



US Child Health Trends

Compiled by AAP Research Staff

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American Academy of Pediatrics

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- At the bottom of each slide, the data source is given, and a link is provided for those seeking more information about the data source and possible data limitations.

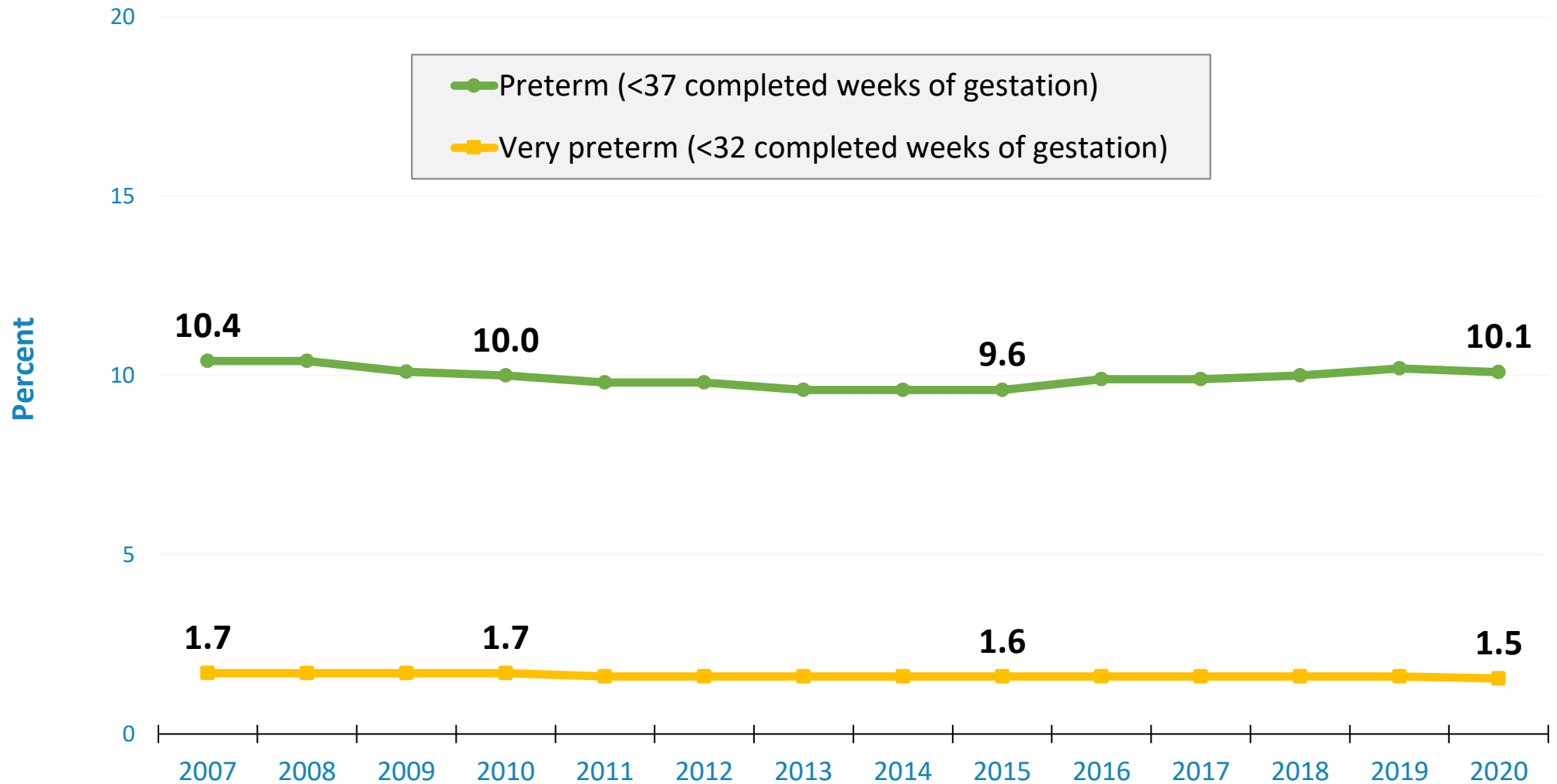


Child Health Trends

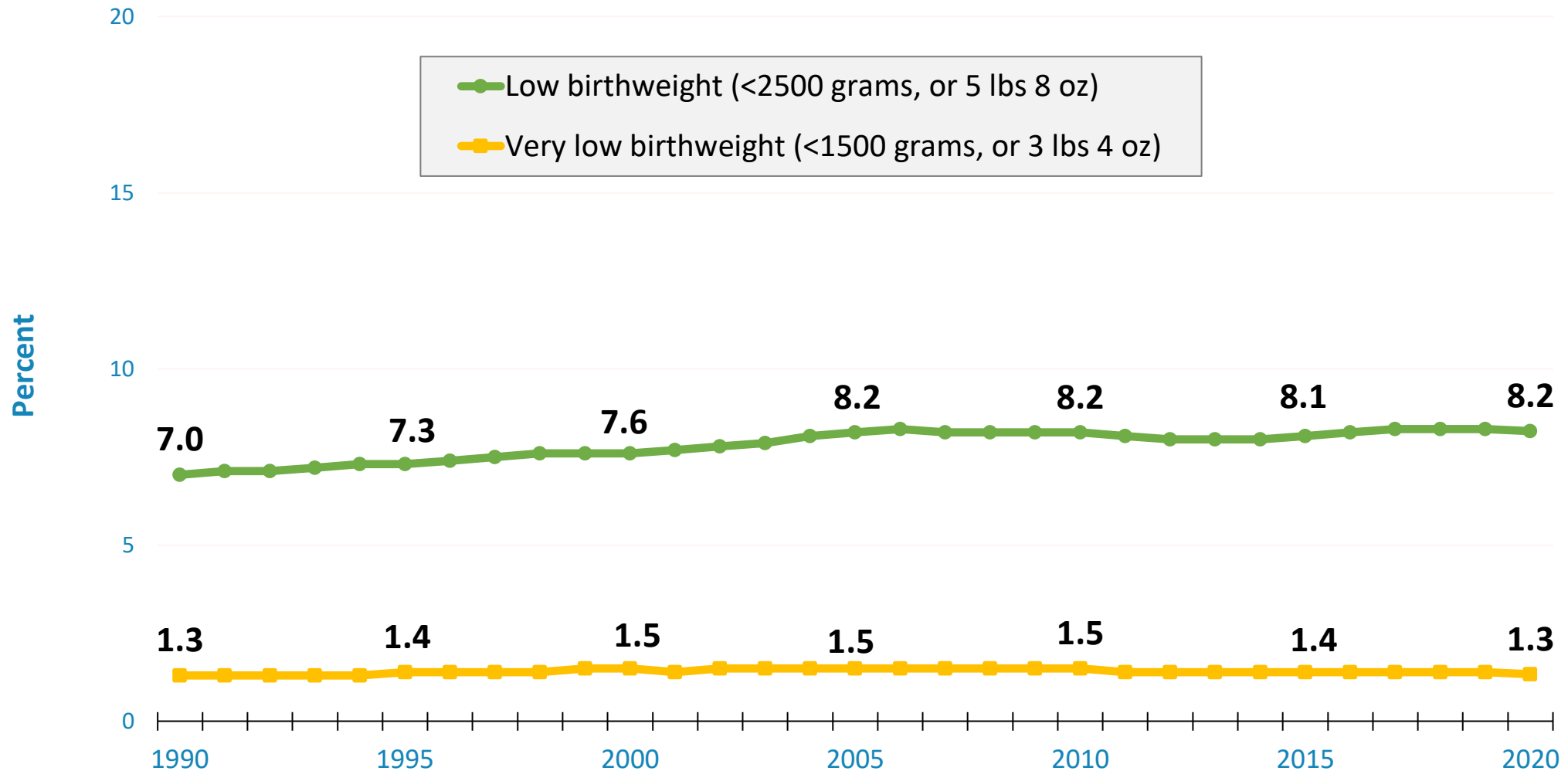
- Preterm birth and low birthweight
- Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
- Infant mortality
- Child/adolescent injury and mortality
- Suicide and suicidal behavior
- Youth major depressive episodes
- Mental health diagnoses
- Adolescent alcohol use
- Adolescent cigarette use/vaping
- Asthma
- Activity limitation/disability
- ADHD
- Obesity
- Breastfeeding



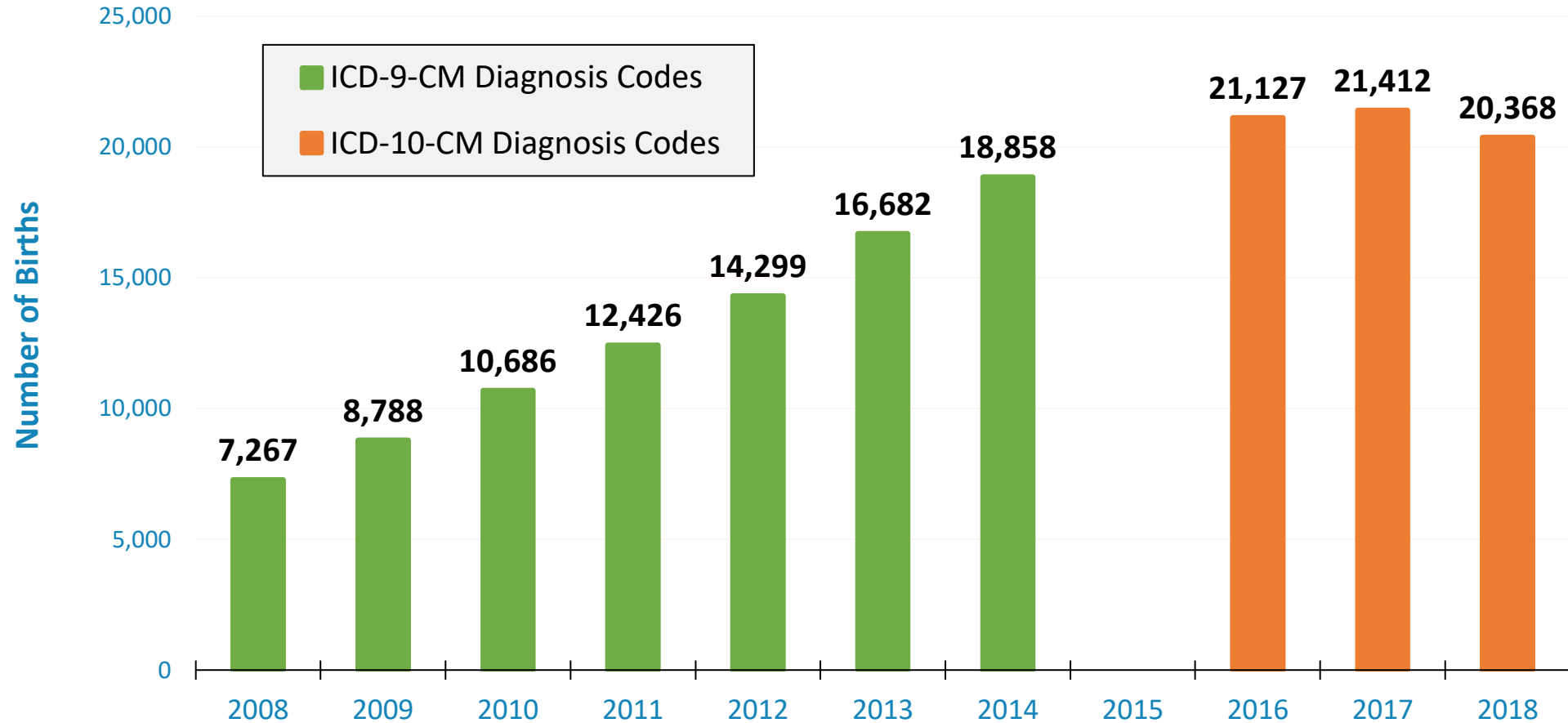
% of US Infants Born Preterm, 2007-2020



% of US Infants Born with Low Birthweight, 1990-2020



Number of US[^] Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Births, 2008-2018*



[^]Estimates for 2008–2018 include data from the following in all years: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

*Data for 2015 are not shown due to the transition from ICD-9-CM to ICD-10-CM on October 1, 2015.

