

# Country progress report - Philippines

Global AIDS Monitoring 2020





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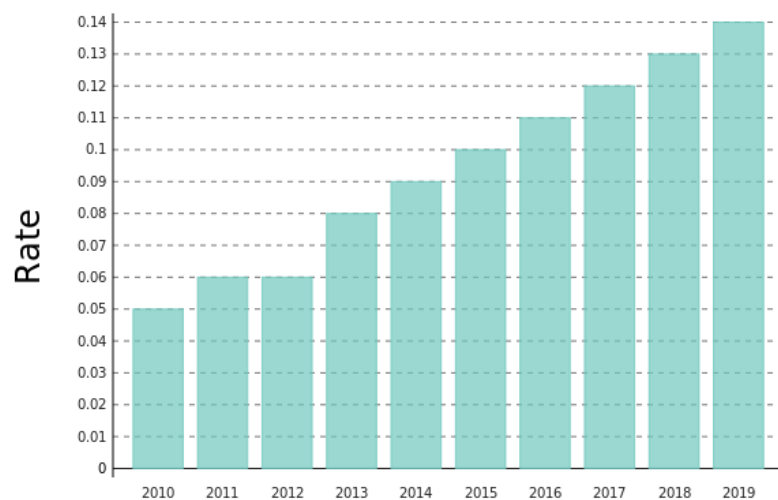
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# Overall

## Fast-track targets

### 3.1 HIV incidence rate per 1000, Philippines (2010-2019)

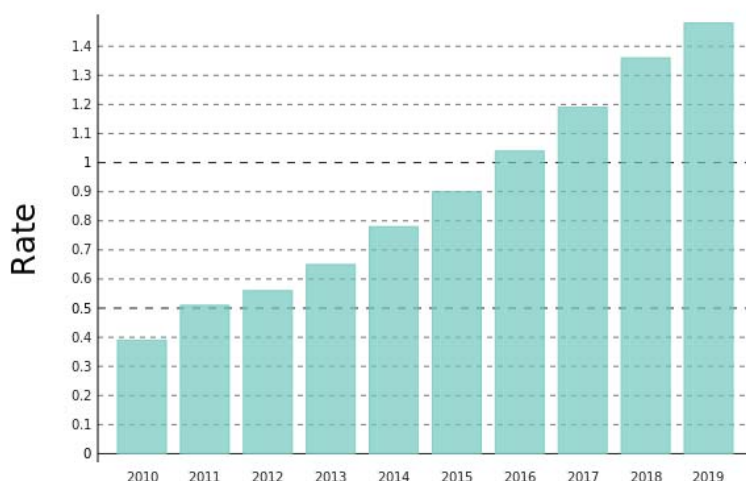
Number of people newly infected with HIV in the reporting period per 1000 uninfected population



Source: Spectrum file

## 1.7 AIDS mortality per 100 000, Philippines (2010-2019)

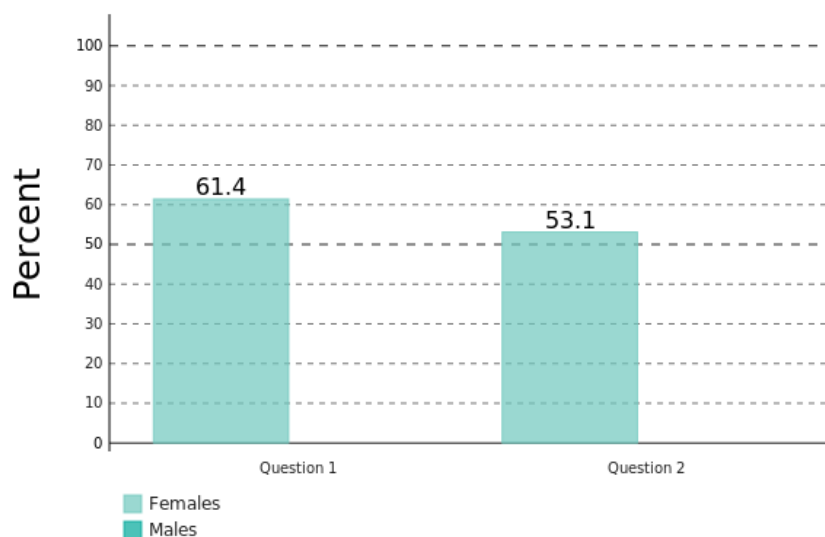
Total number of people who have died from AIDS-related causes per 100 000 population



Source: Spectrum file

## 4.1 Discriminatory attitudes towards people living with HIV, Philippines (2018)

Percentage of respondents (aged 15-49 years) who respond "No" to: Question 1 - "Would you buy fresh vegetables from a shopkeeper or vendor if you knew that this person had HIV?"; Question 2 - "Do you think that children living with HIV should be able to attend school with children who are HIV negative?"



# HIV testing and treatment cascade

**Ensure that 30 million people living with HIV have access to treatment through meeting the 90-90-90 targets by 2020**

## **Progress summary**

The Philippines has adopted the 90-90-90 UN targets in the Sixth AIDS Medium-Term Plan (6th AMTP) of the Philippine National AIDS Council (PNAC) and the Philippine HIV Health Sector Plan (2018-2020). This commitment specifically ensures antiretroviral therapy for all PLHIV and provision of uninterrupted supply of free antiretroviral (ARV) drugs. ARVs are accessed by PLHIV at 150 health facilities identified as DOH-designated treatment hubs and primary HIV care clinics strategically located across the country. Continuous expansion of treatment facilities, including engagement of community-based organizations, envisions to bring these services closer to the communities to ensure linkage to care and improve access to HIV services, thus contribute towards achieving the target of 90% ART coverage for PLHIV.

## **Policy questions (2019)**

**Is there a law, regulation or policy specifying that HIV testing:**

**a) Is mandatory before marriage**

No

**b) Is mandatory to obtain a work or residence permit**

No

**c) Is mandatory for certain groups**

No

**What is the recommended CD4 threshold for initiating antiretroviral therapy in adults and adolescents who are asymptomatic, as per MoH guidelines or directive, and what is the implementation status?**

No threshold; treat all regardless of CD4 count; Implemented countrywide (>95% of treatment sites)

**Does your country have a current national policy on routine viral load testing for monitoring antiretroviral therapy and to what extent is it implemented?**

