

Cradle to Prison Pipeline Georgia



Children's Defense Fund

2007

Poverty

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

- In Georgia, among all children, **1 in 5** (20.2 percent or 469,302) **was poor**.
 - For **Black** children **3 in 8** (36.2 percent or 285,491) were poor.
 - For **Latino** children **1 in 4** (24.4 percent or 50,260) was poor.
 - For **White**, non-Latino children **1 in 10** (9.9 percent or 120,310) was poor.
 - For **Asian** children **1 in 13** (7.7 percent or 4,444) was poor.
- In Georgia, a **baby is born poor every 17 minutes**.
 - A **Black** baby is born poor every **28 minutes**.
 - A **Latino** baby is born poor every **2 hours**.
 - A **White**, non-Latino baby is born poor every **hour**.
 - An **Asian** baby is born poor every **day**.

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 **309,000 children (12.4%)** were **uninsured** in Georgia.
- In 2004, **12,930 babies (9.3%)** were born at **low birthweight** in Georgia. This included:
 - 14.0% of Black, non-Latino babies;
 - 6.0% of Latino babies; and,
 - 7.4% of White, non-Latino babies.
- **17.6%** of two-year-olds in Georgia **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, **10.8% of 3-year-olds** and **67.4% of 4-year-olds** were enrolled in **state-funded preschool programs** in Georgia.
- In 2005, **23,508 children** were enrolled in **Head Start and Early Head Start** in Georgia. Of these:
 - 69.6% were Black, non-Latino;
 - 10.9% were Latino; and,
 - 19.9% 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 **13,578 children in foster care** in Georgia.
- In 2004, there were **52,851 victims of child maltreatment** in Georgia.

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 Georgia:
 - 88% of Black, non-Latino;
 - 86% of Latino; and,
 - 63% 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 Georgia:
 - For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 13.5 suspensions.
 - For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 5.8 suspensions.
 - For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 5.2 suspensions.
 - For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 3.6 suspensions.
 - For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 2.9 suspensions.
- In Georgia, the **school districts with the highest rates of suspension for Blacks** are:
 - Mitchell County (36 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled);
 - Rome City Schools (28 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled); and,
 - Macon County (28 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled).
- In Georgia, **13.8% 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 Georgia, there were **28,429 juvenile arrests** in 2005.
- Of the estimated **2,451 youth in residential placement in Georgia** in 2003:
 - 1,581 (64.5%) were Black, non-Latino;
 - 123 (5.0%) were Latino; and,
 - 720 (29.4%) were White, non-Latino.
- There were **910 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities** in Georgia.
- Georgia spends **2 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, **89 children and teenagers** in Georgia **died of firearm injuries**, including: **57 homicides**, **27 suicides**, and **5 unintentional and undetermined shootings**.
- In 2005, **33.8%** of Georgia's high school students were **involved in a physical fight**.
- In 2005, **8.3%** of Georgia's high school students were **threatened or injured with a weapon on school property**.
- **22.1%** of Georgia's high school students **carried a weapon 2 or more times** in the preceding month.