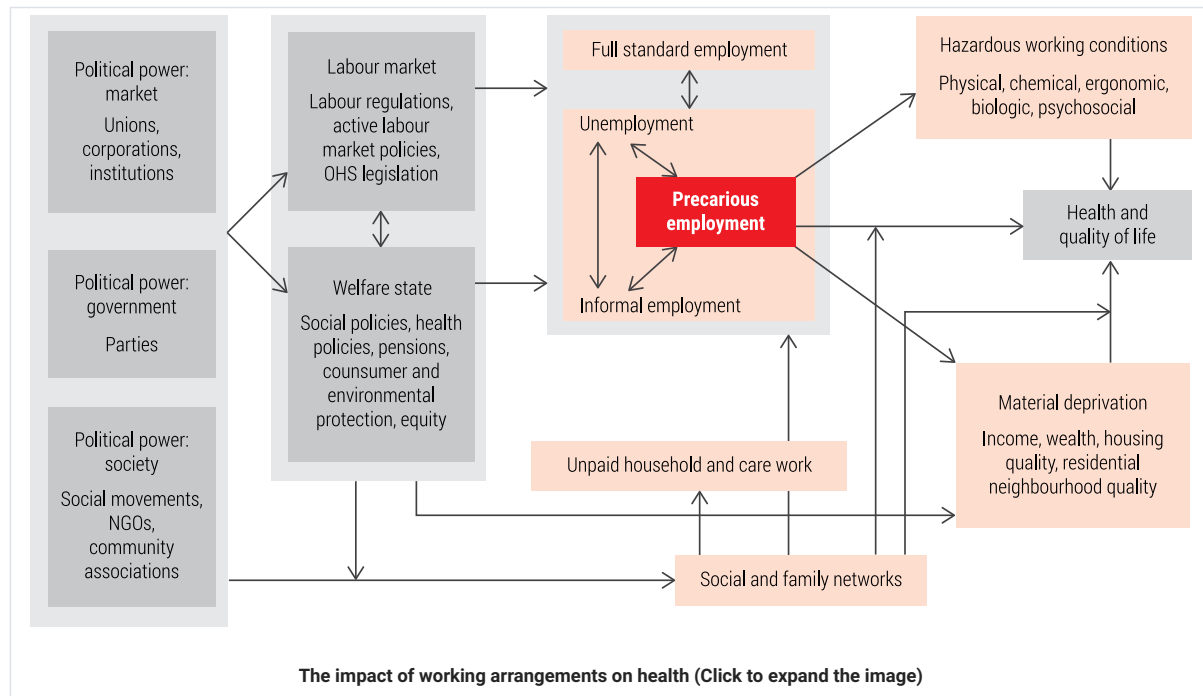


Topic 4: The social gradient, health inequalities and work

Engagement in secure, meaningful and safe work is a well-established determinant of health inequalities and the position of individuals and groups on the social gradient. For Topic 4 you will explore and critically reflect on the role of work in relation to the social gradient and health inequalities. The figure below from Benach et al. (2014) presents a visualisation of the complex interplay of factors that influence precarious working arrangements and the impacts on health. It worth noting the role of the governance, policy and workplace industrial relations in this figure.



Required reading

Benach et al. (2014) outline the role of employment precariousness as a determinant of health for workers, families and communities. There is a social gradient in workplaces and among communities depending on the way the are employment (secure continuing employment contrasted with precarious employment). This paper identifies the historical, economic and political factors that link precarious employment to health and health equity; reviews concepts, models, instruments, and findings on precarious employment and health inequalities; summarises the strengths and weaknesses of this literature; and highlights substantive and methodological challenges that need to be addressed.

- Benach, J, Vives, A, Amable, M, Vanroelen, C, Tarafa, G. & Muntaner, C 2014, 'Precarious employment: Understanding an emerging social determinant of health', [Annual Review of Public Health](#), vol. 35, no. 1, pp. 229–253.



Recommended reading

The International Labour Office (2018) has collected a range of data on men and women's engagement in the informal economy and unpaid labour. You may wish to explore this publication and reflect on the inequalities in the distribution of unpaid labour and informal employment in relation to the social gradient and the health impacts.

- International Labour Office 2018, [Women and men in the informal economy: a statistical picture](#), 3rd edn International Labour Office – Geneva.





Discussion: Precarious work

After reading Benach et al. (2014), find an example of precarious work and identify and critically reflect on factors contributing to this, using the model described by Benach et al. (2014). Consider the factors driving the increases in precarious employment (such as governance and regulation, flexible work arrangements, costs of childcare), and the health impacts of precarious employment.

Write 150–200 words and post to the padlet below.

Guidelines

- This activity is not graded but is an essential part of your learning. Your submission will be reviewed by your tutor, though you may not receive specific feedback.
- Spend around 1 hour on this activity (after reading Benach et al. 2014).
- Remember that if you have any questions you can contact your tutor for guidance.
- Complete this activity by Thursday before 12:00 midday (AEST).

Trouble viewing this page? Go to our diagnostics page to see what's wrong.

LTU + 812D


•  Share 

2023 PHE5PUH T2 Week 3, Topic 4: Precarious work

After reading Benach et al. (2014), find an example of precarious work and identify and critically reflect on factors contributing to this, using the model described by Benach et al. (2014). Consider the factors driving the increases in precarious employment (such as governance and regulation, flexible work arrangements, costs of childcare), and the health impacts of precarious employment.



Research jobs

 Ying Stephenson 12d
Research jobs

Many people in the research sector rely on grant funding which needs to be applied for yearly. The amount of funding available is also limited, so researchers are competing against each other for this limited amount of funds.

Insecure work means being

Made with 

Last modified: Wednesday, 25 January 2023, 7:07 AM

