

Cradle to Prison Pipeline Arizona



Children's Defense Fund

2007

Poverty

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

- In Arizona, among all children, **1 in 5** (20.3 percent or 314,658) **was poor**.
 - For **Black** children **2 in 7** (28.7 percent or 15,610) were poor.
 - For **Latino** children **3 in 10** (29.3 percent or 180,969) were poor.
 - For **White**, non-Latino, children **1 in 11** (9.3 percent or 66,209) was poor.
 - For **American Indian/Alaska Native** children **4 in 9** (44.9 percent or 45,071) were poor.
 - For **Asian** children **1 in 11** (8.7 percent or 2,563) was poor.
- In Arizona, a **baby is born poor every 24 minutes**.
 - A **Black** children baby is born poor every **9 hours**.
 - A **Latino** baby is born poor every **40 minutes**.
 - A **White**, non-Latino baby is born poor every **2 hours**.
 - An **American Indian/Alaska Native** baby is born poor every **3 hours**.
 - An **Asian** children baby is born poor every **5 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 **262,000 children (15.8%)** were **uninsured** in Arizona.
- In 2004, **6,710 babies (7.2%)** were born at **low birthweight** in Arizona. This included:
 - 12.0% of Black, non-Latino babies;
 - 6.8% of Latino babies; and,
 - 7.3% of White, non-Latino babies.
- **25.1%** of two-year-olds in Arizona **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, **9.7% of 3-year-olds** and **24.9% of 4-year-olds** were enrolled in **state-funded preschool programs** in Arizona.
- In 2005, **13,215 children** were enrolled in **Head Start and Early Head Start** in Arizona. Of these:
 - 3.5% were Black, non-Latino;
 - 53.0% were Latino; and,
 - 46.2% 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 **7,469 children in foster care** in Arizona.

- In 2004, there were **7,344 victims of child maltreatment** in Arizona.

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 Arizona 88% of Black, non-Latino, 89% of Latino and, 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 Arizona:
 - For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 9.0 suspensions.
 - For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 5.6 suspensions.
 - For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 4.2 suspensions.
 - For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 9.1 suspensions.
 - For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 2.2 suspensions.
- In Arizona, the **school districts with the highest rates of suspension for Blacks** are:
 - Alhambra Elementary District (17 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled);
 - Cartwright Elementary District (12 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled); and,
 - Mesa Unified School District (9 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled).
- In Arizona, **14.8% 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 Arizona, there were **50,371 juvenile arrests** in 2005.
- Of the estimated **1,890 youth in residential placement in Arizona** in 2003:
 - 156 (8.3%) were Black, non-Latino;
 - 858 (45.4%) were Latino; and,
 - 765 (40.5%) were White, non-Latino.
- There were **898 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities** in Arizona.
- Arizona spends **2.9 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, **76 children and teenagers** in Arizona **died of firearm injuries**, including: **43 homicides**, 25 suicides, and 8 unintentional and undetermined shootings.
- In 2005, **32.4%** of Arizona's high school students were **involved in a physical fight**.
- In 2005, **10.7%** of Arizona's high school students were **threatened or injured with a weapon on school property**.
- **20.6%** of Arizona's high school students **carried a weapon** 2 or more times in the preceding month.