



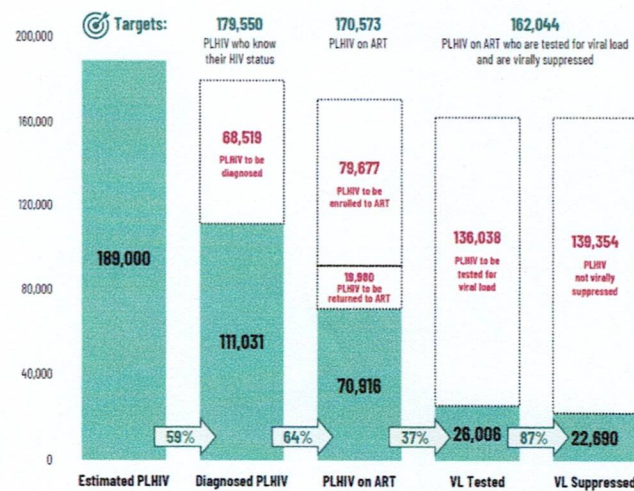
HIV & AIDS SURVEILLANCE OF THE PHILIPPINES

HIV & AIDS CONTINUUM OF CARE

The latest Philippine HIV estimates show that by the end of 2023, there will be 189,000 estimated People Living with HIV (PLHIV) in the country.

Of the estimated PLHIV, 111,031 (59%) cases have been diagnosed or laboratory-confirmed and currently living or not reported to have died, as of June 2023. Further, 70,916 PLHIV are currently on life-saving Anti-retroviral Therapy (ART), of which, 26,006 (37%) PLHIV have been tested for viral load (VL) in the past 12 months. Among those tested for VL, 22,690 (87%) are virally suppressed [Figure 1].

Figure 1 : National HIV Care Cascade, as of June 2023



Note: List of facilities providing HIV services may be accessed through the following link: tinyurl.com/HIVFacilities

95-95-95 ACCOMPLISHMENT, as of June 2023



The 95-95-95 Targets

The 95-95-95 by 2025 is the global targets set by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS). The Philippines, as one of the States who committed to the "Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Ending Inequalities and Getting on Track to End AIDS by 2030" adopted during the General Assembly in June 2021, integrated these high-level targets in the 7th AIDS Medium Term Plan - 2023 to 2028 Philippines: Fast Tracking to 2030. It aims that by 2030, 95% of people living with HIV know their HIV status or are diagnosed, 95% of PLHIV who know their status are receiving treatment (ART), and 95% of PLHIV on ART have a suppressed viral load so their immune system remains strong, and the likelihood of their infection being passed on is greatly reduced (Undetectable=Untransmissible).

The Philippine People Living with HIV (PLHIV) Estimates

The Philippines has been using the national PLHIV estimates to determine the state and trend of the epidemic in the country, to aid programmatic response and develop strategic plans, and to monitor progress towards the 95-95-95 targets. Annually, the National HIV/AIDS & STI Surveillance and Strategic Information Unit of the Department of Health-Epidemiology Bureau leads the process of developing the PLHIV estimates, which was modeled through the AIDS Epidemic Model (AEM) and Spectrum. The latest PLHIV estimates were updated in May 2023 with analyzed and triangulated data from the 2022 HIV/AIDS & ART Registry of the Philippines (HARP), 2018 Integrated HIV Behavioral and Serologic Surveillance (IHBS), 2019 and 2020 Online Survey among Males having Sex with Males and Transgender Women (MSM & TGW), 2019 Facility-based Survey, 2022 Laboratory and Blood Bank Surveillance (LaBBS), 2020 Population Census, and other program data. Further, the development of PLHIV estimates underwent a comprehensive consultation, validation, and vetting process with technical experts from EastWest Center, UNAIDS, WHO, and key national, regional, and local program implementers and stakeholders. Previously released estimates in May 2022 were based on the IHBS 2018, HARP December 2020, and Population Census 2015.

Diagnosed PLHIV

The total number of diagnosed or laboratory-confirmed HIV cases reported in the HIV/AIDS Registry who are currently alive or not yet reported to have died.

PLHIV on ART

A PLHIV who is currently on ART defined as visited the facility for an ARV refill or accessed ARV refill, and has not run-out of pill for 30 days.

Virally Suppressed PLHIV

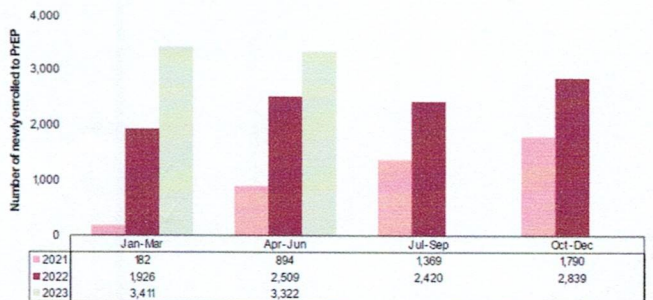
PLHIV on ART who have viral load of ≤ 50 copies/mL. Viral load refers to the amount of the Human Immunodeficiency virus (HIV) present in an infected person's blood.

