

Investing in Early Childhood: A Scientific Perspective

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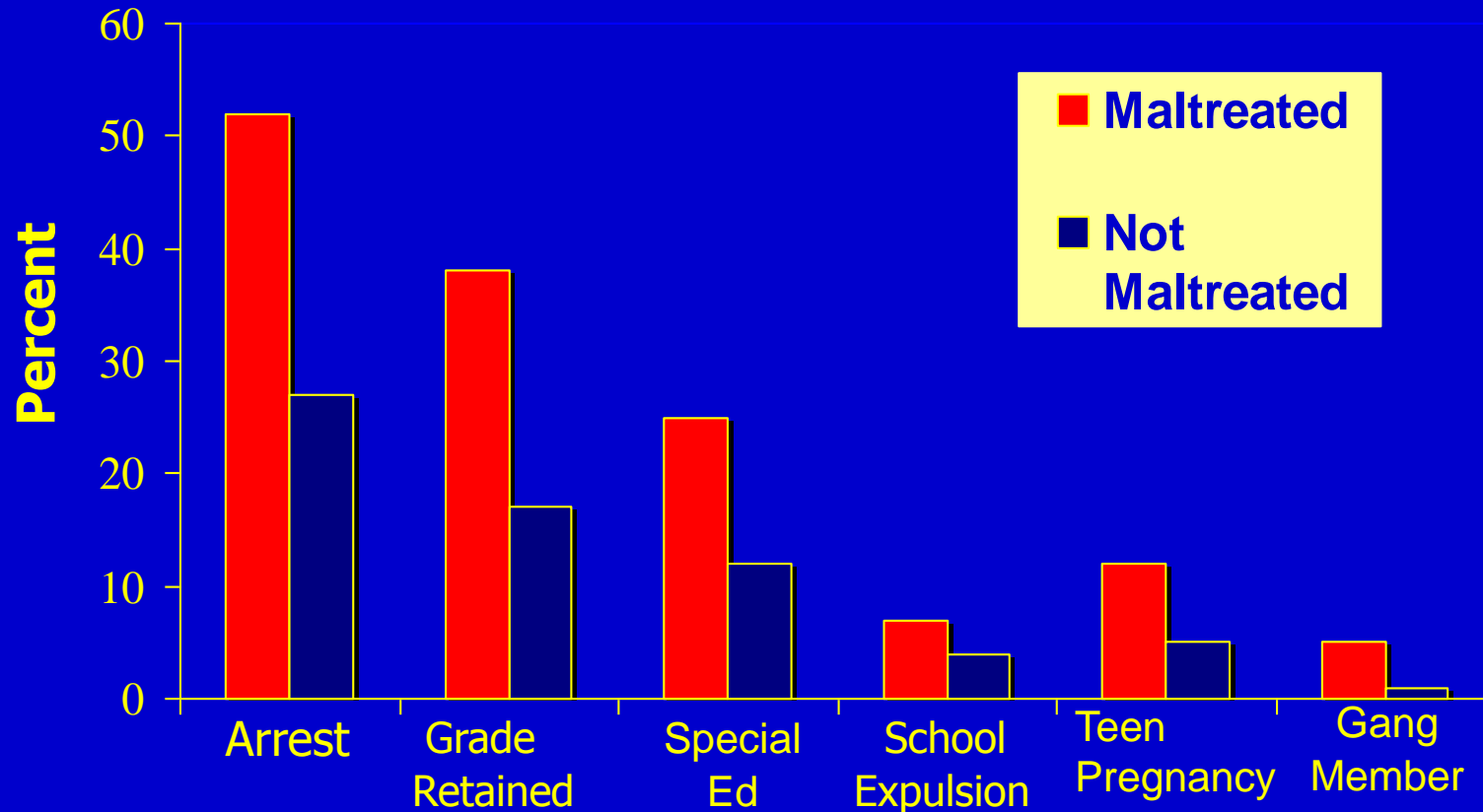
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Social and Financial Costs of Child Maltreatment:

