Cradle to Prison Pipeline
Wisconsin

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

- In Wisconsin, among all children, 1 in 7 (13.9 percent or 176,832) was poor.
  - For Black children 4 in 9 (47.1 percent or 52,307) were poor.
  - For Latino children 3 in 10 (30.2 percent or 25,520) were poor.
  - For White, non-Latino children 1 in 12 (8.3 percent or 82,682) was poor.
  - For American Indian/Alaska Native children 1 in 4 (26.3 percent or 3,635) was poor.
  - For Asian children 2 in 9 (21.4 percent or 7,629) were poor.

- In Wisconsin, a baby is born poor every 46 minutes.
  - A Black baby is born poor every 3 hours.
  - A Latino baby is born poor every 5 hours.
  - A White, non-Latino baby is born poor every 2 hours.
  - An American Indian/Alaska Native baby is born poor every 2 days.
  - An Asian baby is born poor every 19 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 98,000 children (7.1%) were uninsured in Wisconsin.

- In 2004, 4,885 babies (7.0%) were born at low birthweight in Wisconsin. This included:
  - 13.6% of Black, non-Latino babies;
  - 6.4% of Latino babies; and,
  - 6.2% of White, non-Latino babies.

- 22.9% of two-year-olds in Wisconsin 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, 15.0% of 3-year-olds and 47.5% of 4-year-olds were enrolled in state-funded preschool programs in Wisconsin.

- In 2005, 13,538 children were enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start in Wisconsin. Of these:
  - 25.3% were Black, non-Latino;
  - 22.2% were Latino; and,
  - 41.5% 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 7,824 children in foster care in Wisconsin.
• In 2004, there were 9,325 victims of child maltreatment in Wisconsin.

**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 Wisconsin:
  o 90% of Black, non-Latino;
  o 80% of Latino; and,
  o 62% 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 Wisconsin:
  o For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 17.8 suspensions.
  o For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 8.8 suspensions.
  o For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 3.1 suspensions.
  o For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 11.9 suspensions.
  o For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 2.5 suspensions.

• In Wisconsin, the school districts with the highest rates of suspension for Blacks are:
  o Beloit (27 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled);
  o Milwaukee Public Schools (22 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled); and,
  o Kenosha Unified School District (20 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled).

• In Wisconsin, 6.4% 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 Wisconsin, there were 69,037 juvenile arrests in 2005.

• Of the estimated 1,524 youth in residential placement in Wisconsin in 2003:
  o 708 (46.5%) were Black, non-Latino;
  o 63 (4.1%) were Latino; and,
  o 651 (42.7%) were White, non-Latino.

• There were 618 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities in Wisconsin.

• Wisconsin spends 3.0 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, 43 children and teenagers in Wisconsin died of firearm injuries, including: 14 homicides, 27 suicides, and 2 unintentional and undetermined shootings.

• In 2005, 32.6% of Wisconsin’s high school students were involved in a physical fight.

• In 2005, 7.6% of Wisconsin’s high school students were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.

• 15.8% of Wisconsin’s high school students carried a weapon 2 or more times in the preceding month.