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Expenditures on Children by Families

1997 Annual Report

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Miscellaneous Publication Number 1528-1997

Abstract

Lino, Mark. 1998. Expenditures on Children by Families, 1997 Annual Report. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion. Miscellaneous Publication No. 1528-1997.

Since 1960, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has provided estimates of expenditures on children from birth through age 17. This technical report presents the most recent estimates for husband-wife and single-parent families using data from the 1990-92 Consumer Expenditure Survey, updated to 1997 dollars using the Consumer Price Index. Data and methods used in calculating annual child-rearing expenses are described. Estimates are provided for major components of the budget by age of child, family income, and region of residence. For the overall United States, child-rearing expense estimates ranged between $8,060 and $9,170 for a child in a two-child, married-couple family in the middle income group. Adjustment factors for number of children in the household are also provided. Results of this study should be of use in developing State child support guidelines and foster care payments as well as in family educational programs.

Keywords: children, expenditures

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Washington, DC 20036

March 1998

Executive Summary

Since 1960, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has provided estimates of annual expenditures on children from birth through age 17. This technical report presents the 1997 estimates for husband-wife and single-parent families. The 1997 figures for husband-wife families for the Nation as a whole are shown in table ES-1. Other tables are shown at the end of the report.

For husband-wife families, estimates are for three income groups and for single-parent families, two income groups. To partially adjust for price differentials and varying patterns of expenditures, estimates are also provided for husband-wife families in urban areas in four regions (West, Northeast, South, and Midwest) and for rural areas throughout the United States, as well as for the United States overall. For single-parent families, estimates are provided only for the United States because of sample size limitations. Expenditures on children are estimated for the major budgetary components: Housing, food, transportation, clothing, health care, child care and education, and miscellaneous goods and services.

Methods

Data used to estimate expenditures on children are from the 1990-92 Consumer Expenditure Survey–Interview portion (CE). Administered by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), U.S. Department of Labor, this survey is the most comprehensive source of information on household expenditures available at the national level. The sample consists of 12,850 husband-wife households and 3,395 single-parent households and was weighted to reflect the U.S. population of interest, using BLS weighting methods.

Multivariate analysis was used to estimate household and child-specific expenditures, controlling for income level, family size, and age of the younger child so estimates could be made for families with these varying characteristics (regional estimates were also derived by controlling for region). Households with two children were selected as the base since this was the average number of children in two-parent families.

Estimated household and child-specific expenditures were allocated among family members. Since the estimated expenditures for clothing, child care, and education only apply to children (adult-related expenses for these items were excluded), allocations of these expenses were made by dividing the estimates equally among the children.

The 1994 food plans of USDA were used to allocate food expenses among family members. These plans, derived from a national food consumption survey, show the share of food expenses attributable to individual family members by age and household income level. These member food budget shares were applied to estimated 1990-92 household food expenditures to determine food expenses on a child. Similarly, health care expenses were allocated to each family member based on budget share data from the 1987 National Medical Expenditure Survey. This survey contains data on the proportion of health care expenses attributable to individual family members. These member budget shares for health care were applied to estimated 1990-92 household health care expenditures to determine expenses on a child.

Unlike food and health care, no research base exists for allocating estimated household expenditures on housing, transportation, and other miscellaneous goods and services among family members. USDA uses the per capita method in allocating these expenses; the per capita method allocates expenses among household members in equal proportions. A marginal cost method, which assumes that expenditures on children may be measured as the difference in total expenses between couples with children and equivalent childless couples, was not used because of limitations with this approach. The marginal cost method depends on development of an equivalency measure for which there is no established base. Various measures have been proposed, with each yielding different estimates of expenditures on children. Also, some of the marginal cost approaches do not consider substitution effects. They assume, for example, that parents do not alter their expenditures on themselves after a child is added to a household.

As transportation expenses resulting from work activities are not related to expenses on children, these costs were excluded when estimating children's transportation expenses. The overall USDA methodology was repeated for families with one child and more than two children so adjustments may be made for families of different sizes.

Although based on the 1990-92 CE, the expense estimates were updated to 1997 dollars using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) (1990 and 1991 expenditure and income data were first converted to 1992 dollars; then all 3 years of data were updated to 1997 dollars).

Table ES-1. Estimated annual expenditures* on a child by husband-wife families, overall United States, 1997

Age of child	Total	Housing	Food	Transportation	Clothing	Health care	Child care and education	Miscellaneous†
Before-tax income: Less than $35,500 (Average=$22,100)								
0-2	$5,820	$2,220	$830	$730	$370	$400	$690	$580
3-5	5,920	2,190	920	700	360	380	780	590
6-8	6,070	2,120	1,190	820	410	440	460	630
9-11	6,090	1,910	1,420	890	450	480	280	660
12-14	6,880	2,130	1,490	1,000	760	480	200	820
15-17	6,790	1,720	1,610	1,350	670	510	330	600
Total	$112,710	$36,870	$22,380	$16,470	$9,060	$8,070	$8,220	$11,640
Before-tax income: $35,500 to $59,700 (Average=$47,200)								
0-2	$8,060	$3,000	$990	$1,090	$440	$520	$1,130	$890
3-5	8,270	2,970	1,140	1,060	430	500	1,260	910
6-8	8,350	2,900	1,460	1,180	480	570	810	950
9-11	8,320	2,700	1,710	1,250	530	620	530	980
12-14	9,050	2,920	1,730	1,360	890	620	390	1,140
15-17	9,170	2,500	1,920	1,720	790	660	660	920
Total	$153,660	$50,970	$26,850	$22,980	$10,680	$10,470	$14,340	$17,370
Before-tax income: More than $59,700 (Average=$89,300)								
0-2	$11,990	$4,770	$1,310	$1,520	$580	$600	$1,710	$1,500
3-5	12,230	4,740	1,480	1,490	570	580	1,860	1,510
6-8	12,180	4,670	1,790	1,610	620	660	1,280	1,550
9-11	12,090	4,470	2,080	1,680	680	710	890	1,580
12-14	12,930	4,690	2,180	1,790	1,120	710	690	1,750
15-17	13,260	4,270	2,300	2,180	1,020	750	1,210	1,530
Total	$224,040	$82,830	$33,420	$30,810	$13,770	$12,030	$22,920	$28,260

*Estimates are based on 1990-92 Consumer Expenditure Survey data updated to 1997 dollars using the Consumer Price Index. The figures represent estimated expenses on the younger child in a two-child family. Estimates are about the same for the older child, so to calculate expenses for two children, figures should be summed for the appropriate age categories. To estimate expenses for an only child, multiply the total expense for the appropriate age category by 1.24. To estimate expenses for each child in a family with three or more children, multiply the total expense for each appropriate age category by 0.77. For expenses on all children in a family, these totals should be summed.

†Miscellaneous expenses include personal care items, entertainment, and reading materials.

Results

Expenses on younger child in two-child, husband-wife households:

- Estimated expenses vary considerably by household income level. Depending on age of the child, the expenses range from $5,820 to $6,880 for families in the lowest income group (1997 before-tax income less than $35,500), from $8,060 to $9,170 for families in the middle income group (1997 before-tax income between $35,500 and $59,700), and from $11,990 to $13,260 for families in the highest income group (1997 before-tax income more than $59,700).

- As a proportion of total child-rearing expenses, housing accounts for the largest share across income groups, comprising 33 to 37 percent of expenses. Food is the second largest average expense on a child for families regardless of income level, accounting for 15 to 20 percent of child-rearing expenses.

- Expenditures on children are lower in the younger age categories and higher in the older age categories. This held across income groups.

- Overall child-rearing expenses are highest for families in the urban West, followed by the urban Northeast and urban South; families in the urban Midwest and rural areas have the lowest child-rearing expenses.

Expenses on older child and on children in husband-wife households of different sizes:

- Tables 1-6 (see pp. 15-20) reflect total expenditures on an older child in a two-child family, as well as on a younger child (as shown by additional analyses). Annual expenditures on children may be estimated by summing the total expenses for the specific age categories of the two children.

- Compared with expenditures for each child in a two-child family, households with one child spend an average of 24 percent more on the single child, and those with three or more children spend an average of 23 percent less on each child.

Expenses on children in single-parent households:

- For the younger child in a two-child household, the child-rearing expense patterns of single-parent households are similar to those of husband-wife households. The primary difference is that the majority of single-parent households are in the lower income group.

- In single-parent households with two children, about 7 percent less is spent on the older child than on the younger child at a specific age category. In addition, more is spent if a single-parent household has only one child and less is spent per child if a single-parent household has three or more children.

Other Expenditures on Children

Expenditures estimated in this study are composed of direct parental expenses made on children through age 17 for seven major budgetary components. These expenditures exclude college costs and other parental expenses on children after age 17. In addition, expenditures on children made by people outside the household and by the government are not included. Indirect costs involved in child rearing by parents (time costs, foregone earnings and career opportunities) are also not included in the estimates.

Contents

Expenditures on Children by Families

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides estimates of expenditures on children from birth through age 17 by husband-wife and single-parent families. The figures for 1997 are shown in tables 1–7, which have been placed for convenience at the end of this report. Recent USDA estimates are not directly comparable to estimates published in 1988 or earlier because of changes in methods (U.S. Department of Agriculture 1981). The estimates are comparable to those made in 1989 and later as the methodology for the estimates is essentially the same for these years. For husband-wife families, estimates are for three income groups and for single-parent families, two income groups. To partially adjust for price differentials and varying patterns of expenditures, estimates are also provided for husband-wife families in urban areas in four regions (West, Northeast, South, and Midwest) and for rural areas throughout the United States, as well as for the United States overall. Urban areas are defined as Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA's) and other places of 2,500 or more people outside an MSA; rural areas are places of fewer than 2,500 people outside an MSA.

For single-parent families, estimates are provided only for the United States overall because of sample size limitations. Expenditures on children are estimated for the major budgetary components: Housing, food, transportation, clothing, health care, child care and education, and miscellaneous goods and services. The box on p. 2 describes each expenditure component.

Source of Data

Data used to estimate expenditures on children are from the 1990-92 Consumer Expenditure Survey-Interview portion (CE). This survey is the most comprehensive source of information on household expenditures available at the national level. Administered by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), U.S. Department of Labor, the CE has been conducted annually since 1980 and collects information on characteristics and income as well as expenditures of consumer units. For this study, the terms *households* and *families* are used for consumer units. About 5,000 households are interviewed each quarter over a 1-year period. Each quarter is deemed an independent sample by BLS, bringing the total number of households in each year's survey to about 20,000 households.

From these households, husband-wife and single-parent families were selected for this study if: (1) they had at least one child of their own, age 17 or under, in the household, (2) they had six or fewer children, (3) there were no other related or unrelated people present in the household except their own children, and (4) they were complete income reporters. As defined by BLS, complete income reporters are households that provide values for major sources of income, such as wages and salaries, self-employment income, and Social Security income. Quarterly expenditures were annualized. The sample consisted of 12,850 husband-wife households and 3,395 single-parent households and was weighted to reflect the U.S. population of interest, using BLS weighting methods.

Although based on 1990-92 data, the expense estimates were updated to 1997 dollars using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) (1990 and 1991 expenditure and income data were first converted to 1992 dollars; then all 3 years of data were updated to 1997 dollars). Income levels of households were updated to 1997 dollars using the all-items category of the CPI, and expenditures were updated using the CPI for the corresponding item (that is, the CPI's for housing, food, etc.). Regional estimates were updated to 1997 dollars using the regional CPI's. Because there is no rural CPI, the CPI for size class D—nonmetropolitan areas with populations less than 50,000—was applied to rural areas.

Expenditures by Husband-Wife Families

Estimating Expenditures

The CE collects overall household expenditure data for some budgetary components (housing, food, transportation, health care, and miscellaneous goods and services) and child-specific (or adult-specific) expenditure data for other components (clothing, child care, and education). Multivariate analysis was used to estimate household and child-specific expenditures, controlling for income level, family size, and age of the younger child so estimates could be made for families with these varying characteristics. Regional estimates were derived by controlling for region. The three income groups of husband-wife households (before-tax income

Categories of Household Expenditures

Housing expenses include shelter (mortgage interest, property taxes, or rent; maintenance and repairs; and insurance), utilities (gas, electricity, fuel, telephone, and water), and house furnishings and equipment (furniture, floor coverings, major appliances, and small appliances). It should be noted that for homeowners, housing expenses do not include mortgage principal payments; such payments are considered in the CE to be a part of savings. So total dollars allocated to housing by homeowners are underestimated in this report.

Food expenses include food and nonalcoholic beverages purchased at grocery, convenience, and specialty stores, including purchases with food stamps; dining at restaurants; and household expenditures on school meals.

Transportation expenses include the net outlay on purchase of new and used vehicles, vehicle finance charges, gasoline and motor oil, maintenance and repairs, insurance, and public transportation.

Clothing expenses include children's apparel such as diapers, shirts, pants, dresses, and suits; footwear; and clothing services such as dry cleaning, alterations and repair, and storage.

Health care expenses include medical and dental services not covered by insurance, prescription drugs and medical supplies not covered by insurance, and health insurance premiums not paid by employer or other organization.

Child care and education expenses include day care tuition and supplies; baby-sitting; and elementary and high school tuition, books, and supplies.

Miscellaneous expenses include personal care items, entertainment, and reading materials.

under $31,000, between $31,000 and $52,160, and over $52,160 in 1992 dollars) were determined by dividing the sample for the overall United States into equal thirds. Income intervals were used to be consistent with previous USDA studies and to allow ready reference to information for commonly used ranges of income.

For each income level, estimates were made for husband-wife families with two children, where the younger child was in one of six age categories (0–2, 3–5, 6–8, 9–11, 12–14, and 15–17 years). Households with four members (two children) were selected as the standard since four was the average size of two-parent families in 1990-92 based on CE data. The focus was on the younger child in a household because the older child was sometimes over age 17. If the older child had been selected as the household member of interest, expenditures for some items would be higher or lower. In addition, if households with one or three or more children had been selected, per-child expenditures would reflect the differences in family size. As the number of children in a family increases, the allocation of resources among children changes. To adjust expenditures for the older child and number of children, see discussion on pp. 5-7. As an estimated average expense was wanted for families with two children in a given income group, with the younger child in a given age group, and (when appropriate) who resided in a given region, each expense was estimated separately. The specific equations used in estimating child-rearing expenses are listed in the box on p. 3.

It should be noted that the estimates are based on CE interviews of households with and without specific expenses, so for some families their expenditures may be higher or lower than the mean estimates, depending on whether they incur the expense or not. This particularly applies to child care and education for which about 50 percent of families in the study had no expenditure. For more detailed information on child care expenses for households with the expense, see Casper 1995. Also, the estimates only cover out-of-pocket expenditures on children made by the parents and not by others such as grandparents or friends. For example, the

Equations Used in Multivariate Analyses

For the overall U.S. estimates of husband-wife expenditures on children, the specific equation was

$$Ei = a + b1Y2 + b2Y3 + c1HS1 + c2HS3 + d1CA2 + d2CA3 + d3CA4 + d4CA5 + d5CA6$$

where

Ei	=	household expenditures on a particular budgetary component (housing, food, transportation, health care, children's clothing, child care and education, and miscellaneous goods and services)
Y2	=	1 if household had before-tax income between $31,000 and $52,160 in 1992 dollars, 0 otherwise
Y3	=	1 if household had before-tax income over $52,160 in 1992 dollars, 0 otherwise (the omitted category being "household had before-tax income under $31,000 in 1992 dollars")
HS1	=	1 if husband-wife household with one child, 0 otherwise
HS3	=	1 if husband-wife household with three or more children, 0 otherwise (the omitted category being "husband-wife household with two children")
CA2	=	1 if age of the younger child was 3–5, 0 otherwise
CA3	=	1 if age of the younger child was 6–8, 0 otherwise
CA4	=	1 if age of the younger child was 9–11, 0 otherwise
CA5	=	1 if age of the younger child was 12–14, 0 otherwise
CA6	=	1 if age of the younger child was 15–17, 0 otherwise (the omitted category being "age of the younger child was 0–2").

For the regional estimates of husband-wife expenditures on children, the specific equation was

$$Ei = a + b1Y2 + b2Y3 + c1HS1 + c2HS3 + d1CA2 + d2CA3 + d3CA4 + d4CA5 + d5CA6 + e1NE + e2S + e3MW + e4W$$

where

Ei through *CA6* are the same as before *and*

NE	=	1 if household resided in the urban Northeast, 0 otherwise
S	=	1 if household resided in the urban South, 0 otherwise
MW	=	1 if household resided in the urban Midwest, 0 otherwise
W	=	1 if household resided in the urban West, 0 otherwise (the omitted category being "household resided in a rural area anywhere within the United States").

Ordinary least squares analysis was used to estimate expenditures for housing, food, transportation, and miscellaneous goods and services. Tobit analysis was used to estimate expenditures for health care, children's clothing, and child care and education since over 10 percent of the sample reported zero expenses for these budgetary components. Because of these zero expenditures, tobit analysis yields more efficient estimates than ordinary least squares analysis. The procedure outlined by McDonald and Moffitt (1980) was used to transform the tobit analysis estimates into dollars.

Family expenditures on each budgetary component (Ei) were calculated by summing the coefficients for the appropriate income level, household size, age of the younger child, and region when appropriate. For example, expenditures for a husband-wife household in the urban Northeast, with before-tax income between $31,000 and $52,160 in 1992 dollars, two children, and the younger child age 6–8 were calculated as $Ei = a + b1Y2 + d2CA3 + e1NE$.

value of clothing gifts to children from grandparents would not be included in clothing expenses. On the other hand, some of the expenditures reported by parents may be gifts for children other than their own.

Regional income categories are based on the national income categories in 1992 dollars, updated to 1997 dollars using regional/population size CPI's. The regional income categories were not divided into equal thirds for each region. As previously mentioned, the three income categories were calculated for the overall United States by dividing the sample into equal thirds. In the West, Northeast, and Midwest, a lower percentage of households were in the lower income group because income levels were higher in these regions compared with the overall United States; in the South and rural areas, a higher percentage of households were in the lower income group. In the West and Northeast, a higher percentage of households were in the higher income group because income levels were higher in these regions compared with the overall United States.

Allocating Expenditures

After the overall household and child-specific expenditures were estimated, these total amounts were allocated among the four family members (husband, wife, older child, and younger child). The estimated expenditures for clothing and child care and education were only for children. It was assumed these expenses were equally allocated to each child so allocations of these expenses were made by dividing the estimated expenditures by two (the number of children in the household).

CE data on children's clothing expenditures were for children age 15 and under. For the estimates, therefore, it was assumed that the clothing expenditures of a 16- or 17-year-old were similar to those of a 15-year-old, and these older teenagers were assigned the expenditures of a 15-year-old. Also, expenditures for clothing services (dry cleaning, alterations, etc.) were estimated for the overall household and allocated on a per capita basis among its members.

Because the CE did not collect expenditures on food and health care by family member, data from other Federal studies were used to apportion these budgetary components to children by age and household size. Food budget shares as a percentage of total food expenditures for the younger child in a husband-wife household with two children were determined using the 1994 USDA food plans (U.S. Department of Agriculture 1994). The food plans are based on household use and individual intake, and food expenditure data. They reflect the cost of a nutritious diet taking into account food costs, food composition, nutritional needs, and consumption behavior. The food budget shares from the food plans were estimated by age of the child and household income level. The food budget shares were then applied to the estimated household food expenditures to determine food expenses on children. The calculated food budget shares are shown in table 8. As an example of how food expenditures were calculated on a 3-5 year old, who is the younger child in a married-couple, two-child household in the middle income group, overall household food expenditures were estimated from the multivariate analysis to be $5,565 in 1992 dollars for this family type. Based on the food plans, the food budget share for this 3-5 year old was figured to be 18 percent. Thus, food expenditures on the 3-5 year old were estimated to be $1,002 ($5,565 x .18) in 1992 dollars.

Table 8. Children's food budget shares by age and income group in husband-wife families*

Age of child	Income group: Lowest	Middle	Highest
	----------Percent share----------		
0–2	18	17	17
3–5	18	18	18
6–8	22	22	21
9–11	24	24	23
12–14	25	24	24
15–17	25	25	24

*Estimated shares are for the younger child in two-child families.

The 1987 National Medical Expenditure Survey (NMES) conducted by the Public Health Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) contains data on out-of-pocket health care expenses by age of individual household members (Lefkowitz and Monheit 1991). NMES data were used to determine the proportion of health care expenses attributable to the younger child in a husband-wife household with two children. These individual member shares for health care expenses were then applied to estimated household health care expenditures to determine expenses on children. Applying these derived health care expense shares to total household health care expenditures for the three income groups in 1990-92 assumes these shares have not changed since 1987 and do not vary by income. Published data on individual member shares for health care expenses by household income level were not available. Health care budget shares by age of the younger child in a husband-wife household with two children were 20 percent for a child age 0–5 and 22 percent for a child age 6–17.

Unlike food and health care, no research base exists for allocating expenditures on housing, transportation, and miscellaneous goods and services among individual household members. Two of the most common approaches for allocating these expenses are the marginal cost method and the per capita method. The marginal cost method measures expenditures on children as the difference in expenses between couples with children and equivalent childless couples. The method depends on development of an equivalency measure for which there is no established base. Various measures have been proposed, with each yielding different estimates of expenditures on children. These measures are described in more detail in the section "Alternative Estimates of Expenditures on Children" and the appendix. Some of the marginal cost approaches do not consider substitution effects. They assume, for example, that parents do not alter their expenditures on themselves after a child is added to a household. In addition, it is possible that some couples without children buy larger houses in anticipation of children; other couples without children purchase less expensive housing in anticipation of future child-rearing expenses. Comparing the expenditures of these couples to similar couples with children could lead to underestimates or overestimates of expenditures on children.

For these reasons, the per capita method was used for this study. This method simply allocates expenses among household members in equal proportions. Although the per capita method has its limitations, these were deemed less than those of the marginal cost approach. A major limitation of the per capita method is that expenditures for an additional child may be less than average expenditures. Because of this possibility, adjustment formulas for one child or three or more children were devised for use when estimating expenditures on children for households of different sizes. These formulas are discussed in the next section.

Transportation expenses attributed to employment (employment being the primary purpose of the trip) are not related to expenses on children, so these costs were excluded from estimated expenses. Data from a 1990 study by the U.S. Department of Transportation (1994) were used to calculate the percentage of transportation expenditures attributable to employment-related activities for husband-wife households with the youngest child of different ages. Employment-related transportation activities accounted for 40 percent of travel for households with the youngest child under age 6, and 38 percent for households with the youngest child age 6–17. Deducting these percentages from total transportation expenditures for the three income groups assumes these patterns do not vary by income level. Published data on transportation activities for various family types by income level were not available.

Adjustments for Older Children and Household Size

The estimates of expenses on children represent expenditures on the younger child in a husband-wife household with two children. Expenses for the older child may be different. To determine the extent of this difference and how the expenditures may be adjusted to estimate expenses on an older child, the previous method was essentially repeated with the focus on the older child. Multivariate analysis was used to estimate expenditures for each budgetary component, controlling for household size (a family with two children was used as the standard) and age of the older child (the same age categories as used with the younger child). Household income and region of residence were not held constant, so findings apply to all families. The sample was smaller than that used for the principal analysis, since only households with an older child age 17 or under were selected. The sample was weighted to reflect the U.S. population of interest.

Children's clothing and child care and education expenditures were divided between the two children in the two-parent household. For food and health care, household member shares were calculated for a four-person household (husband, wife, and two children with the older child in one of the six age categories) using the USDA and HHS studies. The shares for the

Table 9. Estimated annual expenditures* on one, two, or three children by husband-wife families, overall United States, 1997

One-child household		Annual expenditure
Age of child		
0–2		$9,990 = ($8,060 x 1.24)
3–5		10,250 = (8,270 x 1.24)
6–8		10,350 = (8,350 x 1.24)
9–11		10,320 = (8,320 x 1.24)
12–14		11,220 = (9,050 x 1.24)
15–17		11,370 = (9,170 x 1.24)
Two-child household		
Age of younger child	Age of older child	
0–2	16	$17,230 = ($8,060 + $9,170)
3–5	16	17,440 = (8,270 + 9,170)
6–8	16	17,520 = (8,350 + 9,170)
9–11	16	17,490 = (8,320 + 9,170)
12–14	16	18,220 = (9,050 + 9,170)
15	16	18,340 = (9,170 + 9,170)
Three-child household		
Age of youngest child	Age of older children	
0–2	13, 16	$20,240 = [($8,060 + $9,050 + $9,170) x 0.77]
3–5	13. 16	20,400 = [(8,270 + 9,050 + 9,170) x 0.77]
6–8	13, 16	20,460 = [(8,350 + 9,050 + 9,170) x 0.77]
9–11	13, 16	20,440 = [(8,320 + 9,050 + 9,170) x 0.77]
12	13, 16	21,000 = [(9,050 + 9,050 + 9,170) x 0.77]

*Estimates are for families with 1997 before-tax incomes between $35,500 and $59,700.

older child were then applied to estimated household food and health care expenditures to determine expenses on the older child in each age category. Housing, transportation, and miscellaneous expenditures were allocated among household members on a per capita basis. Transportation expenses were adjusted to reflect nonemployment-related activities.

It was found that tables 1–6 reflect total expenditures on an older child in a husband-wife, two-child family, as well as on a younger child. Therefore, annual expenditures on children in a husband-wife, two-child family may be estimated by summing the total expenses for the specific age categories of the two children. For example, annual expenditures on a younger child age 9–11 and an older child age 15–17 in a husband-wife, two-child family in the middle income group for the overall United States would be $17,490 ($8,320 + $9,170) (table 9). It should be noted that for specific budgetary components, annual expenses on an older child varied compared with those on a younger child.

Families spent more on clothing and education for an older child but less on transportation and miscellaneous expenses.

The estimates should be adjusted if a household has only one child or more than two children. Families will spend more or less on a child depending on the number of other children in the household and economies of scale. To derive these adjustments, multivariate analysis was used to estimate expenditures for each budgetary component, controlling for household size and age of the younger child but not household income level and region of the country, so the results are applicable to all families. These expenditures were then assigned to children using the previous method. Compared with expenditures for each child in a husband-wife, two-child family, husband-wife households with one child spend an average of 24 percent more on the single child, and those with three or more children spend an average of 23 percent less on each child.

Therefore, to estimate annual overall expenditures on an only child using tables 1–6, 24 percent should be added to the total expense for each age category. To estimate expenses on three or more children, 23 percent should be subtracted from the total expense for each child's age category and these totals should be summed. For a particular budgetary component, the percentages may be more or less. As family size increases, costs per child for food decrease less than for housing and transportation. Much housing space is used in common, and car trips can serve more than one child.

