



US Child Health Trends

Compiled by AAP Research Staff

August 2025

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



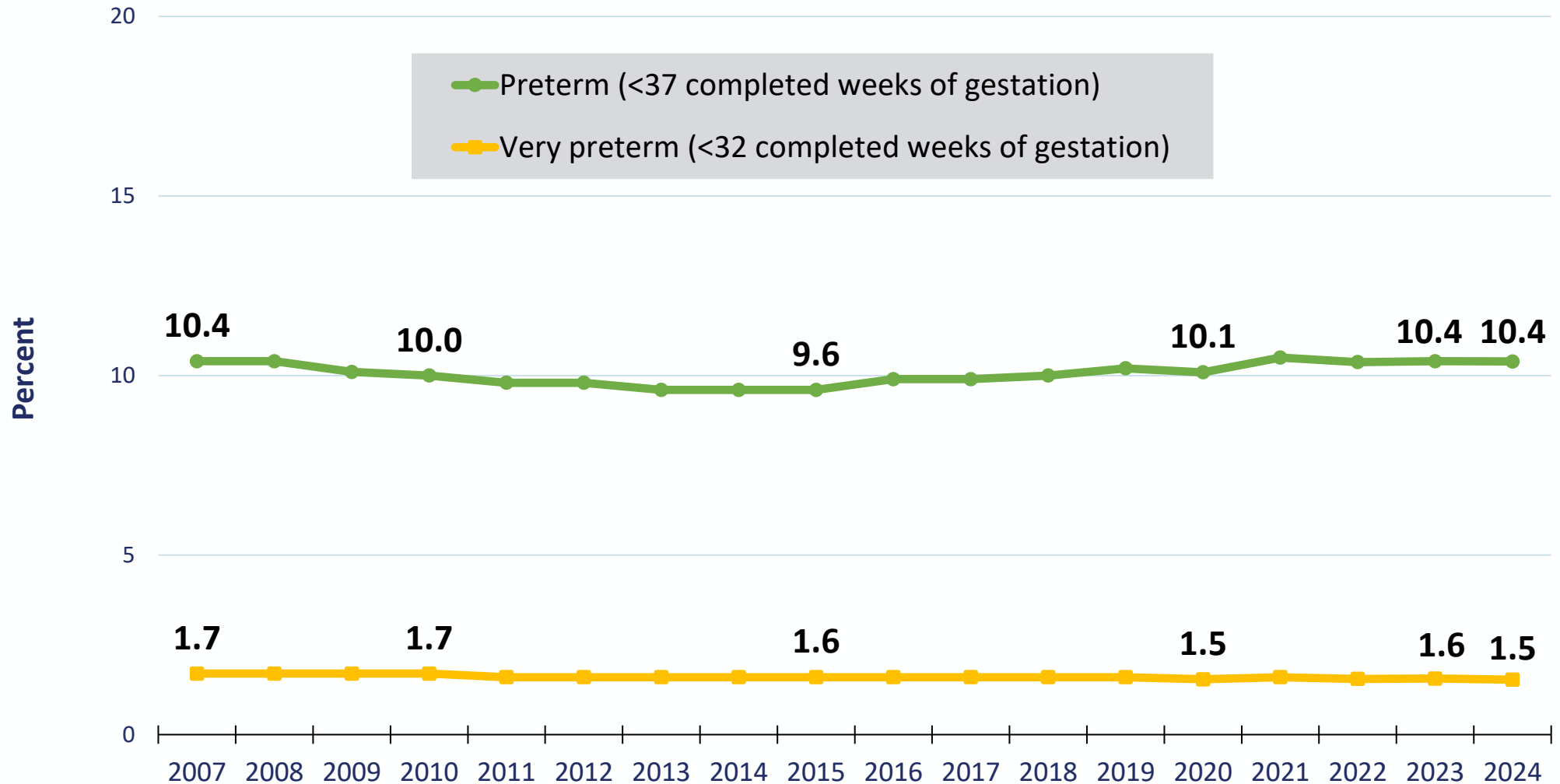
The slides that follow are meant for public use.

- No permissions are required.
- The graphics are developed from publicly available federal data sources.
- The categories and terms expressed in each graphic are based on what is available from these public data sources
- 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.
- Based on data available as of August 2025

Child Health Trends

- Preterm birth and low birthweight
- Neonatal Withdrawal 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

Percent of US Infants Born Preterm, 2007-2024*

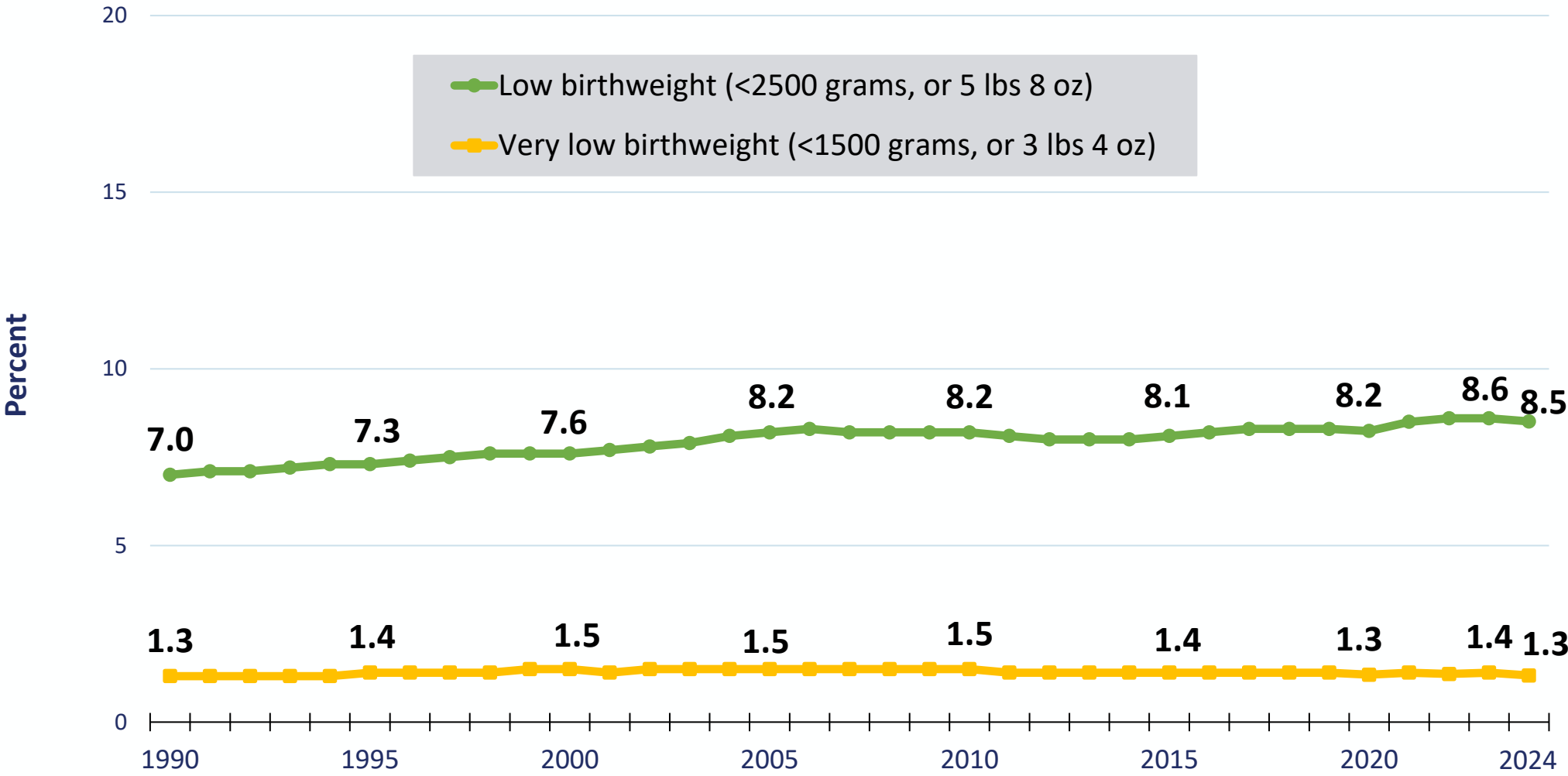


*Provisional data for 2024

Source: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics Reports and WONDER Database (data for 2007-2015: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr66/nvsr66_01.pdf; 2016-2023: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr74/nvsr74-1.pdf>; and 2024: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/vsrr/vsrr038.pdf> and <https://wonder.cdc.gov/natality.html>)



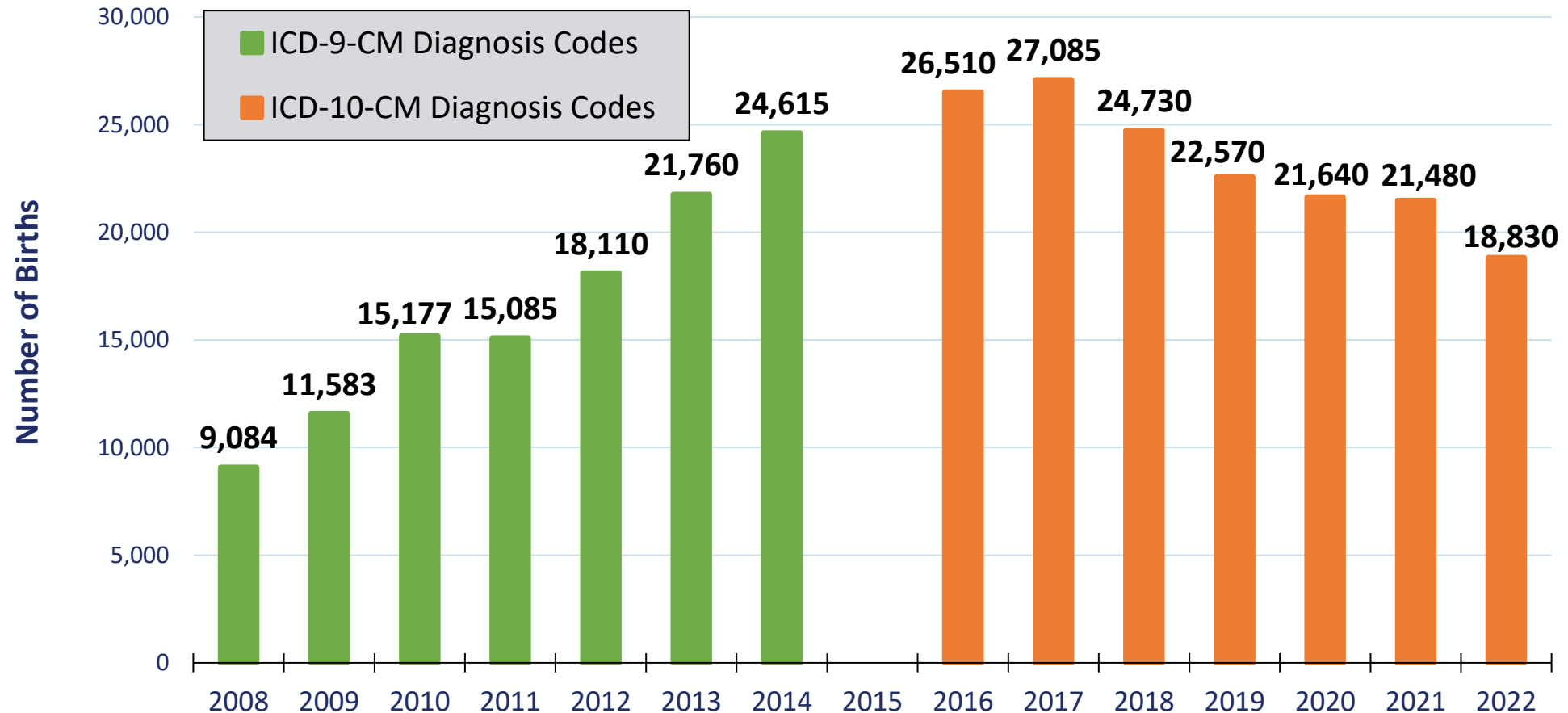
Percent of US Infants Born with Low Birthweight, 1990-2024*



*Provisional data for 2024

Source: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics Reports and WONDER Database (data for 1990-2015: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr66/nvsr66_01.pdf; 2016-2023: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr73/nvsr73-02.pdf>; and 2024: <https://wonder.cdc.gov/nativity.html>)

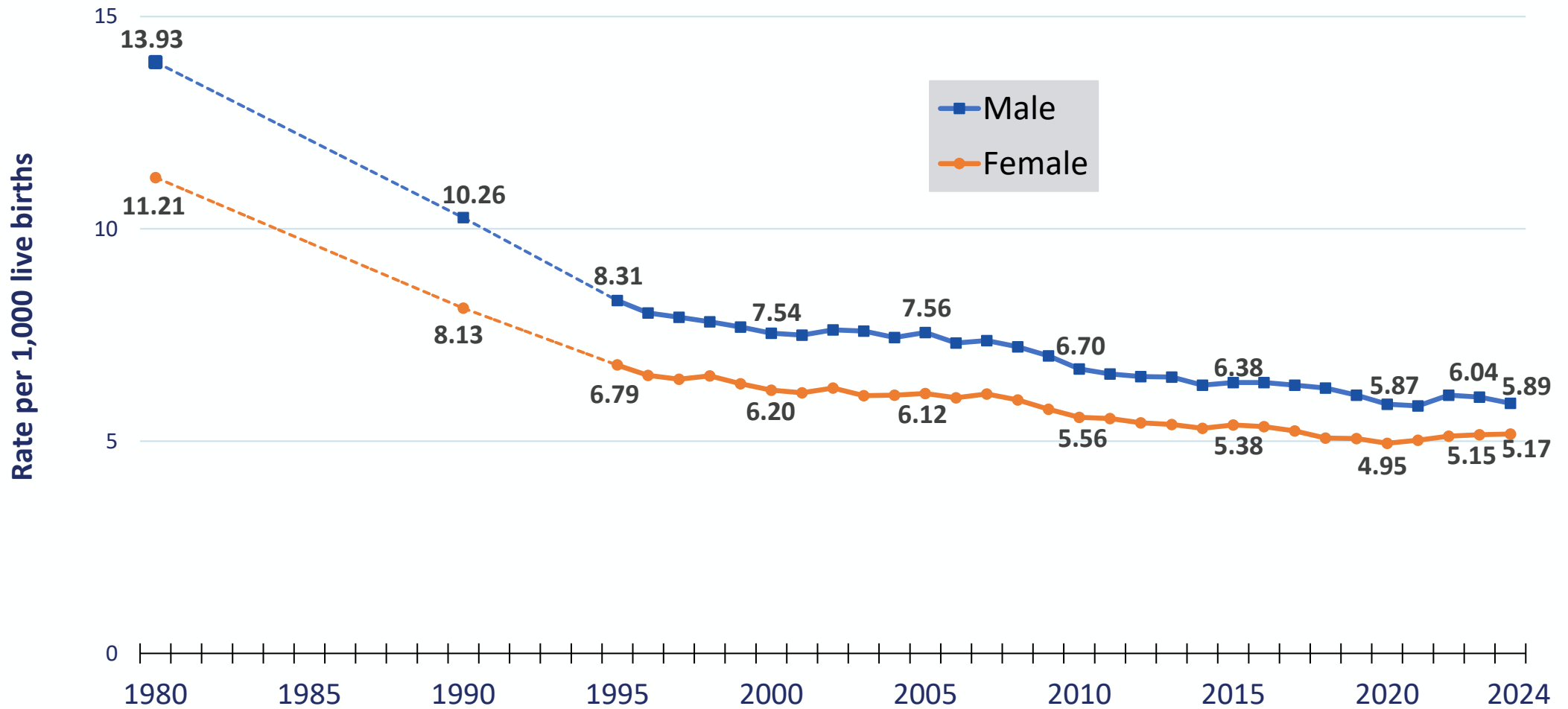
Number of US[^] Neonatal Withdrawal Syndrome Newborn Hospitalizations, 2008-2022*



[^]National estimates for 2018-2020 are pulled from the National Inpatient Sample (NIS).

