

Cradle to Prison Pipeline Washington



Children's Defense Fund

2007

Poverty

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

- In Washington, among all children, **1 in 7** (15.1 percent or 219,214) **was poor**.
 - For **Black** children **2 in 7** (27.7 percent or 16,438) were poor.
 - For **Latino** children **3 in 10** (31.1 percent or 61,337) were poor.
 - For **White**, non-Latino children **1 in 9** (10.9 percent or 109,217) was poor.
 - For **American Indian/Alaska Native** children **2 in 5** (39.1 percent or 9,657) were poor.
 - For **Asian** children **1 in 10** (10.4 percent or 8,928) was poor.
- In Washington, a **baby is born poor every 39 minutes**.
 - A **Black** baby is born poor every **9 hours**.
 - A **Latino** baby is born poor every **2 hours**.
 - A **White**, non-Latino baby is born poor every **hour**.
 - An **American Indian/Alaska Native** baby is born poor every **18 hours**.
 - An **Asian** baby is born poor every **18 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 **127,000 children (8.1%)** were **uninsured** in Washington.
- In 2004, **5,063 babies (6.2%)** were born at **low birthweight** in Washington. This included:
 - 11.1% of Black, non-Latino babies;
 - 6.1% of Latino babies; and,
 - 5.7% of White, non-Latino babies.
- **33.7%** of two-year-olds in Washington **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, **9.9% of 3-year-olds** and **21.0% of 4-year-olds** were enrolled in **state-funded preschool programs** in Washington.
- In 2005, **11,102 children** were enrolled in **Head Start and Early Head Start** in Washington. Of these:
 - 8.0% were Black, non-Latino;
 - 40.0% were Latino; and,
 - 37.7% 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 **9,213 children in foster care** in Washington.

- In 2004, there were **6,730 victims of child maltreatment** in Washington.

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 Washington:
 - o 80% of Black, non-Latino;
 - o 86% of Latino; and,
 - o 60% 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 Washington:
 - o For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 12.0 suspensions.
 - o For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 7.3 suspensions.
 - o For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 6.0 suspensions.
 - o For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 9.9 suspensions.
 - o For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 3.5 suspensions.
- In Washington, the **school districts with the highest rates of suspension for Blacks** are:
 - o Bellevue (27 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled);
 - o Renton (18 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled); and,
 - o Bethel (15 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled).
- In Washington, **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 Washington, there were **35,315 juvenile arrests** in 2005.
- Of the estimated **1,656 youth in residential placement in Washington** in 2003:
 - o 273 (16.5%) were Black, non-Latino;
 - o 159 (9.6%) were Latino; and,
 - o 1,059 (63.9%) were White, non-Latino.
- There were **198 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities** in Washington.
- Washington spends **4.3 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, **49 children and teenagers** in Washington **died of firearm injuries**, including: **18 homicides**, 27 suicides, and 4 unintentional shootings.