



Serving Children and Families



Overview

Head Start is the only national, high quality early education program that provides comprehensive education, health, nutrition, and social services to the country's neediest children and their families.

Overview cont.

- Head Start began in 1965.
- In 1994 Early Head Start was created.
- In 2003 full-day, full-year programs were created.



Was created to address the critical needs of children in the United States. For 40 years, it has successfully served more than 22 million of America's poorest children.

In 1994, responding to increased awareness of the importance of childhood development during the very early years, Congress created Early Head Start. This program expanded Head Start to include comprehensive services and supports for low-income families with children younger than three and pregnant women.

Head Start programs typically operate on a part-day school year schedule. However, in 2003, 54 percent of the families who reported a need for full-day, full-year early care and education received this extended care through Head Start.

Basic Facts

- 1,071,734 children and pregnant women nationwide were enrolled in HS and EHS programs during the 2007-2008 program year
- 976,409 in HS and 95,325 in EHS
- WA enrollment in 2007: 11,278 Families

Federal to Local

- Funding for these programs go directly from the federal government to local grantees.
- The remaining 20 percent must come from a “local match” or “in-kind” contributions.

The federal government provides 80 percent of the yearly cost to operate HS and EHS programs

In kind may be in the form of monetary contributions(Money), donations of goods or services, or volunteer hours

Head Start Research



- **Cognitive Benefits**
 - **Economic Benefits**
 - **Health Benefits**
 - **Social Benefits**
- Socio-emotional Benefits**

Head Start children are significantly more likely to complete high school and attend college than their siblings who did not attend Head Start.

By the spring of their kindergarten year, HS graduates' reading assessment scores reached national norms, and their general knowledge assessment scores were close to national norms.

Parental involvement contributes to positive growth and upward mobility of Head Start parents.

As adults, those who attended a quality early childhood program are about three times as likely to be homeowners by age 27 compared to those who did not benefit from the program. Home ownership is an indicator of successful adaptation to society.

The Head Start Impact Study found statistically significant positive impacts for 3- and 4-year-old children enrolled in Head Start on pre-reading, pre-writing, vocabulary, and parent reports of children's literacy skills.

A higher proportion of Head Start parents read to their children more frequently than those parents of children who were not enrolled in Head Start.

Children in Head Start programs receive significantly more health care screenings than their non-Head Start peers. In addition, the number of dental examinations for Head Start children was higher than the number of those given to non-Head Start children. Head Start provides health and dental services to children and families who might otherwise not have them.

Parents who participate in Head Start are found to have greater quality of life satisfaction; increased confidence in coping skills; and decreased feelings of anxiety, depression, and

Early Head Start Research



- **Cognitive Benefits**
- **Economic Benefits**
- **Health Benefits**
- **Social Benefits**
- **Socio-emotional Benefits**

Early Head Start children on average had a higher cognitive development score than their control group had.

Early Head Start children demonstrated a higher level of social-emotional development than their control group in a number of areas. Compared with their control group, they showed less aggressive behavior and were more attuned to objects as they played.

When their children were 3 years old, Early Head Start parents reported significantly less depression than parents in the control group did.

Early Head Start children had a higher immunization rate than children in a control group had.

Early Head Start children at age 3 had larger vocabularies than the control children had.

Early Head Start parents were more supportive of their children in their efforts to develop their language and learning skills than the control group parents were.

Early Head Start parents were more likely to report that they read to their child every day than the control group parents were.

Early Head Start parents appeared to be more emotionally supportive with their children than control group parents were with their children.

Early Head Start parents were more likely to read to their children on a daily basis than the control group parents were.

Early Head Start parents were more likely to participate in an educational or job training program than the control group parents were.

HS Funding Update



- President Obama's stimulus funding.
- \$1 billion HS/\$1 billion EHS.
- President's budget due in February.
- Key target is ***Senator Patty Murray.***
- Contact info
1-866-481-9186
murray.senate.gov/email

Head Start regulations

Policy Council how we know it, is at stake!!

- Policy Council is the guiding body of Head Start and is involved with decisions concerning the *entire* program.
- **Without parent's input at Policy Council, this program cannot function!!**
- Program Performance Standards
 - Program Governance 1304.50

For example, Policy Council **must approve** the annual budget, grant applications, and certain changes in the program

Subpart D—Program Design and Management

(1) Policy Councils and Policy Committees must work in partnership with key management staff and the governing body to develop, review, and approve or disapprove the following policies and procedures:

- (i) All funding applications and amendments to funding applications for Early Head Start and Head Start, including administrative services, prior to the submission of such applications to the grantee (in the case of Policy Committees) or to HHS (in the case of Policy Councils);
- (ii) Procedures describing how the governing body and the appropriate policy group will implement shared decision-making;