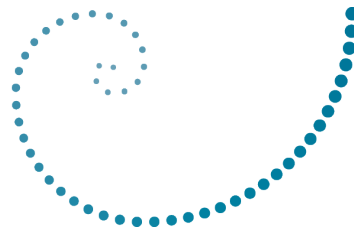




Going Forward Wisely

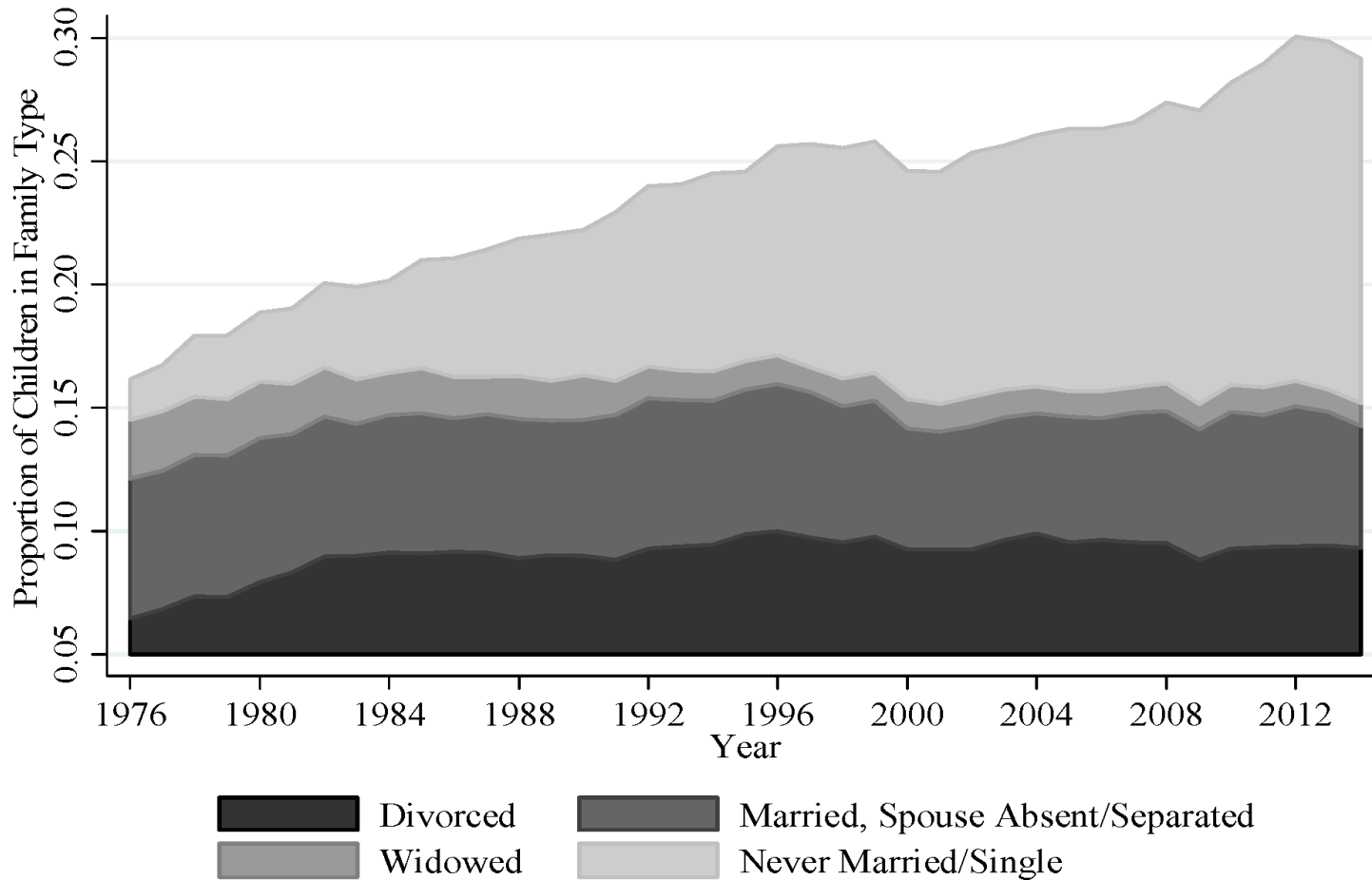
James J. Heckman



CENTER FOR THE ECONOMICS
OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Education Writers Association
68th National Seminar
April 21st, 2015

