Philippines

Key Data Issues and Suggestions
SEPTEMBER 2011

REFERENCE SOURCES

This review of reference sources is categorized into two groups, namely general sources and country sources. The general sources include the regional or global documents, such as the Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic, Towards Universal Access Progress Report, The World Health Report, The Human Development Report, and data from the UN Population Division and the PMTCT Report Cards.

The country sources are classified into three: 1) surveys 2) others and 3) recent Journal articles. The surveys include the Integrated HIV Behavioral and Serologic Surveillance Survey (IHSS), the Behavioural Surveillance Survey (BSS), Demographic Health Survey (DHS), and the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey Reports (MICS). The other sources include HIV estimation reports, studies, research and surveillance data while recent journal articles include the newly published articles on HIV epidemiology, risk behaviors, prevention, stigma and discrimination. Most reference documents utilized for Philippines are available in electronic format and can be accessed through the internet. Some documents are available as hard copy version only.

GENERAL SOURCES

All the general sources of data on Philippines are available. The socio-economic and demographic information/indicators are drawn from these sources. An overall picture of the HIV epidemic in the Philippines can be presented with the help of these general sources.

COUNTRY SOURCES

Surveys


Demographic Research and Development Foundation, Inc. & University of the Philippines Population Institute. (2002). 2002 Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Study (YAFS3).

Other Sources

- UNDP. (2002). Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore Cluster Country Consultation on Migrant Workers' HIV Vulnerability Reduction.
- USAID, FHI, & Department of Health Philippines. (2003). Enhanced STI Control in Angeles City, Philippines

**Recent Journal Articles**


**Forthcoming Publications**

The previous Integrated HIV Behavioural and Serological Survey (IHBSS) was conducted in 2009 and the survey for 2011 is currently being undertaken. It is expected that the forthcoming IHBSS survey reports will provide more comprehensive and updated data on the Philippines.

**INDICATORS**

**HIV prevalence and epidemiological status:** The HIV sentinel sero-prevalence surveillance (HSSS) began in 1993 and was conducted twice a year until 1996 and annually until 2003. The HSSS started with 2 sentinel sites in 1993 followed by four more sentinel sites in 1994, three more sites in 1995 and one in 1996 resulting in 10 sentinel sites, Quezon, Cebu, Angeles, Pasay, Davao, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro, General Santos, Zamboanga and Baguio, in 1996. The main
sentinel populations were registered FSWs, freelance FSWs, MSM, and IDUs and other populations studied in isolated rounds were male STI patients (MSTIs), clients of FSWs, and men at risk. Since 2005, Integrated HIV Behavioural and Serological Survey (IHBSS) was in place and undertaken every two years in the same 10 sentinel sites as HSSS with additional 13 sentinel sites in 2009. Four rounds of IHBSS have been conducted between 2005 and 2011. Sentinel populations include Female sex workers (both registered and unregistered), Men who have sex with men (MSM), Men at STI clinics (MSTI), Injecting Drug Users, Occupational cohorts of men (OCM). Data on HIV estimates such as estimated HIV prevalence among high risk and low risk populations, adult HIV prevalence and estimated number of people living with HIV is available for 2005 and, 2007.

**Vulnerability and HIV knowledge**: The data on HIV knowledge and vulnerability are available for general populations in MICS 1999 and a series of DHS reports from 1993 to 2008. For key affected populations, Behavioral surveillance surveys 1997 to 2005 and Integrated HIV Behavioural and Serological Survey (IHBSS) 2005 to 2011. In reference to HIV knowledge among youth, the data is available from DHS 2008 for young women (15-24) while there is a gap on recent data availability of HIV knowledge and vulnerability among young men (15-24).

**Risk behaviours**: HIV behavioral surveillance surveys were established in 1997 in the same HSS sentinel sites (started with 8 sites and expanded to 10 sites in 2002) to monitor the level of risk behaviors among key affected populations. Most recent data on risk behaviors among key affected populations are collected in a series of IHBSS (2005, 2007, 2009 and 2011) and cited in UNGASS Country Progress Reports, 2006, 2008 and 2010. However, full reports for IHBSS are not available. For instance, 2005 IHBSS data is available only as a summary report and IHBSS 2009 data is only available as a power point presentation ("This is it!") on IHBSS National Dissemination Forum 11 December 2009. The data on risk behaviors among adult women (15-49) and young women (15-24) are reported in DHS 2008. However there is lack of recent data on young and adult men.


**National response**: Response data, prevention and testing coverage on key affected populations are available from IHBSS 2007 and 2009 cited in UNGASS Country progress reports. The recent population based HIV testing data for women is available in DHS 2008 while the testing data for men is available in DHS 2003. Data on ART coverage and PLHIV known to be on treatment after 12 months after initiation of ART is available. PPTCT coverage data is also available from 2007 to 2009. Health services and facilities data such as Health facilities with HIV testing and counseling services, number of Needle & Syringe Programme sites is also available.

OVERALL IMPRESSION AFTER THE DATA REVIEW

**Strength**

- Series of AIDS registry provide the affirmative records on tracking the reported HIV cases and changes in trend of reported mode of transmission. Recent IHBSS surveys 2005 to 2011 reveal the trends in HIV prevalence and behavioral changes among all three key
affected populations. Gender disaggregated data for PWID is available while age disaggregated data for all three key affected populations are available.

**Weaknesses**

- Though overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) consistently comprise a certain proportion of reported HIV cases each year, the bio-behavioral data on OFWs are still lacking.

- IHBSS surveys were conducted every two years starting from 2005; however, full reports on IHBSS surveys are not yet available.

- Data on HIV knowledge and risk behaviors among general female populations were reported in DHS 2008 while there is a data gap on risk behaviors of young and adult men.

- The latest available size estimate among key affected populations was in 2007 and more up-to-date size estimates are not yet available.