Cradle to Prison Pipeline
Louisiana

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

- In Louisiana, among all children, 2 in 7 (28.4 percent or 319,095) were poor.
  - For Black children 1 in 2 (49.5 percent or 223,596) was poor.
  - For Latino children 1 in 5 (20.6 percent or 6,672) was poor.
  - For White, non-Latino children 1 in 8 (12.9 percent or 77,620) was poor.
  - For American Indian/Alaska Native children 2 in 7 (28.2 percent or 1,664) were poor.
  - For Asian children 1 in 5 (19.5 percent or 2,539) was poor.

- In Louisiana, a baby is born poor every 27 minutes.
  - A Black baby is born poor every 39 minutes.
  - A Latino baby is born poor every 16 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 4 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 128,000 children (10.5%) were uninsured in Louisiana.

- In 2004, 7,139 babies (10.9%) were born at low birthweight in Louisiana. This included:
  - 15.2% of Black, non-Latino babies;
  - 7.7% of Latino babies; and,
  - 8.0% of White, non-Latino babies.

- 25.9% of two-year-olds in Louisiana 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, 17.1% of 3-year-olds and 42.9% of 4-year-olds were enrolled in state-funded preschool programs in Louisiana.

- In 2005, 21,982 children were enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start in Louisiana. Of these:
  - 80.5% were Black, non-Latino;
  - 5.5% were Latino; and,
  - 14.6% 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 4,541 children in foster care in Louisiana.
In 2004, there were **10,862 victims of child maltreatment** in Louisiana.

**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 Louisiana:
- 91% of Black, non-Latino and
- 68% 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 Louisiana:
- For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 15.5 suspensions.
- For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 5.7 suspensions.
- For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 7.2 suspensions.
- For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 7.9 suspensions.
- For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 4.4 suspensions.

In Louisiana, the **school districts with the highest rates of suspension for Blacks** are:
- Allen Parish School Board (36 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled);
- Avoyelles Parish School Board (32 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled); and,
- Saint Bernard Parish School Board (31 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled).

In Louisiana, **11.7% 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 Louisiana, there were **23,806 juvenile arrests** in 2005.

Of the estimated **1,821 youth in residential placement in Louisiana** in 2003:
- 1,260 (69.2%) were Black, non-Latino and
- 522 (28.7%) were White, non-Latino.

There were **632 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities** in Louisiana.

Louisiana spends **1.4 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, **88 children and teenagers** in Louisiana **died of firearm injuries**, including: **54 homicides**, 25 suicides, and 9 unintentional and undetermined shootings.