

pre[k]now

# Pre-K: A Smart Investment

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"Early childhood development is economic development, and it's economic development with a very high return."

Art Rolnick

Senior Vice President & Director of Research

Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

# Overview

- Children and Communities Benefit from Pre-K
- Evidence from Three Studies
- Cost Benefits

## In High-Quality Pre-K, Children:

- Engage in activities designed to promote positive social and mental development in children children their age
- Learn about letters, colors, shapes, and numbers
- Are exposed to music, art, and science



## In High-Quality Pre-K, Children:

- Learn to listen to other children and teachers
- Take turns and share
- Have story-time, snack time, and nap time
- Participate in teacher-directed and free play
- Benefit from their parents' active involvement in the program and their child's early learning



## Children Benefit from High-Quality Pre-K

- Increased Educational Success
  - Less grade repetition
  - Less special education
  - Improved social behavior and cognitive
  - Higher high school graduation rates
- Increased Life Success
  - Lower teenage pregnancy rates
  - Less involvement in crime
  - Higher employment and earnings

## Society Benefits from High-Quality Pre-K

- More productive workforce
- Increased competitiveness
- Reduced crime
- Increased school achievement
- Significant return on investment
  - Savings in K-12 costs
  - Savings in social services costs
  - Savings in crime costs
  - Increased tax revenue

# **Benefits of Pre-K:**

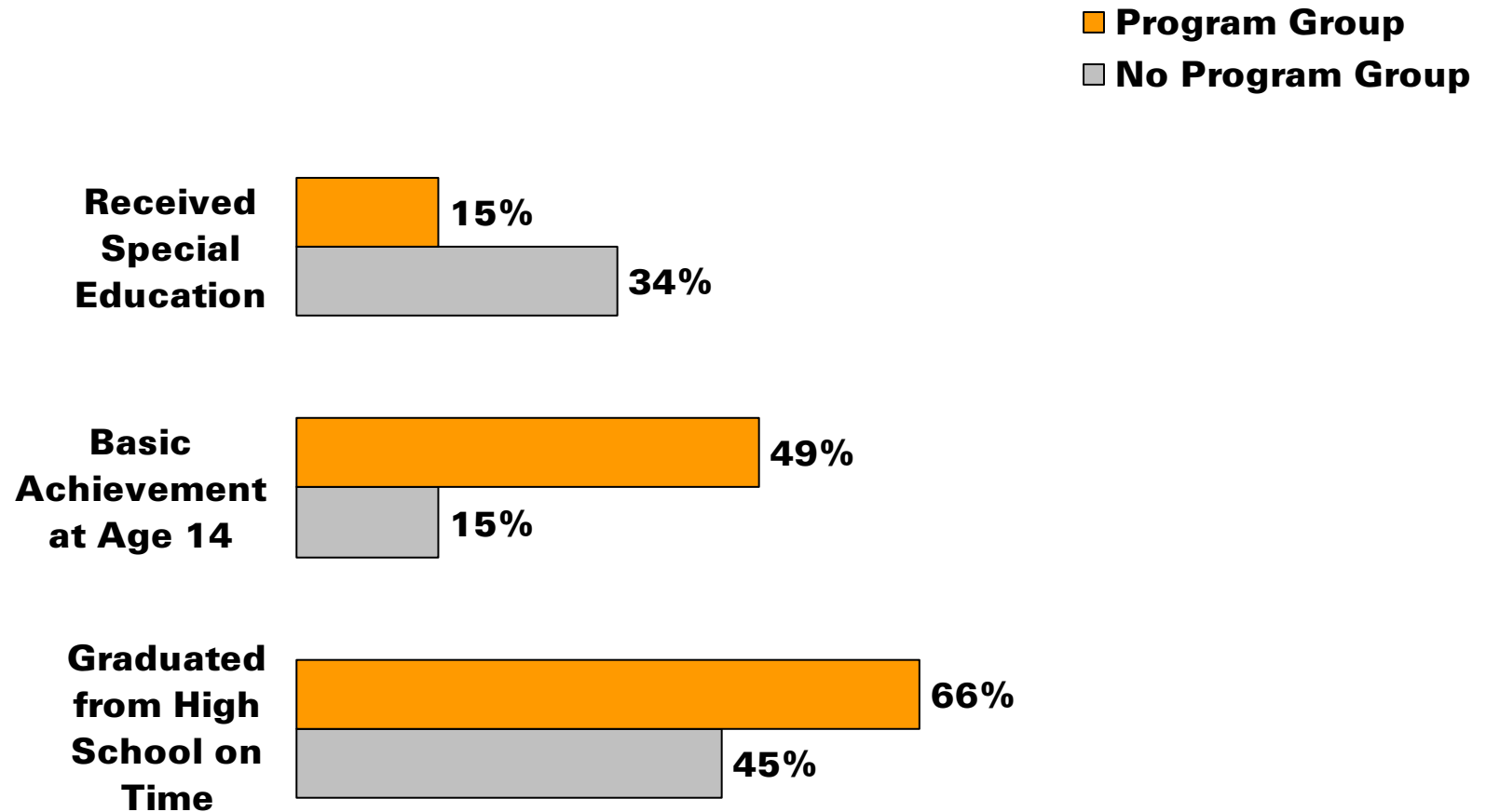
## **Evidence from Three Outstanding Studies**

- **High/Scope Perry Preschool**
- **Abecedarian**
- **Chicago Child Parent Centers**

