

**FIGHT
CRIME**



**INVEST
IN KIDS**

2000 P Street NW, Suite 240, Washington, DC 20036



*America's Child Care Crisis:
A Crime Prevention Tragedy*

White House
Roosevelt Room
April 28, 2000

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION



FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS

Hundreds of Police, Prosecutors, Crime Victims Dedicated to Preventing Crime and Violence

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New Research Shows Investment in Quality Educational Child Care Can Greatly Reduce Youth Violence

Report by Brazelton, Leading Law Enforcement and Child Development Experts

Presented at White House Event

Ground-breaking new research shows that the failure to assure at-risk families access to educational child care is multiplying the number of children growing up to be violent, according to a new report presented to First Lady Hillary Clinton and members of Congress at a White House event today. The good news, according to the law enforcement, criminology and child development authorities who wrote the report, is that government action to expand access to quality child development programs can greatly reduce youth violence.

The report, *America's Child Care Crisis: A Crime Prevention Tragedy*, was prepared by an expert panel convened by Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, an anti-crime group of over 700 police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, victims of violence, and youth violence experts. The authors are pediatrician T. Berry Brazelton of Harvard; Yale child development expert Edward Zigler; University of Pennsylvania criminologist Lawrence Sherman; two former police chiefs, William Bratton of New York and Jerry Sanders of San Diego, each of whom achieved record crime reductions in their cities; and Fight

Crime: Invest in Kids president Sanford Newman, and research director William Christeson.

Brazelton, America's best-known pediatrician and the author of 28 books on child development, emphasized that "rigorous scientific research now proves the early childhood development programs that help kids in so many other ways are also our most powerful weapons in the fight against youth violence."

Brazelton said three major new studies of thousands of children show that early childhood development programs can achieve extraordinary reductions in behavior problems, crime and violence:

- A large 14-year study followed over 1,000 children enrolled in government-funded Child-Parent Centers at ages 3 and 4. Compared to children left out of the program, the CPC children were only half as likely to have two or more arrests in their teens. The program has served 100,000 youngsters at 24 centers over the last 23 years.
- Another recent study shows that when North Carolina's Smart Start program bolstered child care quality in some centers, those children were half as likely as similar kids to have serious behavioral problems when they reached kindergarten.
- A further large national study of existing child care centers shows that at-risk kids who attend high-quality child care programs as babies and preschoolers have no more behavior problems at age eight than children of college-educated parents.

These studies have all been completed in the last 12 months, and the Child-Parent Center study has just been completed. They greatly strengthen the findings from small studies of model programs, such as the High Scope Foundation's Perry Preschool Study, in which 120 at-risk children had been randomly divided into two groups. Half the children had been enrolled in a quality child-development program for one to two years, at ages three and four. Twenty-two years later, the children left out of the program were five times more likely to have become chronic offenders, with five or more arrests.

At the event, Arapahoe County, CO Sheriff Patrick Sullivan said, “I’m a conservative Republican, but this is not a political issue. But when failing to provide at-risk kids with quality educational child care can multiply five times our risk that those kids will become chronic lawbreakers, it’s just common sense to expand Head Start, child care and early learning funds. Shortchanging these investments squanders lives and tax dollars.” Sullivan noted that the High/Scope study had shown that the public saved \$7 for every dollar spent, and that the large new CPC study showed similar savings.

“We’ll win the battle against youth violence when we are as ready to guarantee a kid a place in Head Start or an early learning program as we are to guarantee a criminal a place in a jail cell,” Sullivan said.

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids President Sanford Newman said, “Today hundreds of America’s police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors are saying that implementing the President’s proposals to expand Head Start and Child Care and Development programs and to provide early learning grants to states and communities are, together with expansion of after-school programs, the most important steps Congress can take this year to reduce youth violence.” The White House has proposed a \$1 billion increase to expand and strengthen Head Start, a \$2 billion expansion of Child Care and Development Block Grants, and creation of a new Early Learning Fund.

“I spent 26 years helping put dangerous criminals behind bars where they belong, but by the time we do that, people have already gotten hurt. We have to start at the front end, and that means investing in early childhood development programs that help kids get the right start so they never become involved in violence. If we invest in America’s most vulnerable kids, they’ll never be America’s Most Wanted adults,” said former San Diego Police Chief Jerry Sanders.

The National Sheriffs Association, Major Cities Police Chiefs Organization, Police Executive Research Forum and dozens of state law enforcement groups have urged

elected officials to make sure families have access to quality educational child care. Polls by George Mason University professors Scott Keeter and Steve Mastrofski, show that nearly nine out of ten police chiefs believe “expanding after-school programs and educational child care programs like Head Start would greatly reduce youth crime and violence.”

The report concludes that federal and state funding for early childhood development programs are woefully inadequate. For example, it notes that:

- Head Start, the child development program for children living in poverty, is so under-funded it can serve only half of the three and four year olds eligible, and usually for just half of their parents’ work day, and for only part of the year.
- The Child Care and Development Fund, which helps families pay for child care, can serve only one in ten of the families that are eligible, and provides them with stipends so meager that adequate care usually remains out of reach.

Because adequate child care requires trained teachers and high ratios of teachers to children, it can’t be cheap, the report says. In every state, the cost for an infant to attend a good urban child care center exceeds the cost of public university tuition. Even though many child care teachers are paid poverty wages, child care for two children can cost \$12,000 per year. “That’s way out of reach for parents making \$10,500 a year at full-time minimum wage jobs, and for millions of other struggling families,” according to the report. “Those families can no more pay for adequate child care during these years than they could pay the full cost of the education we provide in public schools,” the report says.

“The bad news,” according to criminologist Lawrence Sherman, “is that our federal and state governments are falling far short of the investments they need to make in early childhood development programs. That’s penny-wise and pound-foolish. The good news is that if government makes these investments, we can greatly reduce violence and help youngsters become the good neighbors and happy, healthy adults they can be.”

Co-author and speaker biographies

T. Berry Brazelton, M.D.

Professor Emeritus, Harvard Medical School

T. Berry Brazelton is America's best-known pediatrician. He is a graduate of Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons and is the author of over 200 scientific papers and 28 books. Among Brazelton's books is "Infants and Mothers" which has been read by more than one million American families and has been translated into 18 languages. His growing concern about the pressures that families face has led to his frequent appearances before congressional committees. In 1989, Congress appointed him to the National Commission on Children. In 1998, the non-profit Brazelton Foundation was established to train professionals nationwide to better serve families of infants and toddlers.

William J. Bratton

Former Commissioner, New York City and Boston Police Departments

William Bratton was appointed the New York City Police Commissioner in 1994. While he was commissioner, felony crime fell 33% and homicides were cut in half. Prior to his appointment, Bratton served as the chief operating officer of the Boston Police Department and as Boston's police commissioner. He also served as President of the Police Executive Research Forum. Bratton is a graduate of the FBI National Executive Institute and both the Program for Senior Executives and the Senior Executive Fellows Program in Criminal Justice at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. He also holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Boston State College. Bratton serves on the National Advisory Committee of FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS.

Sanford A. Newman

President, FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS

Sanford Newman is an attorney and President of FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS, an anti-crime organization made up of over 700 of the nation's police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, leaders of police organizations, crime prevention scholars and victims of crime and violence. His interest in fighting and preventing crime began 16 years ago when he and his wife were awakened by an intruder crouching between their bed and

their newborn's crib. He has since become one of the nation's leading experts on what works to prevent crime and violence.

Together with former Attorney General Elliot Richardson and other law enforcement leaders, Newman founded FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS in 1996, and serves as its full-time CEO.

Lawrence Sherman

Director, Fels Center, University of Pennsylvania

Lawrence Sherman is currently the Director of the Fels Center and the Greenfield Professor of Human Relations at the University of Pennsylvania. He is considered one of the nation's most influential criminologists and is the third American to be elected as the President of the International Society of Criminology. He has also received the prestigious Edwin H. Sutherland Award from the American Society of Criminology for outstanding contributions to his field. In 1997, he authored a report for the National Institute of Justice that evaluated the effectiveness of 500 crime prevention programs. Sherman earned his bachelor's degree in criminology from Cambridge University, his master's degree in social science from the University of Chicago, and a second MA and Ph.D. in sociology at Yale. He was the chief criminologist for the Indianapolis Police Department, and currently advises the Philadelphia police commissioner. He worked in the criminology department at University of Maryland for 17 years before becoming Director of the Fels Center.

Jerry Sanders

Former Chief of Police, San Diego

Jerry Sanders was appointed San Diego Chief of Police in 1993. He retired in April 1999 to assume the leadership of the United Way of San Diego. From 1991-1998, San Diego achieved the largest decline in homicides of any major city in the country. During his tenure, the San Diego Police Department also gained a national reputation for community policing and problem-solving, and for its quick response to issues of public concern. Sanders serves as a National Advisory Committee member of FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS.

Edward Zigler

Professor, Yale University

Ed Zigler is currently Sterling Professor of Psychology at Yale University and the Director of the Bush Center on Child Development and Social Policy. In 1970, he was appointed as the first Director of the Federal Office of Child Development and as the

Chief of the U.S. Children's Bureau. As Director of the OCD, Zigler was responsible for administering the nation's Head Start Program. He led the efforts in conceptualizing and mounting such innovative programs such as Health Start, Home Start, Education for Parenthood, and the Child and Family Resource Program. Zigler received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Missouri and his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Texas. He began working at Yale in 1959. Zigler is the author or editor of over 26 books and 500 scholarly articles. He has received numerous awards throughout his career. Zigler serves as a Resource Council member of FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS.

William Christeson

Research Director, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids

William Christeson received his master's degree from the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health in 1996, where he focused his research interests on violence prevention. Before joining the FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS staff in August of 1998, he was a health policy analyst for the DC Department of Health, where he set up a surveillance system of intentional injuries at the two major hospitals treating victims of violence. He received his BA in economics from Stanford University.

Patrick J. Sullivan, Jr.

Sheriff, Arapahoe County, CO

Patrick Sullivan Jr. has served as the Arapahoe County Sheriff since 1983. Today he is speaking on behalf of the National Sheriff's Association, which represents all of the elected sheriffs in the country, and on behalf of the 700 members who make up FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS. He previously served as a Lieutenant in the Littleton Police Department and as a Captain in the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office. He graduated from the FBI National Academy in 1997, and the National Sheriffs' Institute in 1983. He serves on the Board of Directors and as Chair of the Congressional Affairs Committee for the National Sheriffs' Organization. Sullivan also serves on the National Advisory Committee for FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS.



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From America's Front Line Against Crime: A School and Youth Violence Prevention Plan

AS AN ORGANIZATION OF HUNDREDS OF POLICE CHIEFS, SHERIFFS, PROSECUTORS, CRIME SURVIVORS AND LEADERS OF POLICE OFFICER ORGANIZATIONS, we are determined to see that dangerous criminals are put behind bars. But anyone who thinks that jailing a criminal undoes the agony crime leaves in its wake hasn't seen crime up close.

America's anti-crime arsenal contains no weapons more powerful than the proven programs that help kids get the right start — like quality educational child care, youth development programs for the after-school and summer hours, child abuse prevention, and intervention programs proven to help get troubled kids back on track.

Yet today, inadequate funding for Head Start, educational child care, after-school youth development programs and counseling for troubled kids leaves millions of children at needless risk of becoming violent or delinquent teens and adult criminals — and leaves every American at needless risk of becoming a victim.

We call on all public officials to adopt a four-part plan to dramatically reduce crime and violence and adult crime, and help young people learn the skills and values they need to become good neighbors and responsible adults. While no plan can prevent every violent act, this common-sense plan — based on our experience and the latest research about what really works to fight crime — can make all of us safer.

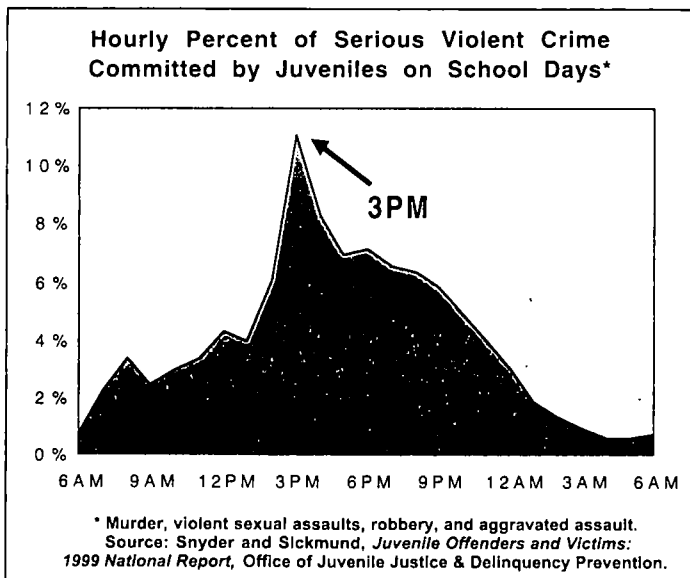
Four Steps to Dramatically Reduce School and Youth Violence

1. Assure all school-age children and teens access to after-school, weekend and summer youth development programs to shut down the "Prime Time for Juvenile Crime."

In the hour after the school bell rings, turning millions of children and teens out on the street with neither constructive activities nor adult supervision, violent juvenile crime suddenly *triples* and prime time for juvenile crime begins. On school days, the peak hours for such crime are from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM. These are also the hours when kids are most likely to become victims of crime.

They are the peak hours for teen sex, and being unsupervised after school doubles the risk that 8th-graders will smoke, drink alcohol or use drugs.

Quality youth development programs can cut crime immediately and transform this Prime Time for Juvenile Crime into hours of academic enrichment, wholesome fun and community service. They protect both kids and adults from becoming victims of crime, and cut teen pregnancy, smoking, and drug use, while they help youngsters develop the values and skills they need to become contributing citizens. For example:



Plan 4/4/00

"When the peak hours of violent juvenile crime are between the end of school and 8:00 P.M., it's just common sense to provide the after-school programs that give kids the values and skills they need to say 'no' to crime and violence."

— Sheriff Patrick Sullivan (R-Arapahoe County, CO)

- When a public housing project intensively recruited youths to join in a new after-school program, *arrests among its teen residents plummeted to one-fourth of their previous level*, while those among the teens who lived in a nearby comparison project were actually going up by two-thirds.
- High school freshmen boys randomly selected from welfare households to participate in the Quantum Opportunities after-school program were *only one-sixth as likely to be convicted of a crime* during the high school years as those not selected. Together, the boys and girls who participated in the program were *50% more likely to graduate high school on time*.
- Young people who received a Big Brothers/Big Sisters mentor were *half as likely to begin illegal drug use or to hit someone* as applicants randomly assigned to a waiting list.

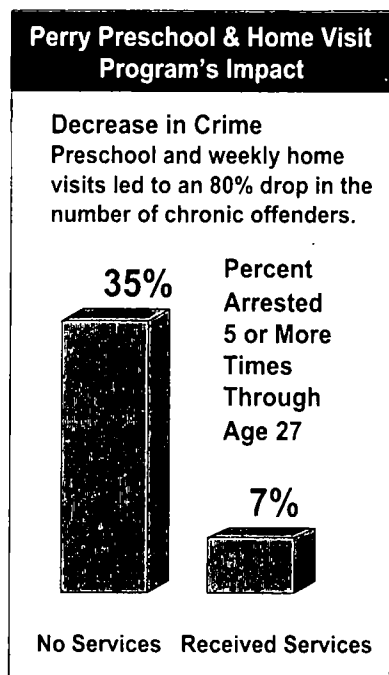
In short, failing to provide programs like these can multiply by as much as four times your family's risk that at-risk kids will become delinquent.

"America's fight against violence must begin in the high chair, not the electric chair. Anything less leaves America's police fighting with one hand tied behind our backs."

— George Sweat, Director, Office of Juvenile Justice (North Carolina); former Chief of Police, Winston-Salem (NC)

2. Assure all babies and preschool children access to the quality educational child care programs proven to cut crime.

Rigorous studies, hard experience, and brain pictures from modern medical equipment tell the same story: In the first few years of life, children's intellects and emotions, and even their ability to feel concern for others — a prerequisite to "conscience" — are being permanently shaped. When parents are at work trying to make ends meet, programs providing nurturing, stimulating, educational child care for babies and toddlers can not only prepare children to succeed in school but also dramatically reduce crime. For example:



- In Ypsilanti, Michigan, low-income three- and four-year-olds randomly assigned to be in the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation's preschool program were *only one-fifth as likely* to have become chronic lawbreakers at age 27, compared to similar children who did without this educational child care.

- In Syracuse, at-risk infants and toddlers enrolled in a quality child development program, with parenting support for their mothers, were *only one-tenth as likely* as similar children to be delinquent ten years later.

In other words, failing to make sure that at-risk kids have access to quality child care and development programs like these can multiply by five to ten times the risk that they will grow up to lead a life of crime. When millions of struggling parents are forced to leave their children in inadequate child care, we all pay a terrible price.

3. Help schools identify troubled and disruptive children at an early age, and provide children and their parents with the counseling and training that can help kids get back on track.

When elementary school children display disruptive behavior, it is a warning signal that it is time to start looking for the causes of the problem, and to provide the proven social skills training, counseling, and other help for the children and their families that can lead them back to a healthier path. For example:

- A Montreal study showed that providing disruptive first- and second-grade boys with services like these **cut in half** the odds that they would later be in special classes, rated highly disruptive by a teacher or by peers, or required to repeat a grade in school — all signs that the risk of future violence has been sharply reduced.
- Five years after randomly selected disruptive, low-achieving seventh-graders completed a three-year program involving behavioral therapy and rewards, they were only one-third as likely to have a juvenile record as those who did not receive these services.

4. Improve deficient parenting and prevent child abuse and neglect by: a) Offering high-risk parents in-home parenting-coaching; and b) making sure child protective, foster care and adoption services have policies and enough well-trained staff to protect and heal abused and neglected children.

Being abused or neglected multiplies the risk that a child will grow up to be violent. Almost three million children are reported abused or neglected each year. Child protective and foster care services in most states lack adequate staff, and often the training or policy support, to protect children and to see that those who have been maltreated get the nurturing care and treatment needed to help them heal. We must also act *before* abuse takes place to expand parenting-coaching and family support programs that prevent children from being abused and neglected, prevent subsequent delinquency, and improve other outcomes for children. For example:

- The Prenatal and Early Infancy Project randomly assigned half of a group of at-risk mothers to receive visits by specially trained nurses who provided coaching in parenting skills and other advice and support. Rigorous studies show the program not only *reduced child abuse by 80%* in the first two years, but that fifteen years after the services ended, *these mothers had only one-third as many arrests, and their children were only half as likely to be delinquent.*

The Bottom Line: Investing in Kids Saves Lives and Money

When America fails to invest in its children and youth, we pay far more later — not just in lives and fear, but also in tax dollars. The federal treasury will actually have *more* money to dedicate to other uses a few years from now — whether for social security, paying off the accumulated national debt, or tax cuts — if we invest *today* in programs to help kids get the right start. For example:

- Economist Steven Barnett found that the High/Scope Foundation's Perry Preschool study *saved \$150,000 per participant in crime costs alone*. Even after subtracting the interest that could have been earned by investing the program's funding in financial markets, the project produced a *net savings of \$7.16* — including more than six dollars in crime savings — for every dollar invested.

"We could be saving thousands of lives — and sparing thousands of families unimaginable heartbreak — by investing up front in the proven early childhood care and youth development programs that can turn kids away from crime."

