

Education and Income

- Including all preschoolers, the ECE investment if begun now would return \$107 billion to the Gross National Product by 2050.^{vii}
- Limited literacy skills cost businesses and taxpayers approximately \$20 billion per year in lost wages, profits, and productivity.^{viii}
- Remaining in school is the single most important action adolescents can take to improve their future economic prospects. In 1992, a high school graduate earned almost \$6,000 per year more than a high school dropout.^{ix}
- Going to college boosts income even more. In 1992, college graduates had a mean annual income of \$32,629, while high school graduates had a mean annual income of \$18,737. Earning a professional degree added \$40,000 a year to the mean annual income of college graduates.^x
- Early childhood learning is more effective at getting students to college than tuition policy and credit help combined.^{xi}

Welfare

- In 1991, federal and state expenditures for Aid to Families with Dependent Children (now titled Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)), the largest entitlement program for poor families, totaled \$20 billion plus administrative costs of \$2.6 billion.^{xii}

Crime and Violence

- Including all preschoolers, the ECE investment if begun now would save \$155 billion as a result of lower crimes and delinquency rates by 2050.^{xiii}
- In 1993, the cost of providing medical care for American firearm victims ages ten through nineteen was \$407 million.^{xiv}
- Men with limited skills and few legal earnings opportunities may net substantially more from criminal activities with rates of pay as much as 2 to 4 times higher than those from legitimate work.^{xv}

Health

- In the six years between 1985 and 1990, estimated public outlays related to teenage childbearing totaled more than \$120 billion. More than \$48 billion could have been saved if these births had been postponed until the mother was age 20 or older.^{xvi}
- Substance abuse costs the United States more than \$238 billion a year.^{xvii}

Business

- It is estimated that absenteeism caused by poor quality child care costs American business more than \$3 billion a year.^{xviii}

“It is clear that long-term taxpayer returns are substantial...In short, the social savings, productivity and wage gains that come from early education are as close as one comes to a guaranteed investment.”^{xix}

--J.B. Pritzker of the Pritzker Consortium on Early Childhood Development
at the University of Chicago

Sources

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- ⁱⁱⁱ A Cost Benefit Analysis of Universally Accessible Prekindergarten Education in Texas by the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University, 2005
- ^{iv} Exceptional Returns: Economic, Fiscal, and Social Benefits of Investment in Early Childhood Development by Robert G. Lynch of the Economic Policy Institute, 2004
- ^v *ibid*
- ^{vi} Laying the foundation: Researchers look for better ways to quantify the benefits of investment in early childhood development. December 7-8, 2007 Kathy Cobb Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis www.earlychildhoodrc.org/events/summary.cfm
- ^{vii} Exceptional Returns: Economic, Fiscal, and Social Benefits of Investment in Early Childhood Development by Robert G. Lynch of the Economic Policy Institute, 2004
- ^{viii} Earning a Gold Start Pamphlet from the Texas Early Childhood Education Coalition, 2004
- ^{ix} Great Transitions: Preparing Adolescents for a New Century from the Carnegie Corporation, 1995
- ^x *ibid*
- ^{xi} Earning a Gold Start Pamphlet from the Texas Early Childhood Education Coalition, 2004
- ^{xii} Starting Points: Meeting the Needs of Our Youngest Children from the Carnegie Corporation, 1994.
- ^{xiii} Exceptional Returns: Economic, Fiscal, and Social Benefits of Investment in Early Childhood Development by Robert G. Lynch of the Economic Policy Institute, 2004
- ^{xiv} Great Transitions: Preparing Adolescents for a New Century from the Carnegie Corporation, 1995
- ^{xv} Losing Generations: Adolescents in High Risk Settings from the National Research Council, 1993
- ^{xvi} Starting Points: Meeting the Needs of Our Youngest Children from the Carnegie Corporation, 1994.
- ^{xvii} *Ibid*
- ^{xviii} How Does High Quality Child Care Benefit Business and the Local Economy? by Jen Brown from the Economic Opportunity Institute, 2002
- ^{xix} J.B. Pritzker, May 24, 2006: Chicago Tribune
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