

# Adapted Targeted Literature Review (ATLR) supported robust questionnaire development for a multi-national survey study evaluating Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) care and treatment and experiences of people with HIV (PWH)

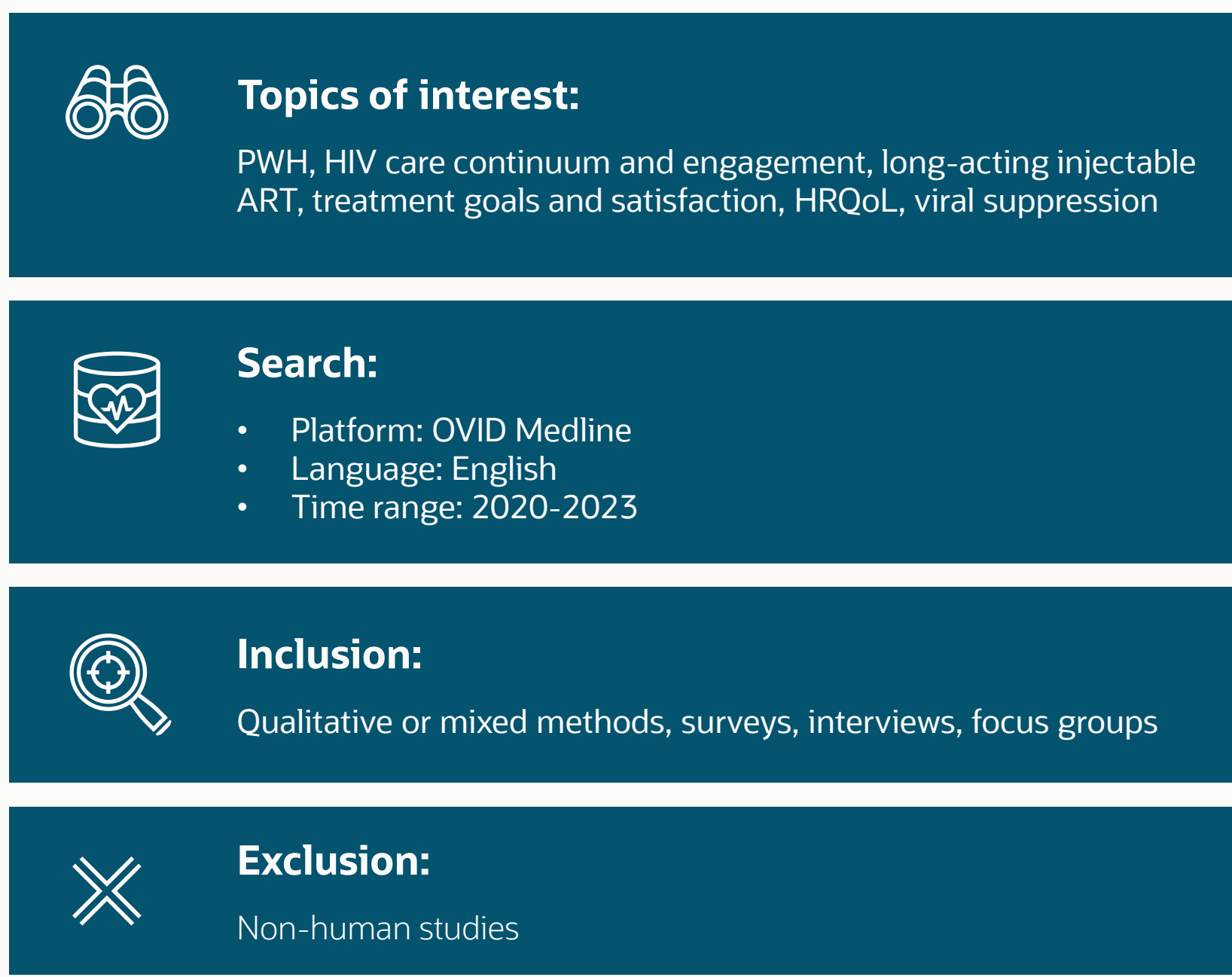
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## Background

- The UNAIDS set a global strategy, the 95-95-95 targets, to end the HIV epidemic by focusing on equity and increasing access to testing, treatment and care. The triple targets include 95% of PWH knowing their HIV status, 95% being on antiretroviral therapy (ART), and 95% achieving viral suppression and Undetectable = Untransmittable (U=U) status<sup>1</sup>.
- Despite sincere intentions behind global HIV targets, progress is slow, resources are scarce and persisting inequalities in the HIV care cascade are widening<sup>2</sup>.
- HIV care has been the focus of extensive research, but while scientific and clinical progress have been substantial, a more nuanced patient-centred challenge remains in the way to achieving goals such as the 95-95-95 goals.
- Factors such as access to care, stigma, mental health, socioeconomic issues, and relationships with the medical body all contribute to a matrix of barriers and facilitators that need to be understood holistically rather than through purely clinical data.
- An ongoing observational, multinational, direct-to-patient study using online quantitative survey methods, aimed to evaluate the experiences of PWH, the barriers and facilitators to the HIV care cascade, health-related quality of life (HRQoL), and treatment satisfaction and preferences in overcoming barriers.

