

Minnesota's quality of life compared with weak union states

Working in union gives educators the power to make meaningful improvements for students, our profession, public education and our communities.

But corporate interests want to destabilize unions through so-called right-to-work legislation at the national and state levels because we are the last line of defense for the middle class.

By many measures, quality of life is worse in states with right-to-work laws. Wages are lower and people are less likely to have health insurance and the necessary resources for a quality education.

Here's a look at how Minnesota compares to 25 states that already have such laws on the books:

Measure	Minnesota	RTW state average	# of RTW states MN outperforms
Life expectancy	81.1	77.96	25 of 25
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	5.10 percent	6.54 percent	22 of 25
Poverty rate	10.20 percent	15.26 percent	25 of 25
Children under 6 living in poverty	8.0 percent	19.97 percent	25 of 25
Adults over 65 living in poverty	7.50 percent	9.24 percent	20 of 25
Share of population with high school diploma	92.40 percent	87.36 percent	25 of 25
Share of population with college degree	33.70 percent	26.28 percent	24 of 25
Personal per-capita income	\$50,541	\$43,213	22 of 25
Children without health insurance	4.50 percent	6.14 percent	19 of 25
Share of population without health insurance	5.20 percent	11.42 percent	25 of 25
Unemployment rate	3.80 percent	4.97 percent	20 of 25
Average teacher salaries	\$56,910	\$49,358	23 of 25
Per-pupil educational expenditures	\$11,510	\$9,879	22 of 25
SAT score (adjusted by participation rates)	1107	1055	25 of 25
ACT performance (adjusted by participation rates)	23.04	21.30	25 of 25

Note: there are now 28 "right-to-work" states. RTW legislation was enacted in Michigan in 2012 and Kentucky and Missouri in 2017. These states are not included among RTW states in this analysis because research suggests the impacts of anti-union legislation are not felt for several years following its passage. Most data from this report is from 2015 and 2016.

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Sources:

Life expectancy: *Measure of America calculations using mortality counts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Population counts are from the CDC WONDER Database found online at: http://www.measureofamerica.org/measure_of_america2013-2014/*

Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births): *2016 Health of Women and Children report via America's Health Rankings, United Health Foundation. Found online at: http://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/2016-health-of-women-and-children-report/measure/IMR_MCH/state/ALL*

Poverty rate: *Percent of People Below Poverty Line 2015 via the American Community Survey. Found online at: <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2016/demoincome-poverty/glassman-ac.html>*

Children under 6 living in poverty: *2016 Annual Report via America's Health Rankings, United Health Foundation. Found online at: <http://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/2016-annual-report/measure/ChildPoverty/state/ALL>*

Adults over 65 living in poverty: *America's Health Rankings Senior Report via America's Health Rankings, United Health Foundation. Found online at: http://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/2016-senior-report/measure/poverty_sr/state/ALL*

Share of population with high school diploma: *U.S. Census Bureau "2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates". Found online at: <http://factfinder.census.gov>*

Share of population with college degree: *U.S. Census Bureau "2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates". Found online at: <http://factfinder.census.gov>*

Personal per-capita income: *2016 Annual Report via America's Health Rankings, United Health Foundation. Found online at: <http://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/2016-annual-report/measure/141/state/ALL>*

Children without health insurance: *2016 Health of Women and Children report via America's Health Rankings, United Health Foundation. Online at http://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/2016-health-of-women-and-children-report/measure/child_insurance/state/ALL*

Share of population without health insurance: *2016 Annual Report via America's Health Rankings, United Health Foundation. Found online at: <http://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/2016-annual-report/measure/HealthInsurance/state/ALL>*

Unemployment rate: *2016 Annual Report via America's Health Rankings, United Health Foundation. Found online at: <http://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/2016-annual-report/measure/Unemployed/state/ALL>*

Average teacher salaries: *Estimated Average Annual Salaries of Total Instructional Staff and Classroom Teachers, Rankings & Estimates: Rankings of the States 2015 and Estimates of School Statistics 2016. Found online at: <http://www.nea.org/home/44479.htm>*

Per-pupil educational expenditures: *Estimated Expenditures for Public Schools 2015-16, Rankings & Estimates: Rankings of the States 2015 and Estimates of School Statistics 2016. Found online at: <http://www.nea.org/home/44479.htm>*

SAT score (adjusted by participation rates): *Average SAT & ACT Scores by State (Participation Adjusted) found online at: <http://blog.prepscholar.com/average-sat-and-act-scores-by-stated-adjusted-for-participation-rate>*

ACT performance (adjusted by participation rates): *Average SAT & ACT Scores by State (Participation Adjusted) found online at: <http://blog.prepscholar.com/average-sat-and-act-scores-by-stated-adjusted-for-participation-rate>*