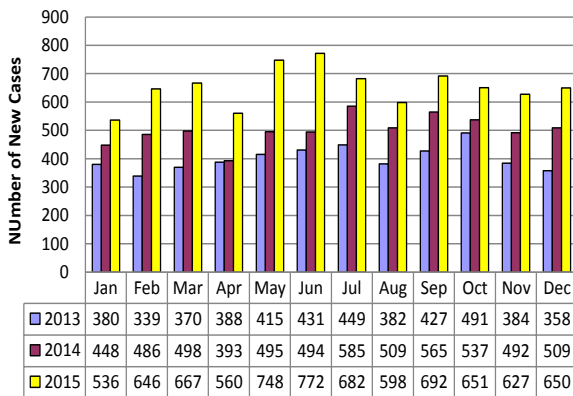


Figure 1. Number of New HIV Cases by Month (2013-2015)

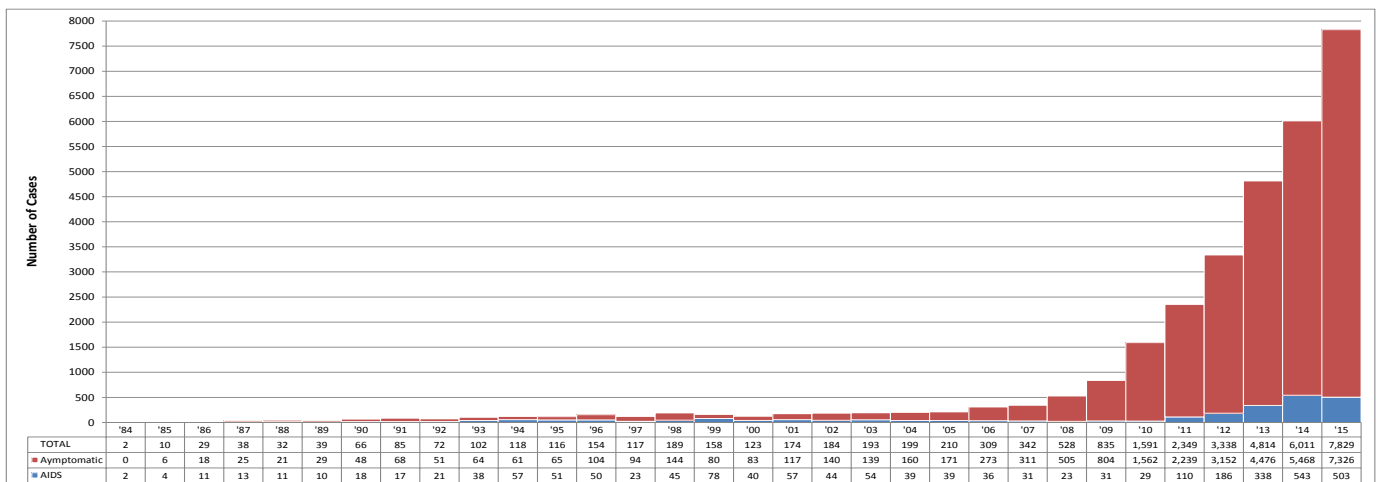


The regions with the highest number of reported cases for December 2015 were: National Capital Region (NCR) with 250 (38%) cases, Region 4A with 98 (15%) cases, Region 3 with 62 (10%) cases, Region 11 with 54 (8%) cases, and Region 7 with 48 (7%) cases. One hundred thirty-eight (21%) cases came from the rest of the country (Figure 2).

Reported modes of transmission (MOT) were sexual contact (632), mother-to-child transmission (1), and needle sharing among injecting drug users (IDU) [17]. Eighty-eight percent of the sexually transmitted cases were among males who have sex with males (MSM<sup>a</sup>).

