

US Child Health Trends

Compiled by AAP Research Staff

March 2020



American Academy of Pediatrics

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- The graphics are developed from publicly available federal data sources.
- At the bottom of each slide, the data source is given, and a link is provided for those seeking more information.



Trends in...

1. Population Characteristics

2. Health

3. Health Care

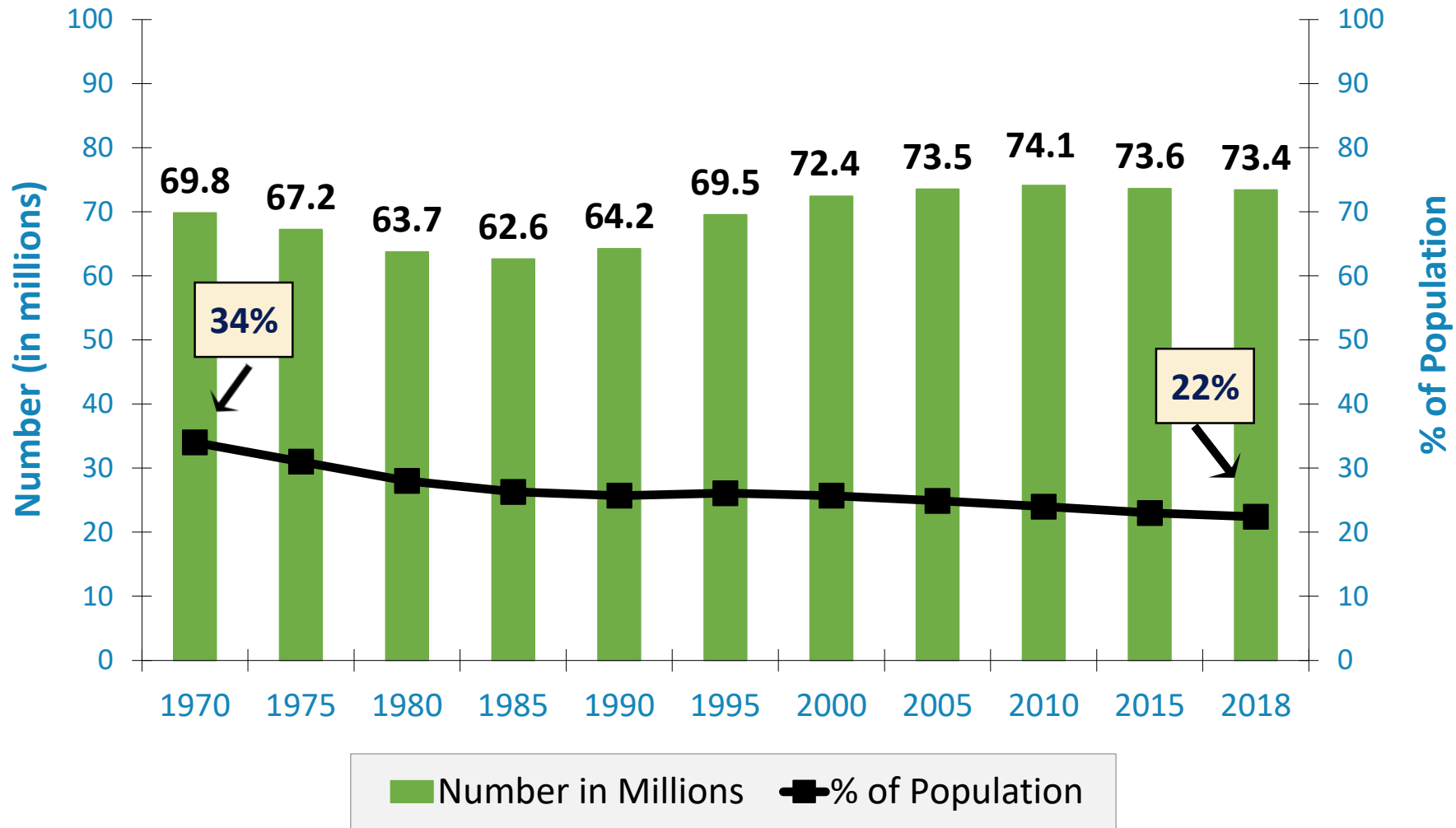


1. Population Characteristic Trends

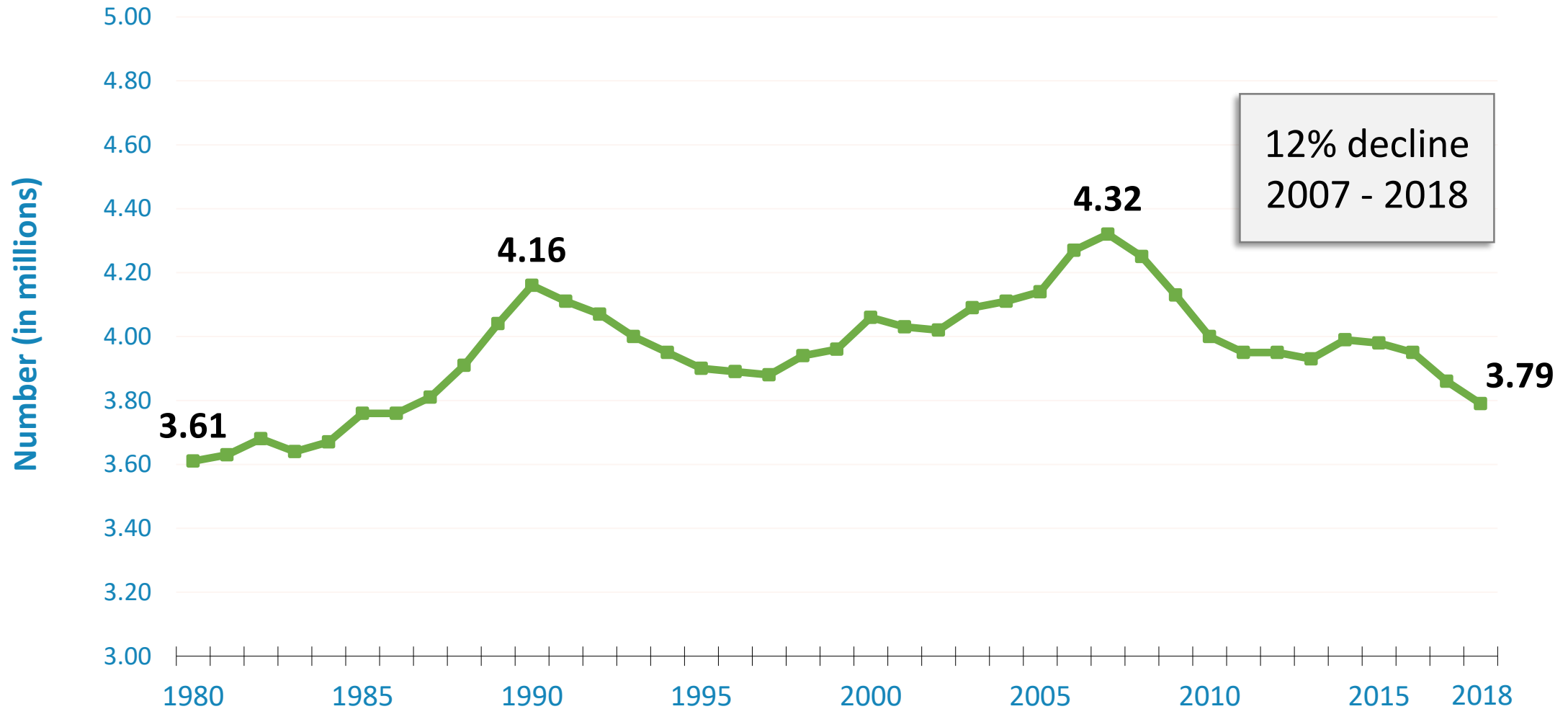
- US child population
- Birth rates - overall and adolescent
- Racial/ethnic composition
- Immigrant children
- Language other than English
- Poverty/low income
- Family structure



US Child (under 18) Population: Number and % of Overall Population, 1970-2018



Number of US Births (in Millions of Children Born), 1980-2018*



*Data for 2018 are final

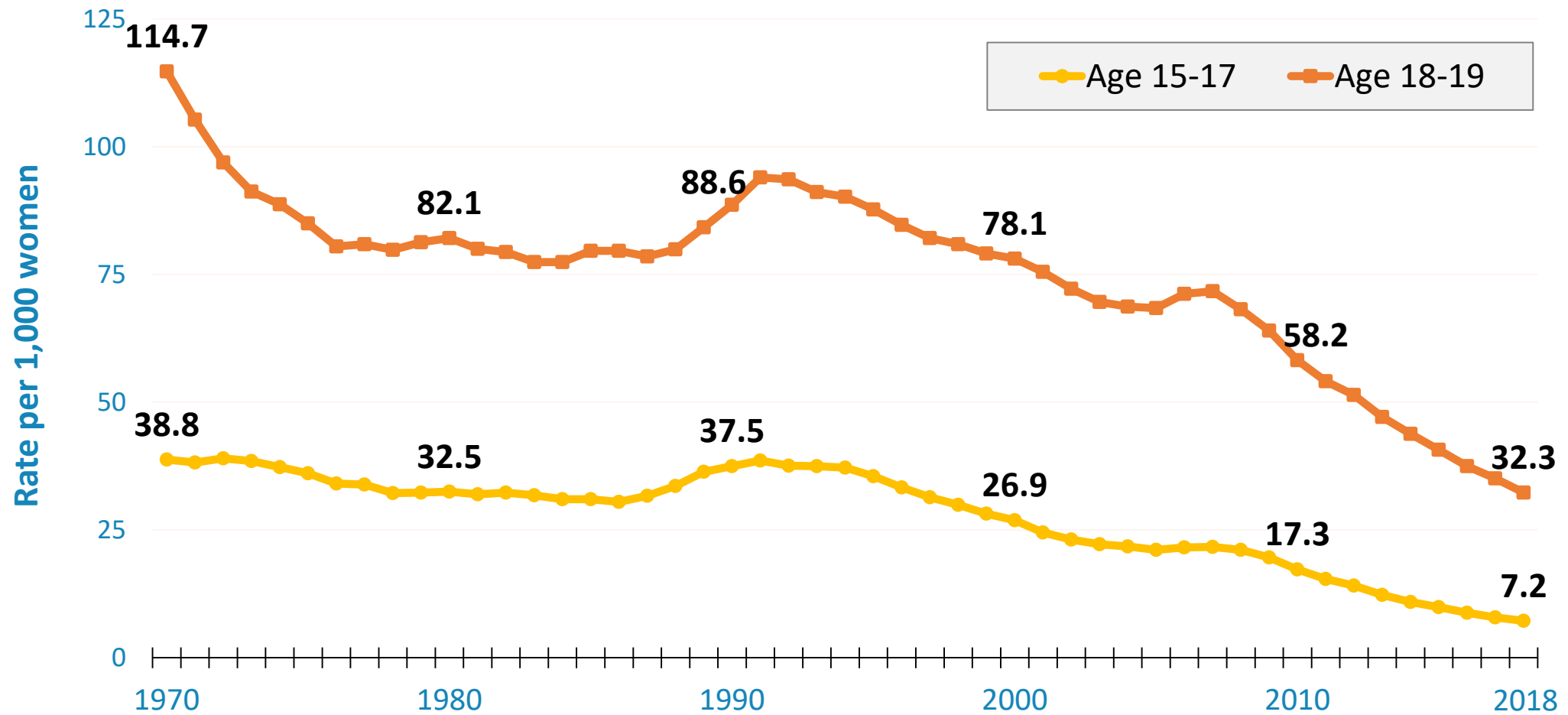
Source: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics Reports (data for 1980-2015: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr66/nvsr66_01.pdf; 2016 and beyond: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr68/nvsr68_13-508.pdf)

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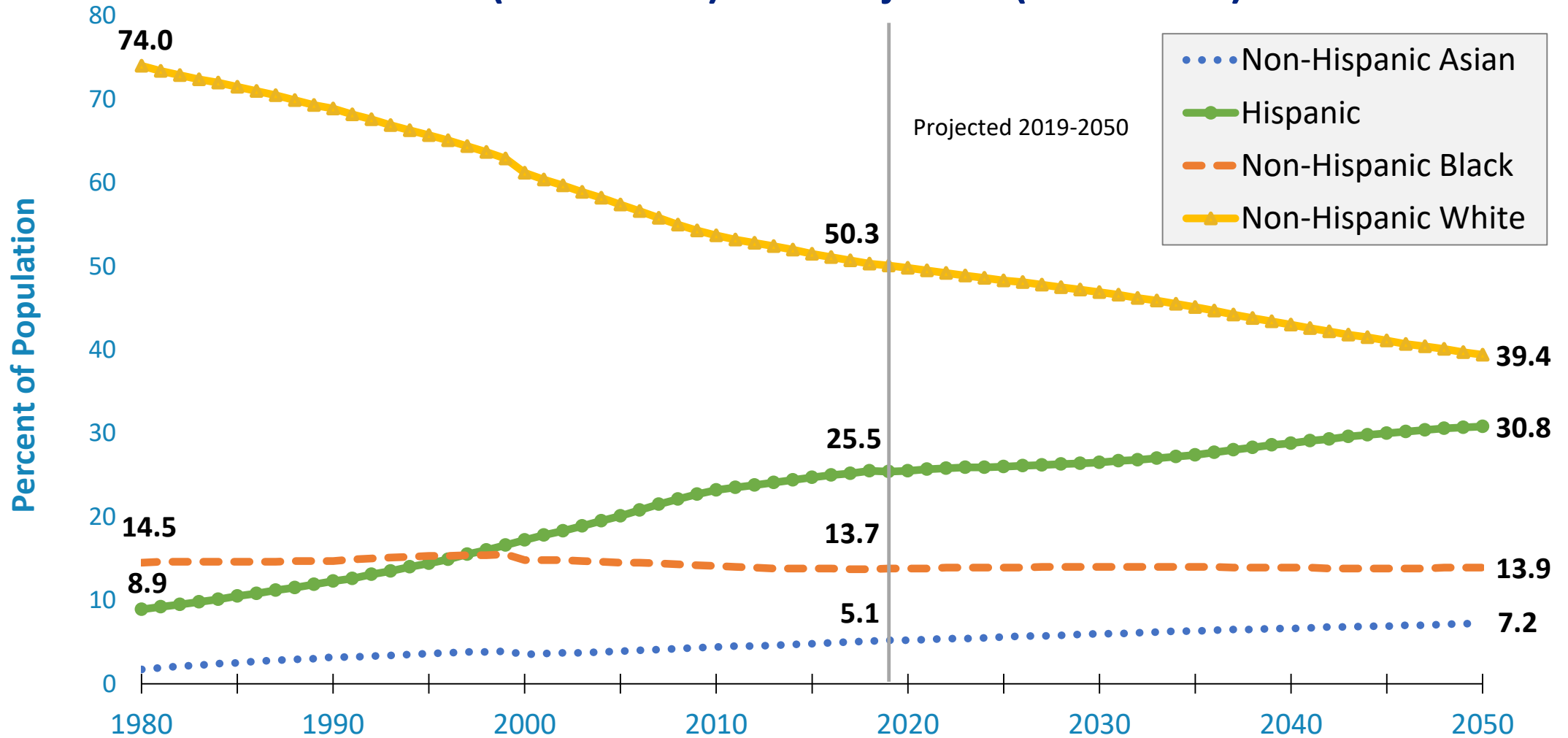
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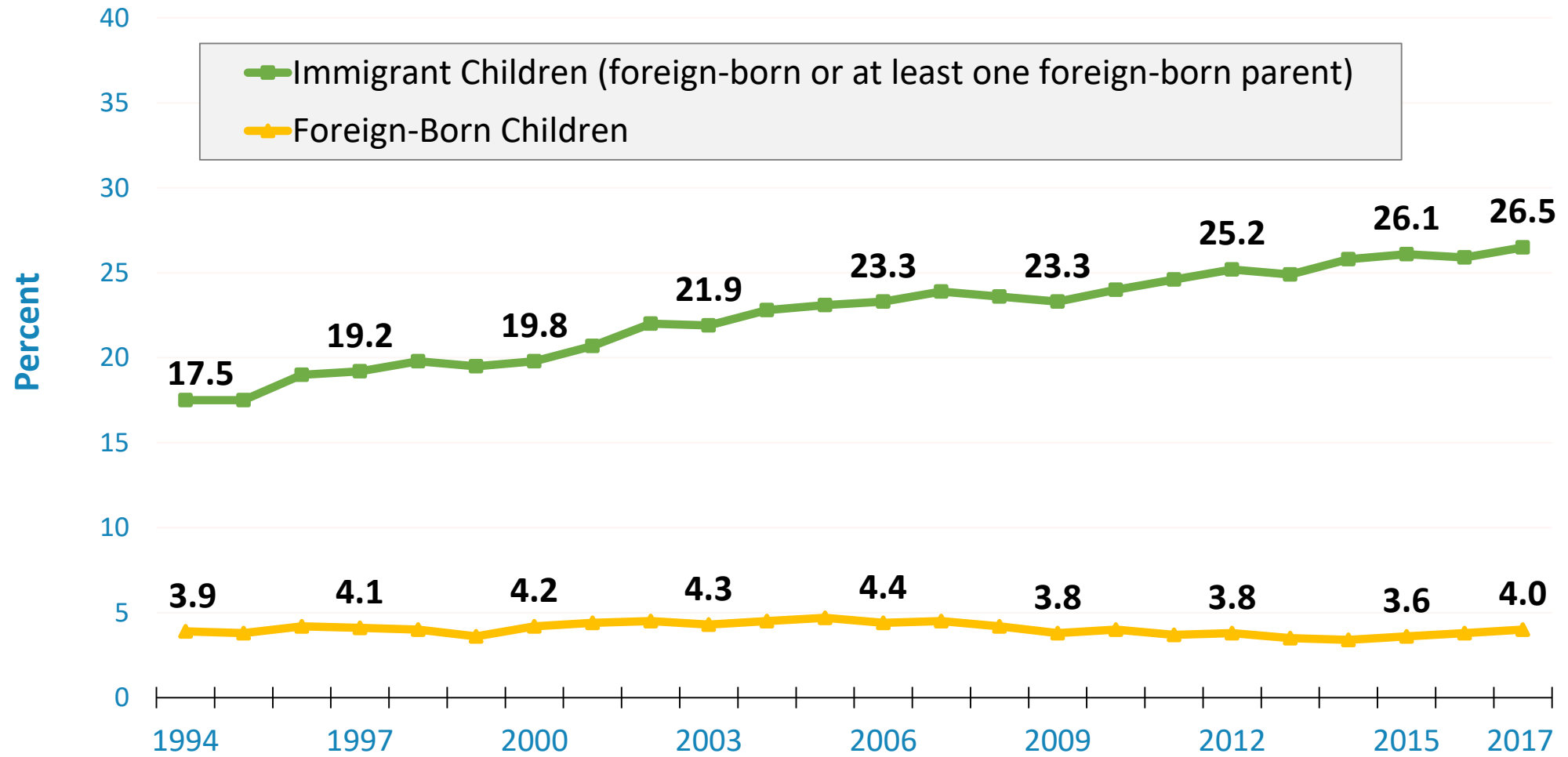
US Adolescent Birth Rates (per 1,000 women) by Age Group, 1970-2018



