MDG 6: COMPABT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES
THE MILLENNIALS AND THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF HIV/AIDS

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BACKGROUND
Cases of Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) among Filipinos, 15-24 years old have been alarmingly increasing because of their early engagement to health risk behaviors due to knowledge gaps on the causes and transmission of HIV/AIDS.

OBJECTIVE
The study aimed to determine the proportion of Filipino Millennials, 15-24 years old with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS.

METHODS
A total of 6,231 Filipinos, 15-24 years old were asked of their knowledge on HIV/AIDS through a face-to-face interview. Questionnaire used was adapted from the National Demographic and Health Surveys (NDHS). Comprehensive correct knowledge was defined as correctly identifying the two major ways of preventing the sexual transmission of HIV (using condoms and limiting sex to one faithful, uninfected partner), knowing that a healthy-looking person can transmit HIV and rejecting the two most common local misconceptions about HIV transmission (through mosquito bites and by sharing food with someone who is infected). Analysis was done using Stata 12.

RESULTS
Study showed that 74% of Filipino Millennials have heard of HIV/AIDS and 58.4% knew the two major ways of preventing HIV transmission (use of condoms and limiting intercourse to one uninfected sex partner). Furthermore, 68.8% knew that a healthy looking person can have AIDS. However, only 23% knew that a person cannot be infected with HIV through mosquito bites and by sharing food with someone who is HIV-positive. Overall, 15.9% of Filipinos, 15-24 years old have comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION
This study revealed that majority of Filipino Millennials have heard of HIV/AIDS but the proportion of Millennials with comprehensive correct knowledge was low. This entails that public health education needs to be intensified to increase awareness and to correct misconceptions about the disease since HIV cases is alarmingly increasing. HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment policies and plan need to be revisited and strengthened.