

The Economics of Child Abuse Prevention in Oklahoma

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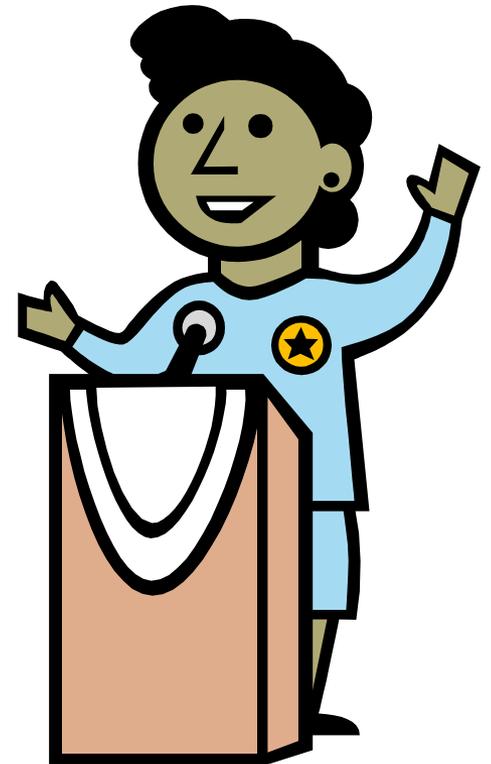
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Please, Politicians & Policy-Makers, Makers,

- Will you help us with prevention of, and early intervention in cases of child abuse and neglect?



But, we have no money!!



Maybe we are spending our money
in the wrong places



The OK Math known in 2009

- \$20,328 times 13,328 cases =
- **\$270,931,158** per year.

