Cradle to Prison Pipeline
Delaware

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

- In Delaware, among all children, **1 in 7** (14.5 percent or 27,780) was poor.
  - For **Black** children **1 in 4** (24.7 percent or 11,702) was poor.
  - For **Latino** children **1 in 3** (33.5 percent or 5,945) was poor.
  - For **White**, non-Latino children **1 in 13** (7.7 percent or 8,967) was poor.

- In Delaware, a **baby is born poor** every **5 hours**.
  - A **Black** baby is born poor every **10 hours**.
  - A **Latino** baby is born poor every **18 hours**.
  - A **White**, non-Latino baby is born poor every **17 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 **22,000 children** (10.5%) were **uninsured** in Delaware.

- In 2004, **1,023 babies** (9.0%) were born at **low birthweight** in Delaware. This included:
  - 13.8% of Black, non-Latino babies;
  - 6.2% of Latino babies; and,
  - 7.4% of White, non-Latino babies.

- **18.4%** of two-year-olds in Delaware **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, **10.0%** of 3-year-olds and **24.2%** of 4-year-olds were enrolled in state-funded preschool programs in Delaware.

- In 2005, **2,197 children** were enrolled in **Head Start and Early Head Start** in Delaware. Of these:
  - 52.2% were Black, non-Latino;
  - 29.5% were Latino; and,
  - 20.8% 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 **814 children in foster care** in Delaware.

- In 2004, there were **1,581 victims of child maltreatment** in Delaware.

**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 Delaware:
  - 85% of Black, non-Latino;
  - 78% 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 Delaware:
  - For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 18.9 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 8.5 suspensions.
  - For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 8.6 suspensions.
  - For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 6.8 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 3.4 suspensions.

- In Delaware, the school districts with the highest rates of suspension for Blacks are:
  - Seaford School District (27 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled);
  - Red Clay Consolidated School District (24 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled); and,
  - Colonial School District (22 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled).

- In Delaware, 10.4% 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 Delaware, there were 7,449 juvenile arrests in 2005.

- Of the estimated 333 youth in residential placement in Delaware in 2003:
  - 231 (69.4%) were Black, non-Latino and
  - 78 (23.4%) were White, non-Latino.

- There were 14 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities in Delaware.

- Delaware spends 2.3 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, 9 children and teenagers in Delaware died of firearm injuries, including: 7 homicides, 1 suicide, and 1 unintentional shooting.

- In 2005, 30.3% of Delaware’s high school students were involved in a physical fight.

- In 2005, 6.2% of Delaware’s high school students were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.

- 16.6% of Delaware’s high school students carried a weapon 2 or more times in the preceding month.