

Exhibit 11.5**Selected Studies Included in a Meta-Synthesis**

<i>Author(s)</i>	<i>Study Location</i>	<i>Sample</i>
Rosenbaum (1981)	San Francisco and New York	100 women
Adler (1985)	Southwest county close to Mexico border	65 dealers/smugglers, 6 women
E. M. Miller (1986)	Milwaukee	64 women “hustlers”
Waldorf et al. (1991)	San Francisco	80 sellers, 26 female
Taylor (1993)	Glasgow, Scotland	26 women
Maher (1997)	New York	211 women
Dunlap et al. (1997)	New York	111 dealers, 39 women
Sterk (1999)	Atlanta, Georgia	149 women
Denton (2001)	Melbourne, Australia	16 women recently released from prison

Source: Adapted from Maher, L., & Hudson, S. L. (2007). Women in the drug economy: A meta-synthesis of the qualitative literature. *Journal of Drug Issues*, 37, 805–826.

Of 36 studies located, only 15 met their criteria and provided **thick descriptions** of female experiences using field notes or narrative data from transcribed interviews. A sample of the selected studies included in the meta-synthesis is described in Exhibit 11.5.

After reading the qualitative material from the 15 studies examined, Maher and Hudson (2007) identified six themes that captured the nature and experience of women’s participation in the illicit drug economy. One of the key findings was the gender-stratified nature of women’s involvement; all studies, regardless of time or place, found that women tended to occupy subordinate roles to men, even those women identified as successful dealers. They also concluded that most women were introduced to dealing through relationships with sex partners. They concluded,

Our results suggest that while women rely on a diverse range of income sources and juggle different roles both within the drug economy and in relation to dealing and domestic responsibilities, most women in most drug markets remain confined to low level and marginal roles. (Maher & Hudson, 2007, p. 821)