



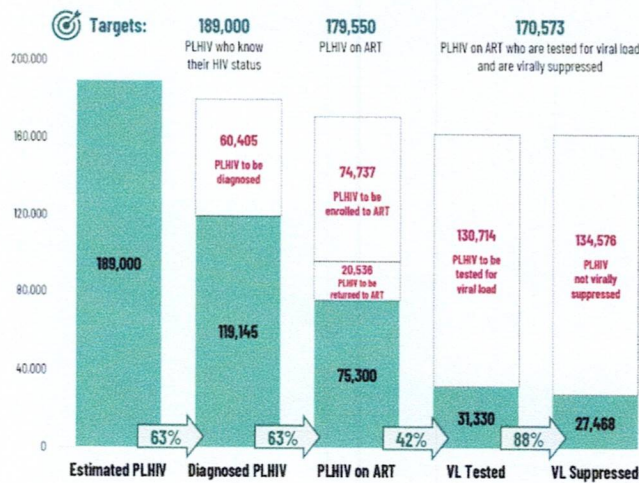
HIV & AIDS SURVEILLANCE OF THE PHILIPPINES

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.

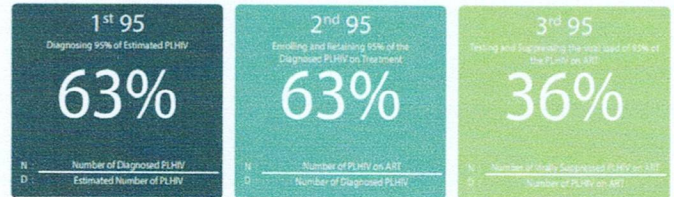
Of the estimated PLHIV, 119,145 (63%) cases have been diagnosed or laboratory-confirmed and currently living or not reported to have died, as of December 2023. Further, 75,300 PLHIV are currently on life-saving Anti-retroviral Therapy (ART), of which, 31,330 (45%) PLHIV have been tested for viral load (VL) in the past 12 months. Among those tested for VL, 27,468 (88%) are virally suppressed however only 36% were virally suppressed among PLHIV on ART [Figure 1].

Figure 1 : National Care Cascade, as of December 2023



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

95-95-95 ACCOMPLISHMENT, as of December 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 by 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.

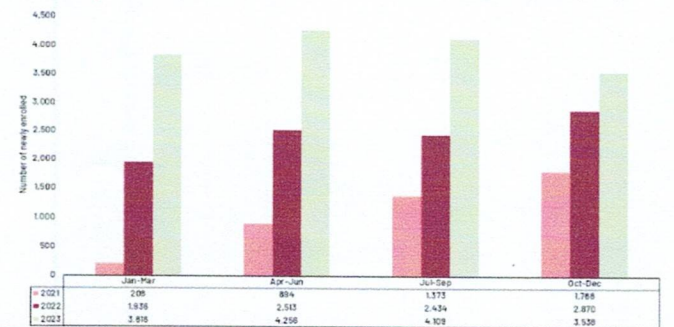
Virally Suppressed PLHIV
PLHIV on ART who have viral load of ≤ 50 copies/mL. Viral load refers to the amount of the Human Immunodeficiency virus (HIV) present in an infected person's blood.

PREVENTION

In October to December 2023, there were 3,538 clients newly enrolled to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), which is a 20% increase in new enrollees compared to the same period in 2022. Of the enrollees in the 4th quarter, 24 (1%) were 15-17 years old at the time of enrollment, 1,338 (38%) were 18-24 years old, 1,687 (48%) were 25-34 years old, 489 (14%) were 35 years old and above^{1,2}. More than half (2,040, 58%) of the newly enrolled to PrEP were from the National Capital Region (NCR).

Since the implementation of PrEP in March 2021, a total of 29,735 clients have been enrolled to PrEP, of which, 29,057 (98%) were males and more than half (15,034, 51%) were among 25-34 years old. Majority of clients ever enrolled to PrEP (26,655, 90%) were enrolled in facilities in NCR, CALABARZON (4A), and Central Luzon (3)³.

