

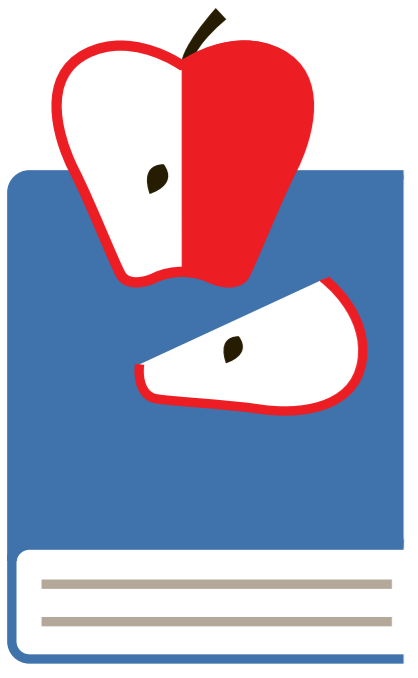
# AMERICA'S BEST INVESTMENT

## Early Childhood Development

Investing in quality programs for at-risk children produces great returns for all Americans.

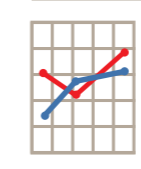
The return on investment in early childhood development:

Compared to:



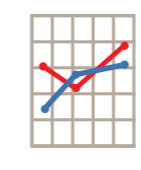
# 7-10%

annual return



**Dow Jones Industrial Average** over the last 40 years:

**6.77%** annual return



**S&P 500 Index** over the last 40 years:

**6.56%** annual return

Smart investments reduce costly outcomes:

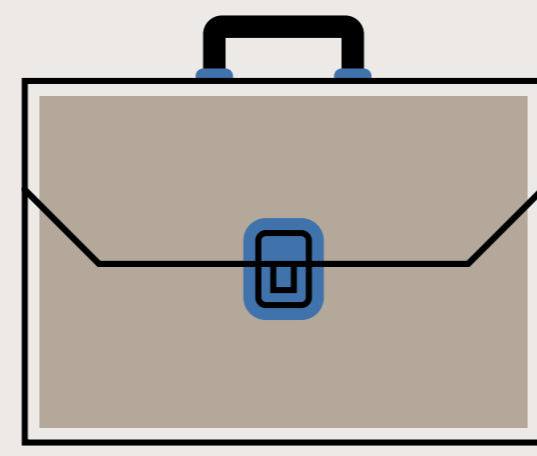
Society gains because participants are:

Adults who didn't attend early childhood programs earn

# \$5,500

less each year than peers who did attend

### Employment



More likely to be employed and earn a

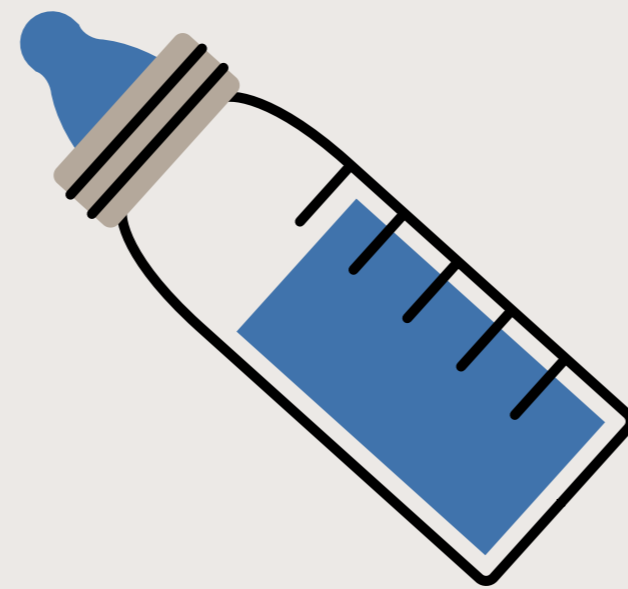
# 33%

**HIGHER AVERAGE SALARY**

Over their lifetime, the 2010 cohort of babies born to teens will collectively cost taxpayers

