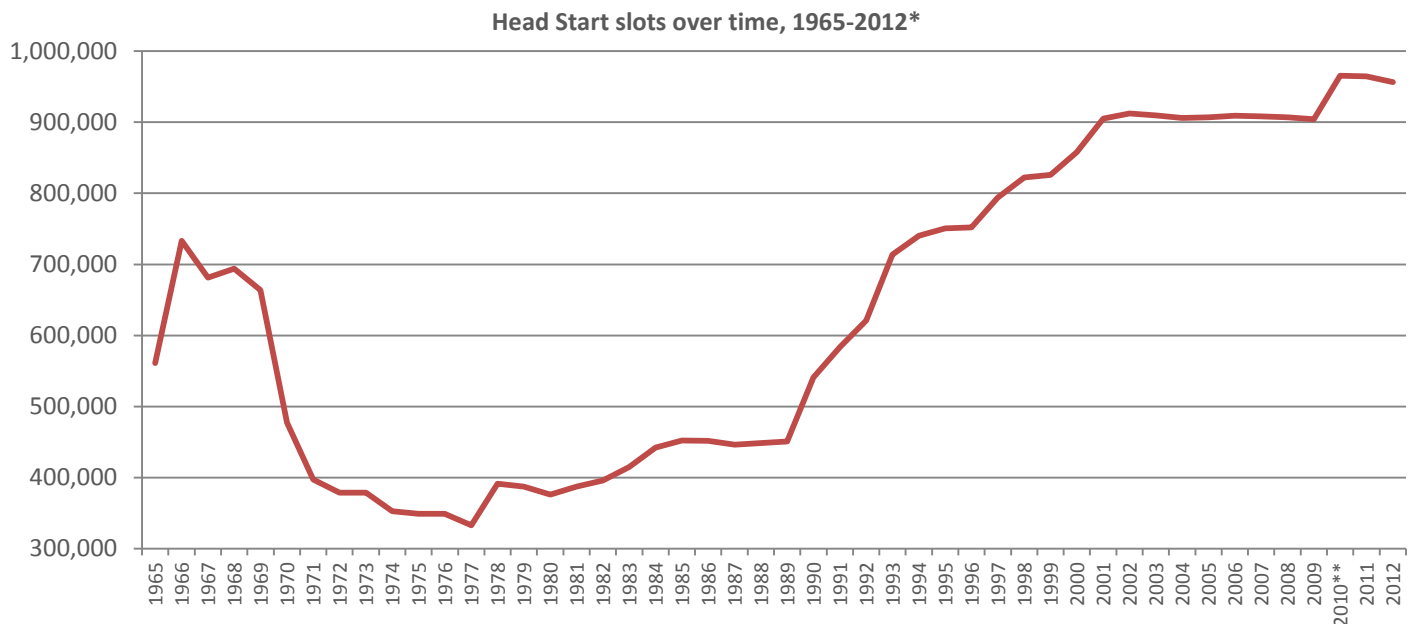


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Trends in Head Start Slots Over Time*

The graph below shows a steep decline in Head Start slots in the early 1970s, followed by a steady expansion from 1989-2001 and a period of leveled enrollment from 2001 to 2009. In 2010, temporary funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) increased slots, and in 2011 and 2012, Congress authorized the additional funds needed to maintain the increased enrollment levels. However, decreases in funding as a consequence of the 2013 sequestration forced some Head Start centers to reduce enrollment or shut down completely,¹ with Hispanic and black children most likely to be impacted by the cuts.²



*Total slots include slots in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories. It includes all four Head Start programs: Head Start, American Indian/Alaska Native, Migrant & Seasonal and Early Head Start.

**FY 2010 slots includes ARRA one-time funded enrollment of about 61,000 slots. In FY 2011 and 2012, Congress authorized funds to maintain this number of slots.

Sources & notes:

Graph source: Head Start Fact Sheets, 1979-2009. Head Start Fact Sheets 2004-2012 are available online at the Office of Head Start, Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center (ECLKC). Head Start Fact Sheets 1979-2003 are available by request from Office of Head Start.

¹ Weisman, J. (2013, May 5). Stories of struggle and creativity as sequestration cuts hit home. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com/2013/05/06/us/politics/sequester-leads-to-creative-stopgap-measures.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0; Martin, M. (Host). (2013, May 6). Sequester slams Head Start programs [Radio talk show: *Tell Me More*. National Public Radio. Retrieved from <http://www.npr.org/2013/05/06/181601020/sequester-slams-head-start-programs>.

² Hamm, K. (2013, August 28). Who's not going back to school? *The Center for American Progress*. Retrieved from <http://www.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/NoBacktoSchool-brief-2.pdf>.