

# Southwest Newfoundland interprovincial home care workers' health and safety experiences

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<http://new-brunswick.net/new-brunswick/maps/atlantic.gif>

# Purpose

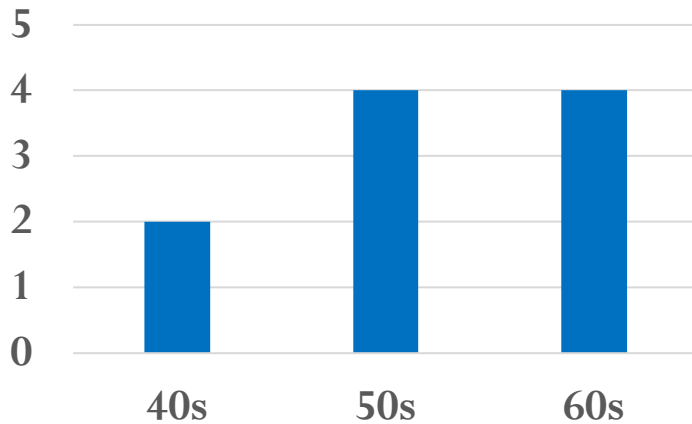
- Describe health and safety experiences of interprovincial home care workers living in southwest Newfoundland and commuting to Nova Scotia for paid employment.

# Methods

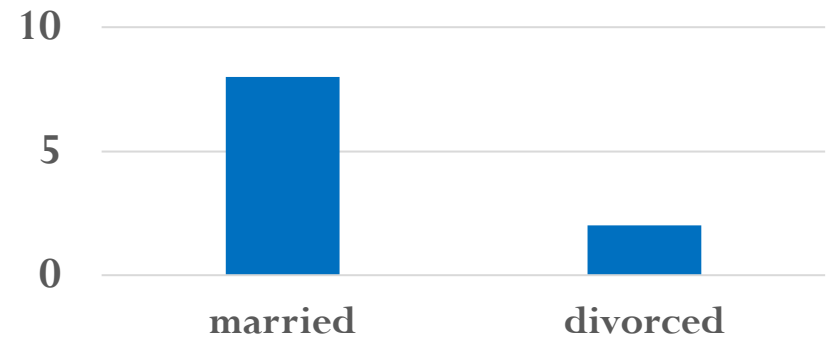
- Semi-structured interviews with 10 interprovincial home-care workers
- Recruited through posters, newspaper article featuring my research and snowball sampling
- NVivo

