



Socio-Contextual Influences on Time to Viral Suppression (VS) in the Deep South: A Qualitative Analysis

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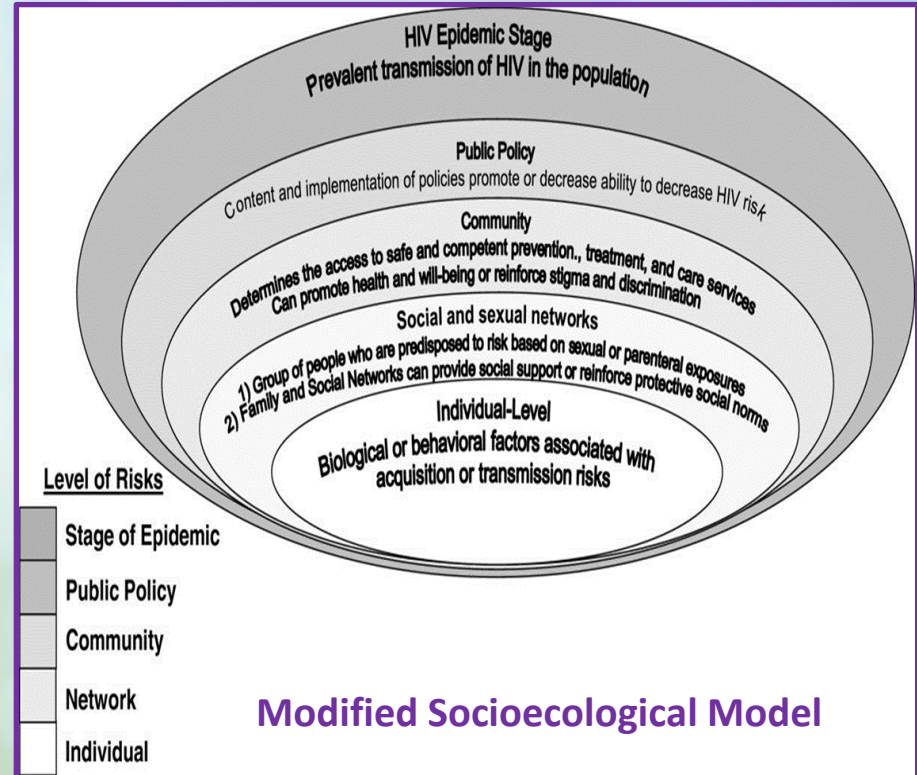
- Characterize geographic variability in time to viral suppression (VS) quantitatively, qualitatively, & geospatially
- Develop rapid ART intervention program that hastens VS when delivered in underserved areas of greatest need





Qualitative Methods

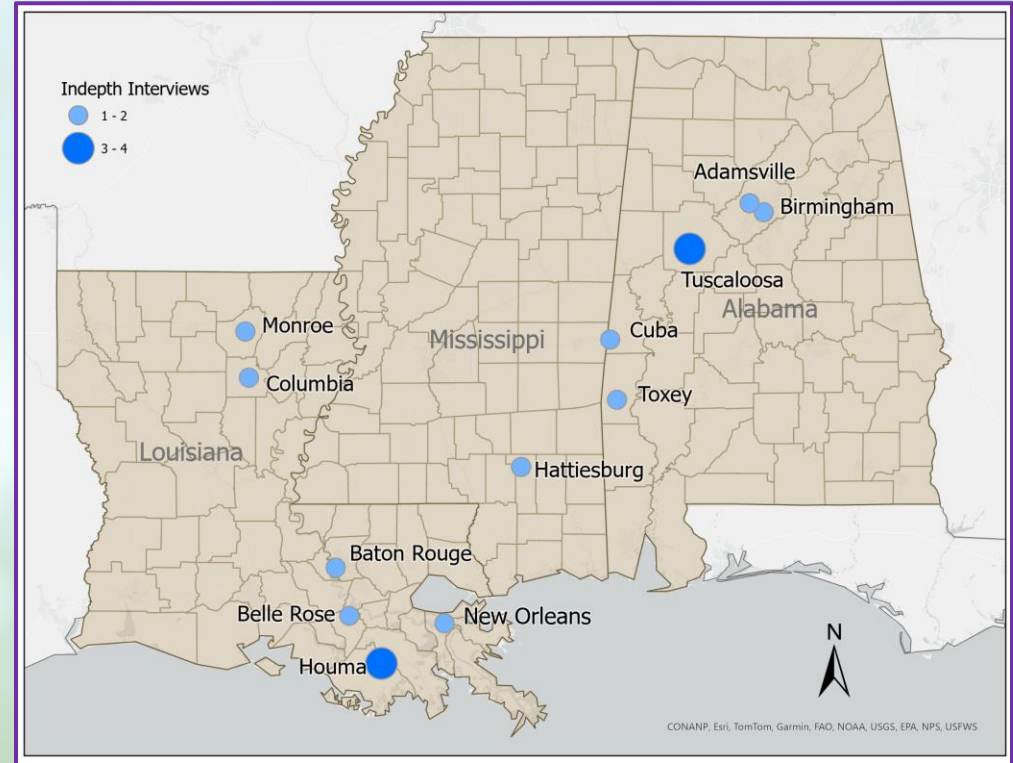
- In-depth interviews (IDI) to gauge experiences & perceptions of time to VS, lasting up to 90 minutes
- Adult English-speaking PWH residing in AL, LA, MS
- \$50 incentive
- Human subjects protection approved by UAB IRB
- Inductive coding