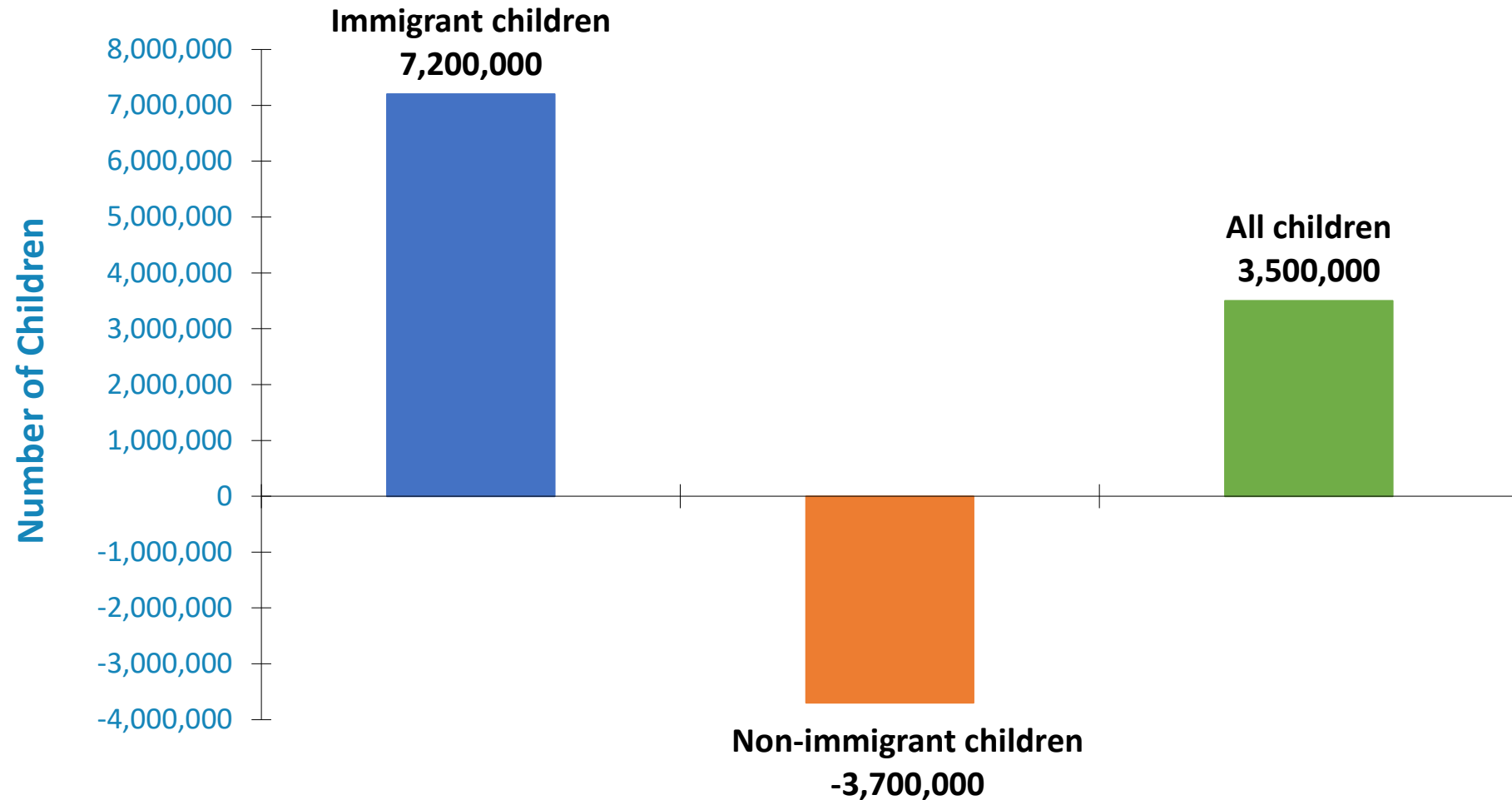
Race/Ethnicity of US Children (under 18), Recorded (1980-2018) and Projected (2019-2050)



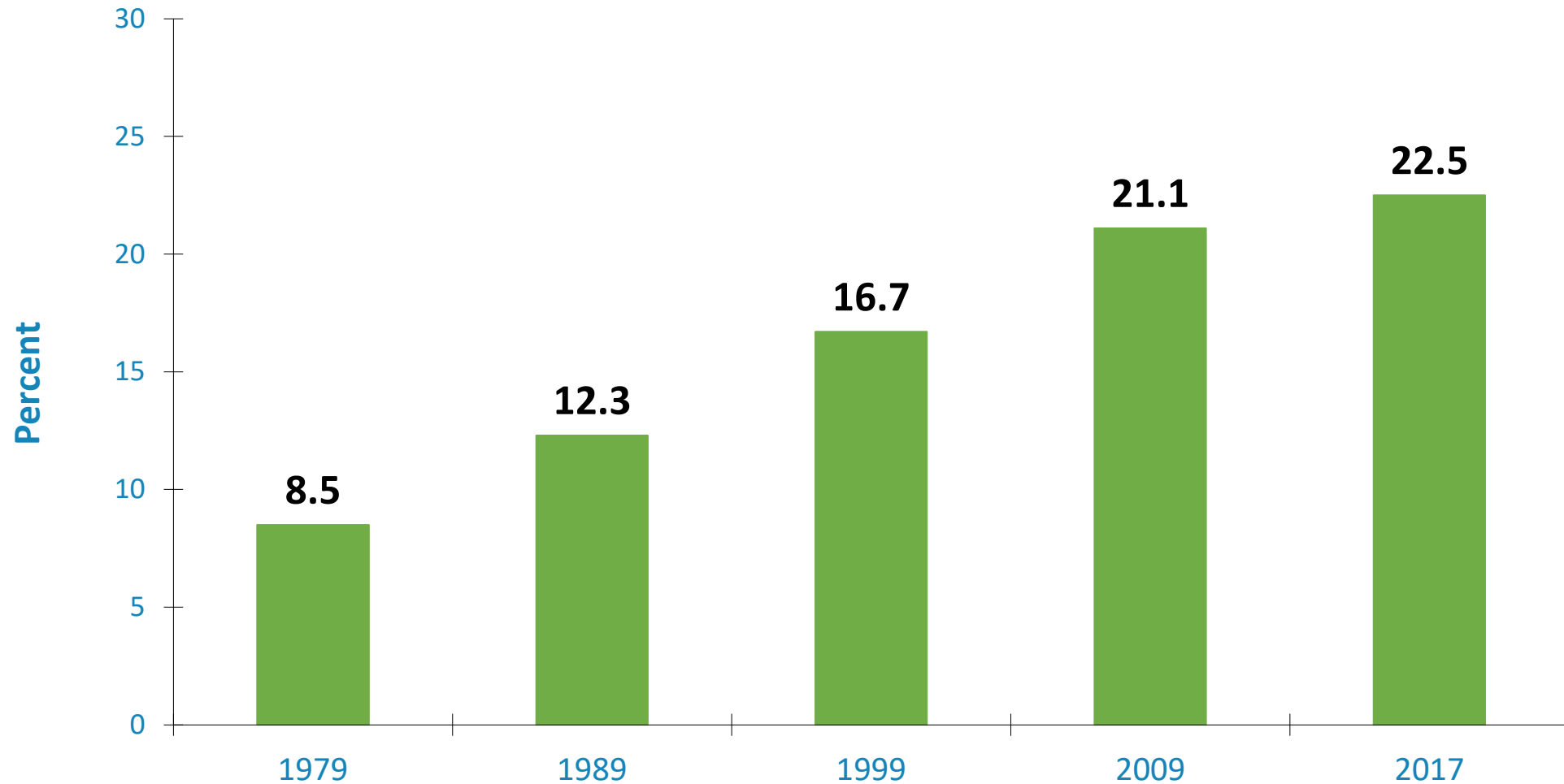
% of US Children (under 18) Who Are Immigrants, 1994-2017



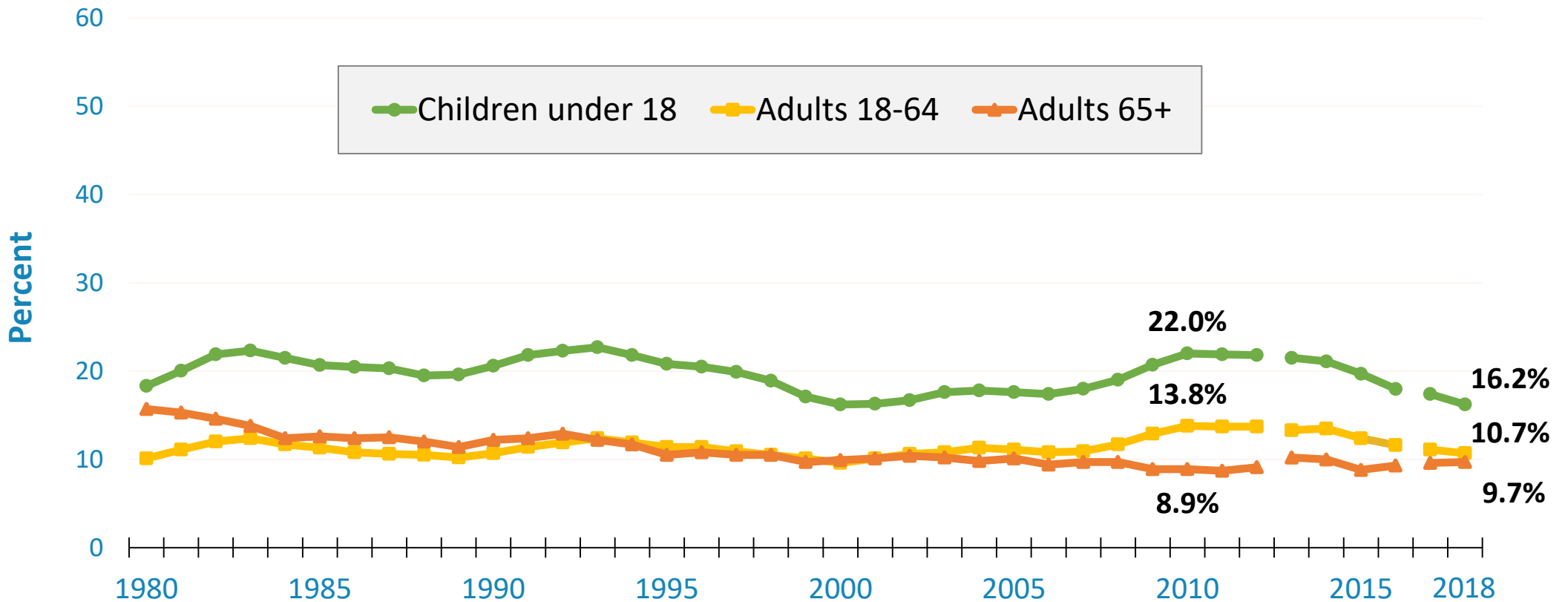
Growth in the Number of US Children (under 18) by Immigrant Status, 1995-2017



% of US Children (ages 5-17) Who Speak a Language Other Than English at Home, 1979-2017



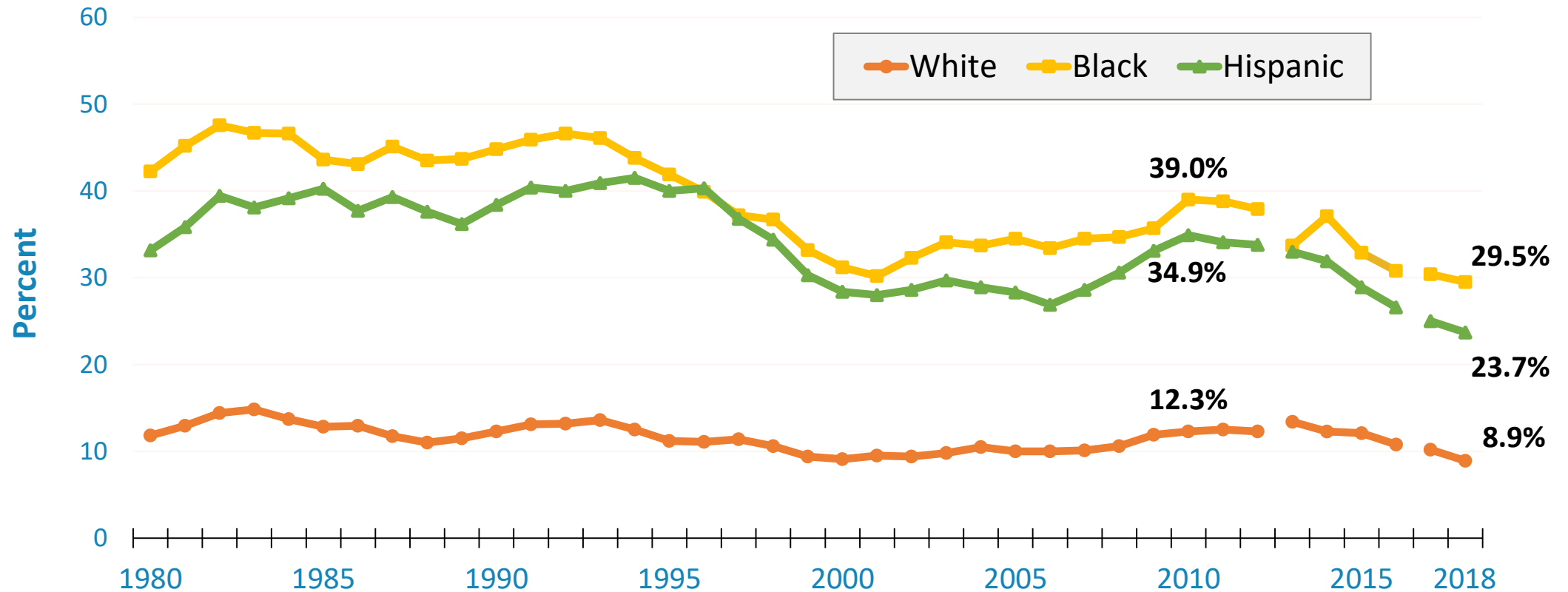
% of Persons in the US Living Below the Poverty Level by Age Group, 1980-2018*



**Estimates for 2013 and beyond are not directly comparable to previous years due to a re-design of the income questions. Estimates for 2017 and beyond are not directly comparable to previous years due to the implementation of an updated CPS ASEC processing system.*

Poverty Level in 2018: \$25,465 (family of 4 with 2 children)

% of US Children (under 18) Living Below the Poverty Level by Race/Ethnicity, 1980-2018*