PREVENTION

In April to June 2023, there were 3,322 clients newly enrolled to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), which is a 32% increase in new enrollees compared to the same period in 2022. Of the enrollees in the 2nd quarter, 1,332 (40%) were 15-24 years old at the time of enrollment, 1,518 (46%) were 25-34 years old, 446 (13%) were 35-49 years old, and 26 (1%) were 50 years old and above^{1,2}. More than half of the newly enrolled to PrEP were from National Capital Region (NCR).

Since the implementation of PrEP in March 2021, a total of 20,662 clients have been enrolled to PrEP, of which, 20,326 (98%) were males and more than half (10,470, 51%) were among 25-34 years old. Majority of clients ever enrolled to PrEP (19,226, 93%) were enrolled in facilities in NCR, CALABARZON (4A), and Central Luzon (3)³.

Figure 2 : Quarterly PrEP Enrollment, Jan 2021 - Jun 2023 (n=20,662)



DIAGNOSIS



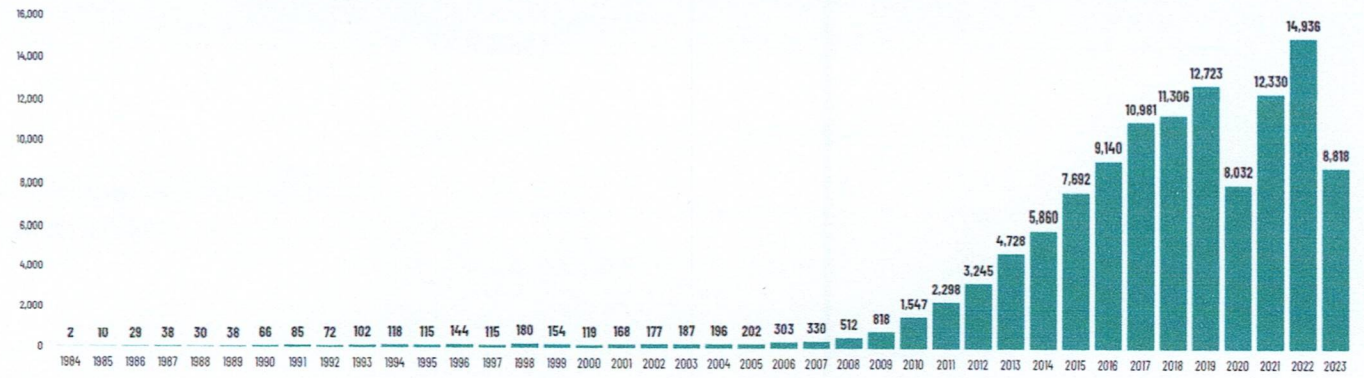
In April to June 2023, there were 4,005 confirmed HIV-positive individuals reported to the One HIV/AIDS & STI Information System (OHASIS), of which, 1,072 (27%) had an advanced HIV infection^{5,6} at the time of diagnosis. Compared to the reported cases in the same period last year, April to June 2022 (3,961), there was a 1% increase in reported cases in the 2nd Quarter of this year, with an average of 44 cases reported daily.

Of the newly reported confirmed HIV-cases this period, 3,771 (94%) were males while 234 (6%) were females. The age of the newly reported cases ranged from 1 to 69 years old (median: 28 years). By age group, 28 (1%) were less than 15 years old at the time of diagnosis, 1,245 (31%) were 15-24 years old, 1,875 (47%) were 25-34 years old, 736 (18%) were 35-49 years old, and 121 (3%) were 50 years and older⁴. Moreover, 2,226 (56%) were cisgender, 80 (2%) identified themselves as transgender women, 28 (1%) identified as others, six (<1%) as neither man nor woman, and 1,665 (42%) had unknown gender identity⁷. Of the newly reported cases, 2,644 (66%) were confirmed in Certified rHIVda Confirming Laboratories (CrCLs)⁸ while 1,361 (34%) were confirmed through the National Reference Laboratory-San Lazaro Hospital/STD AIDS Cooperative Central Laboratory (NRL-SLH/SACCL).

¹ Age at the time of enrollment to PrEP
² Percentages were rounded off to the nearest whole number - sum may not be equal to 100% due to rounding of figures
³ Based on the region of PrEP facility
⁴ Reported diagnosed HIV cases, including deaths
⁵ Advanced HIV Disease (AHD) definition is based on clinical criteria of WHO staging 3 and 4 while immunologic criterion is based on baseline CD4 results (<200 cells/mm³)
⁶ 100 (5%) cases had non-advanced HIV infection and 2,743 (68%) had no data on immunologic/clinical criteria at the time of diagnosis
⁷ Gender identity is based on sex at birth and self identity reported at the time of diagnosis. Those with unknown gender identity either had unspecified or no data on self identity and/or sex at birth.
⁸ Newly reporting CrCLs in Q2 2023: Eastern Visayas Medical Center, Governor Celestino Gollares Memorial Hospital, Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital & Medical Center & Region 1 Medical Center.



