



Newly Diagnosed HIV Cases in the Philippines

In March 2013, there were 370 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 was 18% higher compared to the same period last year (n=313 in 2012) [Figure 1].

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

Region	% of Cases
I	2%
II	1%
III	6%
IVA	14%
IVB	1%
V	1%
VI	4%
VII	7%
VIII	1%
IX	1%
X	1%
XI	5%
XII	1%
CAR	1%
CARAGA	<1%
ARMM	1%
NCR	55%

Most of the cases (96%) were males. The median age was 28 years (age range: 17-63 years). The 20-29 year (55%) age group had the most number of cases.

Reported mode of transmission were sexual contact (364) and needle sharing among injecting drug users (6) [Table 3, page 2]. Males having sex with other males (85%) were the predominant type of sexual transmission [Figure 2]. Most (97%) of the cases were still asymptomatic at the time of reporting [Figure 3].

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

Table 1. Quick Facts

Demographic Data	Mar 2013	Jan-Mar 2013	Cumulative 1984-2013
Total Reported Cases	370	1,089	12,791
Asymptomatic Cases	359	1,030	11,563
AIDS Cases	11	59	1,228
Males	354	1,036	11,112*
Females	16	53	1,668*
Youth 15-24yo	98	295	3,109
Children <15yo	0	0	62
Reported Deaths due to AIDS	0	0	353

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

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

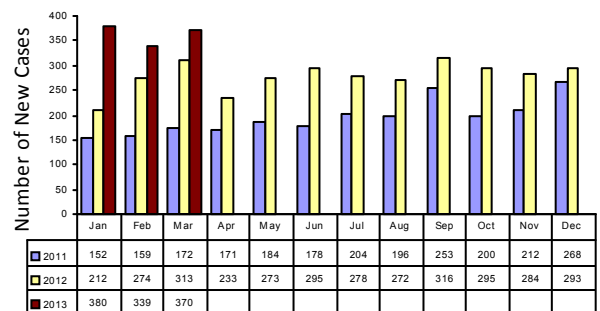


Figure 2. Comparison of the Proportion of Types of Sexual Transmission in 2013, 2012 & Cumulative Data (1984-2013)

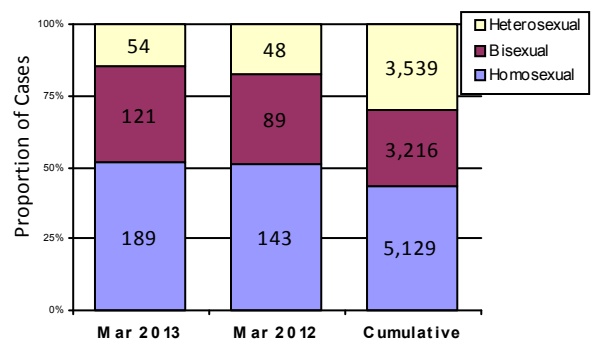
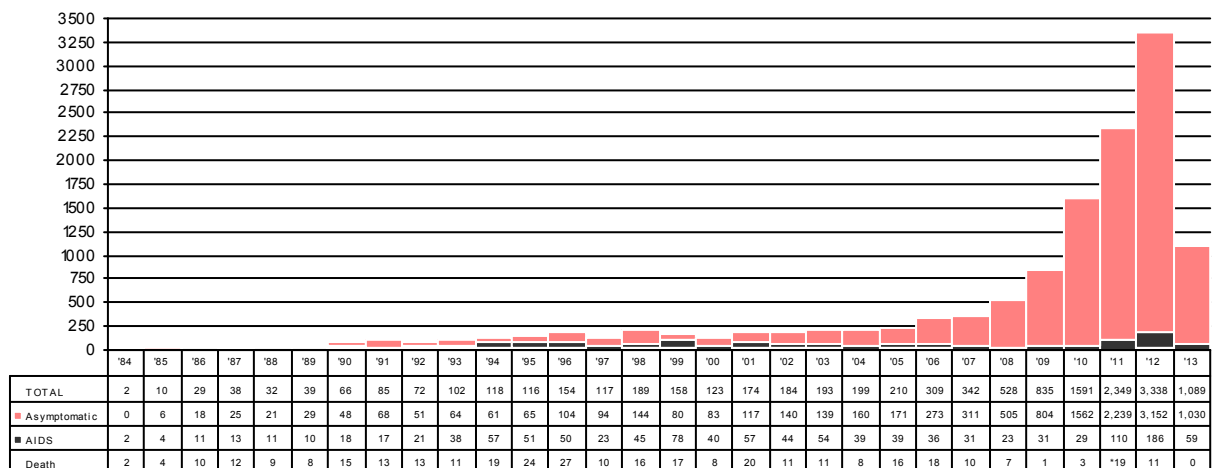


