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

- In Massachusetts, among all children, 1 in 7 (13.6 percent or 194,294) was poor.
  - For Black children 3 in 10 (30.4 percent or 33,783) were poor.
  - For Latino children 2 in 5 (39.2 percent or 65,631) were poor.
  - For White, non-Latino children 1 in 13 (7.7 percent or 81,013) was poor.
  - For Asian children 1 in 6 (15.8 percent or 10,645) was poor.

- In Massachusetts, a baby is born poor every 45 minutes.
  - A Black baby is born poor every 4 hours.
  - A Latino baby is born poor every 2 hours.
  - A White, non-Latino baby is born poor every 2 hours.
  - An Asian baby is born poor every day.

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 99,000 children (6.4%) were uninsured in Massachusetts.

- In 2004, 6,117 babies (7.8%) were born at low birthweight in Massachusetts. This included:
  - 11.8% of Black, non-Latino babies;
  - 8.6% of Latino babies; and,
  - 7.2% of White, non-Latino babies.

- 9.3% of two-year-olds in Massachusetts 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, 17.3% of 3-year-olds and 23.4% of 4-year-olds were enrolled in state-funded preschool programs in Massachusetts.

- In 2005, 12,846 children were enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start in Massachusetts. Of these:
  - 21.0% were Black, non-Latino;
  - 38.2% were Latino; and,
  - 34.8% 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 12,608 children in foster care in Massachusetts.

- In 2004, there were 36,201 victims of child maltreatment in Massachusetts.
**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 Massachusetts:
  - 80% of Black, non-Latino;
  - 89% of Latino; and,
  - 49% 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 Massachusetts:
  - For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 9.3 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 7.2 suspensions.
  - For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 4.3 suspensions.
  - For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 4.8 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 2.7 suspensions.

- In Massachusetts, the school districts with the highest rates of suspension for Blacks are:
  - Lynn (16 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled);
  - Brockton (15 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled); and,
  - Randolph (13 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled).

- In Massachusetts, 6.6% 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 Massachusetts, there were 14,841 juvenile arrests in 2005.

- Of the estimated 1,302 youth in residential placement in Massachusetts in 2003:
  - 396 (30.4%) were Black, non-Latino;
  - 336 (25.8%) were Latino; and,
  - 513 (39.4%) were White, non-Latino.

- There were 195 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities in Massachusetts.

- Massachusetts spends 5.0 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, 32 children and teenagers in Massachusetts died of firearm injuries, including: 26 homicides and 6 suicides.

- In 2005, 28.6% of Massachusetts’s high school students were involved in a physical fight.

- In 2005, 5.4% of Massachusetts’s high school students were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.

- 15.2% of Massachusetts’s high school students carried a weapon 2 or more times in the preceding month.