

Paving the Way to Healthcare Equity: Raising Awareness of Existing Gaps in the Dermatologic Care of Diverse Populations in the United States.

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BACKGROUND

The field of dermatology has long recognized the heterogeneity of clinical manifestations, disease burden, and management approaches across diverse populations. Nonetheless, a comprehensive overview of existing care gaps is lacking

OBJECTIVE

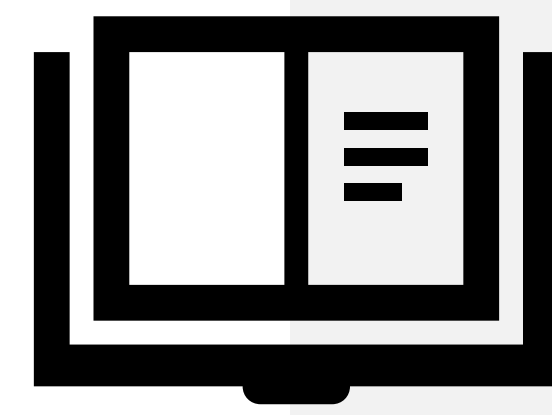
Despite growing awareness of the disparities in dermatologic health outcomes among populations with skin of color (SOC) in the United States (US), there is a need to synthesize the current literature to facilitate evidence-based decision-making, guide future initiatives, and ultimately, achieve healthcare (HC) equity

CONCLUSIONS

- Although numerous initiatives have sought to address the disparities in dermatologic health outcomes across diverse populations in the US, there is a need for more targeted, empirically-rooted engagement
- To provide optimal care for patients of all backgrounds, understanding the factors that contribute to these incongruities is a crucial step towards the development of potential solutions
- This study aims to inspire future initiatives by evaluating existing care gaps in dermatology and proposing a structured framework for periodic assessment of the outcomes attained from these actions

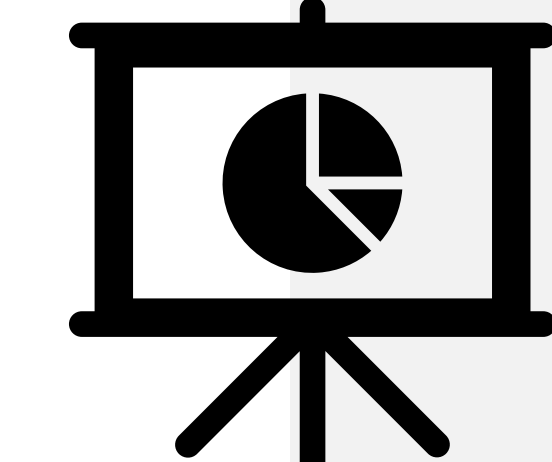
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METHODOLOGY



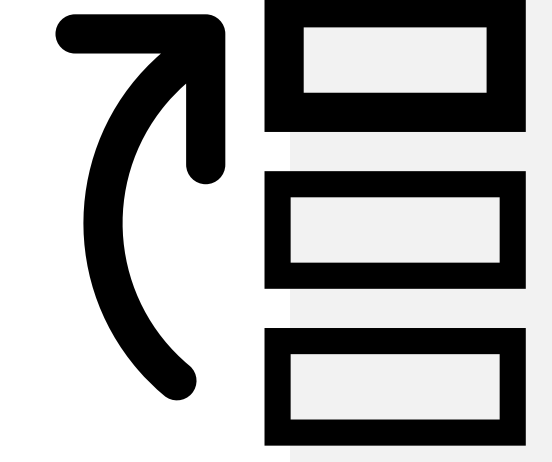
Literature Search

PubMed Search included English language articles published in the US between January 2020–April 2022 and specific search term combinations related to subpopulations, indications, and stakeholders



