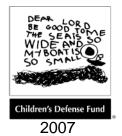
# **Cradle to Prison Pipeline Nebraska**



## Poverty

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

- In Nebraska, among all children, 1 in 7 (14.8 percent or 62,915) was poor.
  - o For **Black** children **3 in 5** (59.6 percent or 12,764) were poor.
  - o For **Latino** children **3 in 10** (30.0 percent or 13,940) were poor.
  - o For White, non-Latino children 1 in 11 (9.2 percent or 30,767) was poor.
  - o For American Indian/Alaska Native children 1 in 3 (32.1 percent or 1,545) was poor.
- In Nebraska, a baby is born poor every 2 hours.
  - o A Black baby is born poor every 11 hours.
  - o A Latino baby is born poor every 8 hours.
  - o A White, non-Latino baby is born poor every 4 hours.
  - o An American Indian/Alaska Native baby is born poor every 6 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 **29,000 children (6.4%)** were **uninsured** in Nebraska.
- In 2004, 1,854 babies (7.0%) were born at low birthweight in Nebraska. This included:
  - o 11.8% of Black, non-Latino babies:
  - o 5.9% of Latino babies; and,
  - o 7.0% of White, non-Latino babies.
- 16.1% of two-year-olds in Nebraska 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, 13.3% of 3-year-olds and 20.6% of 4-year-olds were enrolled in state-funded preschool programs in Nebraska.
- In 2005, **5,080 children** were enrolled in **Head Start and Early Head Start** in **Nebraska**. Of these:
  - o 14.6% were Black, non-Latino;
  - o 25.0% were Latino; and,
  - o 54.1% 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 **6,091 children in foster care** in Nebraska.
- In 2004, there were **4,785 victims of child maltreatment** in Nebraska.

### 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 Nebraska:
  - o 90% of Black, non-Latino;
  - o 88% of Latino; and,
  - o 60% 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 Nebraska:
  - o For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 6.6 suspensions.
  - o For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 4.0 suspensions.
  - o For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 2.7 suspensions.
  - o For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 18.7 suspensions.
  - o For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 2.3 suspensions.
- In Nebraska, the school districts with the highest rates of suspension for Blacks are:
  - o Omaha Public Schools (13 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled) and
  - o Lincoln Public Schools (11 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled).
- In Nebraska, 7.0% 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 Nebraska, there were **15,219 juvenile arrests** in 2005.
- Of the estimated **672 youth in residential placement in Nebraska** in 2003:
  - o 186 (27.7%) were Black, non-Latino;
  - o 69 (10.3%) were Latino; and,
  - o 363 (54.0%) were White, non-Latino.
- There were 49 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities in Nebraska.
- Nebraska spends 2.4 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, **15 children and teenagers** in Nebraska **died of firearm injuries**, including: **4 homicides**, 9 suicides, and 2 unintentional shootings.
- In 2005, 28.5% of Nebraska's high school students were involved in a physical fight.
- In 2005, 9.7% of Nebraska's high school students were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.
- 17.9% of Nebraska's high school students carried a weapon 2 or more times in the preceding month.