

**Supplementary digital content to accompany Hilton Boon et al.,
“Regression discontinuity designs in health: a systematic review”,
Epidemiology, 2020.**

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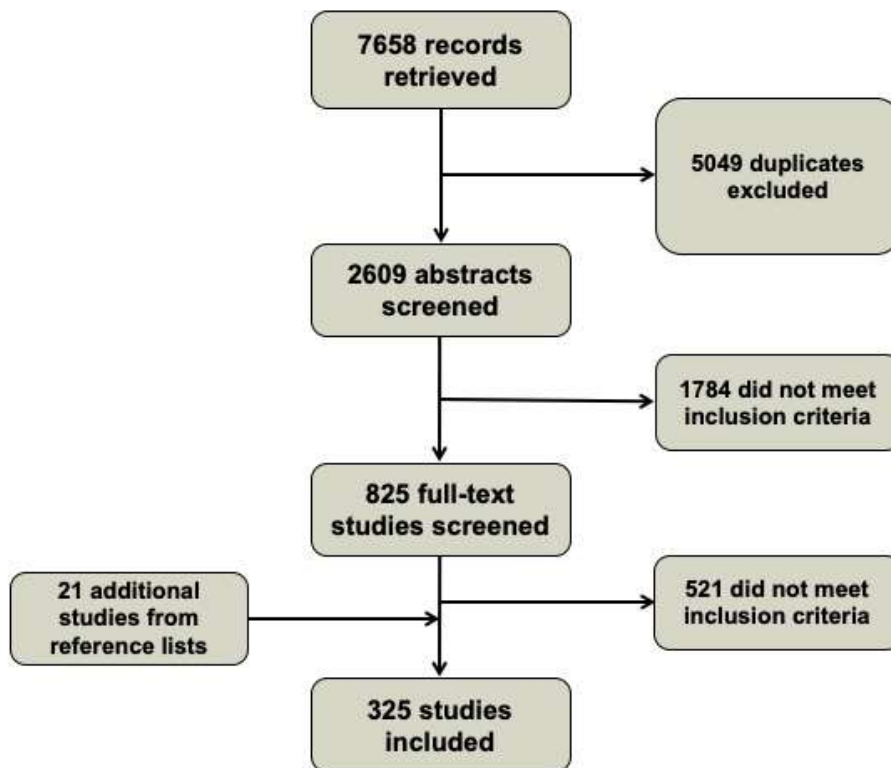
eTable 1. Databases searched and search strategies

Database	Search Strategy ¹
Health	
CINAHL (Ovid)	"regression discontinuity" OR "regression-discontinuity" in TX
Cochrane Library	"regression discontinuity" in Title Abstract Keyword
Embase (Ovid)	(regression adj discontinuity).mp.
Health Management Information Consortium (HMIC)	"regression discontinuity" 1979 to January 2015 [years covered by database]
King's Fund Publications	regression discontinuity OR "regression discontinuity" OR "regression-discontinuity"
MEDLINE (Ovid)	(regression adj discontinuity).mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, keyword heading word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier]
NICE Evidence Search	"regression discontinuity"
POPLINE	regression discontinuity OR "regression-discontinuity"
PsycINFO	"regression discontinuity" OR "regression-discontinuity" in TX
TRIP	"regression discontinuity" as exact phrase anywhere
Social Sciences	
ASSIA: Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts	"regression discontinuity" in Anywhere
EBSCO Business Source Premier	"regression discontinuity" in TX
EBSCO Professional Development Collection	"regression discontinuity" in TX
EconLit	"regression discontinuity" in TX
ERIC	"regression discontinuity"
International Bibliography of the Social Sciences	regression discontinuity in Anywhere
Social Care Online	regression discontinuity OR "regression-discontinuity"
Social Services Abstracts	"regression discontinuity" OR "regression-discontinuity" in TX
SocINDEX	"regression discontinuity" in TX
Sociological Abstracts	regression discontinuity or "regression-discontinuity" in Anywhere
Full Text	
Google Scholar	allintitle: "regression discontinuity"
Scopus	"regression discontinuity" in title, abstract, keyword
Web of Science	TS=(regression NEAR/1 discontinuity) OR TI=(regression NEAR/1 discontinuity)

Grey Literature	
EThOS (British Library Electronic Theses Online Service)	"regression discontinuity" or "regression-discontinuity", any words
IDOX Information Service	regression discontinuity, "regression-discontinuity"
National Technical Reports Library	"regression discontinuity" [Full text search]
Open Grey	"regression discontinuity"
ProQuest Dissertations and Theses	"regression discontinuity" in Anywhere [Full text search]
RePeC (EconPapers)	"regression discontinuity" and (health OR disease OR death OR mortality OR morbidity OR survival OR hospital OR accident OR nutrition OR "life expectancy" OR incidence OR prevalence OR treatment) [Full text search]
US Environmental Protection Agency National Service Center for Environmental Publications	"regression discontinuity" as exact phrase anywhere
WHO Institutional Repository	regression discontinuity in Publications and in Evaluation Reports
World Bank Documents and Reports	regression discontinuity as exact phrase, limited to Publications & Research

¹Search strategies involved only keywords and phrases because no subject headings or thesaurus terms specific to regression discontinuity designs were identified in any databases.

eFigure 1. Flowchart showing stages of literature search and numbers of studies included or excluded at each stage



eTable 2. Regression discontinuity studies of health outcomes: overview of the synthesis

Topic area	Forcing variables	Interventions	Examples of health outcomes assessed
Clinical interventions – physical health (23 studies)			
Obstetrics (n=5) (1-5) Cardiovascular disease (n=5) (6-10) HIV (n=7) (11-17) Ophthalmology (n=3) (18-20) Cancer (21) Care of the elderly (22) Occupational health (23)	Age Birthweight (n=2) CD4 count (n=6) CV risk score (n=3) Date/time relative to intervention/exposure (n=6) Down syndrome risk score Number sick days Systolic blood pressure Visual acuity Weeks of gestation	Antenatal care (n=3) ART for HIV (n=7) Heart transplant policy Hypertension diagnosis Macular degeneration therapies Mobility intervention Neoadjuvant chemotherapy Neonatal care (n=2) Occupational health intervention Other drugs (n=3) PREDICT CVD risk assessment Telephone interview	Disease-specific outcomes Healthcare utilisation Mortality Sickness absence rates
Clinical interventions – mental health (8 studies)			
Alcohol and substance misuse (n=3) (24-26) Trauma (27) Psychosis (28) Unspecified diagnoses (n=3) (29-31)	Addiction severity measure Date (n=2) Exeter Alcohol Scale Positive Symptoms Scale Therapeutic selection score (n=2), PTSD Reaction Index	Alcohol brief intervention Alcohol self-help manual Brief dynamic psychotherapy (n=2) Family therapy Intensive case management Trauma-specific CB Zero-tolerance policy reversal	Alcohol and drug use Clinical assessment scales Conversion to psychosis Hospitalisation
Population health interventions (149 studies)			
Air quality (n=7) (32-38)	Total suspended particulates (n=3) Ozone forecast level (n=3) Distance from boundary	Clean Air Act Amendments (1970) (n=3), air quality alerts (n=3), Domestic heating policy	Infant mortality Sex ratio of live births Outdoor activity Life expectancy Cardiovascular and respiratory morbidity and mortality
Alcohol policy (n=25) (39-63)	Age (n=23) Date Age and date	Minimum legal drinking age (n=22) Decrease in MLDA (n=2) Repeal of sales restriction	Alcohol/drug/tobacco consumption Road accidents Hospital events Mortality Sexual health

