



Penny-wise and Pound-foolish:

Preschool Funding Cuts Shortchange Our Future By Hundreds of Millions of Dollars

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS ILLINOIS is a bi-partisan anti-crime organization of more than 320 police chiefs, sheriffs, state's attorneys, leaders of law enforcement organizations and crime survivors who promote greater investment in effective programs proven to reduce crime and help kids get the right start in life.

Summary

Illinois law enforcement leaders urge policymakers to support continued investments in high-quality preschool. Over the past 3 years, Illinois has cut funding for Preschool for All by \$55 million, denying 17,600 disadvantaged children the opportunity to attend publicly funded preschool programs in their communities.

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS estimates that cutting preschool for 17,600 children will cost Illinois taxpayers \$200 million over the children's lifetimes, due to increased criminal, educational, and social services costs for at-risk children denied preschool. This lifetime future cost of \$200 million from denying preschool for the 17,600 children

who have been cut is *more than three times greater* than the \$55 million we save now. Even in tight fiscal times, preschool is an excellent investment that must be preserved.

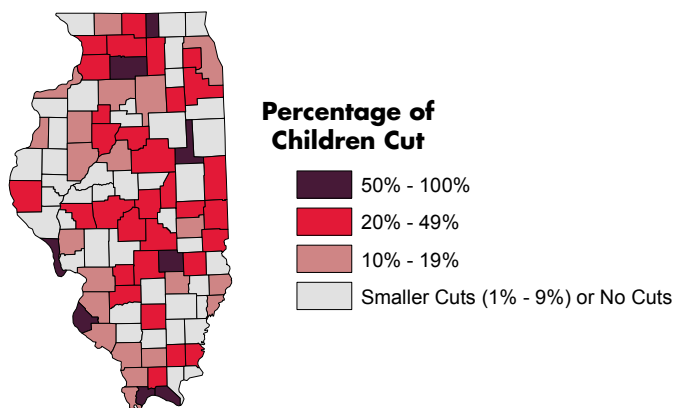
The Evidence on Preschool and Crime

Recent evidence published in the prestigious research journal *Science* provides further confirmation that high-quality early education programs can prevent crime and save taxpayers millions of dollars. The latest results from the two decade-long study of the high-quality Chicago Child-Parent Centers show that:

- By age 26, those *not* in high-quality early education were 27 percent more likely to have been arrested for a felony (25 percent vs. 19 percent).
- By age 26, those *not* in the program were 39 percent more likely to have spent time in jail or prison (21 percent vs. 15 percent).¹

Similarly, the Perry Preschool Project has tracked disadvantaged Ypsilanti, Michigan kids who attended high-quality pre-k and a randomized control group left out. Researchers have found that at age 27, those who had *not* been in the project were already five times more likely to be chronic lawbreakers with five or more arrests (35 percent vs. 7 percent).²

Preschool Cuts by County Since 2010

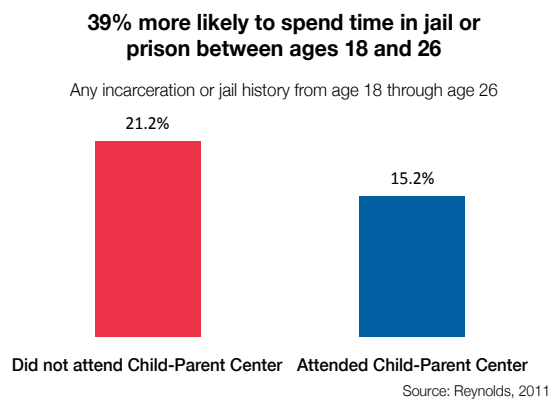


In the past two years, 38 counties had preschool cuts of 20 percent or greater.

Preschool's Long-Term Savings

Several rigorous studies have identified impressive cost savings to society from investments in preschool:

- For example, the Chicago Child-Parent Centers found that every dollar invested in high-quality preschool returned \$11 in savings to society.³ These impressive savings are due to reduced crime, reduced education and social services costs, and increased earning power of the program's participants into early adulthood.

