

NEWLY DIAGNOSED HIV CASES IN THE PHILIPPINES

Table 1. Quick Facts

Demographic Data	September 2015	Jan-Sept 2015	Jan 2010 - Sept 2015	Cumulative Jan1984 - Sept 2015
Total Reported Cases	692	5,901	24,004	28,428
Asymptomatic Cases	647	5,537	22,434	26,015
AIDS Cases	45	364	1,570	2,413
Male	662	5,648	22,835	26,066 ^a
Female	30	253	1,169	2,351 ^a
Age Range (Median)	7-62(27)	1-73(28)	1-82(28)	1-82 (28)
Less than 15 y/o	1	16	34	86 ^b
15-24 y/o	213	1,657	6,811	7,536 ^b
25-34 y/o	362	3,123	12,600	14,458 ^b
35-49 y/o	99	970	3,969	5,407 ^b
50 y/o & above	17	135	590	867 ^b
Newly Started on ART	323			
Total PLHIV on ART				11,711
Reported Deaths	13	191	871	1,309

^aNo data available on sex for (11) cases
^bNo data available on age for (74) cases

In September 2015, there were 692 new HIV Ab sero-positive individuals (Table 1). This was 22% higher compared to the same period last year (565) [Figure 1]. Most (94%) of the cases were still asymptomatic at the time of reporting (Figure 3).

Ninety-six percent were male. The median age was 27 years old (age range: 7 years-62 years). More than half (52%) belonged to the 25-34 year age group while 31% were youth aged 15 -24 years old.

Figure 2. Percentage of Newly Diagnosed and Cumulative Cases per Region (September 2015)

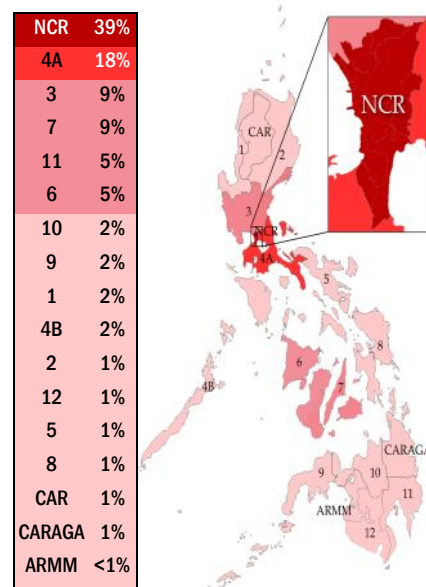
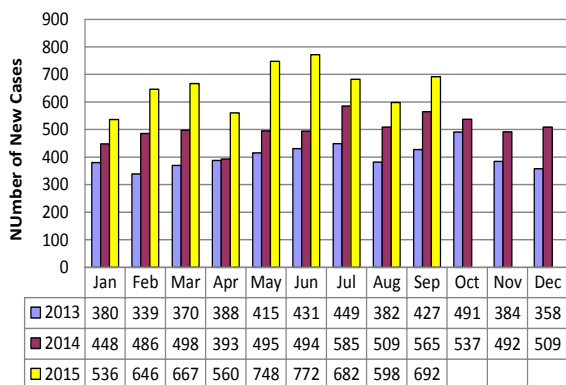


Figure 1. Number of New HIV Cases by Month (2013-2015)

