

Cradle to Prison Pipeline Ohio



Children's Defense Fund

2007

Poverty

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

- In Ohio, among all children, **1 in 5** (18.6 percent or 505,642) was poor.
 - For **Black** children **3 in 7** (43.6 percent or 171,103) were poor.
 - For **Latino** children **1 in 3** (31.9 percent or 27,833) was poor.
 - For **White**, non-Latino children **1 in 8** (13.2 percent or 278,123) was poor.
 - For **American Indian/Alaska Native** children **1 in 5** (19.1 percent or 1,094) was poor.
 - For **Asian** children **1 in 8** (12.9 percent or 4,839) was poor.
- In Ohio, a **baby is born poor every 16 minutes**.
 - A **Black** baby is born poor every **51 minutes**.
 - A **Latino** baby is born poor every **6 hours**.
 - A **White**, non-Latino baby is born poor every **28 minutes**.
 - An **American Indian/Alaska Native** baby is born poor every **6 days**.
 - An **Asian** baby is born poor every **20 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 **248,000 children (8.5%)** were **uninsured** in Ohio.
- In 2004, **12,637 babies (8.5%)** were born at **low birthweight** in Ohio. This included:
 - 14.0% of Black, non-Latino babies;
 - 7.0% of Latino babies; and,
 - 7.5% of White, non-Latino babies.
- **22.3%** of two-year-olds in Ohio **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, **15.5% of 3-year-olds** and **22.8% of 4-year-olds** were enrolled in **state-funded preschool programs** in Ohio.
- In 2005, **38,021 children** were enrolled in **Head Start and Early Head Start** in Ohio. Of these:
 - 40.9% were Black, non-Latino;
 - 5.8% were Latino; and,
 - 47.3% 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 **19,323 children in foster care** in Ohio.

- In 2004, there were **43,093 victims of child maltreatment** in Ohio.

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 Ohio:
 - 90% of Black, non-Latino;
 - 76% of Latino; and,
 - 59% 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 Ohio:
 - For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 16.3 suspensions.
 - For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 8.6 suspensions.
 - For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 5.4 suspensions.
 - For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 5.4 suspensions.
 - For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 2.5 suspensions.
- In Ohio, the **school districts with the highest rates of suspension for Blacks** are:
 - Warren City School District (37 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled);
 - Mansfield City School District (33 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled); and,
 - Maple Heights School District (29 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled).
- In Ohio, **8.3% 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 Ohio, there were **41,082 juvenile arrests** in 2005.
- Of the estimated **4,176 youth in residential placement in Ohio** in 2003:
 - 1,845 (44.2%) were Black, non-Latino;
 - 99 (2.4%) were Latino; and,
 - 2,190 (52.4%) were White, non-Latino.
- There were **606 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities** in Ohio.
- Ohio spends **3.1 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, **80 children and teenagers** in Ohio **died of firearm injuries**, including: **46 homicides**, 28 suicides, and 6 unintentional and undetermined shootings.
- In 2005, **30.2%** of Ohio's high school students were **involved in a physical fight**.
- In 2005, **8.2%** of Ohio's high school students were **threatened or injured with a weapon on school property**.
- **15.2%** of Ohio's high school students **carried a weapon** 2 or more times in the preceding month.