

# Cradle to Prison Pipeline

## New Hampshire



Children's Defense Fund

2007

### Poverty

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

- In New Hampshire, among all children, **1 in 11** (9.4 percent or 28,044) was poor.
- In New Hampshire, a **baby is born poor** every **5 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 **18,000 children (5.6%)** were **uninsured** in New Hampshire.
- In 2004, **984 babies (6.8%)** were born at **low birthweight** in New Hampshire.
- **22.9%** of two-year-olds in New Hampshire **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, **7.8% of 3-year-olds** and **12.5% of 4-year-olds** were enrolled in **state-funded preschool programs** in New Hampshire.
- In 2005, **1,632 children** were enrolled in **Head Start and Early Head Start** in New Hampshire. Of these:
  - 5.3% were Black, non-Latino;
  - 7.9% were Latino; and,
  - 84.1% 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 **1,217 children in foster care** in New Hampshire.
- In 2004, there were **948 victims of child maltreatment** in New Hampshire.

### 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 New Hampshire 61% 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 New Hampshire:
  - For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 8.9 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 8.3 suspensions.

- For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 5.2 suspensions.
- For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 5.5 suspensions.
- For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 2.3 suspensions.
- In New Hampshire, **7.3% 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 New Hampshire, there were **8,417 juvenile arrests** in 2005.
- Of the estimated **198 youth in residential placement in New Hampshire** in 2003, 180 (90.9%) were White, non-Latino.
- There were **27 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities** in New Hampshire.
- New Hampshire spends **3.3 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, **4 children and teenagers** in New Hampshire **died of firearm injuries**, including: **1 homicide** and 3 suicides.
- In 2005, **26.4%** of New Hampshire's high school students were **involved in a physical fight.**
- In 2005, **8.6%** of New Hampshire's high school students were **threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.**
- **16.2%** of New Hampshire's high school students **carried a weapon 2 or more times** in the preceding month.