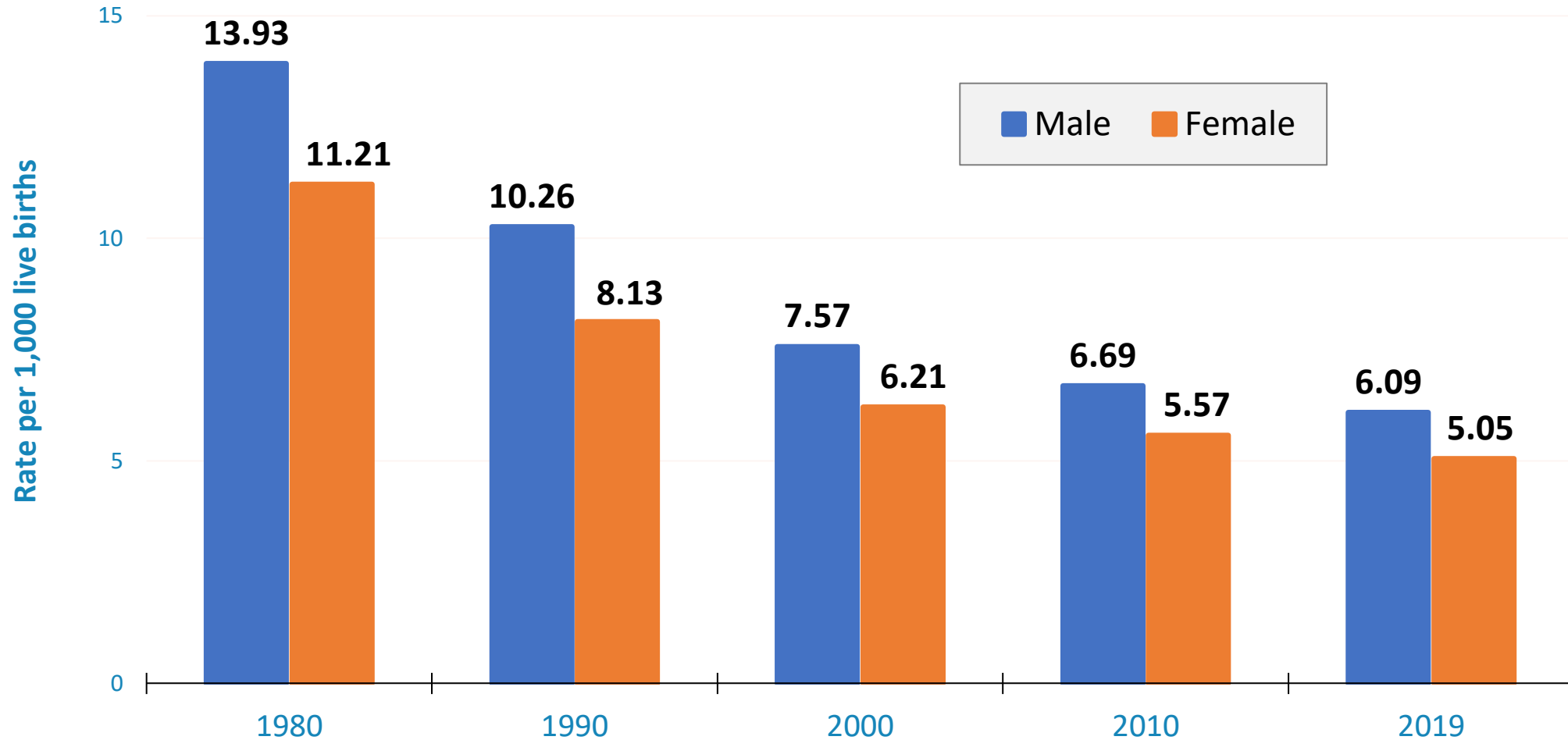
Source: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP), State Inpatient Databases (<https://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/reports/ataglance/HCUPtrendsNASbirthsUS.pdf>)

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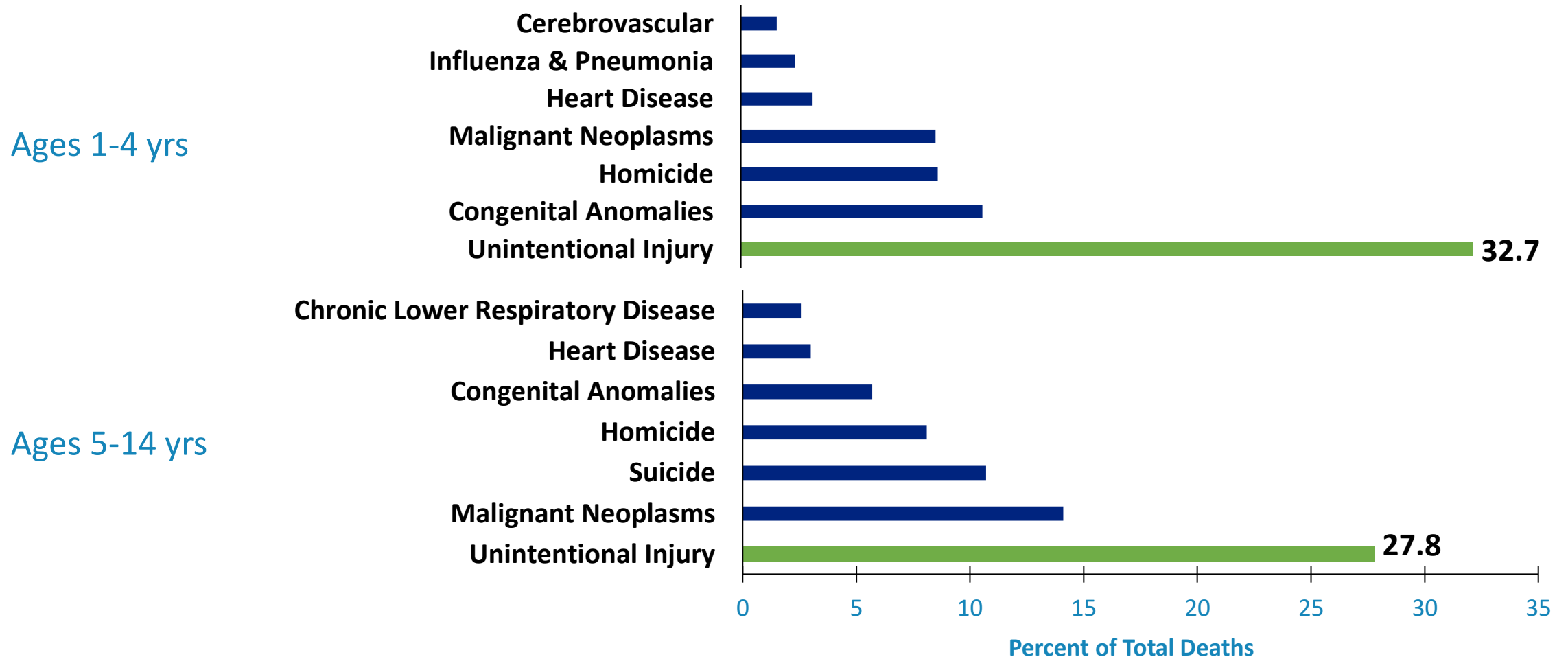
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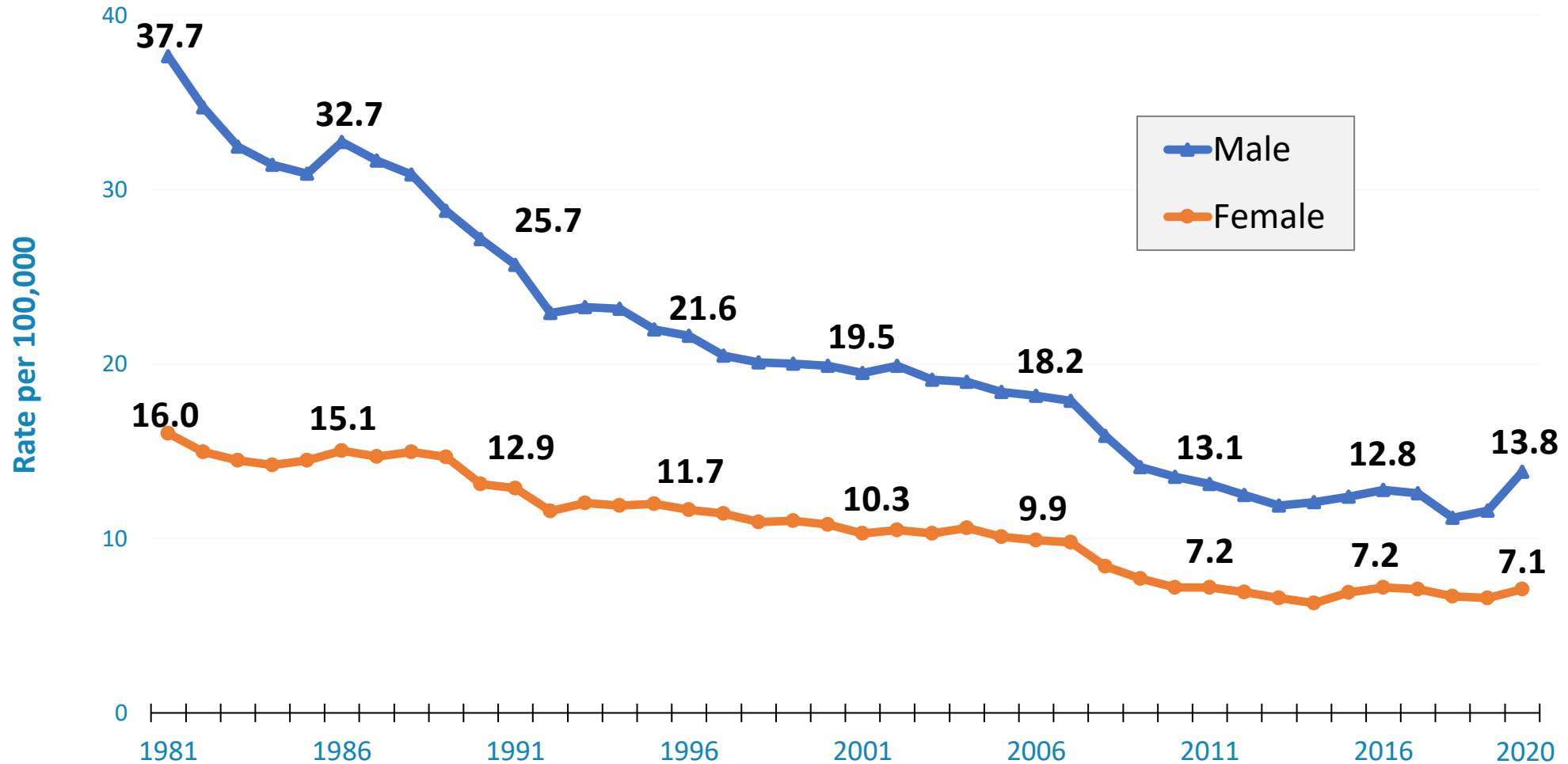
US Infant Mortality Rates (per 1,000 Live Births) by Gender, 1980-2019



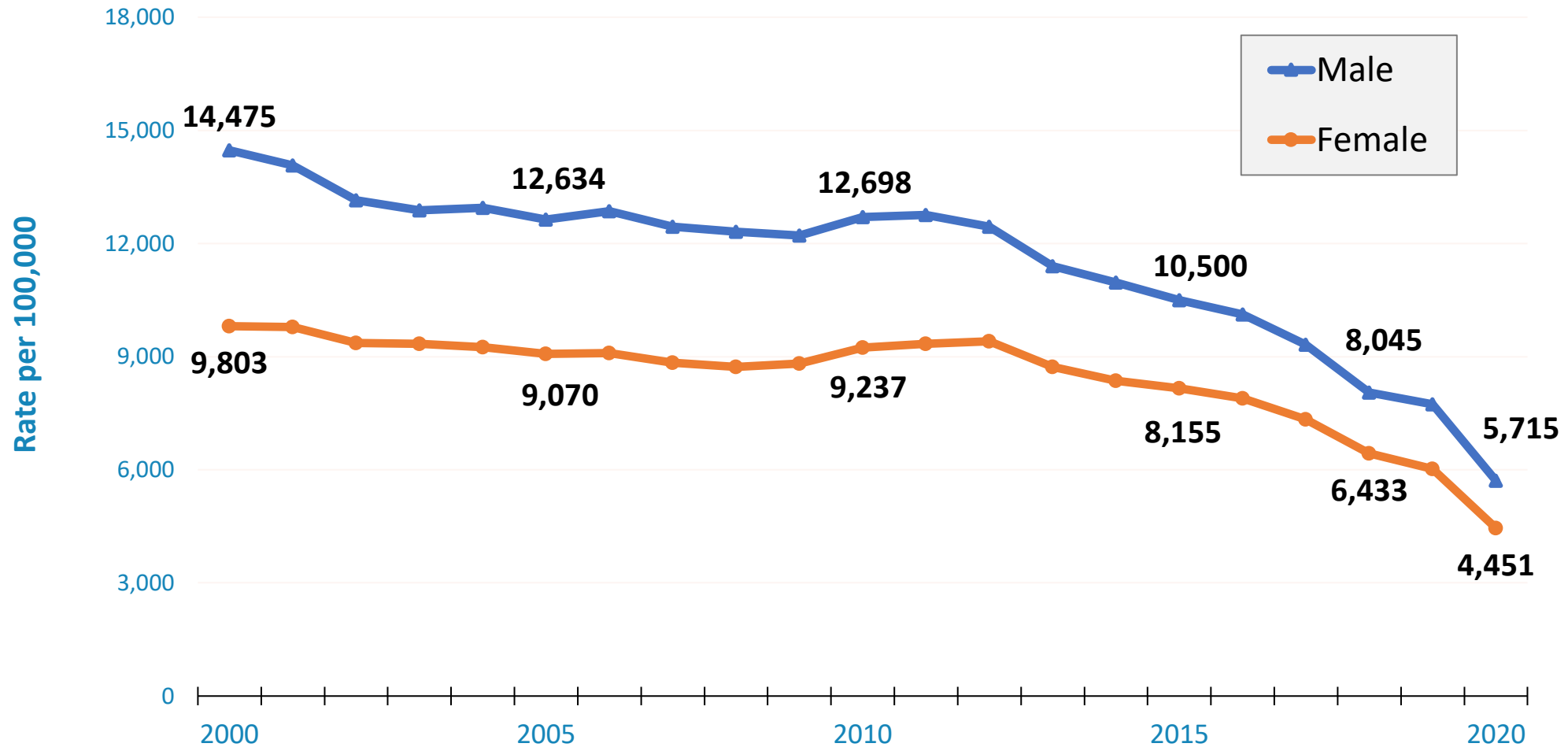
Leading Causes of Death among US Children (Ages 1-14) by Age Group, 2020