<sup>a</sup>male-male sex and sex with both males & females

Figure 3. Number of HIV Cases Reported in the Philippines by Year, January 1984 to December 2015 (N=30,356)



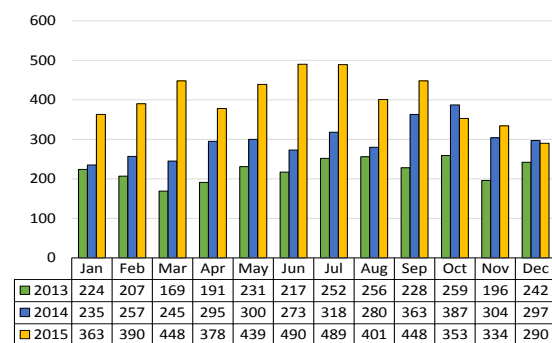
**PLHIV on Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART)**

In December 2015, there were 290 People Living with HIV (PLHIV) who were newly-initiated on ART. This was 2% lower than the same period last year (n=297). The median CD4 of these patients upon enrollment was 113 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>.

A total of 12,533\* PLHIV were presently on ART as of December 2015. Most (96%) were males. The median age of patients was 31 years (range: 4 months-86 years). Ninety-six percent were on first line regimen, 3% were on second line regimen, and <1% were on other regimen.

*\*Note: This is the total number of adult and pediatric patients currently enrolled and accessing antiretroviral drugs (ARV) in the 40 treatment hubs and satellites. It does not include patients who were previously taking ARV but have already died, have left the country, have been lost to follow up, or opted not to take ARV anymore.*

**Figure 4. Number of Newly-Initiated on ART by Month (2013-2015)**



**HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC TRENDS IN THE PHILIPPINES (January 1984–December 2015)**

The first case of HIV infection in the Philippines was reported in 1984. From January 1984 to December 2015, there has been 30,356 HIV Ab sero-positive cases reported to the HARP (Table 1). Ninety-two percent (27,804) of the total reported cases were asymptomatic at the time of reporting. Most (27,925 or 92%) were male\*. The median age\* was 28 years old (age range: 1 year-82 years). More than half (15,465 or 51%) were from the 25-34 year age group while 8,094 (27%) were youth aged 15-24 years (Figure 4).

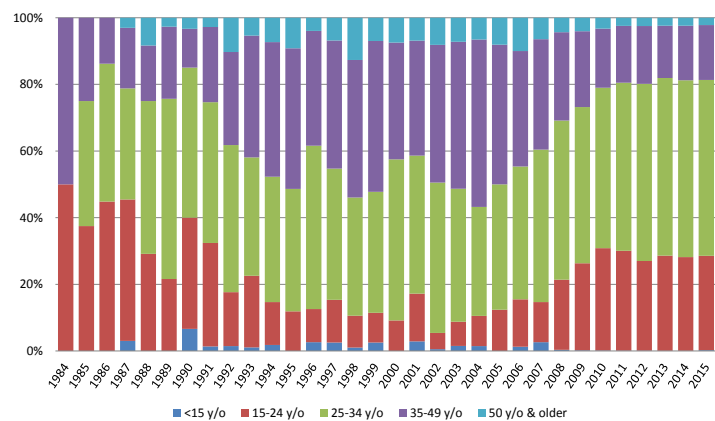
In the early years of the epidemic (1984-1990), 62% (133 of 216 cases) were female. Beginning in 1991, more males were reported to be infected with HIV in the Philippines (Figure 5). From 2010 to 2015, males comprised 95% (24,694) of the reported 25,932 cases.

Eighty-five percent (25,932) of all the 30,356 diagnosed cases in the Philippines were reported in the past five years, from January 2010 to December 2015 (Table 1). Most (93%) of these cases were still asymptomatic at the time of reporting.

