

NEWLY DIAGNOSED HIV CASES IN THE PHILIPPINES

Table 1. Quick Facts

Demographic Data	November 2015	Jan-Nov 2015	Jan 2010 - Nov 2015	Cumulative Jan 1984 - Nov 2015
Total Reported Cases	627	7,179	25,282	29,706
Asymptomatic Cases	575	6,703	23,600	27,181
AIDS Cases	52	476	1,682	2,525
Male	607	6,878	24,065	27,296 ^a
Female	20	301	1,217	2,399 ^a
Age Range (Median)	13-62(27)	1-75(28)	1-82(28)	1-82(28)
Less than 15 y/o	1	19	37	89 ^b
15-24 y/o	189	2,032	7,186	7,911 ^b
25-34 y/o	324	3,774	13,251	15,109 ^b
35-49 y/o	101	1,193	4,192	5,630 ^b
50 y/o & above	12	161	616	893 ^b
Newly Started on ART	333			
Total PLHIV on ART				12,346
Reported Deaths	174	415	1,095	1,501

^aNo data available on sex for (11) cases
^bNo data available on age for (74) cases

In November 2015, there were 627 new HIV Ab sero-positive individuals (Table 1). This was 27% higher compared to the same period last year (492) [Figure 1]. Most (92%) 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: 13 years-62 years). More than half belong to the 25-34 year age group while 30% were youth aged 15-24 years old.

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

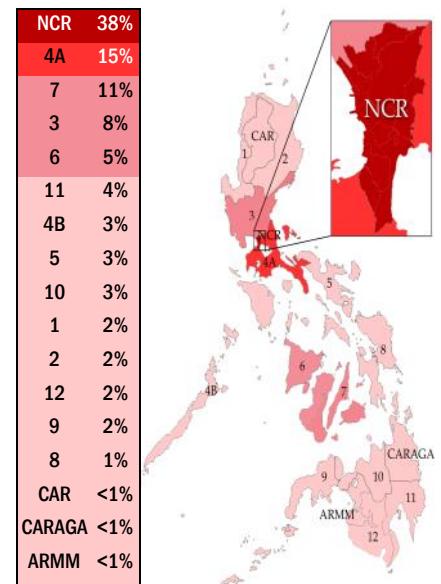
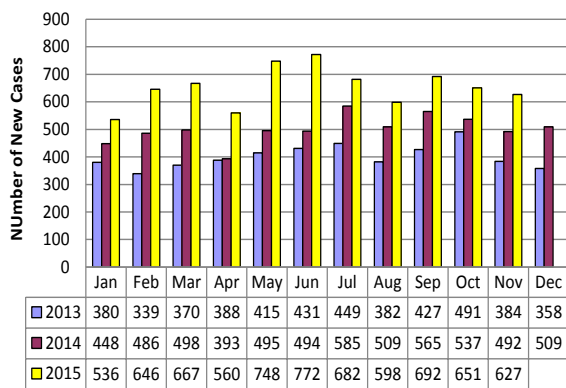


Figure 1. Number of New HIV Cases by Month (2013-2015)