Children Under 18 Living in Single Parent Households by Marital Status of Parent

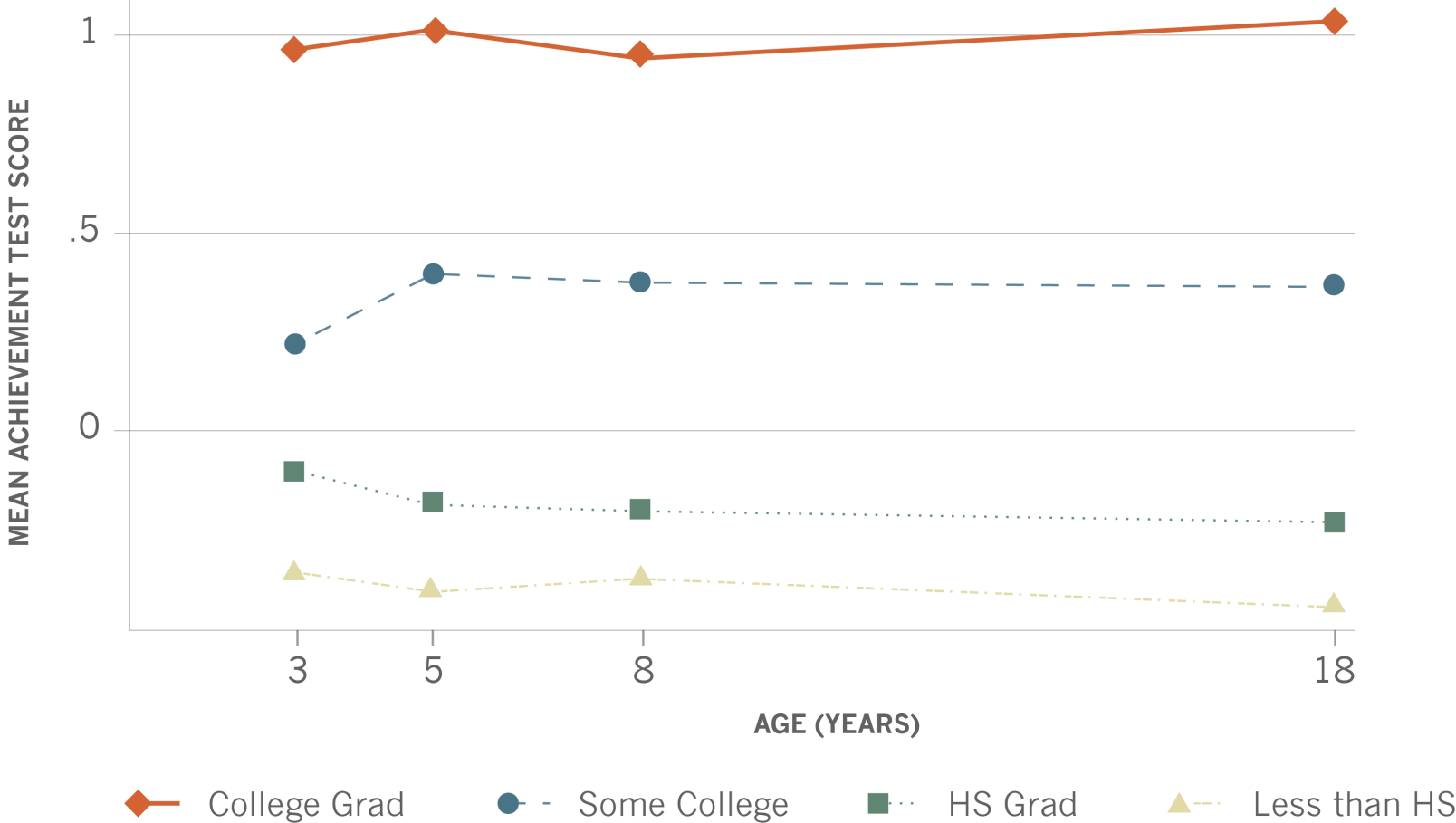


Source: IPUMS March CPS 1976-2014.

Note: Parents are defined as the head of the household. Children are defined as individuals under 18, living in the household, and the child of the head of household. Children who have been married or are not living with their parents are excluded from the calculation. Separated parents are included in "Married, Spouse Absent" Category.



Mean Achievement Test Scores by Age by Maternal Education



Each score standardized within observed sample. Using all observations and assuming data missing at random. Source: Brook-Gunn et al. (2006).

