

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Newly released analysis shows that two years of Head Start significantly increases the probability that a child is prepared for Kindergarten**

Sacramento, CA (4/23/14) – California’s Head Start programs show a significant positive impact on a child’s readiness for Kindergarten according to a new study just released by the California Head Start Association and CCR Analytics, a firm specializing in child development data analysis. In the area of mathematics, two years of Head Start, increases the probability that a child will meet age appropriate expectations before entering Kindergarten by 39%.

“These results validate Head Start’s long term strategy to improve the quality of education provided to our neediest children. College educated teachers, classroom evaluation, and research supported teaching practices are closing the achievement gap. This study demonstrates the positive impacts of quality child development using operational data on a large scale” says Rick Mockler, Executive Director for the California Head Start Association. The results come from an analysis of last year’s child assessments from nearly 50,000 children from 81 Head Start programs across California. This sample represents more than 50% of the entire California Head Start population.

The positive impact of participating in a Head Start program is seen on all domains including the academic areas math and literacy, but also areas of development such as social interpersonal skills and self-regulation. The study demonstrates that two years of Head Start increases the probability by 38% that a child demonstrates impulse control behaviors such as entertaining herself while waiting for a toy that another child is playing with. “This study shows how pronounced an impact participating in a Head Start program can be for each individual child” says April Morris, a partner with CCR Analytics, and continues “it is important to give all children a good start early on”.

The new research is consistent with other studies, which have found that Head Start helps to better prepare children to start school. Other studies have found that Head Start can return up to \$9 in benefits for every \$1 invested. Institutions as diverse as the RAND Corporation and the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis have concluded that investing in early childhood education is one of smartest investments government can make.

**More information**

The Outcome Bulletin is available at [www.caheadstart.org/pdfs/bulletin/ChildOutcomes2014.pdf](http://www.caheadstart.org/pdfs/bulletin/ChildOutcomes2014.pdf) and at [www.ccr-analytics.com](http://www.ccr-analytics.com).

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