

State Minimum Wage

Title	Author(s)	Year	Publication Source	Sample Size (N)	Sample Composition	Data Source	Independent Variable(s)	Dependent Variable(s)	Summary of Findings	Limitations to Causal Inference	Exclusion Criteria
New wave of local minimum wage policies: Evidence from six cities	Allegretto, S., Godoy, A., Nadler, C., Reich, M.	2018	Center on Wage and Employment Dynamics, Institute for Research on Labor and Employment, University of California, Berkeley	6 focal treatment cities and 173 control counties	Restaurant industry in 6 US cities with recent minimum wage increases (one of the biggest sectors for minimum wage workers)	US Bureau of Labor Statistics' Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)	• Local minimum wage increases	• Changes in earnings in the food service industry • Changes in employment in the food services industry	• A 10% increase in the minimum wage improved earnings in the food services industry • No significant employment effects		
Minimum wages and the health and access to care of immigrants' children	Averett, S., Smith, J., Wang, Y.	2019	Institute of Labor Economics Discussion Paper Series	124,181	The survey covered the non-institutionalized US population, with oversampling of racial minority groups. Adult members of the household (18+) were surveyed, and were asked to provide responses for those age 17 and below. Focused on children with parents who have less than a high school education.	National Health Interview Survey, 2000-2015	• State minimum wage increases	• Self-reported access to health care and child health. Access to care outcomes included: • Child's access to health insurance • Whether the child has a usual place for medical care • Whether the child has had a checkup in the past year • Whether the child has had more than one doctor's visit in the past year • Rating of the child's health • Number of times the child has been to the ER • Number of times the child has had ear infections, severe headaches, colds, etc.	• Overall, looking at all subgroups, null effects on health insurance coverage, having a medical home, visits to a doctor, and health outcomes. • Subgroup effects: Null effect for minimum wages on access to care for children with native born parents • Better access to medical practitioners among children with foreign born parents, but these children were less likely to have had a check-up in the past 12 months • Children with non-citizen parents were more likely to report having more than one doctor visit in the past year, but were also less likely to report having had a checkup in the past year • Null effects of the minimum wage on health outcomes for all of the groups examined		
The effect of minimum wages on adolescent fertility: A nationwide analysis	Bullinger, L.	2017	American Journal of Public Health	2142: 51 states x 42 quarters = 2142 birth rates (not individuals)	Measured quarterly state-level adolescent (ages 15-19) birth rates for all 50 states plus DC from the last quarter of 2003 through 2014.	National Center for Health Statistics Vital Statistics System, quarterly data from 2003-2014; additional data from University of Kentucky Poverty Research Data Center	• State minimum wage increases	• Adolescent birth rates	• Higher minimum wages reduced teen births, especially among non-Hispanic White and Hispanic teens		
Minimum wages and employment: A case study of the fast food industry in New Jersey and Pennsylvania	Card, D., Krueger, A.	1994	American Economic Review	410 restaurants pre-survey, 371 restaurants post-survey	Compared fast food restaurants in New Jersey and Pennsylvania before and after an increase in the minimum wage in NJ and no change in PA.	Survey data from restaurants	• State minimum wage increases	• Employment in low-wage industries	• In New Jersey, an increased minimum wage at fast food restaurants improved employment relative to Pennsylvania, where there was no wage increase		
The effect of minimum wages on low-wage jobs: Evidence from the United States using a bunching estimator	Cengiz, D., Dube, A., Lindner, A., Zipperer, B.	2019	National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper Series	138 state minimum wage increases	Primary sample includes all wage earners and the entire state population (16+)	Used individual-level NBER Merged Outgoing Rotation Group of the Current Population Survey for 1979-2016 to calculate quarterly, state-level distributions of hourly wages	• State minimum wage increases	• Number of low-wage jobs (employment)	• From 1979-2016, increases in state minimum wages have left the total number of jobs essentially the same, while raising wages for those who were just below the new minimum • From 1979-2016, increases in the minimum wage had a null effect on employment		

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The effects on employment and family income of increasing the federal minimum wage	Congressional Budget Office	2019	Congressional Budget Office	No N given beyond description of the data sets used	Individuals who responded to the Current Population Survey - US and Annual Social and Economic Supplement	Current Population Survey, 2018 wage data	• Federal minimum wage level - \$10, \$12, or \$15	• Employment • Family income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CBO concluded that the \$15 option, compared to \$12 or \$10.10, would have the greatest negative effects on employment and family income</li> <li>• Families in poverty would receive a boost in real family income and the increase would move 1.3 million people out of poverty</li> <li>• Real family income would fall for families above the poverty line</li> </ul>		Examines federal minimum wage - not state
