

**NEWLY DIAGNOSED HIV CASES IN THE PHILIPPINES**

Table 1. Quick Facts

Demographic Data	August 2015	Jan-Aug 2015	Jan 2010 - Aug 2015	Cumulative Jan1984 - Aug 2015
Total Reported Cases	598	5,209	23,312	27,736
Asymptomatic Cases	559	4,890	21,787	25,368
AIDS Cases	39	319	1,525	2,368
Male	572	4,986	22,173	25,404 <sup>a</sup>
Female	26	223	1,139	2,321 <sup>a</sup>
Age Range (Median)	2-66(28)	1-73(28)	1-82(28)	1-82 (28)
Less than 15 y/o	4	15	33	85 <sup>b</sup>
15-24 y/o	154	1,444	6,598	7,323 <sup>b</sup>
25-34 y/o	314	2,761	12,238	14,096 <sup>b</sup>
35-49 y/o	110	871	3,870	5,308 <sup>b</sup>
50 y/o & above	16	118	573	850 <sup>b</sup>
Newly Started on ART	364			
Total PLHIV on ART				11,411
Reported Deaths	15	178	858	1,296

<sup>a</sup>No data available on sex for (11) cases  
<sup>b</sup>No data available on age for (74) cases

In August 2015, there were 598 new HIV Ab sero-positive individuals (Table 1). This was 17% higher compared to the same period last year (509) [Figure 1]. Most (93%) of the cases were still asymptomatic at the time of reporting (Figure 3).

Ninety-six percent were male. The median age was 28 years old (age range: 2 years-66 years). More than half (53%) belong to the 25-34 year age group while 26% were youth aged 15-24 years old.

Figure 2. Percentage of Newly Diagnosed Cases per Region (August 2015)

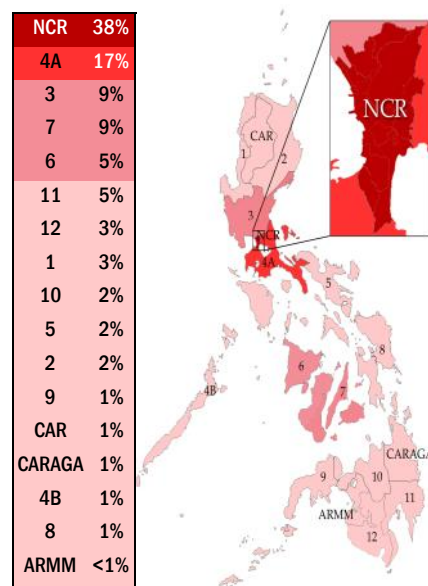
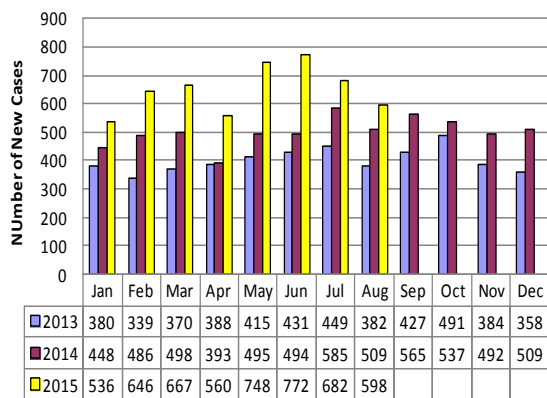


Figure 1. Number of New HIV Cases by Month (2013-2015)

