



# Cradle to Prison Pipeline® Campaign

## CALIFORNIA CHILDREN IN THE PIPELINE



June 2008

CDF's Cradle to Prison Pipeline® Campaign is a national call to action to stop the funneling of tens of thousands of youth, predominantly those who are poor and minority, down life paths that often lead to arrest, conviction, incarceration and, in some cases, death. Race and poverty are the major factors underpinning the Pipeline. We created the Pipeline and we have the power, knowledge and will to dismantle it. The need is urgent.

### KEY FACTS

A Black boy born in 2001 has a 1 in 3 chance of going to prison in his lifetime; a Latino boy a 1 in 6 chance; and a White boy a 1 in 17 chance. A Black girl born in 2001 has a 1 in 17 chance of going to prison in her lifetime; a Latino girl a 1 in 45 chance; and a White girl a 1 in 111 chance. The urgent challenge for each of us and our nation is to prevent this waste of our children's lives and our nation's capabilities.

### Poverty

Poor children lag behind their peers in many ways beyond income; they are less healthy, trail in emotional and intellectual development, and do not perform as well in school. The challenges that poor children face accumulate and interact, casting long shadows throughout their lives. Every year that we keep children in poverty costs our nation half a trillion dollars in lost productivity, poorer health and increased crime.

- In 2006, nearly 1.7 million children in California were poor—that's nearly 1 in 5 (18.1 percent).

### Health Care

The United States is the wealthiest nation in the world, yet children's health status in our country as measured by selected indicators is among the worst in the industrialized world.

- In California, an estimated 763,000 (7.3 percent of all children ages 0-18) were uninsured in 2005, according to the California Health Interview Survey.
- In 2006, more than 1 in 5 two-year-olds (21.5 percent) in California had not received all recommended immunizations.
- In 2005, 37,630 babies (6.9 percent) were born at low birth weight in California. This included:
  - 6.2 percent of Latino babies;
  - 6.5 percent of White, non-Latino babies; and
  - 12.6 percent of Black, non-Latino babies.

### **Early Childhood Education**

Studies reveal that those enrolled in high quality early childhood education programs are subsequently more likely to complete higher levels of education, have higher earnings, be in better health and be in stable relationships, and are less likely to commit a crime or be incarcerated.

- In the 2004-05 school year, 13.2 percent of three-year-olds and 26.8 percent of four-year-olds were enrolled in state-funded preschool programs in California.
- In 2005, 98,432 children were enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start in California. Of these:
  - 11.2 percent were Black, non-Latino;
  - 26.1 percent were White, non-Latino; and
  - 68.7 percent were Latino.

### **Education**

Attainment of a high school diploma is the single most effective preventive strategy against adult poverty. Yet the U.S. has the sixth lowest high school graduation rate among the 30 industrialized market economies.

- In the 2006-07 school year, there were 6.3 million students enrolled in school in California.
- In 2007, a disproportionate number of Black and Latino fourth graders could not read at grade level.
  - In California, 60 percent of White, non-Latino; 87 percent of Black, non-Latino; and 89 percent of 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 the 2006-07 school year, there were 13 suspensions for every one hundred students enrolled in a California school.

### **Child Welfare**

The annual total direct and indirect costs nationally of child maltreatment are estimated to be nearly \$104 billion. Children left with no permanent family connections or a connection with a caring adult have no one to whom they can turn for social, emotional or financial support and face numerous barriers as they struggle to become self-sufficient adults.

- Nationwide, there were 506,345 children in foster care in 2005.
  - Nearly 1 of every 6 children in foster care (16.3 percent or 81,174) lived in California.
- In 2006, there were 89,500 victims of child abuse and neglect in California.

### **Juvenile Justice System and Incarceration**

States spend about three times as much money per prisoner as per public school pupil. Unless we focus our efforts on early intervention and prevention, rather than punishment, we are robbing thousands of youth each year of their futures and our country of vital human resources.

- In 2003, California spent \$28,914 per prisoner but only \$7,552 per public school pupil, a nearly 4 to 1 ratio.

- In 2006, more than one of every 10 prisoners in the United States was incarcerated in California.
- In California, there were 232,849 juvenile arrests in 2006. That is the equivalent of more than 600 juvenile arrests each day.
  - 65,189 of these arrests were for felony offenses—including 238 arrests of children under the age of 10.
  - 131,164 of these arrests were for misdemeanor offenses.
  - 36,496 of these arrests were for status offenses such as truancy, incorrigibility, running away, and curfew violations.
- Of the estimated 16,782 youth detained in juvenile correctional facilities in California in 2003:
  - 3,483 (20.8 percent) were White, non-Latino;
  - 4,278 (25.5 percent) were Black, non-Latino; and
  - 8,208 (48.9 percent) were Latino.