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

US Infant Mortality Rates (per 1,000 Live Births) by Sex, 1980-2024*



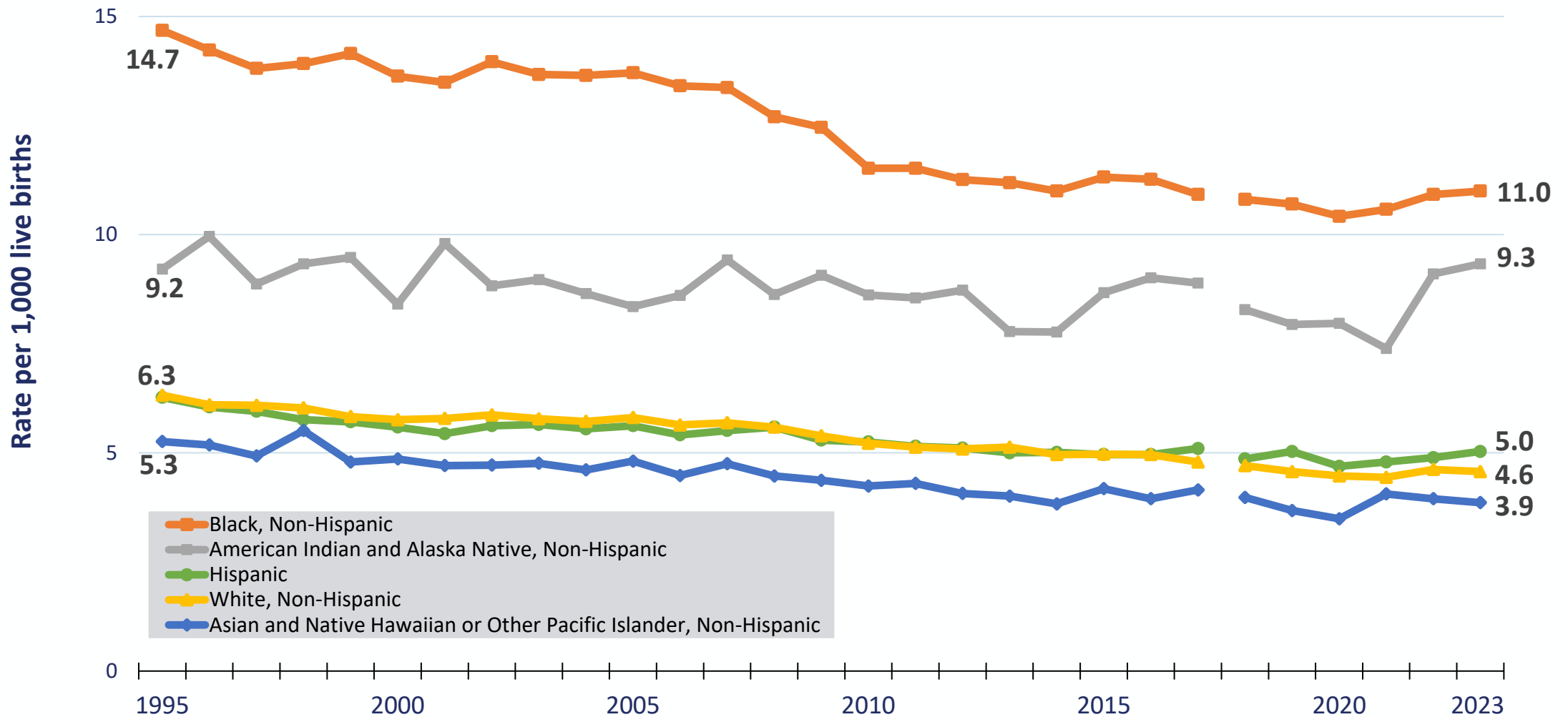
*Provisional data for 2024

Source: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics Reports (data for 1980 and 1990: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr68/nvsr68_09-508.pdf;

1995-2023 Linked Infant Birth/Death File: <https://wonder.cdc.gov/lbd.html> and <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/vsrr/vsrr033.pdf>); 2024 Birth and Death Files: <https://wonder.cdc.gov>



US Infant Mortality Rates (per 1,000 Live Births) by Mother's Race and Ethnicity, 1995-2023*

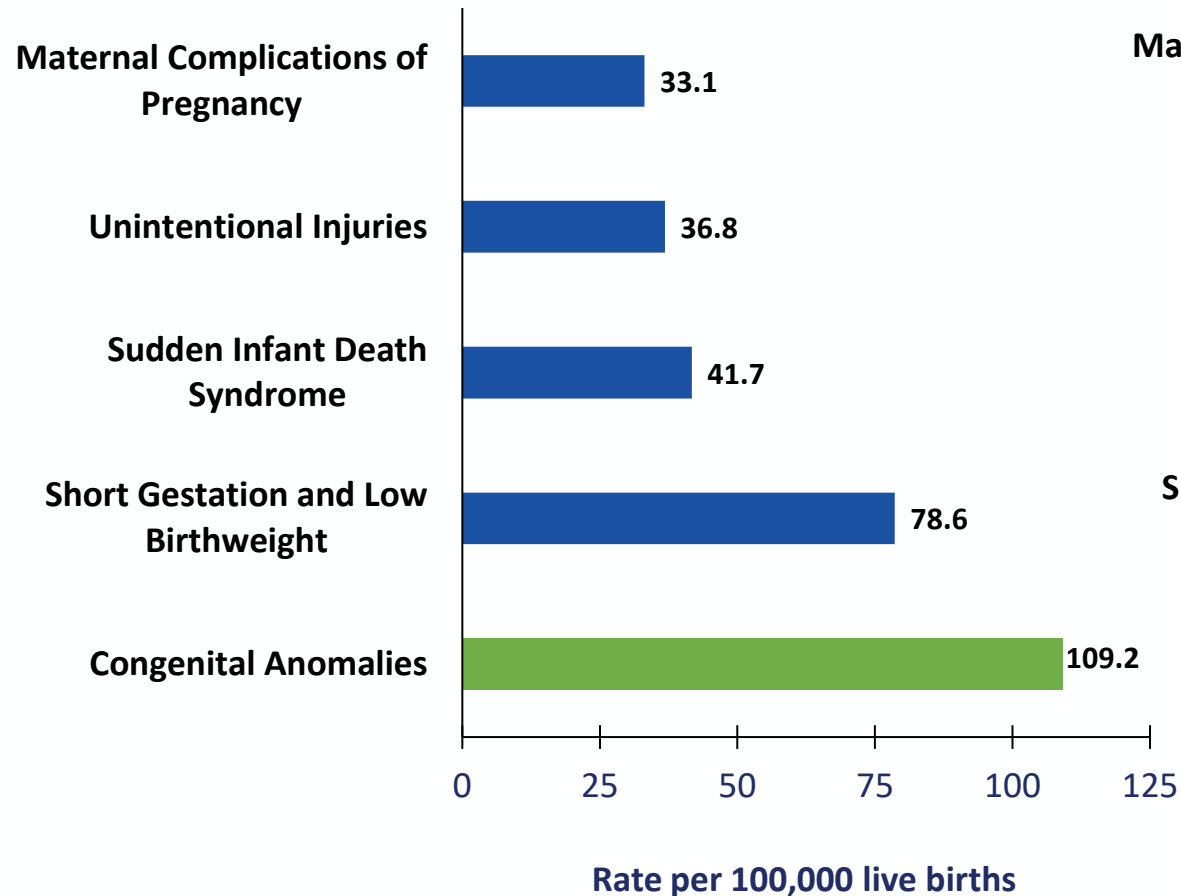


*1990-2017 data uses "bridged race" categories, whereas "single-race" categories are used beginning in 2018. As a result, estimates for 2018 and beyond are not directly comparable to previous years.

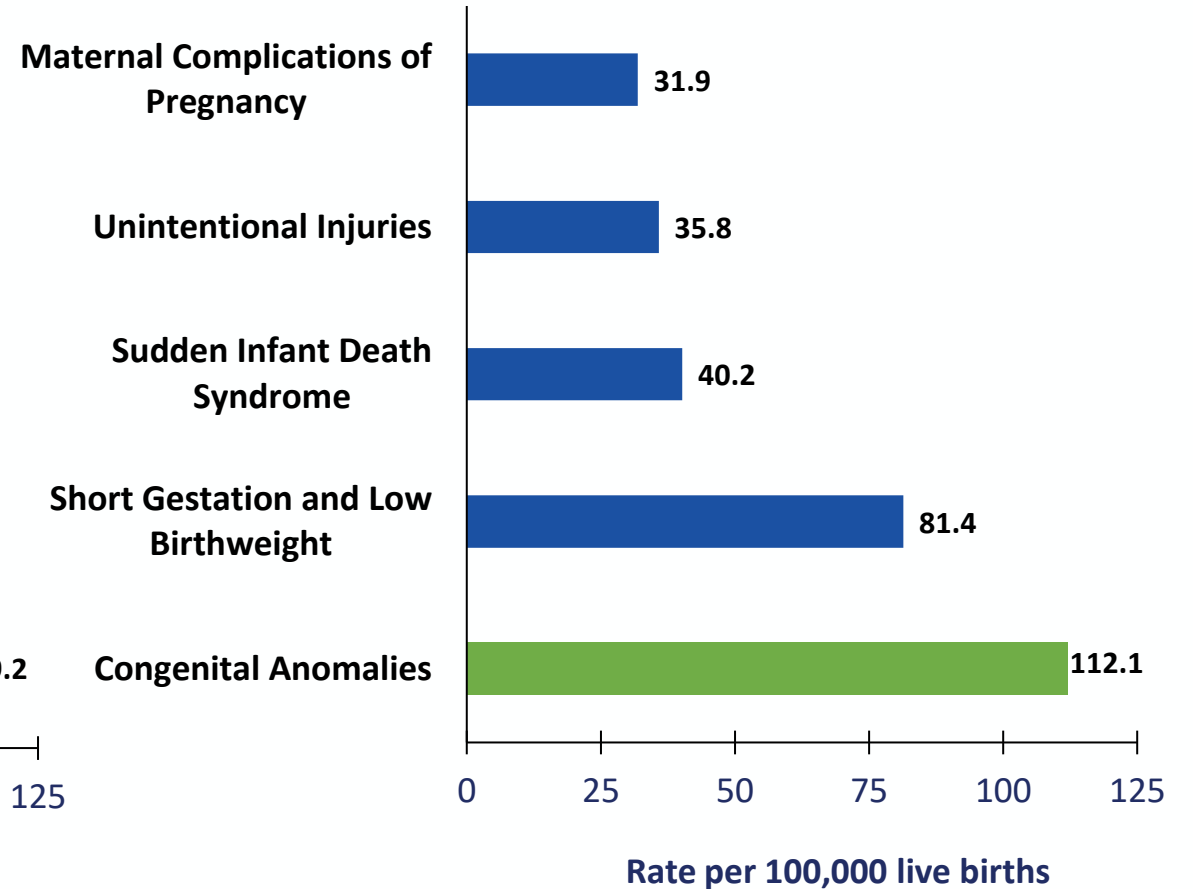
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. National Vital Statistics System, Linked Birth / Infant Deaths on CDC WONDER Online Database (<https://wonder.cdc.gov/lbd.html> and <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/vsrr/vsrr037.pdf>)

US Infant Mortality Rates (per 100,000 Live Births) by Leading Causes of Death, 2022-2023