As an example of adjustments needed for different numbers of children, total expenses on children in families with one, two, and three children are presented in table 9 for a household in the middle income group. In the example, the age of the older child is 16 in the two-child household and the ages of the older children are 13 and 16 in the three-child household. As can be seen, less is spent per child as family size increases. The estimated annual expense on a child age 0–2 with no siblings is $9,990; for two children ages 0–2 and 16, it is $17,230; and for three children ages 0–2, 13, and 16, $20,240.

Expenditures by Single-Parent Families

The estimates of expenditures on children by husband-wife families do not apply to single-parent families, which account for an increasing percentage of families with children. Separate estimates of child-rearing expenses in single-parent households were made using 1990-92 CE data. Most single-parent families in the survey (90 percent) were headed by a woman.

The method used in determining child-rearing expenses for two-parent households was followed. Multivariate analysis was used to estimate expenditures for each budgetary component, controlling for income level, household size (a single parent with two children was used as the standard), and age of the younger child (the same age categories as used with children in two-parent families). Because of sample size limitations, expenses were not estimated by region.

Income groups of single-parent households (before-tax income under $31,000 and $31,000 and over in 1992 dollars; these income groups are inflated to 1997 dollars in the table) were selected to correspond with the income groups used for husband-wife households. This income includes child support payments. The two higher income groups of two-parent families (income between $31,000 and $52,160 and over $52,160 in 1992 dollars) were combined because only 17 percent of single-parent households had a before-tax income of $31,000 and over. The sample was weighted to reflect the U.S. population of interest.

Expenses for children's clothing and for child care and education were divided between the two children in the one-parent household. For food and health care, household member expenditure shares were calculated for a three-member household (single parent and two children, with the younger child in one of the six age categories) using the USDA and HHS studies. These shares for the younger child in a single-parent family were then applied to estimated household food and health care expenditures to determine expenses for the younger child in each age category. Housing, transportation, and miscellaneous expenditures were allocated among household members on a per capita basis. Transportation expenses were adjusted to account for nonemployment-related activities in single-parent families. Income and expenses were updated to 1997 dollars.

Table 10. Comparison of estimated expenditures* on children by single-parent and husband-wife families, overall United States, 1997

Age of child	Single-parent households	Husband-wife households
0–2	$4,900	$5,820
3–5	5,510	5,920
6–8	6,230	6,070
9–11	5,820	6,090
12–14	6,270	6,880
15–17	6,970	6,790
Total	$107,100	$112,710

*Estimates are for the younger child in two-child families with 1997 before-tax income less than $35,500.

Estimates of child-rearing expenses for single-parent families are in table 7. For the lower income group (1997 before-tax income less than $35,500), a comparison of estimated expenditures on the younger child in a two-child, single-parent family with those in a husband-wife family is presented in table 10, as previously discussed, 83 percent of single-parent families and 33 percent of husband-wife families were in this lower income group. Total expenditures on a child up to age 18 were, on average, 5 percent lower in single-parent households than in two-parent households. But more single-parent than husband-wife families fell in the bottom range of this lower income group. Average income for single-parent families in the lower income group was $14,800, compared with $22,100 for husband-wife families. Single-parent families in this lower income group, therefore, spend a larger proportion of their income on their children. On average, child-related housing expenses were higher, whereas expenditures on transportation, health care, child care and education, and miscellaneous goods and services were lower in single-parent families. Child-related food and clothing expenditures were similar, on average, in single-parent and in two-parent families.

For the higher income group of single-parent families (1997 before-tax income of $35,500 and over), estimates of child-rearing expenses were about the same as those for two-parent households in the before-tax income group of more than $59,700: total expenses for the younger child up to age 18 were $225,360 for single-parent families versus $224,040 for husband-wife families in 1997 dollars. However, the average income of single-parent households was much lower. Therefore, child-rearing expenses in the higher income group of single-parent families consume a larger proportion of income than they do in husband-wife families. Expenditures on children do not appear to differ very much among single-parent and husband-wife households. What differs is household income levels. As single-parent families have one less potential earner (the absent partner), their total household income is lower and child-rearing expenses consume a greater percentage of income.

The estimates only cover out-of-pocket child-rearing expenditures made by the parent who has the primary care of the child. The estimates do not include child-related expenditures made by the parent without primary care or by others, such as grandparents. For example, the parent with whom the child does not reside the majority of the time may incur transportation, food, and entertainment expenses during visitation days and maintain a larger living unit because the child stays with him or her on weekends. The noncustodial parent could also contribute to the child's clothing and health care expenses. Such expenditures could not be estimated from the data. Overall expenses paid by both parents on a child in a single-parent household, therefore, are likely to be greater than this study's estimates.

Adjustments for Older Children and Household Size

To determine the difference in expenditures on an older child in single-parent households, multivariate analysis was used to estimate expenditures for each budgetary component, controlling for household size (a family with two children was used as the standard) and age of the older child. These expenditures were then assigned to children for child-specific expenditures or, for overall household expenditures, allocated to children based on previous research (Lefkowitz and Monheit 1991; U.S. Department of Agriculture 1994) or on a per capita basis.

On average, single-parent households with two children spend about 7 percent less on the older child than on the younger child at a specific age category. This is contrary to husband-wife households that spend about the same amount on either child at a specific age category. In addition, more or less is spent if a single-parent household has only one child or three or more children. To determine these differences, multivariate analysis was used to estimate expenditures for each budgetary component, controlling for household size and age of the younger child. These expenditures were then assigned to children using the previously described method. Compared with expenditures on the younger child in a two-child single-parent family, single-parent families with one child spend an average of 35 percent more on the single child, and those with three or more children spend an average of 28 percent less on each child.

Alternative Estimates of Expenditures on Children

This study estimated child-related expenditures and overall household expenditures. Child-specific expenses were assigned to children; overall expenses were allocated to children based on previous research or on a per capita basis. There are other approaches to estimating expenditures on children. Two common methods are the marginal cost method and a strict per capita method.

A study sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (1990) estimated husband-wife child-rearing expenses, based on the 1980-87 CE, using these alternative methods and compared them with USDA's estimates. The comparison was based on child-rearing expense estimates as a percentage of total family expenditures, so the estimates did not have to be converted into real dollars. The marginal cost method, which measures expenditures on children as the difference in expenses between couples with children and equivalent childless couples, was implemented using two equivalency measures—the Engel and Rothbarth estimators.

The Engel estimator assumes that if two families spend an equal percentage of their total expenditures on food, they are equally well-off. The Rothbarth estimator uses spending an equal amount on observable adult goods as the equivalency measure. The strict per capita approach allocates household expenditures equally among family members.

The results of these different methods for estimating child-rearing expenses (including the most recent USDA estimates) are presented in table 11, by number of children and total household expenditures. The results for the Engel and Rothbarth estimators are taken directly from the HHS study. The USDA estimates are based on the 1995 study. USDA's child-rearing estimates were consistently below those derived using a strict per capita approach. This was expected, as not all goods and services are shared equally among family members. The Engel and Rothbarth techniques yield varying estimates, which differ as much as 20 percentage points for a family with three children. So when using the marginal cost method in estimating expenditures on children, the choice of an equivalency measure is obviously critical since different measures yield different results.

USDA's estimates of child-rearing expenses were between those produced by the Engel and Rothbarth techniques. All estimates indicate that expenditures on children do not increase proportionately as the number of children increases. Expenditures on two children are less than twice as much as those on one child.

Although the USDA utilizes the per capita approach rather than a marginal cost approach in allocating housing, transportation, and miscellaneous expenditures to children in a household, a USDA study (Lino and Johnson 1995) examined how these expenses would be allocated using three different marginal cost approaches—the Engel, Rothbarth, and Barten-Gorman estimators. The USDA study differed from the HHS study in that it only applied the results from the marginal cost methods to these three selected expenses. The focus was on the younger child in a two-child family. The Rothbarth method produced unrealistically low estimates of expenditures on children. The Engel and Barten-Gorman methods produced estimates of expenditures on a child for housing and miscellaneous goods and services that were below those produced by the USDA per capita method. For transportation expenses on a child, the Engel and Barten-Gorman methods produced estimates that were higher than the USDA per capita method. For a detailed description of this study, see the appendix, p. 13.

Table 11. Average percent of household expenditures attributable to children in husband-wife families

Child expenditures	Estimator: Engel[1]	Rothbarth[1]	Per capita	USDA[2]
Number of children	*Percent*			
One	33	25	33	26
Two	49	35	50	42
Three	59	39	60	48
Household expenditure level[3]				
Low	49	36	50	45
Average	49	36	50	42
High	49	35	50	39

1Percentages for these estimators taken from: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1990.
2Percentages taken from the 1995 USDA study. Average expenditures of families in each income level were used to make comparisons. Percentages by number of children are based on average expenditures of middle-income families.
3Percentages by household expenditure level are for a family with two children.

Estimating Future Costs

The estimates presented so far represent household expenditures on a child of a certain age in 1997. To estimate these expenses over time future price changes need to be incorporated. To do this, a future cost formula is used:

$$C_f = C_p (1 + i)^n$$

where

C_f = projected future annual dollar expenditure on a child of a particular age
C_p = present (1997) annual dollar expenditure on a child of a particular age
i = projected annual inflation (or deflation)
n = number of years from present until child will reach a particular age.

An example of estimated future expenditures on the younger child in a husband-wife family with two children is presented in table 12. The example assumes a child is born in 1997, reaching age 17 in the year 2014, and the average annual inflation rate over this time is 5.0 percent (the average annual inflation rate over the past 20 years) (U.S. Department of Commerce 1997). As can be seen, total family expenses on a child through age 17 would be $178,840 for households in the lowest income group, $242,890 for those in the middle, and $353,130 for those in the highest. In 1997 dollar values, these figures would be $112,710, $153,660, and $224,040, respectively.

Inflation rates other than 5.0 percent could be used in the formula if inflation projections change. Also, it is somewhat unrealistic to assume that households remain in one income category as a child grows older. For most families, income rises over time so a family may move from one income group to another. In addition, such inflation projections assume child-rearing expenditures change only with inflation. Parental expenditure patterns also change over time.

Other Expenditures

Expenditures estimated in this study were composed of direct parental expenses made on children through age 17 for seven major budgetary components. These expenditures excluded costs related to childbirth and prenatal health care. In 1995, health care costs averaged $6,378 for a normal delivery and $10,638 for a Caesarean delivery (Health Insurance Association of America 1996). These costs may be reduced by health insurance.

Table 12. Estimated annual expenditures* on children born in 1997, by income group, overall United States

Year	Age	Income group Lowest	Middle	Highest
1997	<1	$5,820	$8,060	$11,990
1998	1	6,110	8,460	12,590
1999	2	6,420	8,890	13,220
2000	3	6,850	9,570	14,160
2001	4	7,200	10,050	14,870
2002	5	7,560	10,550	15,610
2003	6	8,130	11,190	16,320
2004	7	8,540	11,750	17,140
2005	8	8,970	12,340	18,000
2006	9	9,450	12,910	18,760
2007	10	9,920	13,550	19,690
2008	11	10,420	14,230	20,680
2009	12	12,360	16,250	23,220
2010	13	12,970	17,070	24,380
2011	14	13,620	17,920	25,600
2012	15	14,120	19,060	27,570
2013	16	14,820	20,020	28,940
2014	17	15,560	21,020	30,390
Total		**$178,840**	**$242,890**	**$353,130**

*Estimates are for the younger child in husband-wife families with two children.

One of the largest expenses made on children after age 17 is the cost of a college education. The College Board (1997) estimated that in 1997-98, annual average tuition and fees were $3,027 at 4-year public colleges and $11,721 at 4-year private colleges; annual room and board was $4,152 at 4-year public colleges and $4,883 at 4-year private colleges. For 2-year colleges in 1997-98, annual average tuition and fees were $1,538 at public colleges and $7,100 at private colleges; annual room and board was $4,240 at 2-year private colleges (no estimates were given for 2-year public colleges). Other parental expenses on children after age 17 could include those associated with children living at home or if children do not live at home, gifts and other contributions to them. A 1996 survey found that 47 percent of parents in their fifties support children over 21 years of age (Phoenix Home Life Mutual Insurance Company 1996).

The estimates do not include all government expenditures on children. Examples of excluded expenses would be public education, Medicaid, and subsidized school meals. The actual expenditures on children (by parents and the government), therefore, would be higher than reported in this study, especially for children in the lowest income group. Indirect costs involved in child rearing were also not included in the estimates. Although these costs are typically more difficult to measure than direct expenditures, they may be substantial. The time involved in rearing children is considerable. In addition, to care for children, current earnings and future career opportunities may be diminished because of reduced time in the labor force for one or both parents. For more on these indirect costs, see Ireland and Ward 1995, Bryant et al. 1992, and Spalter-Roth and Hartmann 1990.

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Appendix
Allocating Selected Expenditures Using Marginal Cost Methods

The USDA utilizes the per capita approach rather than a marginal cost approach in allocating housing, transportation, and miscellaneous expenditures to children in a household. A USDA study (Lino and Johnson 1995) examined how these expenses would be allocated using three different marginal cost approaches. Using data from the 1990 CE, the USDA study derived the share of expenditures allocated to children from the marginal cost methods and applied them to housing, transportation, and miscellaneous expenses for married-couple families with two children with the focus being on the younger child. The three marginal cost methods were the Engel, Rothbarth, and Barten-Gorman estimators. Each of these estimators measure expenditures on children as the difference in expenses between couples with children and equivalent childless couples. However, they differ on how to determine the equivalency between couples.

The Engel estimator is based on work done in the 19th century (see U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 1990 for a summary of Engel's work). It postulates that the percentage of a family's total expenditures allocated to food—their food share—is a measure of well-being. Families with the same food share are assumed to be equally well-off. The Rothbarth estimator, which is based on work done in the 1940's (Rothbarth 1943), postulates that the well-being of families can be determined by the level of excess income available to them after necessary expenditures are met. Although Rothbarth defined excess income to include luxuries and savings, the USDA study used expenditures on adult clothing, alcohol, and tobacco as the measure of well-being. Other studies applying the Rothbarth method have used a similar definition (Lazear and Michael 1988, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 1990). Whereas the Engel and Rothbarth methods use a proxy for the well-being of a household, the Barten-Gorman method uses a more general utility function to measure it (see Lino and Johnson 1995 for more detail). Individual budgetary-component shares attributable to children are derived with this method.

The Rothbarth method produced unrealistically low estimates of expenditures on children, which was probably due to the measure of well-being used in the study. Rothbarth defined the measure of well-being as excess income, which included expenses on luxuries and savings. As the CE does not have a direct measure of excess income, a proxy had to be used (expenditures on adult clothing, alcohol, and tobacco). Because of this problem, results from the Rothbarth method were discounted.

The Engel method produced estimates of expenditures on a child for housing and miscellaneous goods and services that were 28 percent below those produced by the USDA per capita method. The Barten-Gorman method produced estimates for housing expenses that were 44 percent below the per capita method and estimates for expenses on miscellaneous goods and services that were 28 percent below the per capita method. For transportation expenses on a child, the Engel and Barten-Gorman methods produced estimates that were higher than the USDA per capita method because the latter excludes the proportion of household transportation expenses that are employment related. Estimates of transportation expenses on a child using the Engel method were 19 percent above the USDA estimates, and those using the Barten-Gorman method were 26 percent above the USDA estimates.

If the Engel or Barten-Gorman methods are preferred over the per capita method for estimating child-rearing expenses for housing, transportation, or miscellaneous goods and services, the expense estimates produced by USDA could be adjusted by the percentages given above. For example, if the Engel approach is believed to be more appropriate for measuring housing expenses on a child than the USDA per capita approach, the USDA expense estimates for housing should be reduced by 28 percent; or if the Engel approach is believed to be more appropriate for measuring transportation expenses on a child, the USDA expense estimates for transportation should be increased by 19 percent.

The USDA study (Lino and Johnson 1995) concluded the marginal cost methods described here are not more appropriate than the per capita method in estimating child-rearing expenses for these three budgetary components. The marginal cost methods have limitations that are equal to or exceed those of the per capita method. As previously explained, each version of the marginal cost method assumes a "true equivalency measure." The assumption that families who spend the same proportion of their total expenditures on food are equally well-off has never been proven, nor has the supposition that families behave according to a specific utility function. Also, the marginal cost method theorizes the difference in total expenditures between couples with and without children can be attributed solely to the children in a family. This has never been proven either.

The marginal cost approach was not applied to the housing, transportation, and miscellaneous expenses of single-parent families as the selection of a comparison group was too difficult. Single parents with children face circumstances that are very different from those faced by single people. Most single parents are mothers with low family incomes. Single people include many professionals with high incomes and high expenditures. Comparing the two groups could lead to the illogical finding that expenses on children are negative.

It should be noted that the equivalency measures obtained from the Engel and Rothbarth techniques in the HHS study described in the section "Alternative Estimates of Expenditures on Children" differ from those obtained in the USDA study using the same techniques. Both techniques yielded lower estimates in the USDA study than in the HHS study. Different results from the two studies may be caused by: (1) controlling for more variables, such as race, parents' education, etc., when the HHS study estimated its equivalency measures, and (2) the different years of data used in the two studies.

Table 1. Estimated annual expenditures* on a child by husband-wife families, overall Unted States, 1997

Age of child	Total	Housing	Food	Transportation	Clothing	Health care	Child care and education	Miscellaneous†
Before-tax income: Less than $35,500 (Average=$22,100)								
0-2	$5,820	$2,220	$830	$730	$370	$400	$690	$580
3-5	5,920	2,190	920	700	360	380	780	590
6-8	6,070	2,120	1,190	820	410	440	460	630
9-11	6,090	1,910	1,420	890	450	480	280	660
12-14	6,880	2,130	1,490	1,000	760	480	200	820
15-17	6,790	1,720	1,610	1,350	670	510	330	600
Total	$112,710	$36,870	$22,380	$16,470	$9,060	$8,070	$8,220	$11,640
Before-tax income: $35,500 to $59,700 (Average=$47,200)								
0-2	$8,060	$3,000	$990	$1,090	$440	$520	$1,130	$890
3-5	8,270	2,970	1,140	1,060	430	500	1,260	910
6-8	8,350	2,900	1,460	1,180	480	570	810	950
9-11	8,320	2,700	1,710	1,250	530	620	530	980
12-14	9,050	2,920	1,730	1,360	890	620	390	1,140
15-17	9,170	2,500	1,920	1,720	790	660	660	920
Total	$153,660	$50,970	$26,850	$22,980	$10,680	$10,470	$14,340	$17,370
Before-tax income: More than $59,700 (Average=$89,300)								
0-2	$11,990	$4,770	$1,310	$1,520	$580	$600	$1,710	$1,500
3-5	12,230	4,740	1,480	1,490	570	580	1,860	1,510
6-8	12,180	4,670	1,790	1,610	620	660	1,280	1,550
9-11	12,090	4,470	2,080	1,680	680	710	890	1,580
12-14	12,930	4,690	2,180	1,790	1,120	710	690	1,750
15-17	13,260	4,270	2,300	2,180	1,020	750	1,210	1,530
Total	$224,040	$82,830	$33,420	$30,810	$13,770	$12,030	$22,920	$28,260

*Estimates are based on 1990-92 Consumer Expenditure Survey data updated to 1997 dollars using the Consumer Price Index. The figures represent estimated expenses on the younger child in a two-child family. Estimates are about the same for the older child, so to calculate expenses for two children, figures should be summed for the appropriate age categories. To estimate expenses for an only child, multiply the total expense for the appropriate age category by 1.24. To estimate expenses for each child in a family with three or more children, multiply the total expense for each appropriate age category by 0.77. For expenses on all children in a family, these totals should be summed.

†Miscellaneous expenses include personal care items, entertainment, and reading materials.

Table 2. Estimated annual expenditures* on a child by husband-wife families, urban West,† 1997

Age of child	Total	Housing	Food	Transportation	Clothing	Health care	Child care and education	Miscellaneous‡
Before-tax income: Less than $35,200 (Average=$22,000)								
0-2	$6,420	$2,650	$900	$790	$360	$340	$700	$680
3-5	6,560	2,630	1,000	770	350	320	790	700
6-8	6,730	2,600	1,290	880	390	370	470	730
9-11	6,820	2,450	1,540	950	430	400	280	770
12-14	7,570	2,630	1,610	1,070	720	410	200	930
15-17	7,520	2,260	1,740	1,410	640	430	330	710
Total	$124,860	$45,660	$24,240	$17,610	$8,670	$6,810	$8,310	$13,560
Before-tax income: $35,200 to $59,300 (Average=$46,900)								
0-2	$8,670	$3,410	$1,060	$1,160	$420	$460	$1,160	$1,000
3-5	8,900	3,390	1,220	1,140	410	440	1,280	1,020
6-8	8,990	3,350	1,560	1,250	460	500	820	1,050
9-11	9,030	3,210	1,840	1,310	510	540	530	1,090
12-14	9,720	3,390	1,840	1,440	850	550	400	1,250
15-17	9,900	3,020	2,050	1,790	750	580	680	1,030
Total	$165,630	$59,310	$28,710	$24,270	$10,200	$9,210	$14,610	$19,320
Before-tax income: More than $59,300 (Average=$88,700)								
0-2	$12,450	$5,040	$1,370	$1,600	$550	$540	$1,760	$1,590
3-5	12,740	5,030	1,550	1,580	540	520	1,910	1,610
6-8	12,680	4,990	1,870	1,680	590	590	1,320	1,640
9-11	12,630	4,840	2,180	1,750	640	630	910	1,680
12-14	13,430	5,020	2,280	1,870	1,070	640	710	1,840
15-17	13,800	4,650	2,400	2,250	960	670	1,240	1,630
Total	$233,190	$88,710	$34,950	$32,190	$13,050	$10,770	$23,550	$29,970

*Estimates are based on 1990-92 Consumer Expenditure Survey data updated to 1997 dollars using the regional Consumer Price Index. The figures represent estimated expenses on the younger child in a two-child family. Estimates are about the same for the older child, so to calculate expenses for two children, figures should be summed for the appropriate age categories. To estimate expenses for an only child, multiply the total expense for the appropriate age category by 1.24. To estimate expenses for each child in a family with three or more children, multiply the total expense for each appropriate age category by 0.77. For expenses on all children in a family, these totals should be summed.

†The Western region consists of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

‡Miscellaneous expenses include personal care items, entertainment, and reading materials.

Table 3. Estimated annual expenditures* on a child by husband-wife families, urban Northeast,† 1997

Age of child	Total	Housing	Food	Transportation	Clothing	Health care	Child care and education	Miscellaneous‡
Before-tax income: Less than $35,300 (Average=$22,000)								
0-2	$6,100	$2,650	$930	$610	$400	$390	$560	$560
3-5	6,210	2,640	1,020	580	390	370	630	580
6-8	6,420	2,600	1,310	690	430	420	360	610
9-11	6,570	2,450	1,570	760	480	450	210	650
12-14	7,390	2,630	1,640	880	820	460	150	810
15-17	7,300	2,260	1,760	1,220	720	490	250	600
Total	$119,970	$45,690	$24,690	$14,220	$9,720	$7,740	$6,480	$11,430
Before-tax income: $35,300 to $59,300 (Average=$46,900)								
0-2	$8,280	$3,410	$1,080	$980	$470	$510	$950	$880
3-5	8,500	3,390	1,240	960	460	490	1,060	900
6-8	8,660	3,360	1,580	1,060	510	560	660	930
9-11	8,740	3,210	1,850	1,130	560	600	420	970
12-14	9,520	3,390	1,860	1,260	950	610	310	1,140
15-17	9,620	3,020	2,060	1,610	850	640	520	920
Total	$159,960	$59,340	$29,010	$21,000	$11,400	$10,230	$11,760	$17,220
Before-tax income: More than $59,300 (Average=$88,800)								
0-2	$12,010	$5,050	$1,380	$1,420	$610	$600	$1,480	$1,470
3-5	12,260	5,030	1,560	1,400	590	570	1,620	1,490
6-8	12,300	4,990	1,880	1,510	650	650	1,090	1,530
9-11	12,320	4,840	2,190	1,580	710	700	740	1,560
12-14	13,190	5,020	2,280	1,700	1,180	710	570	1,730
15-17	13,430	4,650	2,410	2,070	1,070	740	980	1,510
Total	$226,530	$88,740	$35,100	$29,040	$14,430	$11,910	$19,440	$27,870

*Estimates are based on 1990-92 Consumer Expenditure Survey data updated to 1997 dollars using the regional Consumer Price Index. The figures represent estimated expenses on the younger child in a two-child family. Estimates are about the same for the older child, so to calculate expenses for two children, figures should be summed for the appropriate age categories. To estimate expenses for an only child, multiply the total expense for the appropriate age category by 1.24. To estimate expenses for each child in a family with three or more children, multiply the total expense for each appropriate age category by 0.77. For expenses on all children in a family, these totals should be summed.

†The Northeast region consists of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jesey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

‡Miscellaneous expenses include personal care items, entertainment, and reading materials.

Table 4. Estimated annual expenditures* on a child by husband-wife families, urban South,† 1997

Age of child	Total	Housing	Food	Transportation	Clothing	Health care	Child care and education	Miscellaneous‡
Before-tax income: Less than $35,600 (Average=$22,200)								
0-2	$5,890	$2,190	$800	$720	$400	$450	$780	$550
3-5	6,030	2,170	900	700	390	430	870	570
6-8	6,140	2,130	1,160	800	430	490	530	600
9-11	6,220	1,980	1,410	870	480	520	320	640
12-14	7,020	2,170	1,470	1,000	800	540	230	810
15-17	6,970	1,790	1,600	1,330	710	560	390	590
Total	$114,810	$37,290	$22,020	$16,260	$9,630	$8,970	$9,360	$11,280
Before-tax income: $35,600 to $60,000 (Average=$47,400)								
0-2	$8,220	$2,960	$970	$1,090	$470	$590	$1,270	$870
3-5	8,440	2,940	1,120	1,070	460	560	1,400	890
6-8	8,500	2,910	1,430	1,170	510	640	910	930
9-11	8,500	2,760	1,700	1,240	560	680	600	960
12-14	9,210	2,940	1,710	1,360	930	690	450	1,130
15-17	9,420	2,560	1,910	1,720	830	720	770	910
Total	$156,870	$51,210	$26,520	$22,950	$11,280	$11,640	$16,200	$17,070
Before-tax income: More than $60,000 (Average=$89,700)								
0-2	$12,080	$4,630	$1,270	$1,530	$610	$680	$1,890	$1,470
3-5	12,360	4,610	1,450	1,510	600	650	2,050	1,490
6-8	12,280	4,580	1,750	1,610	650	740	1,430	1,520
9-11	12,200	4,420	2,040	1,680	710	780	1,010	1,560
12-14	13,020	4,610	2,140	1,800	1,160	800	790	1,720
15-17	13,440	4,230	2,260	2,170	1,060	820	1,390	1,510
Total	$226,140	$81,240	$32,730	$30,900	$14,370	$13,410	$25,680	$27,810

*Estimates are based on 1990-92 Consumer Expenditure Survey data updated to 1997 dollars using the regional Consumer Price Index. The figures represent estimated expenses on the younger child in a two-child family. Estimates are about the same for the older child, so to calculate expenses for two children, figures should be summed for the appropriate age categories. To estimate expenses for an only child, multiply the total expense for the appropriate age category by 1.24. To estimate expenses for each child in a family with three or more children, multiply the total expense for each appropriate age category by 0.77. For expenses on all children in a family, these totals should be summed.