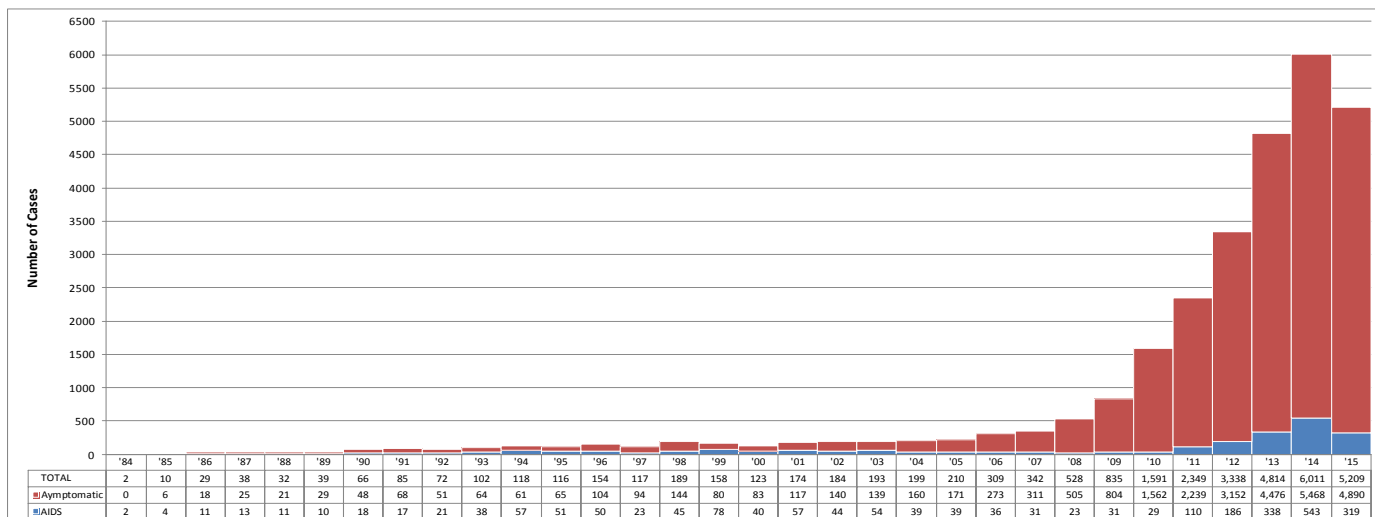


The regions with the highest number of reported cases for August 2015 were: NCR with 225 (38%) cases, Region 4A with 99 (17%) cases, Region 3 with 54 (9%) cases, Region 7 with 54 (9%) cases, and Region 6 with 32 (5%) cases. One hundred thirty-four (22%) cases came from the rest of the country (Figure 2).

Reported modes of transmission (MOT) were sexual contact (566), needle sharing among injecting drug users (IDU) [28], and mother-to-child transmission (4). Eighty-three percent of the sexually transmitted cases were among males who have sex with males (MSM<sup>a</sup>).

<sup>a</sup>male-male sex and sex with both males & females

Figure 3. Number of HIV Cases Reported in the Philippines by Year, January 1984 to August 2015 (N=27,736)



**PLHIV on Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART)**

As of August 2015, there were 11,411 People Living with HIV (PLHIV) presently on ART. This is the total number of adult and pediatric patients currently enrolled and accessing antiretroviral drugs (ARV) in the 22 treatment hubs. It does not include patients who were previously taking ARV but have already died, have left the country, have been lost to follow up, or opted not to take ARV anymore.

**List of Treatment Hubs in the Philippines**

1. Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center	13. Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital
2. Cagayan Valley Medical Center	14. Western Visayas Medical Center
3. Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center	15. Gov. Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital
4. Jose B. Lingad Medical Center	16. Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center
5. James L. Gordon Memorial Hospital	17. Zamboanga City Medical Center
6. Makati Medical Center	18. Southern Philippines Medical Center
7. Philippine General Hospital	19. Northern Mindanao Medical Center
8. Research Institute for Tropical Medicine	20. Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center
9. San Lazaro Hospital	21. Butuan Medical Center
10. The Medical City	22. CARAGA Regional Hospital
11. Marikina City Satellite Treatment Hub	
12. Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital	

