Cradle to Prison Pipeline Vermont



Children's Defense Fund

2007

Poverty

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

- In Vermont, among all children, **1 in 7** (15.4 percent or 20,194) **was poor**.
- In Vermont, a **baby is born poor** every **8 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 **8,000 children (5.7%)** were **uninsured** in Vermont.
- In 2004, **423 babies (6.4%)** were born at **low birthweight** in Vermont.
- **37.1%** of two-year-olds in Vermont **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, **27.0% of 3-year-olds** and **64.1% of 4-year-olds** were enrolled in **state-funded preschool programs** in **Vermont**.
- In 2005, **1,569 children** were enrolled in **Head Start and Early Head Start** in **Vermont**. Of these:
  - 2.7% were Black, non-Latino;
  - 3.2% were Latino; and,
  - 87.9% 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 **1,409 children in foster care** in Vermont.
- In 2004, there were **1,138 victims of child maltreatment** in Vermont.

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 Vermont 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 Vermont:
  - For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 4.7 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 3.4 suspensions.
  - For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 4.9 suspensions.

- For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 4.6 suspensions.
- For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 1.7 suspensions.

- In Vermont, **5.9% 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 Vermont, there were **1,599 juvenile arrests** in 2005.
- Of the estimated **51 youth in residential placement in Vermont** in 2003, 48 (94.1%) were White, non-Latino.
- There were **18 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities** in Vermont**.**
- Vermont spends **4.1 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, **3 children and teenagers** in Vermont **died of firearm injuries,** including: 2 suicides and 1 unintentional shooting.
- In 2005, **24.3%** of Vermont's high school students were **involved in a physical fight.**
- In 2005, **6.3%** of Vermont's high school students were **threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.**

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