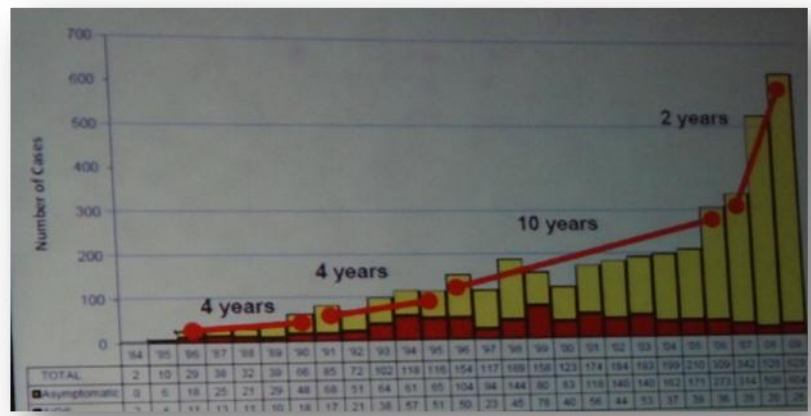




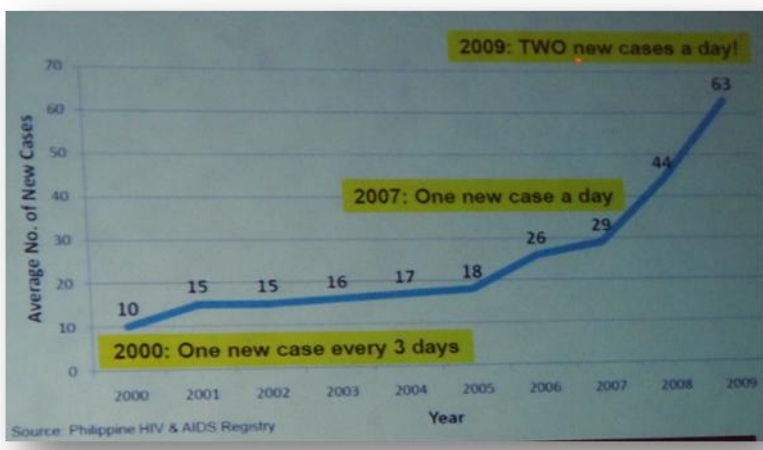
8. Averting economic disaster: Addressing HIV risk in the business product outsourcing industry in the Philippines

Edsel Maurice T. Salvana, MD, DTM&H
Assistant director, Institute of Molecular Biological and Biotechnology
Associate Professor of Medicine
National Institutes of Health
University of The Philippines Manila

Doubling time of HIV & AIDS Cases in the Philippines

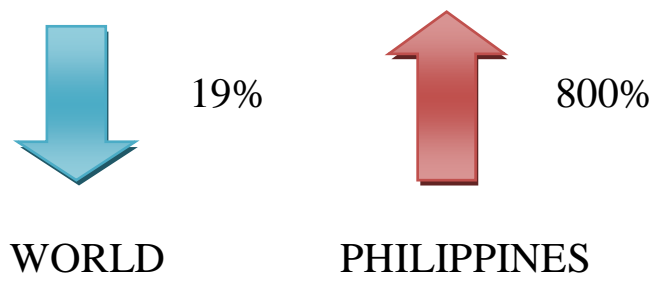


Average Number of Cases per month



- 7,684 confirm case since 1984
- Haft in the last 3 years
- September 2011: 253 cases/30 days
- 8 new case/day

New cases from 2001 – 2010



Why now?

- 92.5% circumcision rate in Filipinos
- Increased local transmission
- Increased MSM transmission
- ? new strains



- ? better testing
- Lower condom use in Asia: 30%

Is this MSM driven?

- Data looks that way, a lot like San Francisco and less like Africa, BUT...
- More awareness in MSM community
- Likelier to test
- WE DO NOT KNOW, only 6% MARPs tested

BPO Risk

- Three studies point to increased risk
- All cross-sectional
- Only one with HIV testing

Melgar et al. 2009

- High prevalence of risky behaviors among call center workers
- Early sexual activity, low condom use, and promiscuity
- 25% of males admitted paying for sex; 10% were paid for sex
- Youngest (15 to 24 years of age group): 70% of women and 90% of men were sexually active; 73% of males and 80% of females did not use condoms in their last sexual encounter

UP Population Institute Study

- 1.5x higher rate of engagement in risky sexual behavior in male call center workers compared to their non-call center counterparts
- 4.5x higher rate of engagement in risky sexual behavior in female call center workers compared to their non-call center counterparts
- Call center workers were more likely to have casual sex compared to non-call center counterparts (40% versus 27%)



- Male call center worker had more sexual partners versus non-call center workers (3.2 versus 2.2)
- More MSM activity (nearly three-fold) in male call center workers

Gangcuangco et al., 2010

- Convenience sample of 406 men who have sex with men (MSM) in Manila identified employment in a call center as a significant risk factor for testing positive for HIV
- 48 persons (12%) positive for HIV
- One-third of tested indicated that they worked in the call center industry, one half who tested positive reported being call center agents

Productivity impact on BPO

- BPO average salary US\$4,631/year* versus non-BPO US\$1,980/year
- Median age of diagnosis: 28 years old
- Assuming maximum of 10 years to death from diagnosis, 27 years of lost productivity per infected, untreated BPO worker (retirement at 65 years old)
- Conservative estimate for productivity alone is US\$125,000 per patient

Other costs

- Increased hospitalization
- Sick days
- Promotion
- Continued transmission

Cost of treatment

- Currently funded by Global Fund up to 2012
- Philippine Health Insurance Package available, pays for approximately \$600 of care and medication/year
- Lifetime cost of medication: US\$24,600 for males and US\$27,600 for females
- Cost-effective to fund treatment

Population at risk

- 350,000 call center agents
- 500,000 BPO workers (70% call center agents)



- 300,000-600,000 MSMs

Barriers to testing

- Poor awareness and education
- Stigma
- Specific to BPOs: Politically sensitive as a high-growth area of the economy

Interventions

- Targeted education and awareness campaigns
- Needs to be done quietly, usually on invitation
- Pilot done in one BPO was well-received

Pilot preliminary results

- 21 participants
- 45 minute awareness lecture at BPO
- Highly rated on five areas (perfect score 5): acquisition of new knowledge (4.76); incorporation of what was learned into daily life (4.67); ease of understanding the topic (4.76); adequate time of discussion (4.38); and desire for more seminars on the topic (4.48)

Other comments

- What did they gain from the program?
- Awareness
- That HIV is no longer a death sentence
- Anyone can get HIV
- That the respondent will get tested right away

Conclusions

- More comprehensive studies needed
- HIV prevention and education campaigns need to be ramped up to address increasing risk in young people



- Large proportion of young, sexually active individuals employed in BPO industry means that the progression to a generalized HIV epidemic will have a severe socio-economic impact on the Philippines