





What can we learn about the potential effects of a Universal Basic Income from studies of similar interventions?

Marcia Gibson

University of Glasgow



MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit















What can we learn about the potential effects of a Universal Basic Income from studies of similar interventions?

Marcia Gibson

MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, University of Glasgow September 2018

What is basic income?

- Universal
- Unconditional
- Not affected by other income
- Paid to individuals
- Subsistence level

Understanding the effects of a 'full' basic income

Universal

- Would affect demand for labour
- Universal payments could lead to wider effects at a community level.

Permanent

- Decisions about employment might be different if payments were permanent
- Other effects may take a long time to manifest, or change over time
- Extremely challenging to design an adequate study

Finding relevant evidence

Scoping review

- Systematic search methods
- Objective account of study findings
- We searched for
- Unconditional payments to individuals or households
- Payments could be targeted, affected by other income, or below subsistence

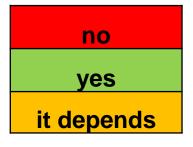
Identified studies

28 studies of 10 interventions

- Very diverse = increased transferability
- All met basic income criteria to varying degrees

Basic income criteria

Intervention	unconditional	universal	permanent	subsistence	fixed
North American NIT (5)	у	n	n	у	n
NIT saturated site	у	у	n	у	n
Alaska dividend	у	у	у	n	у
Iran cash transfer	У	у	у	у	у
Native American casinos	у	у	у	varied	у
India BIG pilot	у	у	n	n	у
Indonesia cash transfer	у	у	n	n	у



How do unconditional payments affect employment?

- Very little impact on labour market activity
- Reductions only observed in certain groups
- Employment increased for some groups

Education and employment for young people

- Working decreased for young people and children
- Large increases in educational participation/retention
- Educational performance findings less consistent

The health effects of unconditional payments

- Large positive impacts on some health outcomes
- Findings not always consistent
- Some evidence of adverse effects

Other outcomes reported

Marriage and parenting

Crime and social conflict

Other economic effects

Potential wider effects

- Alaska: increased consumption = higher demand for labour
- Native American casinos: improved economic outcomes for non-Native Americans
- Indonesia: expenditure increased for non-recipients
- Canada: hospital admissions reduced in saturated site
- Canada: peer effects on staying in education
- Tribal casino: health effects grew stronger over time

Conclusions

- The evidence does not suggest strong effects on labour market participation
- There are strong positive effects on some health and educational outcomes
- There is some evidence of potential wider effects in many areas

Universal basic income

A scoping review of evidence on impacts and study characteristics

Marcia Gibson, Wendy Hearty and Peter Craig

Available soon at:

http://whatworksscotland.ac.uk/publications/universal-basic-incomescoping-review-of-evidence-on-impacts

Project partners













September 2018