Cradle to Prison Pipeline
Oklahoma

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

- In Oklahoma, among all children, 2 in 9 (23.0 percent or 192,417) were poor.
  - For Black children 4 in 9 (46.6 percent or 34,800) were poor.
  - For Latino children 3 in 8 (35.9 percent or 29,509) were poor.
  - For White, non-Latino children 1 in 6 (17.6 percent or 94,111) was poor.
  - For American Indian/Alaska Native children 2 in 7 (26.8 percent or 20,510) were poor.
  - For Asian children 1 in 9 (11.5 percent or 1,422) was poor.

- In Oklahoma, a baby is born poor every 40 minutes.
  - A Black baby is born poor every 4 hours.
  - A Latino baby is born poor every 3 hours.
  - A White, non-Latino baby is born poor every hour.
  - An American Indian/Alaska Native baby is born poor every 9 hours.
  - An Asian baby is born poor every 3 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 142,000 children (15.7%) were uninsured in Oklahoma.

- In 2004, 4,117 babies (8.0%) were born at low birthweight in Oklahoma. This included:
  - 13.0% of Black, non-Latino babies;
  - 6.6% of Latino babies; and,
  - 7.8% of White, non-Latino babies.

- 27.7% of two-year-olds in Oklahoma 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, 16.7% of 3-year-olds and 92.4% of 4-year-olds were enrolled in state-funded preschool programs in Oklahoma.

- In 2005, 13,915 children were enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start in Oklahoma. Of these:
  - 17.7% were Black, non-Latino;
  - 13.1% were Latino; and,
  - 44.6% 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 9,194 children in foster care in Oklahoma.
In 2004, there were 12,483 victims of child maltreatment in Oklahoma.

**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 Oklahoma:
  - 90% of Black, non-Latino;
  - 83% of Latino; and,
  - 70% 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 Oklahoma:
  - 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 4.6 suspensions.
  - For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 4.2 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 2.7 suspensions.

- In Oklahoma, the school districts with the highest rates of suspension for Blacks are:
  - Tulsa (31 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled);
  - Putnam City Schools (22 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled); and,
  - Millwood Public School (16 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled).

- In Oklahoma, 10.0% 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 Oklahoma, there were 19,813 juvenile arrests in 2005.

- Of the estimated 1,059 youth in residential placement in Oklahoma in 2003:
  - 285 (26.9%) were Black, non-Latino;
  - 69 (6.5%) were Latino; and,
  - 540 (51.0%) were White, non-Latino.

- There were 89 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities in Oklahoma.

- Oklahoma 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, 29 children and teenagers in Oklahoma died of firearm injuries, including: 13 homicides, 13 suicides, and 3 unintentional shootings.

- In 2005, 31.1% of Oklahoma’s high school students were involved in a physical fight.

- In 2005, 6.0% of Oklahoma’s high school students were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.

- 18.9% of Oklahoma’s high school students carried a weapon 2 or more times in the preceding month.