The impact of state minimum wages on child poverty in female-headed families	DeFina, R.	2008	<i>Journal of Poverty</i>	No N given beyond description of the data sets used	State level data on child poverty in female-headed families for the years 1991 to 2002	March Current Population Surveys, state level data, for 1991-2002	• State minimum wages	• Poverty rates in single female-headed households	• A 10% increase in real minimum wages was associated with a reduction in child poverty		
Minimum wages and racial inequality	Derenoncourt, E., Montialoux, C.	2019	Working Paper - Princeton/UC Berkeley	Over 1,000 hourly wage distributions from the Bureau of Labor Statistics	Included all workers ages 25-55, but excluded the self-employed, workers in group quarters, unpaid family workers, and individuals working less than 13 weeks a year and less than 3 hours per week.	1,000 hourly wage distributions from Bureau of Labor Statistics industry wage reports Current Population Survey micro-data	• Increased coverage of the minimum wage in new sectors of the economy (effects of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1966)	• Income by race • Employment by race	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The expansion of the federal minimum wage in 1967 to new industries accounted for more than 20% of the closure of the racial earnings gap during the 1960s and 1970s</li> <li>• No adverse effects on employment found among Black workers</li> </ul>		Examines federal minimum wage - not state
Minimum wages and the distribution of family incomes	Dube, A.	2019	<i>American Economic Journal</i>	4,662,781	Non-elderly US population (under age 65)	March Current Population Survey data from 1984 to 2013	• Average of the state effective minimum wage (maximum of the state or federal minimums) in a given year	• Family income	• Increases in the minimum wage reduce the proportions of families with incomes below 50, 75, 100, and 125% of the federal poverty line by increasing family incomes, especially for Black, Latino workers, and households with children		
Minimum wage effects across state borders: Estimates using contiguous counties	Dube, A., Lester, W., Reich, M.	2010	<i>The Review of Economics and Statistics</i>	70,620 observations for the border-county-pair sample	Restaurant workers; 1,381 counties, 316 county-pairs	Uses county-level data on earnings and employment from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) between 1990 and 2006.	• State minimum wages	• Average earnings of restaurant workers • Total employment of restaurant workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum wage increases improve earnings</li> <li>• Null effects for employment</li> </ul>		
Raising the minimum wage in New Jersey	Gangopadhyaya, A., Haley, J., Blavin, F., Kenney, G.	2019	Urban Institute	6,539 adults	Adults ages 19-64 living in New Jersey. The total sample includes 6,539 nonelderly, citizen adults without disabilities working for an employer. Study excluded individuals reporting Medicare or Supplemental Security Income coverage, noncitizens, and those reporting self-employment.	2014-18 Current Population Survey- Annual Social and Economic Supplement	• Minimum wage increase in New Jersey from \$8.85 in 2019 to \$15.00 by 2024	• Earnings • Medicaid eligibility • Medicaid enrollment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The authors estimated that 810,000 workers ages 19-64 would see incomes rise with a \$15 minimum wage</li> <li>• 24,000 Medicaid-enrolled workers could lose coverage with the minimum wage increase</li> </ul>	Descriptive/correlational estimates; does not account for any changes in employment patterns or hours worked. Estimates do not account for the earnings of noncustodial parents. The study also estimates a direct increase to \$15 rather than the actual gradual increase that will take place.	

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Association between state minimum wages and suicide rates in the US	Gertner, A., Rotter, J., Shafer, P.	2019	<i>American Journal of Preventive Medicine</i>	432,000 deaths by suicide during the study period	Deaths by suicide from 2006 to 2016 in all 50 states, as captured by data from the Centers for Disease Control	Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System for all states from 2006 to 2016, and minimum wage data from searches of legal databases and state legislature websites	• Real, inflation-adjusted minimum wage (higher of the state or federal minimum wage)	• Age-adjusted suicide rate from the Centers for Disease Control for all states from 2006 to 2016	• A \$1 increase in the real minimum wage reduces the annual age-adjusted suicide rate	Twenty states had to be excluded from the analysis for some groups by race (non-Hispanic Black) because of insufficient sample sizes. Controlling for demographic changes led to a decrease in the association between the minimum wage and suicide rates. Unable to control for time-varying unobserved factors. Authors state that the results should not be interpreted as causal.	
