

Background and aim

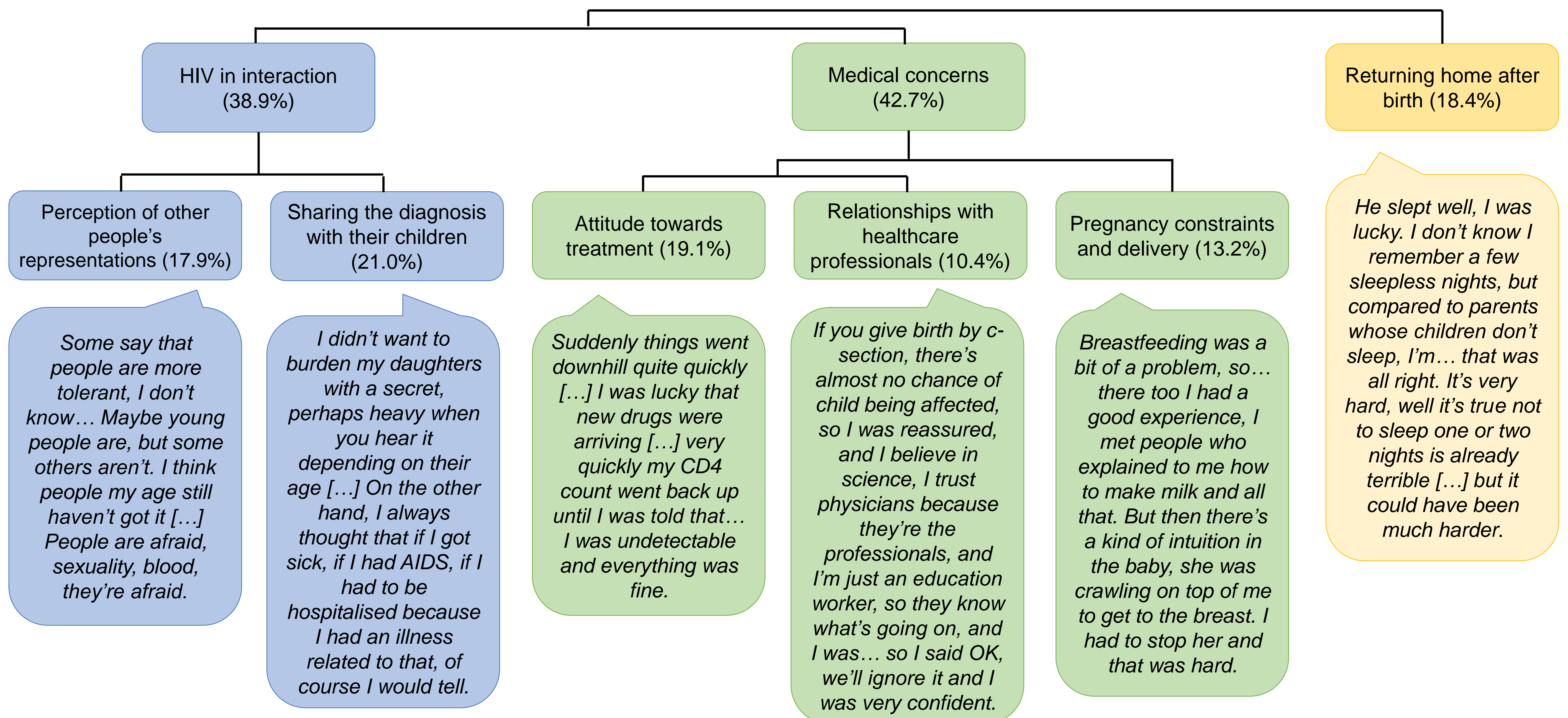
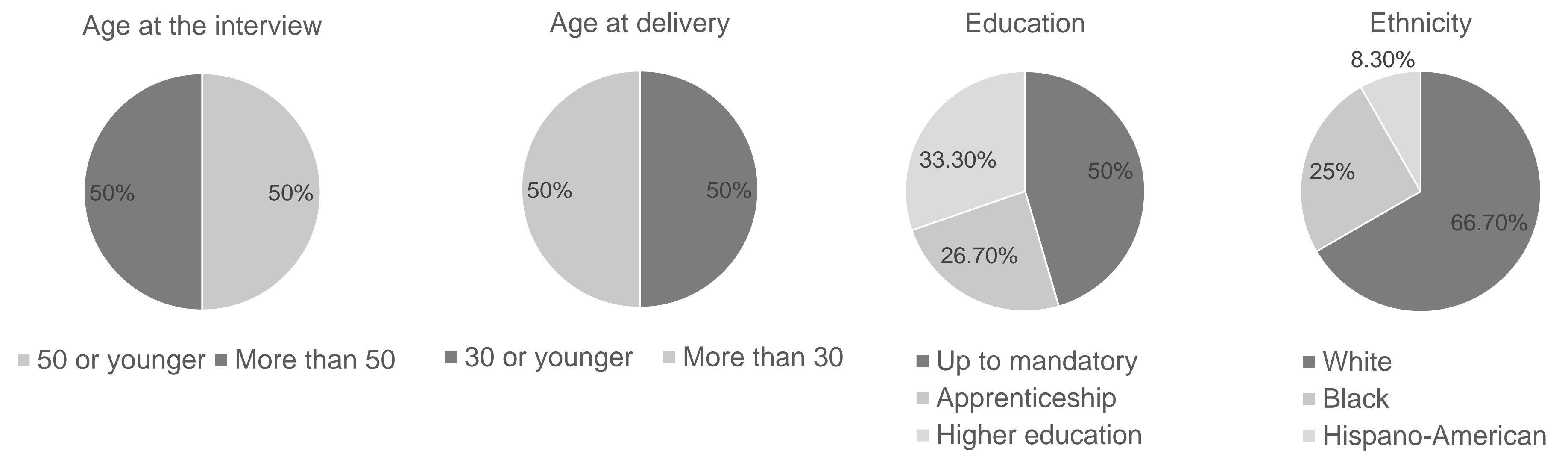
- Childbirth is considered a major life event and a fundamental right. However, very little is known on how women with HIV (WWH) lived that milestone through the early ART era
- In the early ART era, pregnant WWH not already on ART were offered treatment after the first trimester. Delivery by Caesarean section was recommended under continuous ART perfusion. Infants were bottle-fed and neonatal PEP was carried during the first weeks of life. At this time, there was no parameter assuring zero perinatal transmission and no data regarding the long-term effects of *in utero* ART exposure¹.
- **The aim of the current study was to hear the perspective of WWH who gave birth in the early ART era, determine what could have improved the experience of pregnancy and motherhood, and how these improvements might be implemented for today's generation of WWH.**