Figure 2 : Quarterly PrEP Enrollment, Jan 2021 - Dec 2023 (n=29,733)



DIAGNOSIS

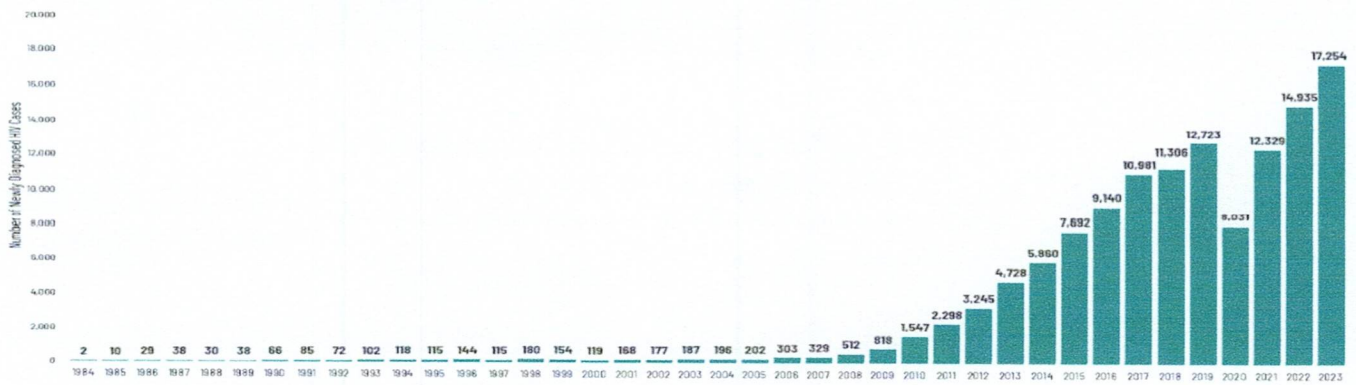


In October to December 2023, there were 3,738 confirmed HIV-positive individuals reported to the One HIV/AIDS & STI Information System (OHASIS), of which, 1,069 (29%) had an advanced HIV infection^{6,7} at the time of diagnosis. Compared to the reported cases in the same period last year, October to December 2022 (3,484), there was a 6% increase in reported cases in the 4th Quarter of this year, with an average of 41 cases reported daily.

Of the newly reported confirmed HIV-cases this period, 3,528 (94%) were males while 210 (6%) were females. The age of the newly reported cases ranged from 1 to 75 years old (median: 28 years). By age group, 17 (<1%) were less than 15 years old at the time of diagnosis, 1,115 (30%) were 15-24 years old, 1,773 (47%) were 25-34 years old, 738 (20%) were 35-49 years old, and 92 (2%) were 50 years and older⁴. Moreover, 2,532 (68%) were cisgender, 114 (3%) identified themselves as transgender women, nine (<1%) identified as others, 13 (<1%) as neither man nor woman, three (<1%) as transgender man and 1,067 (29%) had no data on gender identity⁸. Of the newly reported cases, 2,910 (78%) were confirmed in Certified rHIVd4 Confirming Laboratories (CrCLs) while 828 (22%) 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; 3 had no data on age
⁵ Age at diagnosis
⁶ 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)
⁷ 1829 cases had non-advanced HIV infection and 741 had no data on immunologic/clinical criteria at the time of diagnosis
⁸ Gender identity is based on sex at birth and self identity reported at the time of diagnosis. Cisgender is based on gender identity that corresponds to their sex assigned at birth. Those with unknown gender identity either had unspecified or no data on self identity and/or sex at birth.

