



## Newly Diagnosed HIV Cases in the Philippines

In August 2012, there were 272 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 39% higher compared to the same period last year (n=196 in 2011) [Figure 1].

Most of the cases (95%) were males. The median age was 28 years (age range: 18-60 years). The 20-29 year (59%) age-group had the most number of cases. Fifty-one percent (138) of the reported cases were from the National Capital Region (NCR).

Reported mode of transmission were sexual contact (253) and needle sharing among injecting drug users (19). [Table 2, page 3]. Males having sex with other males (86%) were the predominant type of sexual transmission [Figure 2]. Most (93%) of the cases were still asymptomatic at the time of reporting [Figure 3].

### AIDS Cases

Of the 272 HIV positive cases, twenty were reported as AIDS cases, all were males. The median age is 30 years (age range: 21-46 years). All acquired the infection through sexual contact (11 homosexual, 4 heterosexual and 5 bisexual). Of the AIDS cases, there was one reported death for this month; a 41 year old male.

### Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW)

Twenty-five of the 272 (9%) reported cases were OFWs [Figure 11, page 4]. There were 18 males and 7 females. The median age was 32 years (age range: 22-58 years). All acquired the infection through sexual contact (10 heterosexual, 10 homosexual and 5 bisexual).

Table 1. Quick Facts

| Demographic Data            | August 2012 | Jan-Aug 2012 | Cumulative 1984-2012 |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Total Reported Cases        | 272         | 2,150        | 10,514               |
| Asymptomatic Cases          | 252         | 2,034        | 9,416                |
| AIDS Cases                  | 20          | 116          | 1,098                |
| Males                       | 258         | 2,051        | 8,941*               |
| Females                     | 14          | 99           | 1,562*               |
| Youth 15-24yo               | 69          | 597          | 2,514                |
| Children <15yo              | 0           | 4            | 62                   |
| Reported Deaths due to AIDS | 1           | 11           | 353                  |

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

Figure 1. Number of New HIV Cases per Month (2010-2012)

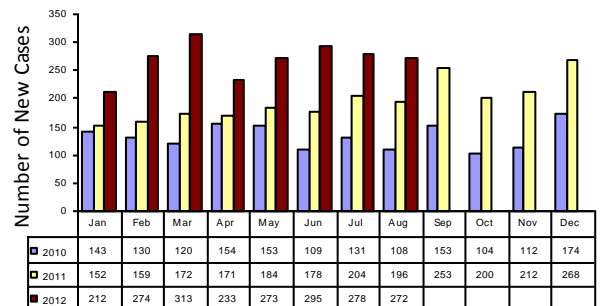


Figure 2. Comparison of the Proportion of Types of Sexual Transmission in 2012, 2011 & Cumulative Data (1984-2012)