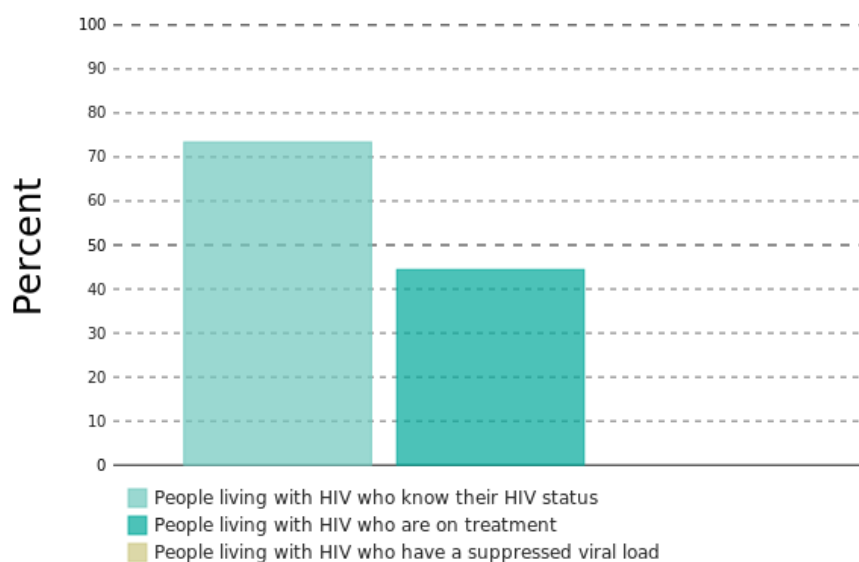
**a) For adults and adolescents**

Yes; Implemented in a few (<50%) treatment sites

**b) For children**

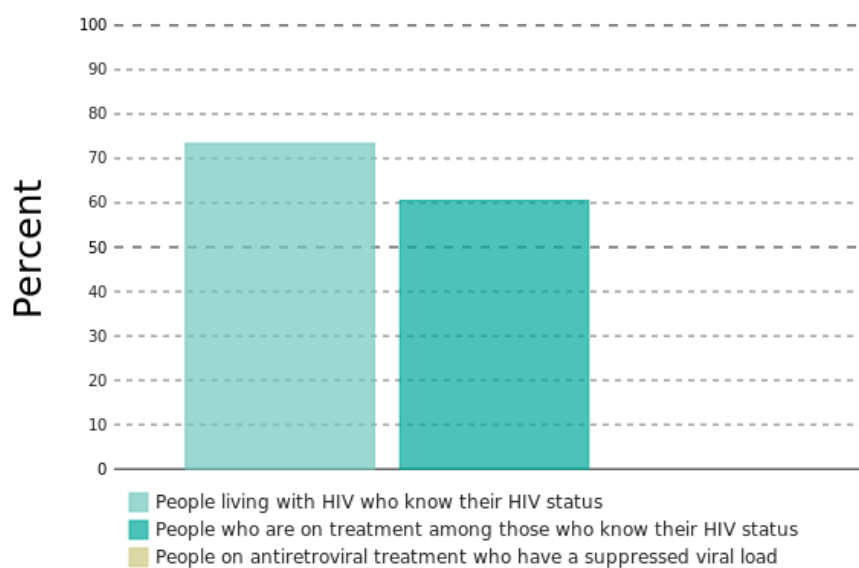
Yes; Implemented in many (>50–95%) treatment sites

## HIV testing and treatment cascade, Philippines (2019)



Source: Spectrum file

## Progress towards 90-90-90 target, Philippines (2019)

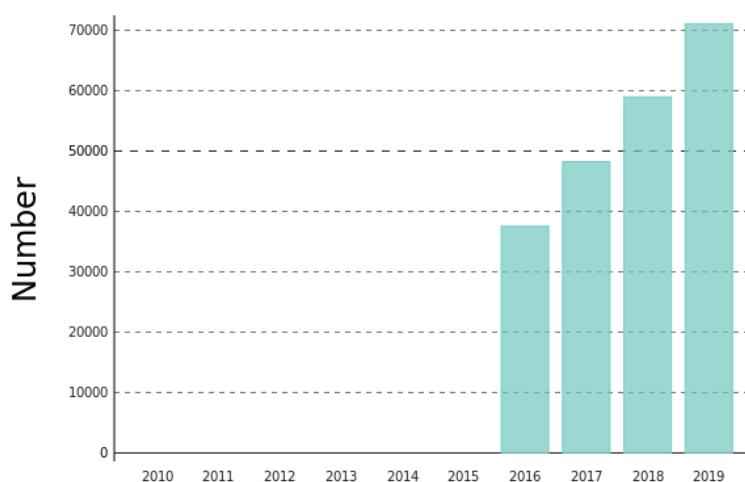


Source: Spectrum file



## 1.1 People living with HIV who know their HIV status, Philippines (2010-2019)

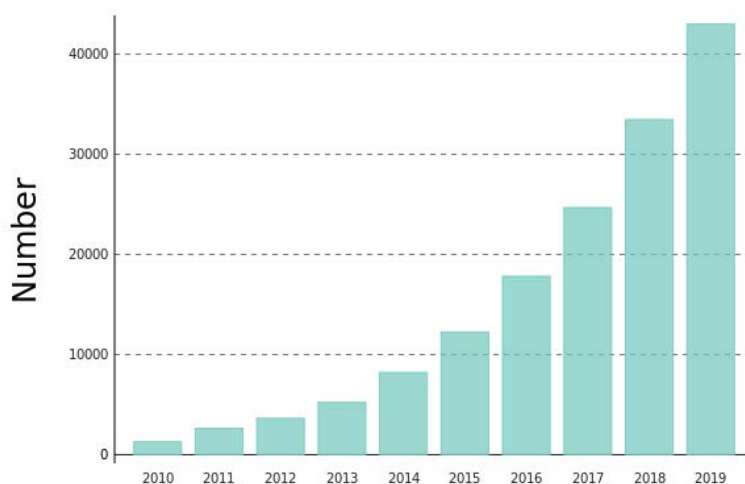
Number of people living with HIV who know their HIV status



Source: Spectrum file

## 1.2 People living with HIV on antiretroviral therapy, Philippines (2010-2019)

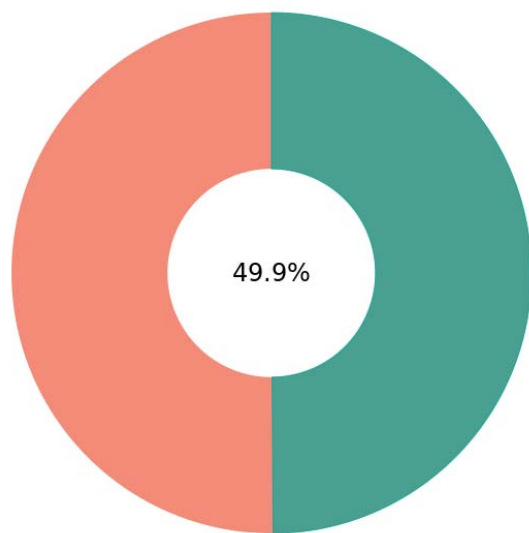
Number of people on antiretroviral therapy



