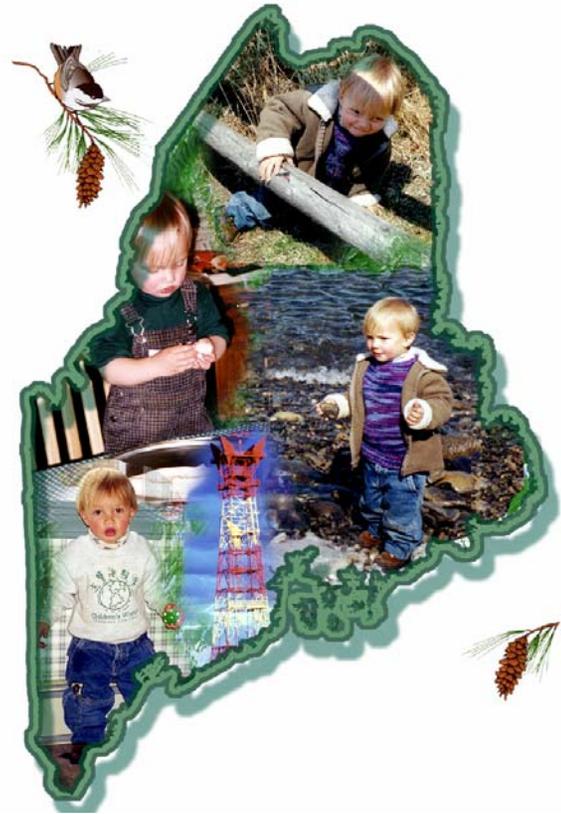


*When we talk about  
Maine's youngest  
children...*

*we are talking  
about Maine's  
economy.*



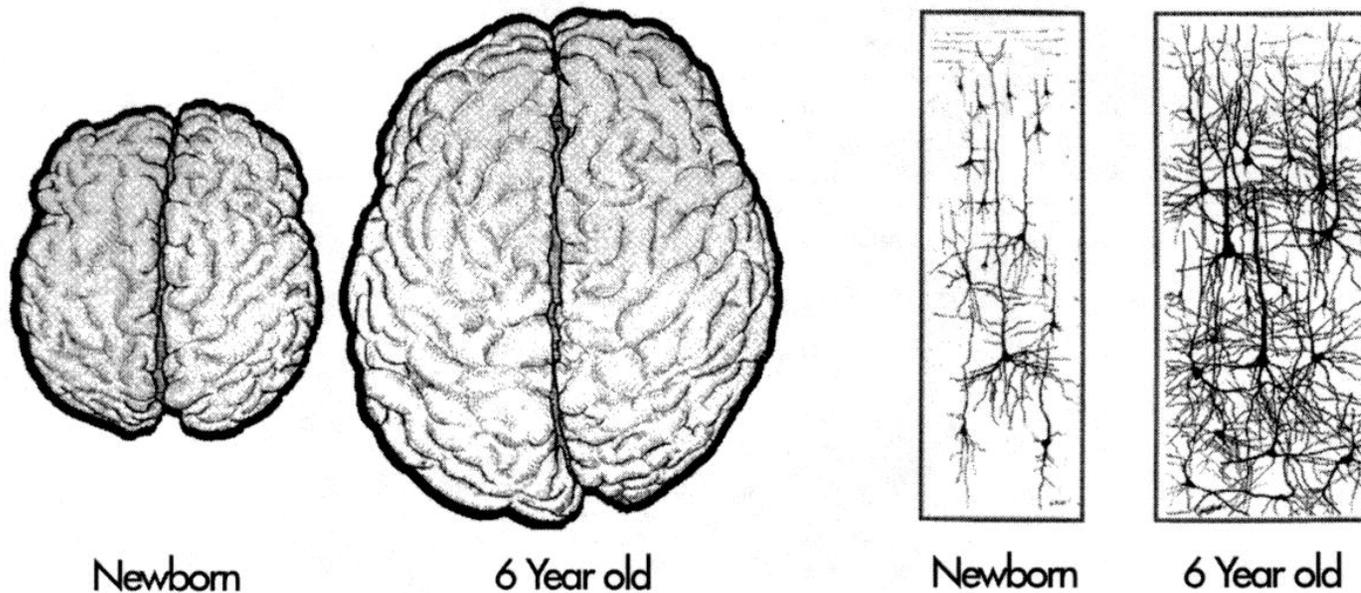
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# *Healthy Brain Development is Key to Maximizing our Children's Potential*

- The human brain controls all human behavior.
- 85% of brain development occurs by age three.
- During this time, neurological connections are laying the foundation for intellectual, emotional, social, moral and physical development.

