



13-15 October 2024 | Maison de la Mutualité, Paris

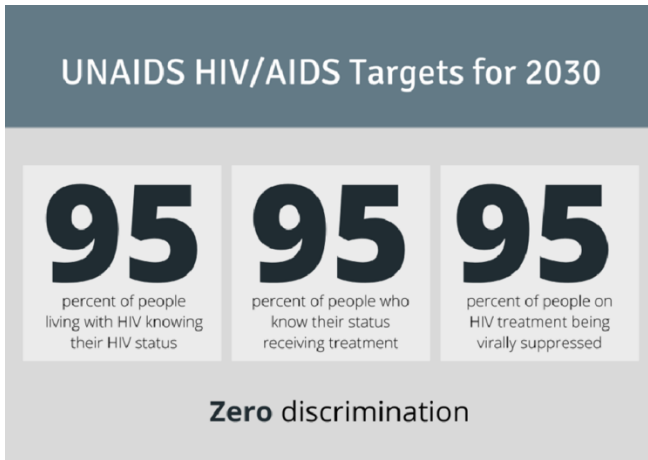
ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE FOR IMMIGRANTS LIVING WITH HIV IN PORTUGAL

Are the determinants related to access and use of general healthcare services similar to determinants related to retention in HIV care?

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Background



- Immigrants are disproportionately affected by HIV
 - ✓ 42% of new diagnoses in Europe (*WHO & ECDC, 2022*);
 - ✓ 46% of new diagnoses in Portugal (*DGS & INSA, 2022*);
- Immigrants obtain worse health results across the HIV care continuum
- Access to healthcare is a fundamental part of the integration of immigrants in the host country
- Access to health is influenced by many factors (determinants)

Goals



1. Identify the determinants associated with access and use of healthcare services (HCS) and retention in care, by immigrants with HIV, in Portugal
2. Understand whether the determinants are the same at the various levels of access to healthcare:
 - ✓ First access to HCS
 - ✓ Current use of HCS
 - ✓ Retention in care regarding HIV

Methodology

Dec. 2022



May 2023



Focus Groups

- 1 community-based organizations (CBO)
- 1 healthcare professionals (HCP)
- 14 participants
- Content analysis



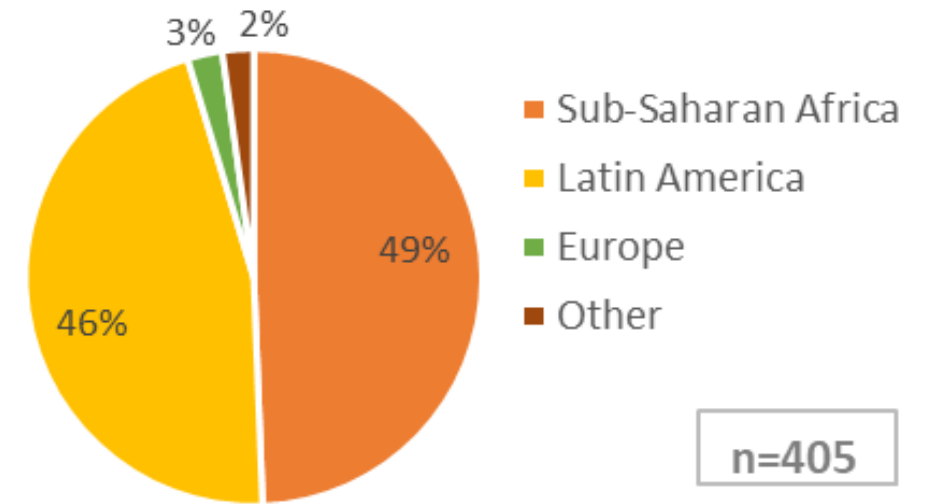
Questionnaire

- 407 immigrants with HIV
- Portuguese and English versions
- Recruitment in 10 CBO
- Descriptive and correlation analyses