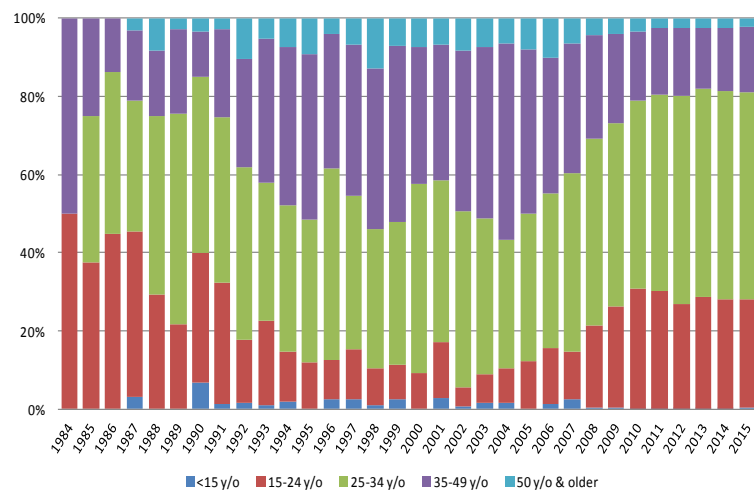
**HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC TRENDS IN THE PHILIPPINES (Jan 1984–August 2015)**

The first case of HIV infection in the Philippines was reported in 1984. From January 1984 to August 2015, there has been 27,736 HIV Ab sero-positive cases reported to the HARP (Table 1). Ninety-one percent (25,368) of the total reported cases were asymptomatic at the time of reporting. Most (25,404 or 92%) were male\*. The median age\* was 28 years old (age range: 1 year-82 years). More than half (14,096 or 51%) were from the 25-34 year age group while 7,323 (26%) were youth aged 15-24 years old (Figure 4).

Eighty-four percent (23,312) of all the 27,736 diagnosed cases in the Philippines were reported in the past five years, from January 2010 to August 2015 (Table 1). Most (93%) of these cases were still asymptomatic at the time of reporting.

\*Note: From 1984–August 2015, 74 did not report AGE, 11 did not report SEX while 10 did not report both AGE and SEX

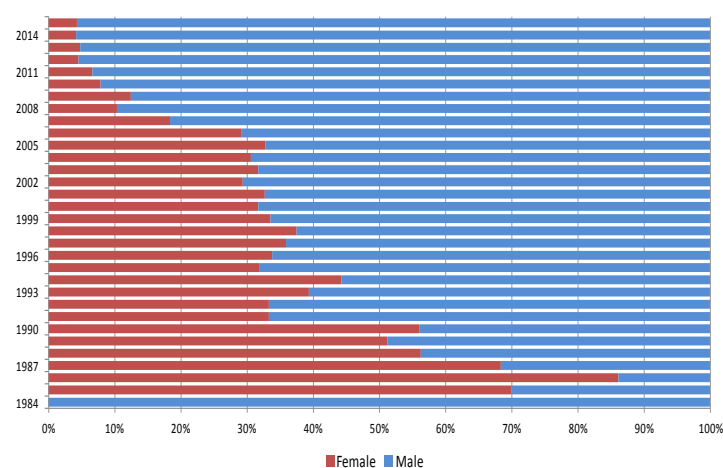
**Figure 4. Distribution of PLHIV by Age Group, Jan 1984-August 2015**



In the early years of the epidemic (1984-1990), 62% (133 of 216 cases) were female. Beginning in 1991, more males were reported to be infected with HIV in the Philippines (Figure 5). From 2010 to 2015, males comprised 95% (22,173) of the reported 23,312 cases.

The age group with the biggest proportion of cases has become younger: from 2000 to 2004, it was 30-39 years; from 2005 to 2009, it was 25-34 years; and from 2010 to 2015, it was 20-29 years (Figure 4). Notably, the proportion of PLHIV in the 15-24 year age group increased from 20% in 2005-2009 to 28% in 2010-2015.