Final 2022

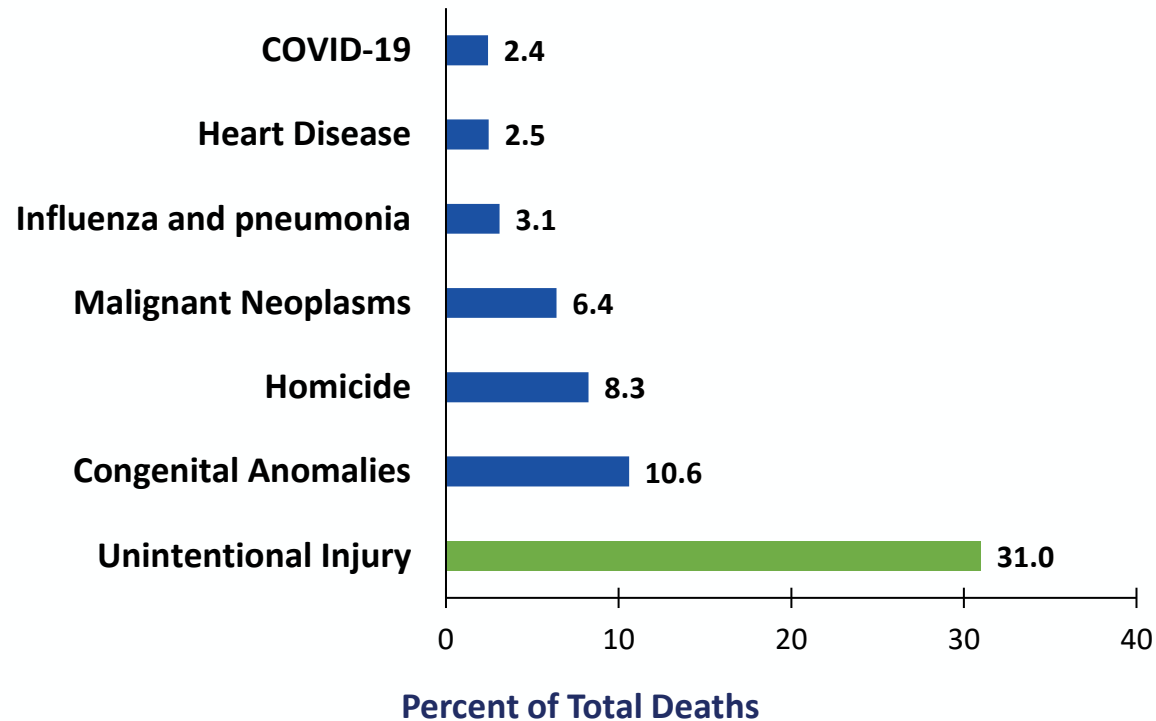


Final 2023

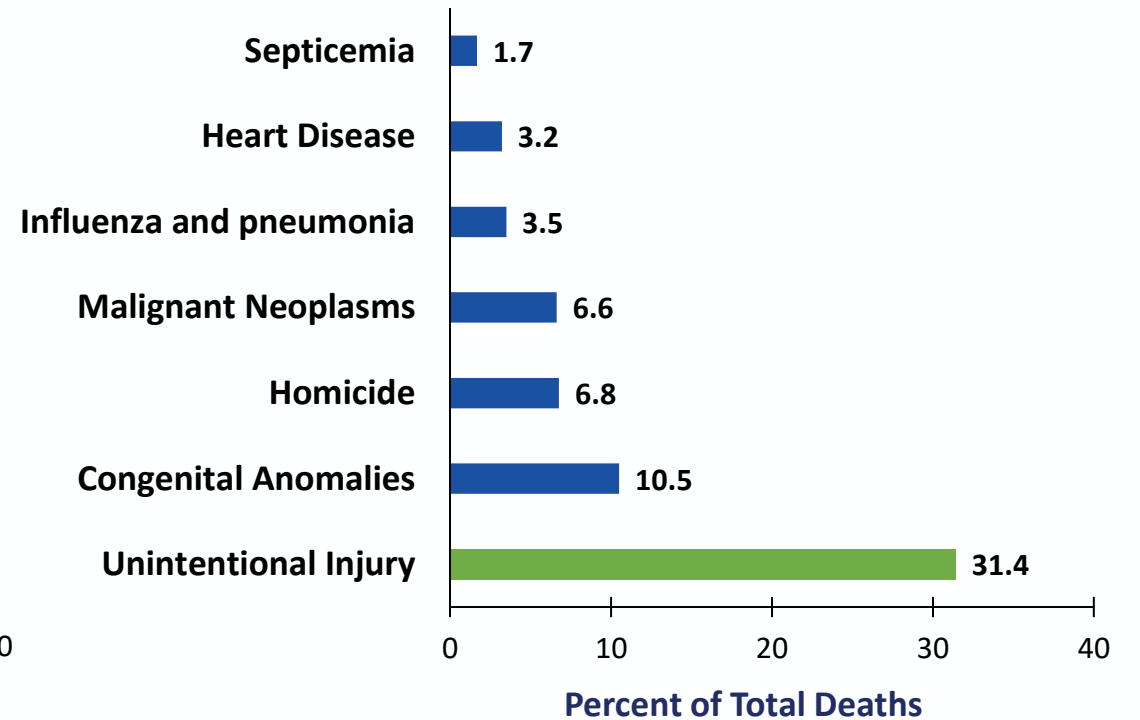


Leading Causes of Death among US Children (Ages 1-4), 2022-2023

Final 2022

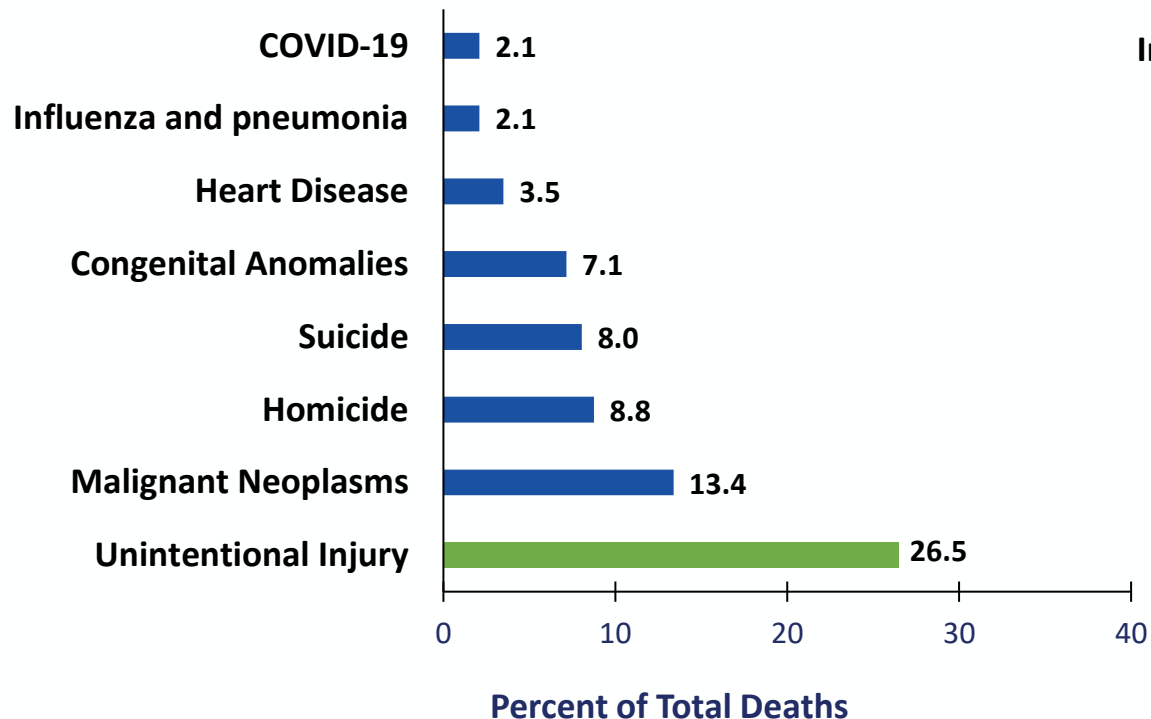


Final 2023

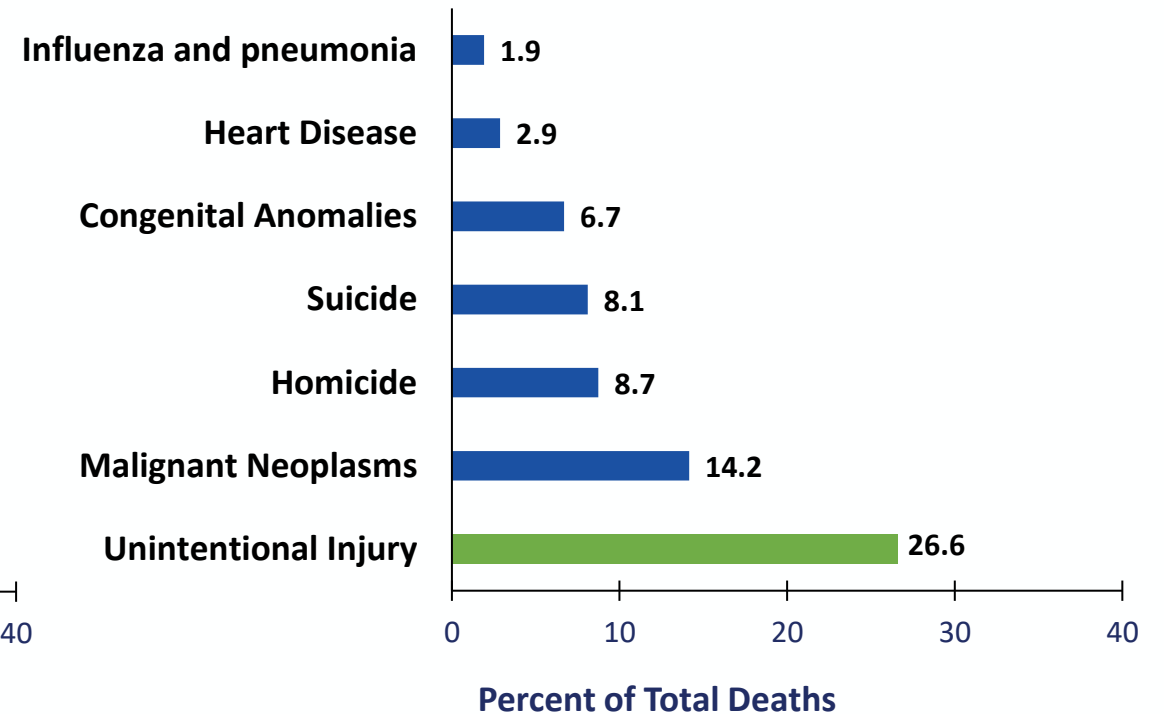


Leading Causes of Death among US Children (Ages 5-14), 2022-2023

Final 2022

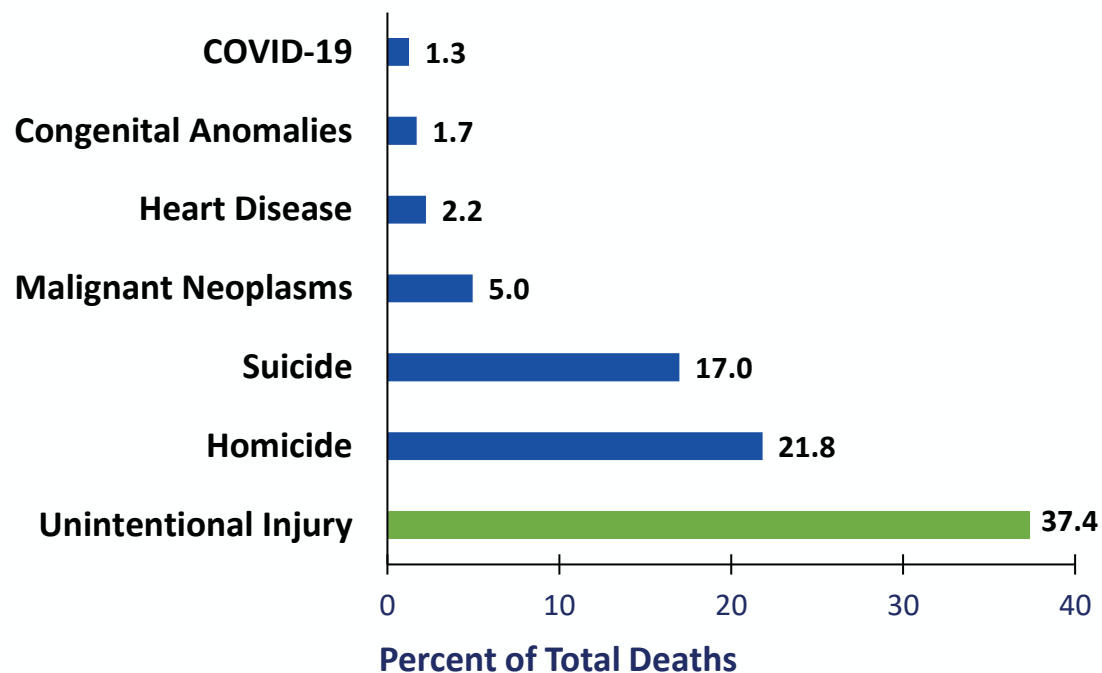


Final 2023

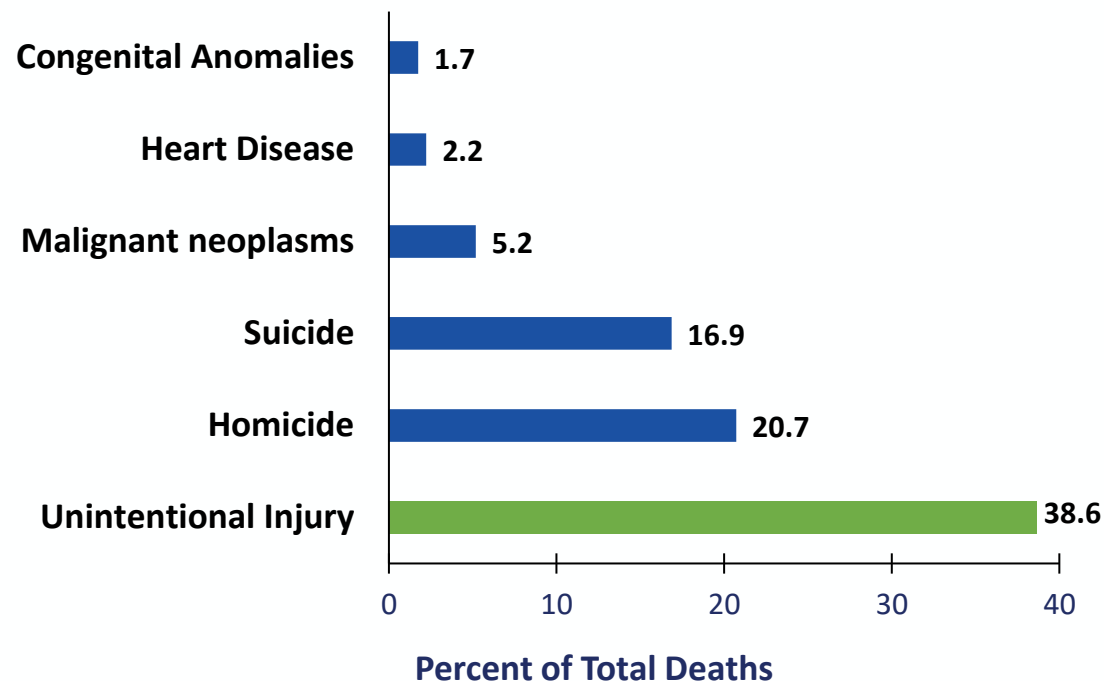


Leading Causes of Death among US Children (Ages 15-19), 2022-2023

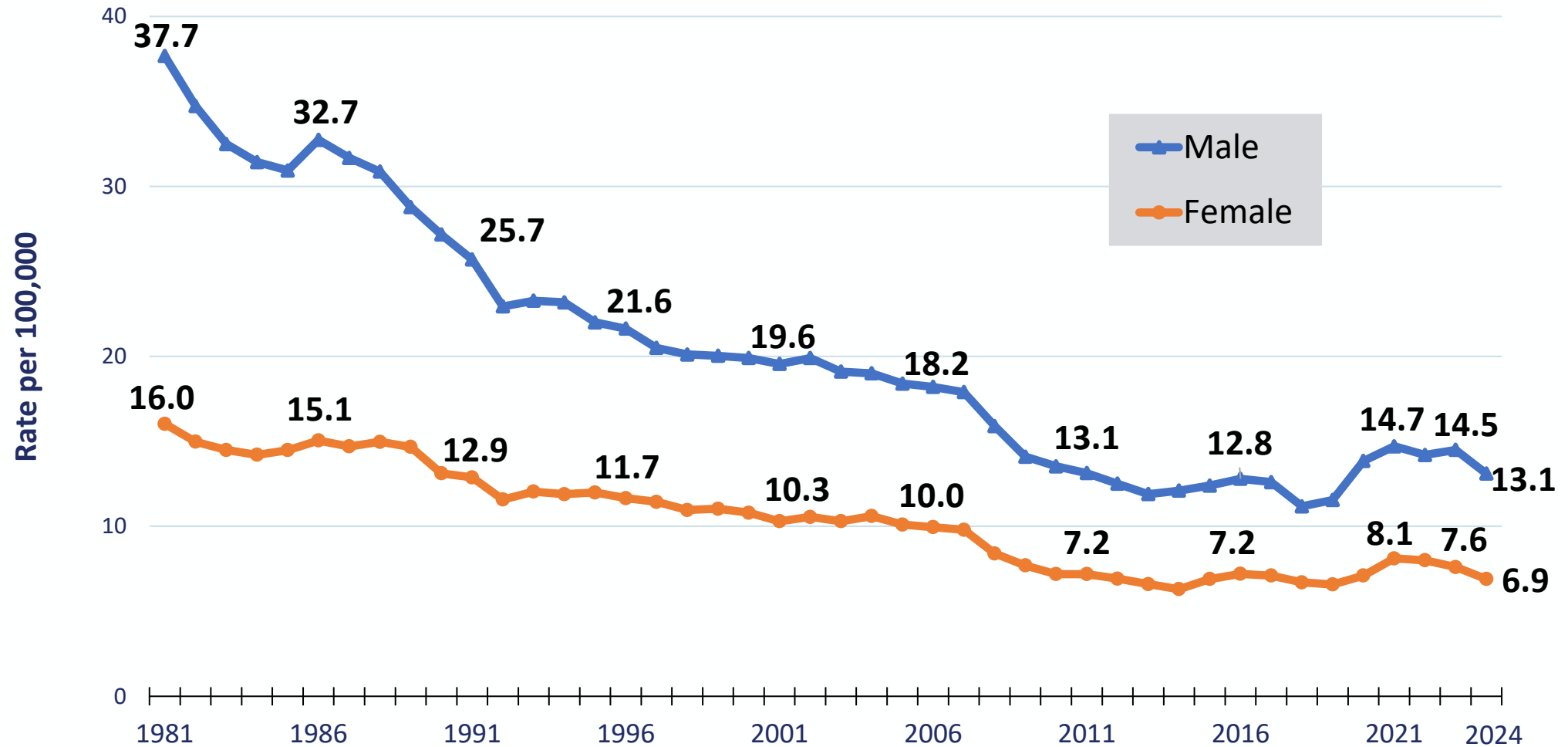
Final 2022



Final 2023

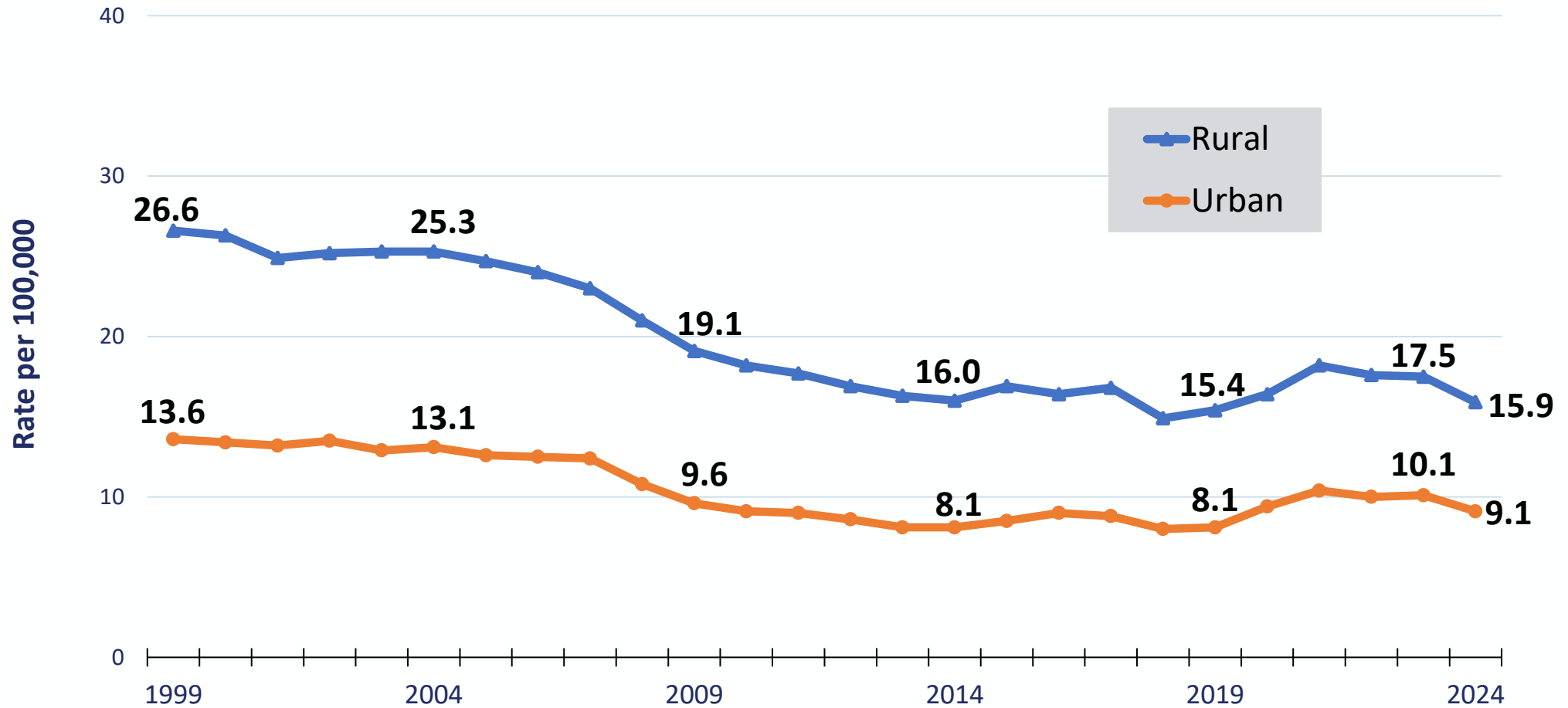


Fatal Unintentional Injuries (Rate per 100,000) among US Children (Ages 0-19) by Sex, 1981-2024*



