Cradle to Prison Pipeline Utah



2007

Poverty

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

- In Utah, among all children, **1 in 9** (10.9 percent or 79,854) **was poor**.
  - For **Latino** children **2 in 7** (27.8 percent or 26,791) were poor.
  - For **White**, non-Latino children **1 in 13** (7.6 percent or 44,598) was poor.
  - For **American Indian/Alaska Native** children **1 in 3** (32.8 percent or 3,346) was poor.
  - For **Asian** children **1 in 13** (7.5 percent or 772) was poor.
- In Utah, a **baby is born poor** every **hour**.
  - A **Latino** baby is born poor every **4 hours**.
  - A **White**, non-Latino baby is born poor every **3 hours**.
  - An **American Indian/Alaska Native** baby is born poor every **2 days**.
  - 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 **86,000 children (11.0%)** were **uninsured** in Utah.
- In 2004, **3,379 babies (6.7%)** were born at **low birthweight** in Utah. This included:
  - 10.8% of Black, non-Latino babies;
  - 7.6% of Latino babies; and,
  - 6.3% of White, non-Latino babies.
- **31.9%** of two-year-olds in Utah **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 **14.5% of 4-year-olds** were enrolled in **state-funded preschool programs** in **Utah**.
- In 2005, **5,518 children** were enrolled in **Head Start and Early Head Start** in **Utah**. Of these:
  - 1.3% were Black, non-Latino;
  - 39.7% were Latino; and,
  - 48.3% 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 **2,033 children in foster care** in Utah.
- In 2004, there were **13,559 victims of child maltreatment** in Utah.

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 Utah:
  - 86% of Latino and
  - 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 Utah:
  - For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 7.5 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 7.5 suspensions.
  - For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 3.1 suspensions.
  - For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 4.9 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 5.4 suspensions.
- In Utah, **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 Utah, there were **26,481 juvenile arrests** in 2005.
- Of the estimated **954 youth in residential placement in Utah** in 2003:
  - 36 (3.8%) were Black, non-Latino;
  - 186 (19.5%) were Latino; and,
  - 672 (70.4%) were White, non-Latino.
- There were **168 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities** in Utah**.**
- Utah spends **7.8 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 Utah **died of firearm injuries,** including: **4 homicides** and 11 suicides.
- In 2005, **25.9%** of Utah's high school students were **involved in a physical fight.**
- In 2005, **9.8%** of Utah's high school students were **threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.**
- **17.7%** of Utah's high school students **carried a weapon** 2 or more times in the preceding month.