



Newly Diagnosed HIV Cases in the Philippines

In May 2013, there were 415 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 52% higher compared to the same period last year (n=273 in 2012) and the highest number of cases reported in a month [Figure 1].

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

Region	% of Cases
I	1%
II	<1%
III	8%
IVA	13%
IVB	1%
V	<1%
VI	3%
VII	4%
VIII	1%
IX	<1%
X	1%
XI	10%
XII	1%
CAR	<1%
CARAGA	1%
ARMM	1%
NCR	53%

Most of the cases (96%) were males. The median age was 28 years (age range: 16-79 years). The 20-29 year (55%) age group had the most number of cases.

Reported mode of transmission were sexual contact (409) and needle sharing among injecting drug users (6) [Table 3, page 2]. Males having sex with other males (86%) were the predominant type of sexual transmission [Figure 2]. Most (95%) of the cases were still asymptomatic at the time of reporting [Figure 3].

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

Table 1. Quick Facts

Demographic Data	May 2013	Jan-May 2013	Cumulative 1984-2013
Total Reported Cases	415	1,892	13,594
Asymptomatic Cases	396	1,789	12,322
AIDS Cases	19	103	1,272
Males	398	1,802	11,878*
Females	17	90	1,705*
Youth 15-24yo	99	513	3,327
Children <15yo	0	0	62

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

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

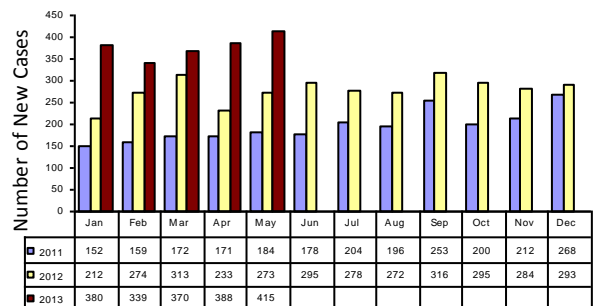


Figure 2. Comparison of the Proportion of Types of Sexual Transmission in 2013, 2012 & Cumulative Data (1984-2013)

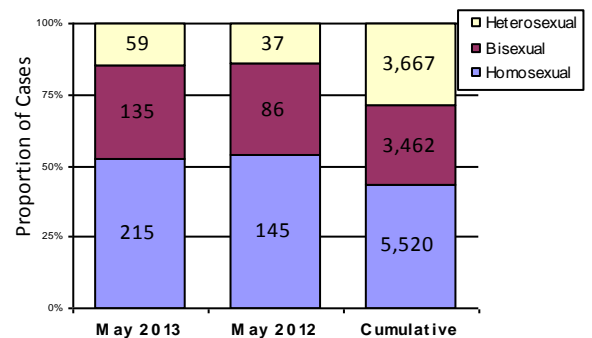
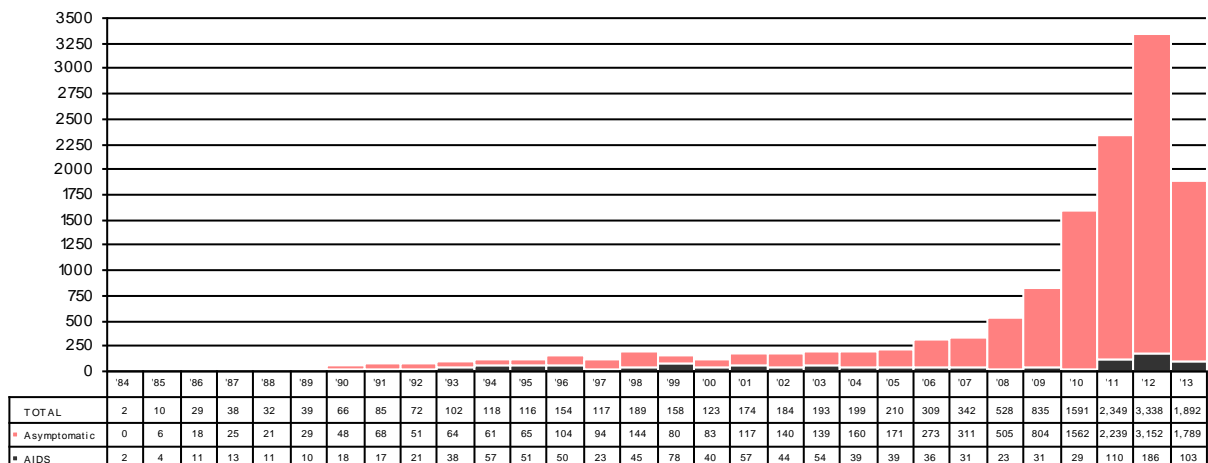


Figure 3. Number of HIV/AIDS Cases Reported in the Philippines by Year, Jan 1984 to May 2013 (N=13,594)