Source: Spectrum file

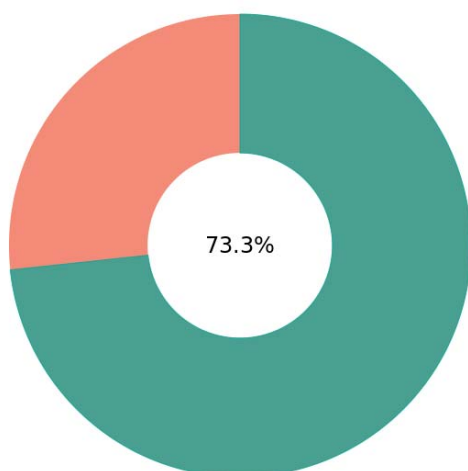
## 1.4 Late HIV diagnosis, Philippines (2019)

Percentage of people living with HIV with the initial CD4 cell count <200 cells/mm3 during the reporting period



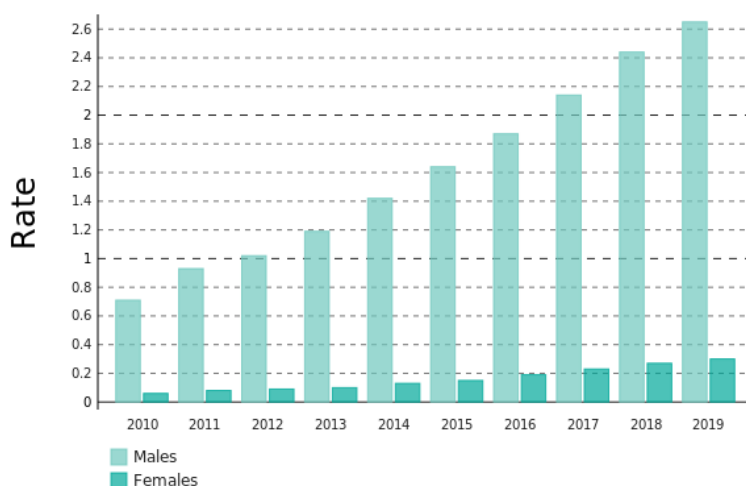
## 1.4 Late HIV diagnosis, Philippines (2019)

Percentage of people living with HIV with the initial CD4 cell count <350 cells/mm3 during the reporting period



## 1.6 AIDS mortality rate per 100 000, Philippines (2010-2019)

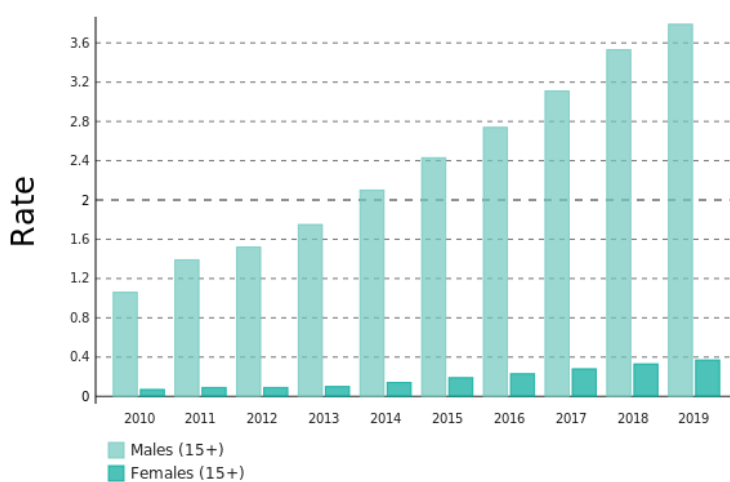
Total number of people who have died from AIDS-related causes per 100 000 population



Source: Spectrum file

## 1.6 AIDS mortality rate per 100 000 among adults, Philippines (2010-2019)

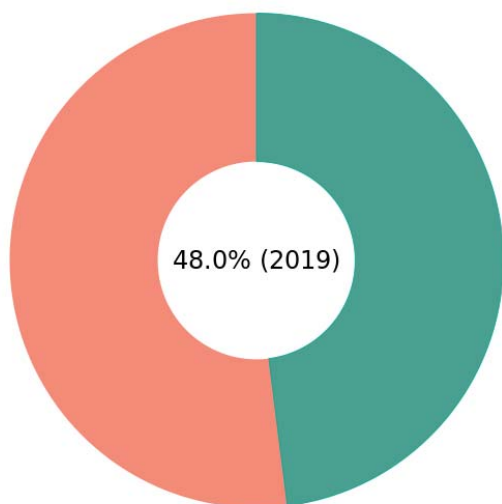
Total number of adults who have died from AIDS-related causes per 100 000 population



Source: Spectrum file

## 1.7 HIV testing volume and positivity, Philippines

Percentage of HIV -positive results returned to people (positivity) in the calendar year



Number of HIV tests conducted = 13 552

# Prevention of mother-to-child transmission

**Eliminate new HIV infections among children by 2020 while ensuring that 1.6 million children have access to HIV treatment by 2018**

## **Progress summary**

The Philippines reinforces this commitment in the Sixth AIDS Medium Term Plan (6th AMTP), with the elimination of mother to children transmission of HIV, as one of its key targets. Also, the HSP shares the vision of zero new HIV infections, and one of the priority program interventions is universal voluntary testing among pregnant women. Providing early interventions for pregnant women with HIV ensures the reduction of HIV transmission to infants. Likewise, a program for early infant diagnosis is being implemented in the entire country where services for diagnosis and antiretroviral (ARV) prophylaxis of infants born to suspected or diagnosed HIV positive mothers are provided by the national government for free.

## **Policy questions (2019)**

**Does your country have a national plan for the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV?**

No

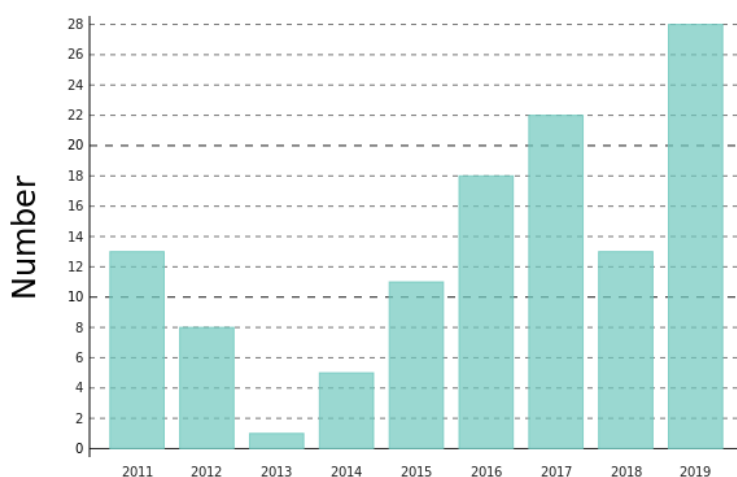
**Do the national guidelines recommend treating all infants and children living with HIV irrespective of symptoms and if so, what is the implementation status of the cut-off?**

Treat all, regardless of age

Implemented countrywide (>95% of treatment sites)

