

A M N N E S O T A W T H O U T

POVERTY

Pilgrim House Program
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A MINNESOTA WITHOUT POVERTY: EARLY CHILDHOOD MATTERS

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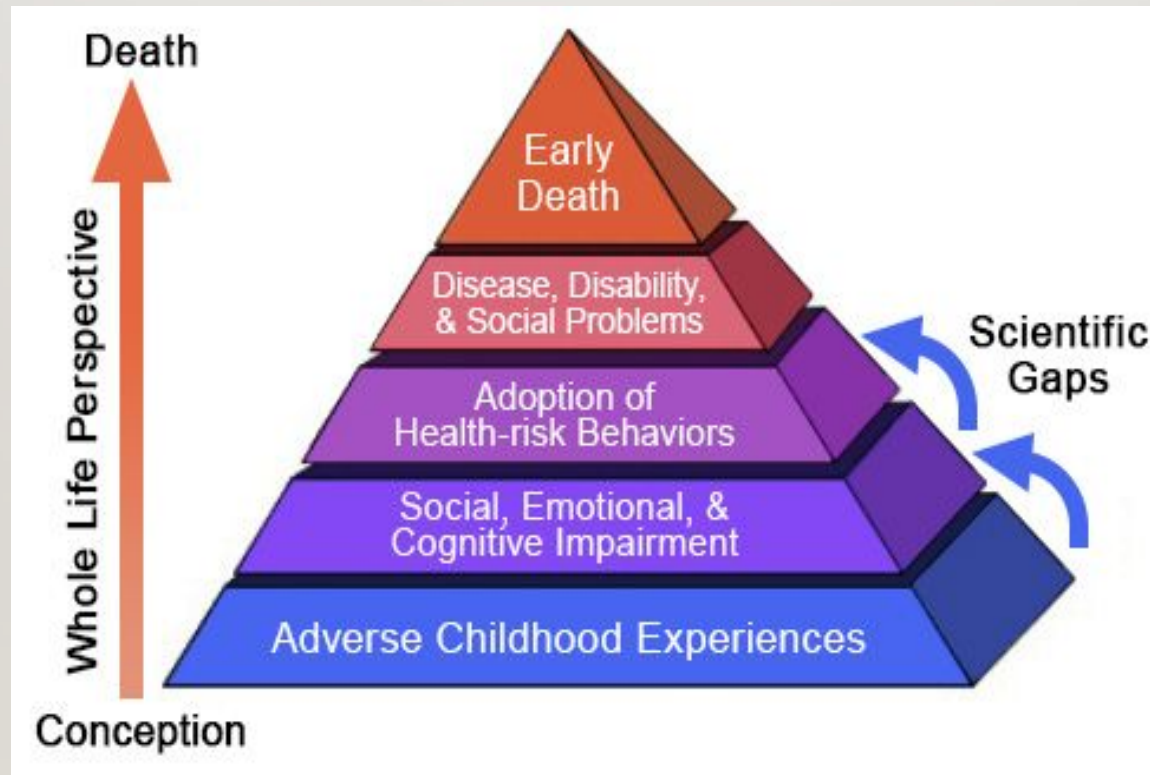
THE FIRST THREE YEARS OF LIFE ARE CRITICAL TO THE REST

- More than 1 million new neural connections form every second.
- The interactions of genes and experience shape the developing brain
- Serve and return
- Substantial differences in vocabulary by 18 months
 - healthy development can be derailed by excessive or prolonged activation of stress response systems in the body and brain, especially prenatally or during early childhood
 - Adverse Childhood Experiences can result in toxic stress with lifelong damaging effects on learning, behavior, and health across the lifespan.