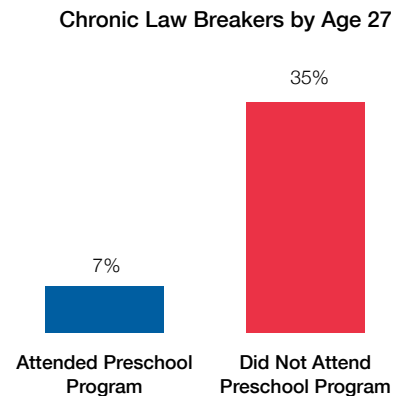


- A recent analysis of the benefits of Illinois' investments in preschool found that the state is currently saving up to \$530 million each year from its past and present investments in publicly funded preschool, with the savings coming from reduced crime, education and social services expenditures.⁴
- A comprehensive analysis by the respected Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) of the costs and benefits of high-quality early education, summarizing many studies, finds that on average, high-quality early education for at-risk 3- and 4-year-olds yields a benefit to society of \$3.60 for every \$1 invested in preschool.⁵

Preschool for All Funding Cuts Will Be Costly

Funding for Preschool for All has been cut by \$55 million over the last three years. These funding cuts mean that

High-quality early education cuts future crime



Source: Schweinhart et al., 1993

17,600 fewer at-risk Illinois children are enrolled in state funded preschool today than just three years ago.⁶

Even in tough budget times, cuts to state-funded preschool are unwise, because these investments save taxpayers so much in the long run. Based on the WSIPP estimated benefit to society of \$3.60 for every \$1 invested, cutting preschool for 17,600 children will, over the children's lifetimes, cost Illinois residents about \$200 million in lost future savings.⁷ That lifetime future savings of \$200 million that Illinois can reap if it restores preschool for 17,600 children is *more than three times higher* than the \$55 million the state saves through short-sighted funding cuts.

How does cutting preschool now cost us money later? Our state will have to spend more later because the at-risk children denied preschool now are less likely to be successful in school, will earn less and contribute less in taxes and are more likely to engage in crime, all of which are costly items for Illinois taxpayers.

Illinois faces difficult budget decisions as our economy works to recover. However, even in tough budget times, preserving and restoring funding for an effective investment like Preschool for All remains essential.

Because of the funding cuts to Preschool for All, over 800 preschool classrooms across the state have had to close, slamming the door to opportunity for 17,600 3- and 4-year-olds. We will all be paying for the consequences of this missed opportunity for years to come.

Preschool Cuts in Our Communities

The funding cuts to preschool in Illinois mean that in 70 percent of counties across the state, dozens, hundreds or even thousands of children are being denied publicly funded preschool. (See map on page 1 and table on pages 5 and 6 for preschool cuts by county.)⁸

- Illinois cut 17 percent of children from preschool since FY 2009.
- In just the last two years, 38 counties faced cuts to preschool of 20 percent or greater.
- In that same time period, 54 counties have lost at least two classrooms of preschoolers (40 kids) and 26 counties have cut more than 100 children from preschool.
- Two counties have seen state preschool virtually disappear with a 97 percent cut in Effingham County and an 89 percent cut in Massac County. Calhoun County saw a complete elimination of state-funded preschool with a loss of 80 funded slots.
- The Chicago Metropolitan Area (Cook, DuPage, Will, Kane, Lake and McHenry Counties) alone has seen a loss of 7,000 children enrolled in state-funded preschool.⁹

