



Welfare benefits higher than minimum wage in 35 states, study says

The libertarian Cato Institute has conducted a sweeping survey of U.S. welfare benefits and concluded that welfare currently pays more than a minimum-wage job in 35 states. That figure accounts for the Earned Income Tax Credit; in 13 states welfare actually pays more than \$15 per hour. Other findings show that "the total value of welfare benefits has declined in inflation adjusted terms since 1995," though "the equivalent wage value of welfare has increased since 1995." Trivia: The most generous welfare package in the U.S. is in Hawaii, though the authors note "that [figure] may be distorted by the state's high cost of living." We're sure this won't be a controversial study at all.