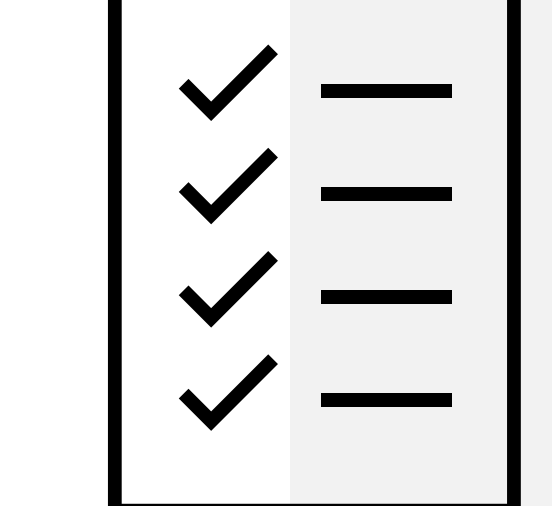
Review and Analysis

Search results yielded 70 high-priority articles, from which care gaps were extracted and categorized into 4 fundamental root causes



Literature Prioritization

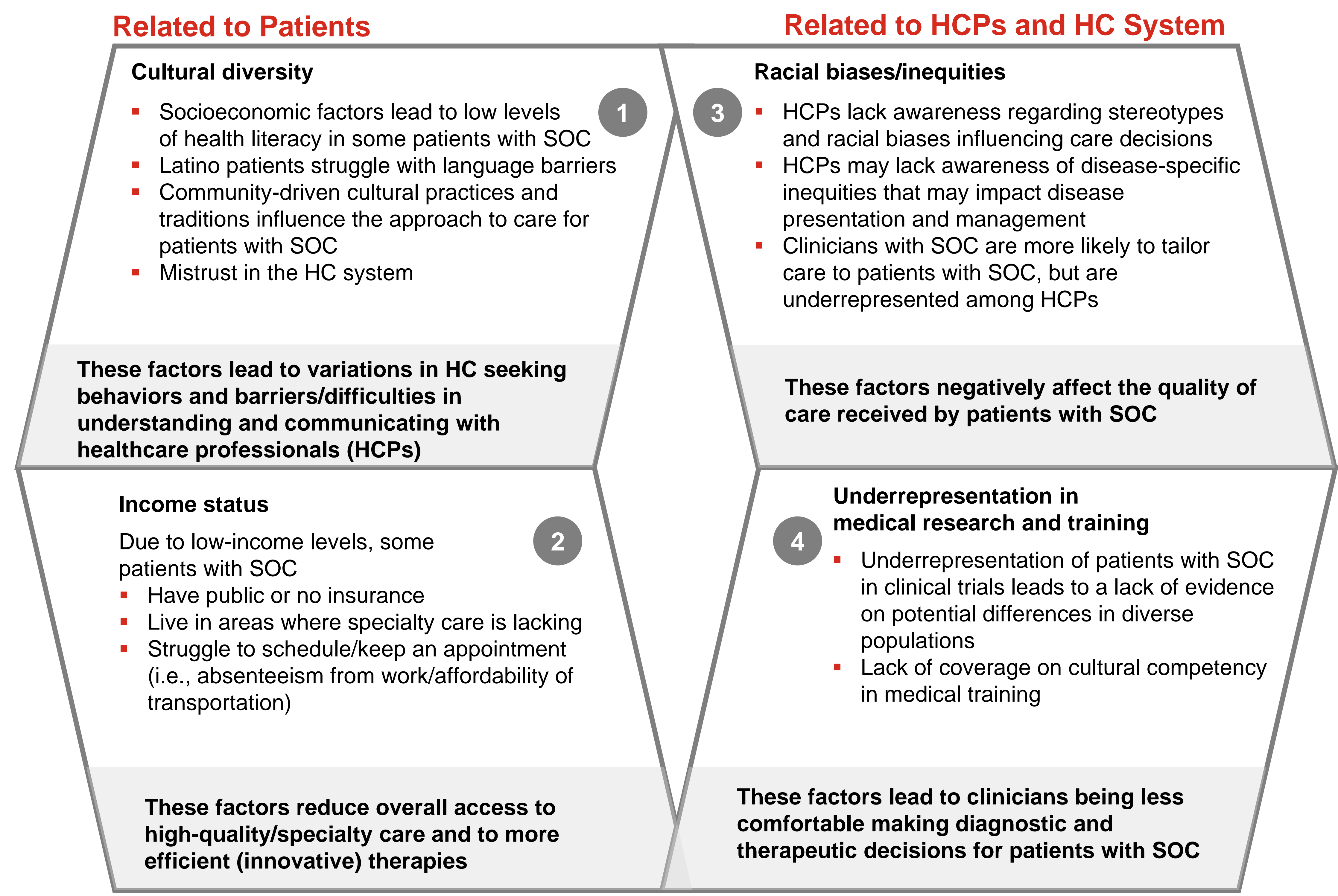
Titles and abstracts of the resulting articles were screened for their significance to populations with SOC (high-, mid-, or low-priority). *High-priority* articles had a high degree of relevance to SOC care; *medium-priority* articles were inconclusive; *low-priority* articles were not relevant to SOC care



