

# Cradle to Prison Pipeline Nevada



Children's Defense Fund

2007

## Poverty

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

- In Nevada, among all children, **1 in 7** (14.9 percent or 89,648) **was poor**.
  - For **Black** children **3 in 10** (30.3 percent or 16,219) were poor.
  - For **Latino** children **2 in 9** (21.2 percent or 42,656) were poor.
  - For **White**, non-Latino children **1 in 13** (8.0 percent 22,934) was poor.
  - For **American Indian/Alaska Native** children **1 in 4** (24.4 percent or 1,904) was poor.
  - For **Asian** children **1 in 16** (6.4 percent or 1,734) was poor.
- In Nevada, a **baby is born poor every 2 hours**.
  - A **Black** baby is born poor every **9 hours**.
  - A **Latino** baby is born poor every **3 hours**.
  - A **White**, non-Latino a baby is born poor every **6 hours**.
  - An **American Indian/Alaska Native** baby is born poor every **week**.
  - 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 **107,000 children (16.4%)** were **uninsured** in Nevada.
- In 2004, **2,809 babies (8.0%)** were born at **low birthweight** in Nevada. This included:
  - 13.8% of Black, non-Latino babies;
  - 6.3% of Latino babies; and,
  - 7.8% of White, non-Latino babies.
- **36.8%** of two-year-olds in Nevada **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, **7.0% of 3-year-olds** and **13.2% of 4-year-olds** were enrolled in **state-funded preschool programs** in Nevada.
- In 2005, **2,754 children** were enrolled in **Head Start and Early Head Start** in Nevada. Of these:
  - 18.7% were Black, non-Latino;
  - 50.6% were Latino; and,
  - 17.7% 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 **3,599 children in foster care** in Nevada.

- In 2004, there were **4,377 victims of child maltreatment** in Nevada.

### **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 Nevada:
  - 90% of Black, non-Latino;
  - 88% of Latino; and,
  - 72% 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 Nevada:
  - For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 13.7 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 6.9 suspensions.
  - For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 6.1 suspensions.
  - For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 10.2 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 4.1 suspensions.
- In Nevada, the **school districts with the highest rates of suspension for Blacks** are:
  - Washoe County School District (9 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled) and
  - Clark County School District (8 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled).
- In Nevada, **16.0% 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 Nevada, there were **15,749 juvenile arrests** in 2005.
- Of the estimated **921 youth in residential placement in Nevada** in 2003:
  - 222 (24.1%) were Black, non-Latino;
  - 231 (25.1%) were Latino; and,
  - 423 (45.9%) were White, non-Latino.
- There were **218 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities** in Nevada.
- Nevada spends **2.7 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, **27 children and teenagers** in Nevada **died of firearm injuries**, including: **18 homicides**, 7 suicides, and 2 unintentional shootings.
- In 2005, **34.5%** of Nevada's high school students were **involved in a physical fight**.
- In 2005, **8.1%** of Nevada's high school students were **threatened or injured with a weapon on school property**.
- **18.4%** of Nevada's high school students **carried a weapon** 2 or more times in the preceding month.