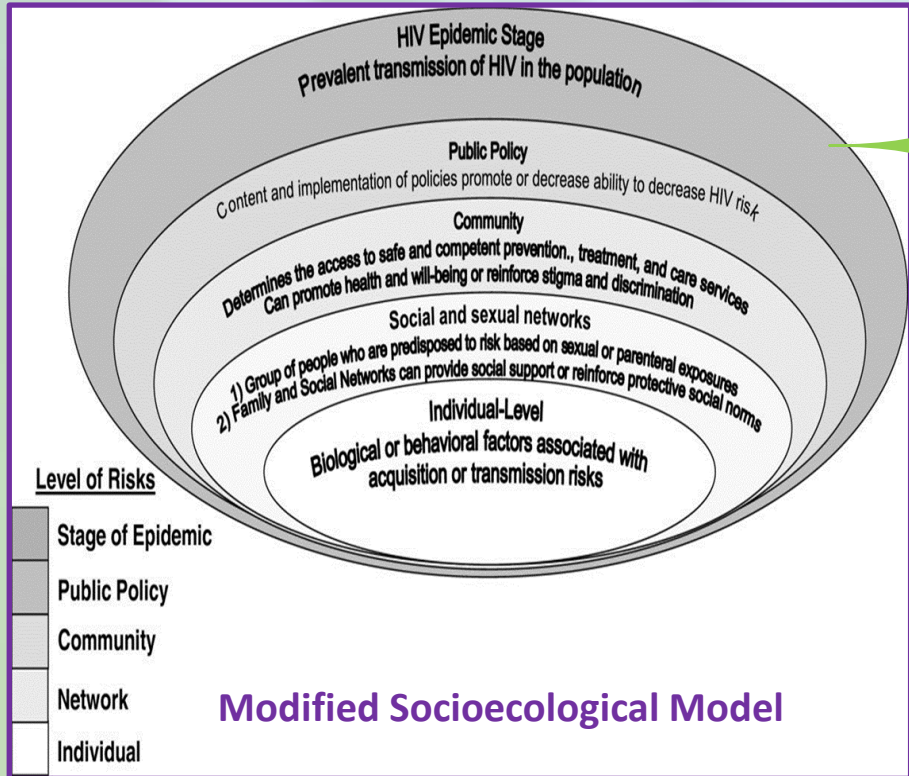
Qualitative Results

- **Participant Demographics**
 - 75% Male
 - 75% Black
 - 80% 50+ years old
 - 65% 16+ years since diagnosis
 - Geographically diverse