Figure 3 : Number of newly diagnosed HIV cases reported in the Philippines, by Year of Reporting, Jan 1984 - Jun 2023 (N=117,946)

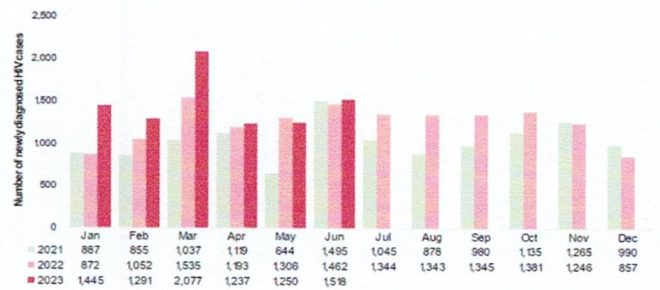


Cumulatively, 117,946 confirmed HIV cases have been reported to the HIV/AIDS and ART Registry of the Philippines since the first reported HIV case in the Philippines in 1984 [Figure 3].

Since 2021, the number of newly diagnosed HIV cases reported monthly has been increasing [Figure 4]. From an average of 1,028 monthly cases reported in 2021, it has increased to 1,245 cases per month in 2022. In the first half of 2023, the average number of cases newly reported per month increased further to 1,470 cases.

Moreover, the number of reporting Certified rHIVda Confirming Laboratories (CrCLs) increased from 26 facilities in 2021 to 42 facilities in 2023.

Figure 4 : Number of monthly newly diagnosed HIV cases, 2021-2023

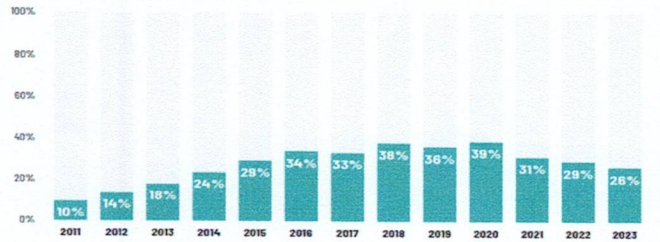


Advanced HIV Disease (AHD)

Of the total reported cases, 35,288 (30%) had Advanced HIV disease (AHD)¹¹ while 2,287 (2%) had presented non-advanced HIV infection at the time of diagnosis. The remaining 80,371 (68%) cases had no reported data on immunologic and clinical criteria at the time of diagnosis.

From 2011 to 2020, the proportion of cases with AHD had been increasing, from 10% in 2011, with a median baseline CD4 count at 119.5 cells/mm³, to 39% in 2020, with median baseline CD4 at 183 cells/mm³. However, the trend slightly decreased to 31% in 2021, to 26% in the first half 2023, and the median baseline CD4 increased to 225 cells/mm³ in 2021 to 234 cells/mm³ in 2023^{12,13}.

Figure 5 : Proportion of newly diagnosed HIV cases with advanced HIV disease^{12,13}, 2011 - 2023

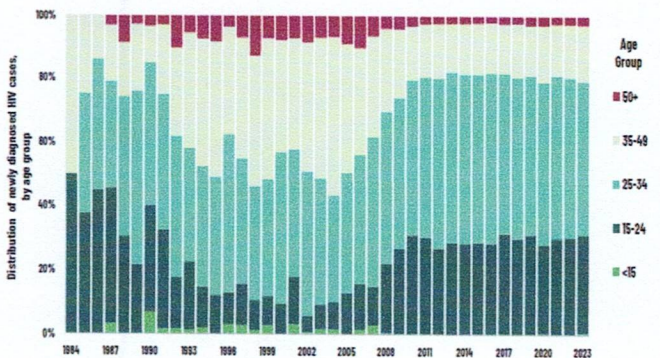


Sex and Age

Majority of the total reported cases (111,268, 94%) were males and 6,668 (6%) were female¹². By age group, 371 (<1%) were below 15 years old, 34,415 (29%) were among the youth aged 15-24 years old, half (59,462, 51%) were 25-34 years old, 20,538 (17%) were 35-49 years old, and 3,087 (3%) were 50 years and older¹³. The age of diagnosed cases ranged from <1 to 81 years old (median: 28 years).

Since 2018, the proportion of males among the newly diagnosed cases has consistently been at least 95%. Moreover, diagnosed HIV cases are getting younger with the predominant age group shifting from among 35-49 years old in 2002 to 2005, to 25-34 years old starting 2006 [Figure 6]. Among age groups, the highest increase in the proportion of cases in the past five years were among those below 15 years old (+49%), followed by those aged 15-24 years (+46%).

