Minimum Wages and Teen Employment across the Urban Hierarchy

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**Abstract**

Minimum wages receive considerable attention but little consensus. This study estimates effects of minimum wages on employment of teens ages 16-17 during the 2005-2018 period. I examine effects for the entire U.S. and by metropolitan area status and population size. The full sample results indicate statistically significant negative effects. Interestingly, non-metropolitan areas do not exhibit negative effects; coefficient estimates are positive though not statistically significant. Metropolitan area coefficient estimates are consistently negative, but the effects are largest for very large metropolitan areas. Minimum wage effects on teen employment vary across the urban hierarchy in important and somewhat surprising ways.