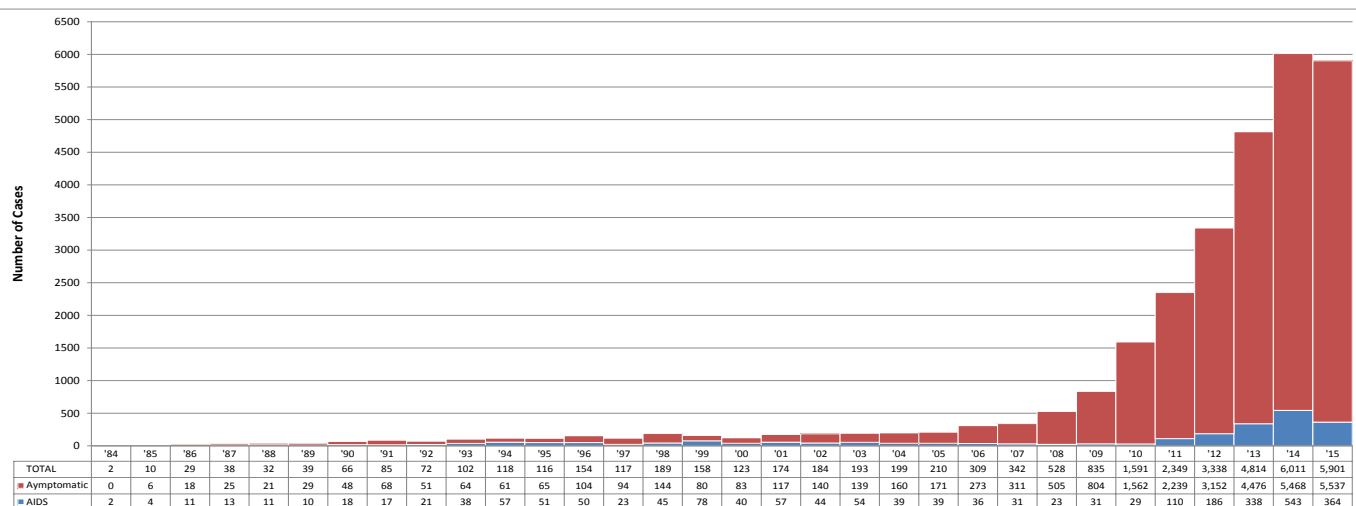


The regions with the highest number of reported cases for September 2015 were: NCR with 270 (39%) cases, Region 4A with 128 (18%) cases, Region 3 with 60 (9%) cases, Region 7 with 60 (9%) cases, and Region 11 with 38 (5%) cases. One hundred thirty-six (20%) cases came from the rest of the country (Figure 2).

Reported modes of transmission (MOT) were sexual contact (667), needle sharing among injecting drug users (IDU) [24], and mother-to-child transmission (1). Eighty-seven percent of the sexually transmitted cases were among males who have sex with males (MSM^a).

^amale-male sex and sex with both males & females

Figure 3. Number of HIV Cases Reported in the Philippines by Year, January 1984 to September 2015 (N=28,428)



PLHIV on Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART)

As of September 2015, there were 11,711 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. Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital
2. Cagayan Valley Medical Center	14. Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital
3. Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center	15. Western Visayas Medical Center
4. Jose B. Lingad Medical Center	16. Gov. Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital
5. James L. Gordon Memorial Hospital	17. Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center
6. Makati Medical Center	18. Zamboanga City Medical Center
7. Philippine General Hospital	19. Southern Philippines Medical Center
8. Research Institute for Tropical Medicine	20. Northern Mindanao Medical Center
9. San Lazaro Hospital	21. Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center
10. The Medical City	22. Butuan Medical Center
11. Marikina City Satellite Treatment Hub	23. CARAGA Regional Hospital
12. Manila Social Hygiene Clinic Satellite Treatment Hub	

HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC TRENDS IN THE PHILIPPINES (January 1984–September 2015)

The first case of HIV infection in the Philippines was reported in 1984. From January 1984 to September 2015, there has been 28,428 HIV Ab sero-positive cases reported to the HARP (Table 1). Ninety-two percent (26,015) of the total reported cases were asymptomatic at the time of reporting. Most (26,066 or 92%) were male*. The median age* was 28 years old (age range: 1 year-82 years). More than half (14,458 or 51%) were from the 25-34 year age group while 7,536 (27%) were youth aged 15-24 years old (Figure 4).

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% (22,835) of the reported 24,004 cases.

Eighty-four percent (24,004) of all the 28,428 diagnosed cases in the Philippines were reported in the past five years, from January 2010 to September 2015 (Table 1). Most (93%) of these cases were still asymptomatic at the time of reporting.

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.

*Note: From 1984–September 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-September 2015

