Cradle to Prison Pipeline
New York



Children's Defense Fund

2007

Poverty

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

- In New York, among all children, **1 in 5** (19.4 percent or 865,102) **was poor**.
  - For **Black** children **3 in 10** (29.8 percent or 245,690) were poor.
  - For **Latino** children **1 in 3** (34.0 percent or 302,151) was poor.
  - For **White**, non-Latino children **1 in 9** (10.9 percent or 260,502) was poor.
  - For **American Indian/Alaska Native** children **1 in 4** (25.0 percent or 4,053) was poor.
  - For **Asian** children **1 in 5** (19.7 percent or 53,512) was poor.
- In New York, a **baby is born poor** every **10 minutes**.
  - A **Black** baby is born poor every **35 minutes**.
  - A **Latino** baby is born poor every **29 minutes**.
  - A **White**, non-Latino baby is born poor every **35 minutes**.
  - An **American Indian/Alaska Native** baby is born poor every **2 days**.
  - An **Asian** baby is born poor every **3 hours**.

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 **384,000 children (8.0%)** were **uninsured** in New York.
- In 2004, **20,393 babies (8.2%)** were born at **low birthweight** in New York. This included:
  - 13.0% of Black, non-Latino babies;
  - 7.5% of Latino babies; and,
  - 6.9% of White, non-Latino babies.
- **25.6%** of two-year-olds in New York **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, **15.3% of 3-year-olds** and **48.2% of 4-year-olds** were enrolled in **state-funded preschool programs** in **New York**.
- In 2005, **49,127 children** were enrolled in **Head Start and Early Head Start** in **New York**. Of these:
  - 28.6% were Black, non-Latino;
  - 34.8% were Latino; and,
  - 33.3% 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 **37,067 children in foster care** in New York.

- In 2004, there were **74,483 victims of child maltreatment** in New York.

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 New York:
  - 83% of Black, non-Latino;
  - 83% of Latino; and,
  - 57% 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 New York:
  - For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 5.3 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 2.6 suspensions.
  - For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 3.1 suspensions.
  - For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 3.0 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there was 1.0 suspension.
- In New York, the **school districts with the highest rates of suspension for Blacks** are:
  - Freeport Unified School District (23 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled);
  - Middletown City School District (22 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled); and,
  - Schenectady School District (22 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled).
- In New York, **8.8% 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 New York, there were **48,377 juvenile arrests** in 2005.
- Of the estimated **4,308 youth in residential placement in New York** in 2003:
  - 2,181 (50.6%) were Black, non-Latino;
  - 804 (18.7%) were Latino; and,
  - 1,200 (27.9%) were White, non-Latino.
- There were **1,739 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities** in New York**.**
- New York 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, **89 children and teenagers** in New York **died of firearm injuries,** including: **69 homicides**, 16 suicides, and 4 unintentional shootings.
- In 2005, **32.1%** of New York's high school students were **involved in a physical fight.**
- In 2005, **7.2%** of New York's high school students were **threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.**
- **14.3%** of New York's high school students **carried a weapon** 2 or more times in the preceding month.