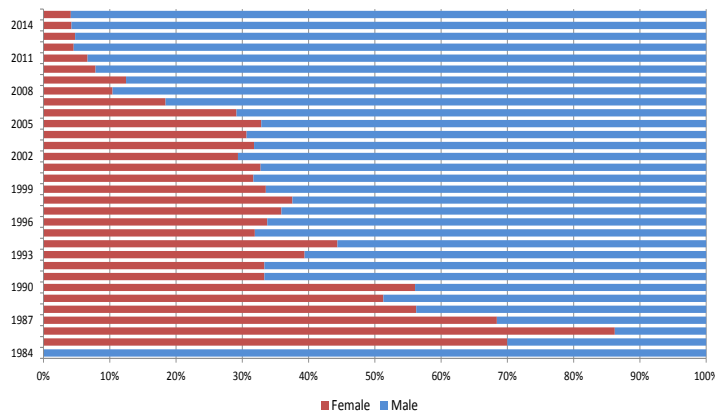
The age group with the biggest proportion of cases has become younger: from 2000 to 2004, it was 30-39 years; from 2005 to 2009, it was 25-34 years; and from 2010 to 2015, it was 20-29 years (Figure 4). Notably, the proportion of People Living with HIV (PLHIV) in the 15-24 year age group increased from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

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

**Figure 5. Distribution of PLHIV by Age Group, January 1984-December 2015**



**Figure 6. Distribution of PLHIV by Sex, January 1984-December 2015**



**Geographical Distribution**

From January 1984 to December 2015, the regions with the most number of reported cases were NCR with 13,153 (43%) cases, Region 4A with 4,129 (14%) cases, Region 7 with 2,704 (9%) cases, Region 3 with 2,500 (8%) cases, and Region 11 with 1,777 (6%) cases. Sixteen percent (4,947) of the cases came from the rest of the country (ROTC) while 1,146 (4%) had no data on region (Table 2).

**Table 2. Percentage of HIV Cases per Region**

Region	December 2015 (N=650)	Jan-Dec 2015 (N=7,829) <sup>a</sup>	Jan 2010 - Dec 2015 (N=25,932) <sup>b</sup>	Cumulative Jan 1984–Dec 2015 (N=30,356) <sup>c</sup>
NCR	250 (38%)	3,061 (39%)	11,477 (44%)	13,153 (43%)
4A	98 (15%)	1,267 (16%)	3,673 (14%)	4,129 (14%)
7	48 (7%)	676 (9%)	2,524 (10%)	2,704 (9%)
3	62 (10%)	681 (9%)	2,038 (8%)	2,500 (8%)
11	54 (8%)	448 (6%)	1,660 (6%)	1,777 (6%)
ROTC	138 (21%)	1,694 (22%)	4,393 (17%)	4,947 (16%)

Of the 2,420 females reported with HIV, 594 (25%) were from NCR, 428 (18%) were from Region 3, 259 (11%) were from Region 7, 212 (9%) were from Region 4A and 927 (38%) were from other regions.

<sup>a</sup>From January-December 2015, no particular region were reported for 2 cases  
<sup>b</sup>From January 2010-December 2015, no particular region were reported for 167 cases  
<sup>c</sup>From January 1984-December 2015, no particular region were reported for 1,146 cases

The regions with the most number of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) reported to the HARP were NCR with 1,438 cases, Region 4A with 658 cases, Region 3 with 410 cases, and Region 6 with 209 cases.

Table 3. Reported Modes of HIV Transmission

Mode of Transmission	December 2015 (N=650)		Jan-Dec 2015 (N=7,829)		Jan 2010-Dec 2015 (N=25,932)		Cumulative Jan1984-Dec 2015 (N=30,356) <sup>a</sup>	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
<b>Sexual Contact</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>7,239</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>23,405</b>	<b>1,134</b>	<b>26,330</b>	<b>2,204</b>
Male-Female Sex <sup>b</sup>	57	20	774	301	2,661	1,134	3,805	2,204
Male-Male Sex <sup>c</sup>	349	0	3,893	0	12,527	0	13,699	0
Sex with Males & Females <sup>d</sup>	206	0	2,572	0	8,217	0	8,826	0
<b>Blood/Blood Products</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Sharing of Needles</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1,249</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>1,255</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Needle Prick Injury</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Mother-to-Child</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>No Data Available</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>77</b>

<sup>a</sup>From January 1984–December 2015, 11 did not report sex  
<sup>b</sup>Same as heterosexual in previous reports  
<sup>c</sup>Same as homosexual in previous reports  
<sup>d</sup>Same as bisexual in previous reports