Figure 1 - ATLR Research Process



## Objective

Robust quantitative survey instrument (questionnaire) development is challenging<sup>3</sup> and merits careful design for credible data capture<sup>4</sup> and selecting valid outcome assessment measures<sup>3,4</sup>. To this end, we conducted an ATLR, applying adapted rapid review<sup>5</sup> and qualitative evidence synthesis methods<sup>6</sup>.

## Methods

- A search algorithm in Medline, aimed for high specificity to survey study objectives and included medical subject headings terms, free-text keywords, and specific study designs, was conducted in June 2023. The process is presented in figure 1.
- Search was limited to articles published in English between January 2020 and June 2023.
- Search output titles and abstracts were screened in order of recency and relevance to keywords from the study's predefined objectives. This process consisted of combining multiple keyword searches to facilitate the thematic extraction for perceptions and experiences as visualized in figure 2.

## Results

- In total, 18 of 1019 citations resulting from the ATLR algorithm were included.
- Study designs were balanced between 7 qualitative, 7 quantitative, and 4 mixed methods.
- The median publication year was 2022 (on a period ranging from 2020 to 2023).
- 11 studies were single country based (5 United States, 1 Canada, 2 Uganda, 1 Zambia, 1 Greece, 1 Australia). 7 were multinational studies.

