

# why we *can't* wait:

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

cities  
united

**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.

**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.

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.

