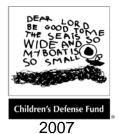
Cradle to Prison Pipeline Alaska



Poverty

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

- In Alaska, among all children, 1 in 7 (14.5 percent or 26,623) was poor.
 - o For **Black** children **3 in 10** (29.8 percent or 2,447) were poor.
 - o For **Latino** children **1 in 5** (18.5 percent or 2,178) was poor
 - o For **White**, non-Latino children **1 in 12** (8.3 percent or 8,575) was poor.
 - o For American Indian/Alaska Native children 3 in 10 (30.1 percent or 9,769) were poor.
- In Alaska, a **baby is born poor** every **7 hours**.
 - o A Black baby is born poor every week.
 - o A Latino baby is born poor every 3 days.
 - o A White, non-Latino baby is born poor every day.
 - o An American Indian/Alaska Native baby is born poor every 14 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 **20,000 children (10.0%)** were **uninsured** in Alaska.
- In 2004, **618 babies** (**6.0%**) were born at **low birthweight** in Alaska. This included:
 - o 5.4% of Latino babies and
 - o 5.1% of White, non-Latino babies.
- 31.9% of two-year-olds in Alaska 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, **15.0% of 3-year-olds** and **23.5% of 4-year-olds** were enrolled in **state-funded preschool programs** in **Alaska**.
- In 2005, 1,725 children were enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start in Alaska. Of these:
 - o 3.5% were Black, non-Latino;
 - o 3.6% were Latino; and,
 - o 18.2% 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 **2,040 children in foster care** in Alaska.

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 Alaska:
 - o 76% of Black, non-Latino;
 - o 81% of Latino; and,
 - o 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 Alaska:
 - o For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 9.2 suspensions.
 - o For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 6.1 suspensions.
 - o For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 4.2 suspensions.
 - o For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 8.1 suspensions.
 - o For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 5.6 suspensions.
- In Alaska, the school districts with the highest rates of suspension for Blacks are:
 - o Anchorage School District (8 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled) and
 - o Fairbanks North Star Boro School District (6 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled).
- In Alaska, 8.9% 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 Alaska, there were **4,532 juvenile arrests** in 2005.
- Of the estimated **336 youth in residential placement in Alaska** in 2003, 102 (30.4%) were White, non-Latino.
- There were 37 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities in Alaska.
- Alaska spends 3.7 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, **22 children and teenagers** in Alaska **died of firearm injuries**, including: **7 homicides** and 15 suicides.

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