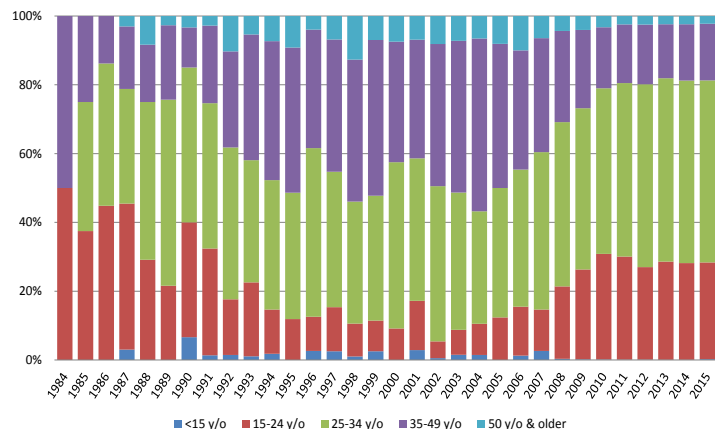
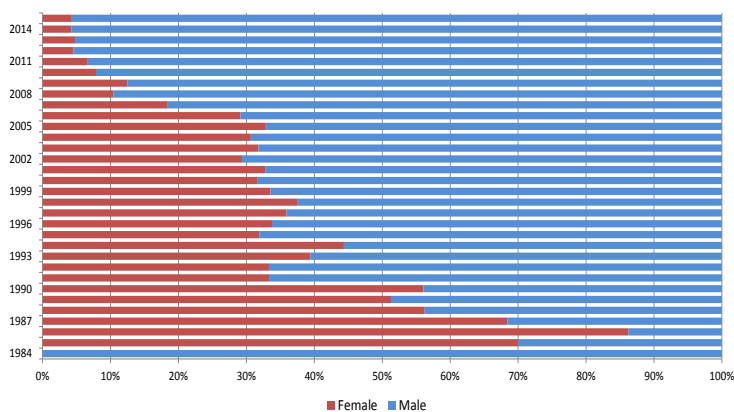


Figure 5. Distribution of PLHIV by Sex, Jan 1984-September 2015



Geographical Distribution

From January 1984 to September 2015, the regions with the most number of reported cases were NCR with 12,404 (44%) cases, Region 4A with 3,829 (13%) cases, Region 7 with 2,539 (9%) cases, Region 3 with 2,334 (8%) cases, and Region 11 with 1,664 (6%) cases. Sixteen percent (4,512) of the cases came from the rest of the country (ROTC) while 1,146 (4%) had no data on region (Table 2).

Table 2. Percentage of HIV Cases per Region

Region	September 2015 (N=692)	Jan-Sept 2015 (N=5,901) ^a	Jan 2010 - Sept 2015 (N=24,004) ^b	Cumulative Jan1984–Sept 2015 (N=28,428) ^c
NCR	270 (39%)	2,312 (39%)	10,728 (45%)	12,404 (44%)
4A	128 (18%)	967 (16%)	3,373 (14%)	3,829 (13%)
7	60 (9%)	511 (9%)	2,359 (10%)	2,539 (9%)
3	60 (9%)	515 (9%)	1,872 (8%)	2,334 (8%)
11	38 (5%)	335 (6%)	1,547 (6%)	1,664 (6%)
ROTC	136 (20%)	1,259 (21%)	3,958 (16%)	4,512 (16%)

Of the 2,351 females reported with HIV, 577 (25%) were from NCR, 419 (18%) were from Region 3, 246 (10%) were from Region 7, 204 (9%) were from Region 4A and 905 (38%) were from other regions.

The regions with the most number of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) reported to the HARP were NCR with 1,393 cases, Region 4A with 628 cases, Region 3 with 387 cases, and Region 6 with 197 cases.

^aFrom January-September 2015, no particular region were reported for 2 cases
^bFrom January 2010-September 2015, no particular region were reported for 167 cases
^cFrom January 1984-September 2015, no particular region were reported for 1,146 cases

Table 3. Reported Modes of HIV Transmission

Mode of Transmission	September 2015 (N=692)		Jan-Sept 2015 (N=5,901)		Jan 2010-Sept 2015 (N=24,004)		Cumulative Jan1984-Sept 2015 (N=28,428) ^a	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Sexual Contact	639	28	5,447	238	21,613	1,071	24,538	2,141
Male-Female Sex ^b	62	28	583	238	2,470	1,071	3,614	2,141
Male-Male Sex ^c	338	0	2,923	0	11,557	0	12,729	0
Sex with Males & Females ^d	239	0	1,941	0	7,586	0	8,195	0
Blood/Blood Products	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	15
Sharing of Needles	23	1	195	8	1,185	78	1,191	80
Needle Prick Injury	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
Mother-to-Child	0	1	6	7	16	15	43	37
No Data Available	0	0	0	0	21	4	287	77

^aFrom January 1984–September 2015, 11 did not report sex
^bSame as heterosexual in previous reports
^cSame as homosexual in previous reports
^dSame as bisexual in previous reports