†The Southern region consists of Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

‡Miscellaneous expenses include personal care items, entertainment, and reading materials.

Table 5. Estimated annual expenditures* on a child by husband-wife families, urban Midwest,† 1997

Age of child	Total	Housing	Food	Transportation	Clothing	Health care	Child care and education	Miscellaneous‡
Before-tax income: Less than $35,700 (Average=$22,300)								
0-2	$5,270	$1,970	$760	$640	$350	$360	$670	$520
3-5	5,400	1,960	850	620	340	340	750	540
6-8	5,540	1,920	1,100	720	380	390	450	580
9-11	5,640	1,770	1,340	790	430	430	270	610
12-14	6,400	1,950	1,400	920	720	440	190	780
15-17	6,330	1,570	1,530	1,260	630	460	320	560
Total	$103,740	$33,420	$20,940	$14,850	$8,550	$7,260	$7,950	$10,770
Before-tax income: $35,700 to $60,100 (Average=$47,500)								
0-2	$7,540	$2,740	$920	$1,010	$420	$490	$1,110	$850
3-5	7,760	2,730	1,070	990	410	460	1,230	870
6-8	7,830	2,690	1,370	1,100	450	530	790	900
9-11	7,870	2,540	1,640	1,170	500	570	510	940
12-14	8,560	2,720	1,640	1,290	850	580	380	1,100
15-17	8,720	2,340	1,840	1,650	750	600	650	890
Total	$144,840	$47,280	$25,440	$21,630	$10,140	$9,690	$14,010	$16,650
Before-tax income: More than $60,100 (Average=$89,900)								
0-2	$11,350	$4,410	$1,230	$1,460	$550	$570	$1,690	$1,440
3-5	11,620	4,390	1,400	1,440	540	550	1,840	1,460
6-8	11,550	4,350	1,690	1,540	590	620	1,260	1,500
9-11	11,500	4,200	1,980	1,610	640	660	870	1,540
12-14	12,330	4,390	2,070	1,740	1,070	680	680	1,700
15-17	12,650	4,010	2,190	2,110	970	700	1,190	1,480
Total	$213,000	$77,250	$31,680	$29,700	$13,080	$11,340	$22,590	$27,360

*Estimates are based on 1990-92 Consumer Expenditure Survey data updated to 1997 dollars using the regional Consumer Price Index. The figures represent estimated expenses on the younger child in a two-child family. Estimates are about the same for the older child, so to calculate expenses for two children, figures should be summed for the appropriate age categories. To estimate expenses for an only child, multiply the total expense for the appropriate age category by 1.24. To estimate expenses for each child in a family with three or more children, multiply the total expense for each appropriate age category by 0.77. For expenses on all children in a family, these totals should be summed.

†The Midwest region consists of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

‡Miscellaneous expenses include personal care items, entertainment, and reading materials.

Table 6. Estimated annual expenditures* on a child by husband-wife families, Rural areas,† 1997

Age of child	Total	Housing	Food	Transportation	Clothing	Health care	Child care and education	Miscellaneous‡
Before-tax income: Less than $35,900 (Average=$22,400)								
0-2	$5,310	$1,660	$770	$830	$360	$440	$700	$550
3-5	5,460	1,650	870	810	350	420	790	570
6-8	5,600	1,610	1,130	920	390	480	470	600
9-11	5,690	1,450	1,370	990	440	520	280	640
12-14	6,460	1,640	1,430	1,110	750	530	200	800
15-17	6,410	1,260	1,560	1,460	660	550	330	590
Total	$104,790	$27,810	$21,390	$18,360	$8,850	$8,820	$8,310	$11,250
Before-tax income: $35,900 to $60,400 (Average=$47,800)								
0-2	$7,640	$2,450	$940	$1,210	$430	$580	$1,160	$870
3-5	7,850	2,430	1,090	1,180	420	550	1,290	890
6-8	7,900	2,390	1,390	1,290	460	630	820	920
9-11	7,950	2,240	1,660	1,360	520	670	540	960
12-14	8,630	2,420	1,660	1,480	870	680	400	1,120
15-17	8,820	2,040	1,860	1,840	780	710	680	910
Total	$146,370	$41,910	$25,800	$25,080	$10,440	$11,460	$14,670	$17,010
Before-tax income: More than $60,400 (Average=$90,500)								
0-2	$11,470	$4,130	$1,240	$1,650	$560	$670	$1,760	$1,460
3-5	11,750	4,120	1,410	1,630	550	640	1,920	1,480
6-8	11,680	4,080	1,710	1,730	600	730	1,320	1,510
9-11	11,630	3,930	2,000	1,800	660	770	920	1,550
12-14	12,450	4,110	2,100	1,930	1,100	790	710	1,710
15-17	12,800	3,730	2,220	2,310	990	810	1,240	1,500
Total	$215,340	$72,300	$32,040	$33,150	$13,380	$13,230	$23,610	$27,630

Estimates are based on 1990-92 Consumer Expenditure Survey data updated to 1997 dollars using the population size Consumer Price Index. The figures represent estimated expenses on the younger child in a two-child family. Estimates are about the same for the older child, so to calculate expenses for two children, figures should be summed for the appropriate age categories. To estimate expenses for an only child, multiply the total expense for the appropriate age category by 1.24. To estimate expenses for each child in a family with three or more children, multiply the total expense for each appropriate age category by 0.77. For expenses on all children in a family, these totals should be summed.

†Rural areas are places of fewer than 2,500 people outside a Metropolitan Statistical Area.

‡Miscellaneous expenses include personal care items, entertainment, and reading materials.

Table 7. Estimated annual expenditures* on a child by single-parent families, overall Unted States, 1997

Age of child	Total	Housing	Food	Transportation	Clothing	Health care	Child care and education	Miscellaneous†
Before-tax income: Less than $35,500 (Average=$14,800)								
0-2	$4,900	$1,990	$920	$680	$340	$190	$430	$350
3-5	5,510	2,260	960	600	360	280	590	460
6-8	6,230	2,410	1,220	690	420	330	540	620
9-11	5,820	2,310	1,410	500	430	420	260	490
12-14	6,270	2,310	1,410	580	720	450	320	480
15-17	6,970	2,450	1,540	900	840	440	250	550
Total	$107,100	$41,190	$22,380	$11,850	$9,330	$6,330	$7,170	$8,850
Before-tax income: $35,500 or more (Average=$53,900)								
0-2	$11,210	$4,290	$1,410	$2,080	$480	$440	$1,060	$1,450
3-5	12,030	4,560	1,500	2,000	500	590	1,330	1,550
6-8	12,800	4,700	1,800	2,090	580	680	1,240	1,710
9-11	12,380	4,610	2,160	1,900	580	810	730	1,590
12-14	13,120	4,610	2,120	1,970	960	860	1,030	1,570
15-17	13,580	4,750	2,240	2,140	1,110	850	840	1,650
Total	$225,360	$82,560	$33,690	$36,540	$12,630	$12,690	$18,690	$28,560

*Estimates are based on 1990-92 Consumer Expenditure Survey data updated to 1997 dollars using the Consumer Price Index. The figures represent estimated expenses on the younger child in a single-parent, two-child family. For estimated expenses on the older child, multiply the total expense for the appropriate age category by 0.93. To estimate expenses for two children, the expenses on the younger child and older child—after adjusting the expense on the older child downward—should be summed for the appropriate age categories. To estimate expenses for an only child, multiply the total expense for the appropriate age category by 1.35. To estimate expenses for each child in a family with three or more children, multiply the total expense for each appropriate age category by 0.72—after adjusting the expenses on the older children downward. For expenses on all children in a family, these totals should be summed.

†Miscellaneous expenses include personal care items, entertainment, and reading materials.

Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion
U.S. Department of Agriculture

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- Report of the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 1995
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FIGHT CRIME · INVEST IN KIDS

QUALITY CHILD CARE AND AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

POWERFUL WEAPONS AGAINST CRIME

A Report

from

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS

February 1998

Executive Summary

Full Report is available on the
FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS' web site at
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A project of the Action Against Crime and Violence Education Fund

Quality Child Care and After-School Programs: Powerful Weapons Against Crime

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WE MUST SPARE NO EFFORT in making sure that dangerous criminals are behind bars. But that strategy by itself will never be enough to make our communities safe. Police, prosecutors, crime survivors, criminologists and child development experts all report the same conclusion: **Quality educational child care for preschool children and after-school programs for school-age kids are among the most powerful weapons in America's anti-crime arsenal.**

The time for philosophical debate about whether such investments "might work" is over. The proof is in: Good child care and after-school youth development programs for at-risk youngsters sharply reduce crime and help children develop the skills and values to become good neighbors and responsible adults instead of criminals. When we fail to invest in the proven programs that help kids get the right start, we all pay an enormous price.

IT IS TIME TO CUT CRIME'S MOST IMPORTANT SUPPLY LINE: ITS ABILITY TO TURN KIDS INTO CRIMINALS.

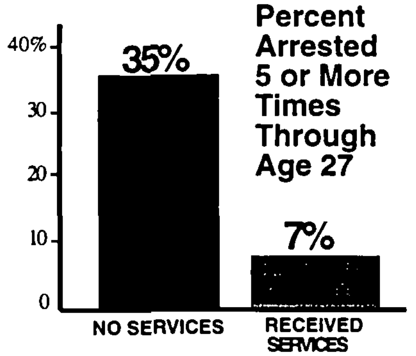
It is time to cut crime's most important supply line: Its ability to turn America's kids into criminals.

QUALITY CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS: PROVEN TO CUT CRIME DRAMATICALLY

Perry Preschool & Home Visit Program's Impact

Decrease In Crime

Preschool and weekly home visits led to an 80% drop in the number of chronic offenders.



"OUR FIGHT AGAINST CRIME NEEDS TO START IN THE HIGH CHAIR, not wait for the electric chair," says Winston-Salem (NC) Chief of Police George Sweat.

He's right.

Powerful evidence from one study after another proves that quality child care in the first five years of life can greatly reduce the risk that today's babies and toddlers will become tomorrow's juvenile delinquents and criminals.

The early childhood development programs for at-risk children which have proven most effective in preventing future delinquency and crime are those which, like the Head Start program for three-and four-year-olds and the Early Head Start

"OUR FIGHT AGAINST CRIME NEEDS TO START IN THE HIGH CHAIR, NOT WAIT FOR THE ELECTRIC CHAIR."

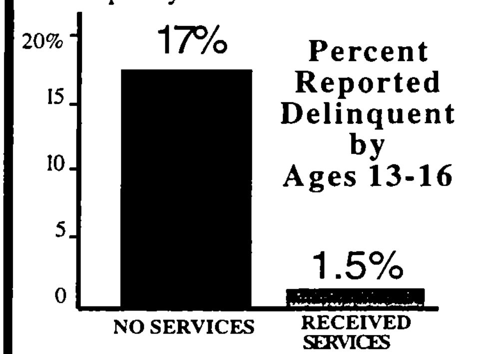
program for children younger than three, supplement educational day care with programs to involve parents and to coach and support them in child-rearing.[1] For example:

◊ A High/Scope Foundation study at the Perry Preschool in Michigan offered at-risk three- and four-year-olds a quality Head Start-style preschool program, supplemented by weekly in-home coaching for parents. Twenty-two years later, those who had been denied the services as toddlers were *five times more likely* to be chronic lawbreakers by age 27.[2]

◊ A similar program in Syracuse, providing child development and health services for at-risk infants and toddlers and parenting support for their mothers and fathers, found that kids denied the services were *ten times more likely* to be delinquent by age 16.[3]

SYRACUSE FAMILY DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH PROGRAM'S IMPACT

Drop in Delinquency
Parent Training, home visits, early childhood education, health, and other human services dramatically cut delinquency.



ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAYS to provide coaching in parenting skills for at-risk parents is through home visits to those parents who want help. Home visitor programs have been proven to strikingly reduce child abuse and neglect while they improve parenting, help children develop into good neighbors, and even reduce the risk that the parent will engage in criminal activity.

Although abuse and neglect are not normally included in crime statistics, most Americans would agree that they are among the nation's most serious crimes. If we included them in our definition of serious crimes, abuse and neglect would make up nearly one-fifth of all serious crimes reported each year. Child abuse and neglect also sharply increase the risk that a child will grow up to become a criminal.[4]

The risk of abuse and neglect declines when parents have adequate knowledge of how children develop in their early years. The potential for abuse skyrockets, for example, when a parent thinks infants are supposed to be toilet-trained at six months, or doesn't understand that young children "go to pieces" when they are tired, or doesn't know that shaking a child can cause brain damage.

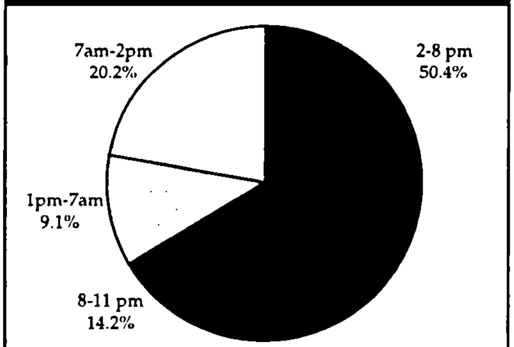
IF WE INCLUDE THEM IN OUR DEFINITION OF SERIOUS CRIMES, ABUSE AND NEGLECT MAKE UP NEARLY ONE FIFTH OF ALL SERIOUS CRIMES REPORTED EACH YEAR.

Studies show that roughly half of all abuse and neglect among high-risk families might be eliminated if such parents were offered family support programs, including parenting-coaching visits to those who want them.[5]

Quality After-School Programs Build Values and Skills While they Shut Down "Prime Time for Juvenile Crime"

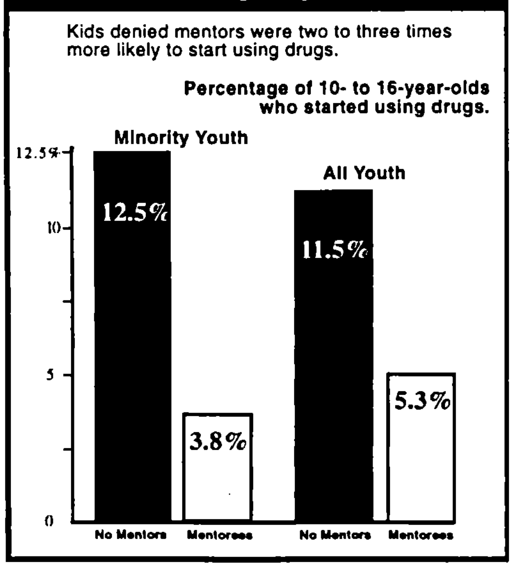
THE PEAK HOURS FOR VIOLENT JUVENILE CRIME ARE FROM 2:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

Peak Hours for Violent Juvenile Crime



Portion of all violent juvenile crime occuring in each time period

Big Brothers/Big Sisters Mentoring Program



THE PEAK HOURS FOR VIOLENT JUVENILE CRIME are from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. In the hour after the school bell rings, juvenile crime suddenly *triples* and prime time for juvenile crime begins. Half of all violent juvenile crime occurs between 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., and *two-thirds* occurs in the nine hours between 2:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.[6]

Quality after-school, weekend and summer programs for children and youth can cut crime dramatically — by offering school-age kids a safe haven from negative influences, and providing constructive activities that teach them not only the skills they need to succeed, but also core values like responsibility, hard work, and respect and concern for others.

For example:

◊ A study of juvenile arrests in a public housing project which instituted an after-school skills development program showed that the number of juvenile arrests declined by 75 percent by the end of the after school program.[7]

◊ In the first year after the Baltimore Police Department opened an after-school program in a high-crime area, crime in that neighborhood dropped 42%.[8]

◊ A Public/Private Ventures study of Big Brothers/Big Sisters' carefully-designed mentoring program showed that young people randomly assigned to receive a trained mentor were only about half as likely to begin illegal drug use or to hit someone as those randomly assigned to the control group.[9]

◊ Participants randomly assigned to a high school Quantum Opportunities Program of counseling, academic and life skills support, community service, and financial incentives, were less than one-quarter as likely to be convicted of a crime during the high-risk high school years as those in a control group. In other words, denying kids these services *quadrupled* the likelihood that they would be convicted of a crime while in high school. *The impact on crime was virtually immediate*, and those who participated in the program were

DENYING KIDS THESE SERVICES QUADRUPLED THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THEY WOULD BE CONVICTED OF A CRIME WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL. THE IMPACT ON CRIME WAS VIRTUALLY IMMEDIATE.

fifty percent more likely to graduate high school on time and two-and-a-half times more likely to attend post-secondary schooling.[10] Programs like Quantum Opportunities show what can happen when after-school enrichment activities are integrated with in-school help for at-risk youngsters.

Quality school-age programs have been shown to have special importance for low-income youngsters, especially those growing up in neighborhoods where "hanging out" means being exposed to negative influences from peers and from older children and adults. These youngsters learn to be more cooperative, get along better with others resolve conflicts more amicably, read more, participate in more academically enriching activities, and improve grades and school conduct, when they are provided quality after-school programs.[11]

As the Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development observed in its seminal report on youth development programs, "risk will be transformed into opportunity" when we provide young people with the out-of-school youth development programs that can turn "their non-school hours into the time of their lives."[12]

CHILD CARE: A SYSTEM IN CRISIS

OUR NATION'S CHILD CARE SYSTEM IS IN CRISIS.

As this decade began, the Committee for Economic Development, made up of executives from America's largest corporations, declared, "The lack of availability of quality child care that is developmentally appropriate, has educational value, and is affordable has created a crisis of national proportions that affects most families but hits low-income families the hardest."[13]

AS WE NEAR THE END OF THE DECADE, THAT CRISIS HAS ESCALATED.

As we near the end of the decade, that crisis has worsened.

AS OF 1995, more than three out of five women with children younger than six, and more than three out of four women with school-age children, were working outside the home.[14] Even among mothers of one-year-olds, more than half work full- or part-time.[15] For many of these parents, especially those at the bottom of the income ladder, debate about whether they should work or stay home ignores reality.

With full-time work at the minimum wage bringing in about $9,000 a year after social security taxes, many families find that they can't possibly make ends meet and provide for their children unless both parents work outside the home. Moreover, one out of four children live with only one parent,[16] and half of all children can now expect to live an average of at least five years in a single-parent family.[17]

supporting adults, whatever is spent on their development and education will be returned many times over in higher productivity, incomes, and taxes and in lower costs for welfare, health care, crime, and myriad other economic and social problems."[20]

"WHEN CHILD CARE AND AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS SAVE DOLLARS AND CUT CRIME, WHY SHOULDN'T OUR FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS PROVIDE THE FUNDING THAT WILL ENABLE COMMUNITIES TO GET THE JOB DONE?"

"The question is not whether we can afford these programs," says former U.S. Attorney General and Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Elliot L. Richardson. "It is whether we can afford to jeopardize the safety of millions of Americans and saddle future generations with the cost of failing to make these proven investments today. When child care and after-school programs save dollars and cut crime, why shouldn't our federal and state governments provide the funding that will enable communities to get the job done?"

An Emerging Unanimity Among Anti-Crime Leaders

THE PEOPLE FIGHTING CRIME ON THE FRONT LINES are less concerned with political ideology than with hard-nosed practical solutions. They insist on dealing with the real world as they find it, and on doing what really works to fight crime.

Everyone agrees, of course, that dangerous criminals need to be locked up. But those who work day in and day out to track down, arrest, and prosecute criminals know that this vital defense is only a stop-gap measure. In the words of Baltimore Police Commissioner Thomas C. Frazier, "Police know that we cannot just arrest our way out of the crime problem."

"We can make ourselves and our children safer," says Buffalo Police Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske, "by investing in child care and after-school programs for America's most vulnerable kids, instead of waiting to spend far more — in money and lives — on those who become America's 'Most Wanted' adults."

92 PERCENT OF POLICE CHIEFS NATION-WIDE AGREED THAT "AMERICA COULD SHARPLY REDUCE CRIME IF GOVERNMENT INVESTED MORE IN PROGRAMS TO HELP CHILDREN AND YOUTH GET A GOOD START."

It is now clear that crime fighters have reached a nearly unanimous conclusion: We need to go on the offense by investing in the child care, parenting education and after-school programs that can keep kids from becoming criminals in the first place.

A POLL OF POLICE CHIEFS conducted for FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS by Northeastern University criminologist Jack McDevitt tells the story:[21]

◊ *92 percent of police chiefs nationwide agreed that "America could sharply reduce crime if government invested more in programs to help children and youth get a good start"* by "fully funding Head Start for infants and toddlers, preventing child abuse, providing parenting training for high-risk families, improving schools and providing after-school programs and mentoring."

◊ Nine out of ten chiefs also agreed that *"if America doesn't pay for greater investments in programs to help children and youth now, we will all pay far more later in crime, welfare, and other costs."*

◊ When asked to pick the strategy that would be "most effective" in the long term in reducing crime and violence, the chiefs chose "increasing investment in programs that help all children and youth get a good start" *nearly four to one* over "trying more juveniles as adults" or even "hiring additional police officers."

"IGNORING PREVENTION INVESTMENTS LEAVES US STUCK ON A TREADMILL," says former U.S. Attorney General Richardson, "running harder and harder to put people in jail while more kids are turned into criminals about as fast as we can lock them up."

MANY CRIME VICTIMS agree. Their tragedies have given them a deep and fundamental understanding that wait-for-the-crime approaches are too little, too late for too many Americans. The voices of crime survivors speak eloquently of the need for a comprehensive and aggressive "invest-in-kids" prevention strategy:

CRIME VICTIMS' TRAGEDIES HAVE GIVEN THEM A DEEP AND FUNDAMENTAL UNDERSTANDING THAT WAIT-FOR-THE-CRIME APPROACHES ARE TOO LITTLE TOO LATE FOR TOO MANY AMERICANS.

"What happened to me didn't have to happen. If we as a nation were investing in programs like quality child care and after-school programs, to give kids the right start, I probably wouldn't have needed those 600 stitches and all those surgeries to repair the damage."

— Ellen Halbert, former Vice-Chair, Texas Board of Criminal Justice. Ms. Halbert, of Austin, was brutally raped, beaten and stabbed by an intruder in her home in 1986.

"To make America safe, we need to be as willing to guarantee our kids space in child care or an after-school program as we are to guarantee a criminal room and board in a prison cell. If we want to do more than flex our muscles and talk about crime — if we want to really keep Americans safe — we must start investing in the programs we know can steer kids down the right path."

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

In some two-parent, middle-income families, adjustments in the tax code may modestly affect parental decisions to work outside the home. But such measures are no substitute for ensuring access to quality child care in the pre-school years, and quality after-school, summer and weekend child and youth development programs for our most at-risk population — the youngsters who must be our first crime prevention priority.

THE HEAD START CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR AT-RISK PRESCHOOLERS IS SO UNDERFUNDED IT CAN REACH JUST FOUR IN TEN ELIGIBLE KIDS — AND USUALLY FOR JUST HALF OF THEIR PARENTS' WORK DAY, FOR ONLY PART OF THE YEAR.

The issue for many families — and for law enforcement — is not whether parents will work. It is whether the care children receive while their parents are working will be good enough to help the kids get a good start in life, or whether it will be care that damages their development and ultimately damages the public safety.

TODAY, QUALITY CHILD CARE AND AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS are financially out of reach for millions of America's most at-risk children and youth. Their families — mostly young and still near the lowest earning levels of their working lives — can no more afford to pay for quality child care during these years than they could afford to pay the full cost of the education we provide through public schools.

Yet the Head Start child development program for at-risk preschoolers is so underfunded it can reach just four in ten eligible kids — and usually for just half of their parents' work day, for only part of the year. And despite all the evidence that the first three years of life are critical to brain development, programs like Early Head Start, designed for kids under three, have funds to serve only a tiny fraction of the babies and toddlers who need them.

FOR THOSE OF US ON THE FRONT LINES OF THE BATTLE AGAINST CRIME, THE ONCE-QUIET CRISIS IN CHILD CARE IS NOW NOISY, PERVASIVE, INSISTENT, AND TRAGIC. IT SCREAMS THROUGH OUR POLICE SIRENS RUSHING TO YET ANOTHER CRIME THAT NEVER HAD TO HAPPEN. IT IS HEARD IN THE CRIES OF AGONY OF THOUSANDS OF CRIME VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES WHOSE LIVES ARE NEEDLESSLY LOST OR SHATTERED EACH YEAR. IT IS VISIBLE AS YELLOW CRIME SCENE TAPE, BODY BAGS, AND BLOOD-STAINED SIDEWALKS ON THE NIGHTLY NEWS.

Meanwhile, the Child Care and Development Block Grant, which assits communities in helping working families afford quality care, today can serve only one in ten of the kids who most need it. Parenting education and family resource programs, whether linked directly to child care or operating separately, can serve only a tiny fraction of the at-risk families who would benefit most. And after-school programs are largely unavailable, especially for the children who need them most.

FOR THOSE OF US ON THE FRONT LINES of the battle against crime, the once-quiet crisis in child care is now noisy, pervasive, insistent, and tragic. It screams through our police sirens rushing to yet another crime that never had to happen. It is heard in the cries of agony of thousands of crime victims and their families whose lives are needlessly lost or shattered each year. It is visible as yellow crime scene tape, body bags, and blood-stained sidewalks on the nightly news.

IF WE WANT OUR OWN FAMILIES TO BE SAFE, WE ALL HAVE A STAKE IN MAKING SURE THAT EVERY WORKING FAMILY HAS ACCESS TO QUALITY CHILD CARE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS.

If there is one point in the discussion of child care that no American can afford to miss, it is this: If we want our own families to be safe, we all have a stake in making sure that every working family has access to quality child care and after school programs, and that all at-risk families have access to parenting education coaching.

Make no mistake about it: ***Our nation's child care crisis is a crime prevention crisis.***

THAT'S THE BAD NEWS. THE GOOD NEWS is that there is no mystery about how to solve that crisis.