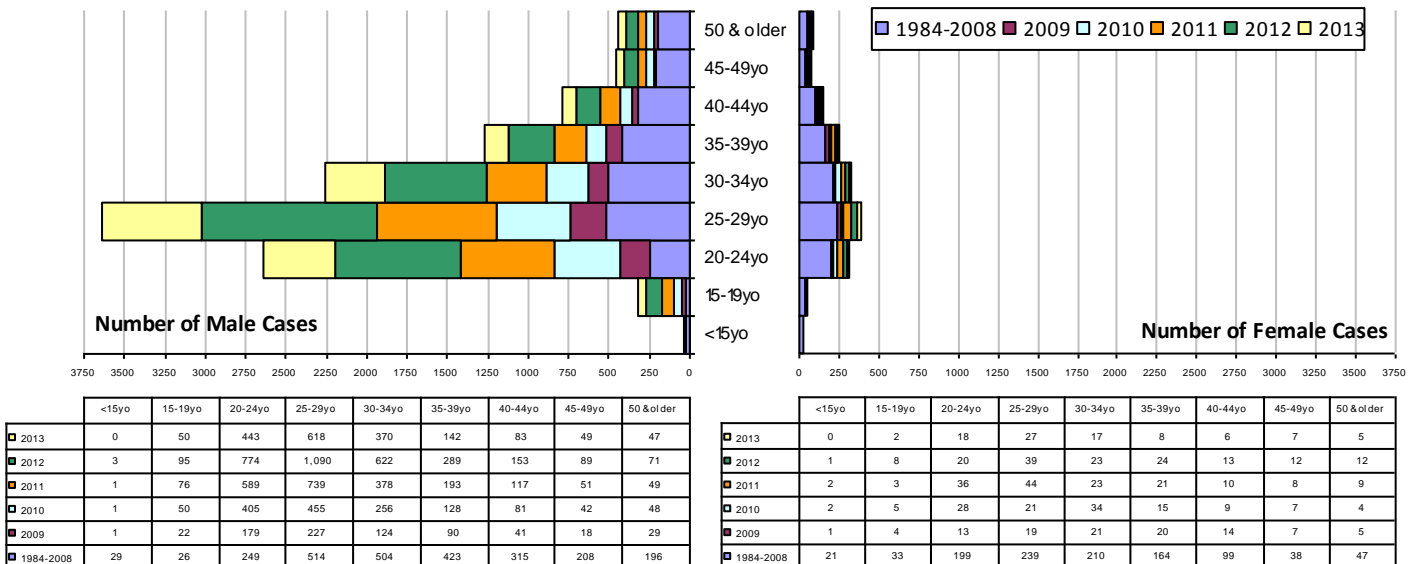
*Nine initially asymptomatic cases reported in 2011, died due to AIDS that same year.

Demographic Characteristics (1984-2013)

Ninety-five percent of the 1,892 cases in 2013 were males (1,802). Ages ranged from 16 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 13,594 HIV Ab sero-positive cases reported (Table 1), of which 12,322 (91%) were asymptomatic and 1,272 (9%) 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 (11,878) 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-seven percent (1,844) were infected through sexual contact and 3% (48) through needle sharing among injecting drug users (Table 3). There were 1,755 males and 89 females infected through sexual transmission. The age range of those infected through sexual transmission was 16-79 years old (median 28 years).

Of the 13,594 HIV positive cases reported from 1984 to 2013, 93% (12,649) were infected through sexual contact, 4% (488) 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	May 2013 n=415	Jan-May 2013 n=1892	Cumulative N=13,594
Sexual Contact	409	1,844	12,649
<i>Heterosexual contact</i>	<i>59(14%)</i>	<i>311(17%)</i>	<i>3,667(29%)</i>
<i>Homosexual contact</i>	<i>215(53%)</i>	<i>945(51%)</i>	<i>5,520(44%)</i>
<i>Bisexual contact</i>	<i>135(33%)</i>	<i>588(32%)</i>	<i>3,462(27%)</i>
Blood/Blood Products	0	0	20
Injecting Drug Use	6	48	488
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–May 2013

