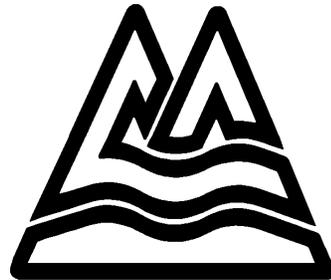


Hallmark Studies: Initial Research Results

Poverty Benchmark Analysis
Multnomah County Oregon



Department of Support Services

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Hallmark Studies

Study	Long-term findings
Early childhood preschool: a longitudinal study of 11 programs (33).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Background:</u> This study examined the long-term effects of eleven preschool programs which operated during the 1960's and varied from home-based to school based. When the follow-up occurred, participants were between 9-19 years old. • <u>Findings:</u> There were long-lasting effects in four areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>School competence:</u> Children were more likely to meet their school's basic requirements and less likely to be in special education. • <u>Developed abilities:</u> Children scored higher on the Stanford-Binet intelligence test and achievement tests. • <u>Attitudes and values:</u> Children gave more achievement-related reasons to be proud of themselves and older graduates rated their school performance higher than controls. • <u>Impact on the family:</u> Mothers had more positive attitudes toward school performance and had higher vocational aspirations.
Enhancing the development of low-birthweight, premature infants(40)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Background:</u> Program began on discharge from the neonatal nursery and continued until 36 months. Weekly home visits continued for one year, with twice per month afterwards. Visits focused on child health, development, age-appropriate games, and activities emphasizing cognitive, linguistic, and social development. Both intervention and control groups received follow-up services of medical, developmental, and social assessments. • <u>Findings:</u> At 24 and 36 months of age, significant effects were seen--increased cognitive scores and decreased behavior problem scores in the program group.
Risk and resilience in early mental development (41)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Background:</u> Followed two groups of at-risk twins throughout their childhood--those classified as small for gestational age (SGA) and those falling below 1,750g birth weight. • <u>Findings:</u> Twins below 1750 g showed a deficit in IQ scores throughout childhood; however, twins with upper socioeconomic status (SES) appeared to recover completely, whereas lower SES remained significantly lower in IQ. Low birth weight children with heavier twin siblings attained the same level of IQ as their sibling by age 6, suggesting the powerful resilience in mental development from heritage and home environment.
"Child poverty and the ameliorative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Background:</u> In 1970 and throughout the 1980's there was a sharp increase in the percentage of poor children receiving public assistance, but a decrease in the ameliorative effects of assistance.

<p>effects of public assistance"; trends in child poverty from 1970 - 1990 (38)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Findings:</u> The demographic shift to single-parent (female-headed) families in the 1980's accounts for roughly 50% of the post-1980 increase. One finding is that the ameliorative effects of welfare declined due to children increasingly living in mother-headed families.
<p>Welfare-to-work; a longitudinal study of four programs (35)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Background:</u> This study examines the five-year impact of four welfare-to-work programs: Virginia, Arkansas, Baltimore, and San Diego (Saturation Work Initiative Model--SWIM). Most programs followed this format: Job search, a placement in unpaid work (if no work found during the search), followed by education and training. Generally, these were considered mandatory; however, some programs had no sanctions against non-participation. • <u>Findings:</u> Generally welfare-to-work programs show only moderate success. All showed some gains in earnings; however, these gains were usually quite small and only reached statistical significance in one program (Baltimore). Across the programs, net earnings increased with net program cost. In most programs, job quality increased little or not at all. Modest reduction in AFDC recidivism over five years was found in two of the four programs (Arkansas and San Diego), but on average the programs had no impact. These moderate benefits of the programs were due not to an ineffectiveness of the programs themselves, but because of "control catch-up" over the five years of the study—in other words, benefits were short term because control subjects eventually got equivalent jobs. Hence, new programs should focus on people likely to have long-term unemployment, who would be receive the most benefit from the program. • <u>Key Aspects of programs:</u> Programs performing the best had the following characteristics: they were <u>mandatory</u>, meaning that sanctions could be performed against non-participation (generally a reduction in benefits); and they allowed <u>flexibility</u> in staff discretion.
<p>Welfare-to-work; a longitudinal study of 13 Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training (JOBS) programs (37)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Background:</u> Began with the Family Support Act of 1988, JOBS programs allow states substantial flexibility in designing welfare-to-work programs; it is intended to focus on reaching women with young children, targeting difficult to serve people, involve a large share of AFDC caseloads, and provide basic education in addition to an emphasis on immediate job entry (37). This study examines experimental evidence in 13 programs to find if high-cost programs produced greater long-term benefits than low-cost programs. • <u>Findings:</u> Low-cost services (generally less elaborate, covering less training and emphasizing quickly finding a job, with fewer caseworkers per person, etc) are more feasible for large-scale implementation and produce rapid job entry. However, the most disadvantaged often experience no earnings gains and others generally experience increased employment but not increased earnings. Higher-cost services are often only feasible on

	<p>a smaller scale, as budget constraints limit the number served, and training/education may delay job entry; however, there are potentially greater impacts on the most disadvantaged, and there is some increase in wages. It is unknown whether impacts last longer for higher-cost services. Both types of programs usually "break even" or show a slight benefit on taxpayer savings. Low cost services generally produce a greater aggregate earnings increase, but few people enter high-bracket earnings (as in higher-cost programs).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Key aspects:</u> Generally, this review of the experimental data showed that there is no "perfect" choice between higher-cost and lower-cost services; it becomes a trade-off between goals of the program, availability of funds, and local conditions.
<p>The Enduring Effects of Cohort Size and Percent of Non-marital Births on Age-Specific Homicide Rates: 1960-1995 (45)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Background:</u> The authors examined the homicide rates from 1960-1995 and found that for the last decade, people under 25 in the United States are two to three times more likely (than in previous decades) to commit homicide. The study examines the change relative to cohort size and the percentage of nonmarital births. • <u>Findings:</u> The authors argue that "differences in cohorts' relative size and the percentage of nonmarital births can explain the dramatic changes in the comparative homicide rates for the young and the old.
<p>National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (46)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Background:</u> Followed several thousand people, with surveys/interviews every few years; cohorts were began in the mid-1960's and 1979. • <u>Findings:</u> The results of most forms of private job training are positive, but this is not true for most public training. Estimates that six months of off-the-job training or training in the military is equivalent to one and two years of college. Found that exam-certified high school graduates do no better in the job market than high-school dropouts with the same number of years of classroom training. There is no evidence that exam measurements for predicting labor market outcomes actually predict success in the labor market. Teen mothers are less likely to complete high school, (only one-third receive a high school diploma) and more likely to end up on welfare (nearly 80 percent of unmarried teen mothers end up on welfare).