



AN EVOLUTIONARY CONCEPT ANALYSIS: STIGMA AMONG WOMEN IN THE CONTEXT OF HEPATITIS C

Masterman C¹, Mendlowitz A^{2,3}, Capraru C⁴, Campbell K⁹, Eastabrook G⁵, Yudin M⁶, Kushner T⁷, Flemming J⁸, Feld JJ², Babenko-Mould Y¹, Tryphonopoulos P¹, Biondi MJ^{1,2,9}



¹Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing, Western University, London, Canada, ²Toronto Centre for Liver Disease, Toronto, Canada ³Viral Hepatitis Care Network, Toronto, Canada ⁴University Health Network, Toronto, Canada, ⁵London Health Sciences Centre, London, Canada ⁶Unity Health, Toronto, Canada ⁷Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York City, United States, ⁸Medicine and Public Health Sciences, Queen's University, Kingston, Canada ⁹School of Nursing, York University, Toronto, Canada

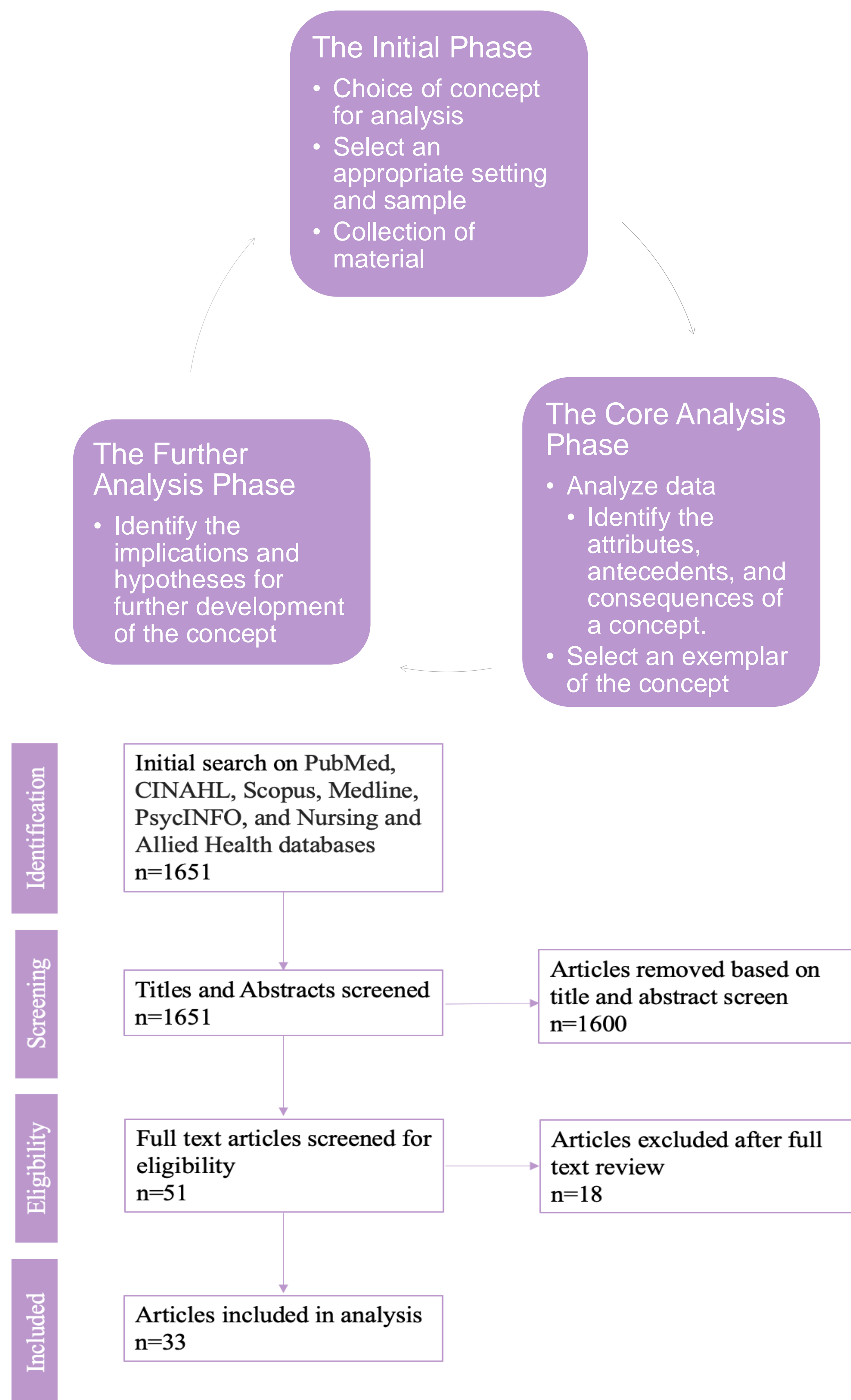
Background

- Stigma is a complex social phenomenon that marginalizes individuals and influences the course of illness.
- In the context of hepatitis C virus (HCV), stigma is a well-documented barrier to accessing HCV care and treatment.
- The Blueprint for informing hepatitis C elimination efforts in Canada emphasizes the need for additional actions to address stigma and its harmful effects. It also highlights the importance of healthcare professionals in providing destigmatizing approaches to care.
- A formal concept analysis is a strategy for examining concepts for their semantic structure, refining and clarifying concepts for use in theory, practice, and research by arriving at precise theoretical and operational definitions.

