

# Cradle to Prison Pipeline Michigan



Children's Defense Fund

2007

## Poverty

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

- In Michigan, among all children, **1 in 5** (18.5 percent or 459,304) was poor.
  - For **Black** children **3 in 7** (42.7 percent or 186,251) were poor.
  - For **Latino** children **1 in 4** (26.7 percent or 34,963) was poor.
  - For **White**, non-Latino children **1 in 9** (11.7 percent or 208,408) was poor.
  - For **American Indian/Alaska Native** children **1 in 4** (25.9 percent or 3,387) was poor.
  - For **Asian** children **1 in 8** (12.6 percent or 7,584) was poor.
- In Michigan, a **baby is born poor every 20 minutes**.
  - A **Black** baby is born poor every **53 minutes**.
  - A **Latino** baby is born poor every **4 hours**.
  - A **White**, non-Latino baby is born poor every **42 minutes**.
  - An **American Indian/Alaska Native** baby is born poor every **3 days**.
  - 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 **155,000 children (5.8%)** were **uninsured** in Michigan.
- In 2004, **10,828 babies (8.3%)** were born at **low birthweight** in Michigan. This included:
  - 14.5% of Black, non-Latino babies;
  - 6.4% of Latino babies; and,
  - 7.1% of White, non-Latino babies.
- **19.4%** of two-year-olds in Michigan **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, **14.3% of 3-year-olds** and **39.4% of 4-year-olds** were enrolled in **state-funded preschool programs** in Michigan.
- In 2005, **35,069 children** were enrolled in **Head Start and Early Head Start** in Michigan. Of these:
  - 36.0% were Black, non-Latino;
  - 12.2% were Latino; and,
  - 44.5% 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 **21,376 children in foster care** in Michigan.

- In 2004, there were **28,035 victims of child maltreatment** in Michigan.

### 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 Michigan:
  - 90% of Black, non-Latino and
  - 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 Michigan:
  - For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 11.1 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 6.4 suspensions.
  - For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 6.0 suspensions.
  - For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 7.8 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 2.9 suspensions.
- In Michigan, the **school districts with the highest rates of suspension for Blacks** are:
  - Jackson Public Schools (44 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled);
  - Battle Creek Public Schools (39 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled); and,
  - Westwood Community Schools (36 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled).
- In Michigan, **8.7% 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 Michigan, there were **45,934 juvenile arrests** in 2005.
- Of the estimated **2,706 youth in residential placement in Michigan** in 2003:
  - 1,206 (44.6%) were Black, non-Latino;
  - 108 (4.0%) were Latino; and,
  - 1,314 (48.6%) were White, non-Latino.
- There were **778 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities** in Michigan.
- Michigan spends **3.2 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, **104 children and teenagers** in Michigan **died of firearm injuries**, including: **57 homicides**, 34 suicides, and 13 unintentional and undetermined shootings.
- In 2005, **30.1%** of Michigan's high school students were **involved in a physical fight**.
- In 2005, **8.6%** of Michigan's high school students were **threatened or injured with a weapon on school property**.
- **15.8%** of Michigan's high school students **carried a weapon** 2 or more times in the preceding month.