

Population-level paediatric HIV surveillance in England: **the current picture**

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Background

- Globally, there are an estimated **5.0 million children and young people living with HIV (CYPLHIV)** aged 0-24 years
- Numbers of CYPLHIV in England have **declined substantially** since early 2000s
- Between **2000-2020** this population was monitored by the Collaborative HIV Paediatric Study (CHIPS)
- **Children's HIV and AIDS Reporting System (CHARS)** was launched in **January 2022** to continue the important **long-term follow-up of CYPLHIV** seen for paediatric HIV care in England.

Children's HIV and AIDS Reporting System

- CHARS is commissioned by **NHS England** and is designed to **complement the national adult HIV surveillance (HARS)** carried out by the UK Health Security Agency
- CHARS reporting runs alongside Integrated Screening Outcomes Surveillance Service (ISOSS) using a **secure online portal**
- **Quarterly requests** for data for timely reporting
- Data collected supports **quality of care indicators** and **NHS commissioning of services**
- Provide data for **public health surveillance**

To date, we have achieved **>99% catch up** in the **reporting gap** between CHIPS & CHARS

The **first overview of paediatric HIV** among all **CYPLHIV** seen for care in England since 2020

Methods



Data source

Data on **clinical markers** and indicators of **quality of care** for all children and young people in England are collected by the CHARS.



Study population

Children and young people with a **CHARS form(s)** submitted by **December 2022** based on reporting since **2020 (end of CHIPS)**.



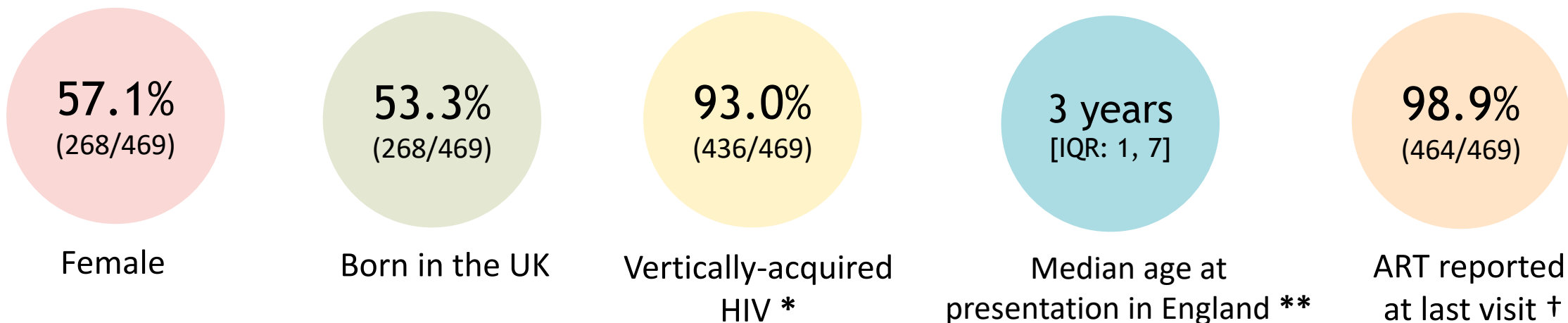
Statistical methods

Associations between categorical variables were assessed using **chi-squared test** and differences in medians using **Kruskal-Wallis test**.

Current overview of CYPLHIV in England

N=469 CYPLHIV in CHARS follow-up

n=16 newly reported to CHARS (of whom 10 were born abroad)