## Perry Preschool

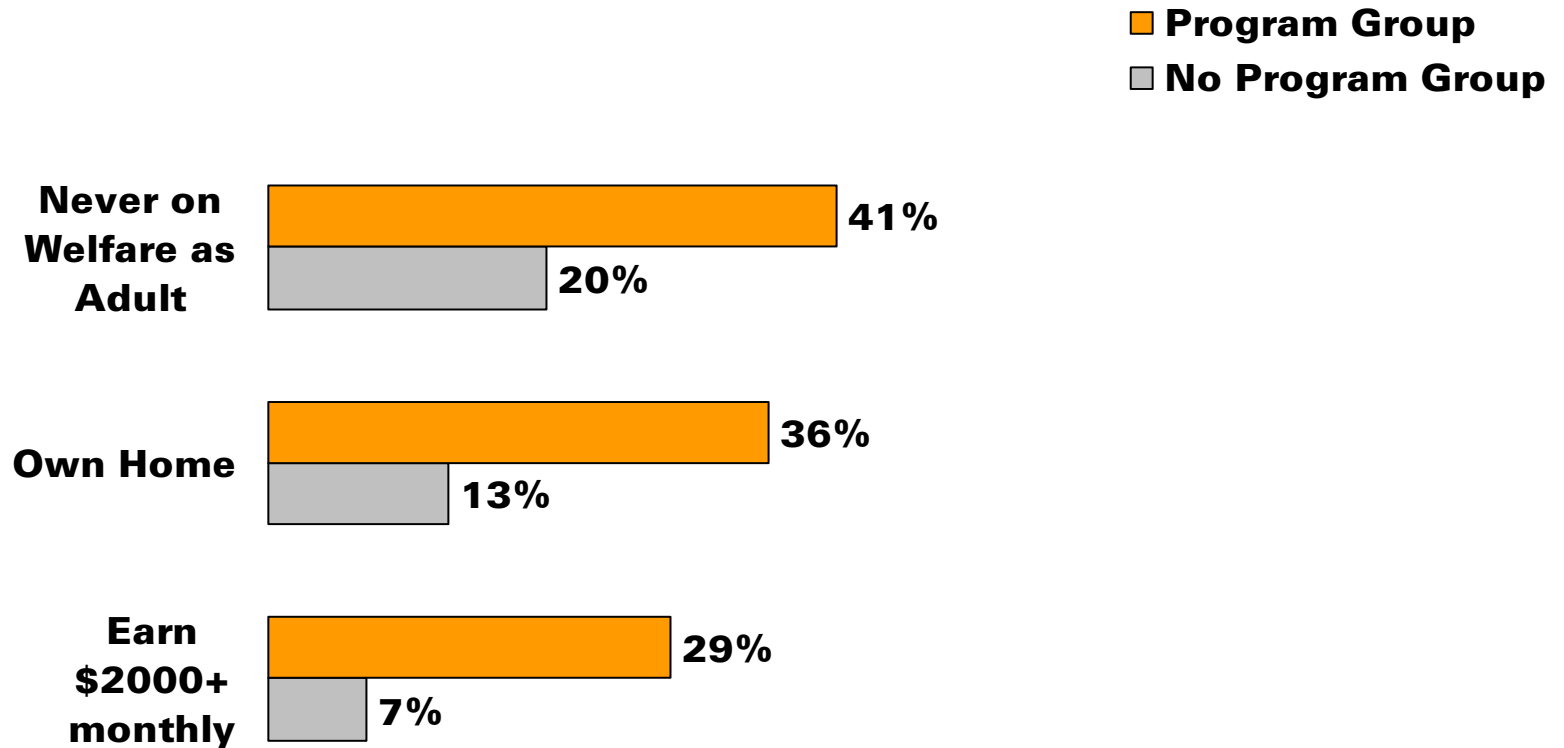
- 123 low-income children in Ypsilanti, Michigan
- Daily pre-k classes of 20-25 three and four year olds with weekly home visits
- Random assignment, study began in 1962
- Followed children in program and control groups through age 40

## Perry Preschool: Academic Benefits



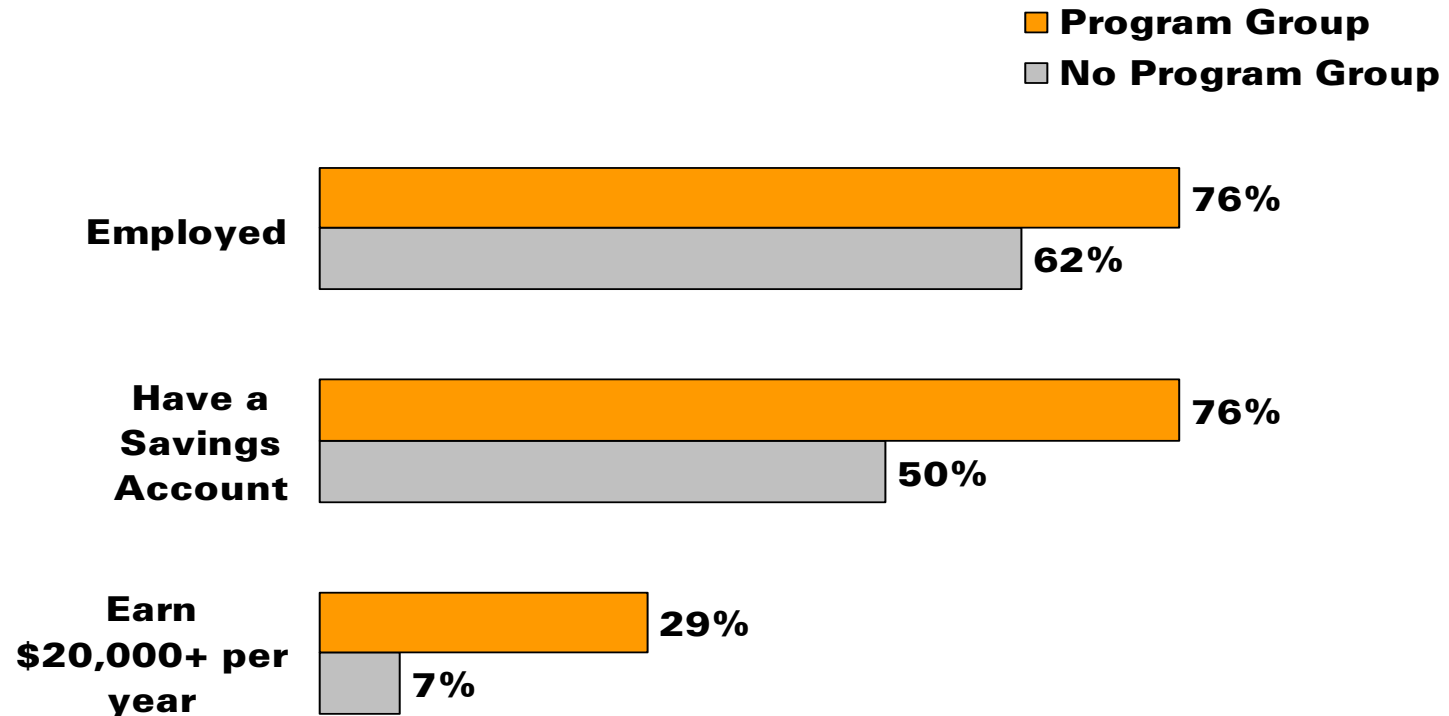
Source: National Institute for Early Education Research

