Newly Diagnosed HIV Cases in the Philippines

In April 2012, there were 233 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 36% higher compared to the same period last year (n=171 in 2011) [Figure 1].

Most of the cases (97%) were males. The median age was 27 years (age range: 19-66 years). The 20-29 year (62%) age-group had the most number of cases. Fifty percent (117) of the reported cases were from the National Capital Region (NCR).

Reported mode of transmission were sexual contact (210) and needle sharing among injecting drug users (23) [Table 2, page 3]. Males having sex with other males (88%) were the predominant type of sexual transmission [Figure 2]. Most (97%) of the cases were still asymptomatic at the time of reporting [Figure 3].

AIDS Cases

Of the 233 HIV positive cases, eight were reported as AIDS cases, all were males. The median age is 26 years (age range: 22-66 years). All cases acquired the infection through sexual contact (6 homosexual, 1 bisexual and 1 heterosexual). Of the AIDS cases, there was one reported death for this month; a 22 year old male.

Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW)

Eighteen of the 233 (8%) reported cases were OFWs [Figure 11, page 4]. There were 15 males and 3 females. The median age was 33 years (age range: 23-46 years). All acquired the infection through sexual contact (3 heterosexual, 10 homosexual, and 5 bisexual).
AIDS Cases (1984-2012)

Of the 1,032 HIV positive cases in 2012, forty were reported as AIDS cases. Of these, 39 were males and 1 was female. Ages ranged from 7-81 years (median 32 years). Ninety-eight percent (39) acquired the infection through sexual contact (19 homosexual, 15 bisexual, and 5 heterosexual) and 2% (1) mother-to-child transmission.

From 1984 to 2012, there were 1,018 AIDS cases reported. Seventy-four percent (757) were males. Median age is 35 years (age range: 1-81 years). Of the reported AIDS cases, 350 (34%) had already died at the time of reporting. Sexual contact was the most common mode of HIV transmission, accounting for 94% (953) of all reported AIDS cases. Half (479) of sexual transmission was through heterosexual contact, followed by homosexual contact (343) then bisexual contact (131).

Other modes of transmission include: mother-to-child transmission (19), blood transfusion (10), injecting drug use (6), and needle prick injuries (2) [Figure 4]. Three percent (28) of the AIDS cases did not report mode of HIV transmission.

Demographic Characteristics (1984-2012)

In 2012, there were a total of 1,032 cases reported. 95% of the cases reported were males (982). Ages ranged from 2-81 years old (median 28 years). The 20-29 year old age group (58%) had the most number of cases for 2012. For the male age group, the most number of cases were found among the 20-24 years old (26%), 25-29 years old (32%), and 30-34 years old (20%) [Figure 6].

From 1984 to 2012, there were 9,396 HIV Ab sero-positive cases reported (Table 1), of which 8,378 (89%) were asymptomatic and 1,018 (11%) were AIDS cases. As shown in Figure 6, there is a significant difference in the number of male and female cases reported. Eighty-four percent (7,872) were males. Ages ranged from 1-81 years (median 29 years). The age groups with the most number of cases were: 20-24 years (21%), 25-29 (28%), and 30-34 years (19%) [Figure 6].

**Figure 4. Proportion of Modes of Transmission of AIDS Cases by Year, Jan 1984–April 2012**

**Figure 5. Proportion of Sex & Age Groups in April 2012 & Jan-April 2012**

**Figure 6. Comparison of the Distribution of Male and Female HIV Cases by Age-Group and Certain Highlighted Years**
Geographic Distribution

In April 2012, bulk of the new HIV cases came from NCR, Region 7, Region 4A, Region 3, and Region 11 [Fig 7]. The three highest reporting regions were NCR, Region 4A, and Region 7.

Figure 7. New HIV Cases by Region, April 2012

Modes of Transmission (1984-2012)

In 2012, 90% (933) were infected through sexual contact, 9% (96) through needle sharing among injecting drug users, and <1% (3) through mother-to-child transmission (Table 2). There were 892 males and 41 females infected through sexual transmission. The age range of those infected through sexual transmission was 17-81 years old (median 28 years).

Of the 9,396 HIV positive cases reported from 1984 to 2012, 91% (8,579) were infected through sexual contact, 4% (361) through needle sharing among injecting drug users, 1% (58) through mother-to-child transmission, <1% (20) through blood transfusion and needle prick injury <1% (3) [Table 2]. Other modes of transmission are listed in Table 2. No data is available for 4% (375) of the cases.

Cumulative data shows 35% (3,000) were infected through heterosexual contact, 39% (3,368) through homosexual contact, and 26% (2,211) through bisexual contact. From 2007 there has been a shift in the predominant trend of transmission. The age range of those infected through sexual transmission was 17-81 years old (median 28 years).

Table 2. Reported Mode of HIV Transmission

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode of Transmission</th>
<th>April 2012 n=233</th>
<th>Jan-Apr 2012 n=1,032</th>
<th>Cumulative N=9,396</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Contact</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heterosexual</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>933</td>
<td>8,579</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homosexual Contact</td>
<td>26(12%)</td>
<td>124(13%)</td>
<td>3,000(35%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bisexual Contact</td>
<td>113(54%)</td>
<td>480(51%)</td>
<td>3,368(39%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood/Blood Products</td>
<td>71(34%)</td>
<td>329(35%)</td>
<td>2,211(26%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injecting Drug Use</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Needle Prick Injury</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother-to-Child</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Data Available</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>329</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>8,579</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 9. Proportion of Types of Sexual Transmission, Jan 1984—April 2012

Figure 10. HIV Transmission by Age-Group, 2012 (n=1,032)
**Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW)**

In 2012, there were 109 HIV positive OFWs, comprising 11% of cases reported for the year [Figure 11]. Of these, 96 (88%) were males and 13 (12%) were females. All were infected through sexual contact.

There were 1,897 HIV positive OFWs since 1984, comprising 20% of all reported cases [Figure 11]. Seventy-seven percent (1,466) were males. Ages ranged from 18 to 69 years (median 35 years). Sexual contact (97%) was the predominant mode of transmission (Table 3). Eighty-five percent (1,613) were asymptomatic while 15% (284) were AIDS cases.

**Blood Units Confirmed for HIV**

As of March 2012, 69 blood units were confirmed positive for HIV by RITM. Data for April is not yet available. There is no available data yet on the total number of blood units donated.

These are confirmed positive blood units, not blood donors. One donor can donate more than one blood unit. HIV positive blood donors may not be in the HIV & AIDS Registry unless they underwent voluntary counseling and testing as individuals.

**PLHIV on Anti-Retroviral Therapy**

As of March 2012, there are 2,278* People Living with HIV presently on Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART). Data for April is not yet available.

*This is not a cumulative number. It does not include those who already have died, left the country, or decided to stop taking ART.