Figure 3 : Number of newly diagnosed HIV cases reported in the Philippines, by Year of Reporting, Jan 1984 - December 2023 (N=126,378)

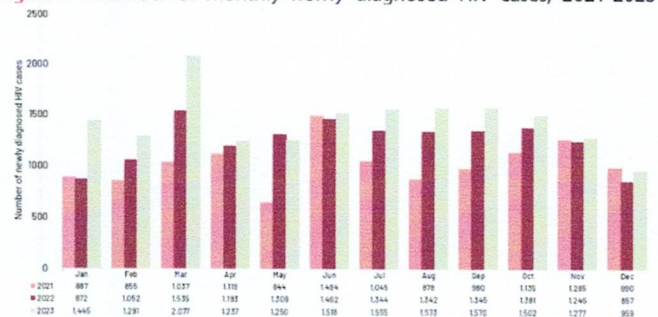


Cumulatively, 126,378 confirmed HIV cases have been reported to the HIV/AIDS and ART Registry of the Philippines since the first reported HIV case in the Philippines in 1984 [Figure 3].

Since 2021, the number of newly diagnosed HIV cases reported monthly has been increasing [Figure 4]. From an average of 1,027 monthly cases reported in 2021, it has increased to 1,245 cases per month in 2022. As of the fourth quarter of 2023, the average number of cases newly reported per month increased further to 1,438 cases.

Moreover, the number of reporting Certified rHIVda Confirming Laboratories (CrCLs) increased from 26 facilities in 2021 to 47 facilities in 2023.

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

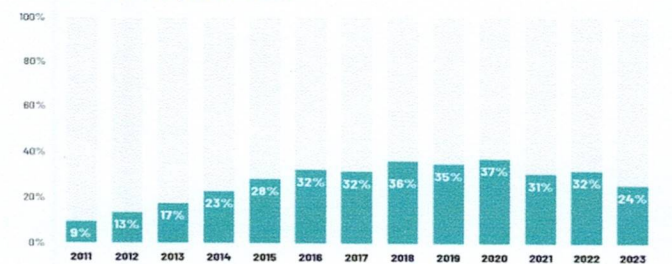


Advanced HIV Disease (AHD)

Of the total reported cases, 36,499 (29%) had Advanced HIV disease (AHD)⁹ while 2,610 (2%) had presented non-advanced HIV infection at the time of diagnosis. The remaining 88,810 (70%) 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 9% in 2011, with a median baseline CD4 count at 128 cells/mm³, to 37% in 2020, with median baseline CD4 at 198 cells/mm³. However, the trend slightly decreased to 31% in 2021, 32% in 2022 and even lower at 24% in 2023. Meanwhile, the median baseline CD4 decreased from 236 cells/mm³ in 2022 to 229 cells/mm³ in 2023.

Figure 5 : Proportion of newly diagnosed HIV cases with advanced HIV disease⁹, 2011 - 2023

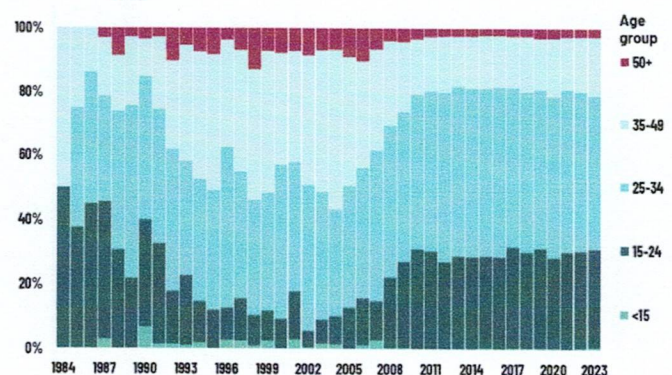


Sex and Age

Majority of the total reported cases (119,245, 94%) were males and 7,123 (6%) were females¹⁰. By age group, 417 (<1%) were below 15 years old, 36,984 (29%) were among the youth aged 15-24 years old, half (63,493, 50%) were 25-34 years old, 22,116 (18%) were 35-49 years old, and 3,292(3%) were 50 years and older¹¹. The age of diagnosed cases ranged from <1 to 81 years old (median: 28 years).

Since 2012, 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 (+80%), followed by those aged 15-24 years (+64%).

