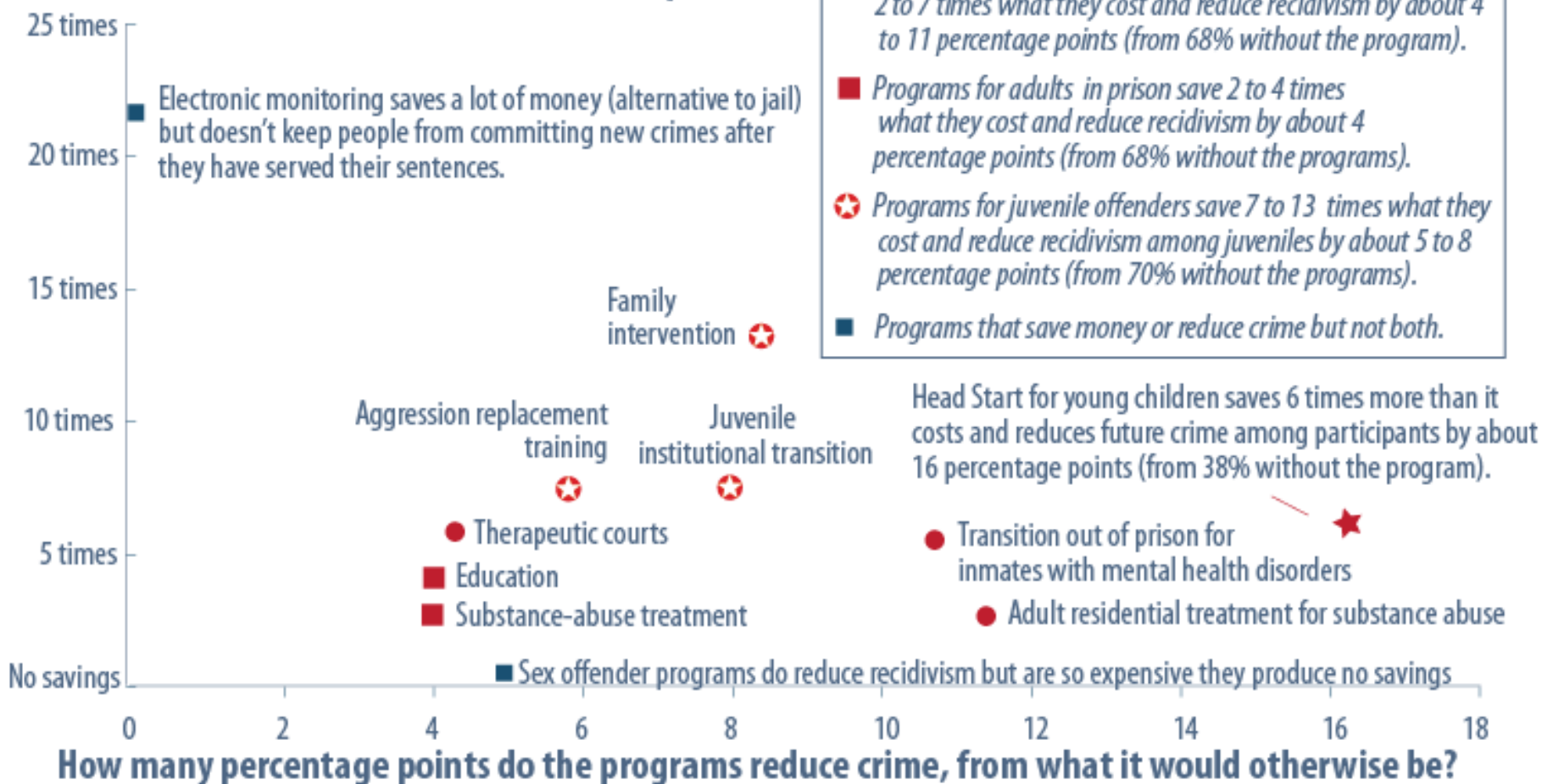


How Effective Are Various Programs at Saving Money and Reducing Crime?

How much more does the state *save* than it spends?



Source: Stephanie Martin and Steve Colt, *The Cost of Crime: Could the State Reduce Future Crime and Save Money by Expanding Education and Treatment Programs?* Institute of Social and Economic Research, University of Alaska Anchorage, January 2009

More Education, Less Crime:
Research Evidence and Policy Implications

Alaska State Legislature
Senate Judiciary Committee
Crime Summit
January 24, 2012

Annie Pennucci
Senior Research Associate
Washington State Institute for Public Policy
pennucci@wsipp.wa.gov
www.wsipp.wa.gov

