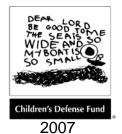
# **Cradle to Prison Pipeline Montana**



### Poverty

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

- In Montana, among all children, 1 in 5 (20.1 percent or 40,385) was poor.
  - o For **Latino** children **2 in 5** (39.4 percent or 2,799) were poor.
  - o For **White**, non-Latino children **1 in 6** (17.0 percent or 28,374) was poor.
  - o For American Indian/Alaska Native children 3 in 8 (38.7 percent or 6,773) were poor.
- In Montana, a **baby is born poor** every 4 hours.
  - o A Latino baby is born poor every 3 days.
  - o A White, non-Latino baby is born poor every 6 hours.
  - o An American Indian/Alaska Native baby is born poor every day.

#### 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 **36,000 children (16.2%)** were **uninsured** in Montana.
- In 2004, **880 babies** (**7.6%**) were born at **low birthweight** in Montana. This included:
  - o 8.6% of Latino babies and
  - o 7.6% of White, non-Latino babies.
- 34.6% of two-year-olds in Montana 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, 17.7% of 3-year-olds and 29.4% of 4-year-olds were enrolled in state-funded preschool programs in Montana.
- In 2005, **2,939 children** were enrolled in **Head Start and Early Head Start** in **Montana**. Of these:
  - o .6% were Black, non-Latino;
  - o 9.0% were Latino; and,
  - o 49.0% 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 **1,866 children in foster care** in Montana.
- In 2004, there were **1,753 victims of child maltreatment** in Montana.

## **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 Montana:
  - o 64% of Latino and
  - o 61% 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 Montana:
  - o For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 4.5 suspensions.
  - o For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 5.1 suspensions.
  - o For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 2.9 suspensions.
  - o For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 10.9 suspensions.
  - o For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 1.2 suspensions.
- In Montana, 8.0% 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 Montana, there were **6,493 juvenile arrests** in 2005.
- Of the estimated **261 youth in residential placement in Montana** in 2003, 171 (65.5%) were White, non-Latino.
- There were 69 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities in Montana.
- Montana spends 2.3 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, **12 children and teenagers** in Montana **died of firearm injuries,** including: **1 homicide**, 10 suicides, and 1 unintentional shooting.
- In 2005, 30.5% of Montana's high school students were involved in a physical fight.
- In 2005, **8.0%** of Montana's high school students were **threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.**
- 21.4% of Montana's high school students carried a weapon 2 or more times in the preceding month.

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