

Key Findings About Economic & Concrete Supports and Family Well-being



Public Benefit Programs

Each additional \$1,000 that states spend on public benefit programs annually per person living in poverty is associated with a 7.7% reduction in child fatalities due to maltreatment. Public benefits are also positively associated with reductions in foster placements (Puls, 2021).



Refundable EITC

States with state-level refundable EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit), compared to those without, had 11% fewer entries into foster care (even after controlling for poverty, race, education, and unemployment; Rostad, 2020).



Expanded Medicaid

Between 2013 and 2016, the rate of screened-in neglect referrals decreased in states that expanded Medicaid, but increased in states that did not expand Medicaid. If non-expansion states had expanded Medicaid, there would have been an estimated 124,981 fewer screened-in neglect referrals in the U.S. from 2014 through 2016 (Brown, 2019).



Subsidized Child Care

Waitlists to access subsidized child care are significantly associated with an increase in child abuse & neglect investigations (Klevens, 2015).



TANF & Full Child Support

Mothers who receive TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) and are eligible to receive full child support paid on behalf of their children (without a decrease in benefits) are 10% less likely to have a screened-in maltreatment report than mothers who are eligible to receive only partial child support payments (Cancian, 2013).



Minimum Wage Increase

Every \$1 increase in the minimum wage is associated with a 9.6% reduction in neglect reports (Raissian, 2017).