Methods

- **Patient and Public Involvement (PPI)** was an integral part of this study, a collaboration between qualitative researchers, clinicians, and a patient expert.
- Between November 2023 and April 2024, consenting WWH attended confidential one-to-one **semi-structured interviews** of up to 60 minutes with a trained researcher. French-speaking WWH who had experienced ART during pregnancy and who gave birth between 2000 and 2008 to an HIV-negative child were eligible to participate.
- Themes covered included: birth and pregnancy plans, mother and child health, relationships with health professionals, social support, stigma, and representations of motherhood.
- Interviews were recorded and then transcribed. Analyses were conducted using IRaMuTeQ. This software performs various **text analyses**, including discourse classification based on word frequency and co-occurrence. The classification generated by the software was then interpreted by members of the research team trained in qualitative methods.

Results

- **12 WWH took part in the study** before data saturation occurred.
- Analyses showed that three main themes emerged from participants' transcripts:
 - **HIV in interaction (38.9%)**, subdivided into two sub-themes
 - **Medical concerns (42.7%)**, subdivided into three sub-themes
 - **Returning home after birth (18.4%)**



Themes, sub-themes and typical quotes of the analysis. Percentages correspond to the proportion of text in each theme/sub-theme

Discussion and implications



Acknowledgements & Funding

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References

1. MMWR 51(RR18);1-38. November 2002