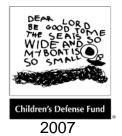
Cradle to Prison Pipeline Rhode Island



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.
 - o For **Black** children **5 in 9** (53.2 percent or 9,036) were poor.
 - o For **Latino** children **4 in 9** (46.7 percent or 19,045) were poor.
 - o 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**.
 - o A **Black** baby is born poor every **16 hours**.
 - o A Latino baby is born poor every 8 hours.
 - o 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:
 - o 11.0% of Black, non-Latino babies;
 - o 8.3% of Latino babies; and,
 - o 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:
 - o 24.6% were Black, non-Latino;
 - o 32.7% were Latino; and,
 - o 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:
 - o 85% of Black, non-Latino;
 - o 89% 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 Rhode Island:
 - o For every 100 Black students enrolled, there were 21.8 suspensions.
 - o For every 100 Latino students enrolled, there were 15.4 suspensions.
 - o For every 100 White students enrolled, there were 7.5 suspensions.
 - o For every 100 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled, there were 11.2 suspensions.
 - o 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:
 - o Providence School District (20 suspensions of Black students for every 100 enrolled) and
 - o 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:
 - o 117 (34.2%) were Black, non-Latino;
 - \circ 30 (8.8%) were Latino; and,
 - o 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.