

Group Report 2

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Group Report 2:

Part 1:

Research question:

Strengthening HIV Care through the integration of traditional health practitioners in Johannesburg's Ward 130.

Revised Research question:

How do existing studies conceptualise and describe the nature of relationships between biomedical health services and African healing practices in South Africa, and what strategies have been proposed or implemented to manage these relationships?

Explanation:

We expanded the context of the research to a broader population instead of just focusing on Ward 130. We changed our focus from integrating the 2 systems to allowing them to collaborate while still letting them maintain/keep their original identities. The removal of the word "integration" reflects the fact that full integration between THPs and biomedical practitioners is not yet possible. **Focusing on the nature of the existing relationship allows for an open investigation into how these stakeholders currently interact without assuming a specific type of partnership such as "collaboration"**. This approach therefore avoids defining the relationship into specific terms but rather allows us to explore what is described in existing literature including its potential impact on continuity of care and treatment outcomes. We have decided to make the new research question more relevant beyond the context of fictitious ward 130 compared to the previous research question. The new research question allows us to look at and explore other studies that have been previously done and to see whether they make mention of assimilation, incorporation, collaboration, integration or even other strategies instead of just focusing on integration as in the previous research question. The new research question is formulated to help us map the relationship between the two health systems instead of assuming that they are being integrated as in the original research question.

Part 2:

Databases:

PubMed, Google Scholar.

Search terms:

Traditional health practitioners, biomedical health services, promotion, relationship, strategies, HIV, policy, South African health system, African healing, western medicine, public health system, traditional healing, indigenous medicine, collaboration, incorporation, South

- This study will only consider research conducted in the context of South Africa to ensure cultural, policy and healthcare system relevance. Studies that are conducted outside of South Africa but provide relevant insights will be considered. **Justification: For local relevance: consideration of external studies with relevant insights allows for a broader understanding while maintaining South Africa focus.**
- This study will only consider studies that make mention of or are linked to HIV-related health services. Studies that focus on other diseases will not be included. **Justification: To narrow scope to HIV care, addressing specific challenges and collaborations in this context.**
- This study will only consider studies published between 2005 and 2025 to ensure that the findings are relevant to current healthcare practices and policies in South Africa. The starting point of 2005 is chosen to provide contextual insight leading up to the enactment of the Traditional Health Practitioners Act in 2007 (Government Gazette REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, 2008), which formally recognized Traditional Health Practitioners within the national health system. Studies that were conducted before 2005 will not be considered. **Justification: To ensure findings reflect current healthcare practices, policies, and technological advancements in South Africa's evolving healthcare landscape.**

Part 4:

Title	Year of Publication	Authors	Country	Relationship Strategies	HIV Care aspects	Context of the relationship	Policies governing relationship	Outcomes/Impacts
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Reference list

- Government Gazette REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA. (2008). Available at: https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/201409/a22-07.pdf [Accessed 22 Jul. 2025].
- Karen Elizabeth Flint (2008). *Healing traditions : African medicine, cultural exchange, and competition in South Africa, 1820-1948*. Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press ; Scottsville, South Africa.
- PubMed. (2015a). (*Health policy OR health system*) AND (*traditional healing OR indigenous medicine*) AND *South Africa* AND *biomedical medicine* AND (*strategies OR approaches*) AND *relationship* - *Search Results - PubMed*. [online] Available at: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%28Health+policy+OR+health+system%29+AND+%28traditional+healing+OR+indigenous+medicine%29+AND+South+Africa+AND+biomedical+medicine+AND+%28strategies+OR+approaches%29+AND+relationship+++> [Accessed 22 Jul. 2025].
- PubMed. (2015b). (*Traditional healing OR African healing OR indigenous medicine*) AND (*biomedical OR western medicine*) AND (*South Africa*) AND (*incorporation OR assimilation OR collaboration OR relationship OR promotion*) AND *strategies* AND (*HIV*) - *Search Results - PubMed*. [online] Available at: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%28Traditional+healing+OR+African+healing+OR+indigenous+medicine%29+AND+%28biomedical+OR+western+medicine%29+AND+South+Africa%29+AND+%28incorporation+OR+assimilation+OR+collaboration+OR+relationship+OR+promotion%29+AND+strategies+AND+%28HIV%29> [Accessed 22 Jul. 2025].
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