Cradle to Prison Pipeline Alabama



2007

Poverty

Poverty is the largest driving force of the Cradle to Prison Pipeline crisis.

- In Alabama, among all children, **1 in 4** (24.8 percent or 266,510) **was poor**.
  - For **Black** children **4 in 9** (45.1 percent or 152,461) were poor.
  - For **Latino** children **3 in 8** (37.6 percent or 12,297) were poor.
  - For **White**, non-Latino children **1 in 7** (14.0 percent or 93,760) was poor.
  - For **American Indian/Alaska Native** children **1 in 4** (24.5 percent or 1,122) was poor.
  - For **Asian** children **1 in 6** (17.7 percent or 1,570) was poor.
- In Alabama, a **baby is born poor** every **30 minutes**.
  - A **Black** baby is born poor every **50 minutes**.
  - A **Latino** baby is born poor every **10 hours**.
  - A **White,** non-Latino baby is born poor every **2 hours**.
  - An **American Indian/Alaska Native** baby is born poor every **4 days**.
  - An **Asian** baby is born poor every **week**.

Health Care

Disadvantages in health care increase the risk that poor children and particularly poor children of color will be trapped in the pipeline.

- In 2005, an estimated **81,000 children (7.0%)** were **uninsured** in Alabama.
- In 2004, **6,201 babies (10.4%)** were born at **low birthweight** in Alabama. This included:
  - 15.1% of Black, non-Latino babies;
  - 6.8% of Latino babies; and,
  - 8.5% of White, non-Latino babies.
- **18.3%** of two-year-olds in Alabama **did not receive** all recommended **immunizations** in 2005.

Early Childhood

Children who do not participate in high-quality early education have higher rates of juvenile delinquency, arrests, and juvenile court petitions.

- In the 2004-2005 school year, **11.6% of 3-year-olds** and **23.2% of 4-year-olds** were enrolled in **state-funded preschool programs** in **Alabama**.
- In 2005, **16,374 children** were enrolled in **Head Start and Early Head Start** in **Alabama**. Of these:
  - 73.2% were Black, non-Latino;
  - 3.7% were Latino; and,
  - 20.9% were White, non-Latino.

Child Welfare

Children in foster care or with a history of abuse and neglect are at higher risk of being trapped in the pipeline.

- In 2003, there were **6,079 children in foster care** in Alabama.

- In 2004, there were **9,414 victims of child maltreatment** in Alabama.

Education

Educational disadvantages make it more likely that children will enter the juvenile justice system.

- In 2005, **a disproportionate number** of Black and Latino **fourth graders could not read at grade level.** In Alabama, 92% of Black, non-Latino and 68% of White, non-Latino fourth graders could not read at grade level.
- **Students who are suspended or expelled are more likely than their peers to drop out of school altogether.** In Alabama:
  - For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 14.8 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 3.1 suspensions.
  - For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 5.6 suspensions.
  - For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 3.3 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 3.0 suspensions.
- In Alabama, the **school districts with the highest rates of suspension for Blacks** are:
  - Tuscaloosa County School District (55 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled);
  - Madison City School District (34 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled); and,
  - Macon County School District (30 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled).
- In Alabama, **12.0% of youth ages 16 to 19 were neither enrolled in school nor high school graduates**.

Juvenile Justice System and Incarceration

Children of color are disproportionately represented in both the juvenile and criminal justice systems.

- In Alabama, there were **11,484 juvenile arrests** in 2005.
- Of the estimated **1,794 youth in residential placement in Alabama** in 2003:
  - 978 (54.5%) were Black, non-Latino;
  - 39 (2.2%) were Latino; and,
  - 768 (42.8%) were White, non-Latino.
- There were **236 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities** in Alabama**.**
- Alabama spends **1.5 times as much per prisoner as per public school pupil.**

Community Violence

Between 1979 and 2004, gunfire killed 101,413 children and teens in America, destroying countless families and communities.

- In 2004, **52 children and teenagers** in Alabama **died of firearm injuries,** including: **31 homicides**, 16 suicides, and 5 unintentional and undetermined shootings.
- In 2005, **31.7%** of Alabama's high school students were **involved in a physical fight.**
- In 2005, **10.6%** of Alabama's high school students were **threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.**
- **21.0%** of Alabama's high school students **carried a weapon** 2 or more times in the preceding month.