— Jean Lewis, President, National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children

"Early childhood and youth development programs can lead us to a stunning victory against violence. When these investments are proven to save lives and tax dollars, why shouldn't policy-makers provide the funding that will enable communities to get the job done?"

— former U.S. Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson

- Barnett estimates that the cost, including increased crime and welfare costs, of *failing* to provide at least two years of quality educational child care to low-income children is approximately \$100,000 per child. That's a total of about \$400 billion for all poor children now under age five.
- A recent study by Professor Mark A. Cohen of Vanderbilt University estimates that for each high-risk youth prevented from adopting a life of crime, the country would *save \$1.7 million*.
- A recent Rand Corporation report shows that, even without counting the savings to crime victims and society, the resulting *savings to government* alone from effective early childhood programs *exceeds by two to four times the cost of the programs*.

Law Enforcement United in Calling for Crime-Prevention Investments in Kids

Who says these four steps are among our most powerful weapons to fight crime?

- The hundreds of law enforcement leaders and crime victims who make up FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS.
- Virtually every major national law enforcement organization — including the **Major Cities [Police] Chiefs' Organization**, the **Police Executive Research Forum**, the **National Sheriffs' Association**, and the **National District Attorneys' Association** — have adopted forceful calls for boosting critical crime prevention investments like these.
- In a George Mason University poll, 86 percent of police chiefs nationwide said, "expanding after-school and child care programs like Head Start will greatly reduce youth crime and violence." Nine out of ten chiefs agreed with the statement, "If America does not make greater investments in after-school and educational child care programs to help children and youth now, we will pay far more later in crime, welfare and other costs."

"Police leaders know America's commitment to putting criminals in jail must be matched by its commitment to keeping kids from becoming criminals in the first place."

— Los Angeles (CA) Chief of Police Bernard Parks

For citations of studies referred to above, visit www.fightcrime.org



Launched in 1996, FIGHT CRIME is led by hundreds of America's leading police chiefs, prosecutors, sheriffs, crime victims, and leaders of police officer organizations. Major funding for its operations is provided by:

William T. Grant Foundation* • Edna McConnell Clark Foundation • John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation • DeWitt Wallace Reader's Digest Fund* • David and Lucille Packard Foundation • Ford Foundation • Public Welfare Foundation • Naomi and Nehemiah Cohen Foundation • Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation • Rockefeller Family Fund • Woods Fund of Illinois • McCormick-Tribune Foundation • The Stern Family Fund • Nathan Cummings Foundation • Butler Family Fund • Irving B. Harris Foundation • Institute for Civil Society • Neisser Fund • American Income Life Insurance Co. • New Prospect Foundation • William C. Graustein Memorial Fund

*Indicates that funding is for research dissemination.



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Hundreds of Police, Prosecutors, Crime Victims Dedicated to Preventing Crime and Violence

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WHAT

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS is a bipartisan, nonprofit anti-crime organization led by America's best-known **police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors and victims of violence.**

WHY

Its mission is to enable those on the front lines of the fight against crime to take a hard-nosed look at what really works to prevent crime. In its quest for effective solutions, it eschews ideological preconceptions. Based on rigorous research evidence and years of crime-fighting experience, it works with crime prevention scholars to develop policy recommendations and to share its findings with policy-makers and the public.

WHO

FIGHT CRIME is led by National and State Advisory Committees that include over seven hundred police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, and victims of violence. One of the founding members was former Attorney General Elliot Richardson. Present leaders include the presidents of the Fraternal Order of Police, the International Union of Police Associations, and the Police Executive Research Forum. The victims of violence include Marc Klaas, whose daughter Polly was abducted and murdered in California, and Jean Lewis, president of the National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children.

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS' Crime and Violence Prevention Resource Council includes leading experts in criminology, child development and law enforcement.

HOW

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS:

- Develops policy recommendations and analyzes the crime-prevention impact of public policy proposals.
- Conducts local, state and national public education efforts about effective crime prevention programs.
- Builds national, state and local leadership committees of police, prosecutors and crime survivors as well as resource councils of experts in fields such as child and youth development, criminology and law enforcement.
- Builds grassroots networks of individuals committed to educating their own neighbors and public officials.
- Serves as an information clearinghouse for journalists, policy-makers and the public.

BACKGROUND

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS was launched in July, 1996.

Principal funding has come from: the William T. Grant Foundation, the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, the DeWitt Wallace Reader's Digest Fund, the David and Lucille Packard Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Public Welfare Foundation, the Naomi and Nehemiah Cohen Foundation, Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation in North Carolina, the Center on Crime, Communities & Culture, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Rockefeller Family Fund, the Woods Fund of Illinois, the McCormick-Tribune Foundation, the Stern Family Fund, the Tide Foundation's Russell Fund, the Nathan Cummings Foundation, and the Butler Family Fund.

America's Child Care Crisis: A Crime Prevention Tragedy

A Report From

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS

by

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**Gordon Rondeau &
Elaine Rondeau**
Founders, Action America:
Murder Must End Now

**FIGHT
CRIME**



**INVEST
IN KIDS**



July 12, 2000

Ms. Heather Howard
Assistant Director
Domestic Policy Council
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
2nd Floor West Wing
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Heather:

I want to update you on the exciting work you have done so much to make possible.

As you may already know, Mrs. Clinton's news conference scored a tremendous amount of media coverage about the release of our report, America's Child Care Crisis: A Crime Prevention Tragedy.

It has been the subject of over 100 news articles and dozens of favorable editorials. Coverage totals 17.5 million in print and broadcast circulation.

We deeply appreciate all the hard work you invested to make this event such a success.

Additional highlights so far this year include:

- **Launching FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS CALIFORNIA.** We now have staff on the ground in four states, including Illinois, New York, and North Carolina. Together, these states have a whopping 30% of the nation's poor children.
- **Winning, together with our allies, hundreds of millions in new funding in Illinois and New York for quality early childhood programs and after-school programs.** We know that, with the President's leadership, much larger victories are now likely on the federal level.
- **Releasing polls of law enforcement officials in California, Illinois, and New York on what works to prevent school and youth violence.** By an overwhelming margin, law enforcement leaders said investing in quality child care and after-school programs was the most effective strategy to reduce youth violence.

You are helping to give millions of children the right start in life that they deserve. Thank you again for your leadership and partnership.

Sincerely,

Sanford A. Newman
President

President
Sanford A. Newman, J.D.

Research Director
William C. Christeson, M.H.S.

Development Director
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Development Coordinator
Richard F. Cook

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VIOLENCE PREVENTION
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Gordon Rondeau &

Elaine Rondeau

Founders, Action America:

Murder Must End Now

**FIGHT
CRIME**



**INVEST
IN KIDS**



To: Key Supporters and Friends of FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS
From: Sandy Newman
Date: July 13, 2000
Re: January – June 2000 Highlights

We have had an exciting and productive first half of 2000. I want to update you on the progress you have helped make possible.

Reframing Child Care Issues

On April 28th, the First Lady released our newest report, *America's Child Care Crisis: A Crime Prevention Tragedy*, at a White House news conference with members of Congress. We owe many thanks to the First Lady and key White House staff.

This report, made possible by grants from the Packard, William T. Grant and MacArthur Foundations, presents compelling new evidence that quality child care programs can greatly reduce crime. It is the first step in our new campaign to boost support for child care by showing its power to cut crime and violence. Our goal is to reframe the public's stake in "other people's children," much as our *After School Programs or After School Crime* report is doing for after-school programs. (While this report focuses primarily on early childhood evidence, 1/3 of the Child Care and Development Block Grant funds go to school age children, so boosting funding for child care also has a major impact on these youngsters.)

The report's authors include: Harvard pediatrician Berry Brazelton; Yale child development expert Ed Zigler; University of Pennsylvania criminologist Larry Sherman; and former police chiefs William Bratton of New York and Jerry Sanders of San Diego.

This report highlights once again the findings of the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation's 22-year study of the Perry Preschool program: Leaving at-risk children out of this quality child development program *multiplied by five times* the risk that they would become chronic lawbreakers as adults.

But the report also presents the results of three *new* studies completed over the last year. These studies show beyond a reasonable doubt that similar results can be achieved when model programs are brought to scale, including large government-funded initiatives.

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- A previous *Cost, Quality, Outcomes* study had rated the quality of hundreds of child care centers in four states. The researchers' new update looks at the children who had been in those centers when the earlier survey was done. By second grade, children of high-school educated moms who had been in poor quality centers had significantly more behavior problems than children of college-educated moms. In contrast, children of high-school educated moms who were in *high-quality* child care centers *had no more behavior problems than the children of the college-educated moms*. Quality child care leveled the playing field.
- As part of North Carolina's Smart Start program *some* centers were selected to receive quality improvement resources, including extra on-site training, scholarships for teacher training, teacher salary supplements so they could hire and retain good teachers, and extra subsidies. Kids in those centers were *half as likely as children in comparison centers to have serious behavior problems in kindergarten*. This study shows that when government steps in with a well-thought-out plan to improve quality, it makes an enormous difference in kids' subsequent behavior.
- A new study examines a large, ongoing, government-funded program, which has served 100,000 kids in twenty Child Parent Centers in schools in Chicago's roughest neighborhoods. These centers provided, while the kids were three and four years old, quality educational child care along with parenting coaching and support. Fourteen years later, kids who had been in the program were only half as likely to have multiple juvenile arrests, compared to similar children who had not been given the chance to participate.

Over 100 newspaper articles covered the report. Television news coverage included CNN Headline News, MSNBC, C-SPAN, and ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox, UPN and WB affiliates. The story was carried online by cnn.com, abc.com, and America Online (as one of its top five news stories for over 72 hours). Media coverage of the report now totals 17.5 million in print and broadcast circulation. A conference call briefing for editorial writers and columnists generated over twenty supportive newspaper editorials, including the *Denver Post*, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, *Kansas City Star*, and *Baltimore Sun*.

In what may be a model for other events, the Philadelphia Citizens for Children and Youth and the Child Care Matters coalition hosted a Philadelphia press conference in June. The city's police commissioner and I participated to call attention to our report in the context of local child care needs. Television coverage reached three-quarters of a million viewers.

Next steps: Efforts to make sure federal policy-makers not only receive but read our two-page research brief (enclosed) on the report. Funds permitting, we hope to be able to work with state groups to prepare similar briefs for state policy-makers, integrating state child care data.

National Policy-Maker Education on Youth and Children's Issues

We've been expanding our education of policy-makers through meetings at which our members brief their elected officials on the crime-prevention impact of investments in children and youth.

We continue to lean heavily on great allies like Helen Blank and the Children's Defense Fund, Joan Lombardi, Ethel Klein, and many others. Their partnership means that instead of reinventing the wheel, we can focus on maximizing our "value added" role in adding our unique voices and message to the debate.

As the appropriations process slogs along, the picture for after-school programs, child care, and programs that prevent child abuse and neglect – is improving. The Senate (and to a lesser extent, the House) has approved a substantial part of the funding increases we have recommended for this year. The Senate's Appropriations Committee had, however, robbed Peter to pay Paul, slashing funding for the Title XX Social Service Block Grant. We and many allies worked hard in support of an amendment to restore these funds, which go largely to services for abused and neglected children, child care, drug treatment, and similar important needs for children and families at risk. We were gratified when a last-minute deal was struck to restore the funds when the House and Senate meet in conference to negotiate the differences in their bills.

Here's how the increases we have recommended for this year compare with Congressional action so far.

Appropriations Status for Fiscal Year 2001
(Oct. 1, 2000 – Sept. 30, 2001)

Program	Current Funding	President's Budget Proposal	FIGHT CRIME Recommendations	Approved by Senate	Approved by House
Head Start	\$5.27 billion	+\$1 billion	+\$1 billion	+\$1 billion	+\$600 million
Child Care (CCDBG)	\$1.18 billion	+\$817 million	+\$817 million	+\$817 million	+\$400 million
After-School Programs	\$450 million	+\$550 million	+\$550 million	+\$150 million	+\$150 million
Title XX	\$1.775 billion	no increase	+\$605 million	—\$1.1 billion	—\$75 million
Early Learning Fund	N/A	+\$600 million	+\$2.0 billion	No action yet	No action yet

We'll be working to urge the Senate negotiators to insist in conference committee on the Senate's full Head Start and Child Care appropriations. Even the conference committee action will not be the final round in the appropriations battle this year. The President will likely veto this conference bill, leading to further negotiations to produce a final appropriations package. At that stage, we'll be working to urge him to insist on the full amounts he requested and to urge both the Senate and House to accept these amounts. We now think the chances are very good that the final appropriations will go a long way toward meeting the President's requests. This will make a big difference for hundreds of thousands of children.

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS *ILLINOIS*

On March 23rd, FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS *ILLINOIS* – with 40 police chiefs attending – held a news conference in the Capitol building in Springfield to announce our 2000 policy agenda for Illinois. We also released a poll of Illinois law enforcement leaders showing:

- 86% of Illinois law enforcement leaders said, “expanding after-school and child care programs like Head Start will greatly reduce youth crime and violence.”
- 89% said, “If America does not make greater investments in after-school and child care programs now, we will pay far more later in crime, welfare, and other costs.”
- When asked to pick the most effective strategy to reduce youth violence, law enforcement leaders picked providing more after-school programs and educational child care by a 5-to-1 margin over alternatives like hiring more police, trying more juveniles as adults, or installing more metal detectors in schools.

News coverage of the event was extensive, including all three central Illinois TV network affiliates, two Rockford affiliates, Illinois Public Radio, the Illinois Radio Network, the *Daily Herald* (which covers suburban Chicago), the *Springfield Journal-Register*, and the *Decatur Herald and Review*.

Our Illinois members – over 100 police chiefs, sheriffs, state’s attorneys, and victims of violence – have worked hard to educate state policy-makers about our policy recommendations. Dozens have met with, personally contacted, or called their own representatives and senators in the Illinois General Assembly. For example, our Illinois co-chair Chief John Millner and state director Tim Carpenter met in February with House Minority Leader Lee Daniels and Senate President Pate Philip to discuss FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS *ILLINOIS* and our policy recommendations.

In addition, our members sent over 100 individual letters about FIGHT CRIME’s recommendations to their representatives and senators. For example, Cook County State’s Attorney Dick Devine, Cook County Sheriff Michael Sheahan, and Chicago Police Superintendent Terry Hillard sent a joint letter to all the Chicago state legislators. (One result of these letters was that three state representatives – all suburban Republicans – called on their own initiative to request meetings with FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS *ILLINOIS*.)

The biggest win for Illinois’ kids in this legislative session was a 39% increase – \$187 million – for child care assistance for working families. While we believe our broad efforts to educate policy-makers about the crime prevention benefits of quality educational child care contributed, our allies at the Day Care Action Council were the driving force behind the increased funding. All of us who care about kids owe a debt of gratitude for their work.

With the leadership of Voices for Illinois Children, Ounce of Prevention Fund, and Day Care Action Council, we also made progress on other priorities. In a major victory, the legislature created a new program to improve child care quality and provided a modest down-payment of

\$3 million. The program will provide training and wage supplements to attract and retain skilled child care teachers. Other early childhood education programs received a modest \$10 million increase.

After FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS issued its 1997 report showing the after-school hours are the prime time for juvenile crime, then-Governor Edgar created the Teen REACH After-School Program. This year, it received a 7% increase, still leaving 9 out of 10 at-risk Illinois school-age kids without access. A program to provide at-risk new mothers with parenting coaching and support, which helps prevent child abuse and improve parenting, received a 25% increase.

Illinois will receive \$9 billion over the next 25 years from the national tobacco settlement. We have played a central role in creating a Kids Share Coalition to advocate dedicating a third of these funds to programs for kids. The legislature has committed the first two years of the proceeds (\$660 million) to election-year tax relief, a “rainy day” fund, and other spending. The good news is that the long-term allocation of the tobacco money has yet to be determined. Our work has laid a strong foundation to continue this vital fight next year.

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS *NEW YORK*

In March, we held an Albany press conference with key law enforcement leaders to launch FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS *NEW YORK*. We released a poll of New York law enforcement (with results similar to the Illinois poll described above) and announced our *New York School and Youth Violence Prevention Plan*. Like our similar national plan, it calls for access to educational child care for babies and toddlers, quality after-school programs for older children and teens, programs to prevent child abuse and neglect, and intervention to get troubled kids back on track.

Coverage included an Associated Press story that went to all daily newspapers and to radio and TV stations throughout New York, as well as other reports on New York Public Radio, ABC, NBC and CBS TV affiliates and radio stations.

In coordination with our allies, our 60-plus New York members met with policymakers and their staffs (including the Governor and leaders of the State Assembly and Senate), provided testimony before several committee budget hearings, and sent a letter to every member of the legislature about the crime prevention impact of investments in children. And, state director Jack Kennedy addressed the annual meeting of the New York State Conference of Mayors.

With the leadership of great allies, kids made progress in the state’s new budget. Under the Governor’s proposal, universal pre-kindergarten was slated to get \$120 million – a drastic cutback from the \$225 million due under a schedule approved in 1997. Together with the Emergency Coalition to Save Universal Pre-K, we helped convince policy-makers of this program’s need – and it was fully funded at \$225 million.

We worked closely with the Child Care that Works Campaign to help win a \$119 million increase in funding for child care for low-income families, creating 28,000 new child care slots. Additional gains included: \$40 million in salary supplements to help recruit and retain qualified

child care teachers, and \$15 million to build new centers (expected to leverage \$30 million more in private and federal funds).

With the leadership of the After-School Corporation and substantial supportive efforts on our part, funding for after-school programs was doubled to \$50 million for next year.

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS *CALIFORNIA*

Thanks to a very generous grant from the Packard Foundation, we launched our fourth staffed state operation in March: FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS *CALIFORNIA*. Over 115 California law enforcement officials and victims of violence are now members.

California's presidential primary in March included the Proposition 28 ballot initiative, which would have repealed California's 50-cent-a-pack tobacco tax that produces \$700 million a year for programs for kids under six.

We worked to help defeat Prop 28 and used the ballot initiative as a hook for our work educating the public and policymakers on the impact early childhood investments can have on preventing crime.

At a February news conference in Sacramento, we released a report showing that Prop 28's passage would cause more crime and violence by slashing funds for child care and other services. The report's authors included the former San Diego police chief; the president of the state district attorneys association; Sacramento's Police Chief; a senior RAND criminologist; and two of the nation's leading child development experts, Berry Brazelton and Ron Lally. The California Child Care Resource and Referral Network helped mightily to bring us up to speed on the state's child care system.

At a March news conference in Oakland, we released our poll of California law enforcement leaders on what works to curb crime and violence. Nine out of ten said, California could greatly reduce school and youth violence by boosting investment in child care and after-school programs. Ninety-five percent also said that if we don't invest more in these programs now, we will pay more later in crime, welfare and other costs.

We supplied law enforcement speakers for several media events organized by the No on 28 campaign led by Rob Reiner. Five op-ed columns by our law enforcement and crime survivor members opposing Prop 28 were published in California newspapers.

Our work supplemented the leadership efforts of our allies – helping to win new state funding for child care. We testified at a Senate Health and Human Service Committee hearing and 39 of our California members signed letters to state legislators and the Governor about the crime prevention impact of investments in children. We recruited law enforcement to participate in a public vigil drawing attention to the state's massive child care needs; over 200,000 children are on waiting lists for subsidized care, despite being eligible based on their family income.