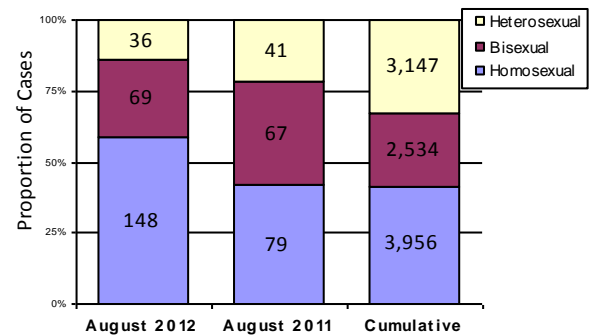
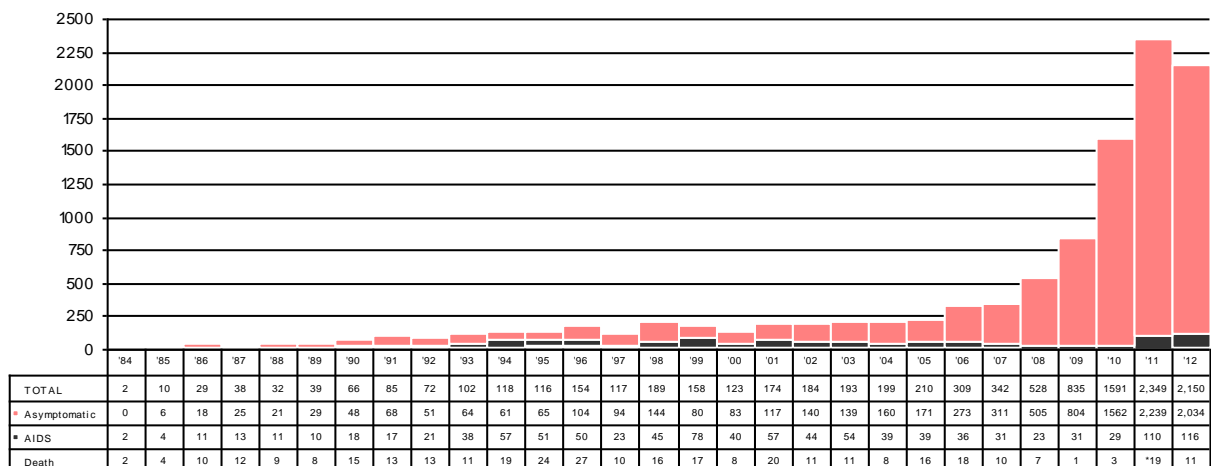


Figure 3. Number of HIV/AIDS Cases Reported in the Philippines by Year, Jan 1984 to August 2012 (N=10,514)



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

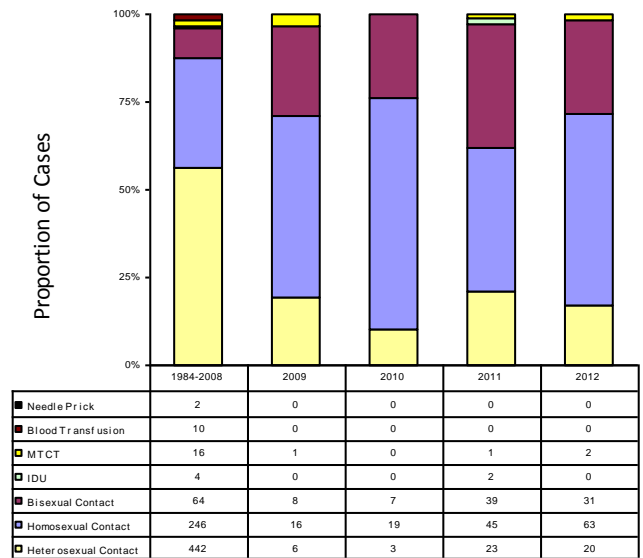
### AIDS Cases (1984-2012)

Of the 2,150 HIV positive cases in 2012, one hundred sixteen were reported as AIDS cases. Of these, 110 were males and 6 were females. Ages ranged from 7-81 years (median 32 years). Ninety-eight percent (114) acquired the infection through sexual contact (63 homosexual, 31 bisexual and 20 heterosexual), and 2% (2) mother-to-child transmission.

From 1984 to 2012, there were 1,098 AIDS cases reported. Seventy-six percent (832) were males. Median age is 35 years (age range: 1-81 years). Of the reported AIDS cases, 352 (32%) had already died at the time of reporting. Sexual contact was the most common mode of HIV transmission, accounting for 94% (1,032) of all reported AIDS cases. Almost half (494) of sexual transmission was through heterosexual contact, followed by homosexual contact (389) then bisexual contact (149).

Other modes of transmission include: mother-to-child transmission (20), 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.

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



\*Note: 28 did not report mode of transmission

### Demographic Characteristics (1984-2012)

Ninety-five percent of the 2,150 cases were males (2,051). Ages ranged from 2 to 81 years old (median 28 years). The 20-29 year old age group had the most (59%) 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 (34%), and 30-34 years old (19%) [Figure 6].

