# Cradle to Prison Pipeline
# District of Columbia




Children's Defense Fund

2007

***Poverty***

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

- In the District of Columbia, among all children, **1 in 3** (32.2 percent or 35,310) **was poor**.
  - For **Black** children **2 in 5** (40.1 percent or 31,197) were poor.
  - For **Latino** children **1 in 6** (17.4 percent or 2,054) was poor.
  - For **White**, non-Latino children **1 in 11** (9.3 percent or 1,450) was poor.
- In the District of Columbia, a **baby is born poor** every **3 hours**.
  - A **Black** baby is born poor every **4 hours**.
  - A **Latino** baby is born poor every **4 days**.
  - A **White**, non-Latino baby is born poor every **2 days**.

***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 **10,000 children (8.5%)** were **uninsured** in District of Columbia.
- In 2004, **880 babies (11.1%)** were born at **low birthweight** in District of Columbia. This included:
  - 14.1% of Black, non-Latino babies;
  - 7.8% of Latino babies; and,
  - 5.6% of White, non-Latino babies.
- **27.9%** of two-year-olds in District of Columbia **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 2005, **3,403 children** were enrolled in **Head Start and Early Head Start** in **District of Columbia**. Of these:
  - 80.1% were Black, non-Latino;
  - 18.4% were Latino; and,
  - 5.0% 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 **3,092 children in foster care** in District of Columbia.
- In 2004, there were **2,378 victims of child maltreatment** in District of Columbia.

***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 District of Columbia:
  - 92% of Black, non-Latino;
  - 88% of Latino; and,
  - 30% 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 District of Columbia:
  - For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 12.5 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 4.9 suspensions.
  - For every 100 White students enrolled, there were .7 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were .6 suspensions.
- In District of Columbia, **10.2% 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 District of Columbia, there were **347 juvenile arrests** in 2005.
- Of the estimated **285 youth in residential placement in District of Columbia** in 2003:
  - 231 (81.1%) were Black, non-Latino and
  - 33 (11.6%) were Latino.
- There were **39 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities** in District of Columbia**.**

***Community Violence***

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

- In 2004, **40 children and teenagers** in District of Columbia **died of firearm injuries,** including: **39 homicides** and 1 unintentional shooting.
- In 2005, **36.3%** of District of Columbia's high school students were **involved in a physical fight.**
- In 2005, **12.1%** of District of Columbia's high school students were **threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.**
- **17.2%** of District of Columbia's high school students **carried a weapon** 2 or more times in the preceding month.