Figure 2: Results from the aTLR search algorithm

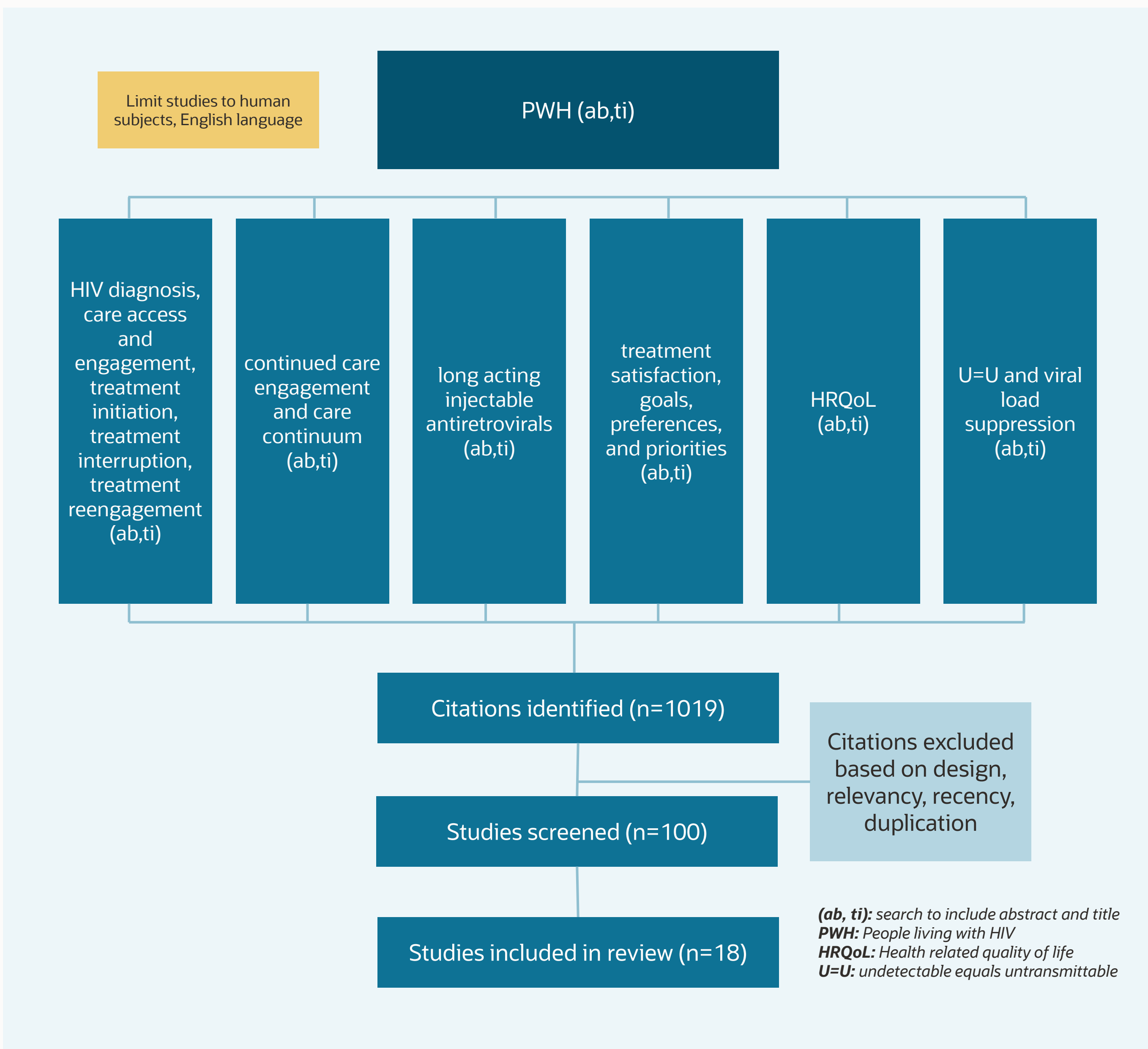
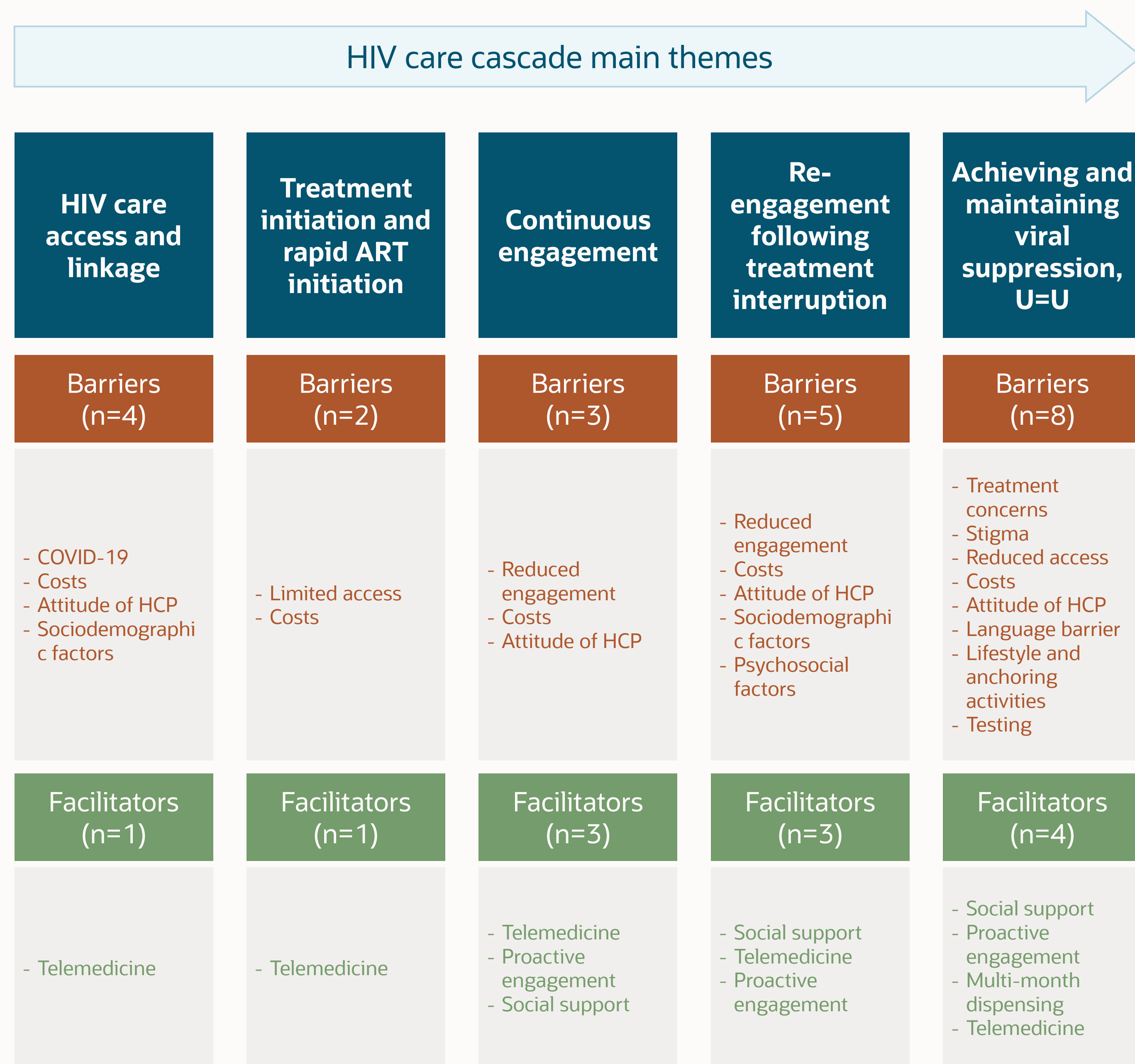


Figure 3 - ATLR's main extracted themes



## Conclusion

The ATLR supported rapid development of a robust questionnaire and was instrumental in identifying the experiences and HRQoL of PWH, barriers and facilitators, and the potential role of LA ART and patient's treatment satisfactions in overcoming barriers.

The questionnaire developed for the study reflected focal points of previous research but also was able fill certain gaps that have not been thoroughly explored previously, or from what was found through the ATLR, potentially offering a more nuanced understanding of barriers and facilitators to the HIV care cascade.

## References

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