Disease prevention and screening (n=13) (64-76)	Age (n=3) Date (n=5) Investment cost per inhabitant Per capita national income Screening test results (n=3)	Screening guidelines (n=2) Treatment for lead exposure Vaccination programmes (n=4) Prostate cancer screening Disease prevention programmes (n=3) Australian gun control legislation Pseudoephedrine sales controls	Test uptake Marginal benefits of screening Vaccination rates Sexual behaviour Infant and child mortality Disease prevalence Firearm-related mortality Prescribing
Health insurance programmes (n=54) (77-130)	Age (n=31) Birthweight Date (n=4) Geographic boundary Income (n=7) Poverty or welfare index (n=10)	Country-specific insurance programmes	Healthcare utilisation Prescribing Mortality Insurance uptake Crowdout
Organisation and quality of healthcare (n=26) (131-156)	Age (n=4) Date of intervention (n=10) Hospital quality score (n=4) Number of prescriptions Practice or population size (n=4) Proportion of low-income patients Time of birth Unionisation vote share	Changes to family medicine (n=2) Clinical guideline Community health worker programme Drug safety alert Fee reform (n=6) Health Professional Shortage Area designation (n=2) Hospital discharge intervention Medicare DSH (Disproportionate Share Hospital) status Minimum length of stay legislation Performance benchmarking (n=3) Quality improvement interventions (n=6) Unionisation	Care quality Fertility measures Healthcare utilisation In-hospital mortality Neonatal health and mortality Patient experience Prescribing behaviour Vaccination rates
Nutrition policies and programmes (n=11) (157-167)	Age BMI (n=2) Date (n=3) Distance to boundary Poverty index (n=3) Proportion of students eligible for meal subsidy	Berkeley soda tax vote Health visitor programme Intensive Behavioral Therapy for obesity National School Lunch Program (n=2) Obesity report cards in schools PANN2000 programme Publication of nutrition guidelines School-based low-radionuclide food intervention US Dept of Agriculture Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Vending machine ban	Child mortality Dietary intake Fertility Weight/BMI
Road safety (n=5) (168-172)	Date of legislative change (n=3) Date of exposure change Blood alcohol content	Cell phone ban Drunk driving penalties	Recidivism Traffic accidents, injuries, and fatalities

		Introduction of Pokemon GO game Milan road pricing scheme Penalty points system	
Tobacco (n=8) (173-180)	Date of event (n=5) Age (n=3)	Decrease in cigarette prices Indoor smoking ban (n=5) Minimum cigarette purchase age (n=2)	Alcohol consumption BMI Infant health MI and stroke incidence and mortality Smoking
Evaluations of health effects of social and education policies and programmes (123 studies)			
Social policies and programmes, low- and middle-income countries (n=35) (181-215)	Age (n=6), date (n=4), development index, distance from boundary (n=2), district literacy rate, dropout risk score, household acreage, household income (n=4), parity, poverty or welfare index or score (n=11), predicted probability of borrowing microcredit (n=2), village population	Conditional cash transfers (n=9): Female School Stipend Program, Oportunidades (3), Bono de Desarrollo Humano (3), Familias en Acción, Janani Suraksha Yojana (safe motherhood scheme) Social security and employment schemes (n=5) Old age pension schemes (n=3) Access to credit/microcredit (n=4) Legal protections for women (n=3) Community development programmes (n=2) Child Support Grant Chile Solidario anti-poverty programme Coal for winter heating Mahila Samakhya (women's empowerment and health education program) Mandatory retirement age National boundaries National rural road construction programme Scholarships for poor children US foreign aid policy change ('Mexico City Policy')	Alcohol and cigarette consumption, breastfeeding, calorie intake, child vaccinations, children's growth measures, female genital mutilation, mortality and life expectancy, number of conflict casualties, pre- and post-natal care, rates of overweight and obesity, sexual health outcomes, water and sewage supply
Early years programmes (n=11) (216-226)	Birthdate/age (n=5) County poverty rate or index (n=2) Family income Family Stress Checklist score Programme proposal quality score Assessment date	Head Start (n=4) Other pre-kindergarten programme (n=5) Home visit programme (n=2)	Child development measures Child mortality Parental mental health
Education (n=54) (227-280)	Birthdate/age (n=31) Year/date (n=20) Class size Number of schools	1980 School Reform in Zimbabwe (n=2) Class size College opening Compulsory schooling reform (n=18)	ADHD diagnosis and symptoms Healthcare utilisation Mortality Suicide

	Test score	Extended school year HIV/AIDS teacher training programme Parental education (n=2) School starting age (n=9) Transition from high school Universal primary education (n=7) Years/level of schooling (n=11)	Vaccinations Variety of physical and mental health measures
Social policies and programmes, high income countries (n=23) (281-303)	Age (n=9) Birthweight Birthdate (n=3) Date (n=7) Economic need index Firm's wage sum (threshold for paying deductible on sickness absence insurance) Time since retirement	Child benefit (n=3) Disability insurance (n=2) Maternity leave (n=3) Paternity leave Sickness absence insurance (n=2) Social security benefits (n=4) Retirement (n=4) Home help Outreach programme UK Winter Fuel payment Free summer swimming programme	Chest infections Hospitalisation Mortality Neonatal and maternal health Physical activity Sickness absence
Natural experiments assessing health effects of exposure to social or environmental factors (non-interventional) (22 studies)			
Disasters (n=7) (304-310)	Date of event (n=7)	Exposure to famine, hurricane, terrorist attacks (n=5)	Cognitive function Diabetes Hypertension Marijuana use Smoking Stress Suicide rate Wellbeing
Social conditions (n=10) (311-320)	Age (n=5), draft lottery number, latitude and longitude, vote margin in close elections, distance from national border, Chinese Cultural Revolution	Religion of elected officials, military conscription, forced labour, female property rights, social disruption, retirement (n=5)	Child growth HIV prevalence Mortality Wide range of physical and mental health measures from health survey data
Daylight Savings Time (n=3) (321-323)	Date or time relative to change to Daylight Savings Time	Daylight Savings Time (n=3)	Incidence of myocardial infarction Road traffic collisions and fatalities
Family conditions (n=2) (324, 325)	Date, marital income difference	Income inequality between spouses, number of siblings	Child health Prescription medications

eTable 3. Regression discontinuity applications in clinical interventions – physical health. Characteristics of included studies

Study	Context	Forcing variable	Intervention	Outcome(s)
Almond, D., J. J. Doyle, Jr., A. E. Kowalski and H. Williams (2010)	United States	Birthweight (VLBW threshold of 1500g)	Medical care for very low birthweight infants	Mortality and hospital costs
Bharadwaj, P., K. V. Løken and C. Neilson (2012)	Norway and Chile	Very low birthweight and date surfactant therapy introduced	Extra medical attention and lung surfactant therapy	Mortality and academic achievement
Bor, J., E. Moscoe, P. Mutevedzi, et al. (2014)	South Africa	CD4+ cell count	ART for HIV	Mortality hazard
Bor, J., M. P. Fox, S. Rosen, et al. (2017)	South Africa	CD4+ cell count	Delay of ART medication	Treatment retention
Bor, J., S. Ahmed, M. P. Fox, et al. (2017)	South Africa	CD4+ cell count	CD4 count	Initiation of ART
Brennan, A. T., J. Bor, M. A. Davies, et al. (2018)	South Africa and Zambia	Days since protocol change	Change in guidelines for ART medication	Treatment retention
Daysal, N. M., M. Trandafir and R. Van Ewijk (2013)	Netherlands	Weeks of gestation (week-37 referral rule)	Obstetrician supervision of preterm birth	Seven- and 28-day mortality, Apgar score
DISMEVAL Consortium (2012)	Spain	Cardiovascular risk score	Nurse-led structured telephone interview on CVD risk and prevention	Cholesterol, BP, BMI, CV risk score
Garrouste, C., J. Le and E. Maurin (2011)	France	Risk score for Down syndrome	Reimbursement eligibility	Amniocentesis and foetal health
Geneletti, S., A. G. O'Keeffe, L. D. Sharples, et al. (2015).	United Kingdom	CVD risk score	Statin prescription	LDL cholesterol level
Horwitz, A., M. Klemp, J. Jeppesen, et al. (2017)	Denmark	Years since diagnosis	Antihypertensive medication	Glaucoma onset
Jensen, V. M. and M. Wust (2015)	Denmark	Date (of information shock in form of early randomised trial publication)	Caesarean section for breech births	APGAR score, GP visits, severe morbidity, hospitalizations, complications, infections

Study	Context	Forcing variable	Intervention	Outcome(s)
King, B. J., L. M. Steege, K. Winsor, et al. (2016)	United States	Time (weeks) relative to intervention	Intervention to improve older adult hospital patient mobility (MOVIN)	Ambulation frequency and distance
Melamed, A., G. Fink, A. A. Wright, et al. (2018)	United States	Year	Regional increase in use of neoadjuvant chemotherapy for advanced ovarian cancer following publication of a large RCT	Three-year mortality, 90-day surgical mortality
Oldenburg, C. E., G. R. Seage, F. Tanser, et al. (2018)	South Africa	CD4+ cell count	Immediate antiretroviral therapy (ART)	Mortality
Oldenburg, C. E., J. Bor, G. Harling, et al. (2018)	South Africa	CD4+ cell count	Immediate antiretroviral therapy (ART)	HIV incidence
Oldenburg, C. E., N. Venkatesh Prajna, T. Krishnan, et al. (2018)	India	Visual acuity	Treatments for fungal corneal ulcers (topical natamycin)	Visual acuity
Patenaude, B. N., N. Chimbindi, D. Pillay and T. Barnighausen (2018)	South Africa	CD4+ cell count	Immediate antiretroviral therapy (ART)	Food insecurity (missed meals)
Peng, D. M., Q. Qu, N. McDonald, et al. (2017)	United States	Age	Heart transplant policy	Waiting time for heart transplant
Robinson, T., R. Jackson, S. Wells, et al. (2017)	New Zealand	CVD risk assessment score	PREDICT-CVD risk assessment tool	Statin prescription
Sloan, F. A. and B. W. Hanrahan (2014)	United States	Year	Introduction of photodynamic therapy and anti-VEGF therapies for ARMD	Vision loss or blindness, depression, admission to long-term care facility
Sørensen, B. O. H. (2016)	Denmark	Number of sick days	Occupational health initiatives to improve workplace practices	Reduction in number of sick days
Zhao, M., Y. Konishi and P. Glewwe (2013)	China	Systolic blood pressure	Hypertension diagnosis	Dietary intake (fat, protein, carbohydrates, energy) and use of anti-hypertensive drugs

eTable 4. Regression discontinuity applications in clinical interventions – mental health. Characteristics of included studies.

