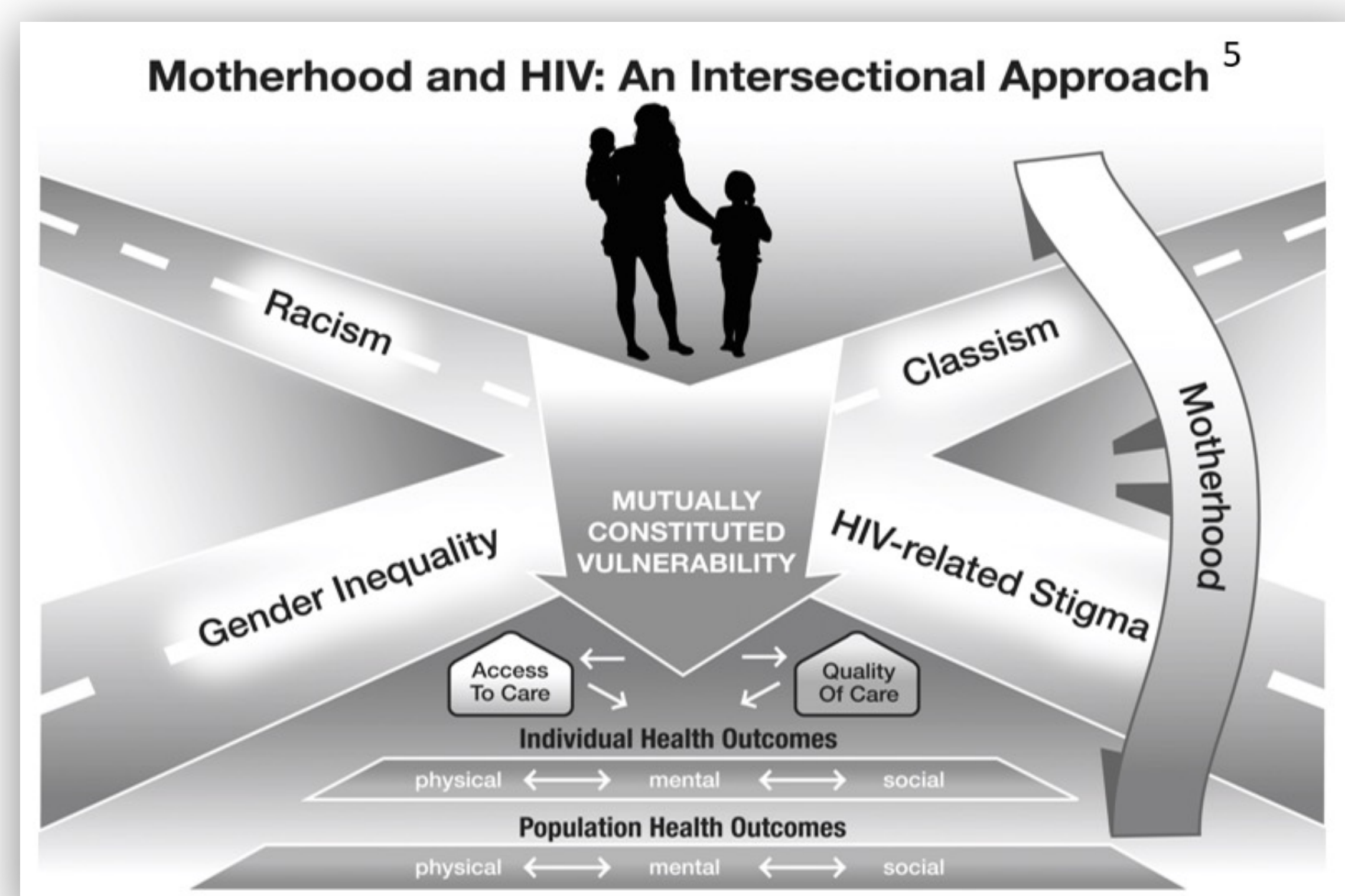


BACKGROUND

- Long standing **health inequities** in the United States persist and, in some cases, are worsening¹
- **Health inequities** are not just disparate health outcomes among certain populations, rather they are avoidable and unjust systemic differences in health outcomes based on the position people and communities occupy in a social hierarchy²
- Research findings demonstrate health inequities in both preventable disease (e.g., obesity, diabetes, and cancer) and high-risk health behaviors (e.g., smoking, poor diet, and physical inactivity)¹
- **Structural competency** is the trained ability to identify, analyze, and address the relationships between structural factors and health outcomes^{3, 4}