*Provisional data for 2024

Fatal Unintentional Injuries (Rate per 100,000) among US Children (Ages 0-19) by Urban-Rural Status, 1999-2024*

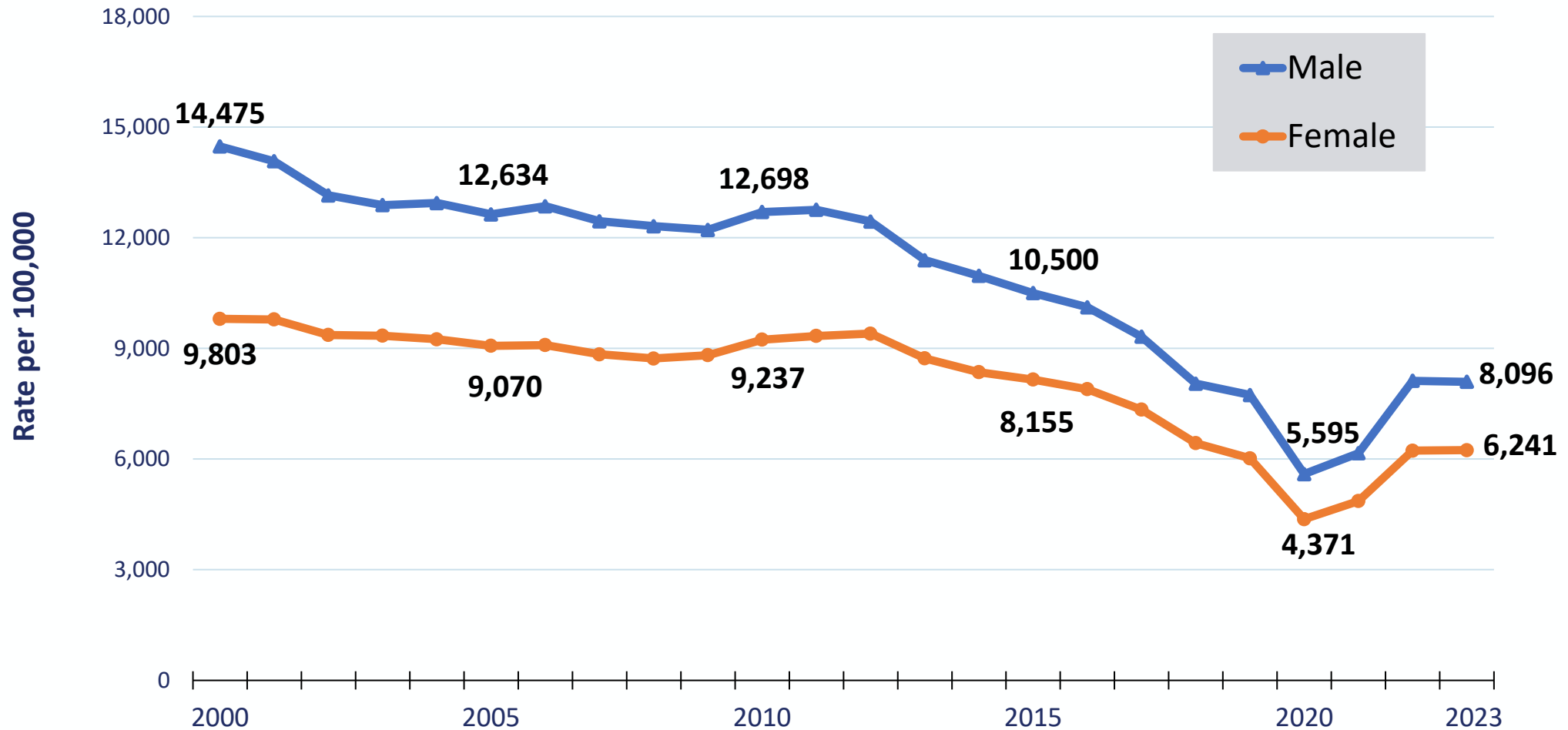


*Provisional data for 2024

Urban population consists of metropolitan areas (large central, large fringe, medium, and small)

Rural population consists of micropolitan and noncore (not micropolitan or metropolitan) areas

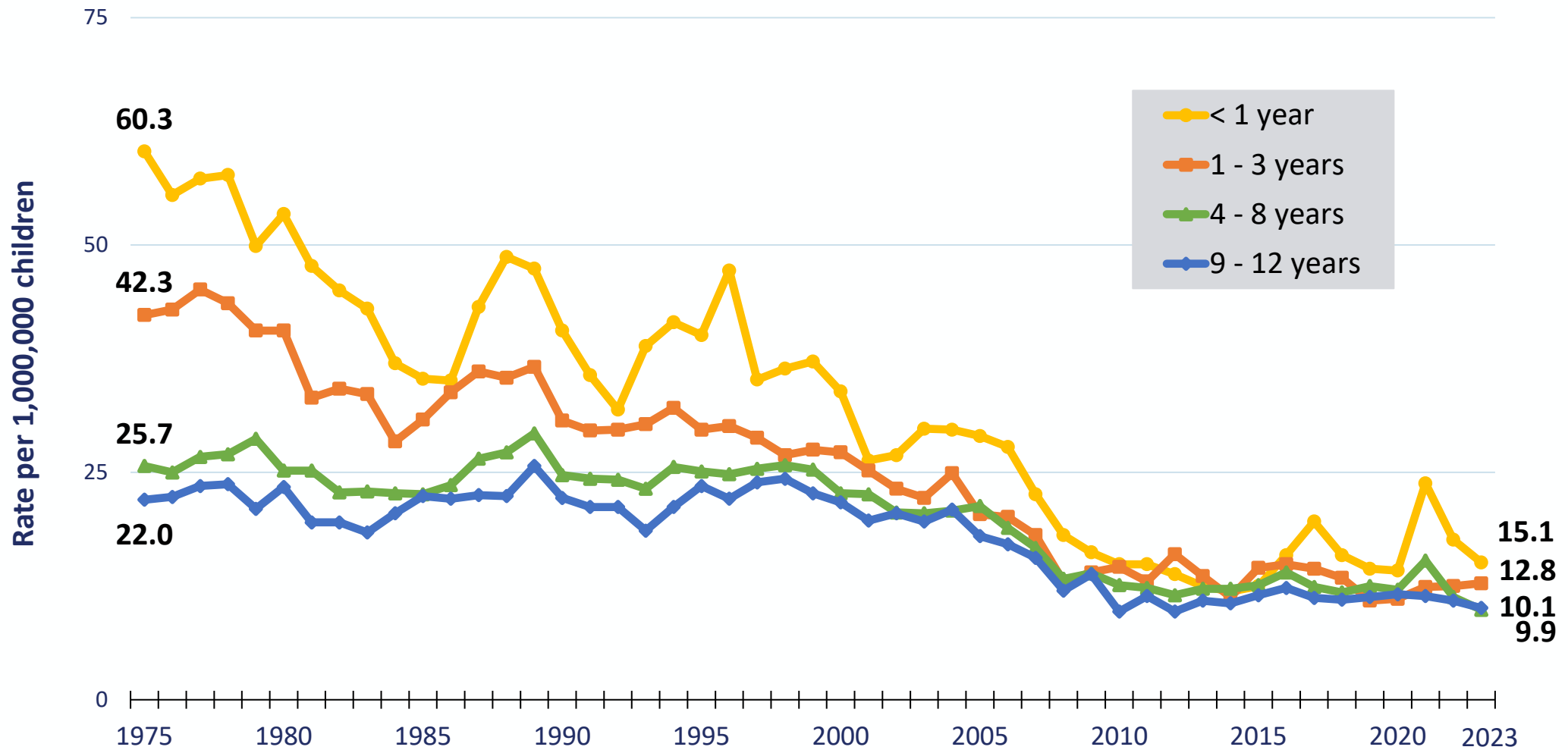
Non-Fatal Unintentional Injuries Treated in Emergency Rooms (Rate per 100,000) among US Children (Ages 0-19) by Sex, 2000-2023



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



US Passenger Vehicle Child Occupant Deaths (per Million Children) by Age Group, 1975-2023

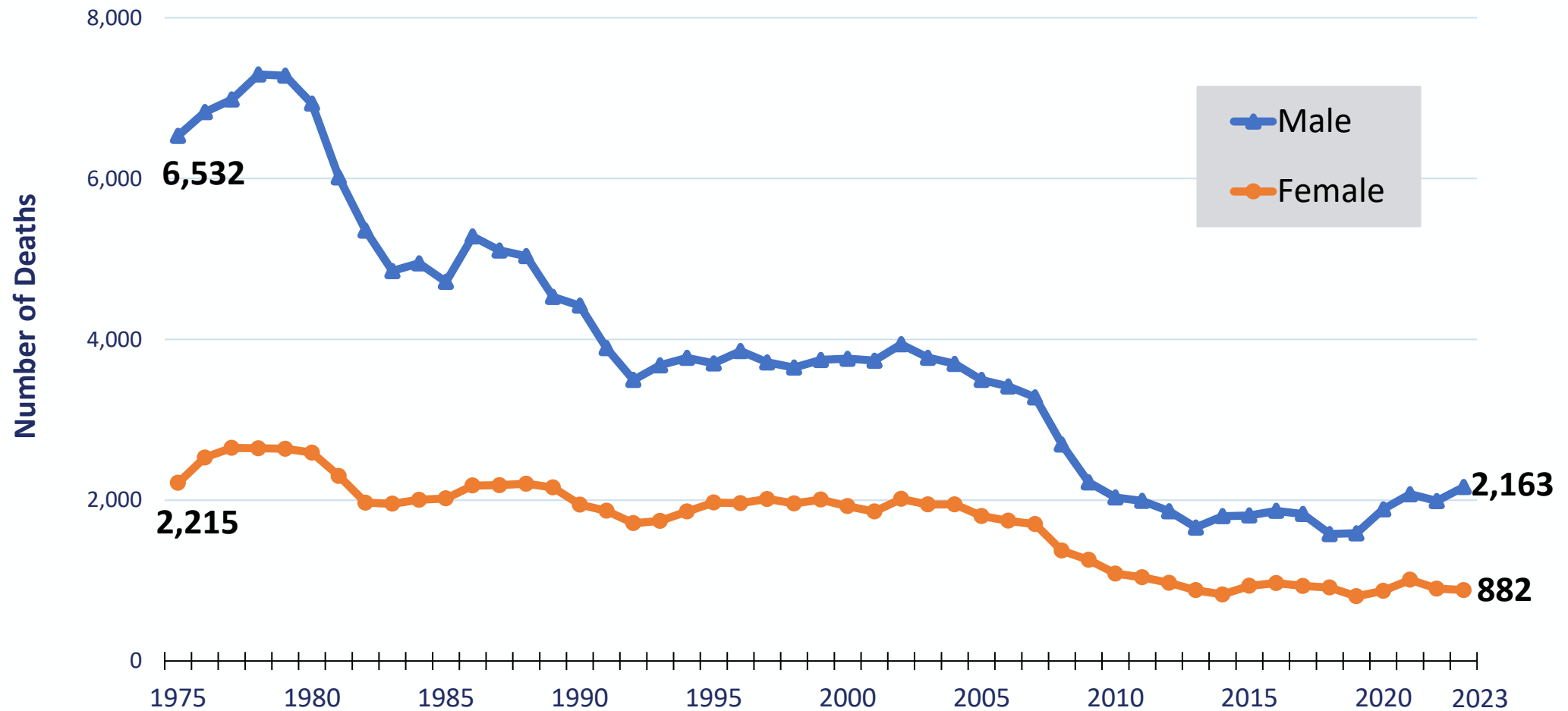


Source: US Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS)

(<http://www.iihs.org/iihs/topics/t/child-safety/fatalityfacts/child-safety>)



US Teenage (Ages 13-19) Motor Vehicle Crash Deaths by Sex, 1975-2023

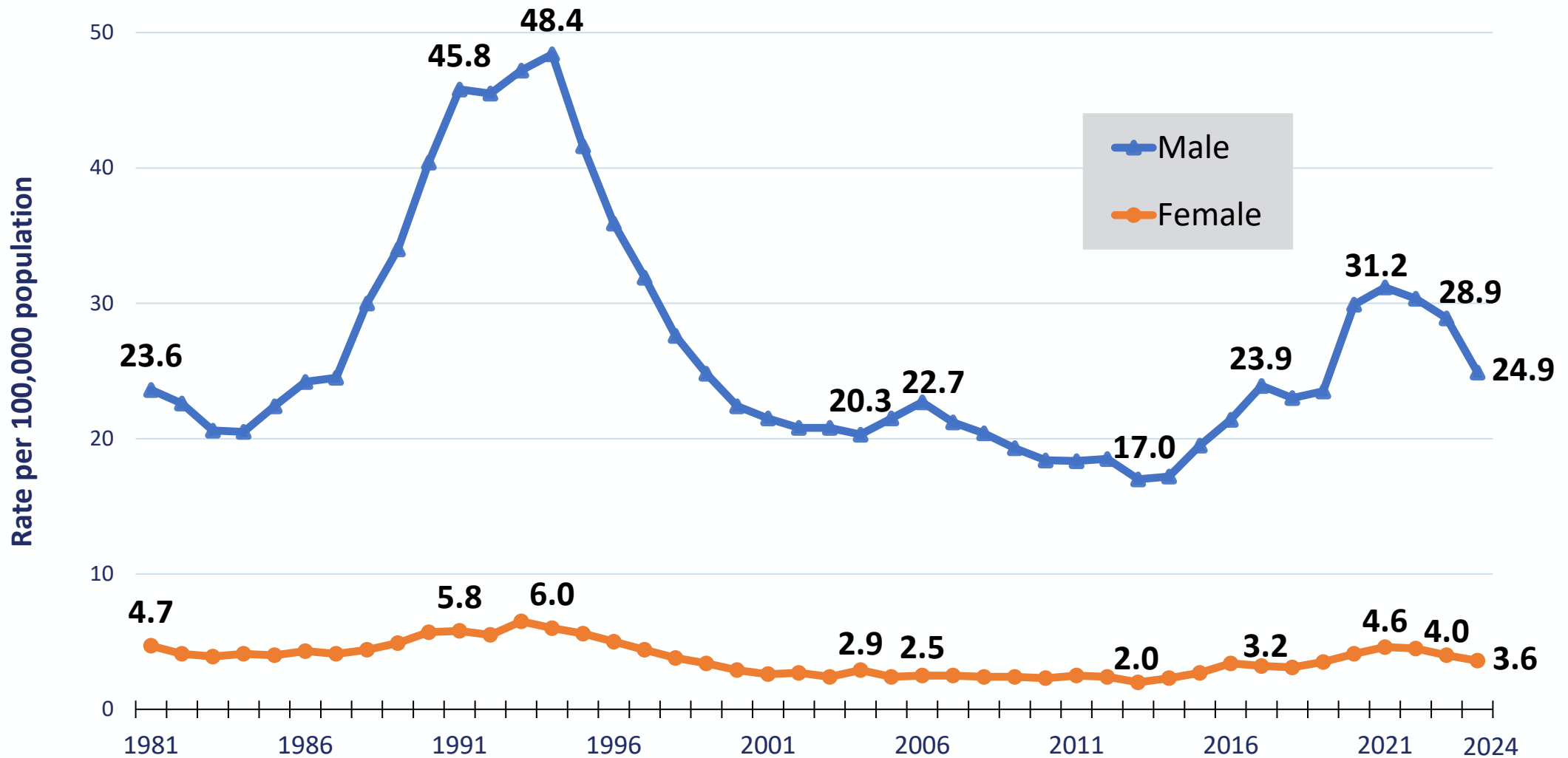


Source: US Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS)