Figure 6 : Distribution of diagnosed HIV cases, by age group, Jan 1984 - Dec 2023^{11,12}



Geographic Distribution

The regions with the most number of newly reported cases in October to December 2023 were NCR, CALABARZON (4A), Central Luzon (3), Central Visayas (7), Western Visayas (6), and Davao Region (11). These regions comprised 75% of the total number of cases in this period [Figure 7]¹². Meanwhile, 1,124 (25%) were from the rest of the country.

Consequently, the same regions reported the most number of cases from January to December 2023, altogether accounting for 12,867 (75%) of the total reported cases, while 4,384 (25%) were from other regions, and

three(<1%) reported an overseas permanent residence.

Cumulatively, of the total cases reported from January 1984 to December 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 101,515 (80%) of the total reported cases [Table 1]. Meanwhile, 24,860 (20%) were from the rest of the country, three(<1%) reported an overseas permanent residence, and 1,111 (1%) had no data on region of residence.

⁹ 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.
¹⁰ No data on sex for 10 cases
¹¹ No data on age for 76 cases

¹² Percentages were rounded off to the nearest whole number - sum may not be equal to 100% due to rounding of figures

Figure 7 : Distribution of newly diagnosed HIV cases by region of residence¹³, Oct-Dec 2023 (n= 3,738)

Region	Number of cases	%
NCR	963	25%
4A	663	18%
3	407	11%
7	284	8%
6	262	7%
11	207	6%
1	164	4%
10	132	4%
5	117	3%
8	109	3%
12	84	2%
2	74	2%
4B	71	2%
CARAGA	65	2%
9	64	2%
CAR	32	1%
BARMM	22	1%

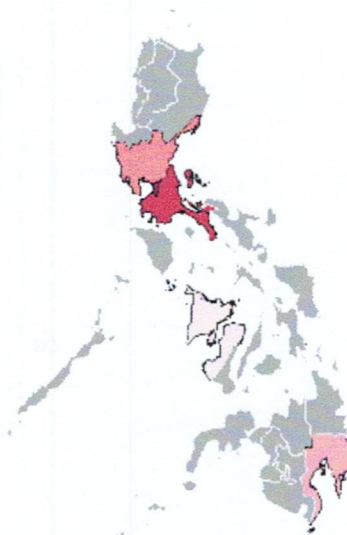


Table 1 : Number of diagnosed HIV cases, by region of residence, Jan 1984 - Dec 2023¹⁴

Region	January 2023 - December 2023 (n=17,254)		January 2018 - December 2018 (n=76,578)		January 1984 - December 1984 (N=126,378) ¹⁵	
NCR	4,358	25%	22,048	29%	42,532	34%
4A	3,108	18%	13,555	18%	20,818	16%
3	1,844	11%	8,782	11%	13,202	10%
7	1,397	8%	5,788	8%	10,294	8%
6	1,130	7%	5,357	7%	7,603	6%
11	1,030	6%	4,168	5%	7,066	6%
12	629	4%	2,389	3%	3,411	3%
1	574	3%	2,332	3%	3,330	3%
10	542	3%	2,314	3%	3,287	3%
5	460	3%	1,896	2%	2,614	2%
8	444	3%	1,505	2%	2,065	2%
2	391	2%	1,496	2%	2,035	2%
9	383	2%	1,447	2%	2,018	2%
4B	373	2%	1,397	2%	1,941	2%
CARAGA	340	2%	1,087	1%	1,533	1%
CAR	143	1%	684	1%	1,078	1%
BARMM	85	<1%	310	<1%	437	<1%

Mode of Transmission (MOT)

In the 4th quarter of this year, 3,584 (96%) newly reported cases reported having acquired HIV through sexual contact - 2,776 through male-male sex, 593 male - male /female¹⁷, 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 sex¹⁵, Jan 1984 - Dec 2023¹⁶