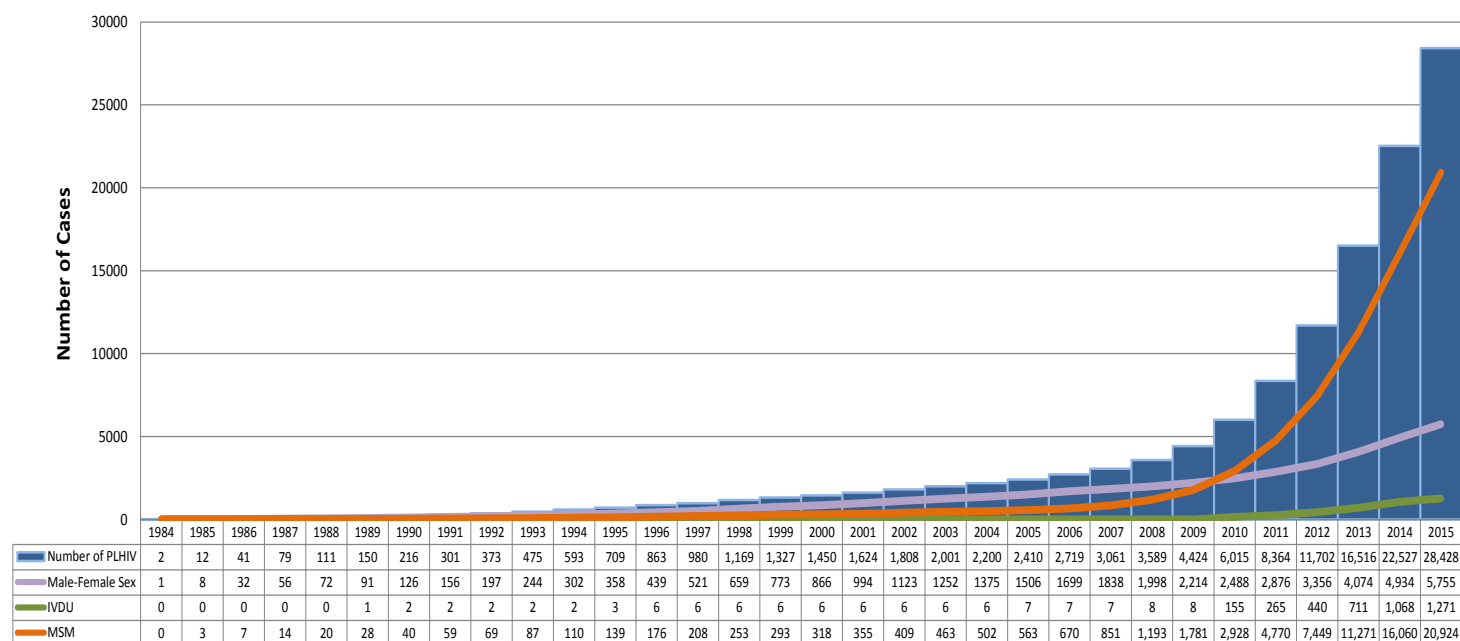
Modes of Transmission (MOT)

From January 1984 to September 2015, MSM was the predominant (20,924 or 80%) mode of transmission among males, followed by male-female sex (3,614 or 14%), and sharing of needles (1,191 or 5%) [Table 3]. More than half (54% or 11,213) of cases among MSM belonged to the 25-34 year age group while 6,160 (29%) were youth 15-24 years old. Among females, male-female sex was the most common MOT (2,141 or 91%) followed by sharing of needles (80 or 3%). A total of 76 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 September 2015, 84% (19,143) of infections through sexual contact were among MSM. From 2005 to 2009, MSM comprised 60% (1,279) of sexual transmissions. Fifty-four percent (10,368) of the MSM cases from 2010 to 2015 were among the 25-34 years age group while 5,777 (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 48% of females who engaged in transactional sex were from Region 3.

Figure 6. Cumulative Number of HIV Transmission by Year, January 1984-September 2015 (N=28,428)



REPORT ON SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Youth (15-24 years old)

In September 2015, 213 (31%) cases were among youth aged 15-24 years. Most (95%) were male. Ninety-nine percent (211) were infected through sexual contact (24 male-female sex, 108 male-male sex, 79 sex with both males & females) and 2 (1%) through needle sharing among IDUs.

From January 1984–September 2015, 7,536 (27%) of the reported cases were 15-24 years old. Ninety percent (6,811) 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 (7,107) were infected through sexual contact (947 male-female sex, 3,829 male-male sex, 2,331 sex with both males & females); and 369 were infected through sharing of infected needles among IDUs.

