Cradle to Prison Pipeline Kansas



Children's Defense Fund

2007

Poverty

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

- In Kansas, among all children, **1 in 7** (15.1 percent or 99,784) **was poor**.
  - For **Black** children **3 in 8** (37.5 percent or 17,219) were poor.
  - For **Latino** children **3 in 10** (30.0 percent or 24,139) were poor.
  - For **White**, non-Latino children **1 in 9** (10.6 percent or 52,747) was poor.
  - For **American Indian/Alaska Native** children **2 in 7** (27.1 percent or 1,943) were poor.
  - For **Asian** children **1 in 11** (9.5 percent or 1,176) was poor.
- In Kansas, a **baby is born poor** every **hour**.
  - A **Black** baby is born poor every **7 hours**.
  - A **Latino** baby is born poor every **5 hours**.
  - A **White**, non-Latino baby is born poor every **2 hours**.
  - An **American Indian/Alaska Native** baby is born poor every **3 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 **48,000 children (6.7%)** were **uninsured** in Kansas.
- In 2004, **2,898 babies (7.3%)** were born at **low birthweight** in Kansas. This included:
  - 13.7% of Black, non-Latino babies;
  - 6.3% of Latino babies; and,
  - 7.0% of White, non-Latino babies.
- **28.0%** of two-year-olds in Kansas **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, **12.6% of 3-year-olds** and **34.9% of 4-year-olds** were enrolled in **state-funded preschool programs** in **Kansas**.
- In 2005, **7,931 children** were enrolled in **Head Start and Early Head Start** in **Kansas**. Of these:
  - 18.2% were Black, non-Latino;
  - 25.8% were Latino; and,
  - 48.1% 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 **5,781 children in foster care** in Kansas.

- In 2004, there were **4,895 victims of child maltreatment** in Kansas.

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 Kansas:
  - 90% of Black, non-Latino;
  - 86% of Latino; and,
  - 63% 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 Kansas:
  - For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 16.3 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 7.5 suspensions.
  - For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 4.0 suspensions.
  - For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 7.4 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 2.8 suspensions.
- In Kansas, the **school districts with the highest rates of suspension for Blacks** are:
  - Kansas City (23 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled);
  - Topeka Public Schools (18 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled); and,
  - Geary County Schools (16 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled).
- In Kansas, **8.1% 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 Kansas, there were **6,555 juvenile arrests** in 2005.
- Of the estimated **1,071 youth in residential placement in Kansas** in 2003:
  - 333 (31.1%) were Black, non-Latino;
  - 114 (10.6%) were Latino; and,
  - 537 (50.1%) were White, non-Latino.
- There were **111 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities** in Kansas**.**
- Kansas spends **3.3 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, **26 children and teenagers** in Kansas **died of firearm injuries,** including: **13 homicides**, 12 suicides, and 1 unintentional shooting.
- In 2005, **27.9%** of Kansas's high school students were **involved in a physical fight.**
- In 2005, **7.4%** of Kansas's high school students were **threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.**
- **16.2%** of Kansas's high school students **carried a weapon** 2 or more times in the preceding month.