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

- In South Carolina, among all children, 2 in 9 (22.7 percent or 229,001) were poor.
  - For Black children 3 in 8 (37.8 percent or 130,471) were poor.
  - For Latino children 2 in 5 (40.9 percent or 17,443) were poor.
  - For White, non-Latino children 1 in 8 (12.3 percent or 71,671) was poor.
  - For Asian children 1 in 5 (19.2 percent or 2,020) was poor.

- In South Carolina, a baby is born poor every 35 minutes.
  - A Black baby is born poor every hour.
  - A Latino baby is born poor every 6 hours.
  - A White, non-Latino baby is born poor every 2 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 103,000 children (9.5%) were uninsured in South Carolina.

- In 2004, 5,761 babies (10.2%) were born at low birthweight in South Carolina. This included:
  - 15.3% of Black, non-Latino babies;
  - 6.3% of Latino babies; and,
  - 7.9% of White, non-Latino babies.

- 24.4% of two-year-olds in South Carolina 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, 13.7% of 3-year-olds and 47.6% of 4-year-olds were enrolled in state-funded preschool programs in South Carolina.

- In 2005, 12,248 children were enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start in South Carolina. Of these:
  - 84.4% were Black, non-Latino;
  - 5.8% were Latino; and,
  - 8.0% 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 4,894 children in foster care in South Carolina.

- In 2004, there were 9,950 victims of child maltreatment in South Carolina.


**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 South Carolina:
  - 89% of Black, non-Latino;
  - 71% 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 South Carolina:
  - For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 20.3 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 6.6 suspensions.
  - For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 8.1 suspensions.
  - For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 10.8 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 2.7 suspensions.

- In South Carolina, the school districts with the highest rates of suspension for Blacks are:
  - Laurens District 55 (49 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled);
  - Marion School District 02 (41 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled); and,
  - Dorchester School District 04 (40 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled).

- In South Carolina, 11.4% 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 South Carolina, there were 27,736 juvenile arrests in 2005.

- Of the estimated 1,443 youth in residential placement in South Carolina in 2003:
  - 900 (62.4%) were Black, non-Latino;
  - 48 (3.3%) were Latino; and,
  - 486 (33.7%) were White, non-Latino.

- There were 527 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities in South Carolina.

- South Carolina spends 2.2 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, 44 children and teenagers in South Carolina died of firearm injuries, including: 19 homicides, 18 suicides, and 7 unintentional and undetermined shootings.

- In 2005, 31.3% of South Carolina’s high school students were involved in a physical fight.

- In 2005, 10.1% of South Carolina’s high school students were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.

- 20.5% of South Carolina’s high school students carried a weapon 2 or more times in the preceding month.