Do state minimum wages affect the incarceration rate?	Ghosh, P., Hoover, G., Liu, Z.	2019	<i>Southern Economic Journal</i>	1,111 state incarceration rates	National datasets for incarcerated adults	State-level data from the following sources for 1990-2011: National Prisoner Statistics Codebook, University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research Welfare Data, and March Current Population Survey	• State minimum wage increases	• Incarceration rates	• Each \$1 increase in the state minimum wage leads to fewer incarcerations per 100,000 people		Strong, causal study, but does not fit into a PN3 Policy Goal
Minimum wage effects in low-wage areas	Godøy, A., Reich, M.	2019	Institute for Research on Labor and Employment - UC Berkeley	51 "events" or changes in minimum wage; data from American Community Survey for 3 million people/year	3 samples: workers who have not completed high school, people with high school degrees or less, and teens (16-19)	American Community Survey - 2005 through 2017	• Minimum wages at the county level • Relative minimum wages at the county level	Outcomes including: • Wages • Employment • Hours worked • Household poverty • Child poverty	• Increased wages • Null employment effects • Reduced household and child poverty		
Economic vulnerability among US female health care workers: Potential impact of a \$15 minimum wage	Himmelstein, K., Venkataramani, A.	2019	<i>American Journal of Public Health</i>	8,089	Overall sample: 185,914 adult survey respondents, but the focus sample was 8,089 female health care workers. This included occupations ranging from physicians to food service workers in a hospital, for example.	2017 Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey	• Minimum wage increase to \$15	• Poverty rates of female health care workers	• Estimates suggest that a national \$15 minimum wage could reduce the number of female health care workers in poverty	Correlational; only 1 year of data (2017)	

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States with higher minimum wages have lower STI rates among women: Results of an ecological study of 66 U.S Metropolitan Statistical Areas, 2003-2015	Ibragimov, U., Beane, S., Friedman, S., Komro, K., Edwards, J., Williams, L., Livingston, M., Stall, R., Wingood, G., Cooper, H.	2019	<i>PLoS ONE</i>	66 Metropolitan Statistical Areas	Women in 66 large metropolitan statistical areas in the US	Longitudinal data on rates of infection from the Centers for Disease Control; data for minimum wage came from reviews of state legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State-level minimum wages (adjusted for price changes and cost of living)</li> <li>Averaged monthly values</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>STI outcomes for each metropolitan statistical area and year from 2003-2015</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A \$1 increase in the price-adjusted minimum wage over time reduced syphilis rates and gonorrhea rates among women</li> <li>Null effects for chlamydia rates</li> </ul>		
The minimum wage and infant mortality	Jalali, A.	2018	University of Utah Dept. of Economics	40,294	Nationwide data from 1995-2013	National Center for Health Statistics' (NCHS) Linked Birth/Infant Death Records and US Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division (WHD) from 1995 to 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State minimum wage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Infant mortality at county level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 10% increase in local cost-of-living adjusted minimum wage reduced infant mortality</li> </ul>		
Minimum wage increases, wages, and low-wage employment: Evidence from Seattle	Jardim, E., Long, M., Plotnick, R., van Inwegen, E., Vigdor, J., Wething, H.	2018	National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper Series	123,132 firms in Washington state, 1,676,653 employees	Locatable businesses in Washington state, separate sample for restaurant industry	Unemployment Insurance data and Washington State Employment Security Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local minimum wage increases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changes in earnings</li> <li>Changes in employment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The number of hours worked by workers making under \$19/hour decreased when the minimum wage was raised to \$13</li> <li>The loss in hours worked combined with the increased wage rate reduced annual total earnings</li> <li>Wages increased</li> </ul>		
The effect of an increased minimum wage on infant mortality and birthweight	Komro, K., Livingston, M., Markowitz, S., and Wagenaar, A.	2016	<i>American Journal of Public Health</i>	Longitudinal data in the US for 30+ years, all 50 states, 206 legislative changes in state minimum wage	National Vital Statistics System - Census Data (no sampling, according to the authors)	1980-2011 data from National Vital Statistics System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State minimum wage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Infant mortality</li> <li>Birthweight</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A \$1 increase in the minimum wage above the federal level reduced low birthweight births and infant mortality</li> <li>The authors note that if all states in 2014 had increased their minimum wages by \$1, there would have been a large reduction in low birthweight and infant mortality</li> </ul>		
Children in poverty: Do state policies matter?	Morgan, D., Kickham, K.	2001	<i>Social Science Quarterly</i>	No N given beyond description of the data sets used	All 50 states - pooled data	Data from 1987-1996 from the Current Population Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State and federal policies, one of which was minimum wage (whichever was higher of state or federal, in a given state)</li> <li>EITC</li> <li>AFDC</li> <li>2 measures of child support efforts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of children in poverty by state</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An increase in the minimum wage reduced child poverty</li> </ul>	Cross-sectional analysis	Poverty data were from prior to welfare reform.
