

Using Preschool Research to Facilitate Change

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Good preschool programs for poor children have lasting effects and an excellent return on public investment.

Current Best Evidence

- High/Scope Perry Preschool Midlife Study
- Carolina Abecedarian Project Through Age 21
- Chicago Child Parent-Centers Longitudinal Study Through Age 20

Consortium for Longitudinal Studies (1975-1983)

- # 11 preschool studies brought together to counter disbelief and misinterpretation.
 - # **Program effects did not fade out:** The programs improved grade placement and high school graduation rate.
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Strengths of the High/Scope Perry Preschool Study

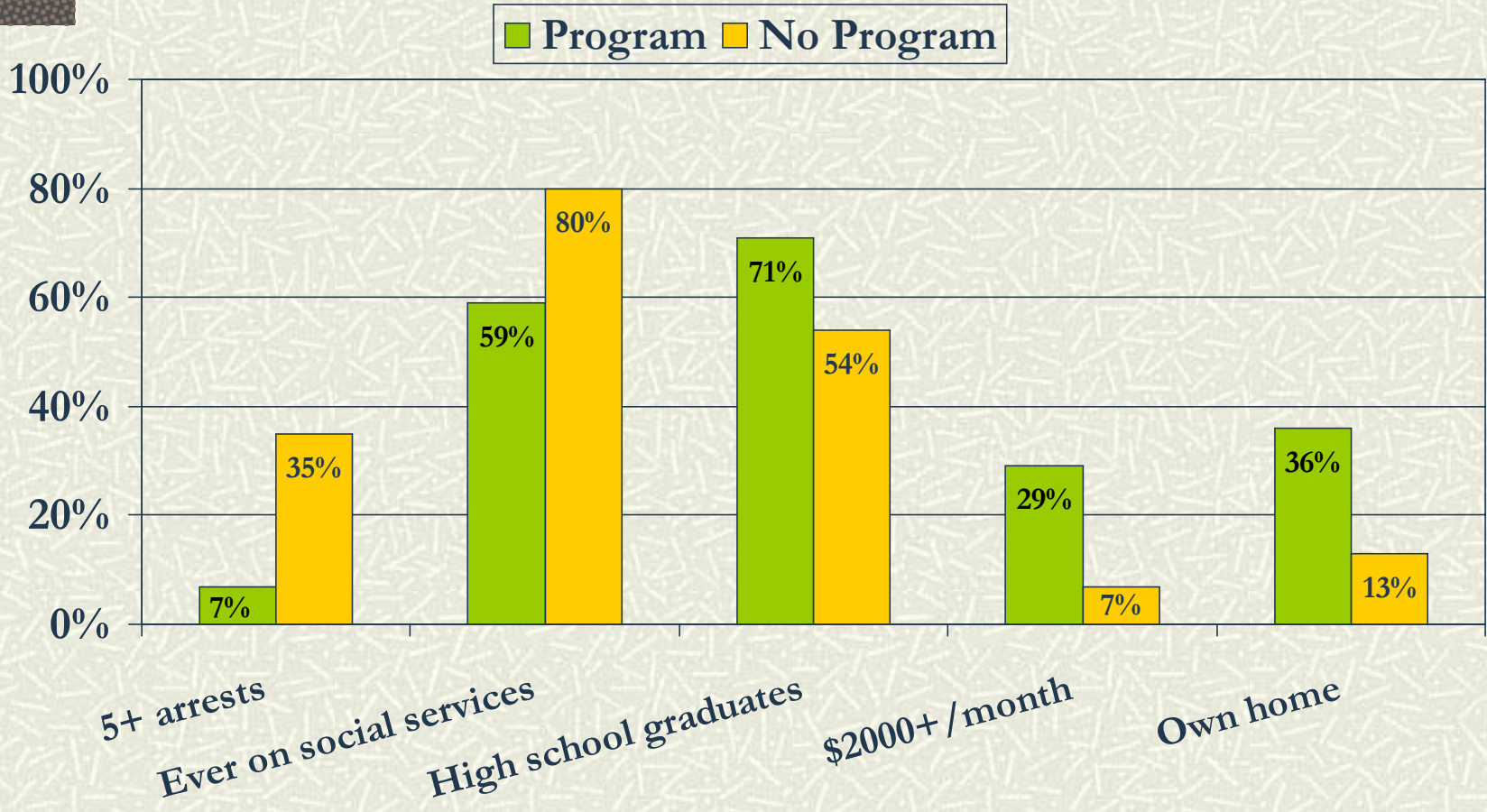
- # Random assignment of children to program and no-program groups
 - # Little missing data from ages 3 to 41
 - # Reasonable pattern of findings
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Early Findings