**Figure 5. Distribution of PLHIV by Sex, Jan 1984-August 2015**



**Geographical Distribution**

From January 1984 to August 2015, the regions with the most number of reported cases were NCR with 12,134 (44%) cases, Region 4A with 3,701 (13%) cases, Region 7 with 2,479 (9%) cases, Region 3 with 2,274 (8%) cases, and Region 11 with 1,626 (6%) cases. Sixteen percent (4,376) of the cases came from the rest of the country (ROTC) while 1,146 (4%) had no data on region (Table 2).

Of the 2,321 females reported with HIV, 565 (24%) were from NCR, 416 (18%) were from Region 3, 244 (11%) were from Region 7, 200 (9%) were from Region 4A and 896 (39%) were from other regions.

The regions with the most number of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) reported to the HARP were NCR with 1,371 cases, Region 4A with 613 cases, Region 3 with 382 cases, and Region 6 with 194 cases.

**Table 2. Percentage of HIV Cases per Region**

Region	August 2015 (N=598)	Jan-Aug 2015 (N=5,209) <sup>a</sup>	Jan 2010 - Aug 2015 (N=23,312) <sup>b</sup>	Cumulative Jan 1984–Aug 2015 (N=27,736) <sup>c</sup>
NCR	225 (38%)	2,042 (39%)	10,458 (45%)	12,134 (44%)
4A	99 (17%)	839 (16%)	3,245 (14%)	3,701 (13%)
7	54 (9%)	451 (9%)	2,299 (10%)	2,479 (9%)
3	54 (9%)	455 (9%)	1,812 (8%)	2,274 (8%)
11	29 (5%)	297 (6%)	1,509 (6%)	1,626 (6%)
ROTC	137 (23%)	1,123 (22%)	3,822 (16%)	4,376 (16%)

<sup>a</sup>From January-August 2015, no particular region were reported for 2 cases  
<sup>b</sup>From January 2010-August 2015, no particular region were reported for 167 cases  
<sup>c</sup>From January 1984-August 2015, no particular region were reported for 1,146 cases

Table 3. Reported Modes of HIV Transmission

Mode of Transmission	August 2015 (N=598)		Jan-Aug 2015 (N=5,209)		Jan 2010-Aug 2015 (N=23,312)		Cumulative Jan1984-Aug 2015 (N=27,736) <sup>a</sup>	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
<b>Sexual Contact</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>4,808</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>20,974</b>	<b>1,043</b>	<b>23,899</b>	<b>2,113</b>
Male-Female Sex <sup>b</sup>	72	25	521	210	2,408	1,043	3,552	2,113
Male-Male Sex <sup>c</sup>	290	0	2,585	0	11,219	0	12,391	0
Sex with Males & Females <sup>d</sup>	179	0	1,702	0	7,347	0	7,956	0
<b>Blood/Blood Products</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Sharing of Needles</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1,162</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>1,168</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>Needle Prick Injury</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Mother-to-Child</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>No Data Available</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>77</b>

<sup>a</sup>From January 1984–August 2015, 11 did not report sex  
<sup>b</sup>Same as heterosexual in previous reports  
<sup>c</sup>Same as homosexual in previous reports  
<sup>d</sup>Same as bisexual in previous reports