Hart & Risley, 1995

Children enter school with “meaningful differences” in vocabulary knowledge.

1. Emergence of the Problem

In a typical hour, the average child hears:

Family Status	Actual Differences in Quantity of Words Heard	Actual Differences in Quality of Words Heard
Welfare	616 Words	5 affirmatives, 11 prohibitions
Working Class	1,251 Words	12 affirmatives, 7 prohibitions
Professional	2,153 Words	32 affirmatives, 5 prohibitions

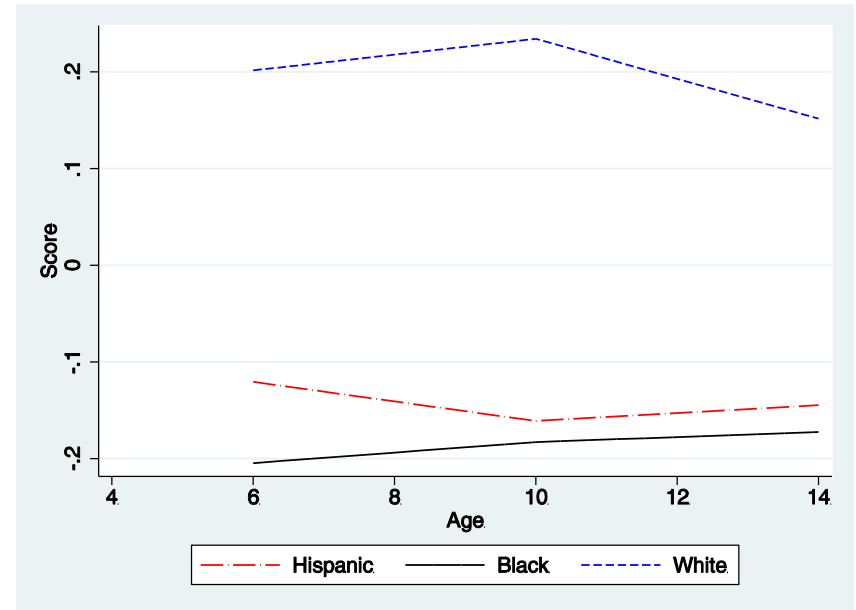
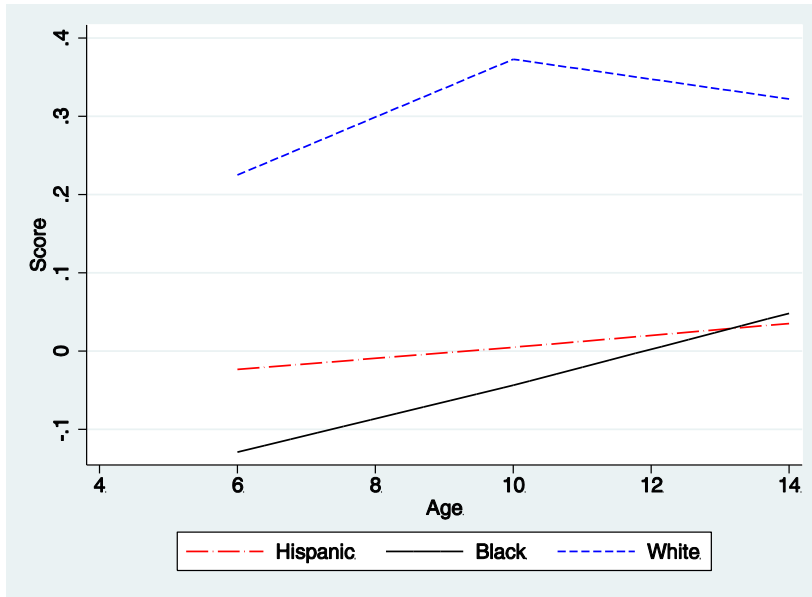
2. Cumulative Vocabulary at Age 3

Cumulative Vocabulary at Age 3	
Children from welfare families:	500 words
Children from working class families:	700 words
Children from professional families:	1,100 words