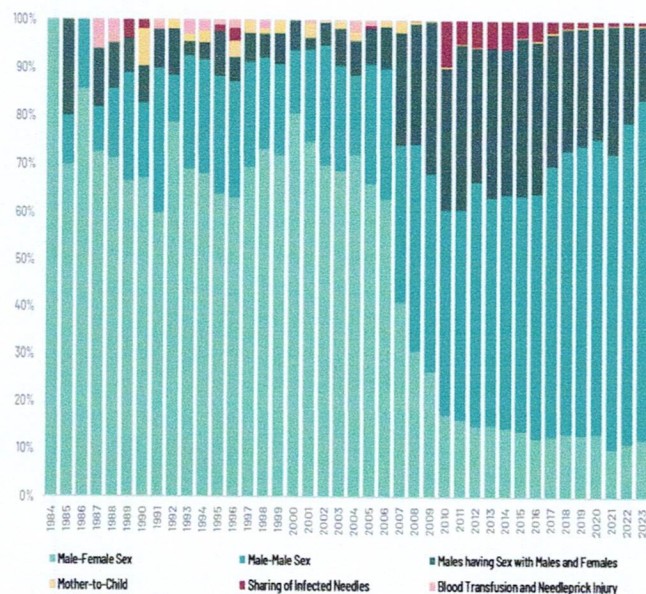
Mode of Transmission	October 2023 - December 2023 (n=3,738)		January - December 2023 (n=17,254)		January 2018 - December 2018 (n=76,578)		January 1984 - December 2023 (N=126,378) ¹⁷	
	M (3,528)	F (210)	M (16,341)	F (913)	M (72,729)	F (3,849)	M (119,245)	F (7,123)
Sexual Contact	3,393	191	15,903	848	70,951	3,636	115,101	6,640
Male-male sex	2,617	-	12,116	-	48,952	-	73,389	-
Sex w/ males & females ¹⁷	525	-	2,585	-	16,491	-	30,818	-
Male-female sex	251	191	1,202	848	5,508	3,636	10,894	6,640
Sharing of infected needles	16	0	91	8	619	45	2,424	154
Mother-to-child	2	7	22	21	70	78	120	112
Blood /blood products	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	14
Needlestick injury	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
No data	117	12	325	36	1,089	90	1,593	202

- 73,389 male-male sex, 30,818 male-male/female¹⁷, and 17,534 male-female sex. Furthermore, 2,578 (2%) were infected through sharing of infected needles, 337 (<1%) were mother-to-child transmission, 22 (<1%) through blood/blood products & needlestick injury, while 1,700 (1%) had no data on mode of transmission [Table 2].

Of the diagnosed male cases, 104,207 (82%) acquired HIV through sex with another male, 10,894 (9%) through sex with a female, 2,424 (2%) through sharing of infected needles, 172 (<1%) through mother-to-child transmission. On the other hand, among diagnosed females, majority (6,640, 93%) acquired HIV through sexual contact with a male, 165 (2%) through mother-to-child transmission, and 154 (2%) through sharing of infected needles [Table 3].

MOT varies across the regions- 36,813 (29%) of diagnosed males who have sex with males were from NCR; more than half (196, 58%) of those who have acquired HIV through mother-to-child transmission were from NCR, CALABARZON (4A), and Central Luzon (3); and almost all (2,570, >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 - December 2023



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 57 newly reported cases in 2023.

Cumulatively, among the 126,378 reported cases from January 1984 to December 2023, 121,741 (96%) acquired HIV through sexual contact

¹³ 18 cases reported on Oct-Dec 2023 had no data on region of residence
¹⁴ No data on region of residence for 1,111 cases (7%)
¹⁵ Sex at birth: M=Male, F=Female

¹⁶ No data on MOT and sex for 10 cases
¹⁷ Among males only

Specific Populations²⁰

Pregnant Women with HIV

From October to December 2023, there were 34 HIV positive women aged 15 to 38 years old (median: 22 years) who were pregnant at the time of diagnosis. This was a 55% increase compared to the same reporting period last year (22).

Reporting of pregnancy status at the time of diagnosis was included in HARP in 2011 and since then, a total of 838 diagnosed women were reported pregnant at the time of diagnosis.