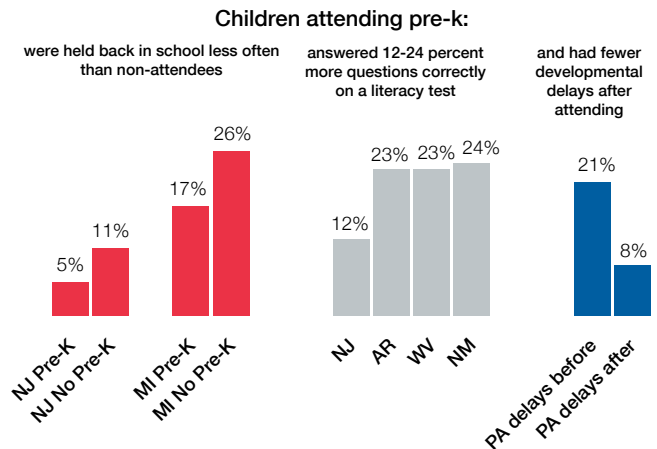
The Evidence from State Pre-Kindergarten Programs

While most large-scale state pre-k programs have not been in existence long enough to have research on crime impacts, many quality services are already having an impact on education outcomes. Education success is closely linked to later criminality. High school dropouts are eight times more likely to be in jail or prison than high school graduates.¹⁰ Pre-kindergarten helps prepare children to succeed in school and later in life:

- Kids *left out* of New Jersey's 2-year pre-kindergarten program were held back in school twice as much by second grade. In Michigan's state program, those left out were held back 51 percent more often by eighth grade.¹¹
- In Tennessee, Oklahoma, New Jersey, Arkansas, West Virginia and New Mexico, studies show

clear gains in literacy among the children who attended pre-kindergarten programs.¹² For example, in Tennessee's pre-kindergarten program, participants gained an average of 82 percent more on early literacy and math skills than those not yet attending the program.¹³

State Pre-K Improves Educational Outcomes



Sources: Frede 2009; Maloffeva 2007; Lamy 2005; Hustedt 2007; Hustedt 2009; Bagnato 2009

Together, the longer-term studies and recent state studies of high-quality programs provide solid evidence that pre-kindergarten education is a critical way to get kids on the right path and to avoid costly problems later.

Quality Matters

Not all early care and education programs produce such strong cost-saving benefits and positive outcomes. They must be high-quality programs that feature good teachers, effective curricula, involvement by parents and coaching of parents, small classes, good teacher-student ratios and access to diagnosis and referrals for problems.¹⁴ In contrast, poor-quality child care or pre-kindergarten lacking these features can actually result in poorer outcomes among at-risk children.

Illinois' Public Early Education Programs

Over 95,000 children were served by state-funded preschool as recently as Fiscal Year 2009 for \$380 million.¹⁵ The federally-funded Head Start program serves almost 40,000 children at a cost of \$280 million and the Child Care and Development Block Grant serves over 160,000 children with a mix of federal and state funds.¹⁶



Preliminary results from an evaluation of Illinois state-funded preschool show that participating children demonstrate significant improvements in school readiness areas such as language skills and social skills. Initial results also suggest reduced problem behaviors and increased attention among participating students.¹⁷ Final evaluation results are needed to determine whether the program is of the highest quality and providing children the full developmental and educational benefits possible, but initial results are encouraging.

As outlined in this report, Illinois preschool funding has been cut in recent years and many programs have closed due to delayed payments from the state. State policymakers and the governor need to offer strong support for these programs to ensure more children can benefit.

Time to Act: Cuts to Preschool Too Costly for Illinois – Preserve and Expand Quality Preschool

Illinois' law enforcement leaders have added their voices to the many others who know that high-quality early education is essential for growing strong, safe communities. Simply put: high-quality preschool works, improves public safety and saves far more than it costs.

With lost revenue and severe fiscal pressures, our state leaders face difficult choices. More than at any other time, our priorities need to be on programs with proven results. Our state preschool program definitely fits that bill today and in the decades to come.

This year, over 17,000 fewer children are enrolled in state preschool than just three years ago. This is truly unfortunate for those children, their futures and ours. The law enforcement leaders of *FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS ILLINOIS* call on state policymakers to end this slide and work to continue and even expand investments in early education in the FY 2013 budget.

