why we can't wait:

A Convening for Mayors Committed to Eliminating Violence Related Deaths of African American Males.



Homicide is the leading cause of death for African American males between the ages of 10 and 24.

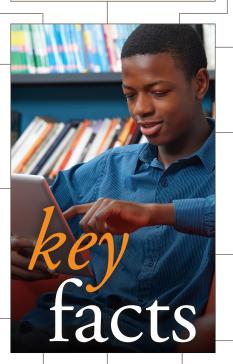
In some states, Black men are incarcerated on drug charges at rates 20-50 times greater than those of white men. Yet, studies show that people of all colors use and sell illegal drugs at remarkably similar rates.

In major cities wracked by the war on drugs, up to 80% of young African American men now have criminal records and are thus subject to legalized discrimination for the rest of their lives.

If current trends continue, one in three young African American men will serve time in prison.

The United States imprisons a larger percentage of its Black population than South Africa did at the height of apartheid.

611,000 Americans were killed on the streets of America between 1980 and 2011, more than all of the Americans lost in WWI, WWII; Korea; Vietnam; the Persian Gulf War; the war in Iraq; and Afghanistan, combined.



It is estimated that as many as 10 million children per year witness or are victims of violence in their homes. Exposure to violence has a devastating impact on a child's development, affecting emotional growth, cognitive development, physical health and school performance.

Every 24 hours in America, 14 young men and boys are gunned down.

African Americans are victims of nearly half of all homicides in America, despite representing only 13% of the population.

Black males in America are incarcerated at a rate of more than 6 times that of white males.

Economists at U.C. Berkeley estimate that every murder drains \$7 million from the community.

No other country in the world imprisons so many of its racial or ethnic minorities.

In some cities, more than half of all young adult Black men are currently under correctional control – in prison or jail, on probation or parole.