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

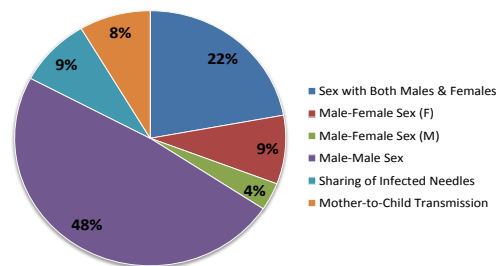
REPORT ON SPECIAL POPULATIONS (continuation)

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

In September 2015, 1 child aged 7 years old and 22 adolescents aged 17-19 years old were reported to HARP; 19 were male and 3 were female. The child was infected through mother-to-child transmission while all adolescents were infected through sexual contact (11 male-male sex, 4 male-female sex, 7 sex with both males & females).

From January 1984 to September 2015, 951 (3%) of the reported cases were 19 years old and below. Of these, 79 (8%) were children. Eighty-six percent of these children and adolescents were reported in the past five years (2010 to 2015). Seventy-six children were infected through mother-to-child transmission, 1 through blood transfusion and 2 had no specified MOT. Among the adolescents, 779 (89%) were male and majority (89%) were infected through sexual contact (115 male-female sex, 456 male-male sex, 208 sex with both males & females); 82 (9%) 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–September 2015 (N=928)



Note: 9 with no MOT reported

Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW)

Fifty-nine OFWs were reported to the HARP in September 2015, comprising 9% of the total newly diagnosed cases for the month (Figure 8). Ninety percent were male. Fifty-eight were infected through sexual contact and one through sharing of needles (Figure 9). The ages of male OFWs ranged from 22 years-62 years (median: 32 years) and 47% belonged to the 25-34 year age group. Among female OFWs, ages ranged from 24 years-38 years (median: 30 years) and majority (67%) were in the 25-34 year age group.

From January 1984 to September 2015, out of the 28,428 cases, 3,813 (13%) were HIV positive OFWs. Of these, 3,168 (83%) were male. More than half (53%) were MSM (1,147 male-male sex and 880 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–September 2015 (N=3,813)

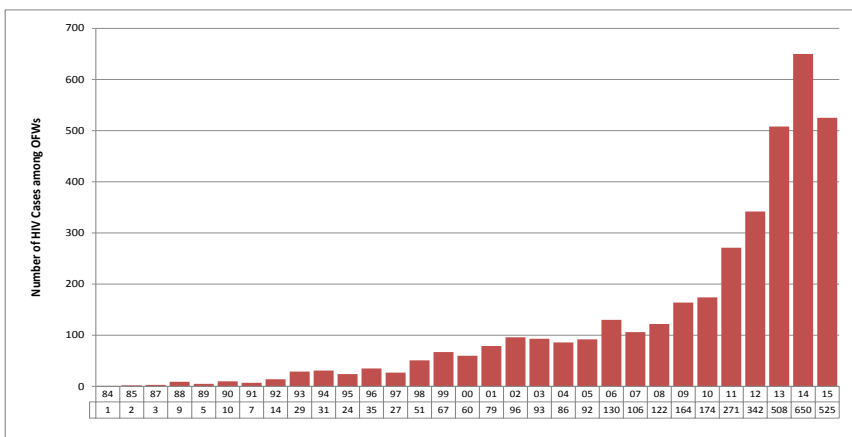
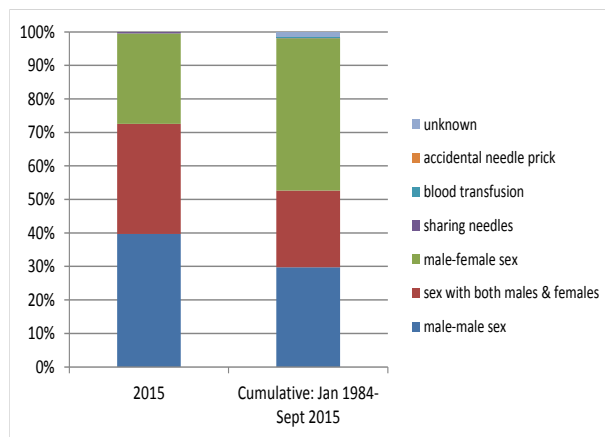


Figure 9. Modes of Transmission among OFW, Jan 1984–Sept 2015



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 September 2015, 11% (79) of the reported cases engaged in transactional sex. Most (97%) were male (Table 4) whose ages ranged from 17 years-58 years (median: 29 years) while 2 were female aged 31 & 32 years old. Sixty 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 2,326 cases reported in HARP from October 2012 to September 2015 were people who engaged in transactional sex. Ninety-six percent were male. Of the 2,326 cases, 1,275 (55%) paid for sex, 687 (30%) accepted payment for sex, and 364 (16%) engaged in both.

