Poverty
Poverty is the largest driving force of the Cradle to Prison Pipeline crisis.
• In Vermont, among all children, 1 in 7 (15.4 percent or 20,194) was poor.
• In Vermont, a baby is born poor every 8 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 8,000 children (5.7%) were uninsured in Vermont.
• In 2004, 423 babies (6.4%) were born at low birthweight in Vermont.
• 37.1% of two-year-olds in Vermont 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, 27.0% of 3-year-olds and 64.1% of 4-year-olds were enrolled in state-funded preschool programs in Vermont.
• In 2005, 1,569 children were enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start in Vermont. Of these:
  o 2.7% were Black, non-Latino;
  o 3.2% were Latino; and,
  o 87.9% 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 1,409 children in foster care in Vermont.
• In 2004, there were 1,138 victims of child maltreatment in Vermont.

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 Vermont 62% 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 Vermont:
  o For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 4.7 suspensions.
  o For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 3.4 suspensions.
  o For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 4.9 suspensions.
For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 4.6 suspensions.
For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 1.7 suspensions.

- In Vermont, 5.9% 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 Vermont, there were 1,599 juvenile arrests in 2005.
- Of the estimated 51 youth in residential placement in Vermont in 2003, 48 (94.1%) were White, non-Latino.
- There were 18 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities in Vermont.
- Vermont spends 4.1 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, 3 children and teenagers in Vermont died of firearm injuries, including: 2 suicides and 1 unintentional shooting.
- In 2005, 24.3% of Vermont’s high school students were involved in a physical fight.
- In 2005, 6.3% of Vermont’s high school students were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.