

Cohen, E., Gómez, A., (2006), "Reflexiones sobre las políticas de combate a la indigencia," *El Reto de la Informalidad en la Pobreza Moderada*, Escuela Iberoamericana de Gobierno y Políticas Públicas (IBERGOB), eds. Mexico, A.C.: IBERGOB.

This is a two year longitudinal study in which the unit of analysis is the intersection of families with the various components of the Puente Program. Seven communities with different economic and social resources and representing the urban and semi-rural contexts are participating in this study. The communities were selected at the onset of the study, based on the pool of sites that had just begun Program implementation. The Puente Program was not simultaneously implemented throughout the country. It was staggered to allow for a predetermined number of families to be enrolled and added to the Program on a yearly basis (MIDEPLAN 2002). Families were selected in each site using purposive or judgment sampling (Bernard 1994) and are followed for 18 months. They are interviewed on a quarterly basis. Two thirds of the families were enrolled in the study as they began their participation in Puente and the other third were at the six-month point. This approach allows the study to capture families' experiences and changes that take place during their two-year participation in the program. The six-month delay controls for the effects of families' history in the manner they respond to the program and the impact the program has on them.