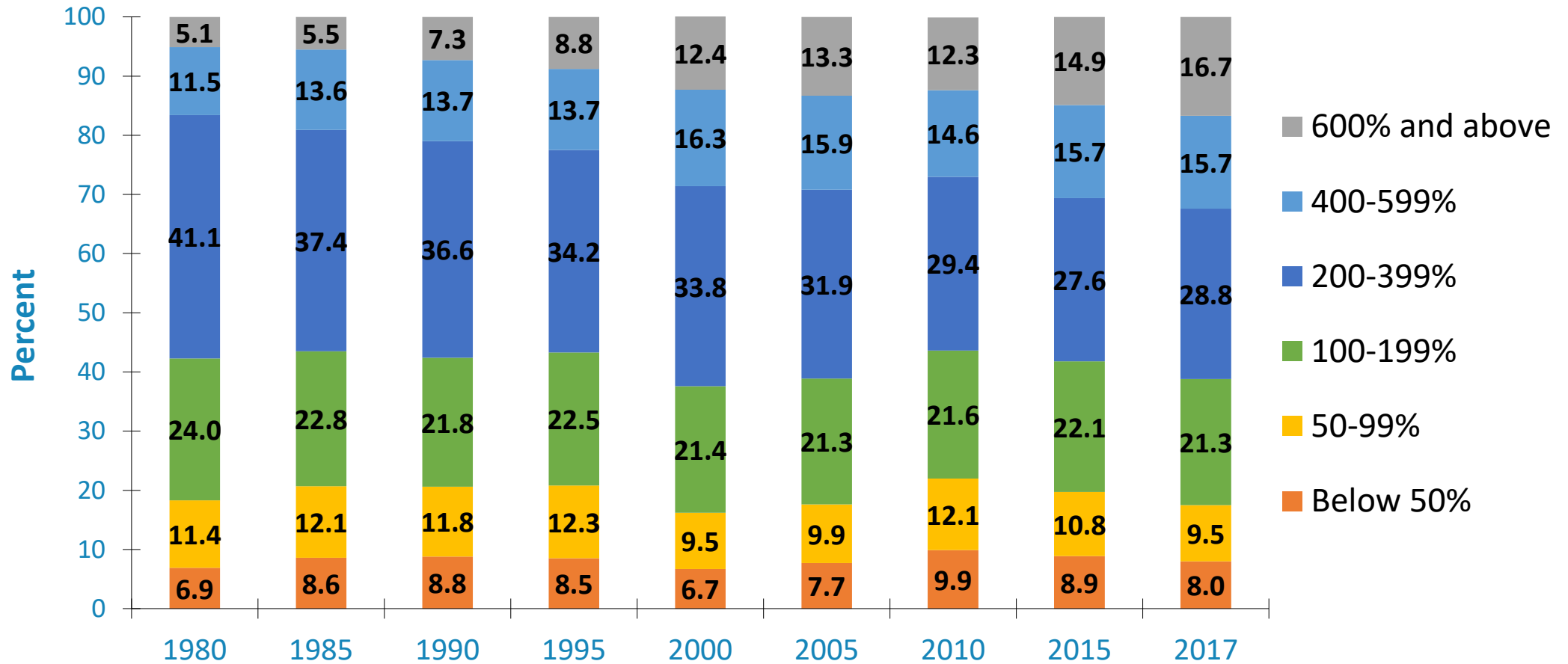


**Estimates for 2013 and beyond are not directly comparable to previous years due to a re-design of the income questions. Estimates for 2017 and beyond are not directly comparable to previous years due to the implementation of an updated CPS ASEC processing system.*

Poverty Level in 2018: \$25,465 (family of 4 with 2 children)

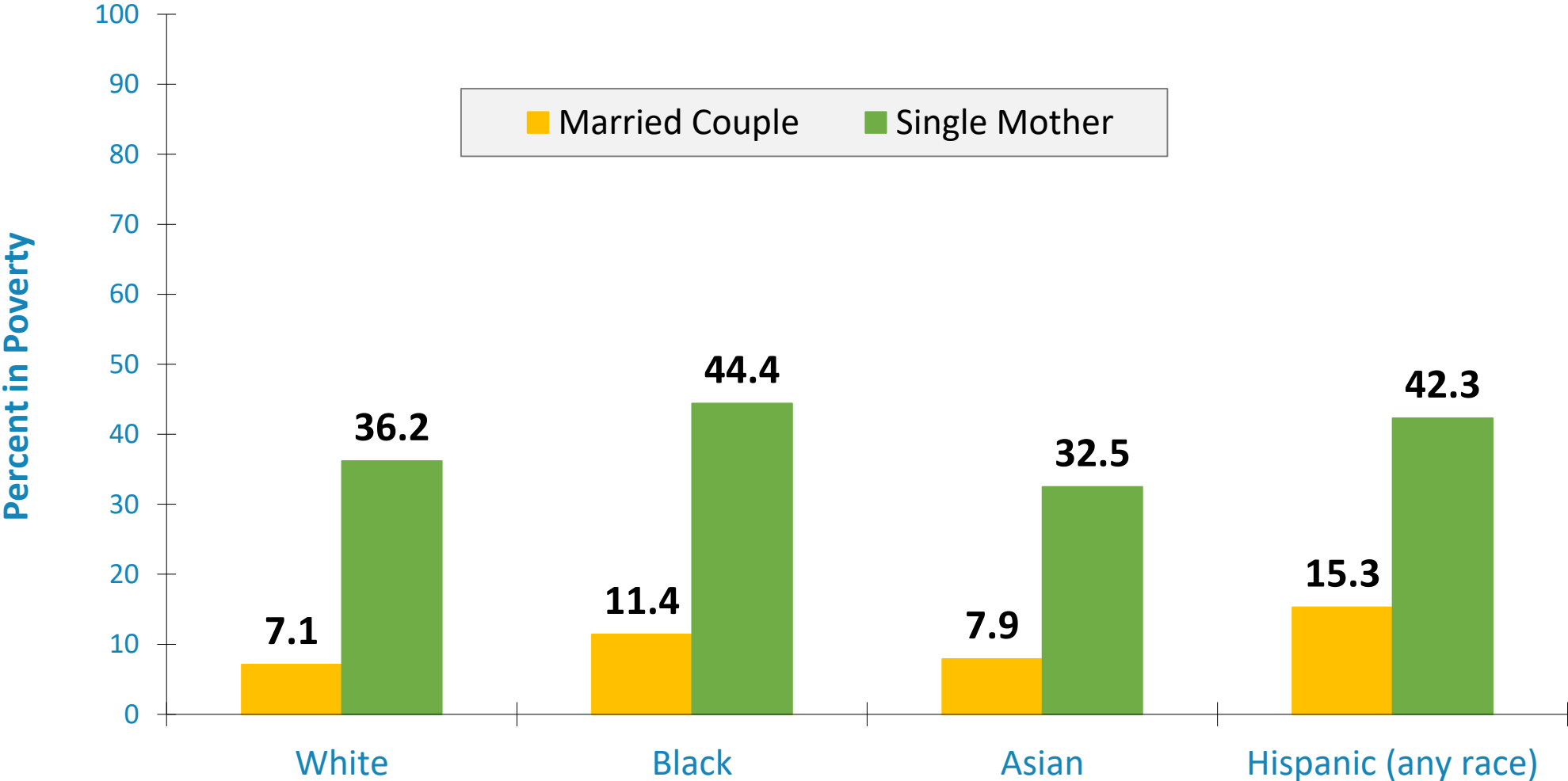


% of US Children (under 18) by Family Income Relative to the Poverty Line, 1980-2017



Poverty Level in 2017: \$24,858 (family of 4 with 2 children)

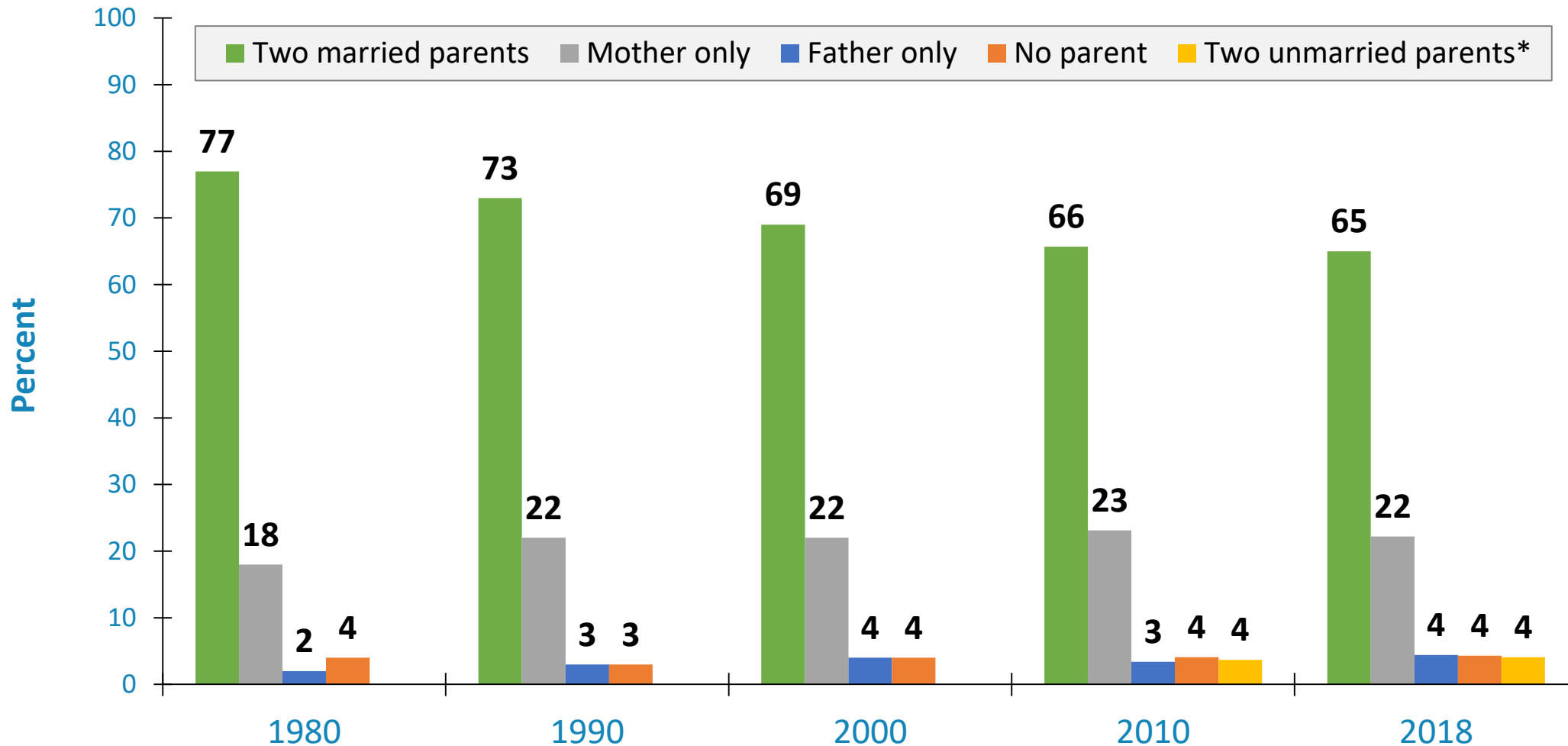
% of US Children (under 18) in Poverty by Race/Ethnicity and Family Structure, 2018



Source: US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement (<https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/cps-pov/pov-02.html>)



Living Arrangements of US Children (under 18), 1980-2018



*Prior to 2007, children with two unmarried parents in the household may be identified as "mother only" or "father only." Starting in 2007, a second parent identifier permits identification of two co-resident parents, even if the parents are not married to each other.



Population Characteristic Takeaways

- The number of US children is not increasing
- Children are a shrinking portion of the population
- The adolescent birth rate has gone down
- % of Hispanic children has gone up
- % of immigrant children has gone up
- % of children who speak language other than English has gone up
- % of children in poverty remains high, higher than adults
- % of children in middle class families has shrunk
- % of children in two married parent homes has gone down