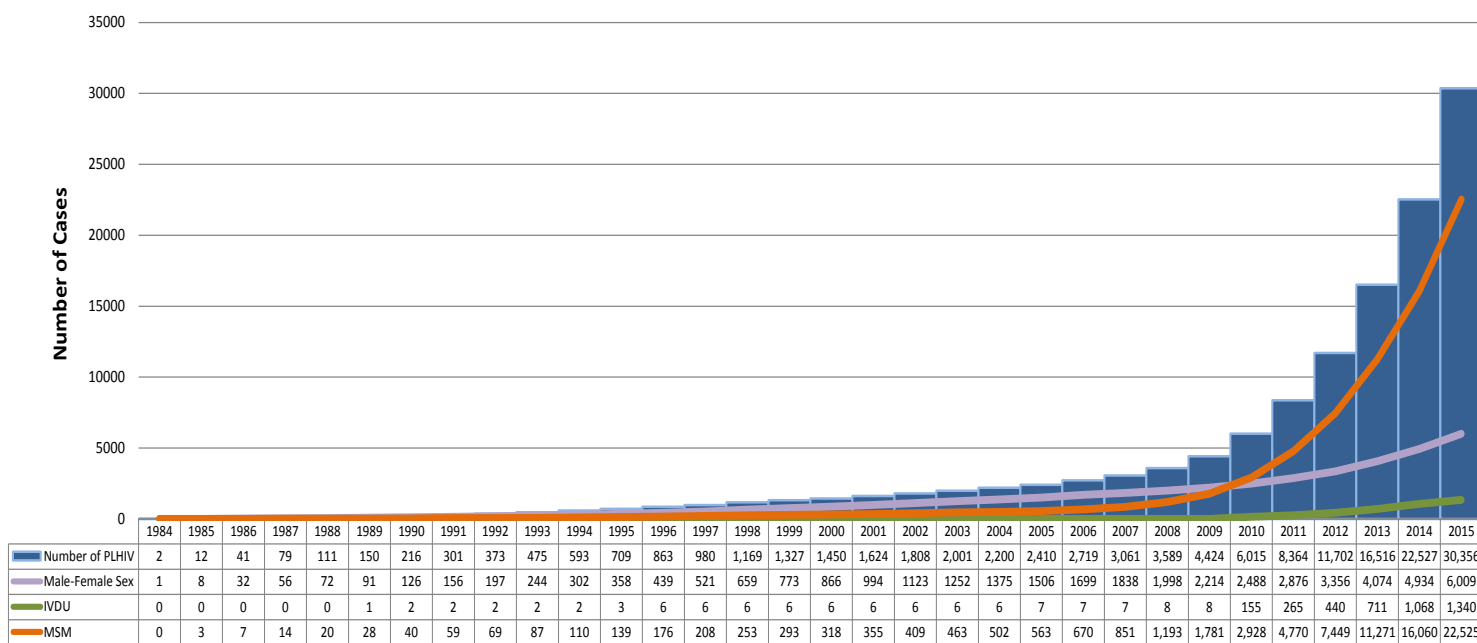
**Modes of Transmission (MOT)**

From January 1984 to December 2015, MSM was the predominant (22,525 or 81%) mode of transmission among males, followed by male-female sex (3,805 or 14%), and sharing of needles (1,255 or 4%) [Table 3]. More than half (12,077 or 54%) of cases among MSM belong to the 25-34 year age group while 6,643 (29%) were youth 15-24 years old. Among females, male-female sex was the most common MOT (2,204 or 91%) followed by sharing of needles (85 or 4%). A total of 78 children (less than 10 years old) and 6 adolescents were reported to have acquired HIV through mother-to-child transmission, while 20 people were infected through blood transfusion (Table 3).

From January 2010 to December 2015, 85% (20,744) of infections through sexual contact were among MSM. From 2005 to 2009, MSM comprised 58% (1,279) of sexual transmissions. Fifty-four percent (11,232) of the MSM cases from 2010 to 2015 were among the 25-34 years age group while 6,260 (30%) were among youth aged 15-24 years. Meanwhile, cases among IDU also increased from <1% in 2005 to 2009 to 5% within the past five years.

