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

- In the District of Columbia, among all children, 1 in 3 (32.2 percent or 35,310) was poor.
  - For Black children 2 in 5 (40.1 percent or 31,197) were poor.
  - For Latino children 1 in 6 (17.4 percent or 2,054) was poor.
  - For White, non-Latino children 1 in 11 (9.3 percent or 1,450) was poor.

- In the District of Columbia, a baby is born poor every 3 hours.
  - A Black baby is born poor every 4 hours.
  - A Latino baby is born poor every 4 days.
  - A White, non-Latino 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 10,000 children (8.5%) were uninsured in District of Columbia.

- In 2004, 880 babies (11.1%) were born at low birthweight in District of Columbia. This included:
  - 14.1% of Black, non-Latino babies;
  - 7.8% of Latino babies; and,
  - 5.6% of White, non-Latino babies.

- 27.9% of two-year-olds in District of Columbia 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 2005, 3,403 children were enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start in District of Columbia.
  Of these:
  - 80.1% were Black, non-Latino;
  - 18.4% were Latino; and,
  - 5.0% 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 3,092 children in foster care in District of Columbia.

- In 2004, there were 2,378 victims of child maltreatment in District of Columbia.

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 District of Columbia:
  o 92% of Black, non-Latino;
  o 88% of Latino; and,
  o 30% 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 District of Columbia:
  o For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 12.5 suspensions.
  o For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 4.9 suspensions.
  o For every 100 White students enrolled, there were .7 suspensions.
  o For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were .6 suspensions.

• In District of Columbia, 10.2% 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 District of Columbia, there were 347 juvenile arrests in 2005.

• Of the estimated 285 youth in residential placement in District of Columbia in 2003:
  o 231 (81.1%) were Black, non-Latino and
  o 33 (11.6%) were Latino.

• There were 39 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities in District of Columbia.

**Community Violence**
Between 1979 and 2004, gunfire killed 101,413 children and teens in America, destroying countless families and communities.

• In 2004, 40 children and teenagers in District of Columbia died of firearm injuries, including: 39 homicides and 1 unintentional shooting.

• In 2005, 36.3% of District of Columbia’s high school students were involved in a physical fight.

• In 2005, 12.1% of District of Columbia’s high school students were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.

• 17.2% of District of Columbia’s high school students carried a weapon 2 or more times in the preceding month.