

Newsletter of the
Chicago Longitudinal Study
Promoting Children's Success

ISSUE 4

AUGUST 2011

What is the Chicago Longitudinal Study?

The Chicago Longitudinal Study (CLS) investigates the well-being of 1,539 children who grew up in inner-city Chicago. Most of you were born in 1980 and graduated from kindergarten programs in the Chicago Public Schools in 1986. We follow 989 of you who attended the Child-Parent Centers (CPC) and 550 who participated in full-day, alternative kindergarten programs.

In our upcoming survey we are interested in finding out about your economic, social and physical well-being. We'll also be asking questions about your children. This will be the first time that participants in a public-dollars preschool program have been followed into their 30's. Your continued participation is essential in promoting success for children and youth in the Chicago area.



What is the Child-Parent Center Program?

The Child-Parent Center (CPC) program is a center-based early intervention that provides educational and family-support services to inner-city children and their parents from preschool to early elementary school. The program is based on the idea that children have a better chance at school success if they experience a stable and rich learning environment during the entire early childhood period (ages 3-9) and when parents are active participants in their children's education.

What were the alternative kindergarten programs offered to some CLS participants?

In the CLS, the children who did not participate in the CPC program were enrolled in the all-day kindergarten program of the Chicago Effective Schools Project (CESP). The CESP was designed to target school leadership, instruction, school climate, staff development, parental involvement, and assessment. CESP provided reduced class sizes, teacher aides, instructional material funds and staff in-service training. Parents also were encouraged to participate in children's schooling but without the resources of a staffed parent resource room.

Four Major Goals of the CLS:

1. *To find out how participation in the CPC program affects the lives of children as they grow up.*
2. *To learn about the personal, school and family factors that affect children's well-being and how they can promote better adjustment.*
3. *To learn about kids' patterns of school performance and social skills throughout the school-age years.*
4. *To understand if the Child-Parent Centers affect children's well-being.*

Coming Soon: 2011 Adult Survey!

We'll be contacting you in the next few months. We look forward to talking to you!

A follow-up newsletter will be sent when the survey is complete!



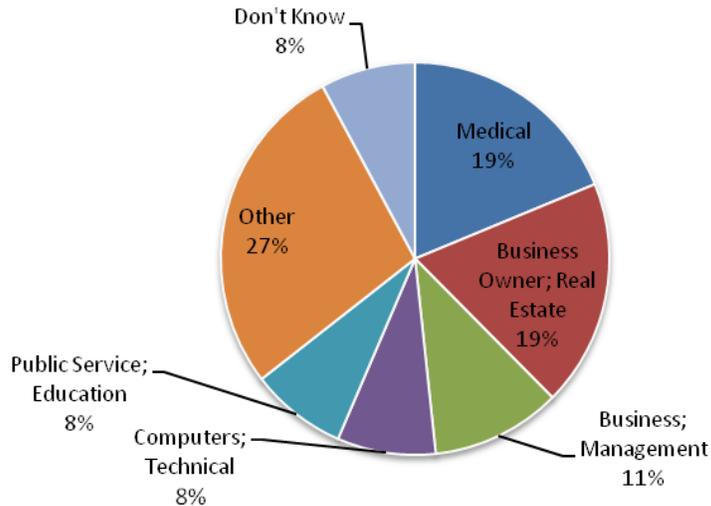
What were the hopes of Chicago Longitudinal Study participants for the future?

At age 24 we asked you, “What kind of career do you expect or plan to have when you are 30 years old?” Of those who responded, 18.8 % hoped to pursue a career in the medical field or were on their way to becoming certified nursing assistants. Another 18.7% of you wanted to own your own businesses. Some of the businesses mentioned were day care centers, salons, ice cream parlors, bakeries, and auto repair shops. Other career choices included teaching, construction, and music production. When asked, “Are you planning on attending school in the future?”, 66% of you answered yes.