Children Cut from State-Funded Preschool in Illinois

County	Number of Children Enrolled in Preschool		Cuts between FY 10 and FY 12	
	FY 2010 County Totals	FY 2012 County Totals	Number of Children Cut*	Percentage of Children Cut*
Adams	700	420	-280	-40%
Alexander	160	140	-20	-13%
Bond	260	180	-80	-31%
Boone	320	80	-240	-75%
Brown	80	80	0	0%
Bureau	499	448	-51	-10%
Calhoun	80	0	-80	-100%
Carroll	200	160	-40	-20%
Cass	220	260	40	18%
Champaign	1,129	1,020	-109	-10%
Christian	460	340	-120	-26%
Clark	220	140	-80	-36%
Clay	247	220	-27	-11%
Clinton	250	190	-60	-24%
Coles	240	206	-34	-14%
Cook (Chicago)	24,009	19,782	-4,227	-18%
Cook (suburban)	13,393	11,640	-1,753	-13%
Crawford	278	280	2	1%
Cumberland	80	80	0	0%
DeKalb	385	300	-85	-22%
Dewitt	160	160	0	0%
Douglas	200	140	-60	-30%
DuPage	2,536	1,616	-920	-36%
Edgar	220	170	-50	-23%
Edwards	40	40	0	0%
Effingham	340	10	-330	-97%
Fayette	280	150	-130	-46%
Ford	95	40	-55	-58%
Franklin	474	476	2	0%
Fulton	300	260	-40	-13%
Gallatin	57	40	-17	-30%
Greene	180	160	-20	-11%
Grundy	300	240	-60	-20%
Hamilton	80	80	0	0%
Hancock	247	258	11	4%
Hardin	20	20	0	0%
Henderson	80	70	-10	-13%
Henry	500	460	-40	-8%
Iroquois	120	180	60	50%
Jackson	628	556	-72	-11%
Jasper	100	79	-21	-21%
Jefferson	730	460	-270	-37%
Jersey	160	160	0	0%
Jo Daviess	200	220	20	10%
Johnson	204	119	-85	-42%
Kane	2,856	2,652	-204	-7%
Kankakee	908	852	-56	-6%
Kendall	454	460	6	1%
Knox	487	404	-83	-17%
Lake	2,527	2,740	213	8%
LaSalle	690	600	-90	-13%
Lawrence	180	160	-20	-11%

Average number of children cut per county: 144 Average percentage of children cut: 17 percent Total Preschool cuts, FY 2009 - FY 2012 : 17,623**

Sources: Illinois State Board of Education; Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map; Chicago Public Schools (see endnote 8 for details).

Notes: * negative numbers represent a cut in children served; positive numbers represent an increase in children served.
 **the total preschool children cut, 17,623, is the statewide estimate of the number of children cut from FY 2009 to FY 2012.

(Table Continued on Next Page)

Children Cut from State-Funded Preschool in Illinois

County	Number of Children Enrolled in Preschool		Cuts between FY 10 and FY 12	
	FY 2010 County Totals	FY 2012 County Totals	Number of Children Cut*	Percentage of Children Cut*
Lee	360	80	-280	-78%
Livingston	365	430	65	18%
Logan	80	80	0	0%
Macon	898	680	-218	-24%
Macoupin	600	600	0	0%
Madison	2,098	1,748	-350	-17%
Marion	280	275	-5	-2%
Marshall	75	120	45	60%
Mason	170	160	-10	-6%
Massac	180	20	-160	-89%
McDonough	274	337	63	23%
McHenry	923	865	-58	-6%
McLean	776	600	-176	-23%
Menard	120	120	0	0%
Mercer	80	110	30	38%
Monroe	192	80	-112	-58%
Montgomery	494	470	-24	-5%
Morgan	391	300	-91	-23%
Moultrie	100	96	-4	-4%
Ogle	310	200	-110	-35%
Peoria	1,416	1,060	-356	-25%
Perry	100	102	2	2%
Piatt	158	80	-78	-49%
Pike	260	260	0	0%
Pope	40	40	0	0%
Pulaski	100	40	-60	-60%
Putnam	80	80	0	0%
Randolph	220	180	-40	-18%
Richland	210	223	13	6%
Rock Island	1,500	1,300	-200	-13%
Saline	437	300	-137	-31%
Sangamon	1,850	1,380	-470	-25%
Schuyler	80	100	20	25%
Scott	80	80	0	0%
Shelby	180	120	-60	-33%
St. Clair	2,224	1,800	-424	-19%
Stark	80	60	-20	-25%
Stephenson	350	300	-50	-14%
Tazewell	522	460	-62	-12%
Union	180	160	-20	-11%
Vermilion	748	550	-198	-26%
Wabash	120	100	-20	-17%
Warren	268	260	-8	-3%
Washington	90	95	5	6%
Wayne	240	220	-20	-8%
White	180	180	0	0%
Whiteside	630	490	-140	-22%
Will	2,120	1,612	-508	-24%
Williamson	760	680	-80	-11%
Winnebago	2,985	2,360	-625	-21%
Woodford	180	140	-40	-22%