## Perry Preschool: Economic Effects at Age 27



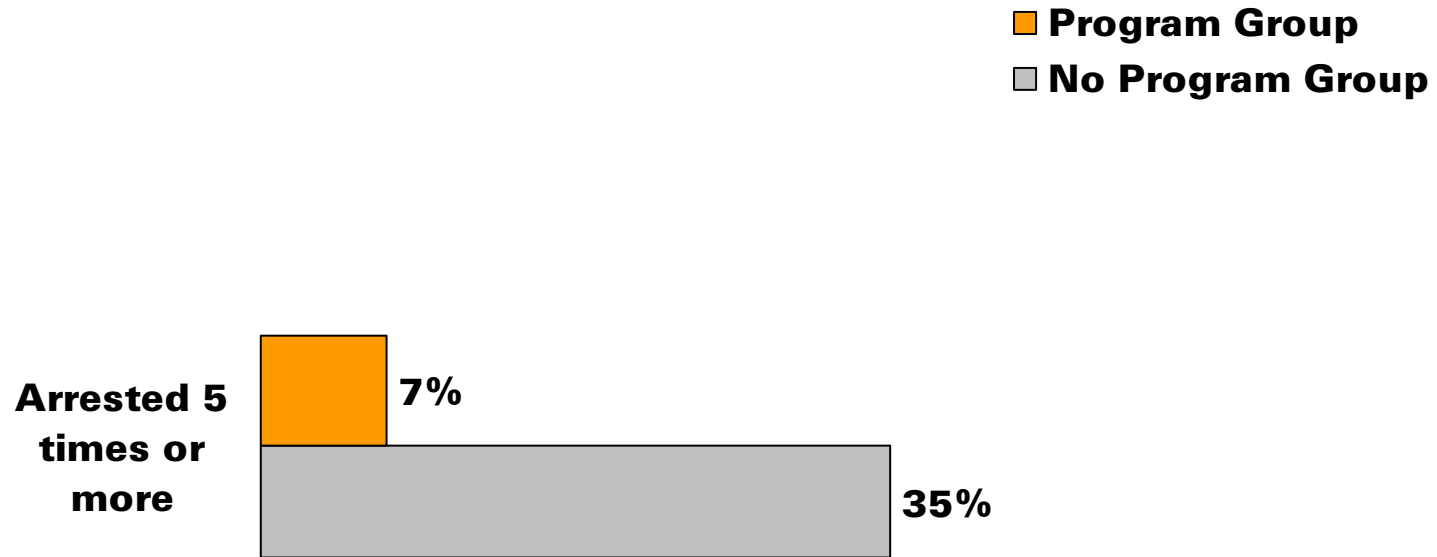
Source: National Institute for Early Education Research

## Perry Preschool: Economic Effects at Age 40



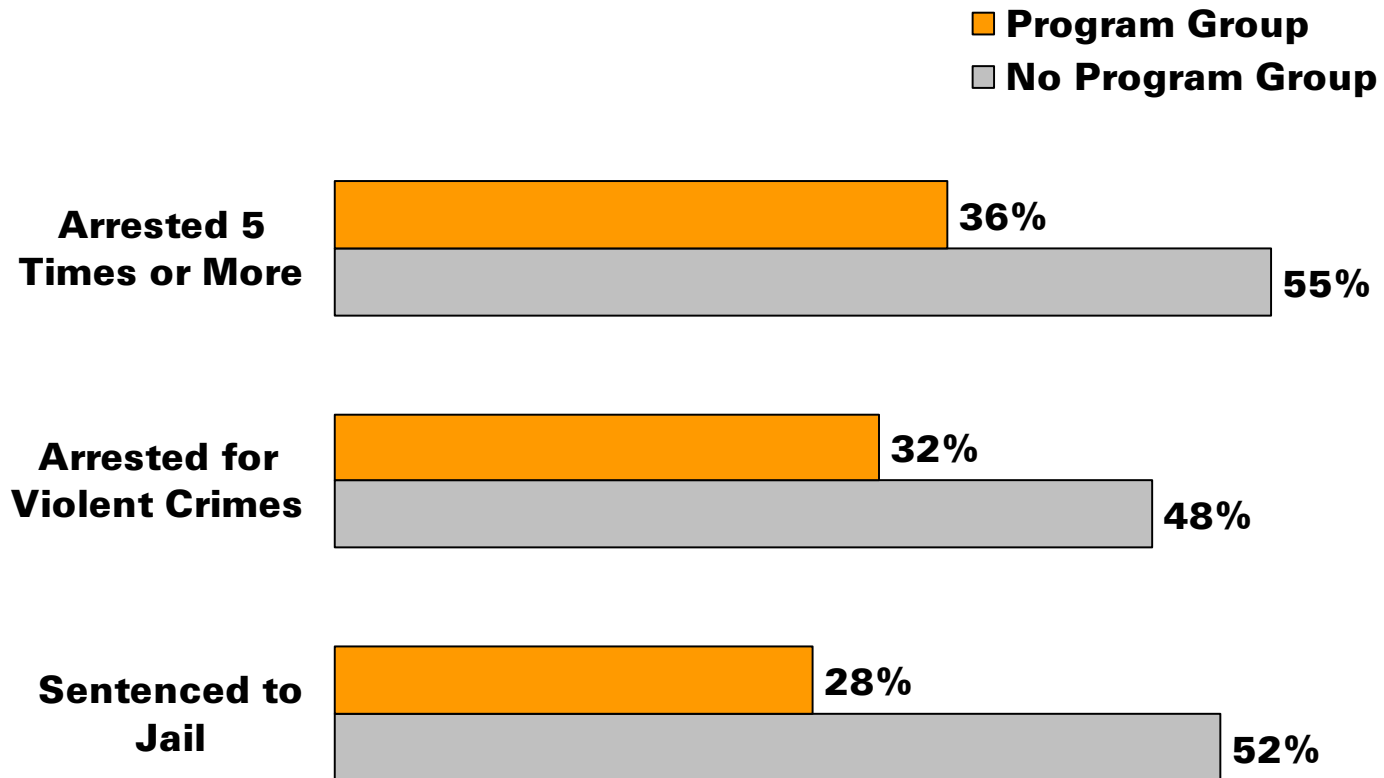
Source: National Institute for Early Education Research

