

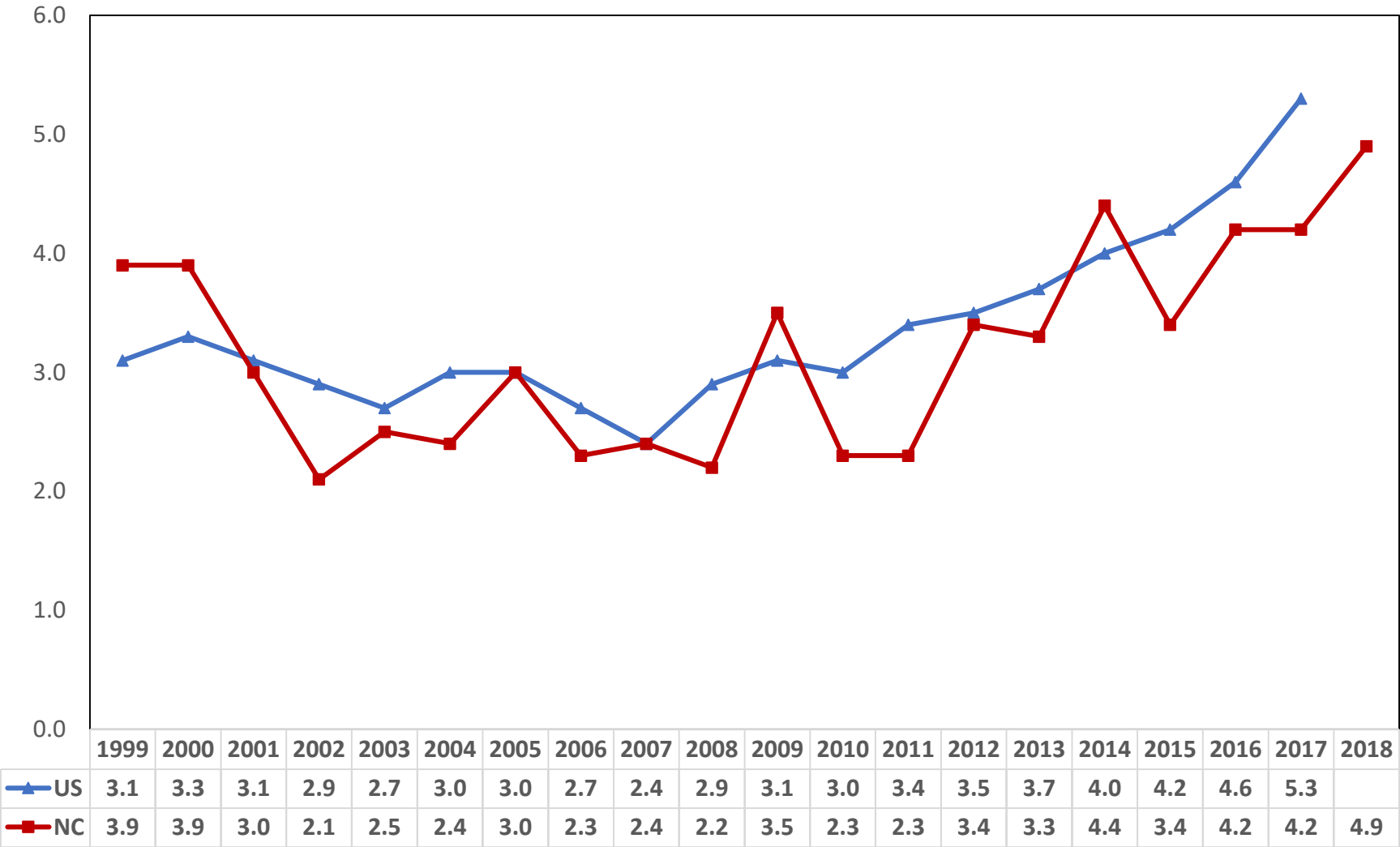
Child Fatality Task Force



***Our Children, Our Future,
Our RESPONSIBILITY***

YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION DATA UPDATE & CONSIDERATION OF 2019 CARRY-OVER RECOMMENDATIONS

NC Resident Suicide Mortality Rates, Ages 10 to 17: 1999-2018



Update on the facts . . .

