



Newly Diagnosed HIV Cases in the Philippines

In June 2013, there were 431 new HIV Ab sero-positive individuals confirmed by the STD/AIDS Cooperative Central Laboratory (SACCL) and reported to the HIV and AIDS Registry (Table 1). This is 46% higher compared to the same period last year (n=295 in 2012) and the highest number of cases reported in a month [Figure 1].

Table 2. Percentage of HIV Cases per Region (June 2013)

Region	% of Cases
I	2%
II	<1%
III	6%
IVA	13%
IVB	1%
V	2%
VI	4%
VII	19%
VIII	<1%
IX	1%
X	3%
XI	5%
XII	3%
CAR	1%
CARAGA	1%
ARMM	1%
NCR	38%

Most of the cases (95%) were males. The median age was 27 years (age range: 4-61 years). The 20-29 year (57%) age group had the most number of cases.

The reported modes of transmission were sexual contact (387), needle sharing among injecting drug users (43) and mother to child transmission (1) [Table 3, page 2]. Males having sex with other males (88%) were the predominant type of sexual transmission [Figure 2]. Most (96%) of the cases were still asymptomatic at the time of reporting [Figure 3].

In June 2013, the bulk of new HIV cases came from NCR, Region 7, Region 4A, Region 3, and Region 11 [Table 2]. The three highest reporting regions were NCR, 7 and 4A.

Table 1. Quick Facts

Demographic Data	June 2013	Jan-June 2013	Cumulative 1984-2013
Total Reported Cases	431	2,323	14,025
Asymptomatic Cases	414	2,203	12,736
AIDS Cases	17	120	1,289
Males	410	2,212	12,288*
Females	21	111	1,726*
Youth 15-24yo	129	642	3,456
Children <15yo	1	1	63

*Note: No data available on sex for (11) cases.

Figure 1. Number of New HIV Cases per Month (2011-2013)

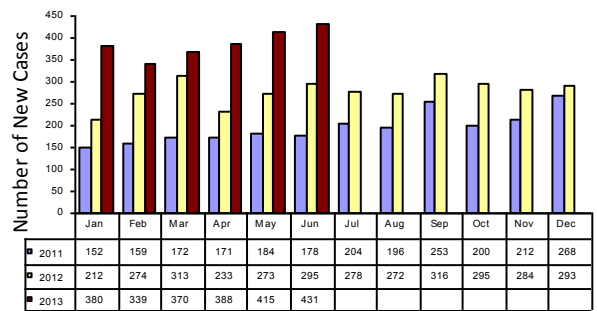


Figure 2. Comparison of the Proportion of Types of Sexual Transmission in 2013, 2012 & Cumulative Data (1984-2013)

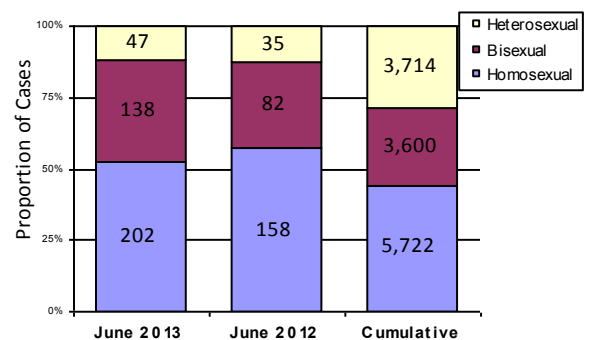
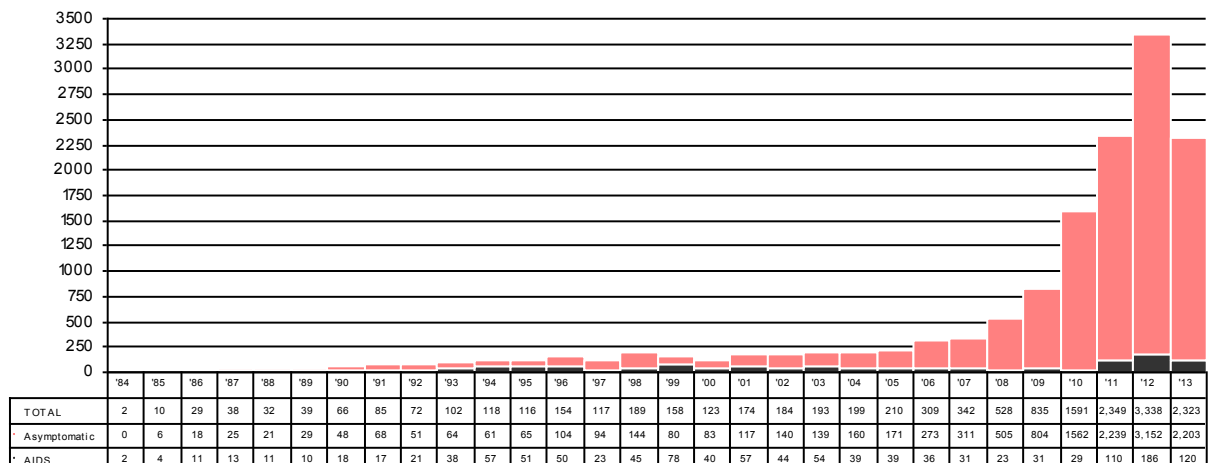