While we were disappointed to see the Governor veto some of the legislature's appropriations for child and youth programs, we were pleased to see signed into law a budget provision for

over \$130 million in new state funding to improve child care access and quality. With a proposal to create a new after-school program still pending, most of our California efforts will focus on educating policymakers over the remaining two months the legislature is in session.

Reaching Non-Staffed States

Although each of our state offices needs more staff, we now have offices in four states: California, Illinois, New York, and North Carolina. Together, these states have a whopping 30% of the nation's poor children. We are eager to put staff in the next tier of largest states.

In the meantime, we are fortunate that Mary Richards, the district attorney in Story County, Iowa for 20 years, has joined FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS as co-director of state operations. As a result, we're able to do more to activate our members and make sure our information is reaching policy-makers in states where we have no staff. For example:

- In New Mexico, Think New Mexico, which played the central role in the drive for full-day kindergarten, says a letter from ten of our New Mexico members was key in persuading the governor to sign the full-day kindergarten bill he had been expected to veto.
- In Kentucky, the Governor has proposed investing a substantial part of the tobacco settlement funds in programs for children and youth. He recently sent all state legislators (with his own cover letter) our School and Youth Violence Prevention Plan and our fact sheet showing that after-school programs and early childhood programs cut smoking.
- On March 1st, we learned that the Fort Worth, Texas City Council would hold a hearing that afternoon to discuss using part of a special anti-crime city sales tax to fund after-school programs – a departure from past uses of those funds. We immediately called the city's police chief, who then testified in support of the proposal to spend \$700,000 of these funds for after-school programs. The City Council was so impressed it *doubled* the funds to \$1.4 million.

Funding

Thanks to the support of our funders and friends, we've been able to greatly increase our capacity and impact. Our three largest grants now are:

- The Packard Foundation's \$500,000 grant for early childhood work in California and national support of those operations. We are deeply grateful to Marie Young and the foundation.
- The William T. Grant Foundation's renewed \$250,000 grant for dissemination of research regarding after-school and youth development programs and evaluation of those strategies, thanks to the continued commitment of foundation president Karen Hein and executive vice president Lonnie Sherrod.

- The MacArthur Foundation's award of a \$200,000 grant for this year and an additional \$200,000 for next year (including a portion earmarked for FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS ILLINOIS), thanks to the strong support of Laurie Garduque and Paul Goren.

We also deeply appreciate the contributions of the Robert McCormick Tribune Foundation, which has provided a three-year, \$300,000 grant for our Illinois state operation, the Chicago Community Trust, Naomi and Nehemiah Cohen Foundation, Institute for Civil Society, DeWitt Wallace-Readers Digest Fund, and the help of *all* our supporters.

Clearly, we've been making major progress on the financial front. Despite these gains, however we still have to raise \$283,000 in funds *beyond expected renewals* to meet our \$1.8 million budget this year.

Why have we embarked on such an ambitious plan to grow our capacity so quickly?

The strong economy and the enormous budget surpluses at the federal level and in nearly every state continue to create an enormous window of opportunity. Never in our lifetimes have the states and federal government had greater fiscal capacity to make investments in children and youth on the scale that is truly needed. That's the good news.

The bad news: Even our most optimistic projection of the extra funding Congress will appropriate this year remains far short of the investment we ought to be making to help our nation's kids get the right start. That won't change unless we and our allies raise the nation's ambition, from giving children and youth the budget "leftovers" to asking what it takes to fully meet the needs of the nation's children and youth, and laying out a plan to get there.

Already we see the window beginning to close, as surpluses are committed to other priorities and permanently eroded by tax cuts. We watch with a combination of painful impatience and eager anticipation and excitement, knowing how much greater our impact will be as we grow to staff more states, and intensify our efforts in those where we currently have staff.

Thanks for your partnership as together we turn from dream to reality our shared vision of a nation that invests in helping all its children and youth get the opportunity and support they need to become healthy, contributing adults.

*America's Child Care Crisis:
A Crime Prevention Tragedy*

Newspaper Editorials

Denver Post
Kansas City Star
The (Portland) Oregonian
San Antonio Express-News
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
Albuquerque Journal
The Virginian-Pilot
The Morning Call
The Post-Standard
The Roanoke Times
Bangor Daily News
Greenville (Ohio) Advocate
The Albany (GA) Herald
The Buffalo News
The Journal Gazette
The Charleston Gazette Online
Brazosport Facts
The Sun
Syracuse Herald-Journal
Pasadena Star-News
Whittier Daily News
San Gabriel Valley Tribune



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What Newspapers Are Saying about Our New Report: *America's Child Care Crisis: A Crime Prevention Tragedy*

On the evidence that educational child care reduces crime:

"America's Child Care Crisis: A Crime Prevention Tragedy" gives overwhelming evidence of the need for more government-sponsored child care programs that reach all children, not just some.
The Denver Post, May 30

A group called Fight Crime: Invest in Kids announced that two long-term studies found young children who attend good educational child care programs are significantly less likely to become involved in crime when they get older. . . All the more reason to do everything to make sure cute toddlers don't become criminal teenagers.
Fort Wayne Journal Gazette, June 2

Fight Crime's report pointed out a truth that the public, and public officials, can no longer ignore: "We can no more afford to accept child care that is merely 'custodial' than we could accept assigning children to public schools that are 'custodial' rather than instructional."
Arizona Republic (Phoenix), May 9

This country has to get serious about providing affordable quality day care. Like the education of children past the age of 5, it is a common good. . . It is not just a matter for families with children. We all suffer when children grow up into felons.
The (Syracuse) Post-Standard, May 24
Syracuse Herald-Journal, May 24

On the effectiveness of our law enforcement members as advocates:

When police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, crime victims and youth violence experts agree that quality attention at a young age is the No. 1 crime-fighting tool, it's criminal not to listen.
The Virginian Pilot (Norfolk), June 5

[Sheriff] Patrick Sullivan of Arapahoe County, Colo., is on point when he observed at the unveiling of the report. . . , "We'll win the battle against youth violence when we are as ready to guarantee a kid a place in Head Start or an early learning program as we are to guarantee a criminal a place in a jail cell."
The Portland Oregonian, June 8

And lest members [of Congress] think this is just one more bleeding-heart group begging for social programs, they should look at the organization's advisory board: It's heavy on police and prosecutors. Criminal justice people on the front lines recognize that equipping kids to succeed early on makes more sense than locking them up later. It's a report members of Congress should read before deciding not only the most compassionate approach to stemming youth crime, but also the most effective. . . .
The Buffalo News, June 8

... continued on reverse ...

On the evidence that low income families can't afford quality child care:

As the Fight Crime study and others have pointed out, the cost of high-quality child care programs is beyond the means of low or even moderate income parents. In fact, the cost of sending an infant to a good-quality child care center in an urban area is higher than the tuition to a public university. Government is not doing its share to help low-income parents afford these programs, this report found.

The Kansas City Star, June 4

Children from low-income families need to get a leg up. The best way to accomplish that is through quality preschool programs. Parents know it. Child care experts and pediatricians know it. Now add law enforcement to the list. The studies prove it.

Whittier Daily News, June 2

On the savings to society and taxpayers by investments in quality child care:

The study proves what we have believed all along: investing in early child education reduces crime, creates a healthier society and economy and saves taxpayer money in judicial and welfare costs.

The Denver Post, May 30

At the same time that [Pennsylvania] Governor Ridge has helped more families find child care, he also has built more prisons and spent more money on warehousing humans than any previous Pennsylvania governor. If the long-term quality of child care is improved, there is powerful evidence that future governors and future taxpayers won't have to pay so much to lock up future generations.

Pittsburgh Post Gazette, May 28

Editorials called on government to increase funding for child care:

With the answers so apparent and the need so great, we ask: How many more studies will be needed before a sense of urgency compels lawmakers and business and community leaders nationwide to get serious about day care? How many more children will be lost before someone listens?

San Antonio Express-News, May 7

Building more prisons has never been the answer to reducing crime. What must be done now is to persuade our elected officials to invest tax dollars in early child care programs.

The Denver Post, May 30

Under public pressure in this election year, we hope that Congress approves the \$2 billion for more preschool aid. It could save America perhaps \$10 billion in future costs—and save many young lives from going sour.

Charleston (WV) Gazette, June 13

If the country wants to prevent crime and prepare young people for a future that includes a good education, the federal government and the states need to do more to help low income parents.

The Kansas City Star, June 4

The House and Senate should reconcile their allocations using the Senate's more generous numbers: \$1 billion for Head Start, and \$817 million for the child care development block grant. Then lawmakers should restore the child protective and social services grant funding.

The Sun (Baltimore), June 6

THE DENVER POST

Invest in children

Crime would drop dramatically if very young children had access to good, educational child-care programs.

"America's Child Care Crisis: A Crime Prevention Tragedy" gives overwhelming evidence of the need for more government-sponsored child-care programs that reach all children in need, not just some.

The recently released report was prepared by a variety of experts convened by Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, an anti-crime group whose membership includes more than 700 police chiefs, prosecutors, sheriffs, violence-prevention experts and victims of violence.

The study proves what we have believed all along: Investing in early-child education reduces crime, creates a healthier society and economy and saves taxpayer money in judicial and welfare costs.

Building more prisons has never been the answer to reducing crime. What must be done now is to persuade our elected officials to invest tax dollars in early child-care programs. Federal, state and local governments have the ability to reduce crime by investing in children.

Polls included in the study indicate that people would pay higher taxes or forgo tax cuts in order to provide educational child-care programs that would reduce crime in the long run.

Educational child-care saves taxpayers. For every \$100 put into early educational opportunities for children, \$700 is saved.

Packed with polls, graphs and comparisons, the well-researched study can be accessed on the Internet at www.fightcrime.org.

Some of the key findings in the report indicate that a large study, spanning 14 years, showed that children enrolled in government-funded Child-Parent Centers in Chicago were less likely to be arrested as teens. The number of children having two or more run-ins with the law was cut nearly in half, compared with children not enrolled in the program.

A 22-year study of the High/Scope Perry Preschool program out of Ypsilanti, Mich., shows that denying quality development programs to children considered "at-risk" — due to poverty, negative family circumstances and low levels of education and employment — can actually increase levels of delinquency. Studies indicated that these particular children were five times more likely to be chronic lawbreakers when adults.

Children from North Carolina's "Smart Start" initiative were less likely to have serious behavioral problems in kindergarten than their counterparts who lacked a solid preschool education.

Large national studies indicate that "at-risk" children who attend high-quality programs prior to starting school do not have greater behavioral problems than children of college-educated parents.

This report contains powerful evidence that quality educational child care in the first years of life can greatly reduce the risk of today's young children becoming violent teenagers and adults.

But although it seems clear that good early education benefits both children and society, we still do not have enough programs for children who need help the most.

The reason this need is not being met is twofold. Low- and moderate-income parents can't afford high-quality child-care pro-



grams. Adequate care for an infant plus a toddler costs more than \$12,000 a year.

To put children in good child-care centers costs more than the tuition at most public universities. Many children end up in poorly structured daycare situations that can have an adverse affect on young minds.

Secondly, the government is remiss in its duty to fund current programs at the levels that are needed. HeadStart, a popular preschool program designed to provide quality programs for children whose families meet income guidelines, only answers half the current estimated need.

Even those lucky enough to get into HeadStart can only participate on a part-time basis, leaving parents who work all day scrambling to make other arrangements.

President Bill Clinton is asking Congress to add \$1 billion to HeadStart and \$817 million for the Child Care and Development Block Grant, which is the principal program to help low- and moderate-income families pay for child care.

This money is badly needed. These federal expenditures deserve our support. In addition, we must demand funding and development of more high quality programming for young children. In the end, we'll all benefit.

Denver, CO
POST

Denver - Boulder - Longmont
Met Area

Tuesday

D 370,423

MAY 30, 2000

EDITORIALS

*The voice of The Kansas City Star*Investing
in families

President Clinton's push for millions more in early childhood education spending would be a sound investment. Money spent for high-quality early childhood care and education programs for low-income children pays off in increased success in learning and appropriate social behavior.

A recent report by Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a national anti-crime group, found that crime and violence could be sharply reduced by assuring families have access to good early childhood programs. The group includes police chiefs and children's behavior specialists and is funded by major foundations.

The report showed that good early childhood care reduces crime later. One 14-year study of children who were enrolled in government-funded child-parent centers showed the risk that they might engage in criminal behavior as teen-agers was half that of children not in the program.

Ninety percent of the police chiefs in another survey said early childhood education programs were more effective as a crime prevention tool than trying juveniles as adults, building more juvenile detention centers, or installing metal detectors in schools.

Yet, as the Fight Crime study and others have pointed out, the cost of high-quality child-care programs is beyond the means of low or even moderate income parents. In fact, the cost of sending an infant to a good-quality child-care center in an urban area is higher than the cost of tuition to a public university.

Government is not doing its share to help low-income parents afford these programs, this report found.

Clinton called in January for \$1 billion in new spending for the Head Start program for preschoolers. Head Start began in 1965 as a way to provide education and social and emotional development, as well as health and nutrition services, for children whose parents are below the poverty line.

Recently Olivia Golden, assistant secretary for children and families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, spoke to Head Start workers and others in Kansas City about the benefits of approving the president's budget request.

Head Start serves only half of the eligible children, and most of these children receive government assistance for only part of the time their parents are working.

Another federal-state program, the Child Care and Development Block Grant is also inadequate to meet the needs of American families who qualify. The block grant, which uses matching state money, pays for child-care help for families with incomes that are below 85 percent of the state's median income.

Often the need for quality child-care is unmet because families are not aware of the subsidies or because eligibility is too restrictive.

Nine in ten children who should qualify nationally get nothing from this fund, the Fight Crime report says. Other government child-care help does not meet the need, either.

If the country wants to prevent crime and prepare young people for a future that includes a good education, the federal government and the states need to do more to help low-income parents.

More and more research is showing that early childhood care and education programs are essential investments.

Kansas City, MO
Star
Kansas City
Met Area

Sunday

8UN 401,562

JUN 4, 2000



N3364

The Oregonian

Fight crime: Help kids early

The specter of kids who come to school with guns — even if few do — has captured most of the public attention in recent years. But study after study shows that the kids really needing our attention are those who aren't getting it early in their lives.

A new national study, "America's Child Care Crisis: A Crime Prevention Tragedy," drives that message home again. It complements years of earlier research that also shows that investing early in children who are at risk — of abuse, health problems and neglect, for example — reduces crime.

Early investment in at-risk kids creates a healthier society and saves taxpayers money in law enforcement, judicial, welfare and incarceration costs.

Fight crime: Invest in Kids produced the latest study, which can be viewed on the organization's web site — www.fightcrime.org. Fight Crime is a national organization whose members include more than 700 police chiefs, sheriffs, police association leaders, prosecutors, crime victims and social-service agencies — people on the front lines in this battle.

President Clinton is asking Congress to add to its 2001 budget \$1 billion to

Head Start and \$817 million for Child Care and Development Block Grants. It's not enough.

The money would allow Head Start to add about 70,000 kids to its highly successful programs. But it would still leave unserved about 50 percent of 3- and 4-year-old children in families below the poverty line.

This may sound like "Spend, spend, spend" to some taxpayers. But it's not. It's wise investment.

Kids served by the Child Parent Centers in Chicago were 26 percent more likely to complete high school than similar low-income children who did not attend preschool. They were 35 percent less likely to be charged in juvenile court; 40 percent less likely to repeat a grade.

Pre-school programs for high-risk kids showed that by age 27 those who had been left out were five times more likely to be chronic lawbreakers.

Police Chief Patrick Sullivan of Arapahoe County, Colo., is on point when he observed at the unveiling of the report in Washington, D.C., "We'll win the battle against youth violence when we are as ready to guarantee a kid a place in Head Start or an early learning program as we are to guarantee a criminal a place in a jail cell."

Portland, OR
OREGONIAN
Portland - Vancouver
Met Area

Thursday

D 353,010

JUN 8, 2000

LUCE P4616
PRESS CLIPPINGS

Study: Day care offers a path away from jail

Quality day care for children is not a miraculous panacea capable of curing all of society's ills.

But proof is abundant that children who experience such care do better in life than those who don't.

Another new study bolsters the importance of good day care by showing that investing in day-care programs early in a child's life pays off later by a reduction of crime.

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a bipartisan coalition of police chiefs, sheriffs and crime victims, released the report recently.

Compiling studies comparing children in day-care programs in North Carolina and Chicago with other children, it found that children who had quality day care in their early years were half as likely to be arrested as children who did not.

Also, according to the study, troubled children who did not go to preschool and receive home visits from

■ Another new study finds that investing in day care pays off by a reduction in crime.

social workers were five times more likely to be chronic criminals.

The organization's recommendations are both common sense and often-repeated: better training and higher salaries for day-care workers.

The challenge is to upgrade the training and pay for workers while keeping quality day care affordable.

With the answers so apparent and the need so great, we ask: How many more studies will be needed before a sense of urgency compels lawmakers and business and community leaders nationwide to get serious about day care?

How many more children will be lost before someone listens?

San Antonio, TX
EXPRESS-NEWS
MORNING ED
San Antonio
Met Area

Sunday

8UN 369,094

MAY 7, 2000

LUCE P5388
PRESS CLIPPINGS

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

SUNDAY

Child care and crime

When kids are well minded, they stay straight

Quality day care, the kind that doesn't park a child in front of a TV all day or allow her to wander around with little human contact, costs money — as much as \$7,000 to \$8,000 a year and up. But failing to provide good child care is even more expensive.

A group of police chiefs, prosecutors and victims of crime is pressing Congress and the states to beef up early childhood programs so that they will not be forced to pour vaster sums of money into courts and prisons later on. The group, known as Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, cites compelling evidence that money spent on educational child care is an investment that pays huge dividends down the road.

By comparing the arrest records of children who were involved in educational early care and children who weren't, researchers have determined that it is not a stretch to suggest that good child care is a crime prevention tool.

Several studies indicate that children are much less likely to have multiple arrests later in life if they were enrolled in quality child care in their preschool years. Students of the now well-known Perry Preschool Program in Michigan were five times less likely to be chronic lawbreakers at the age of 27 than a similar group who were not in the program. In a much larger study of children who attended the Chicago Child-Parent Center programs, researchers found that students were almost half as likely to have had two or more arrests by the age of 18 than a similar group who did not attend.

Even when viewed most conservatively, looking only at direct government

costs for items like welfare and criminal justice, every dollar spent on quality child care means \$2 in government savings. More expansive estimates put the savings in the realm of \$5 for each \$1 invested in quality day care.

What is quality child care? It requires well-trained and motivated adults, low adult-child ratios and parental involvement. Such programs stand out because there are relatively few of them.

President Clinton has proposed expanding Head Start spending by \$1 billion, which would not only increase the number of eligible children who could take advantage of the program, but also would help improve its quality. He is also pushing for nearly a \$1 billion increase in the child-care block grant program, which currently reaches only about one in 10 eligible children. These are reasonable proposals.

States also must do their share. Gov. Ridge rightly brags of the expansion in state-subsidized child care that his administration has overseen, made possible by surpluses in the state's welfare budget. Improving the availability and affordability of child care is only the first step, however. Making sure that it is of high quality must be the next step. And that takes even more money.

At the same time that Gov. Ridge has helped more families find child care, he also has built more prisons and spent more money on warehousing humans than any previous Pennsylvania governor. If the long term quality of child care is improved, there is powerful evidence that future governors and future taxpayers won't have to pay so much to lock up future generations.