Different modes of transmission are predominant in different regions. Almost half of the MSM ever reported were from NCR; 99% of the IDU were from Region 7; and 48% of females who engaged in transactional sex were from Region 3.

Figure 7. Cumulative Number of HIV Transmission by Year, January 1984-December 2015 (N=30,356)



**REPORT ON SPECIAL POPULATIONS**

**Youth (15-24 years old)**

In December 2015, 183 (28%) cases were among youth aged 15-24 years. Most (96%) were male. Ninety-nine percent (182) were infected through sexual contact (19 male-female sex, 107 male-male sex, 56 sex with both males & females) and 1 (1%) through needle sharing among IDU.

From January 1984–December 2015, 8,094 (27%) of the reported cases were 15-24 years old. Ninety-one percent (7,369) 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-five percent (7,656) were infected through sexual contact (1,013 male-female sex, 4,152 male-male sex, 2,491 sex with both males & females); and 378 were infected through sharing of infected needles among IDU.

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

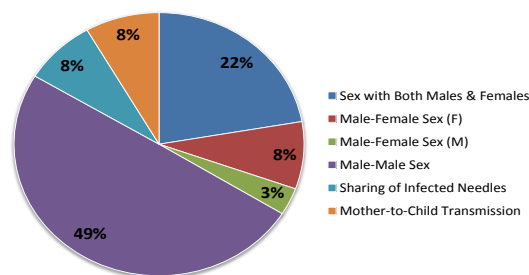
**REPORT ON SPECIAL POPULATIONS (continuation)**

**Children (<10 years old ) and Adolescents (10-19 years old)**

In December 2015, 26 adolescents aged 16-19 years were reported to HARP, while 1 child was infected through mother-to-child transmission. All adolescents were infected through sexual contact (1 male-female sex, 15 male-male sex, 10 sex with both males & females).

From January 1984 to December 2015, 1,026 (3%) of the reported cases were 19 years old and below. Of these, 81 (8%) were children. Eighty-seven percent (889) of these children and adolescents were reported in the past five years (2010 to 2015). Seventy-eight children were infected through mother-to-child transmission, 1 through blood transfusion and 2 had no specified MOT. Among the adolescents, 849 (90%) were male and majority (90%) were infected through sexual contact (118 male-female sex, 506 male-male sex, 226 sex with both males & females); 82 (9%) were through sharing of needles and 6 through mother-to-child transmission (Figure 7).

Figure 8. Modes of Transmission Among Children and Adolescents, Jan 1984–Dec 2015 (N=1,026)



Note: 9 with no MOT reported

**Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW)**

Forty-six OFWs were reported to the HARP in December 2015, comprising 7% of the total newly diagnosed cases for the month (Figure 8). Ninety-six percent were male. All were infected through sexual contact (10 male-female sex, 22 male-male sex, 14 sex with both males & females) [Figure 9]. The ages of male OFWs ranged from 22 years-56 years (median: 31 years) and 24 (55%) belonged to the 25-34 year age group. Two female OFWs, aged 27 and 28 years were reported.

From January 1984 to December 2015, out of the 30,356 cases, 3,968 (13%) were HIV positive OFWs. Of these, 3,314 (84%) were male. More than half (54%) were MSM (1,208 male-male sex and 939 sex with both males & females). The ages of male OFWs ranged from 16 years-80 years (median: 33 years). Among female OFWs, ages ranged from 14 years-73 years (median: 34 years old).