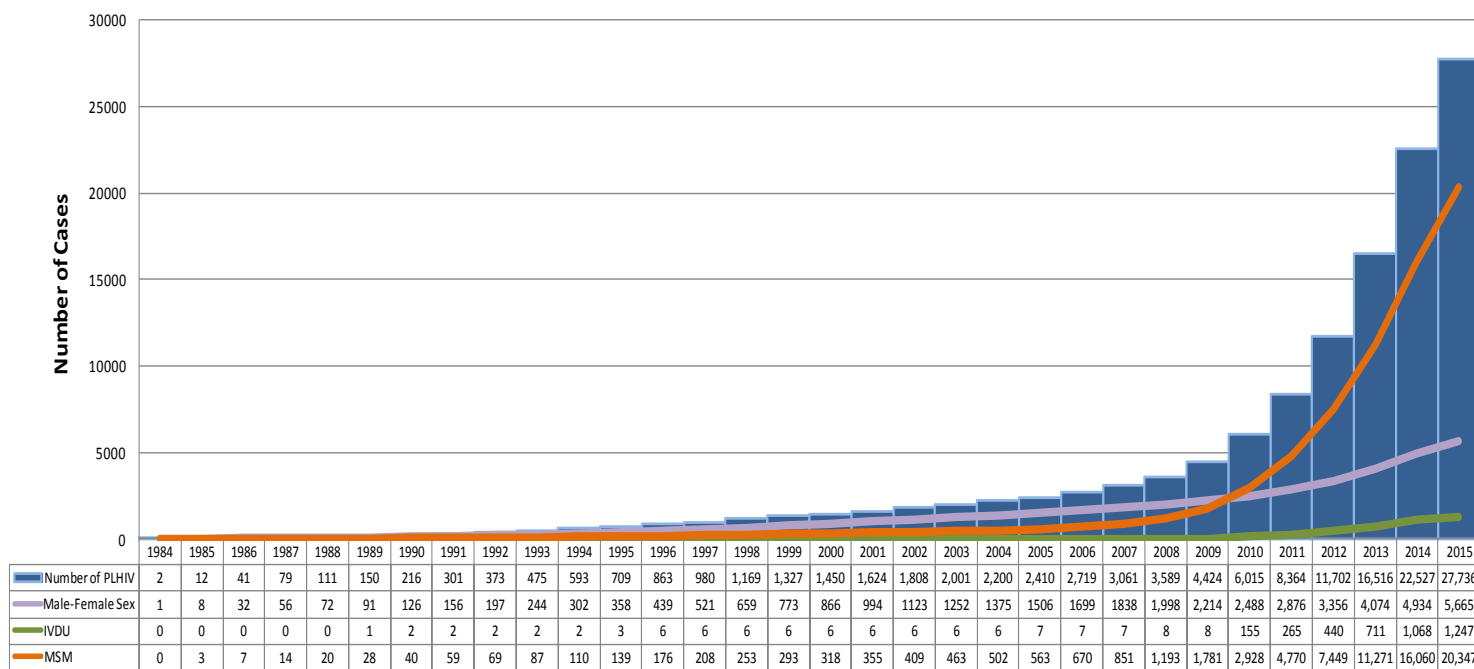
**Modes of Transmission (MOT)**

From January 1984 to August 2015, MSM was the predominant (20,347 or 80%) mode of transmission among males, followed by male-female sex (3,552 or 14%), and sharing of needles (1,168 or 5%) [Table 3]. More than half (54% of 10,912) of cases among MSM belong to the 25-34 year age group while 5,973 (29%) were youth 15-24 years old. Among females, male-female sex was the most common MOT (2,113 or 91%) followed by sharing of needles (79 or 3%). A total of 75 children (less than 10 years old) and 4 adolescents were reported to have acquired HIV through mother-to-child transmission, while 20 people were infected through blood transfusion (Table 3).

From January 2010 to August 2015, 84% (18,566) of infections through sexual contact were among MSM. From 2005 to 2009, MSM comprised 60% (1,279) of sexual transmissions. Fifty-four percent (10,067) of the MSM cases from 2010 to 2015 were among the 25-34 years age group while 5,590 (30%) were among youth aged 15-24 years old. Meanwhile, cases among IDU also increased from <1% in 2005 to 2009 to 5% within the past five years.

Different modes of transmission are predominant in different regions. Half of the MSM ever reported were from NCR; 99% of the IDUs were from Region 7; and 49% of females who engaged in transactional sex were from Region 3.

Figure 6. Cumulative Number of HIV Transmission by Year, January 1984-August 2015 (N=27,736)



**REPORT ON SPECIAL POPULATIONS**

**Youth (15-24 years old)**

In August 2015, 154 (26%) cases were among youth aged 15-24 years. Most (96%) were male. Ninety-nine percent (152) were infected through sexual contact (18 male-female sex, 89 male-male sex, 45 sex with both males & females) and 2 (1%) through needle sharing among IDUs.