Figure 6 : Distribution of diagnosed HIV cases, by age group, Jan 1984 - Jun 2023^{13,14}



Geographic Distribution

The regions with the most number of newly reported cases in April to June 2023 were NCR, CALABARZON (4A), Central Luzon (3), Western Visayas (6), Central Visayas (7), and Davao Region (11). These regions comprised 73% of the total number of cases in this period [Figure 7]¹⁴. Meanwhile, 1,088 (27%) were from the rest of the country, and one (<1%) reported an overseas permanent residence.

Consequently, the same regions reported the most number of cases from January to June 2023, altogether accounting for 6,510 (74%) of the total

reported cases, while 2,306 (26%) were from other regions, and two (<1%) reported an overseas permanent residence.

Cumulatively, of the total cases reported from January 1984 to June 2023, the regions with the most number of reported cases remain to be NCR, followed by CALABARZON (4A), Central Luzon (3), Central Visayas (7), and Western Visayas (6), altogether accounting for 88,588 (75%) of the total reported cases [Table 1]. Meanwhile, 28,265 (24%) were from the rest of the country, and 1,091 (1%) had no data on region of residence.

¹¹ Classification of diagnosed cases with Advanced clinical manifestations based on immunologic and clinical criteria has been newly implemented in 2022. Previously advanced HIV cases were identified based solely on available clinical criteria.
¹² No data on sex for 10 cases
¹³ No data on age for 72 cases

¹⁴ Percentages were rounded off to the nearest whole number - sum may not be equal to 100% due to rounding of figures
¹⁵ One case reported overseas as permanent address
¹⁶ No data on region of residence for 1,018 cases (1%)



Figure 7 : Distribution of newly diagnosed HIV cases by region of residence¹⁵, Apr-Jun 2023 (n=4,005)

Region	Number of cases	% ¹⁶
NCR	923	23%
4A	723	18%
3	436	11%
6	278	7%
7	278	7%
11	278	7%
8	159	4%
12	140	3%
10	137	3%
1	123	3%
4B	108	3%
9	102	3%
5	99	2%
CARAGA	83	2%
2	82	2%
CAR	30	1%
BARM	25	1%

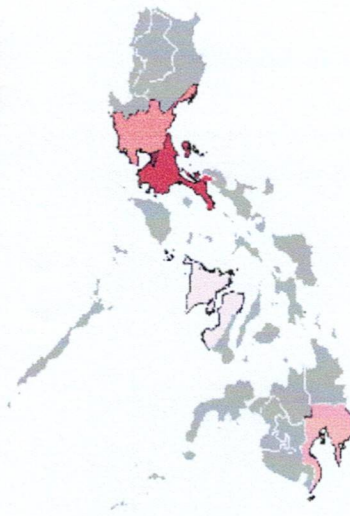


Table 1 : Number of diagnosed HIV cases, by region of residence, Jan 1984 - Jun 2023^{14,15}

Region	January 2023 - June 2023 (n=8,818) ¹⁶		January 2018 - June 2023 (n=68,145) ¹⁶		January 1984 - June 2023 (N=117,946) ^{16,19}	
NCR	2,207	25%	19,899	29%	40,384	34%
4A	1,574	18%	12,021	18%	19,284	16%
3	979	11%	7,917	12%	12,337	10%
7	680	8%	5,071	7%	9,577	8%
6	533	6%	4,760	7%	7,006	6%
11	537	6%	3,675	5%	6,573	6%
12	294	3%	2,141	3%	3,163	3%
1	251	3%	1,991	3%	3,007	3%
10	341	4%	2,045	3%	3,000	3%
5	246	3%	1,682	2%	2,400	2%
8	233	3%	1,294	2%	1,854	2%
9	215	2%	1,221	2%	1,842	2%
2	179	2%	1,302	2%	1,841	2%
4B	234	3%	1,298	2%	1,792	2%
CARAGA	197	2%	944	1%	1,390	1%
CAR	73	1%	614	1%	1,008	1%
BARM	43	<1%	268	<1%	395	<1%

Mode of Transmission (MOT)

In the 2nd quarter of this year, 3,913 (98%) newly reported cases reported having acquired HIV through sexual contact - 2,776 through male-male sex, 593 male - female¹⁹, and 328 male - female sex. Meanwhile, 23 (1%) reported sharing of infected needles, 21 (1%) through mother-to-child transmission, and 48 had no data on mode of transmission at the time of diagnosis [Table 2].

Table 2 : Number of diagnosed HIV cases, by mode of transmission and sex²¹, Jan 1984 - Jun 2023¹⁷

Mode of Transmission	April 2023 - June 2023 (n=4,005)		January - June 2023 (n=8,818)		January 2018 - June 2023 (n=68,145)		Jan 1984 - Jun 2023 (N=117,946) ¹⁷	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Sexual Contact	3,697	216	8,211	426	63,261	3,215	107,412	6,219
Male-male sex	2,776	-	6,151	-	42,989	-	67,427	-
Sex w/ males & females ²²	593	-	1,399	-	15,305	-	29,632	-
Male-female sex	328	216	661	426	4,967	3,215	10,353	6,219
Sharing of infected needles	21	2	38	5	566	42	2,371	151
Mother-to-child	9	8	14	13	62	70	112	104
Blood /blood products	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	14
Needlestick injury	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
No data	44	8	98	13	862	67	1,366	179

In the past five years, transmission through sexual contact among newly diagnosed cases remain predominant [Figure 8], however, a slight increase was observed in the number of diagnosed cases who acquired HIV through mother-to-child transmission from 23 cases in 2018 to 29 cases in 2022, and 37 newly reported cases in the first half of 2023.

