Today’s piece was prepared by Anisha Patel, MD, based on a Seattle Times article [Study More evidence that early-childhood programs help kids throughout their lives](http://www.seattletimes.com/education-lab/study-early-support-for-children-reaps-bigger-benefits/).

The article discusses a [large scale study](http://www.nber.org/papers/w22993.pdf) that showed the economic and health benefits of early childhood programs for underserved children into adulthood. The study, published by the National Bureau of Economic Research, followed closed to 190 children enrolled in 2 full-spectrum care early childhood programs in North Carolina in the 1970s into their 30s. Full spectrum care included high quality childcare from 8 weeks to 5 years of age, parenting classes, and home visitation programs. The study reported that children enrolled in these programs had a higher high school graduation rate, higher lifetime income, lower criminal activity, lower rates of drug use, lower rates of hypertension in their 30s.

The article in the Seattle Times does a nice job of conveying the importance of early childhood programs in impacting a child’s health and economic status. Early in the article, the author states that the sample consisted of all African-American children from low-income households and later goes on to emphasize how the study reported higher income and lower criminal activity among this group. While the title of the article briefly mentions the health related benefits seen from the program, the body of the article does not discuss this. By focusing on the economic impact and criminal records of these children, the study reaffirms implicit biases between children of color, poverty, and criminality. In fact, [many studies](http://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/193816) have shown the beneficial impacts of early childhood programs on the lives of all children, especially those who are socioeconomically disadvantaged- but the article does not reference these.

# **RESOURCES ON EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM****S:**

# [Child Find](http://www.specialeducationguide.com/early-intervention/early-identification-how-the-child-find-program-works/) *Description of this Federal program based on IDEA law requirements*

# [Head Start Impact Study](http://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED507845.pdf) *Final Report*

And that’s today’s Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics: IN THE NEWS!