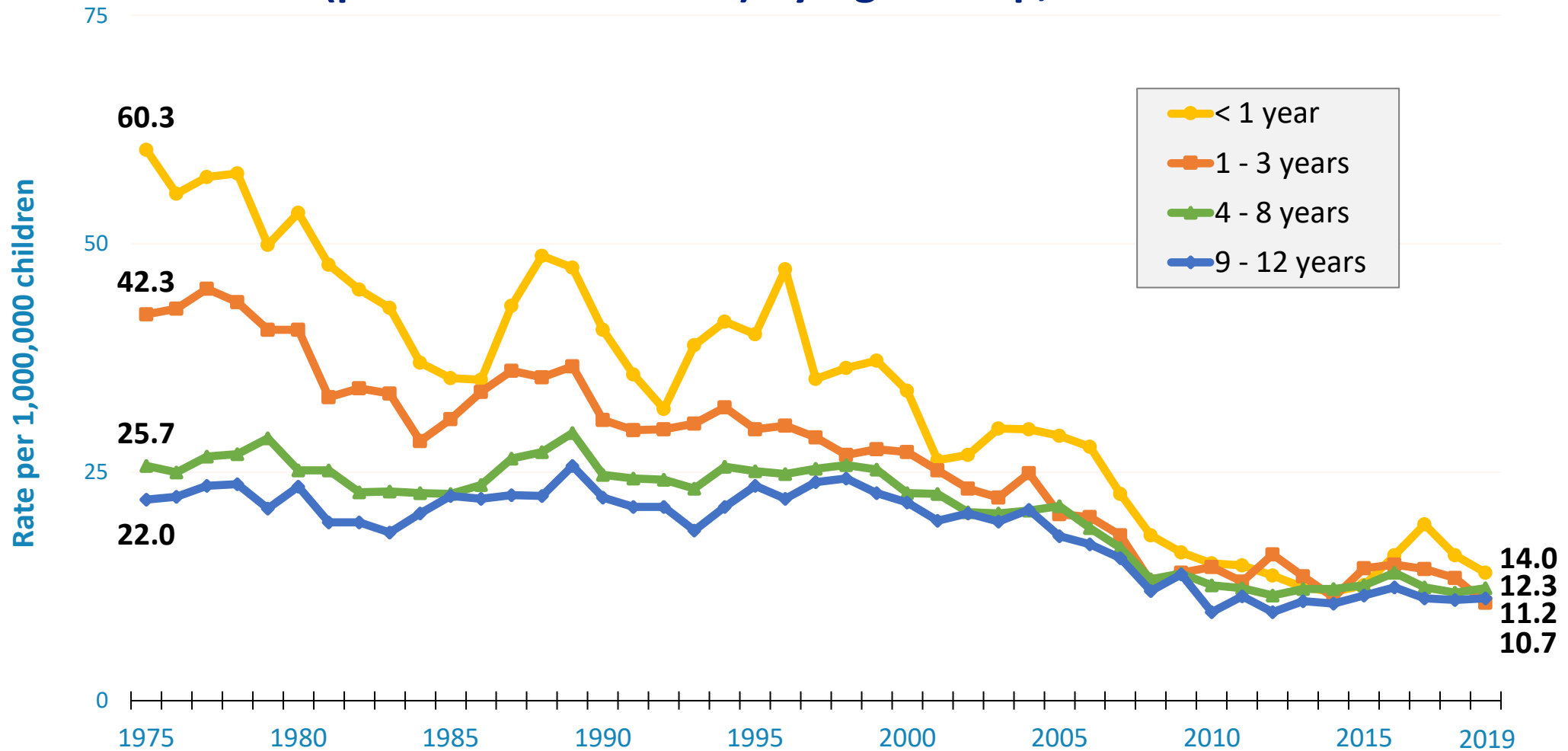
Fatal Unintentional Injuries (Rate per 100,000) among US Children (Ages 0-19) by Gender, 1981-2020



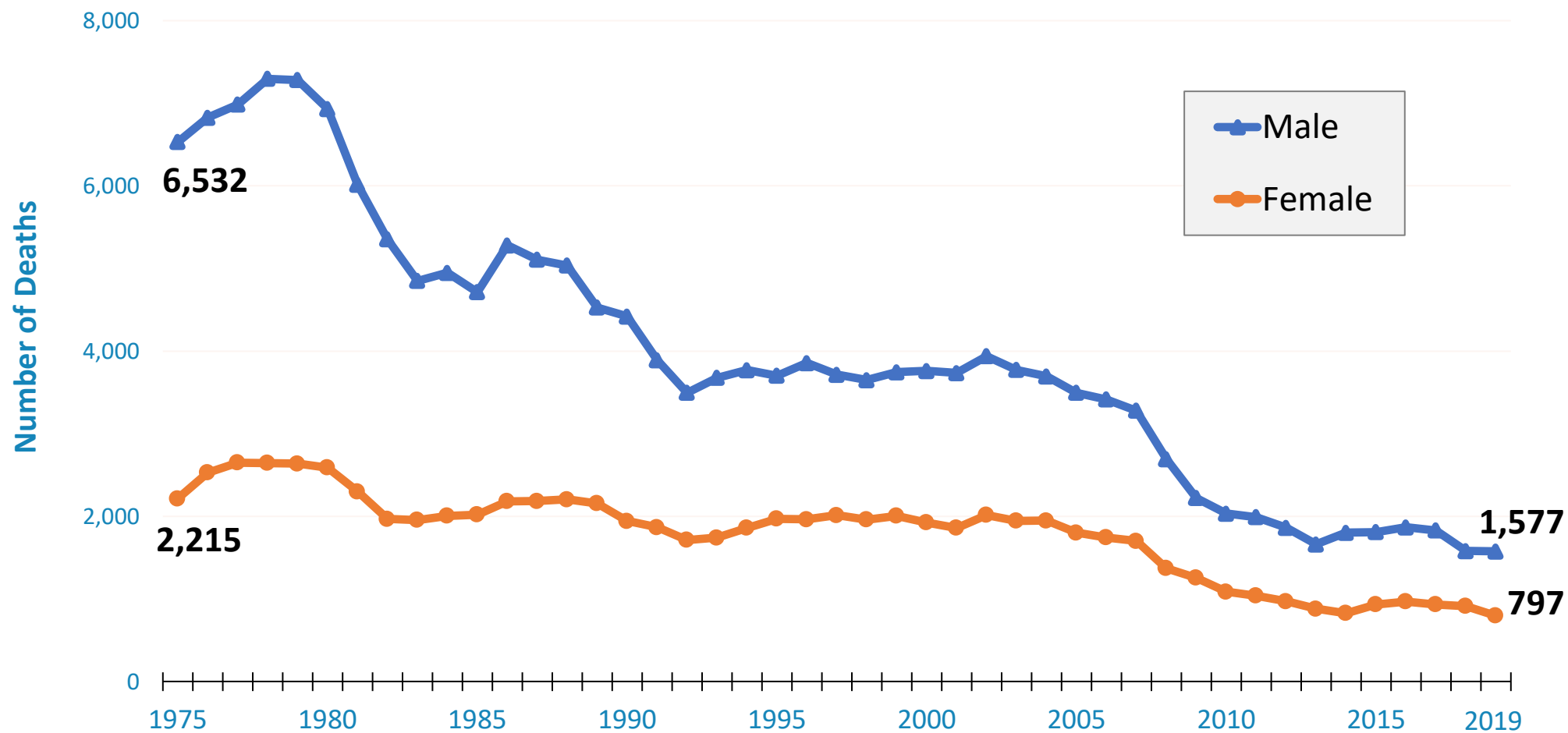
Non-Fatal Unintentional Injuries Treated in Emergency Rooms (Rate per 100,000) among US Children (Ages 0-19) by Gender, 2000-2020



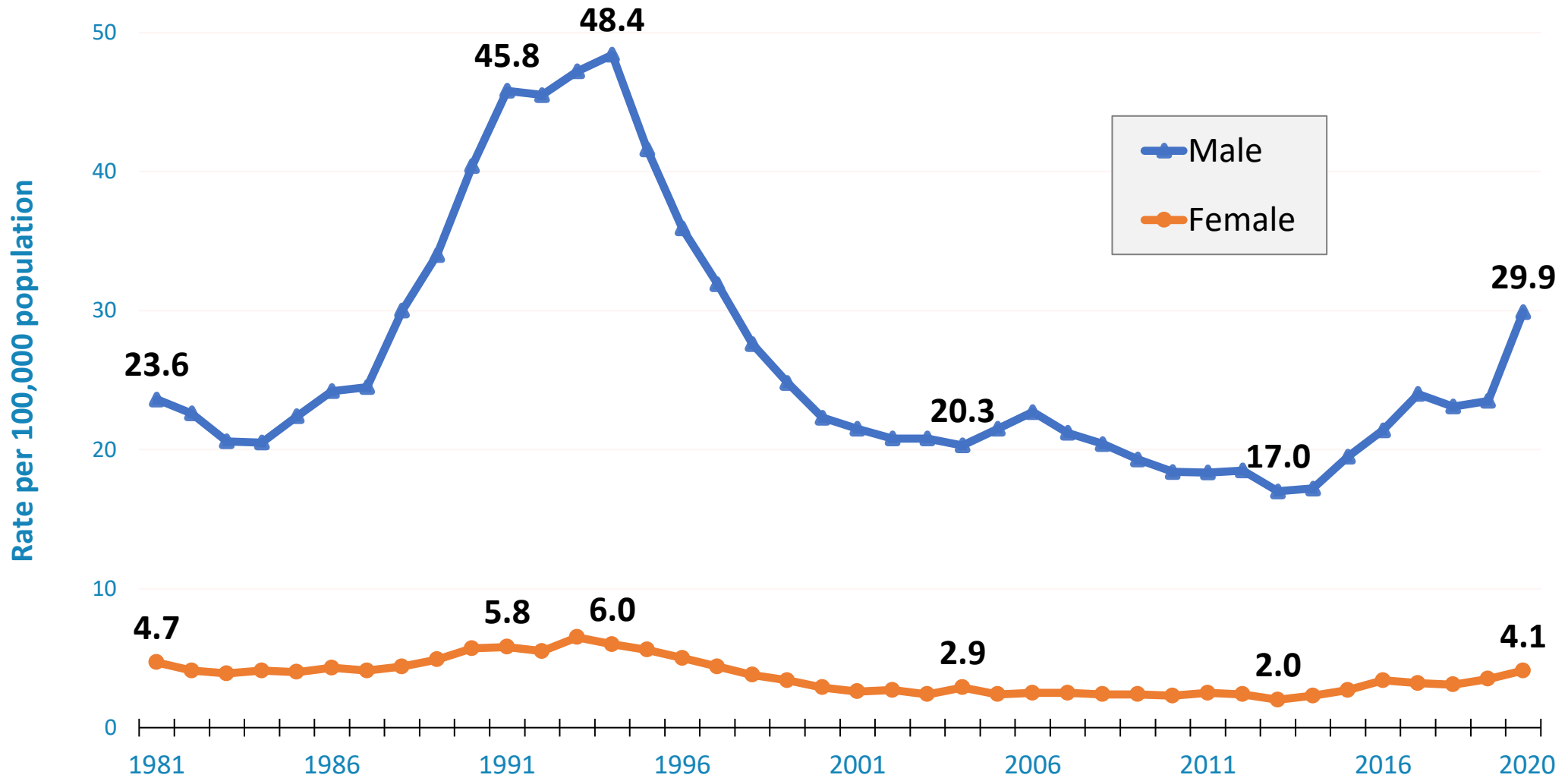
US Passenger Vehicle Child Occupant Deaths (per Million Children) by Age Group, 1975-2019



