

# **Early Learning Left Out: Closing the Investment Gap for America's Youngest Children, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition**

A report by:

**Voices for America's Children and the Child and Family Policy Center**

in partnership with:

**DC Action for Children**

**Voices for Illinois Children**

**Kentucky Youth Advocates**

**Mississippi Forum on Children & Families**

**Association For Children of New Jersey**

**New Mexico Voices for Children**

**The Center for Community Solutions (Ohio)**

**Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness**

**Texans Care for Children**

**Voices for Virginia's Children**



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- **National research effort supported by the Annie E. Casey, Ford, Ewing Marion Kauffman, Kellogg, and David & Lucile Packard Foundations**
- **Expansion from earlier 12-state report**
- **Involved nine new states and DC**
- **Analyzed public (state, federal, and school district) spending on education and development by child age**
- **Most detailed analysis of overall public investments in young children in the country**

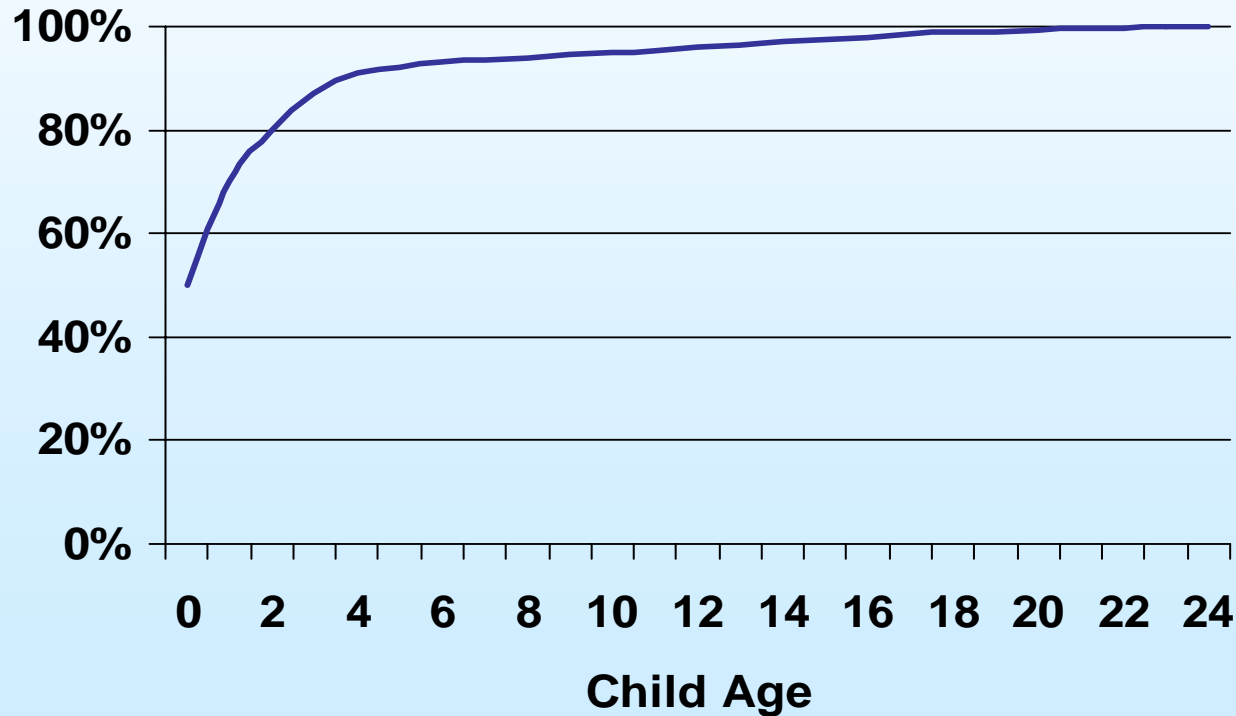
# **Early Learning Left Out:** Basic Message from Analyses within All 22 Jurisdictions

Despite knowledge of brain growth and child development that points to the critical importance of the earliest years of life, government currently fails to make commensurate investments in these years.

