

Impact of Community Level Factors on HIV Outcomes

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The role of community-level factors across the treatment cascade: A critical review

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Roadmap

- Background
- Methodology
- Results
- Implications

Background

- HIV/AIDS treatment cascade dominated by work at the individual level
- Call from UNAIDS to expand the research agenda and address the role of the community and community systems in all steps of the treatment cascade
- No literature review on the role of community-level factors (CLFs) and HIV previously published
- Better understanding of CLFs could inform the design and implementation of more effective, sustainable interventions

Two research questions

- What community-level factors promote/inhibit HIV testing, encourage/discourage uptake of appropriate treatment, or support/undermine adherence and care in low- and middle-income countries?
- What CLFs have been addressed by HIV-related interventions? How and with what effect?

What are community-level factors?

- Contextual measures
 - Only available at the community level, such as number of groups providing care & support
- Compositional measures
 - Aggregated from individual-level data, such as the proportion of the population that has been tested
- In this study, “community” refers to people living in the same geographical area

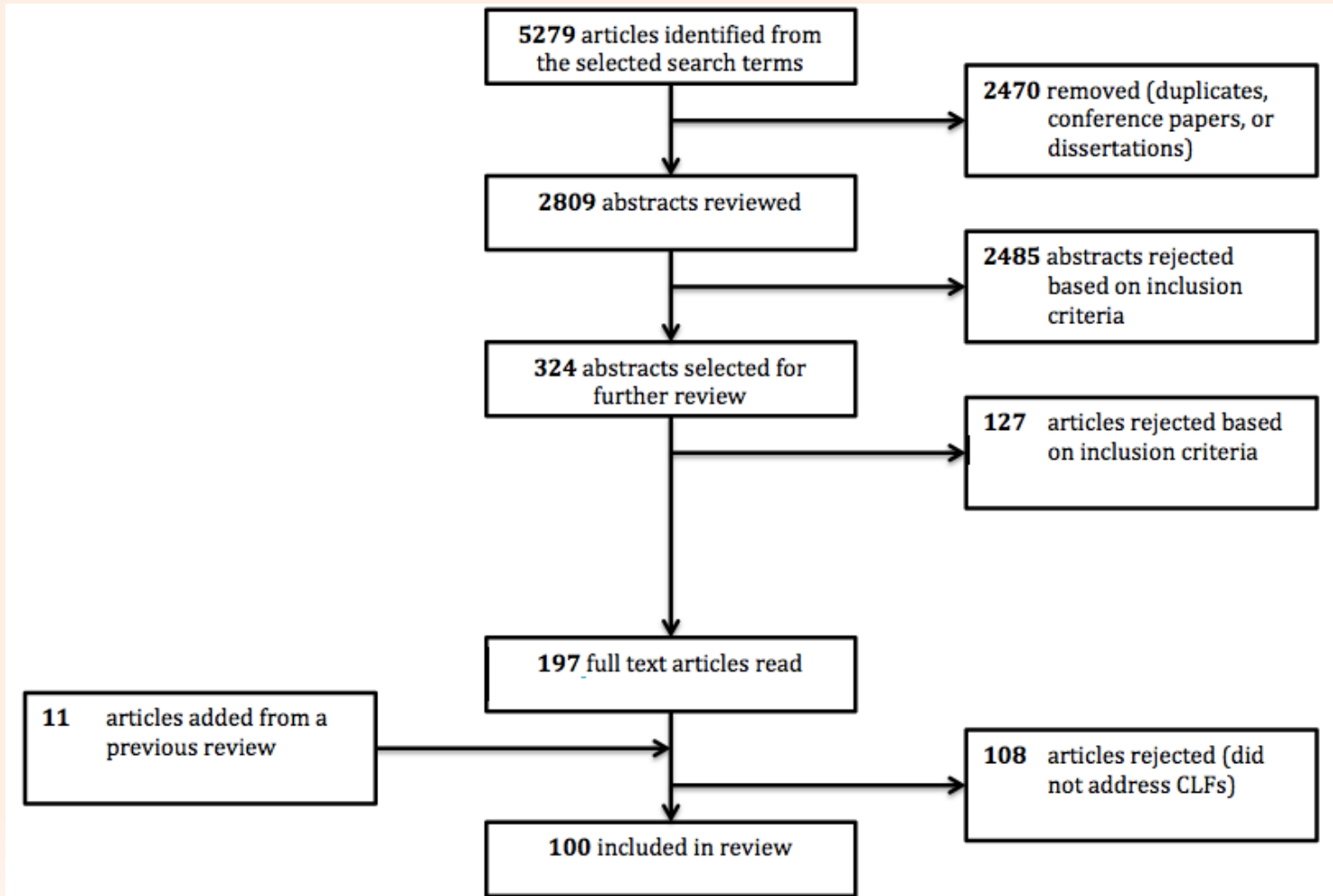
Methodological approach

- Search string developed and adapted for five databases
 - PubMed, Embase, Scopus, CINAHL, Global Health
- Limited to
 - Studies conducted in low- and middle-income countries and
 - articles published in English, French, or Spanish
- Abstracts were reviewed, and relevant full texts were assessed for inclusion
- Inclusion: 1) CLFs assessed in relation to the treatment cascade, 2) peer-reviewed articles, and 3) studies conducted in low- and middle-income countries