(<http://www.iihs.org/iihs/topics/t/teenagers/fatalityfacts/teenagers>)



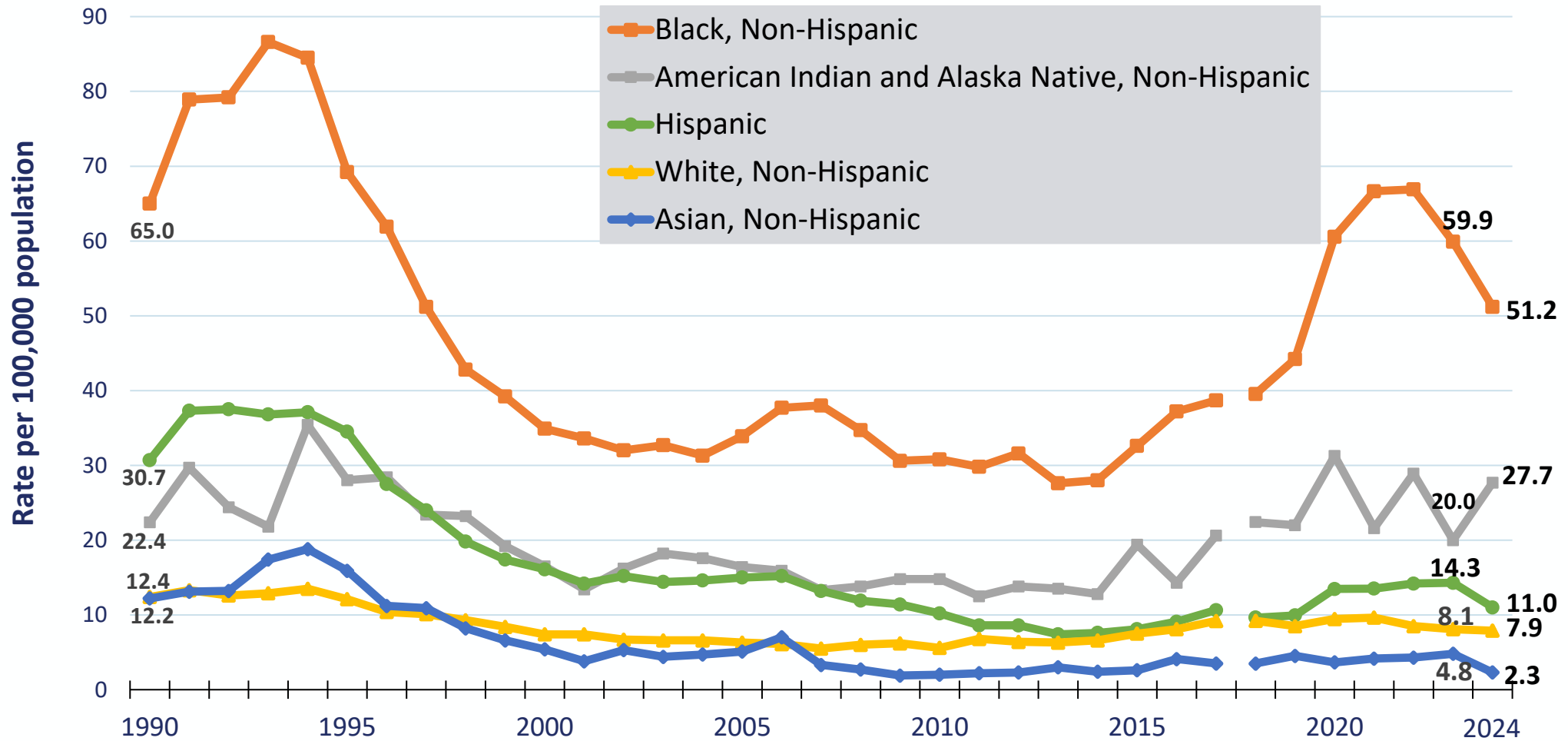
US Teenage (Ages 15-19) Firearm-Related Deaths by Sex, 1981-2024*



*Provisional data for 2024

Source: CDC/National Center for Health Statistics, CDC WONDER Online Database (<https://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd.html>)

US Teenage (Ages 15-19) Firearm-Related Deaths by Race and Ethnicity, 1990-2024*

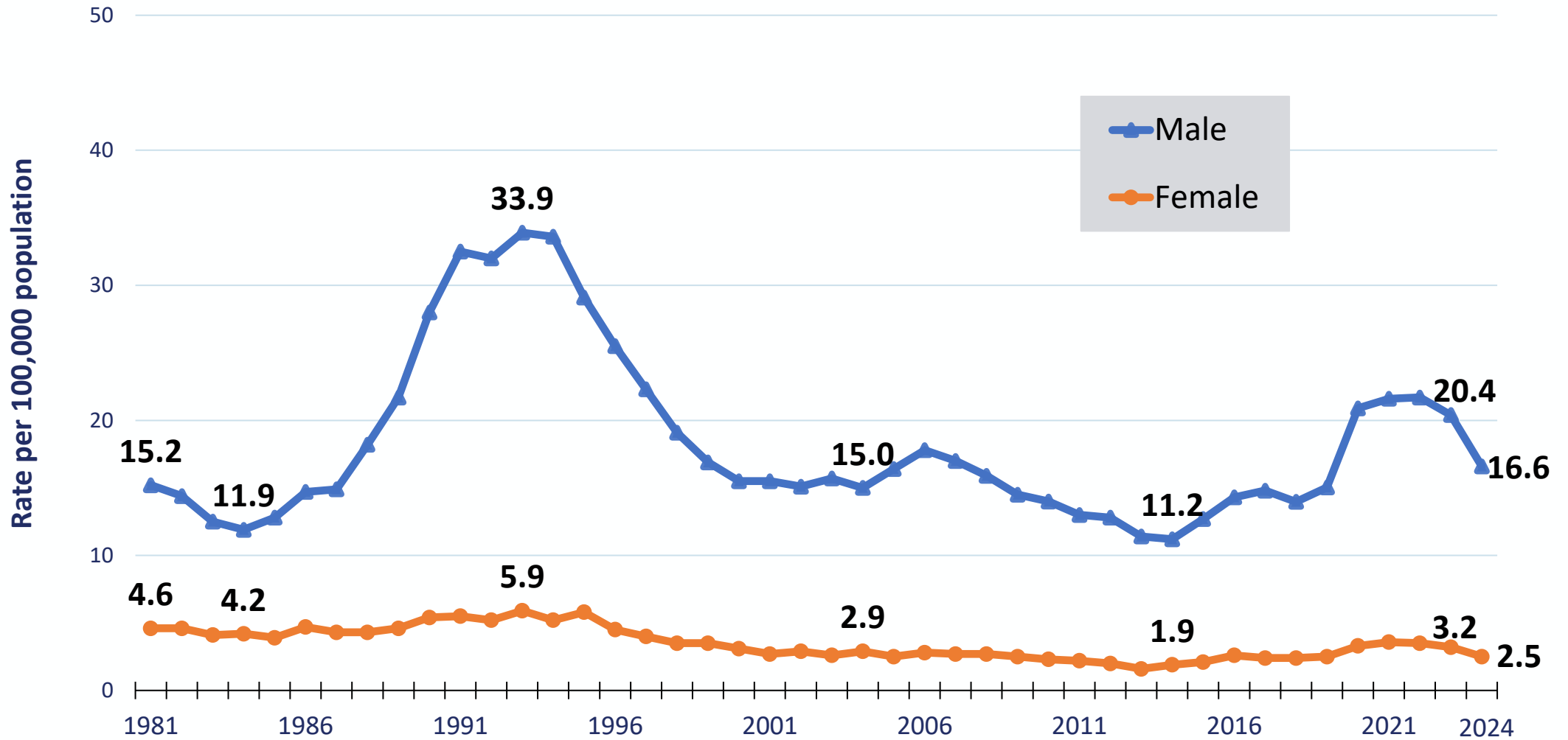


*Provisional data for 2024

1990-2017 data uses "bridged race" categories, whereas "single-race" categories are used beginning in 2018. As a result, estimates for 2018 and beyond are not directly comparable to previous years.

Source: CDC/National Center for Health Statistics, CDC WONDER Online Database (<https://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd.html>)

US Teenage (Ages 15-19) Homicide Deaths by Sex, 1981-2024*

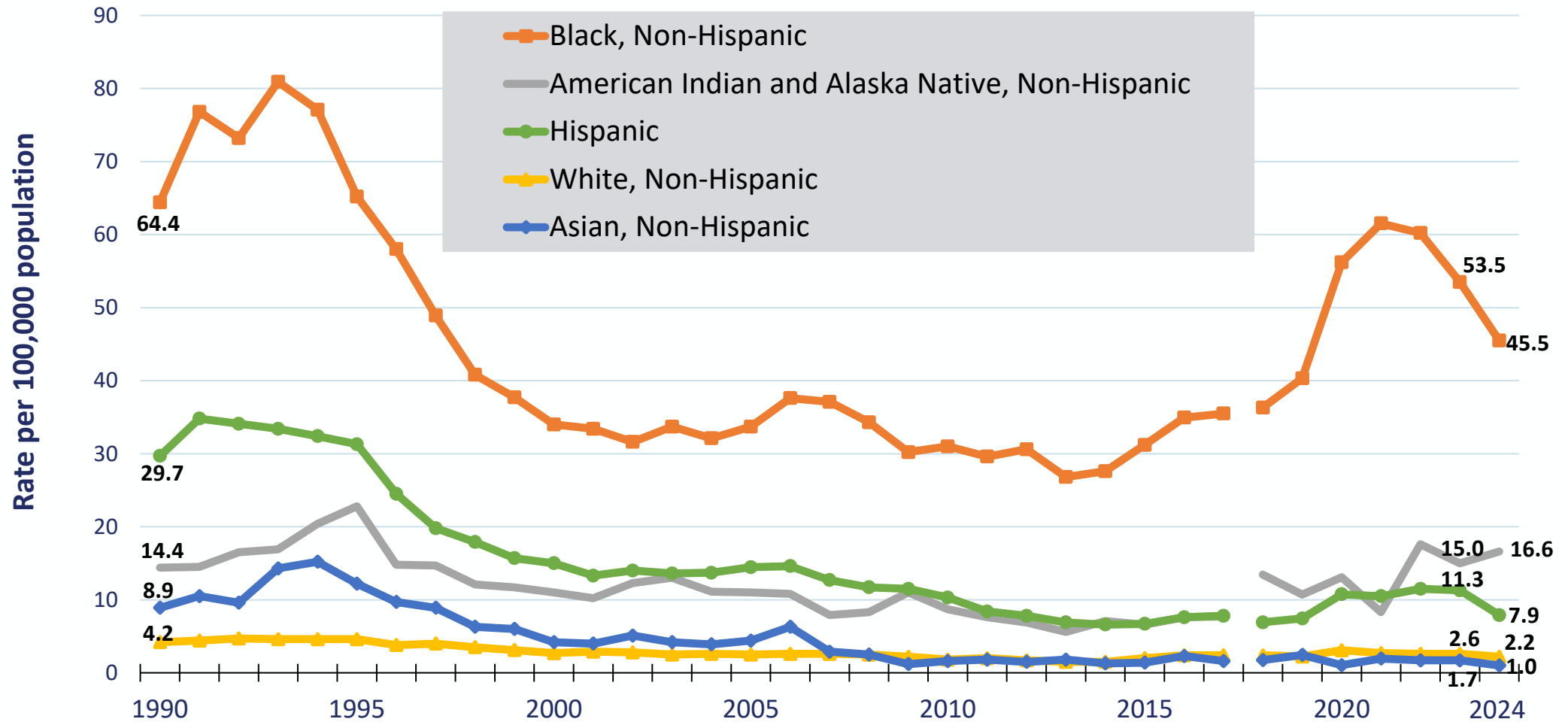


*Provisional data for 2024

Source: CDC/National Center for Health Statistics, CDC WONDER Online Database (<https://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd.html>)



US Teenage (Ages 15-19) Homicide Deaths by Race and Ethnicity, 1990-2024*

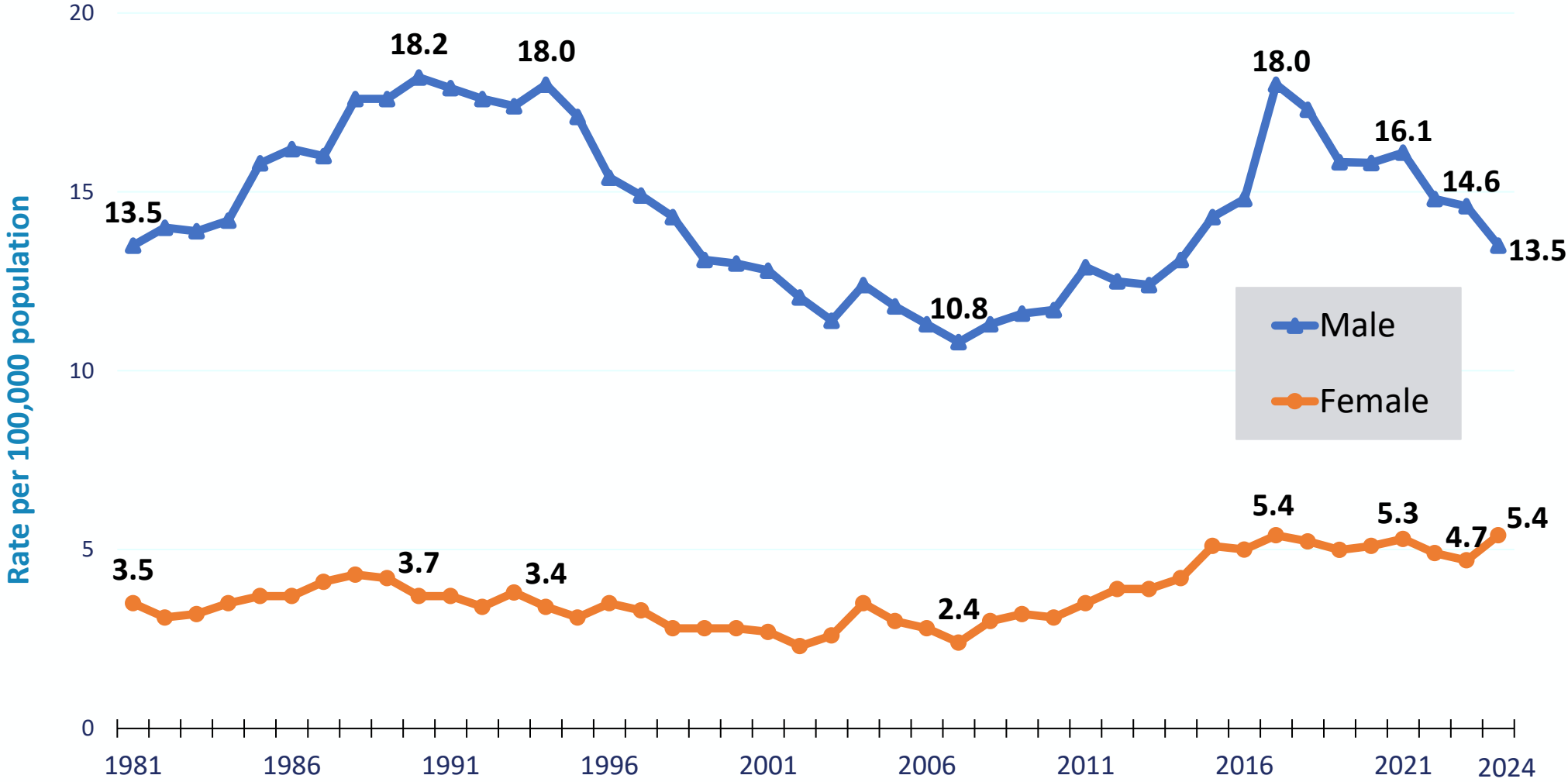


*Provisional data for 2024

1990-2017 data uses "bridged race" categories, whereas "single-race" categories are used beginning in 2018. As a result, estimates for 2018 and beyond are not directly comparable to previous years.

