

Cradle to Prison Pipeline Indiana



Children's Defense Fund

2007

Poverty

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

- In Indiana, among all children, **1 in 6** (16.7 percent or 260,496) was poor.
 - For **Black** children **3 in 7** (42.1 percent or 69,664) were poor.
 - For **Latino** children **1 in 4** (26.2 percent or 25,222) was poor.
 - For **White**, non-Latino children **1 in 8** (12.4 percent or 154,339) was poor.
 - For **Asian** children **1 in 11** (8.9 percent or 1,395) was poor.
- In Indiana, a **baby is born poor every 31 minutes**.
 - A **Black** baby is born poor every **2 hours**.
 - A **Latino** baby is born poor every **4 hours**.
 - A **White**, non-Latino baby is born poor every **55 minutes**.
 - An **Asian** baby is born poor every **5 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 **161,000 children (9.5%)** were **uninsured** in Indiana.
- In 2004, **7,028 babies (8.1%)** were born at **low birthweight** in Indiana. This included:
 - 13.6% of Black, non-Latino babies;
 - 6.3% of Latino babies; and,
 - 7.5% of White, non-Latino babies.
- **30.1%** of two-year-olds in Indiana **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, **10.1% of 3-year-olds** and **16.0% of 4-year-olds** were enrolled in **state-funded preschool programs** in Indiana.
- In 2005, **14,231 children** were enrolled in **Head Start and Early Head Start** in Indiana. Of these:
 - 25.9% were Black, non-Latino;
 - 11.6% were Latino; and,
 - 57.1% 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 **8,899 children in foster care** in Indiana.
- In 2004, there were **18,869 victims of child maltreatment** in Indiana.

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 Indiana:
 - 88% of Black, non-Latino;
 - 89% of Latino; and,
 - 65% 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 Indiana:
 - For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 18.8 suspensions.
 - For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 9.2 suspensions.
 - For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 6.9 suspensions.
 - For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 5.9 suspensions.
 - For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 2.8 suspensions.
- In Indiana, the **school districts with the highest rates of suspension for Blacks** are:
 - Michigan City Area Schools (53 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled);
 - Elkhart Community Schools (44 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled); and,
 - Kokomo-Center Township Con School Corp (40 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled).
- In Indiana, **9.8% 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 Indiana, there were **34,293 juvenile arrests** in 2005.
- Of the estimated **3,045 youth in residential placement in Indiana** in 2003:
 - 960 (31.5%) were Black, non-Latino;
 - 120 (3.9%) were Latino; and,
 - 1,932 (63.4%) were White, non-Latino.
- There were **571 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities** in Indiana.
- Indiana spends **3.2 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, **56 children and teenagers** in Indiana **died of firearm injuries**, including: **33 homicides**, 19 suicides, and 4 unintentional shootings.
- In 2005, **29.3%** of Indiana's high school students were **involved in a physical fight**.
- In 2005, **8.8%** of Indiana's high school students were **threatened or injured with a weapon on school property**.
- **19.2%** of Indiana's high school students **carried a weapon 2 or more times** in the preceding month.