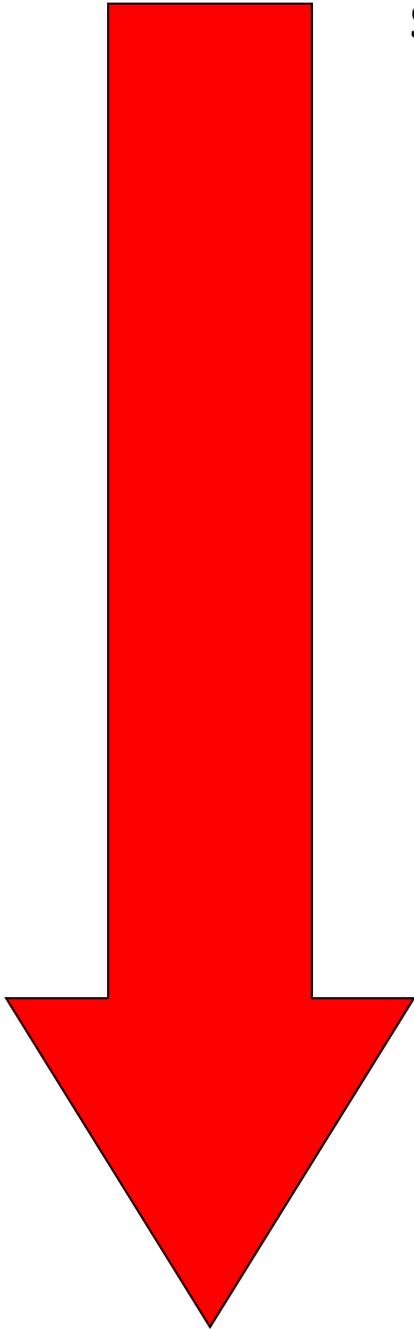


“Right to Work” Hurts Everyone

By many measures, the quality of life is worse in states with “right to work” (RTW) laws. Wages are lower, poverty and lack of insurance are higher, education is weaker—even infant mortality and the likelihood of being killed on the job are higher.



States with RTW laws have:

Lower Wages and Incomes

- The average worker makes about \$5,000 less in states with “Right to Work” laws. 12 of the 14 states with the worst pay gap between men and women are “RTW” states.¹
- Median household income in states with these laws is \$6,437 less than in other states (\$46,402 vs. \$52,839).²
- Of the 10 states with the lowest minimum wages, 8 are “Right to Work.”¹

Less Investment in Education and Public Services

- States with RTW laws spend \$3,392 less per pupil on elementary and secondary education than other states, and students are less likely to be performing at their appropriate grade level in math and reading.³
- Of the 10 states with the least spending on public services, 8 are “Right to Work” states. And of the 10 states that spend the least on public education, 9 are “Right to Work” states.⁴

Less Job-Based Health Insurance Coverage

- People in states with RTW laws are more likely to be uninsured (16.8 percent, compared with 13.1 percent overall; among children, it’s 10.8 percent vs. 7.5 percent).⁴

Worse Poverty and Infant Mortality Rates

- Poverty rates are higher in states with RTW laws (15.3 percent overall and 21.5 percent for children), compared with poverty rates of 13.1 percent overall and 18.1 percent for children in states without these laws.⁵
- In states with RTW laws, 26.7 percent of jobs are in low-wage occupations, compared with 19.5 percent of jobs in other states.⁶
- The infant mortality rate is 15 percent higher in states with these laws.⁷

Higher Rates of Death on the Job

- In “Right to Work” states, the workplace death rate is 51% higher.⁸

1 U.S. Census State Median Household Income, American Association of University Women

2 U.S. Census Bureau, Table H-8. Median Household Income by State, www.census.gov/hhes/www/income/data/historical/household/2010/H08_2010.xls.

3 National Education Association, Rankings & Estimates—Rankings of the States 2011 and Estimates of School Statistics 2012, December 2011, www.nea.org/assets/docs/NEA_Rankings_And_Estimates_FINAL_20120209.pdf; CFED, Asset & Opportunity Scorecard, <http://scorecard.assetsandopportunity.org/2012/measure/math-proficiency-8th-grade>, and <http://scorecard.assetsandopportunity.org/2012/measure/reading-proficiency-8th-grade>.

4 Kaiser Family Foundation, www.statehealthfacts.org, National Association of State Budget Officers, Governing Magazine 2013

5 Census Bureau, POV46: Poverty Status by State: 2010, related children under 18, www.census.gov/hhes/www/cpstables/032011/pov/new46_100125_04.htm;

Table 19. Percent of Persons in Poverty, by State: 2008, 2009 and 2010, www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/historical/hstpov19.xls.

6 CFED, Asset and Opportunity Scorecard, <http://scorecard.assetsandopportunity.org/2012/measure/low-wage-jobs>.

7 Kaiser Family Foundation, www.statehealthfacts.org.

8 AFL-CIO, Death on the Job: The Toll of Neglect, www.aflcio.org/Issues/Job-Safety/Death-on-the-Job-Report.