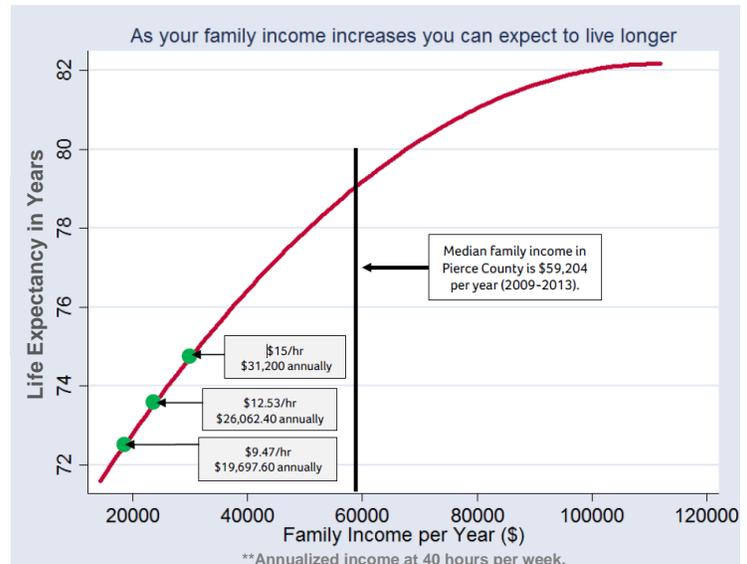


## Minimum Wage and Health

### Income Affects Health

Where we live, learn, work and play influences our overall health.

- According to Human Impact Partners, an adequate income is the single most important factor for healthy living and persistent poverty is the most harmful to health.
- Social factors such as income and employment relate to the level of health and quality of life in neighborhoods and communities.
- Income influences choices about where people can afford to live and if they have access to safe homes, neighborhoods with green space, sidewalks, grocery stores with nutritious foods, and good schools.



### Health Benefits of Increasing Minimum Wage: Higher Income, Longer Life

In Pierce County, a higher average household income correlates to higher life expectancy.

- Projected life expectancy goes up for a person working 40 hours per week at a minimum wage job as minimum wage increases.
- Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department's 2015 Health Equity Assessment shows a relationship between income level and life expectancy.

Average Annual Salary	Life Expectancy
\$19,697	72.6 years
\$26,062	73.7 years
\$31,200	74.6 years

### Potential Health Benefits of Increasing Minimum Wage May Include:

- Improved life expectancy.
- Better health for women and people of color (disproportionately represented in minimum-wage jobs).
- Reduced need for social safety net services including Medicaid, TANF, and food stamps.
- Increased employment and related health benefits of employment.

Increasing minimum wage would help workers and their families thrive, successfully manage stress, and prevent disease.

#### Data Sources:

Health Impact Partners. Income and Health: Why it Matters. (2015). (n.d.).  
 Minnesota Department of Health; Center for Health Statistics. (2014, March 3). White Paper on Income and Health. St. Paul, MN.  
 Graphical data derived from life expectancy (at birth) from the following sources: 1) WA State Dept of Health, Center for Health Statistics, Death Certificate Data. 2) U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010.