Exploring the Experiences and Related Care Gaps among Women Living with HIV in Canada using Concept Mapping of Canadian HIV Women’s Sexual and Reproductive Health Cohort Study (CHIWOS) Findings

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Background & Research Question

CHIWOS is a multi-site (BC, ON, QC), community-based, prospective cohort study¹.

- **Our aim** was to 1) visualize concepts of CHIWOS findings, and 2) identify overarching gaps in care and health needs.

**Concept Mapping** is a graphical tool for organizing knowledge developed by Novak².

- It is constructed using a set of concepts (nodes) in which relationships between concepts are shown through arrows and linking words.

**Research Question**

- Among women living with HIV who participated in CHIWOS, what are their experiences regarding their psychosocial determinants of and clinical, mental, and sexual and reproductive health outcomes and access to and quality of healthcare?

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Methods

Cmap Tools software was used to create our concept maps.

1) Individual maps were created for all CHIWOS quantitative conference abstracts and publications written, under review, or near submission before August 1, 2019 (N=59/116).

2) We then created 6 overview concept maps (available upon request).

3) Finally, we took these 6 concept maps to create one image to tell the stories the women shared with us.

Twenty-three consultation sessions were held with CHIWOS PIs and PRAs to create and validate the visuals.

How to Read a Concept Map:

1) Read the first block at the top of the visual – this is the main theme of the concept map.

2) Next, read the second tier of blocks – these are the main outcomes of the included publications.

3) Continue reading the diagram from the bottom, and from left to right.
A total of 6 overview concept maps were created for Quality of Life (N=4), HIV Care (N=11), Psychosocial & Mental Health (N=19), Sexual Health (N=9), Reproductive Health (N=11), and Trans Women Living with HIV (N=5).

Our definition of Quality of Life (QoL) extends beyond one’s physical and mental health status. It is expanded to also include QoL’s relationship with resilience and overall wellbeing. QoL was measured using the SF-12 scale³.

References used to generate the QoL map:

Conclusion: Draft Single Summary Diagram – Describing the Health Experiences of Women Living with HIV

Key Findings:
- Women’s health experiences are complex with multiple facets contributing to their quality of life.
- Meso-level and macro-level factors in the form of social determinants of health and structural barriers impact their quality of life.
- Resilience is high among women.
- Social support, enhancing resilience, and accessing women-centred HIV care are ways women are addressing barriers in their lives.

KT Plan:
1) Publish findings in BMJ Open.
2) Present at the next CHIWOS women’s retreat in 2022.
3) Direct future research efforts to address gaps in Indigenous women’s health needs.

Version date: March 23, 2021
- We are continuing to consult with CHIWOS PIs and PRAs to refine the diagram.
- We are creating a similar diagram for all women living with HIV.