

# Precarious Employment and Women's Health within the Context of Microenterprise

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## Background

### Precarious Employment

- Part-time, flexible, temporary, or self-employed work.
- Some level of insecurity related to income, benefits, or employment.
- Research purports the nature of the work: 1) may be detrimental to health, and 2) the flexibility and freedom may be beneficial to health.

### Microenterprise

- Programs provide loans/education to low-income populations to start businesses.
- Majority of clientele are women.
- Women are a strong link to the health and well-being of the family.
- Women's Self-Sufficiency Team (WESST) in New Mexico offers women and ethnic minorities loans and financial education to start microenterprises and leverage toward self-sufficiency.

### Social Ecology Model

- Theoretical framework.
- Links between diverse personal and environments factors.
- Guides design, implementation, evaluation of community health promotion programs.



## Purpose

To generate a baseline community health assessment with low-income women who work in microenterprise in New Mexico.

### Specific Aims

- 1.To identify the health concerns of low-income women who utilize resources from the Women's Economic Self-sufficiency Team (WESST) in New Mexico to support microenterprises.
- 2.To develop a social ecological model which identifies the dimensions and pathways between microenterprise and health for low-income women in New Mexico.

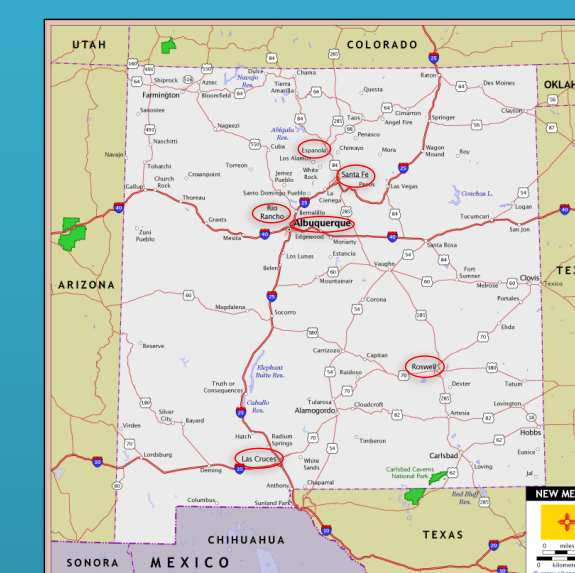
### Sample

- Self-identify as a woman.
- Current client with WESST.
- 21 to 65 years of age.
- Fluent in English.



## Methods

- Data collection: December 2009 to March 2010.
- Six focus groups: Las Cruces, Roswell, Santa Fe, Espanola, Albuquerque, and Rio Rancho.
- Las Cruces served as a beta site.
- Attendance ranged from 1 to 7 participants.



**Descriptive Statistics N=14**  
Age Range: 33-65 (Mean=50)

Variable	Frequency
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	
White	10
Hispanic-Latino	2
African American-Hispanic	1
Asian-White	1
<b>Education</b>	
Less than or equal to 12 years	2
Trade or business school	1
Some college	1
College/postgraduate	10
<b>Feeling of job security with microenterprise</b>	
Disagree	4
Neither agree or disagree	5
Agree	1
Strongly Agree	4
<b>Self-rated Health</b>	
Excellent	3
Good	9
Fair	2
<b>Health Insurance</b>	7

## Data Analysis

- Stage 1: In Process: Code transcripts and written notes individually and then collectively using Atlas.ti. and a codebook. Two raters.
- Stage 2: Inter-rater agreement and modifications.
- Stage 3: Content analysis. Themes identified.

## Implications

- To date, there is no research which addresses precarious employment and health within the context of microenterprise.
- These data will be used to increase the understanding of precarious employment and women's health within the context of microenterprise and focus on community-driven health promotion/intervention programs for low-income women.



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