Qualitative Results: Perceived Influences on Time to VS

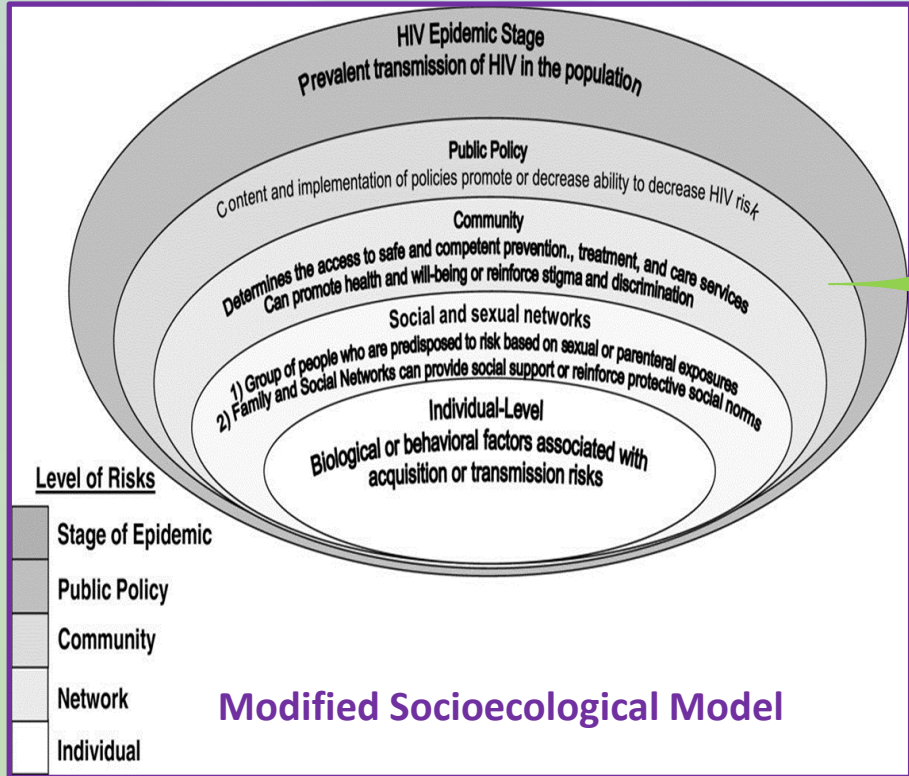


HIV Epidemic Stage

- **Facilitators**
 - Comprehensive HIV care
 - HIV an important health concern
- **Barriers**
 - Stigma
 - Lack of HIV education/communication
 - Health disparities associated with race & age



Qualitative Results: Perceived Influences on Time to VS

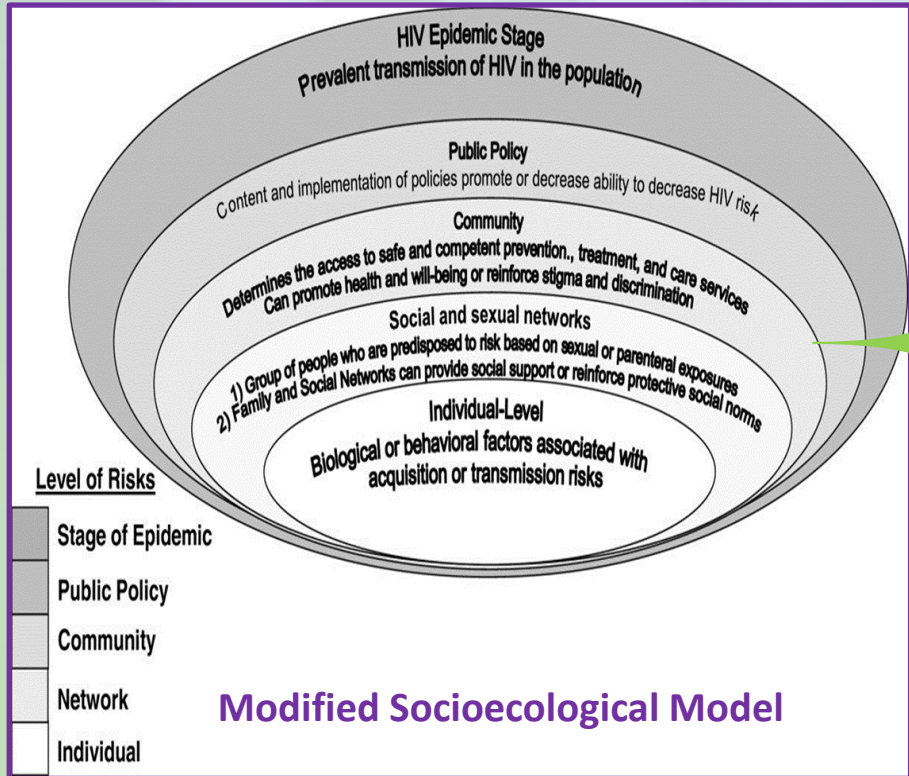


Public Policy

- **Facilitators**
 - Medicaid expansion in LA
 - Food Stamps
 - Ryan White Program
- **Barriers**
 - HIV criminalization laws