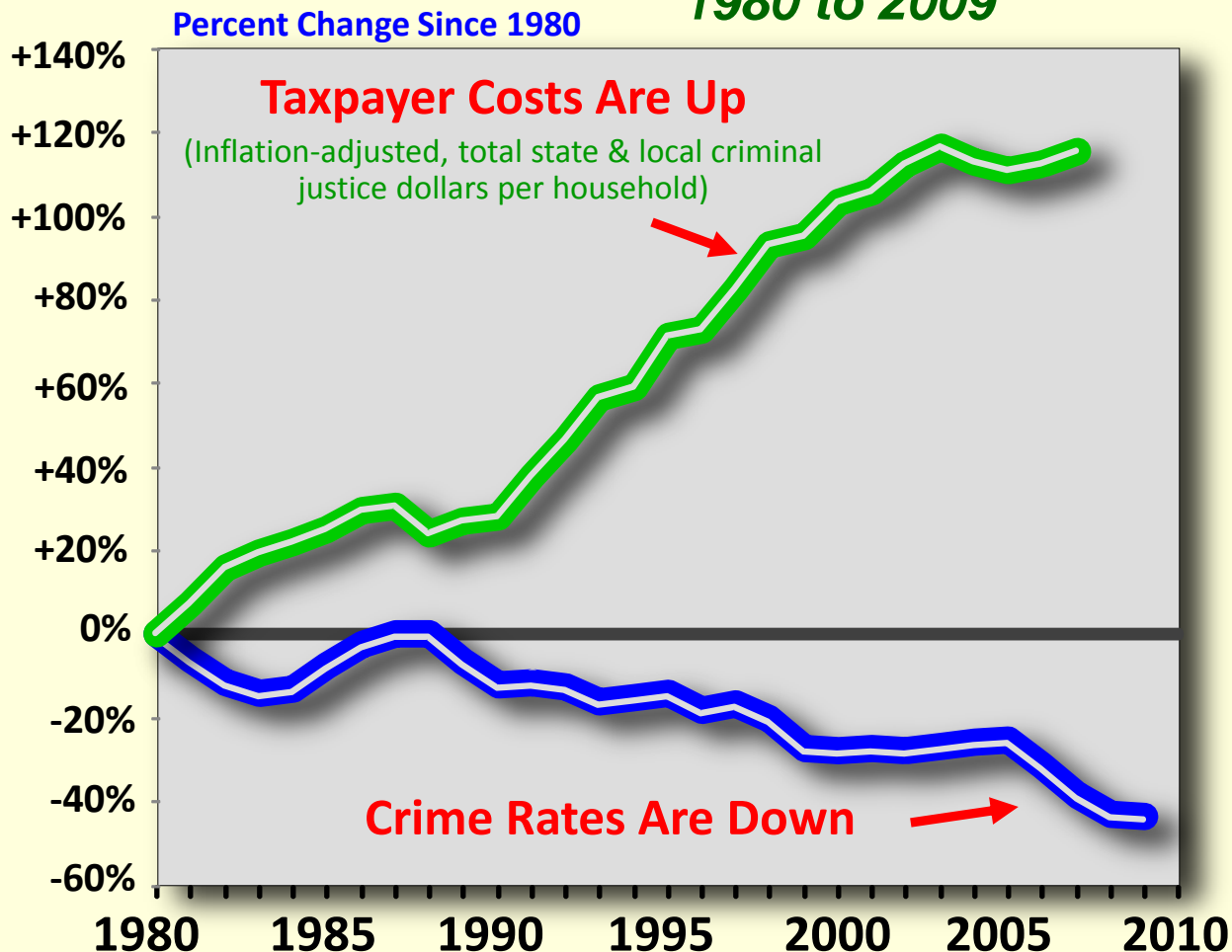
Washington State Institute for Public Policy

- **Non-partisan**, created by 1983 Legislature
- **General purpose** legislative research unit
- Projects **assigned** by legislative bills
- Legislative & executive **Board**
 - Equal party representation
 - Includes representatives from state universities



Crime: The Big Picture

Keeping Track of Crime Rates & Taxpayer Costs in Washington: 1980 to 2009



Source: Washington State Institute for Public Policy. Data are for Washington State. Monetary values in 2008 dollars. Crime rates cover major felony crimes as reported to police.

In 1980, taxpayers spent \$575 per household on the criminal justice system in WA.

Today they spend \$1,250 per year.

A 117% increase.

In 2009, crime rates were 43% lower than they were in 1980.

An Example of Prevention: Early Childhood Education (ECE) For Low-income 3 & 4 Year-Olds

- **66 studies** included in the meta-analysis
- **Population:** low-income 3 & 4 year-olds
- Range of **programs:** federal Head Start, state pre-school programs, Perry Preschool, Abecedarian, Chicago Parent Child Centers
- **Comparison:** in program vs. no program
- **Follow-up** period of students: immediately after program **to age 40**

