

Cradle to Prison Pipeline Wisconsin



Poverty

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

- In Wisconsin, among all children, **1 in 7** (13.9 percent or 176,832) was poor.
 - For **Black** children **4 in 9** (47.1 percent or 52,307) were poor.
 - For **Latino** children **3 in 10** (30.2 percent or 25,520) were poor.
 - For **White**, non-Latino children **1 in 12** (8.3 percent or 82,682) was poor.
 - For **American Indian/Alaska Native** children **1 in 4** (26.3 percent or 3,635) was poor.
 - For **Asian** children **2 in 9** (21.4 percent or 7,629) were poor.
- In Wisconsin, a **baby is born poor** every **46 minutes**.
 - A **Black** baby is born poor every **3 hours**.
 - A **Latino** baby is born poor every **5 hours**.
 - A **White**, non-Latino baby is born poor every **2 hours**.
 - An **American Indian/Alaska Native** baby is born poor every **2 days**.
 - An **Asian** baby is born poor every **19 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 **98,000 children (7.1%)** were **uninsured** in Wisconsin.
- In 2004, **4,885 babies (7.0%)** were born at **low birthweight** in Wisconsin. This included:
 - 13.6% of Black, non-Latino babies;
 - 6.4% of Latino babies; and,
 - 6.2% of White, non-Latino babies.
- **22.9%** of two-year-olds in Wisconsin **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, **15.0% of 3-year-olds** and **47.5% of 4-year-olds** were enrolled in **state-funded preschool programs** in Wisconsin.
- In 2005, **13,538 children** were enrolled in **Head Start and Early Head Start** in Wisconsin. Of these:
 - 25.3% were Black, non-Latino;
 - 22.2% were Latino; and,
 - 41.5% 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 **7,824 children in foster care** in Wisconsin.

- In 2004, there were **9,325 victims of child maltreatment** in Wisconsin.

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 Wisconsin:
 - o 90% of Black, non-Latino;
 - o 80% of Latino; and,
 - o 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 Wisconsin:
 - o For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 17.8 suspensions.
 - o For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 8.8 suspensions.
 - o For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 3.1 suspensions.
 - o For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 11.9 suspensions.
 - o For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 2.5 suspensions.
- In Wisconsin, the **school districts with the highest rates of suspension for Blacks** are:
 - o Beloit (27 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled);
 - o Milwaukee Public Schools (22 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled); and,
 - o Kenosha Unified School District (20 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled).
- In Wisconsin, **6.4% 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 Wisconsin, there were **69,037 juvenile arrests** in 2005.
- Of the estimated **1,524 youth in residential placement in Wisconsin** in 2003:
 - o 708 (46.5%) were Black, non-Latino;
 - o 63 (4.1%) were Latino; and,
 - o 651 (42.7%) were White, non-Latino.
- There were **618 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities** in Wisconsin.
- Wisconsin spends **3.0 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, **43 children and teenagers** in Wisconsin **died of firearm injuries**, including: **14 homicides**, 27 suicides, and 2 unintentional and undetermined shootings.
- In 2005, **32.6%** of Wisconsin's high school students were **involved in a physical fight**.
- In 2005, **7.6%** of Wisconsin's high school students were **threatened or injured with a weapon on school property**.
- **15.8%** of Wisconsin's high school students **carried a weapon** 2 or more times in the preceding month.