## Perry Preschool: Crime Effects at Age 27



Source: Fight Crime: Invest in Kids

## Perry Preschool: Crime Effects at Age 40

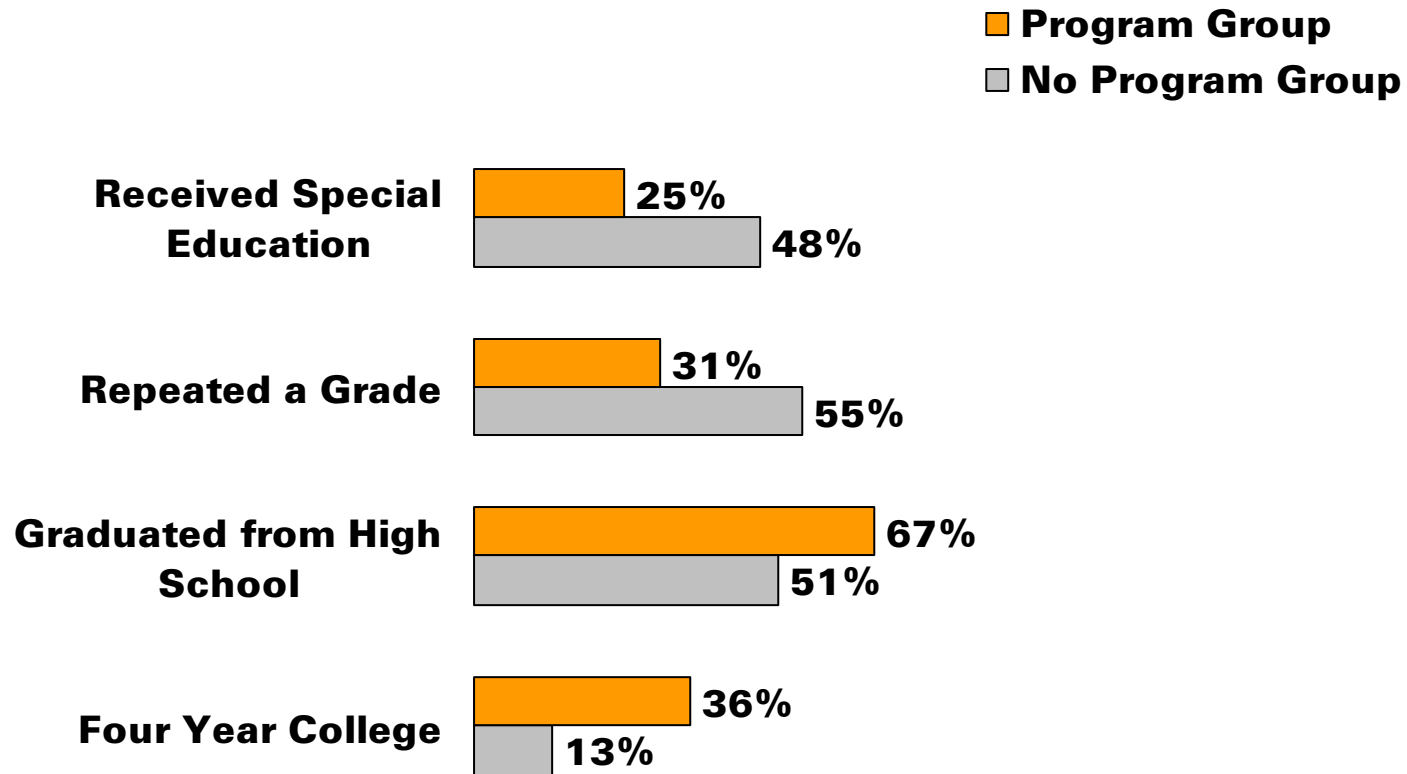


Source: National Institute for Early Education Research

## Abecedarian Study

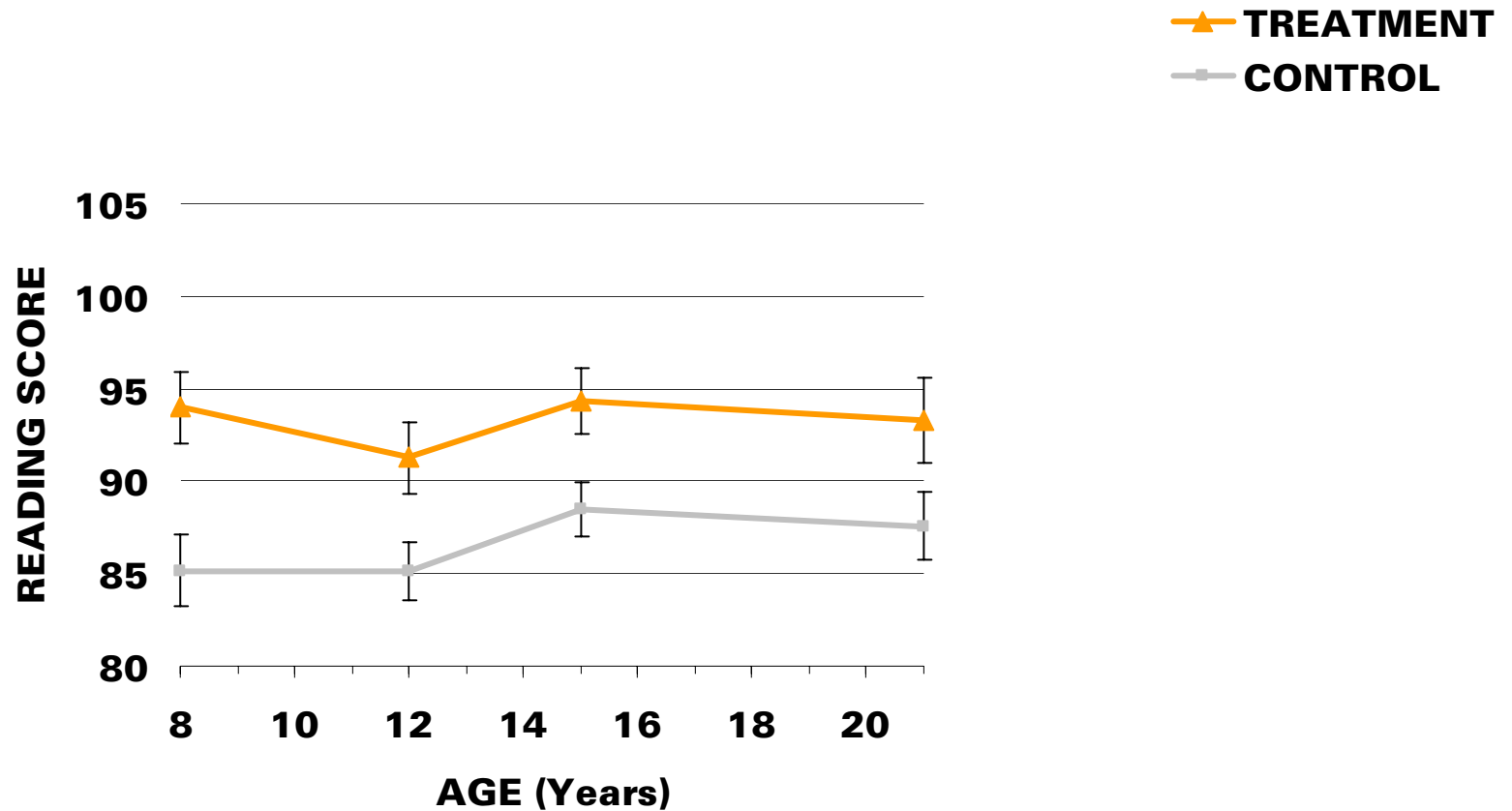
