

Investments in Children Appendix

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1 Introduction

This appendix displays figures that compare investments in children and children’s programs across countries and over time. It also provides documentation and context around the programs and statistics in the figures. Section 2 compares government spending on children in the United States in 2002 and 2019. Section 3 compares government spending amounts by category in 2019 for the US, United Kingdom, Germany, and Sweden in raw amounts and as percentages of total spending.

2 US Spending Over Time

Table 1 compares government expenditures on select programs in the United States in 2002 and 2019. The bold amounts are those related to investments on children or spending on children’s programs. The 2002 spending amounts are taken from Table 1 of [Currie \(2006\)](#), expressed in 2019 dollars. The amounts for 2019 are taken from sources described in the subsections.

Table 1: Comparison of US Safety Net Programs (2002 and 2019)

	Expenditures in 2002 (billions)	Expenditures in 2019 (billions)
<u>Cash</u>		
TANF payments	18.5	10.9
Other TANF services	12.1	14.4
Child tax credit	30.7	117.3
Earned Income Tax Credit	39.5	64.1
Total Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	54.7	55.9
SSI for children	7.4	9.4
<u>Health Care</u>		
Total Medicaid	366.9	571.3
Medicaid (children and non-disabled adults)	63.4	246.8
Medicaid (children only)	53.1	88.8
CHIP	7.7	18.8
<u>Nutrition</u>		
SNAP	34.2	60.4
SNAP - families with children	18.5	34.5*
School Lunch	8.7	14.1
WIC	6.3	5.1
School Breakfast	2.1	4.5
Child and Adult Care Food Program	N/A	3.6
<u>Housing</u>		
Rental Assistance	N/A	35.4
Public Housing	N/A	6.4
Other Housing Assistance	N/A	0.1
Grants	N/A	6.4
Homeless and HOPWA	N/A	2.4
Approx. total for families with children	33.8	25.4
<u>Child Care</u>		
Child Care and Development Block Grant	12.2	10.3
Head Start	11.7	9.7
<u>Public Education</u>		
K-12 Education	540.2	752.3
Total Expenditures for Children excluding K-12 Education:	262.1	430.9
Total Expenditures for Children Including K-12 Education:	802.3	1,183.2
Cash Welfare (TANF) Payments as %Total:	7%	3%
Total Federal Government Spending:	2857.7	4447
Total State and Local Government Spending:	2847.9	3790.9
Total Government Spending:	5705.6	8237.9
Spending on Children as % of Federal Spending:	9.2%	9.7%
Spending on Children as % of Total Government Spending	14.1%	14.4%

2.1 Cash

2.1.1 TANF Payments and Other TANF Services TANF expenditures data were gathered from the *TANF Financial Data - FY 2019* table from the Office of Family Assistance at the Department of Health and Human Services ([Office of Family Assistance, 2021](#)). Caseload data was gathered from the Congressional Research Service (CRS) report *The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant: Responses to Frequently Asked Questions* ([Falk and Landers, 2024](#)).

The expenditures data is for the fiscal year 2019. Table A.3 was used to calculate the amounts. *TANF payments* are defined to include: *basic assistance, assistance authorized solely under prior law, refundable earned income tax credits, non-EITC refundable state tax credits, non-recurrent short term benefits*. *Other TANF Services* are defined to include: *Non-Assistance Authorized Solely Under Prior Law, Work, Education, and Training Activities, Work Supports, Early Care and Education, Financial Education and Asset Development, Supportive Services, Services for Children and Youth, Prevention of Out-of-Wedlock Pregnancies, Fatherhood and Two-Parent Family Formation and Maintenance Programs, Child Welfare Services, Home Visiting Programs, Other*.

2.1.2 Earned Income Tax Credit Data on Earned Income Tax Credit expenditures and caseload were gathered from the IRS’s SOI Tax Stats Historic Tables (*Historic Table 2 State Data Tax Year 2019*) ([Internal Revenue Service, n.d.](#)). Total EITC expenditures and caseload were calculated by summing across AGI groups after collapsing the data, using the *A59660* and *N59660* variables as the total EITC expenditures and caseloads, respectively.