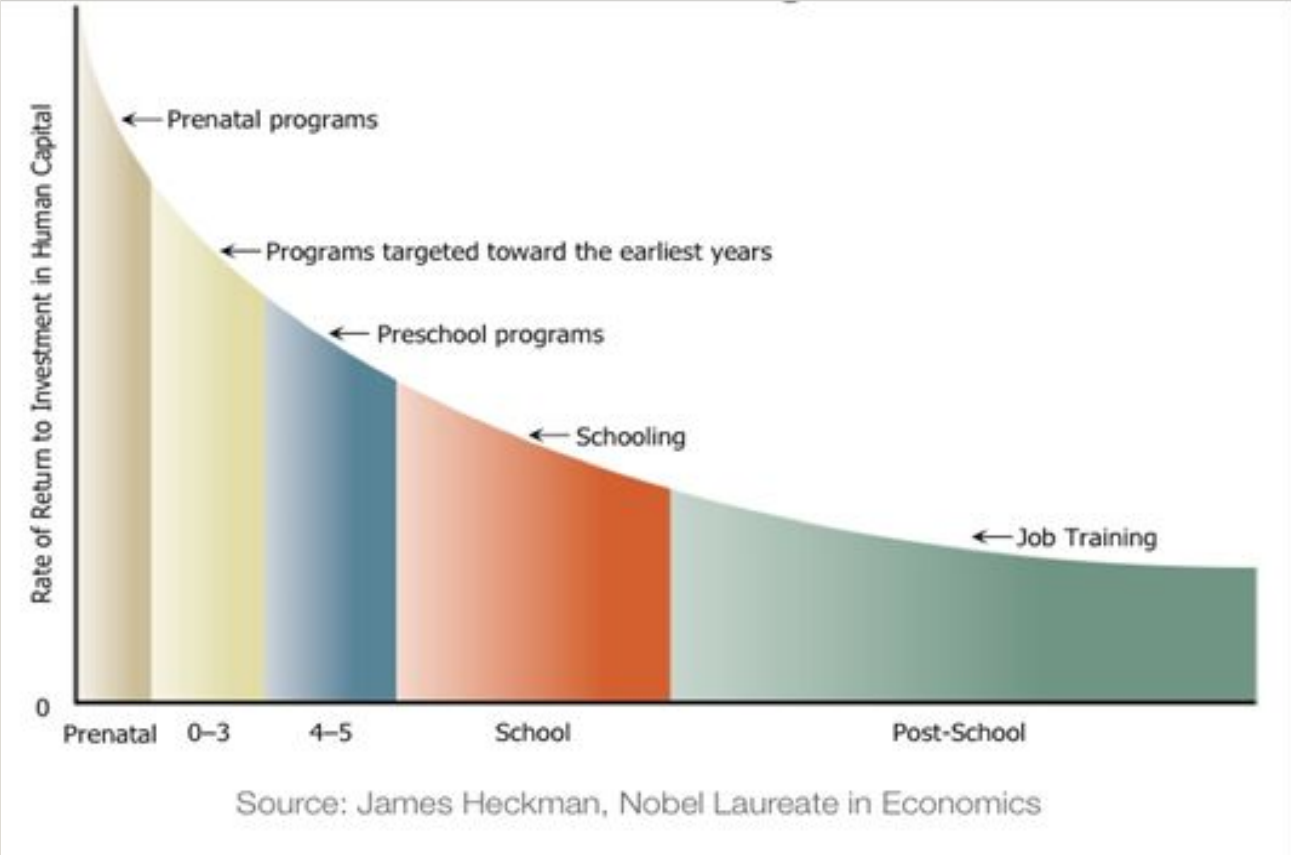
RESOURCES

- University of Minnesota Institute on Child Development
 - <http://www.cehd.umn.edu/icd/>
- Harvard Center on the Developing Child
 - <https://developingchild.harvard.edu/science/key-concepts/>
- Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
 - <https://www.samhsa.gov/capt/practicing-effective-prevention/prevention-behavioral-health/adverse-childhood-experiences>

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES HAVE LIFELONG CONSEQUENCES



WHAT WE KNOW



EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS EARLY IN LIFE CAN HAVE LIFELONG CONSEQUENCES

- One-fourth to one-third of homeless adults experienced homelessness as children
- One-half of 0-3 year-olds experiencing homelessness exhibit developmental delay by age 2
- Chronic/ toxic stress of homelessness makes it harder for children to be ready for K
- .5% of total 0-3 year-olds

BIRTH TO THREE EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

- Works with parents and their children
 - Provides supports & therapies to get or keep children on track
 - Categorically eligible or very low score on a developmental assessment
- Effective: Half of all children served who were at risk did not need special ed by K
- States can define eligibility: MN 28th participation
 - 2.6% v 13% estimated need
- Research: Economic factors biggest predictor of delays if unaddressed
 - Better predictor than developmental assessments
 - Some states serve children in families with risk factors

BILL: ENSURE EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES FOR HOMELESS INFANTS &

TODDLERS

- Bill first introduced in 2013 and subsequent sessions
- Fiscal estimates of cost (\$17 million) too high for Committee budgets
 - No estimate of savings
 - No estimate of costs of not adopting
- Required MDE report
 - 8 served in 2012-13
 - 103 in 2015-16 school year

A BARRIER: THE PUBLIC BUDGETING PROCESS

- Process: In Brief
 - Budget impact estimates for 2-4 year horizon
 - Too short to capture many of the benefits of investments in children or most effective interventions
 - Fiscal impact counted only for the department in which the expenditure occurs
 - Savings in another department's budget not counted
 - "Wrong pocket"
- Money already largely committed
 - Promises already in law: budgets are 'weighted toward the past'
- Prevention programs generally
 - First on the cutting block
 - Constituency less organized

AMWP RECOMMENDATIONS

- Acknowledge our inability to fully account for the benefits of prevention/early intervention in our current budget process
- Incorporate more information in the process about what we know about prevention/early intervention so that the State can be better positioned for the future
 - Results First
 - Map investments on the prevention continuum
- Think strategically & intentionally about addressing prevention as a State responsibility
- Set aside money in the budget for prevention

SENSE OF URGENCY: FUTURE IS IN-PROCESS

- Government spending continues to grow—often for high cost expenditures that could have been avoided
 - Crowding out new spending
 - Current knowledge and research underutilized
- MN continues to experience unacceptable racial disparities in school readiness, achievement and measures of adult wellbeing
 - Equitable access to early childhood benefits is one of the pathways to address
 - Talk to and incorporate experiences of those affected
- Recognize that cost savings may not be the appropriate justification

AMWP: PIE

- Prevention: Put aside a minimum of 5% of budget surpluses for early childhood poverty prevention and intervention efforts.
- Invest: Establish a joint legislative and executive commission to consider how the budget process inhibits investment in early childhood, long-range state fiscal health and its residents' well-being. Track the impact on poverty.
- Early: Make homeless infants and toddlers automatically eligible for Early Intervention Services.

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