In 2018, 52 North Carolina youth ages 10 – 17 died by suicide.*

The youth suicide rate in NC for 2018 was the highest seen by the Child Fatality Task Force.

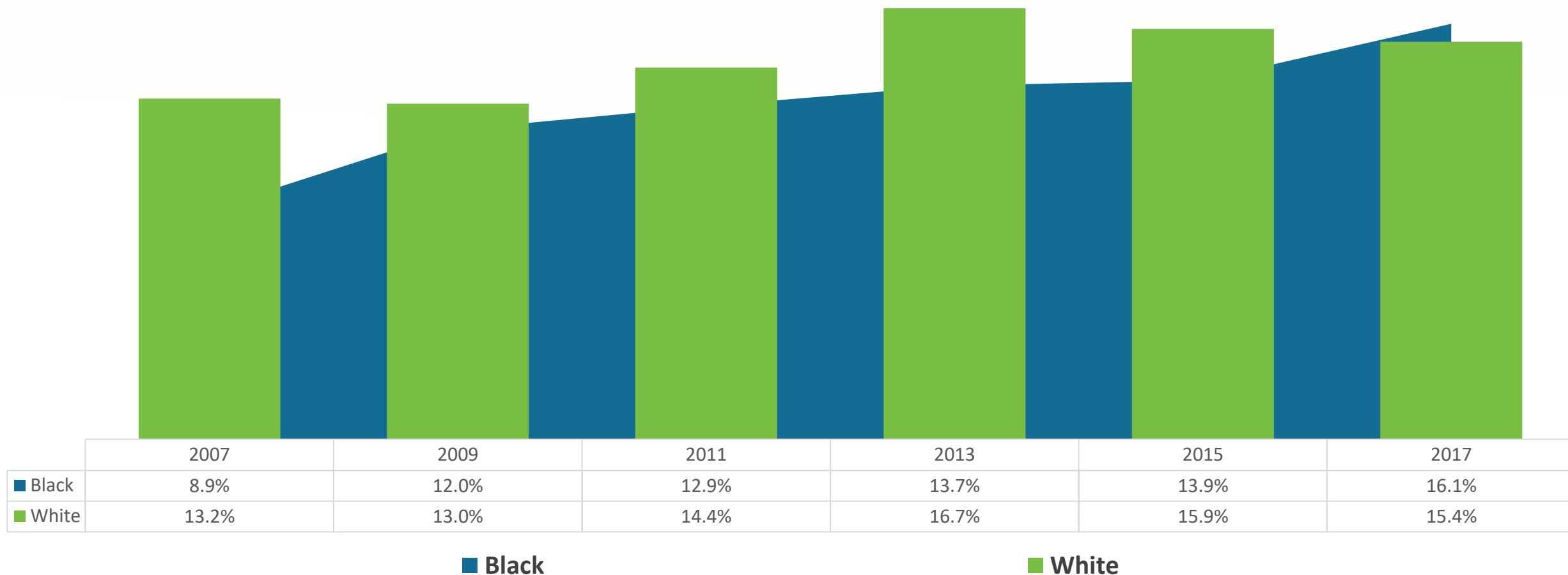
In 2018, suicide was the leading cause of death for North Carolina youth ages 15 to 17 and the second leading cause of death for youth ages 10 to 14**

*See "[Child Deaths In North Carolina: Annual Report](#)," by the N.C. Division of Public Health – Women's and Children's Health Section in conjunction with the State Center for Health Statistics.

