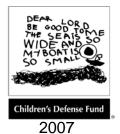
# **Cradle to Prison Pipeline Louisiana**



### Poverty

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

- In Louisiana, among all children, 2 in 7 (28.4 percent or 319,095) were poor.
  - o For **Black** children **1 in 2** (49.5 percent or 223,596) was poor.
  - o For **Latino** children **1 in 5** (20.6 percent or 6,672) was poor.
  - o For **White**, non-Latino children **1 in 8** (12.9 percent or 77,620) was poor.
  - o For American Indian/Alaska Native children 2 in 7 (28.2 percent or 1,664) were poor.
  - o For **Asian** children **1 in 5** (19.5 percent or 2,539) was poor.
- In Louisiana, a baby is born poor every 27 minutes.
  - o A Black baby is born poor every 39 minutes.
  - o A Latino baby is born poor every 16 hours.
  - o A White, non-Latino baby is born poor every 2 hours.
  - o An American Indian/Alaska Native baby is born poor every 2 days.
  - o An **Asian** baby is born poor every **4 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 **128,000 children** (**10.5%**) were **uninsured** in Louisiana.
- In 2004, **7,139 babies** (**10.9%**) were born at **low birthweight** in Louisiana. This included:
  - o 15.2% of Black, non-Latino babies;
  - o 7.7% of Latino babies; and,
  - o 8.0% of White, non-Latino babies.
- 25.9% of two-year-olds in Louisiana 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, 17.1% of 3-year-olds and 42.9% of 4-year-olds were enrolled in state-funded preschool programs in Louisiana.
- In 2005, 21,982 children were enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start in Louisiana. Of these:
  - o 80.5% were Black, non-Latino;
  - o 5.5% were Latino; and,
  - o 14.6% 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 **4,541 children in foster care** in Louisiana.

• In 2004, there were **10,862 victims of child maltreatment** in Louisiana.

## **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 Louisiana:
  - o 91% of Black, non-Latino and
  - o 68% 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 Louisiana:
  - o For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 15.5 suspensions.
  - o For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 5.7 suspensions.
  - o For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 7.2 suspensions.
  - o For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 7.9 suspensions.
  - o For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 4.4 suspensions.
- In Louisiana, the school districts with the highest rates of suspension for Blacks are:
  - o Allen Parish School Board (36 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled);
  - o Avoyelles Parish School Board (32 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled); and,
  - o Saint Bernard Parish School Board (31 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled).
- In Louisiana, 11.7% 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 Louisiana, there were **23,806 juvenile arrests** in 2005.
- Of the estimated **1,821 youth in residential placement in Louisiana** in 2003:
  - o 1,260 (69.2%) were Black, non-Latino and
  - o 522 (28.7%) were White, non-Latino.
- There were 632 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities in Louisiana.
- Louisiana spends 1.4 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, **88 children and teenagers** in Louisiana **died of firearm injuries**, including: **54 homicides**, 25 suicides, and 9 unintentional and undetermined shootings.

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