

Cradle to Prison Pipeline Maryland



Children's Defense Fund

2007

Poverty

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

- In Maryland, among all children, **1 in 9** (10.8 percent or 148,210) **was poor**.
 - For **Black** children **1 in 5** (19.8 percent or 89,204) was poor.
 - For **Latino** children **1 in 9** (11.1 percent or 11,150) was poor.
 - For **White**, non-Latino children **1 in 17** (5.8 percent or 42,104) was poor.
 - For **Asian** children **1 in 16** (6.2 percent or 3,518) was poor.
- In Maryland, a **baby is born poor every 59 minutes**.
 - A **Black** baby is born poor every **2 hours**.
 - A **Latino** baby is born poor every **11 hours**.
 - A **White**, non-Latino baby is born poor every **3 hours**.
 - An **Asian** 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 **135,000 children (9.1%)** were **uninsured** in Maryland.
- In 2004, **6,947 babies (9.3%)** were born at **low birthweight** in Maryland. This included:
 - 13.2% of Black, non-Latino babies;
 - 7.3% of Latino babies; and,
 - 7.4% of White, non-Latino babies.
- **21.4%** of two-year-olds in Maryland **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, **10.4% of 3-year-olds** and **43.4% of 4-year-olds** were enrolled in **state-funded preschool programs** in Maryland.
- In 2005, **10,347 children** were enrolled in **Head Start and Early Head Start** in Maryland. Of these:
 - 65.1% were Black, non-Latino;
 - 11.0% were Latino; and,
 - 19.3% 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 **11,521 children in foster care** in Maryland.
- In 2004, there were **15,180 victims of child maltreatment** in Maryland.

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 Maryland:
 - 88% of Black, non-Latino;
 - 79% of Latino; and,
 - 55% 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 Maryland:
 - For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 9.3 suspensions.
 - For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 4.4 suspensions.
 - For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 5.9 suspensions.
 - For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 6.8 suspensions.
 - For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 2.0 suspensions.
- In Maryland, the **school districts with the highest rates of suspension for Blacks** are:
 - Somerset County Public Schools (45 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled);
 - Board of Education, Worcester County (28 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled); and,
 - Wicomico Country Board of Education (20 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled).
- In Maryland, **8.4% 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 Maryland, there were **49,297 juvenile arrests** in 2005.
- Of the estimated **1,167 youth in residential placement in Maryland** in 2003:
 - 672 (57.6%) were Black, non-Latino;
 - 105 (9.0%) were Latino; and,
 - 366 (31.4%) were White, non-Latino.
- There were **295 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities** in Maryland.
- Maryland spends **2.6 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, **71 children and teenagers** in Maryland **died of firearm injuries**, including: **61 homicides**, 9 suicides, and 1 unintentional shooting.
- In 2005, **36.6%** of Maryland's high school students were **involved in a physical fight**.
- In 2005, **11.7%** of Maryland's high school students were **threatened or injured with a weapon on school property**.
- **19.1%** of Maryland's high school students **carried a weapon** 2 or more times in the preceding month.