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

- In Kansas, among all children, **1 in 7** (15.1 percent or 99,784) was poor.
  - For **Black** children **3 in 8** (37.5 percent or 17,219) were poor.
  - For **Latino** children **3 in 10** (30.0 percent or 24,139) were poor.
  - For **White**, non-Latino children **1 in 9** (10.6 percent or 52,747) was poor.
  - For **American Indian/Alaska Native** children **2 in 7** (27.1 percent or 1,943) were poor.
  - For **Asian** children **1 in 11** (9.5 percent or 1,176) was poor.

- In Kansas, a **baby is born poor** every **hour**.
  - A **Black** baby is born poor every **7 hours**.
  - A **Latino** baby is born poor every **5 hours**.
  - A **White**, non-Latino baby is born poor every **2 hours**.
  - An **American Indian/Alaska Native** baby is born poor every **3 days**.
  - An **Asian** baby is born poor every **week**.

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 **48,000 children** (6.7%) were **uninsured** in Kansas.

- In 2004, **2,898 babies** (7.3%) were born at **low birthweight** in Kansas. This included:
  - 13.7% of **Black**, non-Latino babies;
  - 6.3% of **Latino** babies; and,
  - 7.0% of **White**, non-Latino babies.

- **28.0%** of two-year-olds in Kansas **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, **12.6% of 3-year-olds** and **34.9% of 4-year-olds** were enrolled in **state-funded preschool programs** in Kansas.

- In 2005, **7,931 children** were enrolled in **Head Start and Early Head Start** in Kansas. Of these:
  - 18.2% were **Black**, non-Latino;
  - 25.8% were **Latino**; and,
  - 48.1% 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 **5,781 children in foster care** in Kansas.
• In 2004, there were **4,895 victims of child maltreatment** in Kansas.

**Education**
Education 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 Kansas:
  o 90% of Black, non-Latino;
  o 86% of Latino; and,
  o 63% 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 Kansas:
  o For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 16.3 suspensions.
  o For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 7.5 suspensions.
  o For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 4.0 suspensions.
  o For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 7.4 suspensions.
  o For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 2.8 suspensions.

• In Kansas, the **school districts with the highest rates of suspension for Blacks** are:
  o Kansas City (23 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled);
  o Topeka Public Schools (18 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled); and,
  o Geary County Schools (16 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled).

• In Kansas, **8.1% 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 Kansas, there were **6,555 juvenile arrests** in 2005.

• Of the estimated **1,071 youth in residential placement in Kansas** in 2003:
  o 333 (31.1%) were Black, non-Latino;
  o 114 (10.6%) were Latino; and,
  o 537 (50.1%) were White, non-Latino.

• There were **111 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities** in Kansas.

• Kansas spends **3.3 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, **26 children and teenagers** in Kansas died of firearm injuries, including: **13 homicides**, 12 suicides, and 1 unintentional shooting.

• In 2005, **27.9%** of Kansas’s high school students were **involved in a physical fight**.

• In 2005, **7.4%** of Kansas’s high school students were **threatened or injured with a weapon on school property**.

• **16.2%** of Kansas’s high school students **carried a weapon** 2 or more times in the preceding month.