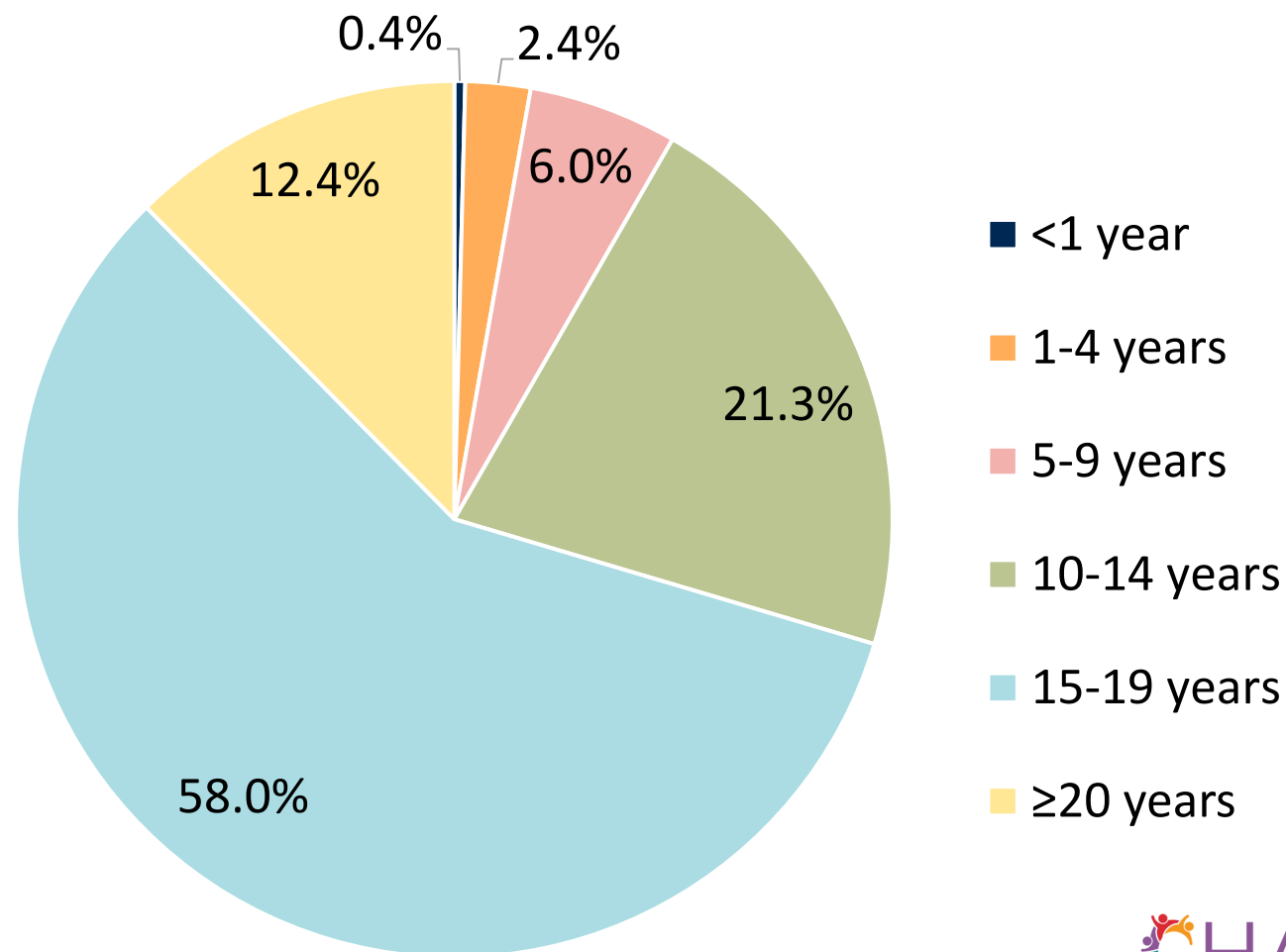
* 100.0% (250/250) of UK-born CYPLHIV were reported to have acquired HIV vertically versus 84.9% (186/219) of those born abroad ($p < 0.001$)

** Median age at presentation for UK-born CYPLHIV was 1.0 year [IQR: 0.0, 2.0] versus 7.0 years [IQR: 4.0, 11.0] among those born abroad ($p < 0.001$)

† Of the 5 not on treatment, 4 transferred to adult care & 1 left the country.