# Part One:

## Brain Growth by Child Age

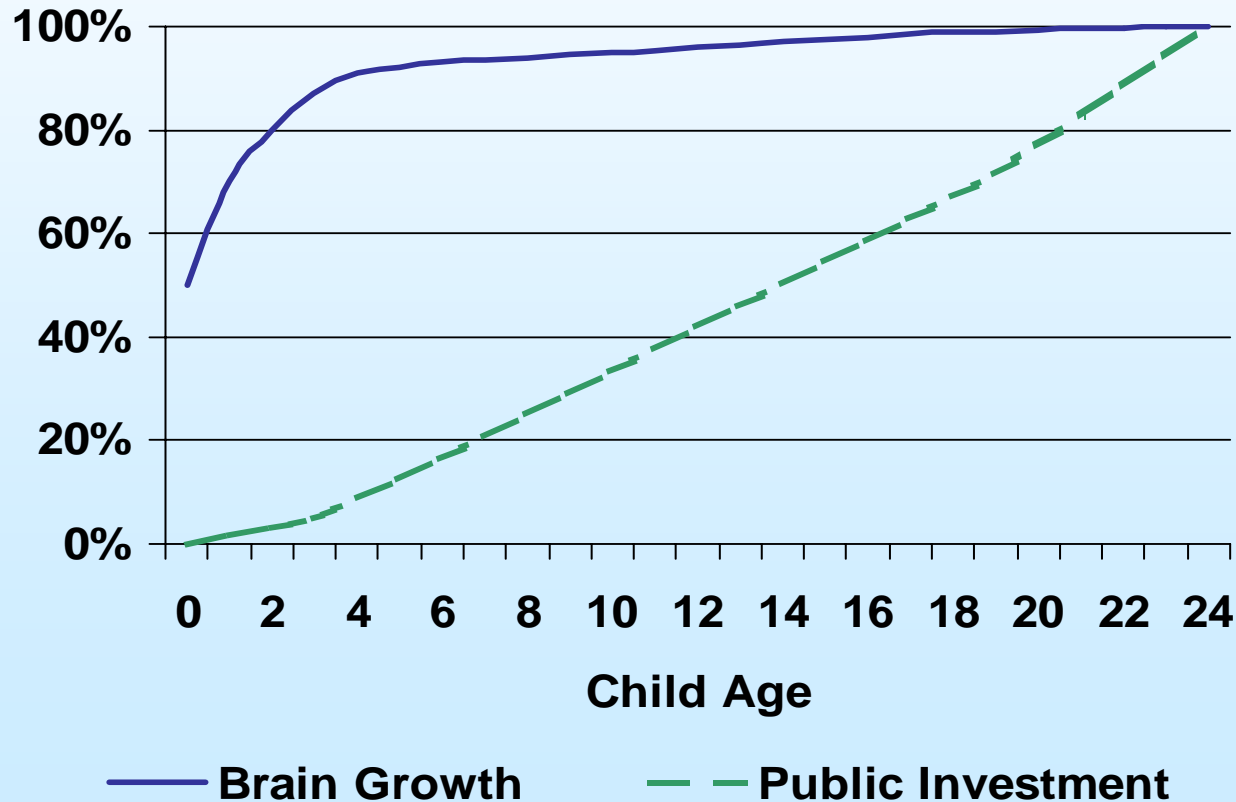
Composite of Nine States & District of Columbia Assessments (2003)




# Part Two:

## Public Investments by Child Age

Composite of Nine States & District of Columbia Assessments (2003)

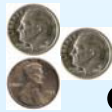




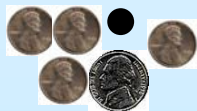
For every public dollar invested in the education and development per child in the school-aged years (6-18)...