PENNY-WISE, POUND-FOOLISH POLICY CHOICES: WASTING MONEY AND LIVES

WHEN AMERICA FAILS TO INVEST IN CHILDREN, we all pay far more later — not just in lives and fear, but also in tax dollars. 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.[18]

THE HIGH/SCOPE FOUNDATION'S PERRY PRESCHOOL STUDY SAVED $150,000 PER PARTICIPANT IN CRIME COSTS ALONE.

Barnett estimates that the cost, including increased crime and welfare costs among others, of failing to provide at least two years of quality early childhood care and education to low-income children is approximately $100,000 per child. That's a total of about $400 billion for all poor children now under five.

◊ A recent unpublished study prepared by Professor Mark A. Cohen of Vanderbilt University estimates that each high-risk youth prevented from adopting a life of crime could save the country from $1.7 million to $2.3 million.[19]

PROFESSOR MARK A. COHEN OF VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY ESTIMATES THAT EACH HIGH-RISK YOUTH PREVENTED FROM ADOPTING A LIFE OF CRIME COULD SAVE THE COUNTRY FROM $1.7 MILLION TO $2.3 MILLION.

AS AMERICA DEBATES how to use expected budget surpluses, we should consider this reminder from the business executives of the Committee for Economic Development:

"Education is an investment, not an expense. If we can ensure that all children are born healthy and develop the skills and knowledge they need to be productive, self-

"WE COULD BE SAVING THOUSANDS OF LIVES... BY INVESTING NOW IN THE PROGRAMS PROVEN TO GIVE KIDS THE RIGHT START IN LIFE."

"Saying we can cure crime by building more prisons is like saying we can cure death by building more cemeteries. But we could be saving thousands of lives — and sparing thousands of families unimaginable heartbreak — by investing now in the child care and after-school programs proven to give kids the right start in life."

—Marc Klaas, President, Klaas Foundation for Children
Mr. Klaas' 12-year-old daughter Polly was kidnapped and murdered in 1993.

From the Front Lines of the Battle Against Crime: A Call for Action

TODAY HUNDREDS OF OUR NATION'S MOST DISTINGUISHED POLICE CHIEFS, sheriffs, prosecutors, crime victim advocates and scholars have joined in calling on all public officials to protect the public safety by adopting common sense policies to:

- **Provide for all infants, toddlers and preschool children access to quality child care at a price their parents can afford.**

That means child care in which staffing levels are high enough and training good enough to assure that children receive the nurturing and stimulation they need to start school ready to succeed and to learn the concern for others and other core values which begin to develop in the first years of life. To be most effective in reducing crime, quality child care and development programs for our most at-risk families should be linked to parenting education and family support.

At the federal level, this means we should be assuring through Early Head Start or other quality programs that our most at-risk babies and toddlers receive the care they need from birth to age three. It means that we should be assuring that Head Start has enough funding to serve all the low-income children who need it, and to provide full-day, high-quality year-round care for the children of working parents. And it means sufficient increases in funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grants to states so that all families will have the help they need to access quality care.

CHILD CARE IN WHICH STAFFING LEVELS ARE HIGH ENOUGH AND TRAINING GOOD ENOUGH... EARLY HEAD START... HEAD START... [AND] SUFFICIENT INCREASES IN FUNDING FOR THE CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS TO STATES.

For states, it means that more should follow the lead of states like North Carolina and Ohio, which have sharply increased their own investment in quality child care and development programs to help their children get the right start.

[STATES] SHOULD FOLLOW THE LEAD OF STATES LIKE NORTH CAROLINA AND OHIO, WHICH HAVE SHARPLY INCREASED THEIR OWN INVESTMENT IN QUALITY CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS... AND OF STATES LIKE MISSOURI AND HAWAII, [WHICH] HAVE LED THE WAY IN SHOWING THAT THEY CAN IMPLEMENT LARGE-SCALE, EFFECTIVE, PARENTING EDUCATION AND FAMILY RESOURCE PROGRAMS.

- **Strengthen families and reduce child abuse, neglect and delinquency by offering all parents (at their option) "parenting coaches" through proven home visiting programs, as well as access to community-based family resource programs.**

States like Missouri and Hawaii have led the way in showing that they can implement large-scale, effective, parenting education and family resource programs, including coaching by home visitors for those who want them, without intruding on family privacy. And the plain fact is, many parents desperately need — and want — more knowledge about normal child development and coaching in parenting skills.

When at-risk parents who want to learn more about parenting — including many young parents who may never have seen healthy parenting in their own homes — are denied that help, their children and all of us are endangered.

- **Provide for all of America's school-age children and teens access to after-school, weekend and summer programs that offer recreation, academic support and community service experience.**

Neither the risk that children will go astray, nor the opportunity to help them realize their potential to become good neighbors and responsible adults, ends when they start school. Early childhood programs must be followed by school-age child care and child and youth development programs. Of course, the after-school options needed for a first-grader, an eighth-grader, and a high school junior differ markedly from one another. But all our youngsters, and especially those in low-income or high-crime areas who are most at risk of delinquency or of becoming crime victims, need access to programs that can help them develop the skills and values they need to succeed as adults.

ALL OF OUR YOUNGSTERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN LOW-INCOME OR HIGH-CRIME AREAS WHO ARE MOST AT RISK OF DELINQUENCY OR OF BECOMING CRIME VICTIMS, NEED ACCESS TO PROGRAMS THAT CAN HELP THEM DEVELOP THE SKILLS AND VALUES THEY NEED TO SUCCEED AS ADULTS.

For the federal government, that will require a major increase in a commitment currently so small that it barely begins to be noticed. For states and localities, it may mean implementing programs like New York City's Beacon schools, through which community groups provide after-school programs in coordination with schools. Other states and localities may choose models which enable children and teens to access the services of community organizations off the school premises — models like the Schools of the 21st Century, sometimes called Family

Resource Centers, now in over 500 schools in 17 states, which use public schools as the hub of a network of services, such as parenting education, full-day, high-quality care for 3-5 year-olds, and child care before and after school and during summer vacations.[22]

Conclusion

TAKEN AS A WHOLE, OUR FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS are falling far short of the investment in child care, parenting-education, and after-school programs needed to meet their responsibility to protect the public safety. That shortfall is part of a gaping crime prevention deficit that jeopardizes the safety of every American.

NO RESPONSIBILITY OF FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT IS MORE FUNDAMENTAL THAN PROTECTING THE PUBLIC SAFETY.

It is time that leaders at the state and federal level laid out a plan to eliminate that deficit.

We all know that the actual delivery of services like child care and after-school programs must take place not in our legislatures but in our communities, through partnerships of parents, federal, state and local government, and community organizations. But no responsibility of federal and state government is more fundamental than protecting the public safety.

That responsibility simply cannot be met without providing communities with the resources to assure that all families, and especially those whose children are most at risk of going astray, have access to quality child care, parenting-education, and after-school programs at a price they can afford.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS is a national anti-crime organization led by those on the front lines of the battle against crime: Police chiefs, sheriffs, police organization leaders, prosecutors, crime victims and those from whom murder has taken loved ones.

No single name appears as author of this report because it is a collaborative product, drawing on the advice and contributions of scores of the nation's most distinguished law enforcement leaders and crime survivors, who serve on FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS' Advisory Committees, and of the distinguished scholars who serve on FIGHT CRIME's National Crime and Violence Prevention Resource Council.

Chapter Two, "After-School Programs or After-School Crime," is drawn largely from a separate FIGHT CRIME report of that title, presented to the Attorney General of the United States in September 1997, and co-authored by Resource Council Member James Alan Fox, Ph.D., and myself.

We want to express special appreciation to Helen Blank and Gina Adams at the Children's Defense Fund, Michelle Seligson of the National Institute on Out-of-School Time, Jane Quinn of the Dewitt Wallace Readers Digest Foundation, and Edward Zigler, Director of Yale University's Bush Center in Child Development and Social Policy, for sharing so generously of their expertise.

On FIGHT CRIME's staff, Judge Bernard Ries was especially central to the report's preparation, building on work begun by Elissa Rumsey during her tenure at FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS. John Bartlett, Brendan Fitzsimons, Wendy Tucker and Jonah Van Zandt made important contributions. Amy Dawson and Justin Heimberg coordinated Advisory Committee and Resource Council efforts on the Call for Action which accompanies this report.

FIGHT CRIME's work, including this report, is possible only because of the generous supporters listed on the following page, and others who have made smaller gifts or assisted in other ways.

Sanford A. Newman, President
FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS

This report is available free of charge on the FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS web site at http://www.fightcrime.org/. Copies may also be ordered by sending $12 for postage and handling (or $4 for the executive summary) to FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS, Child Care and After-School Report, 1334 G Street NW, Suite B, Washington, D.C. 20005-3107.

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS is a non-profit anti-crime organization which gratefully accepts tax-deductible contributions.

MAJOR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS TO FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS

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The Washington Post

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1998 C

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Police Officials Back Spending On Child Care

By Barbara Vobejda
Washington Post Staff Writer

After lobbying Congress to ban weapons and put more officers on the street, police officials from around the country have seized on what they say will be an even more powerful anti-crime weapon: child care.

Yesterday, more than 170 police chiefs, sheriffs and prosecutors called for the states and federal government to increase support for quality educational child care for preschoolers and after-school programs for older children.

They said after-school programs would keep children occupied in positive ways at a time of day when juvenile crime peaks. And they cited research indicating that children who have attended early education programs similar to Head Start are less likely to become delinquent offenders.

The group praised President Clinton's recent proposal to spend nearly $22 billion over five years to improve child care and help low-income parents pay for it. If enacted, "it would be one of the most important steps Congress has taken to fight crime," said Sanford A. Newman, president of a Washington group that brought together the law enforcement officials, called Fight Crime: Invest in Kids.

Their lobbying support adds a new twist to the growing child-care debate, which could become a major legislative battle this year. Republican leaders have rejected the administration's plan as too expensive and many have said any child-care measure must provide help to stay-at-home parents as well as working parents.

Yesterday, the debate shifted again as the crime prevention argument triggered a new round of criticism.

"The whole idea that kids commit crimes simply because their parents aren't around is specious," said Darcy Olsen, a policy analyst at the libertarian Cato Institute. "Most people in the country have spent time without their parents at one time or another and not become criminal."

Brenda Hunter, a psychologist who appeared last week with the conservative Family Research Council in opposition to the president's plan, said "the research is being misinterpreted" by those advocating more child care.

"The research supports consistent, sensitive and responsive nurturing and mother is the best person to provide that," she said.

But law enforcement officials at yesterday's news conference urged that the child-care debate not pit working parents against stay-at-home parents.

Arlington County Police Chief Edward A. Flynn, one of the police officials appealing for more child-care funding, called it an "endless no-win debate over the philosophy of the family unit." The reality, he said, is that most parents work out of economic necessity.

The group referred to several studies, including one at the Perry Preschool program in Michigan, which is similar to Head Start, which found children who had been in the program were five times less likely to become chronic lawbreakers than a comparable group that had not attended the program.

One of the important ingredients of such programs, said Newman, was parent education, which helps reduce child abuse and neglect. That, in turn, helps reduce the likelihood those children will grow up to be lawbreakers.

Child care and after-school programs "are smart spending," Flynn said. "They can save us billions of tax dollars" that might otherwise be spent on imprisoning offenders and the other costs related to crime.

The group called for a bigger investment than Clinton's plan—more than $130 billion over five years—to provide all families that need it good child care, after school care and help with parenting skills.

HARNESSING THE HYSTERIA

As the shots in Jonesboro fade, let's channel our grief into the larger cause of helping kids

BY JONATHAN ALTER

ONE OF THE MOST SHOCKING things about the Jonesboro massacre is that it's still shocking—that America's bottomless capacity for violence has not fully numbed us yet. Kids who kill is hardly a new story, but here we are having a national debate about it. That's good. The question is how we will deploy our emotional firepower.

PRIME TIME LIVE—ABC TV-AP

Easy answers elude us, but images like those of Andrew Golden's learning how to shoot should force us to keep asking the hard questions

Throughout last week, the arc of the story was familiar enough. We heard all of the predictable follow-up angles about life at the Westside Middle School the day after. (The fire alarm is now disconnected. Very helpful.) Lawyers took to the air to debate the proper punishment for prepubescent kids. A few news organizations felt some pangs of context and mentioned a new government report showing violence at American schools has actually dropped significantly in recent years. But that was a mere quibble amid the grief.

Beyond sympathy for the Jonesboro families and worry over which of my own kids' classmates could go postal, my first reaction to the media's latest *dance macabre* was irritation. Why must every event be turned into a morality play, with "lessons" to be drawn? Stuff happens. Bad stuff. Every day. It's unlikely that any law or program or curriculum could have prevented these murders. The strictest gun-control laws imaginable would still allow for ownership by wildlife-management-area supervisors like Andrew Golden's grandfather, whose rifles were used in the attack. And even the best parenting can yield horrific outcomes. (Jeffrey Dahmer's father, who wrote a moving book, seems an especially decent sort.) The easy answers elude us, yet we search endlessly for them anyway. As nature abhors a vacuum, so media abhor the unexplainable.

We're often told nowadays that the news cycle is too short. Technology allows everyone to report from the scene much faster than in the past, and all of the analysts are already out in force by dinner time on day one. But in another sense, the cycle of these tragic stories is much longer than it used to be. Before cable news and TV-magazine shows, a story about a massacre or serial killer would get serious attention on the network evening news (as well as saturation coverage locally) but mostly disappear the next day. Today it might live on for a week or more, kneaded into a hundred media shapes.

Because the tragic stories linger longer now, they can be leveraged more easily for social change. Sure, the logic that connects this massacre to a larger social agenda is thin. But logic can be overrated. And so my irritation at media "lessons" subsides into a question. Which is worse: to take a random tragedy and make it a symbol that galvanizes the country? Or to let the moment pass without any effort to channel the fear and emotion into something constructive? I'd argue that the latter is worse.

So let's see where we can take this. First, guns. The school massacre in Dunblane, Scotland, led to Great Britain's banning handguns altogether. That won't happen here, though the passage of the Brady bill shows gun control is less unrealistic than we often assume. A more fruitful approach may lie in emulating the anti-tobacco lawsuits. If the owner of a car is responsible when a family member gets in an accident, why not the owner of a gun? If you need a key to get toilet paper in many public restrooms, why not a key for a gun? Last summer the White House persuaded some gun manufacturers to make more weapons with safety locks, but the real way to bring change is to sue like hell after every incident. State attorneys general, who spearheaded the tobacco suits, are getting motivated, and juries may be sympathetic. The argument that the easy availability of guns has *nothing to do with the death toll* is now patently absurd. Anyone ever heard of a drive-by *stabbing*?

Police chiefs are all for gun control, but they also strongly support after-school programs. Fifty percent of all juvenile crime is committed between the hours of 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. We have 5 million latchkey kids in this country who lack adult supervision and supportive activities. A recent survey of 548 police chiefs conducted by Northeastern University showed that the chiefs chose "investment in programs" to help children by nearly 4-1 over "trying more juveniles as adults" or even "hiring additional police officers" as the best way to fight juvenile crime.

Yet the juvenile-justice bill pending in the Senate is overwhelmingly tilted toward more enforcement. By failing to earmark more for prevention, we're "ignoring the most powerful weapon in our anti-crime arsenal," says Sanford Newman, of a group called Fight Crime—Invest in Kids. And fighting crime is not the only way to make more funding for prevention a bipartisan issue. Character education—a greater emphasis on explicitly teaching right from wrong—is also prevention. Today's goal in Washington and state capitols should be to make prevention as much of a mom-and-apple-pie issue as, say, hunting.

The problem of troubled youth is, as Colin Powell says, the *biggest threat to the future of the United States. The amazing thing* about the problem is that we actually know what the solution to it is. The solution, especially for the 15 million kids living in poverty, is a relationship with a caring adult: a teacher, mentor, coach. It doesn't always work. It may not have worked in the cases of Andrew Golden and Mitchell Johnson, who already came from a supportive environment. And it sure isn't easy. But as the shots fired in Jonesboro reverberate around the world, let's harness the hysteria to the larger work before us.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
ONE OF AMERICA'S GREAT NEWSPAPERS
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1998 VOL. 71, NO. 190 2/6/98

Chiefs support child care programs

By Karen MacPherson
Post-Gazette Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The best anti-crime weapons are good child care, parent education "coaches" and after-school programs — not more prisons or tougher laws, a group of nearly 200 police chiefs and sheriffs said in a report released yesterday.

The group contended in its report, endorsed by Allegheny County Sheriff Peter DeFazio and Pittsburgh Police Chief Robert McNeilly Jr., that research clearly showed the "dramatic crime-prevention potential of early childhood care and after-school programs.

"It is time to cut crime's most important supply line: Its ability to turn America's kids into criminals," the report said.

"Our federal and state governments are falling far short of the investment in child care, parenting education and after-school programs needed to meet their responsibility to protect the public safety."

For example, statistics make clear that the peak hours for violent juvenile crime are from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., which is why after-school programs could be such a crime deterrent, the report noted.

In a telephone interview, DeFazio agreed that programs such as the newly minted "Youth Athletes and Law Enforcement" program in the Pittsburgh area were designed to "give kids something to do" after school besides getting into trouble.

The program, just beginning, will have police officers "adopt" a high

SEE CHILDREN, PAGE D-2

Police chiefs support child care programs

CHILDREN FROM PAGE D-1

school and set up an after-school sports program.

Joyce Lee Itkin, Allegheny County clerk of courts and wife of state House Minority Whip Ivan Itkin of Point Breeze, who is the only declared Democratic gubernatorial candidate, has worked to create the program. She modeled it after a California effort called "Cops and Jocks."

"Idle time breeds crime," DeFazio said. "Programs like this are like saving money, investing for the future."

The law enforcement group, gathered under the name "Fight Crime, Invest in Kids," issued its report at a Capitol Hill news conference. Its members urged lawmakers to pass legislation pumping billions of dollars into child care, after-school and parent-education programs that provide "coaches" for those who want them.

"Fight Crime, Invest in Kids" is a nonprofit organization funded by private foundations that include the Rockefeller Family Fund, the John and Catherine MacArthur Foundation, the Hitachi Foundation and the Woods Foundation.

The group's report is the latest entry in the congressional debate over child care legislation. While many believe that Congress will pass some child care legislation this year, others worry that it will be lost in the battle over whether the federal government should be encouraging parents — especially mothers — to care for their children themselves, instead of funneling money into child care programs.

Edward Flynn, chief of the Arlington, Va., County Police Department, told the news conference that such a debate "ignores the reality" that many parents must work.

The focus shouldn't be on the "ideal family," but instead on finding ways to fight crime, Flynn contended. Investing money in programs to help children and their parents should be seen as being "tough on crime," he added.

Sanford Newman, president of "Fight Crime, Invest in Kids," praised President Clinton's new child care initiative as "a major step in the right direction" and said it could be a major crime-fighting tool.

Clinton's plan would spend $22 billion over five years to help more low-income Americans pay for quality child care, expand the number of Head Start and after-school programs and increase the child care tax credit.

Another plan by GOP senators would spend $11 billion over five years, with emphasis on extending the child care tax credit to families with a stay-at-home parent.

But even Clinton's proposal "meets only one-fifth of the most urgent child care needs," Newman said.

The law enforcement group acknowledges that its own proposal could cost $20 billion annually. But the cost of maintaining prisons and the emotional costs paid by crime victims are far greater, the group contends.

"If you can guarantee a space in a prison to a criminal, you ought to be able to guarantee a space in a Head Start program to a toddler or a place in an after-school program to a school-ager," Newman said.

Po ce back care programs as way to help reduce crime

The Dallas Morning News

Friday, February 6, 1998

By Barbara Kessler
Staff Writer of The Dallas Morning News

Children's advocates who believe improved child care and after-school programs are key to slowing crime have gained some powerful allies more often associated with cracking down on criminals than coddling kids.

A study and call to action signed by nearly 200 police chiefs, prosecutors and crime victims released Thursday suggests that crime could be cut dramatically, perhaps in half, by improving the supervision and lives of children, especially those considered at-risk for delinquency.

Specifically, the report urges Congress and local lawmakers to put more money and effort into child care, parent coaching and after-school and summer programs.

"There's no mystery here about the steps we can take to reduce crime. The bad news is, we're not doing it," said Sanford A. Newman, president of the nonprofit group Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, which compiled the study.

He cited the national shortage of affordable, quality child care for all families, and he noted that Head Start preschool programs are able to serve only 4 of every 10 low-income children eligible.

Dallas Police Chief Ben Click has agreed to serve as an adviser to the group, joining police chiefs and commissioners from Baltimore, Miami, Salt Lake City and Portland, Ore.

The study details a recent poll of 548 police chiefs who found they favored increased attention to children's programs over hiring more police officers or trying more juveniles as adults as the best way to fight crime.

Asked to pick the "most effective" strategy to reducing crime over the long term, 60 percent of the chiefs selected "increasing investment in programs that help all children and youth get a good start," according to the poll.

More than 92 percent of the chiefs agreed that the government should fully fund Head Start for infants and toddlers, work to prevent child abuse, provide parent training for high-risk families and improve after-school and mentoring programs.

The anti-crime group, based in Washington, D.C., and formed in 1996, supports President Clinton's child-care proposals but also claims bipartisan support.

Some Republicans have said they favor broad federal tax cuts for families, instead of diluting tax dollars through the package of programs and grants to states proposed by Mr. Clinton. Other Republicans are crafting different child-care proposals.

But in a media conference, Republican Sheriff Patrick Sullivan of Arapahoe County, Colo., said the signers of the call to action are not advocating "big government."

"But I do believe government has to look at where it's investing its dollars," he said. "We need to redirect some money into early child care and spend wisely."

Child care is not the "budget-buster" that the naysayers portray, said Gilbert Gallegos, national president of the Fraternal Order of Police and a former deputy chief in Albuquerque who also spoke at the Tuesday media conference.

"It's cheaper to help kids develop now than to incarcerate them later," Mr. Gallegos said, citing a decades-long study that showed every dollar spent on quality preschool saved $7 in later welfare and prison costs.

Aside from the long-term benefits of nudging children toward productive, law-abiding futures, after-school programs can immediately reduce crime, said Dr. James Alan Fox, dean of Criminal Justice at Northeastern University in Boston.

The "prime time for juvenile crime" is between 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. when about 50 percent of juvenile violent crimes occur, he said. Studies in certain cities have shown a noticeable drop in neighborhood crime reports when after-school programs are established.

Several Texans signed the 50-page report, titled "Quality Child Care and After-School Programs: Powerful Weapons Against Crime," which draws on wide research by nationally known child-care experts and criminologists.

The Texas signers include Travis County District Attorney Ronald Earle, Harris County Attorney Michael Fleming, police chiefs Russ Leach of El Paso and Al Phillipus of San Antonio and sheriffs Larry Olivarez of Nueces County and Margo Frasier of Travis County.

Chief Click believes the group's priorities dovetail with his focus on youth development and crime prevention, said Dallas Police Department spokesman Ed Spencer.

While maintaining a policy of "aggressive enforcement" toward crime, the Dallas department has recently added many community programs geared to help kids avoid trouble, he said. They include officer-child mentoring partnerships and after-school activities such as inner-city scouting and a horseback riding club.

Most of the 186 supporters of the report are prosecutors and police chiefs, but about 20 are nationally prominent crime-victim advocates. Ellen Halbert, the first crime victim appointed to the Texas Board of Criminal Justice, said "crime prevention is victim prevention." She urged Congress to address crime before it occurs.

"Anything else is too little and too late," said Ms. Halbert, who was raped, stabbed, beaten with a hammer and left for dead by a teenager who broke into her home in 1986.

"I'm really convinced that we are a nation that doesn't value our children. We are letting them grow up in poverty and neglect and I believe if we'd invested in early childhood programs this wouldn't have happened to me."

The report is based partly on research showing that child care is often inadequate and too costly for poor working families and that America suffers from a chronic shortage of after-school and summer programs for elementary through high school children.

In the Dallas Independent School District, about 18,000 elementary school children participate in on-site after-school programs — many of them free or available for a nominal fee, said spokesman Loretta Simon.

But the number served is still only about one-fifth of the 99,000 students enrolled in those grades.

The Miami Herald

JOHN S. KNIGHT (1894-1981) JAMES L. KNIGHT (1909-1991)

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A gold star for top cops

LOOKING AT EVIDENCE

Nation's police chiefs support more and better day care for U.S. kids.

The evidence is in. So 170 of the nation's top cops and sheriffs have joined with prosecutors, crime victims, and others in supporting more and better day care as a *crime-fighting* weapon.

They also threw support to other children's programs, such as intense home counseling for troubled families and after-school programs for all kids through the teenage years.

Off their beat? No. Most wise police officers know that crime prevention has a lot more to do with working on social ills than sirens and handcuffs. This new effort is through a foundation-funded organization, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids. Miami Chief Donald Warshaw is on its board. Palm Beach Sheriff Bob Neumann was the other South Florida signatory of a "call to action" on day care and after-school programs that was sent to Congress on Thursday.

The evidence comes from many studies on crime that show that a healthy child ready to start school is less likely ever to be engaged in crime. Ditto for children who are in recreational and other programs when school's not in session.

The chiefs' call is in support of President Clinton's initiatives on day care. It well could translate to Gov. Lawton Chiles's $84 million budget increase for day care in Florida and for a Healthy Families counseling program. And there are local efforts in South Florida to expand such programs as Success by Six and Boys and Girls Clubs.

Taking care of children shouldn't be a partisan matter, although it is getting bogged down in debates detached from daily realities over whether mothers should stay home when many families have few choices. The chiefs bring a fresh perspective to the debate, although their message is an old one: As the twig is bent, so grows the tree.

St. Petersburg Times
Florida's Best Newspaper

Group links lack of supervision, crime

By ROB NELSON
Times Staff Writer

TAMPA — A non-profit advocacy group says crime rates can be cut significantly if children are given constructive places to go after school — what President Clinton called the "prime time" for juvenile crime in his recent State of the Union speech.

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a group based in Washington, D.C., released a report Thursday highlighting the connection between a lack of childhood supervision and later involvement with crime.

The bipartisan crime prevention organization is made up of police officers, prosecutors, criminologists and crime survivors from across the country. Hillsborough County Sheriff Cal Henderson, St. Petersburg police Chief Goliath Davis III and St. Petersburg City Administrator Darrel W. Stephens are among the 200 members of the group's advisory committee and resource council, Fight Crime officials said.

"(Police officers) know what works in fighting crime," group member and Miami police Chief Donald Warshaw said in a telephone news conference. "In polls of what they think will work, investing in the after-school hours almost always wins out over hiring more officers and building more prisons."

George Sweat, police chief in Winston-Salem, N.C., was more blunt in echoing Warshaw's emphasis on the importance of early intervention.

"Our fight against crime needs to start in the high chair, not wait for the electric chair," he said.

