**Are Our Children Being Pushed into Prison?**

**The Pipeline to Prison:** The U.S. has the highest incarceration rate in the world, and its prisons and jails are overwhelmingly filled with African Americans and Latinos. The paths to prison for young African-American and Latino men are many, but the starting points are often the school and foster care systems.

### From School to Prison

- Students of color face harsher discipline and are more likely to be pushed out of school than whites.
  - 40% of students expelled from U.S. schools each year are black.
  - 70% of students involved in “in-school” arrests or referred to law enforcement are black or Latino.
  - 3.5x black students are three and a half times more likely to be suspended than whites.
  - 2x black and Latino students are twice as likely to not graduate high school as whites.

### From Foster Care to Prison

- Youth of color are more likely than whites to be placed in the foster care system, a breeding ground for the criminal justice system.
  - 50% of children in the foster care system are black or Latino.
  - 30% of foster care youth entering the juvenile justice system are placement-related behavioral cases (e.g., running away from a group home).
  - 25% of young people leaving foster care will be incarcerated within a few years after turning 18.
  - 50% of young people leaving foster care will be unemployed within a few years after turning 18.

### The Color of Mass Incarceration

- Of all males in state and federal prison do not have a high school diploma.
  - 68%

- Of inmates in California state prison are former foster care youth.
  - 70%

### Statistics

- Of incarcerated population vs. of U.S. population:
  - Black or Latino: 61% vs. 30%
  - One out of three African-American males will be incarcerated in his lifetime.
  - One out of six Latino males will be incarcerated in his lifetime.