Age distribution

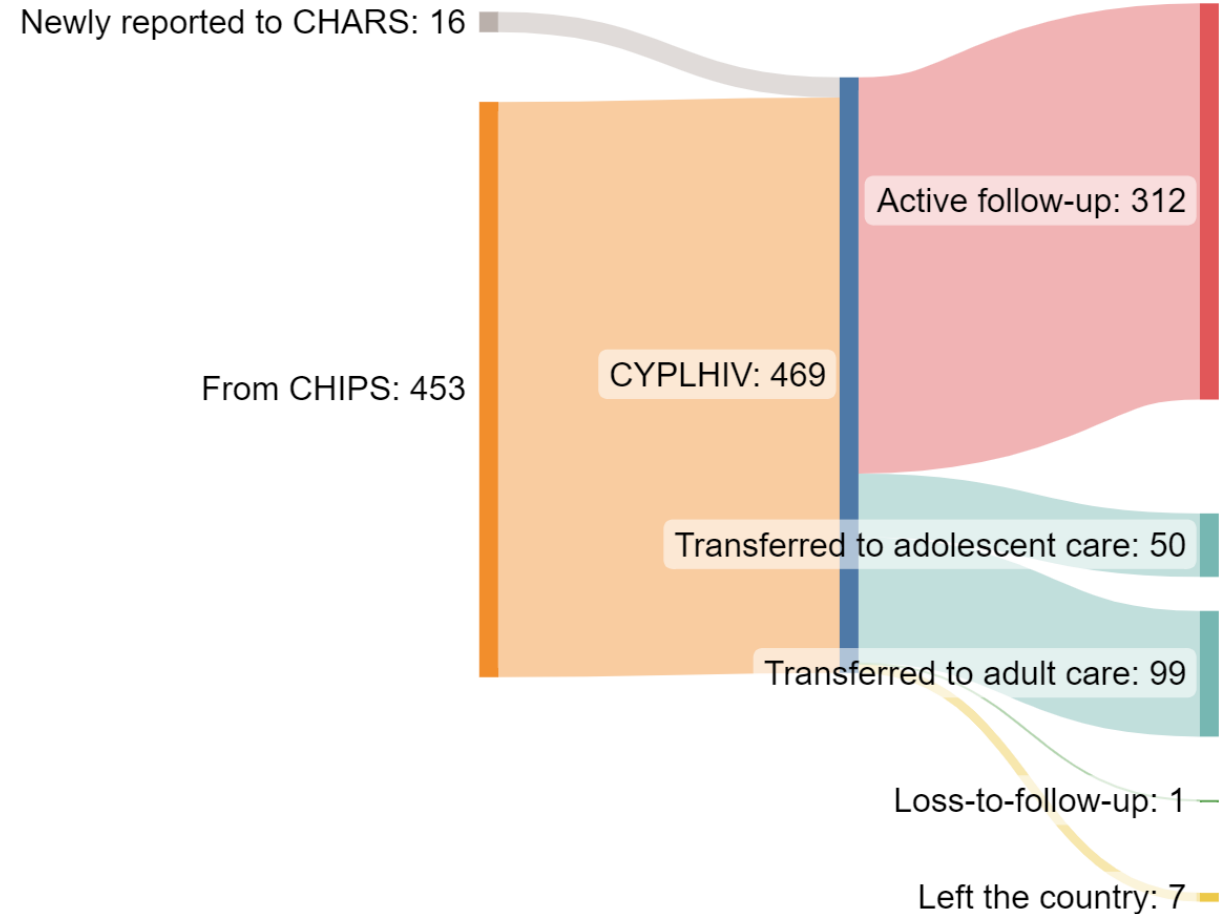
Median age at most recent appointment was **16 years**
 [interquartile range (IQR): 14, 18]



Follow-up status

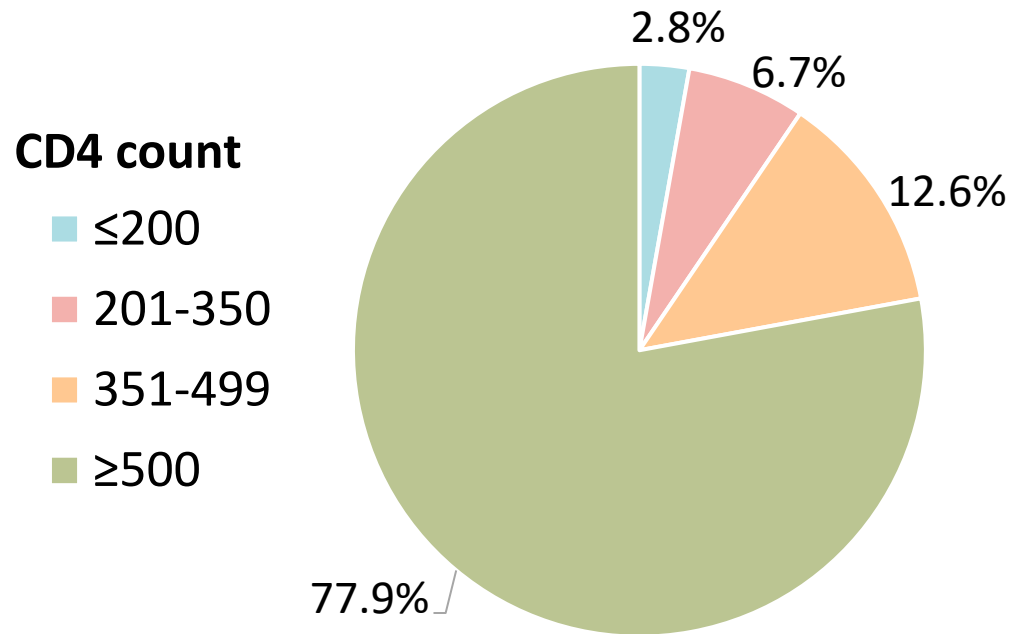
92.5% of CYPLHIV were last seen for HIV care in 2021-2022