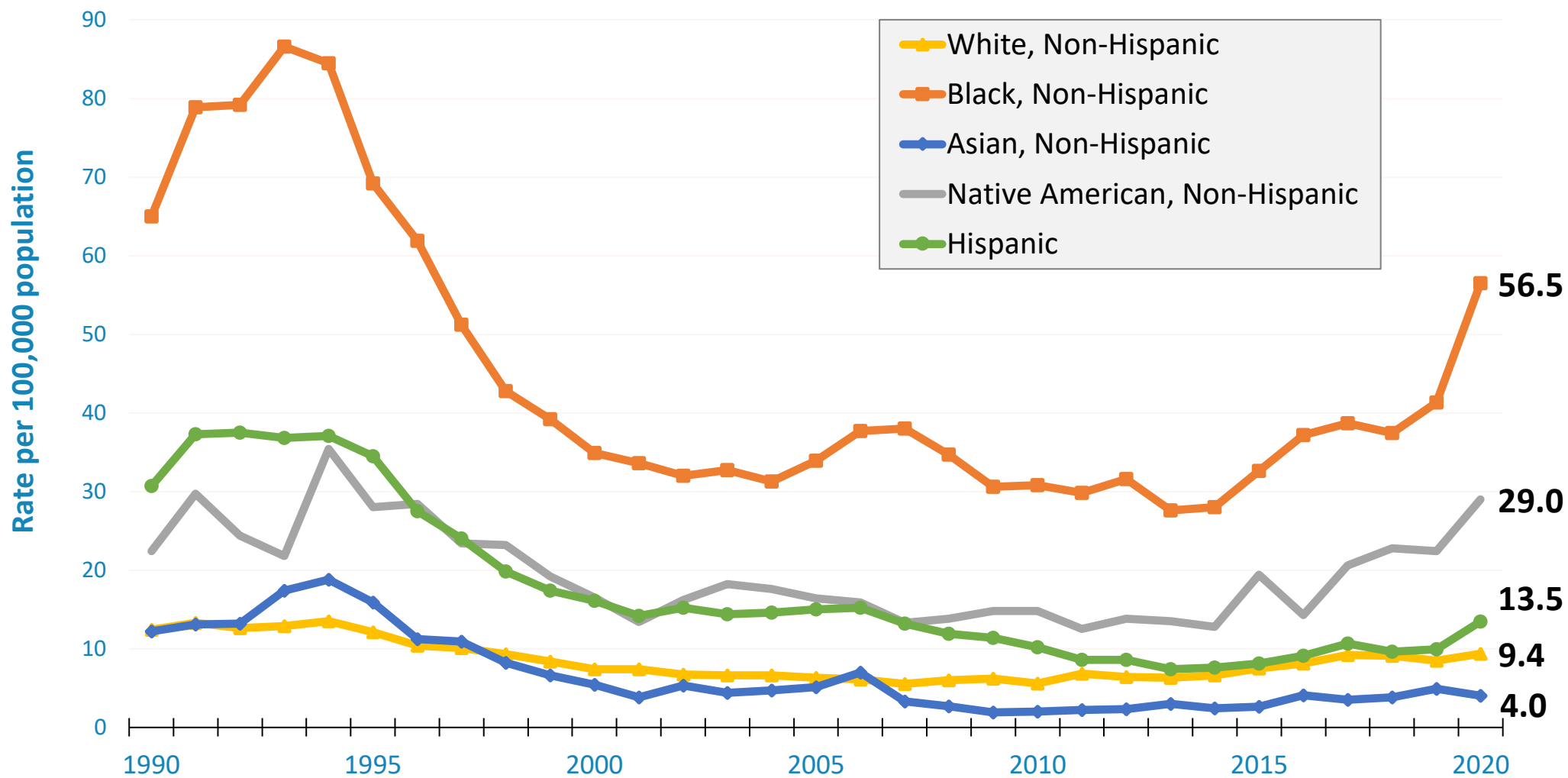
US Teenage (Ages 13-19) Motor Vehicle Crash Deaths by Gender, 1975-2019



US Teenage (Ages 15-19) Firearm-Related Deaths by Gender, 1981-2020

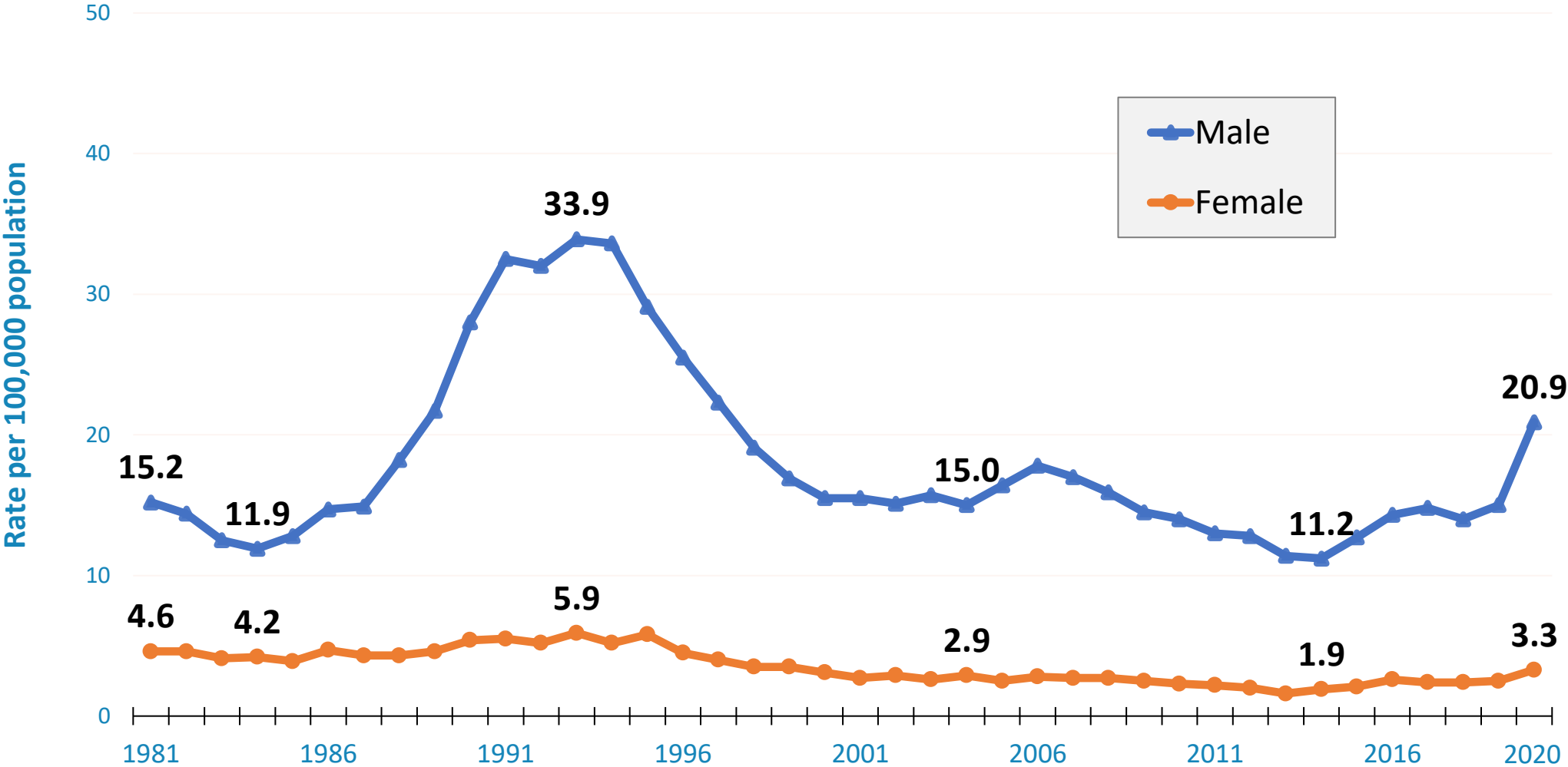


US Teenage (Ages 15-19) Firearm-Related Deaths by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2020



Source: CDC/National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, WISQARS fatal injury reports (<https://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal.html>)

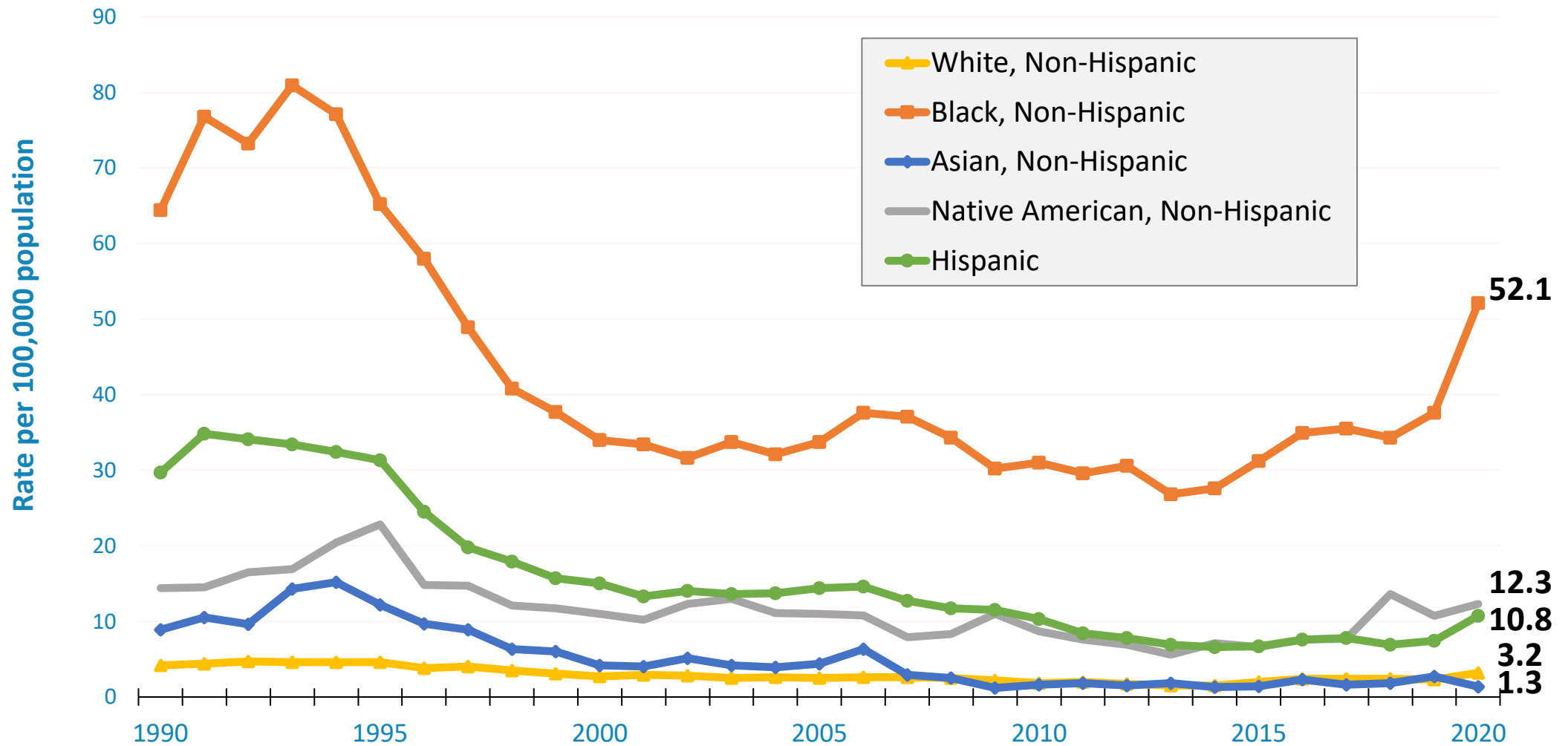
US Teenage (Ages 15-19) Homicide Deaths by Gender, 1981-2020