Almost half the incidents of juvenile crime occur between 2 and 8 p.m., experts say. Many of those crimes are committed by children who grow up without quality care and supervision in the after-school hours, which makes them several times more likely to become chronic lawbreakers by adulthood, the Fight Crime: Invest in Kids report said. If they had access to quality, affordable child care, many of those youthful offenders would never have been on the streets in the first place, experts said.

"We're a nation that doesn't value its children," said Ellen Halbert, a Fight Crime: Invest in Kids member who was beaten and stabbed in 1986 by an 18-year-old intruder who left her for dead after checking her pulse. "If we had invested in kids earlier, then maybe attacks like mine never would have happened."

The organization is calling for government and the private sector to develop better, larger after-school child care programs, as well as create guidance courses for young parents. The benefits to taxpayers would far outweigh the costs, experts say. According to a study conducted by Mark A. Cohen, a professor at Vanderbilt University, every child prevented from entering a life of crime saves the country around $2-million.

"There's no mystery about the steps we could take," said Sanford Newman, president of the group. "The bad news is, we're just not doing it yet."

PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS
THE PEOPLE PAPER
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1998

Group: Programs for kids a priority

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Child care and after-school programs steer children away from crime, and the government should spend more money on them, a private group said yesterday.

The group, dubbed "Fight Crime: Invest in Kids," said more than 180 law-enforcement leaders and crime victims support their position and have urged Congress to put more emphasis on preventing crime.

"When we deny millions of preschoolers early childhood care and when we deny school-age children after-school programs, their risk of becoming criminals skyrockets," said Sanford Newman, group president.

The group has criticized juvenile crime bills pending in Congress, saying they will starve child care and after-school programs that include sports, music and drama activities. The bills would toughen federal laws dealing with juvenile crime and give states strong incentives to do the same.

Supporters of get-tough measures pending in Congress say they are designed to fix weaknesses in the juvenile justice system and that prevention is addressed in other legislation. They also have said that spending more money won't necessarily reduce crime.

President Clinton's budget proposal for 1999, released Monday, seeks increases for Head Start and several programs to boost child care, including child care tax credits for middle-income people, child care subsidies for poor parents and day care block grants for states.

The Fight Crime group issued a report yesterday citing studies showing the benefits of the programs they back.

In a letter to Congress, the group asked lawmakers to spend an additional $10 billion on Head Start and at least $20 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant to make child care available to more parents. ■

Philadelphia, PA
News
Philadelphia
Met Area
Friday D 169,721
FEB 6, 1998

The Salt Lake Tribune
http://www.sltrib.com
Utah's Independent Voice Since 1871
MONDAY/MARCH 16, 1998

Ortega's Answer to Kid Crime: Alternative Act. ities

Give Youths Something to Do After School, Police Boss Says

BY HOLLY MULLEN
THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

You could call it the weekday "witching hour." The clock strikes 3 p.m. Schools are just letting out, kids are on the streets and the crime rate suddenly skyrockets.

Statistically, youths commit more crime between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. than any other time of the day. It's true in Utah and the rest of the nation. And, according to a 1995 study by the Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, late afternoon is "crime time" almost equally in the urban and rural areas of the state.

It's no surprise then that Salt Lake City Police Chief Ruben Ortega is on a mission to turn that trend around. Recently elected chairman of the Major Cities Chiefs, an organization of police chiefs from the largest cities in the United States and Canada, Ortega has an agenda, and he isn't the least bit timid about it.

Al Hartmann/The Salt Lake Tribune
Salt Lake Police Chief Ruben Ortega

"We know crime is going to occur. But our best potential for reducing it is in our kids. We need to give them structure and positive activity after school.

"Right now, too many of them have only the malls and the streets."

And then, Ortega, who was sitting for a recent interview at a conference table in his spacious eighth-floor office at police headquarters in downtown Salt Lake City, said something many politically conservative Utahns would rather not hear.

The government needs to help. A lot.

"We need funds," Ortega says. "We need the elected and appointed leadership to support after-school programs for children. These programs cost money, but it's an investment that will pay off."

In this, Ortega has the support of some

See ORTEGA, Page A-7

Ortega Contends Youth Programs Can Cut Crime

■ Continued From A-1

powerful Democrats in Congress, notably Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., who on March 2 introduced a bill calling for $7.25 billion over five years for after-school, weekend and summer programs for school-age children. Kennedy has suggested paying for the programs through a tobacco tax or by cutting corporate tax breaks.

The government would earmark the money for youth programs only, which is the piece of the bill Republicans cannot agree with, says Jeanne Lopatto, press secretary for the Senate Judiciary Committee and a staff member of Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch, who chairs the panel.

"There is a clear difference in methods of funding and administering these programs," Lopatto says. Hatch has introduced his own proposal, dubbed the Violent and Repeat Juvenile Offender Act of 1997, which would give the states $2.5 billion over five years to spend on anti-crime measures largely as they see fit.

Youth Crime Prevention: The Hatch bill would earmark 60 percent of the grants for youth crime prevention, Lopatto says.

"The mon[illegible] [illegible]uld go to the states, as opposed to the federal government telling them what to do and how to spend it. The states know best how to use the money."

Already there are numerous after-school programs in place for children along the Wasatch Front. Some of them, such as community centers, receive government aid. Others, like the Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA and other nonprofits, depend largely on private foundations and donations for support. Still others, like Kids Together, one after-school program offered in some Salt Lake City and Jordan school districts, operate for profit.

The Salt Lake City police are making their own contribution, Ortega says, but it still is not enough. The department sponsors three Boy Scout and three Girl Scout troops in low-income neighborhoods. There is also a police Explorer post with 20 teen-age girls and boys.

These early intervention programs go hand-in-hand with enforcement, Ortega says.

"We'll never arrest ourselves out of the crime problem," Ortega says. "But we can decrease it by identifying the neediest kids early and working with them.

"I can walk into any grade school in town and the teachers can tell me who is at risk to fail," Ortega says. "They come to school dirty and hungry. They are withdrawn. They are truant. We've got to get to these children and let them know someone cares about what happens to them."

It is this combination of early intervention and prevention that is succeeding on the streets of Boston, a city that Ortega and many other law-enforcement leaders cite for its groundbreaking approach to fighting youth crime.

Until the shooting death of a 16-year-old boy on Dec. 11, 1997, the city had gone for 29 months without a juvenile murder.

Network of Cooperation: Boston's program relies on cooperation by po[illegible] [illegible]urts and social agencies to target the most violent and repeat youth criminals, says Jim Jordan, spokesman for Police Commissioner Paul Evans.

"With the help of some good intelligence, we're targeting which youngster is most likely to get killed or to kill somebody," Jordan says. Once the "regulars" are identified, police and probation officers ride herd on them.

In 25 percent of Boston's murders, the shooter was already on probation. And those suspects averaged nine criminal arraignments — on cases ranging from petty property crimes to homicide, Jordan says.

Once the repeat offenders were taken out, a "startling revelation occurred," Jordan says.

The number of violent crimes by youth began to collapse.

Four years ago, when President Clinton proposed the massive crime bill, the cry went up against many of the programs geared toward youth.

"Midnight basketball" became the buzzwords for all that was silly, frivolous and unnecessary.

This time around, Ruben Ortega is feeling more optimistic that Kennedy's bill will succeed, that more of that elusive federal aid will come this way.

That's because Ortega sees after-school care as a bipartisan issue. He wants to believe that politicians will rise above their petty differences and invest in children.

He shrugs his shoulders and smiles.

"I gotta believe," he says, "that this is one issue the Democrats and Republicans can agree on."

FIGHT CRIME INVEST IN KIDS

Memorandum

To: Friends of FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS
From: Sandy Newman
Date: March 26, 1998
Re: Update

There have been some remarkable developments at FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS in the last few months. This year has seen major advances for FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS in fundraising, in the enlistment of police prosecutors and crime survivors to advocate for our agenda and serve on our advisory committees, and in building public and Congressional support for major investments in child care and after-school programs.

Additional 150 Police Chiefs, Prosecutors, and Crime Survivors Join our Advisory Committees!

In the past two months FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS has doubled the size of its National and State Advisory Committees which now include over 250 of the nation's best known and most respected police chiefs, prosecutors, and crime survivors. This is especially significant because all have signed, as a condition of membership, our Crime Prevention Agenda, which calls for sweeping investments aimed at giving kids the right start in life.

As we build momentum, it becomes clearer that the only obstacle to increasing the size of our state and national committees is the amount of staff time that we can devote to doing this.

Building Support for Child Care and After-School Programs

Our efforts this year are focused on the enormous opportunities to win major increases in federal support for child care and after-school programs. In 1998, we will be working with valuable allies such as the Children's Defense Fund, the Child Care Action Campaign, the Child Welfare League of America, and the YMCA , as well as other groups to use our unique voice to help the public understand the crime prevention impact of investments in kids.

A. New Report and Call for Action Issued

On February 5th, we held a press briefing releasing our latest research report, *Quality Child Care and After-School Programs: Powerful Weapons Against Crime.* Drawing on programs and research from across the country, this report clearly shows the crime prevention impact of investments in child care and after-school programs and the critical need for more investments in these programs.

1334 G Street, NW • Suite B • Washington, DC 20005-3107 • (202) 638-0690 • Fax (202) 638-0673 • www.fightcrime.org

A project of the Action Against Crime and Violence Education Fund

Along with our report, we released a Call to Action signed by all the members of our National and State Advisory Committees and our Resource Council, urging public officials to cut crime and protect public safety by assuring that all kids and parents have access to quality child care, parenting coaching and family supports, and after-school, weekend and summer youth development programs.

Clips generated by our press briefing are still rolling in from scores of newspapers around the country including the *Washington Post*, the *Dallas Morning News*, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* and the *Miami Herald*. You may have also noted that this week's *Newsweek* contains an article by columnist Jonathan Alter regarding the importance of investments in kids in light of the tragedy in Jonesboro last week. The article quotes FIGHT CRIME President Sandy Newman and draws from statistics used in our reports. I've attached a copy of this article with news clips from our recent press briefing.

B. Major Cities Police Chiefs Endorse Our Call

In early February, FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS Associate Director Amy Dawson and I gave a presentation about the crime prevention impact of investments in kids at the winter meeting of the Major Cities Police Chiefs Organization, an organization made up of police chiefs from 52 of the largest cities in the US and Canada.

The response from the Major Cities Chiefs was beyond anything we could have hoped for. Nearly half its members already belong to FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS Advisory Committees, and we expect to have nearly all of them signed within the next couple of months. More gratifying still, they passed a resolution nearly identical to the Call to Action we released on February 5th urging all elected officials to reduce crime and increase public safety by investing in child care, after-school programs, and parenting coaching. And then last week the National District Attorney's Association added a similar call for child care and after-school programs.

We are all excited about the impact this will have as these chiefs and prosecutors bring the message home that investing in our nation's most vulnerable children and families is one of the best ways to reduce crime and violence.

C. Bringing Our Message to Congress

Baltimore Police Commissioner Thomas Frazier represented FIGHT CRIME in a briefing to over 75 key Congressional staffers on the crime prevention impact of after-school programs as well as press conference convened by the Child Care Action Campaign on pending child care and after-school proposals. At both events, staffers and reporters were impressed as Commissioner Frazier explained that he was so convinced of the need for after-school programs that he has assigned police officers to create and staff 27 after-school centers in strategically selected neighborhoods — largely neighborhoods where other agencies were afraid to keep facilities open in the afternoon and the evening. He reports that, in the neighborhoods where his first center was opened, crime dropped 42% within a year.

Commissioner Frazier also testified on March 5th, to the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources about the crime prevention impact of early childhood investments and after-school programs. In February, Arlington Chief of Police, Edward A. Flynn, testified on behalf of FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS to the Senate Subcommittee on Children and Families.

In addition to our members' participation in Congressional briefings and hearings, many of our Advisory Committee members have been directly contacting their Congresspersons or Senators to urge them to support larger investments in child care and after-school programs.

Growth at the State Level

Along with intensifying our national efforts to educate opinion leaders and the public, we're stepping up our organizing of committees in target states in 1998. We recently hired Kim Joris, a former police officer and detective, to coordinate our operations in North Carolina. Kim comes to us after recently serving on the Governor's Highway Safety Program and has significant experience in public relations and organizing. Together with our state partner, the Illinois Council for the Prevention of Violence, we are currently looking for a staff person to coordinate FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS ILLINOIS, and we plan to launch as many as eight new state chapters this year.

Our efforts last year in Illinois provide a hint of the kind of impact such intense organizing efforts can have. So far we've been able to recruit the heads of all four of the state's major law enforcement organizations as well as the state's Attorney General, Chicago's Police Superintendent, the President of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and police, prosecutors and crime survivors from diverse communities state-wide to serve on our committee in Illinois. Our allies in Illinois, the Day Care Action Council and Voices for Illinois Children, led the fight for these initiatives, but they would tell you that the voices of FIGHT CRIME played a valuable part in ultimately winning $40 million in extra funding for child care and early childhood programs last year. We've been able to accomplish all this even though we have yet to hire a state coordinator.

New Funders Build Fight Crime's Capacity

The news on the fundraising front has been terrific so far this year. This month, FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS received a grant of $75,000 a year for the next three years from the DeWitt Wallace, Reader's Digest Fund and a one-year grant of $75,000 from the David and Lucille Packard Foundation. These grants are the biggest that our organization has received so far.

In December and January, we also received a grant for an additional $20,000 from the Naomi and Nehemia Cohen Foundation on top of $5,000 they had already pledged, an $11,000 grant from the Threshold Foundation, a $5,000 renewal from the Blum-Kovler Foundation, as well as smaller grants from other valued supporters who helped us meet the terms of a $10,000 challenge grant from David Stern and Tracey Hughes.

These grants are going to make a big difference in the coming year as we gear up to move our operations to the next level.

The Legislative Front

A number of child care initiatives have been introduced by the President and members of Congress over the last two months. President Clinton's proposal would provide $4 billion a year for child care and an additional $200 million a year for after-school programs. If passed, this could be the biggest step that Congress has ever taken to fight crime and help children get the right start in life. We've also noted, however, that this bill meets only one-fifth of the most urgent need for child care and after-school programs and we've urged Congress to tell the President "we'll see you and raise you".

The most ambitious child care proposal on the table was introduced by Senator Kennedy (D-MA) and calls for around $6 billion a year for child care programs. House Democrats have recently introduced bills which would earmark about $3 billion a year, from a new tobacco tax, to improve and expand child care. Senators Chaffee (R-RI) and Hatch (R-UT) have introduced a more modest proposal. I've enclosed a summary of the Clinton proposal, and would be glad to give you summaries of the other bills if you would like.

Although all of these proposals fall short of meeting the needs of America's children, it is heartening to watch as consensus grows on both sides of the aisle that it's time for major steps forward in helping kids get quality child care and after-school programs. While the legislative situation is very fluid and it is difficult to predict an outcome at this point, it is clear that the level of interest, in Congress and across the country — and the opportunity for substantial action — is very high.

This year's balanced budget and surpluses being recorded in states around the country have made it difficult for politicians to argue, as they have in the past, that there isn't enough money for these programs. It is clear that 1998 offers the best opportunity in decades to win major investments for kids at the state and federal level.

The groundwork we have laid so far has put us in a position to make an important contribution to this year's developments regarding programs for children. As we gear up to take advantage of this opportunity, we are beginning to glimpse the potential impact of our strategy. For example, our September press conference centered on our *After-School Programs or After-School Crime* report, showing that after-school programs could dramatically reduce crime. The report analyzed new data (compiled by the National Center for Juvenile Justice) revealing that after-school hours are the peak hours for juvenile crime and that violent juvenile crime triples in the first hour after school dismissal.

Now, we routinely see the report's analysis alluded to in support of after-school programs. For example, it has repeatedly been cited by the President (including in his State of the Union message and his earlier announcement of his child care and after-school initiative) and in statements by the Vice President, the Attorney General, members of Congress and state legislators around the country. We may even be nearing the point where these key data about juvenile crime become "common knowledge," routinely linked to the need for after-school programs. Earlier, a minority report of the Judiciary Committee noted that our public education efforts and other advocacy had played a key role in persuading the full committee to restore $60 million in prevention programs which had been cut in subcommittee.

Despite considerable progress, we know that we have only begun to scratch the surface of the difference that we expect to make for kids. We remain focused on the enormous opportunities that lie ahead and the hard work that will be needed by Fight Crime and so many others to turn those opportunities into concrete improvements in the lives of children.

Enclosures
- Selected Press Clips
- Call to Action
- Executive Summary of Our Report: *Quality Child Care and After-School Programs: Key Weapons Against Crime*
- Job Descriptions

P.S. If you know people we should consider for the positions outlined on the attached job description sheet, please let them know about the openings here.

FIGHT CRIME INVEST IN KIDS

A CALL FOR ACTION FROM AMERICA'S FRONT LINE AGAINST CRIME

The following statement has been signed by:

- ◊ *over 250 of the nation's leading police chiefs, sheriffs, and prosecutors;*
- ◊ *the presidents of the Fraternal Order of Police and the International Union of Police Associations, which together represent 360,000 police officers; and*
- ◊ *the President of the National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children and many of the nation's crime survivors most active in victim advocacy; and*
- ◊ *more than twenty of America's leading criminologists and law enforcement, child and youth development experts.*

A similar statement has also been endorsed by the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the organization of police chiefs from 49 of the largest urban areas in North America representing 26 states and 3 Canadian provinces.

AS POLICE, PROSECUTORS AND CRIME SURVIVORS, we struggle every day against crime and its devastating impact. We are determined to see that dangerous criminals are arrested and put behind bars. But anyone who thinks that jailing a criminal is enough to undo the agony that crime leaves in its wake hasn't seen crime up close. That is why no one knows better that we that the most important weapons against crime are the investments which keep kids from becoming criminals — investments which enable all children to get the right start they need to become contributing citizens, and which show them that as adults they will be able to meet their families' basic needs through honest hard work.

We know from scientific research and from our own experience that these investments work to reduce crime. But they can only work for the children they reach.

CRIME DOES NOT RESPECT BOUNDARIES OF NEIGHBORHOODS, cities, or even states. When any of America's children fail to get the right start, their classmates are exposed to peer pressure that may undermine even the most dedicated parenting, and all of us are endangered.

Delivering these crime prevention investments to all children often requires community partnerships of government, parents, charities and volunteers, and the private sector. But that doesn't mean that public officials can meet their obligations by wishing someone else were doing the job. Since protecting the public safety is the most fundamental government responsibility, government must provide the policies and the funding necessary to create and sustain the necessary partnerships. When public officials fail to meet that responsibility, they take away our most effective weapons in the war against crime, forcing us to fight with one hand tied behind our backs.

WE THEREFORE CALL ON ALL PUBLIC OFFICIALS TO PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY by adopting common sense policies to:

- Provide for all infants, toddlers and preschool children access to quality child care at a price their parents can afford;

- Strengthen families and reduce child abuse, neglect and delinquency by offering all parents (at their option) "parenting coaches" through proven home visiting programs, as well as access to community-based family resource centers.

- Provide for all of America's school-age children and teens after-school programs, and access to weekend and summer programs that offer recreation, academic support and community service experience.

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS
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HTTP://WWW.FIGHTCRIME.ORG/

FYI — 2 studies from Chicago Study coming up — I think these are very exciting news

COLLECTIVE EFFICACY FOR CHILDREN: NEIGHBORHOOD DIMENSIONS AND STRUCTURAL ANTECEDENTS

Robert J. Sampson and Felton Earls

Revised version of paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Toronto, Canada, 1997.

ABSTRACT

This paper specifies theoretical properties of neighborhoods that constitute the collective support of childrearing. Using data collected in 1995 from a study of more than 8,500 residents of 342 neighborhoods in Chicago, we examine three such properties: intergenerational closure of adult-child ties, reciprocal exchange among adults, and informal social control of children. Multi-level analyses reveal that measures of these constructs yield moderate to high between-neighborhood reliabilities, and are related among themselves and to other dimensions of social organization–friend/kinship networks, services for youth, and local participation in voluntary associations–in a manner consistent with theoretical expectations. After adjusting for individual-level differences in informants' reports of neighborhood properties, we also assess the predictive explanatory power of neighborhood structural characteristics. Results show that neighborhood stability and concentrated affluence, more so than poverty and ethnic-race composition, comprise the glue that fastens social support for children. In fact, an analysis of more than 100 all-black neighborhoods shows that residential stability emerges as the most important systemic factor promoting collective child support.

Project Abstract - Harvard School of Public Health (No. ACYF-PA-CC-9701 Child Care Research Partnerships)

In this time of welfare to work transition for low-income single parents, the availability, affordability, flexibility and quality of child care have major implications for children's successful transition to school and parent's successful transition to economic self-sufficiency. The proposed partnership of the Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods (PHDCN; based at the Harvard School of Public Health), the Child Care Division of the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), and the Children's Services of the Chicago Department of Human Services (CDHS) is intended to bring together three distinctive data bases on low-income families and children. We intend to integrate our data bases in order to study factors related to the supply of different types of early child care services including Head Start, preschool, and different forms of center or family-based day care and their use by low income families. Moreover, we wish to study factors related to the use-supply relationship. We will analyze data on the supply/availability of child care in conjunction with 1) the PHDCN data on formal and informal social networks in the community (e.g., collective efficacy), 2) demographic characteristics of neighborhood and other community resources and 3) levels of community violence and victimization. Furthermore, we will examine how parent involvement in the schooling and day care of their children is influenced by the characteristics of those settings and by the neighborhoods and families in which they reside. From this we can see how this involvement influences the child's developmental outcome.

Central to this enterprise will be a comprehensive assessment of the school, Head Start, and day care settings that the parents of approximately 900 PHDCN young children from low income families (i.e., eligible for Head Start or Day Care subsidies) decide to use. If a service is used, we will examine how parents perceive the quality, accessibility, affordability and flexibility of these care arrangements. We will also independently rate the global quality of center and home-based care settings using trained observers. These assessments will be supplemented in Head Start programs with CDHS data from the On-Site Program Review Inventory (OSPRI) and other program data.

One particular interest in comparing these three data bases is to determine how parental involvement in the child's out-of-home care or early education program relates to sustainability of positive developmental outcomes as children enter kindergarten and elementary school. We suspect that parental involvement in their child's programs and care and the collective efficacy of neighborhoods to mutually support the child's successful transition to school. We intend to present parents, providers, state and city administrations and child development researchers with the results of our data analyses, and reports of our dialogue sessions on policy as they become available. Our analyses and policy deliberations will be done with respect for parents as the primary advocates for their children in addition to their roles as community citizens and labor force participants.

10 key words: child care, Head Start, quality, parents, poverty, work, welfare, community, violence, advocacy

The Washington Times FINAL

http://www.washtimes.com WASHINGTON, D.C., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 1998 ★R★★ PHONE (202) 636-3000 SUBSCRIBER SERVICE (202) 636-3333 25 cents

After-school crime busting

By Edward A. Flynn

If you've been reading the huge ads the big tobacco companies have been running recently, you might think tobacco legislation will cause a new American crime problem by creating a black market in cigarettes.

In fact, the tobacco bill is an opportunity for Congress to take its most powerful step ever to fight crime — by investing half the new revenues in the child care and after-school programs proven to prevent crime and make communities safe.

The tobacco magnates' claims deflate when you look at the facts:

They use grossly inflated projections of cigarette cost increases, as much as three times higher than the $1.25 or so the Treasury Department and most economists agree will be added to the price of cigarettes.

They ignore protections in the bill, like requiring that each pack of cigarettes carry a serial number so it can be easily traced, that will probably reduce the smuggling that now occurs between states.

While there could be some increase in international smuggling, the best way to deal with that is to make sure a bit of tobacco revenues are left available to enforce the new law — not to eliminate tobacco penalties that would reduce smoking, save lives and compensate taxpayers for the billions we've paid to treat health problems caused by smoking.

In fact, if Congress allocates at least half of the new revenues to support educational child development and after-school programs, it can dramatically reduce crime, violence and addiction.

The tobacco companies are worried about their bottom line. I look at crime's bottom line. Educational child care for young children and after-school programs for school-age kids are two of the most powerful weapons to fight crime and to protect our kids from getting hooked on tobacco. For example:

Studies have shown that denying at-risk toddlers quality educational child care may multiply by up to five times the risk that they will become chronic law breakers as adults, and by up to ten times the risk they will be delinquent at age 16.

What's more, as a recent Rand report shows, these programs actually produce savings to government — primarily from lower criminal justice and social service expenditures — as much as four times higher than their cost.

But today millions of Americans who must work earn less than the cost of quality child care for two kids. Because Head Start and child care block grants don't have the resources to help most of those who need them, parents are forced to leave their children in poor-quality care — little more than "child storage." That damages child development, including kids' ability to get along with others and succeed in school, and ultimately puts your family's safety at risk.

FBI data tells us that violent juvenile crime triples in the hour after the school bell rings, and half occurs between 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. The good news: After-school programs can cut crime by as much as 75 percent. And they help kids do better in school, treat adults with respect, and resolve conflicts without violence.

Unsupervised after-school hours aren't just prime time for juvenile crime. They're also prime time for youngsters to become crime victims, and for other threats to children's health like teen sex and substance abuse. There's good evidence that after-school supervision can cut in half the risk that kids will smoke, drink or use drugs.

So in addition to their proven anti-crime impact, after-school programs — because of the supervision they can offer while parents are at work, and their positive effect on kids' values — are powerful anti-smoking and anti-drug programs as well.

Law enforcement leaders nationwide — from the Police Executive Research Forum and the Major Cities Chiefs organization to the National District Attorneys Association and Fight Crime: Invest In Kids — have called on legislators this year to provide the funds so communities can ensure all kids access to educational child care and after-school programs while parents are at work.

The way to do that — the one-two punch that also fights teen smoking — is by designating at least half of new federal tobacco tax revenues to support child care and after-school programs.

This would be one of the most powerful steps Congress has ever taken against crime, and a tremendous investment to help America build a healthy and productive generation for the twenty-first century, decrease long-term government financial burdens like welfare and crime costs, and start saving innocent lives today.

Edward A. Flynn is Chief of the Arlington County Police Department.

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Kids come first, officers say

Group advocates anti-crime programs

By Karina Bland
The Arizona Republic

A bunch of badge-toting big guys with guns on their hips -- cops and sheriffs from across the state — talked tough about kids Tuesday, though not the ones they pick up for stealing.

They talked about babies and small children, the ones who haven't done anything wrong. At least not yet.

To keep it that way, these law-enforcement officers want the state Legislature to pay for programs that will keep children out of trouble, including child-abuse prevention and child care, preschools, after-school and summer programs.

At an afternoon news conference at Phoenix Day Child and Family Learning Center, seven Arizona police chiefs and two sheriffs, members of a national anti-crime group called "Fight Crime: Invest in Kids" — asked lawmakers for money to fund programs for kids. Statewide, 21 law-enforcement officials have joined the group.

