

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

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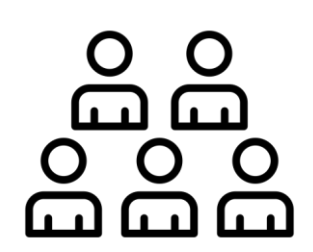


BACKGROUND

- 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).
- The **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.

AIM: To describe the current picture of paediatric HIV in England

METHODS



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



Associations between categorical variables were assessed using **Chi-square tests** and differences in medians using **Kruskal-Wallis tests**.

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 **quarterly reporting** runs alongside **Integrated Screening Outcomes Surveillance Service (ISOSS)**, part of the NHS Infectious Diseases in Pregnancy Screening Programme, using a secure online portal.
- Data on **clinical markers and indicators of quality of care** for children and young people seen for HIV care in England are collected.
- Data collected supports **quality of care indicators, NHS commissioning of services**, and provide data for **public health surveillance**.

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


OVERVIEW OF PAEDIATRIC HIV IN ENGLAND SINCE 2020

Characteristics of children and young people

N=469 children and young people in CHARS follow-up
n=16 newly reported to CHARS (of whom 10 were born abroad)

 **70.4% (330/469) aged ≥15 years**
Median age at most recent appointment was 16 years [IQR: 14, 18]

 **57.1% (268/469) female**

 **53.3% (250/469) born in UK**
100.0% of UK-born acquired HIV vertically vs. 84.9% of those born abroad ($p < 0.001$)

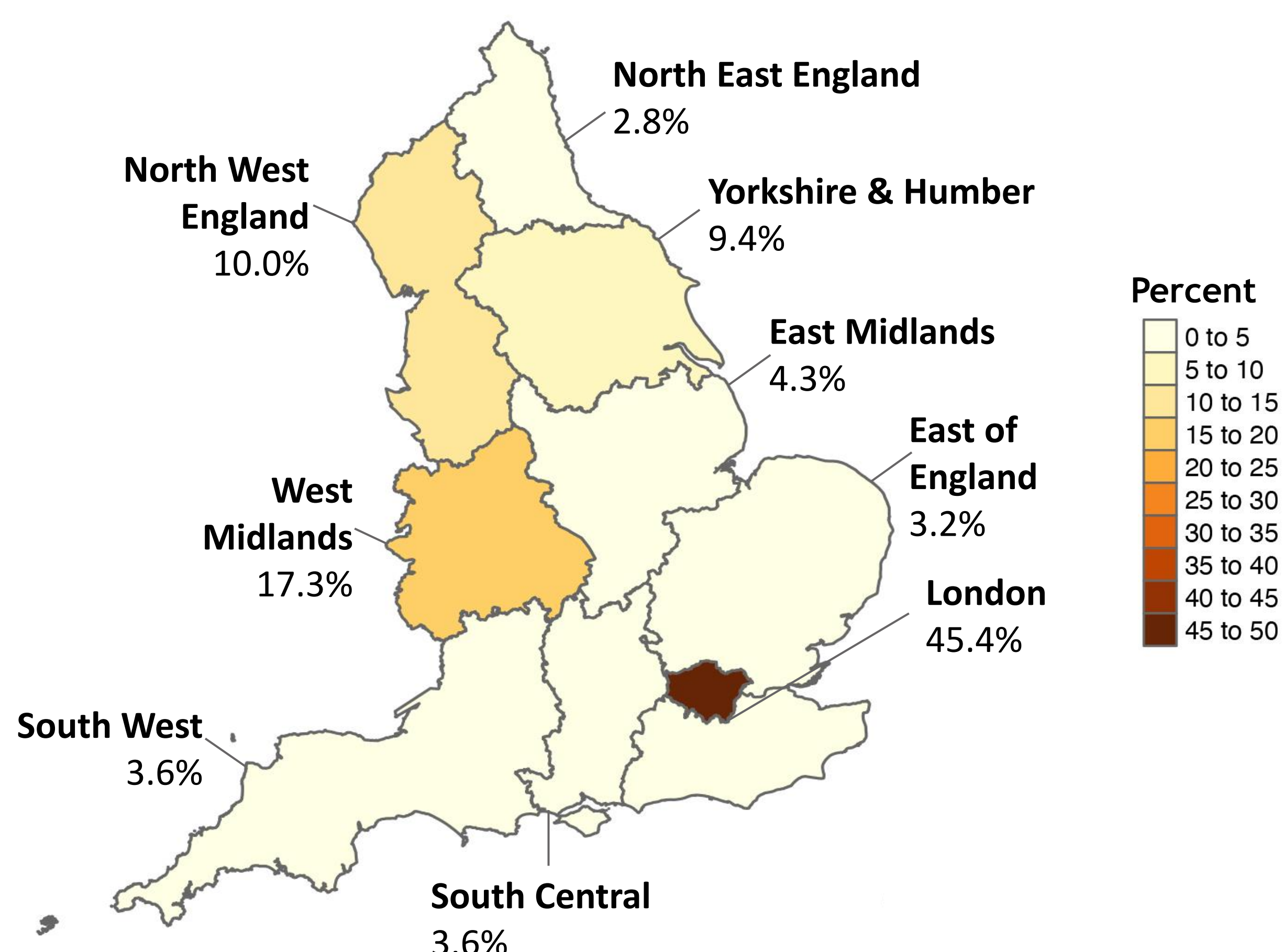
3 years [IQR: 1, 7]