“I plan to be a teacher for the Chicago Public Schools.”
“I expect to have my own business in heating and air conditioning.”



What kind of career do you expect to have at age 30?



Top 10 Colleges/Universities attended by CLS Participants

1. Malcolm X College
2. Kennedy-King College
3. Harold Washington College
4. Olive-Harvey College
5. Chicago State University
6. South Suburban College of Cook County
7. Triton College
8. Richard J Daley College
9. Northern Illinois University
10. Southeastern Illinois College

- 58.8% of CLS participants were working or attending school between ages 22-24.
- 36.4% reported ever attending college by age 24.

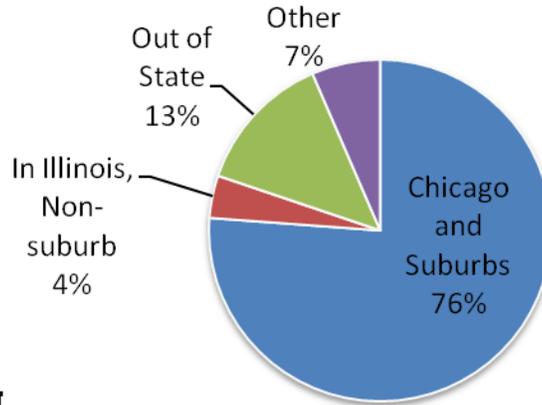
Top 10 Employers of CLS Participants

1. Chicago Public Schools
2. United Parcel Service
3. Department of Human Services
4. Walmart
5. Chicago Transit Authority
6. Target Corporation
7. Help at Home
8. City of Chicago
9. Residential Health Care Group
10. J.P. Morgan Chase



Dorie Miller Child-Parent Center, Chicago

At age 24, where were CLS participants living?



Are CLS participants getting involved with their communities?

Yes! When we last spoke with you, 50% percent of CLS participants were involved in their communities through youth organizations, community centers and neighborhood clubs, or church and other religious activities. 36% of those involved had active leadership roles. 60% rated becoming a community leader as “somewhat” or “extremely” important.

Have CLS participants started families of their own?

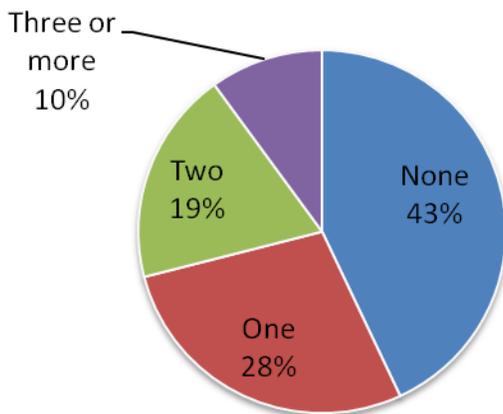
Yes! At age 24, 72% of CLS participants responded that raising a family is “somewhat” or “extremely” important. At that time, 57% of you reported having at least one or more children and 39 of our female CLS participants told us they were expecting a baby in the next few months.



How is the CPC preschool program benefiting society?

For every \$1 invested in the CPC preschool program, society gets \$11 back in benefits over the course of a participant’s lifetime. Our study has shown that the money spent to run the CPC program has already paid off. Society has seen lowered costs related to child welfare, special education and children repeating grades. Also, as a result of the CPC program there is less substance misuse, less people smoking daily, and less symptoms of depression in young adulthood. In addition, crime and its associated costs have also been reduced. Programs like the Chicago Child-Parent Centers benefit us all.

At age 24, how many children did you have?



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We're on the Web! <http://cehd.umn.edu/icd/cls/>

Address Service Requested

**Coming Soon!
2011 Adult Survey**

Have you moved? If your contact information has changed we want to hear from you. For more information about CLS or to update your contact information please contact the Health Survey Research Center at University of Minnesota at 1-800-670-8636 (toll-free).

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Chicago Longitudinal Study



Thank you for your continued participation! Your input is very valuable to us!



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