



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

November 8, 2017

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

No. 2017 - 0466

FOR: SECRETARY OF HEALTH OF AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MUSLIM MINDANAO (ARMM), ALL REGIONAL DIRECTORS, AND DIRECTORS OF EPIDEMIOLOGY BUREAU (EB), BUREAU OF LOCAL HEALTH SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT (BLHSD), HEALTH POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING BUREAU (HPDPB) AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES (KMITS)

SUBJECT: Use of 554/100,000 Tuberculosis Incidence Rate as NTPs' Datum

Based on the World Health Organization (WHO) 2017 Global Tuberculosis Report released last October 30, 2017, the estimated TB incidence rate of the Philippines is 554/100,000 population.

The increase from 322/100,000 to 554/100,000 is based on the results of the 2016 National TB Prevalence Survey. Based on survey results, an estimated 1 million Filipinos have TB in 2016. This estimate is significantly higher than the WHO estimate in 2015. This showed that the number of TB cases is still high despite intensified efforts to find, cure, and protect TB patients since DOTS implementation in 1996. Ideally, the natural progression should indicate a decreasing trend of TB case detection. The increasing trend could be attributed to several factors like poverty, congestion or an underestimation of the incidence rate hence the need for adjustment to reflect a more accurate TB situation in the country. The WHO's estimated incidence rate is recommended only to be used at the national level. Subnational levels (regional, city, provincial) should use case notification rate to avoid over and underestimation of targets.

In view thereof, all concerned offices are hereby directed to apply 554 cases per 100,000 population estimated incidence in the calculation of relevant NTP indicators for 2016 cohort. The same incidence rate shall also be used for current reports of 2017 and targeting for 2018.

For your information and compliance.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Gerardo V. Bayugo", is written over a horizontal line.

GERARDO V. BAYUGO, MD, MPH, CESO III
Undersecretary of Health
Office for Technical Services