An Example of Prevention: ECE For Low-income 3 & 4 Year-Olds

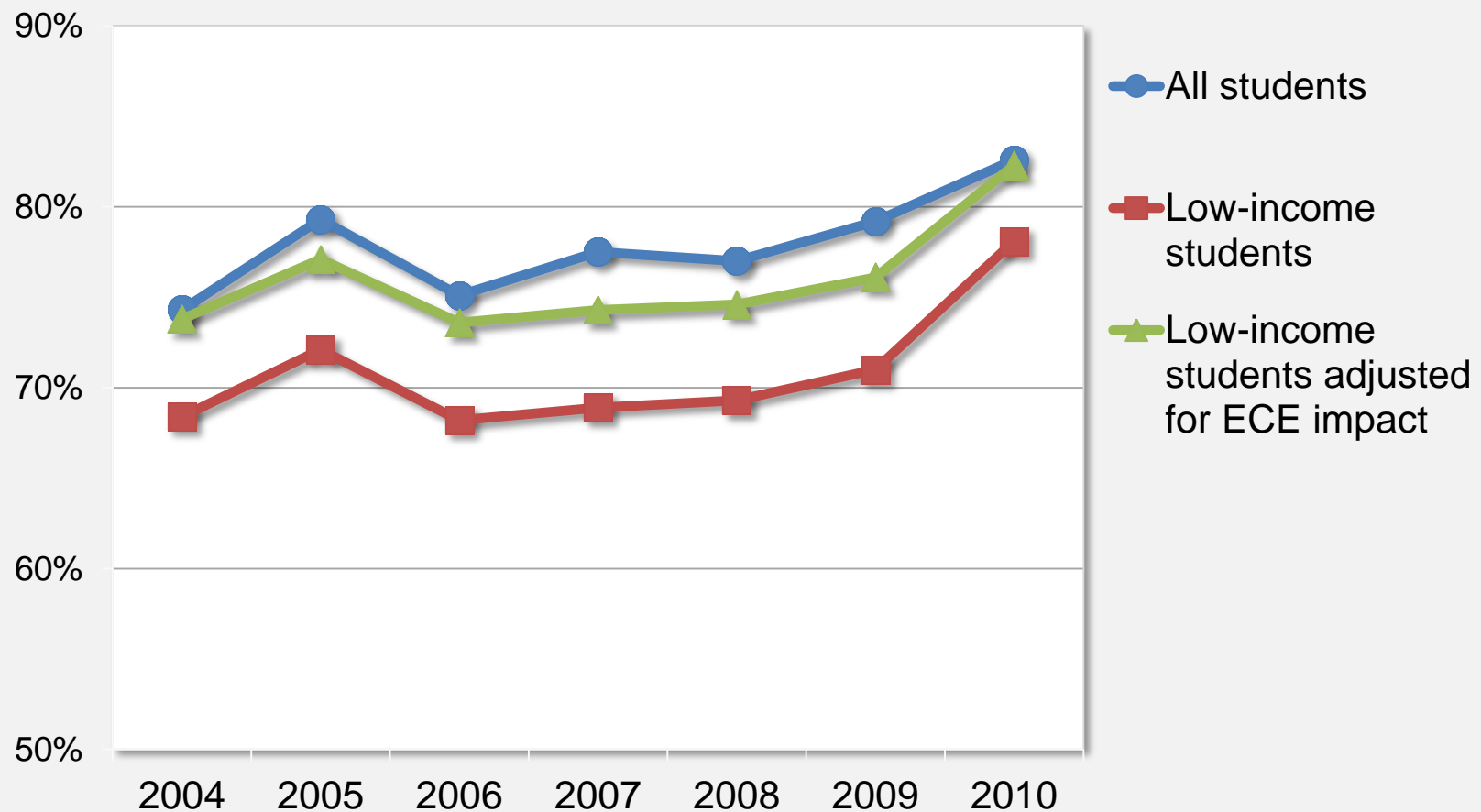
Does Early Childhood Education for 3 & 4 Year-old Low-income Children Affect These Outcomes?

Statistically Significant Impacts

Standardized Test Scores	Increase
High School Graduation	Increase
Crime Rates Later in the Youth's Life	Decrease
K-12 Special Education Placement	Decrease
K-12 Grade Repetition	Decrease
Child Abuse and Neglect	Decrease
Out-of-home Placement	Decrease

*Also measured but insufficient data to draw conclusions:
use of public assistance, teen births, college attendance, employment rates*

ECE for Low-income 3 & 4 Year-olds: Washington State High School Graduation Rates



ECE for Low-Income 3 & 4 Year-Olds: Return on Investment

Benefits Per Individual

Main Source of Benefits

Reduced crime	\$6,066	Lower CJ / victim costs
Educational gains	\$9,887	Increased earnings
Special ed reduction	\$1,098	Lower K-12 costs
Grade repetition reduction	\$310	Lower K-12 costs
Less child abuse & neglect	\$637	Lower CW / victim costs
Fewer out-of-home placements	\$379	Lower CW / victim costs
Lower health care system costs	\$662	Lower Medicaid enroll.

Total Benefits Per Individual **\$21,667**

Cost Per Individual **\$7,295**

Benefits Per Dollar of Cost **\$3.01** **(= 6% ROI)**

ECE for Low-Income 3 & 4 Year-olds: Summary

- **The evidence:** ECE improves outcomes across multiple dimensions (education, crime, child welfare, health care).
 - Crime rates among participants are reduced by 20 percent;
 - Earlier educational interventions (preschool vs. high school) have stronger impact on crime.
- **The economics:** ECE pays off (\$3 per \$1 investment).
- **The risk** = low. ECE nearly always breaks even.