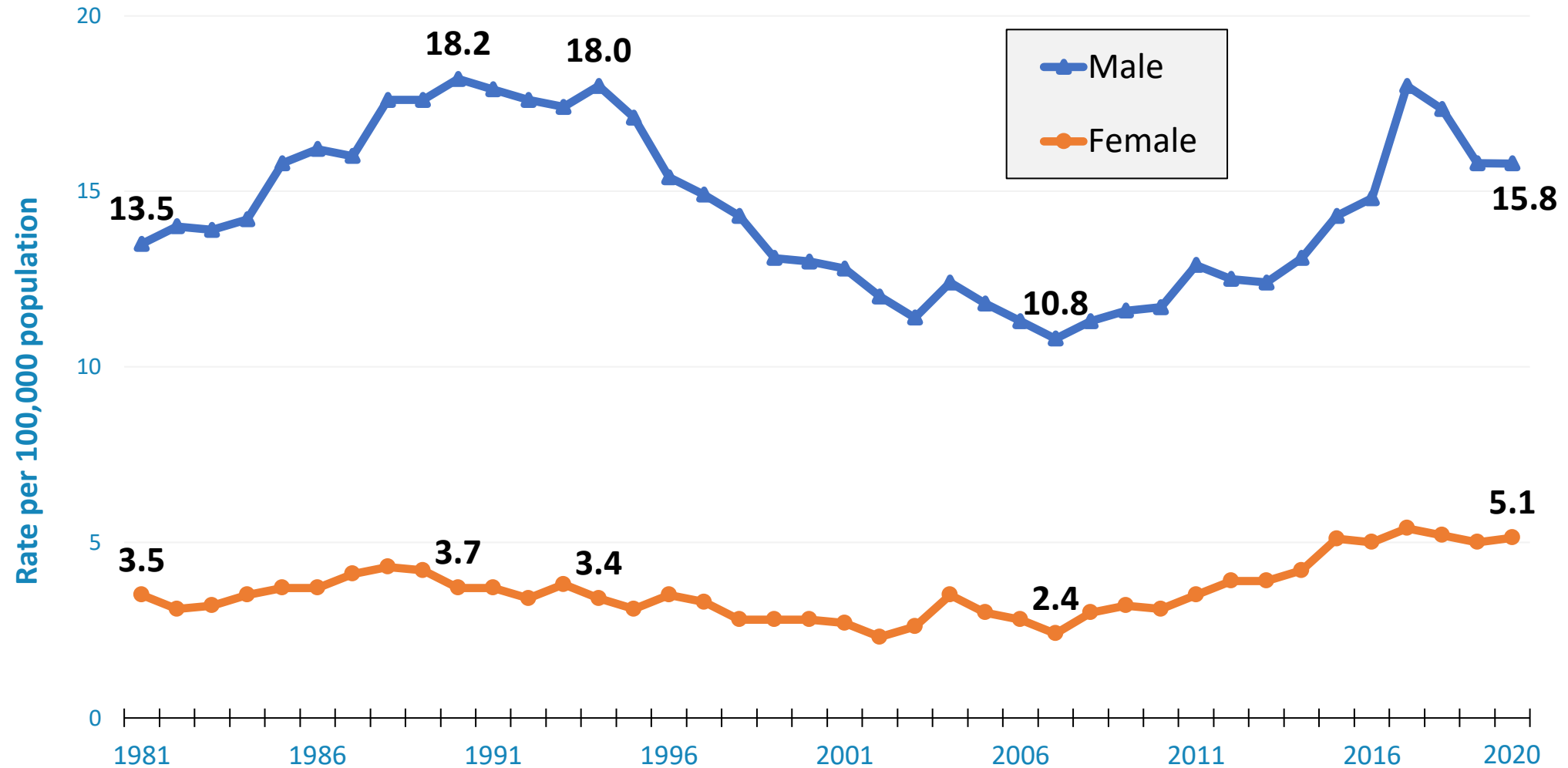
Source: CDC/National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, WISQARS fatal injury reports (<https://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal.html>)



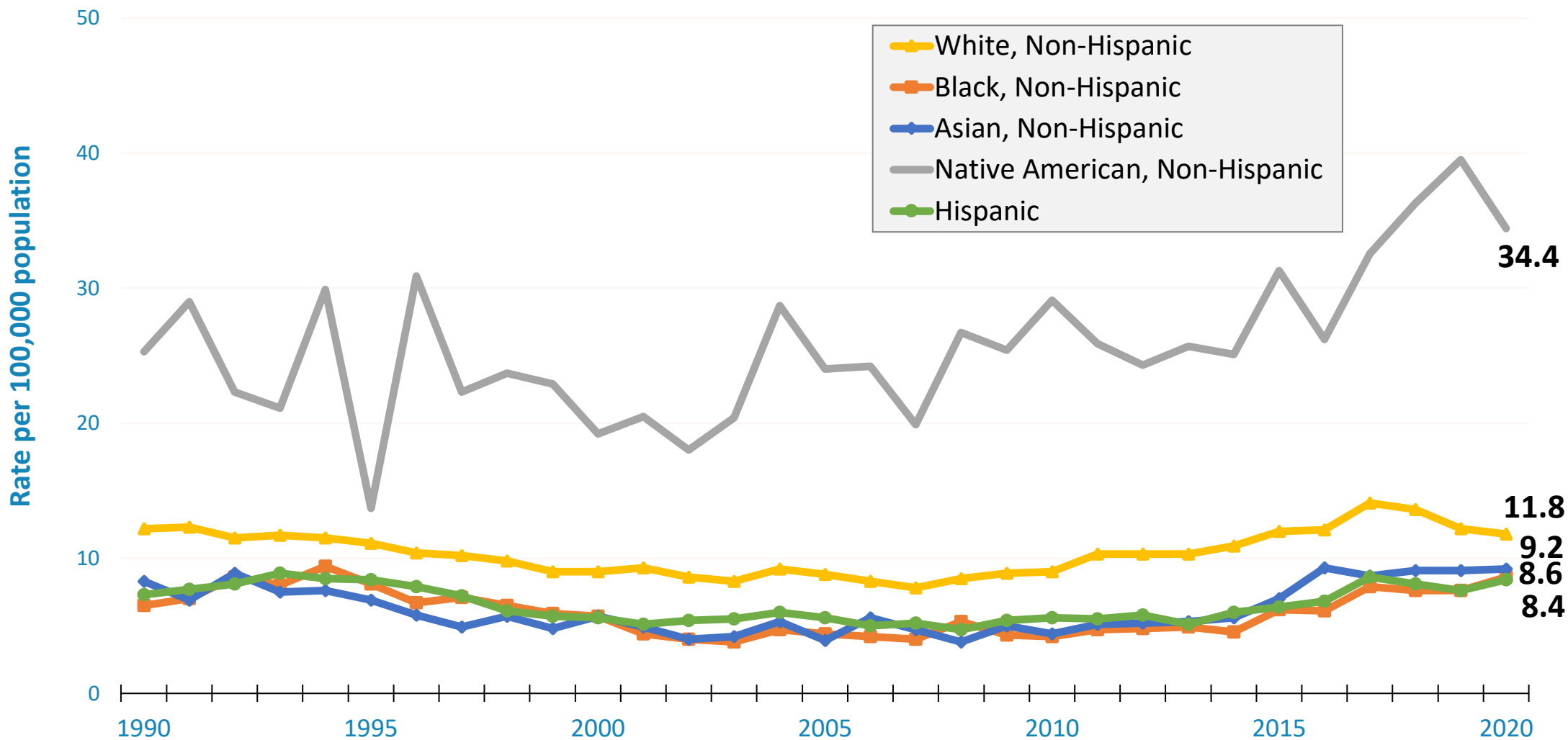
US Teenage (Ages 15-19) Homicide Deaths by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2020



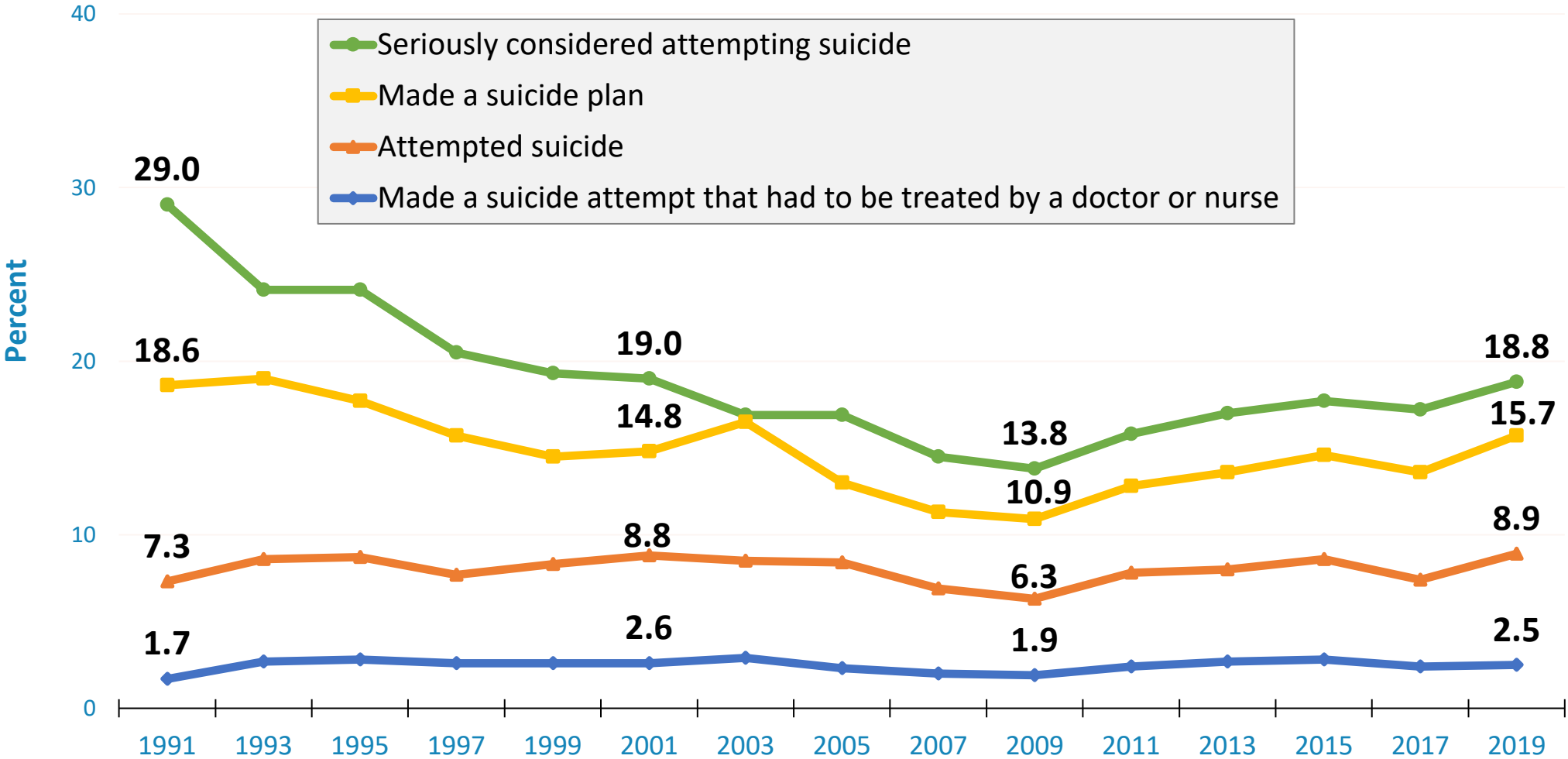
US Teenage (Ages 15-19) Suicide Deaths by Gender, 1981-2020



US Teenage (Ages 15-19) Suicide Deaths by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2020