Study	Context	Forcing variable	Intervention or Exposure	Outcome(s)
CATS Consortium (2010)	United States	Trauma score (PTSD Reaction Index)	Trauma-specific CBT	Six-month change in trauma score
Daniels, V., M. Somers, J. Orford and B. Kirby (1992)	United Kingdom	Exeter Alcohol Scale (pre-intervention)	Advice and self-help manual on reducing alcohol consumption	Exeter Alcohol Scale (post-intervention)
Devitt, T. S. (2006)	United States	Date (of policy change)	Rescinding zero-tolerance policy for onsite substance abuse in a residential treatment centre	Substance Abuse Treatment Scale, breathalyser and urine toxicology screening
Evans, M. E., S. M. Banks, S. Huz and T. L. McNulty (1994)	United States	Date of intervention	Intensive case management programme	State psychiatric hospital use
Flam-Zalcman, R., R. E. Mann, G. Stoduto, et al. (2013)	Canada	Addiction severity measure	Alcohol brief intervention programme	Alcohol use
Høglend et al. (1993)	Norway	Score based on selection criteria for psychotherapy	Transference interpretations within brief dynamic psychotherapy	Changes in various clinical assessment scales
Høglend, P. (1996)	Norway	Pretest suitability measure	Brief dynamic psychotherapy	Overall dynamic change
McFarlane, W. R., B. Levin, L. Travis, et al. (2015)	United States	Positive Symptoms Scale	FACT (Family-aided Assertive Community Treatment) package	Conversion to psychosis, as defined by positive symptoms

eTable 5. Regression discontinuity applications in the evaluation of population-level interventions, by public health policy area. Characteristics of included studies

Study	Context	Forcing variable	Intervention	Outcome(s)
Air quality (7 studies)				
Chay, K. Y. and M. Greenstone. (2003)	United States	Total suspended particulates, TSPs (air pollution regulatory threshold)	Clean Air Act Amendments (1970)	Infant mortality
Chen, H., Q. Li, J. S. Kaufman, et al. (2018)	Canada	Air quality index	Air quality alerts	Cardiovascular and respiratory morbidity and mortality
Ebenstein, A., M. Fan, M. Greenstone, G. He and M. Zhou (2017)	China	Distance from Huai River policy boundary	Domestic heating policy in two districts divided by river	Life expectancy and mortality
Neidell, M. (2010)	United States	Ozone forecast threshold rule for issuing smog alerts	Smog alerts	Outdoor activities (attendance at outdoor venues)
Noonan, D. S. (2014)	United States	Ozone forecast level	Air quality alerts	Amount and intensity of outdoor activity
Sanders, N. J. and C. Stoecker (2015)	United States	Total suspended particulates (air pollution regulatory threshold)	Clean Air Act Amendments (1970)	Sex ratio of live births as estimate of averted foetal losses
Yang, M. (2008)	United States	Total suspended particulates (air pollution regulatory threshold)	Clean Air Act Amendments (1970)	Infant mortality
Alcohol and drug misuse (25 studies)				
Bacolod, M., J. M. Cunha and Y.-C. Shen (2017)	United States	Age	Minimum legal drinking age (MLDA)	Mental health, physical fitness, alcohol and tobacco use
Boes, S. and S. Stillman (2013)	New Zealand	Age	Decrease in MLDA	Alcohol consumption
Callaghan, R. C., J. M. Gatley, M. Sanches and M. Asbridge (2014) American Journal of Preventive Medicine	Canada	Age	MLDA	Motor vehicle collisions

Study	Context	Forcing variable	Intervention	Outcome(s)
Callaghan, R. C., J. M. Gatley, M. Sanches, C. Benny and M. Asbridge (2016)	Canada	Age	Minimum legal drinking age (MLDA)	Alcohol-related fatal and nonfatal motor vehicle collisions
Callaghan, R. C., M. Sanches and J. M. Gatley (2013). Addiction	Canada	Age	MLDA	Alcohol-related hospital events
Callaghan, R. C., M. Sanches, J. M. Gatley and J. K. Cunningham (2013)	Canada	Age	MLDA	Alcohol-related hospital events
Callaghan, R. C., M. Sanches, J. M. Gatley and T. Stockwell (2014) Drug and Alcohol Dependence	Canada	Age	MLDA	Mortality (all causes, external causes, motor vehicle accidents)
Carpenter, C. and C. Dobkin (2009)	United States	Age	MLDA	Mortality (all causes, external causes, internal causes)
Carpenter, C. and C. Dobkin (2011)	United States	Age	MLDA	Mortality, alcohol consumption
Carpenter, C. and C. Dobkin (2015)	United States	Age	MLDA	Emergency department visits and inpatient hospitalisations
Carpenter, C., Dobkin, C. and C. Warman (2014)	Canada	Age	MLDA	Alcohol consumption, mortality (all causes, external causes, internal causes, motor vehicle accidents, injuries)
Conover, E. and D. Scrimgeour (2013)	New Zealand	Age and date	Decrease in MLDA	Alcohol-related hospital admissions
Crost, B. and D. I. Rees (2013)	United States	Age	MLDA	Marijuana consumption
Crost, B. and S. Guerrero (2012)	United States	Age	MLDA	Alcohol consumption
Deza, M. (2015)	United States	Age	Alcohol consumption	Consumption of hard drugs

Study	Context	Forcing variable	Intervention	Outcome(s)
Ertan Yörük, C. and B. K. Yörük (2012)	United States	Age	Minimum legal drinking age (MLDA)	Psychological wellbeing
Ertan Yörük, C. and B. K. Yörük (2015)	United States	Age	MLDA	Risky sexual behaviour
Fletcher, J. M. (2018)	United States	Age	MLDA	Binge drinking, risky sexual behaviour, tobacco and marijuana use, suicidal ideation and attempts
Gatley, J. M., M. Sanches, C. Benny, S. Wells and R. C. Callaghan (2017)	Canada	Age	MLDA	Sexual assault
Heckley G, Gerdtham U-G, Jarl J. (2018)	Sweden	Age	MLDA	Mortality, hospital admissions, alcohol consumption
Koppa, V. (2018)	United States	Age	MLDA	Gonorrhoea infection
Lindo, J. M., P. Siminski and O. Yerokhin (2014)	Australia	Age	MLDA	MVAs, hospitalisations, drinking behaviour
Matsubayashi, T. and K. Yoshikawa (2018)	Japan	Age	MLDA	Mortality, emergency service events for alcohol intoxication
Yörük, B. K. and C. E. Yörük (2011)	United States	Age	MLDA	Alcohol consumption, smoking, marijuana use
Yu, B. and D. T. Kaffine (2011)	United States	Date of policy change	Increased alcohol availability following repeal of Sunday alcohol sales restriction	Alcohol-related traffic accidents and traffic citations
Disease prevention and screening (13 studies)				
Andreyeva, E. Y. (2016)	Australia	Year	Australian gun control legislation	Firearm-related mortality
Billings, S. B. and K. T. Schnepel (2018)	United States	Blood lead levels	Interventions for elevated blood lead levels in children	Adolescent Antisocial Behavior Index
Dykstra, S., A. Glassman, C. Kenny and J. Sandefur (2015)	Multiple	Per capita national income	Gavi vaccination aid programme	Vaccination rates and child mortality

