

BEYOND THE NUMBERS: COVID-19 and the Philippine Population

Research Brief No. 4 | 8 May 2020

Reliable data needed to address COVID-19

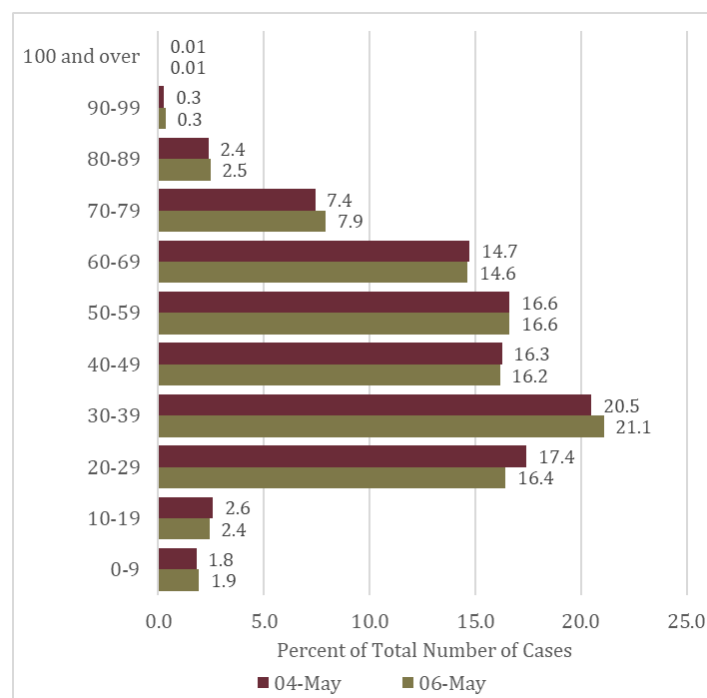
Addendum to Research Brief No. 4

1. Changes in the Age variable

This observation was already recorded in RB #04 (p. 4). There are acknowledgements of changes in Age in the Technical Notes (TN). For example, the entry on 06 May states: "There had been errors in the CaseCodes assignment and the age of C896134 yesterday". The number of affected cases reported in this addendum is much larger and is not in any of the succeeding entries in the TN.

We noticed that out of the 9,485 cases on 04 May, 39.2% (3,719) had changes in the Age variable on 06 May. Of these, the difference between the ages was ± 1 for almost all the cases (3,609). We compared 04 May to 06 May because of the reported error in CaseCode assignments on the 05 May data.

The figure below shows how the changes in the data affect the age structure. The resulting age structure shows a 1.0 percentage point decrease in the 20s age group that seems to be redistributed in the 30s and 70s age group, which have 0.6 and 0.5 percent point increases, respectively.



The ages recorded in 06 May have remained the same for almost all cases as of 11 May (3,682). However, among those that did change, differences between the reported age in 06 May and 11 May range from 1 to 78. The following table shows some examples.

CaseCode	DateRepConf	4-May	6-May	11-May
C150513	26-Apr	77	77	1

C377215	30-Apr	0	0	71
C415479	1-May	78	79	1
C951992	3-Apr	84	0	64

As reference, the table also includes the date when these cases were first reported, i.e., included in the official DOH count. Between 07 May and 11 May, an average of 1.1% of the cases the previous day had changes in age information.

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