

Cradle to Prison Pipeline

South Carolina



Poverty

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

- In South Carolina, among all children, **2 in 9** (22.7 percent or 229,001) were poor.
 - For **Black** children **3 in 8** (37.8 percent or 130,471) were poor.
 - For **Latino** children **2 in 5** (40.9 percent or 17,443) were poor.
 - For **White**, non-Latino children **1 in 8** (12.3 percent or 71,671) was poor.
 - For **Asian** children **1 in 5** (19.2 percent or 2,020) was poor.
- In South Carolina, a **baby is born poor every 35 minutes**.
 - A **Black** baby is born poor every **hour**.
 - A **Latino** baby is born poor every **6 hours**.
 - A **White**, non-Latino baby is born poor every **2 hours**.
 - 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 **103,000 children (9.5%)** were **uninsured** in South Carolina.
- In 2004, **5,761 babies (10.2%)** were born at **low birthweight** in South Carolina. This included:
 - 15.3% of Black, non-Latino babies;
 - 6.3% of Latino babies; and,
 - 7.9% of White, non-Latino babies.
- **24.4%** of two-year-olds in South 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, **13.7% of 3-year-olds** and **47.6% of 4-year-olds** were enrolled in **state-funded preschool programs** in South Carolina.
- In 2005, **12,248 children** were enrolled in **Head Start and Early Head Start** in South Carolina. Of these:
 - 84.4% were Black, non-Latino;
 - 5.8% were Latino; and,
 - 8.0% 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 **4,894 children in foster care** in South Carolina.
- In 2004, there were **9,950 victims of child maltreatment** in South 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 South Carolina:
 - 89% of Black, non-Latino;
 - 71% of Latino; and,
 - 64% 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 South Carolina:
 - For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 20.3 suspensions.
 - For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 6.6 suspensions.
 - For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 8.1 suspensions.
 - For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 10.8 suspensions.
 - For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 2.7 suspensions.
- In South Carolina, the **school districts with the highest rates of suspension for Blacks** are:
 - Laurens District 55 (49 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled);
 - Marion School District 02 (41 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled); and,
 - Dorchester School District 04 (40 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled).
- In South Carolina, **11.4% 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 South Carolina, there were **27,736 juvenile arrests** in 2005.
- Of the estimated **1,443 youth in residential placement in South Carolina** in 2003:
 - 900 (62.4%) were Black, non-Latino;
 - 48 (3.3%) were Latino; and,
 - 486 (33.7%) were White, non-Latino.
- There were **527 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities** in South Carolina.
- South Carolina spends **2.2 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, **44 children and teenagers** in South Carolina **died of firearm injuries**, including: **19 homicides**, 18 suicides, and 7 unintentional and undetermined shootings.
- In 2005, **31.3%** of South Carolina's high school students were **involved in a physical fight.**
- In 2005, **10.1%** of South Carolina's high school students were **threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.**
- **20.5%** of South Carolina's high school students **carried a weapon 2 or more times** in the preceding month.