

Newsletter of the *Chicago Longitudinal Study*

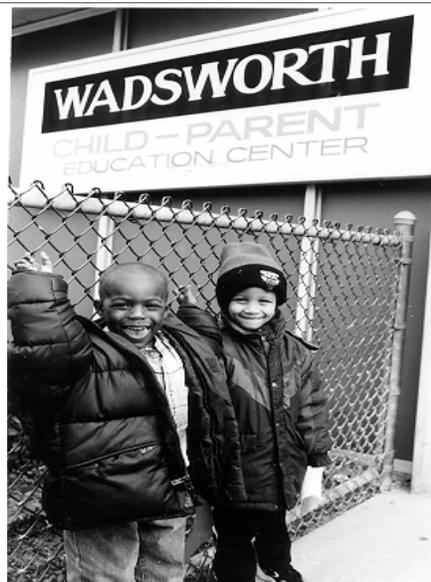
ISSUE 3

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What is the Chicago Longitudinal Study?

The Chicago Longitudinal Study (CLS) investigates the well-being of 1,539 low-income children (93% of whom are African American) who grew up in high-poverty neighborhoods in Chicago. Born in 1980, they graduated from kindergarten programs in the Chicago Public Schools in 1986. The study sample includes 989 participants who attended the Child-Parent Centers (CPC) and 550 participants who participated in full-day alternative kindergarten programs.

Followed since kindergarten, most youth completed their senior year of high school in the spring of 1998 or 1999. Currently, study participants are 26 years of age. Extensive tracking is being undertaken to determine how many went on to higher education, how many are employed, how many returned to get their GED, as well as other areas of health and well-being. Nearly 1,150 study participants responded to the adult survey in 2004. Thank you for sharing this information with us. Your continued participation is essential in promoting positive outcomes among children and youth in the Chicago area.



The CLS is guided by four major goals:

1. To evaluate the effects of the CPC Program.
2. To document patterns of school performance and social competence.
3. To understand how participation in the CPC program leads to better well-being.
4. To investigate the family and school experiences that contribute to better health and well-being.

What is the Child-Parent Center Program?

The Child-Parent Center (CPC) Program is a center-based early intervention that provides comprehensive educational and family-support services to low-income children and their parents from preschool to early elementary school. The CPC program opened in May 1967 in four sites on Chicago's west side. They were named Cole, Dickens, Hansberry, and Olive Child-Parent Education Centers. The program is the second oldest (after Head Start) federally-funded preschool program in the U.S. and the oldest extended early childhood program. Currently, the CPC program operates in 24 centers throughout the Chicago Public Schools. The major rationale of the program is that participation in stable and enriched learning environments during the early childhood period lays the foundation for educational success.

What is the impact of the Child-Parent Centers on adult well-being?

We examined whether CPC program participation from preschool to the early grades continued to have an impact on adult educational attainment, income, and health.

Q. *Did youth who participated in the CPC program attain higher levels of education than those who did not participate in the program?*

A. YES! By age 24, 71.4% of preschool participants completed high school compared with 63.7% of the comparison group. In addition, 14.7% of preschool participants attended 4-years of college compared with 10% of the comparison group.

Q. *Were youth who participated in the CPC program more likely to have positive economic well-being than those who did not participate in the program?*

A. YES! By age 24, 54.1% of program participants reported either attending college or were steadily employed compared with only 48.7% of the comparison group. In addition, 37.7% of program participants were earning a modest quarterly income (\geq \$3,000) compared to 33.1% of the comparison group.



Q. *Did the preschool program reduce adult crime?*

A. YES! By age 24, preschool participation was associated with a 20% reduction in incarcerations. Only 20% of the preschool group had an incarceration history compared to 25% for the comparison group. Rates of arrest and convictions also were lower for the preschool group.

Q. *Did youth who participated in the CPC program have more positive health-related outcomes than those who did not participate in the program?*

A. YES! 70% of the preschool group had health insurance coverage by age 24 compared to 61.5% for the comparison group. Individuals who participated in the CPC preschool program also were less likely to use tobacco or other substances and reported less depressive symptoms than individuals who did not attend the program.

Colleges and Universities

Frequently Attended

by CPC Participants

Harold Washington College

Northern Illinois University

Southern Illinois University

Malcolm X College

University of Illinois at Champaign

Robert Morris College

Olive Harvey College

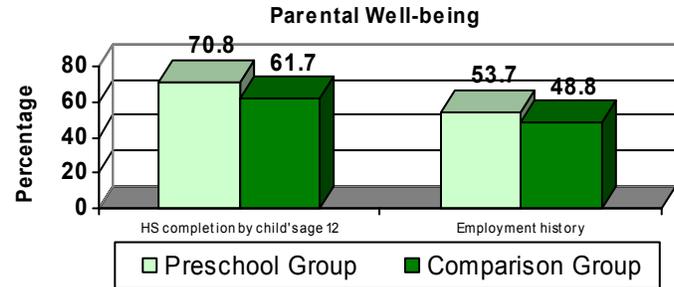
Chicago State University

Kennedy King College

East - West College

Did the CPC program benefit the parents of children who attended?

YES! Parents of children who attended the CPC program were more likely to complete high school by the time their child was twelve years old and were more likely to be employed than were parents of children who did not attend the program.



Do benefits of CPC participation increase with longer time spent in the program?

YES! We found that the length of CPC participation is associated with a wider range of positive outcomes over longer periods of time. Children who participated in the CPC program for 4 to 6 years had higher rates of high school completion and higher rates of full time employment than participants attending for less than 4 years. Program participants attending 4 to 6 years were also less likely to receive Medicaid services for more than a year and less likely to be arrested for a violent crime.

Do benefits of CPC participation exceed costs?

YES! We found that the CPC program had a high economic return to society in reduced costs to the education and justice systems and in increased economic well-being among participants. Every dollar invested in preschool yielded \$10.15 in economic benefit.

Frequent Employers of CPC Participants

United Parcel Services
United States Military
Walgreens
Chicago Public Schools
Target
AT & T
Best Buy
Bank One
Sears
McDonald's

What else did we find out from the adult survey?

- ★ More than half of the study participants rate their overall life satisfaction as good, very good, or excellent!!!
- ★ 71% of study participants consider themselves to be in very good or excellent health!!!
- ★ 73% of study participants are now married!!!
- ★ Many of you shared with us the thing that you are MOST satisfied with in your life right now. Here's what a few of you said....
 - “Finishing college, getting the educational skills to accomplish my long and short term goals”
 - “Family, because they are extremely supportive and want the best for me at all times”
 - “That I'm determined to accomplish my goals”
 - “That I was able to move out on my own”
 - “With my accomplishments in school and in the workplace, I've had very good experiences”
 - “My church because I believe in my faith”

80% of study participants feel they have accomplished something worthwhile in the past year!

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We have moved, have you? 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 us or Chicago Public Schools.

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Chicago Longitudinal Study



Thanks for participating in
our most recent survey! You
shared much positive news
with us!



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