Societal costs: \$124 billion per year

Individual costs: \$125,000 per abused child



The Lifelong Consequences of Not Being Ready to Learn at Kindergarten

Academic failure

- grade retention

- special education placement

High school dropout

Unemployment

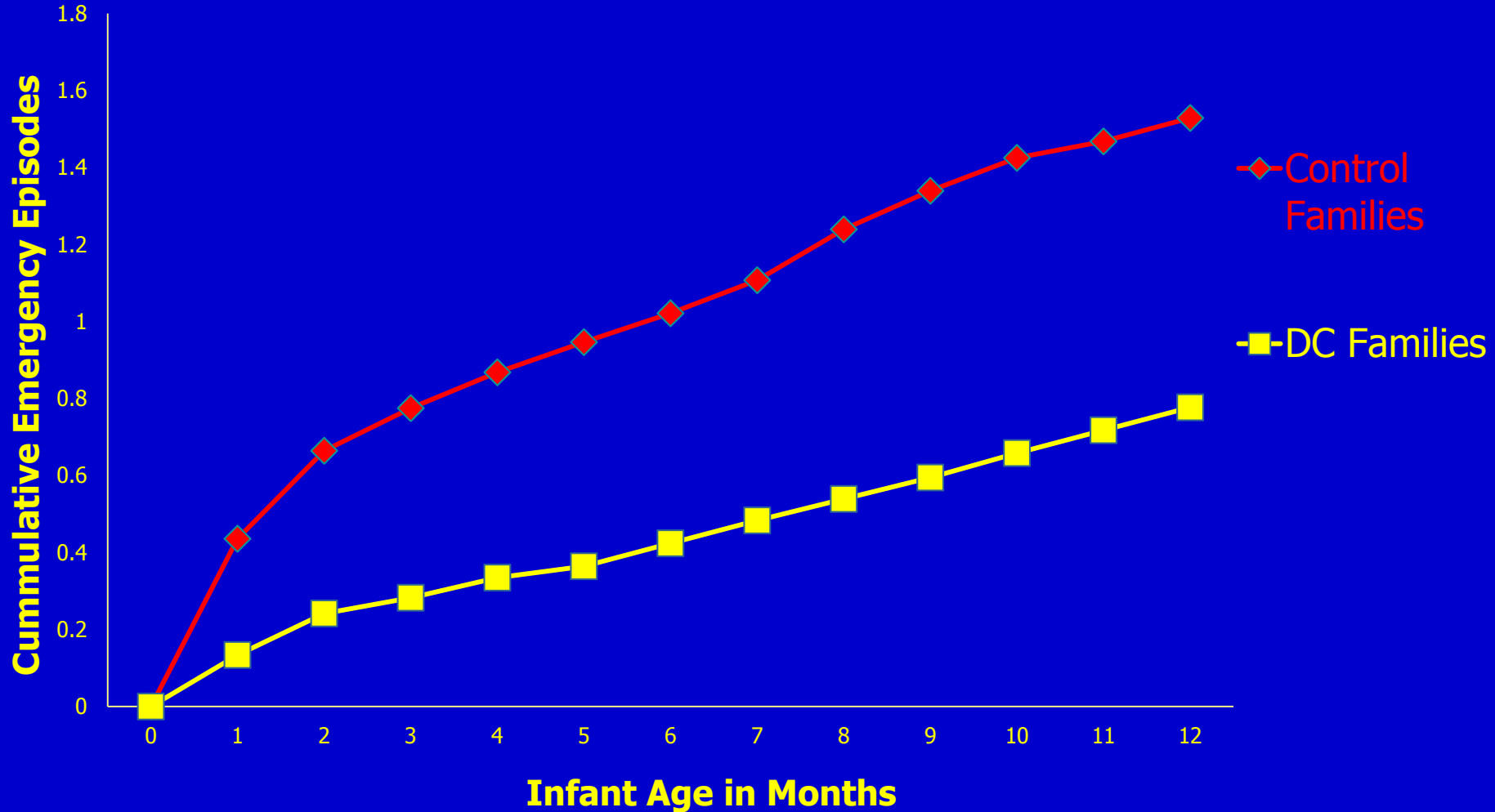
Crime

Poorer health and well-being

Preventing Infant Maltreatment: *Durham Connects* (Cost: \$600/family)

1. Connect with every family at birth (3-7 contacts)
 - Home visit(s) by public health nurse
 - Screen, assess 12 risk factors, quantify risk
2. Connect family with community, as needed
 - Professional, paraprofessional, and natural
3. So that parents can connect with infant