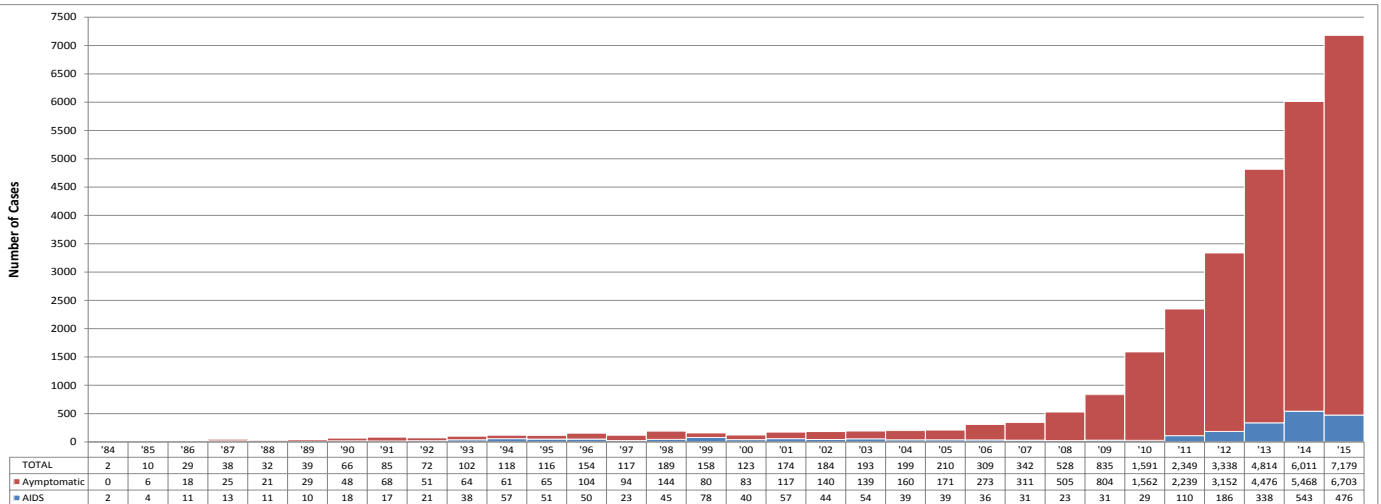


The regions with the highest number of reported cases for November 2015 were: National Capital Region (NCR) with 241 (38%) cases, Region 4A with 91 (15%) cases, Region 7 with 70 (11%) cases, Region 3 with 53 (8%) cases, and Region 6 with 32 (5%) cases. One hundred forty (22%) cases came from the rest of the country (Figure 2).

Reported modes of transmission (MOT) were sexual contact (592), mother-to-child transmission (1), and needle sharing among injecting drug users (IDU) [34]. Eighty-five percent of the sexually transmitted cases were among males who have sex with males (MSM^a).

^amale-male sex and sex with both males & females

Figure 3. Number of HIV Cases Reported in the Philippines by Year, January 1984 to November 2015 (N=29,706)



PLHIV on Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART)

As of November 2015, there were 12,346 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 23 treatment hubs. 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.

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	23. Manila City Satellite Treatment Hub
12. Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital	

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

The first case of HIV infection in the Philippines was reported in 1984. From January 1984 to November 2015, there has been 29,706 HIV Ab sero-positive cases reported to the HARP (Table 1). Ninety-two percent (27,181) of the total reported cases were asymptomatic at the time of reporting. Most (27,296 or 92%) were male*. The median age* was 28 years old (age range: 1 year-82 years). More than half (15,109 or 51%) were from the 25-34 year age group while 7,911 (27%) were youth aged 15-24 years old (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% (24,065) of the reported 25,282 cases.

Eighty-five percent (25,282) of all the 29,706 diagnosed cases in the Philippines were reported in the past five years, from January 2010 to November 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–November 2015, 74 did not report AGE, 11 did not report SEX while 10 did not report both AGE and SEX

Figure 4. Distribution of PLHIV by Age Group, Jan 1984–November 2015

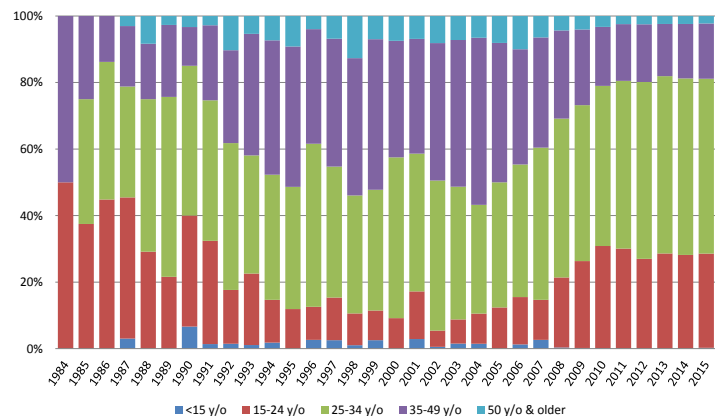
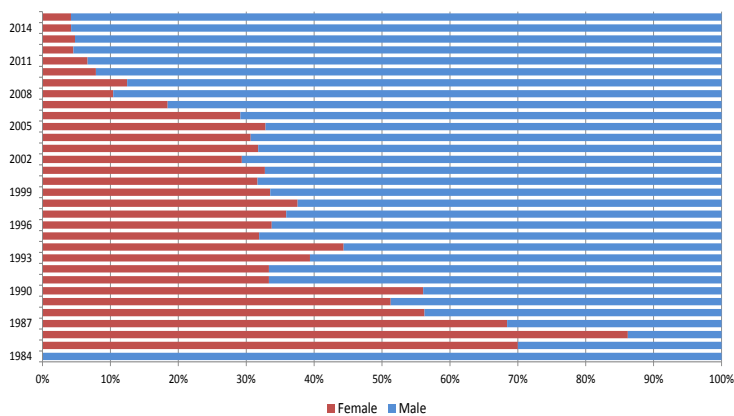