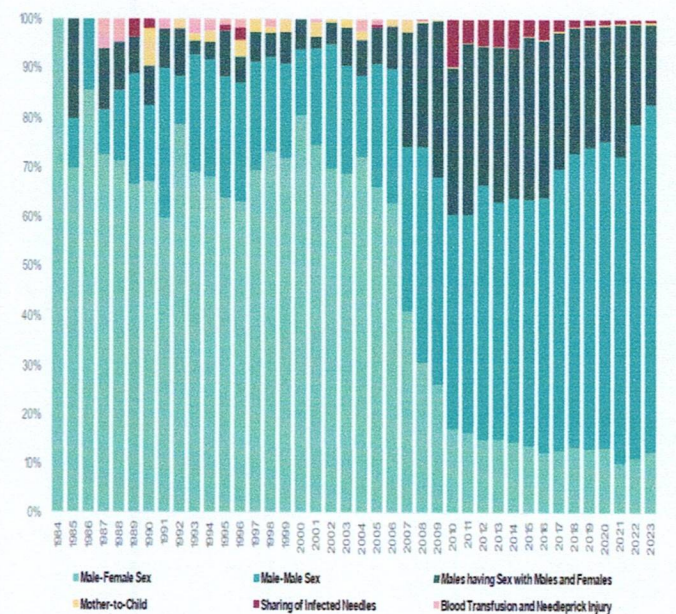
Cumulatively, among the 117,946 reported cases from January 1984 to June 2023, 113,631 (96%) acquired HIV through sexual contact - 67,427 male-male sex, 29,632 male-male/female, and 16,572 male-female sex¹⁹.

Furthermore, 2,522 (2%) were infected through sharing of infected needles, 317 (<1%) were mother-to-child transmission, 22 (<1%) through blood/blood products & needlestick injury, while 1,454 (1%) had no data on mode of transmission [Table 2].

Of the diagnosed male cases, 97,059 (87%) acquired HIV through sex with another male, 10,353 (9%) through sex with a female, 2,371 (2%) through sharing of infected needles, 162 (<1%) through mother-to-child transmission. On the other hand, among diagnosed females, majority (6,219, 93%) acquired HIV through sexual contact with a male, 155 (2%) through mother-to-child transmission, and 151 (2%) through sharing of infected needles [Table 3].

MOT varies across the regions -34,953 (36%) of diagnosed males who have sex with males were from NCR; more than half (181, 57%) of those who have acquired HIV through mother-to-child transmission were from NCR, CALABARZON (4A), and Central Luzon (3); and almost all (2,515, >99%) who have acquired HIV through sharing of infected needles among people who inject drugs) were from Central Visayas (7).

Figure 8 : Distribution of diagnosed HIV cases, by mode of transmission, Jan 1984 - June 2023



¹⁵ Sex at birth: M=Male, F=Female
¹⁶ No data on MOT and sex for 11 cases
¹⁷ Among males only
¹⁸ Period covered April to June 2023
¹⁹ Cisgender is based on gender identity which corresponds to their sex assigned at birth
²⁰ Percentages were rounded off to the nearest whole number - sum may not be equal to 100% due to rounding of figures

²¹ Reporting of gender-identity in HARP started in 2018
²² Including Filipinos who worked overseas within the past five years, whether on land or at sea
²³ People who engage in transactional sex are those who reported that they either pay for sex, regularly accept payment for sex, or do both in the past 12 months. Reporting of transactional sex was included in the HARP starting December 2012.
²⁴ Advanced HIV Disease (AHD) definition is based on clinical criteria of WHO staging 3 and 4 while immunologic criterion is based on baseline CD4 results (<200 cells/mm³)
²⁵ 73 cases had non-advanced HIV infection and 940 had no data on immunologic/clinical criteria at the time of diagnosis

Specific Populations²⁰

Pregnant Women with HIV

From April to June 2023, there were 27 HIV positive women aged 17 to 39 years old (median: 23 years) who were pregnant at the time of diagnosis. This was a 21% decrease compared to the same reporting period last year (34).

Reporting of pregnancy status at the time of diagnosis was included in HARP in 2011 and since then, a total of 765 diagnosed women were reported pregnant at the time of diagnosis.

