



PLWH and LGBT Elder Abuse: A Systematic Review

Dr. Casey Xavier Hall and Rordan Mullen



Abstract

BACKGROUND: Members of the LGBTQ+ community are susceptible to multiple forms of stigma and violence, namely homophobia, discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, hate crimes and domestic violence. People living with HIV/Aids (PLWH) are subjected to similar expressions of prejudice due to the lingering stigma and lack of education regarding the disease, almost half a century after the AIDS epidemic began to grip the United States. However, a commonly overlooked intersection of these two groups is the hate and abuse specifically targeted towards LGBTQ+ people or PLWH who are older than middle-aged. Little research has been focused on the impact that being an older PLWH or LGBTQ+ member has on the likelihood of experiencing violence and discrimination.

GOALS: This study is a systematic review that seeks to analyze existing literature written on this topic, aiming to understand the prevalence of stigma and violence affecting these groups. The platform Covidence was used to analyze the abstracts of over 10,000 research articles, in order to select those meeting the proper criteria to then be reviewed (original work, LGBTQ+ or PLWH subjects over the age of 50, mentions of violence including discrimination and physical abuse). The articles that met this criteria then will have their full texts reviewed in order to have both qualitative and quantitative data extracted. This project is ongoing.

^ Title and abstract screening

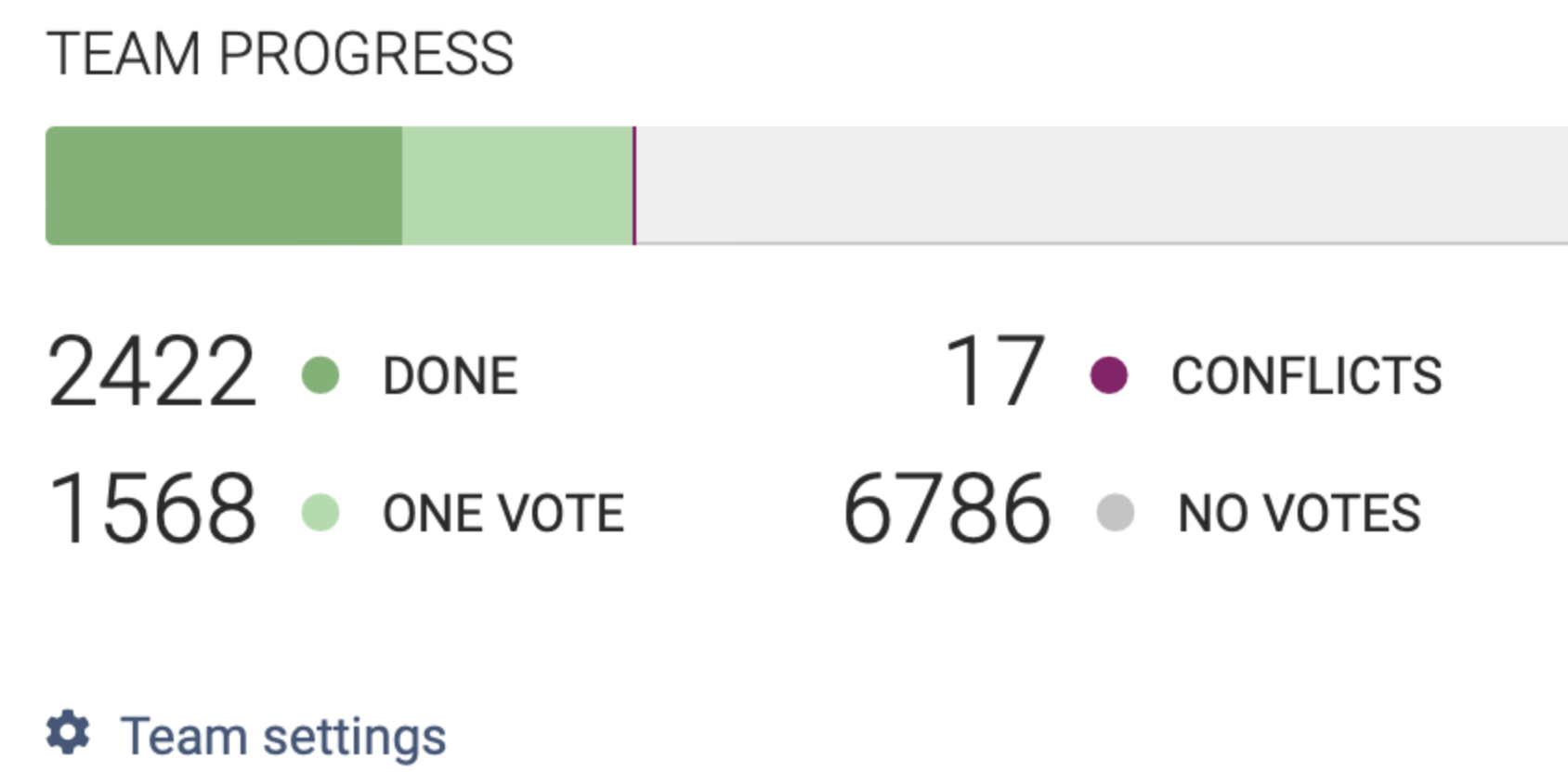


Fig 1.1. A screenshot of the Covidence software home screen. Listed are the abstracts screened with two votes (Done), one vote, projects left to screen, and conflicted votes ready to be resolved.

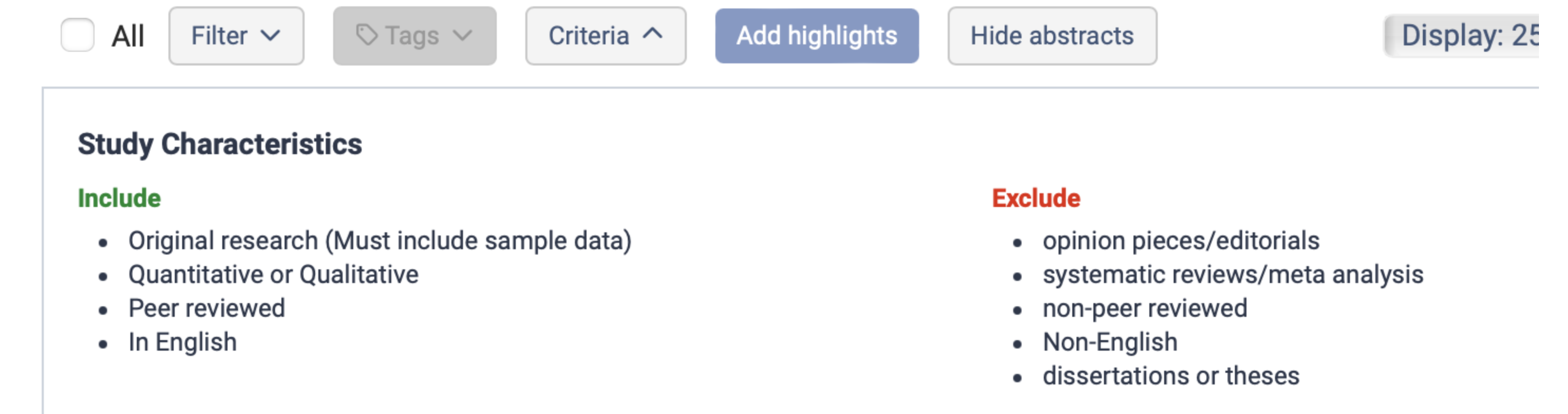


Fig 1.2. A screenshot of an example of the criteria for the project. One column, "Include" consists of criteria that should be included in the abstract. The column "Exclude" lists characteristics that should result in a negative vote.

Methods

The online systematic review platform *COVIDENCE* was used to search and include over 10,000 articles that may be relevant to the paper (Fig 1.1). All 3 members of the project had the ability to read the extracted abstract of these papers and deem whether they met the criteria to move onto the full-text review (Fig 1.3). Two similar votes on an abstract (*Yes* or *No*) are enough to move the text to the next step. Two opposing votes can be resolved by a third decision.

Criteria (Fig 1.2) for appropriate abstracts included:

- Must be an original study (no systematic reviews)
- Study subjects must either be LGBTQ+ or PLWH
- Studies must include subjects that are over the age of 50
- Must mention forms of violence (can include physical or psychological, stigma, discrimination, etc)

Results

As this project is ongoing, there are no conclusive results yet. The studies are still being screened and will then be screened in the full text review in order for data to be analyzed for trends.