HIGHLIGHTS FROM NURSING & INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- As Multiple Principal Investigator, awarded a Diversity and Inclusion Research and Scholarship (DIRS) Program Grant titled **Advancing Health Equity through Structural Competency (HEAT-SC)**
- **Purpose:** To adapt and implement the structural competency curriculum involving a diverse interprofessional group of healthcare providers at ECU with the ultimate objective of improving health equity and patient-centered care in Eastern North Carolina
- Efforts to integrate a structural lens: using the structural competency framework; examining and incorporating significant structural barriers and facilitators to health in Eastern North Carolina into the curriculum; expert interdisciplinary advisory board
- Research team comprised of interdisciplinary learners at many stages of the learning process: 2 PhD nursing students, 2 undergraduate Health Promotion & Education students, 1 undergraduate honors BSN student

HIGHLIGHTS FROM RESEARCH

- As Principal Investigator, awarded a R21 titled **Modeling perceptions of social location and decision-making to develop targeted messaging promoting HIV care engagement and ART adherence among women living with HIV in the South** [R21NR020164 NINR/NIH]
- **Purpose:** In collaboration with a Community/Clinician Advisory Board (CCAB), we aim to develop an intervention to enhance HIV care engagement and antiretroviral therapy (ART) adherence of women living with HIV (WLWH) in the South by conducting an exploratory multistage, sequential mixed methods study guided by an intersectional framework and incorporating a novel technique called perceptual mapping and vector message modeling,
- Efforts to integrate a structural lens: examining structural barriers and facilitators to HIV care engagement & ART adherence; community-engagement throughout; using an intersectional approach
- Research team comprised of interdisciplinary learners at many stages of the learning process: 2 PhD nursing students, 1 PhD public health student, 1 Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) student, 2 undergraduate honors BSN students

Recent Examples of Integrated Learning & Scholarship

- Wise, J., Caiola, C., & Njie-Carr, V. (2023). A Fundamental Shift in Nursing is a Requisite for Achieving Health Equity: The Nurses' Role in Addressing Social Determinants of Health. *Journal of Association of Nurses in AIDS Care*, 34(1), 125-131. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1097/JNC.0000000000000383>
- Caiola, C., Nelson, T., Black, K., Calogero, C., Corral, I., Guard, K., Haberstroh, A. (2022). Structural Competency in Pre-health and Health Professional Learning: A Scoping Review. *Journal of Interprofessional Care*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/13561820.2022.2124238>



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1. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine; Health and Medicine Division; Board on Population Health and Public Health Practice; Committee on Community-Based Solutions to Promote Health Equity in the United State. The State of Health Disparities in the United States. In: *Communities in Action: Pathways to Health Equity*. Washington, DC: National Academies Press; 2017.
2. Graham H. Social determinants and their unequal distribution: clarifying policy understandings. *Milbank Q.* 2004;82(1):101-124. doi:10.1111/j.0887-378x.2004.00303.x
3. Metz J, Hansen H. Structural competency: theorizing a new medical engagement with stigma and inequality. *Soc Sci Med.* 2014;103:126-133. doi:10.1016/j.socscimed.2013.06.032
4. Hansen H, Metz J. Structural Competency in the U.S. Healthcare Crisis: Putting Social and Policy Interventions Into Clinical Practice. *J Bioethical Inq.* 2016;13(2):179-183. doi:10.1007/s11673-016-9719-z
5. Caiola C, Docherty SL, Relf M, Barroso J. Using an intersectional approach to study the impact of social determinants of health for African American mothers living with HIV. *ANS Adv Nurs Sci.* 2014;37(4):287-298. doi:10.1097/ANS.0000000000000046