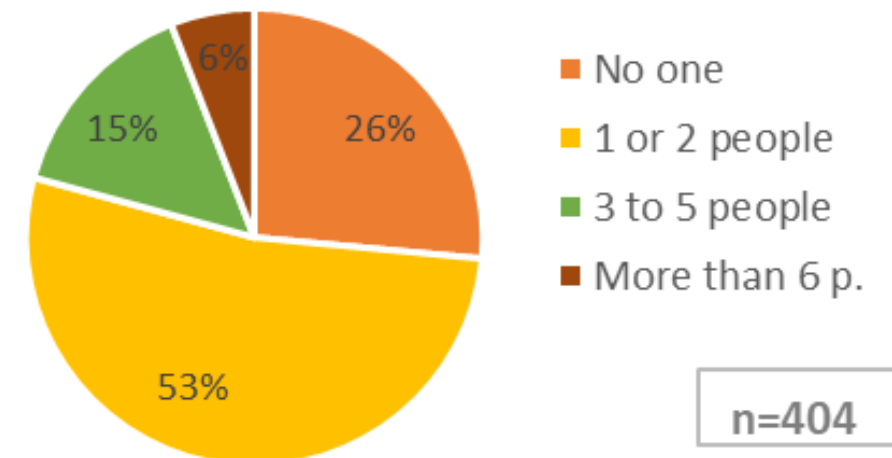
Results (Questionnaire)

- N= 407
- Average age: 41 years
- 54% M; 41% W; 5% trans
- 41% MSM; 12% PWUD
- 31% irregular status
- 46% works full time; 31% unemployed
- 85% were able to meet basic needs (last 12M)
- 65% lives in Portugal for less than 5 years

Country of origin (region)