# *Important Connections are Made Prior to School-Entry*

**90% of brain growth occurs before kindergarten**



**Newborn brain size compared to that of a 6-year-old brain**

**Newborn neural networks compared to networks of a 6-year-old**

*Source: Paul Lombroso, "Development of the cerebral cortex. VI. Growth Factors I." Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry 37(6): 674-675, 1998.*

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# Healthy brain development results from:

- Nurturing, stable and consistent relationships with supportive and responsive adults
- Positive stimulation (visual, auditory, emotional)
- Sense of safety and security
- Absence of stress (no family violence or substance abuse)

# Negative Impacts on Brain Development

- Unstable and inconsistent adult relationships
- Lack of adult emotional support
- Lack of stimulation
- Exposure to family violence and substance abuse
- Stress, anxiety and fear

# “Making the Connection”

High-Quality Parent Strengthening and  
Early Care and Education Programs are  
Key to Healthy Brain Development

# High-Quality Parent-Strengthening Programs such as Home Visiting:

- Help parents learn how to provide safe, nurturing and stimulating environments that children need.
- Help parents access resources for their child (e.g., early screenings, needed child development supports).
- Link parents with services to help deal with problems in home (e.g., substance abuse, domestic abuse, mental health issues)

# High-Quality Early Care and Education is...

- Appropriate staff/child interactions and curriculum
- Well-prepared providers
- Well-compensated providers
- Low staff/child ratios and group size
- Low staff turnover
- A safe, welcoming and healthy environment
- High levels of parental involvement

(Adapted from Campbell, et al, *Lessons From The Military For Improving Our Nation's Child Care System*, National Women's Law Center, 2000).

*Children Who Experience High-Quality Early Care and Education Are More Likely To:*

- Have good physical, emotional and mental health
- Have higher self esteem
- Have greater speech and language skills
- Succeed academically and attend college
- Have higher earnings as adults
- Own their own homes
- Contribute to tax base

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*Children Who Experience High-Quality Early Care and Education Are Less Likely To:*

- Experience emotional and mental health problems
- Require remedial education and/or drop out of school
- Become teen parents
- Engage in criminal behavior as teens and adults
- Abuse drugs
- Become dependent on welfare

# *Failure to Invest in High Quality Early Care and Education Results in:*

*Increased Special Education Costs*

*\$300 million annually*

*Increased Substance Abuse Costs*

*\$800 million annually*

*Increased Domestic Violence Costs*

*\$1.2 billion annually*

*Increased Criminal Justice System Costs*

*Keeping one teen out of prison saves \$1.7--\$2.3 million over  
a lifetime*

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# *High-Quality Early Care and Education is Good for Business*



- Higher employee morale
- Reduced absenteeism
- Increased productivity
- Lower employee turnover
- Lower recruiting and training costs

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# Workforce Needs

*A recent survey of Maine manufacturing employers found 52% of the employees required child care.*



