

# Cradle to Prison Pipeline Oregon



Children's Defense Fund

2007

## Poverty

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

- In Oregon, among all children, **1 in 5** (18.4 percent or 152,142) was poor.
  - For **Black** children **1 in 3** (33.3 percent or 6,250) was poor.
  - For **Latino** children **1 in 3** (34.2 percent or 43,830) was poor.
  - For **White**, non-Latino children **1 in 7** (14.1 percent or 85,445) was poor.
  - For **American Indian/Alaska Native** children **3 in 7** (41.4 percent or 4,747) were poor.
  - For **Asian** children **1 in 5** (20.0 percent or 5,574) was poor.
- In Oregon, a **baby is born poor every 54 minutes**.
  - A **Black** baby is born poor every **20 hours**.
  - A **Latino** baby is born poor every **3 hours**.
  - A **White**, non-Latino baby is born poor every **2 hours**.
  - An **American Indian/Alaska Native** baby is born poor every **day**.
  - An **Asian** baby is born poor every **2 days**.

## 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 **109,000 children (12.1%)** were **uninsured** in Oregon.
- In 2004, **2,758 babies (6.0%)** were born at **low birthweight** in Oregon. This included:
  - 10.6% of Black, non-Latino babies;
  - 5.2% of Latino babies; and,
  - 6.0% of White, non-Latino babies.
- **34.7%** of two-year-olds in Oregon **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, **12.9%** of **3-year-olds** and **21.9%** of **4-year-olds** were enrolled in **state-funded preschool programs** in Oregon.
- In 2005, **8,792 children** were enrolled in **Head Start and Early Head Start** in Oregon. Of these:
  - 4.8% were Black, non-Latino;
  - 45.9% were Latino; and,
  - 65.1% 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 **9,381 children in foster care** in Oregon.

- In 2004, there were **11,759 victims of child maltreatment** in Oregon.

### 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 Oregon:
  - 85% of Black, non-Latino;
  - 90% of Latino; and,
  - 66% 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 Oregon:
  - For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 7.3 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 6.4 suspensions.
  - For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 5.3 suspensions.
  - For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 11.5 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 2.5 suspensions.
- In Oregon, **10.4% 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 Oregon, there were **28,107 juvenile arrests** in 2005.
- Of the estimated **1,275 youth in residential placement in Oregon** in 2003:
  - 117 (9.2%) were Black, non-Latino;
  - 147 (11.5%) were Latino; and,
  - 915 (71.8%) were White, non-Latino.
- There were **207 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities** in Oregon.
- Oregon spends **3.4 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, **21 children and teenagers** in Oregon **died of firearm injuries**, including: **12 homicides**, **6 suicides**, and **3 unintentional shootings**.