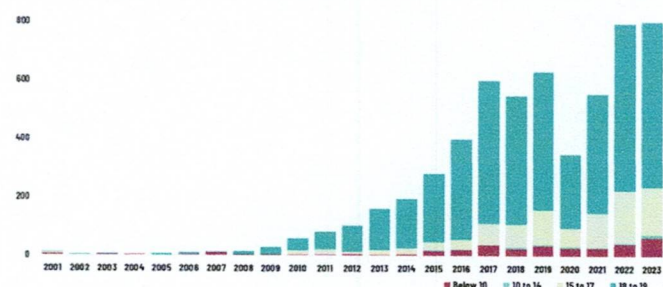
Children (<10) and Adolescents (10-19)

Among the newly reported cases from October to December 2023, there were 232 (6%) cases aged 19 and below. Among these, 14 were less than 10 years old and 290 were adolescents aged 10 - 19 years old (three were 10-14 years old, 43 were 15-17 years old, and 172 were 18-19 years old at the time of diagnosis).

Nine (64%) among newly diagnosed children acquired HIV through mother-to-child transmission, 4 (29%) through sexual contact (3 had history of sex with another male, 1 through sex with both male and female), and one (7%) had no data on transmission. On the other hand, majority (208, 97%) of the newly reported adolescent cases were infected through sexual contact (158 males had history of sex with another male, 21 through male-female sex, and 29 through sex with both male and female)¹⁹, and seven (3%) had no data on transmission.

From 2019 to 2023, the number of reported cases among 15-17 years old has increased by 126% (687) compared to 304 total cases reported aged 15 - 17 years old from 2018 or earlier. Cumulatively, of the diagnosed cases from January 1984 to December 2023, 5,957 (5%) were 19 years old or younger at the time of diagnosis, of which, 365 (6%) were less than 10 years old, 52 (1%) were 10-14 years old, 991 (17%) were 15-17 years old, and 4,549 (76%) were 18-19 years old.

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



Youth (15-24)

Further, 1,115 (30%) of the reported cases this quarter were among the youth aged 15-24 years old, of which, 1,048 (94%) were males and 67 (6%) were females. Two hundred forty-one (22%) among the youth cases were reported to have advanced HIV infection⁹ at the time of diagnosis.

Almost all (1,082, 97%) acquired HIV through sexual contact (875 male-male sex, 110 through sex with both males & females¹⁹, and 97 through male-female sex). No data on mode of transmission among the 33 (3%) at the time of diagnosis.

Cumulatively, a total of 36,984 youth cases have been reported, of which, 36,131 (98%) acquired HIV through sexual contact, 466 (1%) through sharing of infected needles, one (<1%) through mother-to-child transmission, and 386 (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 133% from 2018 to 2023 (1,150).

Transgender Women (TGW)

Of the 114 newly reported cases from October to December 2023 who identified as transgender women, 33(29%) were 15 - 24 years old, 58 (51%) were 25 - 34 years old, 22 (19%) were 35-49 years old, and one (1%) were 50 years and older²¹. The age of diagnosis ranged from 16 to 54 years old (median: 28 years).

Of the 2,111 TGW diagnosed from January 2018²² to June 2023, almost all (2,091, 99%) acquired HIV through sexual contact, four (<1%) through sharing of infected needles, and 16 (1%) had no data on MOT²¹. By age group, 586 (28%) were 15-24 years old at the time of diagnosis, half (1,056, 50%) were 25-34 years old, 417 (20%) were 35-49 years old, and 51 (2%) 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 Workers²³

One hundred sixty-four (4%) of the cases reported in October to December 2023 were Filipinos aged 20 to 64 years old (median: 36 years) who worked overseas within the past five years, whether on land or at sea. Among them, 143 (87%) were males and 21 (13%) were females. Majority (154, 94%) of the new HIV-positive migrant workers acquired HIV through sexual contact - 82 (53%) through male-male sex, 27 (18%) through sex with both males & females¹⁹, and 45 (29%) were through male-female sex, while 10 (6%) had no data on mode of transmission.