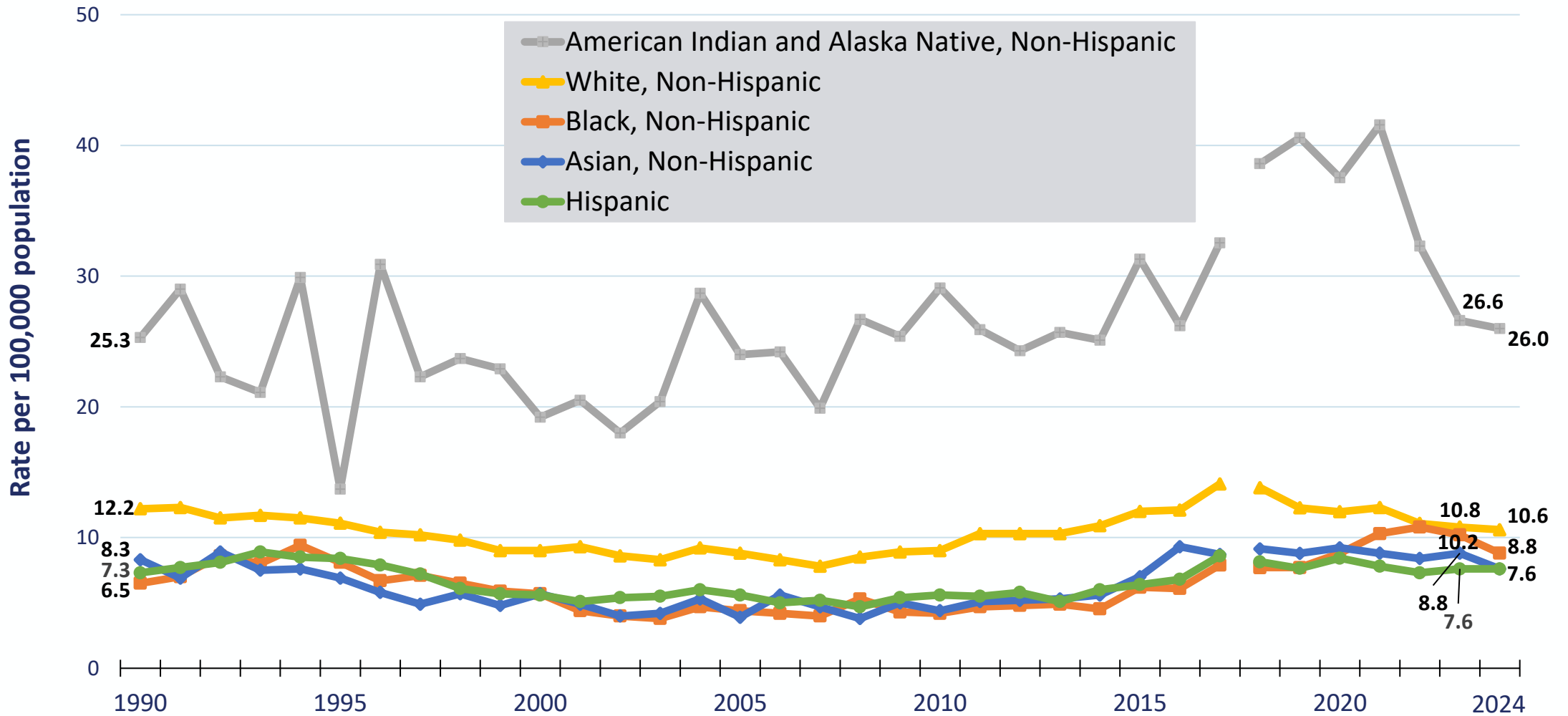
Source: CDC/National Center for Health Statistics, CDC WONDER Online Database (<https://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd.html>)

US Teenage (Ages 15-19) Suicide Deaths by Sex, 1981-2024*



*Provisional data for 2024

US Teenage (Ages 15-19) Suicide Deaths by Race and Ethnicity, 1990-2024*

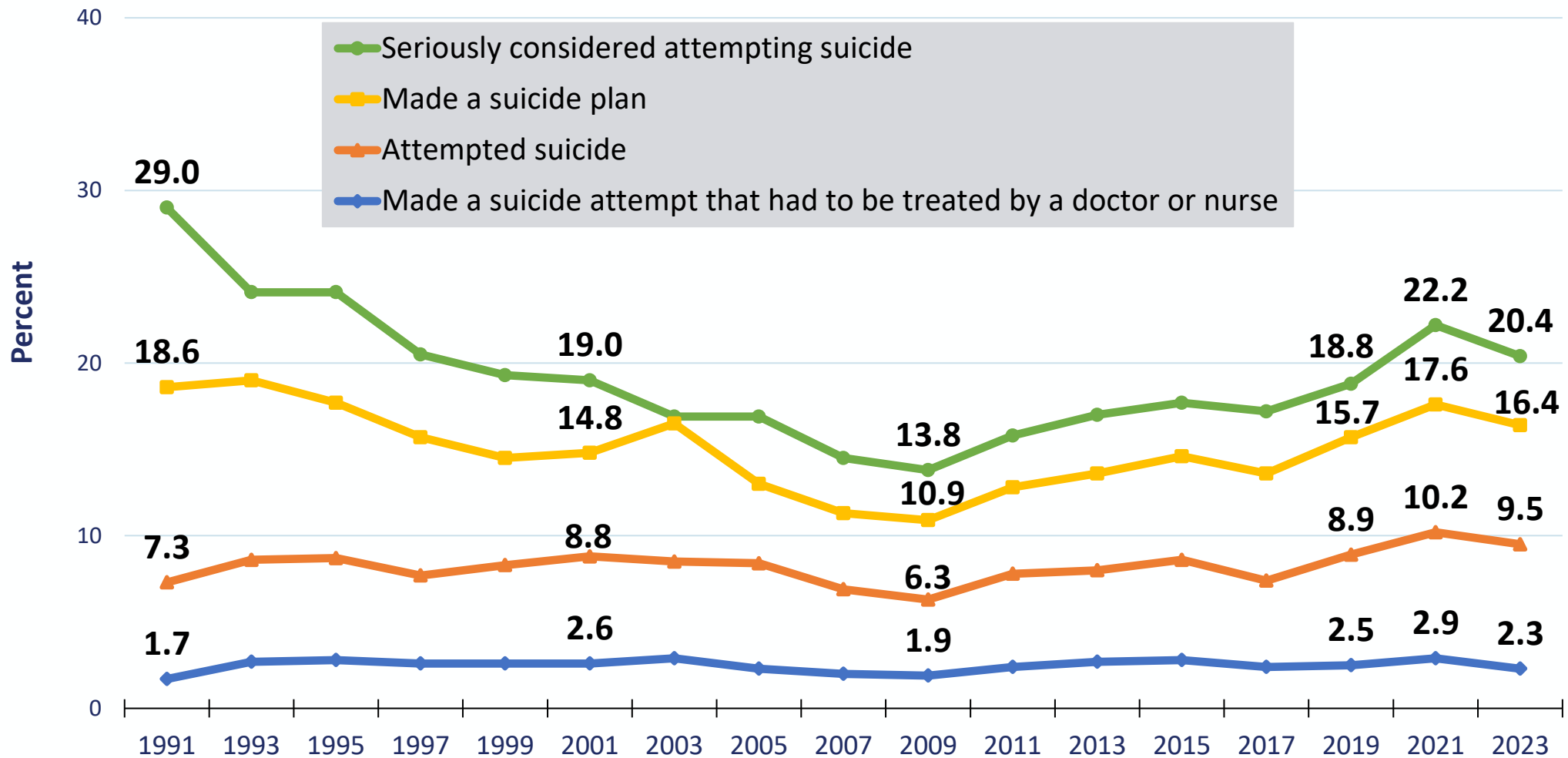


*Provisional data for 2024

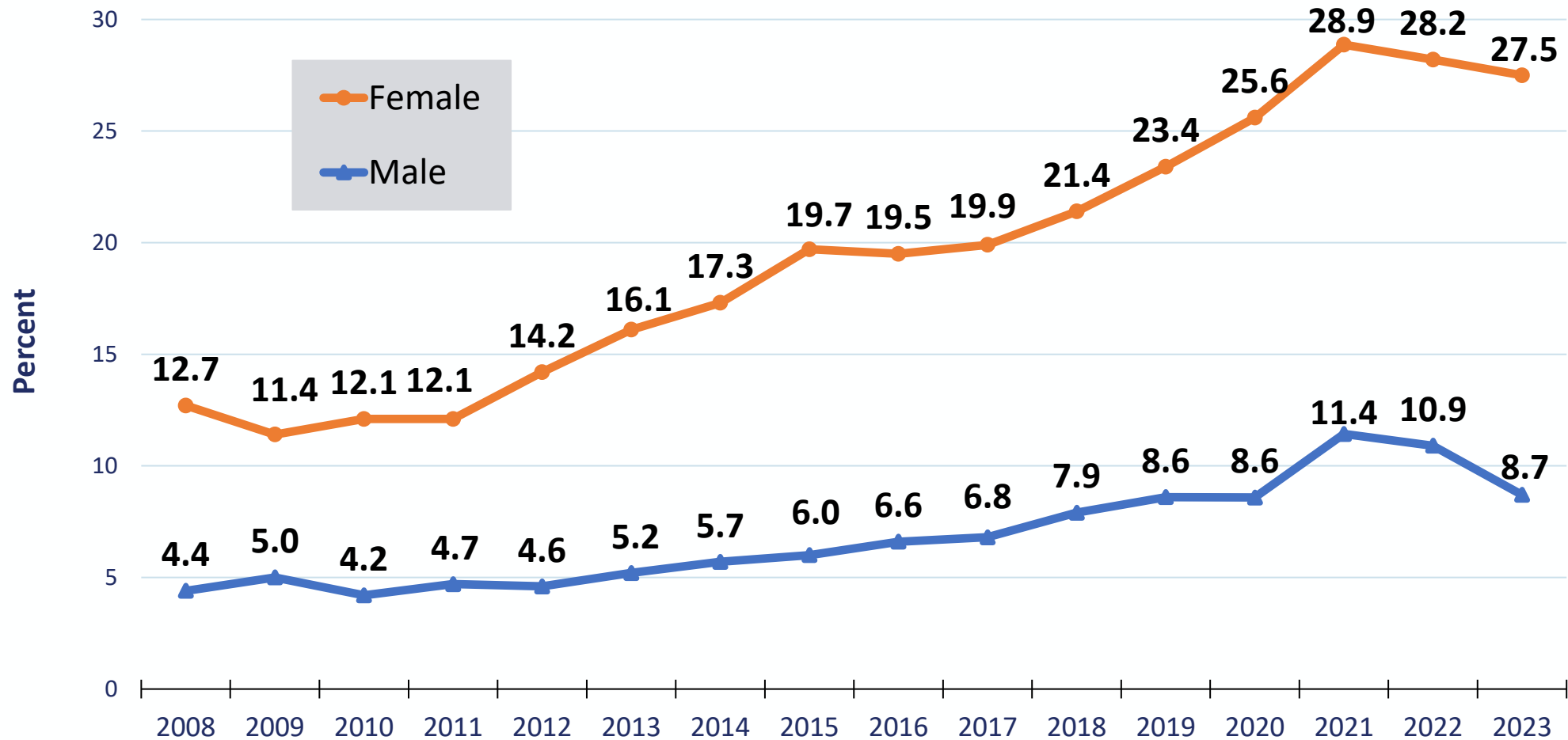
1990-2017 data uses "bridged race" categories, whereas "single-race" categories are used beginning in 2018. As a result, estimates for 2018 and beyond are not directly comparable to previous years.

Source: CDC/National Center for Health Statistics, CDC WONDER Online Database (<https://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd.html>)

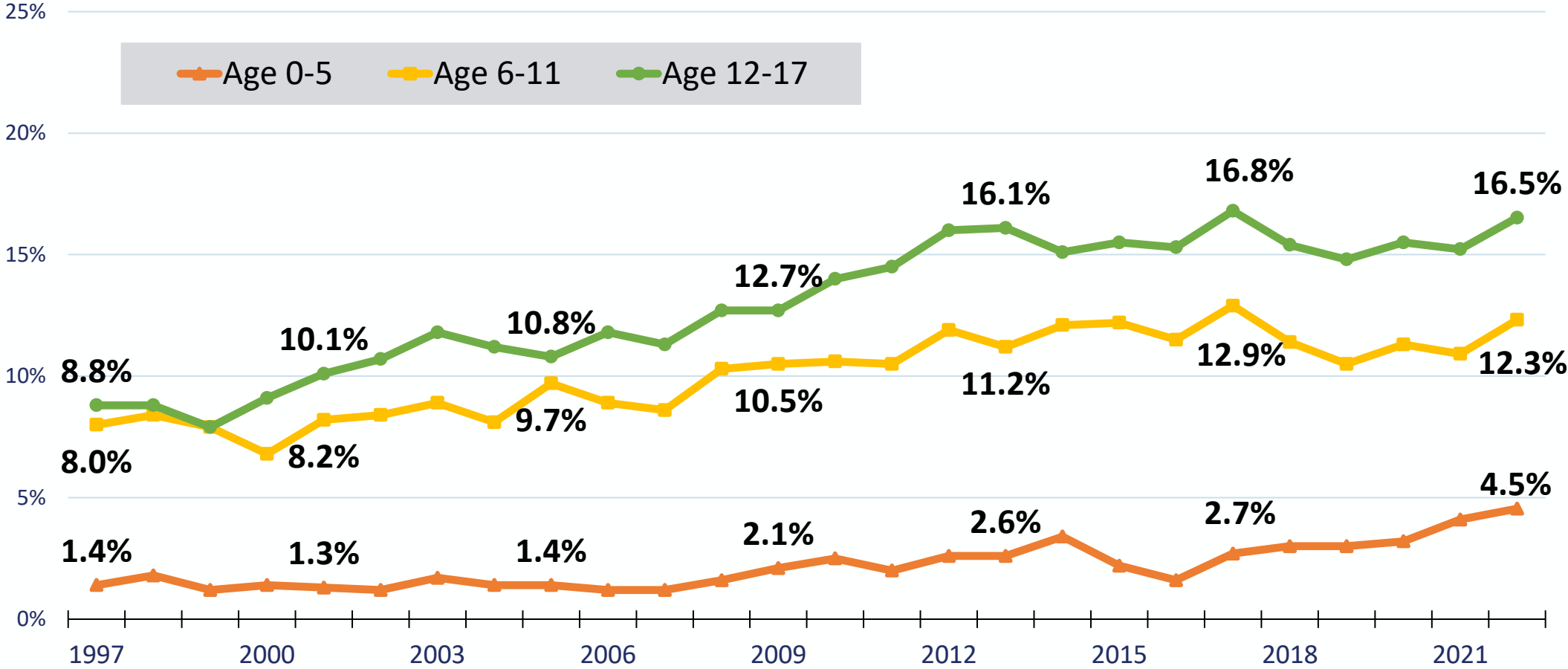
Percent of US Students (9th - 12th Graders) Who Reported Suicide-Related Behavior, 1991-2023



Percent of US Youth (Ages 12-17) Who Reported a Major Depressive Episode in the Past Year by Sex, 2008-2023

