

aged below 20 years and another 33 per cent belong to the 20 to 44 years age bracket. Of the thirteen regions in the country, the National Capital Region or Metro Manila and Region IV (Southern Tagalog provinces) are among the most populous.

2. Study Focus and Product Coverage

The schematic diagram depicted in Figure 1 distinguishes the medical equipment and supplies sector from the pharmaceutical sector. In medical parlance, however, the phrase "medical supplies" is meant to include surgical gloves, disposable needles and the like as well as drugs, medicine and other pharmaceutical supplies. This overlap may be traced to the fact that these goods are essentially complementary.

This study limits the Philippine medical equipment and supplies market to only two subsectors of the local health care industry, namely the health service subsector and the medical equipment and supplies subsector. The pharmaceutical and other health care products subsectors are, in effect, excluded from the study coverage.

Consequently, product scope consists only of items pertaining to these two subsectors, such as medical equipment, instruments, furnitures and supplies. In the conduct of the study, emphasis was given to items that go to the hospital care subsector, although the other segments of the health service industry were also covered. Items used in the conduct of R & D activities in the field of medical technology are excluded, although they easily qualify as medical equipment and supplies.