Median age at presentation in England

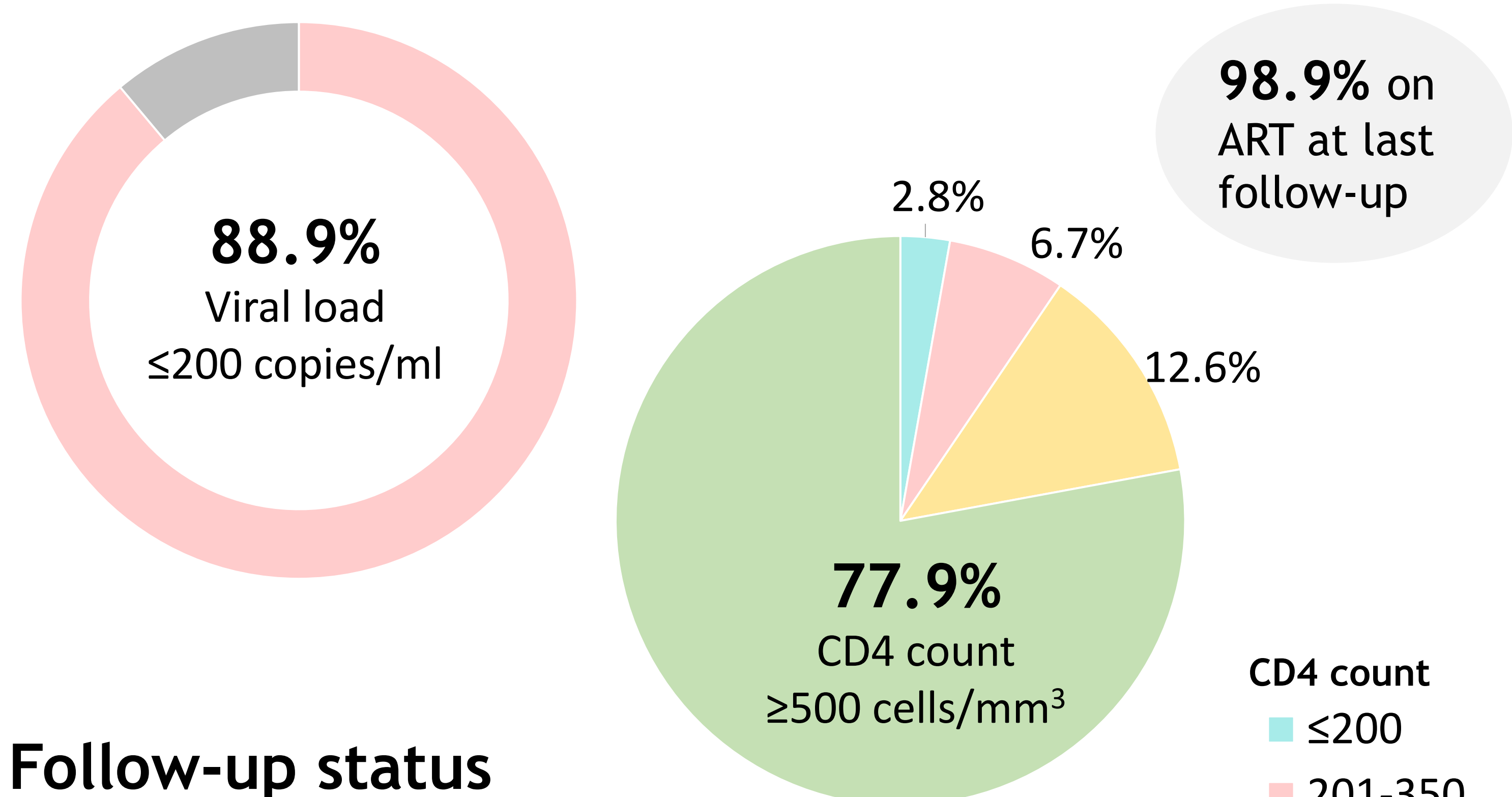
Age for UK-born was 1 year [0, 2] vs. 7 years [4, 11] among those born abroad ($p < 0.001$)



Regional distribution of HIV follow-up clinics



Overview of clinical markers at last follow-up



Follow-up status

- **66.5%** remain in active follow-up
- **31.8%** transferred to adolescent or adult care
- **0.2%** lost-to-follow-up
- **1.5%** reported to have left the country

CONCLUSIONS

- **Clinical markers** among CYPLHIV in England are reassuring with nearly **90% virologically suppressed at most recent clinic visit**.
- 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**.

Funding and governance: CHARS is commissioned by NHS England with permission to collect patient data without patient consent.

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