

Cradle to Prison Pipeline

North Carolina



Poverty

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

- In North Carolina, among all children, **2 in 9** (21.3 percent or 448,699) were poor.
 - For **Black** children **3 in 8** (36.7 percent or 192,093) were poor.
 - For **Latino** children **2 in 5** (39.2 percent or 72,621) were poor.
 - For **White**, non-Latino children **1 in 8** (11.8 percent or 149,789) was poor.
 - For **American Indian/Alaska Native** children **3 in 8** (36.9 percent or 10,510) were poor.
 - For **Asian** children **1 in 6** (17.2 percent or 6,577) was poor.
- In North Carolina, a **baby is born poor every 19 minutes**.
 - A **Black** baby is born poor every **47 minutes**.
 - A **Latino** baby is born poor every **hour**.
 - A **White**, non-Latino baby is born poor every **hour**.
 - An **American Indian/Alaska Native** baby is born poor every **11 hours**.
 - An **Asian** baby is born poor every **21 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 **262,000 children (11.6%)** were **uninsured** in North Carolina.
- In 2004, **10,822 babies (9.0%)** were born at **low birthweight** in North Carolina. This included:
 - 14.2% of Black, non-Latino babies;
 - 6.4% of Latino babies; and,
 - 7.7% of White, non-Latino babies.
- **18.4%** of two-year-olds in North Carolina **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, **8.0% of 3-year-olds** and **25.7% of 4-year-olds** were enrolled in **state-funded preschool programs** in North Carolina.
- In 2005, **19,003 children** were enrolled in **Head Start and Early Head Start** in North Carolina. Of these:
 - 55.7% were Black, non-Latino;
 - 18.4% were Latino; and,
 - 22.9% 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 **9,534 children in foster care** in North Carolina.

- In 2004, there were **29,085 victims of child maltreatment** in North Carolina.

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 North Carolina:
 - 87% of Black, non-Latino;
 - 83% of Latino; and,
 - 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 North Carolina:
 - For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 19.7 suspensions.
 - For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 6.9 suspensions.
 - For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 7.3 suspensions.
 - For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 13.5 suspensions.
 - For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 3.2 suspensions.
- In North Carolina, the **school districts with the highest rates of suspension for Blacks** are:
 - Wilson County (40 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled);
 - Moore Country Schools (34 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled); and,
 - Elizabeth County (31 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled).
- In North Carolina, **12.8% 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 North Carolina, there were **47,488 juvenile arrests** in 2005.
- Of the estimated **1,203 youth in residential placement in North Carolina** in 2003:
 - 657 (54.6%) were Black, non-Latino;
 - 30 (2.5%) were Latino; and,
 - 480 (39.9%) were White, non-Latino.
- There were **743 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities** in North Carolina.
- North Carolina spends **3.6 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, **70 children and teenagers** in North Carolina **died of firearm injuries**, including: **40 homicides**, 22 suicides, and 8 unintentional and undetermined shootings.
- In 2005, **29.9%** of North Carolina's high school students were **involved in a physical fight**.
- In 2005, **7.9%** of North Carolina's high school students were **threatened or injured with a weapon on school property**.
- **21.5%** of North Carolina's high school students **carried a weapon 2 or more times** in the preceding month.