Figure 3. Number of HIV/AIDS Cases Reported in the Philippines by Year, Jan 1984 to March 2013 (N=12,791)



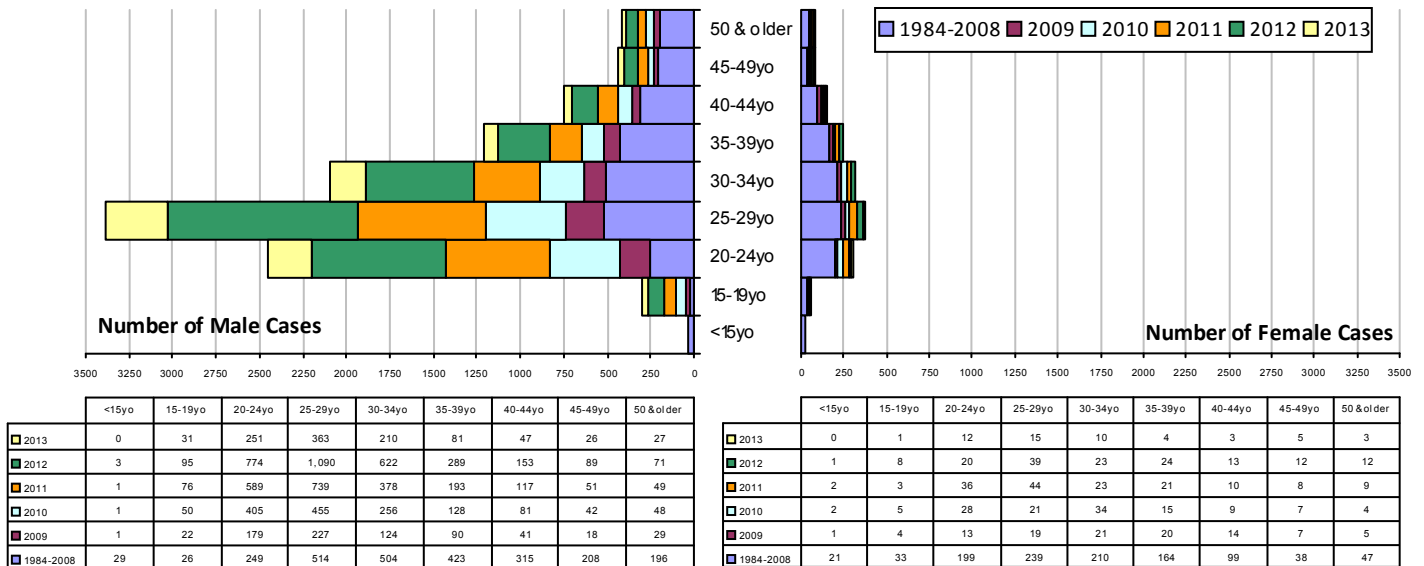
*Nine initially asymptomatic cases reported in 2011, died due to AIDS that same year.

Demographic Characteristics (1984-2013)

Ninety-five percent of the 1,089 cases in 2013 were males (1,036). Ages ranged from 17 to 63 years old (median 28 years). The 20-29 year old age group had the most (59%) number of cases for 2013. For the male age group, the most number of cases were found among the 20-24 years old (24%), 25-29 years old (35%), and 30-34 years old (20%) [Figure 4].

From 1984 to 2013, there were 12,791 HIV Ab sero-positive cases reported (Table 1), of which 11,563 (90%) were asymptomatic and 1,228 (10%) were AIDS cases. As shown in Figure 4, there is a significant difference in the number of male and female cases reported. Eighty-seven percent (11,112) 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 (29%), 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-nine percent (1,079) were infected through sexual contact and 1% (10) through needle sharing among injecting drug users (Table 3). There were 1,026 males and 53 females infected through sexual transmission. The age range of those infected through sexual transmission was 17-63 years old (median 28 years).