Qualitative Results: Perceived Influences on Time to VS

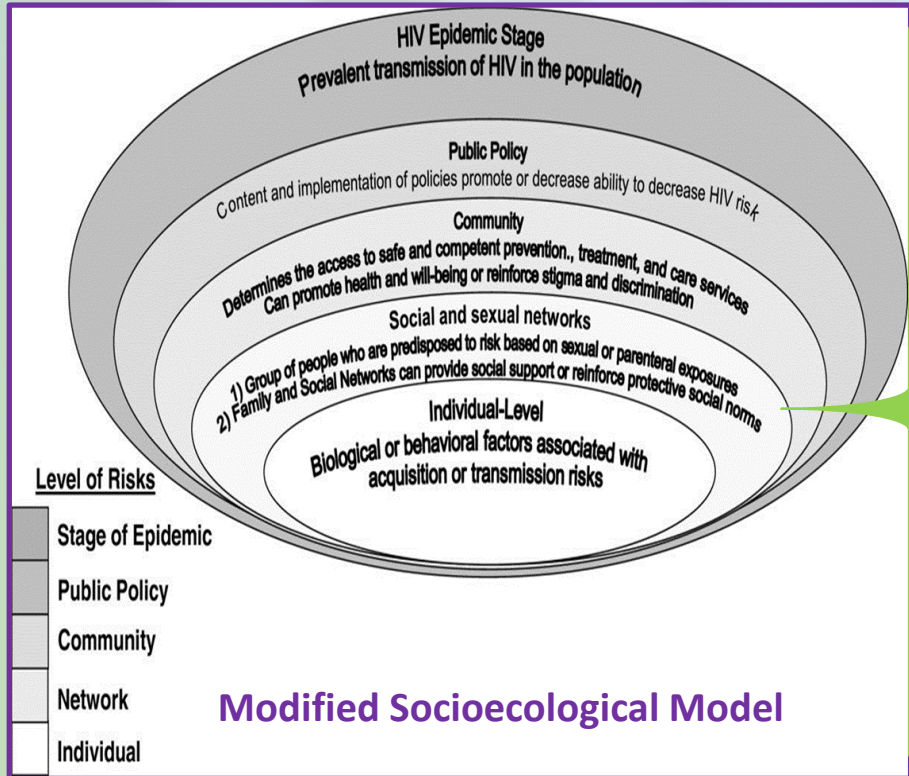


Community

- **Facilitators**
 - Support groups for PWH
 - Social cohesion
- **Barriers**
 - Affordable housing shortage
 - Religious & political conservatism
 - Lack of HIV education in schools
 - Limited public transportation
 - Limited employment opportunities



Qualitative Results: Perceived Influences on Time to VS

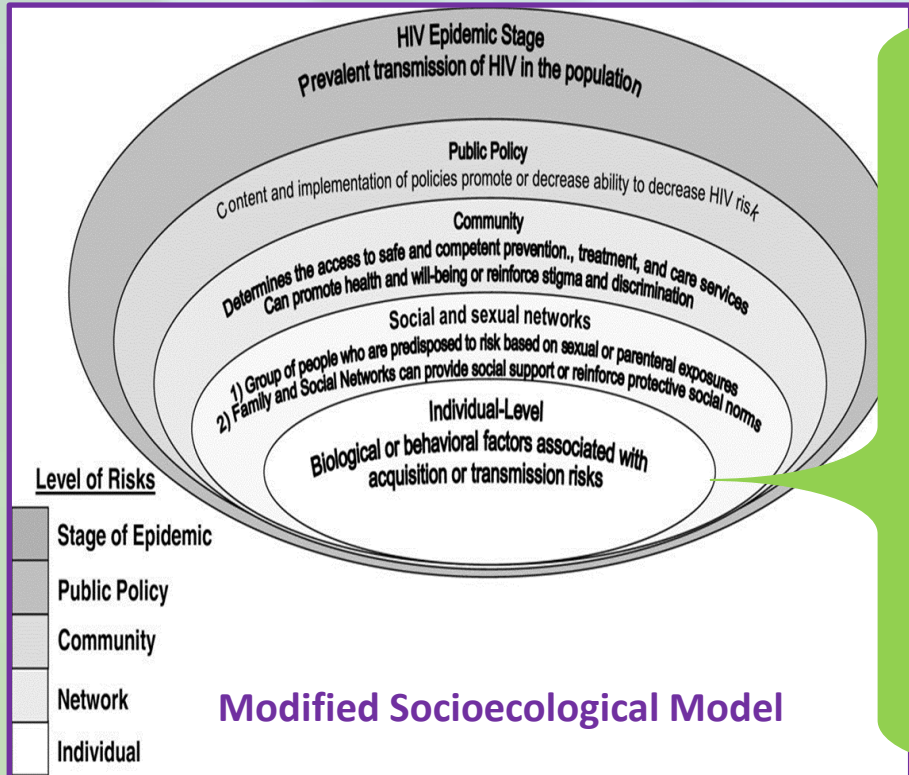


Social & Sexual Networks

- **Facilitators**
 - Social media as a way to extend social network
- **Barriers**
 - Experienced & anticipated stigma from community
 - Experienced & anticipated stigma from family & friends



Qualitative Results: Perceived Influences on Time to VS



- **Facilitators**
 - High self-efficacy
 - Religion/Faith
 - Protective/Proactive behavior
- **Barriers**
 - Unmet basic needs
 - Depression/substance use
 - Cognitive health/memory



Key Points & Next Steps

PWH acknowledge barriers and facilitators to achieving VS at all stages of the Modified Socioecological model.

While many reported influences on time to VS can exist anywhere, others may be unique to the Deep South.

Considering these multi-level influences on time to VS provide greater context to geographic variability in time to VS and is necessary to design effective & sustainable interventions.



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