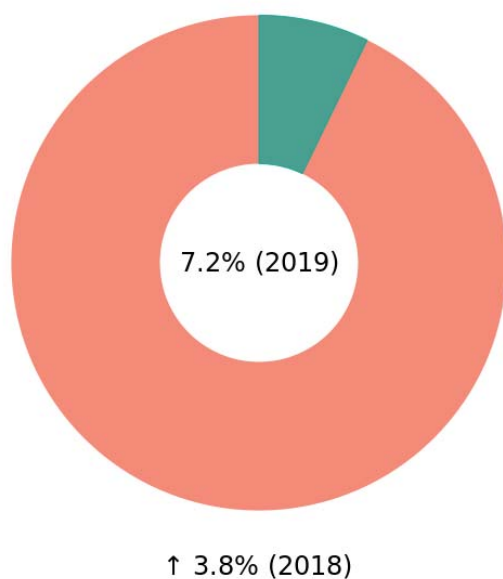
## 2.1 Early infant diagnosis, Philippines (2011-2019)

Number of infants who received an HIV test within two months of birth



## 2.1 Early infant diagnosis, Philippines (2018-2019)

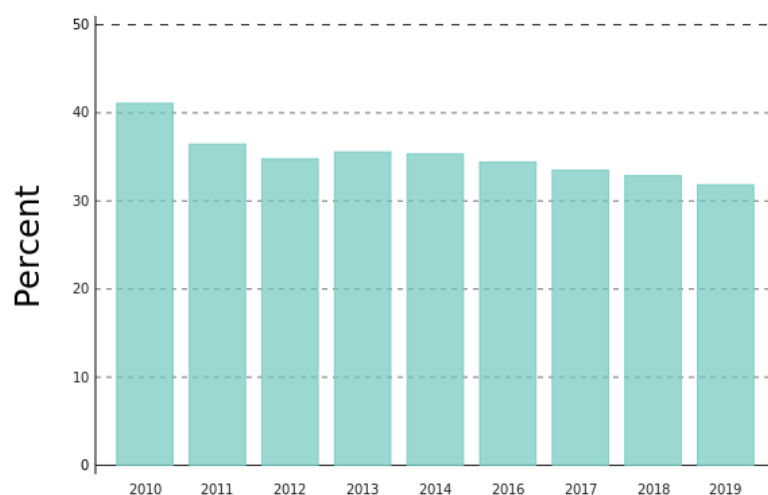
Percentage of infants born to women living with HIV receiving a virological test for HIV within two months of birth



Source: Spectrum file

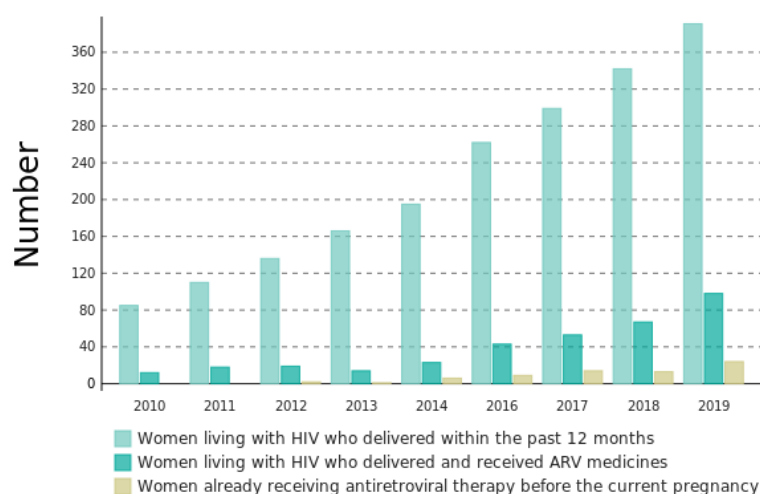
## 2.2 Mother-to-child transmission of HIV, Philippines (2010-2019)

Estimated percentage of children newly infected with HIV from mother-to-child transmission among women living with HIV delivering in the past 12 months



Source: Spectrum file

## 2.3 Preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV, Philippines (2010-2019)

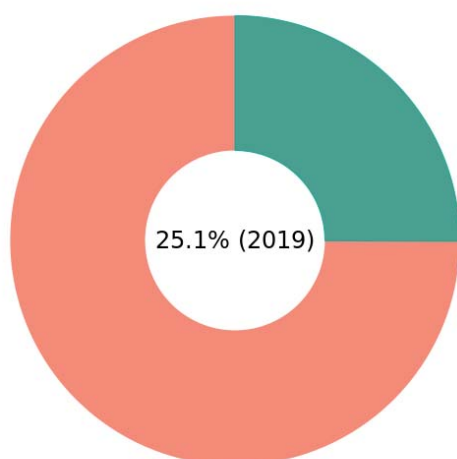


Source: Spectrum file



## 2.3 Preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV, Philippines (2018-2019)

Percentage of pregnant women living with HIV who received antiretroviral medicine to reduce the risk of mother-to-child transmission of HIV

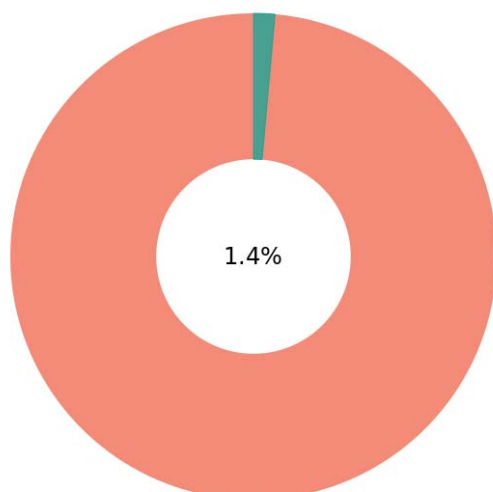


↑ 19.59% (2018)

Source: Spectrum file

## 2.4 Syphilis among pregnant women, Philippines (2019)

Percentage of pregnant women tested positive for syphilis



# HIV prevention; Key populations

**Ensure access to combination prevention options, including pre-exposure prophylaxis, voluntary medical male circumcision, harm reduction and condoms, to at least 90% of people by 2020, especially young women and adolescent girls in high-prevalence countries and key populations—gay men and other men who have sex with men, transgender people, sex workers and their clients, people who inject drugs and prisoners**

## **Progress summary**

The Philippines has embarked on a demonstration study on pre-exposure prophylaxis for high-risk MSM, in partnership with the WHO in 2017. Condoms and lubricants are made more accessible and available through the establishment of condom access points/safe spaces at cruising sites and various convergence points for MSM, TG, and other key populations. To reach out to people who inject drugs (PWID), the country has integrated provision of HIV and Hepatitis C services and engaged PWID peers in the service delivery facility. HIV testing and treatment services has also been extended to PWID in closed settings and community-based drug rehabilitation centers, and to People Deprived of Liberty in selected prisons.

