Cradle to Prison Pipeline
Mississippi

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

- In Mississippi, among all children, 3 in 10 (30.9 percent or 226,148) were poor.
  - For Black children 1 in 2 (49.0 percent or 159,704) was poor.
  - For Latino children 2 in 7 (27.5 percent or 3,126) were poor.
  - For White, non-Latino children 1 in 7 (15.2 percent or 56,968) was poor.

- In Mississippi, a baby is born poor every 37 minutes.
  - A Black baby is born poor every 53 minutes.
  - A Latino baby is born poor every day.
  - 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 100,000 children (12.6%) were uninsured in Mississippi.

- In 2004, 4,956 babies (11.6%) were born at low birthweight in Mississippi. This included:
  - 15.5% of Black, non-Latino babies;
  - 7.4% of Latino babies; and,
  - 8.7% of White, non-Latino babies.

- 20.9% of two-year-olds in Mississippi 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, 27.5% of 3-year-olds and 44.3% of 4-year-olds were enrolled in state-funded preschool programs in Mississippi.

- In 2005, 26,657 children were enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start in Mississippi. Of these:
  - 82.7% were Black, non-Latino;
  - 1.1% were Latino; and,
  - 14.1% 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 2,812 children in foster care in Mississippi.

- In 2004, there were 5,674 victims of child maltreatment in Mississippi.

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 Mississippi:
  - 93% of Black, non-Latino and
  - 69% 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 Mississippi:
  - For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 14.6 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 6.4 suspensions.
  - For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 6.5 suspensions.
  - For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 6.0 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 3.6 suspensions.

- In Mississippi, the school districts with the highest rates of suspension for Blacks are:
  - Brookhaven School District (36 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled);
  - Picayune School District (33 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled); and,
  - Natchez-Adams School District (32 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled).

- In Mississippi, 12.4% 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 Mississippi, there were 11,372 juvenile arrests in 2005.

- Of the estimated 528 youth in residential placement in Mississippi in 2003:
  - 387 (73.3%) were Black, non-Latino and
  - 135 (25.6%) were White, non-Latino.

- There were 369 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities in Mississippi.

- Mississippi spends 1.8 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, 43 children and teenagers in Mississippi died of firearm injuries, including: 23 homicides, 15 suicides, and 5 unintentional and undetermined shootings.