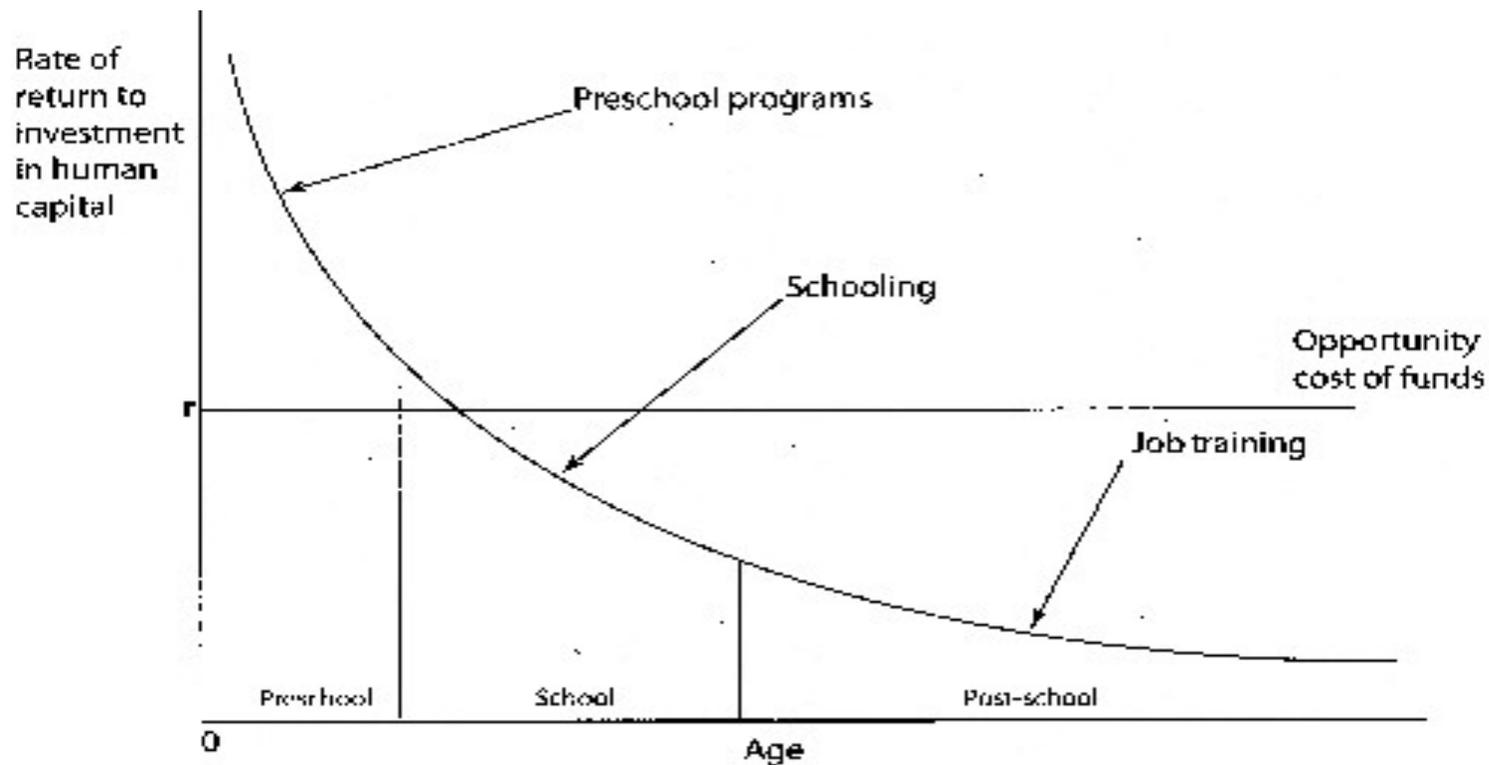
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High-quality early care and education is  
one of the very best economic  
investments we can make

*Investing in high-quality early care and education  
yields an extraordinary return, (Up to \$16 for every  
dollar invested – with average rate of return at \$7),  
far exceeding the return on most investments,  
private and public.*