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

Type of Transactional Sex	September 2015 (N=79)	Jan-Sept 2015 (N=716)	Cumulative : Oct 2012–Sept 2015 (N=2,326)
Accepted payment for sex only:	24 (30%)	215 (30%)	687 (30%)
Male	23	196	628
Female	1	19	59
Age Range (Median) in Years	17-54 (27)	17-56 (26)	15-67 (25)
Paid for sex only:	46 (58%)	385 (54%)	1,275 (55%)
Male	46	384	1,266
Female	0	1	9
Age Range (Median) in Years	20-58 (30)	18-73 (32)	17-79 (31)
Engaged in both:	9 (11%)	116 (16%)	364 (16%)
Male	8	110	330
Female	1	6	34
Age Range (Median) in Years	27-50 (31)	18-59 (29)	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.

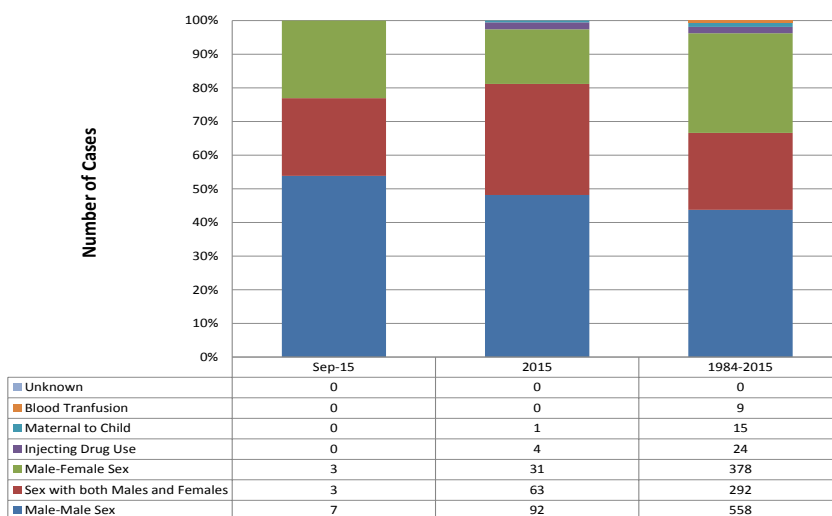
For the month of September 2015, there were 13 reported deaths. Twelve were male while 1 was female (Table 5). Almost half (46%) of the reported deaths belong to the 25-34 year age group while 2 were youth aged 15-24 year age group. All were infected through sexual contact (3 male-female sex, 7 male-male sex, 3 sex with both males & females) [Figure 10].

A total of 1,309 deaths were reported from January 1984 to September 2015. Eighty-five percent (1,108) 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 (605 or 46%) belong to 25-34 year age group, 392 (30%) were in 35-49 year age group, while 164 (13%) were youth aged 15-24 years old. Sexual contact (94%) was the most common mode of HIV transmission (378 male-female sex, 558 male-male sex, 292 sex with both males & females). There were 24 reported deaths among IDU (Figure 10).

Table 5. Demographic data of reported deaths among PHIV

Demographic Data	September 2015	Jan-Sept 2015	Cumulative* Jan 1984- Sept 2015
Total Reported Deaths	13	191	1,309
Male	12	181	1,108
Female	1	10	201
Children <10yo	0	1	16
Adolescents 10-19yo	0	0	13
Youth 15-24yo	2	26	164

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



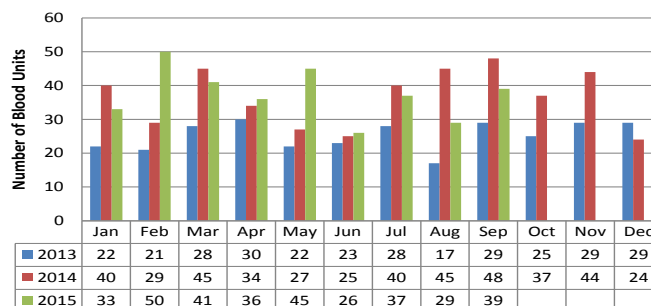
**Note: No mode of transmission reported for 33 cases.


BLOOD UNITS CONFIRMED FOR HIV

In September 2015, 39 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 (HARR) 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.