Giving High Risk Children and Their Families a Head Start
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Population Health Clerkship
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Head Start
- A federally funded program administered by the Administration for Children and Families in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for families under the national poverty line, disabled children, children in foster care, and families receiving public assistance
- Provides early childhood education for preschool aged children and health education for their families
- Domains of learning: Approaches to learning, physical education and health development, literacy, social and emotional development, language development, mathematics, creative arts, and science

Objectives
- To provide early detection health screenings
- To observe inter-professional roles of Head Start
- To assess the social determinants of health in Head Start families

Population
- Families qualify for Head Start if their income is below the requirement determined by the Office of Management and Budget (congruent with the Federal poverty line), receive public assistance, the child has a documented disability, or if the child is in foster care
- 29% families do not primarily speak English
- High Risks: Lead toxicity, nutritional deficiency, stunted cognitive growth, and delayed physical development

Advocacy
- Significant high-risk, vulnerable, un-served populations still exist due to restricted budgets and resources
- Major organizations
  - National, state, and local Head Start Associations
  - National Association for the Education of Young Children
- Departments of Labor, Health, and Human Services and Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015
  - A proposed bill to return to the pre-sequestration budget for Head Start and many other public services
  - The sequestration cut 60,000 spots nationally and thousands of staff members.
  - The 2015 version has cut out controversial funding issues to increase the likelihood of passing

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