Study	Context	Forcing variable	Intervention	Outcome(s)
Hattingh, H. L., J. Varsani, L. A. Kachouei and R. Parsons (2016)	Australia	Date	Mandatory real-time reporting of pseudoephedrine pharmacy sales	Pseudoephedrine sales
Helleringer, S., P. O. Asuming and J. Abdelwahab (2016)	Bangladesh	Date of birth	Mass vaccination campaign (supplementary immunisation activity)	Routine polio vaccination
Kadiyala, S. and E. C. Strumpf (2011)	United States and Canada	Age	Guideline recommendations regarding age for asymptomatic screening	Tests for breast, colorectal, and prostate cancers
Kadiyala, S. and E. Strumpf (2011)	United States	Age	Guideline recommendations regarding age for asymptomatic screening	Marginal benefits of breast, colorectal and prostate screening
Moghtaderi, A. and A. Dor (2016)	United States	Age	HPV vaccination	Cervical cancer screening uptake
Rashad, H. (1992)	Egypt	Year of programme implementation	National Control of Diarrheal Diseases Project	Infant mortality
Shoag, J., J. Halpern, B. Eisner, et al. (2015)	United States	Prostate-specific antigen test value	Prostate-specific antigen screening	Biopsy; detection of low and high risk cancer; prostate cancer mortality
Smith, L. M., J. S. Kaufman, E. C. Strumpf and L. E. Levesque (2015)	Canada	Quarter of birth	HPV vaccination	Composite indicator of sexual behaviour
Yi, S. W., S. A. Shin and Y. J. Lee (2015)	South Korea	Number of components of the metabolic syndrome	Telephone counselling	Metabolic syndrome
Ziegelhöfer, Z. (2012)	Guinea	Investment cost per inhabitant (programme eligibility criterion)	Rural water supply and hygiene education programme	Prevalence of diarrhoeal disease in children under 5 years

Study	Context	Forcing variable	Intervention	Outcome(s)
Healthcare organisations and systems (26 studies)				
Albritton, J., T. Belnap and L. Savitz (2017)	United States	Days since discharge	Hospital Readmission Reduction Program	Duration of hospital observation stay
Almond, D. and J. J. Doyle Jr (2011)	United States	Time of birth (minutes from midnight)	Length of stay / minimum LOS legislation	Hospital readmissions and infant mortality
Aygun, A. (2016)	Turkey	Time (months) since healthcare system change	Family Medicine provision (within Health Transformation Program 2003)	Vaccination rates
Barker, I., T. Lloyd and A. Steventon (2016)	United Kingdom	Age	Named accountable GPs for patients aged 75 years old	Continuity of care, diagnostic tests
Bhowmick, R. (2016)	India	Population	Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) community health worker programme	Pregnancy and child health outcomes
Coudin, E., A. Pla and A.-L. Samson (2014)	France	Year (that GP commenced practice)	Reform of GP billing regulations	GP care provision, fees, prescribing behaviour
Del Bono, E., M. Francesconi and N. G. Best (2011)	United Kingdom	Date health warning issued	UK Committee on Safety of Medicines health warning on combined oral contraceptives and risk of VTE	Daily average numbers of conceptions, abortions, and live births; neonatal health outcomes
Fichera, E., E. Gray and M. Sutton (2016)	United Kingdom	Date Quality Outcome Framework introduced	Quality Outcome Framework pay system for family doctors	BMI, smoking, alcohol consumption
Glance, L. G., T. M. Osler, D. B. Mukamel, J. W. Meredith and A. W. Dick (2014)	United States	Date of intervention	Performance benchmarking (nonpublic hospital report cards)	In-hospital mortality
Heck, B. (2016)	United States	Hospital Safety Score	Hospital quality ratings	Healthcare acquired infections and admission rates
Jakobsson, N. and M. Svensson (2016)	Sweden	Date	Introduction of charges for healthcare use	Physician visits

Study	Context	Forcing variable	Intervention	Outcome(s)
Koch, S. F. (2013)	South Africa	Age	Policy change in fees for public healthcare	Healthcare utilisation
Landsem, M. M. and J. Magnussen (2018)	Norway	Age	Copayments for GP visits	GP visits for chronic, acute, and mental health diagnoses
Laughery, S. (2016)	United States	Number of FTE GPs per 10,000 population	Health Professional Shortage Area designation	Hospitalisations, mortality, prenatal care, neonatal health
Marier, A. (2014)	United States	Proportion of low-income patients	Medicare DSH (Disproportionate Share Hospital) status	Patient experience scores
Mody, A., I. Sikazwe, N. L. Czaicki, et al. (2018)	Zambia	Date	April 2014 change in Zambia's HIV treatment guidelines	ART initiation, retention in care
Nilsson, A. and A. Paul (2018)	Sweden	Age	Medical copayments (per-visit fees)	Use of healthcare (number doctor visits)
Roberts, E. T., A. M. Zaslavsky and J. M. McWilliams (2018)	United States	Practice size (number of clinicians)	Pay for performance program	Quality and spending measures: admissions, total medicare spending per beneficiary, all-cause readmissions within 30 days hospital discharge, mortality
Robinson, T. E., L. Zhou, N. Kerse, et al. (2015)	New Zealand	Predictive risk score	Transition intervention for discharge from hospital to community	28 day readmission, emergency department attendance
Rose L. (2018)	United States	Time (hours relative to midnight)	Medicare policy requiring three-day stay to cover nursing home care	Readmission, emergency department visits
Sojourner, A. J., R. J. Town, D. C. Grabowski and M. M. Chen (2012)	United States	Unionisation vote share	Unionisation in nursing homes	Care quality (based on state inspection data)
Swaminathan, S., V. Mor, R. Mehrotra and A. N. Trivedi (2015)	United States	Date (time in quarters from event)	2011 Medicare dialysis payment reforms	Use of erythropoiesis stimulating agents according to hematocrit levels

Study	Context	Forcing variable	Intervention	Outcome(s)
Williams, S. V. (1990)	United States	Year	Cost-monitoring letters to physicians from insurer	Mean of total billed charges per year
Zhou, J. T. (2018)	United States	Primary care physician to population ratio	Health Professional Shortage Area designation	Hospitalisations for ambulatory care conditions
Ziedan, E. (2018)	United States	Excess readmission ratios	Medicare Hospital Readmission Reduction Program	Readmission, mortality
Zuckerman, I. H., E. Lee, A. K. Wutoh, Z. Xue and B. Stuart (2006)	United States	Number of monthly inhaler prescriptions	Drug utilisation review letter to prescribers	Change in monthly inhaler prescriptions
Nutrition and obesity (11 studies)				
Almond, D., A. Lee and A. E. Schwartz (2016)	United States	Body mass index (BMI)	Fitnessgram obesity report cards for schoolchildren	BMI and weight
Capacci, S., M. Mazzocchi and B. Shankar (2012)	France	Age	Vending machine ban	Calorie and nutrient intakes reported in national nutritional surveys (7-day food diary)
Debnam, J. (2017)	United States	Date	Berkeley soda tax vote	Consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages
Gertner, G., J. Johannsen and S. Martinez (2016)	Bolivia	Distance to geographical boundary	Home visits to promote improved nutritional knowledge and child health	Nutritional knowledge and anthropometric measures
Hamad, R., A. K. Cohen and D. H. Rehkopf (2016)	United States	Date	Publication of national guidelines on nutrition during pregnancy	Gestational weight gain
Liu, S. (2017)	United States	BMI	Intensive Behavioral Therapy for Obesity under the Affordable Care Act	Change in body weight

Study	Context	Forcing variable	Intervention	Outcome(s)
McMahon, D. M., V. Y. Vdovenko, Y. I. Stepanova, et al. (2015)	Ukraine	Year	School-based food intervention to reduce radionuclide exposure	Blood markers, anaemia, respiratory and immune diseases
Meller, M. and S. Litschig (2014)	Ecuador	Poverty index (programme eligibility criterion)	PANN2000 food supplementation and health check programme	Child mortality, fertility
Olsho, L. E. W., J. A. Klerman, L. Ritchie, et al. (2015)	United States	Proportion of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals (state-specific program funding cut-off)	US Dept of Agriculture Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program	24-hour dietary intake
Peckham, J. G. and J. D. Kropp (2012)	United States	Family income to poverty ratio	National School Lunch Program	Obesity (BMI, waist-to-hip ratio, percentage body fat)
Schanzenbach, D. (2009)	United States	Income to poverty ratio	National School Lunch Program	Child obesity
Road safety (5 studies)				
Burger, N. E., D. T. Kaffine and B. Yu (2014)	United States	Time (date of ban)	Legislative ban on handheld cell phone use while driving	Number of daily traffic accidents
De Paola, M., V. Scoppa and M. Falcone (2013)	Italy	Date legislation introduced	Penalty points system for traffic offences	Traffic accidents, injuries, and fatalities
Hansen, B. (2015)	United States	Blood alcohol content	BAC-based punishments for drunk driving	Recidivism
Ono, S., Y. Ono, N. Michihata, Y. Sasabuchi and H. Yasunaga (2018)	Japan	Date	Pokemon GO outdoor game	Fatal road traffic injuries
Percoco, M. (2016)	Italy	Date	Ecopass road pricing scheme in Milan	Traffic deaths and injuries
Tobacco (8 studies)				
Bakolis, I., R. Kelly, D. Fecht, et al. (2016)	United Kingdom	Date	Smoking ban	Birth outcomes

