

Evaluation of the impacts of loans for Microcredit clients in South Africa

Submission date 13/06/2008	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered
		<input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
Registration date 24/06/2008	Overall study status Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
Last Edited 25/01/2019	Condition category Mental and Behavioural Disorders	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol
Not provided at time of registration

Contact information

Type(s)
Scientific

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Additional identifiers

EudraCT/CTIS number

IRAS number

ClinicalTrials.gov number
NCT00700349

Secondary identifying numbers
N/A

Study information

Scientific Title

Evaluation of impacts of access to credit and loan size for Microcredit clients in South Africa

Study objectives

If small loans help to increase income, this could alleviate depression and stress among borrowers, particularly for women who experience increases in social and economic status. On the other hand, coping with debt and business pressure may lead to poor mental health, particularly for women who remain obligated to carrying out household work as well. Thus, in theory the sign of the effect of small loans on mental health outcomes is ambiguous.

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

Princeton University Institutional Review Panel. Date of approval: 14/01/2004 (ref: HSP B.399)

Study design

Randomised controlled trial

Primary study design

Interventional

Secondary study design

Randomised controlled trial

Study setting(s)

Other

Study type(s)

Not Specified

Participant information sheet**Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied**

Mental health

Interventions

This is a randomised study conducted within several cities in South Africa.

The collaborating organisation is a micro-lender in South Africa. Participants in this study were those who were initially rejected by the organisation. They were then randomised to one of two arms:

1. Not receiving a loan
2. Being re-considered for a "second look." Of those in the second arm, 53% were then selected to receive a standard loan for first-time borrowers. Accepted applicants were offered an interest rate, loan size, and maturity per the lender's standard underwriting criteria, involving a 4-month maturity at 11.75% per month, charged on the original balance (200% annual percentage rate).

All data were collected at only one timepoint, approximately 6-12 months after subjects first applied for their loan and were randomised to one of the two study arms. Data were collected from March to November 2005.

Intervention Type

Other

Phase

Not Specified

Primary outcome measure

1. Depressive symptoms, measured using the Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale (CES-D), a 20-item questionnaire (0 = no risk, 60 = highest risk)
2. Perceived stress, measured using the Cohen's Perceived Stress Scale (PSS), a 10-item questionnaire (0 = no stress, 40 = high stress)

Timepoints of data collection: see Interventions

Secondary outcome measures

Household income, measured by a variety of questions that asked about all sources of income obtained by all members of the applicant's household.

Timepoints of data collection: see Interventions

Overall study start date

01/09/2004

Completion date

30/11/2004

Eligibility**Key inclusion criteria**

1. Individuals (both men and women) who had applied to a micro-lender organisation and were initially rejected for non-fraudulent or non-overindebtedness reasons.
2. Above 18 years old

Participant type(s)

Patient

Age group

Adult

Lower age limit

18 Years

Sex

Both

Target number of participants

Approximately 3,000

Key exclusion criteria

None

Date of first enrolment

01/09/2004

Date of final enrolment

30/11/2004

Locations

Countries of recruitment

South Africa

United States of America

Study participating centre

c/o UCB-UCSF Joint Medical Program

Berkeley, CA

United States of America

94720

Sponsor information

Organisation

Innovations for Poverty Action (USA)

Sponsor details

c/o Dr Dean Karlan

77 Prospect Street

Room A105

New Haven, CT

United States of America

06511

Sponsor type

Other

Website

<http://www.poverty-action.org/index.php>

ROR

<https://ror.org/0235ad950>

Funder(s)

Funder type

Government

Funder Name

Broadening Access and Strengthening Input Market Systems (BASIS)/USAID (Collaborative Research Support Program [CRSP])(USA)

Funder Name

US National Science Foundation (ref: SES-0424067)

Funder Name

US National Science Foundation CAREER (ref: SES-05478984)

Funder Name

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation through the Financial Access Initiative (USA)

Funder Name

Princeton University Center for Migration (USA)

Funder Name

Social Science Research Council, Program in Applied Economics (USA)

Funder Name

Federal Reserve Bank of New York (USA)

Results and Publications

Publication and dissemination plan

Not provided at time of registration

Intention to publish date

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

IPD sharing plan summary

Not provided at time of registration

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article	results	01/12/2008	25/01/2019	Yes	No