- The Abecedarian project was a controlled scientific study of the potential benefits of early childhood education for poor children
- Children's progress was monitored over time with follow-up studies conducted at ages 12, 15, and 21
- Study began in 1972

## Abecedarian: Academic Benefits



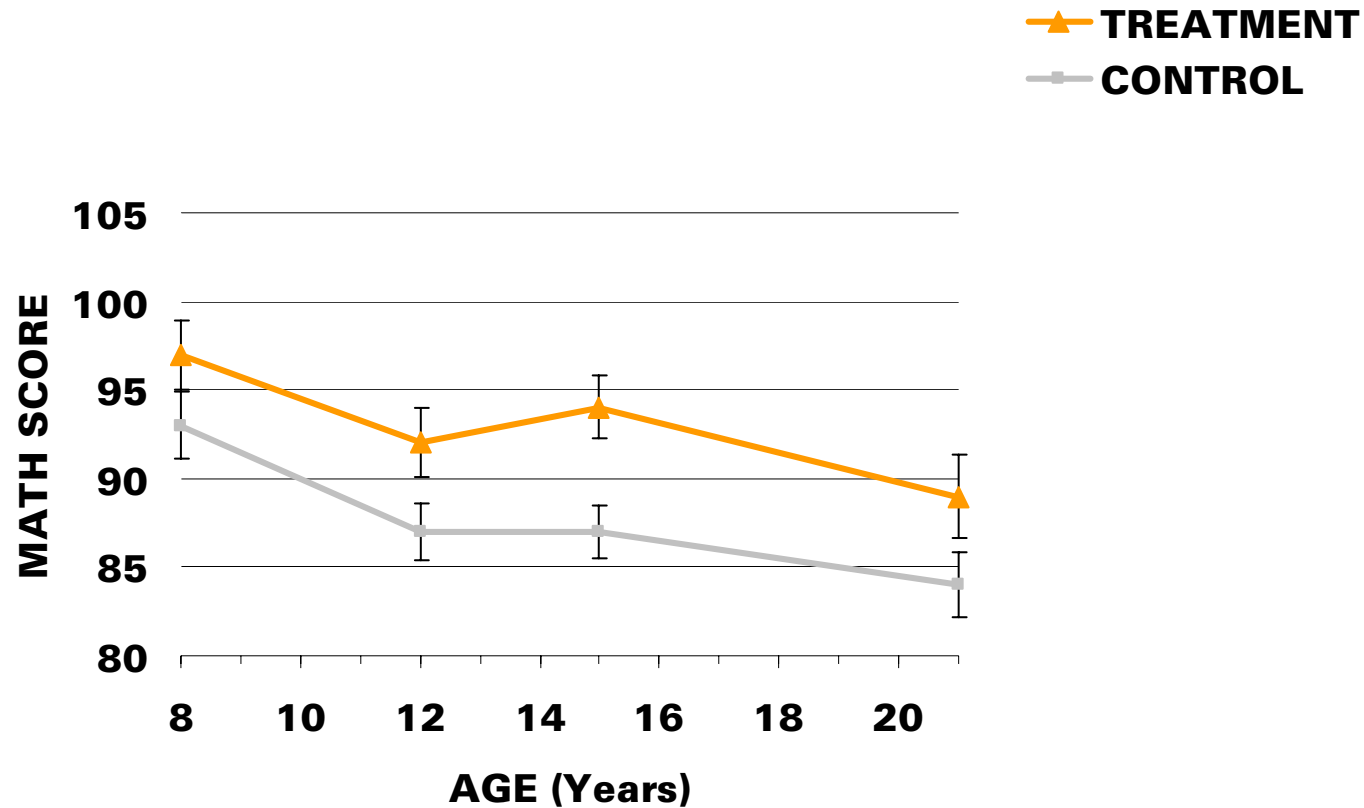
Source: National Institute for Early Education Research

