

## The Lifelong Effects of Early Childhood Poverty

Research shows that poverty in early childhood can have detrimental effects on a range of achievement, behavior, and health outcomes in adulthood. The time between a child's prenatal year and 5<sup>th</sup> birthday is particularly critical, and incremental increases in parental income during this time period can have profound and positive long-term outcomes. The graphics below highlight some of this research. <sup>1</sup>

## Born Below the Poverty Line Born Well Above the Poverty Line

Those born well above the poverty line<sup>2</sup> work 30% more hours per year and earn 124% more per year than those born below the poverty line<sup>3</sup>...



Utilize social assistance less...

\$1,087 per year in food stamps

\$85 per year in food stamps

Complete an average of 2 more years of school...

11.83 years of schooling

13.96 years of schooling

And are less likely to be overweight as adults...

79%
Are overweight

**59%** 

Are overweight

Community development activities that empower low-income parents while their children are still very young can be important interventions. A \$3,000 increase in parental income between a child's prenatal year and fifth birthday could result in an estimated 19% increase in adult income and an additional 135 hours of work per year.<sup>4</sup>

## Footnotes:

- 1 Greg Duncan, Ariel Kalil, and Ziol-Guest Kathleen, "Early-Childhood Poverty and Adult Attainment, Behavior, and Health," *Child Development*, 81 (2010): 306-325. Values are weighted descriptive statistics. Correlation does not necessarily equal causation.
- 2 Born well above the poverty line implies a household income of more than twice the poverty line.
- 3 All dollar values were adjusted to 2014 levels to account for inflation.
- 4 Duncan, Kalil and Ziol-Guest (2010).