Figure 5. Distribution of PLHIV by Sex, Jan 1984–November 2015



Geographical Distribution

From January 1984 to November 2015, the regions with the most number of reported cases were NCR with 12,903 (43%) cases, Region 4A with 4,031 (14%) cases, Region 7 with 2,656 (9%) cases, Region 3 with 2,438 (8%) cases, and Region 11 with 1,723 (6%) cases. Sixteen percent (4,809) 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	November 2015 (N=627)	Jan-Nov 2015 (N=7,179) ^a	Jan 2010 - Nov 2015 (N=25,282) ^b	Cumulative Jan 1984–Nov 2015 (N=29,706) ^c
NCR	241 (38%)	2,811 (39%)	11,227 (44%)	12,903 (43%)
4A	91 (15%)	1,169 (16%)	3,575 (14%)	4,031 (14%)
7	70 (11%)	628 (9%)	2,476 (10%)	2,656 (9%)
3	53 (8%)	619 (9%)	1,976 (8%)	2,438 (8%)
11	28 (4%)	394 (5%)	1,606 (6%)	1,723 (6%)
ROTC	144 (23%)	1,556 (22%)	4,255 (17%)	4,809 (16%)

Of the 2,399 females reported with HIV, 588 (25%) were from NCR, 425 (18%) were from Region 3, 257 (11%) were from Region 7, 208 (9%) were from Region 4A and 921 (38%) were from other regions.

The regions with the most number of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) reported to the HARP were NCR with 1,427 cases, Region 4A with 649 cases, Region 3 with 402 cases, and Region 6 with 206 cases.

^aFrom January–November 2015, no particular region were reported for 2 cases
^bFrom January 2010–November 2015, no particular region were reported for 167 cases
^cFrom January 1984–November 2015, no particular region were reported for 1,146

Table 3. Reported Modes of HIV Transmission

Mode of Transmission	November 2015 (N=627)		Jan-Nov 2015 (N=7,179)		Jan 2010-Nov 2015 (N=25,282)		Cumulative Jan1984–Nov 2015 (N=29,706) ^a	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Sexual Contact	576	16	6,627	281	22,793	1,114	25,718	2,184
Male-Female Sex ^b	72	16	717	281	2,604	1,114	3,748	2,184
Male-Male Sex ^c	298	0	3,544	0	12,178	0	13,350	0
Sex with Males & Females ^d	206	0	2,366	0	8,011	0	8,620	0
Blood/Blood Products	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	15
Sharing of Needles	30	4	243	12	1,233	82	1,239	84
Needle Prick Injury	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
Mother-to-Child	1	0	8	8	18	16	45	38
No Data Available	0	0	0	0	21	4	287	77

^aFrom January 1984–November 2015, 11 did not report sex
^bSame as heterosexual in previous reports
^cSame as homosexual in previous reports
^dSame as bisexual in previous reports