## Abecedarian: Reading Achievement Over Time



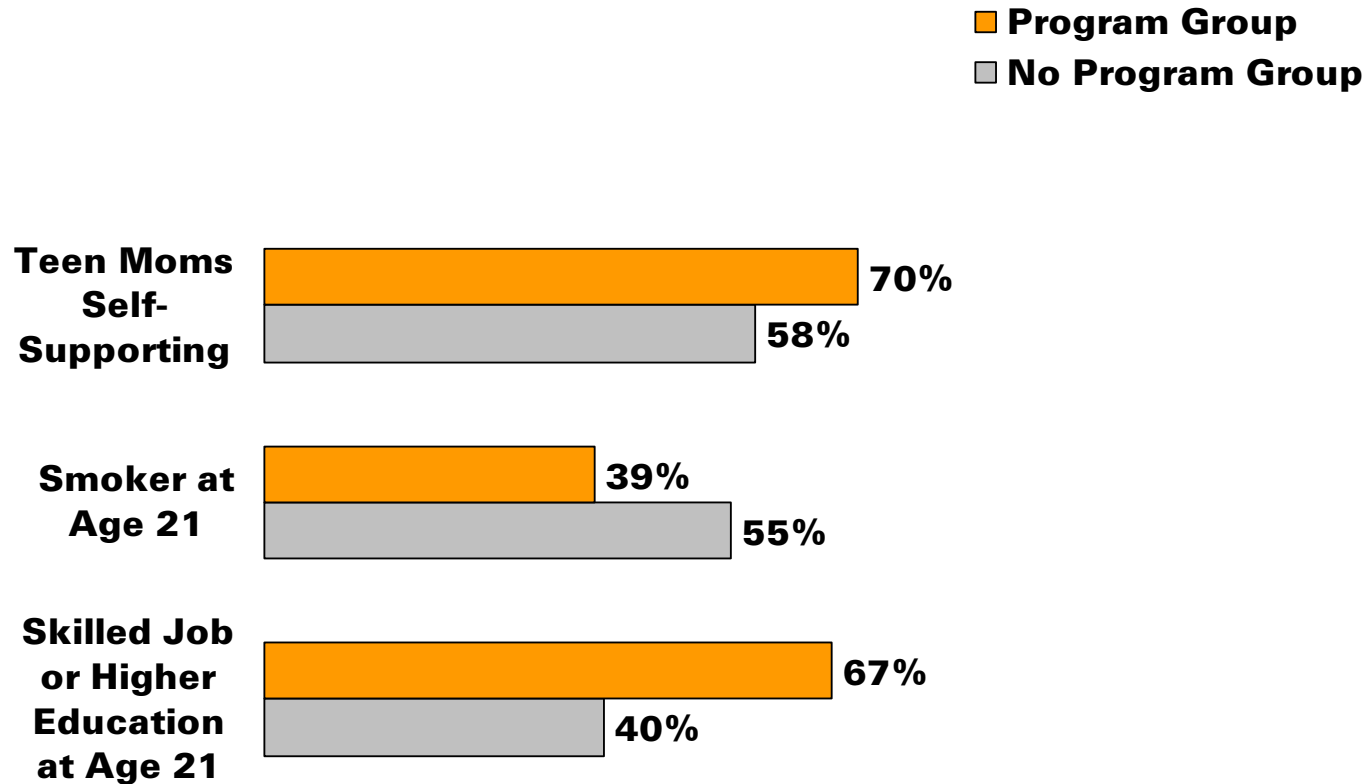
Source: National Institute for Early Educational Research