- **52 cents** is invested in a college-aged youth (19-23), but only



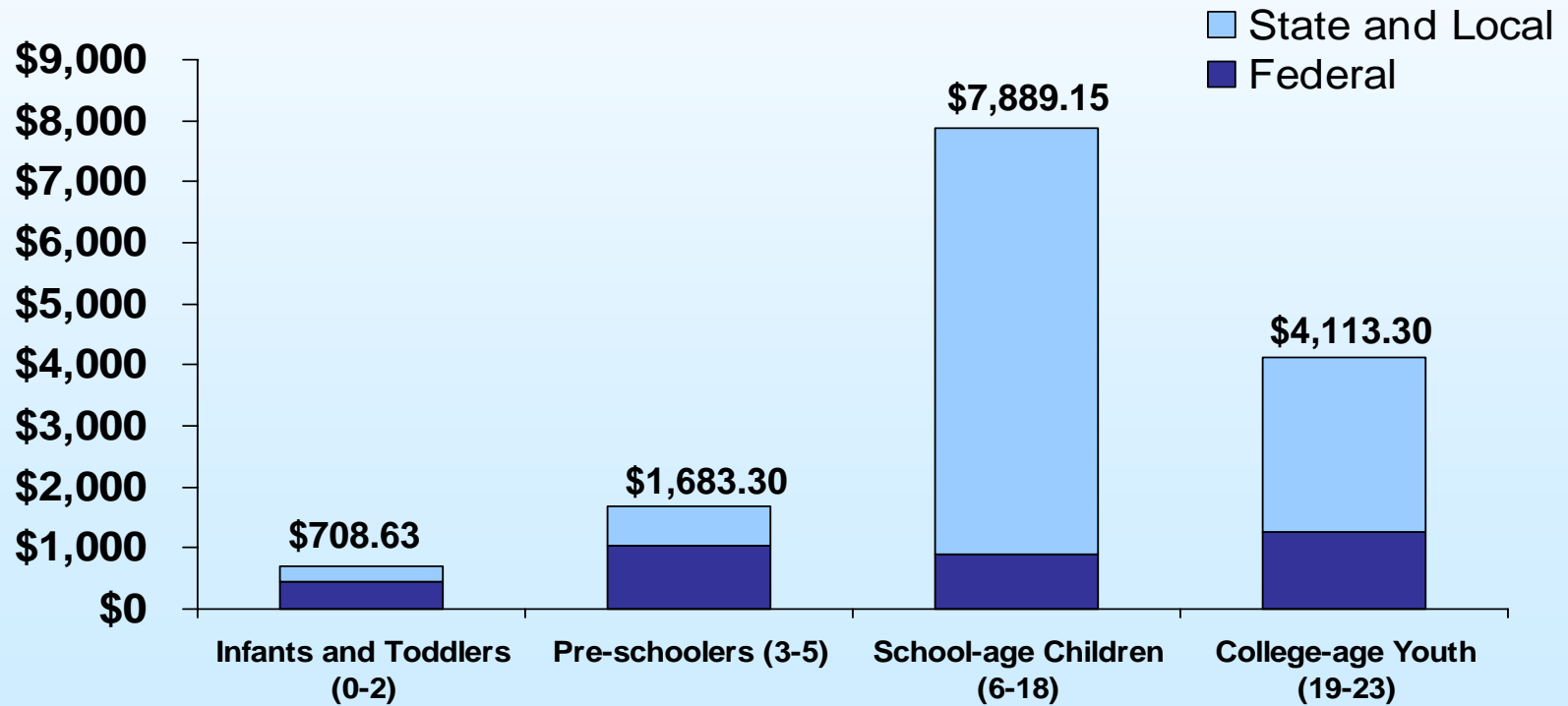
- **21 cents** is invested in a pre-school aged child (3-5) ,and



- **9 cents** is invested in an infant or toddler (0-2).

