Trend in the Philippines

Since 2013, there has been a gradual but continuous decrease of reported NT cases in the Philippines (Figure 1). From January 1 to February 4, 2017 alone, there is no clinically confirmed NT case nationwide. This is 1,200% lower compared to the same time period last year (12 cases).

Fig. 1 Trends of Neonatal Tetanus Cases, Philippines, 2013-2017*

*2017 = as of February 4, 2017

Standard Case Definition

- Clinically Confirmed Neonatal Tetanus
  - Any neonate (≤ 28 days of life) that sucks and cries normally during the first 2 days of life, and becomes ill between 3 to 28 days of age and develops both an inability to suck and diffuse muscle rigidity (stiffness) and spasms (jerking of the muscles), which may include trismus, clenched fists or feet, continuously pursed lips, and/or curved back (opisthotonus);
  - OR
  - A neonate between 3 to 28 days of life, diagnosed as a case of tetanus by a physician.

Case counts reported here do NOT represent the final number and are subject to change after inclusion of delayed reports and review of cases.