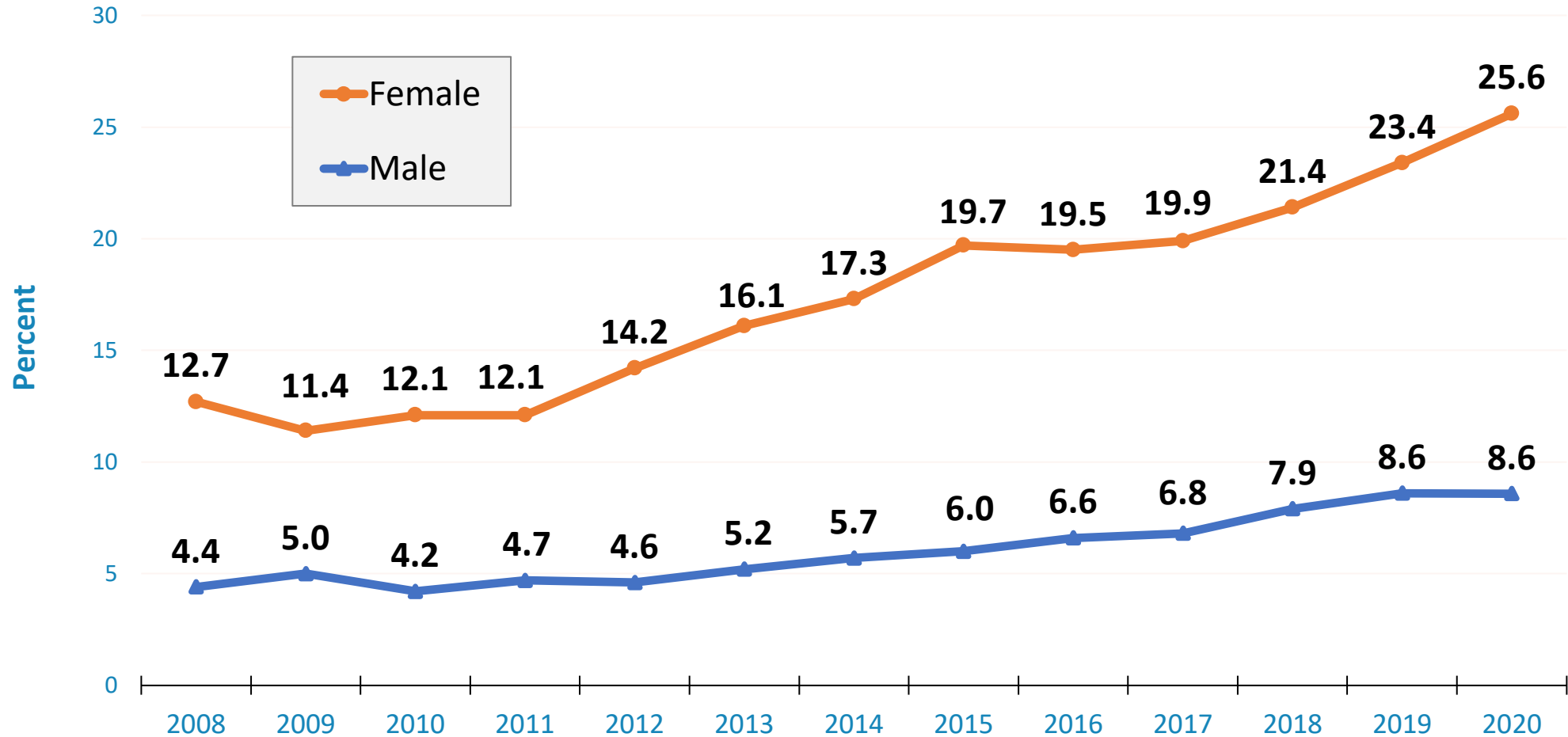
% of US Students (9th - 12th Graders) Who Reported Suicide-Related Behavior, 1991-2019



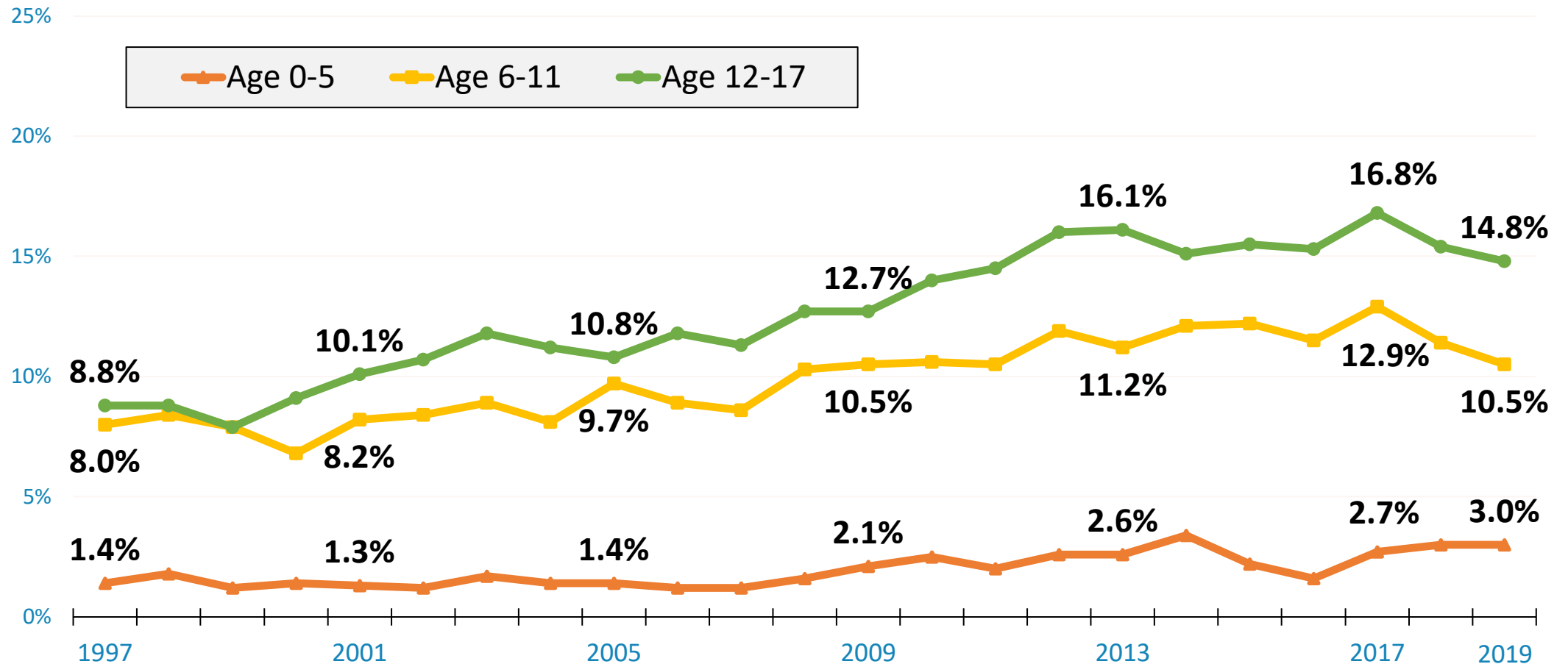
Source: CDC/Division of Adolescent and School Health, Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)
https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/factsheets/2019_suicide_trend_yrbs.htm



% of US Youth (Ages 12-17) Who Reported a Major Depressive Episode in the Past Year by Gender, 2008-2020



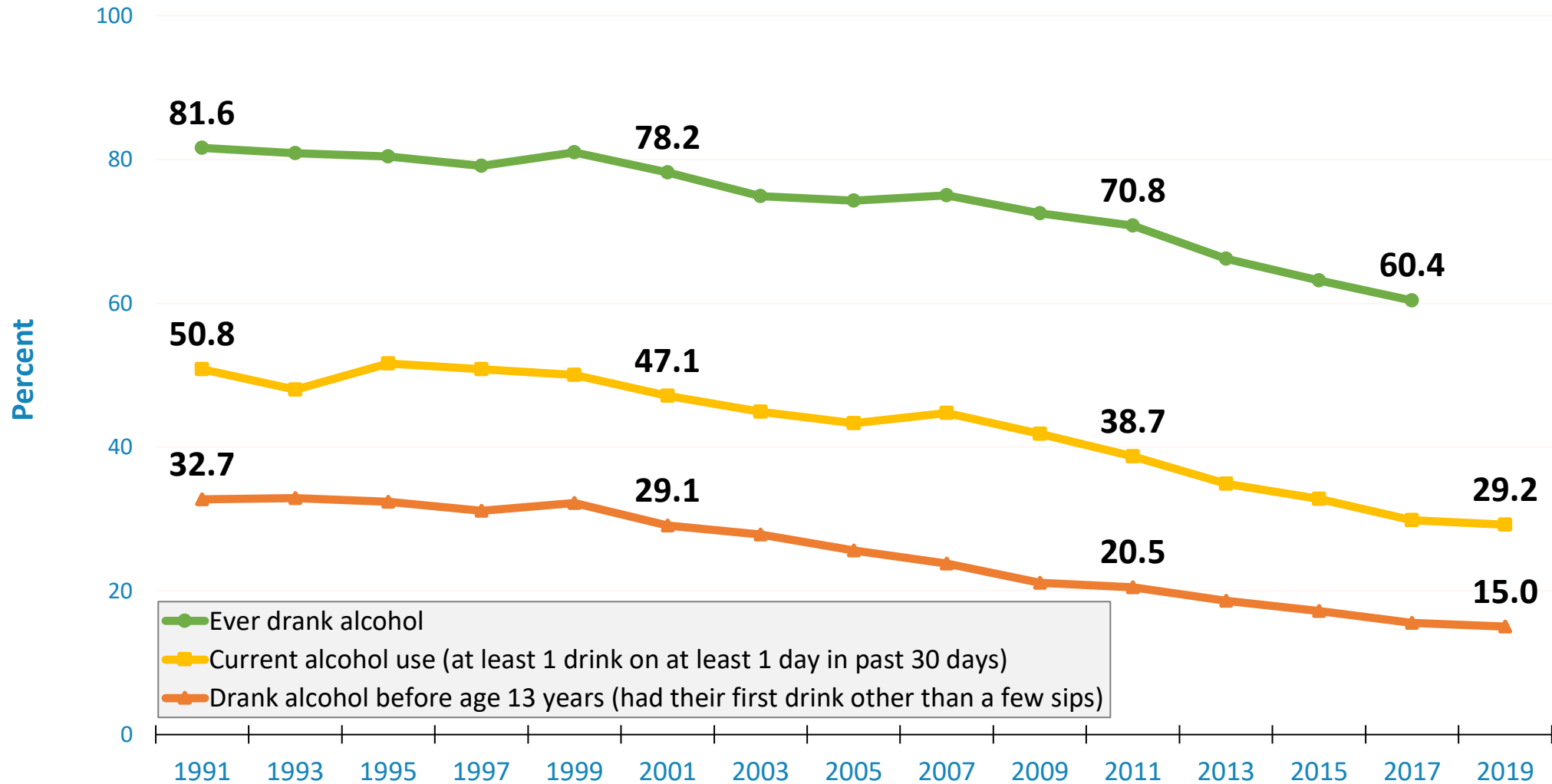
% of US Children (Ages 0-17) with Any Mental Health Diagnosis* by Age Group, 1997-2019



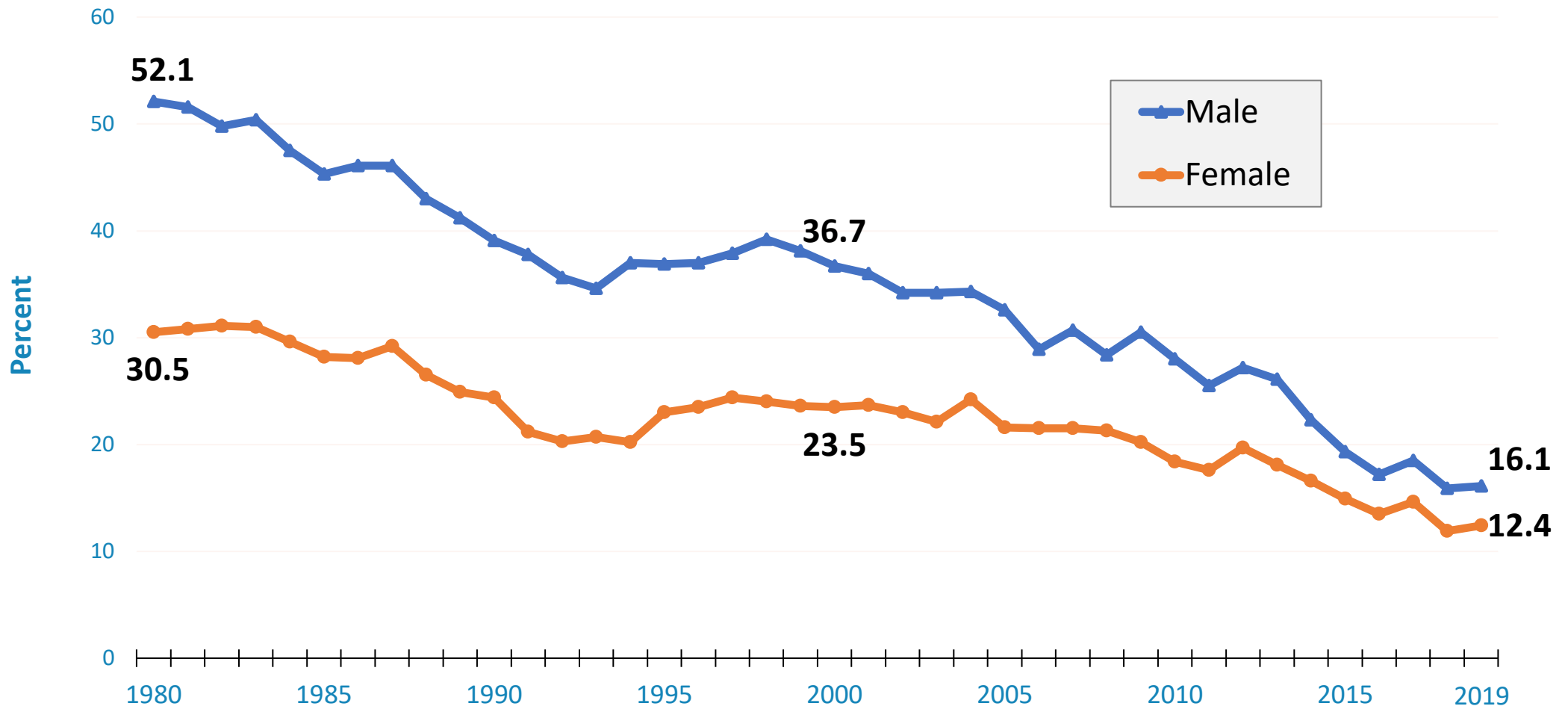
*Mental health diagnosis is defined broadly - it includes adjustment disorders; anxiety disorders; attention-deficit/conduct/disruptive behavior disorders; cognitive disorders; developmental disorders; impulse control disorders; mood disorders; personality disorders; psychotic disorders; alcohol/substance-related disorders; suicide and intentional self-inflicted injury; and other miscellaneous mental health disorders.