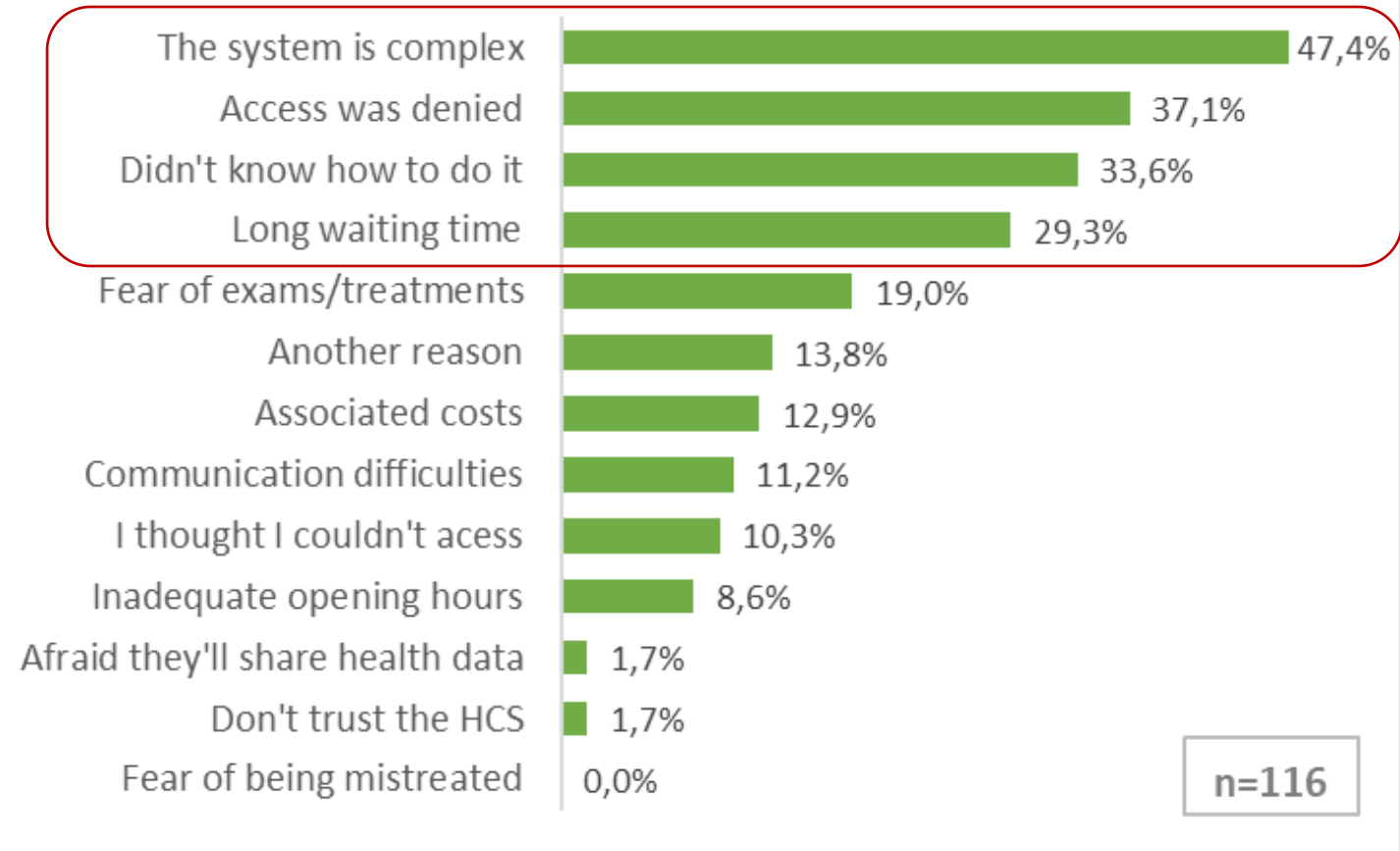
Perceived support network



Access and use of healthcare services (HCS)

- 95% have used HCS in Portugal
- 96% had support, essentially from CBO
- 54% reason for first access was HIV
- 35% were attended on the same day
27% between 1 week and 1 month
- 52% considered easy to access HCS
For 19% it was difficult
- 19% felt unmet medical needs (last 12M)