From January 1984–August 2015, 7,323 (26%) of the reported cases were 15-24 years old. Ninety percent (6,598) of all the youth were reported in the last five years (2010-2015). A steep increase in cases among youth was seen in 2008, wherein the total number of cases (111) is 171% higher than that in 2007 (41). From 1984 to 2002, more than half of the cases among the youth were females (179 or 71%). However, in 2003, there was an equal number of males and females reported. Since then, the trend reversed to male predominance. Ninety-four percent (6,896) were infected through sexual contact (923 male-female sex, 3,721 male-male sex, 2,252 sex with both males & females); and 367 were infected through sharing of infected needles among IDUs.

Note: From January 1984–August 2015, 60 did not report mode of transmission

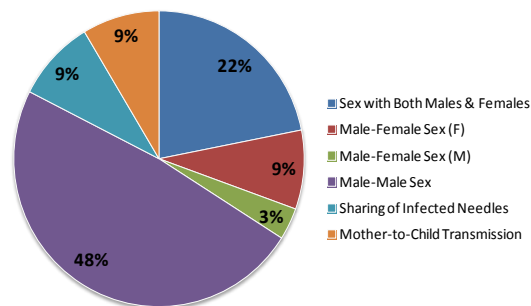
**REPORT ON SPECIAL POPULATIONS (continuation)**

**Children (<10 years old ) and Adolescents (10-19 years old)**

In August 2015, 4 children aged 2-8 years old and 15 adolescents aged 16-19 years old were reported to HARP; all adolescents were male. All children were infected through mother-to-child transmission while all adolescents were infected through sexual contact (9 male-male sex, 6 sex with both males & females).

From January 1984 to August 2015, 928 (3%) of the reported cases were 19 years old and below. Of these, 78 (8%) were children. Eighty-five percent of these children and adolescents were reported in the past five years (2010 to 2015). Seventy-five children were infected through mother-to-child transmission, 1 through blood transfusion and 2 had no specified MOT. Among the adolescents, 760 (89%) were male and majority (89%) were infected through sexual contact (111 male-female sex, 445 male-male sex, 201 sex with both males & females); 82 (10%) were through sharing of needles and 4 through mother-to-child transmission (Figure 7).

Figure 7. Modes of Transmission Among Children and Adolescents, Jan 1984–August 2015 (N=928)



Note: 9 with no MOT reported

**Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW)**

Sixty OFWs were reported to the HARP in August 2015, comprising 10% of the total newly diagnosed cases for the month (Figure 8). Eighty-eight percent were male. All of them were infected through sexual contact (Figure 9). The ages of male OFWs ranged from 16 years-55 years (median: 30 years) and 66% belonged to the 25-34 year age group. Among female OFWs, ages ranged from 32 years-41 years (median: 38 years) and majority (86%) were in the 35-49 year age group.

From January 1984 to August 2015, out of the 27,736 cases, 3,754 (14%) were HIV positive OFWs. Of these, 3,115 (83%) were male. More than half (53%) were MSM (1,117 male-male sex and 861 sex with both males & females). The ages of male OFWs ranged from 16 years-80 years (median: 33 years). Among female OFWs, ages ranged from 14 years-73 years (median: 34 years old).

Figure 8. Number of Reported OFW diagnosed with HIV, Jan 1984–August 2015 (N=3,754)

