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Purpose:

The purpose of this study was to `Evaluate the Antiretroviral Therapy Program in the Primary Health Care setting of Lesotho`.

Objectives:

- There were five objectives for this quantitative aspect of the study.
- . Describe ART services offered in PHC settings of Lesotho
 - . Determine successes and challenges in the implementation of the ART program in PHC settings of Lesotho
 - . Determine if staffing patterns had an effect on number of ART services offered; number of days ART services are offered; time spent by patients seeking ART services at the facility; time taken by a patient to consult a registered nurse midwife/clinicians; Describe perceptions of registered nurses/ midwives/ nurse clinicians on ART program

- There were two objectives for the qualitative aspect of the study.
- . Explore and describe experiences and views of registered nurse midwives/clinicians on the ART program in the PHC Settings
 - . Explore and describe experiences and views of patients on the ART program in the PHC Settings

The final objective was to develop an evaluation tool that can be used to assess the ART program in PHC settings of Lesotho

Research Design:

A convergent parallel mixed methods design was used to collect the data. Both quantitative and qualitative data was collected and was analysed during the same phase of the research process. Quantitative data assisted the researcher to describe the antiretroviral therapy program currently being implemented whereas the qualitative data was used to describe the experiences of both health care providers and patients on the program. The researcher believes both sets of data combined enhanced greater understanding of the ART program in the primary health care setting of Lesotho and its evaluation thereof. The mixed methods design allowed the researcher to address a range confirmatory and exploratory questions and for stronger inferences. Use of both quantitative and qualitative data sets allowed a combination of inductive and deductive reasoning and enhanced greater confidence in the results obtained

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Evaluation of the Antiretroviral Therapy Program in the Primary Health Care settings of Lesotho

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Research Participants:

Two groups of respondents participated in the study. The first group was composed of registered nurses/midwives/ nurse clinicians who provided amongst other services, HIV/AIDS services and were willing and available to participate in the study. The second group was composed of adults aged 18 years and older who were HIV/AIDS positive, could speak either Sesotho and/or English and were available at the time of the study.

Results

Quantitative Results: Statistical package for the Social Sciences (SPSS version 23) was used to analyse quantitative data. Data was captured as per variables on the questionnaire and cleaned before it was analysed.

Table 1: Responses on number of days ART services are offered (n= 197)						
Days	1	2	3	4	5	>5
% re- sponse	3	6	6	8	71	6
Mean =4.5 (CI=4.4-4.7) Standard deviation = 1 Kruskal Wallis ANOVA: p= 0.000 α=0.05						

Table 2: Responses on number of days PMTCT services are offered (n=194)						
Days	1	2	3	4	5	>5
% Re- sponse	8	24	7	9	53	2
Mean = 3.8 (CI=3.6-4.0) Standard deviation= 1.6 Kruskal Wallis ANOVA: p=0.000 α=0.05						

Table 3: Responses on average time spent at facility (n=174)						
Time	30 mins	1hr	2hrs	3hrs	4 hrs	>4 hrs
% Re- sponse	40	17	19	4	12	3
Mean=2.7 (CI=2.4-3.0) Standard deviation = 2 Kruskal Wallis ANOVA: p=0.002 α=0.05						

Table 4: Responses on adequacy of staff to provide ART services (n=196)						
Re- sponse	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No answer
% re- sponse	16	23	13.2	28	19.3	0.5
Kruskal-Wallis ANOVA: p=0.000 α=0.05						

Qualitative Results Qualitative content analysis was use to analyse the data. Tesch (1990) explained that the purpose of this kind of analysis is to make replicable and valid inferences from data to their context.

Theme 1 The ART program	Theme 2 ART service delivery	Theme 3 Staffing Adequacy																																															
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