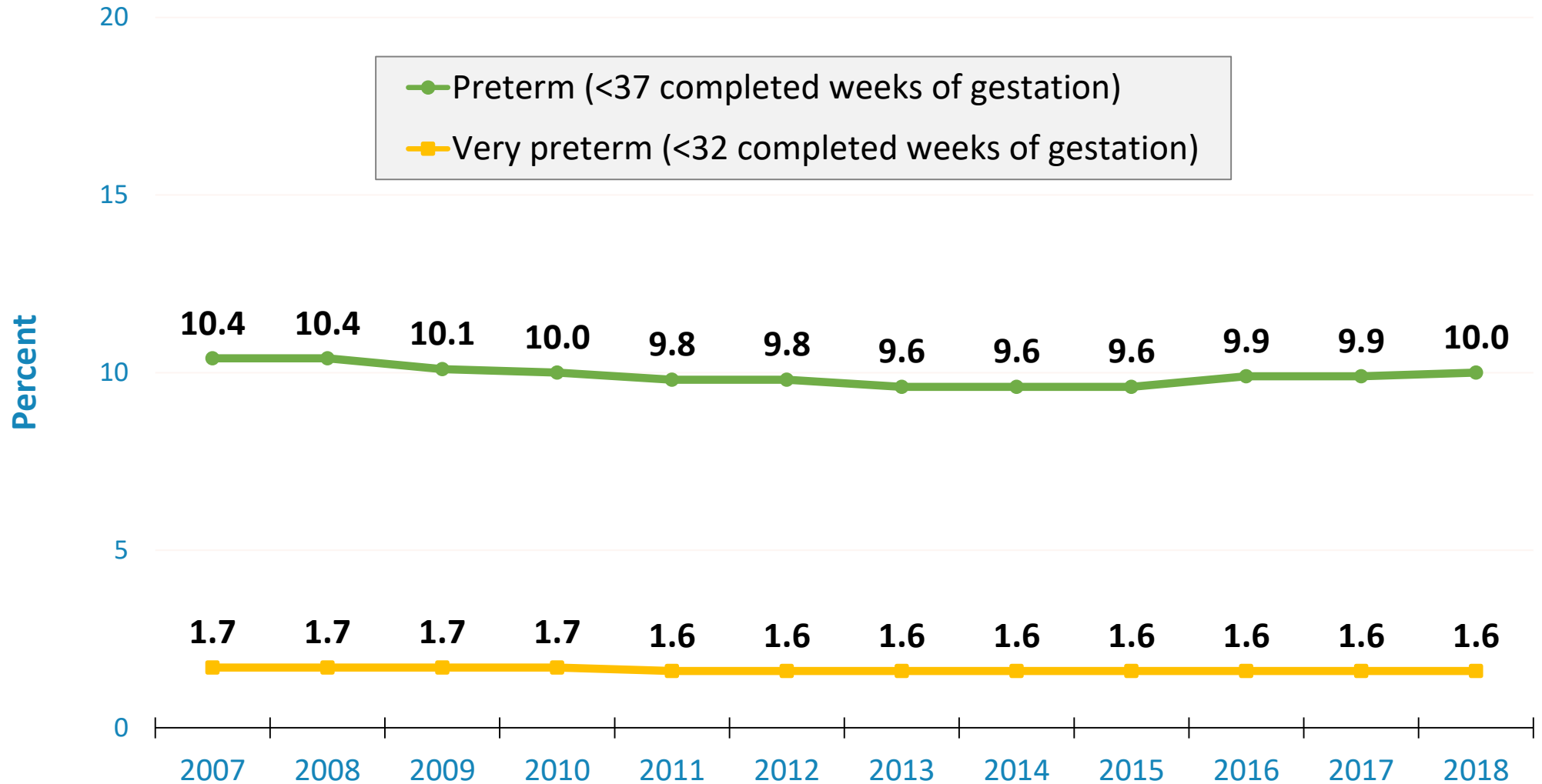


2. Health Trends

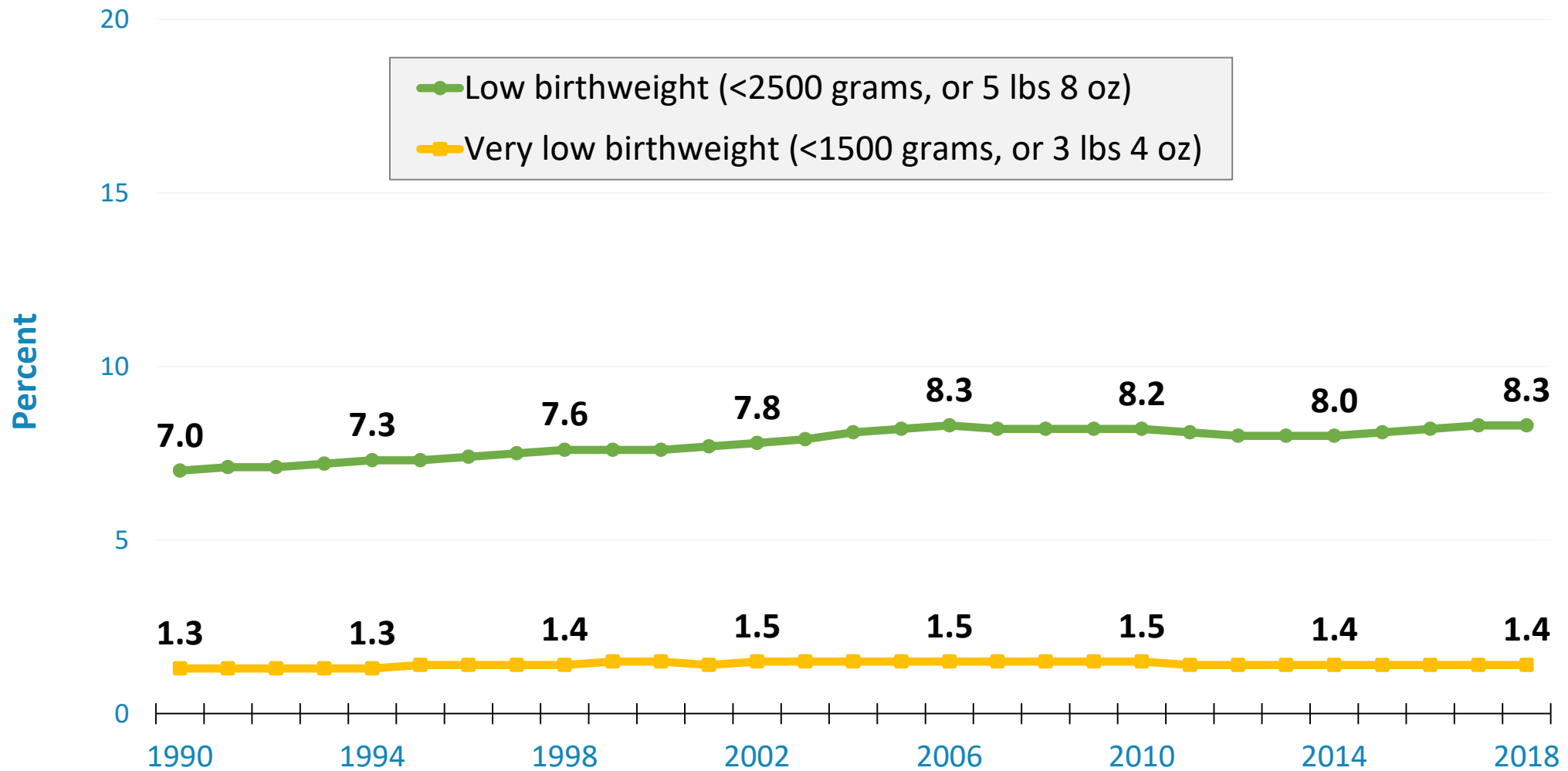
- Preterm birth and low birthweight
- Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
- Infant mortality
- Child/adolescent injury and mortality
- Suicide and suicidal behavior
- Youth major depressive episodes
- Mental health diagnoses
- Adolescent alcohol use
- Adolescent cigarette use/vaping
- Asthma
- Activity limitation/disability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



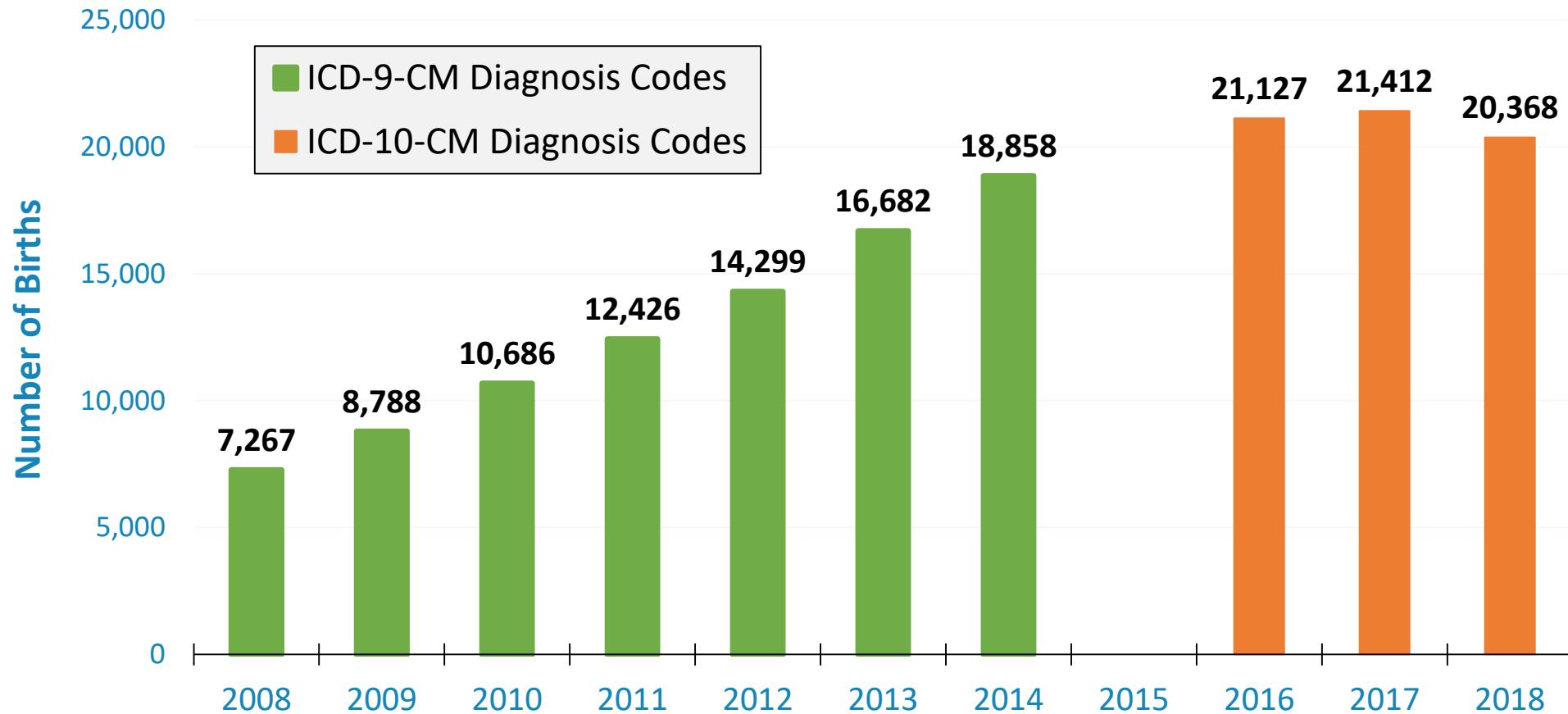
% of US Infants Born Preterm, 2007-2018



% of US Infants Born with Low Birthweight, 1990-2018



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

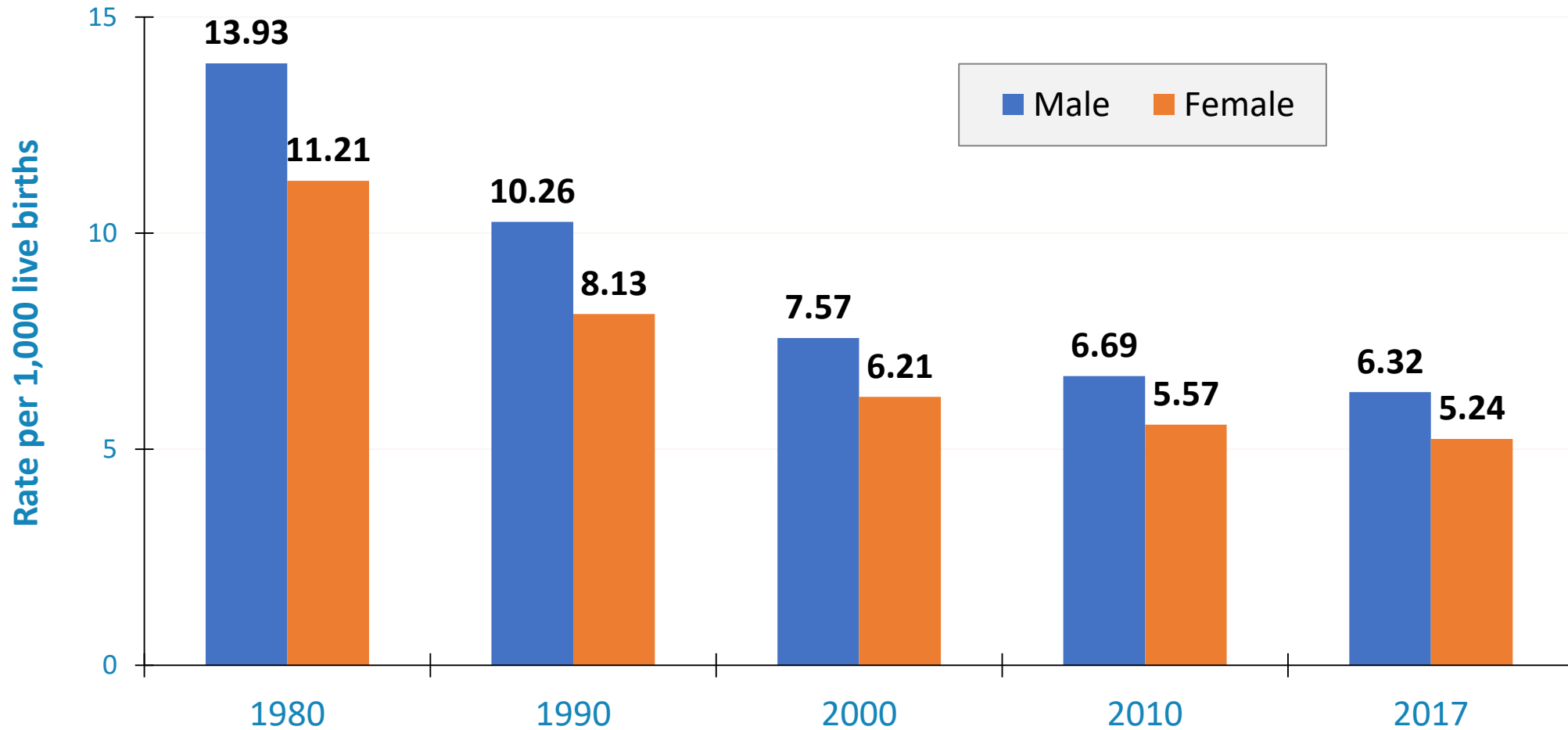


*Estimates for 2008–2018 include data from the following in all years: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio,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

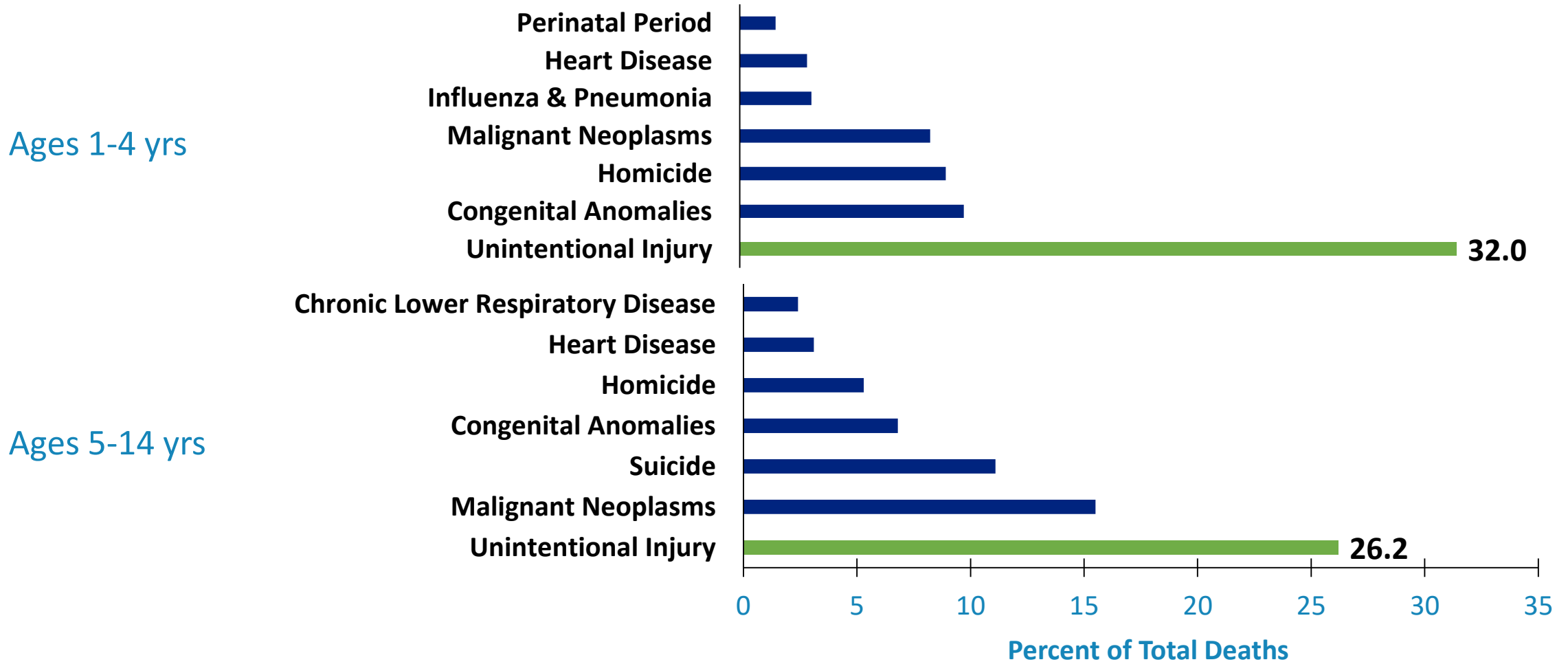
^Data for 2015 are not shown due to the transition from ICD-9-CM to ICD-10-CM on October 1, 2015.



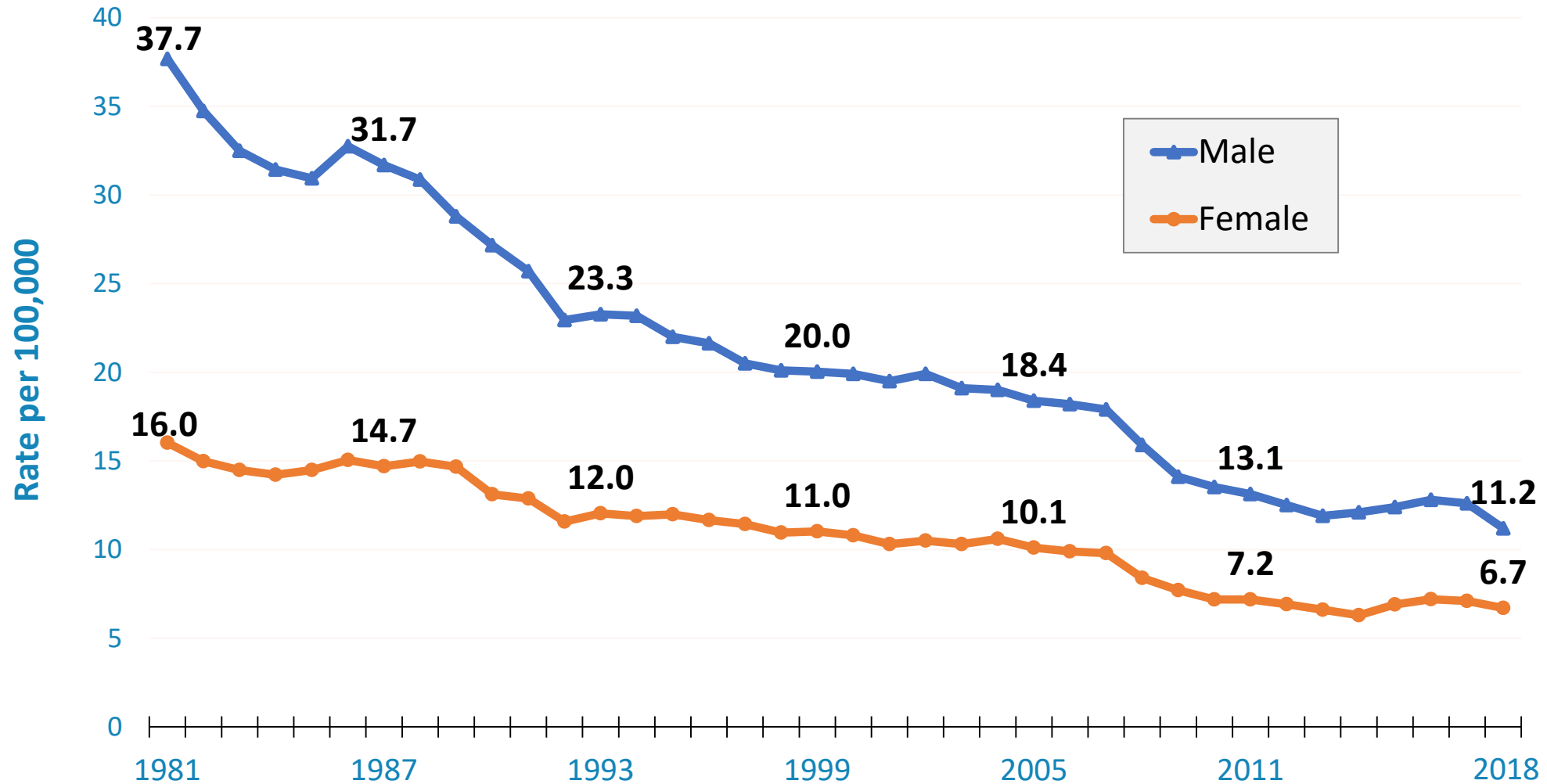
US Infant Mortality Rates (per 1,000 live births) by Gender, 1980-2017