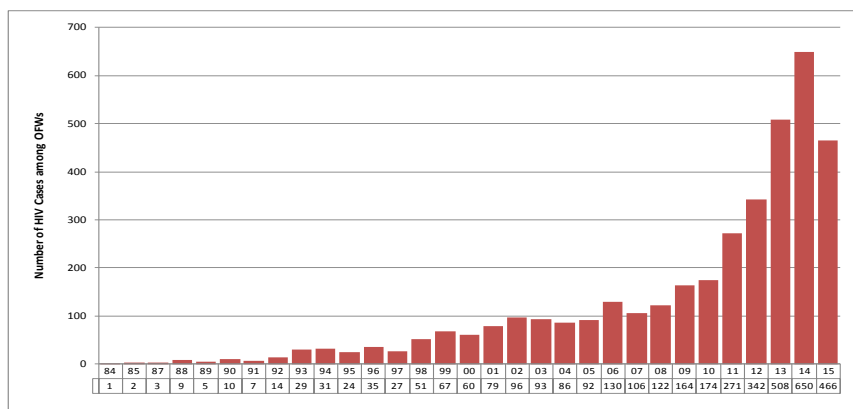
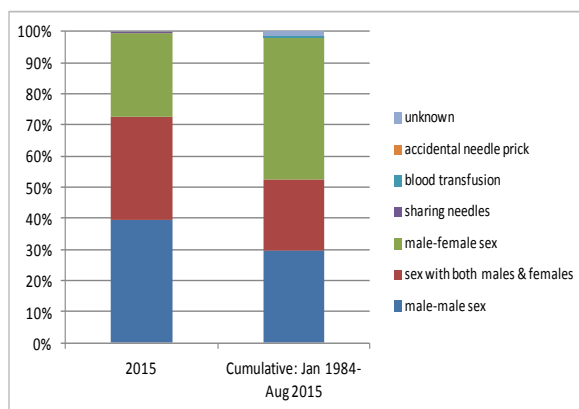


Figure 9. Modes of Transmission among OFW, Jan 1984–Aug 2015



**People who Engage in Transactional Sex**

People who engage in transactional sex are those who report that they regularly accept payment for sex, pay for sex, or do both.

In August 2015, 11% (65) of the reported cases engaged in transactional sex. Most (97%) were male (Table 4) whose ages ranged from 19 years-57 years (median: 30 years) while 2 were female aged 21 & 26 years old. Forty-nine percent of males who engaged in transactional sex were the ones who paid for sex. Of the 2 females, 1 accepted payment for sex while the other engaged in both.

A total of 2,247 cases reported in HARP from October 2012 to August 2015 were people who engaged in transactional sex. Ninety-six percent were male. Of the 2,247 cases, 1,229 (55%) paid for sex, 663 (30%) accepted payment for sex, and 355 (16%) engaged in both.

Table 4. HIV Cases Among People who Engage in Transactional Sex

Type of Transactional Sex	August 2015 (N=65)	Jan-Aug 2015 (N=637)	Cumulative : Oct 2012–Aug 2015 (N=2,247)
Accepted payment for sex only:	22 (34%)	191 (30%)	663 (30%)
Male	21	173	605
Female	1	18	58
Age Range (Median) in Years	19-51 (28)	17-56 (26)	15-67 (25)
Paid for sex only:	31 (48%)	339 (53%)	1,229 (55%)
Male	31	338	1,220
Female	0	1	9
Age Range (Median) in Years	20-57 (31)	18-73 (32)	17-79 (31)
Engaged in both:	12 (18%)	107 (17%)	355 (16%)
Male	11	102	322
Female	1	5	33
Age Range (Median) in Years	19-50 (26)	18-59 (28)	18-59 (28)

Note: Inclusion of transactional sex in the HARP database was initiated in October 2012

**DEATHS AMONG PEOPLE WITH HIV**

The Department of Health (DOH) established a separate reporting mechanism for deaths in 2012. Prior to this, deaths were infrequently reported to the HIV/AIDS Registry. It is likely that the number reflected here is an underestimate of the total number of deaths among people with HIV in the Philippines.