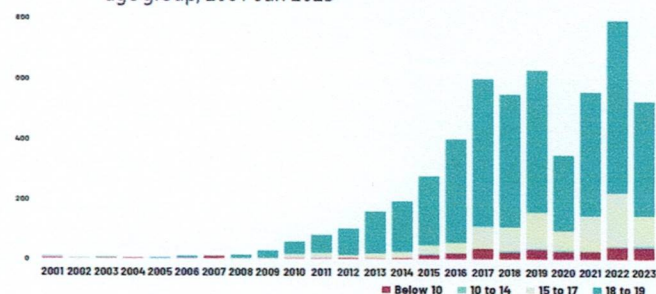
Children (<10) and Adolescents (10-19)

Among the newly reported cases from April to June 2023, there were 251 (6%) cases aged 19 and below. Among these, 24 were less than 10 years old and 227 were adolescents aged 10 - 19 years old (four were 10-14 years old, 41 were 15-17 years old, and 182 were 18-19 years old at the time of diagnosis).

Almost all (21, 88%) newly diagnosed children acquired HIV through mother-to-child transmission. On the other hand, almost all (225, 99%) of the newly reported adolescent cases were infected through sexual contact (176 males had history of sex with another male, 29 through male-female sex, and 20 through sex with both male and female)¹⁹, and two (1%) had no data on transmission.

From 2019 to the first half of 2023, the number of reported cases among 15-17 years old has increased by 91% (582) compared to 304 total cases reported aged 15 - 17 years old from 2018 or earlier. Cumulatively, of the diagnosed cases from January 1984 to June 2023, 5,413 (5%) were 19 years old or younger at the time of diagnosis, of which, 329 (6%) were less than 10 years old, 42 (1%) were 10-14 years old, 886 (16%) were 15-17 years old, and 4,156 (77%) were 18-19 years old.

Figure 8 : Diagnosed HIV cases among children and adolescents, by age group, 2001-Jun 2023



Youth (15-24)

Further, 1,245 (31%) of the reported cases this quarter were among the youth aged 15-24 years old, of which, 1,177 (95%) were males and 68 (5%) were females. Two hundred thirty-two (19%) among the youth cases were reported to have advanced HIV infection^{26,27} at the time of diagnosis.

Almost all (1,239, 99%) acquired HIV through sexual contact (974 male-male sex, 147 through sex with both males & females¹⁹, and 118 through male-female sex). One (<1%) was through sharing of infected needles, and five (<1%) had no data on mode of transmission at the time of diagnosis.

Cumulatively, a total of 34,415 youth cases have been reported, of which, 33,629 (98%) acquired HIV through sexual contact, 465 (1%) through sharing of infected needles, one (<1%) through mother-to-child transmission, and 320 (1%) had no data on transmission.

More males were diagnosed among the youth since 2004, however, the number of diagnosed HIV cases among female youth has been increasing in the past 10 years. From 493 female youth HIV cases reported from 2013 to 2017, the number of newly diagnosed female youth increased by 105% from 2018 to 2023 (1,011).

Transgender Women (TGW)

Of the 80 newly reported cases from April to June 2023 who identified as transgender women, 28 (35%) were 15 - 24 years old, 29 (36%) were 25 - 34 years old, 19 (24%) were 35-49 years old, and four (5%) were 50 years and older²². The age of diagnosis ranged from 17 to 58 years old (median: 28 years).

Of the 1,761 TGW diagnosed from January 2018²³ to June 2023, 1,745 (99%) acquired HIV through sexual contact, four (<1%) through sharing of infected needles, and 12 (1%) had no data on MOT²². By age group, 493 (28%) were 15-24 years old at the time of diagnosis, half (874, 50%) were 25-34 years old, 349 (20%) were 35-49 years old, and 44 (3%) were 50 years and older, and one had no data on age. The age of diagnosis ranged from 15 to 63 years old (median: 28 years).

Migrant Workers²⁴

One hundred eighty (4%) of the cases reported in April to June 2023 were Filipinos aged 20 to 67 years old (median: 33 years) who worked overseas within the past five years, whether on land or at sea. Among them, 166 (92%) were males and 14 (8%) were females. Almost all (179, 99%) of the new HIV-positive migrant workers acquired HIV through sexual contact - 110 (61%) through male-male sex, 34 (19%) through sex with both males & females¹⁹, and 35 (19%) were through male-female sex, while one (1%) had no data on mode of transmission.

Since 1984, a total of 9,512 (8%) migrant workers among the diagnosed cases have been reported, of which, 9,352 (95) acquired HIV through sexual contact, 18 (<1%) through sharing of infected needles, nine (<1%) through blood/blood products, three (1%) needlestick injury, and 130 (1%) had no data on transmission at the time of diagnosis.

People engaging in Transactional Sex²⁵

In April to June 2023, 461 (12%) of the newly diagnosed engaged in transactional sex within the past 12 months. Majority (448, 97%) were males and 13 (3%) were females, their age ranged from 15 to 69 years old (median: 30 years). Of the male cases, 208 (46%) reported paying for sex only, 159 (35%) reported accepting payment for sex only, and 81 (18%) engaged in both. On the other hand, three (23%) of the female cases reported paying for sex only, nine (69%) accepted payment for sex, and one (8%) engaged in both.