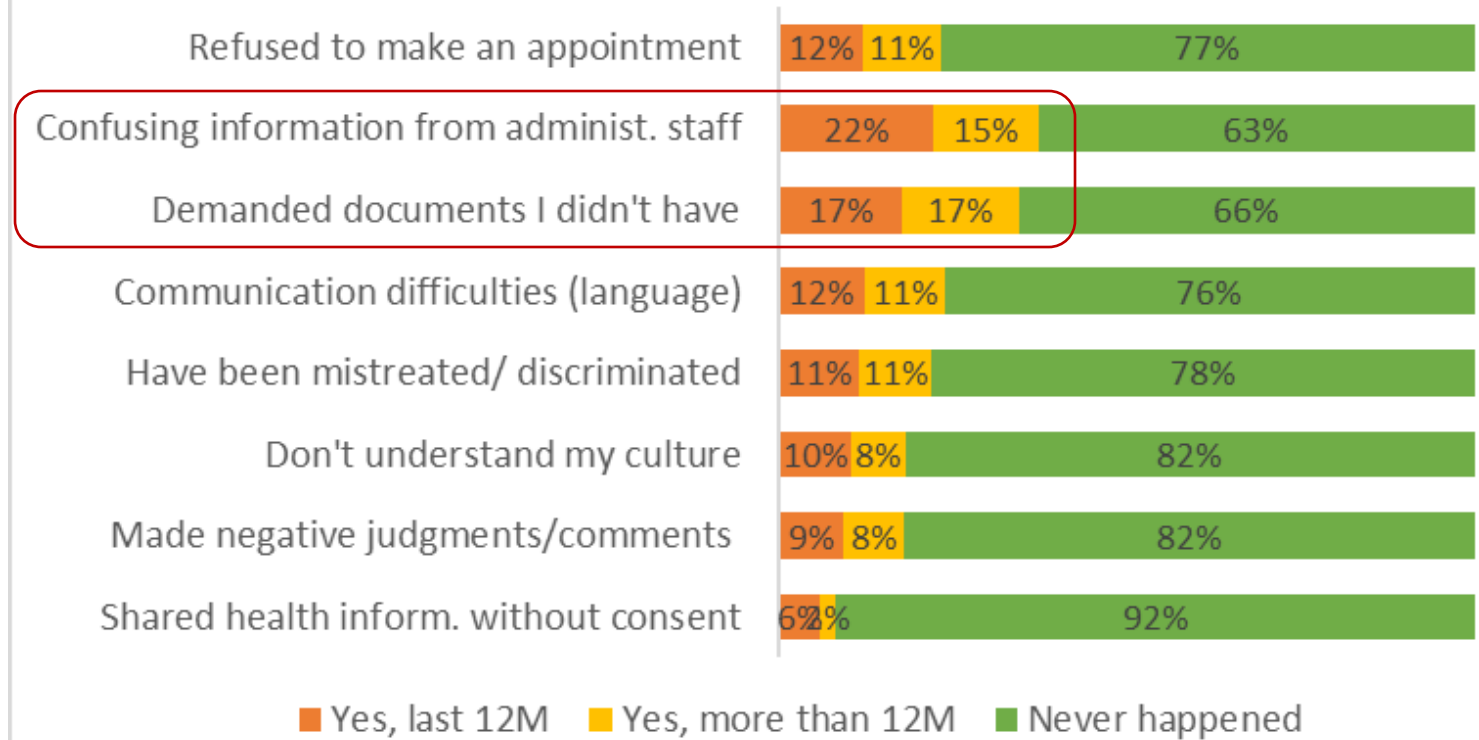
Reasons for unmet medical needs



Experience with HCS

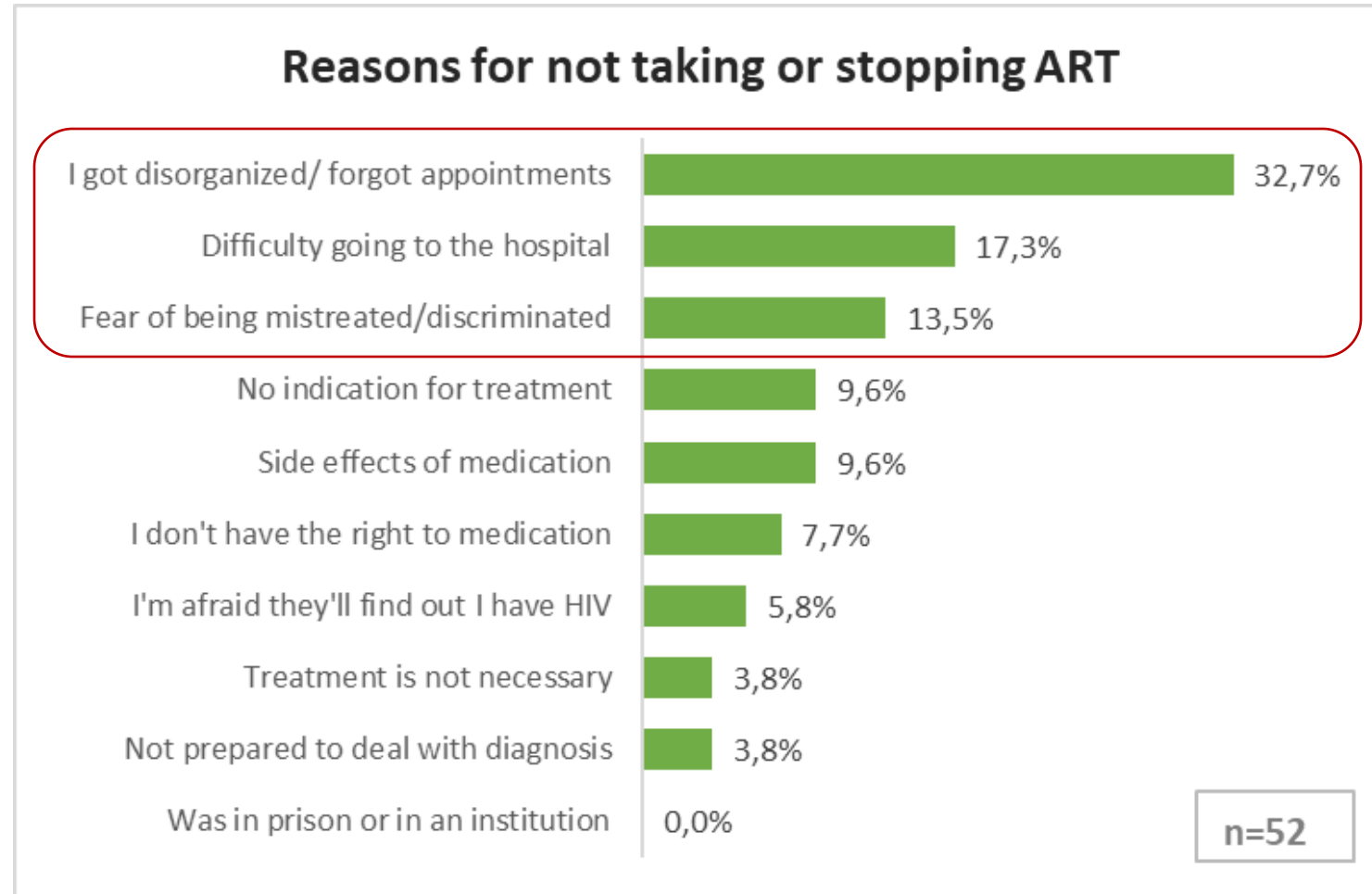
- 48% report a positive experience
- 39% have difficulties relating with HCP, especially administrative staff
- 56% have experienced obstacles in accessing and using HCS
- Administrative/bureaucratic barriers are the most frequent (45%)

