

Peer Work as Precarious

Study Background & Context

Precarious work defined: Precarious work is work that has nonstandard arrangements, job insecurity, low wages, and a lack of social benefits. It is often informal, temporary, and lacks formal employment contracts. Precarious workers often face low control over their wages, hours, working conditions, and future work. This type of work is predominantly done by those that are in socioeconomically marginalized groups. Precarious work also regularly leads to distress such as worker anxiety, life plan disruptions, and powerlessness.

Peer engagement or peer support is a type of precarious work.

Peer workers view their work as...

Sporadic /
Random

Disposable

“Poverty
Pimping”

Lacking
access to
rights

Takeaways

Precarious work among peer support workers who have substance use disorder puts them at great risk. Improvements must be made.