HIV Program in the Philippines

International AIDS Society
March 14, 2024 | Luxent, QC
DOH’s 8 Priority Programs

- Immunization
- Nutrition
- Maternal Health
- Tuberculosis/HIV
- Road Safety
- Digital Health
- Hypertension & Diabetes
- Cancer Control
Overview of HIV Epidemic in the Philippines
Asia Pacific Region witnessed a 14% decrease in new HIV infections and 51% decrease in AIDS-related death between 2010 to 2022.
However, new infections and AIDS-related deaths in the Philippines continues to rise rapidly

Trend of new HIV infections

Percent change in new HIV infections since 2010: 418%

Trend of AIDS-related deaths

Percent change in AIDS-related deaths since 2010: 538%

Source: UNAIDS epidemiological estimates, 2023 (https://aidsinfo.unaids.org/)
Nearly a thousand deaths among diagnosed with HIV were reported in 2022 and as of October 2023, deaths reported already reached 834. Almost half (49%) of which came from the 25–34 years old.

Source: HIV, AIDS and ART Registry of the Philippines, October 2023
*4 had no data on age at death
The Philippines has an incidence rate of less than 1% per 1,000 uninfected population.

However the rapidly increasing HIV epidemic is largely affecting the key populations, hence HIV is still a concentrated epidemic in the country.
With the rapidly increasing HIV epidemic in the country, the estimated 189,000 People living with HIV by the end of 2023 is projected to increase by more than two times to 401,700 PLHIV by 2030.

Source: AIDS Epidemic Model (AEM)-Spectrum, May 2023
The Philippine HIV Epidemic is largely among MSM & TGW. The youth remains the driver of new infections.

Source: AIDS Epidemic Model (AEM)-Spectrum, May 2023
With the collaborative efforts and interventions in the country, an estimated 268,200 HIV infections had been averted between 2005 and 2022.

Cumulative HIV Infections among 15+, 2005-2022

Source: AIDS Epidemic Model, May 2023
Note: Cumulative infections includes reported deaths
With the achievement of the 95-95-95 and AMTP7 Targets, we can avert as much as 162,000 new infections by 2030.

By 2030, 162,000 infections will be averted.

Moreover, nearly 8,000 AIDS deaths will be averted.

Cumulative HIV infections among adults 15+, 2022-2030

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>National Projection (New Infections)</th>
<th>AMTP7 Targets Projection (New Infections)</th>
<th>National Projection (AIDS deaths)</th>
<th>AMTP7 Targets Projection (AIDS deaths)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>201,200</td>
<td>201,000</td>
<td>11,800</td>
<td>11,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2024</td>
<td>229,700</td>
<td>223,300</td>
<td>13,800</td>
<td>13,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>2025</td>
<td>280,300</td>
<td>237,200</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>16,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2026</td>
<td>292,700</td>
<td>244,600</td>
<td>18,400</td>
<td>17,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>2027</td>
<td>326,400</td>
<td>251,000</td>
<td>20,900</td>
<td>18,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2028</td>
<td>361,200</td>
<td>257,600</td>
<td>23,800</td>
<td>19,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2029</td>
<td>398,800</td>
<td>264,200</td>
<td>26,400</td>
<td>20,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2030</td>
<td>432,900</td>
<td>270,200</td>
<td>29,300</td>
<td>21,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
Source: AIDS Epidemic Model, May 2023
The National HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Program
National HIV/AIDS Program Target

95%  PLHIV know their status

95%  Diagnosed PLHIV enrolled and alive on ART

95%  PLHIV enrolled to treatment are virally suppressed

End AIDS related deaths by 2030
Addressing the gaps across the cascade is a priority to reach 95-95-95 by 2030

95-95-95 Accomplishment: 62 – 63 – 44*

*VL testing coverage among PLHIV on ART: 46%
*VL Suppression among tested for VL (<1000 cells/uL): 96%

1. Low testing coverage
2. Low linkage to care and enrollment to treatment among diagnosed PLHIV
3. Low viral load testing coverage

Source: AIDS Epidemic Model (AEM)-Spectrum, May 2023
HIV, AIDS and ART Registry of the Philippines, October 2023
Prevention
Improving HEALTH LITERACY through social and behavior change communication (SBCC) campaigns and interventions

The Health is Life Campaign will focus on the Health Promotion Framework Strategy’s seven priority areas. These are the pillars upon which health promotion efforts for improving health outcomes will be centered.

**Priority Area 6**
**Practice Safe Sex**
Sexual and Reproductive Health Promoting positive sexual and reproductive behavior

The KonsulTayo Campaign aims to encourage Filipinos to get the care they need to avoid negative health outcomes in the future. The campaign primarily targets for the general public to know what services are under primary care and who provides these services.
### Priority Preventive Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority Preventive Services</th>
<th>Primary Preventive</th>
<th>Secondary Preventive</th>
<th>Tertiary Preventive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Combination HIV Prevention (condoms, lubricants, PrEP, target messaging) (Indicator: Cumulative PrEP enrollment)</td>
<td>HIV screening, testing and diagnosis (Indicator: HIV diagnosis among estimated PLHIV) Early HIV treatment initiation and retention to care (Indicator: HIV treatment coverage among diagnosed PLHIV) Prophylaxis of HIV-Exposed Infants (Indicator: HIV-exposed infants given ARV prophylaxis)</td>
<td>Diagnosis and Management of Opportunistic Infections (Prophylaxis or Treatment) Viral load Monitoring to prevent drug resistance (Indicator: Virally suppressed PLHIV among those on ART)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Addressing challenges on PrEP is a prerequisite to scaling up PrEP coverage from 25k to 153k by 2026.