Pittsburgh, PA
Post-Gazette
Pittsburgh
Met Area

8UN 436,765

Sunday

MAY 28, 2000

EDITORIALS

Better Child Care Means Fewer Crimes

Working families have long known the importance of quality day care. Safe, affordable child care can mean the difference between working and staying on welfare, between leaving a child unattended or having peace of mind.

A report unveiled this week makes the case that good day care is also a powerful *anti-crime weapon*.

A coalition called Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, says youths who spend their early years in quality child care are half as likely to be arrested later. This evidence comes from studies comparing 1,000 children in and out of day care programs in North Carolina and Chicago, who were in day care at ages 3 and 4.

The report gives Congress compelling reasons to invest an additional \$3 billion in early childhood care — to add 950,000 Head Start slots and for block grants to expand early education and child care for children under 5. It also should buttress support for White House proposals for tax breaks for parents and for employers who offer day care for employees' children.

The *quality* part of the day care equation also mandates better training and higher salaries for child care workers; while their charges are priceless, day care providers are shamefully paid, on average making about half as much as parking lot attendants, responsible only for cars.

Sponsor of this report is a coalition of 700 police chiefs, prosecutors and crime victims, who say the day care studies are scientific evidence backing what they already know from experience: that children are far less likely to threaten public safety if they are protected from abuse and neglect, get quality early childhood education and health care, attend good schools and have access to after-school programs, school-to-work training and college.

Failure to make these investments takes a later toll not only in terms of public safety, but in tax dollars spent — each child care dollar reportedly saves \$5 in crime costs down the line. Without early intervention, law enforcement is "fighting crime with one hand tied behind our backs," Fight Crime says. "Policing and prosecution alone leave us stuck on a treadmill, with more kids becoming criminals to replace those we lock up."

Over the past year, law enforcement groups nationwide have made forceful appeals for crime prevention investments in young people. This is the latest, and deserves to be heard.

Albuquerque, NM
JOURNAL
Albuquerque
Met Area

Wednesday

D 113,219

MAY 3, 2000

LUCE P3890
PRESS CLIPPINGS

HEAD START

Crime stoppers

*Quality attention at a young age
is the No. 1 crime-fighting tool.*

The Virginian-Pilot

MONDAY, JUNE 5, 2000

What's the best juvenile crime-fighting tool?

Quality child care.

So say prominent law-enforcement officials, criminologists and child development authorities. And so say major new studies that track the impact of superior day care on disciplinary problems both in and out of school.

The question now is whether Congress, the state legislatures and citizens are listening.

They had better listen if they want to stem the spiraling costs of crime and criminal justice, which create an enormous national drain both in human and financial terms.

The Clinton administration is pushing to add \$1 billion to the almost \$6 billion that the nation currently spends on Head Start for at-risk preschoolers. The White House would increase state block grants for improving child care quality and access, as well.

That spending ought to be approved, but not in the way the Senate currently plans, which is to strip much of the money out of Title 20 funds. Those dollars pay for foster care and related services. It's like saying you can have milk or vegetables, but not both.

Some longitudinal studies have questioned whether Head Start's benefits for poor children hold up over time. But evidence is mounting that carefully crafted, well-implemented programs of educational child care do make a difference.

A big difference — especially if preceded by parental stimulation of infants and followed by parental involvement sustained through the early elementary-school years.

Exhibit A: A just-completed Wisconsin study of more than 1,000 children found that those enrolled in government-funded Child-Parent Centers at ages 3 and 4 were only half as likely to have multiple arrests 14 years later as similar juve-

niles left out of the program.

That study and others bolster an older report, in which 60 at-risk Michigan children proved five times less likely to become chronic offenders than similar children who were not enrolled in a quality pre-school program.

Such results ought to serve as a clarion call to Virginia lawmakers to support pre-school educational programs and quality day care. Virginia has made progress on those fronts, but not nearly enough.

Tidewater Head Start officials estimate that 15 percent to 20 percent of eligible children aren't being served locally by either their program or the state pre-school program for at-risk, 4-year-olds.

Meanwhile, the General Assembly laudably added about \$35 million for low-income day care over what Gov. Jim Gilmore had recommended for the next two years. That was essential if welfare reform was to work.

What Virginia lacks is a comprehensive strategy and commitment of the sort begun in the 1980s with the creation of the Virginia Council on Child Day Care and Early Childhood Programs. That planning council was sacrificed in the mid-1990s to fears that government was trying to control children's minds.

Virginia still is paying the price of that political paranoia. State standards have slipped. Too many children are in day care programs that come nowhere close to the "quality" plans with proven impact on future behavior. And we're still a long way from universal preschool access, such as Georgia has.

It's time for Virginia to reverse course. When police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, crime victims and youth-violence experts agree that quality attention at a young age is the No. 1 crime-fighting tool, it's criminal not to listen.

The Morning Call

Allentown, Lehigh and Berks Counties, PA
May 26, 2000

Report sounds a call to action on child care

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids is a non-profit anti-crime organization in Washington, D.C., that brings together experts in education and law enforcement. Earlier this month, it released the results of studies that tracked children who participated in child care programs and crime rates. The unsurprising findings are that being in a quality child-care program greatly reduces the likelihood of youngsters getting in trouble with the police. The challenge posed by the study is getting those in local, state and federal government to pay attention.

The report brings together a series of research findings. Consider just these highlights:

► Researchers in Michigan divided pre-schoolers into two groups, those receiving high-quality pre-kindergarten care and those who did not. By age 27, the children who did not get day care were five times as likely to become chronic lawbreakers, with four or more arrests.

► The Syracuse University Family Development Program followed children from pre-school for 10 years. By ages 13 to 16, one in 10 children who did not receive good pre-school care (including home visits and parent-skills coaching) were found to be chronic offenders. In the group that did receive that pre-school care, only 1.5 percent had been found delinquent.

► A study in North Carolina, which spends \$78 million a year on its Smart Start pre-school program, found that children who did not get good early childhood programs were twice as likely to have behavior problems in kindergarten.

► The Child-Parent Centers in Chicago compared children who participated in high-quality pre-school care with demographically similar children who attended all-day kindergarten but not pre-school care. At age 18, the children from families that did not receive pre-school care and parent coaching were 60 percent more likely to have been arrested.

► A survey conducted by George Mason University asked police chiefs to rate different strategies on their value as a crime-prevention tool. After-school and summer programs, parent coaching and Head Start or similar early childhood programs all were rated — by a wide margin — over prosecuting juveniles as adults, building more juvenile detention centers, and putting metal detectors in schools.

The Fight Crime: Invest in Kids report also updated some familiar connections. A Rutgers University economist looked at the young people in the Michigan study and found that for every \$100 invested in child care, parent coaching and home visits, more than \$700 was saved from reductions in crime alone. A separate RAND Corporation study factored out the cost of crime and found a 2 for 1 savings in other government programs. William Gale and Isabel V. Sawhill of the Brookings Institution observed that investment in early-childhood education has "rates of return that would make a venture capitalist envious."

**The contents of
the national re-
port are hardly
unfamiliar to
those in the field
in the Valley.**

Other economic factors about early-childhood education are distressing. Nationwide surveys by the Children's Defense Fund found that annual costs for a pre-school child in day care average \$4,000 to \$5,000. For families with incomes of about \$54,000, this represents 6 percent of annual income. But for families that are considered working poor, (income of \$14,000), the cost per child is 25 percent of income, and prohibitively expensive. The report also makes a connection between the high cost of child care and government support: many families can no longer afford this care than they could afford to pay the full cost of educating their children in the public schools.

▲ The contents of the national report are hardly unfamiliar to those in the field in the Lehigh Valley. In fact, the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley and other agencies are in the midst of a study of pre-school education. A grant of \$88,000 from Lucent Technologies in February started "Launching One Voice for Excellence," a project that is assessing availability and needs in the region. Its ultimate goal, according to David Rabaut of United Way, is to help children succeed in school.

Community Services for Children Inc., which administers Head Start and programs for children of all ages, also is in the process of assessing child care supply and demand in the region. The results aren't ready yet, but the agency knows that there are gaps in the availability of child care. Those gaps vary from place to place, and they can be especially acute for certain kinds of specialized care; for infants, for school-age children (including after-school and on vacation days), for mildly ill children, and care after 5 p.m., for parents who don't work the day shift.

Several excellent after-school programs exist in the Lehigh Valley, but in most cases, they can't meet the demand. About 500 children a day attend programs at the Allentown YMCA & YWCA. The Girls Club provides educational and other programs to about 150 children a day. City Space, an enrichment program in Allentown, cares for about 60 children a day. All could do more if they were able to hire more staff. Several legislators, including Lehigh County Sen. Charles W. Dent, tried to help with funding in the latest state budget, but none was included.

It is difficult to find precise numbers on needs because many families try to fend for themselves outside of the regulated system. Having a neighbor or grandparent watch children doesn't mean they don't get good care, it just means those youngsters aren't being counted. Certainly, the best estimates, then, are going to under-estimate how many children might benefit from better, more affordable and more plentiful care. All the more reason to pay attention to this issue.

The Post-Standard

A Common Good

All citizens have a big stake in quality, affordable child care.

Unless you are a parent with a job, child care is something you rarely have to think about. And that is how this country has generally treated it — as a problem that only concerns parents. But it turns out that the lack of affordable quality child care has many more societal repercussions.

A recent report gathered studies that concluded:

- Children from at-risk families who did not get high-quality child care were five times more likely to be chronic adult law breakers than similar children who received good care.

- Another study over 14 years found that the risk that an adult would have two or more arrests was cut in half if that person had been enrolled in government-funded child-parent centers.

- Large national studies have found that at-risk children who attend high-quality child care programs have no more behavior problems at age 8 than those whose parents are college graduates.

The analysis of studies was done by a group called "Fight Crime: Invest in Kids." It is made up of police professionals and child-development experts.

Yet quality child care is not available because:

- The average cost of two children in care is well over \$12,000 a year — far out of reach of low- and some moderate-income families. Minimum wage jobs pay only \$10,500 annually.

- Head Start only serves half the eligible children and only does it part time.

- The Child Care and Development Block Grant only helps one in 10 children eligible for the subsidy and pays nowhere near enough for quality care.

This country has to get serious about providing affordable quality day care. Like the education of children past the age of 5, it is a common good.

The U.S. military provides an example for improvement of child care. Ten years ago, care for children of military families was abysmal. But it has become a model, praised last week by the National Women's Law Center.

The military did it by helping families find care through providers that were thoroughly vetted. Basic standards were set concerning health and safety. Unannounced inspections of all child-care sites were instituted. Staff at military child-care centers are given ongoing training. They are treated *and paid* as the professionals they are. Military families are given subsidies that keep their costs about 25 percent lower than civilian care.

There is no reason why the standards, the salaries and the access to good care shouldn't also be available to civilian families. Military leaders realized long ago that poor child care had an impact on the readiness and effectiveness of troops. The same is true of people who work behind desks or behind lunch counters. The "Fight Crime: Invest in Kids" report found that 90 percent of police chiefs said unless this country makes greater investments in educational child-care programs and after-school programs, we will all pay later in increased crime and incarceration rates.

First, there should be a shift in attitude in the private sector, just as there was in the military. Then there must be government and business support for good child care. It is not just a matter for families with children. We all suffer when children grow up into felons.

Syracuse, NY
Post-Standard
Syracuse
Met Area

Wednesday

D 90,625

MAY 24, 2000

LUCE PRESS CLIPPINGS N4142

The Roanoke Times

May 30, 02000

Quality child care: Pay now or pay later

A new report linking the lack of good child care to crime shows that programs such as Head Start are far cheaper than the \$20,000 or more a year it costs to incarcerate someone.

THE BABY is teething and has a diaper rash — I don't think they're changing her diapers as often as they should. The 3-year old is getting into everything in reach — heaven knows how he got that bump on his head when he was here yesterday. . . .

As if a working-poor mother didn't have enough to worry about — the kids' health and safety; whether there will be enough money left to buy groceries after she pays for baby-sitting — should she also worry that mediocre child care may cause her children to become criminals?

Yes, she should — and so should the rest of us. A new report, "America's Child Care Crisis: A Crime Prevention Tragedy," cites new evidence that the lack of quality preschool programs for children in low-income families significantly increases the chances that those youngsters will be arrested for crime as teens and possibly become chronic lawbreakers as adults.

The report was issued by Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, an organization that includes hundreds of tough-as-nails law-enforcement officers, which for several years has argued that increased funding for programs such as Head Start is the most cost-effective way to prevent crime. Now, it has results from broad national scientific research projects to bolster that contention.

Specifically, that crime-fighting group is pressing Congress to beef up funding for the federal Head Start

that serves impoverished youngsters. The program now is so underfunded that it can serve only half of those who are eligible. The group also wants more funding for Child Care and Development Block Grants, which currently serve only one in 10 eligible families — and then with stipends too meager to purchase adequate care in most cases.

According to the report, adequate child care in many states can cost \$12,000 per year, completely unaffordable for a parent making \$10,500 a year at a full-time minimum-wage job. The ranks of such parents are growing as welfare reform forces more people into low-paying jobs.

With years of research linking early-childhood development to children's ability to perform well in school and in later life, it really should not be necessary for an organization to play "the crime card."

Unfortunately, though, it seems many politicians and taxpayers can relate more quickly to the possibility of new crime waves than they can relate to the fact that all children

need a preschool "head start"; they can grasp more readily the cost of building more \$72 million super-max prisons than they grasp the cost of decent child care.

If the report from Fight Crime: Invest in Kids pushes the right buttons to make quality child care more accessible and affordable for *all* working families, good. No, make that *excellent*.

YOUR CALL: What do you think about the issues raised in these editorials? To offer your opinion, please call 981-3109 or, outside the Roanoke Valley, 1-800-346-1234, extension 109, and leave a voice-mail message. We'll publish a selection of responses.

Arresting figures

The latest FBI figures showing another year of reduced crime had national law-enforcement experts earlier this week wondering whether this decade-long drop could continue or if the only slight reduction seen in large cities signaled an end to the good news. An interesting report from a group called Fight Crime: Invest in Kids suggests that the experts look to day care facilities for their answer.

The Fight Crime group, which includes child-raising guru T. Berry Brazelton, looked at several long-term studies of children and found that those in high-quality child care facilities were far less likely to commit crimes as teens and adults. Conversely, those in poor centers were more likely than average to commit crimes. Though Maine began to tighten standards on child care a couple of years ago, these conclusions are especially important to parents whose incomes make good day care difficult to obtain.

The first low-income 3- and 4-year-olds in a long-term Ypsilanti, Mich., study are

now 30 and 31. For them and the many children who came after them, arrest records show that those who received high-quality care were one-fifth as likely to become chronic offenders, with four or more arrests. A decade-long Syracuse University study found that one child in five who did not receive added childhood services had been later charged with offenses; for those who did receive the services, the number was one in 20, and the level of offense was far milder.

It is easy enough to see the savings to society when the crime rate drops or a study shows good care allows a community to avoid crime. It is harder to find in the budget the entire Head Start or Early Head Start money needed to get the result 10 or 15 years later.

One of the reasons the law-enforcement experts gave for the crime-rate drop was the rise in prison population, going from 1 million Americans jailed in 1990 to approximately 2 million last year. Given the costs of crime and the cost of incarceration, support for good day care looks better all the time.

Bangor, ME
News
Bangor
Met Area

Wednesday

D 69,514

MAY 10, 2000

LUCE PRESS CLIPPINGS
N3078

► Editorials

We Advocate

Today's children are hope for future

The best day care can keep children from getting into trouble and committing crimes later in life, says research presented at the White House by law enforcement groups Friday.

The report, a compilation of studies comparing children in programs in North Carolina and Chicago with other children, says youths who spent their early years in quality day care were half as likely to be arrested.

Studies also found troubled youth who didn't go to preschool and receive home visits from social workers were five times as likely to become chronic lawbreakers, which is defined as being arrested four or more times by age 27.

"We're tired of hearing people pretend there are no answers to how we can prevent youth violence," said Sanford Newman, president of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids. The 700-member anti-crime group was promoting child care as a crime-fighting tool at a White House meeting led by Hillary Rodham Clinton, the first lady and New York Senate candidate.

The group kept its focus on prevention in the report. It proposed increased spending, saying many poor families are forced to pay a quarter of their incomes for child care.

It also proposed better training and higher salaries for child-care workers.

Polls released along with the child studies found, not surprisingly, parents and police alike overwhelmingly support child-care and after-school activities.

It is a proven fact the formative years prior to age 5 are a determining factor on how a person turns out as an adult.

Additionally, children who receive a jump start on learning at a preschool historically perform better in school. And, it is apparent, based on proficiency and other tests, better learning opportunities are needed.

In former days when most mothers didn't work, children received behavioral training and early learning in the home. However, with many households either being single-parent and ones where both the father and mother work, much of this early training is lacking in the home.

Although many parents need to do a better job at parenting, youngsters need more than just a baby-sitter to meet these needs. And, parents who have insufficient income to pay for appropriate child care should receive assistance to help defray the cost.

It is imperative to get youth on the right track early and keep them there. After all, they are the future.

Greenville, OH
Advocate

Sunday

8UN 26,000

APR 30, 2000


LUCE N4286
PRESS CLIPPINGS

The Albany HERALD

Study results need scrutiny

A study produced by a bipartisan coalition of police chiefs, sheriffs and crime victims is certain to be picked apart. But every study should be before the conclusions are either accepted or rejected.

The study, commissioned by the 700-member, anti-crime group "Fight Crime: Invest in Kids," found that children receiving quality day care in their early years were half as likely to be arrested in later years.

That is good news for working parents burdened with guilt about leaving their children in the care of someone else each workday, even though they know the caretakers are loving and caring.

But it is disturbing for parents who don't have good options, because either they can't afford them or they are not available.

Presented last week at the White House, the report, which compiled studies comparing children in programs in North Carolina and Chicago with other children, concluded that strong day-care programs prevent youths from behavior later in life that results in getting into trouble and committing crimes. In fact, the studies found that troubled tots who never went to preschool and didn't receive home visits from social workers were five times as likely to have been arrested four or more times by

the age of 27.

The recommended remedies, of course, require money. The group, whose emphasis was looking at how to prevent crime, pointed to poor families which are forced to pay a quarter of their incomes for child care.

"Our federal and state governments are falling far short of the investments in child care needed to meet their responsibility to protect the public safety," the report said. "That shortfall is part of a gaping crime-prevention deficit that jeopardizes the safety of every American."

The members urged state and federal leaders to address the issue, saying, "That responsibility simply cannot be met without providing communities with the resources to assure that all families, especially those whose children are most at risk of going astray, have access to quality child care at a price they can afford." Better training and higher salaries for child-care workers were proposed, characterizing the pay as about half as much as that of parking lot attendants on average.

Republicans will be tempted to automatically reject the report because it plays into the Clinton administration's agenda of increasing the Head Start preschool program's funding and providing tax breaks for parents and employers who offer day care for workers' children.

Just as we know prevention is a cost-effective approach to health care, we must closely examine every possible crime prevention plan. If these studies can stand up under scrutiny, then bipartisan solutions should become a priority for Congress.

Albany, GA
Herald
Albany
Met Area

Tuesday

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MAY 2, 2000



LUCE

N1940
PRESS CLIPPINGS

BUFFALO NEWS

Curb 2010 Crime Rate Now

June 8, 2000

INVESTING IN KIDS

Curb 2010 crime rate now

Though its name was long based more on common sense than hard data, a new study by the group Fight Crime: Invest in Kids provides the long-term research that demonstrates that the name — and the concept — are unassailable.