Figure 3. Number of HIV/AIDS Cases Reported in the Philippines by Year, Jan 1984 to June 2013 (N=14,025)

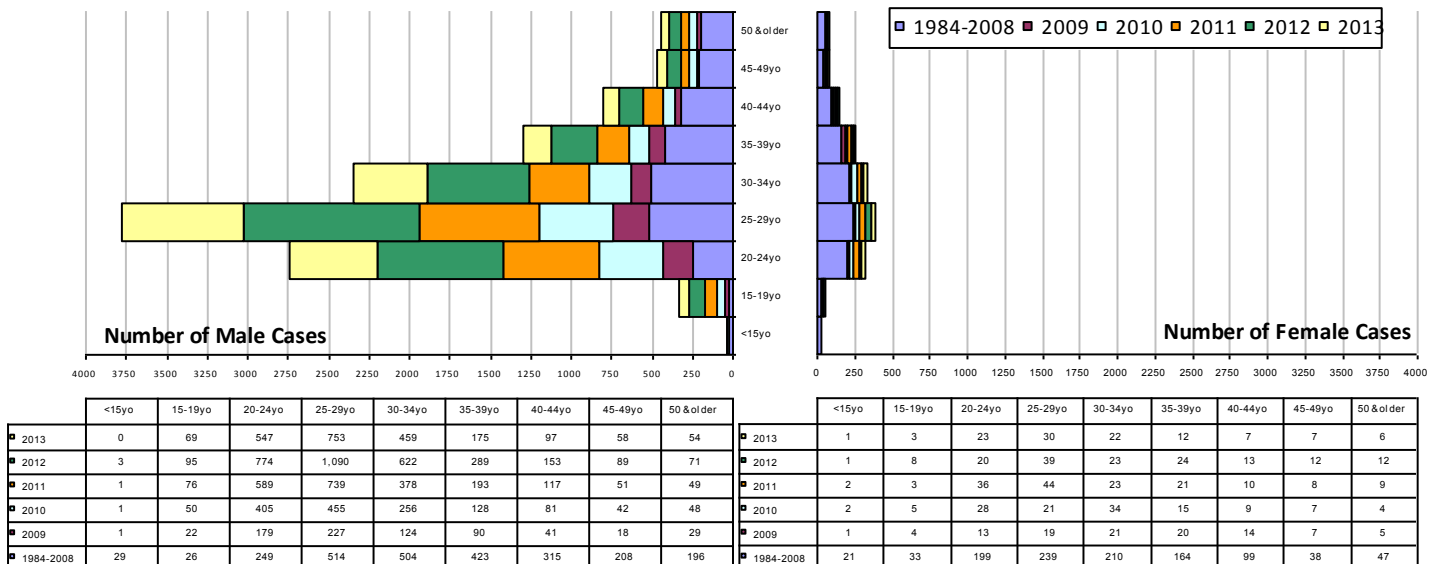


Demographic Characteristics (1984-2013)

Ninety-five percent of the 2,323 cases in 2013 were males (2,212). Ages ranged from 4 to 79 years old (median 28 years). The 20-29 year old age group had the most (58%) number of cases for 2013. For the male age group, the most number of cases were found among the 20-24 years old (25%), 25-29 years old (34%), and 30-34 years old (21%) [Figure 4].

From 1984 to 2013, there were 14,025 HIV Ab sero-positive cases reported (Table 1), of which 12,736 (91%) were asymptomatic and 1,289 (9%) were AIDS cases. As shown in Figure 4, there is a significant difference in the number of male and female cases reported. Eighty-eight percent (12,288) were males. Ages ranged from 1-81 years (median 29 years). The age groups with the most number of cases were: 20-24 years (22%), 25-29 (30%), and 30-34 years (19%) [Figure 4].

