Cradle to Prison Pipeline
Maryland

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

- In Maryland, among all children, 1 in 9 (10.8 percent or 148,210) was poor.
  - For Black children 1 in 5 (19.8 percent or 89,204) was poor.
  - For Latino children 1 in 9 (11.1 percent or 11,150) was poor.
  - For White, non-Latino children 1 in 17 (5.8 percent or 42,104) was poor.
  - For Asian children 1 in 16 (6.2 percent or 3,518) was poor.

- In Maryland, a baby is born poor every 59 minutes.
  - A Black baby is born poor every 2 hours.
  - A Latino baby is born poor every 11 hours.
  - A White, non-Latino baby is born poor every 3 hours.
  - An Asian 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 135,000 children (9.1%) were uninsured in Maryland.

- In 2004, 6,947 babies (9.3%) were born at low birthweight in Maryland. This included:
  - 13.2% of Black, non-Latino babies;
  - 7.3% of Latino babies; and,
  - 7.4% of White, non-Latino babies.

- 21.4% of two-year-olds in Maryland 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, 10.4% of 3-year-olds and 43.4% of 4-year-olds were enrolled in state-funded preschool programs in Maryland.

- In 2005, 10,347 children were enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start in Maryland. Of these:
  - 65.1% were Black, non-Latino;
  - 11.0% were Latino; and,
  - 19.3% 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 11,521 children in foster care in Maryland.

- In 2004, there were 15,180 victims of child maltreatment in Maryland.
**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 Maryland:
  - 88% of Black, non-Latino;
  - 79% of Latino; and,
  - 55% 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 Maryland:
  - For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 9.3 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 4.4 suspensions.
  - For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 5.9 suspensions.
  - For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 6.8 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 2.0 suspensions.

- In Maryland, the school districts with the highest rates of suspension for Blacks are:
  - Somerset County Public Schools (45 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled);
  - Board of Education, Worcester County (28 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled);
  - and,
  - Wicomico Country Board of Education (20 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled).

- In Maryland, 8.4% 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 Maryland, there were 49,297 juvenile arrests in 2005.

- Of the estimated 1,167 youth in residential placement in Maryland in 2003:
  - 672 (57.6%) were Black, non-Latino;
  - 105 (9.0%) were Latino; and,
  - 366 (31.4%) were White, non-Latino.

- There were 295 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities in Maryland.

- Maryland spends 2.6 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, 71 children and teenagers in Maryland died of firearm injuries, including: 61 homicides, 9 suicides, and 1 unintentional shooting.

- In 2005, 36.6% of Maryland’s high school students were involved in a physical fight.

- In 2005, 11.7% of Maryland’s high school students were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.

- 19.1% of Maryland’s high school students carried a weapon 2 or more times in the preceding month.