# Home Care Workers

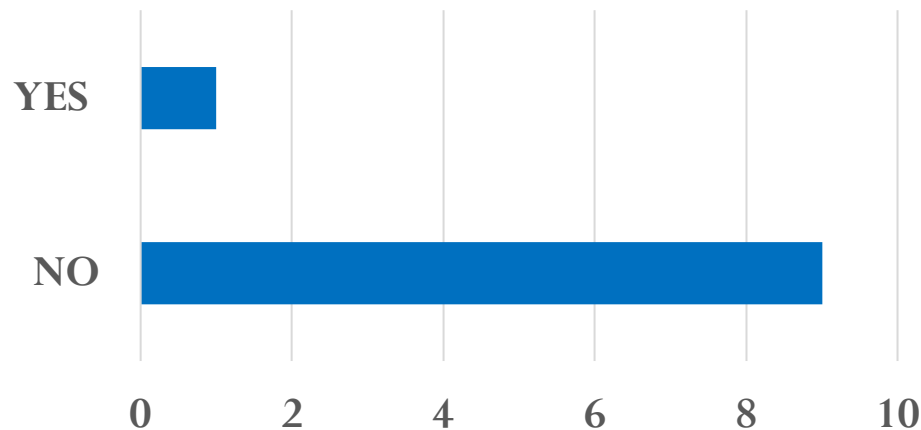
## AGE



## MARITAL STATUS



## DEPENDENT CHILDREN



# Precarious Employment



Low wages – daily \$90 - \$250  
but hourly \$3.75 to \$10.42



No social wages

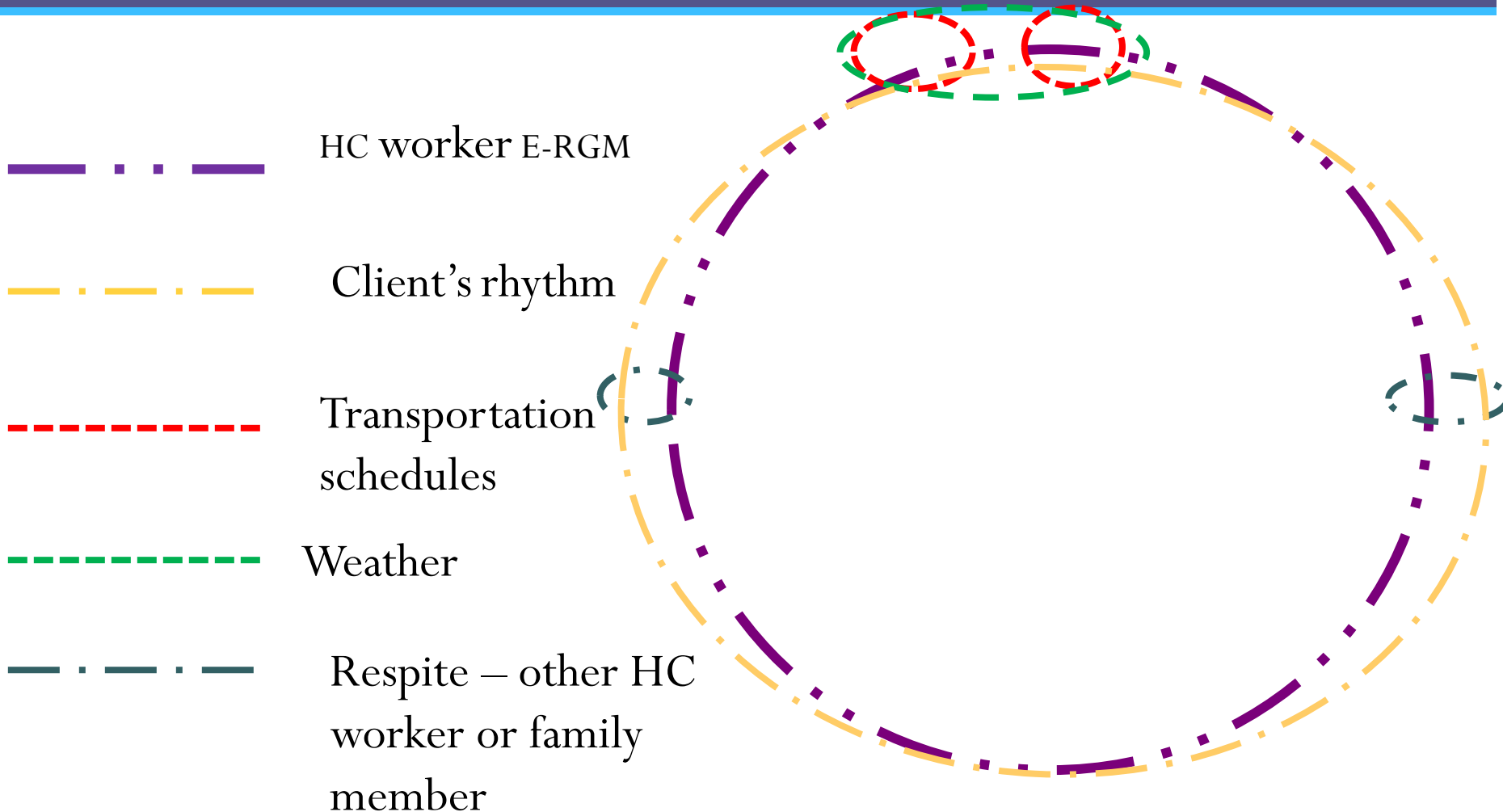


Over 50% work in the informal  
sector



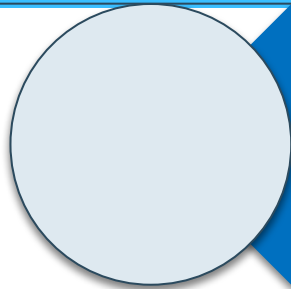
No job security

# Interprovincial E-RGM rhythm

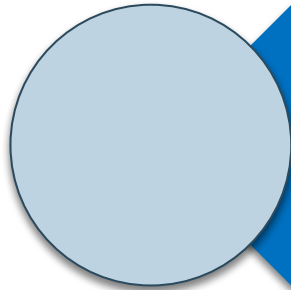




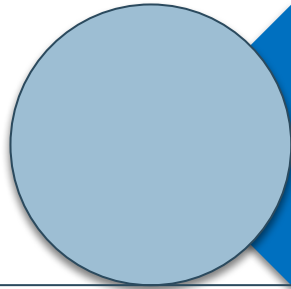
# Interprovincial E-RGM health and safety issues



risks on the commute



Lack of information  
about the client



Harassment

# Harassment

*The client was so evil...when I wheeled her to the kitchen table to watch TV the client started going back in her wheelchair and rammed into my stomach. It hurt so much that I went out into the laundry room and cried. My stomach was bruised and I was worried there was internal damage so I saw a doctor. The doctor told me to get out of the house. (Lil, home care worker)*

# Harassment

*I looked after one gentlemen and he got a bit out of hand. He was very sexually active. I'll put it that way, and every time I would get close to him he would grab me by the backside, he would grab me by the boobs*

*His brother-in-law said I was about the 15<sup>th</sup> women he had hired to look after him in 3 months. I was the longest to stay. I said "I stayed just because of you."  
(Donna, homecare worker)*

# Harassment

*He kept arguing about, you know driving that day and whatever. My husband called and he wouldn't let me on the phone. My husband got worried...my husband kept calling a couple of times that night and when he couldn't get me my husband called the police. The police came there and they took me out of that place that night and put me in a hotel room and I caught the bus the next day... After that one I stayed home for awhile. I was really shook up with that one, really shook up. (Maureen, home care worker)*

# Conclusion

- Interprovincial home care workers
  - more vulnerable than unionized home care workers but unlike live-in caregivers they are Canadian citizens and not tied to one work permit
    1. Tend to stay in abusive work environments
    2. Lack of information – not easy to go home
    3. Experience stressful commutes and delays

Tied to their Interprovincial E-RGM work cycle, weather, transportation schedules & respite from other home-care workers or family members

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