## Abecedarian: Math Achievement Over Time



Source: National Institute for Early Educational Research

## Abecedarian: Additional Long-Term Benefits



Source: National Institute for Early Education Research

## Chicago Child Parent Centers (CPC)

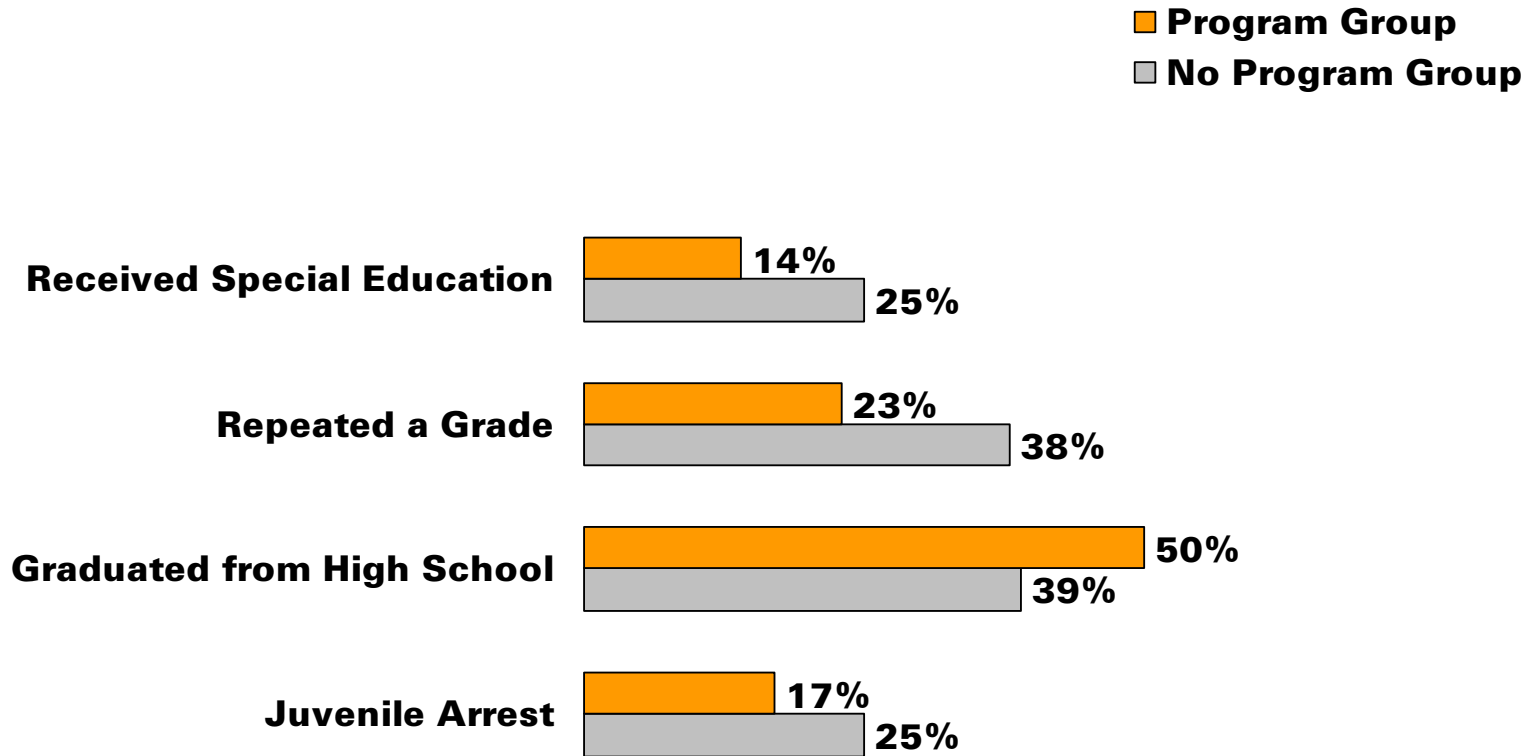
- Study in Chicago beginning in 1967
- Intensive pre-k services with a parent-coaching component in a federal and state-funded program
- Followed 559 low-income children through 7<sup>th</sup> grade
- Random assignment

## CPC: Crime Effects

- Research shows that at-risk children who did not attend the program were 70 percent more likely to be arrested for a violent crime by age 18 than similar children who did attend the program.

