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## Background

- **Nearly half of Malawi's new HIV infections occur among persons 15-24 years-old**, accounting for approximately 9,000 newly infected people annually (MPHIA 2020-2021)
- **Awareness of HIV status is lowest (76.2%) among young people (15-24-year-olds)** and may lead to further transmission in the community
- There is a need to understand HIV testing history and recent HIV transmission patterns among young people in Malawi to reduce new infections

## Methods

- We analyzed HIV recent surveillance data for **8,389** newly diagnosed 15-24-year-olds between Sep 2019-Mar 2022 across 251 sites in Malawi
- We calculated proportions of participants with recent HIV infection among the newly HIV-diagnosed participants by age, sex, residence type, testing entry point, and testing history
- We conducted a multivariable regression analysis to identify factors associated with recent infection

### Proportions of New HIV Diagnoses and Recent HIV infections

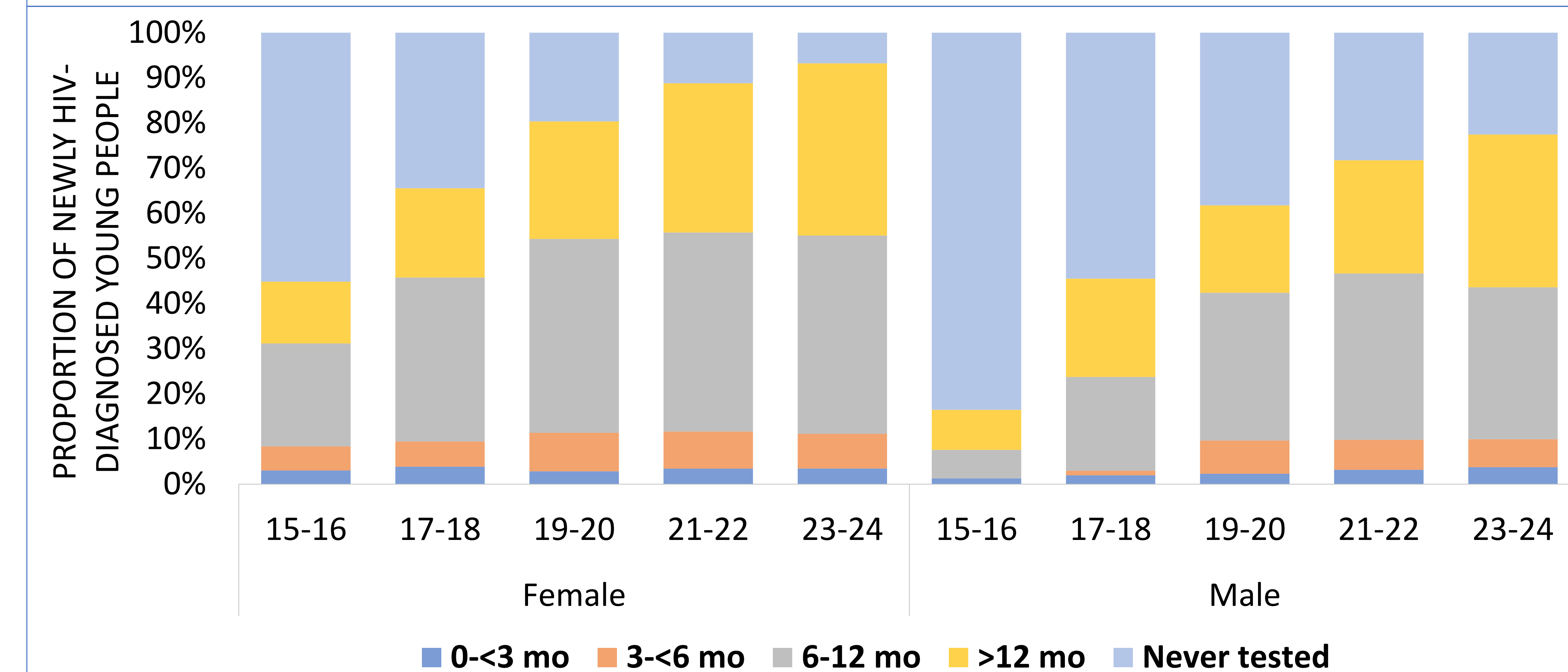
Characteristics	New HIV Diagnoses	Recent HIV Infection
Sex	Female (84.1%)	Breastfeeding Women (8.2%)
Age (yrs)	23-24 (32.1%)	17-18 (7.3%)
District of health facility	Blantyre (28.4%)	Mzimba (8.5%)
Testing Point	VCT (53.8%)	STI clinic (9.0%)
Residence Type	Rural (60.5%)	Rural (5.0%)
HIV Testing History	Prior test within past 6-12 months (40.5%)	Prior test within past 6 months (11.9-13.5%)

## Results

- In total, 4.9% (95% CI: 4.4-5.3) of all new HIV+ diagnoses were recent, while **8.2% (95% CI: 4.8-13.3) of new HIV+ diagnoses among breastfeeding women were recent**
- Most males 15-18-years-old (>50%) and most females 15-16-years-old (55.1%) reported that they had never previously tested for HIV even though the **largest proportion of recent HIV infections was highest among 17-18-year-olds (7.3%; 95% CI: 5.7-9.2)**
- Having had an **HIV test in the prior 3-<6 months (AOR: 2.2; 95% CI: 1.2-4.0)** was **significantly associated with recent HIV infection acquisition**

**A history of previous HIV testing increased with age, with 18.8% of participants 15-24 years-old reporting never having been tested for HIV prior to their diagnosis (Fig. 1)**

Fig. 1: The age/sex disaggregated proportions of adolescent and young people with a positive HIV test and their reported time of last HIV test



## Conclusion

- Gaps exist in HIV testing among young people by age and sex with the **majority potentially having been infected for >12 months**
- Tailored and innovative HIV prevention (PrEP+PEP) and testing strategies targeting breastfeeding women and 17-18-year-olds and their preferences for testing points, including self-testing and mobile testing are needed for epidemic control
- Routine collection and analysis of recent HIV infection data may inform targeted HIV testing and preventive strategies for young people

### Limitations:

- Data only included new HIV positives (no HIV negatives)
- Limited to variables in recency dataset

### Acknowledgements:

- People living with HIV in Malawi who consented to participate in recency testing
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- U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)

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