Examples of search terms

Community-level factors			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community/neighborhood based factor • Community/neighborhood based variable • Community/neighborhood based assessment • Community/neighborhood based social factor • Community/neighborhood/contextual effect • Community/neighborhood/structural/contextual factor • Community/neighborhood/structural/contextual variable • Community/neighborhood/structural/contextual social factor • Community/neighborhood/structural/contextual characteristic • Community/neighborhood/structural/contextual level • Community/neighborhood/structural/contextual influence • Community/neighborhood/structural/contextual determinant • Community/neighborhood/structural/contextual predictor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community/neighborhood support • Community/neighborhood domain • Community/neighborhood resilience • Community/neighborhood efficacy • Community/neighborhood involvement • Community/neighborhood/social structure • Community/neighborhood/social participation • Community/neighborhood/social environment • Community/neighborhood/social network • Community/neighborhood/social care network • Community/neighborhood/social empowerment • Community/neighborhood/social integration • Community/neighborhood/social disintegration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social isolation • Social marginalization • Social conformity • Social stigma • Social value • Value orientation • Social distance • Social exclusion • Social cohesion • Social rejection • Social acceptance • Social ecology • Social condition • Social barrier • Social custom • Group membership • Community capacity • Collective efficacy • Health network • Unstable housing • Multilevel influence • Multilevel factor • Multilevel analysis • Residence characteristic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social norm • Stigma • Social factor • Cultural factor • Social capital • Cultural capital • Social determinant • Cultural determinant <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community • Neighborhood

Flowchart



Results

- 208 articles identified for possible inclusion; each article read by 2 randomly assigned readers
- 100 articles were deemed relevant
- 5 articles discussed interventions
- 19 articles analyzed quantitative data
- The majority of articles were focused on 1) HIV counseling and testing (HCT) and 2) ART adherence

Findings: Major themes across the cascade

- Social support and social networks
- Cultural and gender norms
- Stigma

Themes discovered: HIV Counseling and Testing

- Community-level HIV knowledge, men employed, primary school completion (+)
- Membership in community organizations (+)
- Community action following a community empowerment intervention (+)
- Low testing and lack of support in communities, fear of social exclusion (-)
- Norms associating HCT with reduced masculinity
- Communities in which women need husband's permission or/and financial resources for HCT (-)
- Perceived and overt stigma (-)

Themes discovered: Pre-ART

High rates of attrition and loss to follow-up between testing and treatment

- Social support networks (+)
- Collective efficacy, social cohesion and social support (+)
 - Several studies found social cohesion higher in rural areas
- Feminine roles (+), masculine roles (-),
- Fear of losing social support; social rejection and isolation (-)
- Fear of being seen at an ART facility (-)
- Provider stigma (-)

Themes discovered: Adherence

- Community-level HIV knowledge (+)
- Social support, social networks, including family, friends, teachers, CBO, employer networks (+)
- Community support (+)
- Men's avoidance of AIDS clinics (-)
- Women whose husbands fail to provide financial support for transport, clinic fees (-)
- Discrimination, stigma at school, caregivers' fears of community stigma (-)
- Interestingly, anticipated stigma can motivate adherence to avoid sickly appearance (+)

Themes discovered: HIV/AIDS care

- Community systems, including community support, community participation in care (+)
- CBO engagement in the community (+)
- Fear of and experiences of discrimination from community members (-)
- Provider stigma (-)

Conclusions: What next for CLFs?

- Review identified key themes in work on community-level factors to inform HIV work
- Lack of community-level interventions calls for programs that intervene, and **evaluate**, at the community level
- Limited quantitative work measuring community-level factors
 - aggregate available individual-level data
 - greater integration of multilevel methods to assess effects beyond the individual

Implications for future programs

- Interventions designed to support equitable gender norms, cultural norms to enable appropriate treatment of key populations, and stigma reduction could be potential next steps for targeting community-level factors
- Research that rigorously assesses the role of CLFs is urgently needed as we strive to minimize loss to follow-up across the treatment cascade.

Thank you!

Questions or comments?

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