Of the 12,791 HIV positive cases reported from 1984 to 2013, 93% (11,884) were infected through sexual contact, 4% (450) through needle sharing among injecting drug users, <1% (59) 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	Mar 2013 n=370	Jan-Mar 2013 n=1,089	Cumulative N=12,791
Sexual Contact	364	1,079	11,884
<i>Heterosexual contact</i>	<i>54(15%)</i>	<i>183(17%)</i>	<i>3,539(30%)</i>
<i>Homosexual contact</i>	<i>189(52%)</i>	<i>554(51%)</i>	<i>5,129(43%)</i>
<i>Bisexual contact</i>	<i>121(33%)</i>	<i>342(32%)</i>	<i>3,216(27%)</i>
Blood/Blood Products	0	0	20
Injecting Drug Use	6	10	450
Needle Prick Injury	0	0	3
Mother-to-Child	0	0	59
No Data Available	0	0	375

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

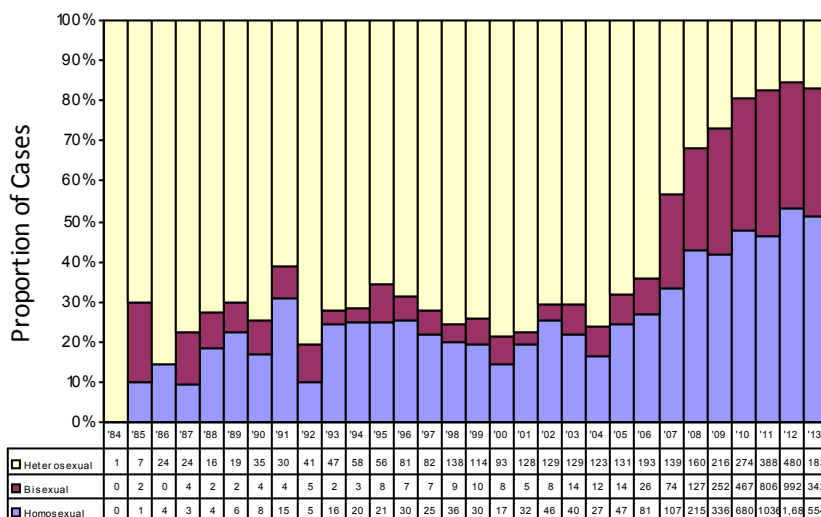
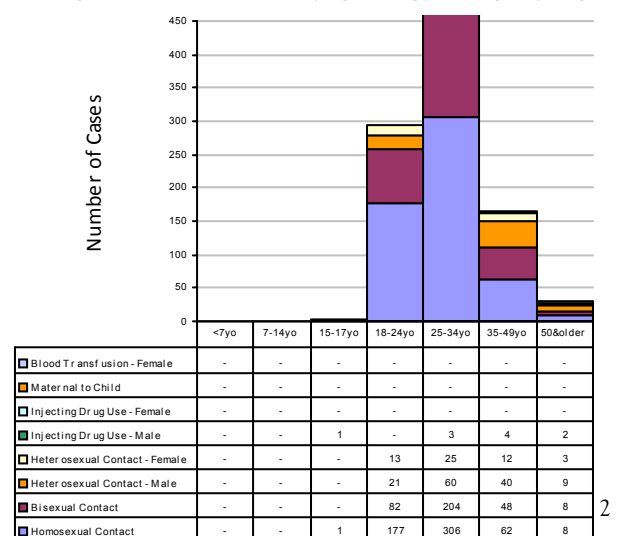


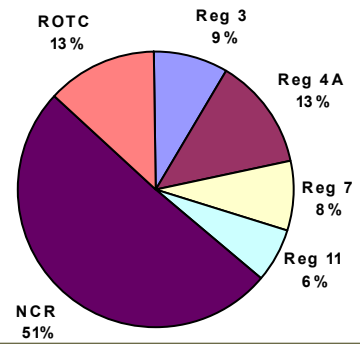
Figure 6. HIV Transmission by Age-Group, 2013 (n=1,089)



Geographic Distribution (1984-2013)

Since 1984 to present, there were 12,791 cases reported. More than half (5,998) came from the National Capital Region. [Figure 7]. Thirteen percent (1,468) came from region 4A, followed by 9% (999) from Region 3, 8% (962) from Region 7, 6% (671) from Region 11 and the rest of the country comprises 13% (1,555) of all the cases.