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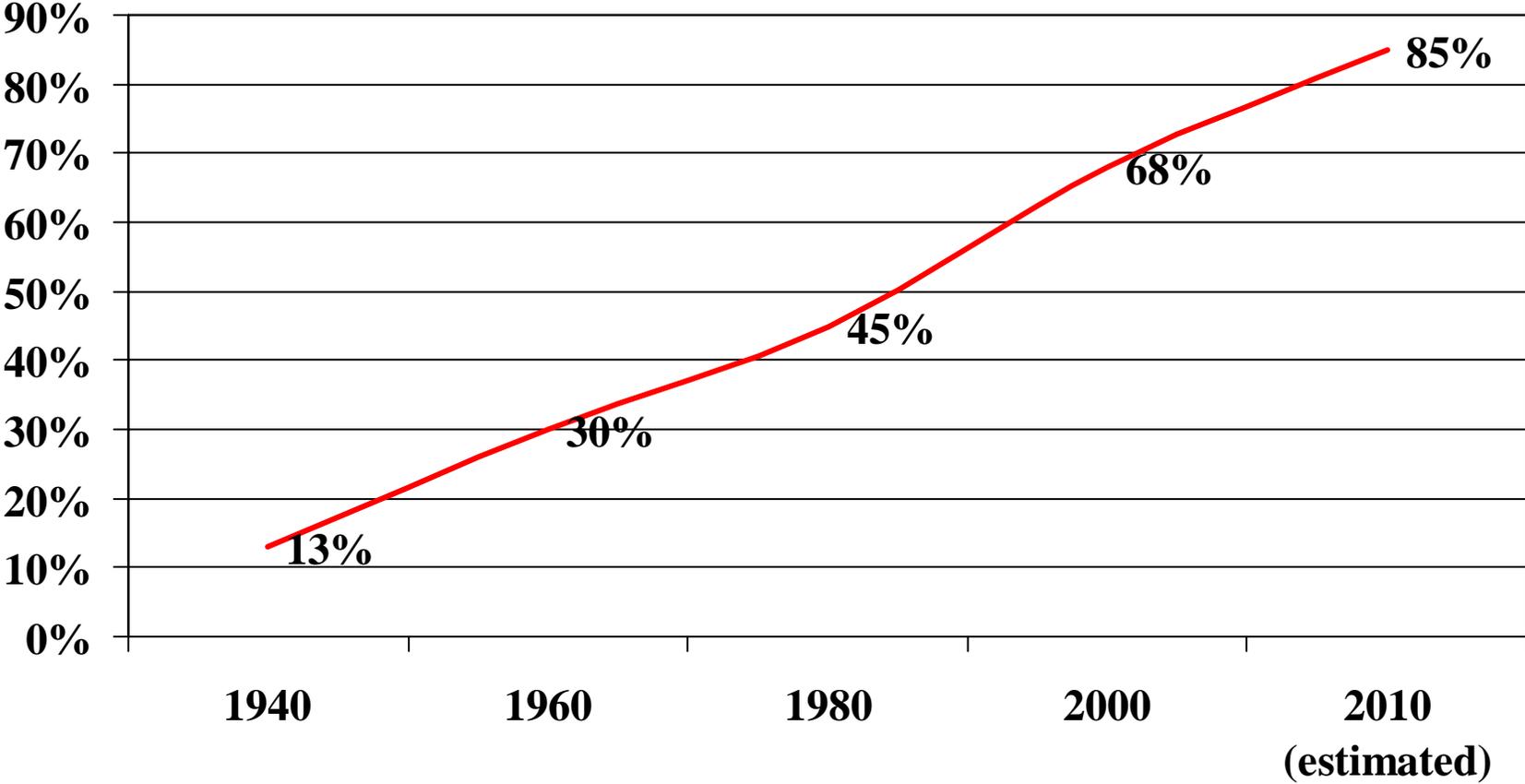
# Rate of Return to Investment in Human Capital



Rates of return to human capital investment initially setting investment to be equal across all ages

- Source: Heckman and Masterov, *The Productivity Argument for Investing in Young Children*, October 2004.