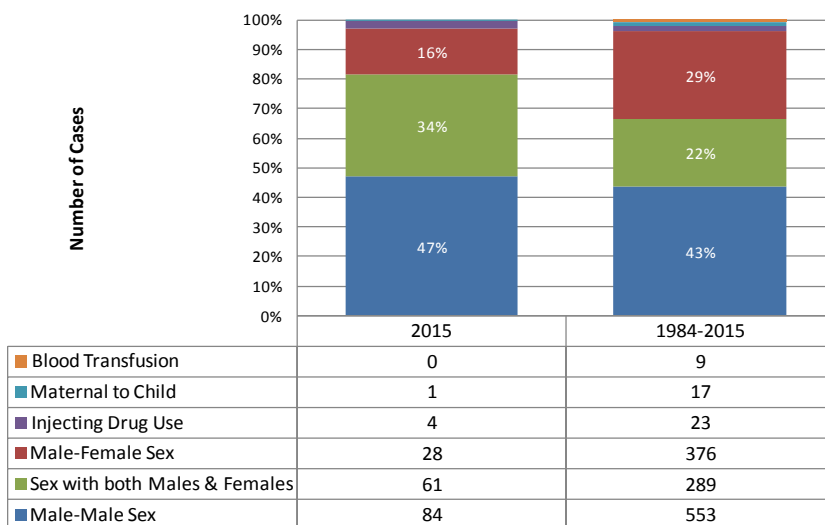
For the month of August 2015, there were 15 reported deaths. All were male (Table 5). More than half (53%) of the reported deaths belong to the 25-34 year age group while 2 were youth aged 15-24 year age group. Fourteen were infected through sexual contact (2 male-female sex, 7 male-male sex, 5 sex with both males & females) while 1 was infected through sharing of needles among IDUs [Figure 10].

A total of 1,296 deaths were reported from January 1984 to August 2015. One thousand ninety-six (85%) were male (Table 5). Of the reported deaths, 16 (1%) were children less than 10 years old and 13 (1%) were adolescents aged 10-19 years old. Almost half (46%) belong to 25-34 year age group (599 or 46%), 387 (30%) were in 35-49 year age group, while 162 (12%) were youth aged 15-24 years old. Sexual contact (94%) was the most common mode of HIV transmission (376 male-female sex, 553 male-male sex, 289 sex with both males & females). There were 23 reported deaths among IDU (Figure 10).

**Table 5. Demographic data of reported deaths among PHIV**

Demographic Data	August 2015	Jan-Aug 2015	Cumulative* Jan 1984- Aug 2015
Total Reported Deaths	15	178	1,296
Male	15	169	1,096
Female	0	9	200
Children <10yo	0	1	16
Adolescents 10-19yo	0	0	13
Youth 15-24yo	2	24	162

**Figure 10. Modes of transmission of reported deaths among PHIV\*\***



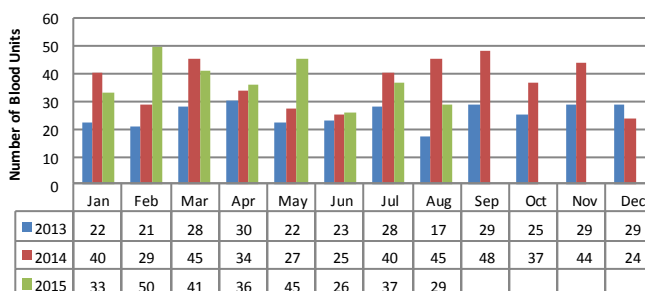
\*\*Note: No mode of transmission reported for 29 cases.

**BLOOD UNITS CONFIRMED FOR HIV**

In August 2015, 29 blood units were confirmed positive for HIV by RITM. There is no available data yet on the total number of blood units donated.

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

**Figure 11. Number of Confirmed HIV Positive Blood Units by Month (2013-2015)**



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**HIV/AIDS & ART Registry of the Philippines (HARP) Report**

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**HIV/AIDS & ART Registry of the Philippines (HARP)**

The Philippine HIV/AIDS & ART Registry of the Philippines (HARP) 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 HARP 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-Epidemiology Bureau (EB), and are recorded in the HARP.

The HARP is a passive surveillance system. Except for HIV confirmation by the NRL, all other data submitted to the HARP are secondary and cannot be verified. An example would be an individual's reported place of residence. The HARP 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.