

MARGINAL EMPLOYMENT AMONG MEXICAN AMERICAN WOMEN

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ABSTRACT

This paper will examine the integration of Mexican American women into the U.S. labor market by generation. To gain an understanding of the degree of labor market incorporation of Mexican American women, three forms of marginal employment, or underemployment, will be analyzed across generations: unemployment, involuntary part-time work, and working poverty. The author addresses two main questions. First, are there differences between Mexican American and white women in the propensity for marginal employment—joblessness, part-time employment, and working poverty—across generations? Second, do the effects of personal and job characteristics on marginal employment vary by ethnicity? Data come from matched files of the Annual Social and Economic (ASEC) Supplement File of the 2002-2007 Current Population Survey (CPS). Using multinomial logistic regression models, I will evaluate the degree of labor market incorporation of Mexican American women by simultaneously estimating the odds of falling into any of the three forms of marginal employment (unemployment, part-time work and working poverty), taking into consideration generational status and other factors associated with marginal employment.