# *Working Parents Make up an Increasingly Large Part of the Total Workforce*



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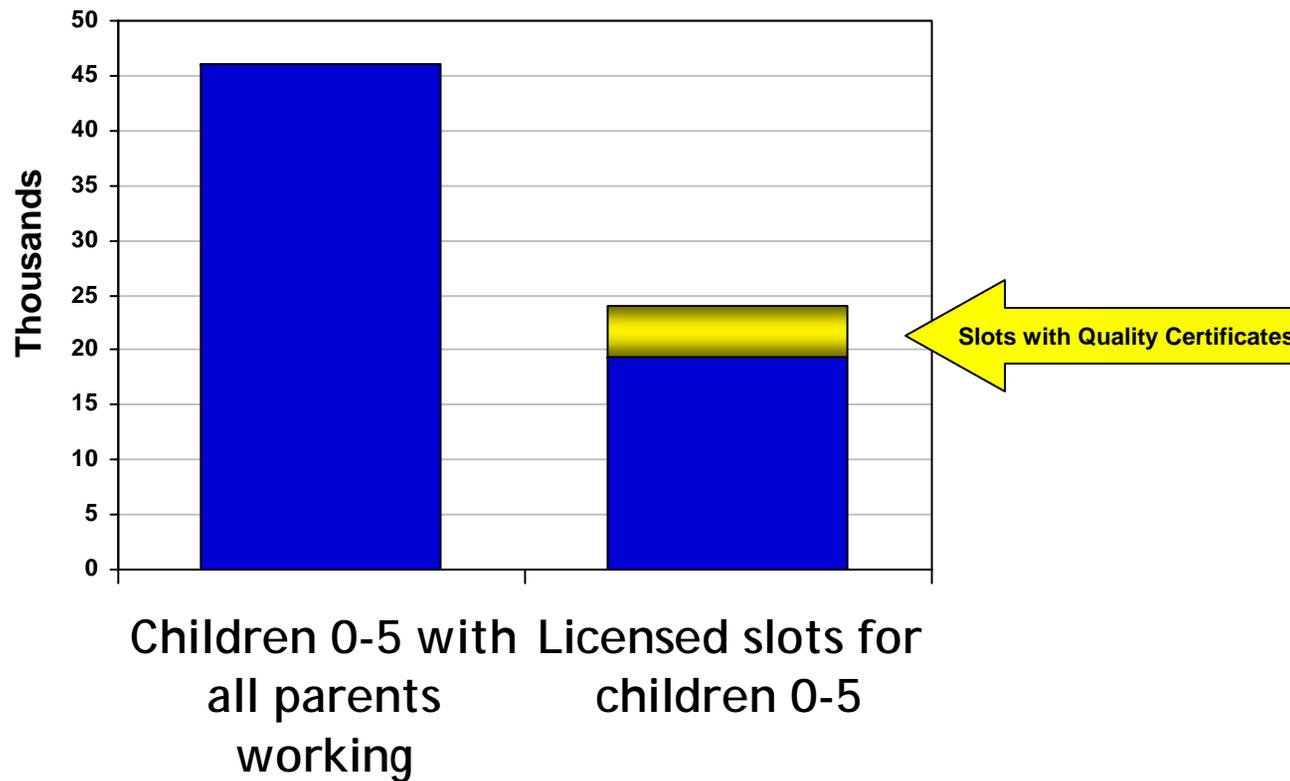
So How Are We Doing?

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## *Maine's Home Visiting Program (limited to first-time families)*

- *2,773 families served last year*
- *Average of 7 visits per family*
- *Parenting & child development information provided to approx. 3,000 additional families*

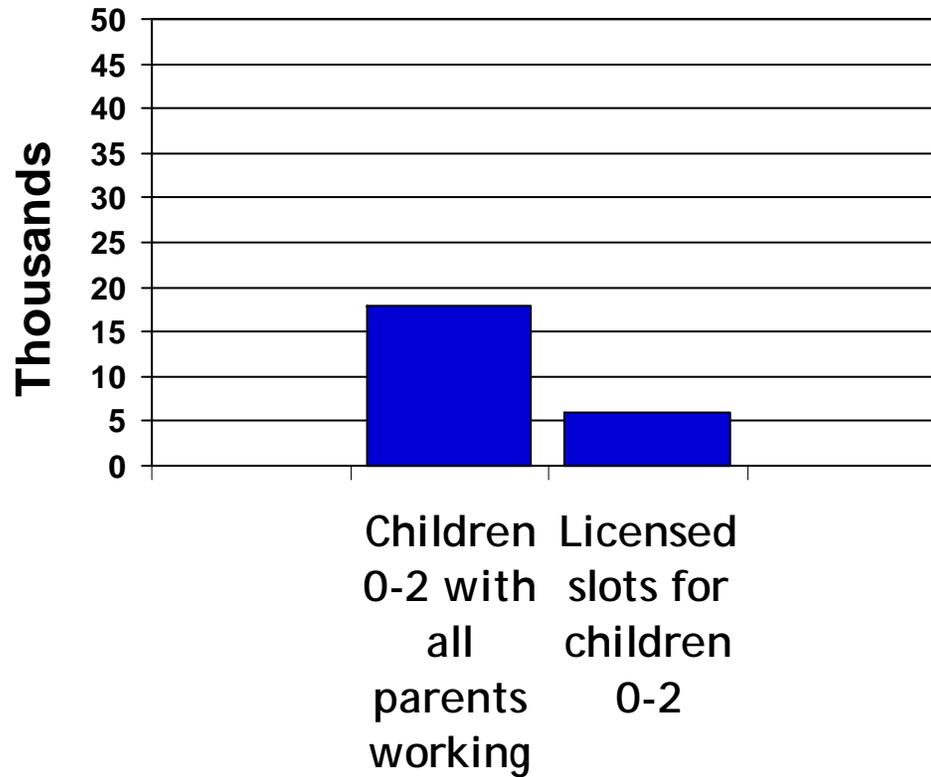
# Shortage of Quality Care for Children 0-5 in Maine



