

Highly Effective Preschool Program Practices

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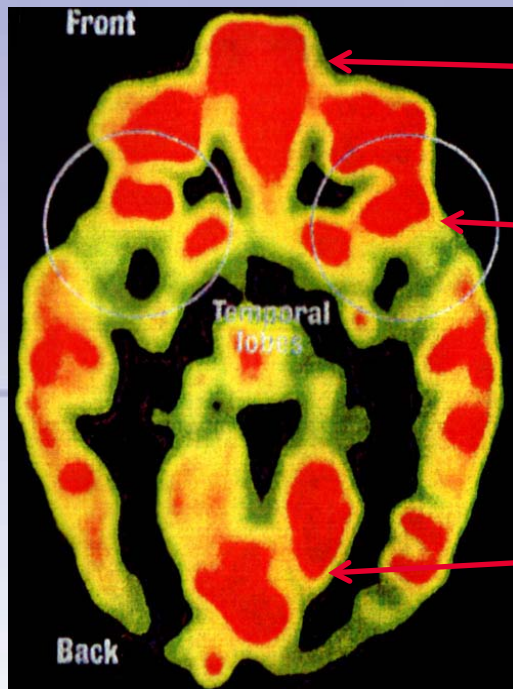
Early Childhood Education Contributes to Children's Development