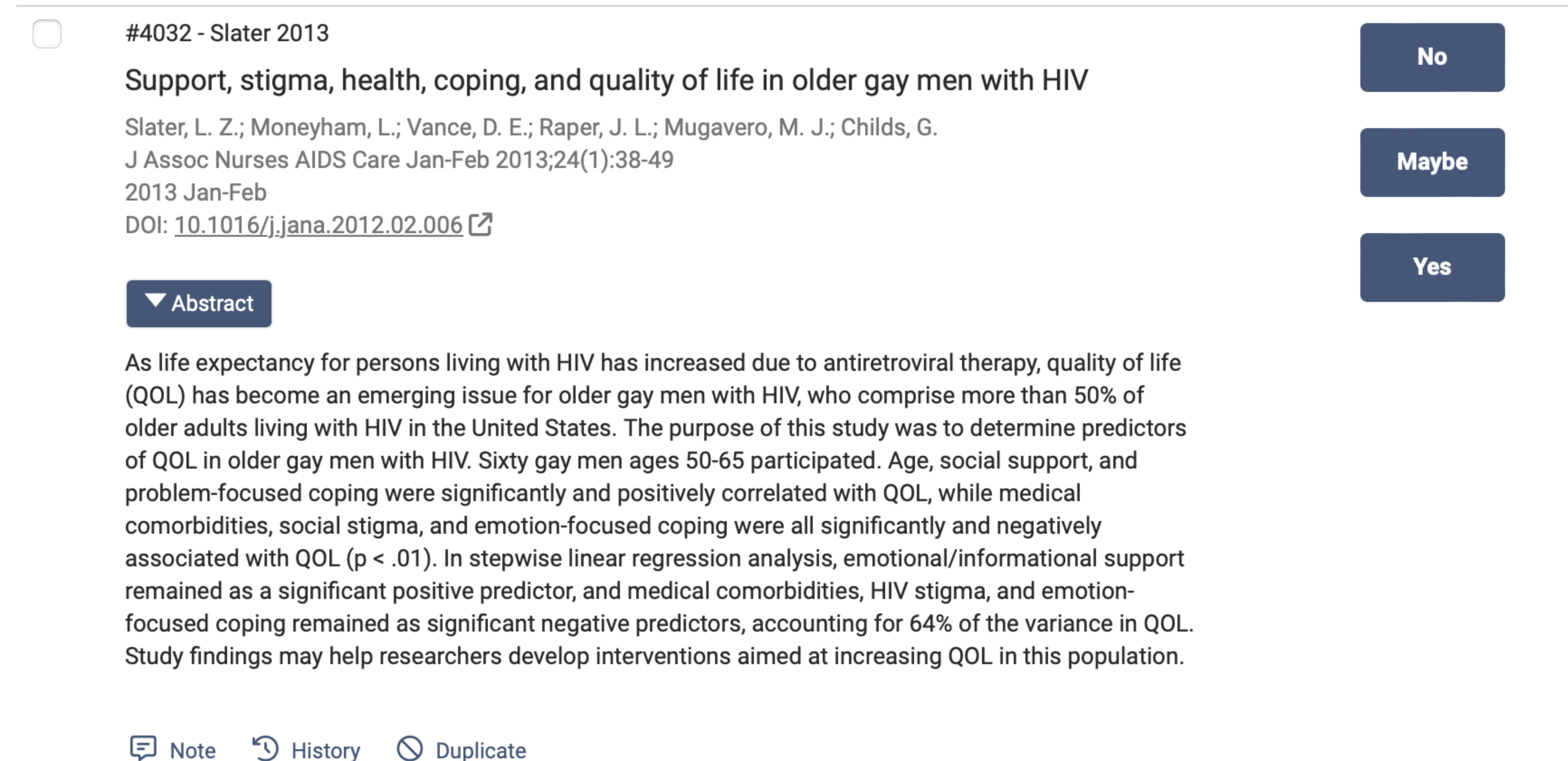


Fig 1.3 . A screenshot of an example of an abstract ready to screen. The title, contributors, journal and date are listed, along with a DOI to access the full text. The abstract is then presented below. To the left are the possible votes that can be assigned to each individual abstract (*No*, *Maybe* or *Yes*).