** See page 5 of the report linked to above.

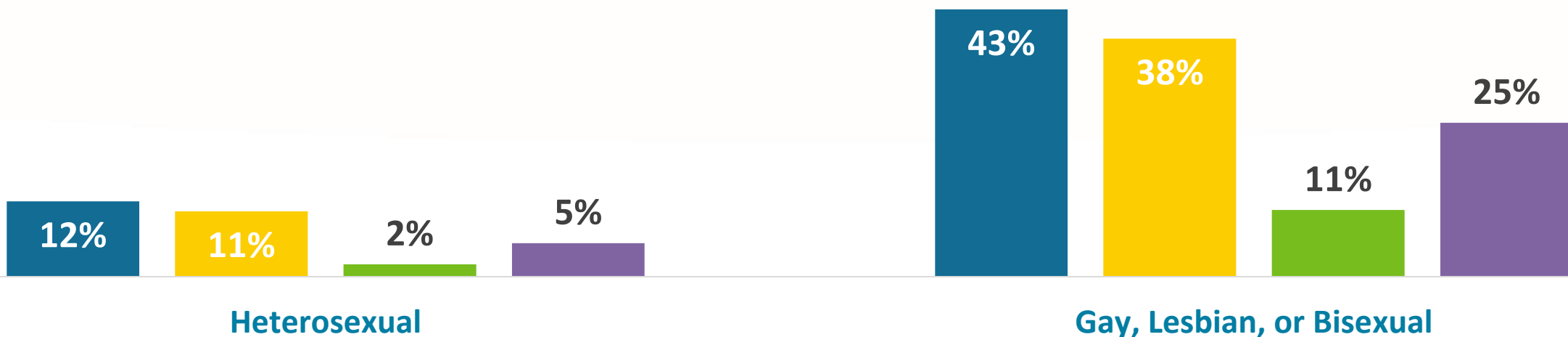
Seriously Considered Suicide

2007-2017 NC High School Students



Suicidal Behaviors

2017 NC High School Students



■ Seriously Considered Attempting Suicide During Past 12 Months

■ Made a Plan for Suicide Attempt During Past 12 Months

■ Made a Suicide Attempt During the Past 12 Months That Resulted in an Injury Needing Treatment by a Medical Professional

■ Attempted Suicide During the Past 12 Months

Child Fatality Task Force 2019 Recommendation:

Support legislation requiring suicide prevention training and a risk referral protocol in schools with specific requirements related to frequency and duration of the training, who receives the training, and minimum criteria for training components.

[Similar recommendation made in 2017 & 2018]

History of bills introduced related to this recommendation

2017 Legislative Session

- HB 894: Passed the House, did not move out of Senate Rules Committee
- HB 285 = SB 316: Passed the House, did not move out of Senate Rules Committee

2018 Legislative Session

- Session Law 2018-32: required *development* of training and protocol but not implementation; required SBE to repeal its School-Based Mental Health Initiative Policy

2019 Legislative Session

- HB 434: Passed the House, did not move out of Senate Rules Committee
- SB 601: Did not move out of Senate Rules Committee
- SB 476: Passed the House; Senate failed to concur; Conference Committee appointed

A majority of states require suicide prevention training in schools— NC does not

According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, 47 states now have laws addressing suicide prevention training for school personnel, but North Carolina is NOT one of them; of those states, 33 *require* training in suicide prevention; 14 states *encourage* training.

Source: Issue Brief from the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, “State Laws: Suicide Prevention in Schools (K-12),” updated 9/12/2019, <https://afsp.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/AFSP-K-12-Schools-Issue-Brief-9-18-19.pdf>.

2019 CFTF Administrative Item: Funding for a 3-year lead suicide prevention coordinator position in NC

(recommendation was legislative in 2017 & 2018 and administrative in 2019)

Suicide prevention efforts in NC are facilitated and managed by government agencies, nonprofits, and academic institutions. Having one individual and/or organization serving in a lead role would:

- provide a single source of support and coordinate information sharing in order to guide efforts and ensure best practice;
- serve as a catalyst to turn ideas and plans into action;
- help ensure that various aspects of the [2015 statewide suicide prevention] plan are being carried out and reduce duplication;
- help ensure efficient use and sharing of limited resources.

Original CFTF 2017 recommendation also stated:

- Goals for this position include: coordination of current interventions and research related to suicide prevention; coordination of funding for suicide prevention efforts; coordination of consistent messaging; coordination of priority strategies; monitoring of outcomes; and consistency with training.

- The lead individual/organization should be a non-agency designee.
- The position should be funded for three years with the expectation that work during those three years will include the determination of a sustainability plan for ongoing statewide coordination, including funding sources for ongoing statewide coordination.
- The lead individual should have specific expertise in suicide prevention.
- The lead individual should be affiliated with an organization able to provide project management and administrative support for carrying out the duties of the position.
- The lead individual should be an M.D. or PhD in order to have the scientific background to ensure that efforts in the state are driven by evidence-informed scientific research and who can translate research into effective practical application in North Carolina.