2.1.3 SSI Data on total SSI payments and caseloads were gathered from [Office of Retirement and Disability Policy and Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics \(2020\)](#). The total and children’s caseload data come from Table 3, while the total expenditures data come from Table 2. The children’s expenditures data comes from Table IV.C1 of *2020 SSI Annual Report* ([Social Security Administration, 2020](#)).

2.1.4 Child tax credit The expenditures and caseloads numbers for the child tax credit come from [Internal Revenue Service \(n.d.\)](#).

2.2 Health Care

2.2.1 Medicaid and CHIP The Medicaid and CHIP data were gathered from the *MACStats Medicaid and CHIP Data Book*, 2020 and 2021 editions ([Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission, 2020, 2021](#)). The enrollment numbers are the number of people enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP at any point in the fiscal year. The Medicaid enrollment and expenditures numbers come from Exhibits 14 and 18, respectively, of the 2021 edition. The CHIP enrollment and expenditures numbers come from Exhibits 32 and 33, respectively, of the 2020 edition. All numbers are fiscal year statistics.

2.3 Nutrition Overall expenditure numbers for each non-SNAP program come from the Table 1 of USDA’s *The Food Assistance Landscape: Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report* ([Tiehen, 2020](#)). The caseloads for school lunch and breakfast are average daily participation numbers, the caseload for WIC is an average monthly participation, and the caseload for the child and adult care food program

are total meals served. The SNAP caseloads come from Table A.1 of the USDA’s *Characteristics of SNAP Households: FY 2019* (Cronquist, 2021). The total SNAP expenditure is from Table 1 of Tiehen (2020), while the families with children expenditure is calculated by multiplying the average monthly benefit of the “Children” row of Table A.1 by 12.

2.4 Housing The housing caseload and expenditures statistics were gathered from the CRS’s *Overview of Federal Housing Assistance Programs and Policy* report (McCarty et al., 2019). The expenditures totals are from Table 15, and the caseload numbers are from Table 16. The caseload numbers are for 2016. All years are fiscal years in this document. The housing assistance categories in that table are defined as in the CRS report. **Rental assistance** includes *project-based Section 8 rental assistance and Housing Choice Vouchers, Section 202, Section 811, and USDA Section 521*. **Public Housing** includes *Public Housing Capital Fund, Public Housing Operating Fund, Public Housing Drug Elimination Program, and HOPE VI/Choice Neighborhoods*. **Other Housing Assistance** includes *Section 235, Section 236, and Rent Supplement*. **Grants** includes funding for the *Community Development Fund, including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program, Native American Housing Block Grants and Housing Counseling Assistance*. Prior to FY1998, funding for the Native American housing programs that were consolidated by NAHASDA was included in other accounts. **Homeless and HOPWA** includes the *Homeless Assistance Grants*. Following the calculations in Currie (2006), the benefit amount to families with children is estimated as half the total expenditures.

2.5 Child Care The CCDF expenditures number comes from Table 1 of the Office of Child Care’s *CCDF Expenditures Overview for FY 2019* report (Office of Child Care, 2021). The CCDF caseload number comes from Table 1 of the CRS’s *The Child Care and Development Block Grant: In Brief* (Lynch, 2022). The caseload number is average monthly children served. The Head Start caseload and expenditures numbers come from the *Head Start Program Facts: Fiscal Year 2019* (Head Start, 2022).

2.6 Public Education The public education expenditures number comes from the Census Bureau article *K-12 School Spending Up 4.7% in 2019 From Previous Year* (Chen, 2021) and the public education caseload number comes from the National Center for Education Statistics (National Center for Education Statistics, 2023).

3 Government Spending Categories by Country

Tables 2 and 3 compare government spending by category and percentage, respectively, for the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, and Sweden in 2019. Spending on children was calculated separately for each country; the US numbers are those in Table 1. Data sources for expenditures on children are described in the following subsections. The total expenditures on children for each of the European countries are calculated as the sum of spending in categories analogous to those described in Section 2.