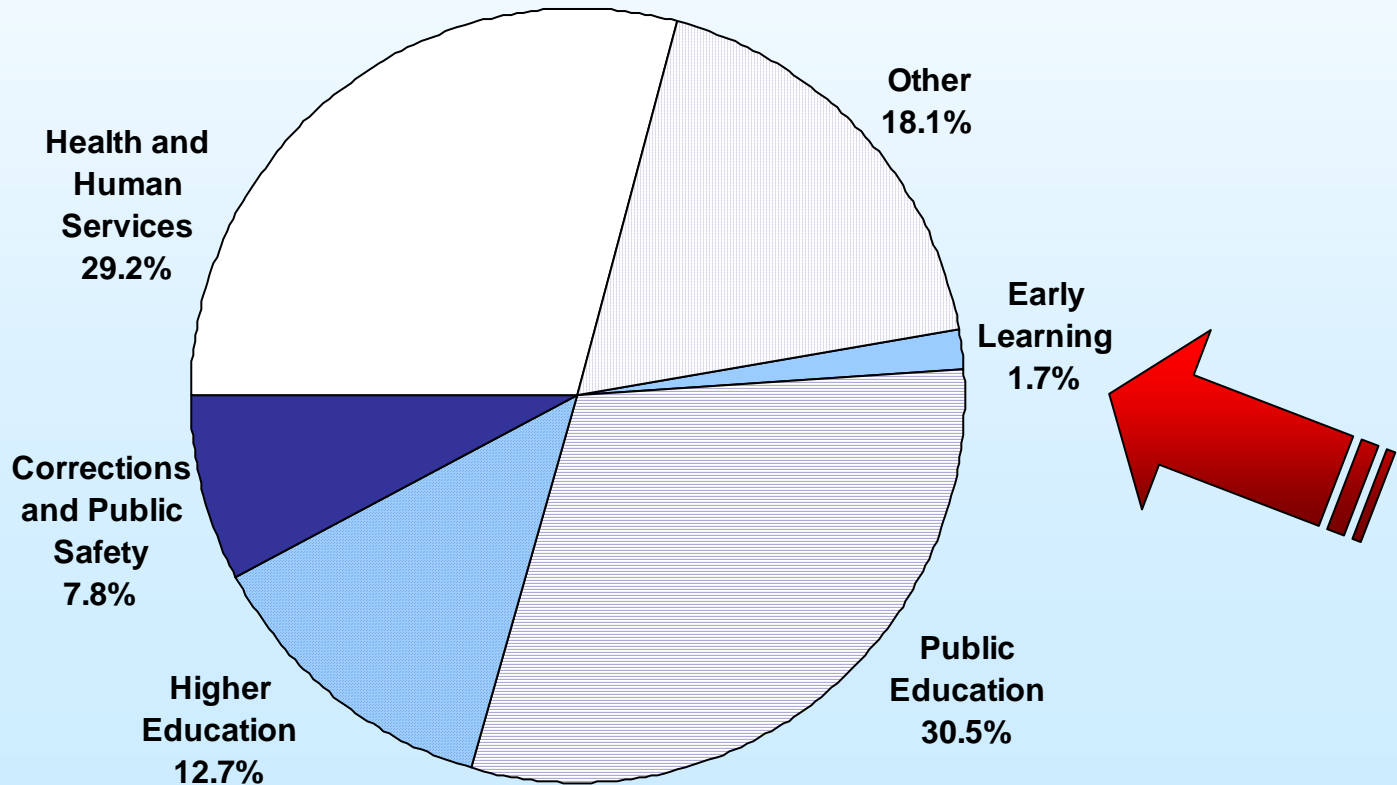
# Per Child Composite Investments in Education and Development by Child Age

Composite of Nine States & District of Columbia Assessments (2003)



# Early Learning Share of Nine-State/DC Budgets Tiny in Comparison with Other Spending Areas

Composite Nine States & District of Columbia Investments as Share of General Fund (2003)



# Known Investment Opportunities Exist in Young Child Development

	<b>Evidence-based Programs</b>	<b>Gap in Making Investments in Programs</b>
early identification and treatment of developmental delays	✓	✓
quality early care and education	✓	✓
pre-school program experiences	✓	✓
parenting education and family support	✓	✓