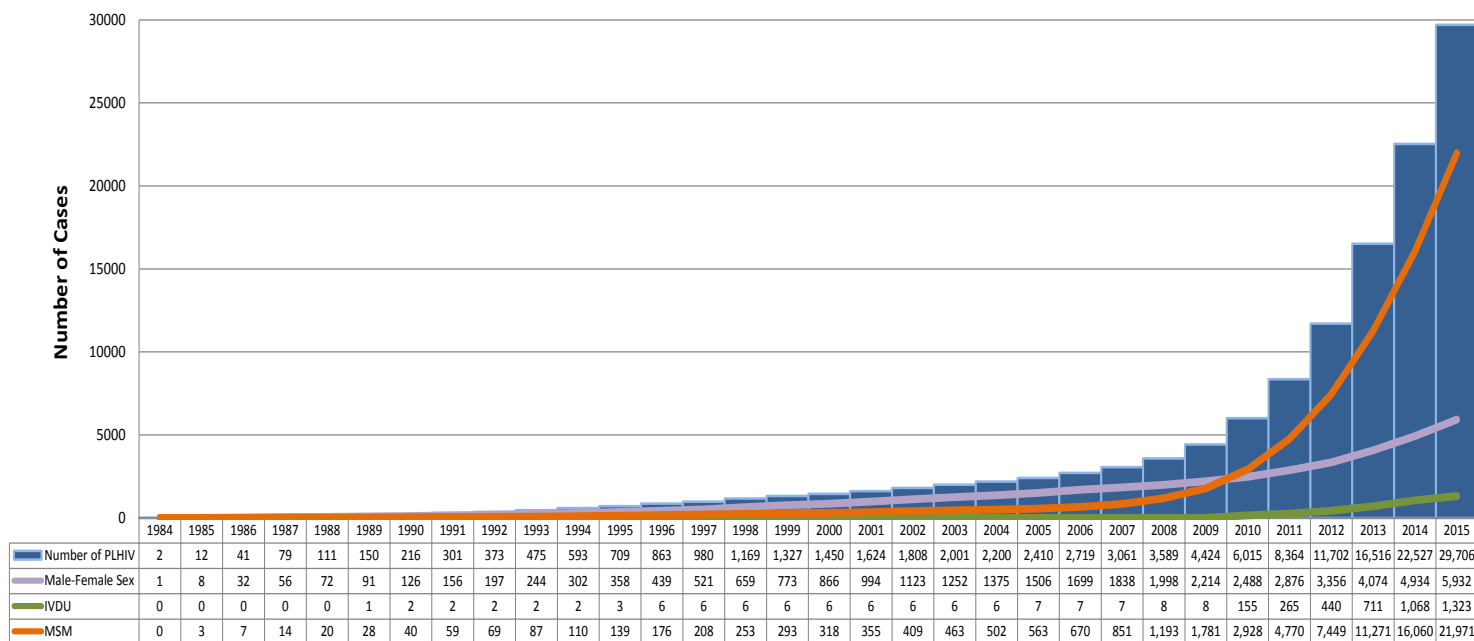
Modes of Transmission (MOT)

From January 1984 to November 2015, MSM was the predominant (21,970 or 80%) mode of transmission among males, followed by male-female sex (3,748 or 14%), and sharing of needles (1,239 or 5%) [Table 3]. More than half (11,763 or 54%) of cases among MSM belong to the 25-34 year age group while 6,480 (29%) were youth 15-24 years old. Among females, male-female sex was the most common MOT (2,184 or 91%) followed by sharing of needles (84 or 4%). A total of 77 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 November 2015, 84% (20,189) of infections through sexual contact were among MSM. From 2005 to 2009, MSM comprised 60% (1,279) of sexual transmissions. Fifty-four percent (10,918) of the MSM cases from 2010 to 2015 were among the 25-34 years age group while 6,097 (30%) were among youth aged 15-24 years old. 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 IDUs were from Region 7; and 48% of females who engaged in transactional sex were from Region 3.

Figure 6. Cumulative Number of HIV Transmission by Year, January 1984–November 2015 (N=29,706)



REPORT ON SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Youth (15-24 years old)

In November 2015, 189 (30%) cases were among youth aged 15-24 years. Most (97%) were male. Ninety-seven percent (184) were infected through sexual contact (22 male-female sex, 108 male-male sex, 54 sex with both males & females) and 5 (3%) through needle sharing among IDUs.

From January 1984–November 2015, 7,911 (27%) of the reported cases were 15-24 years old. Ninety-one percent (7,186) 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 (7,474) were infected through sexual contact (994 male-female sex, 4,045 male-male sex, 2,435 sex with both males & females); and 377 were infected through sharing of infected needles among IDUs.

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

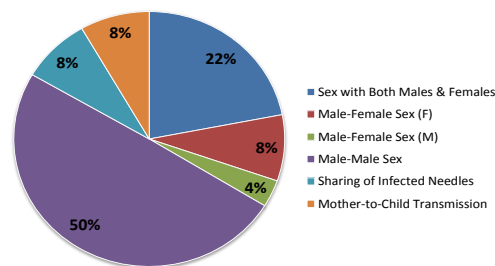
REPORT ON SPECIAL POPULATIONS (continuation)

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

In November 2015, 25 male adolescents aged 13-19 years old were reported to HARP. Twenty-four were infected through sexual contact (1 male-female sex, 17 male-male sex, 6 sex with both males & females), while 1 was infected through mother-to-child transmission.