Figure 9. Number of Reported OFW diagnosed with HIV, Jan 1984–Dec 2015 (N=3,968)

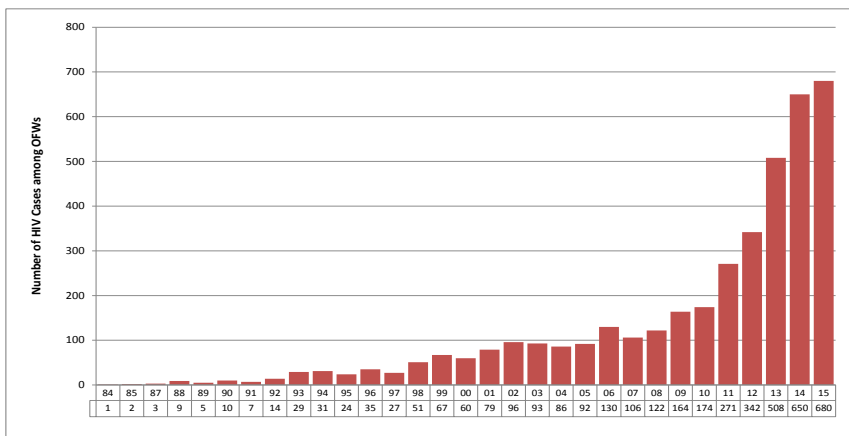
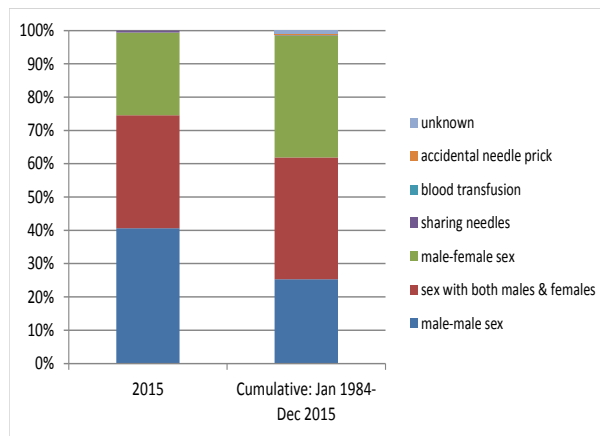


Figure 10. Modes of Transmission among OFW, Jan 1984–Dec 2015



**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 December 2015, 9% (60) of the reported cases engaged in transactional sex. Most (98%) were male (Table 4) whose ages ranged from 19 years-56 years (median: 29 years) while 1 was a female aged 28 years. Fifty-six percent of males who engaged in transactional sex were the ones who paid for sex while the female engaged in both.

A total of 2,537 cases reported in HARP from October 2012 to December 2015 were people who engaged in transactional sex. Ninety-six percent (2,430) were male. Of the 2,537 cases, 1,395 (55%) paid for sex, 745 (29%) accepted payment for sex, and 397 (16%) engaged in both.

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

Type of Transactional Sex	December 2015 (N=60)	Jan-Dec 2015 (N=927)	Cumulative : Oct 2012–Dec 2015 (N=2,537)
Accepted payment for sex only:	17 (28%)	273 (29%)	745 (29%)
Male	17	252	684
Female	0	21	61
Age Range (Median) in Years	19-32 (23)	17-56 (26)	15-67 (25)
Paid for sex only:	33 (55%)	505 (54%)	1,395 (55%)
Male	33	504	1,386
Female	0	1	9
Age Range (Median) in Years	22-56 (30)	16-73 (32)	16-79 (31)
Engaged in both:	10 (17%)	149 (16%)	397 (16%)
Male	9	140	360
Female	1	9	37
Age Range (Median) in Years	22-47 (30)	18-59 (29)	18-59 (28)

Note: 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.

