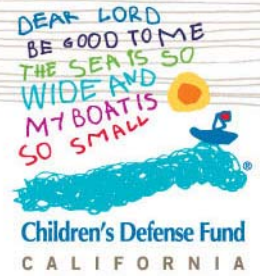


Children's Defense Fund Cradle to Prison Pipeline® Campaign California Factsheet



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The Children's Defense Fund's *Cradle to Prison Pipeline* Campaign is a national and community crusade to engage families, youth, communities and policy makers in the development of healthy, safe and educated children. Poverty, racial disparities and a culture of punishment rather than prevention and early intervention are key forces driving the Pipeline.

Poverty

Poor children lag behind their peers in many ways beyond income; they are less healthy, trail in emotional and intellectual development, and do not perform as well in school. The challenges that poor children face accumulate and interact, casting long shadows throughout their lives. Every year that we keep children in poverty costs our nation half a trillion dollars in lost productivity, poorer health and increased crime.

- In California, a child is born into poverty every 5 minutes.
- Nearly 1.6 million children in California were poor in 2007—that's more than 1 in 6 (17.3 percent).
 - 1 in 9 Asian/Pacific Islander children, (11.1 percent or 105,102) is poor.
 - 1 in 7 White, non-Latino children, (14.8 percent or 748,918) is poor.
 - 2 in 9 Latino children, (23.6 percent or 1,064,013) are poor.
 - 1 in 4 American Indian/Alaska Native children, (25.6 percent or 14,918) is poor.
 - 3 in 10 Black children, (28.3 percent or 169,192) are poor.
- More than 600,000 children in California live in extreme poverty, with family income less than half of the federal poverty level.

Health Care

The United States is the wealthiest nation in the world, yet children's health status in our country is among the worst in the industrialized world.

- In California, an estimated 683,000 children (6.4 percent of all children ages 0-18) were uninsured in 2007, according to the UCLA California Health Interview Survey.
- In 2007, almost a third of two-year-olds (32.3 percent) in California had not received all recommended immunizations.
- In 2006, 38,517 babies (6.9 percent) were born at low birthweight in California. This included:
 - 6.3 percent of non-Hispanic White babies;
 - 6.3 percent of Hispanic babies;
 - 6.7 percent of non-Hispanic American Indian babies;
 - 7.5 percent of non-Hispanic Pacific Islander babies;
 - 7.7 percent of non-Hispanic Asian babies; and
 - 12.3 percent of non-Hispanic Black babies.

Early Childhood Education

Studies reveal that those enrolled in high quality early childhood education programs are more likely to complete higher levels of education, have higher earnings, be in better health and be in stable relationships, and are less likely to commit a crime or be incarcerated. Yet many children are not enrolled in them.

- In the 2006-2007 school year, 14.3% of 3-year-olds and 26.3% of 4-year-olds were enrolled in state-funded preschool programs in California.
- In 2005-2006, 98,353 children were enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start in California. Of these:
 - 11.2 percent were Black, non Latino;
 - 26.1 percent were White, non-Latino; and
 - 68.7 percent were Latino.

Education

Attainment of a high school diploma is the single most effective preventive strategy against adult poverty. Yet a significant number of students do not graduate on time with a regular diploma.

- In 2007, a disproportionate number of Black and Latino fourth graders in California could not read or do math at grade level.
 - 60 percent of White, non-Latino; 87 percent of Black, non-Latino; and 89 percent of Latino fourth graders could not read at grade level.
 - 48 percent of White, non-Latino; 85 percent of Black, non-Latino; and 85 percent of Latino fourth graders could not do math at grade level.
- Students who are suspended or expelled are more likely than their peers to drop out of school altogether.
 - In the 2006-07 school year, there were 13 suspensions for every one hundred students enrolled in a California public school.

Child Welfare

Children left with no permanent family connections or connection with a caring adult have no one to whom they can turn for social, emotional or financial support and face numerous barriers as they struggle to become self-sufficient adults.

- In 2006, there were 89,500 victims of child abuse and neglect in California.
- Approximately 65,000 children—6.6 of every 1,000 children in California—were in the state's child welfare system in 2008. Minority youth are disproportionately represented in the child welfare system. In California:
 - 1.7 of every 1,000 Asian-Pacific Islander children is in foster care;
 - 5.2 of every 1,000 White children are in foster care;
 - 6 of every 1,000 Hispanic children are in foster care;
 - 21.8 of every 1,000 Native American children are in foster care; and
 - 29.2 of every 1,000 Black children are in foster care.

Juvenile Justice System and Incarceration

In 2009, California is projected to spend more than 20 times as much per youth in a state juvenile facility as per student in a public school. Unless we focus our efforts on early intervention and prevention, rather than punishment, we are robbing thousands of youth each year of their futures and our country of vital human resources.

- In 2007, one of every 9 prisoners in the United States was incarcerated in California.
- In 2007, there were 236,856 juvenile arrests in California. That is the equivalent of more than 600 juvenile arrests each day.
 - 36,036 of these arrests were for status offenses such as truancy, incorrigibility, running away, and curfew violations;
 - 66,191 of these arrests were for felony offenses—including 236 arrests of children under the age of 10; and
 - 134,629 of these arrests were for misdemeanor offenses.
- Of the 15,240 youth detained in juvenile correctional facilities in California in 2006:
 - 2,472 (16.2 percent) were White, non-Latino;
 - 4,227 (27.7 percent) were Black, non-Latino; and
 - 7,824 (51.3 percent) were Latino.

Community Violence

The 8 children and teens killed by gun violence each day in our nation is the equivalent of one Northern Illinois University shooting every 15 hours or one Virginia Tech shooting every four days. Yet, unfortunately, it takes tragic events like these to remind us that gun violence in America has reached an epidemic level.

- In 2005, 3,006 children and teenagers in the United States died of firearm injuries.
 - 15.8 percent (474) of these deaths occurred in California.

At crucial points in these children's development, from birth through adulthood, more risk and disadvantages cumulate and converge that make a successful transition to productive adulthood significantly less likely and involvement in the criminal justice system more likely.

We have no time to waste. It is time to step up and take action. Together, we can and will make a difference.

For more information on CDF-California's *Cradle to Prison Pipeline* Campaign or the data in this fact sheet, please visit www.cdfca.org or contact Evan Holland at eholland@cdfca.org or (213) 355-8793.