Study	Context	Forcing variable	Intervention	Outcome(s)
Callaghan, R. C., M. Sanches, J. Gatley, et al. (2018)	Canada	Age	Minimum age for tobacco sales	Smoking status, frequency, and intensity
Nazzari, C. and J. E. Harris (2017)	Chile	Time in months	Smoke-free legislation	Myocardial infarction and stroke incidence and mortality
Pieroni, L., M. Chiavarini, L. Minelli and L. Salmasi (2013)	Italy	Year of smoking ban	Indoor smoking ban	Quitting, cigarette consumption, alcohol consumption
Pieroni, L. and L. Salmasi (2015)	Italy	Year of smoking ban	Indoor smoking ban	BMI
Waller, B. J., J. E. Cohen, R. Ferrence, S. Bull and E. M. Adlaf (2003)	Canada	Year	Decrease in cigarette prices	Youth smoking prevalence and mean cigarettes smoked per day
Yan, J. (2014)	United States	Maternal age at conception	Minimum cigarette purchase age	Prenatal smoking, infant health measures
Yörük, C. E. and B. K. Yörük (2014)	United States	Age	Minimum legal tobacco purchase age laws	Smoking behaviours

eTable 6. Regression discontinuity applications in the evaluation of health insurance schemes in high-income countries. Characteristics of included studies

Study	Context	Forcing variable	Exposure	Outcome(s)
Ai, E. C. Norton and Yang (2011)	United States	Age (eligibility for Medicare)	Health insurance	Hospital admissions and costs
Anderson, M. L., C. Dobkin and T. Gross (2012)	United States	Age (loss of parental insurance coverage at age 19)	Health insurance	Emergency department (ED) visits, inpatient admissions
Anderson, M. L., C. Dobkin and T. Gross (2014)	United States	Age (loss of parental insurance coverage at age 23)	Health insurance	ED visits, inpatient admissions
Ando, M. and R. Takaku (2016)	Japan	Age	Reduction in insurance copayment at age 70	Denture use and chewing ability
Belenkiy, M. (2010)	United States	Age (loss of parental insurance coverage at 19)	Health insurance	Obstetric treatment intensity
Beuermann, D. W. (2010)	United States	Age (eligibility for Medicare)	Health insurance	Healthcare utilisation/access/service quality measures
Burns, M. E., L. Dague, T. Deleire, et al. (2014)	United States	Date (that programme enrolment suddenly closed)	Health insurance (evaluation of Medicaid expansion in Wisconsin)	ED visits, hospitalisations, outpatient visits
Card, D. and L. D. Shore-Sheppard (2004)	United States	Age	Medicaid programme expansion	Health insurance coverage
Card, D., C. Dobkin and N. Maestas (2008)	United States	Age (eligibility for Medicare)	Medicare health insurance coverage	Healthcare utilisation (multiple measures)
Card, D., C. Dobkin and N. Maestas (2009)	United States	Age (eligibility for Medicare)	Medicare health insurance coverage	Mortality; treatment intensity
Cardella, E. and B. Depew (2014)	United States	Age	Health insurance	Self-reported health
Chay, Kim, Shailender (2010)	United States	Age	Medicare	Hospital utilisation, restricted activity, mortality
Dague, L. (2014)	United States	Family income as percentage of Federal Poverty Level	Medicaid/CHIP	Length of continuous enrolment

Study	Context	Forcing variable	Exposure	Outcome(s)
De La Mata, D. (2012)	United States	Family income as percentage of Federal Poverty Level	Medicaid	Uptake, crowding out, healthcare utilisation, health status, obesity, school sickness absence
Decker, S. L. (2005)	United States	Age	Medicare eligibility	Access to mammography, stage of diagnosis, survival of breast cancer
Desai, S. and J. M. McWilliams (2018)	United States	Hospital DSH percentage (proportion of patients who are low-income)	Medicare 340B drug subsidy programme	Medication prescribed, mortality
Dillender, M. (2015)	United States	Age in months	Ageing out of dependent health insurance coverage	Workers' compensation claims for work-related injuries
Dillender, M. (2018)	United States	Date (time in days from event)	Prior authorisation requirement for preferred drugs	Prescription of non-preferred drugs
Dugan, J., S. S. Virani and V. Ho (2012)	United States	Age (65, eligibility for Medicare)	Medicare	Physician visits, access to care, supplementary insurance coverage
Freed, S. S. (2018)	United States	Age	Medicare coverage under Affordable Care Act	Insurance coverage, inequalities
Guthmuller, S. and J. Wittwer (2012)	France	Income (insurance eligibility threshold)	Universal complementary health insurance (CMU-C)	Number and probability of visits to GP/specialist/any doctor
Hu, T., S. L. Decker and S. Y. Chou (2017)	United States	Age	Medicare Part D	Prescribing
Hu, T., S. L. Decker and S.-Y. Chou (2014)	United States	Age	Medicare Part D (introduction of drug coverage)	Quantity and type of drugs prescribed
Hullegie, P.G.J. & Klein, T.J. 2010	Germany	Income (insurance eligibility threshold)	Private health insurance	Doctor visits, nights in hospital, self-assessed health
Kc, P. (2018)	United States	Age	Dependent coverage extension of Affordable Care Act	Use of preventive care (flu shots, blood pressure checks, Pap smear tests)

Study	Context	Forcing variable	Exposure	Outcome(s)
Koch, T. G. (2013)	United States	Family income as a fraction of poverty guideline	Public health insurance for children (SCHIP)	Crowdout, healthcare utilisation and spending
Koch, T. G. (2015)	United States	Family income	Public health insurance	Parents' self-reported health and preventive care usage
Law, M. R., L. Cheng, H. Worthington, et al. (2017)	Canada	Year of birth	Income-based deductible for prescription drug costs	Access to medicines, physician visits, hospital admissions
Lee, A. (2017)	United States	Birthweight	Type of Medicaid plan (fee for service vs managed care)	Hospital readmission, length of stay, mortality
Lee, J. (2018)	United States	Age	Dependent coverage extension of Affordable Care Act	Smoking, drinking, flu shots, physical activity
Monnet, J. (2018)	United States	Age	Medicaid restriction on coverage for inpatient psychiatric care	Mental health emergency department visits
Muhlestein, D. B. and E. E. Seiber (2013)	United States	Family income as percentage of Federal Poverty Level	Medicaid eligibility	Crowdout of private insurance
Nikolova, S. and S. Stearns (2014)	United States	Family income as percentage of Federal Poverty Level	CHIP premium structure	Insurance status
Nishi, A., J. Michael McWilliams, H. Noguchi, et al. (2012)	Japan	Age	Reduced copayment for low-income elderly	Physical and mental health scales; out-of-pocket medical spending
Palangkaraya, A. and J. Yong (2007)	Australia	Age	Lifetime Health Cover scheme	Private health insurance coverage
Pei, Z. and Y. Shen (2017)	United States	Income	Medicaid	Crowdout of private insurance
Perry, B. J. (2017)	United States	Normalised wage index	Medicare rural floor policy for reimbursement rate	Hospital length of stay, admissions, patient mix
Rhodes, J. H. (2018)	United States	Age in years	Medicare coverage change at age 65	Self-reported mental health and mental healthcare visits

Study	Context	Forcing variable	Exposure	Outcome(s)
Shigeoka, H. (2014)	Japan	Age	Elderly Health Insurance programme (Japan)	Healthcare utilisation, mortality, self-reported health
Wherry, L. R. and B. D. Meyer (2016)	United States	Birthdate	Public health insurance (Medicaid) eligibility	Mortality
Witman, A. (2015)	United States	Age	Spousal Medicare eligibility	Insurance coverage of younger spouse (crowd-out)
Yoruk, B. K. (2016)	United States	Age	Ageing out of health insurance coverage	Self-assessed health
Yörük, B. K. (2017)	United States	Age	Ageing out of health insurance coverage	Risky health behaviours
Zogg, C. K., J. W. Scott, D. Metcalfe, et al. (2017)	United States	Age	Medicare eligibility	Rehabilitation access/use

eTable 7. Regression discontinuity applications in the evaluation of health insurance schemes in low- and middle-income countries. Characteristics of included studies

