

DOH confirms American woman tested positive for Zika while in PH

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines) — A non-pregnant US citizen with a travel history of four weeks in the Philippines has been diagnosed with the Zika virus.

During her last week of stay in the Philippines, the lady developed symptoms of Zika.

The Department of Health (DOH) in a press briefing on Sunday (March 6) said it is not observing any case of possible Zika virus at the moment, as four individuals tested negative in the last month.

Zika virus disease is caused by a virus transmitted by Aedes mosquitoes but it can also be transmitted through sexual contact.

People affected with the disease usually have symptoms that include mild fever, skin rashes, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, malaise, or headache.

804 new HIV/AIDS cases recorded in January

The Department of Health (DOH) recorded 804 new cases of HIV/AIDS infections in January, the highest since 1984.

A report from the Epidemiology Bureau said the number is 50 percent higher than the 536 registered in January 2015 and the highest since 1984, when the country documented its first case.

The DOH said 94 of the 804 cases were full-blown AIDS at the time of reporting.

It said 776 of the cases are males and three of the 28 infected women were pregnant.

A total of 222 cases belong to the 15-to-24 age bracket; 423 in 25-to-34 bracket, and 145 were from 35 to 39. Fourteen cases were over 50 years old.

Sexual contact is the mode of transmission for 771 cases, while 33 were due to needle sharing.

Eighty-nine percent of the cases transmitted through sexual contact were males who had sex with fellow males.

The DOH said the new cases brought to 31,160 the total number of infections since 1984.

Of the total, 2,646 were AIDS at the time of reporting.

A majority or 15,888 cases belonged to the 25-34 age bracket, followed by 15-24 at 8,316 cases.

Eighty-nine cases were less than five years old.

Among the regions with the highest number of cases are the National Capital Region with 370; Southern Tagalog, 130; Central Visayas, 71, Central Luzon, 60 and Davao region with 35 cases.

The DOH said in the early years of the epidemic or from 1984 to 1990, 133 of 216 recorded cases were females.

Starting in 1991, more males were contracting the virus.

“From 2011 to 2016, males comprised 95 percent or 24,004 of the reported 25,145 cases,” the DOH added.

Based on the report, 27 cases are being reported daily this year, up from one in 2008, four in 2010, nine in 2012 and 17 in 2014.

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<https://sg.news.yahoo.com/804-hiv-aids-cases-recorded-000000936.html?nhp=1>