

# Cradle to Prison Pipeline Hawaii



Children's Defense Fund

2007

## Poverty

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

- In Hawaii, among all children, **1 in 8** (12.7 percent or 37,396) was poor.
  - For **Latino** children **1 in 5** (19.3 percent or 7,550) was poor.
  - For **White**, non-Latino children **1 in 15** (6.5 percent or 2,951) was poor.
  - For **Asian** children **1 in 13** (7.6 percent or 6,424) was poor.
  - For **Hawaiian** children **1 in 4** (24.3 percent or 7,979) was poor.
- In Hawaii, a **baby is born poor every 4 hours**.
  - A **Latino** baby is born poor every **16 hours**.
  - A **White**, non-Latino baby is born poor every **2 days**.
  - An **Asian** baby is born poor every **22 hours**.
  - A **Hawaiian** 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 **19,000 children (5.9%)** were **uninsured** in Hawaii.
- In 2004, **1,442 babies (7.9%)** were born at **low birthweight** in Hawaii. This included:
  - 10.2% of Black, non-Latino babies;
  - 7.9% of Latino babies; and,
  - 6.2% of White, non-Latino babies.
- **22.5%** of two-year-olds in Hawaii **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, **10.7% of 3-year-olds** and **20.6% of 4-year-olds** were enrolled in **state-funded preschool programs** in Hawaii.
- In 2005, **3,049 children** were enrolled in **Head Start and Early Head Start** in Hawaii. Of these:
  - 4.0% were Black, non-Latino;
  - 5.7% were Latino; and,
  - 13.5% 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 **2,967 children in foster care** in Hawaii.
- In 2004, there were **3,629 victims of child maltreatment** in Hawaii.

## 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 Hawaii:
  - 79% of Black, non-Latino;
  - 73% 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 Hawaii:
  - For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 4.9 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 7.3 suspensions.
  - For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 5.1 suspensions.
  - For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 4.4 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 6.2 suspensions.
- In Hawaii, **6.1% 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 Hawaii, there were **8,261 juvenile arrests** in 2005.
- In 2003, there was an estimated **129 youth in residential placement in Hawaii**.
- There were **10 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities** in Hawaii.
- Hawaii spends **2.7 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 2005, **27.0%** of Hawaii's high school students were **involved in a physical fight**.
- In 2005, **6.8%** of Hawaii's high school students were **threatened or injured with a weapon on school property**.
- **13.3%** of Hawaii's high school students **carried a weapon 2 or more times** in the preceding month.