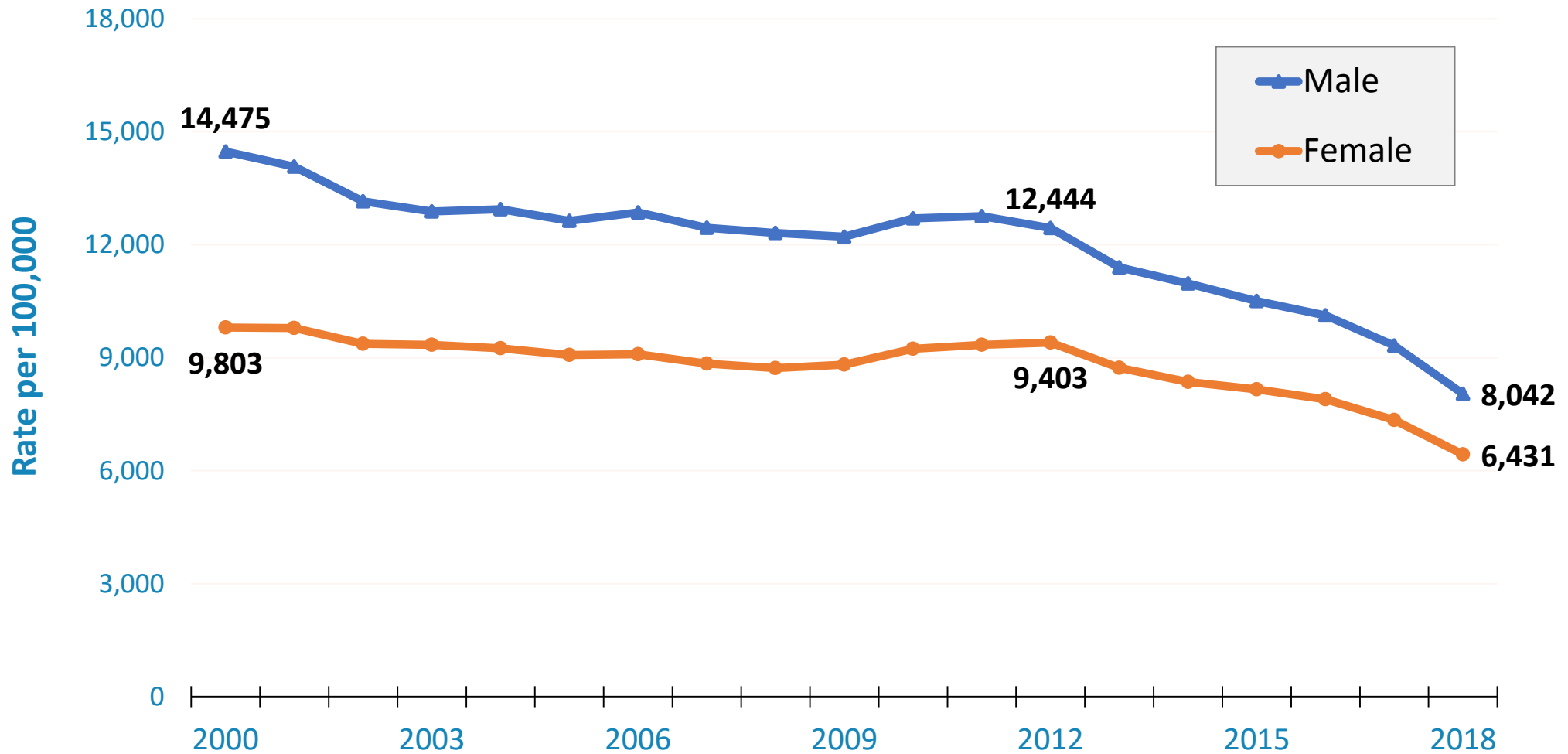
Leading Causes of Death among US Children (ages 1-14) by Age Group, 2018



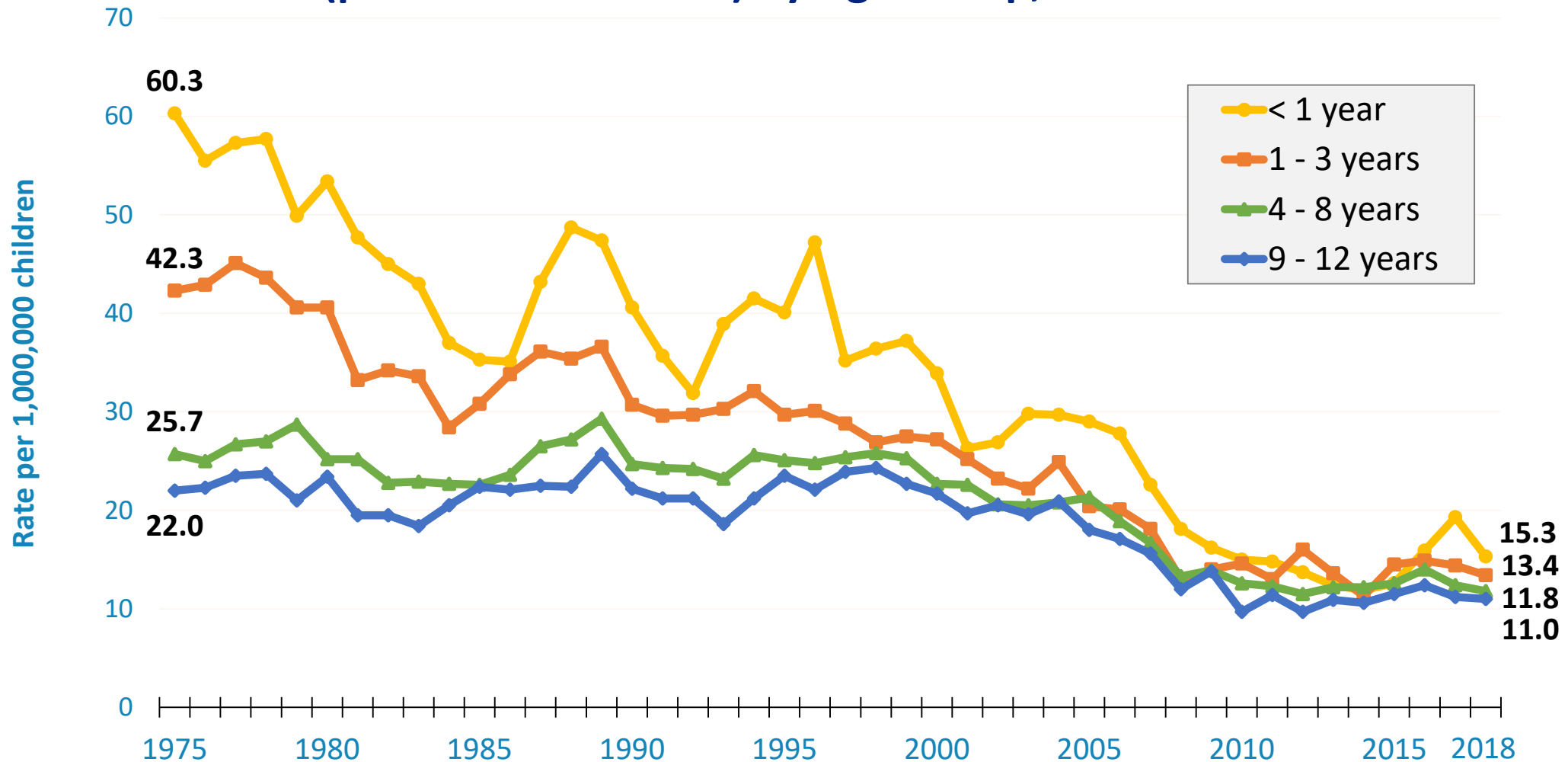
Fatal Unintentional Injuries (rate per 100,000) among US Children (ages 0-19) by Gender, 1981-2018



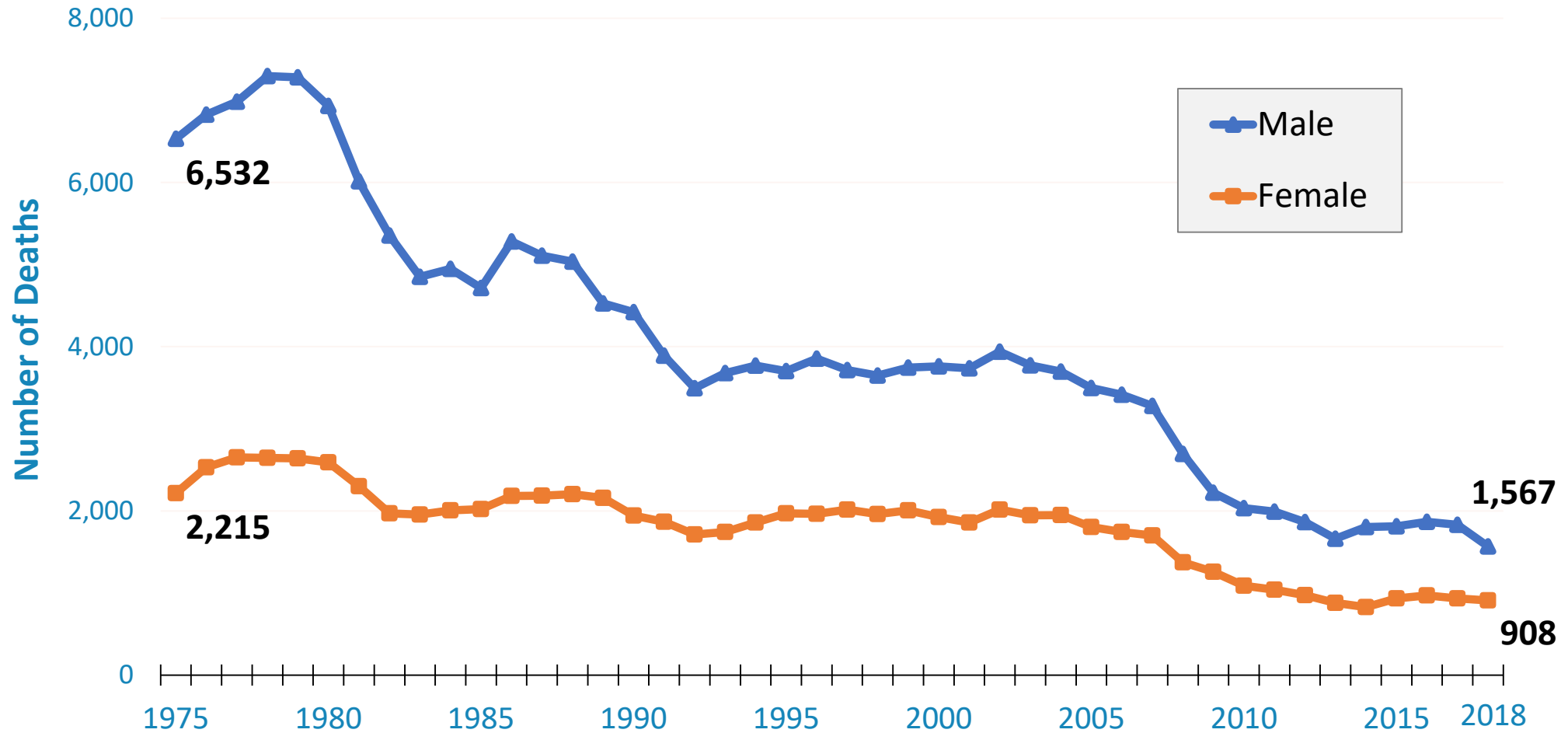
Non-fatal Unintentional Injuries Treated in Emergency Rooms (rate per 100,000) among US Children (ages 0-19) by Gender, 2000-2018



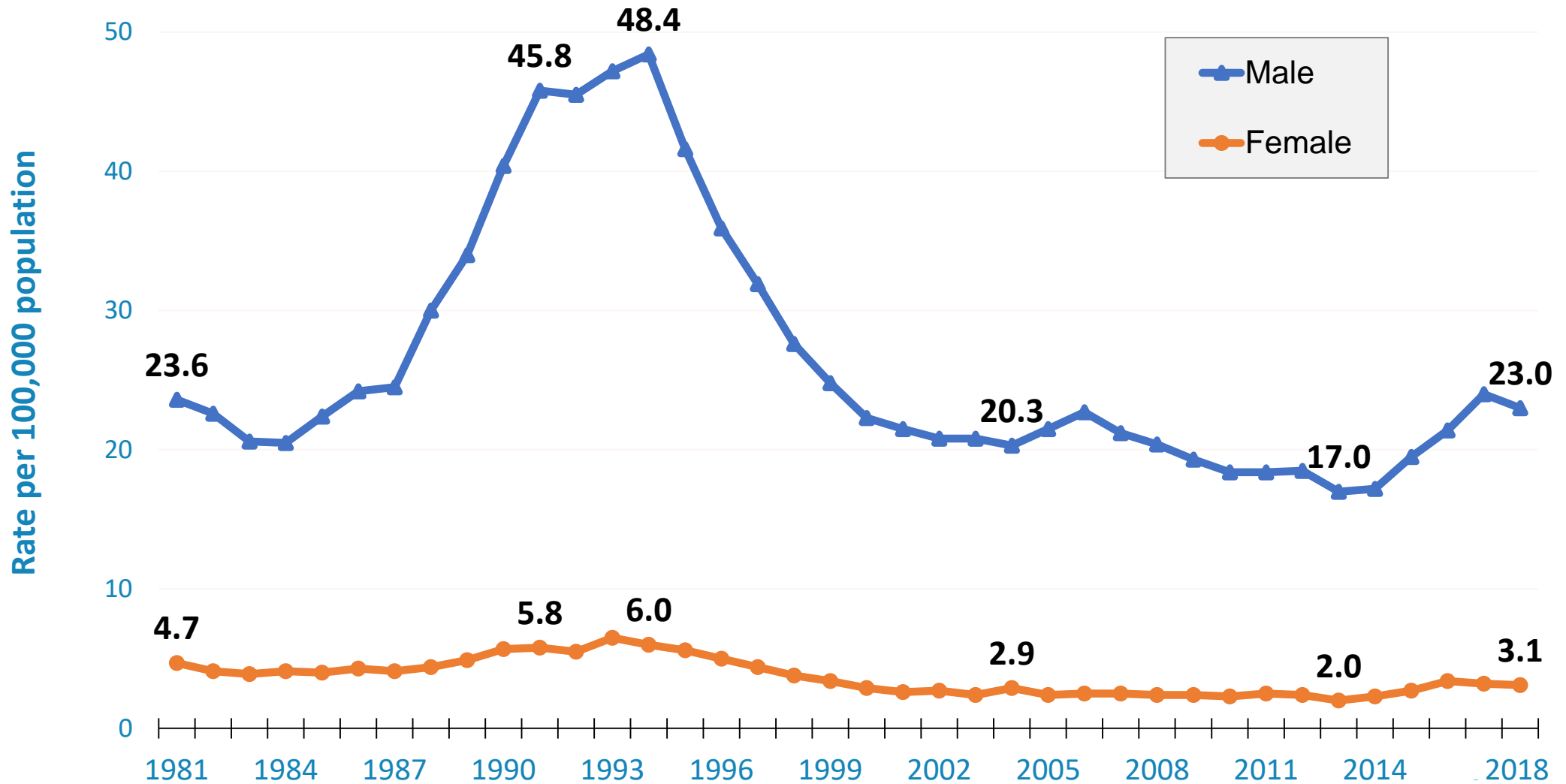
US Passenger Vehicle Child Occupant Deaths (per million children) by Age Group, 1975-2018