From 1984 to 2012, there were 10,514 HIV Ab sero-positive cases reported (Table 1), of which 9,416 (90%) were asymptomatic and 1,098 (10%) were AIDS cases. As shown in Figure 6, there is a significant difference in the number of male and female cases reported. Eighty-five percent (8,941) 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 5. Proportion of Sex & Age-Groups in August 2012 & Jan-Aug 2012

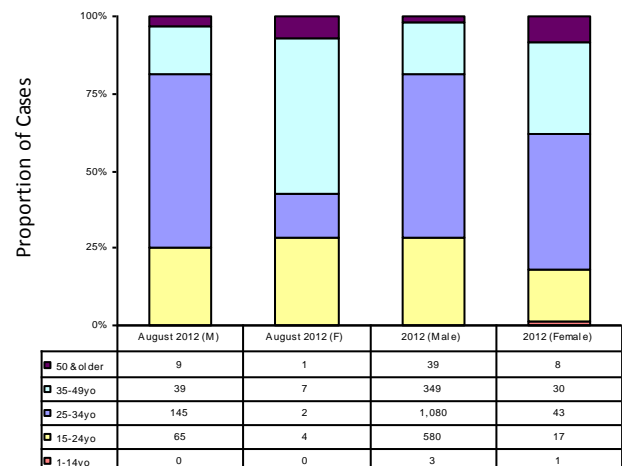
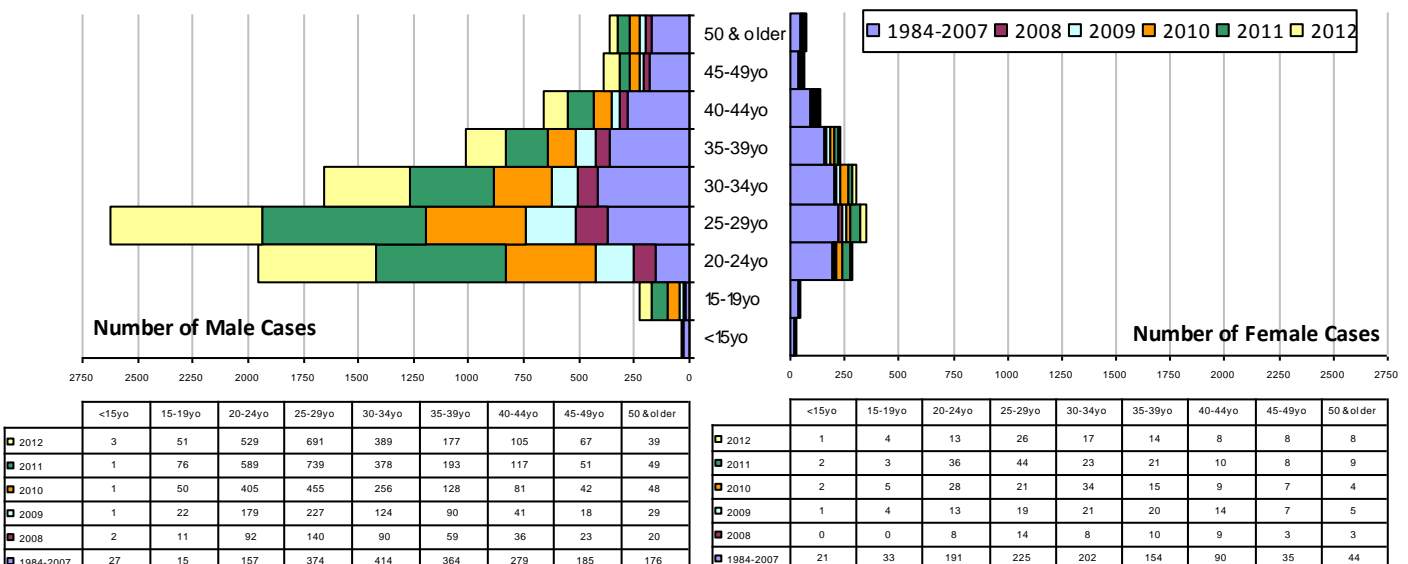


