Opportunities to Improve Mpox Vaccination Coverage Among Transfeminine Persons Across The US

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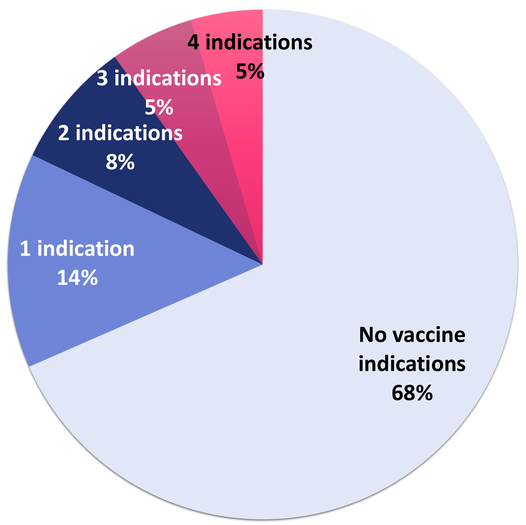
BACKGROUND

- Mpox vaccination is recommended for transfeminine individuals with new STI diagnoses, with multiple sex partners, and those reporting sex at commercial venues.
- HIV and other STI services represent opportunities to reach underserved communities with mpox services.
- We investigated mpox vaccine uptake and associated characteristics among transfeminine persons in the US.

METHODS

- **February-May 2025:** online survey of mpox-related health behaviors among transfeminine persons assigned male at birth ("tranfems") in the U.S.
- **Analysis:** modified Poisson regression with robust variance estimation
  - **Outcome:** mpox vaccination uptake (any dose) among transfems with HIV or participating in events with higher transmission risk (rave, sex party, sex club, group sex) in the past 3 months.
  - **Exposure:** uptake of STI testing, doxyPEP, or HIV PrEP in the past 3 months
  - **Covariates**: age, region, employment, housing stability

Figure 1. Summary of indications for mpox vaccine among transfems in the sample (n=397).

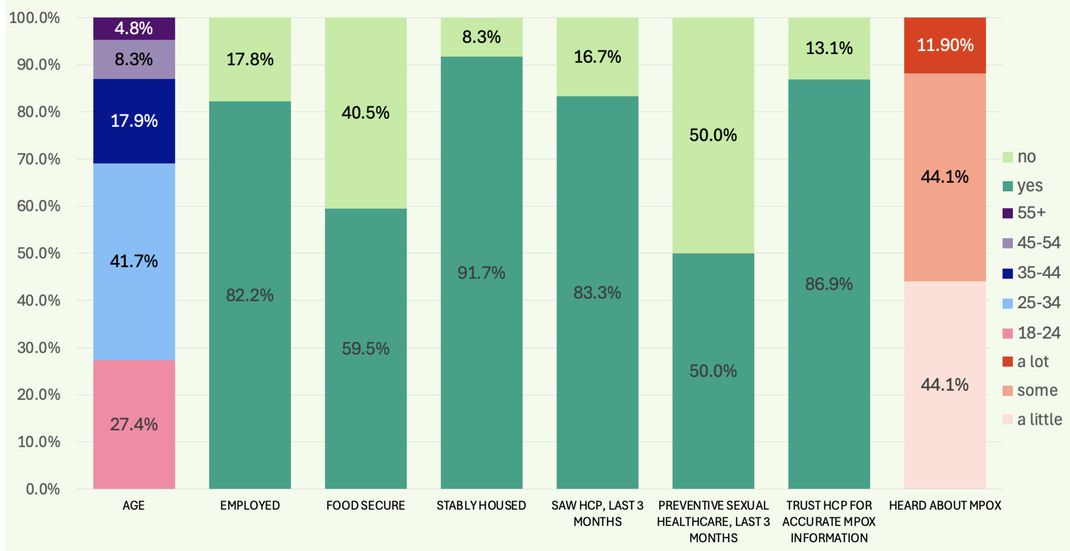


Nearly 3 in 4 vaccine-indicated transfems in our sample were not vaccinated against mpox—despite high engagement in sexual healthcare.

RESULTS

- Of 397 transfems, 126 (31.7%) had ≥1 indication for mpox vaccination (**Fig. 1**).
  - Of these, 30 (24.6%) had received at least one dose of an mpox vaccine and 8 (6.6%) were unsure if they had been vaccinated.
- 84 transfems (21.2%) were eligible but not vaccinated (**Fig. 2**)
  - 70 (83.3%) had seen a healthcare provider in the last 3 months
  - 42 (50.0%) had engaged in preventive sexual healthcare in the past 3 months
- Vaccine uptake was associated with recent STI testing (PR 2.32, 95% CI 1.39-3.87) and use of HIV PrEP (PR 2.36, 95% CI 1.31-4.26) (**Fig. 3**).

Figure 2. Characteristics of transfems in the U.S. who were indicated for mpox vaccines but had not been vaccinated (n=84).



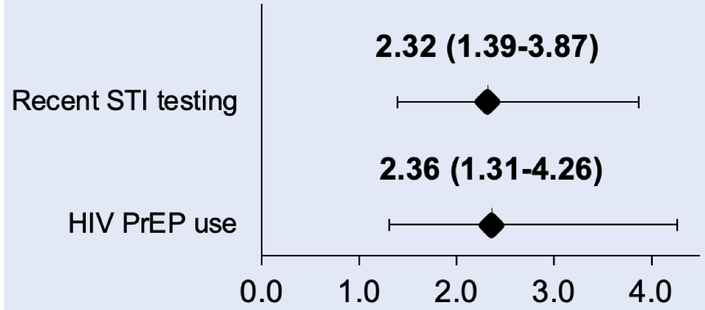


Figure 3. Prevalence ratios and 95% confidence intervals for associations between sexual healthcare and mpox vaccination among vaccine-indicated transfems in the U.S. (n=126).

CONCLUSIONS

- Uptake of mpox vaccination remains low among vaccine-indicated transfems across the U.S.
- HIV and other STI services represent critical and potentially missed opportunities to reach transfems with mpox prevention.
- Structural vulnerability is common among the unvaccinated, underscoring the importance of low-barrier, accessible vaccination pathways.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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PLAIN-LANGUAGE SUMMARY

A nationwide survey found mpox vaccine uptake was low among U.S. transfeminine people who were eligible—about three-quarters had not received a dose. Many eligible participants had recently received services like STI testing or HIV PrEP, suggesting these healthcare visits are a key missed opportunity to offer mpox prevention.

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