A total of 12,303 cases reported to HARP from December 2012 to June 2023 engaged in transactional sex²⁵. Majority (11,935, 97%) were males and 368 (3%) were females. There were 6,475 (53%) who paid for sex, 3,944 (32%) who accepted payment for sex, and 1,884 (15%) who engaged in both. The number of diagnosed HIV cases who engaged in transactional sex increased by 59% (7,170) from 2018 - 2022, compared to 4,513 cases reported from 2013 to 2017.

Table 3 : Diagnosed HIV cases who engaged in transactional sex, by sex and age, Dec 2012 - Jun 2023 (n=12,794)

Type of Transactional Sex	April 2023 - June 2023 (n=461) ²⁷	January 2023- June 2023 (n=930) ²⁷	January 2018- June 2023 (n=4,036) ²⁷	December 2012- June 2023 (N=12,794) ²⁸
Accepted payment for sex only	168 (36%)	339 (36%)	2,133 (53%)	4,116 (32%)
Male	159	323	2,020	3,875
Female	9	16	113	241
Age Range (Median)	15-54 (26)	15-54 (26)	12-64 (26)	12-68 (26)
Paid for sex only	211 (46%)	402 (43%)	1,427 (35%)	6,701 (52%)
Male	208	397	1,418	6,662
Female	3	5	9	39
Age Range (Median)	18-69 (34)	17-69 (33)	16-80 (32)	13-80 (32)
Engaged in both	82 (18%)	189 (20%)	476 (12%)	1,977 (15%)
Male	81	187	459	1,874
Female	1	2	17	103
Age Range (Median)	17-58 (29)	17-71 (29)	17-71 (29)	15-71 (29)

¹⁹ Sex at birth: M=Male, F=Female

²⁰ No data on MOT and sex for 11 cases

²¹ Among males only

²² Period covered April to June 2023

²³ Cisgender is based on gender identity which corresponds to their sex assigned at birth

²⁴ Percentages were rounded off to the nearest whole number - sum may not be equal to 100% due to rounding of figures

²⁵ Reporting of gender-identity in HARP started in 2018

²⁶ Including Filipinos who worked overseas within the past five years, whether on land or at sea

²⁷ People who engage in transactional sex are those who reported that they either pay for sex, regularly accept payment for sex, or do both in the past 12 months. Reporting of transactional sex was included in the HARP starting December 2012.

²⁸ Advanced HIV Disease (AHD) definition is based on clinical criteria of WHO staging 3 and 4 while immunologic criterion is based on baseline CD4 results (<200 cells/mm³)

²⁹ 73 cases had non-advanced HIV infection and 840 had no data on immunologic/clinical criteria at the time of diagnosis



TREATMENT

Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART)

Newly Enrolled to ART, Apr - Jun 2023 ²⁸	Median Baseline CD4 at enrollment (in cells/mm ³) ²⁹
3,634	218.5
PLHIV on ART as of June 2023 70,916	
Current age (in years) ³⁰	Sex assigned at birth
Age Range 1 - 79	Male 68,296
Median Age 28	Female 2,620

In April to June 2023, there were 3,634²⁸ people with HIV who were enrolled to treatment, of which, 3,611 were on the first line regimen, three were on second line regimen, and 20 were on other line of regimen. Among them, 18 (1%) were less than 15 years old, 1,080 (30%) were 15-24 years old, 1,785 (49%) were 25-34 years old, 658 (18%) were 35-49 years old, and 93 (3%) were 50 years and older³¹. The median CD4²⁹ of these patients upon enrollment was at 218.5 cells/mm³.

Among the 90,896 people living with HIV (PLHIV) ever enrolled to ART since 2002, a total of 70,916 PLHIV aged 1 to 79 years old (median: 28 years) were alive on ART as of June 2023, of which, 69,141 were on the first line regimen, 1,160 were on the second line, and 615 were on other line of regimen. Meanwhile, 19,980 (22%) were not on treatment as of June 2023 - 19,967 were lost to follow up, six refused to continue ART due to any reason, and seven reported to have migrated overseas [Table 3].

Tuberculosis Screening & Preventive Treatment³⁴

Of the 66,027 PLHIV on ART who have visited the treatment facility from at least once from April to June 2023, 49,781 (75%) were screened for Tuberculosis (TB) within the period covered.

Meanwhile, among the 2,589 PLHIV who were newly enrolled to ART, have visited the facility at least once between April to June 2023, and have no active TB, 1,867 (72%) were enrolled to preventive treatment and have been reported to OHASIS³⁴.