Study	Context	Forcing variable	Exposure	Outcome(s)
Bauhoff, S., D. R. Hotchkiss and O. Smith (2011)	Georgia	Programme eligibility score (based on >100 household indicators)	Medical Insurance Program for the Poor (MIP)	Healthcare utilisation, out of pocket expenditure, individual health status and behaviours
Bernal, N., M. A. Carpio and T. J. Klein (2014)	Peru	Welfare index	Seguro Integral de Salud (social health insurance)	Healthcare utilisation, expenditure, individual health outcomes
Bernal, N., M. A. Carpio and T. J. Klein (2017)	Peru	Household Targeting Index (welfare index)	Seguro Integral de Salud (social health insurance)	Vaccines, birth control
Camacho, A. and E. Conover (2013)	Colombia	Poverty index	Subsidized Regime (SR) health insurance for the poor	Neonatal health (birthweight, Apgar 5), prenatal care
Gaviria Garcés, C. F. and D. De la Mata (2016)	Colombia	Age	Colombian health insurance regulation Decree 806	Emergency and preventive medicine visits, self-reported health status
Hou, X. and S. Chao (2008)	Georgia	Welfare score	Medical Assistance Program for the poor	Acute surgeries and inpatient care
Miller, G., D. Pinto and M. Vera-Hernández (2013)	Colombia	Simulated SISBEN index	Subsidised Regime of health insurance for the poor	Service use, health status, health behaviours
Palmer, M., S. Mitra, D. Mont and N. Groce (2014)	Vietnam	Age	Public health insurance for preschool children	Inpatient and outpatient visits (healthcare utilisation), expenditure, substitution (crowdout)
Sood, N., E. Bendavid, A. Mukherji, et al. (2014)	India	Geographic boundary	Public health insurance (tertiary care for households below poverty line)	Mortality, healthcare utilisation, out-of-pocket expenditure
Yang, T.-T., H.-W. Han and H.-M. Lien (2014)	Taiwan	Age	Taiwan Children's Medical Subsidy Program	Healthcare utilisation and expenditure

eTable 8. Regression discontinuity applications in the investigation of health outcomes of social policies in low- and middle-income countries. Characteristics of included studies

Study	Context	Forcing variable	Intervention	Outcome(s)
Alam, A. and J. E. Baez (2011)	Pakistan	District literacy rate (program eligibility criterion)	Female School Stipend Program (conditional cash transfer)	Sexual and fertility decisions (early marriage and childbearing)
Andalón, M. (2011)	Mexico	Poverty index (programme eligibility criterion)	Oportunidades conditional cash transfer	Rates of overweight and obesity
Bor, J. (2013)	South Africa	Date of birth	Extension of eligibility for Child Support Grant	Time to first pregnancy from age 14 (teenage pregnancy)
Carneiro, P., E. Galasso and R. Ginja (2014)	Chile	Poverty index (programme eligibility criterion)	Chile Solidario anti-poverty programme	Water and sewage connection
Carranza Barona and Mendez Sayago, 2015	Ecuador	Selben welfare index	Bono de Desarrollo Humano (conditional cash transfer)	Exclusive breastfeeding in first six months of life
Chakravorty, A. (2018)	India	Age	National Old Age Pension Scheme	Weight, days of illness, child stunting
Chen, Y., A. Ebenstein, M. Greenstone and H. Li (2013)	China	Latitude relative to Huai River boundary	Coal for winter heating	Mortality and life expectancy
Cogneau, D., S. Mesple-Somps and G. Spielvogel (2013)	Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Ghana, Guinea	Distance from border	National boundaries	Children's height-for-age, access to safe water
Crisman, B., S. Dykstra, C. Kenny and M. O'Donnell (2016)	Burkina Faso	Date	Legislative ban on female genital mutilation	Likelihood of female genital mutilation
Crost, B., J. Felter and P. Johnston (2014)	Philippines	Distance of municipal poverty ranking from programme eligibility threshold	KALAHI-CIDSS, community-driven development programme	Number of conflict casualties

Study	Context	Forcing variable	Intervention	Outcome(s)
de Brauw, A. and A. Peterman (2011)	El Salvador	Municipal poverty score	Comunidades Solidarias Rurales (CCT)	Prenatal and postnatal care, skilled attendance, birth at health facility
Deepti Thomas, M. (2016)	India	State development index	National Rural Employment Guarantee Act	Child and maternal mortality, vaccinations
El-Kogali, S. E. T., C. G. Krafft, T. Abdelkhalek, et al. (2016)	Morocco	District poverty level	Community development programme	Child growth and nutrition
Filmer, D. and N. Schady (2014)	Cambodia	Dropout risk score (programme eligibility criterion)	Scholarships for poor children	Teenage pregnancy
Garcia Hombrados, J. (2018)	Ethiopia	Age	Increased legal age of marriage for women under the Revised Family Code	Infant mortality
Gordon, D. and D. L. Miller. (2012)	South Africa	Age	Old age pension eligibility	Mortality, self-reported health, access to clean water, nutrition
Janssens, W. (2011)	India	Age	Mahila Samakhya (women's empowerment and health education program)	Child vaccinations
Khanna, G. and L. Zimmermann (2017)	India	District economic development index ranking	Indian National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (anti-poverty programme)	Fatalities due to political violence
Lamadrid-Figueroa et al. (2008)	Mexico	Poverty score	Oportunidades social programme	Contraceptive use
Medina, C., J. Nunez and J. A. Tamayo (2013)	Colombia	Welfare index (SISBEN)	Unemployment Subsidy and retraining	Children's weight, height, BMI, Apgar score
Moreno, L. (2017)	Ecuador	Household poverty index	Human Development Bonus (conditional cash transfer)	Child chronic stunting
Morgan, R. (2016)	Colombia	SISBEN household poverty score	Familias en Acción conditional cash transfer	Self-reported health, subjective wellbeing

Study	Context	Forcing variable	Intervention	Outcome(s)
Nabernegg 2012	Ecuador	Selben welfare index	Bono de Desarrollo Humano (conditional cash transfer)	Household spending on alcohol and cigarettes
Peng, J. (2017)	China	Age	Mandatory retirement age	Physical and mental health and wellbeing, smoking, alcohol consumption
Pitt, M.M., Khandker, S.R., McKernan, S. & Latif, M.A. (1999)	Bangladesh	Acres of land owned by household (programme eligibility criterion)	Group-based credit programmes for the poor	Contraceptive use and fertility
Qi, D. and Y. Wu (2018)	China	Income	Minimum Living Security System	Psychological health and wellbeing (self-satisfaction, negative emotions)
Rahman, M. M. (2014)	Bangladesh	Household income	Social safety net programmes	Daily caloric consumption
Rahman, M. M. and S. Pallikadavath (2018)	India	Parity	Janani Suraksha Yojana (safe motherhood scheme, or JSY) conditional cash transfer	Use of maternal and child health services
Sachdeva, A. (2016)	India	Village population	National rural road construction programme	Prenatal care and contraception, healthcare supply
Siaplay, M. (2012)	South Africa	Age	South African Old Age Pension programme	Sexual behaviours of young adults in household
Sun, A. and Y. Zhao (2014)	China	Month and year of conception	Increased women's bargaining power following divorce reform	Sex ratio of second children following firstborn girls; birth spacing; child caloric intake; husband's alcohol and cigarette consumption
Tibone, K. L. (2013)	Ethiopia	Month and year of conception	US foreign aid policy change ('Mexico City Policy')	Abortion rates

Study	Context	Forcing variable	Intervention	Outcome(s)
Urquieta, J., G. Angeles and T. Mroz (2009)	Mexico	Poverty index (programme eligibility criterion)	Oportunidades poverty alleviation programme	Skilled attendance at delivery
You, J. (2013)	China	Predicted probability of borrowing microcredit	Formal microcredit (Rural Credit Cooperatives)	Child malnutrition (BMI, anaemia, zinc deficiency)
You, J. (2016)	China	Propensity to borrow from rural microcredit schemes	Access to microcredit	Parental report of child health

eTable 9. Regression discontinuity evaluations of early years interventions. Characteristics of included studies