Source: Maine Department of Health and Human Services

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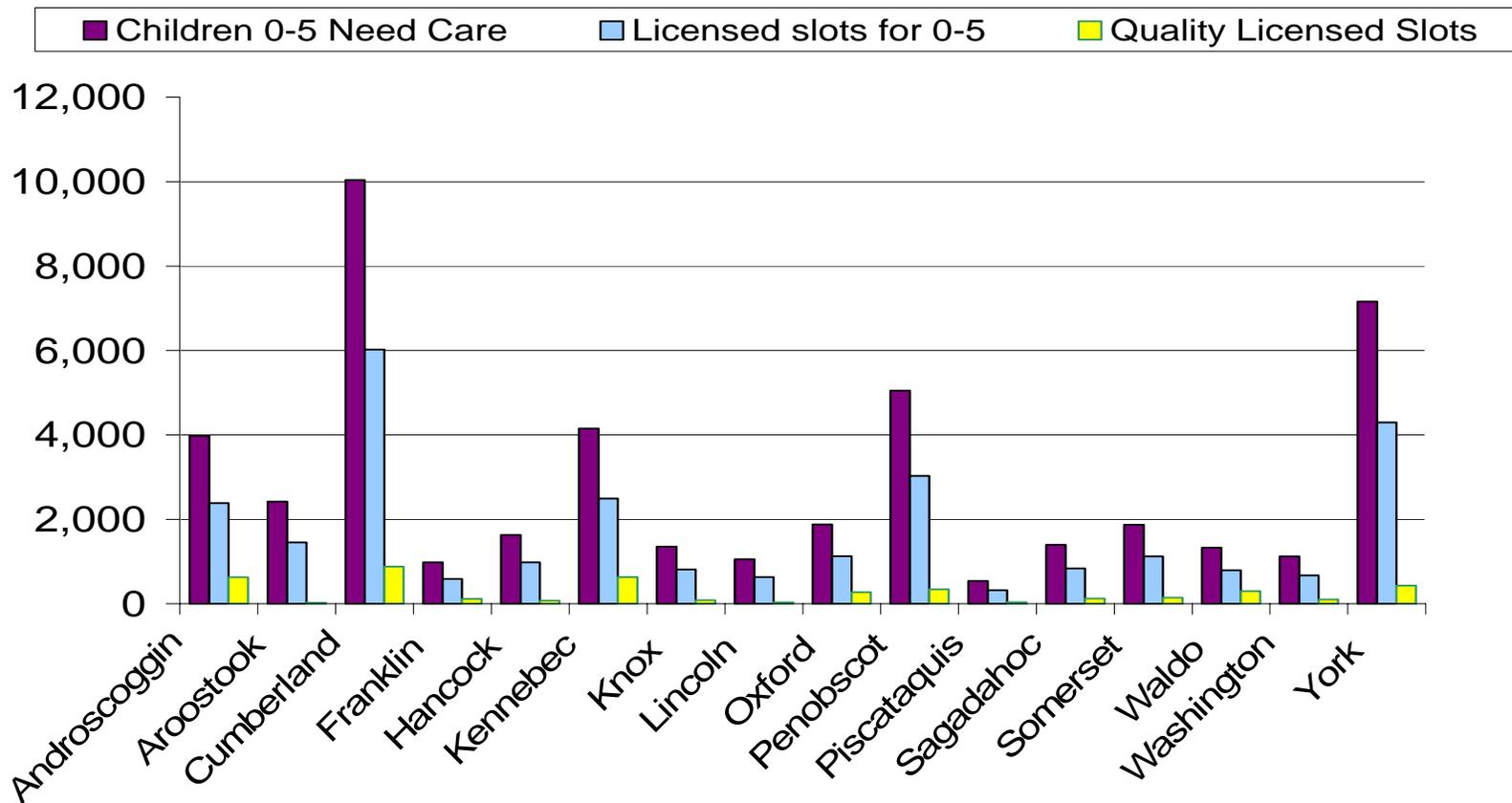
# *Shortage of Licensed Care is Most Acute for Children 0-2*