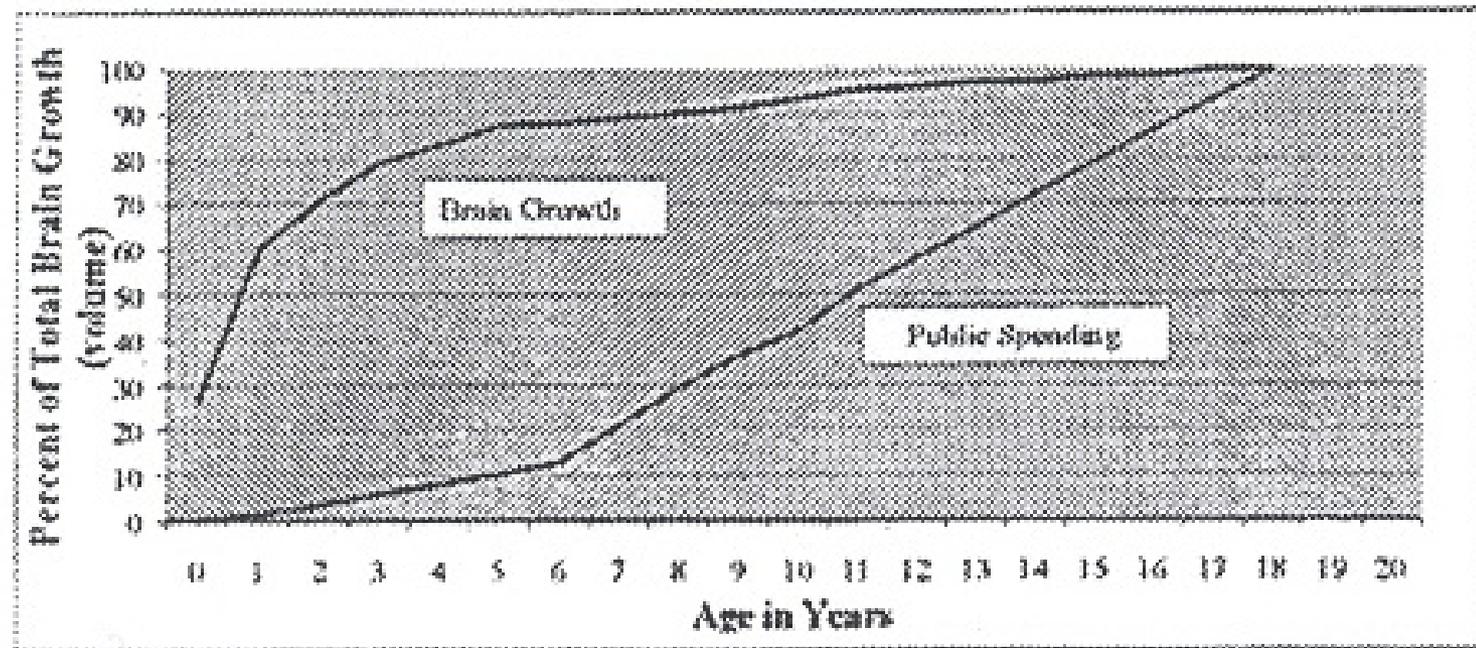
The Cost of Foregone Choices

- Opportunity Costs
 - A victim of child abuse may lose the ability to make the best choices for his/her life
 - Likely will never live or work up to their pre-abuse potential
 - Creates a deficit between the productive individual they could have been compared to actual productivity achieved in an altered life.
 - LOST INCOME AND LOST TAX REVENUE!

We know in advance that children who are abused and neglected,

- Are at risk for poor response to education
- Are at risk for behavior disorders
- Are prone to make risky health behavior choices: sex, drugs, diet, relationships, and more
- Are at risk for life-long victim behaviors
- And, some are resilient – and will be happy and successful.

Brain Growth vs. Public Spending



Source: Brain development: Figure 2.4 in D. Purves, *Body and Brain*, Harvard University Press, 1988. Public Spending on Children: Derived from Table 1 in R. Haverman and B. Wolfe, "The Determinants of Children's Attainments: A review of methods and findings," *Journal of Economic Literature*, Vol. 33, December 1995.

Total Cost of One Year's Cases

- **\$1,038,461,500**

- These are dollars spent over several years by DHS, Medicaid, Health and Mental Health, Juvenile Justice, and Adult Criminal Justice.

- Spent per year on ONE YEAR'S cohort of abuse and neglect victims.

- These are **budgeted** dollars!

Newest Data from CDC, 2012

- Based on available United States data from 2008
 - 772,000 US cases
 - 1,740 Fatal Cases (est)

Most Recent OK Data

- 2012 confirmed reports of child maltreatment: 9,842 (28% lower than 2006)
- Acceptance rate for reports:
 - Oklahoma County: 33%
 - Tulsa County: 58%

Upside-Down Economics

- Lifetime Cost per case of maltreatment:
 - \$210,000
- Lifetime Cost per fatal case:
 - \$1,273,000
- (From CDC data) Fang, X, et al. The economic burden of child maltreatment in the United States and implications for prevention. *Child Abuse & Neglect* (2012), doi:10.1016/j.chiabu.2011.10.006

We Cannot Afford to Ignore Prevention!

- Lifetime Cost to OK taxpayers to pay for all costs of the 10,000 children abused in 2012:

• **\$2,100,000,000**

–Two Billion, One Hundred Million

We Must Acknowledge New Science

- **Epigenetics:** Functionally relevant modifications to the genome that do not involve a change in DNA nucleotide sequence.
- **Adversities and Toxic Stress:** Events during childhood that alter brain and body system functioning.

Ranking Oklahoma

- Percent of Children With Two or More Adversities During Childhood Ages 0-5 years, (ACE score 2 or more):
 - Worst = Kentucky @ %20.1
 - **OKLAHOMA & Montana @ %19.9**
 - Indiana & Mississippi @ %19.8
- Ages 6-11 years:
 - **Oklahoma @ %40.1**
 - No other state is even close.

Protect Our Children

- Preserve the Future of Oklahoma
- Protect the Economy of Our State

