

# Sexual health services & HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis underutilized by young women with indications

Nationally, adolescents & young adults comprise  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the sexually active population, yet  $\frac{1}{2}$  of new sexually transmitted infections are diagnosed in this group. 1 in 5 new HIV diagnoses are among females. HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) can prevent HIV, yet current prescriptions don't match need, particularly among indicated young women.

**Adolescents and young adults** (15-24 yrs) in MA accounted for 56% of chlamydia and 35% of gonorrhea cases in 2023.

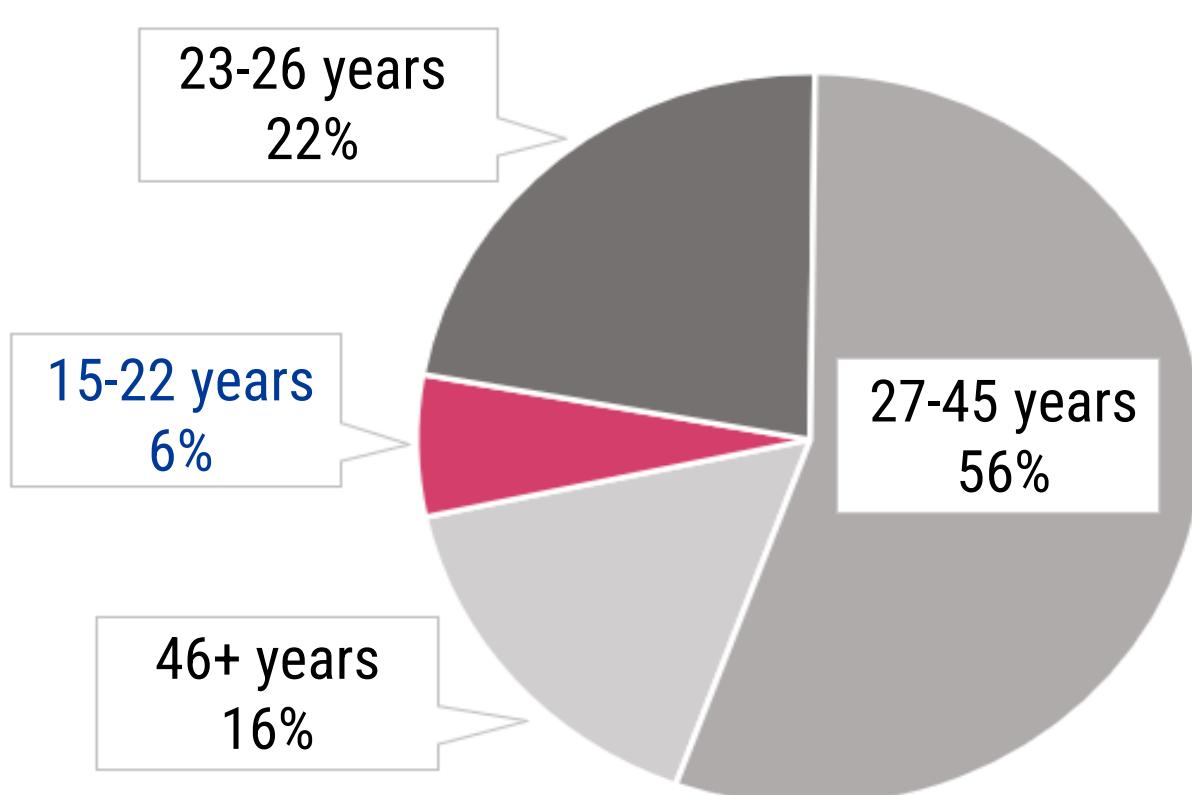
**1 in 10** HIV diagnoses in MA between 2021-2023 were among adolescents & young adults:

Overall (1,435)



