Cradle to Prison Pipeline
Maine

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

- In Maine, among all children, **1 in 6** (17.5 percent or 46,872) **was poor**.
  - For **White**, non-Latino children **1 in 6** (16.3 percent or 40,880) was poor.
- In Maine, a **baby is born poor** every 3 hours.
  - A **White**, non-Latino baby is born poor every 3 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 **20,000 children** (6.9%) were **uninsured** in Maine.
- In 2004, **895 babies** (6.4%) were born at **low birthweight** in Maine.
- **24.2%** of two-year-olds in Maine **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, **18.8%** of 3-year-olds and **41.3%** of 4-year-olds were enrolled in **state-funded preschool programs** in Maine.
- In 2005, **3,955 children** were enrolled in **Head Start and Early Head Start** in Maine. Of these:
  - 4.2% were Black, non-Latino;
  - 2.1% were Latino; and,
  - 84.6% 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 **2,999 children in foster care** in Maine.
- In 2004, there were **4,235 victims of child maltreatment** in Maine.

**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 Maine, 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 Maine:
  - For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 6.8 suspensions.
For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 3.7 suspensions.
For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 5.1 suspensions.
For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 6.8 suspensions.
For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 2.4 suspensions.

- In Maine, **6.2% 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 Maine, there were **7,112 juvenile arrests** in 2005.
- Of the estimated **222 youth in residential placement in Maine** in 2003, 207 (93.2%) were White, non-Latino.
- There were **4 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities** in Maine.
- Maine spends **4 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, **10 children and teenagers** in Maine **died of firearm injuries**, including: 10 suicides.
- In 2005, **28.2%** of Maine’s high school students were **involved in a physical fight**.
- In 2005, **7.1%** of Maine’s high school students were **threatened or injured with a weapon on school property**.
- **18.3%** of Maine’s high school students **carried a weapon** 2 or more times in the preceding month.