From January 1984 to November 2015, 999 (3%) of the reported cases were 19 years old and below. Of these, 80 (8%) were children. Eighty-six percent of these children and adolescents were reported in the past five years (2010 to 2015). Seventy-seven children were infected through mother-to-child transmission, 1 through blood transfusion and 2 had no specified MOT. Among the adolescents, 824 (90%) were male and majority (90%) were infected through sexual contact (117 male-female sex, 491 male-male sex, 216 sex with both males & females); 82 (9%) were through sharing of needles and 6 through mother-to-child transmission (Figure 7).

Figure 7. Modes of Transmission Among Children and Adolescents, Jan 1984–Nov 2015 (N=999)



Note: 9 with no MOT reported

Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW)

Fifty-one OFWs were reported to the HARP in November 2015, comprising 8% of the total newly diagnosed cases for the month (Figure 8). Ninety-six percent were male. All were infected through sexual contact (9 male-female sex, 18 male-male sex, 24 sex with both males & females) [Figure 9]. The ages of male OFWs ranged from 17 years-54 years (median: 29 years) and 53% belonged to the 25-34 year age group. Two female OFWs, aged 29 and 36 years were reported.

From January 1984 to November 2015, out of the 29,706 cases, 3,922 (13%) were HIV positive OFWs. Of these, 3,270 (83%) were male. More than half (54%) were MSM (1,186 male-male sex and 925 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 8. Number of Reported OFW diagnosed with HIV, Jan 1984–Nov 2015 (N=3,922)

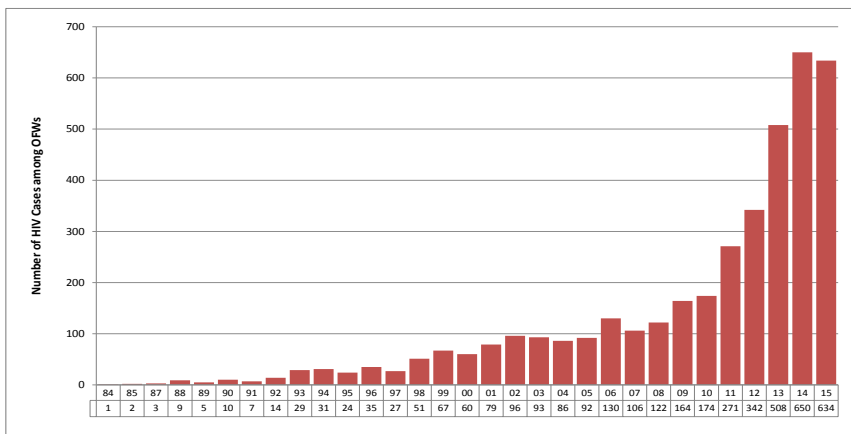
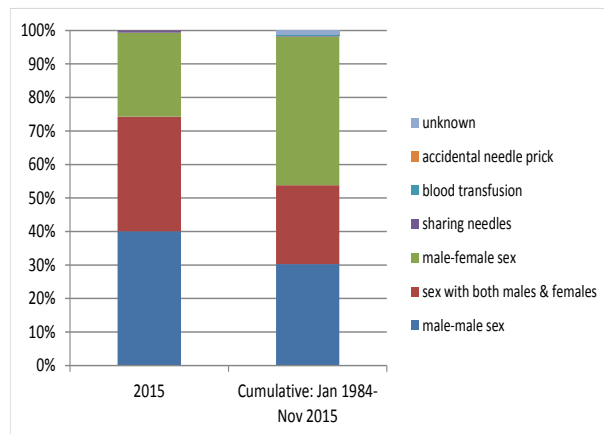


Figure 9. Modes of Transmission among OFW, Jan 1984–Nov 2015



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 November 2015, 12% (78) of the reported cases engaged in transactional sex. Most (97%) were male (Table 4) whose ages ranged from 18 years-62 years (median: 28 years) while 2 were female aged 21 & 32 years old. Sixty-three percent of males who engaged in transactional sex were the ones who paid for sex while both females accepted payment for sex.

A total of 2,477 cases reported in HARP from October 2012 to November 2015 were people who engaged in transactional sex. Ninety-six percent were male. Of the 2,477 cases, 1,362 (55%) paid for sex, 728 (29%) accepted payment for sex, and 387 (16%) engaged in both.