Table 3: Number of PLHIV by treatment outcome and region, as of June 2023

Region of Treatment Facility ³¹	Treatment Outcome			
	Alive on ART	Lost to Follow-up	Transout (Overseas) ³²	Stopped ³³
1	1,220	278	-	-
2	915	186	1	2
3	6,402	1,375	1	-
4A	7,042	1,650	-	1
4B	814	198	-	-
5	1,055	375	-	-
6	4,131	818	-	-
7	5,439	2,248	-	-
8	722	252	-	-
9	660	368	-	4
10	1,452	669	-	-
11	4,765	1,092	-	-
12	2,047	547	-	-
BARMM	49	19	-	-
CARAGA	537	248	4	-
CAR	716	158	-	-
NCR	32,950	9,486	-	-

Viral Load (VL) Testing and Suppression³⁵

Among the PLHIV on ART as of June 2023, there were 67,418 who have been enrolled to ART for at least 3 months and tagged as eligible for viral load testing.

Of the eligible, 26,003 PLHIV (39%) were tested for viral load in the past 12 months - 4,647 (18%) were tested in April to June 2023, 6,235 (24%) were tested between January to March 2023, and the remaining 15,031 PLHIV were tested between July to December 2022.

Further, among those who were tested in the past 12 months as of June 2023, 22,688 (87%) were virally suppressed³⁵ while 3,315 (13%) were not virally suppressed.

MORTALITY³⁶

Newly reported deaths Apr-Jun 2023	Total reported deaths Jan 1984 - Jun 2023 ³⁶
444	6,919

From April to June 2023, there were 444 reported deaths due to any cause among people diagnosed with HIV, of which, four (1%) were below <15 years old at the time of death, 72 (16%) were 15-24 years old at the time of death, 229 (52%) were 25-34 years old, 113 (25%) were 35-49 years old, and 26 (6%) were 50 years old and above.

From January 2018 to June 2023, there have been 4,520 deaths reported among diagnosed HIV cases in the Philippines, with more than 500 new deaths reported each year.

Since January 1984, a total of 6,919 deaths have been reported, of which, 3,225 (47%) had an advanced HIV disease at the time of diagnosis³⁷. Among age groups, the largest proportion of reported deaths were among the 25-34 years old accounting for 3,368 (49%) of total deaths followed by 35-49 years old with 1,709 (25%), 15-24 years old with 1,450 (21%), 50 years old and older with 342 (5%), and <15 years old with 46 (1%). Four (<1%) of the reported deaths had no reported age at the time of death.

²⁸ Started on ART are those enrolled from April to June 2023 regardless of diagnosis date
²⁹ No data on baseline CD4 count for 1,748 cases newly enrolled to ART from April to June 2023
³⁰ Current age as of the reporting period. No data on carriage age for 2 PLHIV on ART
³¹ Current treatment facility where PLHIV last visited for ARV refill
³² PLHIV is lost to follow-up if he/she did not visit the treatment facility for ARV refill within 30 days from expected day of last (run-out) pill
³³ Clients who reported to have migrated or transferred to another country
³⁴ Clients who stopped due to refusal to treatment

³⁵ Based on data reported/encoded to the One HIV, AIDS, & STI Information System (OHASIS)
³⁶ PLHIV currently alive on ART with atleast 1 visit and screened within the reporting period
³⁷ Viral Suppression is defined as having less than 50 copies of HIV per milliliter of blood, based on DDH AD 2022-0024
³⁸ Reported deaths due to any cause and not limited to AIDS-related causes. Based on reported date and actual date of death may not necessarily fall in this reporting period.
³⁹ 40 (1%) of the total reported deaths had non-advanced HIV infection and 3,854 (53%) had no data on immunologic/clinical criteria at the time of diagnosis

HIV & AIDS Surveillance of the Philippines - Editorial Team

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HIV & AIDS Surveillance of the Philippines

The HIV & AIDS Surveillance of the Philippines (HASP) is the official record of total number of diagnoses (laboratory-confirmed), ART outcome status and deaths among people with HIV in the Philippines. All individuals in the registry are confirmed by the San Lazaro Hospital STD/AIDS Cooperative Central Laboratory (ISAC2), which is the HIV/AIDS National Reference Laboratory (NRL) and DDH Certified Rapid HIV Diagnostic Algorithm - HIV-1a Confirmatory Laboratories (CrCLs). Confirmed HIV positive individuals were reported to the DDH-Epidemiology Bureau (EB) and recorded to OHASIS. ART figures are counts of HIV positive adult and pediatric patients currently enrolled and accessing Antiretroviral (ARV) medication during the reporting period in 180 treatment hubs and primary HIV care treatment facilities that had reported in EB. This report did not include patients who have previously taken ARV but have died, left the country, have been lost to follow-up and/or opted not to take ARV. Lost to follow-up is considered once a person have failed to visit a treatment facility 1 month after the expected date of ARV refill. HASP is a passive surveillance system. Except for HIV confirmation by the NRL & CrCLs, all other data submitted to the HASP are secondary and cannot be verified. Hence, it cannot determine if an individual's reported place of residence is where the person got infected, or where the person lived after being infected, or where the person is presently living. This limitation has major implications on data interpretation. Readers are advised to interpret the data with caution and consider other sources of information before arriving at conclusions.

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