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

- In North Carolina, among all children, 2 in 9 (21.3 percent or 448,699) were poor.
  - For Black children 3 in 8 (36.7 percent or 192,093) were poor.
  - For Latino children 2 in 5 (39.2 percent or 72,621) were poor.
  - For White, non-Latino children 1 in 8 (11.8 percent or 149,789) were poor.
  - For American Indian/Alaska Native children 3 in 8 (36.9 percent or 10,510) were poor.
  - For Asian children 1 in 6 (17.2 percent or 6,577) was poor.

- In North Carolina, a baby is born poor every 19 minutes.
  - A Black baby is born poor every 47 minutes.
  - A Latino baby is born poor every hour.
  - A White, non-Latino baby is born poor every hour.
  - An American Indian/Alaska Native baby is born poor every 11 hours.
  - An Asian baby is born poor every 21 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 262,000 children (11.6%) were uninsured in North Carolina.

- In 2004, 10,822 babies (9.0%) were born at low birthweight in North Carolina. This included:
  - 14.2% of Black, non-Latino babies;
  - 6.4% of Latino babies; and,
  - 7.7% of White, non-Latino babies.

- 18.4% of two-year-olds in North 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, 8.0% of 3-year-olds and 25.7% of 4-year-olds were enrolled in state-funded preschool programs in North Carolina.

- In 2005, 19,003 children were enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start in North Carolina. Of these:
  - 55.7% were Black, non-Latino;
  - 18.4% were Latino; and,
  - 22.9% 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 9,534 children in foster care in North Carolina.
• In 2004, there were **29,085 victims of child maltreatment** in North 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 North Carolina:
  o 87% of Black, non-Latino;
  o 83% of Latino; and,
  o 61% 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 North Carolina:
  o For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 19.7 suspensions.
  o For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 6.9 suspensions.
  o For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 7.3 suspensions.
  o For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 13.5 suspensions.
  o For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 3.2 suspensions.

• In North Carolina, the **school districts with the highest rates of suspension for Blacks** are:
  o Wilson County (40 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled);
  o Moore Country Schools (34 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled); and,
  o Elizabeth County (31 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled).

• In North Carolina, **12.8% 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 North Carolina, there were **47,488 juvenile arrests** in 2005.

• Of the estimated **1,203 youth in residential placement in North Carolina** in 2003:
  o 657 (54.6%) were Black, non-Latino;
  o 30 (2.5%) were Latino; and,
  o 480 (39.9%) were White, non-Latino.

• There were **743 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities** in North Carolina.

• North Carolina spends **3.6 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, **70 children and teenagers** in North Carolina died of firearm injuries, including: **40 homicides,** 22 suicides, and 8 unintentional and undetermined shootings.

• In 2005, **29.9% of North Carolina’s high school students were involved in a physical fight.**

• In 2005, **7.9% of North Carolina’s high school students were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.**

• **21.5%** of North Carolina’s high school students **carried a weapon** 2 or more times in the preceding month.