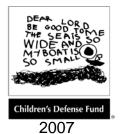
# **Cradle to Prison Pipeline Arkansas**



## **Poverty**

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

- In Arkansas, among all children, 1 in 4 (24.9 percent or 164,510) was poor.
  - o For **Black** children **4 in 9** (46.5 percent or 60,365) were poor.
  - o For **Latino** children **3 in 10** (30.7 percent or 14,514) were poor.
  - o For **White**, non-Latino children **1 in 5** (18.4 percent or 84,471) was poor.
  - o For American Indian/Alaska Native children 1 in 4 (26.4 percent or 1,227) was poor.
- In Arkansas, a **baby is born poor** every **51 minutes**.
  - o A Black baby is born poor every 3 hours.
  - o A Latino baby is born poor every 8 hours.
  - o A White, non-Latino baby is born poor every 2 hours.
  - o An American Indian/Alaska Native baby is born poor every week.

### 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 **70,000 children** (**9.8%**) were **uninsured** in Arkansas.
- In 2004, **3,593 babies (9.3%)** were born at **low birthweight** in Arkansas. This included:
  - o 15.5% of Black, non-Latino babies:
  - o 6.0% of Latino babies; and,
  - o 8.1% of White, non-Latino babies.
- 35.8% of two-year-olds in Arkansas 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, **26.6% of 3-year-olds** and **42.9% of 4-year-olds** were enrolled in **state-funded preschool programs** in **Arkansas**.
- In 2005, 10,942 children were enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start in Arkansas. Of these:
  - o 42.5% were Black, non-Latino;
  - o 12.1% were Latino; and,
  - o 45.5% 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 **3,000 children in foster care** in Arkansas.
- In 2004, there were **7,276 victims of child maltreatment** in Arkansas.

### 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 Arkansas:
  - o 90% of Black, non-Latino;
  - o 79% of Latino; and,
  - o 63% 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 Arkansas:
  - o For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 15.3 suspensions.
  - o For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 4.1 suspensions.
  - o For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 5.6 suspensions.
  - o For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 4.3 suspensions.
  - o For every 100 Asian students enrolled, there were 3.4 suspensions.
- In Arkansas, the school districts with the highest rates of suspension for Blacks are:
  - o Pulaski County Special School District (27 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled);
  - o El Dorado School District (26 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled); and,
  - o Watson Chapel School District (25 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled).
- In Arkansas, 9.6% 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 Arkansas, there were **12,380 juvenile arrests** in 2005.
- Of the estimated **675 youth in residential placement in Arkansas** in 2003:
  - o 312 (46.2%) were Black, non-Latino and
  - o 321 (47.6%) were White, non-Latino.
- There were 353 youth under age 18 incarcerated in adult correctional facilities in Arkansas.
- Arkansas spends 2.5 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, **16 children and teenagers** in Arkansas **died of firearm injuries**, including: **8 homicides**, 4 suicides, and 4 unintentional and undetermined shootings.
- In 2005, 32.1% of Arkansas's high school students were involved in a physical fight.
- In 2005, 9.6% of Arkansas's high school students were threatened or injured with a weapon on school property.
- 25.9% of Arkansas's high school students carried a weapon 2 or more times in the preceding month.