The law-enforcement officials want the Legislature to approve the money during its 1999 session. They said the investment would make their jobs easier.

A report by the national group — which includes more than 300 police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors and crime victims — reported that:

- Kids who do not get quality child care might be up to 10 times more likely to become delinquent teenagers and up to five times more likely to become chronic law-breakers.
- The children of parents who have proper parenting skills are half as likely to be delinquent.
- If kids are unsupervised from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., they are twice as likely to smoke cigarettes, drink alcohol or use drugs.
- After-school programs can cut juvenile crime as much as 75 percent.

"The investment we make today will pay rich dividends in peace of mind and public safety and children who grow up to be good neighbors," Paradise Valley Police Chief John Wintersteen said.

Nationwide, 92 percent of police chiefs said crime could be sharply

— Please see OFFICERS, Page B2

B2 © The Arizona Republic Wednesday, June 24, 1998

Charles Krejcsi/The Arizona Republic

Joining the call were (from left) Glen police Chief David Dobrotka, Peoria Chief Micl Strope, Tucson C Douglas Smith, Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Ar , Surpi Chief Garvin Arrell, Paradise Valley Chief John

Officers back programs for kids

— OFFICERS, *from Page B1*

reduced if government invested more in programs that help children, according to a July 1996 survey by Northeastern University.

"The government can fund room and board for our criminals," Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio said. "They should start funding these programs."

But given the choice between such programs and building a new jail, Arpaio said he would choose the jail because criminals shouldn't be on the streets.

Still, it shouldn't be a matter of choosing between one and the other, other officers observed. The money is available, Wintersteen said, citing the state's tobacco tax fund and a nearly $580 million budget surplus.

The problem is, early intervention programs often take years to show results, thereby losing favor with lawmakers who prefer policies with more immediate payoffs.

Last session, lawmakers eliminated Health Start, a program that taught women about prenatal care, how to care for babies and health care.

Lawmakers kept Healthy Families, a child-abuse prevention program, but froze its funding and required participants to perform community service. They also decided that many of the parents most likely to abuse children, those referred to state Child Protective Services, would not be allowed to participate.

Last week, the Arizona Sheriffs and County Attorneys Association unanimously passed a resolution calling for more emphasis on prevention and intervention programs.

But when Yuma County Sheriff Ralph Ogden took the resolution to lawmakers, "They said, 'We know kids are important, but . . . ' " the sheriff said, shaking his head. So, the officers said they will just get louder and lobby harder, he said.

UTAH EDITION

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148TH YEAR / No. 335 SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH FRIDAY, MAY 15, 199

Best crime prevention is to invest in kids

By Ruben Ortega

My view

From across Utah and across the nation, law enforcement leaders are coming forward to call for some major new steps in America's fight against crime. But what we're asking for may not be what you'd expect.

Those of us on the front lines understand that, as important as our work is, we'll never be able to just arrest and imprison our way out of the crime problem.

America's most powerful and underused weapons against crime are the public investments that help families and communities provide good child care and after-school programs that teach at-risk kids the values and skills to be good citizens instead of criminals.

The evidence now proves that boosting public investment in child care and after-school programs could dramatically cut crime.

The after-school hours are prime time for juvenile crime. FBI data show violent juvenile crime triples in the hour after the school bell rings, and nearly half occurs between 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Being unsupervised in the afternoon also doubles the risk that kids will smoke cigarettes, drink alcohol or use drugs.

Yet every day, more then 5 million latchkey kids spend their afternoons without adult supervision.

Communities need after-school programs to give all kids safe, positive alternatives to unsavory street corners and teach them important skills and values like respect, responsibility and hard work. After-school programs have cut neighborhood crime by as much as 40 percent to 75 percent in some cities.

And we shouldn't wait until kids start school. Studies have shown that denying at-risk toddlers quality child care may multiply by as much as five to 10 times the risk that they will become criminals later.

Today, millions of parents who must work earn less than the cost of quality child care. They are forced to leave their children in poor quality baby-sitting that actually damages child development, including kids' ability to get along with others and succeed in school, and ultimately puts your family's safety at risk.

Head Start, America's principal child development program for our most at-risk kids, is so starved for funds it can serve less than half of eligible preschoolers, can serve them only part of their parents' workday, only part of the year and reaches scarcely any kids under 3.

No wonder a recent poll showed police chiefs ranked increasing investments like child care and after-school programs our "most effective" anti-crime weapons by a four-to-one margin over trying more juveniles as adults or even hiring more police. Nine out of 10 chiefs said, "America could sharply reduce crime if government invested more" in child care and after-school programs.

Last month, through a new organization called Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, more than 200 police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors and crime victims called on legislators to support these investments. Days later, the Major Cities Chiefs, police chiefs from America's 49 largest cities, unanimously endorsed the same call for action.

Investments in quality child care and after-school programs are also proved to save billions of tax dollars down the road. A leading economist estimates that the cost, including crime and welfare costs, of failing to provide at least two years of quality child care to low-income children is approximately $100,000 per child. That's hundreds of billions of tax dollars we could save by supporting child care.

When we as a nation make Head Start and Early Head Start available to every eligible child, help struggling families pay for good child care and provide communities with the funds to give every school-age child positive alternatives to the street in the after-school hours, we will win a stunning victory against crime.

Government cannot meet its most fundamental responsibilities — protecting public health and the public safety — without making sure every community can provide its kids the quality child care and after-school programs proved to help their children grow up right.

That's why Congress should allocate at least half of new federal tobacco tax revenues to support child care and after-school programs. This two-fisted attack boosting tobacco prices to keep kids from smoking and investing those funds in programs that build better young citizens would be among the most powerful steps Congress has ever taken to fight crime and increase public safety and public health.

Indeed, crime may be America's most fundamental public health issue. It's time for us to pay now for prevention, instead of waiting to spend far more later — in money and lives — on preventable crime.

Ruben Ortega is chief of the Salt Lake City Police Department.

This op-ed by Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Advisory Committee member Ruben Ortega also ran in the *Salt Lake City Tribune*, circ 186,000

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Op

EDITORIALS

Crime stoppers

N.C. police and prosecutors say start young

They're the courthouse and jail house crowd. They have every reason to be cynical, every reason to say build more cells, every reason to say throw away the key.

But they offer a different message. They remind us that prevention is as important as punishment in combatting crime.

It's worth commending Mecklenburg District Attorney Peter Gilchrist and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Chief Dennis Nowicki for their support of a group called "Fight Crime: Invest in Kids." The group, whose advisory committee includes 19 prosecutors and law enforcement leaders from across the state, has a timely, bipartisan appeal for legislators.

The group says increasing investments in Smart Start, after-school programs and parenting education that includes home visits to high-risk families would be "the secret weapon" that could prevent crime and ultimately protect N.C. families.

Winston-Salem Police Chief George Sweat put it bluntly in his statement last week: "Our fight against crime needs to start in the high chair, not wait for the electric chair."

The group stresses the importance of development programs for children in their first five years of life. That's when it's crucial to have decent child-care options with well-trained providers who can instruct little ones, not just babysit them. And Fight Crime reminds us that some parents must be taught, too. The best way to coach parents, Fight Crime says, is through home visitor programs. They've been proven to reduce child abuse and negect, which would be no small feat in North Carolina where more than 30,000 children were victims of substantiated abuse and neglect in 1996. They also cut the chances that children will become delinquent, according to the studies. North Carolina offers a home-visiting program to at-risk parents, but it serves only 300 families in seven counties. The law enforcement group would like to add to that number 1,150 families across 24 more counties. The cost: $3.2 million.

These options aren't cheap. Expanding Smart Start for child care from 55 counties to all 100 counties would cost $57 million. Watch the money: Lawmakers this session might be willing to argue for more training school beds and tougher penalties for juvenile delinquents. That's the usual approach during an election year. But the real test of their willingness to combat crime will come if they pay attention to Fight Crime and argue for an early investment in children. With that investment, they'll offer public safety in future years and a better society all around.

MAINE VOICES

WHERE IT'S NEEDED MOST

Spend tobacco tax for child care

● Top police officials know the biggest threat to children's health is violent crime.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Michael Chitwood is chief of the Portland Police Department.

By MICHAEL CHITWOOD

Congress will soon be considering proposals to discourage smoking during the teen-age years, when most smokers start, by adding a tax of $1.50 per pack to the price of cigarettes. This would be a major step forward for children's health and public health.

These tobacco tax bills also offer Congress the chance to deliver a one-two punch, to prevent crime while they improve public health. After all, the most immediate threats to child health come not from smoke but from fire – gunfire – and from other violent crimes.

How can Congress cut crime with tobacco tax bill?

By investing federal tobacco tax revenues in two of America's most powerful anti-crime weapons – quality child care and after school programs.

Child care and after-school programs are proven to cut crime by getting kids off to the right start and giving them the skills and moral values that will help them grow into the good neighbors we all want them to be. For example:

Studies have shown that denying at-risk toddlers quality educational child care may multiply by up to five times the risk that they will become chronic law-breakers as adults, and by up to 10 times the risk they will be delinquent at age 16.

FBI data tell us that violent juvenile crime triples in the hour after the school bell rings, and nearly half occurs between 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

The good news: After-school programs have cut crime by as much as 40 percent to 75 percent in some high-crime neighborhoods. Research also shows that after-school program participants are more likely to do well in school, to treat adults with respect, and to resolve conflicts without violence.

Unsupervised after-school hours aren't just prime time for juvenile crime. Thy're also prime time for youngsters to become crime victims, and for other threats to children's health like teen sex and drug abuse. And they are too often the hours when children first get hooked on tobacco. After-school programs could have a powerful effect on these problems as well.

Investments in child care and after-school programs would also save billions in crime and welfare costs, and generate billions in tax revenues when the kids grow up.

A leading economist estimates that the cost of failing to provide at least two years of quality child care to low-income children is approximately $100,000 per child. That's hundreds of billions of tax dollars we could save by supporting child care!

No wonder more than 200 police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors and crime victims – through an organization called "Fight Crime: Invest in Kids" – have called on state and national legislators to support these crime-preventing investments. And last month the Major Cities Chiefs, police chiefs from America's 49 largest cities, unanimously endorsed a similar call for action.

The situation as it stands is alarming. Nationwide, millions of parents who must work earn less than the cost of quality child care.

They are forced to leave their children in poor-quality baby-sitting that actually damages child development, including their ability to get along with others and succeed in school, and ultimately puts your family's safety at risk.

Here in Maine, thousands of struggling families are on child care assistance waiting lists. By denying quality care to those often high-ris children, we are putting ourselve and our own families in danger c becoming crime victims in the year ahead.

And every day in America, th final school bell starts more tha 5 million latchkey kids – includi thousands across Maine – on a unsupervised afternoon that to often involves violence and othe unhealthy behaviors.

Police are no-nonsense fol. We're accustomed to asking "wh works," and acting accordingly. An we understand that, while we mu work every day to put dangero criminals behind bars, no amoun police or prisons can undo th anguish of crime victims.

There's no more fundament government responsibility than pro tecting the public safety. Congre can't meet that responsibility wit out permanent funds so every com munity can ensure its families th quality child care and after-scho programs to help kids grow u right.

The way to do that – the one-tw punch that also fights teen smokin – is by earmarking at least half new federal tobacco tax revenues support child care and after-scho programs.

This would be one of the mo powerful steps Congress has ev taken against crime, and a treme dous investment to help Ameri build a healthy and productive ge eration for the 21st centur decrease long-term governme financial burdens like welfare an crime costs, and start saving inn cent lives today.

– Special to the Press Hera

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A Media General Newspaper

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416-420 North Marshall Street
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101

FOUNDED APRIL 3, 1897

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PREVENTING CRIME

High, not electric, chair

Winston-Salem Police Chief George Sweat visited Raleigh last Tuesday and earned a big "attaboy" from advocates of juvenile crime-prevention programs. Sweat, in advocating expansion of existing state and local programs to give children a good start in life, was nothing short of a show stopper.

"We have figured out something," Sweat told a press conference of police chiefs and child advocates. "We know where adult criminals come from. They are little children who have not been nurtured. There are plenty of programs in place now for the adult criminal, but the best place to fight crime now is at the front end of the system. The best place to fight crime is not in the electric chair, but in the high chair."

Sweat said that programs such as Smart Start, Support our Students, Head Start and Great Beginnings "will do more to deal with crime in our state than the number of police officers and prison beds."

Sweat was one of nearly a dozen police chiefs and sheriff's representatives who were in the capital to support "Fight Crime: Invest in Kids," a nationwide effort to improve educational, recreational and counseling programs for children. The organization is making a statewide effort to get law enforcement behind the funding of these programs in the fiscal 1999 budget.

The police officers and district attorneys in the program will be lobbying their local legislators, and Sweat vowed to work on the influential Forsyth delegation. Unfortunately, the message did not get to Gov. Jim Hunt before he released his $42 million juvenile-justice budget package Wednesday. The governor had little additional money for the kind of prevention programs that the chiefs advocate. They have three main goals for this year's legislative session. They advocate full funding of Hunt's Smart Start program. It operates in 55 counties now, and Hunt's 1999 budget includes an additional $57 million to expand to all 100 counties. The police chiefs note that national studies have repeatedly shown better social and educational performance from teens who participated in pre-school programs.

The N.C. Child Fatality Task Force is advocating a $3.2 million expansion of the Intensive Home Visiting Program, which sends parenting coaches into the homes of parents who are at-risk of raising delinquent children. The money would be sufficient to help 1,500 families a year. Sweat said that in many homes children receive no love and no support. To leave children in those homes without trying to help parents do a better job is unacceptable. Unfortunately, Hunt proposed only an $800,000 expansion.

Finally, the chiefs advocate expansion of Support Our Students and Communities In Schools, programs that seek to provide youngsters with tutoring and recreation after school and on weekends. These programs steer youngsters to positive activities and help raise student achievement. Most juvenile crime occurs in the five hours right after school; these programs keep teens out of trouble at those times. Hunt did not propose any expansion of S.O.S. but did ask for an extra $1 million for the mostly community-funded Communities in Schools.

Sweat and the other chiefs know, first hand, that idle youngsters — those without academic success, loving parenting or aspirations — are the most likely to be involved in crime. They should be applauded for trying to direct the crime battle away from the electric chair and back to the high chair.

The Salt Lake Tribune

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MONDAY/MARCH 16, 1998

Ortega's Answer to Kid Crime: Alternative Activities

Give Youths Something to Do After School, Police Boss Says

BY HOLLY MULLEN

THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

You could call it the weekday "witching hour." The clock strikes 3 p.m. Schools are just letting out, kids are on the streets and the crime rate suddenly skyrockets.

Statistically, youths commit more crime between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. than any other time of the day. It's true in Utah and the rest of the nation. And, according to a 1995 study by the Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, late afternoon is "crime time" almost equally in the urban and rural areas of the state.

It's no surprise then that Salt Lake City Police Chief Ruben Ortega is on a mission to turn that trend around. Recently elected chairman of the Major Cities Chiefs, an organization of police chiefs from the largest cities in the United States and Canada, Ortega has an agenda, and he isn't the least bit timid about it.

Al Hartmann/The Salt Lake Tribune

Salt Lake Police Chief Ruben Ortega

"We know crime is going to occur. But our best potential for reducing it is in our kids. We need to give them structure and positive activity after school.

"Right now, too many of them have only the malls and the streets."

And then, Ortega, who was sitting for a recent interview at a conference table in his spacious eighth-floor office at police headquarters in downtown Salt Lake City, said something many politically conservative Utahns would rather not hear.

The government needs to help. A lot.

"We need funds," Ortega says. "We need the elected and appointed leadership to support after-school programs for children. These programs cost money, but it's an investment that will pay off."

In this, Ortega has the support of some

See ORTEGA, Page A-7

Ortega Contends Youth Programs Can Cut Crime

■ Continued From A-1

powerful Democrats in Congress, notably Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., who on March 2 introduced a bill calling for $7.25 billion over five years for after-school, weekend and summer programs for school-age children. Kennedy has suggested paying for the programs through a tobacco tax or by cutting corporate tax breaks.

The government would earmark the money for youth programs only, which is the piece of the bill Republicans cannot agree with, says Jeanne Lopatto, press secretary for the Senate Judiciary Committee and a staff member of Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch, who chairs the panel.

It is this combination of early intervention and prevention that is succeeding on the streets of Boston, a city that Ortega and many other law-enforcement leaders cite for its groundbreaking approach to fighting youth crime.

Until the shooting death of a 16-year-old boy on Dec. 11, 1997, the city had gone for 29 months without a juvenile murder.

Network of Cooperation: Boston's program relies on cooperation by police, courts and social agencies to target the most violent and repeat youth criminals, says Jim Jordan, spokesman for Police Commissioner Paul Evans.

"With the help of some good intelligence, we're targeting which youngster is most likely to get killed or to kill somebody," Jordan says. Once the "regulars" are identified, police and probation officers ride herd on them.

In 25 percent of Boston's murders, the shooter was already on probation. And those suspects averaged nine criminal arraignments — on cases ranging from petty property crimes to homicide, Jordan says.

Once the repeat offenders were taken out, a "startling revelation occurred," Jordan says.

The number of violent crimes by youth began to collapse.

Four years ago, when President Clinton proposed the massive crime bill, the cry went up against many of the programs geared toward youth.

"Midnight basketball" became the buzzwords for all that was silly, frivolous and unnecessary.

This time around, Ruben Ortega is feeling more optimistic that Kennedy's bill will succeed, that more of that elusive federal aid will come this way.

That's because Ortega sees after-school care as a bipartisan issue. He wants to believe that politicians will rise above their petty differences and invest in children.

He shrugs his shoulders and smiles.

"I gotta believe," he says, "that this is one issue the Democrats and Republicans can agree on."

"There is a clear difference in methods of funding and administering these programs," Lopatto says. Hatch has introduced his own proposal, dubbed the Violent and Repeat Juvenile Offender Act of 1997, which would give the states $2.5 billion over five years to spend on anti-crime measures largely as they see fit.

Youth Crime Prevention: The Hatch bill would earmark 60 percent of the grants for youth crime prevention, Lopatto says.

"The money would go to the states, as opposed to the federal government telling them what to do and how to spend it. The states know best how to use the money."

Already there are numerous after-school programs in place for children along the Wasatch Front. Some of them, such as community centers, receive government aid. Others, like the Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA and other nonprofits, depend largely on private foundations and donations for support. Still others, like Kids Together, one after-school program offered in some Salt Lake City and Jordan school districts, operate for profit.

The Salt Lake City police are making their own contribution, Ortega says, but it still is not enough. The department sponsors three Boy Scout and three Girl Scout troops in low-income neighborhoods. There is also a police Explorer post with 20 teen-age girls and boys.

These early intervention programs go hand-in-hand with enforcement, Ortega says.

"We'll never arrest ourselves out of the crime problem," Ortega says. "But we can decrease it by identifying the neediest kids early and working with them.

"I can walk into any grade school in town and the teachers can tell me who is at risk to fail," Ortega says. "They come to school dirty and hungry. They are withdrawn. They are truant. We've got to get to these children and let them know someone cares about what happens to them."

New York, NY

WEEKLY 3,155,155

BETWEEN THE LINES

HARNESSING THE HYSTERIA

As the shots in Jonesboro fade, let's channel our grief into the larger cause of helping kids

BY JONATHAN ALTER

One of the most shocking things about the Jonesboro massacre is that it's still shocking—that America's bottomless capacity for violence has not fully numbed us yet. Kids who kill is hardly a new story, but here we are having a national debate about it. That's good. The question is how we will deploy our emotional firepower.

PRIME TIME LIVE—ABC-TV-AP

Easy answers elude us, but images like those of Andrew Golden's learning how to shoot should force us to keep asking the hard questions

Throughout last week, the arc of the story was familiar enough. We heard all of the predictable follow-up angles about life at the Westside Middle School the day after. (The fire alarm is now disconnected. Very helpful.) Lawyers took to the air to debate the proper punishment for prepubescent kids. A few news organizations felt some pangs of context and mentioned a new government report showing violence at American schools has actually dropped significantly in recent years. But that was a mere quibble amid the grief.

Beyond sympathy for the Jonesboro families and worry over which of my own kids' classmates could go postal, my first reaction to the media's latest *dance macabre* was irritation. Why must every event be turned into a morality play, with "lessons" to be drawn? Stuff happens. Bad stuff. Every day. It's unlikely that any law or program or curriculum could have prevented these murders. The strictest gun-control laws imaginable would still allow for ownership by wildlife-management-area supervisors like Andrew Golden's grandfather, whose rifles were used in the attack. And even the best parenting can yield horrific outcomes. (Jeffrey Dahmer's father, who wrote a moving book, seems an especially decent sort.) The easy answers elude us, yet we search endlessly for them anyway. As nature abhors a vacuum, so media abhor the unexplainable.

We're often told nowadays that the news cycle is too short. Technology allows everyone to report from the scene much faster than in the past, and all of the analysts are already out in force by dinner time on day one. But in another sense, the cycle of these tragic stories is much longer than it used to be. Before cable news and TV-magazine shows, a story about a massacre or serial killer would get serious attention on the network evening news (as well as saturation coverage locally) but mostly disappear the next day. Today it might live on for a week or more, kneaded into a hundred media shapes.

Because the tragic stories linger longer now, they can be leveraged more easily for social change. Sure, the logic that connects this massacre to a larger social agenda is thin. But logic can be overrated. And so my irritation at media "lessons" subsides into a question. Which is worse: to take a random tragedy and make it a symbol that galvanizes the country? Or to let the moment pass without any effort to channel the fear and emotion into something constructive? I'd argue that the latter is worse.

So let's see where we can take this. First, guns. The school massacre in Dunblane, Scotland, led to Great Britain's banning handguns altogether. That won't happen here, though the passage of the Brady bill shows gun control is less unrealistic than we often assume. A more fruitful approach may lie in emulating the anti-tobacco lawsuits. If the owner of a car is responsible when a family member gets in an accident, why not the owner of a gun? If you need a key to get toilet paper in many public restrooms, why not a key for a gun? Last summer the White House persuaded some gun manufacturers to make more weapons with safety locks, but the real way to bring change is to sue like hell after every incident. State attorneys general, who spearheaded the tobacco suits, are getting motivated, and juries may be sympathetic. The argument that the easy availability of guns has nothing to do with the death toll is now patently absurd. Anyone ever heard of a drive-by *stabbing*?

Police chiefs are all for gun control, but they also strongly support after-school programs. Fifty percent of all juvenile crime is committed between the hours of 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. We have 5 million latchkey kids in this country who lack adult supervision and supportive activities. A recent survey of 548 police chiefs conducted by Northeastern University showed that the chiefs chose "investment in programs" to help children by nearly 4-1 over "trying more juveniles as adults" or even "hiring additional police officers" as the best way to fight juvenile crime.

Yet the juvenile-justice bill pending in the Senate is overwhelmingly tilted toward more enforcement. By failing to earmark more for prevention, we're "ignoring the most powerful weapon in our anti-crime arsenal," says Sanford Newman, of a group called Fight Crime—Invest in Kids. And fighting crime is not the only way to make more funding for prevention a bipartisan issue. Character education—a greater emphasis on explicitly teaching right from wrong—is also prevention. Today's goal in Washington and state capitols should be to make prevention as much of a mom-and-apple-pie issue as, say, hunting.

The problem of troubled youth is, as Colin Powell says, the biggest threat to the future of the United States. The amazing thing about the problem is that we actually know what the solution to it is. The solution, especially for the 15 million kids living in poverty, is a relationship with a caring adult: a teacher, mentor, coach. It doesn't always work. It may not have worked in the cases of Andrew Golden and Mitchell Johnson, who already came from a supportive environment. And it sure isn't easy. But as the shots fired in Jonesboro reverberate around the world, let's harness the hysteria to the larger work before us.

The Arizona Daily Star

Tucson, Wednesday, June 24, 1998

Funding kids' programs makes cops' jobs easier

By L. Anne Newell
The Arizona Daily Star

Arizona law-enforcement officials want politicians to make their jobs easier - by funding programs intended to keep kids from turning to crime.

Tucson Police Chief Douglas Smith joined officials from across the state at a Phoenix day-care center yesterday to kick off the Arizona committee of the national organization Fight Crime: Invest in Kids.

The group is lobbying for more day-care, after-school and early intervention programs, said John Bartlett, a spokesman for the national organization.

Invest in Kids bases its premise on studies that show programs targeting disadvantaged children early provide benefits such as better emotional and cognitive development, improved learning abilities, reduced criminal activity and greater employability as an adult.

"Law enforcement has recognized for many years that the criminal justice system cannot fix the root causes of crime," Smith said yesterday in a phone interview. "A lot of incidences of crime result from family issues that affect a child at a young age."

Bartlett said experience has taught law-enforcement personnel that once a child becomes involved with crime, he or she has a tough time trying to get out.

"These people see a kid on their beat and they know they'll see them again in five years," he said.

Pima County Attorney Barbara LaWall, who supports the committee but was unable to attend yesterday's conference, said the county has been active recently through the Southern Arizona Crime Prevention Partnership. That partnership, in conjunction with the University of Arizona, in February offered tuition waivers for all third-graders at C.E. Rose Elementary School.

It also sponsors many after-school programs that keep kids occupied during the hours juveniles most frequently commit crimes, she said.

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

)98 • Phoenix, Arizona www.azcentral.com

Keep money from our kids, and pay the consequences

Children are like pets in our national psyche. Fun to have around at Christmas. A bother at dinner parties. And certainly not worth the kind of investment we made in highways or military readiness.

The child welfare system is infamous for abandoning children to abuse or shuffling them through foster care. Schools nationwide are struggling to deal with crumbling buildings and antiquated funding mechanisms. Good quality child care is hard to find and impossible for many parents to afford.

Meanwhile, the harvest of kid crime overpowers the juvenile justice system.

Kids get lots of lip service from politicians. But solutions with a price tag are still met with wails about how "feel-good" children's programs amount to unseemly government involvement.

That argument is a diversionary tactic.

The call to better fund children's services should not inspire a debate about the role of government. Why? Because taking care of kids' needs equates with protecting the public safety — a job most people see as one of the most fundamental functions of government.

Much delinquency and adult criminal behavior has its roots in childhood. That link is brought home every time some slimy rapist tells the judge about his childhood of abuse. It reverberates in the low literacy rates for prison inmates. It haunts the recurring cycle of domestic violence.

Recognizing the link doesn't mean excusing adult criminals. It does mean we can make the world safer tomorrow by paying attention to kids today.

There's momentum building to do that. It got a boost this week when 21 top law enforcement officials in Arizona went public with their commitment to a nationwide program called Fight Crime: Invest in Kids.

Police chiefs, prosecutors and sheriffs from all over Arizona want the Legislature to spend more on prevention.