Source: Maine Department of Health and Human Services

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# Shortage of Quality Care Exists Throughout Maine

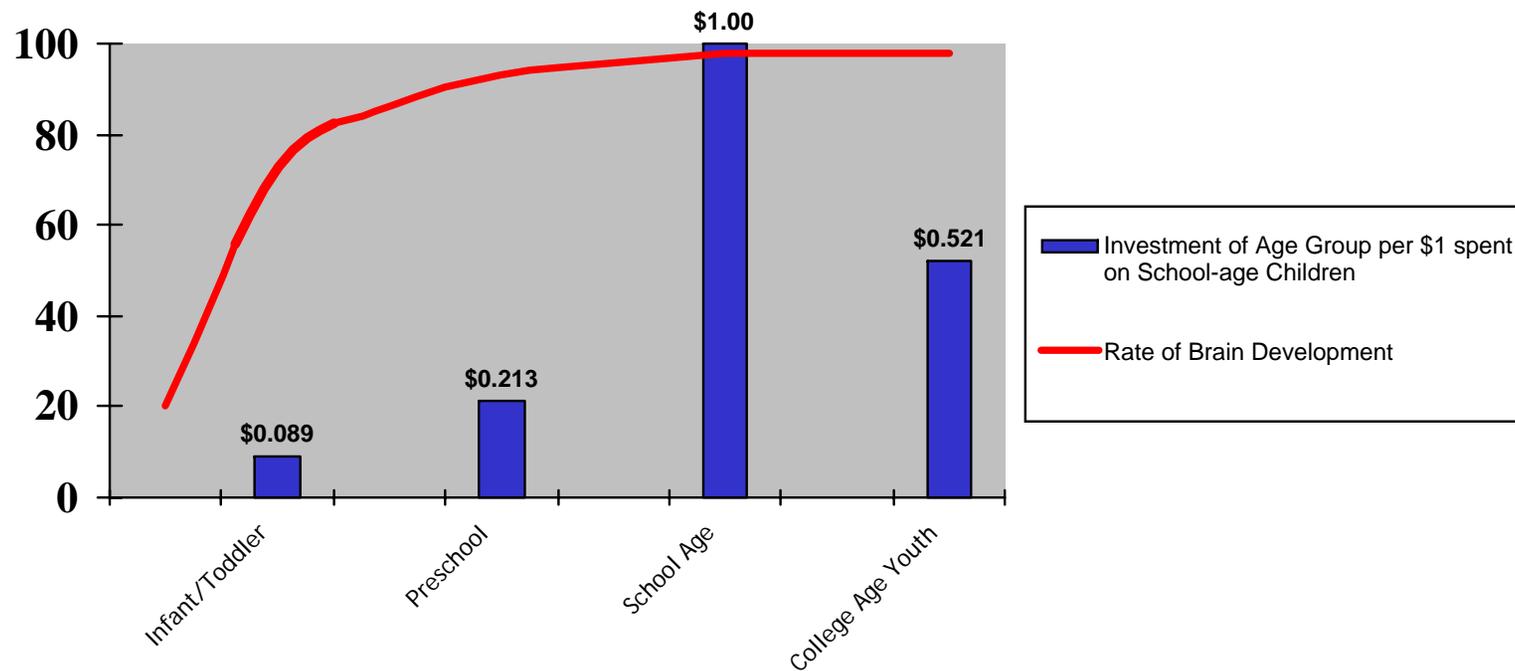


Source: Maine Department of Health and Human Services

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# *We Must Invest Early or Pay Later*