### **Community Violence**

The eight children and teens killed by gun violence each day in our nation is the equivalent of one Northern Illinois University shooting every 15 hours or one Virginia Tech shooting every four days. Yet, unfortunately, it takes tragic events like these to remind us that gun violence in America has reached an epidemic level.

- In 2005, 3,006 children and teenagers in the United States died of firearm injuries.
  - 15.8 percent (474) of these deaths occurred in California.
- Of the 474 children and teenagers who died of firearm injuries in California in 2005,
  - 392 of the deaths were homicides;
  - 54 of the deaths were suicides; and
  - 28 were unintentional or undetermined shootings.

## **ACTION STEPS NEEDED TO PROTECT AND REROUTE CHILDREN FROM THE PIPELINE**

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**It is unacceptable and unsound economically, for the richest nation on earth to allow millions of children to live in poverty, and suffer from preventable sickness, neglect, abuse, low quality education and violence. Instead we must ensure all children survive and thrive and advance successfully to productive adulthoods. Beginning right now, we must:**

- End poverty through investments in high quality education for every child, livable wages for families, income supplements like the Earned Income and Child Tax Credits, job training and job creation, and work supports like child care and health coverage.
- Ensure every child and pregnant woman has access to affordable, seamless, comprehensive health and mental health coverage and services.
- Make early childhood development programs accessible to every child by ensuring such programs are affordable, available and of high quality.
- Help each child reach his/her full potential and succeed in work and life, by ensuring our schools have adequate resources to provide high quality education to every child.
- Expand prevention and specialized treatment services for children and their parents, connect children to caring permanent families, improve the quality of the child welfare workforce and increase accountability for results for children.
- Reduce detention and incarceration by increasing investment in prevention and early intervention strategies, such as access to quality early childhood development and education services and to the health and mental health care children need for healthy development.
- Demand an end to the culture of violence that continues to desensitize many people, young and old, to the value of life and to devastate our communities.

***For more information on CDF-California's Cradle to Prison Pipeline Campaign, please visit [www.cdfca.org](http://www.cdfca.org) or contact Evan Holland at [eholland@cdfca.org](mailto:eholland@cdfca.org) or 213.749.8787.***

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## SOURCES

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### **Poverty**

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2006, Table B17001, at <http://factfinder.census.gov/>.  
Calculations by Children's Defense Fund.

### **Health Care**

Health Coverage: 2005 California Health Interview Survey <http://www.chis.ucla.edu/>

Low Birthweight: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Center for Health Statistics, *National Vital Statistics Reports*, Vol. 56, No. 6 (December 5, 2007), Table 36. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/pubs/pubd/nvsr/nvsr.htm>

Immunization: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2006 National Immunization Survey. Table 26: Estimated Vaccination Coverage\* with 4:3:1:3:3:1 Among Children 19-35 Months of Age by Race/Ethnicity, and by State and Local Area -- US, National Immunization Survey, 2006.  
[http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/stats-surv/nis/data/tables\\_2006.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/stats-surv/nis/data/tables_2006.htm) Accessed 4/15/08.

### **Education**

Enrollment numbers for 2006-07, data as of 9/28/07. CDE Dataquest. Accessed April 14, 2008

Reading at grade level:

Sources: U.S. Department of Education, National Assessment of Education Progress, The Nation's Report Card: Reading 2007 (2007), Table A-9 and

Suspensions and expulsions: California Department of Education, Dataquest  
California School District Expulsion, Suspension, and Truancy Information for 2006-07  
<http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/> Accessed June 17, 2008. Calculations by Children's Defense Fund.

### **Child Welfare**

Number of children in foster care:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau, at <[http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/stats\\_research/afcars/statistics/entryexit2005.htm](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/stats_research/afcars/statistics/entryexit2005.htm)>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau, Child Welfare Outcomes 2003: Annual Report (2006), at <<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/cwo03/cwo03.pdf>>. Calculations by Children's Defense Fund.

Victims of child abuse and neglect: Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Child Maltreatment 2006, Tables 3-3 Calculations by Children's Defense Fund.

### **Juvenile Justice System and Incarceration**

Juvenile arrests: California Department of Justice, Division of California Justice Information Services, Bureau of Criminal Information and Analysis. *Crime in California, 2006*. Table 18

Youth in residential placement: Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement Databook, at <http://www.ojdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/cjrp/>

Spending per prisoner:

U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics 2005 (July 2006), Table 166; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, State Government Finances: 2003, at <<http://www.census.gov/govs/www/state.html>>, extracted May 2006.

U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 2003 (May 2004), NCJ 203947, Table 2. Calculations by Children's Defense Fund.

Number of prisoners: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Prison and Jail inmates at Midyear 2006 NCJ 217675. Appendix Table 1: Sentenced Prisoners Under the Jurisdiction of State or Federal Correctional Authorities, June 30, 2005 to June 30, 2006.

### **Community Violence**

Firearm injury deaths: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, WISQARS, at <<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars/>>, data accessed February 2008.  
Calculations by Children's Defense Fund.

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