## **Policy questions: Key populations (2019)**

### **Criminalization and/or prosecution of key populations**

#### **Transgender people**

- Neither criminalized nor prosecuted

#### **Sex workers**

- -

#### **Men who have sex with men**

- -

### **Is drug use or possession for personal use an offence in your country?**

- -

### **Legal protections for key populations**

#### **Transgender people**

- Neither criminalized nor prosecuted

#### **Sex workers**

- -

#### **Men who have sex with men**

- -

#### **People who inject drugs**

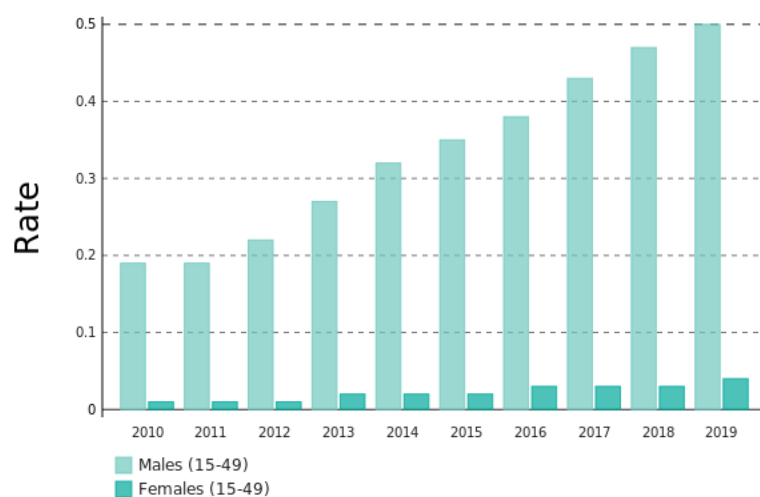
- -

### **Has the WHO recommendation on oral PrEP been adopted in your country's national guidelines?**

No, guidelines have not been developed

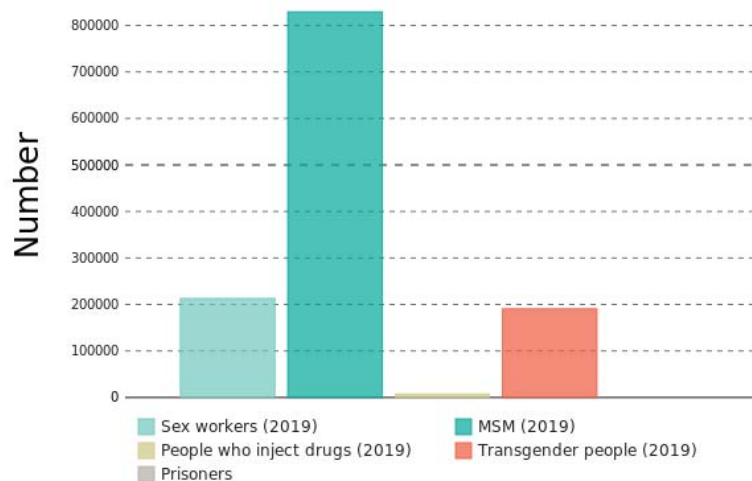
### 3.1 HIV incidence rate per 1000, Philippines (2010-2019)

New HIV-infections in the reporting period per 1000 uninfected population (Adults, ages 15-49)



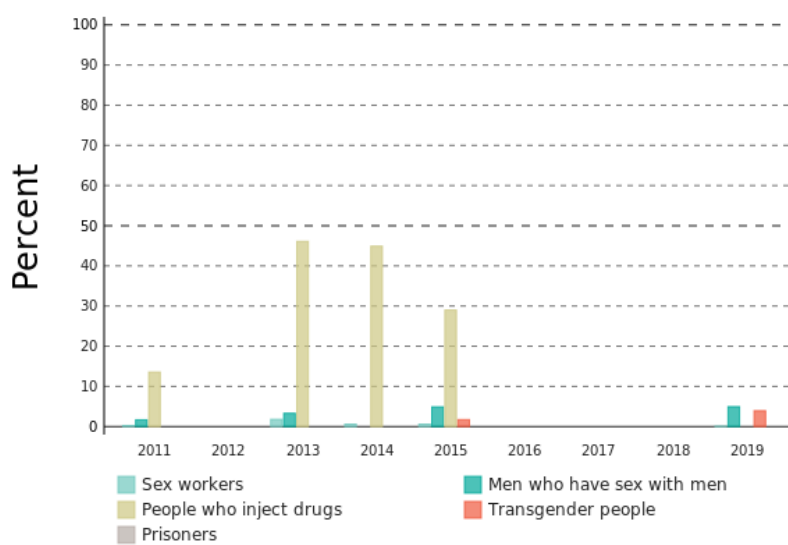
Source: Spectrum file

### 3.2 Estimates of the size of key populations, Philippines



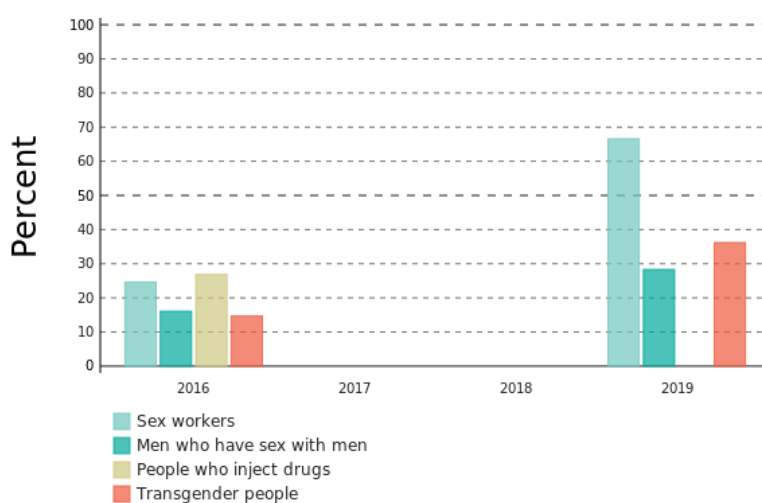
### 3.3 HIV prevalence among key populations, Philippines (2011-2019)

Percentage of specific key populations living with HIV



### 3.4 HIV testing among key populations, Philippines (2016-2019)

Percentage of people of a key population who tested for HIV in the past 12 months, or who know their current HIV status



### 3.6 Condom use among key populations, Philippines (2011-2019)

Percentage of people in a key population reporting using a condom the last time they had sexual intercourse