Since 1984, a total of 10,125 (8%) migrant workers among the diagnosed cases have been reported, of which, 9,938 (98%) acquired HIV through sexual contact, 20 (<1%) through sharing of infected needles, nine (<1%) through blood/blood products, three (<1%) needlestick injury, and 155 (2%) had no data on transmission at the time of diagnosis.

People engaging in Transactional Sex²⁴

In October to December 2023, 458 (12%) of the newly diagnosed engaged in transactional sex within the past 12 months. Majority (449, 98%) were males and 9 (2%) were females, their age ranged from 10 to 66 years old (median: 29 years). Of the male cases, 189 (42%) reported paying for sex only, 169 (38%) reported accepting payment for sex only, and 91 (20%) engaged in both. On the other hand, one (11%) of the female cases reported paying for sex only, four (44%) accepted payment for sex, and four (44%) engaged in both.

A total of 13,815 cases reported to HARP from December 2012 to December 2023 engaged in transactional sex²⁴. Majority (13,411, 97%) were males and 404 (3%) were females. There were 7,152 (52%) who paid for sex, 4,505 (33%) who accepted payment for sex, and 2,158 (16%) 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 - Dec 2023 (n=13,815)

Type of Transactional Sex	October 2023 - December 2023 (n=458) ²⁵	January 2023- December 2023 (n=2,087) ²⁵	January 2018- December 2023 (n=9,257) ²⁵	December 2012- December 2023 (N=13,815) ²⁵
Accepted payment for sex only	173 (38%)	766 (37%)	3,099 (33%)	4,505 (33%)
Male	169	740	2,953	4,255
Female	4	26	146	250
Age Range (Median)	16-59 (26)	14-60 (26)	12-64 (26)	12-68 (26)
Paid for sex only	190 (41%)	925 (44%)	4,716 (51%)	7,152 (52%)
Male	189	915	4,690	7,110
Female	1	10	26	42
Age Range (Median)	10-66 (34)	10-69 (33)	10-80 (32)	10-80 (32)
Engaged in both	95 (21%)	396 (19%)	1,442 (16%)	2,158 (16%)
Male	91	385	1,401	2,046
Female	4	11	41	108
Age Range (Median)	17-53 (29)	15-73 (29)	15-73 (29)	15-73 (29)

¹⁹ Among males only

²⁰ Period covered October to December 2023

²¹ Percentages were rounded off to the nearest whole number - sum may not be equal to 100% due to rounding of figures

²² Reporting of gender-identity in HARP started in 2018

²³ Including Filipinos who worked overseas within the past five years, whether on land or at sea

²⁴ 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.

²⁵ Transactional sex within the past 12 months at the time of diagnosis

²⁶ Cumulative number of cases reported regardless when the person engaged in transactional sex. Reporting of specific time period when the person last engaged in transactional sex started only in 2017 (Form version 2017)

TREATMENT

Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART)

Newly Enrolled to ART, Oct-Dec 2023 ²⁷	Median Baseline CD4 at enrollment (in cells/mm ³) ²⁸
3,652	196
PLHIV on ART as of Dec 2023 75,300	
Current age (in years) ²⁹	Sex assigned at birth
Age Range 1 - 82	Male 72,499
Median Age 32	Female 2,801

In October to December 2023, there were 3,652²⁷ people with HIV who were enrolled to treatment, of which, 3,635 were on the first line regimen, one was on second line regimen, and 26 were on other line of regimen. Among them, 16 (<1%) were less than 15 years old, 1,043 (29%) were 15-24 years old, 1,817 (50%) were 25-34 years old, 698 (19%) were 35-49 years old, and 78 (2%) were 50 years and older²⁹. The median CD4²⁸ of these patients upon enrollment was at 196 cells/mm³.

Among the 99,128 people living with HIV (PLHIV) ever enrolled to ART since 2002, a total of 75,300 PLHIV aged 1 to 82 years old (median: 32 years) were alive on ART as of December 2023, of which, 73,435 were on the first line regimen, 996 were on the second line, and 869 were on other line of regimen. Meanwhile, 23,728 (24%) were not on treatment as of December 2023 - 23,708 were lost to follow up, six refused to continue ART due to any reason, and 14 reported to have migrated overseas [Table 3].