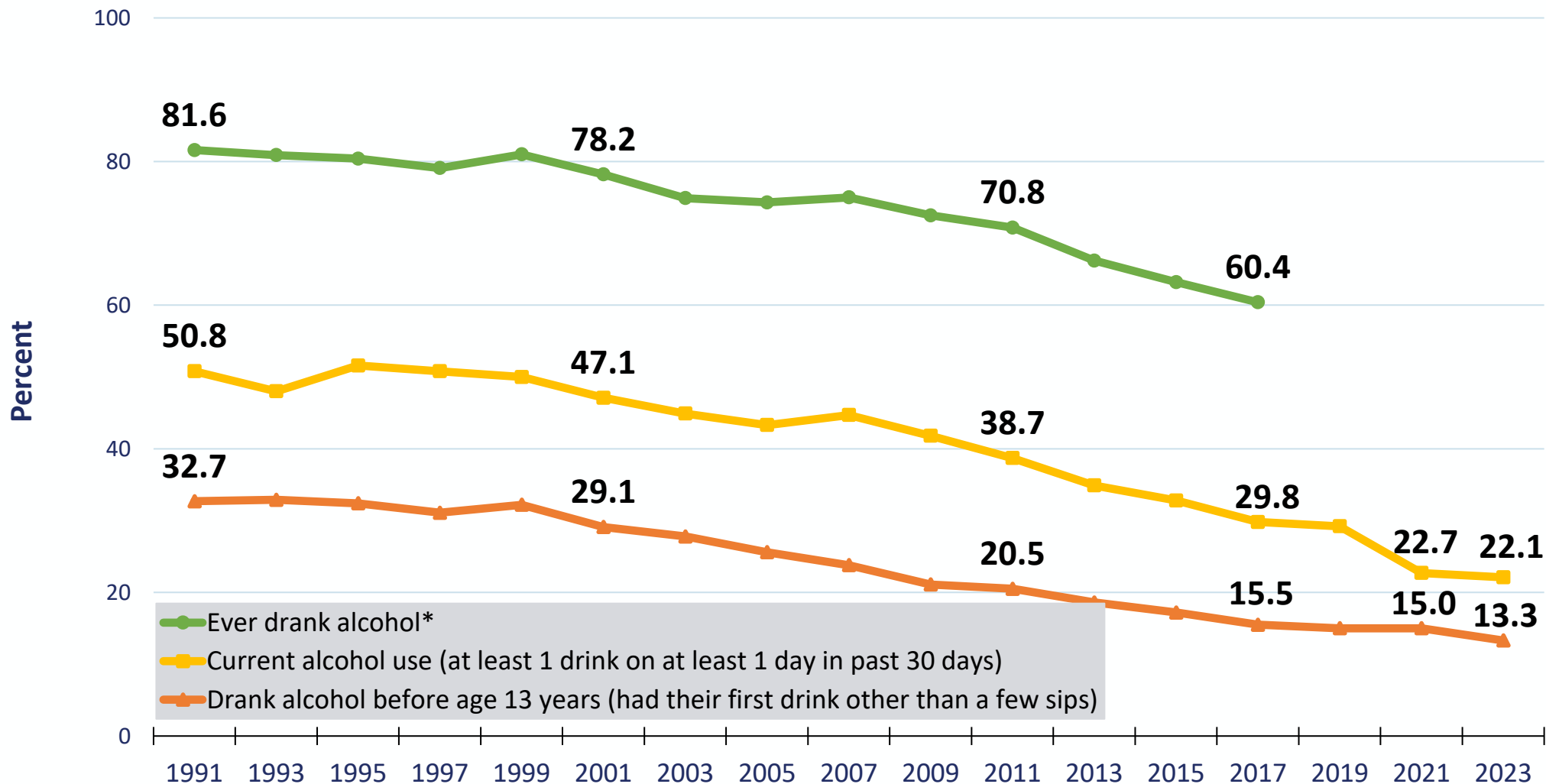


Percent of US Children (Ages 0-17) with Any Mental Health Diagnosis* by Age Group, 1997-2022



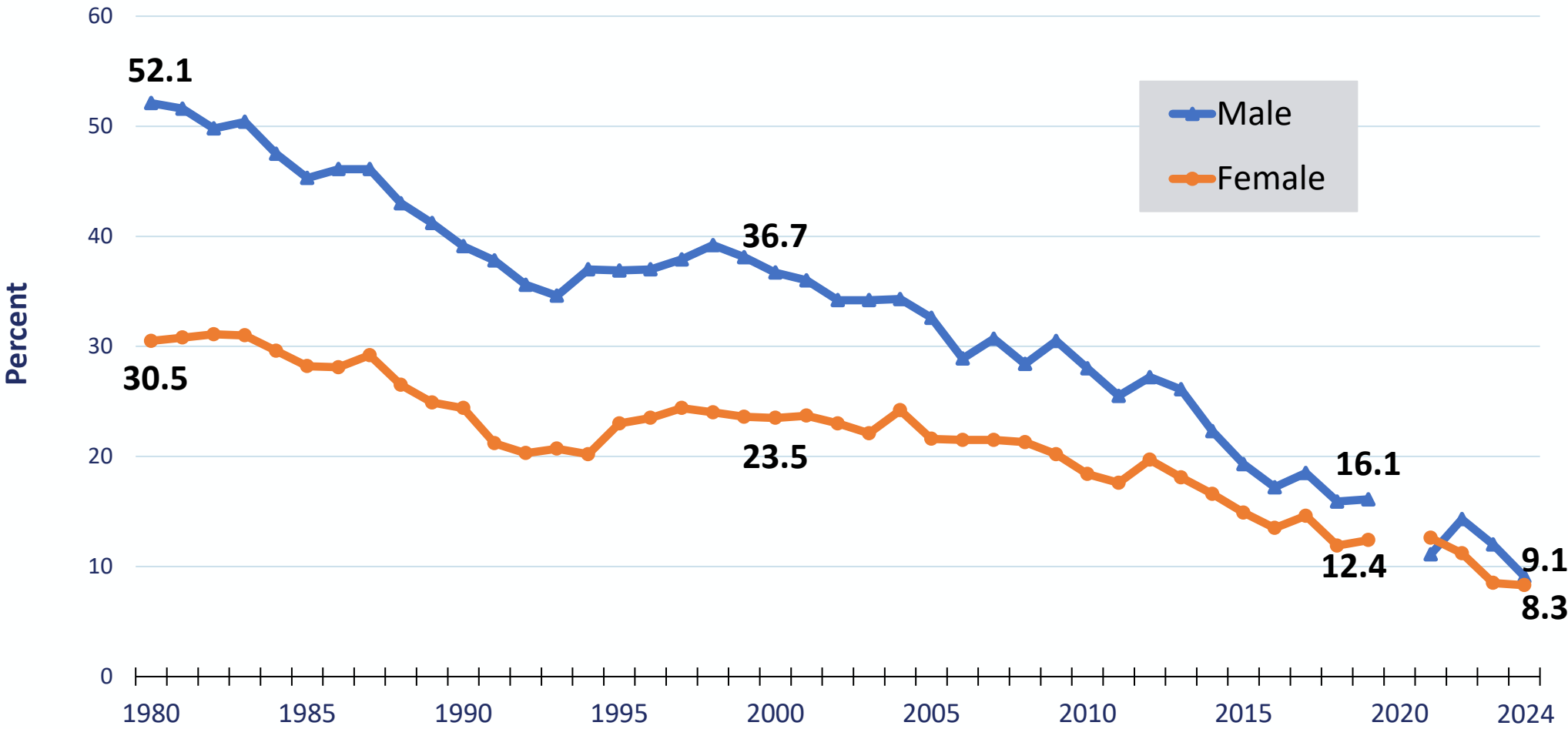
*Mental health diagnosis is defined broadly - it includes adjustment disorders; anxiety disorders; attention-deficit/conduct/disruptive behavior disorders; cognitive disorders; developmental disorders; impulse control disorders; mood disorders; personality disorders; psychotic disorders; alcohol/substance-related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

Percent of US Students (9th - 12th Graders) Who Reported Alcohol Use, 1991-2023



*Beginning in 2019, the question related to "ever drank alcohol" is no longer included in the Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

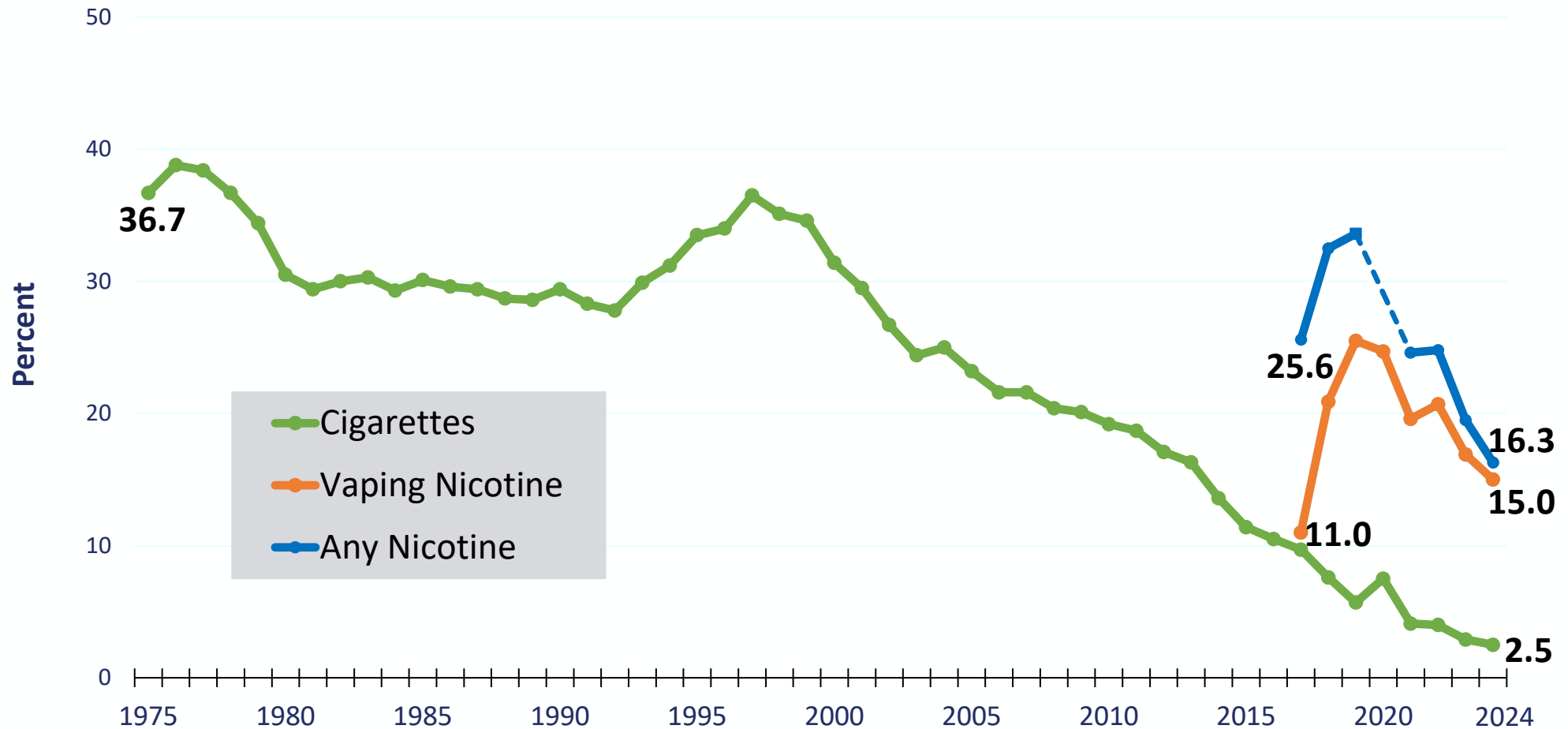
Percent of US 12th Grade Students Who Reported Having 5 or More Alcoholic Beverages in a Row in the Past 2 Weeks by Sex, 1980-2024*



*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, data collection in 2020 was halted on March 15, 2020, resulting in a sample size of one-quarter the typical size. As a result, it is not possible to provide reliable estimates for demographic subgroups for 2020.

Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse and University of Michigan’s Institute for Social Research, Monitoring the Future Survey (<https://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/tables/beh2.asp> and <https://monitoringthefuture.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/mtf2025.pdf>)

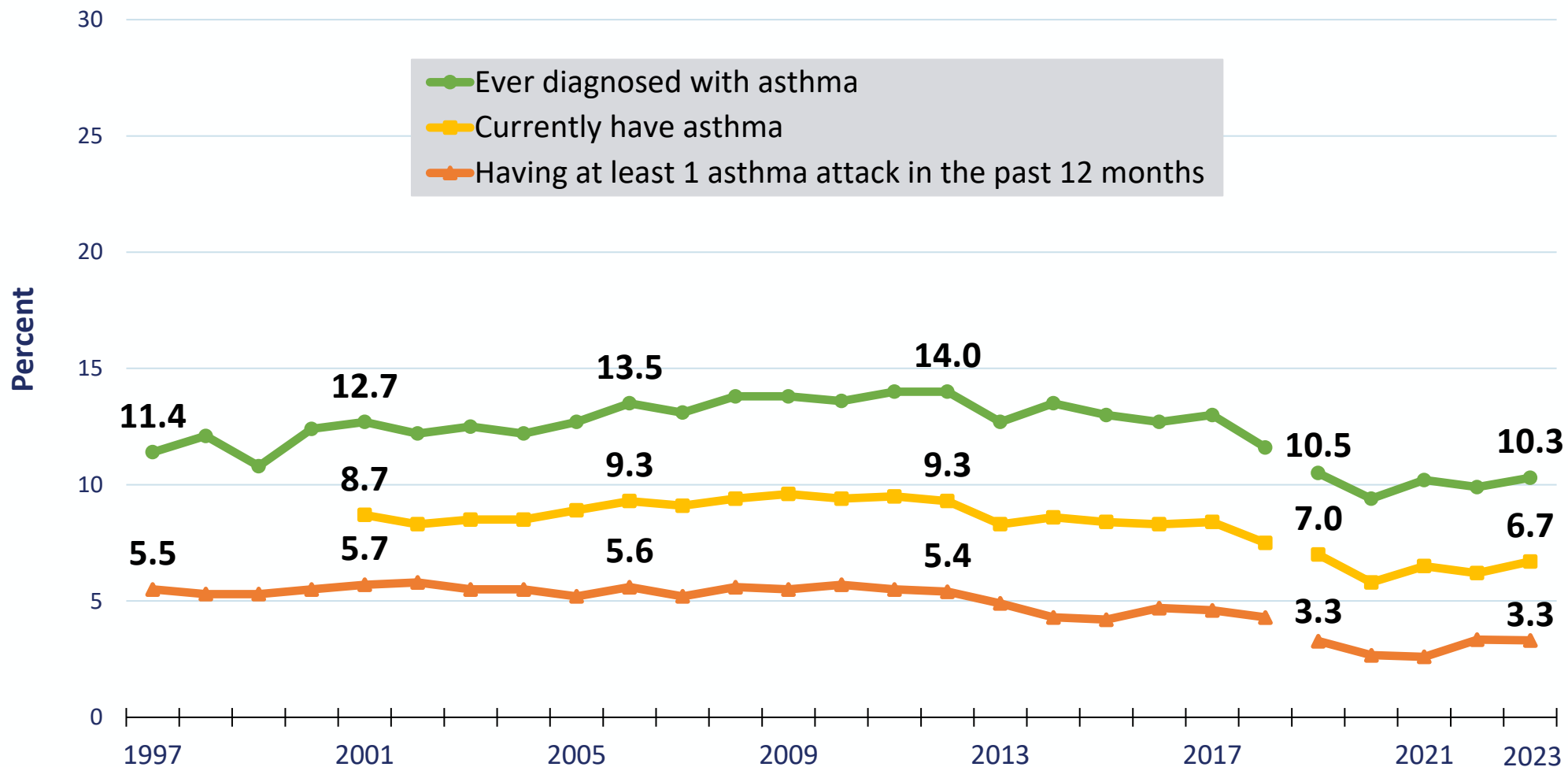
Percent of US 12th Grade Students Who Reported Nicotine Use in the Past 30 Days, 1975-2024



Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse and University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research, Monitoring the Future Survey (<https://monitoringthefuture.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/mtf2025.pdf>)