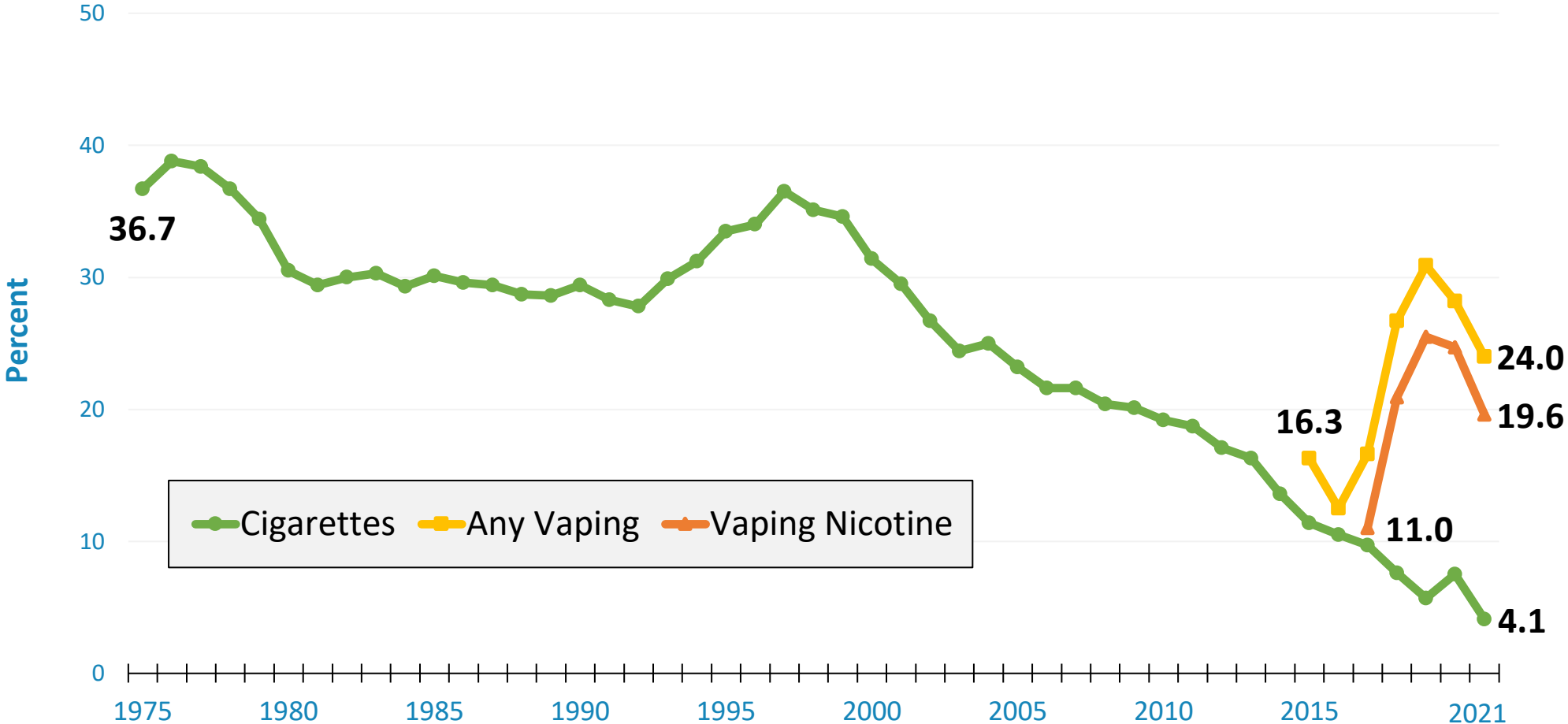
% of US Students (9th - 12th Graders) Who Reported Alcohol Use, 1991-2019



% of US 12th Grade Students Who Reported Having 5 or More Alcoholic Beverages in a Row in the Past 2 Weeks by Gender, 1980-2019



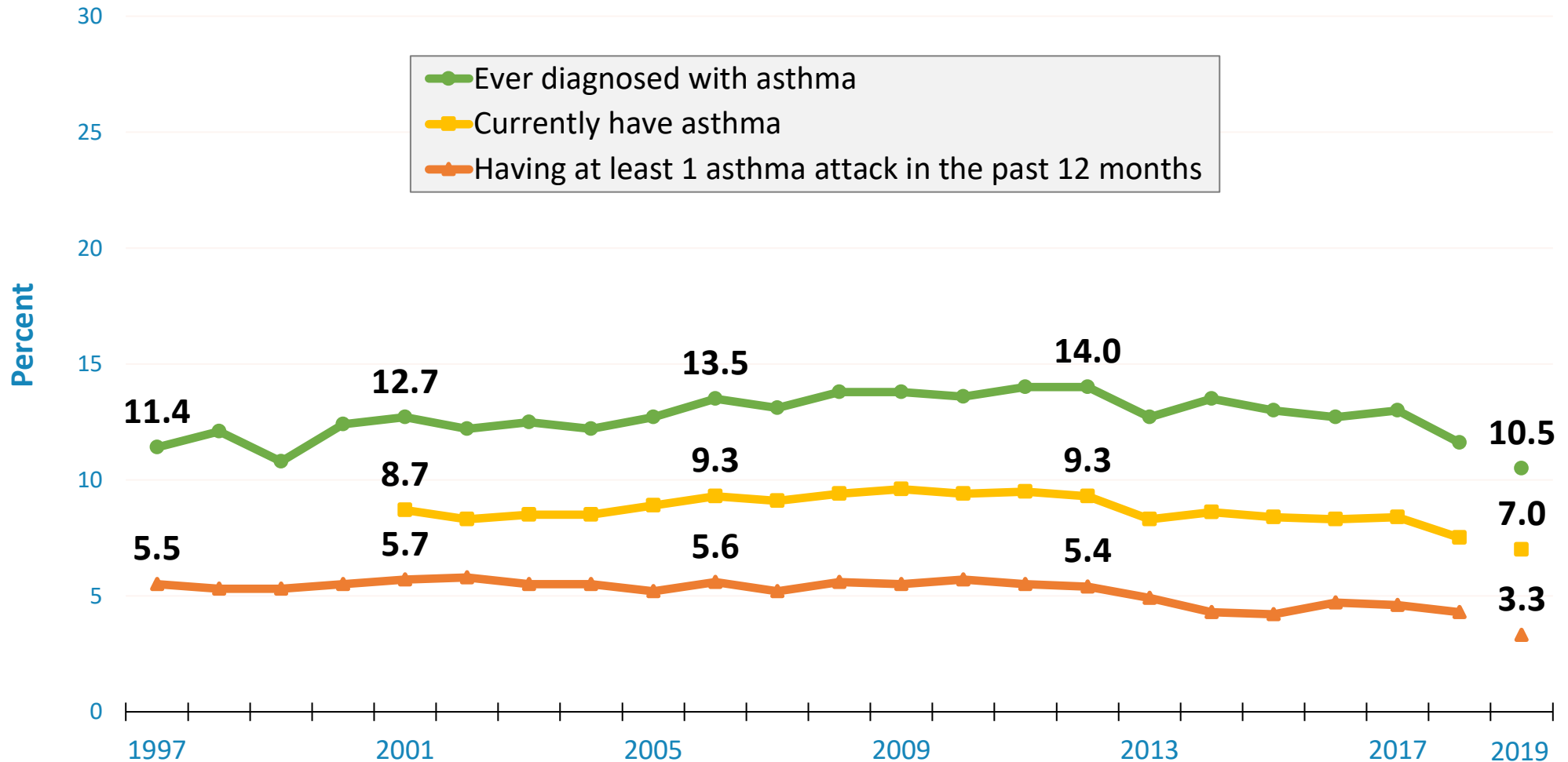
% of US 12th Grade Students Who Reported Cigarette Use and Vaping in the Past 30 Days, 1975-2021



Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse and University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research, Monitoring the Future Survey (http://monitoringthefuture.org/pubs/monographs/mtf-vol1_2020.pdf and <http://www.monitoringthefuture.org/data/21data/table3.pdf>)



% of US Children (Ages 0-17) with Asthma According to Parent Report, 1997-2019*



*Estimates for 2019 and beyond are not directly comparable to previous years due to a survey re-design.

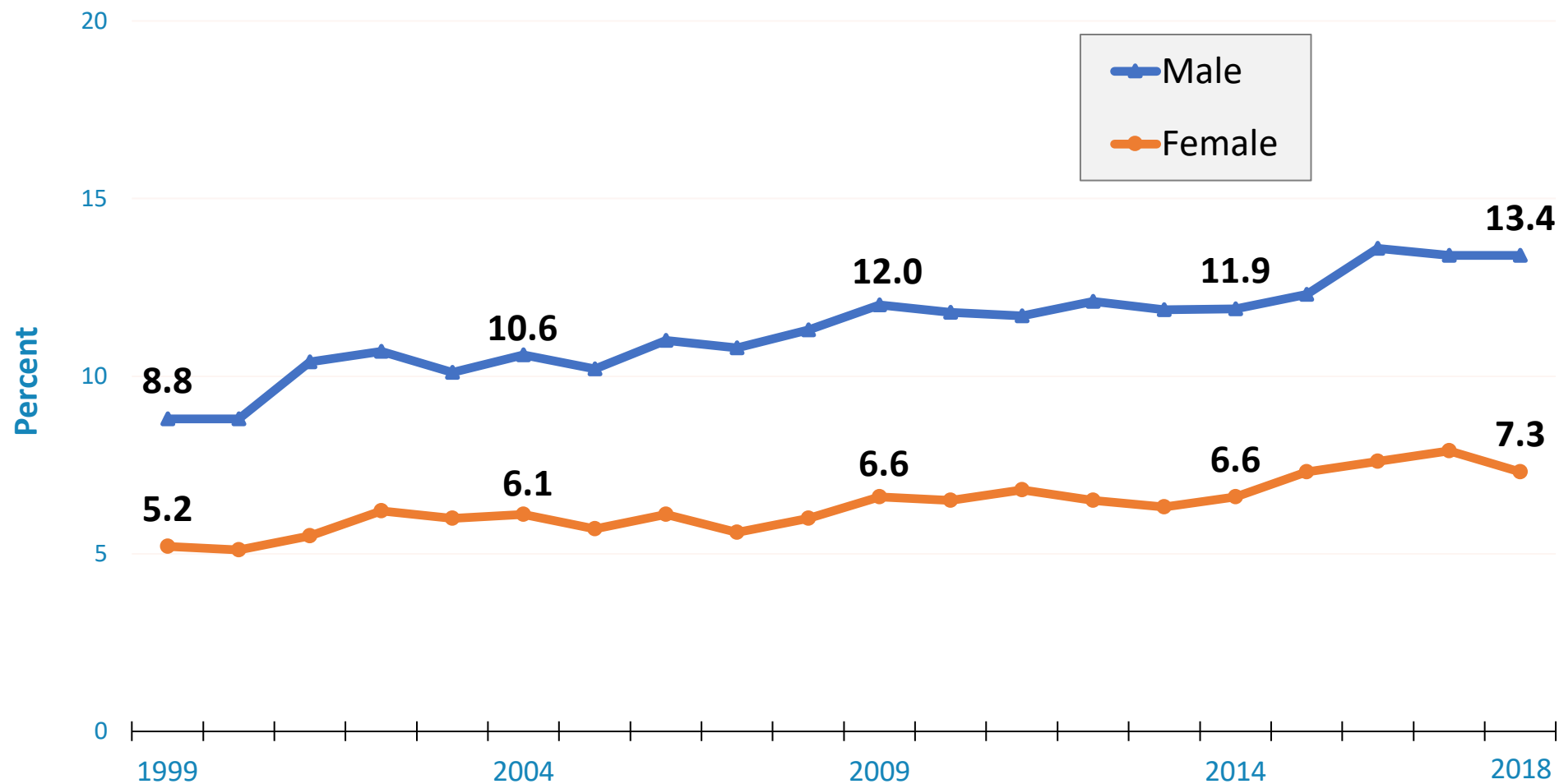
Source: CDC/NCHS, National Health Interview Survey (<http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/tables/health8a.asp>)