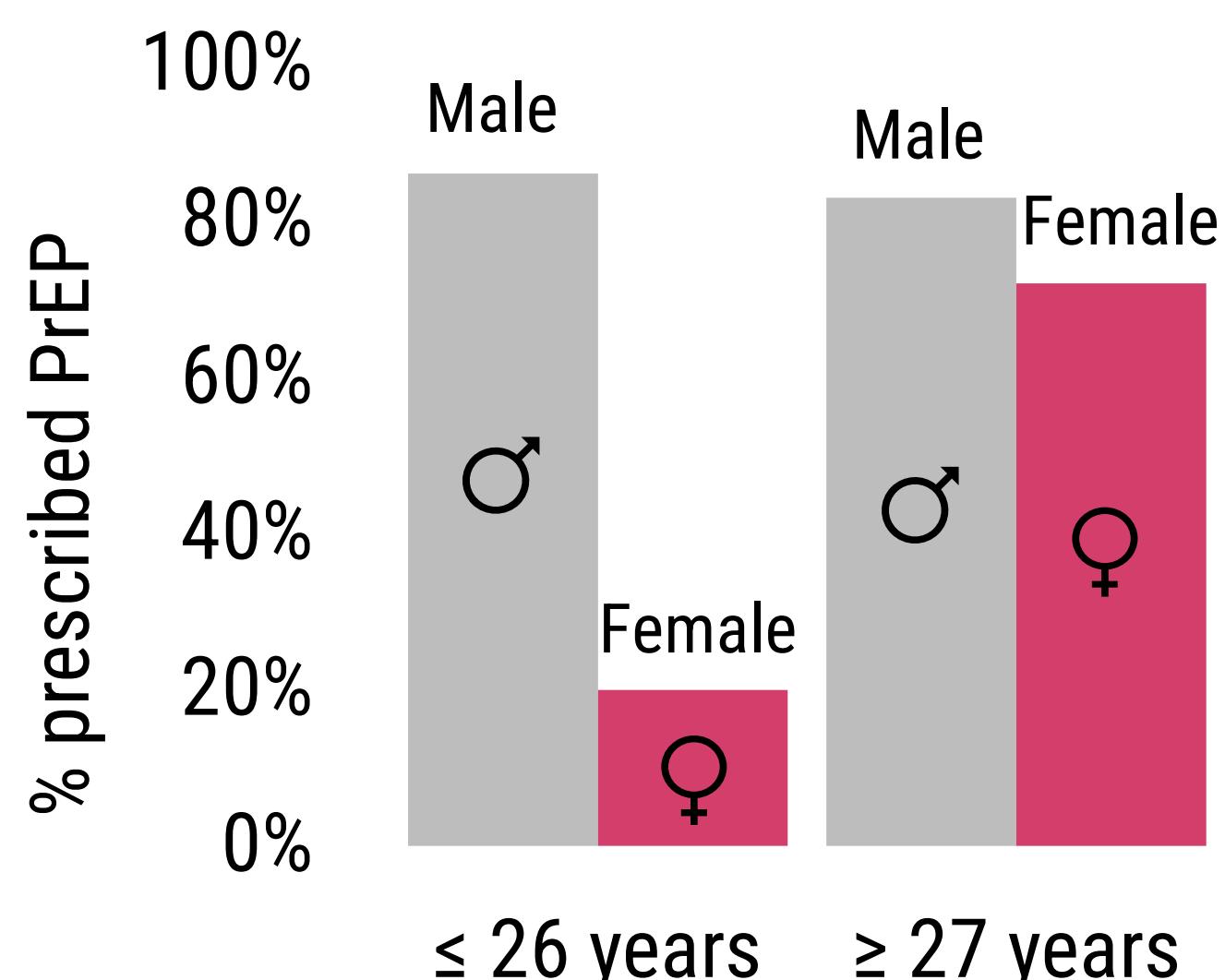
Adolescents & young adults (157, 11%)

Sexual health clinic utilization, by age



Yet **youth aged 15-22 yrs** comprised the **smallest share (6%)** of clinic visits in our Boston-based study.

PrEP prescriptions among indicated patients, by age & sex



**Among those indicated**, PrEP prescriptions at visits were:

- 63% less likely among **younger cisgender females** compared to younger males.
- 46% less likely among **younger cisgender females** compared to older cisgender females.

Among people with PrEP indications, **younger cisgender females** had the **lowest** PrEP prescription rates.

Significant gaps for **young cisgender females** with PrEP indications reflect opportunities for **improved programming** tailored to at-risk populations.