Cradle to Prison Pipeline
New Mexico

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

- In New Mexico, among all children, 1 in 4 (26.0 percent or 124,303) was poor.
  - For Black children 3 in 8 (35.7 percent or 3,865) were poor.
  - For Latino children 1 in 3 (31.9 percent or 78,930) was poor.
  - For White, non-Latino children 1 in 8 (12.1 percent or 17,875) was poor.
  - For American Indian/Alaska Native children 3 in 8 (37.3 percent or 22,025) were poor.

- In New Mexico, a baby is born poor every hour.
  - A Black baby is born poor every day.
  - A Latino baby is born poor every 2 hours.
  - A White, non-Latino baby is born poor every 9 hours.
  - An American Indian/Alaska Native baby is born poor every 7 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 86,000 children (16.6%) were uninsured in New Mexico.

- In 2004, 2,306 babies (8.1%) were born at low birthweight in New Mexico. This included:
  - 14.7% of Black, non-Latino babies;
  - 8.2% of Latino babies; and,
  - 8.0% of White, non-Latino babies.

- 25.4% of two-year-olds in New Mexico 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, 14.7% of 3-year-olds and 28.6% of 4-year-olds were enrolled in state-funded preschool programs in New Mexico.

- In 2005, 7,451 children were enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start in New Mexico. Of these:
  - 2.1% were Black, non-Latino;
  - 60.6% were Latino; and,
  - 18.3% 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 2,100 children in foster care in New Mexico.

- In 2004, there were 6,150 victims of child maltreatment in New Mexico.
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 New Mexico:
  - 76% of Black, non-Latino;
  - 86% of Latino; and,
  - 64% 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 New Mexico:
  - For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 7.8 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 6.7 suspensions.
  - For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 4.7 suspensions.
  - For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 8.2 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 2.3 suspensions.

- In New Mexico, 12.1% 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 New Mexico, there were 9,696 juvenile arrests in 2005.

- Of the estimated 606 youth in residential placement in New Mexico in 2003:
  - 42 (6.9%) were Black, non-Latino;
  - 123 (20.3%) were Latino; and,
  - 123 (20.3%) were White, non-Latino.

- There were 312 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities in New Mexico.

- New Mexico spends 4.7 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, 28 children and teenagers in New Mexico died of firearm injuries, including: 11 homicides and 17 suicides.

- In 2005, 36.7% of New Mexico’s high school students were involved in a physical fight.

- In 2005, 10.4% of New Mexico’s high school students were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.

- 24.5% of New Mexico’s high school students carried a weapon 2 or more times in the preceding month.