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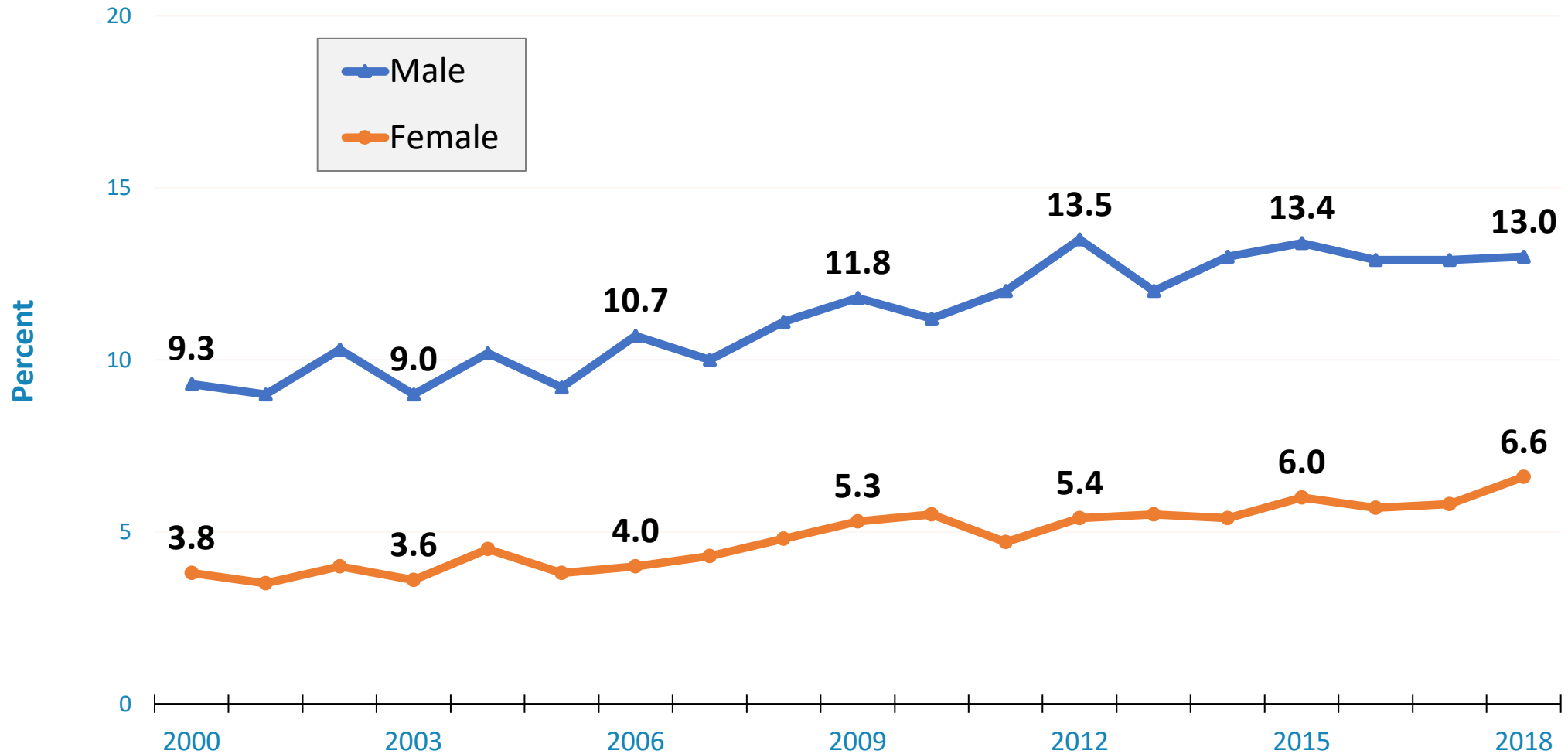
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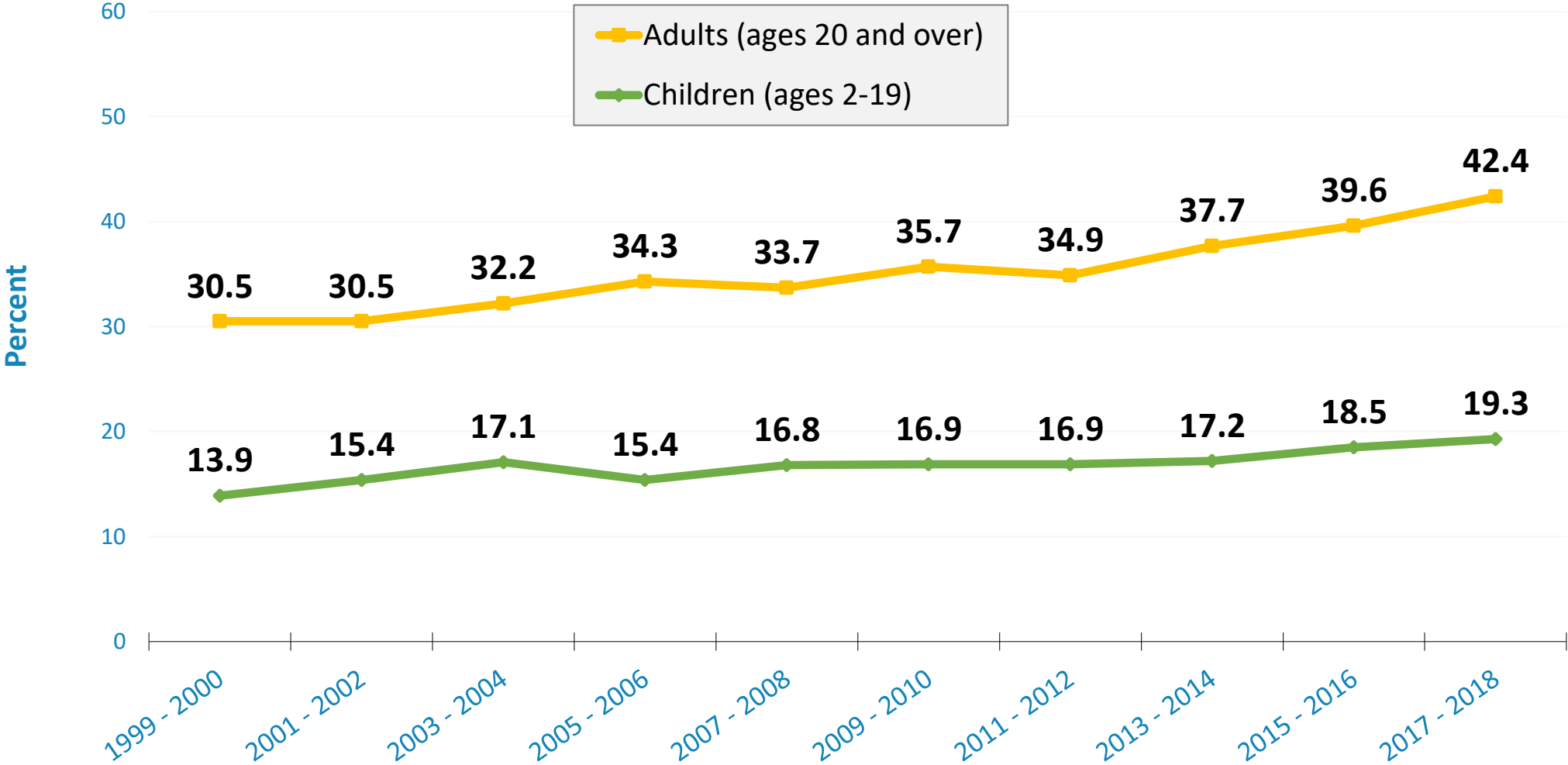
% of US Children (Ages 5-17) with a Disability Due to Chronic Health Conditions by Gender According to Parent Report, 1999-2018



% of US Children (Ages 3-17) Ever Diagnosed with ADHD by Gender According to Parent Report, 2000-2018



Obesity Prevalence among US Children (Ages 2-19) and Adults, 1999-2018

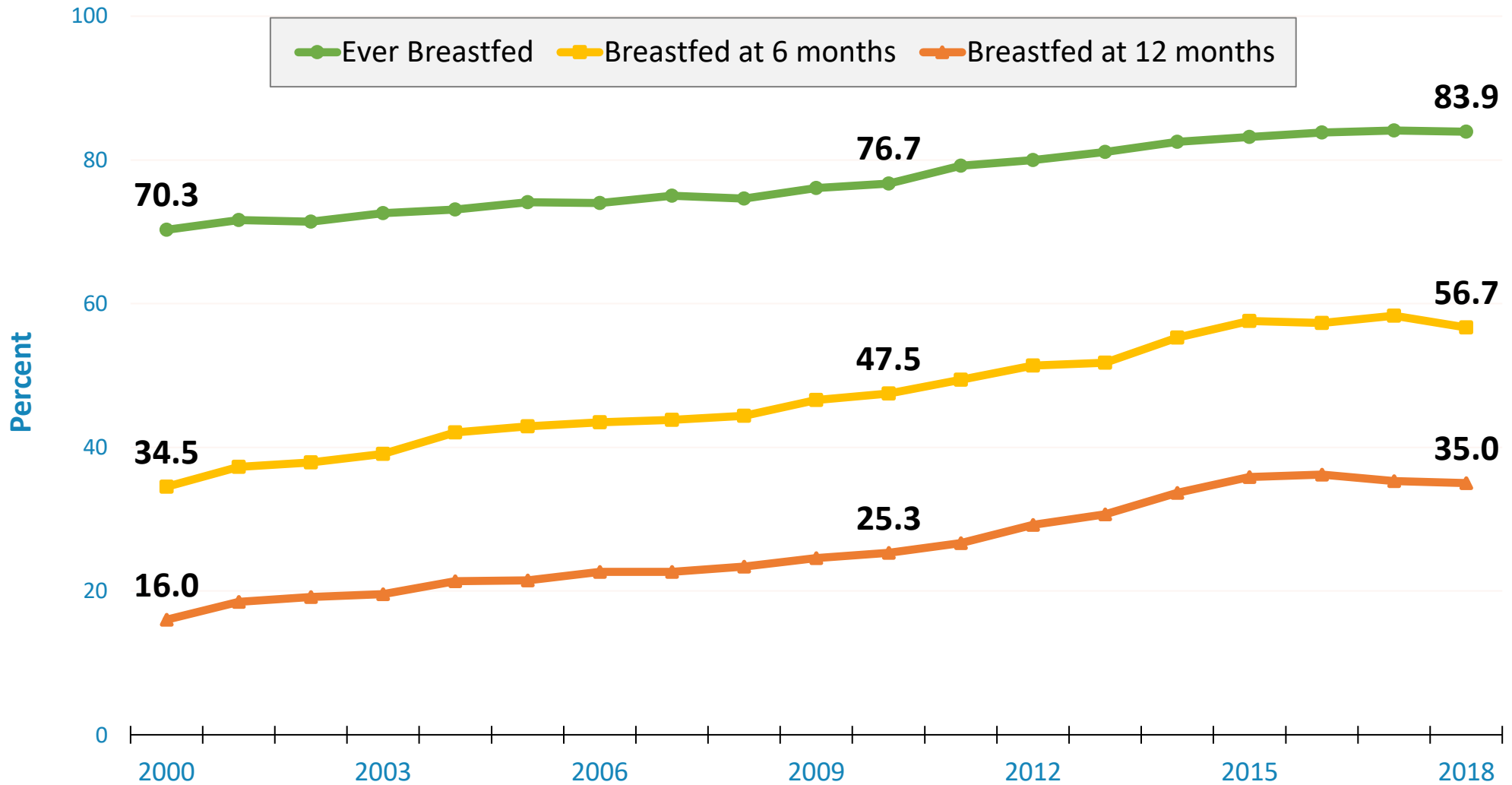


Source: CDC/NCHS, National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey

(1999-2016: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db288.pdf>; 2017-2018: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db360-h.pdf> and https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6913a6.htm?s_cid=mm6913a6_w)



% of US Infants Breastfed by Birth Year of Infant, 2000-2018



Health Takeaways

Improvements:

- Infant mortality rates have gone down
- Fatal unintentional injuries have gone down, but have started to stabilize
- Non-fatal unintentional injuries among children have gone down
- Child and adolescent motor vehicle deaths have gone down
- Adolescent alcohol use has gone down
- Adolescent cigarette use has gone down
- % of breastfed children has gone up



Health Takeaways (cont.)

Challenges:

- % of infants born preterm and with low birthweight have remained relatively stable
- Number of infants born with NAS have gone up, but have recently started to stabilize
- Teen firearm and homicide death rates have significantly gone up last few years
- Youth-reported major depressive episodes have gone up
- Mental health diagnoses have gone up
- Adolescent vaping rates have increased, but have started to decline last couple years
- Asthma rates among children have remained stable
- % of children with a disability has gone up
- % of children diagnosed with ADHD has gone up
- Obesity rates among children have gone up



For more information, please contact
[Dave Prentice, MS](#)
in AAP Research.