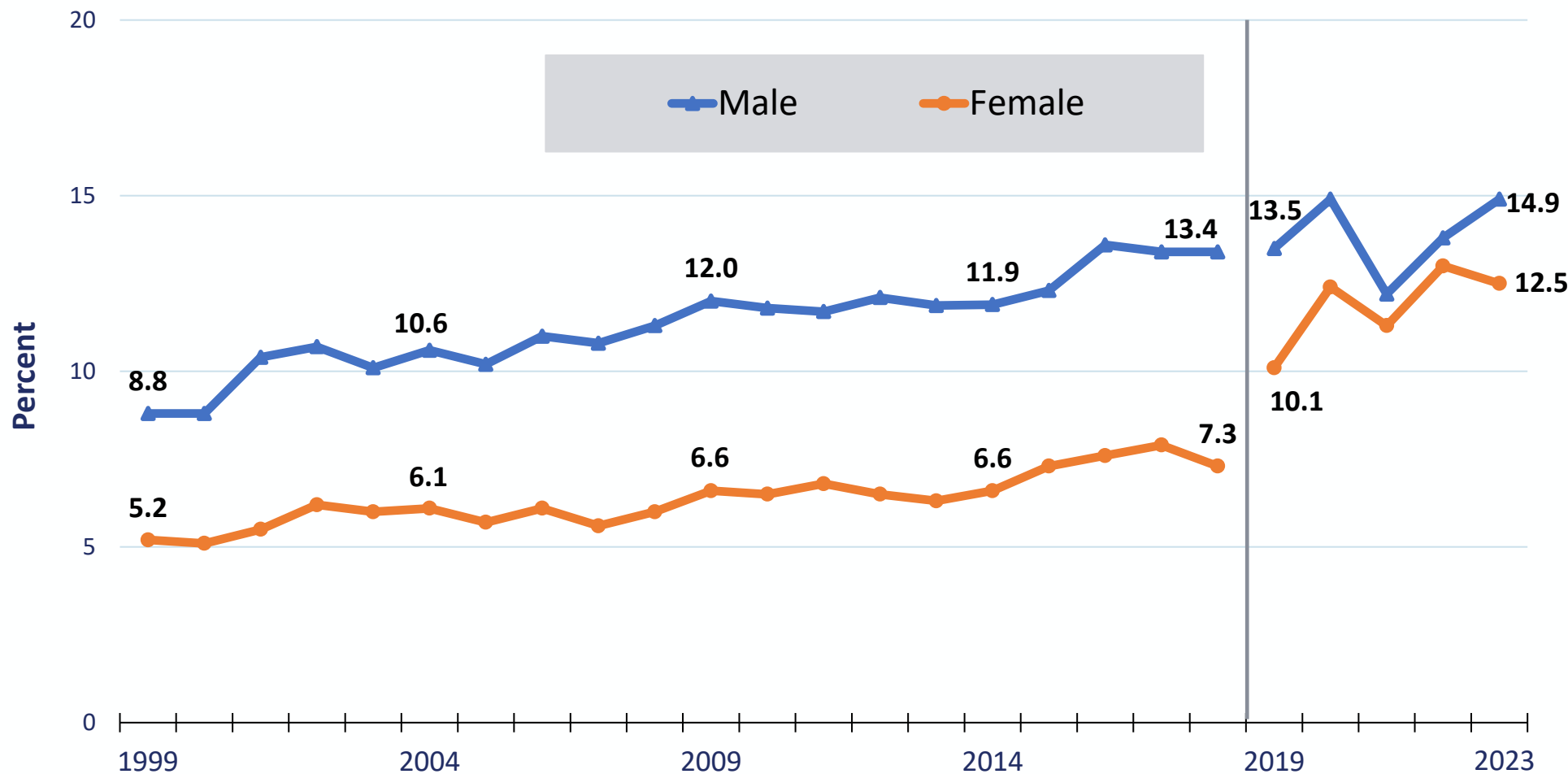
Percent of US Children (Ages 0-17) with Asthma According to Parent Report, 1997-2023*



*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 (data for 1997-2019: <http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/tables/health8a.asp>; and 2019-2023: https://wwwn.cdc.gov/NHISDataQueryTool/SHS_child/index.html and AAP Research Analysis of NHIS datasets)

Percent of US Children (Ages 5-17) with a Disability Condition by Sex According to Parent Report, 1999-2023*



1999-2018 – A child is considered disabled if any of following are true:
 (1) Child receives Special Education Services
 (2) Due to physical, mental, or emotional problem needs help with personal care needs
 (3) Due to health problem has difficulty walking without use of special equipment
 (4) Limited in any way because of difficulty remembering or periods of confusion
 (5) Limited because of physical, mental, or emotional problems

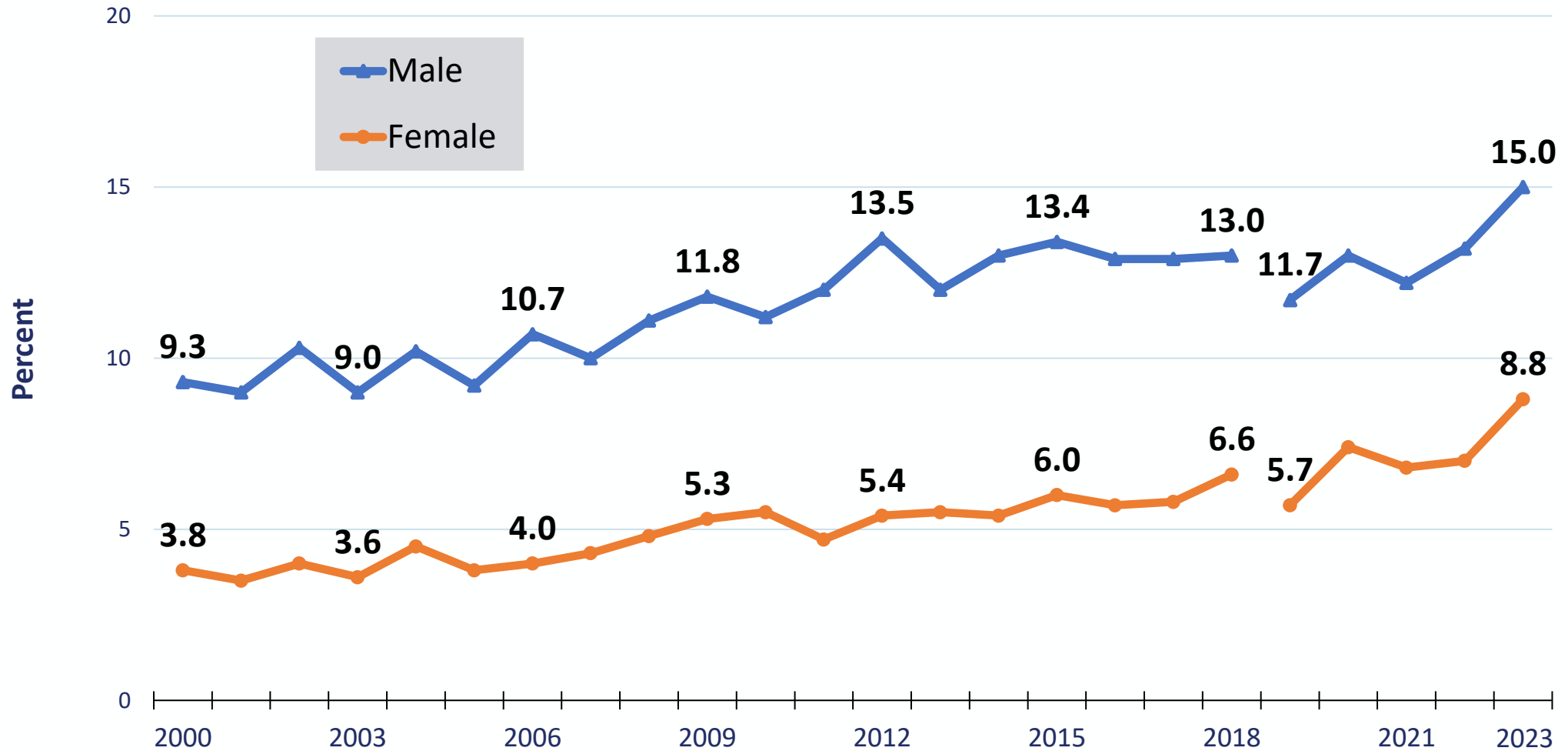
2019-current – The child disability measure is defined by a composite of responses to 13 core functioning domains: (1) seeing; (2) hearing; (3) mobility; (4) self-care; (5) communication; (6) learning; (7) remembering; (8) concentrating; (9) accepting change; (10) controlling behavior; (11) making friends; (12) anxiety; and (13) depression. A child is considered as having disability if their parent reports "a lot of difficulty" or "cannot do at all" to at least one of the first 11 domains or reports "daily" to domains 12 or 13. A child is considered without disability if their parent reports "no difficulty" or "some difficulty" to all the first 11 domains and "never," "a few times a year," "monthly," or "weekly" to domains 12 and 13.

*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 data

1999-2018: (<https://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren22/tables/health5.asp?popup=true>); 2019-2023: AAP Research Analysis of NHIS data

Percent of US Children (Ages 3-17) Ever Diagnosed with ADHD by Sex According to Parent Report, 2000-2023*

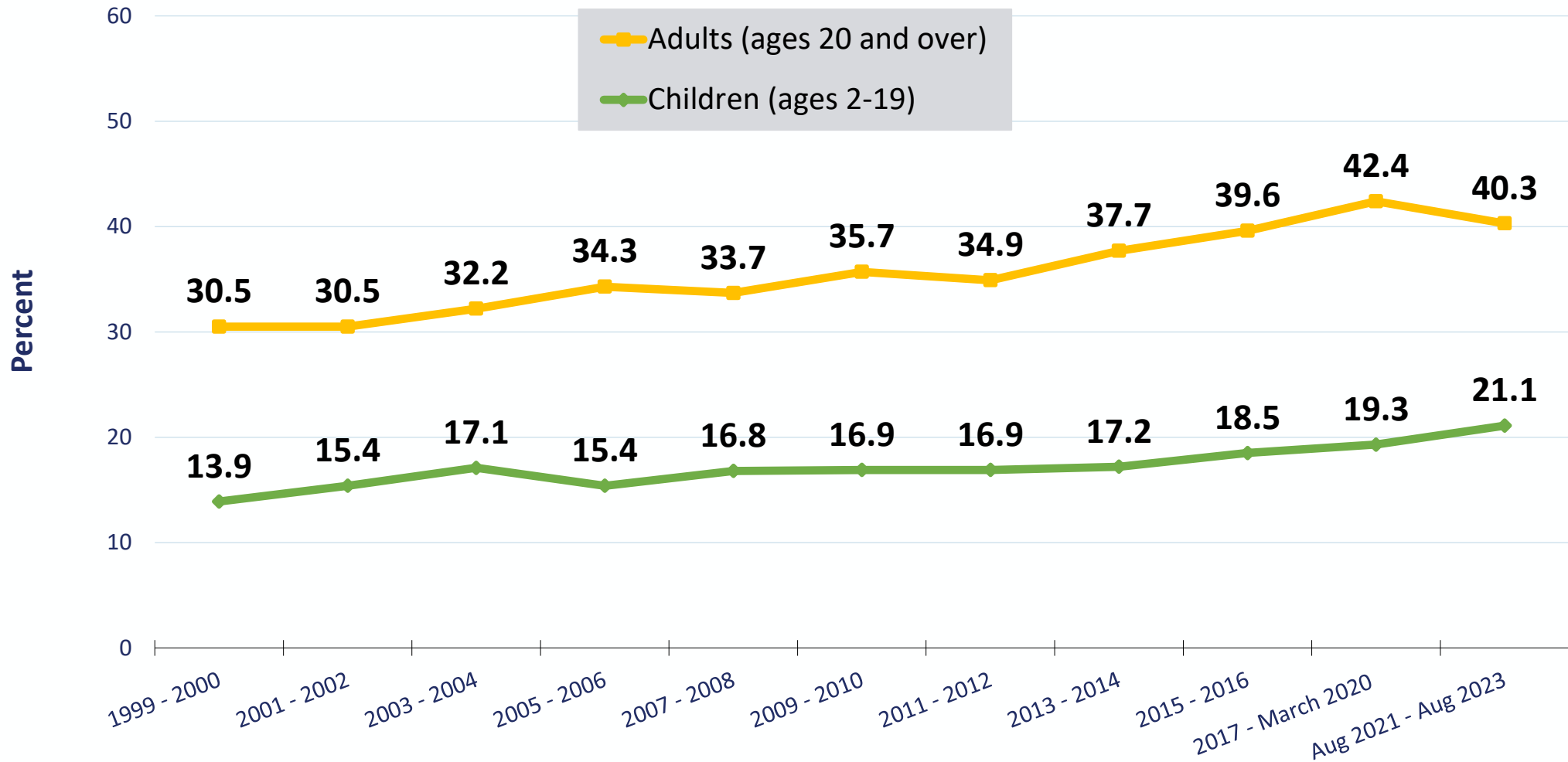


*Estimates for 2019 and beyond are not directly comparable to previous years due to a survey re-design.

Source: AAP Research analysis of CDC/NCHS National Health Interview Survey data and Summary Health Statistics Tables (data for 2000-2018: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/SHS/tables.htm>; and 2019-2023: https://wwwn.cdc.gov/NHISDataQueryTool/SHS_child/index.html)



Obesity Prevalence among US Children (Ages 2-19) and Adults, 1999-2023*

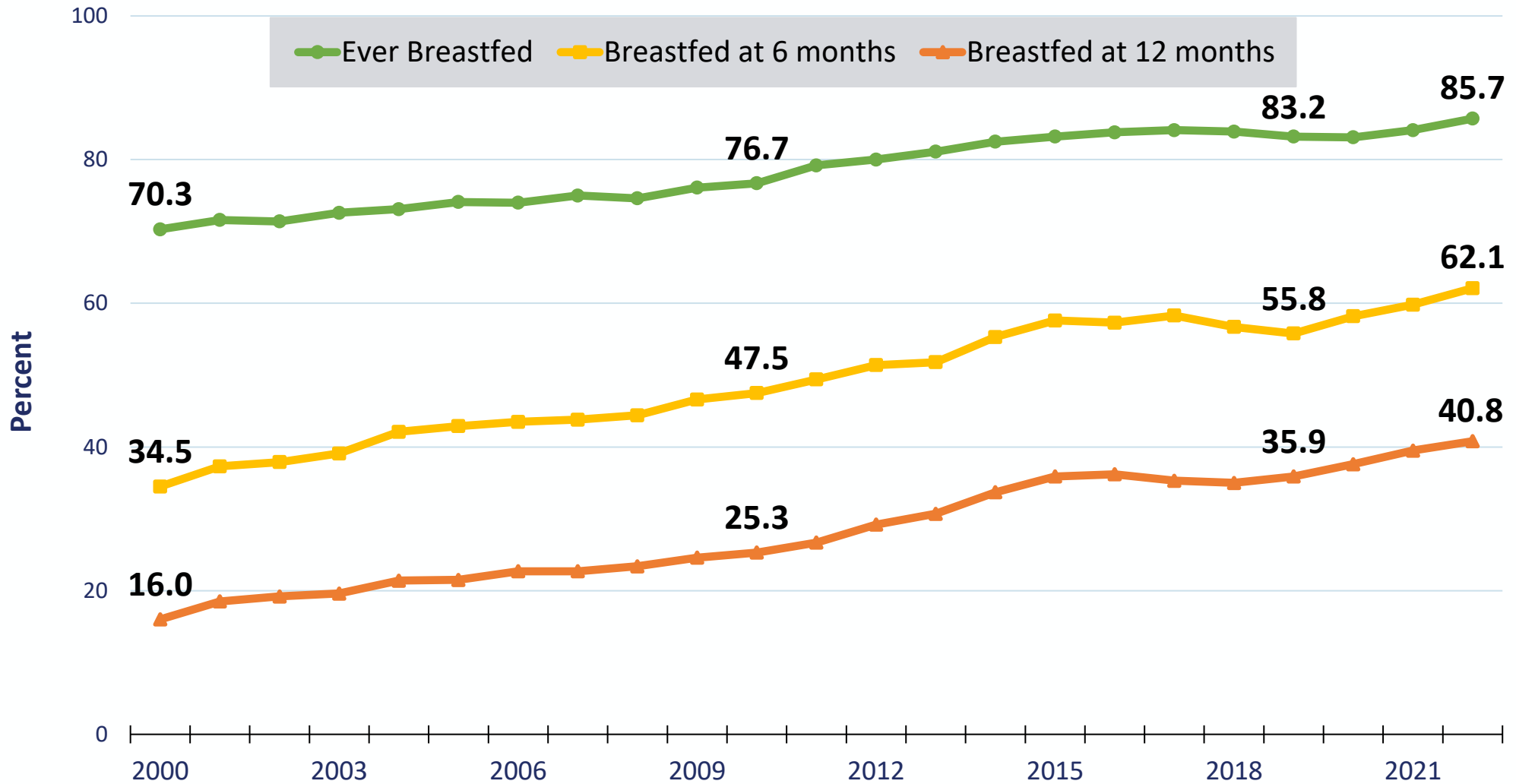


*Due to COVID-19 pandemic, only partial data was collected for 2019-2020. As a result, nationally representative data for 2019-2020 cannot be released. The partial data was combined with 2017-2018 data to create a 2017-March 2020 pre-pandemic dataset.

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

(1999-2016: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db288.pdf>; 2017-March 2020: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhsr/nhsr158-508.pdf>; Aug 2021-Aug 2023: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db508.pdf> and AAP analysis of Dataset - <https://wwwn.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes/continuousnhanes/default.aspx?Cycle=2021-2023>)

Percent of US Infants Breastfed by Birth Year of Infant, 2000-2022



Source: CDC/NCHS, National Immunization Survey (<https://www.cdc.gov/dnpao-data-trends-maps/database/index.html>)



For more information, please contact

Dave Prentice, MS

in Research