Table 2: Spending by Category Across Countries

<i>Spending (billions of local currency)</i>	US	UK	Germany	Sweden
Expenditures on children	1,183.2	157.2	270.0	437.8
Interest on debt	375	49.2	29.8	22.9
General public services	1250.5	97.5	201.3	346.6
Defence	714.3	44.1	36.9	62.1
Public order and safety	429.5	39.9	56.3	65.8
Economic affairs	743.4	75.3	112	223.3
Social protection - sickness and disability	200.9	52.4	112.7	180.7
Social protection - old age	893	184.2	334.1	526.1
Social protection - unemployment	28	1.3	52.6	53.6
Estimated health care (excluding children)	1238.7	165.7	240	403.7
Other	1,181.4	46.4	117.7	159.9
<i>Total government spending (federal and state/local)</i>	<i>8237.9</i>	<i>913.2</i>	<i>1563.4</i>	<i>2482.5</i>

Table 3: Spending Percentages by Category Across Countries

<i>% of total spending</i>	US	UK	Germany	Sweden
Expenditures on children	14.36%	17.21%	17.27%	17.64%
Interest on debt	4.55%	5.39%	1.91%	0.92%
General public services	15.18%	10.68%	12.88%	13.96%
Defence	8.67%	4.83%	2.36%	2.50%
Public order and safety	5.21%	4.37%	3.60%	2.65%
Economic affairs	9.02%	8.25%	7.16%	8.99%
Social protection - sickness and disability	2.45%	5.74%	7.21%	7.28%
Social protection - old age	10.84%	20.17%	21.37%	21.19%
Social protection - unemployment	0.34%	0.14%	3.36%	2.16%
Estimated health care (excluding children)	15.04%	18.14%	15.35%	16.26%
Other	14.33%	5.09%	7.53%	6.44%
Total:	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

3.1 United Kingdom The expenditures on children for the United Kingdom were calculated as the sum of expenditures on social programs listed below.

Social spending in the UK in 2019 can largely be broken down into the following categories, according to the [Office for Budget Responsibility \(2019a\)](#):

1. Tax credits (personal)
2. Other welfare
3. State pensions (not really applicable to children)
4. Other services
5. Education
6. Health

3.1.1 Change to Universal Credit Tax credits are in the process of being replaced by Universal Credit; currently, only those who have existing child tax credits or working tax credits may claim them. Otherwise, households must apply for Universal Credit. Claiming child tax credit requires claiming working tax credit. Working tax credit includes a childcare component. Universal credit is intended for “people who are on a low income or out of work and has replaced a range of existing benefits, including Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit.” ([HM Revenue and Customs, 2024](#)) As of August 2022, “there were 4.2 [million] households in payment on UC. However, there remain 2.5 [million] households claiming legacy benefits and tax credits who have yet to move over to UC.” ([Department for Work and Pensions, 2023](#)) The UK government plans to have all legacy credits moved to universal credit by 2025.

Table 4 shows the amount of child-specific credit available through universal credit ([Department for Work and Pensions, 2019](#)). Families are allowed to claim benefits for only two children, unless all the children were born before 4/6/2017, they were already claiming benefits for 3 or more children before 4/6/2017, or some other exceptions (including multiple births and adoption).

Table 4: Universal Credit Child Benefit (2019)

Child	Monthly Amount
First child	£277.08 (if born before 4/6/2017) or £231.67 (otherwise)
Second child	£231.67
Other eligible children	£231.67
Disability supplement	£126.11 or £392.08 (severe)
Child care (up to 85% of eligible costs)	up to £646.35 (1 child) or £1108.04 (2 or more)

Meanwhile, as of 2019-2020, the (yearly) child tax credit rates are shown in Table 5 ([Maternity Action, 2019](#)):

Table 5: Child Tax Credit Benefit (2019-2020)