Investments in quality child care early in life pay off big time a decade or two later, according to a series of studies that tracked kids and compared those who did and didn't get that kind of early intervention.

It's a report that members of Congress should read before deciding not only the most compassionate approach to stemming youth crime, but also the most cost-effective approach as they eye President Clinton's 2001 budget request.

And lest members think this is just one more bleeding-heart group begging for social programs, they should look at the organization's advisory board: It's heavy on police and prosecutors. Criminal justice people on the front lines recognize that equipping kids to succeed early on makes more sense than locking them up later.

Now Fight Crime has the research to back them up:

- In an Ypsilanti, Mich., study of at-risk 3- and 4-year-olds, half were randomly assigned to a high-quality preschool program. Twenty-two years later, the half who didn't get that intervention were five times more likely to have become chronic lawbreakers with five or more arrests. Not only did kids in the program stay out of trouble, they were also working and earning significantly more, on average, by the time they reached age 27.

- In Chicago, 1,000 at-risk 3- and 4-year-olds in the city's Child-Parent Centers were nearly half as likely as other kids of similar backgrounds to wind up in trouble by the time they reached adulthood.

- A Syracuse University study found that in families in

A Syracuse University study found that in families in which toddlers got quality child care and adults got parenting education and other help, the kids who got such services were far less likely to have gotten into trouble 10 years later.

which toddlers got quality child care and adults got parenting education and other help, the kids who got such services were far less likely to have gotten into trouble 10 years later than kids from comparable backgrounds who didn't.

A Rand Corp. researcher says a "conservative" analysis of such programs finds that they save the government \$2 for every \$1 spent, and the return can be as much as \$5 when associated savings

are factored in.

The key, of course, is quality child care, not simply warehousing children. Good programs have adequate staffing ratios, well-trained teachers, low turnover rates so kids can bond with staff, involvement of parents and activities geared to the child's development level.

Some of that — particularly skilled staff — costs money. Yet Head Start, the best-known of such programs, still has funding to enroll only about 42 percent of eligible kids. Clinton has proposed a \$1 billion increase in the program's \$5.25 billion budget, with the new money going to enroll more kids and raise program quality to match that of those in the studies.

While that's a whopping percentage increase, it still won't fully fund the program. That means it's the very least Congress can do. So is approving Clinton's request for an \$817 million increase in a block grant program to help lower-income families pay for quality child care. And that should be done without diverting the money from other children's programs, like those aimed at preventing abuse and neglect, which one Senate panel has proposed doing.

With both the federal government and many states running budget surpluses, no one can say the nation doesn't have the money to start every kid out on the right path. The data now clearly show it pays off in the long run, both for the kids and for the society that will have to live with them.

FRIDAY
June 2, 2000
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The Journal Gazette

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA ♦ LOCALLY OWNED SINCE 1863

Good child care can help reduce juvenile crime

The push for quality child care in Fort Wayne looks even more important now that a national report indicates child care helps prevent crime.

A group called Fight Crime: Invest in Kids announced that two long-term studies found young children who attend good educational child care programs are significantly less likely to become involved in crime when they get older than children from similar backgrounds who do not get good child care.

The lobby group, supported by several prominent police officials,

wants Congress to invest more money in child care.

The studies reinforce common sense. Little children allowed to wander around unsupervised, or just sit in front of a television at a minimal care center, are going to have a harder time succeeding in school and interacting successfully with adults or other children.

Other studies have shown that 8-year-olds who come from at-risk families that provided good child care have no more likelihood of getting in trouble at school than chil-

dren of college-educated parents.

Fort Wayne is already becoming a national leader in the quest for quality child care for all families that want it. This community is taking advantage of a strong state government commitment to child care, but it's also developed its own effective partnership of funding and service groups.

But Fort Wayne is also a city worried by chronically high crime rates. All the more reason to do everything to make sure cute toddlers don't become criminal teen-agers.

The Early Childhood Alliance and its partners have taken a big step in that direction by introducing their Paths to Quality program, which is sort of a Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval system for child care centers.

Now people who are working to prevent crime have a new ally; they can help at-risk children by urging all child care centers to enter the Paths program.

And if they can help persuade Congress to boost funding for quality child care, all the better.

the Charleston GazetteOnline

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Saving kids

Wise investment plan

Tuesday June 13, 2000

RESEARCHERS are finding that children who attend good day-care and preschool programs are less likely to become delinquents and criminals later in life.

For example, a study found that pupils of the outstanding Perry Preschool Program in Michigan were five times less likely to be repeat lawbreakers at age 27 than others who grew up without such early guidance.

For example, a larger study found that kids who attended the Chicago Child-Parent Center were only half as likely to have had two or more arrests at age 18.

Of course, maybe this research merely shows that parents who care enough to put their tots into head-start classes are more likely to produce healthy adults. But the findings imply a broader truth: that wholesome preschool plans tend to benefit all children, across the board.

Both Republican Gov. Underwood and the Democrat-controlled Legislature apparently agree. The governor requested \$1 million for Educare - three prekindergarten pilot programs - and lawmakers provided it, after first balking at the plan for administering the money.

Nationally, President Clinton has asked Congress to put another \$1 billion into Head Start, plus a second \$1 billion into child-care block grants. He contends that this investment would guarantee that more low-income children would get early help toward good education, good values and good lives.

His plan is being backed by a group of police chiefs, prosecutors and crime victims, operating through a committee called Fight Crime: Invest in Kids. The committee says that every dollar invested in preschool eventually saves the government \$2 in direct costs for welfare, police, courts and the like. Even better, each dollar of spending saves the whole society \$5 in many indirect costs incurred when teens go bad.

We think this effort is highly desirable, and we hope that West Virginia's members of Congress support it fully.

Republicans who control Congress may be an obstacle, because they're swayed by the fundamentalist fringe that interprets any government aid for children as an invasion of parental rights. The so-called "traditional family" element opposes day-care programs because they enable mothers to work. But this view is absurdly out of step with modern life. Demanding that women stay home full time is a form of male supremacy.

Under public pressure in this election year, we hope that Congress approves the \$2 billion for more preschool aid. It could save America perhaps \$10 billion in future costs - and save many young lives from going sour.

[Back to Gazette Online](#)

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The "traditional family" element opposes day-care programs because they enable mothers to work. But this view is absurdly out of step with modern life.

A sampling of editorial opinion from
around Texas:

On day care:

Quality day care for children is not a miraculous panacea capable of curing all of society's ills. But proof is abundant that children who experience such care do better in life than those who don't.

Another new study bolsters the importance of good day care by showing that investing in day-care programs early in a child's life pays off later by a reduction of crime.

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a bipartisan coalition of police chiefs, sheriffs and crime victims, released the report recently.

Compiling studies comparing children in day-care programs in North Carolina and Chicago with other children, it found that children who had quality day care in their early years were half as likely to be arrested as children who did not.

Also, according to the study, troubled children who did not go to preschool and receive home visits from social workers were five times more likely to become chronic criminals. The organization's recommendations are both common sense and often-repeated: better training and higher salaries for day-care workers.

The challenge is to upgrade the training and pay for workers while keeping quality day care affordable.

With the answers so apparent and the need so great, we ask: How many more studies will be needed before a sense of urgency compels lawmakers and business and community leaders nationwide to get serious about day care?

How many more children will be lost before someone listens?

— *San Antonio Express-News*

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MAY 20, 2000


LUCE P5470
PRESS CLIPPINGS

June 6, 2000

Head start on learning

■ **Funding:** *Children's programs need to be a stronger beneficiary of booming economy.*

THE PLIGHT of too many children in the United States is Dickensian: In these best of times, for them it's the worst of times.

Despite our unprecedented economic prosperity, nearly one in five American children still lives in poverty.

That's why it's important to help at-risk kids by bolstering proven programs.

House and Senate panels have rightly supported spending increases for the child care development grant, which primarily provides families with day-care vouchers. And for Head Start, too, which educates 3- and 4-year-olds, offers health and nutrition programs — and links families to myriad resources that can help lift them from poverty.

What's troubling is that in the Senate plan, these children's programs win while others lose. Lawmakers cut \$1 billion from a grant for child protective and social services, areas with already too few resources.

Moreover, in cutting these

funds, an appropriations subcommittee made the suggestion that states should use tobacco settlement money to fill the gaps.

It's a cynical shell game.

Some will say the Senate's plan to add \$1 billion to Head Start is exceedingly generous. But consider this: Fewer than 50 percent of eligible children are enrolled in Head Start. This increased funding will serve another 70,000 kids. Much more needs to be done.

Studies show that every dollar spent early on at-risk children saves society at least \$7 later. Good child care and preschool programs deliver children to first grade ready to learn and makes them less likely to repeat grades or end up in juvenile court. They are more likely to succeed.

The House and Senate should reconcile their allocations using the Senate's more generous numbers: \$1 billion for Head Start, and \$817 million for the child care development grant.

Then lawmakers should restore the child protective and social services grant funding.

As Republicans in Congress press for a tax cut — which most Americans have said is not a high priority — they should avoid nickel-and-diming poor children to get to their bottom line.

SYRACUSE HERALD-JOURNAL

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MAY 24, 2000

IT'S A COMMON GOOD

Good child care is essential

Unless you are a parent with a job, child care is something you rarely have to think about. And that is how this country has generally treated it — as a problem that only concerns parents. But it turns out that the lack of affordable quality child care has many more societal repercussions.

Recent studies concluded:

- Children from at-risk families who did not get high-quality child care were five times more likely to be chronic adult law breakers than similar children who received good care.

- Another study over 14 years found that the risk that an adult would have two or more arrests was cut in half if that person had been enrolled in government-funded child-parent centers.

- Large national studies have found that at-risk children who attend high-quality child care programs have no more behavior problems at age 8 than those whose parents are college graduates.

The analysis of studies was done by a group called "Fight Crime: Invest in Kids." It is made up of police professionals and child-development experts.

Yet quality child care is not available because:

- The average cost of two children in care is well over \$12,000 a year — far out of reach of low- and some moderate-income families. Minimum wage jobs pay only \$10,500 annually.

- Head Start only serves half the eligible children and only does it part time.

- The Child care and Development Block Grant only helps one in 10 children eligible for the subsidy and pays nowhere near enough for quality care.

This country has to get serious about

providing affordable quality day care. Like the education of children past the age of 5, it is a common good.

The U.S. military provides an example for improvement of child care. Ten years ago, care for children of military families was abysmal. But it has become a model, praised last week by the National Women's Law Center.

The military did it by helping families find care through providers that were thoroughly vetted. Basic standards were set concerning health and safety. Unannounced inspections of all child-care sites were instituted. Staff at military child-care centers are given ongoing training. They are treated *and paid* as the professionals they are. Military families are given subsidies that keep their costs about 25 percent lower than civilian care.

There is no reason why the standards, the salaries and the access to good care shouldn't also be available to civilian families. Military leaders realized long ago that poor child care had an impact on the readiness and effectiveness of troops. The same is true of people who work behind desks or behind lunch counters. The "Fight Crime: Invest in Kids" report found that 90 percent of police chiefs said unless this country makes greater investments in educational child-care programs and after-school programs, we will all pay later in increased crime and incarceration rates.

First, there should be a shift in attitude in the private sector, just as there was in the military. Then there must be government and business support for good child care. It is not just a matter for families with children. We all suffer when children grow up into felons.

Syracuse, NY
Herald - Journal
Syracuse
Met Area

Wednesday

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MAY 24, 2000

LUCE PRESS CLIPPINGS N4138

June 2, 2000

Preschool gives kids a boost

THE Pasadena/Altadena RESULTS group has a proposal: pay for developmental preschool programs now, or pay later when at-risk kids wind up unemployed or in jail. "If you have a parent that is parenting, then that child is not out on the street getting into trouble," said Cara Agundez, whose persistence landed her 4-year-old in a Pasadena Head Start program.

The program gets high marks for educating children and for helping parents find jobs and cope with everyday stresses.

As Agundez told our editorial board, there's nothing wrong with the program, one of four offered in Pasadena and Altadena — if you can get in. Agundez was originally told the waiting list was so long at a Head Start near her home, she should not bother applying.

Eventually, she landed her child in the federally funded program along the way to her job in Moreno Valley with United Airlines.

But many low-income mothers — some say more than 50 percent — are turned away because supply does not meet the need. "The desperate need," added Theresa Barreras of RESULTS.

The group, which lobbies Congress for anti-poverty programs, has some help this year from prosecutors and law enforcement leaders, including former U.S. Attorney General Elliot Richardson.

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a nonprofit crime prevention organization led by law enforcement and justice officials across the country, released findings of long-term (14- and 22-year) studies that show kids in government-funded preschool programs have fewer behavioral problems in kindergarten than their peers left out of the programs.

Additionally, the studies found that preschool children were half as likely to be in

trouble with the law when they reached their teens. Perhaps the most startling result of these studies was that at-risk kids in high-quality child care programs have no more behavior problems at age 8 than children of college-educated parents.

But the chronic shortage of spaces in Head Start programs — only 42 percent of eligible children are being served nationwide — means

fewer kids and communities at large will benefit from lowered crime and better-educated young people.

Right now, the House Appropriations Committee approved a \$400

million increase, but this falls far short of the \$1 billion increase proposed by the White House and the Senate.

We'd like to see the Congress fully fund this successful preschool program.

Head Start people in Pasadena and Altadena say they know what they would do with full funding. Expand the four sites (Audubon, Escalon, Orange Grove and Villa Parke) to full-day programs. This would help children get the instruction and socialization they need to participate in school for the next 12 years, while parents could increase their income while having child care needs met.

Agundez earns \$8 an hour; day care costs for her two children quickly eat away at her paycheck and can cost \$12,000 a year — \$2,000 more than a full-time minimum wage worker earns. More than half of all Head Start Families have yearly incomes of less than \$9,000.

Children from low-income families need to get a leg up. The best way to accomplish that is through quality preschool programs. Parents know it. Child-care experts and pediatricians know it. Now add law enforcement to the list. The studies prove it. Now it's time for Congress to act. Prevention is a lot easier than the cure.

Quality preschools provide a leg up to low-income children. Studies prove it. Now it's time for Congress to fully fund the successful Head Start program.

June 2, 2000

Preschool gives kids a boost

THE Diamond Bar RESULTS group has a proposal: pay for developmental preschool programs now, or pay later when at-risk kids wind up unemployed or in jail.

Sounds a bit simplistic but that's exactly what a new report claims.

America's Child Care Crisis: A Crime Prevention Tragedy, includes the results of two long-term studies that tracked kids from low-income families in government-funded child care programs such as Head Start.

Head Start gets high marks for educating children and for helping parents find jobs and cope with everyday stresses. It's this inclusion of parents in the process that may be key to a child's success beyond preschool.

As moms involved in the program told our editorial board, the program works — if you can get in.

Supply lags far behind need. Indeed, "The desperate need," says Theresa Barreras, a member of the local RESULTS group.

The organization, which lobbies Congress for anti-poverty programs, has some help this year from a group of prosecutors and law enforcement leaders, including former U.S. Attorney General Elliot Richardson.

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Additionally, preschool children were half as likely to be in trouble with the law when they reached their teens.

Perhaps the most encouraging correlation between at-risk kids and quality child

care was this: kids in such preschool programs exhibit no more behavior problems at age 8 than those with college-educated parents.

But the chronic shortage of spaces in Head Start programs — only 42 percent of eligible children are being served nationwide — means fewer kids and communities at large will benefit from less crime and better-educated young people.

Right now, the House Appropriations Committee approved a \$400 million increase, but this falls far short of the \$1 billion increase proposed by the White House and the Senate. We'd like to see the

Congress fully fund this successful preschool program.

Certainly it could benefit programs throughout the region especially in expanding the traditional half-day programs to full day.

Day-long classes help children get the instruction and socialization they need to participate in school for the next 12 years.

Full-day Head Start programs also allow parents at or below the poverty level to increase their incomes while having their child care needs met.

Low-end private day care can cost upwards of \$12,000 a year — \$2,000 more than a full-time minimum wage worker earns.

When you consider that more than half of all Head Start families have yearly incomes of less than \$9,000, the need becomes crystal clear.

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Quality preschools provide a leg up to low-income children. Studies prove it. Now it's time for Congress to fully fund the successful Head Start program.

TRIBUNE

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and the Senate. We'd like to see the Congress fully fund this successful preschool program.

Certainly it could benefit programs throughout the region including those

in Baldwin Park, where the program will soon expand to eight elementary school sites, six offering half-day programs and two that will provide full-day programs year round.

Baldwin Park Unified School District hopes to offer Head Start at every elementary school.

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*America's Child Care Crisis:
A Crime Prevention Tragedy*

Newspaper Articles

Washington Post

Sacramento Bee

CNN.com

The Washington Post

Quality Day Care Helps Fight Crime, Report Says

Associated Press

Children who attend quality day care are less likely to commit crimes later in life, according to a report by law enforcement groups unveiled yesterday at the White House.

The report was issued by Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a 700-member bipartisan coalition of police chiefs, sheriffs and crime victims. Former police chiefs William Bratton of New York City and Jerry Sanders of

San Diego were among the authors.

The report, a compilation of studies comparing children in and out of day care programs in North Carolina and Chicago, found that youths who spent their early years in quality child care were half as likely to be arrested later. It involved 1,000 children who were in day care at ages 3 and 4.

The report called for increased government spending on day care to ensure poor families

have access, and better training and higher salaries for child-care workers, who on average are paid only about half as much as parking lot attendants.

"Child care is not only a lifesaver for working families, it is a crime-fighting strategy for our communities," first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton said at a ceremony announcing the study. "For every dollar we invest in child care we save \$5 in crime costs down the line."

Clinton, who has made child

care a key issue in her Senate bid in New York, was joined at the White House by Sen. Christopher J. Dodd (D-Conn.) and Rep. Benjamin L. Cardin (D-Md.). They are seeking an additional \$3 billion to create slots for another 950,000 children in Head Start and for block grants to expand early education and child care for children under 5.

The White House also wants to provide tax breaks for parents and employers that offer day care for workers' children.

Newspapers across the country ran this article, including: the Daily Oklahoman, Dallas Morning News, Omaha World-Herald, Riverside Press-Enterprise, Fresno Bee, Orange County Register, Dayton Daily News, Fort Worth Star-Telegram, St. Paul Pioneer Press, San Francisco Chronicle and the Arizona Republic. The story also ran in about 100 smaller papers.

Washington, DC
Post
Washington DC
Met Area

Saturday 0 799,594

APR 29, 2000

LUCE PRESS CLIPPINGS
N1740

The Sacramento Bee

Child care fails at-risk kids, study says

By Muriel Dobbin
Bee Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON - Underfunded federal care programs are failing children most at risk of turning to crime, according to a new report warning of a growing crisis in youth violence.

The importance of improving quality care for low-income children was stressed at the White House Friday by Sanford Newman, president of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a national anti-crime group whose membership includes police chiefs, prosecutors and victims. The organization promotes educational care as a means of crime prevention.

"Much of the child care America's children are receiving is substandard," Newman said. He reported that new studies of 400 randomly chosen care operations showed one in 10 preschool centers and four in 10 infant care centers "were of such poor quality they may jeopardize the child's development."

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton joined members of Congress and law-enforcement experts as



T. Berry
Brazelton

The author says early childhood programs reduce behavior problems.

Newman released a study underscoring the problems of parents and children in low-income families. "For every dollar we invest in child care, we save \$5 in crime costs down the line," she said.

