

Cradle to Prison Pipeline South Dakota



Children's Defense Fund

2007

Poverty

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

- In South Dakota, among all children, **1 in 6** (18.2 percent or 33,245) was poor.
 - For **Latino** children **3 in 8** (38.5 percent or 2,147) were poor.
 - For **White**, non-Latino children **1 in 9** (10.9 percent or 15,679) was poor.
 - For **American Indian/Alaska Native** children **1 in 2** (50.5 percent or 12,480) was poor.
- In South Dakota, a **baby is born poor every 3 hours**.
 - A **Latino** baby is born poor every **2 days**.
 - A **White**, non-Latino baby is born poor every **8 hours**.
 - An **American Indian/Alaska Native** baby is born poor every **8 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 **17,000 children (8.7%)** were **uninsured** in South Dakota.
- In 2004, **784 babies (6.9%)** were born at **low birthweight** in South Dakota.
- **20.5%** of two-year-olds in South Dakota **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, **21.1% of 3-year-olds** and **29.5% of 4-year-olds** were enrolled in **state-funded preschool programs** in South Dakota.
- In 2005, **2,827 children** were enrolled in **Head Start and Early Head Start** in South Dakota. Of these:
 - 2.9% were Black, non-Latino;
 - 7.3% were Latino; and,
 - 49.6% 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 **1,580 children in foster care** in South Dakota.
- In 2004, there were **1,917 victims of child maltreatment** in South Dakota.

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 Dakota 63% 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 Dakota:
 - For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 5.3 suspensions.
 - For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 3.1 suspensions.
 - For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 1.7 suspensions.
 - For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 6.9 suspensions.
 - For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were .6 suspensions.
- In South Dakota, **8.0% 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 Dakota, there were **3,096 juvenile arrests** in 2005.
- Of the estimated **522 youth in residential placement in South Dakota** in 2003:
 - 39 (7.5%) were Black, non-Latino and
 - 234 (44.8%) were White, non-Latino.
- There were **126 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities** in South Dakota.
- South Dakota spends **1.9 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, **10 children and teenagers** in South Dakota **died of firearm injuries**, including: **1 homicide**, 7 suicides, and 2 unintentional shootings.
- In 2005, **26.5%** of South Dakota's high school students were **involved in a physical fight.**
- In 2005, **8.1%** of South Dakota's high school students were **threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.**