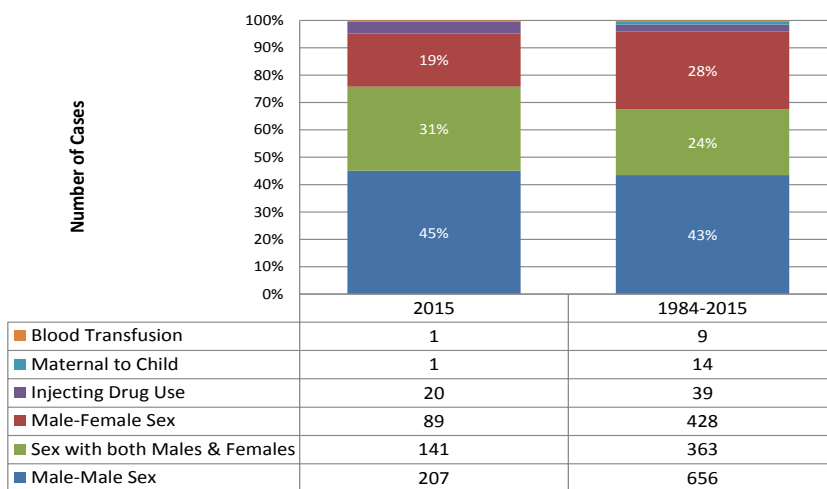
For the month of December 2015, there were 46 reported deaths. Ninety six percent (44) were male while 2 were female (Table 5). Twenty-three (50%) of the reported deaths belong to the 25-34 year age group, 11 were in the 35-49 year age group, while 11 were youth aged 15-24 years. All were infected through sexual contact (6 male-female sex, 26 male-male sex, 14 sex with both males & females) [Figure 10].

A total of 1,530 deaths were reported from January 1984 to December 2015. Eighty-six percent (1,317) were male (Table 5). Of the reported deaths, 13 (1%) were children less than 10 years old and 15 (1%) were adolescents aged 10-19 years. Almost half (709 or 46%) belong to 25-34 year age group, 468 (31%) were in 35-49 year age group, while 198 (13%) were youth aged 15-24 years. Sexual contact (95%) was the most common mode of HIV transmission (428 male-female sex, 656 male-male sex, 363 sex with both males & females). There were 39 reported deaths among IDU (Figure 10).

**Table 5. Demographic data of reported deaths among PHIV**

Demographic Data	December 2015	Jan-Dec 2015	Cumulative* Jan 1984- Dec 2015
Total Reported Deaths	46	461	1,530
Male	44	429	1,317
Female	2	32	213
Children <10yo	0	1	13
Adolescents 10-19yo	1	2	15
Youth 15-24yo	11	64	198

**Figure 11. Modes of transmission of reported deaths among PHIV\*\***



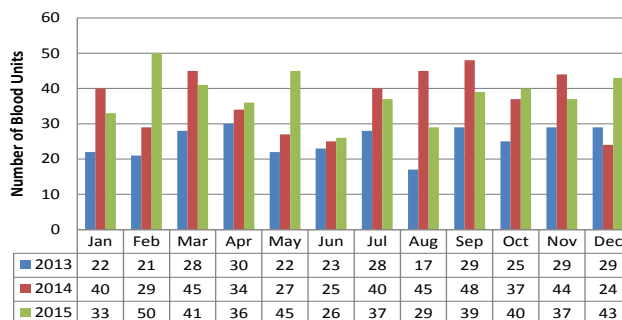
\*\*Note: No mode of transmission reported for 21 cases


**BLOOD UNITS CONFIRMED FOR HIV**

In December 2015, 43 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 12. Number of Confirmed HIV Positive Blood Units by Month (2013-2015)**





**National HIV/AIDS & STI Surveillance and Strategic Information Unit**

NHSSS  
Epidemiology Bureau,  
Department of Health, 2/F Bldg. 19,  
San Lazaro Compound,  
Sta. Cruz, Manila 1003 Philippines

Tel: +632 651-7800 local 2926, 2952  
Fax: +632 495-0513  
Email: HIVepicenter@gmail.com  
Website: http://www.doh.gov.ph