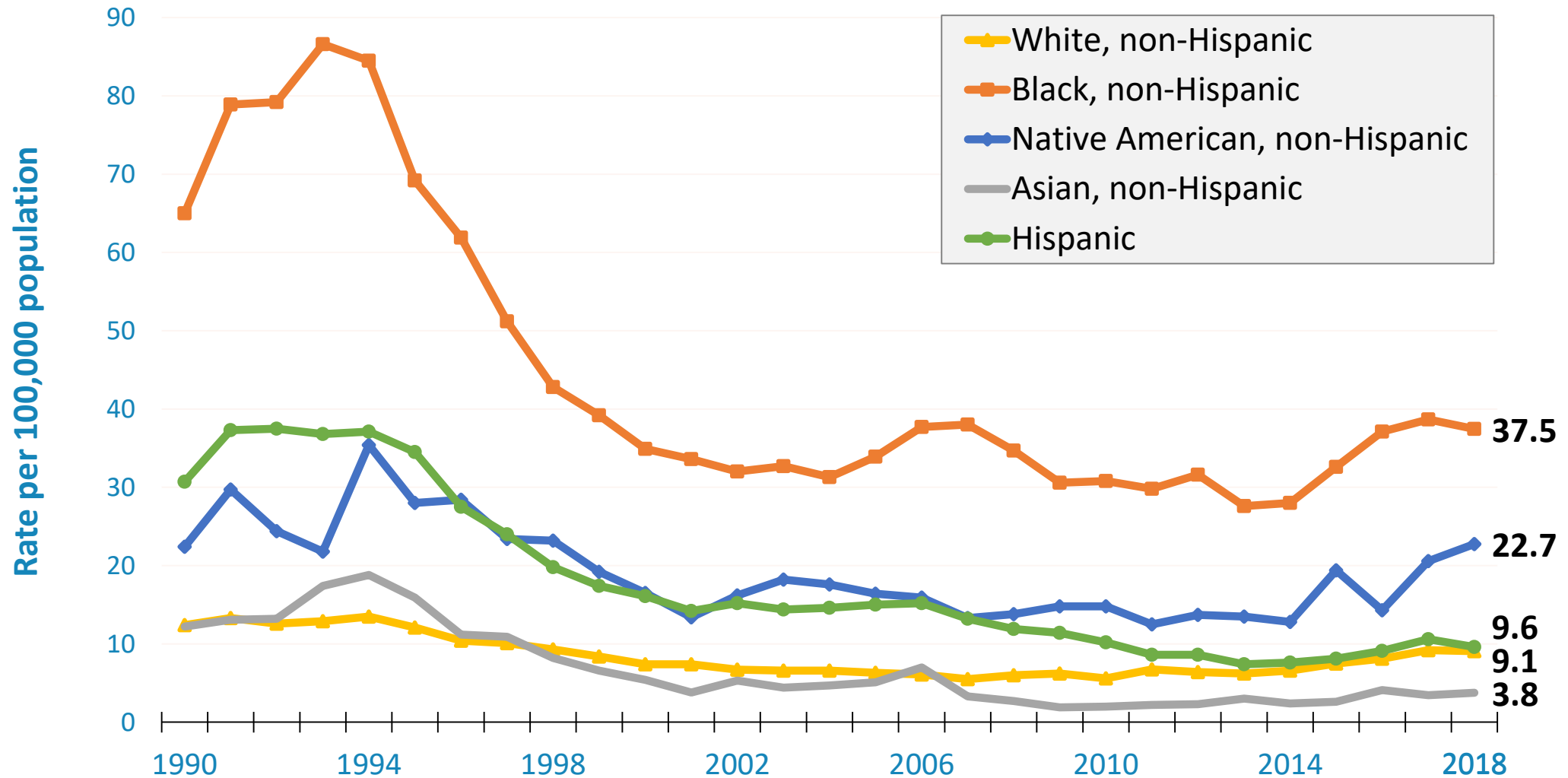
US Teenage (ages 13-19) Motor Vehicle Crash Deaths by Gender, 1975-2018



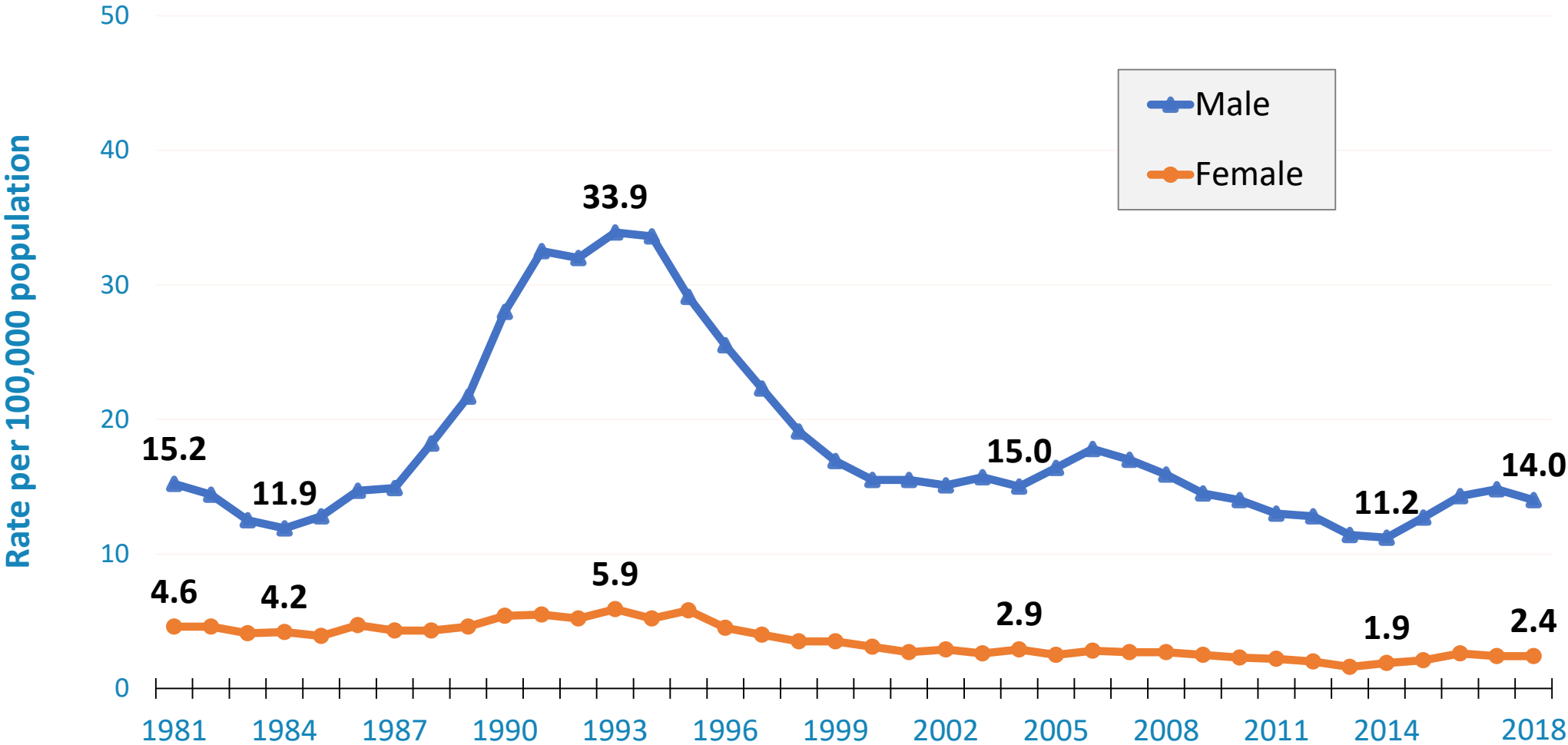
US Teenage (ages 15-19) Firearm-Related Deaths by Gender, 1981-2018



US Teenage (ages 15-19) Firearm-Related Deaths by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2018



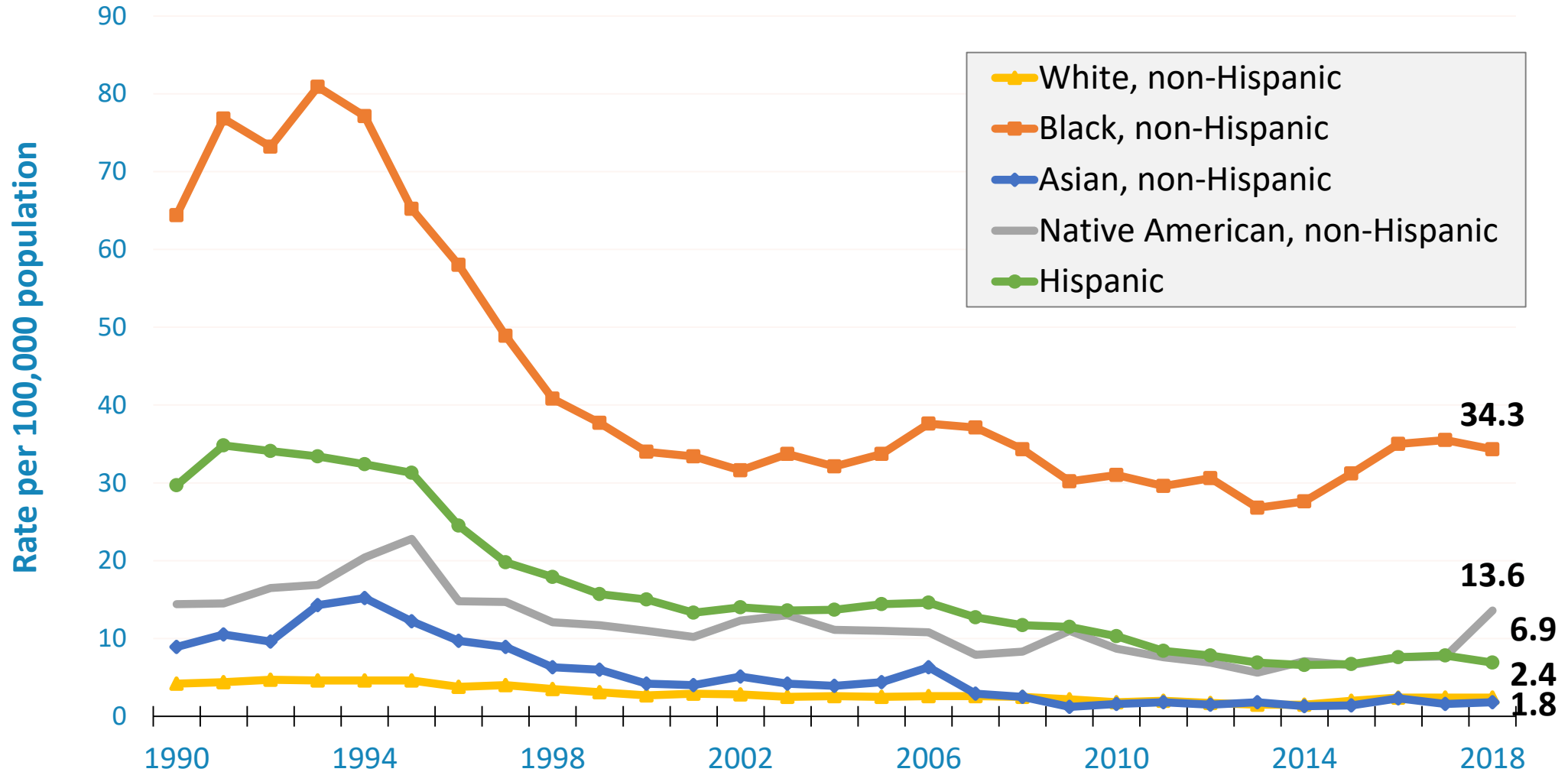
US Teenage (ages 15-19) Homicide Deaths by Gender, 1981-2018



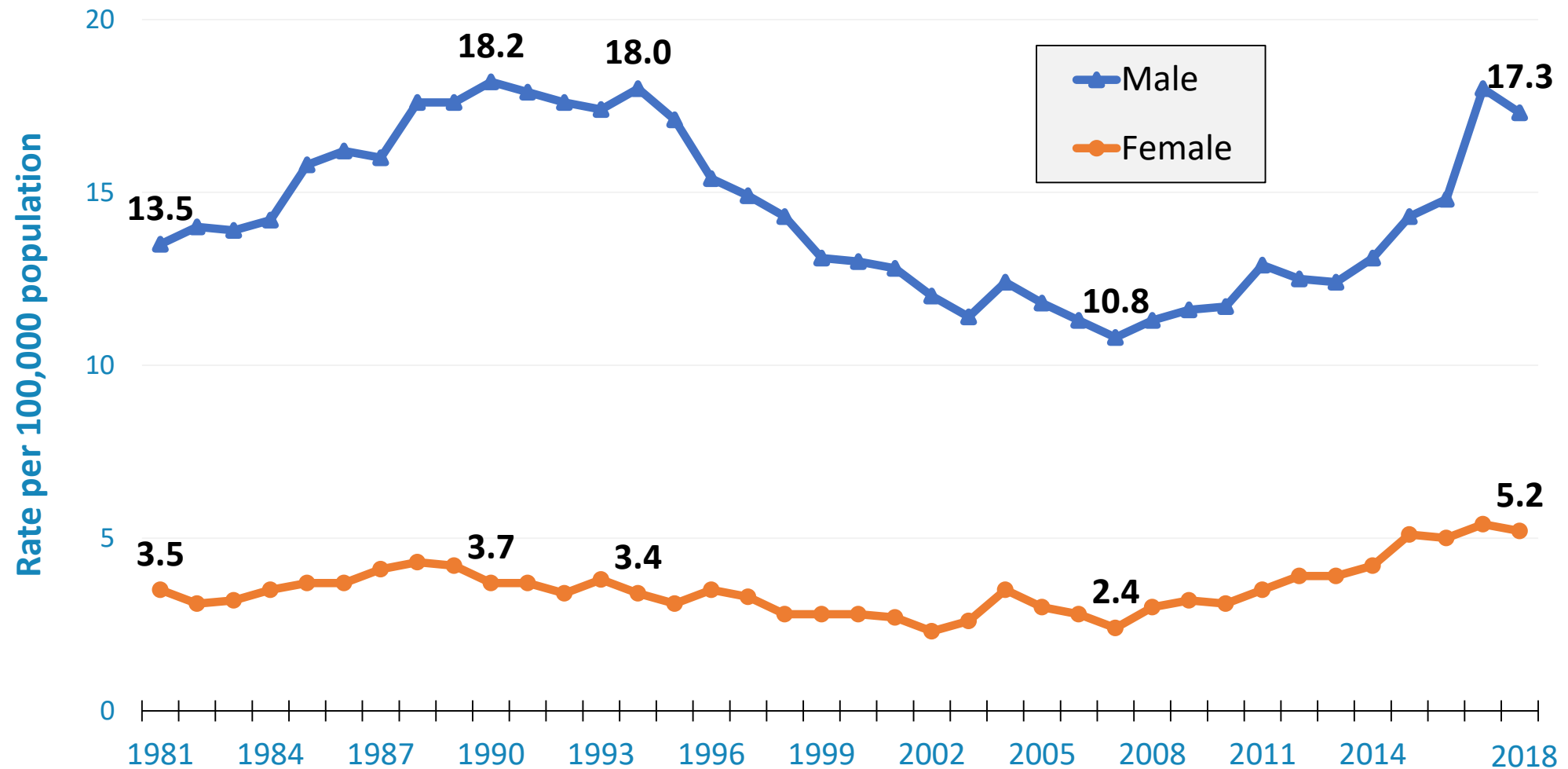
Source: CDC/National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, WISQARS fatal injury reports (<https://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/mortrate.html>)