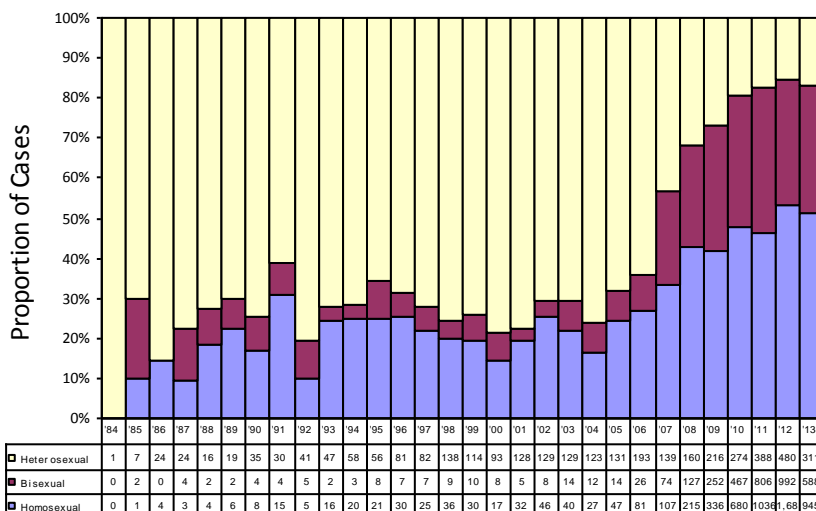
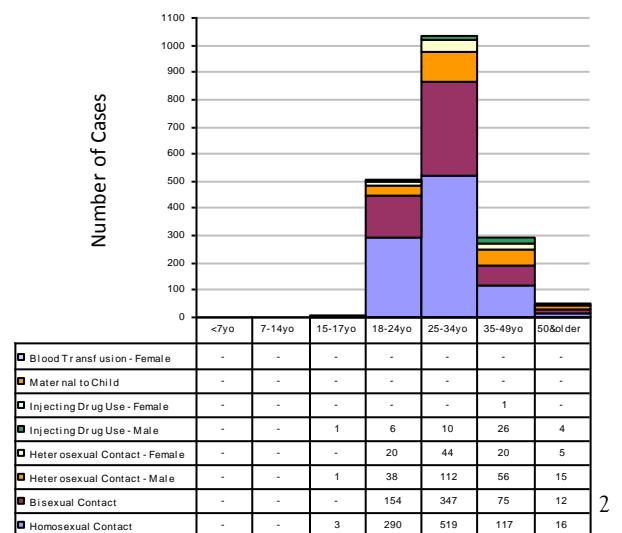


Figure 6. HIV Transmission by Age-Group, 2013 (n=1,892)

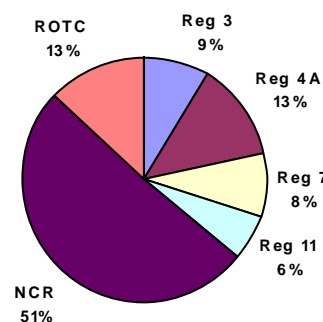


Geographic Distribution (1984-2013)

Since 1984 to present, there were 13,594 cases reported. More than half (6,385) came from the National Capital Region. [Figure 7]. Thirteen percent (1,586) came from region 4A, followed by 8% (1,053) from Region 3, 8% (1,034) from Region 7, 6% (743) from Region 11 and the rest of the country comprises 13% (1,657) of all the cases.

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

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



AIDS Cases (1984-2013)

Of the 1,892 HIV positive cases in 2013, one hundred three were reported as AIDS cases. Of these, 97 were males and 6 were females. Ages ranged from 17-59 years (median 31 years). Ninety-eight percent (101) acquired the infection through sexual contact (51 homosexual, 23 bisexual and 27 heterosexual) and 2% (2) through injecting drug use.

From 1984 to 2013, there were 1,272 AIDS cases reported. Seventy-eight percent (998) were males. Median age is 34 years (age range: 1-81 years). Of the reported AIDS cases, 353 (28%) had already died at the time of reporting. Sexual contact was the most common mode of HIV transmission, accounting for 95% (1,203) of all reported AIDS cases. Almost half (535) of sexual transmission was through heterosexual contact, followed by homosexual contact (480) then bisexual contact (188).

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)

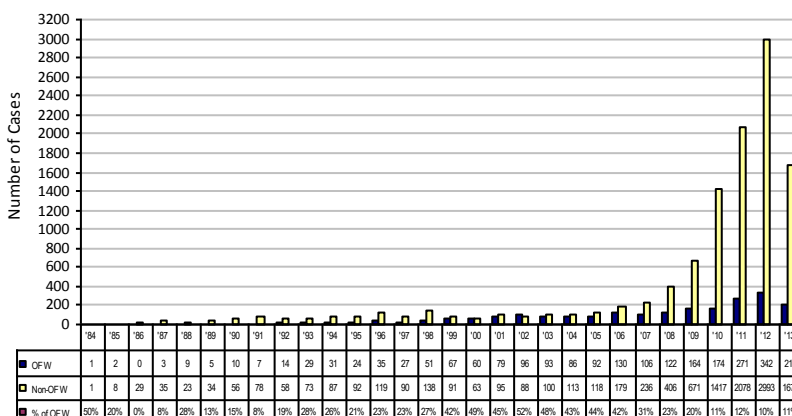
In 2013, there were 215 HIV positive OFWs, comprising 11% of cases reported for the year [Figure 8]. Of these, 196 (91%) were males and 19 (9%) were females. Ninety-nine percent acquired the infection through sexual contact (61 heterosexual, 82 homosexual and 70 bisexual) and 1% through injecting drug use.

