

Cradle to Prison Pipeline Wyoming



Children's Defense Fund

2007

Poverty

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

- In Wyoming, among all children, **1 in 9** (11.1 percent or 12,311) was poor.
 - For **Latino** children **2 in 7** (27.4 percent or 2,840) were poor.
 - For **White**, non-Latino children **1 in 12** (8.5 percent or 7,970) was poor.
- In Wyoming, a **baby is born poor** every **10 hours**.
 - A **Latino** baby is born poor every **2 days**.
 - A **White**, non-Latino a baby is born poor every **16 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 **14,000 children (11.4%)** were **uninsured** in Wyoming.
- In 2004, **588 babies (8.6%)** were born at **low birthweight** in Wyoming. This included:
 - 8.4% of Latino babies and
 - 8.5% of White, non-Latino babies.
- **33.1%** of two-year-olds in Wyoming **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, **21.0% of 3-year-olds** and **33.8% of 4-year-olds** were enrolled in **state-funded preschool programs** in Wyoming.
- In 2005, **1,792 children** were enrolled in **Head Start and Early Head Start** in Wyoming. Of these:
 - 2.3% were Black, non-Latino;
 - 26.8% were Latino; and,
 - 63.6% 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 **1,055 children in foster care** in Wyoming.
- In 2004, there were **678 victims of child maltreatment** in Wyoming.

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 Wyoming:

- 84% of Latino and
- 62% 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 Wyoming:
 - For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 6.0 suspensions.
 - For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 5.5 suspensions.
 - For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 3.5 suspensions.
 - For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 6.8 suspensions.
 - For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 1.4 suspensions.
- In Wyoming, **7.6% 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 Wyoming, there were **6,548 juvenile arrests** in 2005.
- Of the estimated **357 youth in residential placement in Wyoming** in 2003:
 - 48 (13.4%) were Latino and
 - 258 (72.3%) were White, non-Latino.
- There were **56 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities** in Wyoming.
- Wyoming spends **4.3 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, **8 children and teenagers** in Wyoming **died of firearm injuries**, including: **2 homicides**, 4 suicides, and 2 unintentional shootings.
- In 2005, **30.4%** of Wyoming's high school students were **involved in a physical fight.**
- In 2005, **7.8%** of Wyoming's high school students were **threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.**
- **28.0%** of Wyoming's high school students **carried a weapon** 2 or more times in the preceding month.