Cradle to Prison Pipeline
Rhode Island

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

- In Rhode Island, among all children, **1 in 5** (19.5 percent or 46,894) was **poor**.
  - For **Black** children **5 in 9** (53.2 percent or 9,036) were poor.
  - For **Latino** children **4 in 9** (46.7 percent or 19,045) were poor.
  - For **White**, non-Latino children **1 in 11** (9.1 percent or 15,179) was poor.

- In Rhode Island, a **baby is born poor** every 3 **hours**.
  - A **Black** baby is born poor every 16 **hours**.
  - A **Latino** baby is born poor every 8 **hours**.
  - A **White**, non-Latino baby is born poor every 9 **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 **18,000 children** (6.9%) were **uninsured** in Rhode Island.

- In 2004, **1,025 babies** (8.0%) were born at **low birthweight** in Rhode Island. This included:
  - 11.0% of Black, non-Latino babies;
  - 8.3% of Latino babies; and,
  - 7.3% of White, non-Latino babies.

- **19.9%** of two-year-olds in Rhode Island 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, **12.2%** of 3-year-olds and **22.7%** of 4-year-olds were enrolled in **state-funded preschool programs** in Rhode Island.

- In 2005, **3,150 children** were enrolled in **Head Start and Early Head Start** in Rhode Island. Of these:
  - 24.6% were Black, non-Latino;
  - 32.7% were Latino; and,
  - 53.4% 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 **2,334 children in foster care** in Rhode Island.

- In 2004, there were **3,068 victims of child maltreatment** in Rhode Island.
**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 Rhode Island:
  - 85% of Black, non-Latino;
  - 89% of Latino; and,
  - 64% 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 Rhode Island:
  - For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 21.8 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 15.4 suspensions.
  - For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 7.5 suspensions.
  - For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 11.2 suspensions.
  - For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 10.7 suspensions.

- In Rhode Island, the school districts with the highest rates of suspension for Blacks are:
  - Providence School District (20 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled) and
  - Pawtucket School District (9 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled).

- In Rhode Island, 8.2% 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 Rhode Island, there were 5,286 juvenile arrests in 2005.

- Of the estimated 342 youth in residential placement in Rhode Island in 2003:
  - 117 (34.2%) were Black, non-Latino;
  - 30 (8.8%) were Latino; and,
  - 168 (49.1%) were White, non-Latino.

- There were 6 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities in Rhode Island.

- Rhode Island spends 4.0 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, 4 children and teenagers in Rhode Island died of firearm injuries, including: 2 homicides and 2 suicides.

- In 2005, 28.4% of Rhode Island’s high school students were involved in a physical fight.

- In 2005, 8.7% of Rhode Island’s high school students were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.

- 12.4% of Rhode Island’s high school students carried a weapon 2 or more times in the preceding month.