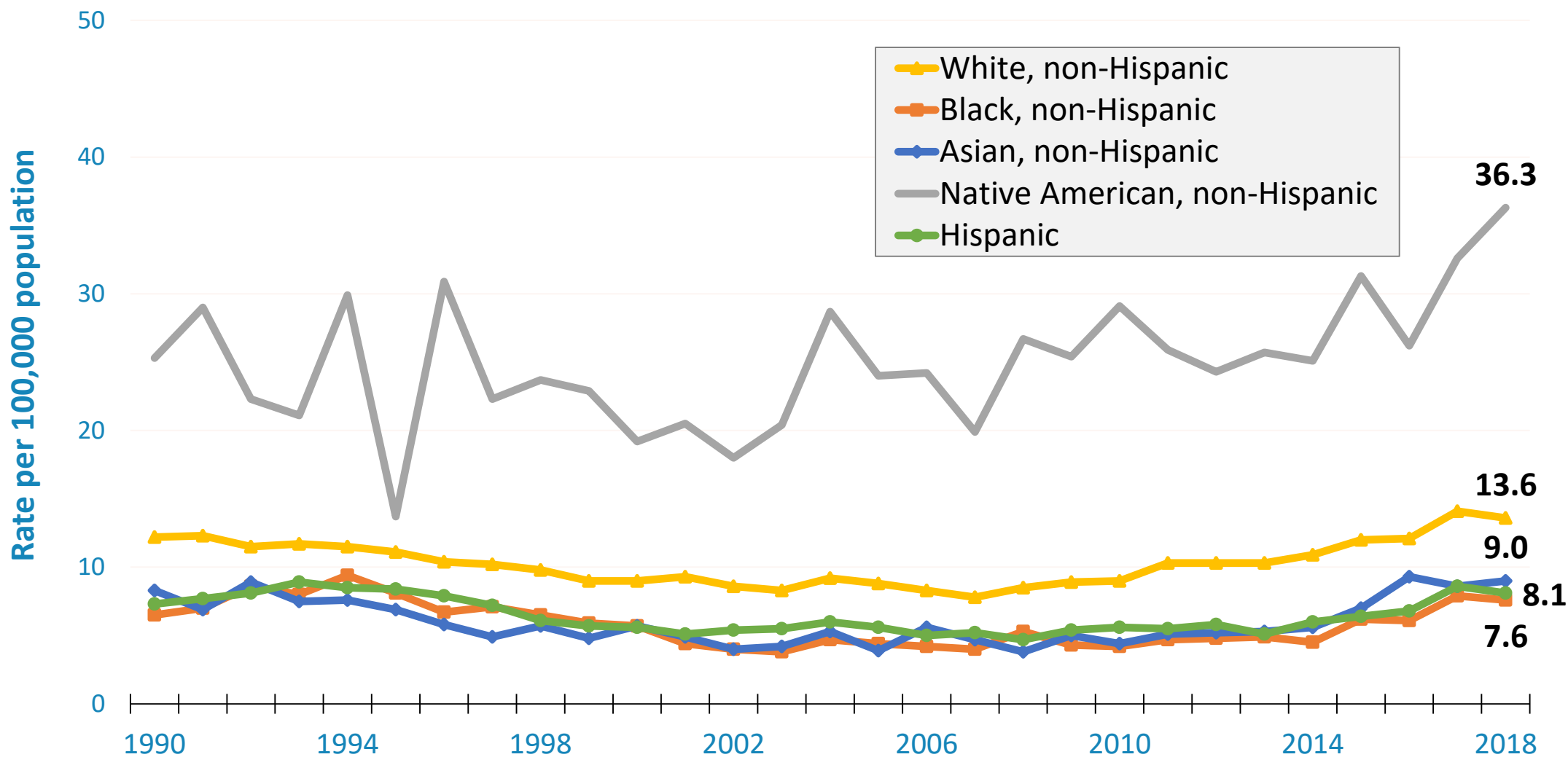
US Teenage (ages 15-19) Homicide Deaths by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2018



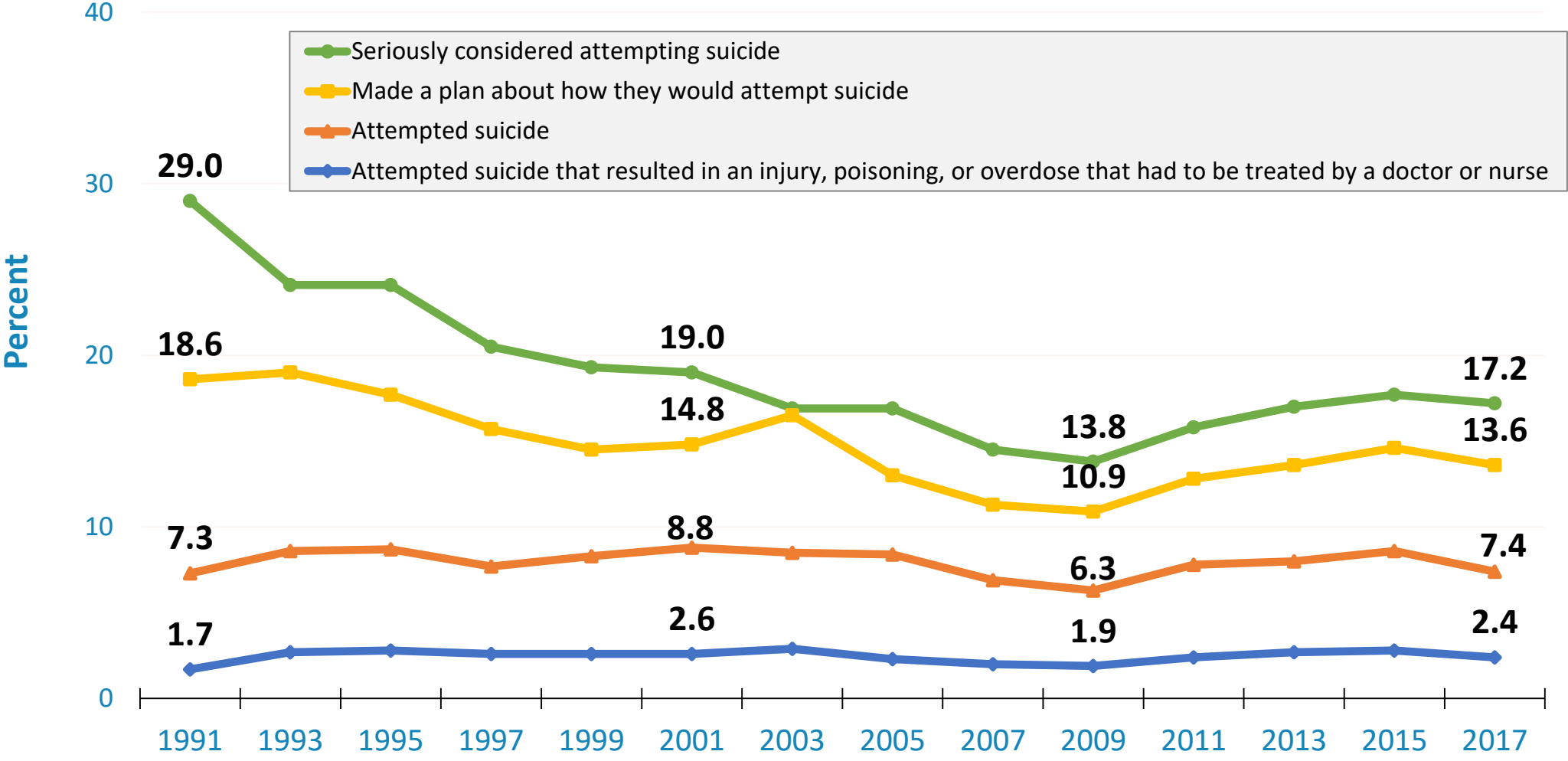
US Teenage (ages 15-19) Suicide Deaths by Gender, 1981-2018



US Teenage (ages 15-19) Suicide Deaths by Race/Ethnicity, 1990-2018



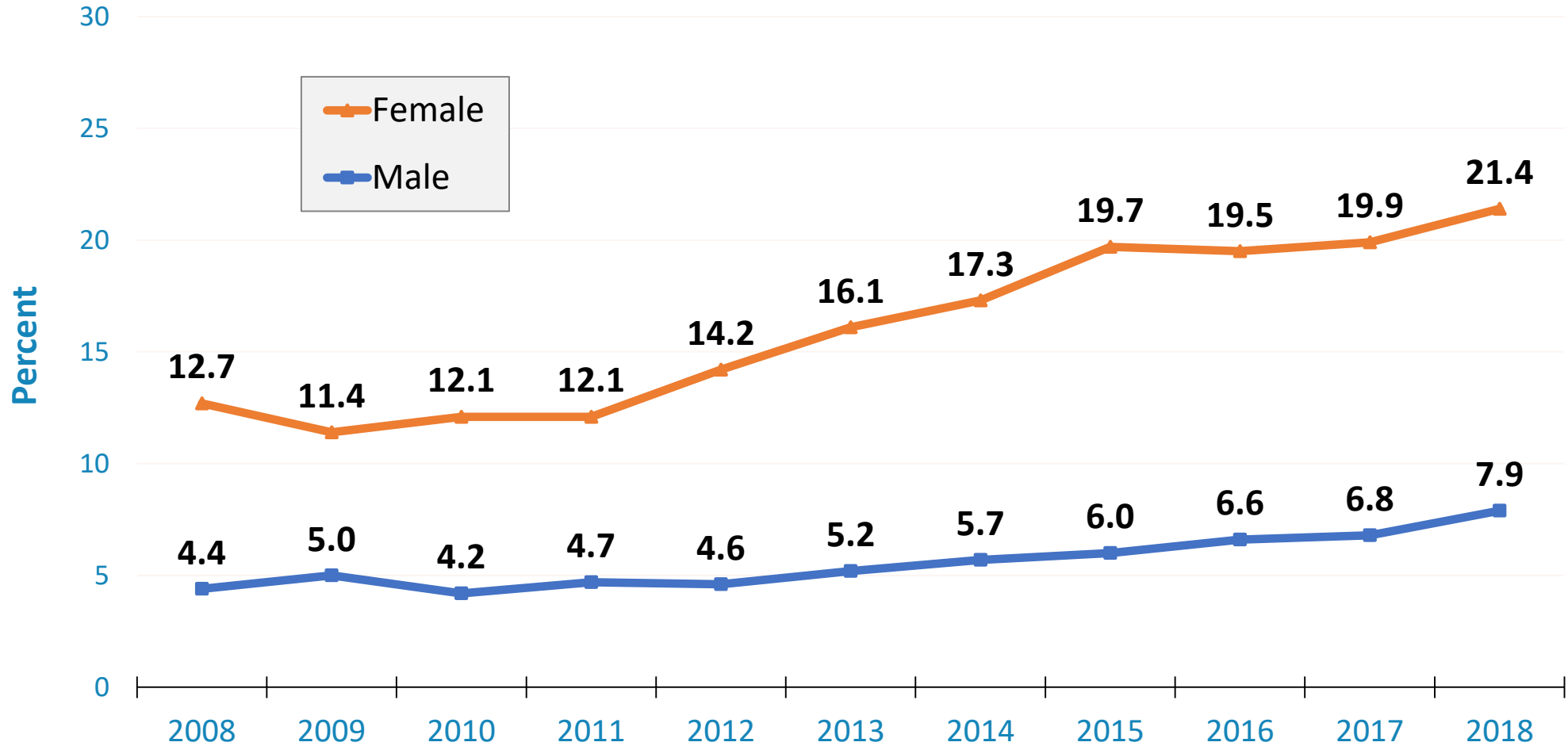
% of US Students (9th - 12th Graders) Who Reported Suicide-Related Behavior, 1991-2017



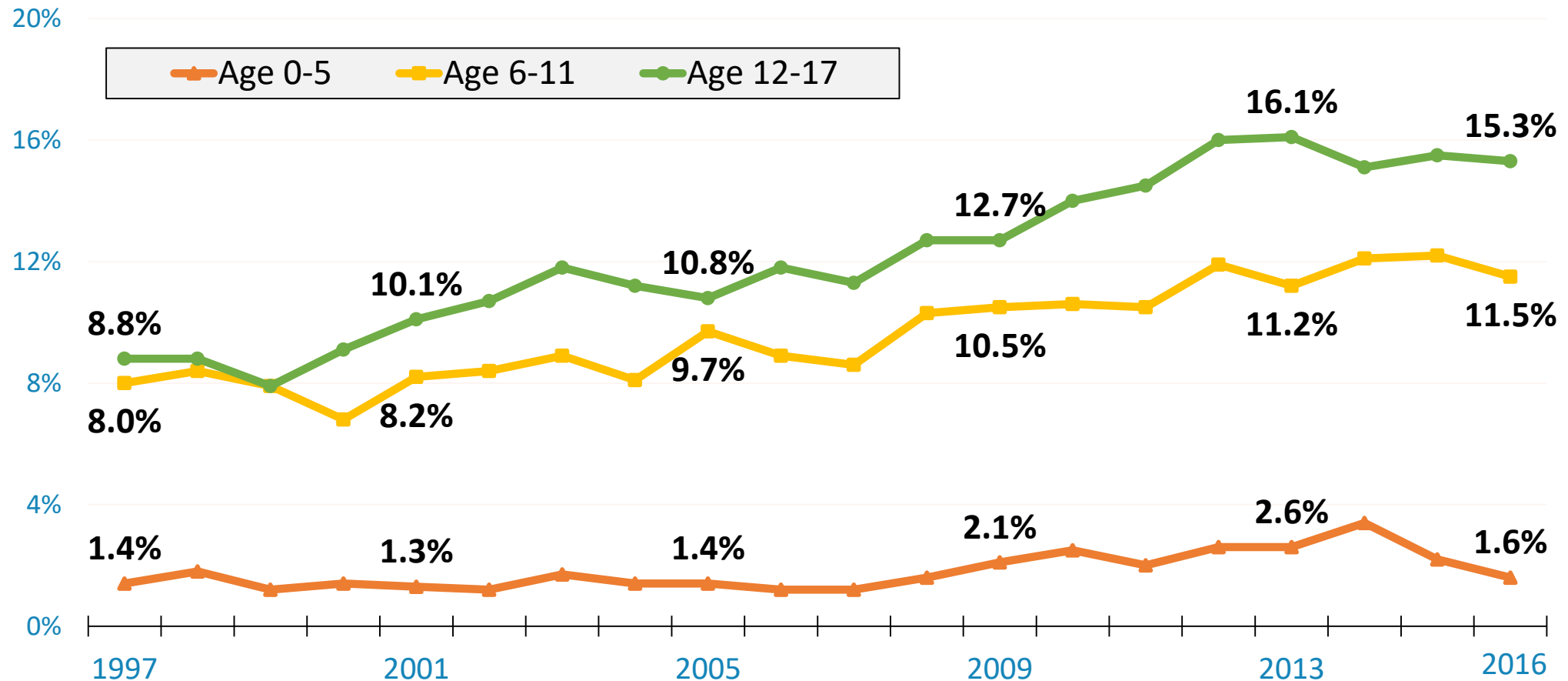
Source: CDC/Division of Adolescent and School Health, Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) (https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/pdf/trends/2017_suicide_trend_yrbs.pdf)



% of US Youth (ages 12-17) Who Reported a Major Depressive Episode in the Past Year by Gender, 2008-2018



% of US Children (ages 0-17) with Any Mental Health Diagnosis* by Age Group, 1997-2016



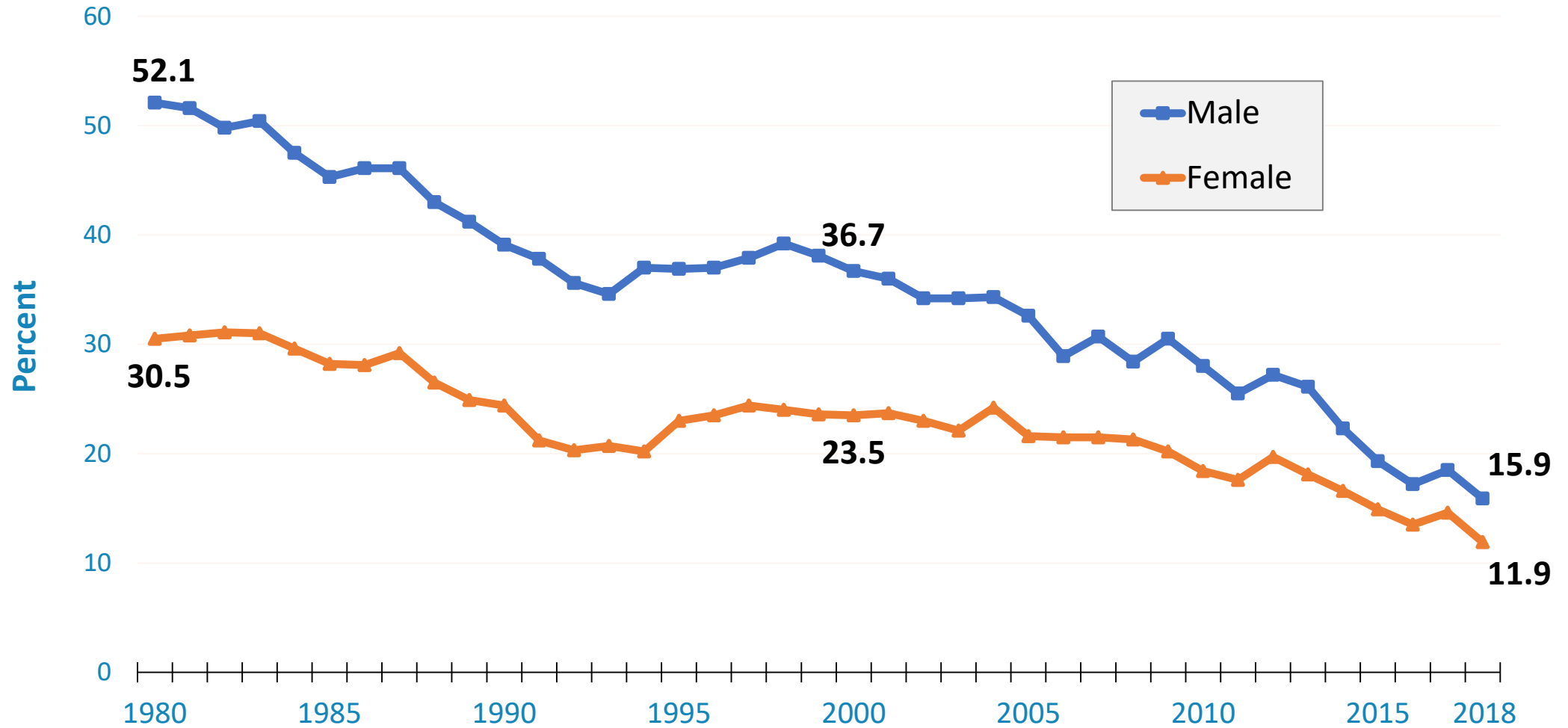
*Mental health diagnosis is defined broadly - it includes adjustment disorders; anxiety disorders; attention-deficit/conduct/disruptive behavior disorders; cognitive disorders; developmental disorders; impulse control disorders; mood disorders; personality disorders; psychotic disorders; alcohol/substance-related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