**HIV/AIDS & ART Registry of the Philippines (HARP) Report Editorial team**

*Kevin Anthony R. Mendoza, RN*  
HIV Surveillance Assistant

*Krizele Anne G. Ronquillo, RSW*  
HIV Surveillance Officer

*Marlene R. Bermejo, MD*  
HIV Surveillance Database Supervisor

*Noel S. Palaypayon, RN, MGM-ESP*  
Deputy Manager, HIV Unit

*Genesis May J. Samonte, MD, MSc, PHSAE*  
Manager, HIV Unit

*Agnes B. Segarra, MD, PHSAE*  
Chief, SRAE Division, Epidemiology Bureau

*Iryla L. Asuncion, MD, MHA, CESO IV*  
Director IV, Epidemiology Bureau

*Claude Joseph L. Payad, RN*  
Asst. HIV Surveillance Officer

*Patricia Isabel G. Amilla, RN, MSPH*  
HIV Surveillance Officer

*Ma. Justina S. Zapanta, RN, PHSAE*  
Nurse III

**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.



**LIST OF TREATMENT HUBS AND SATELLITE**

Regions	Treatment Hubs	Address	Contact Information
1	Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center	Parian, San Fernando City, La Union	(072) 607-6418 (072) 607-6422 Loc. 153 (Physician)
2	Cagayan Valley Medical Center	Carig, Tuguegarao, Cagayan	(078) 304-1410 (078) 304-1810
3	Jose B. Lingad Memorial Regional Hospital	Brgy. San Dolores, San Fernando, Pampanga	(045) 961-3989
	James L. Gordon Memorial Hospital	#1 New Asinan, Olongapo City	(047) 6021229
4B	Ospital ng Palawan	220 Malvas St. Puerto Prinsesa City	(048)434-6864, 434-2148
5	Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital	Rizal St., Legazpi City	(052) 4830014 loc. 4277
6	Western Visayas Medical Center	Q. Abeto St., Mandurriao, Iloilo City	(033) 3212841 / 3210552 (03) 3210552
	Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital	HACT office 2nd flr. OPD bldg. CLMMRH Cor. Burgos, Lacson St. Bacolod city	(034) 709-0244 0922-290-3710 0922-860-8756
7	Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center	B. Rodriguez, Sambag II, Cebu City	(032) 2539891 - 96 loc 102
	Gov. Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital	M. Parras St., Tagbilaran City	(038) 4114868
8	Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center	Magsaysay Boulevard, Tacloban City.	(053) 3213121 (053) 3213363
9	Zamboanga City Medical Center	Dr. Evangelista St., Sta. Catalina, Zamboanga City	(062) 9912934
10	Northern Mindanao Medical Center	Provincial Capitol Compound Cagayan de Oro City	(082) 727535 / 723735 / 726362 / 8564147
11	Southern Philippines Medical Center	J. P. Laurel St., Bajada, Davao City	(082) 2272731 loc. 5140
CAR	Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center	Gov. Pack Rd., Baguio City	(074) 442-4216 loc 381
CARAGA	CARAGA Regional Hospital		
	Butuan Medical Center	Km 5 Baan, Butuan City	
NCR	San Lazaro Hospital	Quiricada St., Sta. Cruz, Manila	7323125 7323776 - 79 7323106 loc. 218 / 212
	Philippine General Hospital	Taft Ave., Manila	5548400 loc. 3249
	Research Institute for Tropical Medicine	Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	8072628 loc. 332
	The Medical City	Ortigas Ave., Pasig City	9881000 loc. 6765
	Makati Medical Center	#2 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	8888999 loc. 2134 (CTTM)

Regions	Satellite Treatment Hubs
4A	Antipolo Social Hygiene Clinic
	Dasmariñas Social Hygiene Clinic
	Laguna Medical Center
6	Dr. Rafael Tumbokon Memorial Hospital—Kalibo, Aklan
7	Cebu Social Hygiene Clinic
12	General Santos Social Hygiene Clinic
	South Cotabato Provincial Hospital

Regions	Satellite Treatment Hubs
NCR	Klinika Bernardo—Quezon City
	Las Pinas Social Hygiene Clinic
	Manila Social Hygiene Clinic
	Mandaluyong Social Hygiene Clinic
	Marikina City Satellite Treatment Hub
	Muntinlupa Social Hygiene Clinic
	Pasig Social Hygiene Clinic
	RITM Satellite Clinic - Mandaluyong (ANGLO)
	Taguig Social Hygiene Clinic
	Valenzuela Social Hygiene Clinic