Figure 4. Comparison of the Distribution of Male and Female HIV Cases by Age-Group and Certain Highlighted Years



*Note: 74 did not report age, 11 did not report sex, 10 did not report age and sex

Modes of Transmission (1984-2013)

In 2013, ninety-six percent (2,231) were infected through sexual contact, 4% (91) through needle sharing among injecting drug users and <1% (1) through mother to child transmission (Table 3). There were 2,127 males and 104 females infected through sexual transmission. The age range of those infected through sexual transmission was 16-79 years old (median 28 years).

Of the 14,025 HIV positive cases reported from 1984 to 2013, 93% (13,036) were infected through sexual contact, 4% (531) through needle sharing among injecting drug users, <1% (60) through mother-to-child transmission, <1% (20) through blood transfusion and needle prick injury <1% (3) [Table 3]. No data is available for 3% (375) of the cases.

Table 3. Reported Mode of HIV Transmission

Mode of Transmission	June 2013 n=431	Jan-June 2013 n=2,323	Cumulative N=14,025
Sexual Contact	387	2,231	13,036
<i>Heterosexual contact</i>	<i>47(12%)</i>	<i>358(16%)</i>	<i>3,714(28%)</i>
<i>Homosexual contact</i>	<i>202(52%)</i>	<i>1,147(51%)</i>	<i>5,722(44%)</i>
<i>Bisexual contact</i>	<i>138(36%)</i>	<i>726(33%)</i>	<i>3,600(28%)</i>
Blood/Blood Products	0	0	20
Injecting Drug Use	43	91	531
Needle Prick Injury	0	0	3
Mother-to-Child	1	1	60
No Data Available	0	0	375

Figure 5. Proportion of Types of Sexual Transmission, Jan 1984–June 2013

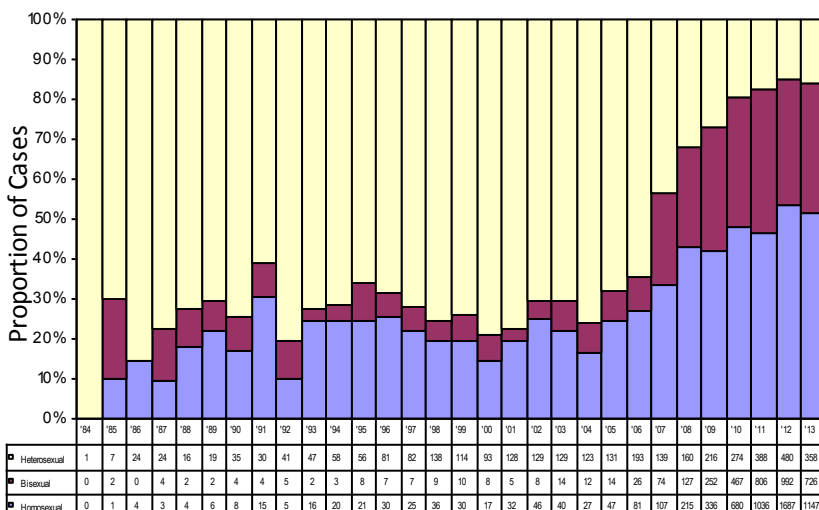
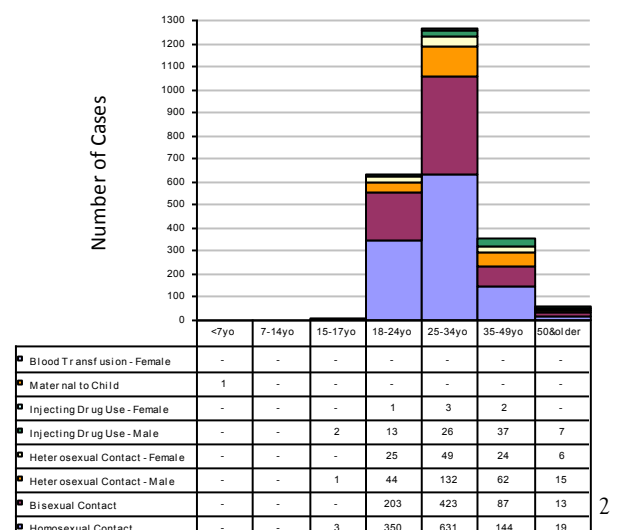


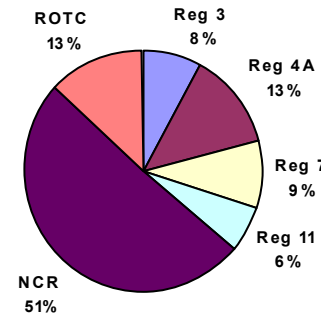
Figure 6. HIV Transmission by Age-Group, 2013 (n=2,323)



Geographic Distribution (1984-2013)

Since 1984 to present, there were 14,025 cases reported. More than half (6,549) came from the National Capital Region. [Figure 7]. Thirteen percent (1,643) came from region 4A, followed by 8% (1,077) from Region 3, 9% (1,115) from Region 7, 6% (765) from Region 11 and the rest of the country comprises 13% (1,740) of all the cases.

