

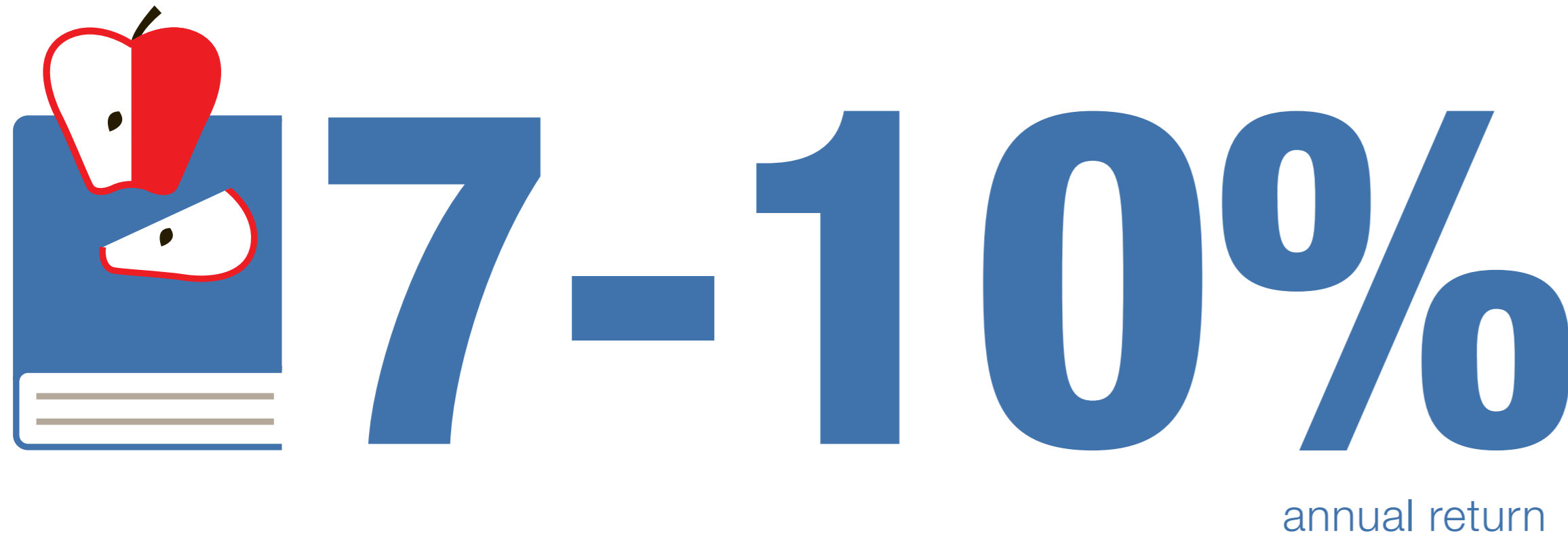
AMERICA'S BEST INVESTMENT

Early Childhood Development

Investing in quality programs for at-risk children produces great returns for all Americans.

The return on investment in early childhood development:

Compared to:



Dow Jones Industrial Average over the last 40 years:

6.77% annual return

S&P 500 Index over the last 40 years:

6.56% annual return

Smart investments reduce costly outcomes:

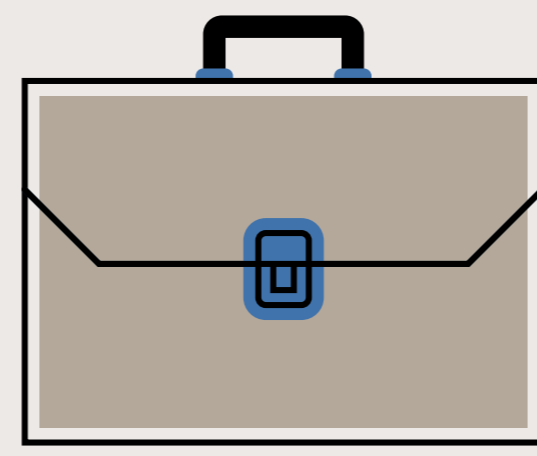
Society gains because participants are:

Adults who didn't attend early childhood programs earn

\$5,500

less each year than peers who did attend

Employment



More likely to be employed and earn a

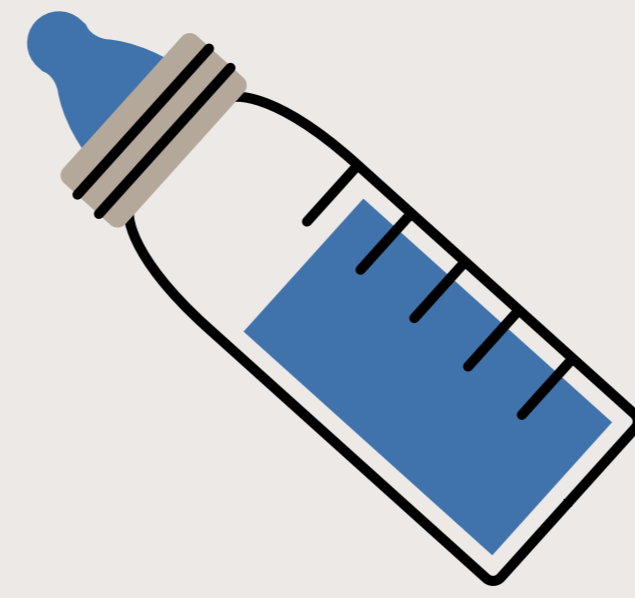
33%

HIGHER AVERAGE SALARY

Over their lifetime, the 2010 cohort of babies born to teens will collectively cost taxpayers

\$43.7 B

Teen Pregnancy



50% LESS LIKELY

to become teen parents

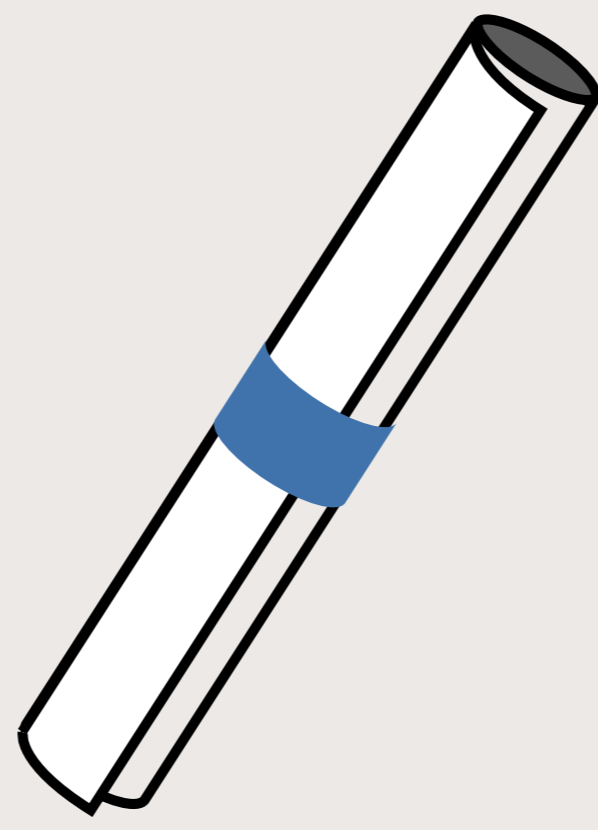
1.1 M high schoolers did not graduate from the class of 2011.

If they had graduated from high school, those students would have collectively earned an extra

\$154 B

in income in their lifetimes

Drop-out



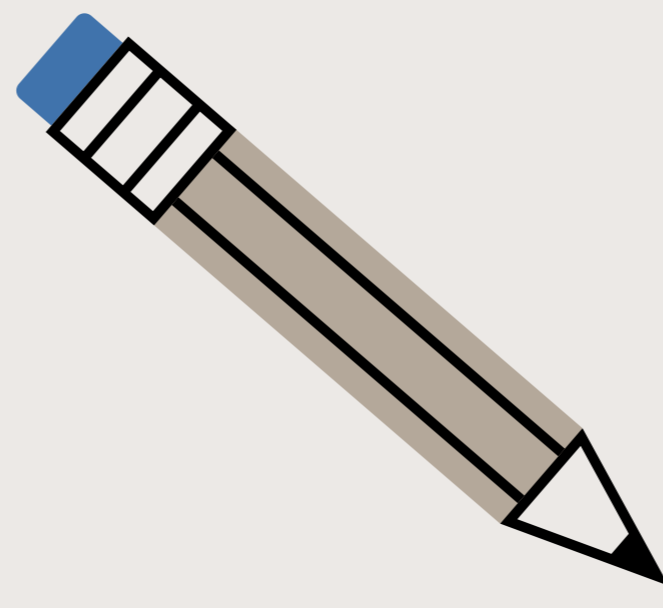
29% MORE LIKELY

to graduate high school

\$65 B

Annual spending on special education

Special Education



50% LESS LIKELY

to require special education

\$158 B

Annual costs due to youth violence

Youth Violence



70% LESS LIKELY

to be arrested for a violent crime before the age of 18

Invest in Young Children, Get a Better US

Public early childhood development initiatives include Head Start, Early Head Start, federally-subsidized child care through the Child Care and Development Block Grant, home visiting, state pre-k and infant and toddler programs.



A project of **The First Five Years Fund**, Invest In US helps Americans learn how to build a better US through investment in quality early childhood education from birth to age five.



Visit ffyf.org for a full list of references.