Average number of children cut per county: 144 Average percentage of children cut: 17 percent Total Preschool cuts, FY 2009 - FY 2012 : 17,623**

Sources: Illinois State Board of Education; Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map; Chicago Public Schools (see endnote 8 for details).

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Endnotes

- 1 Reynolds, A. J., Temple, J. A., Ou, S.R., Artega, I.A., & White, B.A.B. (2011). School-based early childhood education and age-28 well-being: Effects by timing, dosage, and subgroups. *Science*. Published June 9, 2011 online at <http://www.sciencemag.org/content/early/2011/06/08/science.1203618>.
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- 5 This analysis, conducted by the Washington State Institute of Public Policy, is based on a comprehensive meta-analysis of 66 research studies, compiling the results and moderating them for expected real-world impact, producing a real-world average of the likely effects of high-quality early education for low-income preschoolers. Thus, these figures are a realistic projection of the benefits obtained by quality preschool for at-risk young children. Aos, S., Lee, S., Drake, E., Pennucci, A., Klima, T., Miller, M., Anderson, L., Mayfield, J. & Burly, M. (2011). *Return on investment: Evidence-based options to improve statewide outcomes* (Document No. 11-10-1201). Olympia, WA: Washington State Institute for Public Policy. Retrieved on March 5, 2012 from <http://www.wsipp.wa.gov/rptfiles/11-07-1201.pdf>
- 6 The statewide number of 17,623 children cut from preschool from Fiscal Year 2009 to Fiscal Year 2012 was obtained by subtracting the FY 2012 projected number of children to be served by preschool, 77,500 children, from the FY 2009 number of children served by preschool, 95,123. The FY 2012 figure was obtained from a 7/19/2011 Illinois State Board of Education press release retrieved on March 5, 2012 from <http://www.isbe.net/news/2011/july19.htm>; The FY 2009 figure was obtained from the Illinois Prekindergarten Program report, 2008-2009, retrieved on March 5, 2012 from http://www.isbe.state.il.us/gov_relations/pdf/pre-k_program_report08-09.pdf
- 7 Applying the \$3.60 benefit for every dollar invested (from the Aos and colleagues meta-analysis) to the \$55 million in preschool funding cut over the past three years yields nearly \$200 million in lost future savings due to this funding cut. (\$3.60 x \$55 million = \$198 million, rounded to \$200 million). Aos, S., Lee, S., Drake, E., Pennucci, A., Klima, T., Miller, M., Anderson, L., Mayfield, J. & Burly, M. (2011). *Return on investment: Evidence-based options to improve statewide outcomes* (Document No. 11-10-1201). Olympia, WA: Washington State Institute for Public Policy. Retrieved on March 5, 2012 from <http://www.wsipp.wa.gov/rptfiles/11-07-1201.pdf>
- 8 The statewide number of 17,623 children cut from preschool from Fiscal Year 2009 to Fiscal Year 2012 was obtained by subtracting the FY 2012 projected number of children to be served by preschool, 77,500 children, from the FY 2009 number of children served by preschool, 95,123. The FY 2012 figure was obtained from a 7/19/2011 Illinois State Board of Education press release retrieved on March 5, 2012 from <http://www.isbe.net/news/2011/july19.htm>; The FY 2009 figure was obtained from the Illinois Prekindergarten Program report, 2008-2009, retrieved on March 5, 2012 from http://www.isbe.state.il.us/gov_relations/pdf/pre-k_program_report08-09.pdf; Data on preschool cuts by county were calculated by subtracting county level preschool enrollment numbers for FY 2010 from FY 2012. The percentage of children cut was calculated by taking the number of children cut in those two years divided by the FY 