# \$43.7 B

### Teen Pregnancy



# 50%

**LESS LIKELY** to become teen parents

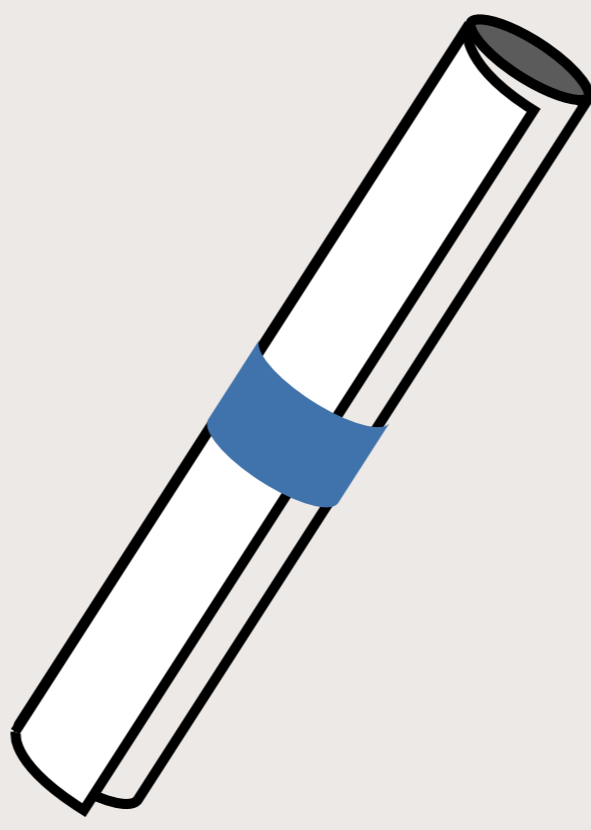
**1.1 M** high schoolers did not graduate from the class of 2011.

If they had graduated from high school, those students would have collectively earned an extra

# \$154 B

in income in their lifetimes

### Drop-out



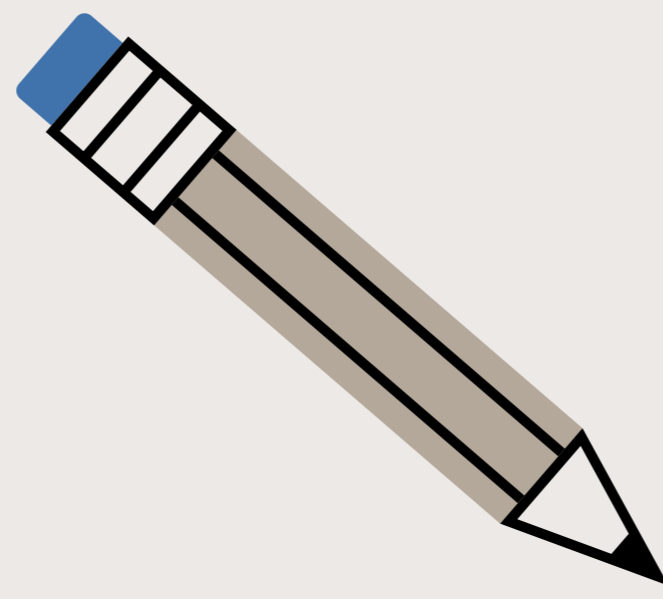
# 29%

**MORE LIKELY** to graduate high school

# \$65 B

Annual spending on special education

### Special Education



# 50%

**LESS LIKELY** to require special education

# \$158 B

Annual costs due to youth violence

### Youth Violence



# 70%

**LESS LIKELY** to be arrested for a violent crime before the age of 18

## Invest in Young Children, Get a Better US

Public early childhood development initiatives include Head Start, Early Head Start, federally-subsidized child care through the Child Care and Development Block Grant, home visiting, state pre-k and infant and toddler programs.



A project of **The First Five Years Fund**, Invest In US helps Americans learn how to build a better US through investment in quality early childhood education from birth to age five.



Visit [ffyf.org](http://ffyf.org) for a full list of references.