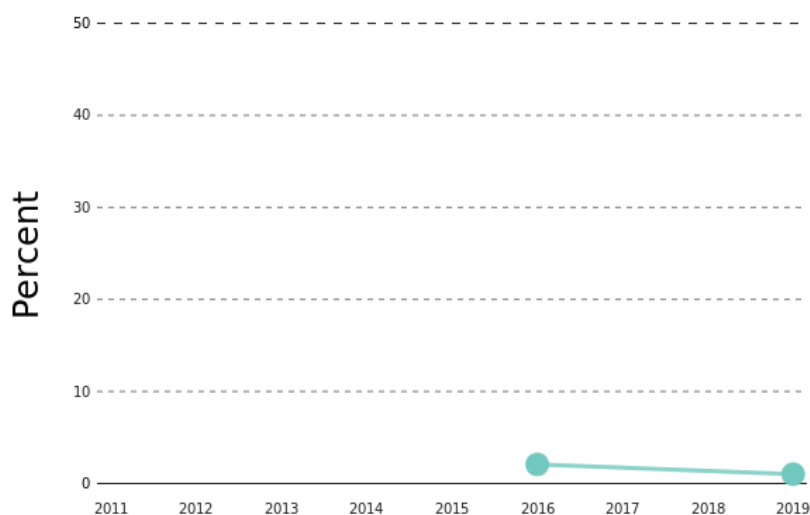
### 3.7 Coverage of HIV prevention programmes among key populations, Philippines (2016-2019)

Percentage of people in a key population reporting having received a combined set of HIV prevention interventions



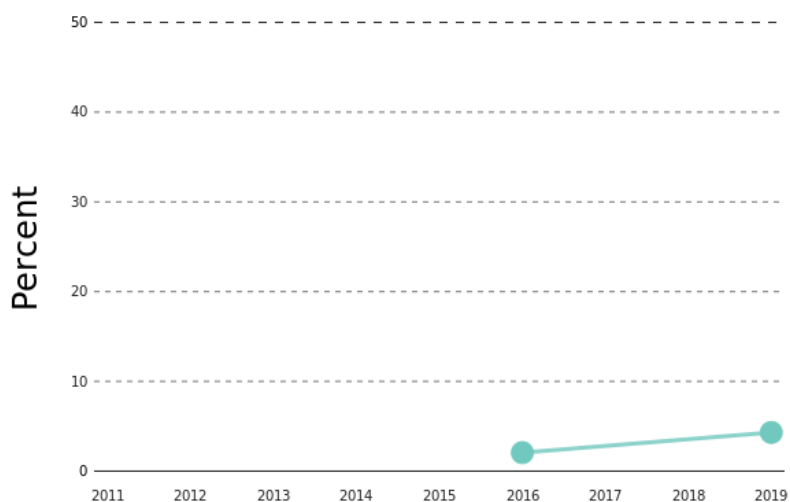
### 3.11 Active syphilis among sex workers, Philippines (2011-2019)

Percentage of sex workers with active syphilis

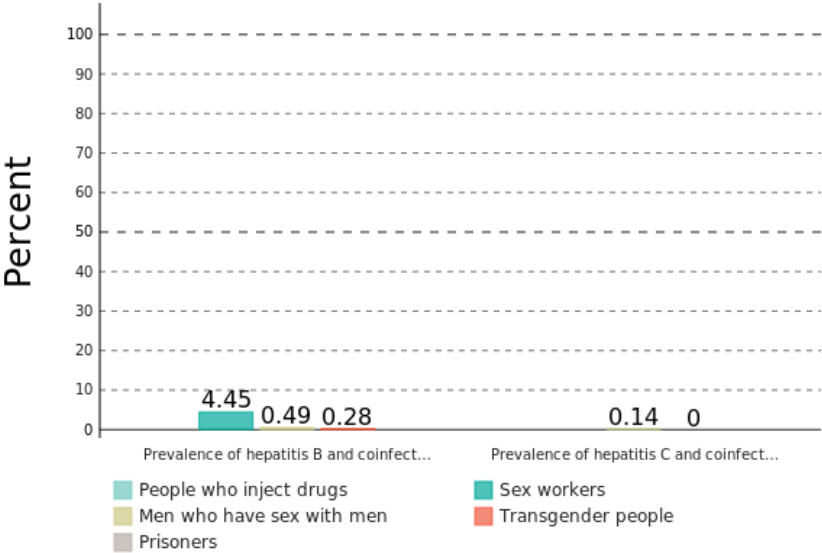


### 3.12 Active syphilis among men who have sex with men, Philippines (2011-2019)

Percentage of men who have sex with men with active syphilis



3.14 Viral hepatitis among key populations, Philippines (2019)





# Gender; Stigma and discrimination

**Eliminate gender inequalities and end all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls, people living with HIV and key populations by 2020**

## **Progress summary**

To eliminate gender inequalities and all forms of discrimination, activities to increase the level of awareness and knowledge on “Sexual orientation, Gender Identity and Expression” (SOGIE) among the People Living with HIV (PLHIV), Key affected population (KAP), vulnerable and affected populations were conducted. Capacity building among the legal service providers in the country on how to handle HIV related discrimination cases has been started by Philippine National AIDS Council (PNAC) through its members from the Civil Society Organizations (CSO).

## **Policy questions (2018)**

**Does your country have a national plan or strategy to address gender-based violence and violence against women that includes HIV**

Yes

**Does your country have legislation on domestic violence\*?**

Yes

• -

**What protections, if any, does your country have for key populations and people living with HIV from violence?**

- General criminal laws prohibiting violence

**Does your country have policies in place requiring healthcare settings to provide timely and quality health care regardless of gender, nationality, age, disability, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, religion, language, socio-economic status, HIV or other health status, or because of selling sex, using drugs, living in prison or any other grounds?**

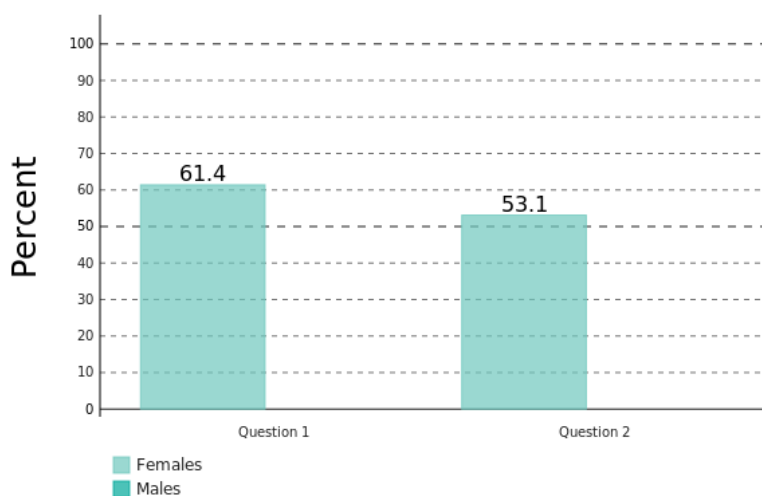
Yes, policies exists and are consistently implemented

**Does your country have laws criminalizing the transmission of, non-disclosure of or exposure to HIV transmission?**

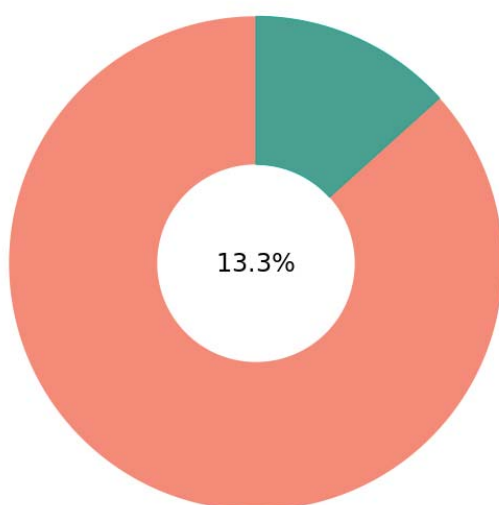
Yes

## 4.1 Discriminatory attitudes towards people living with HIV, Philippines (2018)

Percentage of respondents (aged 15-49 years) who respond "No" to: Question 1 - "Would you buy fresh vegetables from a shopkeeper or vendor if you knew that this person had HIV?"; Question 2 - "Do you think that children living with HIV should be able to attend school with children who are HIV negative?"