Study	Context	Forcing variable	Intervention	Outcome(s)
Carneiro, P. and R. Ginja (2014)	United States	Family income (programme eligibility cutoff)	Head Start	Health measures from CNLSY longitudinal survey
Cattaneo, M. D., R. Titiunik and G. Vazquez-Bare (2017)	United States	County-level poverty index	Head Start	Child mortality
Coburn, J. L. (2009)	United States	Age of child on 30 Sept 2007	Prekindergarten programme	Brigance Screen age-equivalent scores
Gormley, W.T., Gayer, T., Phillips, D. & Dawson, B. (2005)	United States	Birthdate	Oklahoma universal prekindergarten program	School readiness (Woodcock-Johnson Achievement test)
Lipsey, M. W., D. C. Farran, C. Bilbrey, et al. (2011)	United States	Birthdate	Tennessee voluntary pre-kindergarten programme	School readiness (Woodcock Johnson III test)
Ludwig, J. and D. L. Miller (2007)	United States	County poverty rate	Head Start	Mortality rate
Rosero, J. and H. Oosterbeek (2011)	Ecuador	Programme proposal quality score (assigned by funding body)	Early childhood programmes (home visits and childcare centres) for poor families)	Multiple child health and development measures; maternal stress and depression
Santos, R. G. (2006)	Canada	Family Stress Checklist score (programme eligibility rule)	BabyFirst home visit programme	Family social support, parental mental health, parenting outcomes
Tang, Y., T. D. Cook, Y. Kisbu-Sakarya, H. Hock and H. Chiang (2017).	United States	Assessment date	Head Start	Child cognitive development and problem behaviours
Weiland, C. and H. Yoshikawa (2013)	United States	Birthdate (programme eligibility cut-off)	Boston Public Schools prekindergarten programme	Cognitive, executive function and emotional development outcomes
Wong, V.C., Cook, T.D., Barnett, W.S. and Jung, K. (2008)	United States	Birthdate	State pre-kindergarten programmes	Children's cognitive skills/school readiness

eTable 10. Regression discontinuity applications in the causal impact of education on health. Characteristics of included studies

These studies investigate the health effects of education programmes, duration of education, and changes in educational policy.

Study	Context	Forcing variable	Exposure	Outcome(s)
Albouy, V. and L. Lequien (2009)	France	Year of policy change	Raised mandatory minimum school leaving age	Mortality (survival rates at age 50 and 80)
Ali, F. R. and M. A. Elsayed (2018)	Egypt	Birthdate	Parental education	Child mortality
Ali, F. R. and S. Gurm (2018)	Egypt	Birthdate	Increased years in primary education	Fertility
Anderson, P. M., K. F. Butcher, E. U. Cascio and D. W. Schanzenbach (2011)	United States	Birthdate (cutoff for starting school)	Years of early primary education	Body mass index
Ankara, H. G. (2015)	Turkey	Date of birth	Extension of compulsory schooling	Fertility and child mortality
Arcand, J. L. and E. D. Wouabe (2010)	Cameroon	Number of secondary schools in town (programme eligibility criterion)	HIV/AIDS teacher training programme	HIV-related knowledge, attitudes and behaviour
Banks, J. and F. Mazzonna (2012)	United Kingdom	Birthdate	1947 policy change in minimum school leaving age (additional year of schooling)	Memory, executive functioning, CASP-19, social and cultural activity index
Behrman, J. A. (2015)	Malawi and Uganda	Birth cohort	Universal Primary Education	HIV status
Behrman, J. A., A. Peterman and T. Palermo (2017)	Malawi and Uganda	Year	Universal Primary Education policies	Experiences of sexual violence
Boahen, E. A. and C. Yamauchi (2018)	Ghana	Year of birth	Free compulsory universal primary education	Sexual behaviour and fertility

Study	Context	Forcing variable	Exposure	Outcome(s)
Chen, K., N. Fortin and S. Phipps (2015).	Canada	Age	School starting age	Inattentive/hyperactive behaviour
Clark, D. and H. Royer (2013)	United Kingdom	Birthdate	Changes to UK compulsory schooling laws	Mortality, health behaviours, self-reported health
Cullen, K. W., L. M. Koehly, C. Anderson, et al. (1999)	United States	Years from age 18	Transition from high school	Diet, physical activity, tobacco and alcohol use, sexual behaviour
Dang, T. (2018)	Vietnam	Age	Law on Universal Primary Education	Use of healthcare (inpatient and outpatient)
Davies, N. M., M. Dickson, G. D. Smith, G. J. Van Den Berg and F. Windmeijer (2018)	United Kingdom	Date (time in months from event)	Increase in compulsory education	Risk of diabetes and mortality
Dee, T. S. and H. H. Sievertsen (2018)	Denmark	Age start school	Delay starting school by one year	Child mental health measured by Strengths and Difficulties questionnaire: total difficulties, emotional, conduct, hyperactivity, peer problems, pro-social behaviour
Dickert-Conlin, S. and T. Elder (2010)	United States	Date (state cutoff for school eligibility)	Cutoff dates for starting school	Birth timing
Elder, T. E. (2010)	United States	Birthdate (relative to state kindergarten eligibility cutoff)	School starting age	ADHD symptoms, diagnosis and treatment
Erten, B. and P. Keskin (2018)	Turkey	Age	Increase in compulsory education	Years in school
Evans, W. N., M. S. Morrill and S. T. Parente (2010)	United States	Birthdate (relative to state kindergarten eligibility cutoff)	School starting age	ADHD diagnosis and treatment
Greenwood, E. (2012)	United States	Year	College opening	Births to teenage mothers

Study	Context	Forcing variable	Exposure	Outcome(s)
Grépin KA, Bharadwaj P.	Zimbabwe	Age	1980 School Reform in Zimbabwe	Child mortality, vaccinations, antenatal care
Heck B. (2016)	United Kingdom	Date	Changes to compulsory schooling laws	Mortality, hospital admissions
Jakobsson, N., M. Persson and M. Svensson (2013)	Sweden	Class size	Class size	Mental health and wellbeing measures
Johnston, D., G. Lordan, M.A. Shields and A. Suziedelyte (2015)	United Kingdom	Date of birth	Additional year of schooling	Index of health knowledge
Jurges, H., E. Kruk and S. Reinhold (2010)	United Kingdom	Date of birth	Additional year of schooling	Blood fibrinogen, CRP, self-reported health
Kan, K. and M. J. Lee (2018)	Taiwan	Birthdate	Increased compulsory education	Fertility
Keats, A. (2018)	Uganda	Year of birth	Ugandan Universal Primary Education programme	Fertility, child mortality, vaccinations, malnutrition
Lindeboom, M., A. Llana-Nozal and B. van der Klaauw (2009)	United Kingdom	Year of birth	Additional year of schooling	Child height, weight, morbidity; parental BMI, chronic disease, fertility
Lleras-Muney, A. (2005)	United States	Year of change in compulsory schooling education	Education	Mortality
Makate, M. & Makate, C. 2016	Malawi	Age	Universal Primary Education policy	Neonatal and child mortality
Makate, M. and C. Makate (2018)	Zimbabwe	Year	1980 School Reform in Zimbabwe	Child height-for-age and weight-for-age
Makate, M. and C. Makate (2018b)	Uganda	Age	Ugandan Universal Primary Education programme	Teenage childbirth
Malamud, O., A. Mitrut and C. Pop-Eleches (2018)	Romania	Date of birth	Romanian compulsory schooling reform	Mortality, self-reported health
Matsubayashi, T. and M. Ueda (2015)	Japan	Date of birth	Relative age in grade	Suicide