- # Great improvement in IQ, followed by fadeout
 - # Fewer children placed in special education or retained in grade (17% vs. 38%)
 - # Consistently better achievement test scores in elementary school, then much better achievement test scores at age 14
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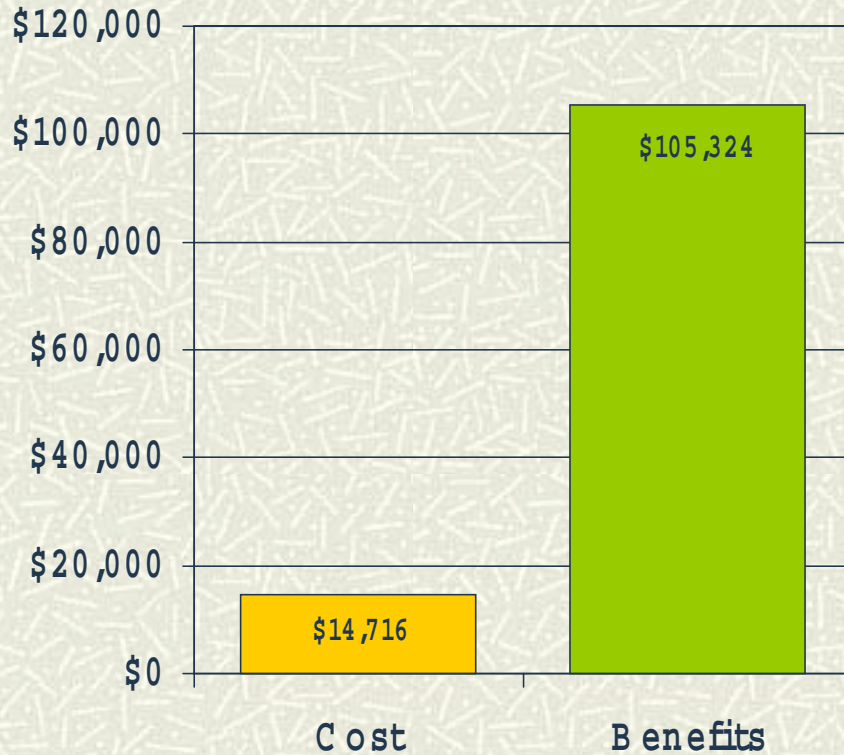
High/Scope Perry Preschool Study

Age 27 Findings



716% Return on Public Investment

Program Cost & Benefits Per Participant



2001 \$ annually discounted at 3%

Sources

- Crime victims (65%)
- Justice system (14%)
- More taxes paid (10%)
- Schooling (7%)
- Welfare (3%)

Engaging Opinion Leaders

- # Presentations and publications for national associations:
 - Federal, state, and local policymakers
 - Educators
 - Business leaders
 - # State conferences in most of the states
 - # Voices for Children campaigns in 4 states (MI, OH, NC, SC)
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Engaging the Public

Age	Year	Administration
15	1980	Carter
19	1984	Reagan
27	1993	Clinton
40	2004	Bush II

Preschool Public Policy

	1984	2002
Head Start	\$1.0 billion 442,140 children	\$6.5 billion 912,345 children
State Preschool	7 states \$0.2 billion 172,524 children	42 states & DC \$2.7 billion 712,525 children