Cradle to Prison Pipeline Iowa



2007

Poverty

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

- In Iowa, among all children, **1 in 7** (14.0 percent or 92,227) **was poor**.
  - For **Black** children **4 in 9** (45.0 percent or 10,050) were poor.
  - For **Latino** children **3 in 10** (31.3 percent or 12,344) were poor.
  - For **White**, non-Latino children **1 in 9** (11.2 percent or 63,897) was poor.
  - For **Asian** children **1 in 15** (6.5 percent or 700) was poor.
- In Iowa, a **baby is born poor** every **hour**.
  - A **Black** baby is born poor every **15 hours**.
  - A **Latino** baby is born poor every **10 hours**.
  - A **White**, non-Latino baby is born poor every **2 hours**.
  - 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 **49,000 children (6.9%)** were **uninsured** in Iowa.
- In 2004, **2,686 babies (7.0%)** were born at **low birthweight** in Iowa. This included:
  - 11.0% of Black, non-Latino babies;
  - 6.1% of Latino babies; and,
  - 6.9% of White, non-Latino babies.
- **24.1%** of two-year-olds in Iowa **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, **12.5% of 3-year-olds** and **21.0% of 4-year-olds** were enrolled in **state-funded preschool programs** in **Iowa**.
- In 2005, **7,735 children** were enrolled in **Head Start and Early Head Start** in **Iowa**. Of these:
  - 12.6% were Black, non-Latino;
  - 14.5% were Latino; and,
  - 67.6% 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 **5,011 children in foster care** in Iowa.
- In 2004, there were **13,804 victims of child maltreatment** in Iowa.

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 Iowa:
  - 88% of Black, non-Latino;
  - 85% of Latino; and,
  - 64% 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 Iowa:
  - For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 16.1 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 4.5 suspensions.
  - For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 3.0 suspensions.
  - For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 3.3 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 2.1 suspensions.
- In Iowa, the **school districts with the highest rates of suspension for Blacks** are:
  - Waterloo Community School District (29 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled);
  - Davenport Community School District (26 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled); and,
  - Des Moines Independent Community Schools (19 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled).
- In Iowa, **5.8% 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 Iowa, there were **19,926 juvenile arrests** in 2005.
- Of the estimated **975 youth in residential placement in Iowa** in 2003:
  - 156 (16.0%) were Black, non-Latino;
  - 69 (7.1%) were Latino; and,
  - 714 (73.2%) were White, non-Latino.
- There were **74 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities** in Iowa**.**
- Iowa spends **3.6 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, **16 children and teenagers** in Iowa **died of firearm injuries,** including: **2 homicides**, 13 suicides, and 1 unintentional shooting.
- In 2005, **28.3%** of Iowa's high school students were **involved in a physical fight.**
- In 2005, **7.8%** of Iowa's high school students were **threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.**
- **15.7%** of Iowa's high school students **carried a weapon** 2 or more times in the preceding month.