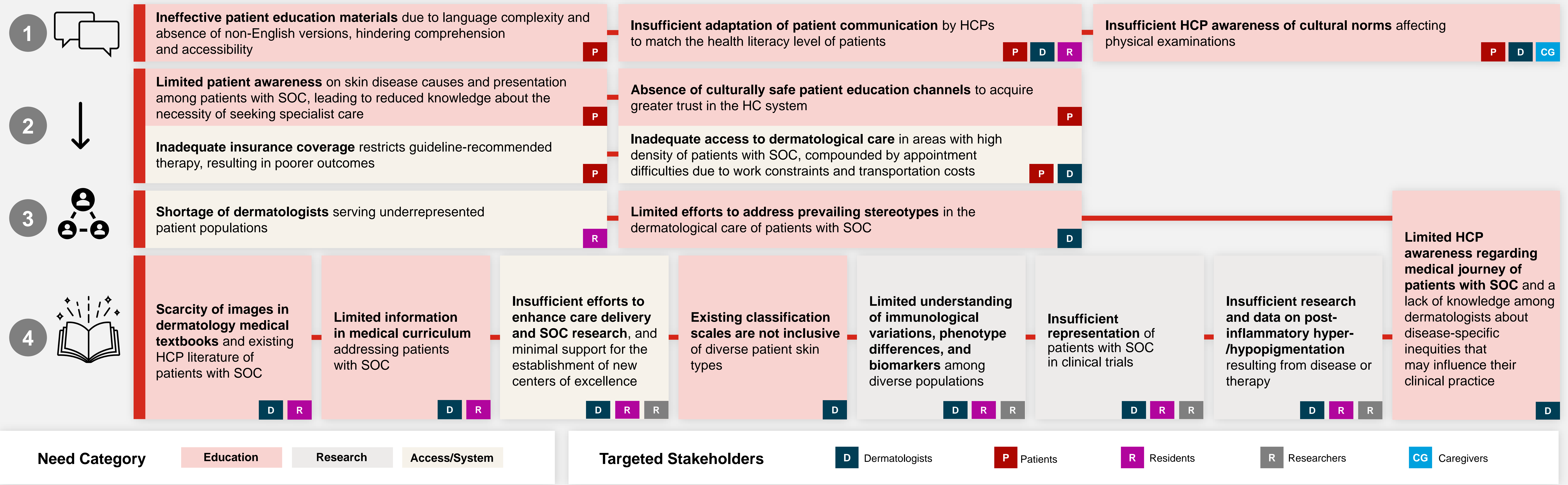
Summary Map

Based on need category and targeted stakeholders, the study identified and mapped 17 distinct care gaps. These findings were subsequently validated by expert thought leaders.

RESULTS – PROPOSED ROOT CAUSES OF CARE GAPS



RESULTS – PROPOSED CARE GAPS



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