2010 enrollment level. For the county level data, FY 2010 rather than FY 2009 data were used because FY 2010 county data were more readily available; these county figures do not add up to the statewide total because they are based on different program years (FY 2009-12 for statewide, as compared to FY 2010-12 for county data). FY 2010 preschool data by county were obtained from the Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map (IECAM), retrieved on March 5, 2012 from <http://iecam.crc.uiuc.edu/cgi-bin/iecam/search.asp>; FY 2012 county data were obtained via personal communication on February 16, 2012 with Deborah K. Scheiter, Data and Budget Coordinator, Early Childhood Division, Illinois State Board of Education. Data on state-funded preschool in Chicago were obtained via personal communication on February 29, 2012 with Barbara Bowman, Chief Officer, Office of Early Childhood Education, Chicago Public Schools.
- 9 See endnote 8 for data sources.
- 10 Based on calculations from Table 1 of Harlow, C.W. (January 2003). Education and correctional populations. Bureau of Justice Statistics, Special Report. NCJ 195670. Washington, DC: Department of Justice. Compares 8th grade or less, some high school and GED population with HS diploma and above population, in jail / prison vs. in the general population. As cited in: Bridgeland, J.M., Dilulio, J.J., & Morison, K.B. (2006). *The silent epidemic: Perspectives of high school dropouts*. Washington, DC: Civic Enterprises. Retrieved on August 9, 2011 from <http://www.ignitellearning.com/pdf/TheSilentEpidemic3-06FINAL.pdf>
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- 14 National Research Council and Institute of Medicine, Jack P. Shonkoff & Deborah A. Phillips, eds. (2000). *From neurons to neighborhoods: The science of early childhood development*. Washington, DC: Committee on Integrating the Science of Early Childhood Development, Board on Children, Youth, and Families, Commission on Behavioral Sciences, National Academy Press; Katz, L. (1999). *Curriculum disputes in early childhood education*. Champaign, IL: Clearinghouse on Early Education and Parenting. Retrieved on March 29, 2011 from <http://ceep.crc.uiuc.edu/eecresearchive/digests/1999/katz99b.html>; Goffin, S. G., & Wilson, C. (2001). *Curriculum models and early childhood education: Appraising the relationship* (2nd ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Merrill/Prentice Hall; Schweinhart, L. J., Barnes, H. V., & Weikart, D. P. (1993). *Significant benefits: The High/Scope Perry Preschool study through age 27*. Ypsilanti, MI: High/Scope Press; D. R. Powell (Ed.) (1988). *Parent education as early childhood intervention: Emerging directions in theory, research, and practice* (pp. 79-104). Norwood, NJ: Ablex Publishing; American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, and National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education (2002). *Caring for our children: National health and safety performance standards: Guidelines for out-of-home child care programs, 2nd edition*. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics and Washington, DC: American Public Health Association; Barnett, W.S., Epstein, D.J., Carolan, M. E., Fitzgerald, J., Ackerman, D. J., & Friedman, A.H. (2010). *The state of preschool 2010 – State preschool yearbook*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University, National Institute for Early Education Research; Dunkle, M., & Vismara, L. (2004). *Developmental checkups: They're good, they're cheap and they're almost never done. What's wrong with this picture?* Retrieved on March 29, 2011 from <http://www.child-autism-parent-cafe.com/child-development.html>
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