# Size of Investment Gap

**\$25 billion–\$100 billion+ annually  
in evidenced-based programs**

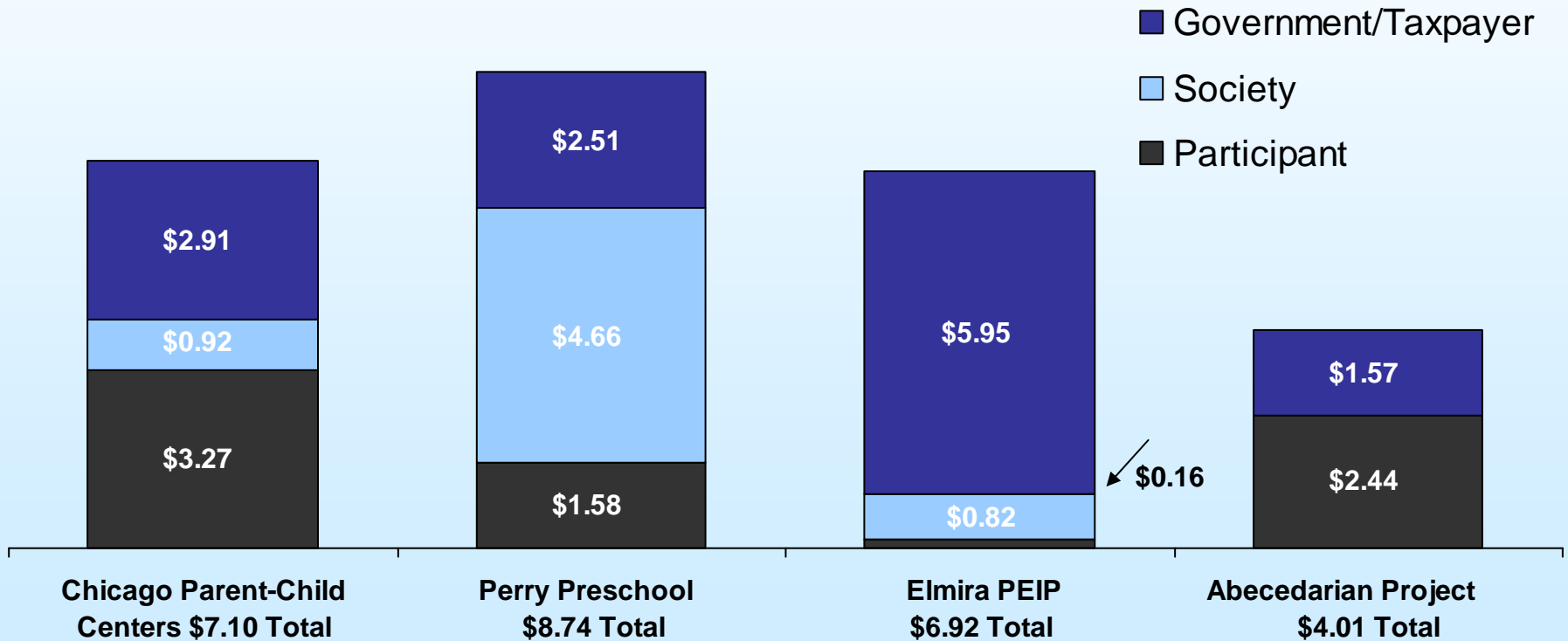
\$25 billion evenly distributed between infants/toddlers and pre-schoolers would double overall investments and increase investments to:

**23 cents** invested per infant or toddler (0-2), and

**35 cents** invested in a pre-schooler (3-5)

for every **\$1** invested in a school-aged child (6-18)

# Value of Investing in Evidence-Based Programs Potential Returns



# ELLO Closing the Investment Gap: Study Findings/Summary

- Large investment gap exists
- Known investments can be made to close gap
- Public support exists for investment, including business and law enforcement support
- High returns on investment exist for making those investments

# Conclusions:

“It is not whether we can afford to invest; it is whether we can afford not to invest.”

Brad Butler, former CEO Proctor & Gamble

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“Early childhood development programs are rarely portrayed as economic development initiatives. They should be at the top [of economic development investment lists for state and local government].”

Arthur Rolnick and Robert Gruenewald  
Minneapolis Federal Reserve Board

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“Invest in the very young.”

James Heckman, Nobel laureate economist



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