- Majority (**66.5%**) remain in **active follow-up** through CHARs
- Approximately a third (**31.8%**) **transferred to adolescent or adult care**
- Remaining were **lost-to-follow-up (0.2%)** or **left the country (1.5%)**

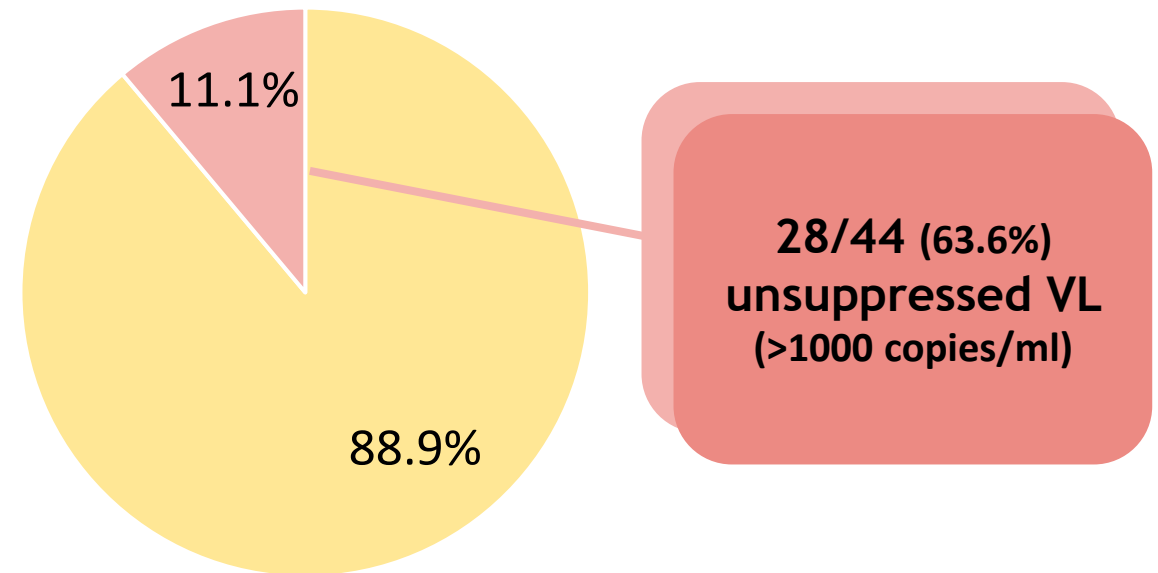


Clinical markers

77.9% (303/389) had a **CD4 count greater than 500** (cells/mm³)



88.9% (354/398) had an **undetectable viral load** (≤200 copies/ml)

