Enriching Children, Enriching the Nation
Maine Summary

In his new study, economist Robert G. Lynch examines the costs and benefits of high quality pre-kindergarten programs and their positive impact over time on federal and state budgets, crime costs, and the earnings of pre-K participating children and adults. In this fact sheet, universal refers to a voluntary, high-quality pre-K program serving all 3- and 4-year-old children; targeted refers to a similar program serving 3- and 4-year-olds from families in the lowest quarter of the income distribution.

Universal program costs & benefits in Maine

▪ When the program would start paying for itself	9 years
▪ Annual cost of fully phased-in program in 2008	$95 million
▪ Total benefits in 2050	$2.1 billion
▪ Costs in 2050	$235 million
▪ Ratio of total benefits to costs in 2050	9.1 to 1
▪ When the program would begin to pay for itself in *budget benefits alone*	17 years
▪ Budget benefits in 2050	$500 million
▪ Ratio of *budget benefits alone* to costs in 2050	2.12 to 1
▪ Total increased compensation (wages & benefits) in 2050	$1.2 billion
▪ Savings to individuals from crime reduction in 2050	$456 million

National universal program

▪ When the program would begin to pay for itself	9 years
▪ Annual cost of fully phased-in program in 2008	$33.3 billion
▪ Total benefits in 2050	$779 billion
▪ Costs in 2050	$95 billion
▪ Ratio of total benefits to costs in 2050	8.2 to 1
▪ When the program would start paying for itself in *budget benefits alone*	17 years
▪ Budget benefits to all governments in 2050	$191 billion
▪ Ratio of *budget benefits alone* to costs in 2050	2 to 1
▪ Total increased compensation (wages & benefits) in 2050	$432 billion
▪ Savings to individuals from crime reduction in 2050	$156 billion

Targeted program costs & benefits in Maine

▪ When the program would begin to pay for itself	4 years
▪ Annual cost of fully phased-in program in 2008	$14 million
▪ Total benefits in 2050	$714 million
▪ Costs in 2050	$44 million
▪ Ratio of total benefits to costs in 2050	16.2 to 1
▪ When the program would begin to pay for itself in *budget benefits alone*	7 years
▪ Budget benefits in 2050	$177 million
▪ Ratio of *budget benefits alone* to costs in 2050	4.01 to 1
▪ Total increased compensation (wages & benefits) in 2050	$347 million
▪ Savings to individuals from crime reduction in 2050	$190 million

National targeted program

▪ When the program would begin to pay for itself	6 years
▪ Annual cost of fully phased-in program in 2008	$8.2 billion
▪ Total benefits in 2050	$315 billion
▪ Costs in 2050	$26 billion
▪ Ratio of total benefits to costs in 2050	12.1 to 1
▪ When the program would begin to pay for itself in *budget benefits alone*	9 years
▪ Budget benefits to all governments in 2050	$83 billion
▪ Ratio of *budget benefits alone* to costs in 2050	3.18 to 1
▪ Total increased compensation (wages & benefits) in 2050	$156 billion
▪ Savings to individuals from crime reduction in 2050	$77 billion

About the Author

Robert G. Lynch, an Economic Policy Institute Research Associate, is the Everett E. Nuttle professor and chair of the economics department at Washington College. He holds a B.A. in international and development economics from Georgetown University, and earned his master's degree and Ph.D. in economics from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Major funding for this project came from the Foundation for Child Development, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and from The Pew Charitable Trusts.

About the Economic Policy Institute

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For more information

The executive summary of Robert Lynch's *Enriching Children, Enriching the Nation* can be found at http://www.epi.org/content.cfm/book_enriching. For a news release summarizing the report visit www.epi.org and click on the Newsroom.