**ADDRESSING CHALLENGES ON PREP INITIATION**

- Awareness on PrEP: 13%
- Willing to take PrEP: 32%

**Top reasons for not taking PrEP:**
- Feels no risk (48%)
- Afraid of side effect (22%)
- No time (15%)

27,297 Total PrEP Enrollees as of October 2023

**PrEP Targets, 2023-2026**

- 2023: 23,000
- 2024: 34,200
- 2025: 96,600
- 2026: 153,200

Source: Integrated HIV Behavioral and Serologic Surveillance (IHBSS) among MSM and TGW, 2022
Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Registry, Oct 2023
Screening & Diagnosis
Screening & Diagnostic coverage of young people lag behind

DIAGNOSIS COVERAGE IS <30% FOR AGE BELOW 25

Top reason for not getting tested by age group
- 15-17: Afraid of HIV test result (43%)
- 18-24: No time (36%)
- 25+: Feels no need to get tested (64%)

Testing Preference
- 52% Prefer to be tested by MedTech
- 29% Prefer to be tested by someone they know
- 12% Prefer to be tested by someone they don’t personally know
- 7% Prefer self test

Source: AIDS Epidemic Model (AEM)-Spectrum, May 2023
HIV, AIDS and ART Registry of the Philippines, Oct 2023
2022 Integrated HIV Behavioral and Serologic Surveillance (IHBSS) among MSM & TGW
Late diagnosis and treatment initiation delays persists

ONE IN THREE DIAGNOSED CASES HAS ADVANCED HIV DISEASE (AHD)

Distribution of diagnosed HIV cases with advanced HIV disease, 2011-Oct 2023 (n=116,784)

Trend of diagnosed cases and AHD disaggregated by age group, 2020-2023*

NEWLY DIAGNOSED CLIENTS TAKE AT LEAST TWO WEEKS BEFORE TREATMENT INITIATION

Median days from screening
0 HIV screening
2 HIV Confirmatory result
- 57% were rHIVda-confirmed
14 Treatment initiation among rHIVda-confirmed
25 Treatment initiation among NRL/SACCL-confirmed

Source:
HIV, AIDS and ART Registry of the Philippines, October 2023
rHIVda Scale-up Plan

Before ROP 2023
33 Confirmatory rHIVda Clinical Laboratory

As of March 6, 2024
85 Confirmatory rHIVda Clinical Laboratory

Gaps and challenges:
- Lack of budgetary support to implement rHIVda
- Lack of SOPs and documentation
- Lack of equipment and supplies
- Requires additional trainings
- Low testing census

RECALIBRATION:
- From 1351, we prioritize establishing at least 1 CrCl per province and 1 per HUDC while also targeting high disease burden areas and treatment hubs.
Treatment
Primary HIV Care Facilities and Treatment Hubs in the Philippines
Providing TLD and MMD to improve treatment retention

Aligned to the TLD transition plan, current coverage is at 49% (among PLHIV on ART)

However, only 7 of 10 (68%) new enrollees were started on TLD

MMD-6 is highly encouraged, but site-level ARV supply and OHAT claims administrative requirement are central to low practice

Source: HIV, AIDS and ART Registry of the Philippines, Oct 2023
Care
National viral load testing coverage at 46%, highest recorded in the program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>% of Viral Load Tested</th>
<th>% Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>-11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>-3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: HIV, AIDS and ART Registry of the Philippines, Oct 2023

Based on VL suppression of (<1000 cells/uL)
Challenges and Concerns
Challenges in achieving the targets

**Prevent**
- ✓ Low level of knowledge on HIV among key populations
- ✓ Low condom use among key populations
- ✓ Low PrEP coverage
- ✓ Stigma including self-stigma hindering access to available services
- ✓ Inadequate capacity building for service providers
- ✓ Unstable supply of RDTs for rHIVda

**Treat**
- ✓ Unstable supply of diagnostics (VL cartridges)
- ✓ Unstable supply of medicines for multi-month dispensing (MMD)

**Sustain, Care and Protect**
- ✓ Available machines (e.g. cartridge-based NAAT) not optimally used
Strategies and ways forward
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prevent</th>
<th>Treat</th>
<th>Sustain, Care and Protect</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● Implement combination prevention through condom, PrEP, U=U messaging and targeted community strategy for KP and vulnerable populations</td>
<td>● Release of guidelines implementation tool (GIT) for HIV testing services (HTS)</td>
<td>● Implement intensified case management incorporating mental health training and adherence counselling.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) expansion and public introduction of post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)</td>
<td>● Full transition to safer and simpler ARVs (e.g., Dolutegravir-based regimen)</td>
<td>● Implement one stop shop set-up across HIV facilities for optimized case management.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Community and online outreach</td>
<td>● Optimization of Genexpert machine for multi-disease use including HIV viral load testing</td>
<td>● Implement differentiated HIV testing services optimizing available platforms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Integration of mental health in HIV prevention interventions for KP</td>
<td>● Point of care testing for early infant diagnosis</td>
<td>● Pilot Konsulta-SDG PhilHealth sandbox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Elimination of mother to child transmission</td>
<td>● Expansion of rHIVda sites</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>● HIV-exposed infants tested for HIV within 2 months, given ART for prophylaxis</td>
<td>● Expansion of treatment hubs and Primary HIV Care Facilities nationwide.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Submission of monthly inventory report through OHASIS to ensure uninterrupted supply of ART</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● STRIDERS optimization</td>
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Sa Bagong Pilipinas, Bawat Buhay Mahalaga!