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

Objectives:

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
- Examine and describe experiences and views of patients on the ART program in the PHC Settings

There were five objectives for this quantitative aspect of the study.

- Determine if staffing patterns had an effect on number of ART services 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
- Describe ART services offered in PHC settings of Lesotho
- Determine if staffing patterns had an effect on number of ART services 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
- 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 inference. Use of both quantitative and qualitative data sets allowed a combination of inductive and deductive reasoning and enhanced greater confidence in the results obtained.