This book analyses poverty and battering and the conventional wisdom that poses incentives to waged work as the best way to remedy women’s vulnerability in the economy and in relationships. The book presents findings from her multi-method approach to poverty, battering, and work in the policies and practices of the U.S. welfare and law-and-order states. The book draws from interviews with welfare recipients to distinguish conflicts about work and conflicts that interfere with work from conflicts that take place at work. It uses administrative data about earnings, welfare, and protective order to calculate the costs of taking a beating. It presents the narratives and analyses written by participants in a community literacy project to expand the possibilities for poor women to contribute to democratic deliberation about the policies and practices that most dramatically shape their lives. The book’s findings form the empirical basis for articulating a principle for reconciling the apparent contradiction between conventional and progressive ways of thinking about the role of work in U.S. policy and programs to end poverty and violence against women: Poverty and battering are both issues of human rights and social inclusion. A social justice approach includes safety and solvency among the social, civil and political, economic, and human rights that must be underwritten and guaranteed by democratic governments, without regard to marital status, immigration status, or employment status.

Introduction
Lisa D. Brush

in Poverty, Battered Women, and Work in U.S. Public Policy
This chapter introduces the reader to the women interviewed and the setting of the research. The chapter reviews what researchers know about the connections among poverty, battering, and work. The chapter identifies the central issue driving the book: the contradictions that arise from casting women’s work as the solution to poverty and battering, especially given the reality of work-related coercive control in the lives of welfare recipients. The chapter concludes with descriptions of the three data sources (interviews with a cohort of 40 welfare recipients enrolled in a welfare-to-work program; thousands of administrative records with data on earnings, welfare, and protective orders; stories and analyses written by eight women in a community literacy project) and of the organization of the book.

Political context
Natasha Du Rose

in The governance of female drug users: Women's experiences of drug policy
Published in print: 2015 Published Online: January 2016

Chapter 3 provides a general picture of the political domain in which specific drug policies in the UK, the US and Canada have emerged. The ‘mentalities’, ‘governmental rationalities’ or ‘political rationalities’ embedded in governmental approaches to female illicit drug use are investigated. The historical basis of prohibition, the illegal/legal drug divide created by prohibition, and how it operates as a gendered, ‘race’ and class based form of governance is explored. How prohibition and the ‘war on drugs’ is wielded within the political climate of neo-liberalism, how it is linked to the ascendancy of the ‘risk’ approach to governing illicit drug use and the process of ‘othering’ it sustains is examined. The discussion provides a framework for the ensuing chapters which focus more closely on the specific governmental techniques and procedures used in the control and regulation of women’s illicit drug use.