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



*Note: 1136 cases did not report data on address

AIDS Cases (1984-2013)

Of the 1,089 HIV positive cases in 2013, fifty nine were reported as AIDS cases. Of these, 55 were males and 4 were females. Ages ranged from 19-53 years (median 30 years). Ninety-eight percent (58) acquired the infection through sexual contact (32 homosexual, 9 bisexual and 17 heterosexual) and 2% (1) through injecting drug use.

From 1984 to 2013, there were 1,228 AIDS cases reported. Seventy-eight percent (956) were males. Median age is 34 years (age range: 1-81 years). Of the reported AIDS cases, 353 (29%) had already died at the time of reporting. Sexual contact was the most common mode of HIV transmission, accounting for 94% (1,160) of all reported AIDS cases. Almost half (525) of sexual transmission was through heterosexual contact, followed by homosexual contact (461) then bisexual contact (174).

Other modes of transmission include: mother-to-child transmission (20), blood transfusion (10), injecting drug use (8), and needle prick injuries (2). Two percent (28) of the AIDS cases did not report mode of HIV transmission.

Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW)

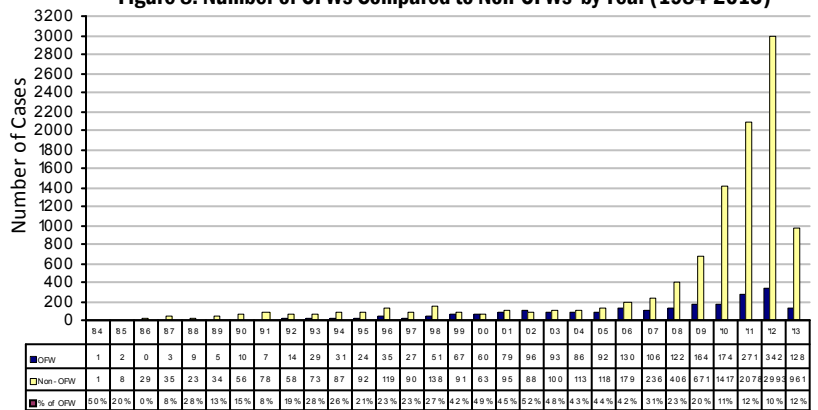
In 2013, there were 128 HIV positive OFWs, comprising 12% of cases reported for the year [Figure 11]. Of these, 120 (94%) were males and 8 (6%) were females. Ninety-nine percent acquired the infection through sexual contact (36 heterosexual, 46 homosexual and 45 bisexual) and 1% through injecting drug use.


There were 2,258 HIV positive OFWs since 1984, comprising 18% of all reported cases [Figure 8]. Seventy-nine percent (1,791) 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 (1,955) were asymptomatic while 13% (303) were AIDS cases.

Table 4. Mode of HIV Transmission Among OFWs

Mode of Transmission	Mar 2013 n=46	2013 n=128	Cumulative N=2,258
Sexual Transmission	46	127	2,195
Heterosexual contact	16(35%)	36(28%)	1,242(57%)
Homosexual contact	17(37%)	46(36%)	537(24%)
Bisexual contact	13(28%)	45(35%)	416(19%)
Blood/Blood Products	0	0	10
Injecting Drug Use	0	1	2
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)





National HIV/AIDS & STI Strategic Information and Surveillance Unit

National Epidemiology Center,
Department of Health, Bldg. 19,
San Lazaro Compound,
Sta. Cruz, Manila 1003 Philippines

Tel: +632 851-7800 local 2926, 2952
Fax: +632 495-0513
Email: HIVepicenter@gmail.com
Website: http://www.doh.gov.ph

Philippine HIV & AIDS Registry
Report Editorial Team:

Patricia Isabel T. Gayya, RN, MSPH
HIV Surveillance Assistant, HIV Unit

Kriselle Anne G. Rosquillo, RSW
Asst. HIV Surveillance Officer, HIV Unit

Noel S. Palapayan, RN, NQM-ESP
HIV Surveillance Officer, HIV Unit

Genelle May J. Samonte, MD, PHSAE
Epidemiologist, HIV Unit

Archie M. Sagaria, MD, PHSAE
Chief, SISE, NEC

Enrique A. Toyas, MD, PHSAE, FFSMID, CESO III
Director IV, NEC

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 to data interpretation. Thus, readers are cautioned to carefully weigh the data and consider other sources of information prior to arriving at conclusions.