Figure 6. Comparison of the Distribution of Male and Female HIV Cases by Age-Group and Certain Highlighted Years



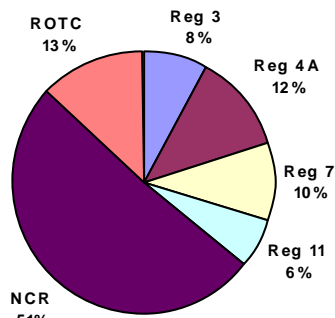
\*Note: 74 did not report age, 11 did not report sex, 10 did not report age and sex

### Geographic Distribution

| Region | % of Cases |
|--------|------------|
| I      | 3%         |
| II     | <1%        |
| III    | 8%         |
| IVA    | 12%        |
| IVB    | 1%         |
| V      | <1%        |
| VI     | 3%         |
| VII    | 10%        |
| VIII   | 1%         |
| IX     | 2%         |
| X      | 1%         |
| XI     | 6%         |
| XII    | 1%         |
| CAR    | <1%        |
| CARAGA | 1%         |
| ARMM   | 0%         |
| NCR    | 51%        |

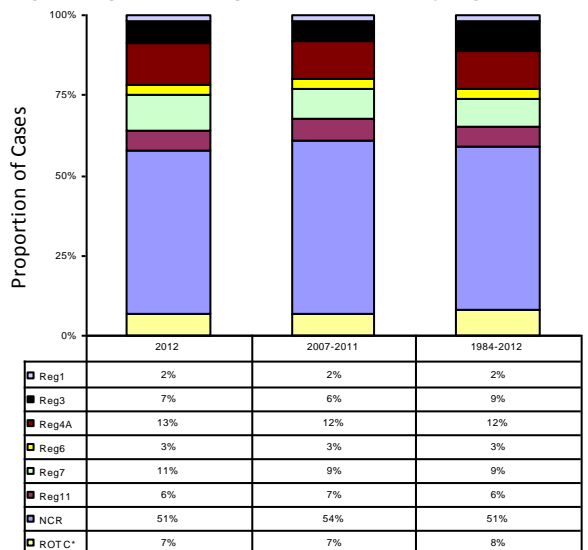
In August 2012, bulk of the new HIV cases came from NCR, Region 4A, Region 7, Region 3, and Region 11 [Fig 7]. The three highest reporting regions were NCR, Region 4A, and Region 7.

Figure 7. New HIV Cases by Region, August 2012



\*ROTC: Rest of the Country

Fig 8. Comparison of Proportion of HIV Cases by Region & Year



### Modes of Transmission (1984-2012)

In 2012, 93% (1,991) were infected through sexual contact, 7% (155) through needle sharing among injecting drug users, and <1% (4) through mother-to-child transmission (Table 2). There were 1,902 males and 89 females infected through sexual transmission. The age range of those infected through sexual transmission was 15-81 years old (median 28 years).

Of the 10,514 HIV positive cases reported from 1984 to 2012, 92% (9,637) were infected through sexual contact, 4% (420) 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 2]. No data is available for 4% (375) of the cases.

Table 2. Reported Mode of HIV Transmission

| Mode of Transmission        | August 2012 n=272 | Jan-August 2012 n=2,150 | Cumulative N=10,514 |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Sexual Contact</b>       | <b>253</b>        | <b>1,991</b>            | <b>9,637</b>        |
| <i>Heterosexual contact</i> | <i>36(14%)</i>    | <i>271(14%)</i>         | <i>3,147(33%)</i>   |
| <i>Homosexual contact</i>   | <i>148(58%)</i>   | <i>1,068(54%)</i>       | <i>3,956(41%)</i>   |
| <i>Bisexual contact</i>     | <i>69(27%)</i>    | <i>652(33%)</i>         | <i>2,534(26%)</i>   |
| <b>Blood/Blood Products</b> | <b>0</b>          | <b>0</b>                | <b>20</b>           |
| <b>Injecting Drug Use</b>   | <b>19</b>         | <b>155</b>              | <b>420</b>          |
| <b>Needle Prick Injury</b>  | <b>0</b>          | <b>0</b>                | <b>3</b>            |
| <b>Mother-to-Child</b>      | <b>0</b>          | <b>4</b>                | <b>59</b>           |
| <b>No Data Available</b>    | <b>0</b>          | <b>0</b>                | <b>375</b>          |