Evidence from

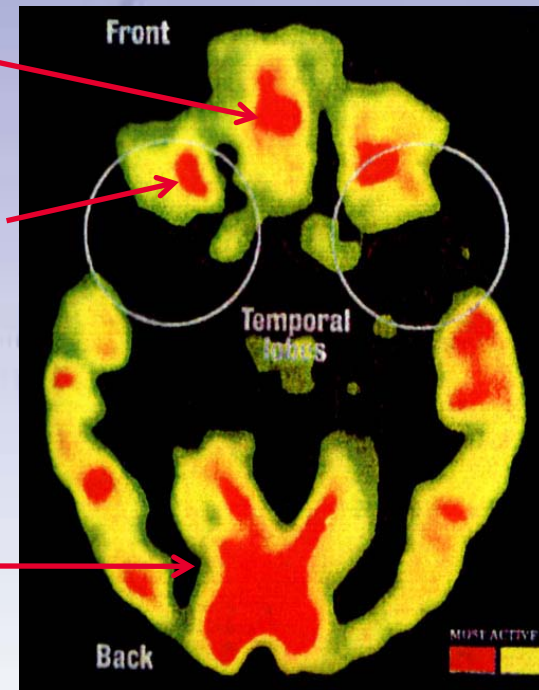
- Brain science
- Program evaluation

Early Childhood Experience Affects Brain Development

Normal
4 year old



Orphanage-reared
4-year-old



Thinking

Emotions

Automatic
functions

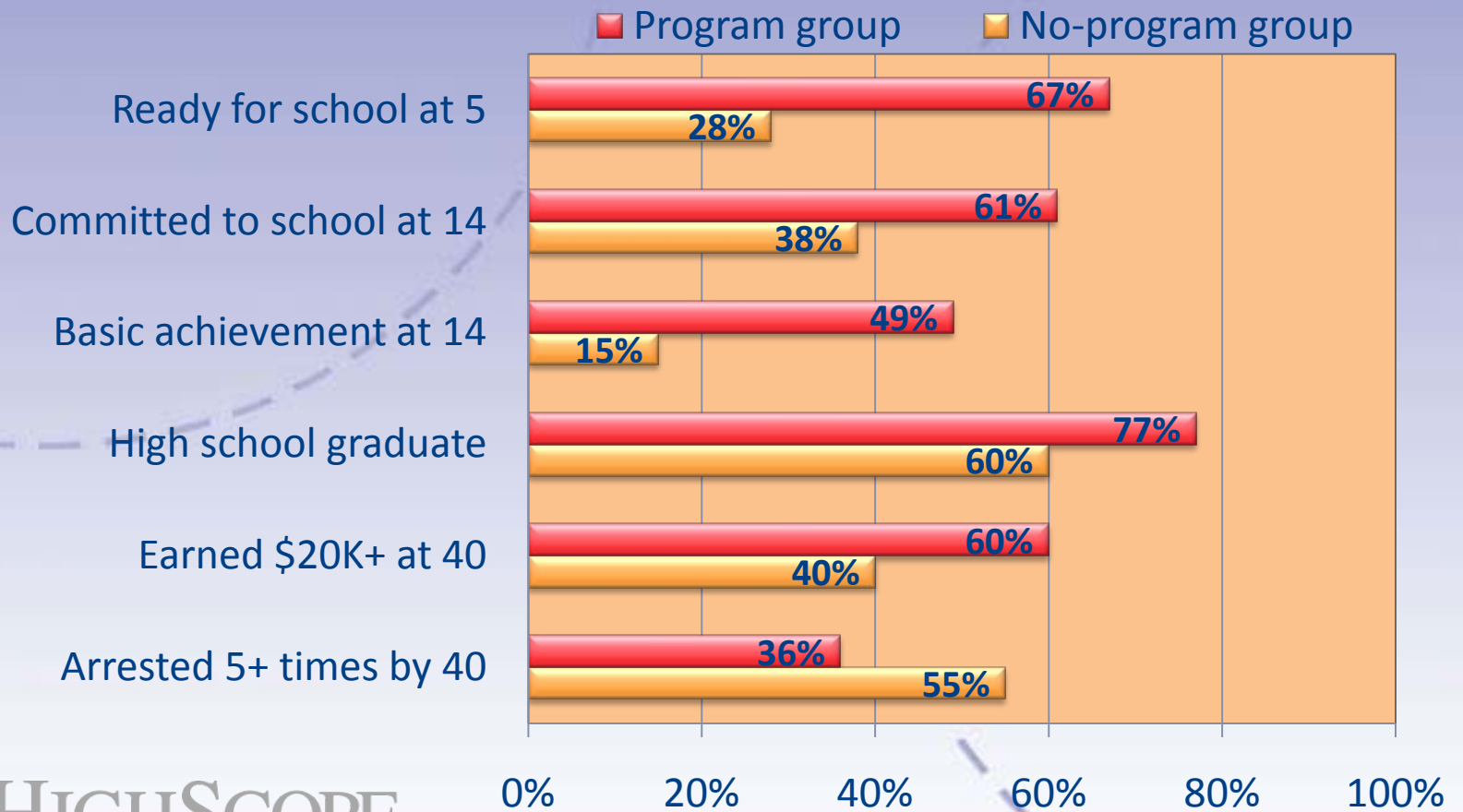


Red = glucose activity

Short- and Long-Term Effects from Three Studies

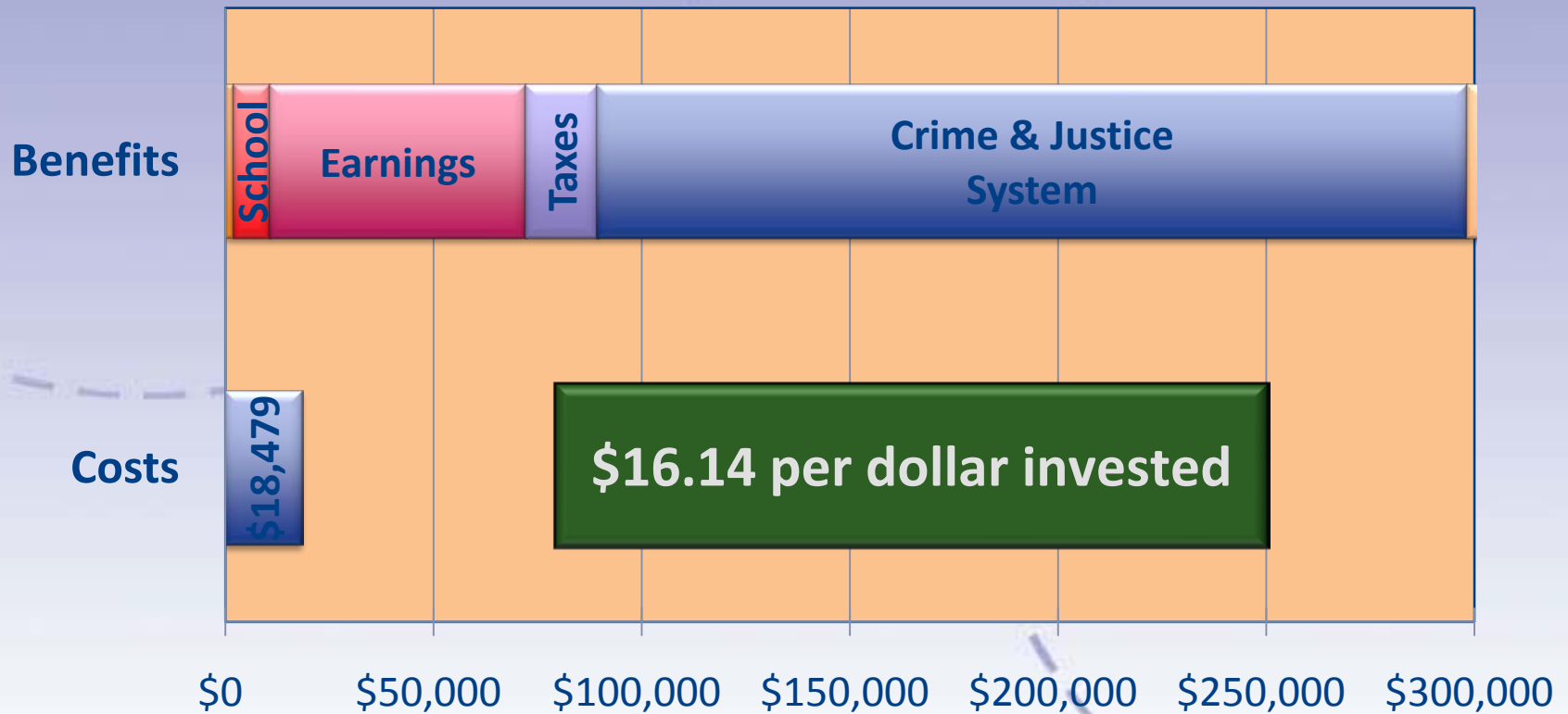
- Childhood intellectual performance
- Teen school achievement
- Fewer teen births
- Placements in regular classes
- High school graduation
- Adult earnings
- Fewer crimes
- Up to \$16 return on the dollar

Major Findings Over Time



Large Return on Investment

(Per participant in 2008 constant dollars discounted 3% annually)



But Other Studies Find Only Modest Effects

- Recent studies find only modest short-term effects on children's literacy and social skills
- These programs are poor candidates for long-term effects and return on investment

Implication

To Get What We Got...

Do What We Did

Five Ingredients of Highly Effective Preschool Programs

1. Include low-income children
2. Have and support enough qualified teachers
3. Learn and use a validated, interactive child development curriculum
4. Spend a lot of time with parents
5. Continuously assess program quality and child development

1. Include Low-Income and At-Risk Children

- Serving all young children includes needy children.
- But long-term effects are seldom looked for and yet to be found for middle-income children
- Tulsa universal pre-k study found large effects on early school achievement.



2. Have and Support Enough Qualified Teachers.

- Qualified = Teaching certificate and bachelor's degree.
- Curriculum-based supervision and systematic inservice training.
- Two qualified adults for 16-20 four-year-olds per class, fewer younger children.



3. Learn and Use a Validated, Interactive Child Development Curriculum.

- **Learn:** Requires interactive training, study, and practice
- **Validated:** Evidence of effectiveness with children to be served
- **Interactive:** Children and teachers design learning activities
- **Child Development:** All aspects of development



4. Teachers Spend a Lot of Time With Parents.

- Meet with parents and children regularly
- Focus on children's development
- Include center and home caregivers.



5. Continuously Assess Program Quality and Child Development.

- Assess implementation of an effective program model.
- Assess children's developing school readiness.
- Attune teaching to assessment.





INSPIRING EDUCATORS *to* INSPIRE CHILDREN