Obstacles experienced in HCS



HIV treatment

- 93% have medical care for HIV in Portugal
- 73% waited up to 1 month for the appointment; 10% waited more 3M
- 96% are currently on ART
- Of these, 9.5% interrupted ART in the last 12M



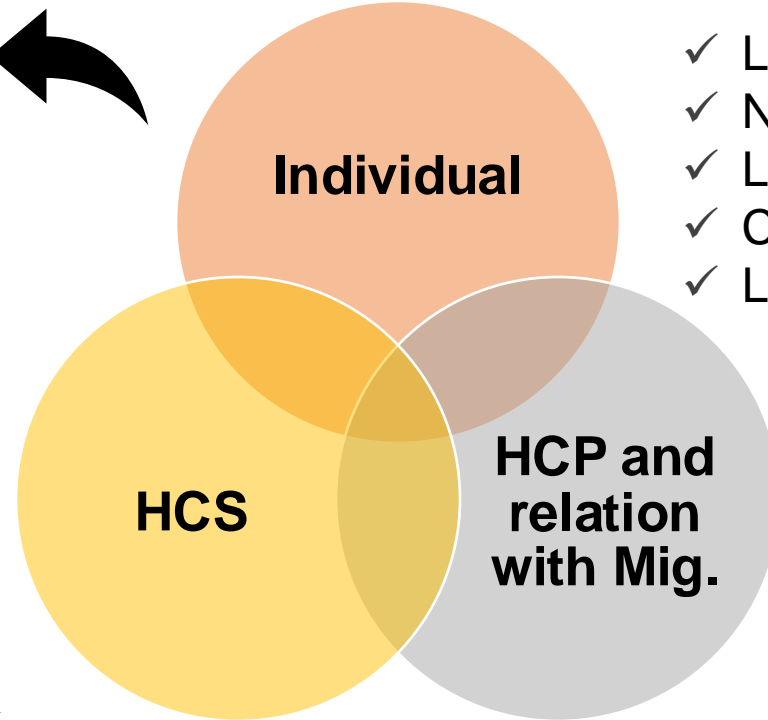


1. *What are the determinants associated with access and use of healthcare services and retention in care, by immigrants with HIV, in Portugal?*

- ✓ Lack of knowledge about HCS and their rights
- ✓ Mobility / Instability / Disorganization
- ✓ Socioeconomic factors
- ✓ Cultural beliefs
- ✓ Stigma and fear of discrimination
- ✓ Recent arrival in Portugal
- ✓ Irregular situation
- ✓ Lack of social support
- ✓ Low HIV literacy

“They are afraid of losing their job... they don't want people to know what they have.”

- ✓ Lack of knowledge of law and procedures
- ✓ Negative attitudes
- ✓ Language barriers
- ✓ Cultural differences
- ✓ Lack of confidentiality



“There are a lot of different rules, for different immigrants, and that doesn't make anyone's life easier.”

