Cradle to Prison Pipeline
Connecticut

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

- In Connecticut, among all children, 1 in 9 (11.6 percent or 94,909) was poor.
  - For Black children 2 in 7 (28.6 percent or 26,951) were poor.
  - For Latino children 3 in 10 (29.4 percent or 36,003) were poor.
  - For White, non-Latino children 1 in 23 (4.4 percent or 24,710) was poor.
  - For Asian children 1 in 10 (10.5 percent or 2,664) was poor.

- In Connecticut, a baby is born poor every 2 hours.
  - A Latino baby is born poor every 4 hours.
  - A Black baby is born poor every 6 hours.
  - A White, non-Latino baby is born poor every 7 hours.
  - An Asian baby is born poor every 2 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 70,000 children (7.9%) were uninsured in Connecticut.

- In 2004, 3,273 babies (7.8%) were born at low birthweight in Connecticut. This included:
  - 12.7% of Black, non-Latino babies;
  - 8.5% of Latino babies; and,
  - 6.7% of White, non-Latino babies.

- 18.5% of two-year-olds in Connecticut 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, 13.4% of 3-year-olds and 29.0% of 4-year-olds were enrolled in state-funded preschool programs in Connecticut.

- In 2005, 7,126 children were enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start in Connecticut. Of these:
  - 37.5% were Black, non-Latino;
  - 36.0% were Latino; and,
  - 24.3% 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 6,742 children in foster care in Connecticut.

- In 2004, there were 13,285 victims of child maltreatment in Connecticut.
**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 Connecticut:
  - 88% of Black, non-Latino;
  - 85% of Latino; and,
  - 53% 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 Connecticut:
  - For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 19.1 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 14.5 suspensions.
  - For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 4.0 suspensions.
  - For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 3.4 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 2.5 suspensions.

- In Connecticut, the school districts with the highest rates of suspension for Blacks are:
  - New London (34 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled);
  - New Britain School District (27 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled); and,
  - Middletown School District (26 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled).

- In Connecticut, 7.4% 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 Connecticut, there were 20,811 juvenile arrests in 2005.

- Of the estimated 627 youth in residential placement in Connecticut in 2003:
  - 246 (39.2%) were Black, non-Latino;
  - 129 (20.6%) were Latino; and,
  - 222 (35.4%) were White, non-Latino.

- There were 452 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities in Connecticut.

- Connecticut spends 2.5 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, 11 children and teenagers in Connecticut died of firearm injuries, including: 9 homicides and 2 suicides.

- In 2005, 32.7% of Connecticut’s high school students were involved in a physical fight.

- In 2005, 9.1% of Connecticut’s high school students were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.

- 16.3% of Connecticut’s high school students carried a weapon 2 or more times in the preceding month.