Cumulative data shows 33% (3,147) were infected through heterosexual contact, 41% (3,956) through homosexual contact, and 26% (2,534) through bisexual contact. From 2007 there has been a shift in the predominant trend of sexual transmission from heterosexual contact (20%) to males having sex with other males (80%) [Figure 9].

Figure 9. Proportion of Types of Sexual Transmission, Jan 1984–August 2012

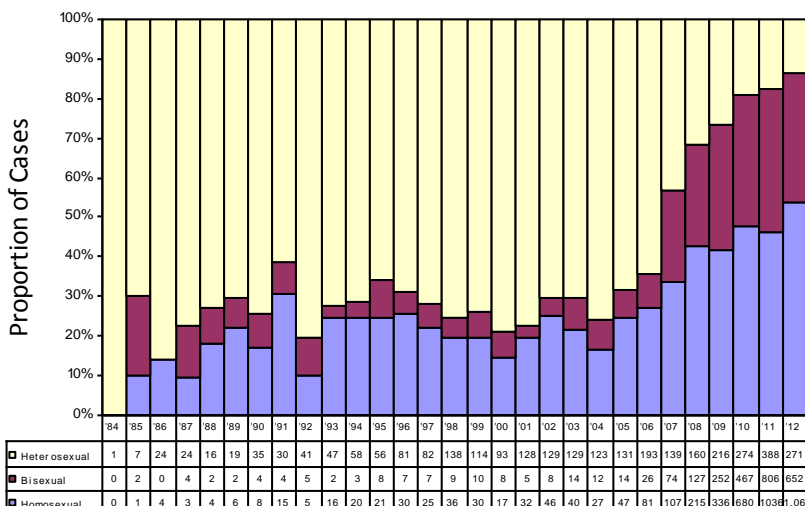
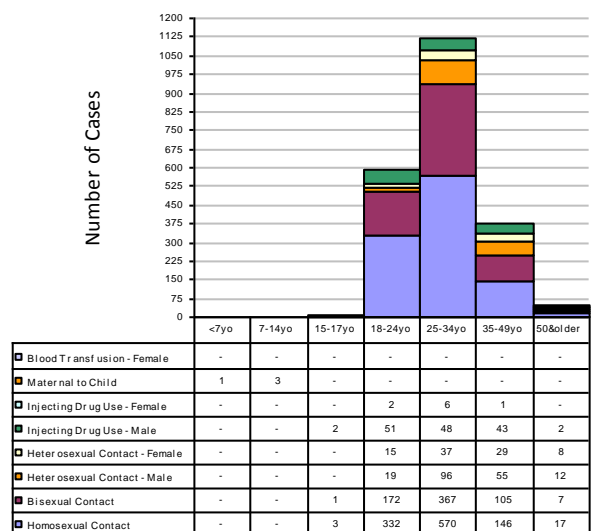


Figure 10. HIV Transmission by Age-Group, 2012 (n=2,150)



### Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW)

