HIV Rates in Youth Continue to Climb in Philippines

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The rate of new HIV cases in youth has increased 10-fold in three years in the Philippines, one of only seven countries worldwide where the overall rate of infections continues to rise, according to the National HIV/AIDS Registry and reported by PlusNews. In 2007, youth between the ages of 12 to 24 accounted for 12 percent of newly reported cases. In 2010, that figure jumped to 31 percent. The high rate is concentrated primarily in high-risk groups and particularly in men who have sex with men. AIDS groups are reporting that unprotected sex is the primary mode of transmission. The Philippines reports having the lowest rate of condom use in Asia.

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