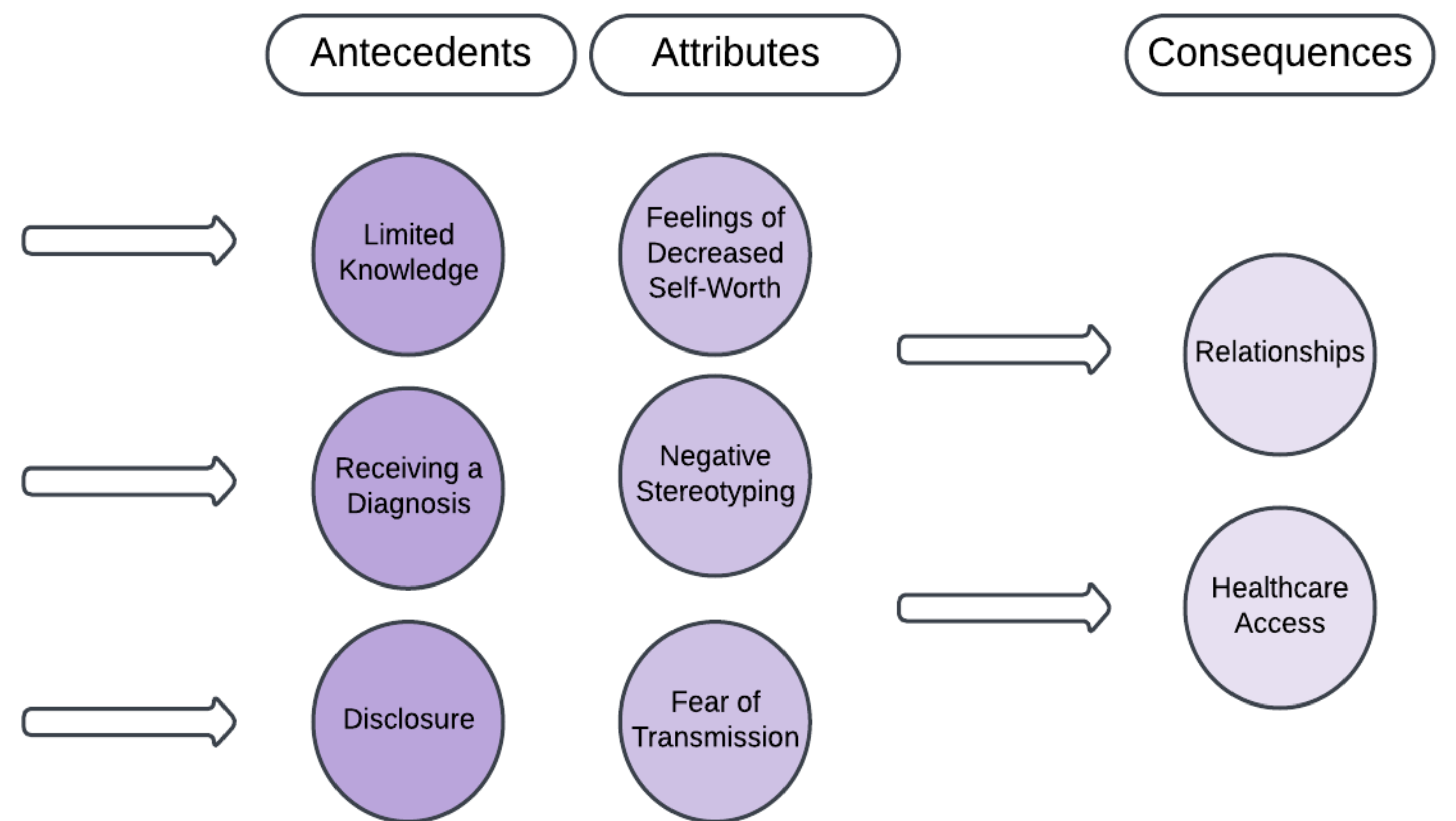
Objective

Based on Rodgers' evolutionary method, this concept analysis aimed to explore stigma experienced by women living with HCV. Understanding this stigma within their context is crucial for developing care models that support the needs of women.

Methods



Results



Conclusions

- Stigma in the context of infectious diseases has been well documented throughout history; however, as new viruses, treatments, and social conditions arise, the concept transitions into new conditions.
- The analysis identified that stigma associated with HCV in women stands apart from other forms of infectious disease-related stigma, primarily due to its impact on women's identity as caregivers and mothers.
- This enhanced understanding of stigma among women living with HCV can, in turn, inform healthcare professionals on more effective approaches when interacting with this demographic, address stigma in the healthcare system, and contribute to the overarching goals of HCV elimination.

References

- Aronsohn, A. (2022). Identifying Stigma as a Key Initial Step to Equitable Hepatitis C Virus Care. *JAMA Network Open*, 5(12), e2246610-e2246610. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.46610>
- The Canadian Network on Hepatitis C. (2019). Blueprint to inform hepatitis C elimination efforts in Canada. https://www.canhepc.ca/sites/default/files/media/documents/blueprint_hcv_2019_05.pdf
- Butt, G. (2008). Stigma in the context of hepatitis C: concept analysis [https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2648.2008.04641.x]. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 62(6), 712-724. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2648.2008.04641.x>
- Rodgers, B., & Knafl, K. (2000). *Concept Development in Nursing: Foundations, Techniques and Applications*. (In *Concept Development in Nursing: Foundations, Techniques and Applications*, 2nd edn ed.). Saunders, Philadelphia.

Funding

Chelsea Masterman receives funding from the Canadian Network on Hepatitis C.



Contact

Chelsea Masterman ✉ cmasterm@uwo.ca