Child	Full Yearly Amount
Basic family benefit	£545
Each child	£2780 (£231.67 monthly)
Disability supplement	£3355 (£279.56 monthly)
Disability supplement (severe)	£4715 (£392.92 monthly)
Child care (up to 70% of eligible costs)	up to £9100 (1 child) or £15600 (2 or more)

The monthly equivalents of the child care rates are £758.33 for one child and £13000 for two or more. The child-specific amounts for the child tax credit and the universal credit are very similar; there is a bit more for disability supplements under the child tax credit, and the differences in child care benefits may be offset by the differing reimbursement levels (85% vs 70%) for some families if they do not need to claim the maximum amount. The basic family benefit is not paid out directly

under universal credit, however, and the universal credit standard allowance of £251.77 to £498.89 per family seems to track well with the income support payments that UC is supposed to replace. This suggests that the basic family benefit of the child tax credit (£545 per family in 2019) will be lost. Otherwise, the payments are quite close and families will not lose out much per child.

The estimation of the share of some benefits that go to families with children was conducted following the methodology of [Kelly et al. \(2018\)](#), which calculates the number of households with children that claim a particular benefit, and then uses this to find the percentage of households that receive a benefit and have children. This was done using the Family Resources Survey for 2019 (FRS), a representative sample of benefit units in the UK ([Department for Work and Pensions, 2020](#)).

3.1.2 Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit The tax credit statistics are from the UK government’s website (downloading the data table) on *Child and Working Tax Credits statistics: finalised annual awards - 2018 to 2019* ([HM Revenue and Customs, 2021](#)). The expenditures and caseload data come from Table 1.1.

3.1.3 Child Benefit The child benefit expenditures come from the Office for Budget Responsibility’s *Welfare Trends Report 2019* (Figure 1.1) ([Office for Budget Responsibility, 2019b](#)). The caseloads come from the HM Revenue and Customs’ *Child Benefit: annual release* statistics, 2019 edition ([HM Revenue and Customs, 2020](#)).

3.1.4 Other Welfare The other welfare statistics come from the UK government’s Department for Work and Pensions’ annual *Benefit expenditure and caseload tables*, Autumn 2020 version ([Department for Work and Pensions, 2021](#)). The estimated portions for families with children were calculated as described with the FRS.

3.1.5 Health Care The health care expenditures data was taken from the UK Office for National Statistics’ *Healthcare expenditure, UK Health Accounts: 2019* ([Office for National Statistics, 2021](#)). The estimate spent on children comes from applying the percentage of healthcare spent on children estimated by [Alma Economics \(2023\)](#) for 2022-23 and applying it to our context.

3.1.6 Children’s Services and Childcare The statistics are for England only and come from [Farquharson \(2019\)](#).

3.1.7 Housing Housing expenditures and caseloads come from the [Department for Work and Pensions \(2021\)](#). The estimated portion for families was estimated as in previous benefits.

3.1.8 Education Education expenditures come from [Bolton \(2017\)](#). Caseloads come from the government’s national statistics: *Education and training statistics for the UK: 2019* ([Department for Education, 2019](#)).

3.2 Germany The federal government of Germany has a description of some child and family benefits available in their article *What does the Federal Government do to help families?* (2020). There are, among other programs, a child benefit, parental benefits, parental leave, and tax reliefs.

3.2.1 Cash/Welfare The statistics on child benefit come from online tables prepared by the German Federal Statistical Office (DESTATIS) (Statistisches Bundesamt, 2023). The tax relief for single parents, childcare cost tax deductions, supplementary child allowance, maintenance advance, parental allowance, federal contributions to statutory pension insurance for child-raising periods, education and participation benefits, and child allowance as part of the supplementary pension allowance expenditures numbers come from the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth’s (BMFSFJ) *Family today: Data, Facts, Trends - Family Report 2020* (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend, 2020). The caseloads for parental allowance and supplementary child allowance come from the DESTATIS online table on parental allowance (Statistisches Bundesamt, 2020) and the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth’s article *Das Starke-Familien-Gesetz tritt in Kraft* (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend, 2019), respectively. The maintenance advance caseloads number comes from the BMFSFJ’s statistics for *Unterhaltsvorschussgesetz (UVG) Geschäftsstatistik* (Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend, n.d.). The parental leave expenditures number comes from the OECD’s detailed data on social spending for Germany (OECD, n.d.b).

