Cradle to Prison Pipeline
Pennsylvania

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

- In Pennsylvania, among all children, 1 in 6 (16.7 percent or 460,616) was poor.
  - For Black children 2 in 5 (40.2 percent or 150,286) were poor.
  - For Latino children 2 in 5 (39.9 percent or 68,733) were poor.
  - For White, non-Latino children 1 in 9 (10.7 percent or 224,466) was poor.
  - For American Indian/Alaska Native children 3 in 7 (42.8 percent or 1,026) were poor.
  - For Asian children 1 in 8 (13.0 percent or 8,311) was poor.

- In Pennsylvania, a baby is born poor every 19 minutes.
  - A Black baby is born poor every 57 minutes.
  - A Latino baby is born poor every 2 hours.
  - A White, non-Latino baby is born poor every 41 minutes.
  - An American Indian/Alaska Native baby is born poor every week.
  - An Asian baby is born poor every 23 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 272,000 children (9.1%) were uninsured in Pennsylvania.

- In 2004, 11,804 babies (8.2%) were born at low birthweight in Pennsylvania. This included:
  - 13.5% of Black, non-Latino babies;
  - 9.3% of Latino babies; and,
  - 7.1% of White, non-Latino babies.

- 22.7% of two-year-olds in Pennsylvania 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, 12.8% of 3-year-olds and 23.1% of 4-year-olds were enrolled in state-funded preschool programs in Pennsylvania.

- In 2005, 32,282 children were enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start in Pennsylvania. Of these:
  - 35.6% were Black, non-Latino;
  - 13.4% were Latino; and,
  - 47.8% 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 **21,768 children in foster care** in Pennsylvania.

• In 2004, there were **4,647 victims of child maltreatment** in Pennsylvania.

**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 Pennsylvania:
  - 85% of Black, non-Latino;
  - 81% of Latino; and,
  - 58% 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 Pennsylvania:
  - For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 19.6 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 11.2 suspensions.
  - For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 4.8 suspensions.
  - For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 4.8 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 3.2 suspensions.

• In Pennsylvania, the school districts with the highest rates of suspension for Blacks are:
  - Coatesville Area School District (47 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled);
  - Aliquippa School District (42 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled); and,
  - Harrisburg (37 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled).

• In Pennsylvania, 7.1% 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 Pennsylvania, there were **101,608 juvenile arrests** in 2005.

• Of the estimated **4,341 youth in residential placement in Pennsylvania** in 2003:
  - 2,262 (52.1%) were Black, non-Latino;
  - 423 (9.7%) were Latino; and,
  - 1,506 (34.7%) were White, non-Latino.

• There were **440 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities** in Pennsylvania.

• Pennsylvania spends **3.4 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, **132 children and teenagers** in Pennsylvania **died of firearm injuries**, including: **87 homicides**, 39 suicides, and 6 unintentional and undetermined shootings.