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.

- 68% of all males in state and federal prison do not have a high school diploma.
- 70% of inmates in California state prison are former foster care youth.

The color of mass incarceration:

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<tr>
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<th>Black or Latino</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Of incarcerated population</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>Of U.S. population</td>
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<td>One out of three African-American males will be incarcerated in his lifetime</td>
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<td>One out of six Latino males will be incarcerated in his lifetime</td>
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