The White House event was one of several scheduled to highlight the administration's approach to combating youth violence.

T. Berry Brazelton, a professor emeritus at Harvard Medical School who has written 28 books on child development, said scientific research has proven the value of early childhood development programs in cutting behavior problems.

He cited several new studies of children, including a 14-year project that tracked 100,000 children

aged 3 to 4 years old in 24 government-funded child-parent centers. It found that children enrolled in such programs were half as likely to get in trouble when they reached their teens.

Newman appealed for congressional action to back up White House proposals for a \$1 billion expansion of Head Start, a \$2 billion increase for Child Care and Development block grants to aid families, and the establishment of a new early learning fund.

He emphasized that without more block grant money, now serving only one in 10 eligible families, parents would continue to struggle to meet the cost of child care, which can amount to \$12,000 a year for two children.

Newman said that Head Start, the principal federal program for children in poverty, is "so underfunded it can serve only half those eligible. The government is dropping the ball by its failure to invest in child care programs, and it will pay the price later in crime and welfare costs," Newman said.

A 22-year study of a child care program in Michigan showed that by age 27, those who were not enrolled in it were five times more likely to be "chronic offenders" than those who received quality pre-schooling.

Meanwhile, research on the \$75 million North Carolina program Smart Start, designed for children under 6, showed those enrolled were only half as likely to have behavior problems in kindergarten.

Lawrence Sherman, a criminologist at the University of Pennsylvania, said that for government to fall short of investments needed for childhood development programs is "penny-wise and pound-foolish."

"This isn't about ideology or philosophy - it's about facts," said Newman. "The issue is whether the care children get while their parents are working will be enough to help the kids get a good start in life, or whether it will be the kind of care that ultimately damages their development and endangers the public."

Sacramento, CA

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Sacramento

Met Area

Saturday

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APR 29, 2000



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April 28, 2000

Web posted at: 12:55 p.m. EDT (1655 GMT)

WASHINGTON (CNN) -- First lady and New York Senate candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton promoted day care as a crime prevention tool on Friday, citing a new report that says children who spend their early years in quality day care were half as likely to be arrested later in their lives.

Speaking at the White House, the first lady touted the report, which found children who didn't go to preschool and receive home visits from social workers were five times more likely to become chronic lawbreakers -- or, to be arrested four or more times -- by the age of 27. The report is a compilation of studies comparing children in programs in North Carolina and Chicago with children in other areas.

"Investing in child care is the not only right thing to do, it is the smart, economic and, now we know, crime-fight thing to do as well," she said.

The report -- entitled "America's Child Crisis: A Crime Prevention Tragedy"

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton

-- was produced by Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a 700-member anti-crime group representing a bipartisan coalition of police chiefs, sheriffs and crime victims.

Clinton, a long-time advocate for children's issues, said 13 million low-income children currently do not receive quality child care.

"By investing in child care, we save not only precious lives and futures, but also precious resources," she said.

The group focused on prevention in its report, proposing increased spending on child care, saying many poor families are forced to pay a quarter of their incomes for any type of child care. Clinton said child care costs rank high in many family budgets, usually behind housing and food costs.

"It's time we looked at what we were doing instead of putting 'Band-Aids' on the other end, such as prisons and so forth," said Dr. Berry Brazelton, a pediatrician who helped write the report.

Representing the law enforcement officials who worked on the report, Sheriff Pat Sullivan of Arapahoe County, Colorado, said the research showed that every dollar invested in child care results in a \$7 savings later in criminal justice and social services costs.

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"We know we're not going to achieve real safe communities until we start to invest more money in the early childhood years of the children we're dealing with," Sullivan said, noting that funding is needed both at the state and federal levels.

The study also proposes better training and higher salaries for child-care workers, which the group says make almost half as much as parking lot attendants on average.

"Some of the lowest-paid workers in this nation are people that we ask to watch the next generation of Americans," said Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-Connecticut). "We do a better job insisting that your pets are cared for in this country than your children are, and there ought to be a sense of outrage about that."

Polls released along with the child studies found, not surprisingly, that parents and police alike overwhelmingly support child-care and after-school activities.

But the polls found less agreement on whether children should be charged as adults, kept in prisons, or subjected to other increasingly punitive measures, organizers said. Seventeen percent of police chiefs favor charging more juveniles as adults, compared with 12 percent of the public, according to the polls.

"Wherever you are on the spectrum, it's just common sense to expand early childhood programs," said Sanford Newman, the president of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids.

Newman said the group's presentation at the White House was aimed at highlighting its support for the Clinton Administration's proposals on child care in its 2001 budget. The administration's budget calls for expanding the Head Start preschool program; and giving tax breaks to parents to help fund child care costs, and to businesses that offer daycare for workers' children.

Clinton praised the administration's efforts, noting that the administration has doubled spending on child care in the past seven years.

Dodd was optimistic about increasing funding, noting that the Senate passed increases in child care funding four times last year which did not make it into the final budget.

"This ought not to be a partisan issue. Democrats and Republicans ought to be able to find common ground on seeing to it that we have accessible, affordable and quality child for every needy child in this country," Dodd said.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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California Proposition 28

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The presidency is not about promising or even proposing legislation. It is solely about bold leadership.

— Letter writer Vinod Sreeharsha

Yet another lost child

There is no guarantee of safety, but better parenting, after-school programs and safety locks would be a start

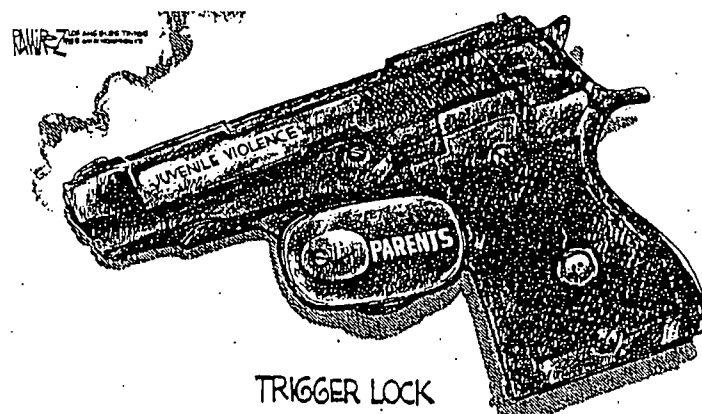
THIS morning, while family and friends of little Kayla Rolland are gathering in a Michigan funeral home to share their sadness and disbelief, law enforcement officials from across California will be gathering in Oakland to share their ideas about how we can prevent school shootings and other senseless youth violence across America.

Editorial

The opinion
of the
Mercury
News

The shooting death of 6-year-old Kayla by a fellow first-grader in their classroom stunned the nation, as well it should. What parents — for that matter, what schoolchildren — will not wonder whether something equally terrible could happen at their local school.

But it is important to remember that school is not at all the most dangerous place for children. Ninety-eight percent of child shootings



MICHAEL RAMIREZ — LOS ANGELES TIMES

happen outside of schools. The peak time for youth crime is after school, between 3 and 6 p.m.

On this of all mornings, one might expect police chiefs, sheriffs and district attorneys to call for metal detectors at schools, more cops on the street and stiffer sen-

after-school programs.

Would such programs have saved Kayla's life? We'll never know. The little boy who shot her is a deeply troubled child from a deeply troubled family. But studies have shown that at-risk children who get high-quality child care at an early age are less likely to get into trouble later. Law enforcement officials know that early intervention is the best way to prevent youth violence.

The little boy who shot Kayla is no criminal. He is a neglected child. His father was in jail. His mother was suspected of abusing her older son. She had no place to live and left her children in a gun- and drug-invested flophouse. The boy had been in trouble at school before. There were plenty of signs that the child was headed for trouble. The only surprise is that trouble came so fast.

Each school shooting brings desperate appeals for action. While there is no way to guarantee any

one child's safety, there are actions we can take to make America safer for all children.

Congress should move quickly to pass a gun bill that would require safety locks on new guns, which would at least reduce the chance that a gun found by a child could be fired.

On Tuesday Californians can help prevent youth crime by voting against two ballot measures.

Proposition 21 would take money away from prevention and lock more young offenders up in adult prisons. In the name of cracking down on crime, it would deny troubled children the help they deserve.

Proposition 28 would repeal the tobacco tax that funds early childhood programs such as child care, parenting classes, counseling. These are the very programs that law enforcement officials say are our best hope for preventing youth crime.

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THE ORANGE COUNTY Register

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2000

WEEKDAY READER REBUTTAL

Defeat Prop. 28 for kids' sakes



PAUL WALTERS

Mr. Walters is Santa Ana police chief; this was co-authored by Sanford Newman, president of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids: a national anti-crime organization. Last week the Register's Opinion page supported Prop. 28. Mr. Walters is writing in rebuttal.

No one is more determined than law enforcement leaders and victims of violence to see that dangerous criminals are put behind bars. But we know that arrests and incarceration alone will never solve the crime problem in Orange County or across California.

California's anti-crime arsenal contains no weapons more powerful than the investments that keep kids from becoming criminals in the first place — investments like quality child care, after-school pro-

grams and child-abuse prevention.

In 1998, Californians took a step toward preventing crime by voting for the Children and Families initiative (Proposition 10), creating a 50-cent-a-pack cigarette surtax, which is expected to generate more than \$600 million a year to protect children's health, prevent child abuse and fund early childhood development programs. Proposition 28, on next week's ballot, would repeal this tobacco surtax and eliminate funding for families and children's programs that it supports.

This would be a terrible mistake. Programs that provide nurturing, stimulating and educational child care can both prepare children to

succeed in school and dramatically reduce crime and violence.

► For example, in Ypsilanti, Mich. low-income 3- and 4-year-olds randomly assigned to be in the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation's preschool program were only one-fifth as likely to have become chronic lawbreakers at age 27, compared to similar children who did without this educational child care.

In other words, denying at-risk kids quality early childhood programs can multiply by five times the risk that they will become chronic lawbreakers.

► A pilot project that assigned half of a group of at-risk mothers to receive visits by nurses who provided coaching in parenting skills and other support reduced child abuse by 80 percent in the first two years. Fifteen years later, the mothers left out of the program had three times as many arrests, and their children were twice as likely to be delinquent, compared to the mothers left in the program.

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids California, made up of 60 of California's leading police chiefs, district attorneys, sheriffs and victims of violence, recently released a report on the effect that Prop. 28 would have on programs that prevent crime and violence in California. The report, authored by child development expert Dr. T. Berry Brazelton and RAND's senior criminologist, among others, found that:

► Over half of California mothers with children under 6 are in the labor force.

► Statewide, the average cost for full-time child care for an infant is \$7,812. That eats up almost three-quarters of the income of a

parent earning minimum wage.

► Of California families eligible for subsidies from the federal Child Care Development Block Grant program, 94 percent do not get them.

California is failing to meet the needs of at-risk children and families. When working families can't afford quality child care and pre-school programs, their children often end up getting care so poor it would better be called "child storage."

That's why the California District Attorneys' Association and the California Sheriffs' Association have passed resolutions calling on state and local government to make sure that all young children have access to quality educational child care and that parenting coaching and other services are available to at-risk families.

Prop. 28 would slash \$50 million in annual funds to Orange County earmarked to support the kinds of programs that help kids get the right start in life and prevent them from becoming involved in crime and violence.

Instead of simply shoveling money out the door, the Orange County Children and Families Commission has been wisely taking planning time to make sure that this money will be spent effectively — as long as Prop. 28 doesn't eliminate it first.

When you decide how to vote on Prop. 28 on March 7, be sure to keep in mind why the tobacco industry put this measure on the ballot: to protect its self-interest by making cigarettes cheaper. Then consider one of the best reasons to vote against Prop. 28: to protect the self-interest of our communities, our safety and our children.

To prevent crime and violence, vote no on Prop. 28

NO ONE IS MORE DETERMINED than those of us in law enforcement and victims of violence to see that dangerous criminals are put behind bars. But we know that arrests and incarceration alone will never solve the crime problem in Alameda County or across California.

California's anti-crime arsenal contains no weapons more powerful than the investments that keep kids from becoming criminals in the first place — investments like quality child care, after-school programs and child abuse prevention.

In 1998, Californians took a step toward preventing crime by voting for the Children and Families Initiative (Proposition 10), creating a new 50-cent-a-pack cigarette surtax. The cigarette tax has led to a 30 percent drop in smoking and it has also generated more than \$600 million a year to protect children's health, prevent child abuse and fund early childhood development programs. Proposition 28, on next month's ballot, would repeal this tobacco surtax, and eliminate funding for all the family and children's programs that it supports.

This would be a terrible mistake. Programs that provide nurturing, stimulating, educational child care can both prepare children to succeed in school and dramatically reduce crime and violence. For example:

What I Think

By Police Chief Burnham Matthews
and Sanford Newman

■ In Ypsilanti, Mich., low-income 3- and 4-year-olds randomly assigned to be in the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation's preschool program were only one-fifth as likely to become chronic lawbreakers at age 27, compared to similar children who did without this educational child care. In other words, denying at-risk kids quality early childhood programs can multiply by five times the risk they will become chronic lawbreakers.

■ A pilot project that assigned half of a group of at-risk mothers to receive visits by nurses who provided coaching in parenting skills and other support reduced child abuse by 80 percent in the first two years. Fifteen years later, the mothers left out of the program had three times as many arrests, and their children were twice as likely to be delinquent, compared to the mothers in the program.

Fight Crime: Invest In Kids California, made up of 60 percent of California's leading police chiefs, district attorneys, sheriffs and victims of violence, recently released a report on the effect that Prop. 28 would

have on programs that prevent crime and violence in California. The report, which can be found on the Internet at www.fight-crime.org/reports, was authored by America's best-known pediatrician, Dr. T. Berry Brazelton, along with RAND's senior criminologist, and law enforcement leaders. Among the report's findings are:

■ More than half of California mothers with children under 6 are in the labor force.

■ Statewide, the average cost for full-time child care for an infant is \$7,812. That eats up almost three-quarters of the income of a parent earning minimum wage.

■ The average cost of child care for a baby is nearly three times the average cost of a public college tuition.

■ Of California families eligible for subsidies from the federal Child Care Development Block Grant program, 94 percent do not get them.

California is failing to meet the needs of at-risk children and families. When working families can't afford quality child care and pre-school programs, their children often end up getting care so poor it would be better called "child storage." Such inferior programs not only fail to help children get the right start, but can lead to behavior problems when the children enter school, and to delinquency,

crime and violence later.

That's why the California District Attorneys' Association, the California Sheriffs' Association, and the California Police Chiefs' Association have overwhelmingly adopted resolutions calling on state and local governments to make sure that all young children have access to quality educational child care and that parenting coaching and other services are available to at-risk families.

In a November 1999 national poll, nearly nine out of 10 police chiefs agreed that "expanding after-school and child care programs will greatly reduce youth crime and violence." Nine in 10 police chiefs also agreed with this important statement: "If America does not make greater investments in after-school programs and educational child care programs to help children and youth now, we will pay far more later in crime, welfare and other costs."

Prop. 28 would slash more than \$20 million in annual funds to Alameda County earmarked to support the kinds of programs that help kids get the right start in life and prevent them from becoming involved in crime and violence. Instead of simply shoveling money out the door, the Alameda county Children and Families Commission has been wisely taking plan-

ning time to make sure that this money will be spent effectively — as long as Prop. 28 doesn't eliminate it first.

When you decide how to vote on Prop. 28 this election day, be sure to keep in mind why the tobacco industry put this measure on the ballot: to protect their self-interest by making cigarettes cheaper. Then consider one of the best reasons to vote against Prop. 28: to protect the self-interest of our communities, our safety, and our children.

Burnham Matthews is the chief of police for the city of Alameda. Sanford A. Newsman is the president of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a national anti-crime organization.

SHARE YOUR OPINION

Submissions for "What I Think" should be 500 to 1,000 words. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number.

Send to allletters@cctimes.com with "What I Think" in the subject field; fax to 748-1680; or mail to Alameda Journal, "What I Think," 1516 Oak St., Alameda, CA 94501.

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS

Geneva Overholser syndicated
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JANUARY 18, 2000

Geneva Overholser

Be Tough on Crime: Care for Kids

Ed Flynn is a police chief. Like most cops, he's tough on crime. And he thinks the way to get tougher still is clear. Would that be metal detectors? Hiring more cops? Prosecuting more juveniles as adults? Stricter gun laws?

Nope. Flynn is talking about after-school programs and better child care.

If you think this Arlington County, Va., police chief is unusual, think again. Nine out of 10 chiefs polled last fall for an organization called Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, agreed that: "If America does not make greater investments in after-school and educational child care programs to help children and youth now, we will pay far more later in crime, welfare and other costs."

"At the end of the day, we're the poor-people police, and particularly poor youth," said Flynn over lunch recently. "Early on, we learn who's headed for trouble. The greatest frustration is the juvenile crime problem, and the inability to link up resources" that could help the kids who need them.

It's that conviction that moved Flynn to join the board of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids. Its members are law enforcement officers, prosecutors and crime victims. Fight

Crime is the creation of a lawyer named Sanford Newman, who awoke one awful night to find a stranger looming over his newborn's crib. The stranger was caught, and the daughter is fine—she's 16 now. But in the years after that night, Newman kept asking himself the question of what drives crime and came up with conclusions that led him to establish Fight Crime in 1996.

What Newman always found was research showing that, when it comes to crime, getting kids off to the right start makes a huge difference. In a Michigan study of poor kids randomly assigned to an educational preschool program, these 3- to 4-year-olds turned out to be one-fifth as likely to be chronic lawbreakers at age 27 as similar kids without such care.

As for after-school programs, the peak hours for juvenile crime (as with drug use, smoking and drinking and sex) are 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., according to the National Center for Juvenile Justice. A study of an intensive after-school program called Quantum Opportunities showed that the poor high school boys who participated were one-sixth as likely to be convicted of a crime during high school as the kids left out of

the program, according to the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence.

With evidence like this confirming what cops pick up from the street, why hasn't this understanding pervaded public policy? Flynn thinks he knows why. From the 1970s, when crime exploded through the roof, swamping prison space, through the 1980s, when crack hit the streets, we've reacted with panic. Policymakers and politicians got locked into the now-sterile debate between tougher laws and better social policy.

Now, we're taking a breath and looking back over 30 years worth of experience. Crime remains high. A demographic bulge that could make it soar again is coming along. Common sense advises us to move out of the old partisan divisions and support programs that work.

"It took a lot of years of high crime and a lot of research to come up with" these conclusions, says Flynn. But now the evidence is clear. Flynn and other law enforcement officers think their support can "give lawmakers permission to pass laws that are not overly harsh. We're covering their right flank." He envisions politicians supporting early childhood education—and ex-

plaining their action by saying, "I'm going to be aggressive about prevention because I promised my chief I would."

"It's simple pragmatism," says Flynn. "It's not about being hard on crime or being soft on crime, but about being effective."

Newman goes still further, envisioning "a country that makes these investments and cuts crime in half or even by three-quarters."

The public seems to get this. Another poll commissioned by Fight Crime last fall showed Americans by a 3-to-1 margin saying they'd pay more taxes or forgo a tax cut to give kids more access to child care and after-school programs.

But the politicians are slow to lead. While federal funding for after-school care increased dramatically last year, meaning half a million more kids are in such programs—that still leaves out 39 of 40 latchkey kids, according to Newman. Preschool and after-school programs are on the leading presidential candidates' agendas—but mostly as vague support for the concept.

