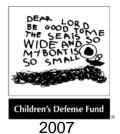
# **Cradle to Prison Pipeline Illinois**



## Poverty

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

- In Illinois, among all children, **1 in 6** (16.4 percent or 524,729) was poor.
  - o For **Black** children **3 in 8** (38.4 percent or 218,201) were poor.
  - o For **Latino** children **2 in 9** (22.2 percent or 138,303) were poor.
  - o For White, non-Latino children 1 in 12 (8.2 percent or 147,605) was poor.
  - o For American Indian/Alaska Native children 1 in 6 (16.4 percent or 848) was poor.
  - o For **Asian** children **1 in 15** (6.8 percent or 7,727) was poor.
- In Illinois, a **baby is born poor** every **15 minutes**.
  - o A Black baby is born poor every 40 minutes.
  - o A Latino baby is born poor every 50 minutes.
  - o A White, non-Latino baby is born poor every 54 minutes.
  - o An American Indian/Alaska Native baby is born poor every week.
  - o An **Asian** baby is born poor every **18 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 **369,000 children** (**10.8%**) were **uninsured** in Illinois.
- In 2004, **15,200 babies (8.4%)** were born at **low birthweight** in Illinois. This included:
  - o 14.6% of Black, non-Latino babies;
  - o 6.7% of Latino babies; and,
  - o 7.3% of White, non-Latino babies.
- 23.3% of two-year-olds in Illinois 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, **24.2% of 3-year-olds** and **44.2% of 4-year-olds** were enrolled in **state-funded preschool programs** in **Illinois**.
- In 2005, **39,640 children** were enrolled in **Head Start and Early Head Start** in **Illinois**. Of these:
  - o 50.0% were Black, non-Latino;
  - o 28.0% were Latino; and,
  - o 23.9% 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 **21,608 children in foster care** in Illinois.

• In 2004, there were **29,150 victims of child maltreatment** in Illinois.

## **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 Illinois:
  - o 91% of Black, non-Latino;
  - o 86% of Latino; and.
  - o 58% 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 Illinois:
  - o For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 11.4 suspensions.
  - o For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 4.7 suspensions.
  - o For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 3.6 suspensions.
  - o For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 3.3 suspensions.
  - o For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 1.3 suspensions.
- In Illinois, the school districts with the highest rates of suspension for Blacks are:
  - o Thornton Township High School District 205 (72 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled);
  - o Community High School District 218 (37 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled); and,
  - o Bremen Community High School District 228 (35 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled).
- In Illinois, 10.0% 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 Illinois, there were **37,470 juvenile arrests** in 2005.
- Of the estimated **2,715 youth in residential placement in Illinois** in 2003:
  - o 1,467 (54.0%) were Black, non-Latino;
  - o 303 (11.2%) were Latino; and,
  - o 930 (34.3%) were White, non-Latino.
- There were 868 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities in Illinois.
- Illinois spends 2.8 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, **143 children and teenagers** in Illinois **died of firearm injuries**, including: **123 homicides**, 17 suicides, and 3 unintentional shootings.