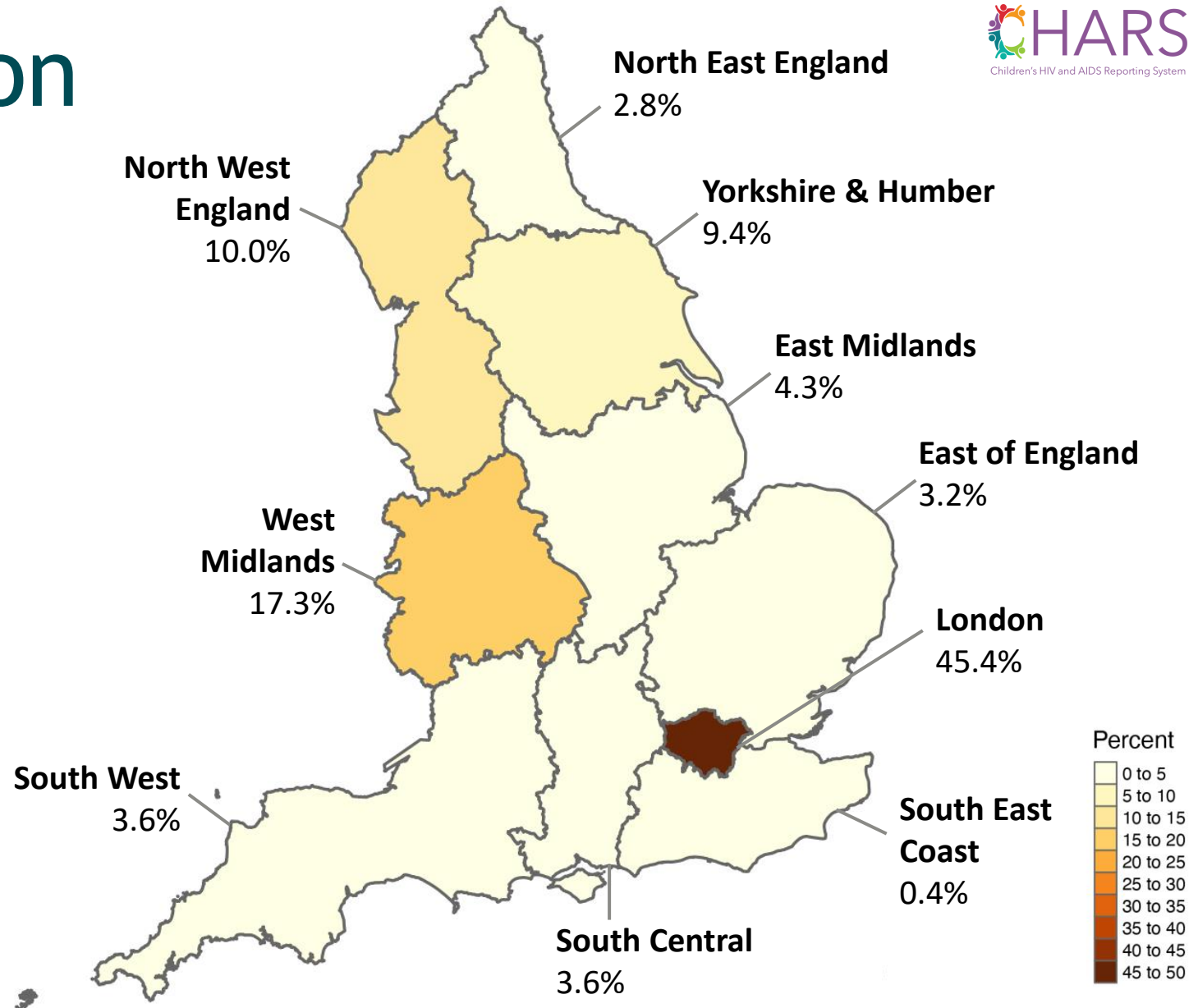


82.9% (389/469) of CYPLHIV had **CD4 count data** (cells/mm³)

84.9% (398/469) of CYPLHIV had **viral load data** (copies/ml)

Regional distribution

- Almost **half (45.4%)** are seen for paediatric HIV care in **London**
- Approximately a **fifth (17.3%)** are seen for HIV care in **West Midlands**



Conclusions & next steps

- **Clinical markers** among CYPLHIV in England are reassuring with nearly **90% virologically suppressed**
- For the **increasingly small number of children and young people** accessing HIV care, **ongoing national surveillance** remains vital to ensure the **unique needs** of this population are met
- As most of this population will be **transitioning to adolescent or adult care**, ongoing work is required to **understand any challenges relating to retention in care**

Working with **NHSE inequalities** team

Supporting the revised **CHIVA Standards of Care**

Producing first annual **CHARS report** and **summary metrics**

Acknowledgments

A **big thank you** to all respondents to CHARs and ISOSS, rest of the ISOSS/CHARs team, and our colleagues at CHIPS.

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Please do get in touch if you have any questions: gabriela.toledo.19@ucl.ac.uk

More information on CHARs: www.ucl.ac.uk/chars and ISOSS: www.ucl.ac.uk/isoss

