Cradle to Prison Pipeline
Colorado

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

- In Colorado, among all children, 1 in 7 (14.2 percent or 165,586) was poor.
  - For Black children 2 in 7 (28.2 percent or 13,511) were poor.
  - For Latino children 1 in 4 (26.6 percent or 82,712) was poor.
  - For White, non-Latino children 1 in 12 (8.3 percent or 61,177) was poor.
  - For American Indian/Alaska Native children 1 in 4 (25.4 percent or 2,469) was poor.
  - For Asian children 1 in 9 (11.0 percent or 2,927) was poor.

- In Colorado, a baby is born poor every 46 minutes.
  - A Black baby is born poor every 9 hours.
  - A Latino baby is born poor every hour.
  - A White, non-Latino baby is born poor every 2 hours.
  - An American Indian/Alaska Native baby is born poor every 2 days.
  - An Asian baby is born poor every 3 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 176,000 children (14.2%) were uninsured in Colorado.

- In 2004, 6,130 babies (9.0%) were born at low birthweight in Colorado. This included:
  - 14.6% of Black, non-Latino babies;
  - 8.6% of Latino babies; and,
  - 8.7% of White, non-Latino babies.

- 21.4% of two-year-olds in Colorado 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, 9.6% of 3-year-olds and 24.8% of 4-year-olds were enrolled in state-funded preschool programs in Colorado.

- In 2005, 9,820 children were enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start in Colorado. Of these:
  - 7.9% were Black, non-Latino;
  - 60.8% were Latino; and,
  - 53.6% 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 8,754 children in foster care in Colorado.
In 2004, there were **9,578 victims of child maltreatment** in Colorado.

### 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 Colorado:
    - 82% of Black, non-Latino;
    - 83% of Latino; and,
    - 54% 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 Colorado:
    - For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 14.2 suspensions.
    - For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 9.2 suspensions.
    - For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 5.5 suspensions.
    - For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 9.6 suspensions.
    - For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 4.1 suspensions.

- **In Colorado, the school districts with the highest rates of suspension for Blacks are:**
  - Harrison 2 (22 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled);
  - Denver County 1 (16 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled); and,
  - Cherry Creek 5 (15 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled).

- **In Colorado, 12.2% 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 Colorado, there were 46,030 juvenile arrests in 2005.**

- **Of the estimated 1,776 youth in residential placement in Colorado in 2003:**
  - 312 (17.6%) were Black, non-Latino;
  - 462 (26.0%) were Latino; and,
  - 948 (53.4%) were White, non-Latino.

- **There were 159 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities in Colorado.**

- Colorado spends **3.1 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, 48 children and teenagers in Colorado died of firearm injuries, including: 23 homicides, 24 suicides, 1 unintentional shooting.**

- **In 2005, 32.2% of Colorado’s high school students were involved in a physical fight.**

- **In 2005, 7.6% of Colorado’s high school students were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.**

- **17.0% of Colorado’s high school students carried a weapon 2 or more times in the preceding month.**