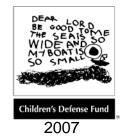
# **Cradle to Prison Pipeline Texas**



### Poverty

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

- In Texas, among all children, **1 in 4** (24.9 percent or 1,548,069) was poor.
  - o For **Black** children **1 in 3** (34.4 percent or 257,075) was poor.
  - o For **Latino** children **3 in 8** (36.1 percent or 989,521) were poor.
  - o For White, non-Latino children 1 in 10 (10.5 percent or 255,307) was poor.
  - o For American Indian/Alaska Native children 1 in 4 (25.5 percent or 6,840) was poor.
  - o For **Asian** children **1 in 8** (13.0 percent or 23,378) was poor.
- In Texas, a baby is born poor every 5 minutes.
  - o A Black baby is born poor every 32 minutes.
  - o A Latino baby is born poor every 7 minutes.
  - o A White, non-Latino baby is born poor every 33 minutes.
  - o An American Indian/Alaska Native baby is born poor every 20 hours.
  - o An **Asian** baby is born poor every **9 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 **1,346,000 children (20.2%)** were **uninsured** in Texas.
- In 2004, 30,621 babies (8.0%) were born at low birthweight in Texas. This included:
  - o 13.9% of Black, non-Latino babies;
  - o 7.2% of Latino babies; and,
  - o 7.4% of White, non-Latino babies.
- 23.2% of two-year-olds in Texas 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 60.2% of 4-year-olds were enrolled in state-funded preschool programs in Texas.
- In 2005, 67,327 children were enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start in Texas. Of these:
  - o 18.9% were Black, non-Latino;
  - o 66.8% were Latino; and,
  - o 33.8% 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 **22,191 children in foster care** in Texas.

• In 2004, there were **50,891 victims of child maltreatment** in Texas.

# **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 Texas:
  - o 85% of Black, non-Latino;
  - o 81% of Latino; and,
  - o 56% 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 Texas:
  - o For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 10.1 suspensions.
  - o For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 5.1 suspensions.
  - o For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 2.8 suspensions.
  - o For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 2.7 suspensions.
  - o For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 1.8 suspensions.
- In Texas, the school districts with the highest rates of suspension for Blacks are:
  - o Pasadena School District (47 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled);
  - o Galveston School District (33 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled); and,
  - o Desoto School District (29 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled).
- In Texas, 12.6% 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 Texas, there were **173,568 juvenile arrests** in 2005.
- Of the estimated **7,662 youth in residential placement in Texas** in 2003:
  - o 2,418 (31.6%) were Black, non-Latino;
  - o 3,177 (41.5%) were Latino; and,
  - o 2,043 (26.7%) were White, non-Latino.
- There were 3,420 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities in Texas.
- Texas 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, **236 children and teenagers** in Texas **died of firearm injuries**, including: **144 homicides**, 79 suicides, and 13 unintentional and undetermined shootings.
- In 2005, 34.2% of Texas's high school students were involved in a physical fight.
- In 2005, 9.3% of Texas's high school students were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.
- 19.3% of Texas's high school students carried a weapon 2 or more times in the preceding month.