There were 2,345 HIV positive OFWs since 1984, comprising 17% of all reported cases [Figure 8]. Eighty percent (1,867) 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 (2,037) were asymptomatic while 13% (308) were AIDS cases.

Table 4. Mode of HIV Transmission Among OFWs

Mode of Transmission	May 2013 n=47	Jan-May 2013 n=215	Cumulative N=2,345
Sexual Transmission	47	213	2,281
<i>Heterosexual contact</i>	<i>13(28%)</i>	<i>61(29%)</i>	<i>1,267</i>
<i>Homosexual contact</i>	<i>21(45%)</i>	<i>82(39%)</i>	<i>573(25%)</i>
<i>Bisexual contact</i>	<i>13(28%)</i>	<i>70(33%)</i>	<i>441(19%)</i>
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)



Deaths among People with HIV

From January 1984 to May 2013, there were 774 reported deaths among people with HIV [Table 5]. Seventy six percent (589) were males. In total, there has been 81 deaths among youth (15-24 years old) and 15 deaths among children (<15 years old).

The annual number of deaths from 1984-2010 ranges from 2 to 36 cases with an average of 14 deaths per year. Beginning 2011, there has been an increase in the number of recorded deaths. There were 69 in 2011, and 177 in 2012. The DOH-NEC established an official reporting form in 2012.

From January to May 2013, a total of 65 deaths were reported. Ninety two percent (60) were males while 8% (5) were females [Table 5]. The highest number of deaths occurred in the 25-29 (31%) age group [Figure 9]. This was followed by the 30-34 (17%) and the 35-39 (15%) age groups.

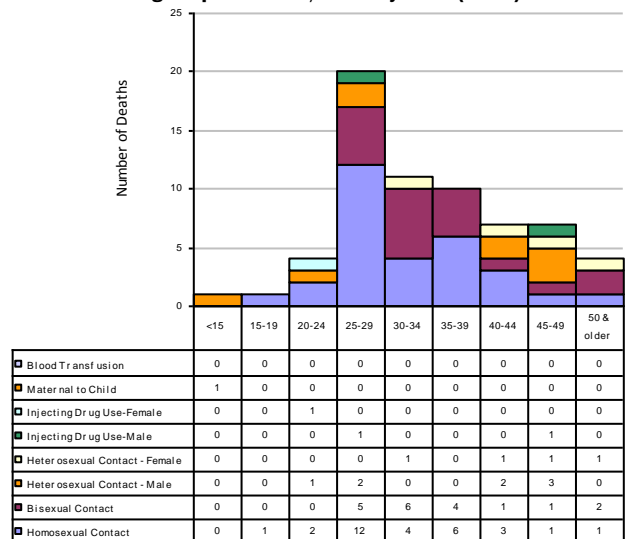
Among the reported deaths in 2013, sexual contact (94%) was the most common mode of HIV transmission (30 homosexual, 19 bisexual, 12 heterosexual). There were three cases who got infected through injecting drug use (5%) and one case from maternal to child transmission (2%) [Figure 9].

Table 5. Demographic data of reported deaths among People with HIV

Demographic Data	Jan-May 2013	Jan-Dec 2012	Cumulative (1984-2013)
Total Reported Deaths	65	177	774
Males	60	159	589
Females	5	18	185
Youth 15-24yo	5	27	81
Children <15yo	1	3	15

*Note: 44 cases had no reported year of death.

Figure 9. HIV Transmission by Age-Group of Reported Deaths among People with HIV, Jan-May 2013 (n=65)



PLHIV on Anti-Retroviral Therapy

As of May 2013, there are 4,115* People Living with HIV presently on Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART). These are the combined numbers of adult and pediatric patients currently enrolled and accessing Anti-Retroviral drugs in the 17 treatment hubs listed on the right.

Treatment Hubs in the Philippines	
1.	Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center
2.	Cagayan Valley Medical Center
3.	Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center
4.	Jose B. Lingad Medical Center
5.	James L. Gordon Memorial Hospital
6.	Makati Medical Center
7.	Philippine General Hospital
8.	Research Institute for Tropical Medicine
9.	San Lazaro Hospital
10.	The Medical City
11.	Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital
12.	Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital
13.	Western Visayas Medical Center
14.	Gov. Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital
15.	Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center
16.	Zamboanga City Medical Center
17.	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.

Blood Units Confirmed for HIV

As of May 2013, 123 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 6. Number of Confirmed HIV Positive Blood Units

Month	2013
January	22
February	21
March	28
April	30
May	22
June	
July	
August	
September	
October	
November	
December	
Total	123



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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.