

The Head Start Advantage

Invest now... or spend later.



Two life trajectories

Invest now

Spend later



Kindergarten readiness

Children who attend Head Start have better language, cognitive, and pre-literacy skills



Remediation and special education

Without high-quality early learning experiences, children are more likely to need remediation and special education



Better social and emotional skills

Head Start means better social skills, fewer attention problems, more impulse control, and decreased aggression and hyperactivity



Less parental involvement

Non-Head Start parents spend less time reading to their children; and non-Head Start children have less time with absent fathers



Higher education levels

Head Start alumni are less likely to repeat a grade, and more likely to graduate from high school and attend and complete college



Difficulties in education

Students who were not in Head Start are more likely to have lower math scores, attendance rates, and high school grad. rates



Longer, healthier lives

Head Start alumni are less likely to be in poor health and smoke, less likely to be arrested, and on average have higher earnings



Poorer, sicker lives

People without access to Head Start are more likely to be in poor health, charged with a crime, and have lower earnings

Choose wisely

Head Start yields at least \$7 for every \$1 invested*

*High-quality, birth-to-five programs, like a combination of Early Head Start and Head Start

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