Tuberculosis Screening & Preventive Treatment³⁵

Of the 58,207 PLHIV on ART who have visited the treatment facility at least once from October to December 2023, 47,280 (81%) were screened for Tuberculosis (TB) within the period covered.

Meanwhile, among the 1,851 PLHIV who were newly enrolled to ART, have visited the facility at least once between October to December 2023, and have no active TB, 1,318 (71%) were enrolled to preventive treatment and have been reported to OHASIS³⁵.

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

Region of Treatment Facility ³⁰	Treatment Outcome			
	Alive on ART ³¹	Lost to Follow-up ³²	Transout (Overseas) ³³	Stopped ³⁴
1	1,333	348	-	-
2	1,067	192	2	1
3	6,623	1,804	7	1
4A	7,629	2,255	1	-
4B	910	234	-	-
5	1,207	424	-	-
6	4,589	896	-	-
7	5,639	2,693	-	-
8	721	434	-	-
9	637	518	4	-
10	1,603	761	-	-
11	5,004	1,301	-	-
12	2,202	769	-	-
BARMM	56	18	-	-
CARAGA	558	324	-	4
CAR	812	167	-	-
NCR	34,710	10,569	-	-

Viral Load (VL) Testing and Suppression³⁷

Among the PLHIV on ART as of December 2023, there were 71,792 who have been enrolled to ART for at least 3 months and tagged as eligible for viral load testing.

Of the eligible, 31,327 PLHIV (44%) were tested for viral load in the past 12 months - 7,129 (23%) were tested in October to December 2023, 8,865 (28%) were tested between July and September 2023, 8,336 (27%) were tested between April and June 2023, and 6,997 (22%) were tested between January and March 2023.

Further, among those who were tested in the past 12 months as of December 2023, 27,468 (88%) were virally suppressed³⁷ while 3,862 (12%) were not virally suppressed.

MORTALITY³⁸

Newly reported deaths Oct-Dec 2023	Total reported deaths Jan 1984 - Dec 2023 ³⁸
166	7,233

From October to December 2023, there were 154 reported deaths due to any cause among people diagnosed with HIV, of which, three (2%) were below <15 years old at the time of death, 29 (17%) were 15-24 years old at the time of death, 83 (50%) were 25-34 years old, 42 (25%) were 35-49 years old, and 9 (5%) were 50 years old and above.

From January 2018 to December 2023, there have been 4,835 deaths reported among diagnosed HIV cases in the Philippines, with more than 500 new deaths reported each year since 2018.

Since January 1984, a total of 7,233 deaths have been reported, of which, 3,392 (47%) had an advanced HIV disease at the time of diagnosis³⁹. Among age groups, the largest proportion of reported deaths were among the 25-34 years old accounting for 3,5300 (49%) of total deaths followed by 35-49 years old with 1,787 (25%), 15-24 years old with 1,500 (21%), 50 years old and older with 360 (5%), and <15 years old with 50 (1%). Four (<1%) of the reported deaths had no reported age at the time of death.

²⁷ Started on ART are those enrolled from October to December 2023 regardless of diagnosis date
²⁸ No data on baseline CD4 count for 1,616 cases newly enrolled to ART from October to December 2023
²⁹ Current age as of the reporting period
³⁰ Current treatment facility where PLHIV last visited for ARV refill
³¹ PLHIV is alive on ART if he/she visit the treatment facility for ARV refill within 30 days from expected day of last (run-out) pill
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 latest 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 DOH AO 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 85 (1%) of the total reported deaths had non-advanced HIV infection and 3,768 (52%) 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 STI/AIDS Cooperative Central Laboratory (SACCL) which is the HIV/AIDS National Reference Laboratory (NRL) and DOH Certified Rapid HIV Diagnostic Algorithm - rHIVa Confirmatory Laboratories (CrCLs). Confirmed HIV positive individuals were reported to the DOH-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 160 treatment hubs and primary HIV care treatment facilities that had reported to 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 has 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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