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

Type of Transactional Sex	November 2015 (N=78)	Jan-Nov 2015 (N=867)	Cumulative : Oct 2012–Nov 2015 (N=2,477)
Accepted payment for sex only:	21 (27%)	256 (30%)	728 (29%)
Male	19	235	667
Female	2	21	61
Age Range (Median) in Years	18-46 (25)	17-56 (26)	15-67 (26)
Paid for sex only:	48 (62%)	472 (54%)	1,362 (55%)
Male	48	471	1,353
Female	0	1	9
Age Range (Median) in Years	18-62 (30)	16-73 (32)	16-79 (31)
Engaged in both:	9 (12%)	139 (16%)	387 (16%)
Male	9	131	351
Female	0	8	36
Age Range (Median) in Years	22-39 (27)	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.

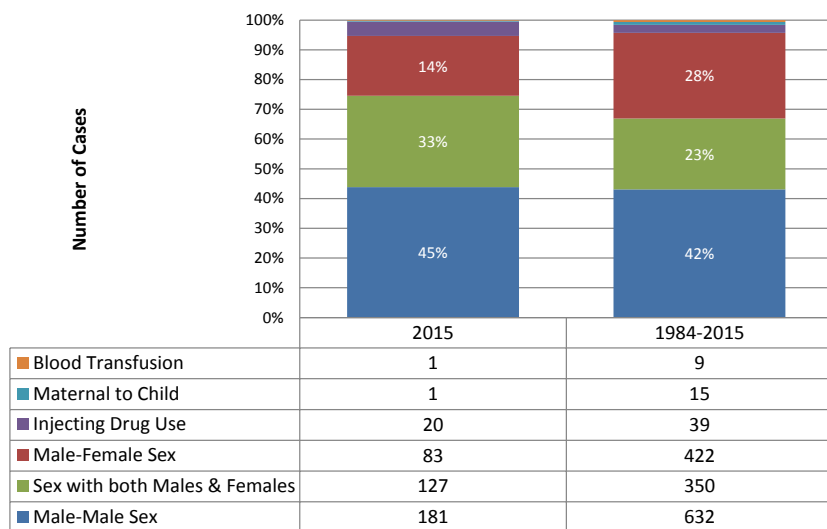
For the month of November 2015, there were 174 reported deaths. Ninety percent (156) were male while 18 were female (Table 5). Seventy-two (41%) of the reported deaths belong to the 25-34 year age group, 71 were in the 35-49 year age group, while 20 were youth aged 15-24 years old. Most (98%) were infected through sexual contact (50 male-female sex, 72 male-male sex, 48 sex with both males & females), 1 was infected through needle sharing among IDUs, 1 was infected through transfusion of infected blood product, while 2 had no reported MOT [Figure 10].

A total of 1,501 deaths were reported from January 1984 to November 2015. Eighty-six percent (1,287) were male (Table 5). Of the reported deaths, 16 (1%) were children less than 10 years old and 14 (1%) were adolescents aged 10-19 years old. Almost half (692 or 46%) belong to 25-34 year age group, 461 (31%) were in 35-49 year age group, while 187 (12%) were youth aged 15-24 years old. Sexual contact (94%) was the most common mode of HIV transmission (422 male-female sex, 632 male-male sex, 350 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	November 2015	Jan-Nov 2015	Cumulative* Jan 1984 - Nov 2015
Total Reported Deaths	174	415	1,501
Male	156	385	1,287
Female	18	30	214
Children <10yo	0	1	16
Adolescents 10-19yo	0	1	14
Youth 15-24yo	20	53	187

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



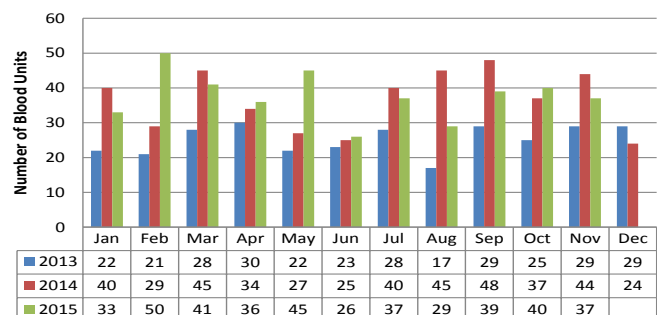
**Note: No mode of transmission reported for 34 cases.


BLOOD UNITS CONFIRMED FOR HIV

In November 2015, 37 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) Report

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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.