

A new series of regular updates to Congress on RAND's work in child policy.

This Issue: WELFARE REFORM AND CHILDREN. One of the key issues related to welfare reform is its effect on the lives of children. To help policymakers address this key issue, RAND has assembled a collection of recent research and resources that looks at both the well-being of children and welfare reform policies.

JUST RELEASED

Affordable Child Care: Uncle Sam Has the Answers

Providing child care to large numbers of families is an important part of the welfare debate

A new RAND study, titled *Examining the Cost of Military Child Care*, finds that the U.S. Department of Defense provides high-quality affordable child care and can serve as a national model for other organizations and the private sector. The DoD is the country's largest source of employer-sponsored child care, including care for some 200,000 children of military families.

Release of the RAND study is key to the current congressional debate because it is the first to provide estimates of the cost of care in different military settings and by child age. Estimates include the cost of operating centers, but not the cost of construction.

- [Go to](#) press release
- [Go to](#) a complete copy of the report (MR1415)

HOT TOPICS

Welfare Reform and Much More...



Promising Practices Network

on Children, Families and Communities

In the fast-paced environment of Capitol Hill, decisionmakers need to have summaries of credible research at their fingertips. The Promising Practices Network (PPN) on Children, Families and Communities is a new Web-based resource providing links to hundreds of summaries of scientifically sound research that informs child and family policy. The site also offers user-friendly overviews of effective programs that improve child and family outcomes in such areas as health, school readiness, and family self-sufficiency.

RAND operates this Web site, which both provides original research summaries and points users to evidence-based information from RAND and numerous other sources.

- For more information go to www.promisingpractices.net

Cost vs. Benefits of Early Childhood Programs

In a time when congressional budgets are being stretched to their limits, policymakers need the tools to determine if the costs of early childhood programs outweigh the benefits. A newly released RAND study walks policymakers through a step-by-step process that helps them understand the key elements of comparing the costs and outcomes of such programs. The researchers offer key questions for policymakers to consider and then show how that guidance can be applied in a case study focused on a decision that the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the Casey Family Programs faced in pursuing their Starting Early Starting Smart—or SESS—program.

- [Go to](#) report summary (RB5051)
- [Go to](#) full report (MR1336)

UPCOMING REPORTS

A Decade of Welfare Reform: Child Well-Being

RAND researchers have just completed the most comprehensive synthesis to date of research that measures the impact of the welfare reforms implemented in the 1990s. The report covers a wide array of outcomes including the welfare caseload, employment and earnings, marriage and fertility, income and poverty, and child development. The primary focus of the synthesis is on the net effects of welfare reform, taking into account the impact of other factors such as the economy and policy changes that may have also affected these outcomes.

The synthesis reveals evidence of positive, negative, and neutral effects on child well-being of various components of welfare reform. The study concludes that child well-being should continue to be monitored to establish the longer-term impacts of reform on child and youth development.

- The full report has not yet been released. To request a copy of this study [click here](#).

For monthly email updates on all new RAND child policy publications and research projects, sign up for the Child Policy Project mailing list at www.rand.org/child.