Percentage of Global AIDS Monitoring indicators with data disaggregated by gender



# Knowledge of HIV and access to sexual reproductive health services

**Ensure that 90% of young people have the skills, knowledge and capacity to protect themselves from HIV and have access to sexual and reproductive health services by 2020, in order to reduce the number of new HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women to below 100 000 per year**

## **Progress summary**

To increase knowledge and skills on HIV prevention, interventions for young key affected population (YKAP) include HIV education and condom access in schools integration of HIV in the adolescent health program, and proxy consent for high risk young key population to access HIV testing. Provision of HIV services among young key populations will be intensified with the enactment of the Philippine HIV and AIDS Policy Act (Republic Act 11166) which provides, among others, for HIV education in learning institutions and community, and HIV testing for 15 to less than 18, or young persons below 15 who are pregnant or engaging in high risk behaviors.

## **Policy questions (2018)**

**Does your country have education policies that guide the delivery of life skills-based HIV and sexuality education, according to international standards, in:**

**a) Primary school**

Yes

**b) Secondary school**

Yes

**c) Teacher training**

Yes

# Social protection

**Ensure that 75% of people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV benefit from HIV-sensitive social protection by 2020**

## **Progress summary**

Establishment of the multi-sectoral referral system and continuous education among the beneficiaries and stakeholders on how to access social protection services are the key intervention of the national response to ensure that PLHIV, KAP and the people affected by HIV will benefit from HIV sensitive social protection.

## **Policy questions (2019)**

**Does the country have an approved social protection strategy, policy or framework?**

Yes, and it is being implemented

**a) Does it refer to HIV?**

Yes

**b) Does it recognize people living with HIV as key beneficiaries?**

Yes

**c) Does it recognize key populations (sex workers, gay men and other men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs, transgender people, prisoners) as key beneficiaries?**

Yes

- Sex workers
- Gay men and other men who have sex with men
- Transgender persons
- People who inject drugs
- Prisoners

**d) Does it recognize adolescent girls and young women as key beneficiaries?**

Yes

**e) Does it recognize children affected by HIV as key beneficiaries?**

Yes

**f) Does it recognize families affected by HIV as key beneficiaries?**

Yes

**g) Does it address the issue of unpaid care work in the context of HIV?**

Yes

**What barriers, if any, limit access to social protection programmes in your country?**

- Complicated procedures
- Fear of stigma and discrimination
- Lack of documentation that confers eligibility, such as national identity cards
- Laws or policies that present obstacles to access
- High out-of-pocket expenses



# Community-led service delivery

**Ensure that at least 30% of all service delivery is community-led by 2020**

## **Progress summary**

To ensure that the service delivery is community-led by 2020, the PNAC, thru the leadership of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP) and League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) strongly advocates to the Local Chief Executives the establishment of a functional Local AIDS Council (which includes representation from the CSOs and the KAP) coupled with specific Local HIV and AIDS Plan and budget for the response.

## **Policy questions (2019)**

**Does your country have a national policy promoting community delivery of antiretroviral therapy?**

No

**Are there any of the following safeguards in laws, regulations and policies that provide for the operation of CSOs/CBOs in your country?**

- Registration of HIV CSOs is possible
- Registration of CSOs/CBOs working with key populations is possible
- HIV services can be provided by CSOs/CBOs
- Services to key populations can be provided by CSOs/CBOs
- Reporting requirements for CSOs/CBOs delivering HIV services are streamlined

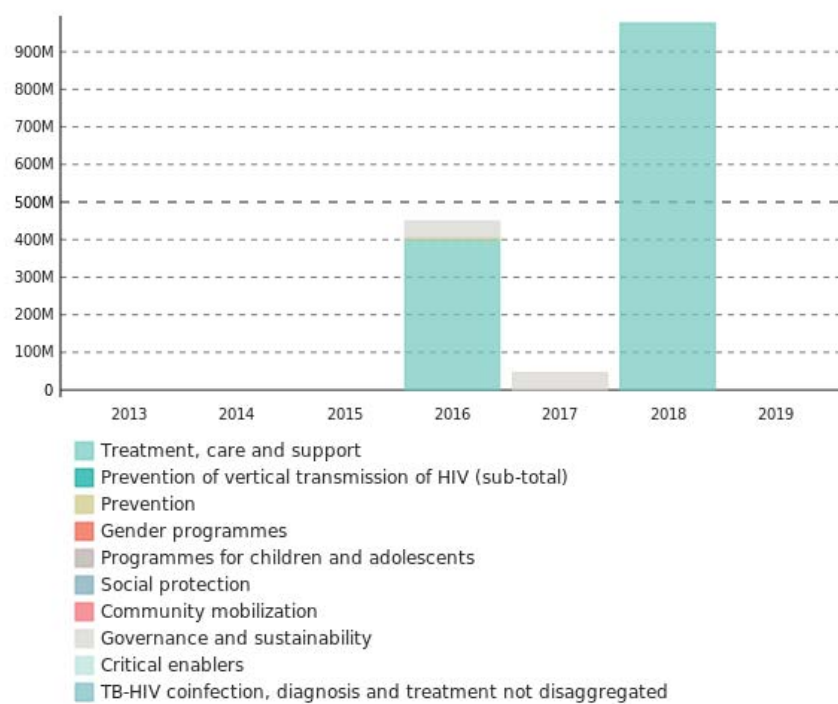
# HIV expenditure

**Ensure that HIV investments increase to US\$ 26 billion by 2020, including a quarter for HIV prevention and 6% for social enablers**

## **Progress summary**

To ensure that the HIV Investments increases a National Investment Plan and AIDS Epidemic Model was developed through the assistance of UNAIDS and other partners. These documents were used to advocate the decision makers in the government and private sectors the importance of investing in the country's national HIV and AIDS response. Same documents were used to advocate to international funders for additional resources for HIV and AIDS national response.

