

HIP-HOP 4 A HEALTHY NYC --- GUNS DOWN BUCKLE UP CAMPAIGN

GUN VIOLENCE AND CAR CRASH FACTS -- END THE TWIN CRISES NOW !

Gun Violence is the #1 cause of Death for Children & Teens—Car Crashes is #2. To end the TWIN CRISES, the Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council, “The People’s Shark” Daymond John and Power 105.1 launched projects in 2024 including: Hip-Hop Drive To Stay Alive Campaign; Hip-Hop 4 A Healthy NYC Project; 105 Days of Summer Podcast; Guns Down Buckle Up Campaign; and a T-Shirt Line to “Raise Awareness and Funds” for each initiative.

Each day **8** Children and Teens are killed in automobile crashes and **7** by firearms. That’s **15 Children and Teens** that died each day from a PREVENTABLE issue that decreases “Life Expectancy.” Every day about 120 people are killed with a gun. The gun homicide rate is 26 times higher than other developed countries. Since 2015, over **19,000 people** have been shot and wounded or killed in a Mass Shooting. In 2023 there were **604 Mass Shootings**, 754 people were killed, with 2,443 wounded. Every year more than **43,000 citizens** are killed with guns and approximately 76,000 more are shot and wounded. In 2023, **46,728** people died from guns, which decreased over 2022, which had **48,204** deaths, a 3% decrease, but still **the 3rd highest** ever recorded.

On a sad note, gun deaths among children under 18 years old rose from **2,542** in 2022 to **2,581** in 2023, a **1.5%** increase. Even though that’s slightly lower than the record set in 2021, it’s still an average of **7 kids killed each day** and more than double the death toll endured in 2013 when 1,249 children died from gunshots. Gun deaths among U.S. children and teens rose **50% in 2 years** between 2019 and 2021. As of October 2024 there were over 200 incidents of gunfire on school grounds, resulting in 52 deaths and 120 injuries nationally, and the year is not over yet. There were **20 school shootings in 1970** and over **346 in 2023**, with 21 deaths and 227 injuries. When it comes to gun violence, escalation of disputes, accidents and suicide represent the big 3 causes. Nearly **6 out of 10** gun deaths are suicides, that’s an average of **69 per day**. Gun suicides in the U.S. increased to a record high in 2023, with 27,300 people dying by a firearm. Suicides accounted for 58% of all gun deaths in 2023 and Homicides for about 37%.

Teen drivers aged 15-19 made up 3.6% of licensed drivers in the U.S. as of 2022 and accounted for 7% of all fatal crashes. In 2022, **2,883** teen drivers 13-19 died in car crashes or nearly **8 per day**, this was 7% fewer than 2021. In 2022, **42,514** people died in car crashes, compared to **40,990** in 2023, a 3.6% decrease. In addition, 1,664,508 crashes resulted in injuries. Out of **42,514** car crashes deaths in the U.S., **5,239 (13%)**, were caused by young drivers. Speeding represented **40%** and Drunk Driving caused **28%** of deaths.

According to NHTSA in 2023 fatal and serious traffic crashes caused a total of **\$1.85 trillion** in the value of societal harm, which includes **\$460 billion in economic cost** and **\$1.4 trillion** in quality-of-life cost. On average a hospital bill for the ER visit is \$3,300, and an impatient hospitalization is \$57,000. In addition, serious injuries can cost over \$100,000 for surgery and long term care. By some estimates, firearm violence costs around **\$557 billion** in 2022 including: \$2.8 billion on health care, mental health and emergency services; \$63.8 billion on Work-Loss Costs; \$11.0 billion on Police and Criminal Justice Costs; \$0.5 billion on Employer Costs; and \$489.1 billion on Quality-of-Life Costs. Add **\$557 billion** from gun violence costs to the **\$1.85 Trillion** from automobile accident costs and you get a combined cost of **\$2.407 trillion for Firearm and Automobile deaths and injuries**. Both are preventable and continue to decrease “Life Expectancy” rates, as well as have a devastating impact on the quality of life for Children, Teens and “Tax Paying Citizens.”

The U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, M.D. declared gun violence a **“Public Health Crisis” 6/25/24**. Gun violence impacts the psychological and mental health of children and teens. This affects their school performance, amongst other factors. When homes, neighborhoods, and schools are not safe from gun violence, entire generations are impacted. Children should experience a childhood free from crime and violence so they can have the same opportunity we had to develop into productive citizens. Community, Business and Political leaders must take the blame for their inability to end a crisis which destroys Black and Brown communities through lower property value, fewer new businesses, crime, violence, a loss of jobs and economic opportunities. We need new energy and ideas to help the next generation become successful law abiding citizens and through this initiative we will accomplish that task.