Parental Investment Over Childhood Across Ethnic Groups



Girls & Boys: Cognitive Stimulation



Source: Moon, 2014

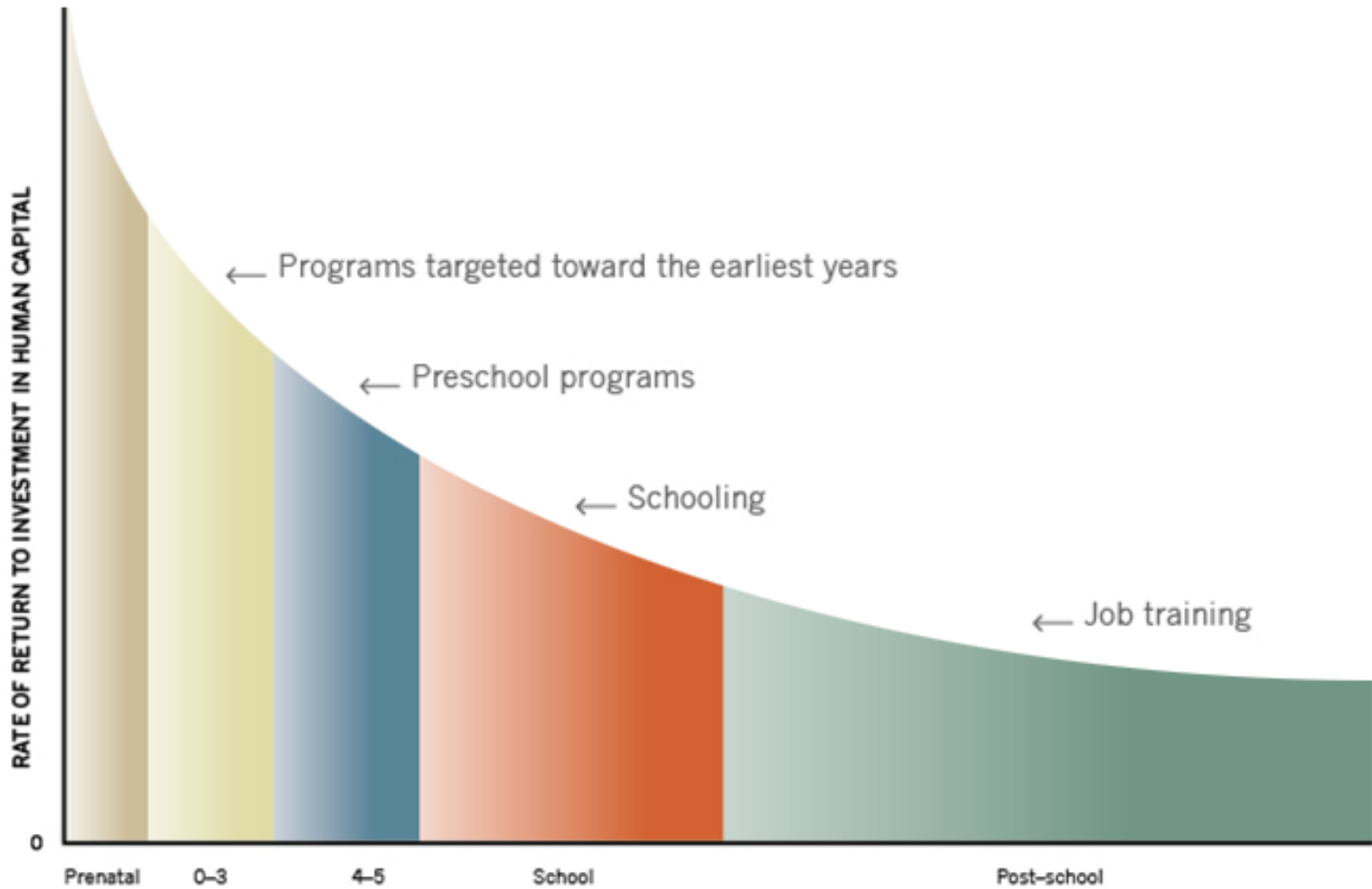
Abecedarian Project, Health Effects at Age 35 (Males)

	Treatment Mean	Control Mean	Treatment p-value
Systolic Blood Pressure	125.79	143.33	0.018
Diastolic Blood Pressure	78.53	92.00	0.024
Pre-Hypertension	0.68	0.78	0.235
Hypertension	0.10	0.44	0.011
HDL Cholesterol	53.21	42.00	0.067
Cholesterol/HDL-C	3.89	4.69	0.057
Abdominal Obesity	0.65	0.87	0.136
Metabolic Syndrome	0.00	0.25	0.009

Source: Campbell, Conti, Heckman, Moon, Pinto, Pungello and Pan (2014).



Returns to a Unit Dollar Invested



Source: Heckman (2008)