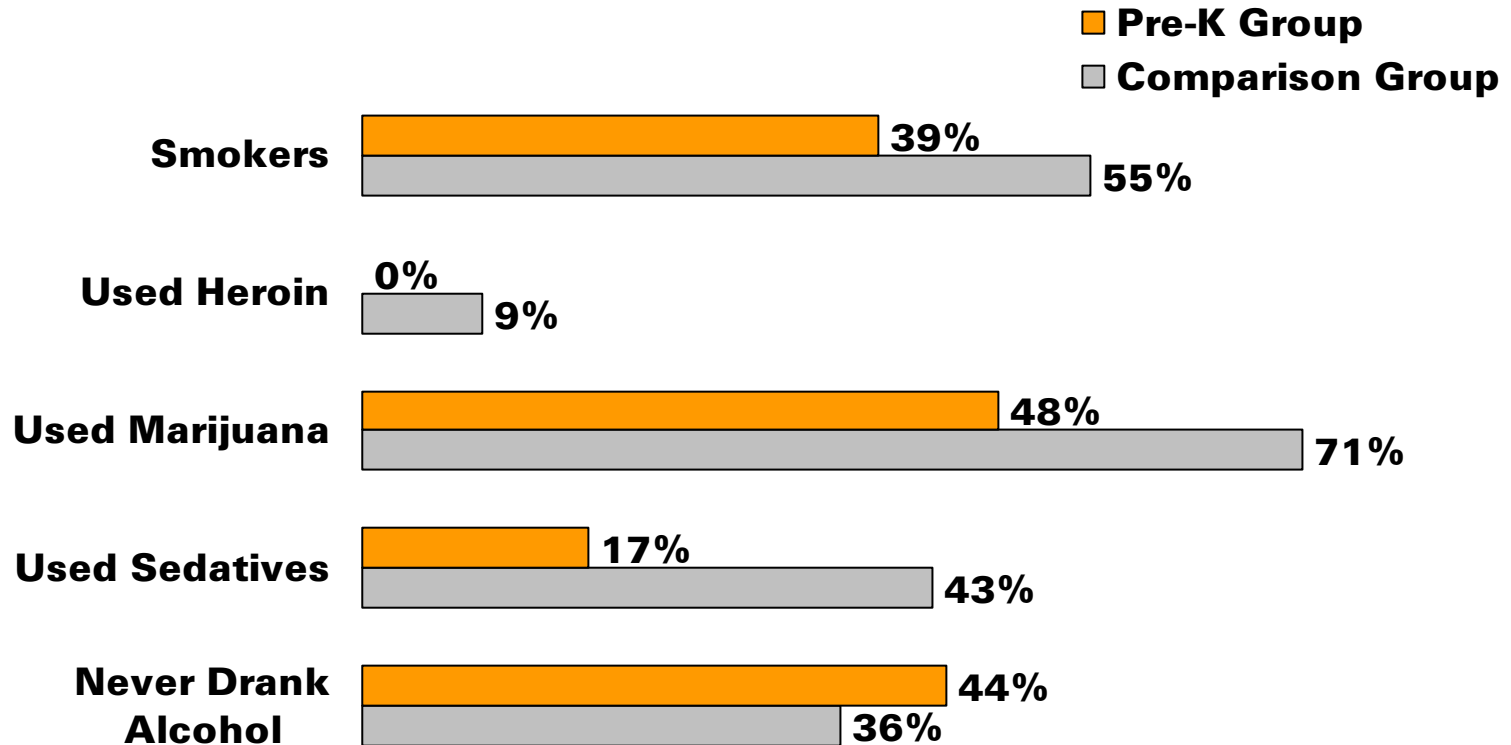
**Source:** Fight Crime: Invest in Kids

## CPC: Academic Benefits at School Exit



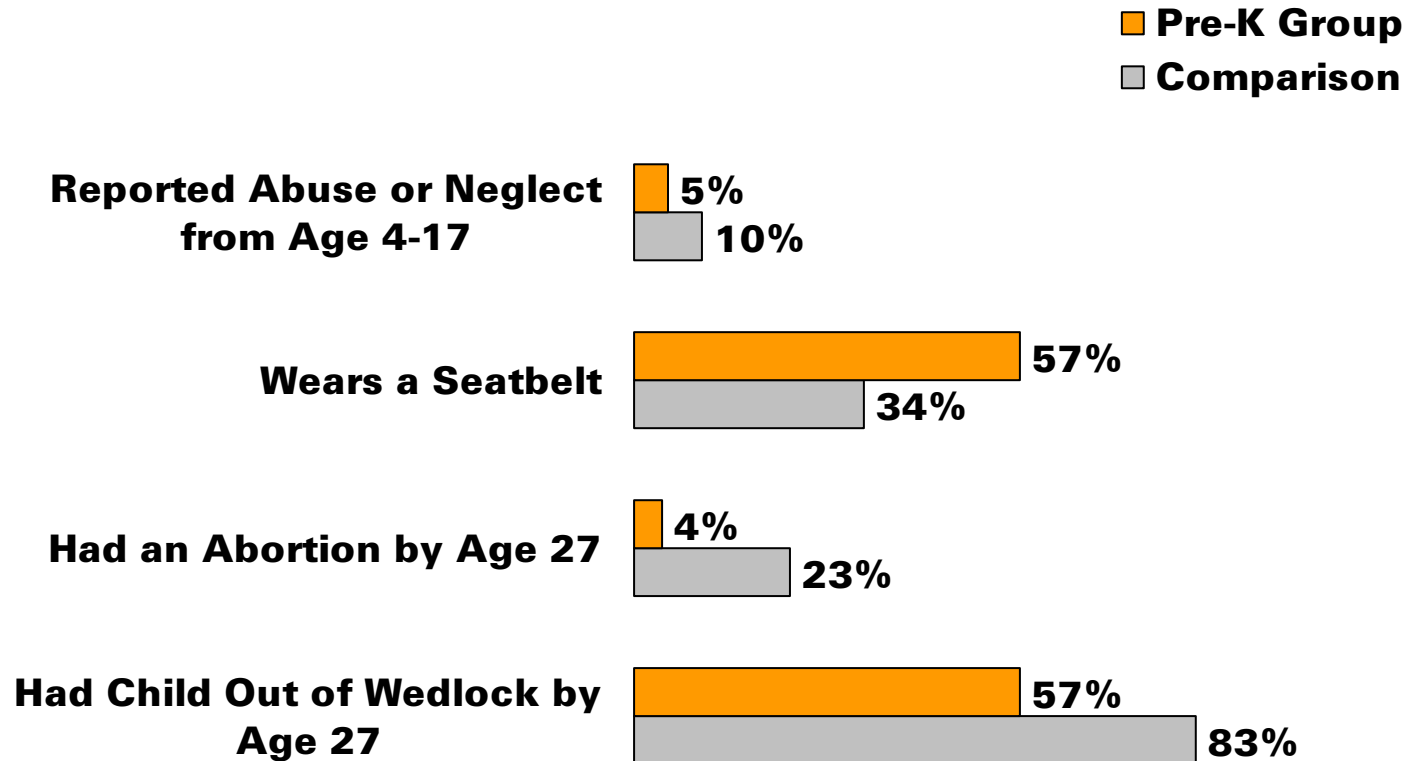
Source: National Institute for Early Education Research

## Health Benefits of Pre-K: Substance Abuse



Source: Data compiled from The High/Scope Perry Preschool Study and the Abecedarian study.

## Other Health-Related Benefits



Source: Data compiled from The High/Scope Perry Preschool Study and the Chicago Child Parent Centers.

## Early education programs can also affect children's physical health by:

- requiring immunizations
- linking families to health services
- conducting vision, hearing and developmental screenings
- providing nutritious meals

**Source:** Zigler, E., Piotrkowski, C.S., Collins, R. (1994) Health services in Head Start. *Annual Review of Public Health*: 15:511–34.

## Economic Returns of Pre-K

	<u>Cost Savings per \$1 Invested</u>
<b>Perry Preschool</b>	<b>\$17</b>
<b>Abecedarian</b>	<b>\$4</b>
<b>Chicago Child Parent Centers</b>	<b>\$7</b>

Includes savings from less welfare usage, decreased crime and incarceration costs, and higher participant productivity/earnings

## New Studies of Societal Savings

- RAND Corporation study in California
  - Estimated savings of \$2-\$4 per \$1 invested in a pre-k program available to all four year olds in the state
  - Savings from less crime, higher academic achievement, increased lifetime earnings, and lower child welfare costs

## New Studies of K-12 Savings

Recent studies in Louisiana, New York, and Wisconsin by economist Clive Belfield show savings to K-12 from quality pre-k.

- Lower grade retention
- Less special education
- Increased classroom efficiency

## Pre-K Now

- An advocacy and public education organization supported by The Pew Charitable Trusts and other funders.
- Collaborates with state advocates and policymakers to lead a movement for high quality, voluntary pre-kindergarten for all three and four year olds.
- Our vision is a nation where every child enters kindergarten prepared to succeed.

