

Cradle to Prison Pipeline

North Dakota



Children's Defense Fund

2007

Poverty

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

- In North Dakota, among all children, **1 in 7** (13.5 percent or 17,896) was poor.
 - For **White**, non-Latino children **1 in 9** (11.0 percent or 12,548) was poor.
 - For **American Indian/Alaska Native** children **3 in 7** (42.2 percent or 3,781) were poor.
- In North Dakota, a **baby is born poor every 7 hours**.
 - A **White**, non-Latino baby is born poor every **10 hours**.
 - An **American Indian/Alaska Native** 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 **14,000 children (9.3%)** were **uninsured** in North Dakota.
- In 2004, **539 babies (6.6%)** were born at **low birthweight** in North Dakota.
- **21.3%** of two-year-olds in North Dakota **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, **20.0% of 3-year-olds** and **32.1% of 4-year-olds** were enrolled in **state-funded preschool programs** in North Dakota.
- In 2005, **2,353 children** were enrolled in **Head Start and Early Head Start** in North Dakota. Of these:
 - 2.6% were Black, non-Latino;
 - 2.6% were Latino; and,
 - 55.2% 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 **1,238 children in foster care** in North Dakota.
- In 2004, there were **1,668 victims of child maltreatment** in North Dakota.

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 North Dakota 62% 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 North Dakota:
 - For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 5.5 suspensions.
 - For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 3.8 suspensions.
 - For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 1.8 suspensions.
 - For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 8.7 suspensions.
 - For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 1.7 suspensions.
- In North Dakota, **4.8% 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 North Dakota, there were **6,599 of juvenile arrests** in 2005.
- Of the estimated **246 youth in residential placement in North Dakota** in 2003, 147 (59.8%) were White, non-Latino.
- There were **6 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities** in North Dakota.
- North Dakota spends **4.0 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, **10 children and teenagers** in North Dakota **died of firearm injuries**, including: **1 homicide**, 6 suicides, and 3 unintentional and undetermined shootings.
- In 2005, **6.6%** of North Dakota's high school students were **threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.**