3.2.2 Health care The total health care spending number comes from the Federal Health Report (GBE)’s online tables on expenditure/financing, and the government portion comes from the GBE’s online table on *Revenues of health care financing schemes in millions of Euro (year, financing schemes, types of revenues)* (Gesundheits-Berichterstattung Des Bundes, n.d.). The portion of government spending on health care spent on children was estimated by applying the 2013 breakdown of spending by age from EUROSTAT (Statistical Office of the European Union, 2016). Finally, the expenditure for free family membership in statutory health insurance for non-employed family members (children and adolescents) number was taken from Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend (2020).

3.2.3 Housing Housing allowance expenditure data comes from DESTATIS online tables (Statistisches Bundesamt, n.d.b), and “other housing assistance” from the detailed OECD spending dataset for Germany (OECD, n.d.a).

3.2.4 Child care The child daycare expenditure and caseload numbers are 2018 values, and come from Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend (2020) and DESTATIS’s online tables (Statistisches Bundesamt, n.d.a), respectively. The expenditure and caseload numbers for education and integration assistance come from Statistisches Bundesamt (n.d.a) and its press release *Over 1 million cases of educational assistance for young people under 27 for the first time in 2018* (Statistisches Bundesamt, 2019), respectively.

3.2.5 Public education Expenditures on public education numbers were gathered from DESTATIS’s online tables on “Public expenditure on education.” Caseloads for higher education and general education come from Davies (2023) and Statistisches Bundesamt (n.d.c), respectively.

3.3 Sweden Sweden has a generous welfare system with many programs dedicated for children and families with children. The *Statistics Sweden* website has a helpful guide on where to find statistics on social insurance and other government spending.

3.3.1 Cash/Social Security The statistics on child benefit and maintenance support were gathered from the Försäkringskassan (the Swedish Social Insurance Agency)’s *Social Insurance in Figures 2020* publication (Försäkringskassan, 2020). The associated tables are on pages 11 and 15. The statistics on parental allowance, temporary parental allowance, and pregnancy allowance were gathered from the Försäkringskassan statistics database (children and families tab) (Försäkringskassan, n.d.). The statistics on assistance compensation and care allowance are from the Försäkringskassan statistics database (functional impairment tab) (Försäkringskassan, n.d.).

3.3.2 Health Care Overall government expenditures on health statistics were gathered from *Statistics Sweden*’s statistics on the System of Health Accounts (SHA) (Statistics Sweden, n.d.). The social financial assistance data was taken from The National Board of Health and Wellbeing (2020) and its accompanying data spreadsheet. The portion of government spending on health care spent on children was estimated by applying the 2012 breakdown of spending by age from Statistical Office of the European Union (2016).

3.3.3 Housing The statistics on housing allowance for families with children were taken from Försäkringskassan (n.d.).

3.3.4 Public Education The expenditures statistics for public education were taken from the Swedish National Agency for Education’s *Kostnader för skolväsendet och annan pedagogisk verksamhet 2019* (Skolverket, 2019b), and the statistics for caseloads were taken from the data tables for the *Elever och skolenheter i grundskolan läsåret 2018/19* (Skolverket, 2019a).

3.4 Overall Expenditures for Each Country Aggregate government spending numbers were taken from the OECD’s data explorer under the *Annual government expenditure by function (COFOG)* table (OECD, n.d.a). The data were broken down by spending category. The statistics for US interest on the debt come from the CBO’s *The Federal Budget in 2019: An Infographic* (Congressional Budget Office, 2020a) and the social programs breakdown from *A Closer Look at Mandatory Spending* (Congressional Budget Office, 2020b).

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