Figure 7. HIV Cases by Region, Jan 1984-June 2013



*Note: 1,136 cases had no reported data on their address at the time of diagnosis

AIDS Cases (1984-2013)

Of the 2,323 HIV positive cases in 2013, one hundred twenty were reported as AIDS cases. Of these, 112 were males and 8 were females. Ages ranged from 17-59 years (median 30 years). Ninety-eight percent (118) acquired the infection through sexual contact (60 homosexual, 26 bisexual and 32 heterosexual) and 2% (2) through injecting drug use.

From 1984 to 2013, there were 1,289 AIDS cases reported. Seventy-nine percent (1,013) were males. Median age is 34 years (age range: 1-81 years). Sexual contact was the most common mode of HIV transmission, accounting for 95% (1,220) of all reported AIDS cases. Almost half of sexual transmission was through heterosexual contact (540), followed by homosexual contact (489) then bisexual contact (191).

Other modes of transmission include: mother-to-child transmission (20), blood transfusion (10), injecting drug use (9), and needle prick injuries (2). Two percent (28) of the AIDS cases did not report mode of HIV transmission.

Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW)

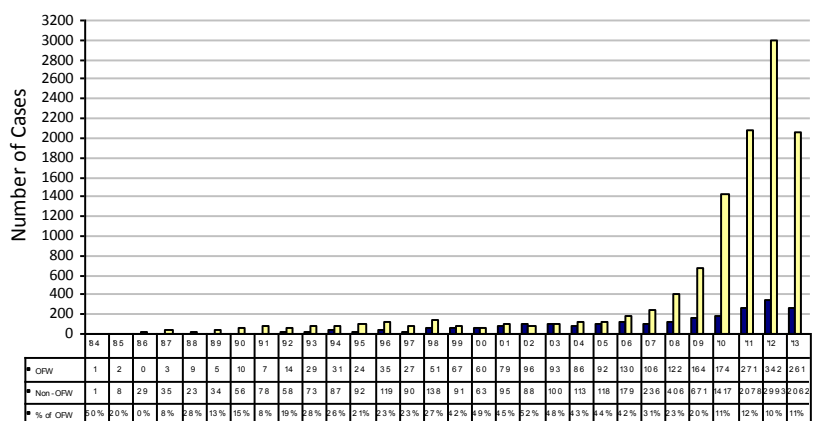
In 2013, there were 261 HIV positive OFWs, comprising 11% of cases reported for the year [Figure 8]. Of these, 237 (91%) were males and 24 (9%) were females. Ninety-nine percent acquired the infection through sexual contact (72 heterosexual, 101 homosexual and 86 bisexual) and 2 (1%) through injecting drug use.

There were 2,391 HIV positive OFWs since 1984, comprising 17% of all reported cases [Figure 8]. Eighty percent (1,908) were males. Ages ranged from 18 to 69 years (median 34 years). Sexual contact (97%) was the predominant mode of transmission (Table 4). Eighty-seven percent (2,083) were asymptomatic while 13% (308) were AIDS cases.

Table 4. Mode of HIV Transmission Among OFWs

Mode of Transmission	June 2013 n=46	Jan-June 2013 n=261	Cumulative N=2,391
Sexual Transmission	46	259	2,327
Heterosexual contact	11(24%)	72(28%)	1,278(55%)
Homosexual contact	19(41%)	101(39%)	592(25%)
Bisexual contact	16(35%)	86(33%)	457(20%)
Blood/Blood Products	0	0	10
Injecting Drug Use	0	2	3
Needle Prick Injury	0	0	3
No Data Available	0	0	48

Figure 8. Number of OFWs Compared to Non-OFWs by Year (1984-2013)



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Philippine HIV & AIDS Registry

The Philippine HIV & AIDS Registry 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 Registry 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-National Epidemiology Center (NEC), and are recorded in the Registry.

The Registry is a passive surveillance system. Except for HIV confirmation by the NRL, all other data submitted to the Registry are secondary and cannot be verified. An example would be an individual's reported place of residence. The Registry 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 for data interpretation. Thus, readers are cautioned to carefully weigh the data and consider other sources of information prior to arriving at conclusions.