### 8.3 HIV expenditure by programme category, Philippines (2013-2019)



# Empowerment and access to justice

**Empower people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV to know their rights and to access justice and legal services to prevent and challenge violations of human rights**

## **Progress summary**

Activities to empower PLHIV, KAP, and other key stakeholders through a continuous information, education and communication campaign on their rights and how to utilize the existing referral system and other support mechanisms if they have experienced violation of their rights.

## **Policy questions (2018)**

**In the past two years have there been training and/or capacity building programmes for people living with HIV and key populations to educate them and raise their awareness concerning their rights (in the context of HIV) in your country?**

Yes, at scale at the national level

**Are there mechanisms in place to record and address cases of HIV-related discrimination (based on perceived HIV status and/or belonging to any key population)?**

No

**What accountability mechanisms in relation to discrimination and violations of human rights in healthcare settings does your country have, if any?**

- Procedures or systems to protect and respect patient privacy or confidentiality

**What barriers in accessing accountability mechanisms does your country have, if any?**

- Mechanisms are not sensitive to HIV
- Awareness or knowledge of how to use such mechanisms is limited

# AIDS out of isolation

**Commit to taking AIDS out of isolation through people-centred systems to improve universal health coverage, including treatment for tuberculosis, cervical cancer and hepatitis B and C**

## **Progress summary**

HIV strategies underscore the value of clients and patients through provision of accessible integrated patient-centered HIV services as indicated in the HSP Operational Plan 2017-2020. Integration of HIV with other programs such as TB, maternal and child health, and adolescent health are currently strengthened at all levels of care.

## **Policy questions (2019)**

**Is cervical cancer screening and treatment for women living with HIV recommended in:**

**a) The national strategy, policy, plan or guidelines for cancer, cervical cancer or the broader response to non-communicable diseases (NCDs)**

No

**b) The national strategic plan governing the AIDS response**

No

**c) National HIV-treatment guidelines**

No

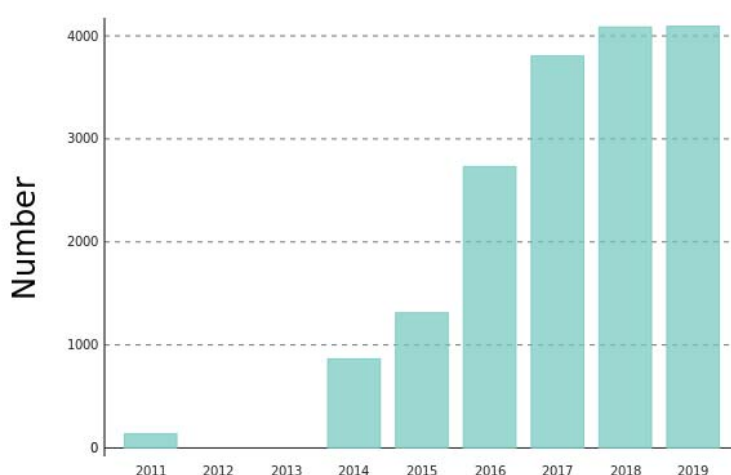
**What coinfection policies are in place in the country for adults, adolescents and children?**

- Isoniazid preventive therapy (IPT) or latent TB infection (LTBI) prophylaxis for people living with HIV
- Intensified TB case finding among people living with HIV
- TB infection control in HIV health-care settings
- Co-trimoxazole prophylaxis
- Hepatitis B screening and management in antiretroviral therapy clinics
- Hepatitis C screening and management in antiretroviral therapy clinics
- Hepatitis B vaccination provided at antiretroviral therapy clinics
- Hepatitis C treatment (direct-acting antiviral agents) provided in antiretroviral therapy clinics



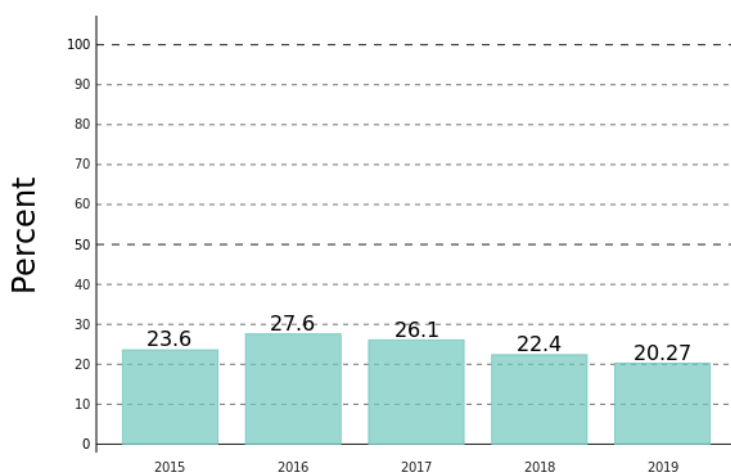
## 10.1 Co-managing TB and HIV treatment, Philippines (2011-2019)

Number of HIV-positive new and relapse TB patients started on TB treatment during the reporting period who were already on antiretroviral therapy or started on antiretroviral therapy during TB treatment within the reporting year



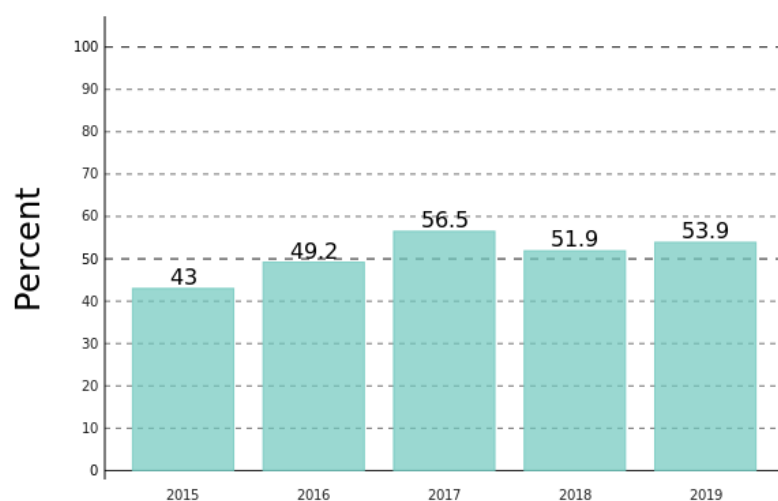
## 10.2 Proportion of people living with HIV newly enrolled in HIV care with active TB disease, Philippines (2015-2019)

Total number of people living with HIV with active TB expressed as a percentage of those who are newly enrolled in HIV care (pre-antiretroviral therapy or antiretroviral therapy) during the reporting period



### 10.3 Proportion of people living with HIV newly enrolled in HIV care started on TB preventive therapy, Philippines (2015-2019)

Number of patients started on treatment for latent TB infection, expressed as a percentage of the total number newly enrolled in HIV care during the reporting period



### 10.4/10.5 Sexually transmitted infections, Philippines (2013-2019)

Number of men reporting urethral discharge in the past 12 months; number of men reported with laboratory-diagnosed gonorrhoea in the past 12 months