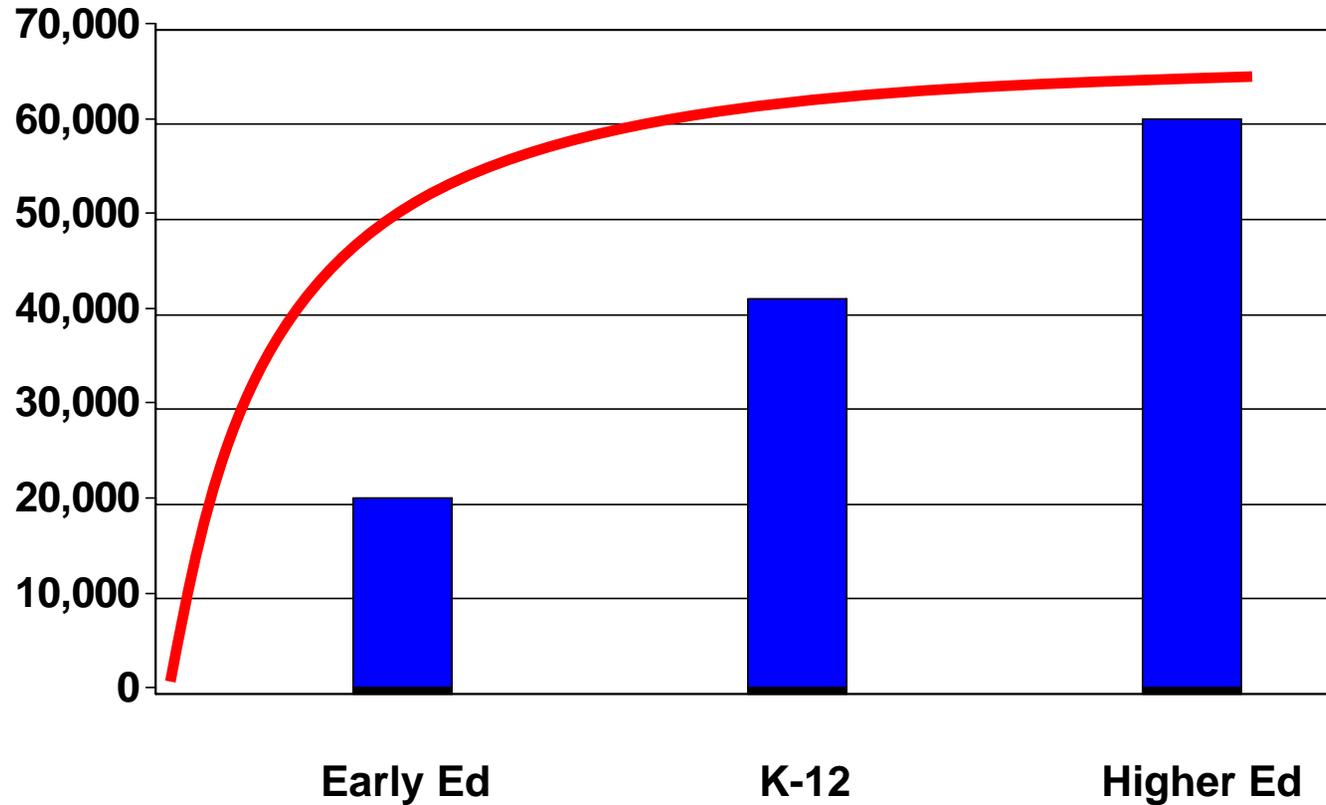
## The Values of Our Investments Do Not Reflect the Research



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# *We Invest the Least at the Time of Greatest Impact*

(Brain Growth Curve and Educator Salaries)



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# The Child Care Industry is a Critical Component of Maine's Economy

- *Licensed child care facilities in Maine represent a total annual contribution to the economy of \$253 million and 12,000 jobs.*
- *Licensed child care allows parents to work and these working families contribute \$854 million to Maine's economy annually.*

Source: Hildebrand, Alex. The Economic Impact of the Child Care Industry in Maine, Peoples Regional Opportunity Program publication, 2003.

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*“Early learning begets later learning and early success breeds later success.”*

*“If we want children to be ready for school we must attend to more things than reading and early math and language. Children are born ‘ready to learn,’ but we must also attend to their social and emotional development.”*

**James Heckman, PhD**

**Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences, University of Chicago**

*“There is an unacceptable disconnect between what we know about the many ways that children's early experiences affect the emerging architecture of their brains and what we are doing to promote early learning, to help preschoolers deal with stress, and to support families and communities in their efforts to raise healthy and competent children.”*

**Jack P. Shonkoff, M.D.**

**Director, Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University**

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# What You Can Do

***Lead by example as an employer.*** Increase employee access to high-quality early care and education (Contact your local Resource Development Center).

***Support efforts to generate public support*** for high-quality early care and education. Let policymakers know that this is a priority for you.

***Take the message home.*** To your trade association, to your local chamber. Explain why high-quality early care and education is important.

***Create family-friendly business practices.***

***Partner*** with other businesses and organizations to ***increase quality early care capacity locally.***