Cradle to Prison Pipeline  
Arizona

**Poverty**

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

- In Arizona, among all children, 1 in 5 (20.3 percent or 314,658) was poor.
  - For **Black** children 2 in 7 (28.7 percent or 15,610) were poor.
  - For **Latino** children 3 in 10 (29.3 percent or 180,969) were poor.
  - For **White**, non-Latino, children 1 in 11 (9.3 percent or 66,209) was poor.
  - For **American Indian/Alaska Native** children 4 in 9 (44.9 percent or 45,071) were poor.
  - For **Asian** children 1 in 11 (8.7 percent or 2,563) was poor.

- In Arizona, a baby is born poor every 24 minutes.
  - A **Black** children baby is born poor every 9 hours.
  - A **Latino** baby is born poor every 40 minutes.
  - A **White**, non-Latino baby is born poor every 2 hours.
  - An **American Indian/Alaska Native** baby is born poor every 3 hours.
  - An **Asian** children baby is born poor every 5 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 262,000 children (15.8%) were uninsured in Arizona.

- In 2004, 6,710 babies (7.2%) were born at low birthweight in Arizona. This included:
  - 12.0% of Black, non-Latino babies;
  - 6.8% of Latino babies; and,
  - 7.3% of White, non-Latino babies.

- 25.1% of two-year-olds in Arizona 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, 9.7% of 3-year-olds and 24.9% of 4-year-olds were enrolled in state-funded preschool programs in Arizona.

- In 2005, 13,215 children were enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start in Arizona. Of these:
  - 3.5% were Black, non-Latino;
  - 53.0% were Latino; and,
  - 46.2% 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 7,469 children in foster care in Arizona.
• In 2004, there were 7,344 victims of child maltreatment in Arizona.

**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 Arizona 88% of Black, non-Latino, 89% of Latino and, 63% 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 Arizona:
  o For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 9.0 suspensions.
  o For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 5.6 suspensions.
  o For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 4.2 suspensions.
  o For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 9.1 suspensions.
  o For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 2.2 suspensions.

• In Arizona, the school districts with the highest rates of suspension for Blacks are:
  o Alhambra Elementary District (17 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled);
  o Cartwright Elementary District (12 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled); and,
  o Mesa Unified School District (9 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled).

• In Arizona, 14.8% 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 Arizona, there were 50,371 juvenile arrests in 2005.

• Of the estimated 1,890 youth in residential placement in Arizona in 2003:
  o 156 (8.3%) were Black, non-Latino;
  o 858 (45.4%) were Latino; and,
  o 765 (40.5%) were White, non-Latino.

• There were 898 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities in Arizona.

• Arizona spends 2.9 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, 76 children and teenagers in Arizona died of firearm injuries, including: 43 homicides, 25 suicides, and 8 unintentional and undetermined shootings.

• In 2005, 32.4% of Arizona’s high school students were involved in a physical fight.

• In 2005, 10.7% of Arizona’s high school students were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.

• 20.6% of Arizona’s high school students carried a weapon 2 or more times in the preceding month.