Do minimum wages fight poverty?	Neumark, D., Wascher, W.	2002	<i>Economic Inquiry</i>	196,269	Matched families from March CPS data. Only families who lived at the same address for 2 years in a row.	March Current Population Survey Data - 1986-1995	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Higher of state or minimum wage in each state</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family poverty rates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum wage increases produce effects in opposite directions:</li> <li>Improved likelihood that poor families escape poverty</li> <li>Improved likelihood that previously non-poor families will fall into poverty</li> <li>Improved incomes of those who remain below the poverty line</li> </ul>		Poverty data were from prior to welfare reform.

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Does a higher minimum wage enhance the effectiveness of the earned income tax credit?	Neumark, D., Wascher, W.	2011	Industrial and Labor Relations Review	362,811 family heads	Workers 21-44, both men and women, with and without children	State level data on minimum wages and EITC from Dept. of Labor for 1997-2006	• Minimum wage increases between 1997-2006	• Employment • Earnings • Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coupled with a 10% earned income tax credit (EITC) supplement, a state minimum wage that was 25% higher than the sample mean produced a significant increase in employment for single mothers with no college degree compared to a minimum wage at the sample mean</li> <li>• A 10% increase in the minimum wage, coupled with a 10% state EITC, led to an increase in earnings for single mothers</li> <li>• The earned income tax credit's poverty-reduction effects are amplified by a higher minimum wage; the authors concluded that a 10% state EITC supplement reduced poverty among single-mother families with children to a greater degree with a higher minimum wage</li> </ul>		
Responding to an increased minimum wage: A mixed methods study of child care businesses during the implementation of Seattle's minimum wage ordinance	Otten, J., Getts, K., Althausen, A., Buszkiewicz, J., Jardim, E., Hill, H., Romich, J., Allard, S.	2018	Social Work and Society	Administrative data for 192, 195, and 218 child care businesses in the three years (2014, 2015, 2016) - Survey data for 41 businesses	Child care businesses and a random sample of businesses in other industries	State employment records, surveys of employers, structured interviews, data from Unemployment Insurance	• Seattle minimum wage	• Responses of the child care sector in Seattle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over half of child care businesses in Seattle were affected by the minimum wage increase to \$13/hour in 2017, and almost all will be affected by the increase to \$15 by 2021</li> <li>• 90% of businesses who completed the survey responded to the minimum wage increase by raising child care prices to offset higher labor costs, and the next most common response was reducing hours or cutting staff</li> </ul>	Limited to one city. Survey respondents self-selected. Purely descriptive. Small survey sample.	