Study	Context	Forcing variable	Exposure	Outcome(s)
McCrary, J. and H. Royer (2011)	United States	Date of birth	School starting age	Fertility, birthweight and prematurity
Meghir, C., M. Palme and E. Simeonova (2018)	Sweden	Months from reform implementation	Swedish compulsory schooling reform	Mortality, hospital admissions, prescription drugs
Monstad, K., C. Propper and K. G. Salvanes (2008)	Norway	Age relative to year of reform	Reform that increased years of compulsory schooling	Number of children and maternal age at first birth
Nakamura, R. (2012)	United Kingdom	Month and year of birth	Maternal schooling	Children's weight, fruit and vegetable consumption, exercise
Ozier, Owen. 2015	Kenya	KCPE test score	Secondary schooling	Teenage pregnancy
Parinduri, R. A. (2017)	Indonesia	Year of birth	Extended school year	Self-reported health, hypertension, smoking, access to insurance and healthcare
Park, W. (2013)	South Korea	Year of birth	College education	Smoking behaviour
Powdthavee, N. (2010)	United Kingdom	Year of birth	Compulsory education	Hypertension
Samarakoon, S. and R. A. Parinduri (2015)	Indonesia	Year of birth	Education (longer school year in 1978)	Fertility and reproductive health behaviours
Schwandt, H. and A. Wuppermann (2016)	Germany	Age relative to school cutoff date	School starting age	ADHD prevalence and medications
Silles, M.A. (2009)	United Kingdom	Unclear (age or year)	Years of schooling	Self-reported health
Tan, P. L. (2017)	United States	Date of birth	School entry cutoff date	Motherhood by age 17 and age 20
Turley, P. (2016)	United Kingdom	Month of birth	Increase in compulsory education	BMI and diabetes
van Kippersluis, H., O. O'Donnell and E. van Doorslaer (2011)	Netherlands	Birthdate	Years of compulsory schooling	Mortality after age 81
Weitzman, A. (2017)	Peru	Age	Extension to compulsory schooling by 5 years	Maternal health: health complications during and after pregnancy, use of contraception

Study	Context	Forcing variable	Exposure	Outcome(s)
Weitzman, A. (2018)	Peru	Age	Extension to compulsory schooling by 5 years	Intimate partner violence (psychological, physical, and sexual)
Woodworth, L. (2016)	United States	Month of birth	Completion of final year of schooling	Self-reported health, BMI, hospital episodes
Zhang, N. (2009)	United States	Age	Years of formal schooling	Children's bodyweight, fruit and vegetable consumption
Zhong, H. (2015)	China	Date	College education	Smoking, drinking, self-rated health, hypertension, weight

eTable 11. Regression discontinuity applications in the investigation of health outcomes of social policies in high-income countries. Characteristics of included studies

Study	Context	Forcing variable	Intervention	Outcome(s)
Beuchert, L. V., M. K. Humlum and R. Vejlin (2014)	Denmark	Date	Reform of maternity leave laws	Hospital admissions, emergency department visits, maternal depression, family outcomes
Beuchert, L. V., M. K. Humlum and R. Vejlin (2016)	Denmark	Date	Maternity leave policy change	Hospital visits
Boheim, R. and T. Leoni (2014)	Austria	Firm's wage sum (threshold for paying deductible on sickness absence insurance)	Deductible of 30% payable by large employer on sickness absence insurance	Blue-collar workers' sickness absences
Bonander, C., J. Gustavsson and F. Nilson (2016)	Sweden	Age	Home help programme for elderly	Fall related hospitalisation
Clouston, S. A. P. and N. Denier (2017)	United States	Time since retirement	Retirement	Cognitive ageing - episodic memory, verbal learning, verbal memory
Crossley, T. F. and F. Zilio (2018)	United Kingdom	Age	UK Winter Fuel Payment	Chest infection, hypertension, biomarkers
Cygan-Rehm, K. (2016)	Germany	Date	Parental benefit based on net earnings (Elterngeld)	Fertility and birth spacing
Desimone, J. (2018)	United States	Age	Access to retirement benefits	Suicide
Deutscher, N. and R. Breunig (2018)	Australia	Date	Birth shifting in response to baby bonus policy	Birthweight, gestation length, child development score
Fitzpatrick, M. D. and T. J. Moore (2018)	United States	Age	Eligibility for Social Security	Mortality
Garcia-Gomez, P. and A. C. Gielen (2014)	Netherlands	Age (45, threshold for exposure to reform)	Disability insurance reform	Hospitalisations and mortality

González, L. (2013)	Spain	Date	Universal child benefit	Incidence of conceptions and abortions
Guertzgen, N. and K. Hank (2014)	Germany	Month (of child's birth relative to reform)	Reform of maternity leave legislation	Long-term sickness
Guldi, M., A. Hawkins, J. Hemmeter and L. Schmidt (2018)	United States	Birthweight	Supplemental Security Income benefit	Infant mortality, child motor skill development, parenting behaviours, inequalities
Higgerson, J., E. Halliday, A. Ortiz-Nunez and B. Barr (2018)	United Kingdom	Age	Free swimming for children under 16 during school holidays	Swimming rates
Huang, W. (2016)	Multiple	Date	Introduction of social pension scheme	Mortality
Jenkins, J. M. (2018)	United States	Economic need index	Funding to promote Medicaid enrolment	Medicaid enrolment, well-child visits
Johansson, P. and M. Palme (2005)	Sweden	Date	National sickness insurance	Incidence and duration of work absences
Lammers, M., H. Bloemen and S. Hochguertel (2013)	Netherlands	Age	Policy change in benefits requirements	Transition to disability benefits
Müller, T. and M. Shaikh (2018)	Multiple	Age	Spousal retirement	Health behaviours (physical activity, alcohol consumption, smoking)
Rieck, K. M. E. (2012)	Norway	Child's date of birth	Paid paternity leave	Parental sickness absence
Rose, L. (2018)	United Kingdom	Age	Retirement (UK State Pension Age)	Self-reported health, hypertension, smoking, disability, mortality
Snyder, S. E. and W. N. Evans (2006)	United States	Quarter of birth	Lower income due to change in social security benefits ("Notch")	Five-year mortality

eTable 12. Regression discontinuity applications in epidemiological questions of cause and effect. Characteristics of included studies

These studies investigate the health effects of exposures to social or environmental factors or events.

Study	Context	Forcing variable	Exposure	Outcome(s)
Anderson, S. (2018)	Multiple	Distance from national border	Common law versus civil law	HIV prevalence, contraceptive use
Bhalotra, S., I. Clots-Figueras, G. Cassan and L. Iyer (2014)	India	Vote margin in close elections	Rise in share of elected officials who are Muslim	Neonatal and infant mortality
Clark, A. E., O. Doyle and E. Stancanelli (2017)	United States	Date (time in days from event)	Boston Marathon terrorist attack	Experienced wellbeing
Conley, D. and J. Heerwig (2012)	United States	Lottery number cutoff for draft eligibility	Vietnam War military conscription	Mortality
Dell, M. (2010)	Peru	Latitude and longitude	The mita, a forced labour system in operation 1573-1812	Stunted growth in children
Eibich, P. (2014)	Germany	Age	Retirement	Physical and mental health, smoking, alcohol, exercise, diet, sleep, social support, healthcare utilisation
Fé, E. and B. Hollingsworth (2012)	United Kingdom	Default retirement age	Retirement	Mental health indicators, healthcare utilisation, BP, migraine
Fletcher, J. M. (2014)	United States	Date of survey interview	September 11th terror attacks	Sadness
Huang, W. and Y. Zhou (2013)	China	Year of birth	Great Famine 1959-61	Cognitive functioning
Johnston, D. W. and W. S. Lee (2009)	United Kingdom	Age	Retirement	GHQ-12 mental health, BMI, hypertension
Kong, A. (2011)	Canada	Age	Retirement	Self-reported physical and mental health

Study	Context	Forcing variable	Exposure	Outcome(s)
Mezuk, B., G. L. Larkin, M. R. Prescott, et al. (2009)	United States	Date	September 11 th terror attacks in 2001	Monthly suicide rate per 100 000 in New York City
Pesko, M. F. (2014)	United States	Dates of terrorist attacks	Terrorist attacks	Stress, smoking
Pierce, L., M. S. Dahl and J. Nielsen (2013)	Denmark	Marital income difference	Income inequality between spouses	Prescription medications for erectile dysfunction, anxiety, insomnia, depression
Smith, A. C. (2016)	United States	Date relative to Daylight Saving Time transition	Daylight Saving Time	Fatal crashes
Sotomayor, O. (2013)	Puerto Rico	Year of birth	In-utero exposure to natural disasters (hurricanes)	Hypertension, diabetes, high cholesterol in adulthood
Toro, W., R. Tigre and B. Sampaio (2015)	Brazil	Date relative to Daylight Saving Time transition	Daylight Saving Time	Acute myocardial infarction
Uttley, J. and S. Fotios (2017)	United Kingdom	Date relative to Daylight Saving Time transition	Ambient light conditions	Road traffic collisions
Yang, M. (undated)	United States	Date	September 11 th terror attack-induced anxiety	Marijuana use
Zhang, Y., M. Salm and A. van Soest (2018)	China	Age	Retirement	Health seeking behaviour and healthcare expenditure
Zhong, H. (2014)	China	Year of birth	Number of siblings	Child health (height, self-assessed health, BMI)
Zhong, H. (2016)	China	Year of birth	Disruption to education during Cultural Revolution	self-reported poor health, disabilities, chronic diseases, physical functioning, pain

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