We need more. When the right thing and the smart thing merge this convincingly, only fools fail to act.

Daily Herald

Monday, March 27, 2000

Safe after school

Police officers know trouble time for youngsters is between the hours of 2:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. That is when most violent juvenile crime occurs.

So it is no surprise that Illinois law enforcement officials are urging state legislators to provide more funding for after-school programs.

Children who stay in school are involved in constructive activities under adult supervision. Children who leave school and enter homes where there are no parents, because the parents are at work, have to make decisions for themselves as to how to occupy their time. Sometimes they make the wrong decisions and wind up in trouble with the law. Youngsters also might spend unsupervised after-school hours experimenting with drugs or alcohol.

The police officers are right to emphasize to the state that an increased investment in after-school programs will pay off in the form of fewer youngsters going astray and committing crimes.

Any new money for after-school care should be directed toward creating or bolstering programs that cannot be supported by parent fees, and in giving assistance to parents who do not have the means to enroll their children in after-school programs.

Keeping kids involved in school, even after the bell rings, will keep them out of the trouble that could be waiting for them in an unsupervised home.

THE DAILY GAZETTE

The Independent Voice of the Capital Region

Friday, March 10, 2000

Law officers: Increase youth program funds

By WILLIAM F. HAMMOND Jr.
Gazette Reporter

ALBANY — A coalition of law enforcement officials and crime victims Thursday called for sharp increases in state spending on pre-kindergarten, child-care and after-school programs, saying they are the best way to prevent children from becoming criminals.

They specifically called for funding the state's "universal pre-K"-program at \$225 million this year, putting at least a portion of the law enforcement community in the unusual position of siding with Assembly Democrats in a dispute with Gov. George Pataki.

The nationwide coalition, known as Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, includes Rensselaer County District Attorney Kenneth Bruno, Colonie Police Chief John Grebert, and the parents of Jenna Grieshaber, the Albany nursing student whose murder inspired the passage of "Jenna's law" to restrict parole for violent felons.

"We believe in tough punishment," said Jack Kennedy, New York director of the group. "But we also recognize any good crime-fighting strategy has to include starting early with kids, getting them on the right track so they don't commit crimes down the road."

The group presented the results of a survey of 218 police chiefs, sheriffs and district attorneys statewide, in which 74 percent said investing in after-school and child-care programs would be the "most effective" means of preventing youth crime.

By comparison, just 15 percent picked "hiring more police" and 10 percent picked "trying juveniles as adults."

"We have to be just as willing to give every child a spot in a quality program as we are to give every criminal a spot in a state prison," Grebert said.

Bruno, the son of Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, R-Brunswick, said he particularly supports more state spending on after-school programs for teen-agers.

"Juvenile crime rates triple in the hours of 3 to 6 p.m.," he said. "Why is that? They're out of school. Their parents haven't come home yet. They have that window of opportunity to go out and do whatever they want."

"You have to find reasons for these kids to want to participate in after-school programs," he said. "We'll never be able to arrest and imprison our way out of the crime problem."

The group's spending proposals differ dramatically from the amounts Gov. George Pataki recommended in January.

Among other things, they call for spending \$225 million on "universal pre-K," which is designed to make sure all parents can afford to enroll their children in pre-school, and \$40 million on the state's Advantage after-school program.

The governor's January budget proposal increases the budget for universal pre-K from \$100 to \$120 million and for Advantage from \$5 million to \$10 million, according to Joseph Con-

way, a spokesman for Pataki's Budget Division.

The budget also increases funding for child-care subsidies from \$626 million to \$711 million.

"We feel the budget makes substantial increases in each of those areas," Conway said. "But we're certainly willing to take their views into consideration — within the overall context of a balanced budget."

Kenneth Bruno said he had not yet asked his father for help in winning the support of senators in the Republican majority.

"It's certainly something I hope they'd be supportive of," he said.

A spokesman for Sen. Bruno declined to say what position the Senate will take on the group's spending recommendations until it releases its budget resolution next week.

America's Child Care Crisis: A Crime Prevention Tragedy

A research brief by

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS

This brief summarizes a new report prepared by an expert panel convened by **FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS**, an anti-crime group of over 700 police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, victims of violence, and youth violence experts. The authors are: Harvard pediatrician **T. Berry Brazelton**; Yale child development expert **Edward Zigler**; University of Pennsylvania criminologist **Lawrence Sherman**; former police chiefs **William Bratton** of New York and **Jerry Sanders** of San Diego, and **FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS'** president **Sanford Newman** and research director **William Christeson**. The full report and citations for this brief are available at www.fightcrime.org.

Quality Child Care Programs Cut Crime

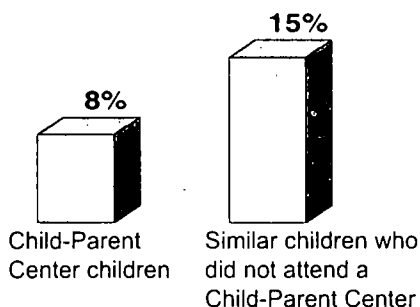
Child care is a reality today for an estimated 13 million children under age six. The good news is that quality care can cut crime and violence. New research tracked for 14 years 989 children who had been enrolled in government-funded Child-Parent Centers while 3- and 4-year olds. Compared to similar children not in the program, only half as many of these kids had two or more arrests in their teens.

An earlier 22-year study of the High/Scope Perry Preschool program showed that leaving at-risk children out of this program multiplied by five times the risk that they would become chronic lawbreakers as adults.

Chicago Child-Parent Centers Cut Multiple Arrests in Half

Children from similar backgrounds were almost twice as likely to have been brought before a juvenile court at least twice by age 18 as the children who attended the Child-Parent Centers.

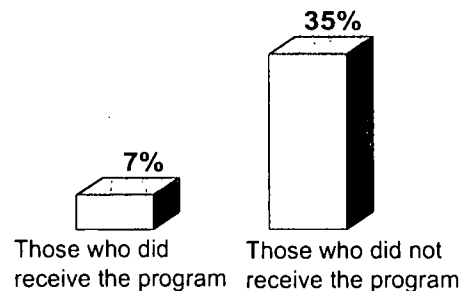
Two or More Arrests by Age 18



High/Scope Perry Preschool Reduces Future Crime

At-risk 3 & 4 year olds randomly not included in this preschool program were five times more likely to become chronic offenders (over 4 arrests) by age 27.

Chronic Lawbreakers at Age 27



Children from child care centers getting North Carolina's Smart Start quality improvements were half as likely as comparison children to have serious behavior problems in kindergarten.

Large national studies show that at-risk kids who attended quality child care programs had no more behavior problems at age eight than children of college-educated moms. But at-risk kids who received poor quality child care had significantly more problem behaviors than the other children.

Most at-risk kids, even with poor child care, become contributing adults. But when our nation fails to assure access to quality care, it not only makes it less likely at-risk kids will achieve their full potential but it also multiplies their risk of becoming involved in crime and violence.

Continued on the other side

Parents Need Help Paying for Quality Child Care

In every state, the cost for an infant to attend a good urban child care center is higher than the cost of tuition at a public university.

Adequate care for two children in a child care center easily costs over \$12,000 a year, about \$2,000 more than a full-time minimum wage worker earns.

Many working parents can't pay these costs, any more than they could pay private school tuition if public schools were eliminated. As with public schools, we all have a stake in seeing that children get a good start.

Governments are Dropping the Ball

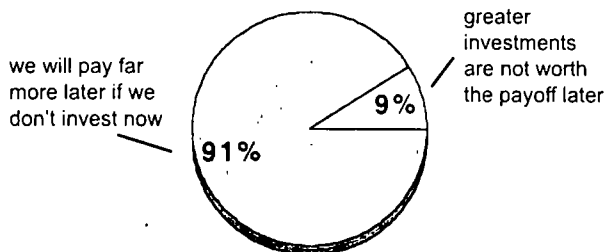
Head Start, the principal federal child development program for children in poverty, is so under-funded that it can serve only half of the eligible children, and can serve most of them for only part of the time parents are working.

The Child Care and Development Block Grant, designed to help low-income parents pay for child care, can serve only one out of ten eligible children, and provides funds too meager for parents to purchase adequate care.

Some state initiatives, like Kentucky's Family

Police Chiefs Say Child Care Will Reduce Crime, Save Money

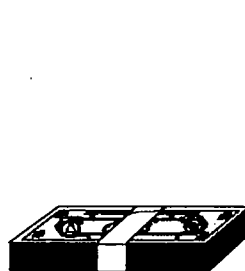
9 out of 10 agreed: "If America does not make greater investments in after-school and educational child care programs to help children and youth now, we will pay far more later in crime, welfare, and other costs."



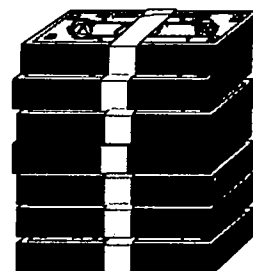
George Mason University

Educational Child Care Saves Money

Even after accounting for inflation, the public saved over \$700 for every \$100 invested in a preschool and home visitation program.



For every \$100 Invested



Over \$700 was saved

High/Scope Perry Preschool Program

Resource Centers, Georgia's universal pre-kindergarten programs for 4-year-olds, North Carolina's Smart Start, and Ohio's Families and Children First initiative, are making major contributions. But no state is yet close to meeting the full needs of low- and moderate-income working families for quality child care.

Investments that Save Money

The High/Scope Perry Preschool program cut crime, welfare and other costs so much that it saved \$700 for every \$100 invested. The Child-Parent Center study showed similar savings. Failing to invest in quality child care now squanders billions, much of which could otherwise be used for Social Security, tax cuts, or anything else in the years ahead.

Law Enforcement is United

In a recent survey of police chiefs by George Mason University professors Scott Keeter and Stephen Mastrofski, nine out of ten chiefs said America could greatly reduce crime by expanding educational child care programs and after-school programs. Our over 700 members are determined to put dangerous criminals behind bars. But we also want to save money and lives by preventing crime in the first place. It's time to invest in what works.

**FIGHT
CRIME**



**INVEST
IN KIDS**

2000 P Street NW, Suite 240, Washington, DC 20036



*America's Child Care Crisis:
A Crime Prevention Tragedy*

White House
Roosevelt Room
April 28, 2000

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION



FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS

Hundreds of Police, Prosecutors, Crime Victims Dedicated to Preventing Crime and Violence

President
Sanford A. Newman, J.D.

Deputy Directors
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EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE: 10:15 A.M., FRIDAY APRIL 28

New Research Shows Investment in Quality Educational Child Care Can Greatly

Reduce Youth Violence

Report by Brazelton, Leading Law Enforcement and Child Development Experts

Presented at White House Event

Ground-breaking new research shows that the failure to assure at-risk families access to educational child care is multiplying the number of children growing up to be violent, according to a new report presented to First Lady Hillary Clinton and members of Congress at a White House event today. The good news, according to the law enforcement, criminology and child development authorities who wrote the report, is that government action to expand access to quality child development programs can greatly reduce youth violence.

The report, *America's Child Care Crisis: A Crime Prevention Tragedy*, was prepared by an expert panel convened by Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, an anti-crime group of over 700 police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, victims of violence, and youth violence experts. The authors are pediatrician T. Berry Brazelton of Harvard; Yale child development expert Edward Zigler; University of Pennsylvania criminologist Lawrence Sherman; two former police chiefs, William Bratton of New York and Jerry Sanders of San Diego, each of whom achieved record crime reductions in their cities; and Fight

Crime: Invest in Kids president Sanford Newman, and research director William Christeson.

Brazelton, America's best-known pediatrician and the author of 28 books on child development, emphasized that "rigorous scientific research now proves the early childhood development programs that help kids in so many other ways are also our most powerful weapons in the fight against youth violence."

Brazelton said three major new studies of thousands of children show that early childhood development programs can achieve extraordinary reductions in behavior problems, crime and violence:

- A large 14-year study followed over 1,000 children enrolled in government-funded Child-Parent Centers at ages 3 and 4. Compared to children left out of the program, the CPC children were only half as likely to have two or more arrests in their teens. The program has served 100,000 youngsters at 24 centers over the last 23 years.
- Another recent study shows that when North Carolina's Smart Start program bolstered child care quality in some centers, those children were half as likely as similar kids to have serious behavioral problems when they reached kindergarten.
- A further large national study of existing child care centers shows that at-risk kids who attend high-quality child care programs as babies and preschoolers have no more behavior problems at age eight than children of college-educated parents.

These studies have all been completed in the last 12 months, and the Child-Parent Center study has just been completed. They greatly strengthen the findings from small studies of model programs, such as the High Scope Foundation's Perry Preschool Study, in which 120 at-risk children had been randomly divided into two groups. Half the children had been enrolled in a quality child-development program for one to two years, at ages three and four. Twenty-two years later, the children left out of the program were five times more likely to have become chronic offenders, with five or more arrests.

At the event, Arapahoe County, CO Sheriff Patrick Sullivan said, “I’m a conservative Republican, but this is not a political issue. But when failing to provide at-risk kids with quality educational child care can multiply five times our risk that those kids will become chronic lawbreakers, it’s just common sense to expand Head Start, child care and early learning funds. Shortchanging these investments squanders lives and tax dollars.” Sullivan noted that the High/Scope study had shown that the public saved \$7 for every dollar spent, and that the large new CPC study showed similar savings.

“We’ll win the battle against youth violence when we are as ready to guarantee a kid a place in Head Start or an early learning program as we are to guarantee a criminal a place in a jail cell,” Sullivan said.

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids President Sanford Newman said, “Today hundreds of America’s police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors are saying that implementing the President’s proposals to expand Head Start and Child Care and Development programs and to provide early learning grants to states and communities are, together with expansion of after-school programs, the most important steps Congress can take this year to reduce youth violence.” The White House has proposed a \$1 billion increase to expand and strengthen Head Start, a \$2 billion expansion of Child Care and Development Block Grants, and creation of a new Early Learning Fund.

“I spent 26 years helping put dangerous criminals behind bars where they belong, but by the time we do that, people have already gotten hurt. We have to start at the front end, and that means investing in early childhood development programs that help kids get the right start so they never become involved in violence. If we invest in America’s most vulnerable kids, they’ll never be America’s Most Wanted adults,” said former San Diego Police Chief Jerry Sanders.

The National Sheriffs Association, Major Cities Police Chiefs Organization, Police Executive Research Forum and dozens of state law enforcement groups have urged

elected officials to make sure families have access to quality educational child care. Polls by George Mason University professors Scott Keeter and Steve Mastrofski, show that nearly nine out of ten police chiefs believe “expanding after-school programs and educational child care programs like Head Start would greatly reduce youth crime and violence.”

The report concludes that federal and state funding for early childhood development programs are woefully inadequate. For example, it notes that:

- Head Start, the child development program for children living in poverty, is so underfunded it can serve only half of the three and four year olds eligible, and usually for just half of their parents’ work day, and for only part of the year.
- The Child Care and Development Fund, which helps families pay for child care, can serve only one in ten of the families that are eligible, and provides them with stipends so meager that adequate care usually remains out of reach.

Because adequate child care requires trained teachers and high ratios of teachers to children, it can’t be cheap, the report says. In every state, the cost for an infant to attend a good urban child care center exceeds the cost of public university tuition. Even though many child care teachers are paid poverty wages, child care for two children can cost \$12,000 per year. “That’s way out of reach for parents making \$10,500 a year at full-time minimum wage jobs, and for millions of other struggling families,” according to the report. “Those families can no more pay for adequate child care during these years than they could pay the full cost of the education we provide in public schools,” the report says.

“The bad news,” according to criminologist Lawrence Sherman, “is that our federal and state governments are falling far short of the investments they need to make in early childhood development programs. That’s penny-wise and pound-foolish. The good news is that if government makes these investments, we can greatly reduce violence and help youngsters become the good neighbors and happy, healthy adults they can be.”

Co-author and speaker biographies

T. Berry Brazelton, M.D.

Professor Emeritus, Harvard Medical School

T. Berry Brazelton is America's best-known pediatrician. He is a graduate of Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons and is the author of over 200 scientific papers and 28 books. Among Brazelton's books is "Infants and Mothers" which has been read by more than one million American families and has been translated into 18 languages. His growing concern about the pressures that families face has led to his frequent appearances before congressional committees. In 1989, Congress appointed him to the National Commission on Children. In 1998, the non-profit Brazelton Foundation was established to train professionals nationwide to better serve families of infants and toddlers.

William J. Bratton

Former Commissioner, New York City and Boston Police Departments

William Bratton was appointed the New York City Police Commissioner in 1994. While he was commissioner, felony crime fell 33% and homicides were cut in half. Prior to his appointment, Bratton served as the chief operating officer of the Boston Police Department and as Boston's police commissioner. He also served as President of the Police Executive Research Forum. Bratton is a graduate of the FBI National Executive Institute and both the Program for Senior Executives and the Senior Executive Fellows Program in Criminal Justice at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. He also holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Boston State College. Bratton serves on the National Advisory Committee of FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS.

Sanford A. Newman

President, FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS

Sanford Newman is an attorney and President of FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS, an anti-crime organization made up of over 700 of the nation's police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, leaders of police organizations, crime prevention scholars and victims of crime and violence. His interest in fighting and preventing crime began 16 years ago when he and his wife were awakened by an intruder crouching between their bed and

their newborn's crib. He has since become one of the nation's leading experts on what works to prevent crime and violence.

Together with former Attorney General Elliot Richardson and other law enforcement leaders, Newman founded FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS in 1996, and serves as its full-time CEO.

Lawrence Sherman

Director, Fels Center, University of Pennsylvania

Lawrence Sherman is currently the Director of the Fels Center and the Greenfield Professor of Human Relations at the University of Pennsylvania. He is considered one of the nation's most influential criminologists and is the third American to be elected as the President of the International Society of Criminology. He has also received the prestigious Edwin H. Sutherland Award from the American Society of Criminology for outstanding contributions to his field. In 1997, he authored a report for the National Institute of Justice that evaluated the effectiveness of 500 crime prevention programs. Sherman earned his bachelor's degree in criminology from Cambridge University, his master's degree in social science from the University of Chicago, and a second MA and Ph.D. in sociology at Yale. He was the chief criminologist for the Indianapolis Police Department, and currently advises the Philadelphia police commissioner. He worked in the criminology department at University of Maryland for 17 years before becoming Director of the Fels Center.

Jerry Sanders

Former Chief of Police, San Diego

Jerry Sanders was appointed San Diego Chief of Police in 1993. He retired in April 1999 to assume the leadership of the United Way of San Diego. From 1991-1998, San Diego achieved the largest decline in homicides of any major city in the country. During his tenure, the San Diego Police Department also gained a national reputation for community policing and problem-solving, and for its quick response to issues of public concern. Sanders serves as a National Advisory Committee member of FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS.

Edward Zigler

Professor, Yale University

Ed Zigler is currently Sterling Professor of Psychology at Yale University and the Director of the Bush Center on Child Development and Social Policy. In 1970, he was appointed as the first Director of the Federal Office of Child Development and as the

Chief of the U.S. Children's Bureau. As Director of the OCD, Zigler was responsible for administering the nation's Head Start Program. He led the efforts in conceptualizing and mounting such innovative programs such as Health Start, Home Start, Education for Parenthood, and the Child and Family Resource Program. Zigler received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Missouri and his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Texas. He began working at Yale in 1959. Zigler is the author or editor of over 26 books and 500 scholarly articles. He has received numerous awards throughout his career. Zigler serves as a Resource Council member of FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS.