Money matters: Does the minimum wage affect child maltreatment rates?	Raissan, K., Bullinger, L.	2017	Children and Youth Services Review	1,916 observations (state-by-quarter maltreatment rates)	State data from National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System, 2004-2013	National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Child File from 2004 to 2013	• \$1 increase in the state minimum wage	• Child maltreatment rates (neglect and physical abuse)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An increase in the minimum wage reduced neglect reports for children 0-12</li> <li>• Null effect on neglect reports for older children (13+)</li> <li>• Null effect on physical abuse</li> </ul>		
The effects of a \$15 minimum wage by 2019 in San Jose and Santa Clara County	Reich, M., Montialoux, C., Allegretto, S., Jacobs, K., Bernhardt, A., Thomason, S.	2016	Center on Wage and Employment Dynamics, UC Berkeley	906,000 workers in Santa Clara County	American Community Survey, individuals ages 16-64 with wage/salary income in the previous 12 months, not self-employed	2013 and 2014 IPUMS American Community Survey (ACS)	• Local minimum wage increases	• Employment effects on workers • Income effects on workers • Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing the minimum wage in Santa Clara County/San Jose would improve earnings</li> <li>• The increase would disproportionately benefit Latinx workers</li> <li>• Poverty would be reduced in San Jose and Santa Clara County</li> <li>• Workers who would get pay increases disproportionately live in low-income households and on average earn close to half of their family's income</li> </ul>		
Differential relationship between state-level minimum wage and infant mortality risk among US infants born to White and Black mothers	Rosenquist, N., Cook, D., Ehntholt, A., Omaye, A., Pabayo, R.	2019	Journal of Epidemiology and Public Health	3,869,884 infants	Births in the US in 2010	US Vital Statistics 2010 Cohort Linked Birth and Infant Death records and 2010 US Bureau of Labor Statistics	• State level minimum wages in 2010 • Difference between a state's minimum wage in 1980 compared to 2010	• Death within 365 days of birth (infant mortality) • Death within the first 28 days of life (neonatal mortality)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A higher state minimum wage was significantly associated with reduced infant mortality for non-Hispanic Black mothers</li> <li>• Null effect for non-Hispanic White mothers or for the overall population examined</li> </ul>	Only focused on one year of data; cross-sectional and correlational, not causal.	

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Minimum wages, poverty, and material hardship: New evidence from the SIPP	Sabia, J., Nielsen, R.	2015	<i>Review of the Economics of the Household</i>	3,193,098 individuals	Survey of Income and Program Participation - a nationally-representative survey of the non-institutionalized, civilian population conducted by the US Census Bureau - selected workers 16-64	Survey of Income and Program Participation - 1996, 2001, 2004 panels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State and federal minimum wage increases between 1996-2007</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poverty</li> <li>Financial insecurity</li> <li>Housing insecurity</li> <li>Food insecurity</li> <li>Health insecurity</li> <li>Participation in public assistance programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 10% increase in minimum wages has a null effect on the probability of living in poverty</li> <li>Null effect on food stamps, rental assistance, energy assistance, and public health insurance</li> <li>Null effect on inability to meet expenses, missing utility bills, housing hardships, inability to pay rent, housing stress, lack of washer, lack of dryer, missed doctor's visit, lack of private health insurance, and food insecurity</li> </ul>		
Minimum wage policy and poverty in the United States	Stevens, L., Sessions, D.	2001	<i>International Review of Applied Economics</i>	48 states. No other N given.	Pooled data for 48 states over a 15-year period	Census data for 1984-1998, Current Population Survey, Bureau of Labor Statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum wage levels and coverage (% of a state's non-supervisory labor force that is covered by the federal minimum wage)</li> <li>Labor force participation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual poverty rates for 1984-1998</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A minimum wage increase significantly reduced poverty rates, but expanding coverage of the minimum wage and increasing labor force participation had an even greater effect on reducing poverty</li> </ul>		Most poverty data were prior to welfare reform.
Estimating potential reductions in premature mortality in New York City from raising the minimum wage to \$15	Tsao, T., Konty, K., Van Wye, G., Barbot, O., Hadler, J., Linos, N., Bassett, M.	2016	<i>American Journal of Public Health</i>	No N given beyond description of the data sets used	NYC's 59 community districts (each with about 140,000 residents)	2008-2012 American Community Survey; 2008 to 2012 NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Vital Statistics data and population estimates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of residents who were low-income</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Premature deaths (65 years old as cutoff)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A \$15 minimum wage would have reduced premature deaths in NYC mostly within low-income communities</li> </ul>		
Effects of the minimum wage on infant health	Wehby, G., Dave, D., Kaestner, R.	2018	National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper Series	46 million births	Data covering pregnancies from 1989-2012, women with a high school degree or less and age 18-44 at time of pregnancy.	Vital Statistics, Natality Files	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State minimum wage increases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low birthweight</li> <li>Gestational age/preterm birth</li> <li>Prenatal care use and maternal smoking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A \$1 increase in the minimum wage reduced low birthweight births</li> <li>A \$1 increase in the minimum wage increased birthweight</li> <li>Null effect for preterm births and gestation weeks</li> <li>A \$1 increase in the minimum wage improved fetal growth</li> <li>A \$1 increase in the minimum wage improved likelihood of prenatal care visits</li> <li>A \$1 increase in the minimum wage reduced maternal smoking</li> </ul>		