"No quantity of police officers or prison cells can bring back a murdered loved one or undo the anguish of crime," said Maricopa County Attorney Richard Romley. "Until we start supporting the front-end investments in programs for kids, our fight against crime will always be too little, too late for too many victims."

Nationwide, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids has brought together more than 300 law enforcement officials and crime victims to carry the same message to Congress.

Created about two years ago and funded through foundation grants, the group compiled research to show that parent training, home visits, good early childhood education and other services can cut delinquency rates by 90 percent.

Mentoring programs make kids less likely to use drugs. After-school programs reduce crime because half of all violent juvenile offenses occur in after-school hours. A strong child welfare system is a crime-fighting tool because abused or neglected children have a 59 percent higher likelihood of being arrested as a juvenile.

Law enforcement officials embraced the message because it reinforces their daily experience, says Fight Crime: Invest in Kids spokesperson John Bartlett. Cops know which kids go bad. And they know why.

Politicians know they can't dismiss cops and prosecutors as easily as they do the bleeding-heart child advocates who bleat the same message.

So maybe lawmakers will be forced to start making payments on an old, old debt to our children.

LINDA VALDEZ
Editorial Writer
The Arizona Republic

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ChildCare ActioNews

CCAC

Child Care Action Campaign
January–February 1998 • Volume 15 No. 1

Child Care and Public Safety

Investing in Kids Prevents Crime


YMCA of Greater New York

Police Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske at a press briefing last year organized by Fight Crime: Invest in Kids. Kerlikowske is one of 20 police chiefs nationwide who have joined prosecutors, crime survivors and experts on children's issues in starting this new national advocacy organization to raise awareness about the relationship between crime and society's failure to provide adequately for children.

Dolores Schaefer

"My son is in second grade and can't read," a mother complained at a school board meeting I chaired several years ago. "Every male in my child's life dropped out of school because he couldn't read. They all learned to read in jail. Do I tell my son he has to go to prison to learn to read?"

For this mother, crime and violence were not statistics. Her son, she knew, would wind up a teenager behind bars unless someone did something to prevent it. Five years after that meeting, I can still hear the anguish in her voice.

Americans continue to rank crime and violence as top concerns in yearly Gallup polls. Juvenile crime, in particular, has skyrocketed: the FBI reports one out of five individuals arrested for violent crimes is under 18. Between 1988 and 1992, juvenile arrests for violent crimes rose by 44 percent, compared to 19 percent for adults. At election time, candidates are quick to propose new get-tough measures, and legislators willingly appropriate money to hire more police and and build new jail cells while cutting expenditures for programs that prevent crime.

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids

But those who look beyond the horror stories and knee-jerk responses have another solution. "We'll win the war on crime when we're ready to invest our tax dollars in America's most vulnerable children, instead of waiting until they become 'America's Most Wanted' adults," said Buffalo (NY)

Police Chiefs: Child Care Is #1 Crime Prevention Strategy

"Child care and after-school programs are public safety issues," says Sanford A. Newman, President of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids. "Studies prove that quality early childhood care and after-school programs are some of our most powerful weapons against crime today and tomorrow, because they get kids off to the right start and teach them the values and skills they need to become good neighbors instead of criminals. There is no government responsibility more fundamental than protecting public safety .... The government must do what it takes to fill the gaps that parents, volunteers, schools and other providers can't."

In July 1996, Northeastern University's Center for Criminal Justice Policy Research

(Continued on page 4)

Investing in Kids Prevents Crime

(Continued from page 1)

YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago

conducted a national survey of 780 police chiefs. Ninety-two percent agreed that "America could sharply reduce crime if government invested more in programs to help children and youth get a good start" by "fully funding Head Start for infants and toddlers, preventing child abuse, providing parenting training for high-risk families, improving schools and providing after school programs and mentoring." Nine out of ten also agreed that "if America does not pay for greater investments in programs to help children and youth now, we will all pay far more later in crime, welfare, and other costs."

When asked to rank the long-term effectiveness of a number of possible crime fighting approaches, "increasing investment in programs that help all children and youth get a good start" was picked as "most effective" nearly four times as often as either "trying more juveniles as adults" or even "hiring additional police officers."

The Evidence Grows

This street-wise common sense is supported by a significant body of research conducted over the past decade that shows that quality early childhood programs, after-school programs, and early intervention programs for families at risk are effective strategies in preventing crime and saving taxpayers millions of dollars.

• The *High/Scope Foundation's Perry Preschool Study Through Age 27* (1993) showed that when at-risk three- and four-year-olds were randomly assigned to receive quality child care, together with weekly home visits providing coaching for parents, the risk that these children would grow up to become chronic lawbreakers was cut by a startling 80 percent.

• *More Pride, Less Delinquency: Findings from the Ten-Year Follow-up Study of the Syracuse University Family Development Research Program* (1988) showed that providing quality early childhood programs to families until children reached age five reduces the children's risk of delinquency ten years later by 90 percent.

• The National Institute of Justice's 1992 study, *The Cycle of Violence*, showed that children who have been abused or neglected are 59% more likely to become involved in criminal activity as juveniles, and 27% more likely to be involved in crimes as adults. They are twice as likely as a demographically matched comparison group to have been arrested more than five times. With over three million children a year falling victim to abuse or neglect, preventing these conditions is of paramount importance to community safety.

• The Rochester Medical School Nurse Home Visitation Program provided low-income, first-time teen mothers and their babies home visits by a specially trained nurse during pregnancy and for two years after the child's birth. Nurses provided coaching for parents on child development, child-rearing skills and children's health needs, and they connected new mothers with other community health and human service agencies. By the time the children turned four, only one in 25 who received services had been abused or neglected, compared to one in five of the control group. The program had cut the rates of abuse and neglect by 80%. Denying these services quintupled the risk of abuse and neglect.

• Similarly, Hawaii's statewide Healthy Start program screens new mothers at hospitals to identify at-risk families and gives them the option to enroll in a comprehensive services program that provides preventive health care and home visits. Two studies (1995, 1996) show that the program cut abuse and neglect by 50-60 percent.

Juvenile Crime Plummets with After-School Programs

The peak hours for violent juvenile crime are between 3 and 8 p.m. After-school hours are also the time when teens most often engage in sexual activity.

After-school programs have a dramatic impact on juvenile crime. For example, a 32-month study of an after-school recreation program in a public housing project in Canada in 1989 compared juvenile arrests with those in a similar housing project providing only minimal recreational services. The number of juvenile arrests declined by 75 percent in the project served by the after-school program, but increased by 67 percent in the comparison project.

Teenagers in Philadelphia who were randomly assigned to a high school Quantum Opportunities Program of counseling, academic and life skills support, community service and financial incentives, were less than one-quarter as likely to be convicted of a crime during the high-risk high school years as those in a control group. Denying kids these services quadrupled the likelihood that they would be convicted of a crime while in high school. Those who participated in the program were 50 percent more likely to graduate high school on time and two-and-a-half times more likely to attend post-secondary schooling, according to an evaluative study conducted in 1995.

While after-school programs have an immediate impact on juvenile crime, their benefits are far-reaching. A University of Wisconsin study of 64 after-school programs supported by the Cooperative Extension Service found that children attending these programs got along better with their peers and had better grades, school conduct and emotional adjustment than other children. They also spent more time in academically enriching activities and less time watching television.

YMCA of Greater New York

Prevention Costs Trivial Compared to Intervention

"Despite the mountain of evidence that the first years of life are critical to the development of the brain and of a child's attitudes, programs like Early Head Start for infants and the in-home parenting coaching that we know can head off abuse and neglect are so underfunded that they can reach only a tiny fraction of the infants who need them," said George Sweat, Chief of Police in Winston-Salem, NC, in a press statement last September. Former U.S. Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson added "Today's inadequate investments in the early childhood development and after-school programs leave us stuck on a treadmill, running faster and faster to put people in jail while kids are turned into criminals faster than we can lock them up."

Prevention costs are trivial compared to the potential savings from preventing child abuse and neglect, births to teenage mothers, developmental and social problems resulting from inadequate early care, school dropouts, and juvenile crime. The Perry Prechool Study showed that $150,000 was saved per participant in criminal justice savings alone; for every dollar invested in quality preschool, society saved $7.16 overall.

Similarly, when participants in the Syracuse Family Development Program were studied at age 15 in 1988, only 6% of program participants had gotten in trouble and were on probation. Probation services for these children totalled $186 per child, all for minor offenses. Twenty-two percent of the control group were on probation, all for serious offenses such as robbery, assault, and sexual abuse. Probation work for these children cost $1,935 per child. The likelihood of later imprisonment for this group was great, at a cost of $30,080 a year.

In a forthcoming article in the *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, Mark A. Cohen, Associate Professor of Management at Vanderbilt University, calculated that preventing one at-risk youth from becoming a typical career criminal resulted in savings of $1.3-1.5 million. The savings could easily pay for a quality after-school program for 125 children during four years of high school!

"What the headlines [about juvenile crime] do not tell us is that these problems did not just suddenly happen. Violence and criminal behavior represent the cumulative toll taken on children growing up in profoundly hostile and uncaring surroundings," warns Irving B. Harris, a Chicago businessman and founder of the Ounce of Prevention Fund, a public-private partnership that works with adolescent mothers in Illinois.

An extensive study by Northwestern University of the cost of teen pregnancies in Illinois showed that in 1983 that state spent $853 million for costs associated with teenage pregancies. The figure represented close to half the annual budget of

(Continued on page 7)

Investing in Kids

(Continued from page 5)

Chicago. If spent on jobs, it could have provided 70,000 people with decently-paid work. The figure included children only up to age five, so the real costs of teenage births were in fact much greater. Yet even today, Harris points out, Illinois only spends $1 on prevention services for every $1,000 it spends on intervention after problems occur.

Child Care as a Public Safety Issue

The research and analysis provided by Fight Crime: Invest in Kids adds a powerful and compelling voice to the call for immediate and increased investment in child care. Child care has long been viewed as a basic need of working families and vital to business' bottom line. In recent years, child care's relationship to education reform and the development of a highly skilled and competitive workforce has received great attention. Fight Crime: Invest in Kids is demonstrating why child care should also be seen as a public safety issue.

"This is a national problem," George Sweat said. "There are no barriers to prevent an abused child from my state from growing up to commit crimes in any of your states, or to keep a neglected child from your state from hurting people in mine. If we're ready to guarantee free room and board in a prison cell to a criminal, shouldn't we be just as ready to guarantee a slot in a Head Start program to an innocent, developing toddler? Shouldn't we be as ready to guarantee Early Head Start to infants as we are to guarantee a long stay in prison to a chronic violent offender?"

For more information, contact:
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Chairman's Corner

(Continued from page 2)

Sey Chassler understood money—well, maybe not money with that many zeroes—but he was not afraid to spend his own and his magazine's to promote causes that meant so much to him and to his country. Child care needs that kind of tough-minded generosity—in this case, it needs politicians, especially at the top, who are willing to spend political capital to bring quality early care to every American child.

Last fall, Sey knew he was sick, dangerously so, but still he was fretting with me about how to talk celebrities into getting more involved in our mission. This was a wonderful man who wore his causes on his sleeve. They matched the plaid perfectly. It's a fashion statement that I earnestly recommend to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Washington Watch

(Continued from page 3)

ate income families unless the credits are refundable. Direct subsidies through the Child Care and Development Block Grant are the most effective way to ensure funds help families in need pay for child care, improve the quality, and create new options for school-age children.

The Children's Defense Fund has set up a Child Care Advocacy E-mail Network in order to keep advocates informed about federal, state and other key child care developments. To subscribe, send an E-mail message to cdfchildcare@childrensdefense.org. This is an exciting year both in Washington and in state capitals and it is our task to ensure that all of the discussions result in real change for children and families.

Helen Blank is Director of Child Care and Development at the Children's Defense Fund.

CCAC

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Child Care Action Campaign (CCAC) is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening families, improving education and advancing the well being of children. CCAC builds partnerships among communities, schools and business leaders to improve child care and early education, and to make it affordable to all working families; stimulates investment in child care by employers, state and local governments, schools, and community organizations; communicates innovative ideas for improving child care to inspire parents, community leaders and the public to take action, and advocates public policies that support families. Child Care Action Campaign has led national thinking in defining child care as an issue of concern for all Americans.

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VOL 8, NO. 2 MARCH 1998

CATALYST

Child Care Means Crime Prevention

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a nonprofit organization founded in 1996, is spearheading a major effort to help people understand that affordable and accessible child care reduces crime. It has called on the nation's leaders to invest in children as a means of crime prevention.

- Fight Crime gathered the support of more than 180 police chiefs, sheriffs, other law enforcement officers, prosecutors, crime survivors, criminologists, child and youth development experts who signed a statement titled, *A Call for Action From America's Front Line Against Crime.*

- It issued a report, *Quality Child Care and After-School Programs: Powerful Weapons Against Crime,* citing numerous programs that effected a decline in crime, arrests, drug use, violence, and truancy and saved millions of tax dollars.

- It sent a letter to members of Congress urging significant increases in mandatory spending for Head Start, Early Start, and the Child Care and Development Block Grant to improve these programs and extend their reach to more families in need.

TAKE A BITE OUT OF CRIME

Attorney Sanford A. Newman, president of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids

"We can dramatically reduce crime by investing in child care and after-school care," said Sanford Newman, president of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids. "It's proven to help kids develop the skills they need to be good neighbors and responsible adults."

The law enforcement community sees early warning signs that often lead to criminal behavior. When they see poor housing conditions bundled with other socioeconomic problems, they see the children at-risk and know they'll probably see them pulled into the criminal justice system. Ed Flynn, Chief of Police, Arlington, VA, said, "Through experience, we see the pathology of families in trouble," and "we know who we're going to arrest [in the future]."

Fight Crime argues that if at-risk families have access to such services as child care, counseling, education, and recreation programs, criminal behavior can be prevented. The *Quality Child Care and After-School Programs* study reported on a public housing project where juvenile arrests dropped 75 percent after an after-school skills development program opened.

Ellen Halbert, a survivor of a violent crime who served as the first crime victim on the Texas Board of Criminal Justice (from 1993 to 1997), visited prisons and had access to prisoners' records that detailed events in their lives. She noted repeated traits among many inmates — including poverty, low levels of education, single-parent homes, and exposure to drugs at an early age — and realized, "These were kids who were victims of their birth who grew up to victimize us." She said the nation must do more to value children and invest in them. As a prevention advocate involved with Fight Crime she says crime survivors bring a unique perspective. "We don't want what happened to us to happen to anybody else. And that's crime prevention."

Continued on Page 2

Fight Crime from Page 1

Fight Crime's call to action states, "the most important weapons against crime are the investments that keep kids from becoming criminals — investments that enable all children to get the right start they need to become contributing citizens." The group advocates partnerships among government, parents, charities, volunteers, and the private sector to support quality child care and early childhood programs; a variety of after-school, summer, and weekend programs; and parenting classes that help to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Fight Crime makes a strong appeal to public officials, asserting government's responsibility to "provide the policies and the funding necessary to create and sustain the necessary partnerships."

With child care on the national agenda, Fight Crime took its message to Congress, asking them to eliminate the "crime prevention deficit" by adding at least $10 billion for Head Start, $5 billion for Early Start, and $20 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant over the next five years.

"Congress needs courage [to support prevention programs]," Halbert said. "They expect people to think they're tough on crime and don't think prevention is tough."

Sergeant Marty Pfeifer, representing the Fraternal Order of Police, added his thoughts on the difficulties in generating monetary support for prevention. "It's much easier to quantify arrests and charges. It's much harder to quantify [prevention's] success."

Chief Flynn emphasized, "It makes sense to provide kids with positive peer pressure, role models, and educational experiences." Communities need programs to keep young people and children from being victims or committing a crime. "Too many kids are left on the wayside with negative peer pressure, drug dealing, and violence." Prevention programs "can save thousands of lives and billions of tax dollars."

For more information on Fight Crime: Invest in Kids call 202-638-0690. To read the full report of *Quality Child Care and After-School Programs: Powerful Weapons Against Crime* on the Internet go to www.fightcrime.org. Printed copies of the 52-page full report can be obtained for $12 from Fight Crime: Invest in Kids. A 12-page executive summary also is available for $4. ◆

Baltimore Police Halt After-School Crime

In a high-crime Baltimore neighborhood, the police stepped in and opened an after-school center for area children. After the first year of operation, crime in that neighborhood had dropped 42 percent, according to the *Quality Child Care and After-School Programs: Powerful Weapons Against Crime* report issued by Fight Crime: Invest in Kids.

"The center allows a constructive outlet for kids that they otherwise may not have. Otherwise, chances are they'd be hanging out on street corners or getting into trouble," said Robert Weinhold, Baltimore Police Department, Director of Public Affairs.

Baltimore Police Commissioner Thomas Frazier got the police department involved in after-school programs through the Police Athletic League (PAL) as part of a crime prevention effort throughout the city. The first center opened in 1995; today there are 27. The goal is to have 29 centers, one in each police sector.

"This has been an absolutely tremendous program," Weinhold boasted. "It's turning kids' lives around."

PAL centers open every weekday at 2:00 p.m. and close at 10:00 p.m. and offer a range of activities in four areas of concentration: academics, arts and culture, character development, and athletics. Currently, 7,000 Baltimore youth, ages seven to 17 go to the centers, "a safe haven free of crime and other negative influences," Weinhold said. "As a result we have seen crime around the PAL centers drop."

In addition to providing constructive activities for youth, PAL centers foster positive relationships with police. Each PAL center has at least one full-time police officer assigned to it. Some centers have two officers. City youth can interact daily with these officers, who organize after-school activities and oversee operations.

A community service officer in each center serves as a support person, but centers rely heavily on

Continued on Page 3

From the Desk of Sandy Newman

One of the key reasons we've been able to accomplish so much in so little time is the wonderful welcome we've received from other groups in the child advocacy field like the Children's Defense Fund, the Child Welfare League of America, the YMCA, the Child Care Action Campaign, the National Crime Prevention Council, and the National Center for Juvenile Justice, to name a few.

We have been equally fortunate at the state level, where we have received extraordinary help from such organizations as our partner in Illinois, the Illinois Council for the Prevention of Violence, Voices for Illinois Children, the Illinois Day Care Action Council, North Carolina's Child Advocacy Institute, Covenant for North Carolina's Children, Arizona's Children's Action Alliance, and Maine's Children Center.

Not only have we leaned heavily on these groups for their expertise, but many have also worked to put the resources we provide into the hands of their own networks through articles like those attached.

We think the welcome they've given us as newcomers epitomizes the way allies should work together towards a common objective, and we wanted to be sure you knew what an important role they have played

Sincerely,

Sandy

Sanford A. Newman

P.S. You can now go to our web page (www.fightcrime.org) for access to our reports, press releases, fact sheets, and other information. If you have a web page and think that this information would be helpful to people accessing it, we would be grateful if you would make a link from your web page to ours. Please let us know if you would like us to do the same by faxing us your web address at (202) 638-0673 or e-mailing it to jonah@fightcrime.org.

FIGHT CRIME INVEST IN KIDS

Memorandum

To: Friends and Supporters of FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS
From: Sandy Newman
Date: July 28, 1998
Re: Update

Thanks to the tremendous support we've received from so many terrific partners, we've made extraordinary progress over the last four months.

Here's a recap of developments at FIGHT CRIME since we last updated you in March:

Impact of our After-School Report Continues to Snowball

Last September we released our report, *After-School Programs or After-School Crime,* at a press conference with Attorney General Janet Reno. Based on data compiled by the National Center for Juvenile Justice and the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention, this report showed that over half of all juvenile crime occurs between the hours of 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and that juvenile crime could be cut sharply if we invested in the quality educational and recreational after-school programs that help steer kids away from delinquent activity.

The report has generated extraordinary press coverage, and is, we believe, playing a significant role in creating interest among national and state policy-makers for increasing public investment in after-school programs. Its data and analysis, for example, are frequently cited by the President, the First Lady, the Vice President, and the Attorney General, and legislators at the federal and state levels.

And as we and our terrific allies continue to work with reporters, the coverage continues to grow over six months later, including, for example, a recent front page feature story in the *Los Angeles Times* and a 6-page feature story in *Newsweek* entitled "It's 4 p.m.: Do You Know Where Your Children Are?".

1334 G Street, NW • Suite B • Washington, DC 20005-3107 • (202) 638-0690 • Fax (202) 638-0673 • www.fightcrime.org
A project of the Action Against Crime and Violence Education Fund

A Three-Fold Increase in Police, Prosecutor and Crime Survivor Advocacy for the FIGHT CRIME Agenda

Over 350 of the nation's most respected police chiefs, prosecutors, and crime survivors have signed our Call for Action and are now involved, as members of our national or state advisory committees, in our efforts to educate the public and policy-makers about the crime prevention impact of investments in kids. This growth is due in large part to the progress we've made in our target states. For example:

- FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS **NORTH CAROLINA** held its kick-off press conference May 19th, releasing a report on the crime prevention impact of early childhood and youth development programs, and issuing a Call to Action signed by 20 law enforcement leaders, including police chiefs and prosecutors from every major city in the state, urging support for expanding state investment in such programs. The kick-off led to stories in all of the state's major newspapers, and coverage on NBC, ABC, and Fox television affiliates across the state. We are told it has also had a significant impact on policy-maker discourse and legislative support for the Smart Start program.

- On June 8th, our kick-off of FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS MAINE, at which our Maine Advisory Committee called on Congress to increase public investments in child care and after-school programs, garnered extensive television coverage from affiliates across the state . Two weeks earlier presentations by FIGHT CRIME Associate Director Amy Dawson led to the adoption of resolutions by both the Maine Chiefs and the Maine. Sheriffs Associations calling on all elected officials to increase public safety by investing in child and youth development programs. I wish you could have listened in to the meeting members of our Maine Advisory Committee had this week with Senator Collins (R-ME). Senator Collins said twice that their advocacy weighed heavily in her reluctant decision to vote for an amendment to the tobacco bill (see below) which would have earmarked $1.5 billion a year for child care— and she clearly left the meeting knowing that her state's law enforcement leaders believe passionately that child care and after-school programs should be top priority.

- In **Utah** our Advisory Committee now includes eighteen of the state's most respected law enforcement leaders. A recent op-ed by Salt Lake City Police Chief and FIGHT CRIME Advisory Committee member Ruben Ortega entitled "Best Crime Prevention is to Invest in Kids" ran in both of the state's major newspapers. This op-ed followed on the heels of a front page article in the state's biggest newspaper, The *Salt Lake City Tribune* , about Ortega's view that boosting funding for quality after-school programs would cut youth crime and victimization, and was followed by published letter to the editor from other Utah law enforcement leaders making the same point.

- Our **Arizona** Advisory Committee now includes most of the major law enforcement leaders in the state. Just last week, the Arizona Sheriffs and Prosecutors Association adopted a resolution similar to those passed in Maine and Utah. On June 23, Arizona law enforcement leaders came to Phoenix from around the state to hold a press conference kicking off FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS ARIZONA. The kick-off drew extensive television coverage and radio coverage on NPR affiliates across the state, as well as stories in the all of the state's major newspapers.

Key Law Enforcement Organizations
Enter the Battle for Child Care

In our last update we told you how a presentation to the Major Cities Chiefs organization, made up of chiefs from 52 of the largest cities in North America, had been followed by their passage of a resolution calling on all elected officials to increase public safety by investing in the child care and after-school programs that have been proven to reduce crime and violence. Well this was just the tip of the iceberg!

In the last three months, similar presentations by FIGHT CRIME Associate Director Amy Dawson, together with the leadership of our Advisory Committee members, have led to the National District Attorneys Association (representing the chief prosecutors from nearly every jurisdiction in the country), the Police Executive Research Forum (one of the nations leading police chiefs organizations), and the National Sheriffs Association (the largest sheriffs organization in the country) adopting resolutions similar to the one passed by Major Cities Chiefs.

These resolutions and those in target states are important because they authorize these organizations to advocate on these issues and because they attract the attention of the press and policy-makers. Moreover, the discussion that precedes their adoption, and the reports to the organization's membership which follow, are educating thousands of law enforcement leaders about the crime prevention impact of investments in kids. These chiefs, sheriffs, and prosecutors —including many who we haven't asked to be formally involved in FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS—bring back to their communities and incorporate into their work and their many talks to civic groups and community leaders our message and its implications. And when we do begin to organize in their states, we find law enforcement leaders already familiar with our message and eager to become involved.

FIGHT CRIME Congressional Briefing
Draws Strong Bi-Partisan Support

In May, FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS held a Congressional briefing at which Advisory Committee members and I presented research findings regarding the crime prevention impact of investments in kids. We were thrilled that the unique ability of our spokespeople to transcend party affiliations was reflected in the bi-partisan sponsorship of the briefing. Sponsors included policy-makers ranging from Republican Senators Alphonse D'Amato, Jim Jeffords, and Slade Gorton to Democratic Senators Ted Kennedy, Patrick Leahy, and Chris Dodd as well as four Republican and two Democratic representatives from the house.

Federal Legislation

The last weeks have felt like a roller coaster ride in our fight for child care and after-school programs. On Thursday, June 11th, thanks to the leadership of the Children's Defense Fund and the hard work of our Advisory Committee members and so many of our allies, we won an overwhelming 66-33 Senate vote to earmark $1.5 billion a year in tobacco revenues for child care and after-school programs. Nearly every one of the "swing" Senators who received special attention from our National and State Committee members voted for the amendment.

Four days later, a 42-Senator minority used Senate procedures to kill the entire tobacco bill, thwarting the 57 Senators who supported anti-smoking legislation. But our fight to win substantial new funding for child care and after-school programs will continue.

As you know, recent Congressional Budget Office figures suggest that federal budget surpluses over the next ten years will average $150 billion a year for a total of $1.5 trillion over ten years, a trillion more than it had been forecast at the beginning of the year. Meanwhile, most states are also experiencing major surpluses. Over the next months, and again next yeart, we are likely to see major battles at both the federal and state level over whether to spend these surpluses on tax cuts or on programs for low-income children and families.

When Congress decided that we couldn't keep running big budget deficits, it laid out a five year plan to get to a balanced budget. The way FIGHT CRIME's police chiefs, prosecutors, and crime survivors serving on our Advisory Committees see it, the biggest threat to Americans now is our crime prevention deficit — the huge gap between our current level of investment in our children and youth and the investments that we should be making. It's our goal to create an irresistible public demand for the investments in kids that have been proven to reduce crime and violence and save taxpayers billions of dollars in saved criminal justice and welfare costs.

Over the next several months, we'll be working hard to make sure the public understands that investments in educational child care and after-school programs are two of our most powerful weapons against crime — and that a failure by Congress to help struggling families access child care and after-school programs is a slap in the face to the law enforcement community and to all Americans.