William Christeson

Research Director, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids

William Christeson received his master's degree from the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health in 1996, where he focused his research interests on violence prevention. Before joining the FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS staff in August of 1998, he was a health policy analyst for the DC Department of Health, where he set up a surveillance system of intentional injuries at the two major hospitals treating victims of violence. He received his BA in economics from Stanford University.

Patrick J. Sullivan, Jr.

Sheriff, Arapahoe County, CO

Patrick Sullivan Jr. has served as the Arapahoe County Sheriff since 1983. Today he is speaking on behalf of the National Sheriff's Association, which represents all of the elected sheriffs in the country, and on behalf of the 700 members who make up FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS. He previously served as a Lieutenant in the Littleton Police Department and as a Captain in the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office. He graduated from the FBI National Academy in 1997, and the National Sheriffs' Institute in 1983. He serves on the Board of Directors and as Chair of the Congressional Affairs Committee for the National Sheriffs' Organization. Sullivan also serves on the National Advisory Committee for FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS.



FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS

President
Sanford A. Newman

Deputy Directors
Amy R. Dawson
Brendan J. Fitzsimons

Research Director
William C. Christeson

From America's Front Line Against Crime: A School and Youth Violence Prevention Plan

AS AN ORGANIZATION OF HUNDREDS OF POLICE CHIEFS, SHERIFFS, PROSECUTORS, CRIME SURVIVORS AND LEADERS OF POLICE OFFICER ORGANIZATIONS, we are determined to see that dangerous criminals are put behind bars. But anyone who thinks that jailing a criminal undoes the agony crime leaves in its wake hasn't seen crime up close.

America's anti-crime arsenal contains no weapons more powerful than the proven programs that help kids get the right start — like quality educational child care, youth development programs for the after-school and summer hours, child abuse prevention, and intervention programs proven to help get troubled kids back on track.

Yet today, inadequate funding for Head Start, educational child care, after-school youth development programs and counseling for troubled kids leaves millions of children at needless risk of becoming violent or delinquent teens and adult criminals — and leaves every American at needless risk of becoming a victim.

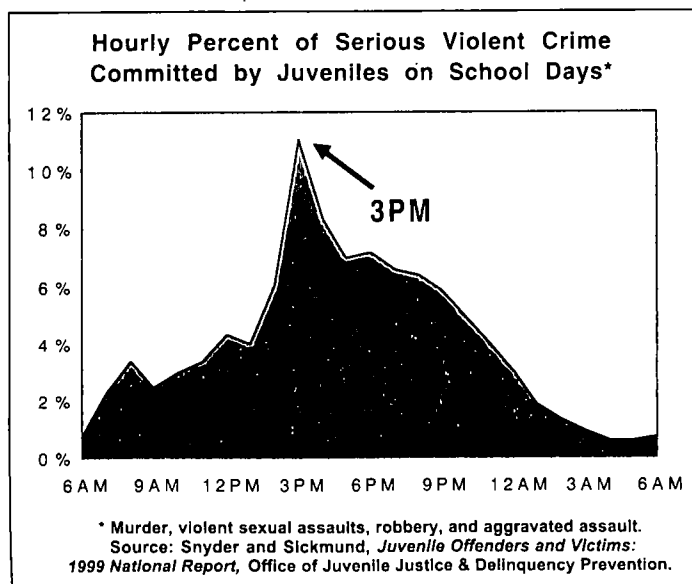
We call on all public officials to adopt a four-part plan to dramatically reduce crime and violence and adult crime, and help young people learn the skills and values they need to become good neighbors and responsible adults. While no plan can prevent every violent act, this common-sense plan — based on our experience and the latest research about what really works to fight crime — can make all of us safer.

Four Steps to Dramatically Reduce School and Youth Violence

1. Assure all school-age children and teens access to after-school, weekend and summer youth development programs to shut down the "Prime Time for Juvenile Crime."

In the hour after the school bell rings, turning millions of children and teens out on the street with neither constructive activities nor adult supervision, violent juvenile crime suddenly *triples* and

prime time for juvenile crime begins. On school days, the peak hours for such crime are from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM. These are also the hours when kids are most likely to become victims of crime. They are the peak hours for teen sex, and being unsupervised after school doubles the risk that 8th-graders will smoke, drink alcohol or use drugs.



Quality youth development programs can cut crime immediately and transform this Prime Time for Juvenile Crime into hours of academic enrichment, wholesome fun and community service. They protect both kids and adults from becoming victims of crime, and cut teen pregnancy, smoking, and drug use, while they help youngsters develop the values and skills they need to become contributing citizens. For example:

"When the peak hours of violent juvenile crime are between the end of school and 8:00 P.M., it's just common sense to provide the after-school programs that give kids the values and skills they need to say 'no' to crime and violence."

— Sheriff Patrick Sullivan (R-Arapahoe County, CO)

- When a public housing project intensively recruited youths to join in a new after-school program, *arrests among its teen residents plummeted to one-fourth of their previous level*, while those among the teens who lived in a nearby comparison project were actually going up by two-thirds.
- High school freshmen boys randomly selected from welfare households to participate in the Quantum Opportunities after-school program were *only one-sixth as likely to be convicted of a crime* during the high school years as those not selected. Together, the boys and girls who participated in the program were *50% more likely to graduate high school on time*.
- Young people who received a Big Brothers/Big Sisters mentor were *half as likely to begin illegal drug use or to hit someone* as applicants randomly assigned to a waiting list.

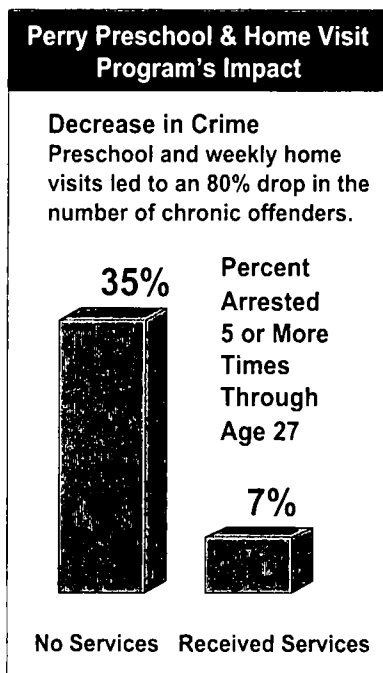
"America's fight against violence must begin in the high chair, not the electric chair. Anything less leaves America's police fighting with one hand tied behind our backs."

— George Sweat, Director, Office of Juvenile Justice (North Carolina): former Chief of Police, Winston-Salem (NC)

In short, failing to provide programs like these can multiply by as much as four times your family's risk that at-risk kids will become delinquent.

2. Assure all babies and preschool children access to the quality educational child care programs proven to cut crime.

Rigorous studies, hard experience, and brain pictures from modern medical equipment tell the same story: In the first few years of life, children's intellects and emotions, and even their ability to feel concern for others — a prerequisite to "conscience" — are being permanently shaped. When parents are at work trying to make ends meet, programs providing nurturing, stimulating, educational child care for babies and toddlers can not only prepare children to succeed in school but also dramatically reduce crime. For example:



- In Ypsilanti, Michigan, low-income three- and four-year-olds randomly assigned to be in the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation's preschool program were *only one-fifth as likely* to have become chronic lawbreakers at age 27, compared to similar children who did without this educational child care.
- In Syracuse, at-risk infants and toddlers enrolled in a quality child development program, with parenting support for their mothers, were *only one-tenth as likely* as similar children to be delinquent ten years later.

In other words, failing to make sure that at-risk kids have access to quality child care and development programs like these can multiply by five to ten times the risk that they will grow up to lead a life of crime. When millions of struggling parents are forced to leave their children in inadequate child care, we all pay a terrible price.

3. Help schools identify troubled and disruptive children at an early age, and provide children and their parents with the counseling and training that can help kids get back on track.

When elementary school children display disruptive behavior, it is a warning signal that it is time to start looking for the causes of the problem, and to provide the proven social skills training, counseling, and other help for the children and their families that can lead them back to a healthier path. For example:

- A Montreal study showed that providing disruptive first- and second-grade boys with services like these **cut in half** the odds that they would later be in special classes, rated highly disruptive by a teacher or by peers, or required to repeat a grade in school — all signs that the risk of future violence has been sharply reduced.
- Five years after randomly selected disruptive, low-achieving seventh-graders completed a three-year program involving behavioral therapy and rewards, they were only one-third as likely to have a juvenile record as those who did not receive these services.

4. Improve deficient parenting and prevent child abuse and neglect by: a) Offering high-risk parents in-home parenting-coaching; and b) making sure child protective, foster care and adoption services have policies and enough well-trained staff to protect and heal abused and neglected children.

Being abused or neglected multiplies the risk that a child will grow up to be violent. Almost three million children are reported abused or neglected each year. Child protective and foster care services in most states lack adequate staff, and often the training or policy support, to protect children and to see that those who have been maltreated get the nurturing care and treatment needed to help them heal. We must also act *before* abuse takes place to expand parenting-coaching and family support programs that prevent children from being abused and neglected, prevent subsequent delinquency, and improve other outcomes for children. For example:

- The Prenatal and Early Infancy Project randomly assigned half of a group of at-risk mothers to receive visits by specially trained nurses who provided coaching in parenting skills and other advice and support. Rigorous studies show the program not only *reduced child abuse by 80%* in the first two years, but that fifteen years after the services ended, *these mothers had only one-third as many arrests, and their children were only half as likely to be delinquent.*

The Bottom Line: Investing in Kids Saves Lives and Money

When America fails to invest in its children and youth, we pay far more later — not just in lives and fear, but also in tax dollars. The federal treasury will actually have *more* money to dedicate to other uses a few years from now — whether for social security, paying off the accumulated national debt, or tax cuts — if we invest *today* in programs to help kids get the right start. For example:

- Economist Steven Barnett found that the High/Scope Foundation's Perry Preschool study *saved \$150,000 per participant in crime costs alone*. Even after subtracting the interest that could have been earned by investing the program's funding in financial markets, the project produced a *net savings of \$7.16* — including more than six dollars in crime savings — for every dollar invested.

"We could be saving thousands of lives — and sparing thousands of families unimaginable heartbreak — by investing up front in the proven early childhood care and youth development programs that can turn kids away from crime."

— Jean Lewis, President, National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children

"Early childhood and youth development programs can lead us to a stunning victory against violence. When these investments are proven to save lives and tax dollars, why shouldn't policy-makers provide the funding that will enable communities to get the job done?"

— former U.S. Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson

- Barnett estimates that the cost, including increased crime and welfare costs, of *failing* to provide at least two years of quality educational child care to low-income children is approximately \$100,000 per child. That's a total of about \$400 billion for all poor children now under age five.
- A recent study by Professor Mark A. Cohen of Vanderbilt University estimates that for each high-risk youth prevented from adopting a life of crime, the country would *save \$1.7 million*.
- A recent Rand Corporation report shows that, even without counting the savings to crime victims and society, the resulting *savings to government* alone from effective early childhood programs *exceeds by two to four times the cost of the programs*.

Law Enforcement United in Calling for Crime-Prevention Investments in Kids

Who says these four steps are among our most powerful weapons to fight crime?

- The hundreds of law enforcement leaders and crime victims who make up FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS.
- Virtually every major national law enforcement organization — including the **Major Cities [Police] Chiefs' Organization**, the **Police Executive Research Forum**, the **National Sheriffs' Association**, and the **National District Attorneys' Association** — have adopted forceful calls for boosting critical crime prevention investments like these.
- In a George Mason University poll, 86 percent of police chiefs nationwide said, "expanding after-school and child care programs like Head Start will greatly reduce youth crime and violence." Nine out of ten chiefs agreed with the statement, "If America does not make greater investments in after-school and educational child care programs to help children and youth now, we will pay far more later in crime, welfare and other costs."

"Police leaders know America's commitment to putting criminals in jail must be matched by its commitment to keeping kids from becoming criminals in the first place."

— Los Angeles (CA) Chief of Police Bernard Parks

For citations of studies referred to above, visit www.fightcrime.org



Launched in 1996, FIGHT CRIME is led by hundreds of America's leading police chiefs, prosecutors, sheriffs, crime victims, and leaders of police officer organizations. Major funding for its operations is provided by:

William T. Grant Foundation* • Edna McConnell Clark Foundation • John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation • DeWitt Wallace Reader's Digest Fund* • David and Lucille Packard Foundation • Ford Foundation • Public Welfare Foundation • Naomi and Nehemiah Cohen Foundation • Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation • Rockefeller Family Fund • Woods Fund of Illinois • McCormick-Tribune Foundation • The Stern Family Fund • Nathan Cummings Foundation • Butler Family Fund • Irving B. Harris Foundation • Institute for Civil Society • Neisser Fund • American Income Life Insurance Co. • New Prospect Foundation • William C. Graustein Memorial Fund

*Indicates that funding is for research dissemination.



FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS

Hundreds of Police, Prosecutors, Crime Victims Dedicated to Preventing Crime and Violence

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Sanford A. Newman, J.D.

Deputy Directors
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WHAT

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS is a bipartisan, nonprofit anti-crime organization led by America's best-known **police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors and victims of violence.**



WHY

Its mission is to enable those on the front lines of the fight against crime to take a hard-nosed look at what really works to prevent crime. In its quest for effective solutions, it eschews ideological preconceptions. Based on rigorous research evidence and years of crime-fighting experience, it works with crime prevention scholars to develop policy recommendations and to share its findings with policy-makers and the public.

WHO

FIGHT CRIME is led by National and State Advisory Committees that include over seven hundred police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, and victims of violence. One of the founding members was former Attorney General Elliot Richardson. Present leaders include the presidents of the Fraternal Order of Police, the International Union of Police Associations, and the Police Executive Research Forum. The victims of violence include Marc Klaas, whose daughter Polly was abducted and murdered in California, and Jean Lewis, president of the National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children.

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS' Crime and Violence Prevention Resource Council includes leading experts in criminology, child development and law enforcement.

HOW

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS:

- Develops policy recommendations and analyzes the crime-prevention impact of public policy proposals.
- Conducts local, state and national public education efforts about effective crime prevention programs.
- Builds national, state and local leadership committees of police, prosecutors and crime survivors as well as resource councils of experts in fields such as child and youth development, criminology and law enforcement.
- Builds grassroots networks of individuals committed to educating their own neighbors and public officials.
- Serves as an information clearinghouse for journalists, policy-makers and the public.

BACKGROUND

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS was launched in July, 1996.

Principal funding has come from: the William T. Grant Foundation, the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, the DeWitt Wallace Reader's Digest Fund, the David and Lucille Packard Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Public Welfare Foundation, the Naomi and Nehemiah Cohen Foundation, Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation in North Carolina, the Center on Crime, Communities & Culture, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Rockefeller Family Fund, the Woods Fund of Illinois, the McCormick-Tribune Foundation, the Stern Family Fund, the Tide Foundation's Russell Fund, the Nathan Cummings Foundation, and the Butler Family Fund.

America's Child Care Crisis: A Crime Prevention Tragedy

A Report From

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS

by

Sanford Newman, J.D.
President, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids

T. Berry Brazelton, M.D.
Professor Emeritus, Harvard Medical School

Edward Zigler, Ph.D.
Sterling Professor of Psychology, Yale University

Lawrence W. Sherman, Ph.D.
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Archives

Marketplace

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Study Links Day Care, Less Crimes

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Filed at 12:10 p.m. EDT

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The best day care can keep children from getting into trouble and committing crimes later in life, says research presented at the White House by law enforcement groups today.

The report, a compilation of studies comparing children in programs in North Carolina and Chicago with other children, says youths who spent their early years in quality day care were half as likely to be arrested.

Studies also found that troubled tots who didn't go to preschool and receive home visits from social workers were five times as likely to become chronic lawbreakers -- arrested four or more times -- by age 27.

"We're tired of hearing people pretend there are no answers to how we can prevent youth violence," said Sanford Newman, president of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids. The 700-member anti-crime group was promoting child care as a crime-fighting tool at a White House meeting today led by Hillary Rodham Clinton, the first lady and New York Senate candidate.

"Child care is not only a lifesaver for working families, it is a crime-fighting strategy for our communities," Clinton said today.

"For every dollar we invest in child care we save \$5 in crime costs down the line."

The group -- representing a bipartisan coalition of police chiefs, sheriffs and crime victims -- kept its focus on prevention in the

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report. It proposed increased spending, saying many poor families are forced to pay a quarter of their incomes for child care.

It also proposed better training and higher salaries for child-care workers -- who they said make almost half as much as parking lot attendants on average.

Polls released along with the child studies found, not surprisingly, that parents and police alike overwhelmingly support child-care and after-school activities.

There is less agreement on whether children should be charged as adults, kept in prisons, or subjected to other increasingly punitive measures, organizers said. The polls found that 17 percent of police chiefs favor charging more juveniles as adults, compared with 12 percent of the public.

“Wherever you are on the spectrum, it’s just common sense to expand early childhood programs,” Newman said.

Newman said the group’s presentation at the White House highlights its support for the Clinton administration’s commitment to increasing funds for the Head Start preschool program and providing tax breaks for parents and employers that offer day care for workers’ children.

The Education and Justice Departments are releasing today a guide to help schools identify and help troubled children.

On the Net: Fight Crime: Invest in Kids:
<http://www.fightcrime.org>



Anna Richter

04/28/2000 05:27:24 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Ann O'Leary/OPD/EOP@EOP, Heather H. Howard/OPD/EOP@EOP, Eric J. Morse/OMB/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Study Links Child Care, Less Crimes

maybe you've seen this already....

Study Links Child Care, Less Crimes

By Shannon McCaffrey
Associated Press Writer
Friday, April 28, 2000

WASHINGTON — Children who attend quality day care are less likely to commit crimes later in life, according to a report by law enforcement groups unveiled Friday at the White House.

The report was issued by Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a 700-member bipartisan coalition of police chiefs, sheriffs and crime victims. Former police chiefs William Bratton of New York City and Jerry Sanders of San Diego were among the authors.

The report, a compilation of studies comparing children in and out of day care programs in North Carolina and Chicago, found that youths who spent their early years in quality child care were half as likely to be arrested later. It involved 1,000 children who were in day care at ages 3 and 4.

The report called for increased government spending on day care to ensure poor families have access, and better training and higher salaries for child care workers, who on average are paid only about half as much as parking lot attendants.

"Child care is not only a lifesaver for working families, it is a crime-fighting strategy for our communities," first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton said at a ceremony announcing the study. "For every dollar we invest in child care we save \$5 in crime costs down the line."

Clinton, who has made child care a key issue in her U.S. Senate bid in New York, was joined at the White House by Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., and Rep. Benjamin Cardin, D-Md. They are pushing for an additional \$3 billion to create slots for another 950,000 children in Head Start and for block grants to expand early education and child care for children under 5.

The White House also is pushing a plan to provide tax breaks for parents and employers that offer day care for workers' children.

One of the report's authors, Dr. T. Berry Brazelton of Harvard University, said the "scientific research now proves the early childhood development programs that help kids in so many other ways are also our most powerful weapons in the fight against youth violence."

Polls released with the report found parents and police overwhelmingly support child care and after-school activities.

There was less agreement on whether children should be charged as adults, kept in prisons or subjected to other increasingly punitive measures. The polls found 17 percent of police chiefs favor charging more juveniles as adults, compared with 12 percent of the public.

On the Net: Fight Crime: Invest in Kids: <http://www.fightcrime.org>

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