“In general, there is an attitude of some arrogance and racism”

- ✓ Complexity and bureaucracy
- ✓ Accessibility (ex. schedules, costs)
- ✓ IT systems
- ✓ Lack of resources



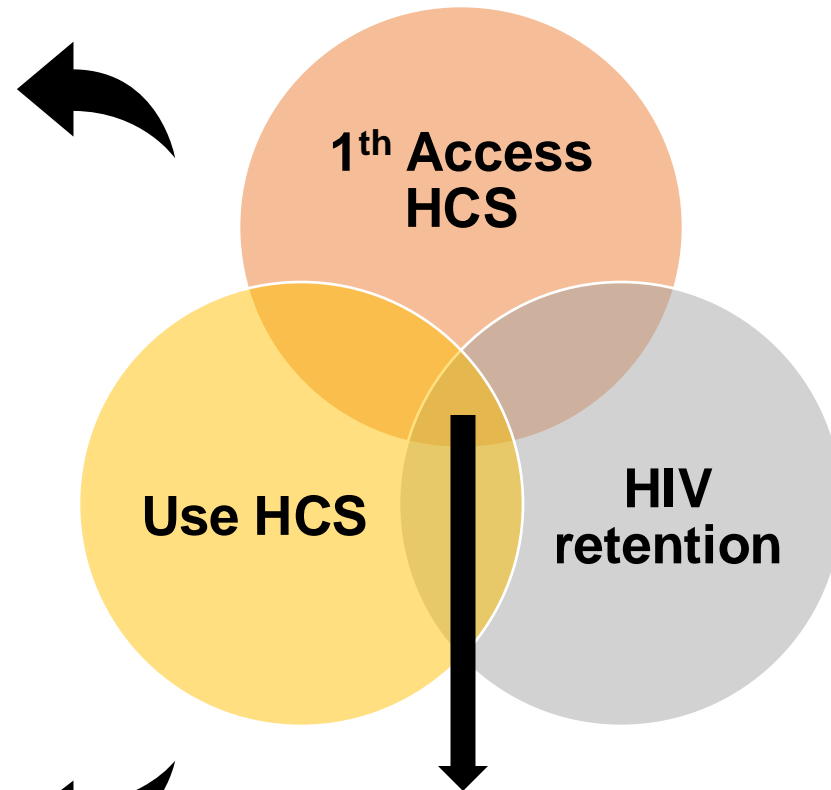
2. Are the determinants the same at the various levels of access to healthcare?

- ✓ *First access to HCS*
- ✓ *Current use of HCS*
- ✓ *Retention in care regarding HIV*

- ✓ Brazilians
- ✓ Men
- ✓ MSM
- ✓ Recent immigration
- ✓ Lack of knowledge of access procedures (HCP and Mig.)



- ✓ Youngest
- ✓ Irregular situation
- ✓ Communication difficulties
- ✓ Lack of confidentiality
- ✓ Accessibility



- ✓ Financial insecurity
- ✓ Lack of social support
- ✓ Instability / disorganization
- ✓ Lower health / HIV literacy
- ✓ Internal and perceived stigma
- ✓ Lack of confidentiality
- ✓ Accessibility

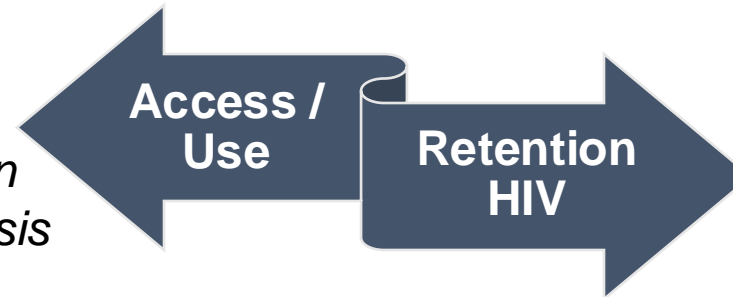
- ✓ Sex worker
- ✓ Mobility
- ✓ Administrative barriers / Complexity
- ✓ Disrespect / discrimination by HCP

Conclusion



1. Immigrants with HIV face **similar obstacles** in accessing HCS as other immigrants;
2. Immigrants with HIV may have **increased vulnerability**:
 - ✓ Belong to vulnerable populations (MSM, SW)
 - ✓ Stigma and discrimination (real, anticipated or internalized)
 - ✓ Lack of medical confidentiality
 - ✓ HIV literacy and beliefs
3. **Different determinants for different levels** of access:

*Recent immigration
Irregular status
Vulnerable population
Previous HIV diagnosis*



*Low socioec. level
Lack social support
Low literacy*



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