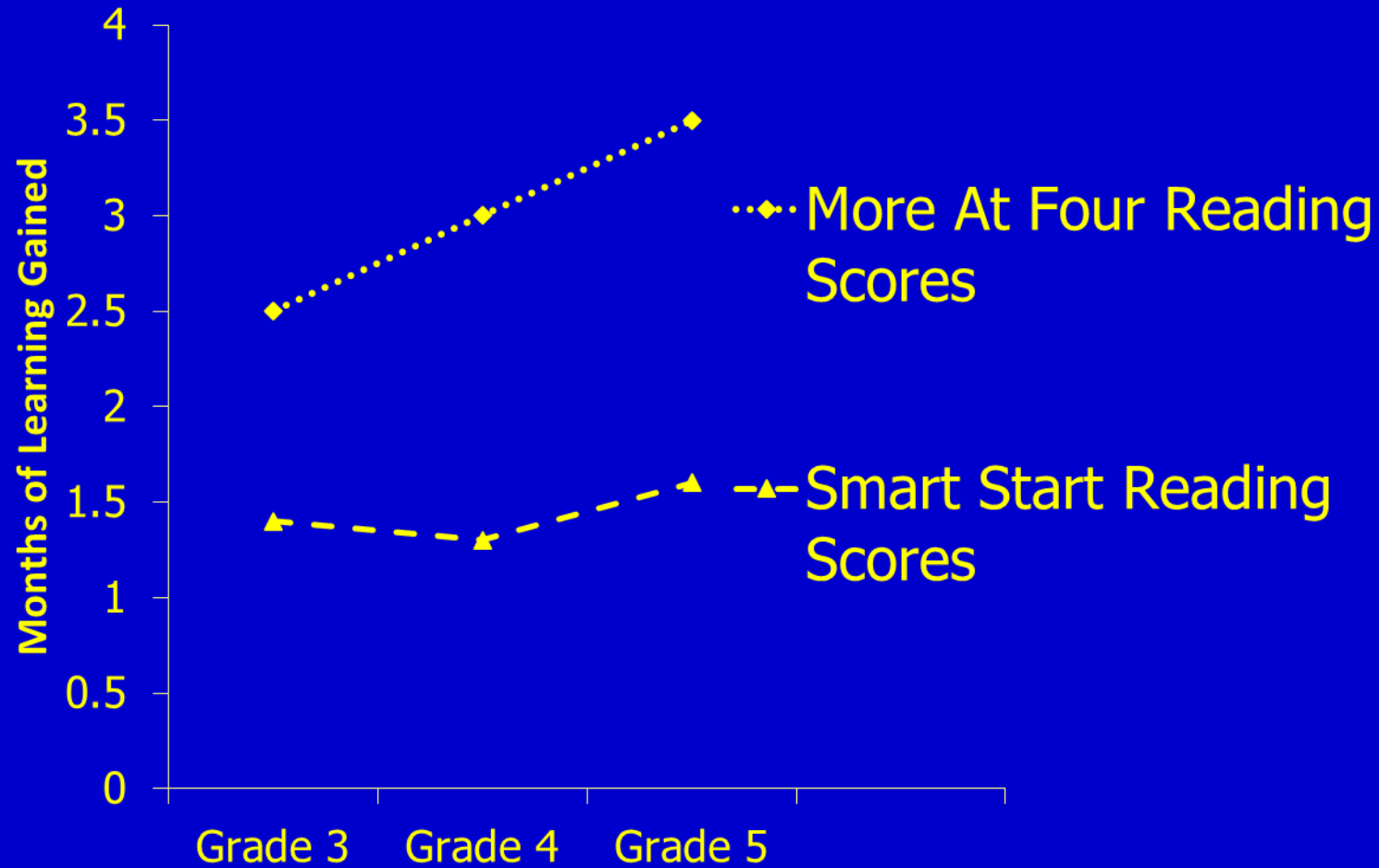
***Durham Connects* Reduces Emergency Medical Care Episodes across First 12 Months of Life With a 300 Percent Return on Investment**



North Carolina's Smart Start and More at Four Programs

- SMART START
 - State funding for early child care support
About \$1,100 per child across ages 0-4
- MORE AT FOUR
 - State-funded slots for high-quality pre-kindergarten
About \$4,400 per high-risk 4-yr-old

Impact of Average Funding Allocations in Months of Learning in Reading



Conclusions

We know which young children are at risk for financial, health, and social failure.

We have developed intervention technologies to improve outcomes.

Technologies seem to have a high rate of return on investment.