Head Start is a federally-funded, locally-run preschool program that provides comprehensive services for America’s most vulnerable children and their families.

## 2016 National Head Start Profile

### Access to Head Start in the United States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funded Head Start (HS) Slots</td>
<td>771,479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots</td>
<td>149,986</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

31% of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS.

6% of eligible children under 3 had access to EHS.

### Head Start's National Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$9,168,095,000 FY16 Enacted Funding for HS, EHS, and EHS-Child Care Partnerships in the United States</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start programs</td>
<td>1,598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Head Start programs</td>
<td>1,322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian/Alaska Native programs</td>
<td>211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migrant/Seasonal programs</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classrooms operated</td>
<td>58,385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start children were in foster care</td>
<td>24,301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start children with veteran/active military parents</td>
<td>13,717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start children experiencing homelessness</td>
<td>44,897</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### The United States’ Head Start Workforce

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HS and EHS jobs in the U.S.</td>
<td>241,450</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor’s degree in the U.S. makes $32,137 per year, compared to the $54,550 a kindergarten teacher makes annually.

"My family included a single mom and six siblings. Only the two youngest, my sister and I, attended Head Start. The four oldest have either been incarcerated, struggled with drug addiction, had trouble maintaining a job, or passed away. My sister is a successful court reporter. I have served as a military officer, state agency head, and speaker for the State Department. What was the discriminating factor? I contend it was Head Start."

Chuck Mills
Former Marine One co-pilot
In the United States...

- 1,043,889 children had continuously accessible health care
- 968,895 children had continuous access to dental care
- 133,863 children were identified with special needs
- 151,203 parents advanced their education level
- 71,573 families received job training
- 15,284 pregnant women were served by Early Head Start
- 968,895 children had continuous access to dental care
- 133,863 children were identified with special needs
- 15,284 pregnant women were served by Early Head Start
- 13% High quality birth-to-five programs, like the combination of EHS and HS, pay off 13% per year.

Head Start’s Impact: the Head Start Advantage

Children who participate in Head Start programs receive innumerable benefits. These advantages appear immediately, last a lifetime, and even have an effect on other generations.

- 38% Head Start children reduce their vocabulary deficit by 38% during the program year.
- 31% Head Start children are 31% less likely to have been held back a grade.
- 19% Head Start children are 19% less likely to smoke as adults.
- 13% High quality birth-to-five programs, like the combination of EHS and HS, pay off 13% per year.

About NHSA

The National Head Start Association is a nonprofit organization committed to the belief that every child, regardless of circumstances at birth, has the ability to succeed in life. NHSA is the voice for more than 1 million children, 200,000 staff and 1,600 Head Start grantees in the United States.

For more information, please contact us: go.nhsa.org/Contact.

For citations and other state fact sheets, please visit www.nhsa.org/Fact-Sheets

Our mission is to coalesce, inspire, and support the Head Start field as a leader in early childhood development and education.
Head Start is a federally-funded, locally-run preschool program that provides comprehensive services for America’s most vulnerable children and their families.

### 2016 National Head Start Profile

**Access to Head Start in the United States**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funded Head Start (HS) Slots</th>
<th>Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>771,479</td>
<td>149,986</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

31% of eligible children ages 3 - 5 had access to HS. 6% of eligible children under 3 had access to EHS.

**The United States’ Head Start Workforce**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HS and EHS jobs in the U.S.</th>
<th>The average Head Start teacher with a bachelor’s degree in the U.S. makes $32,137 per year, compared to the $54,550 a kindergarten teacher makes annually.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>241,450</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"My family included a single mom and six siblings. Only the two youngest, my sister and I, attended Head Start. The four oldest have either been incarcerated, struggled with drug addiction, had trouble maintaining a job, or passed away. My sister is a successful court reporter. I have served as a military officer, state agency head, and speaker for the State Department. What was the discriminating factor? I contend it was Head Start."

Chuck Mills
Former Marine One co-pilot
In the United States...

- 1,043,889 children had continuously accessible health care
- 968,895 children had continuous access to dental care
- 133,863 children were identified with special needs
- 151,203 parents advanced their education level
- 71,573 families received job training
- 15,284 pregnant women were served by Early Head Start
- 133,863 children were identified with special needs
- 968,895 children had continuous access to dental care
- 133,863 children were identified with special needs
- 15,284 pregnant women were served by Early Head Start

Head Start’s Impact: the Head Start Advantage

Children who participate in Head Start programs receive innumerable benefits. These advantages appear immediately, last a lifetime, and even have an effect on other generations.

- 38% HEAD START children reduce their vocabulary deficit by 38% during the program year.
- 31% HEAD START children are 31% less likely to have been held back a grade.
- 19% HEAD START children are 19% less likely to smoke as adults.
- 13% High quality birth-to-five programs, like the combination of EHS and HS, pay off 13% per year.

About NHSA

The National Head Start Association is a nonprofit organization committed to the belief that every child, regardless of circumstances at birth, has the ability to succeed in life. NHSA is the voice for more than 1 million children, 200,000 staff and 1,600 Head Start grantees in the United States.

For more information, please contact us: go.nhsa.org/Contact.

For citations and other state fact sheets, please visit www.nhsa.org/Fact-Sheets

Our mission is to coalesce, inspire, and support the Head Start field as a leader in early childhood development and education.