Dismantling the Cradle to Prison Pipeline in Houston and Texas

A Study of Solutions

PREPARED BY
American Leadership Forum
Class XXV


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The American Leadership Forum Class XXV focus:
Organizations helping kids find a way out of the pipeline
Social and Economic Costs

African American boys born in 2001 stand a one-in-three lifetime risk of going to prison—six times the rate of whites.

- Lack of “early childhood education” and “education” channels young people into the Pipeline.
- Keeping them in school saves immense sums of money.
- Lack of “After school programs” leaves many with idle and unsupervised time.
- Incarceration costs more than $67,000 per child per year (2009).
- Texas spends more than $76,000/yr per child (2014).
Social and Economic Costs

Hispanic boys stand a one-in-six risk of the same fate.

Anglo boys a one-in-seventeen risk.
Social and Economic Costs

High rates of incarceration are connected with child poverty and educational disparities.

Percentage of Texas 4th graders who cannot read at grade level.

- African-American: 83%
- Hispanic: 79%
- White: 56%
- Asian: 52%

High rates of incarceration are connected with child poverty and educational disparities.

2014:
- $7,246 education vs more than $76,000 annually per child for incarceration

*Texas spends $3k below the national average.

When adjusted for inflation the per-pupil expenditures have decreased by more than $1,400 since 2009.
Human Brain Development

Synapse Formation Dependent on Early Experiences


SOURCE: Houston Collaborative for Children

Read • Sing • Play • Talk to Baby 2 hrs/day

Preschool education is essential to increase positive outcomes
Disparities in Early Vocabulary Growth


*Source:* Houston Collaborative for Children
Introduction: What is the Cradle to Prison Pipeline® crisis?

- Risk factors channel young people into pipeline that leads inexorably to prison
- Prevention and intervention can help them avoid pipeline and prison
  - *Prenatal and Early Childhood*
  - *Education*
  - *Health and Mental Health Care*
  - *Juvenile Justice*
- Decrease expenses to taxpayers
- Improve quality of life and add positive economic contribution by more people
Prenatal Care and Early Childhood Development

Addressing the root causes of poverty effectively and cost-efficiently:

• **Healthy Family Initiatives** *(Not in existence today - $8k spent on family per yr could save $70k in juvenile justice intervention)*
  - Provides in-home visitation programs to at-risk families
  - Prevents child abuse in 99% of cases and improves parenting skills

• **ChildBuilders** *($25/child/yr could save $70,000 / abused child)*
  - Teaches youth about safety, relationships and parenting for less than $25 per child
  - Creates a new generation of nurturing parents

• **Lee High School Infant/Toddler Child Care Center** *(Now under the Trotter Family YMCA program umbrella, 25% of infants entering were behind their developmental stage. After 1 year 100% of children were at or above normal benchmarks.)*
  - Offers affordable on-site child care for up to 24 children
  - Increases infant developmental skills while reducing teen parent dropout rates

Children of impoverished children don’t **choose** to born into poverty
Guiding youth toward college instead of prison:

• **Genesys Works** *(97% of students enroll in college)*
  - Hires and trains at-risk students for 30 major corporations
  - More than 90% of participants go to college after program

• **Pro-Vision, Inc.** *(90% graduate, compared to HISD 49%)*
  - First all-male charter school in the State of Texas
  - More than 90% attendance and graduation rate

• **Cristo Rey High School** *(90% of expenses covered by CIP – Corporate Internship Program, modest tuition)*
  - Gives students means to earn up to 70% of tuition costs through corporate internships
  - Delivers academic, personal and professional development

At-risk children face many barriers to graduation.
Health and Mental Health Care

Addressing the pipeline using health care intervention and treatment:

- **The Harris County Hospital District Community Behavioral Health Program (Now exists as Harris Health Systems)**
  - Offers early, professional interventions for children
  - Provides a strong foundation for health and success

- **The Council on Alcohol and Drugs Houston K.I.N.D.E.Rx. Clinic (Closed)**
  - Helps pregnant women stay drug and alcohol free
  - Minimizes in utero exposure to newborns and substance abuse later in life

- **The Baylor College of Medicine Teen Clinics (9 clinics now. 85% families served at or below poverty level)**
  - Councils and educates teen parents on effective parenting
  - Successfully disrupts a crucial point leading to the Pipeline

The **lack** of mental and behavioral healthcare contributes to keeping people inside the Pipeline.
Juvenile Justice

Channeling children away from the juvenile justice system:

• **Harris County Stay-In-School Program** *(Reduces truancy by 80%)*
  - Focuses on truancy prevention through warning letters, truancy learning camps and media campaigns
  - Reduces truancy by 80% and keeps kids out of juvenile justice system

• **Harris County and Annie E. Casey Foundation** *(Model now reaches one forth of the total U.S. youth population)*
  - Establishes more effective and efficient juvenile justice systems through innovative screening, interventions and system-wide collaborations
  - Reduces the number of children who end up in jail

• **Systems of Hope** *(Closed)*
  - Provides comprehensive, coordinated support services to youth diagnosed with severe emotional disturbances
  - Reduced expulsion/suspension rates by more than half

Nearly 6 out of every 10 children processed through the Harris County Juvenile Detention Center have **behavioral health issues** that likely contributed to their delinquency.
You can help by:

1. Providing financial assistance
2. Volunteering time
3. Contributing expertise
4. Providing training, jobs or internships for those in need
5. Raising awareness of the Cradle to Prison® problem
6. Encouraging others in your network to help
7. Applying these practices in your community
8. Advocating legislative changes that focus on early prevention and intervention instead of costly incarceration

With your help, organizations like those in this report can scale up to positively impact the future of all Houstonians.
Each Day In America:

2 mothers die in childbirth. 4 children are killed by abuse or neglect.
5 children or teens commit suicide. 7 children or teens are killed by guns.
24 children or teens die from accidents. 66 babies die before their first birthdays.
187 children are arrested for violent crimes. 408 children are arrested for drug crimes.
838 public school students are corporally punished.*
847 babies are born to teen mothers. 865 babies are born at low birthweight.
1,241 babies are born without health insurance.
1,392 babies are born into extreme poverty.
1,837 children are confirmed as abused or neglected.
2,723 babies are born into poverty. 2,857 high school students drop out.*
4,028 children are arrested. 4,408 babies are born to unmarried mothers.
16,244 public school students are suspended.*

*Based on 180 school days a year.

http://www.childrensdefense.org/child-research-data-publications/each-day-inamerica.html

Thank you for your time - ALF Class XXV