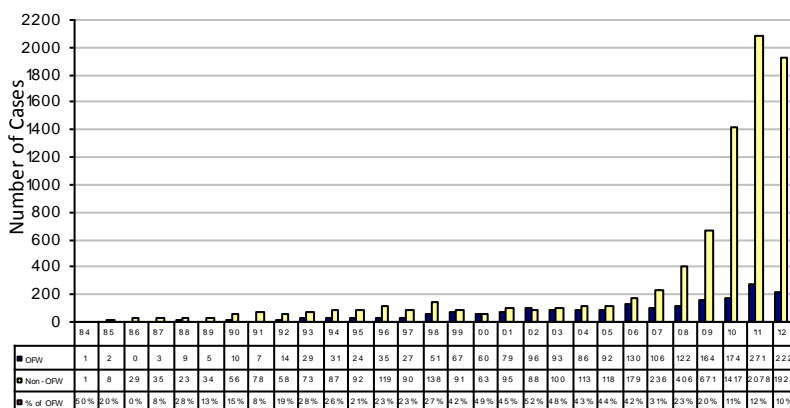
In 2012, there were 222 HIV positive OFWs, comprising 10% of cases reported for the year [Figure 11]. Of these, 191 (86%) were males and 31 (14%) were females. All were infected through sexual contact.

There were 2,010 HIV positive OFWs since 1984, comprising 19% of all reported cases [Figure 11]. Seventy-eight percent (1,561) 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 (1,712) were asymptomatic while 15% (298) were AIDS cases.

Table 3. Mode of HIV Transmission Among OFWs

| Mode of Transmission        | August 2012<br>n=25 | Jan-August 2012<br>n=222 | Cumulative<br>N=2,010 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Sexual Transmission</b>  | <b>25</b>           | <b>222</b>               | <b>1,948</b>          |
| Heterosexual contact        | 10(40%)             | 66(30%)                  | 1,164(60%)            |
| Homosexual contact          | 10(40%)             | 89(40%)                  | 444(23%)              |
| Bisexual contact            | 5(20%)              | 67(30%)                  | 340(17%)              |
| <b>Blood/Blood Products</b> | <b>0</b>            | <b>0</b>                 | <b>10</b>             |
| <b>Injecting Drug Use</b>   | <b>0</b>            | <b>0</b>                 | <b>1</b>              |
| <b>Needle Prick Injury</b>  | <b>0</b>            | <b>0</b>                 | <b>3</b>              |
| <b>No Data Available</b>    | <b>0</b>            | <b>0</b>                 | <b>48</b>             |

Figure 11. Number of OFWs Compared to Non-OFWs by Year (1984-2012)



### Blood Units Confirmed for HIV

As of August 2012, 167 blood units were confirmed positive for HIV by RITM. 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.

Table 4. Number of Confirmed HIV Positive Blood Units

| Month        | 2012       | 2011       |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| January      | 17         | 11         |
| February     | 18         | 15         |
| March        | 34         | 14         |
| April        | 21         | 20         |
| May          | 21         | 10         |
| June         | 9          | 32         |
| July         | 22         | 22         |
| August       | 25         | 18         |
| September    |            | 18         |
| October      |            | 22         |
| November     |            | 17         |
| December     |            | 18         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>167</b> | <b>217</b> |

### PLHIV on Anti-Retroviral Therapy

As of June 2012, there are 2,761\* People Living with HIV presently on Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART). Data for July and August is not yet available.

Table 5. Number of PLHIV on ART

| Month     | 2012                   |
|-----------|------------------------|
| January   | 2,087                  |
| February  | 2,169                  |
| March     | 2,278                  |
| April     | 2,498                  |
| May       | 2,633                  |
| June      | 2,761                  |
| July      | Data not yet available |
| August    | Data not yet available |
| September |                        |
| October   |                        |
| November  |                        |
| December  |                        |

#### Treatment Hubs in the Philippines

1. Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center
2. Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center
3. Cagayan Valley Medical Center
4. Jose B. Lingad Medical Center
5. San Lazaro Hospital
6. Philippine General Hospital
7. Research Institute for Tropical Medicine
8. Makati Medical Center
9. The Medical City
10. Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital
11. Western Visayas Medical Center
12. Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital
13. Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center
14. Gov. Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital
15. Zamboanga City Medical Center
16. Southern Philippines Medical Center

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

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