

# **Casualties, Prejudice and Labor Market Outcomes Among Muslims and Arabs in the U.S**

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**Abstract:** Between 2001 and 2014, more than 6,500 American soldiers died while serving in Afghanistan and Iraq. Drawing on data from the Defense Manpower Data Center, which contains information on each of these soldier's home state as well as the exact date on which they died, we estimate the relationship between home-state fatalities and the labor market outcomes of first- and second generation Arab and Muslim men working in the United States. Because home state does not influence when, where or how the U.S. military deploys its soldiers, news of a soldier's death can be thought of as producing a temporary, state-specific shock to the degree of prejudice faced by Arab and Muslim men working in the United States. We find that home-state fatalities are, in general, unrelated to wages and employment status. However, we find a strong, negative relationship between hours worked by Arab and Muslim men and whether a U.S. soldier from their state of residence died in the weeks preceding their interview. We argue that this result is consistent with customer taste-based discrimination but inconsistent with statistical models of discrimination.