And we'll be working to help voters learn to ask candidates this fall to explain how they'll close our crime prevention deficit .

In the coming months, we'll lay the groundwork with legislative leaders of both parties at the federal and state levels so that the start of new legislative sessions in January is marked by strong bipartisan support for child care, after-school programs and other investments that help children and youth get the right start.

As we look back at the way our strategy has been picking up momentum, and as we look ahead, we can't help but be filled with a tremendous sense of optimism and excitment.

Enclosures
- FIGHT CRIME Boxscore
- Ally Newsletter Clips
- Selected Press Clips

P.S. In addition to a few of the news clips our work has generated since we last wrote you in March, I have attached a FIGHT CRIME "Box Score" which quantifies at a glance our progress in key areas over the last year.

A Year of Extraordinary Progress
Measuring FIGHT CRIME INVEST IN KIDS by the Numbers

	June 1997	June 1998
Police, prosecutors and crime survivors who have signed our Call to Action and our serving on state and national FIGHT CRIME committees	50	352
Endorsement of law enforcement organizations for child care, family support and after-school programs	0	Major Cities Police Chiefs' National District Attorneys' Association Police Executive Research Forum National Sheriffs' Association Maine Chiefs' Association Maine Sheriffs' Association Arizona Sheriffs' and Prosecutors' Association
State committees launched	1	4
Verified media circulation broadcast or print coverage generated primarily by our work and on FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS message	18,585,005	78,945,012
Estimated additional broadcast coverage*	—	20,000,000
Total Readers/Viewers Reached	—	98,945,000

*This includes, for instance, coverage of our FIGHT CRIME kick-off press conference carried on over 3,500 CBS and ABC radio affiliates nationwide as well as coverage on scores of television stations we've been unable to monitor precisely.

President

Children's Defense Fund 25 Years
LEAVE NO CHILD BEHIND.

CDF Reports

March 1998
Volume 19, Number 3

Police officials urge child care investments

Citing the connection between quality child care and crime prevention, a group of more than 170 law enforcement officials is urging lawmakers to make greater investments in children's healthy development.

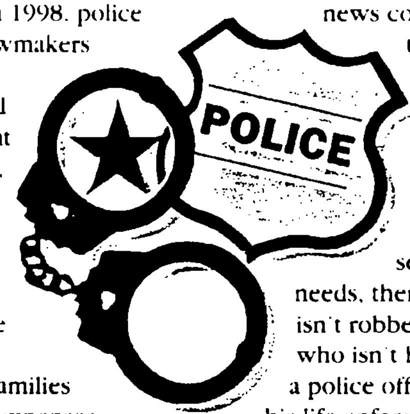
"Quality educational child care for preschool children and after-school activities for school-age youngsters are among the most powerful weapons in America's anti-crime arsenal," the group said in a new report from Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a Washington, D.C.-based organization.

Photo © Rick Reinhard

Melvin Wearing, chief of police in New Haven, Conn., urges lawmakers to invest in child care at a Capitol Hill news conference.

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

With Congress poised to consider a child care initiative in 1998, police officials are urging lawmakers to put additional resources into the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), Head Start, and Early Head Start. The officials also believe Congress should increase funding for the Dependent Care Tax Credit, which helps families with their child care expenses, and the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program for school-age children (see box, page 7).



The report, *Quality Child Care and After-School Programs: Key Weapons Against Crime*, points to strong evidence of the impact good quality child care can have on a child's development. Studies in Michigan and New York, for example, reported that programs for at-risk children under age 5 cut their risk of later delinquency and chronic lawbreaking by 80 percent to 90 percent. In Baltimore, an analysis of an after-school program reported that it reduced neighborhood crime by 42 percent.

According to the report, 92 percent of police chiefs nationwide agree that America could sharply reduce crime if government invested more in programs to help children and youth get a "good start" in life.

One police chief advocating strongly for greater investments in child care is Melvin Wearing, chief of police for New Haven, Conn. At an early February news conference, Wearing told lawmakers that investing in children may be expensive, but that not investing is more expensive.

"When [a] child has received the services he or she needs, there may be a store that isn't robbed, an elderly woman who isn't held up at gunpoint, or a police officer who doesn't lose his life enforcing the law."

He joined child advocates and a bipartisan group of lawmakers in urging passage of the Healthy and Smoke-Free Children Act, S.1492, a bill sponsored by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.). The bill would increase the tobacco tax by $1.50 over three years to provide revenue for child care programs while curbing teen smoking.

"For years, tobacco companies have targeted children and teenagers to make them life-long tobacco addicts," he said. "I fully support legislation to deter smoking, increase the tobacco tax, and use the revenue for early childhood education and after-school programs."

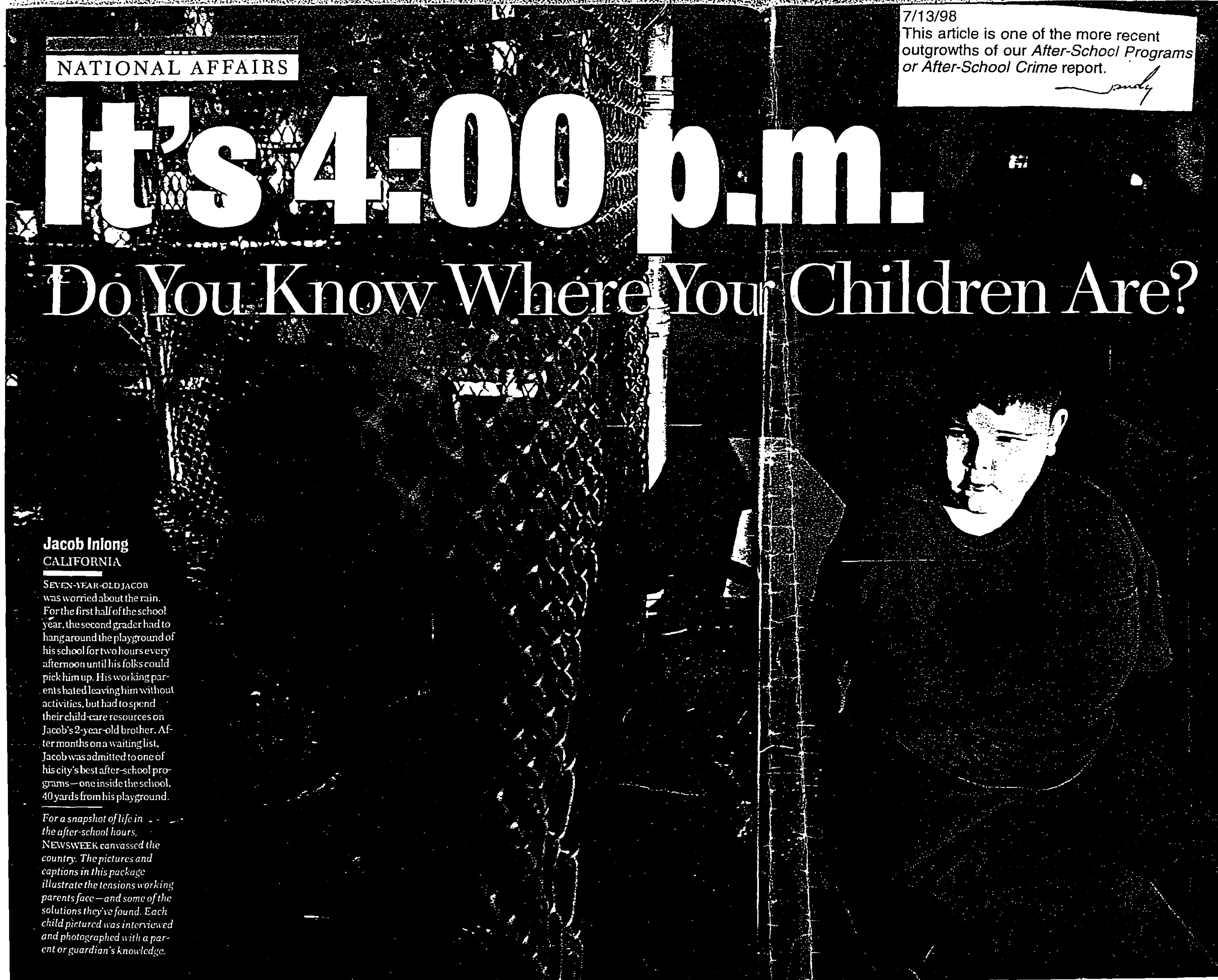
Copies of the report, Quality Child Care and After-School Programs: Key Weapons Against Crime, *are available from Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, 202-638-0690; www.fightcrime.org*

7/13/98
This article is one of the more recent outgrowths of our *After-School Programs or After-School Crime* report.
Sandy

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

It's 4:00 p.m.

Do You Know Where Your Children Are?



Jacob Inlong
CALIFORNIA

SEVEN-YEAR-OLD JACOB was worried about the rain. For the first half of the school year, the second grader had to hang around the playground of his school for two hours every afternoon until his folks could pick him up. His working parents hated leaving him without activities, but had to spend their child-care resources on Jacob's 2-year-old brother. After months on a waiting list, Jacob was admitted to one of his city's best after-school programs—one inside the school, 40 yards from his playground.

For a snapshot of life in the after-school hours, NEWSWEEK canvassed the country. The pictures and captions in this package illustrate the tensions working parents face—and some of the solutions they've found. Each child pictured was interviewed and photographed with a parent or guardian's knowledge.

TYRONE TURNER—BLACK STAR

The most dangerous time of day for kids isn't late at night. It's from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., when children are out of school and their parents are still working. This can be crime time, and prime time to get them on the right path.
BY JONATHAN ALTER

IT'S 4 P.M., AND SGT. MIKE GWYNES of the Jacksonville, Fla., police department is maneuvering his squad car past Jack Horner and Goldilocks toward Cinderella Street, where some teens are hanging out at a bus stop. Down in the Sweetwater section of town, the streets have fairy-tale names, but it's the kids who risk turning into pumpkins. And not at midnight. "The problem's 3 p.m. till about 8 p.m., when they go home unsupervised and get in with the wrong crowd," Gwynes says, making a sharp left. Over on Bo Peep, a few teenagers are playing some rough basketball in a driveway; on Tinkerbell, the activity looks a bit more suspicious. Drugs are a big problem here.

Up on Wilson Boulevard sits a big solution. An old National Guard armory restored by the Jacksonville Children's Commission now serves as an innovative charter school, a police substation and a Boys & Girls Club all rolled into one. At 4 p.m. the 5- to 9-year-olds are playing kickball, the 10- to 12-year-olds are playing board games or finishing up "Power Hour" homework help and the older kids are in the teen center, playing pool and flirting, under adult supervision. Cursing risks a fine (25 cents) and boomboxes aren't allowed, which means some kids won't show up. But plenty of others do, including some just out of juvenile detention. Youth crime in the area has plummeted.

It doesn't take a Ph.D. to figure out that young people need some place positive to go after school to stay off the streets and out of their empty homes. If they end up in jail, in drug treatment or pregnant, we all pay. And even if they're good kids from good neighborhoods, we're anxious. A NEWSWEEK Poll shows that the number of Americans who worry "a lot" that their kids will get involved with troublemakers or use drugs or alcohol was up by a full one third since 1990. With 17 million American parents scrambling to find care for their school-age children during work hours, the problem keeps growing.

More than a decade after the media discovered "latchkey kids," the answers are still elusive. When budgets get tight, after-school programs—wrongly dismissed as "frills"—are often cut first. When talk turns to society's worst problems, it's easy to shrug off concerns about kids home alone watching afternoon television or hanging with friends. After all, many of their parents did the same, and turned out just fine.

But times have changed, and not just because "Jerry Springer" has replaced Jerry Mathers (the star of "Leave It to Beaver") as the TV babysitter. Among cops, social-service types and policymakers, there's a new awareness that structured activity during out-of-school hours is absolutely critical to confronting many of the country's most vexing social problems. For years, local TV-station public-service announcements sternly intoned: "It's 10 p.m. Do you know where your children are?" It was the wrong question. The answer was usually yes; relatively few kids are allowed to roam freely at that hour. Only one seventh of all juvenile crime is committed in the late night and early morning. But substitute "4 p.m." and millions of parents would have to answer no.

If idle hands are the Devil's workshop, the hellish consequences are being felt in the American heartland. Crime is down in metropolitan areas, but up in hundreds of small communities, especially among kids. Drug use in suburban middle schools is surging. Many rural counties now report teen-pregnancy rates equal to those in big cities. Sixty percent of the cases of sexually transmitted diseases are contracted by teens. The absence of parents from the home in the afternoon has made it much more convenient to get into trouble. More than three quarters of first-time sexual encounters occur at someone's house (usually the boy's). "We had to use Chevys," says criminologist James Alan Fox of Northeastern University. "Now kids don't need cars. When the cat's away, the mice will have sex."

And commit crimes, both petty and serious. Juvenile crime *triples* starting at 3 p.m. In fact, the 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. period—"Crime Time"—now accounts for more than 50 percent of all youth offenses. Not your kid, you say? Well, he or she might be a victim; they outnumber perpetrators of crime by 10 to 1. Juvenile homicide, which has doubled in a decade, is usually connected to after-school fights, not late-night crime. But even for those who don't worry about a potential

Jeremy Reese
ALABAMA

Jeremy (Peewee) Reese has a wide choice of after-school programs in and around the Metropolitan Gardens housing project—he just doesn't always feel like joining in. The sixth grader sometimes drops by an inner-city athletic club for a little basketball or pool, but the volunteers won't hesitate to kick him out if he gets out of line. When that happens, he heads over to Marconi Park, even though he says two Disciples gang members approached him there last summer. "I told them 'I don't want to'," says Peewee, who lives with his grandmother. "They'll get you in trouble." He doesn't want to be in a gang, but he says he's not interested in the homework teachers assign him for the afternoons, and he doesn't often feel like following the rules. What does he want? "If I can't be a ballplayer, I want to be a judge. I want to be the one that makes the decisions."

Anthony Scimeca
Kelsey Kordas
ILLINOIS

"No hugging!" shouts one of a dozen teenagers at Vanessa Swanson's suburban house, and everyone laughs. "I guess it's reasonable that we can't hug at school," says Anthony, 12—but here there are fewer rules for him and his buddy (*not* girlfriend, they insist) Kelsey, 13, to follow. The kids know to call in and tell their folks where they are and what they are doing. This usually amounts to playing Nintendo 64, jumping on the trampoline and blasting dance music. "If I didn't come here, I'd probably be at the mall," says another 13-year-old. "But it's a cool place to hang out." Vanessa's working mom, Victoria, thinks it's worth investing in a case of soda a day to give the group a place to go. "At first I had some concerns," she says. "But at least I know where my kids are."

Benny Morales
OREGON

When 8-year-old Benny gets home from school, it's not his mom but his brother Cesar who is waiting at the door to their mobile home. Cesar, 16, does his best to keep both Benny and Eloy, 13, occupied until their mother comes home from her waitressing job around 9 p.m. "I feel safe with my brothers," says Benny. "All you do at day care is play Legos, and I don't like Legos." Twice a week, Eloy walks the second grader to T-Ball practice, but most afternoons in this economically depressed rural town are extremely quiet. When it starts to get dark, the boys sit down in the kitchen to do homework and help Benny with his school projects, dishing up dinner from a pot their mother Edith Sanchez has left bubbling on the stove whenever they get hungry. Cesar says he doesn't mind the way things are. How long will he be the caretaker? "As long as it takes."

FROM TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT: MARK PETERSON—SABA (2); MICHAEL KEVIN DALY

Jonesboro massacre in their neighborhood, everyday teen problems of all kinds get worse when the last school bell rings.

The research confirms common sense. According to one University of Southern California study, eighth graders looking after themselves were more likely to smoke, drink and use marijuana than those who have some supervision after school. Another study of sixth graders showed those in "self care" were more likely to get poor grades or behave badly.

Good youth-development programs not only keep kids safe, they often change their lives. Finally, social policymakers are getting the message. Last week Vice President Al Gore stumped for the administration's after-school initiative and foundations funded by Charles Stewart Mott and George Soros planted some seed money. Organizations like Save the Children (which until recently concentrated its efforts overseas) are also turning to this issue. So is Colin Powell's America's Promise, an umbrella group for hundreds of nonprofits and corporations that's working to secure millions more "safe places" for kids (sidebar).

The struggle starts in the schools, which in many places still close in midafternoon. Even wealthy communities are beginning to recognize the folly of locking buildings for large chunks of the day when they're needed for recreation, tutoring and arts. Some districts embrace change: for years, Murfreesboro, Tenn., has kept schools open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Others are actually moving in the wrong direction. Recently, Atlanta horrified child-development experts by canceling recess on the theory that there wasn't "enough time" for a break between classes. But the school day extends only until 2:30 p.m. Why? The current school schedule—six hours a day, nine months a year—was invented when the United States was an agrarian nation and children were needed in the fields.

Today, three out of four mothers of school-age children work outside the home. So it's not so surprising that by the time they are 12 years old, nearly 35 percent of American children are regularly left on their own. For the rest—the lucky ones—parents work by remote control to pull together a patchwork of supervised activities: soccer on Tuesdays, Scouts on Wednesday. Some child-care programs provide terrific enrichment; others amount to little more than warehousing. TV and videogames usually fill the gap. The average American child spends 900 hours a year in school—and 1,500 hours a year watching television.

For the working poor, having their kids watch TV at home is often the *best* option—far better than the streets. But the child-care arrangements can be alarming. According to a study sponsored by Wellesley College, more than 15 percent of low-income parents reported that their 4- to 7-year-old children regularly spent time all by themselves, or in the care of a sibling under the age of 12. Neighbors—who for generations helped out absent parents by shushing the kids—are no longer around much, either.

The schools that poor children attend are unlikely to have after-care. Currently only 30 percent of American schools offer after-hours supervision, and the vast majority of them charge fees. The average cost to parents is $45 a week per child, or more than $2,000 a year, which is too much for many who need it most. The YMCA, the largest provider of after-school activities, serves half a million kids a day from all backgrounds. But even Y's cost an average of $36 a week. The equation is straightforward: "If parents are well off, they purchase after-school care. If they're poor, [the kids] often get nothing," says Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith, one of many mayors now trying to find new solutions.

Among the biggest backers of after-school programs are the nation's police chiefs, who argue that recent reductions in crime, while gratifying, are temporary. "We've come to the realization that we're not going to arrest our way out of this problem," says Salt Lake City Police Chief Ruben Ortega, who heads an association of big-city police chiefs. "If we don't change our strategy, we'll be complaining in five or 10 years about how bad crime has gotten again."

Los Angeles is a good object lesson. Until Proposition 13 in 1978, all L.A. schools offered after-school enrichment programs. By 1992, when riots broke out in the wake of the Rodney King verdict, not one public high school had anything after school except interscholastic sports. The riots erupted in mid-afternoon. Would as many kids have been on the streets to join in if they had had somewhere else to go? Would the city's gang problem have gotten so out of hand? A program called L.A.'s Best is now trying to bring back after-school programs in a few schools. The waiting lists are long.

This is not touchy-feely do-gooder territory. A survey of 548 police chiefs showed them favoring prevention programs by an astonishing four-to-one margin over tougher sentencing and more cops on the street. But their lobbying often falls short in Washington and state capitals. When it comes to crime, "politicians believe in the three R's: Retribution, Revenge and Retaliation, which they think takes them to the fourth R—Re-Election," says Fox.

There are signs that the politics of prevention might be changing. Gore, for example, has seen how the after-school issue resonates, and he's grabbing it. After a town meeting in New Orleans last week, he held a teleconference with local officials from Atlanta to Anchorage, Alaska, who are working on answers. One common worry: the organizational headaches involved in bringing schools, churches, parents, nonprofits, corporations and different levels of government together. That takes a new breed of leader at the local level.

In Washington, Republican attacks on "midnight basketball" as liberal waste helped sink prevention programs in 1994. But the stigma is wearing off. As part of its child-care plan, the Clinton administration wants to spend $200 million a year for after-school programs. The idea is to get schools and community nonprofits working together to serve an additional 500,000 kids a year on school grounds. At best, however, even with matching contributions from nonprofits, that's only one tenth of the 5 million "latchkey" kids.

THE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP in Congress opposes the Clinton plan, but doesn't want to go into the November midterm elections with no after-school program in hand. As a result, Congress is giving $20 million a year directly to the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. That's better than nothing, but the money will build only a few new clubs a year—and address one hundredth of the after-school problem. Unlike many social challenges, this one is not hugely expensive; $2 billion or $3 billion a year would go a long way toward solving it.

Skeptics say that even the best programs can't attract tougher kids who prefer life on the streets. Maybe so. Gang members very rarely quit their gangs. But predators can be made less dangerous. In Ft. Worth, Texas, 1,000 gang members go to "Coming Up" programs at eight Boys & Girls Clubs for late-night recreation and counseling. The police, at first dubious, are now pleased with the decline in gang-related violence.

But programs to reach out to the estimated 650,000 gang members across the country are still scarce. The key: when programs are established, they must be well run—or risk driving gang members away for good. "We need to make sure positive things will happen for the kids who are there, or they'll leave," says Sanford Newman of a Washington, D.C., group called Fight Crime/Invest in Kids.

The stakes couldn't be higher, and not just for the kids themselves. The larger society has a huge financial interest in confronting this problem. Juvenile crime surges at 14 and drops off at 18. Experts agree that if kids can get through this four-year period, the chances are good they will stay out of serious trouble. If they don't, the aggregate fiscal consequences are astronomical. Combining jail costs and lost taxes, career criminals cost taxpayers an estimated $1 million each during their lives. The United States now has 15 million at-risk children, several million of whom are in danger of going off track in the next 10 years. According to Ray Chambers, a financier and chair of America's Promise (which grew out of last year's Presidents' Summit in Philadelphia), that sends the stakes in this crisis into the hundreds of billions of dollars.

Back at the converted armory in Jacksonville, it's nearly 5 p.m. Some cops are talking about taking a few kids to a Go Kart track, or maybe to play some pinball. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Robert Sanders, who helped start the youth center, is reflecting back on his own life. "I think back to the kids I grew up with who are not dead or in jail. What did we have in common? Those who succeeded had some kind of structure that let us go to the next level. A few years ago, the big thing was to say that kids had to have food in their stomachs to think. But that's not enough. We have 8-year-olds raising 3-year-olds and they're supposed to grow up to compete in the world economy? Our whole future, our national security, depends on what kids can do tomorrow." And that depends on what they do this afternoon.

With T. TRENT GEGAX, CLAUDIA KALB, DEBRA GWARTNEY *and* ADRIAN MAHER

RICHARD SCHULTZ—MATRIX

Stephen Ruggs
MASSACHUSETTS

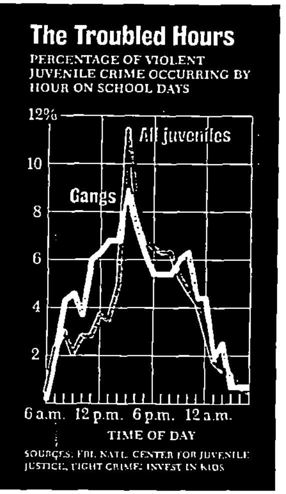
ASK STEPHEN RUGGS WHERE he would be without the Rev. Eugene Rivers's after-school program, and he doesn't hesitate. "I'd be at the park somewhere, where people beat up on other people just for looking at them." Or worse—the 14-year-old had a friend who he says was killed over a $2 I.O.U. Instead, Stephen is bent over a table at the Ella J. Baker House, a renovated Victorian building in the rough Boston neighborhood of Dorchester, working hard at an anti-smoking campaign he and his friends in the program will be presenting to younger children. Stephen's grandparents, both of whom work for the city transit authority and have raised him since he was a baby, see Baker House as "a haven," and the boy agrees. "The kids here are the lucky ones," he says.

'I Wasn't Left to Myself'

When I was a kid, the safety net protected me. Here's how to put it back in place. BY GEN. COLIN POWELL

A general's call for after-school 'safe places'

RICHARD ELLIS—SYGMA



SOURCES: FBI, NAT'L CENTER FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE, FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS

WHEN I WAS growing up in the South Bronx, I was as liable to be led astray by the temptations of the street as any other inner-city youth, then or now. Left to myself, I could have ended up on Rikers Island rather than chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

But I wasn't left to myself. The tough neighborhood of Banana Kelly where I grew up had a heart: people cared about kids. I was surrounded by family, church and a wonderful public-school system. And when I set off to school each morning, I had an aunt in every other house, stationed at the window with eyes peeled, ready to spot the slightest misbehavior on my part and report it back to my parents. The instant communication of today's Internet pales in comparison to the "Aunt-Net" I remember from my childhood.

My relations weren't the only caring adults who took an interest in my welfare. I think of Jay Sickser, the kindly merchant who gave me my first job—helping out at his store after school. Or the folks at the Young Men's Hebrew Association who provided me with a place where I could spend time in a secure environment. Given a safety net with a mesh that fine, it took *work* for even the most rambunctious kid to get into real trouble.

Fast-forward several decades. Today our society is materially richer, but it is easier than ever for kids to go wrong—in the suburbs as in the cities. Because many of the social structures that once kept our kids secure have broken down, we have today's appalling data on juvenile crime, gangs, drug abuse, pregnancy and dropouts. We know juvenile crime and other pathologies are at their worst in the hours immediately after school lets out. It is just common sense that if we don't provide young people with some kind of sanctuary—I call them "safe places"—and give kids something constructive to do once the last bell rings, they are going to be easy marks for drug dealers, gang recruiters and other predators.

A safe place can be a YMCA, a Boys & Girls Club, a rec room at a house of faith, a playground or a school. Ronald McDonald House Charities has donated $4 million to keep a hundred Chicago schools open after hours so that children can have a safe place until their parents pick them up. Not long ago I visited St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Beaumont, Texas. St. Elizabeth's is part of a program called Health Adventures, in which hospital staff members mentor needy youngsters. While I was there, one young man proudly told me about the medical skills he had acquired by learning to suture an orange. He might just grow up to be a brain surgeon.

Safe places do not have to cost a lot of money. In many instances, the building or location already exists; all you need are volunteers to donate their time. A few dollars contributed to a local youth service organization—or a few hours invested in being a mentor—can make a safer world for kids today and a better world for all of us tomorrow.

POWELL *is chairman of America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth. Those interested in volunteering should call 888-55-YOUTH.*

In the NEWSWEEK Poll, of parents worry at least a little about their children's getting hurt or into trouble if a parent can't be with them after school

of parents say it is very important that schools stay open all day; think after-school activities should be a high priority despite limited education budgets

FOR THIS NEWSWEEK POLL, PRINCETON SURVEY RESEARCH ASSOCIATES INTERVIEWED 500 PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGE 6–17 JAN. 16–26. THE MARGIN OF ERROR IS +/- 5 PERCENTAGE POINTS.