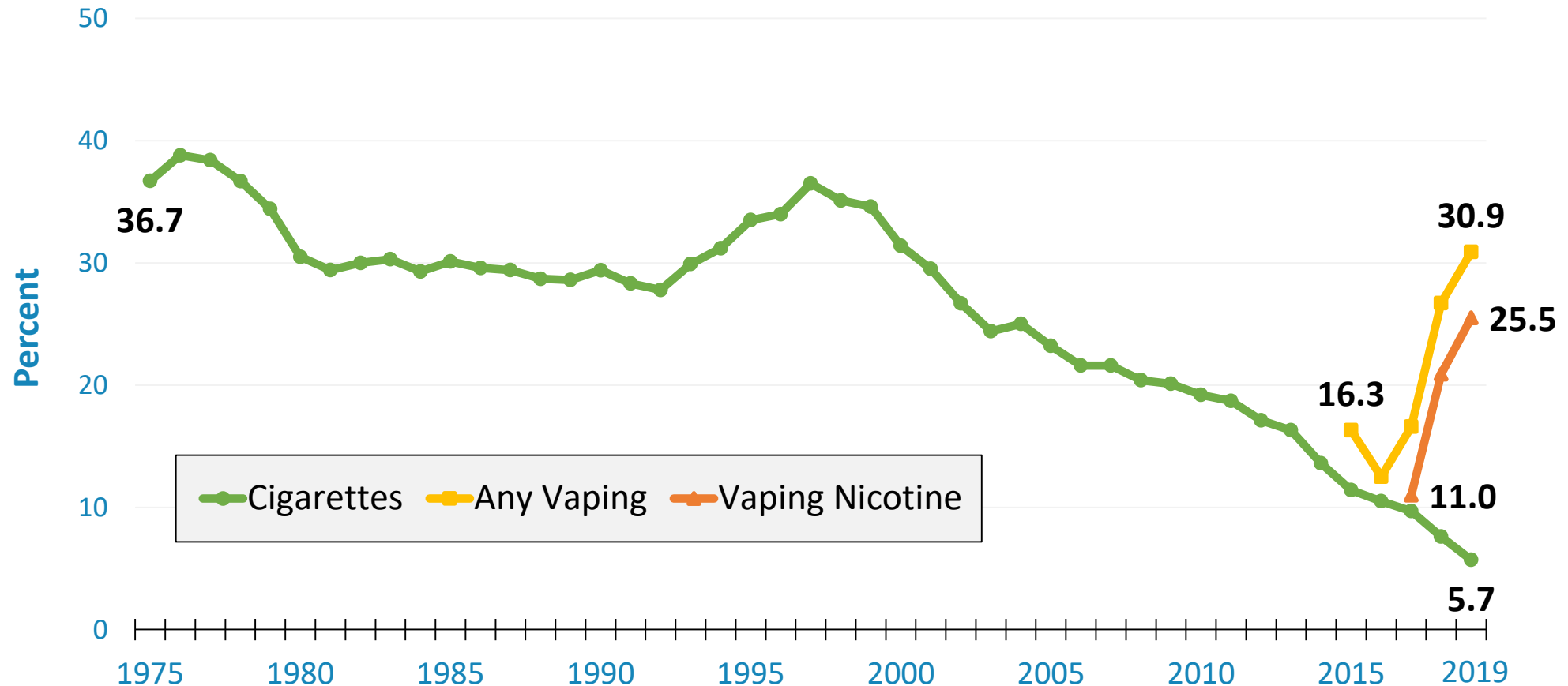
% of US Students (9th - 12th Graders) Who Reported Alcohol Use, 1991-2017



% of US 12th Grade Students Who Reported Having 5 or More Alcoholic Beverages in a Row in the Past 2 Weeks by Gender, 1980-2018



% of US 12th Grade Students Who Reported Cigarette Use and Vaping in the Past 30 Days, 1975-2019



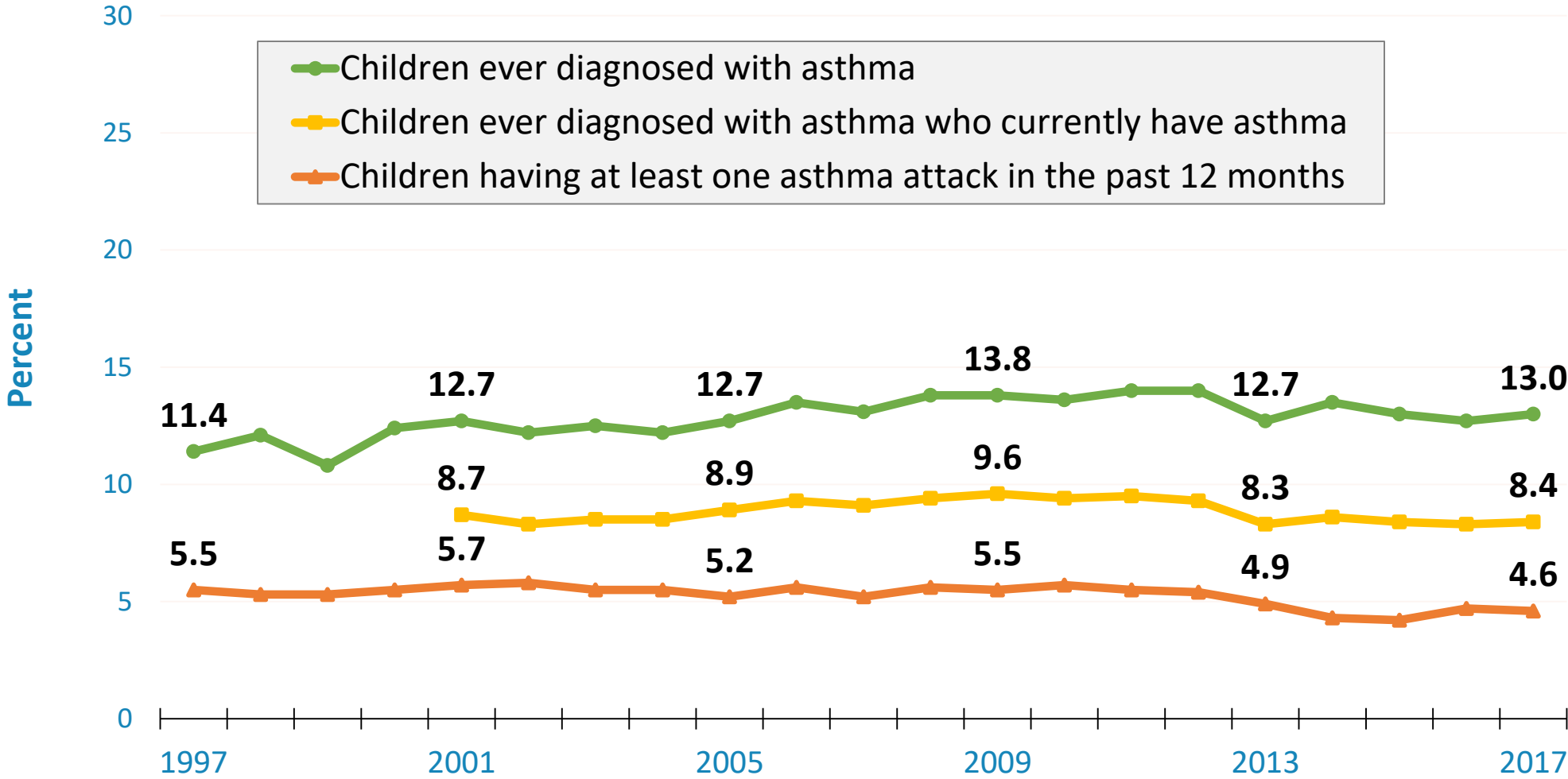
Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse and University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research, Monitoring the Future Survey (http://monitoringthefuture.org/pubs/monographs/mtf-vol1_2018.pdf and <https://www.drugabuse.gov/trendsstatistics/monitoring-future/monitoring-future-study-trends-in-prevalence-various-drugs> and <https://www.drugabuse.gov/related-topics/trends-statistics/infographics/monitoring-future-2019-survey-results-vaping>)

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% of US Children (ages 0-17) with Asthma, 1997-2017



Note: Based on parent-report

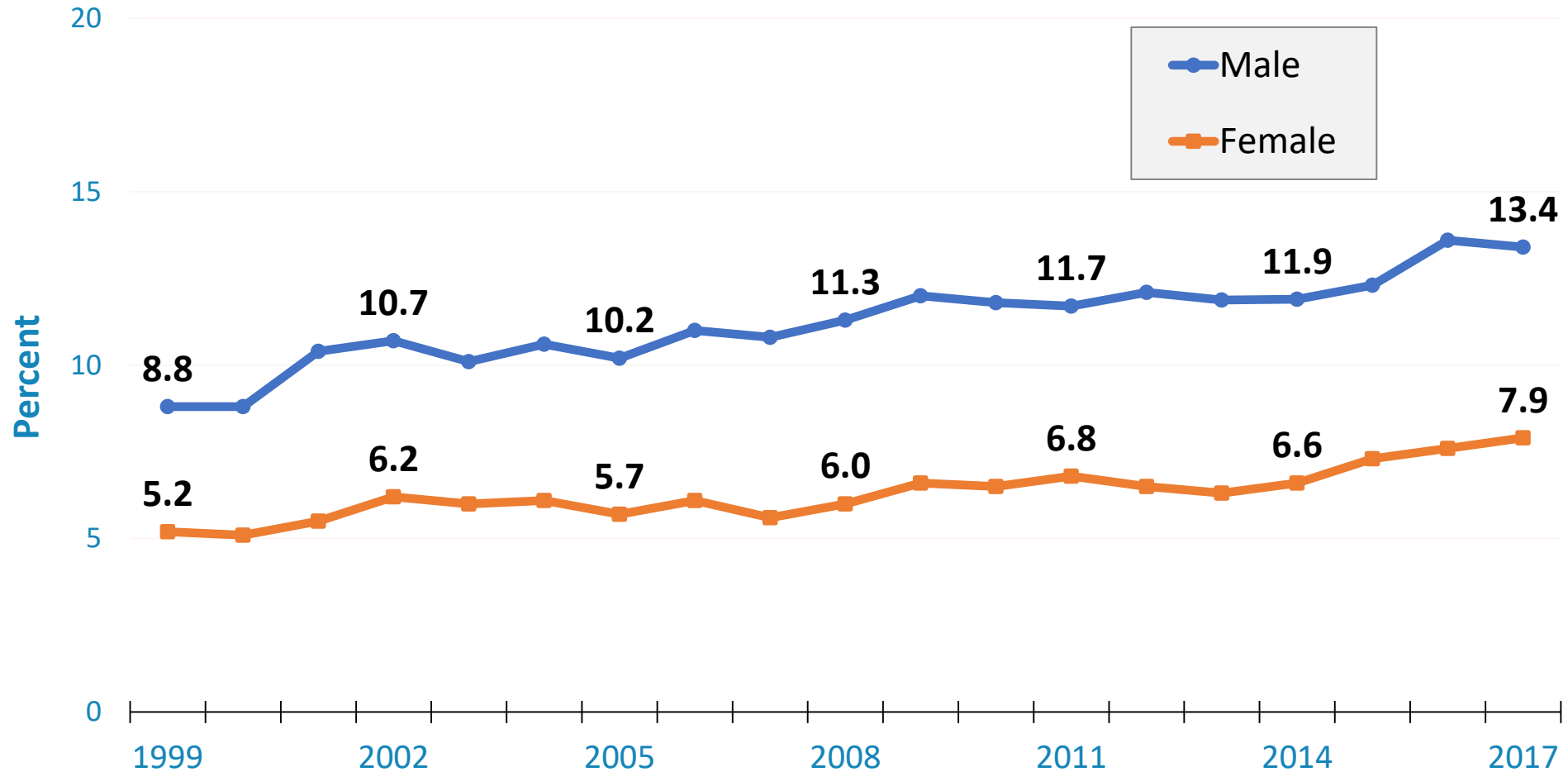
Source: CDC/NCHS, National Health Interview Survey (<http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/tables/health8a.asp>)

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% of US Children (ages 5-17) with a Disability Due to Chronic Health Conditions by Gender, 1999-2017



Note: Based on parent-report

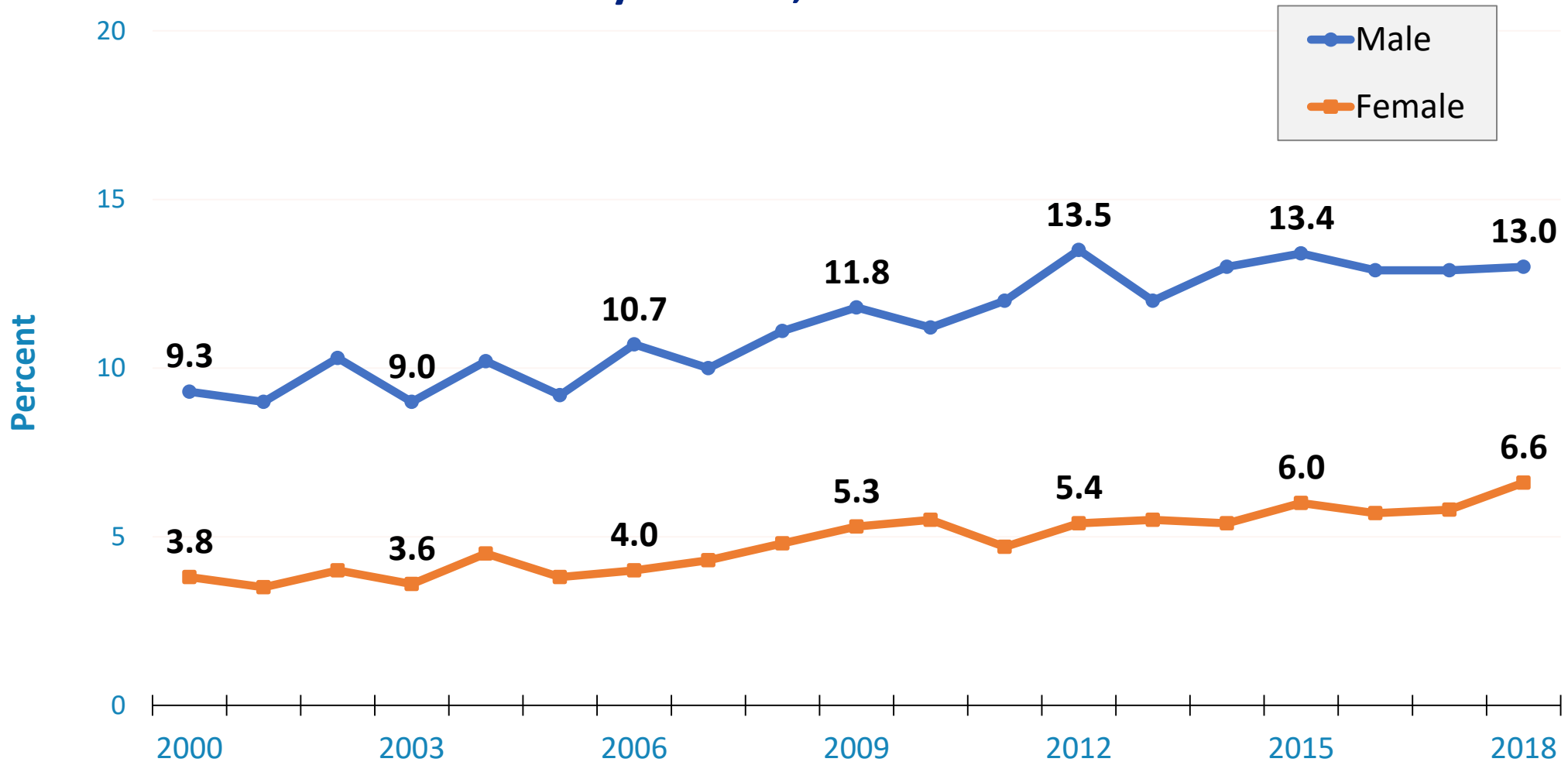
Source: CDC/NCHS, National Health Interview Survey (<http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/tables/health5.asp>)

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% of US Children (ages 3-17) Ever Diagnosed with ADHD by Gender, 2000-2018



Note: Based on parent-report

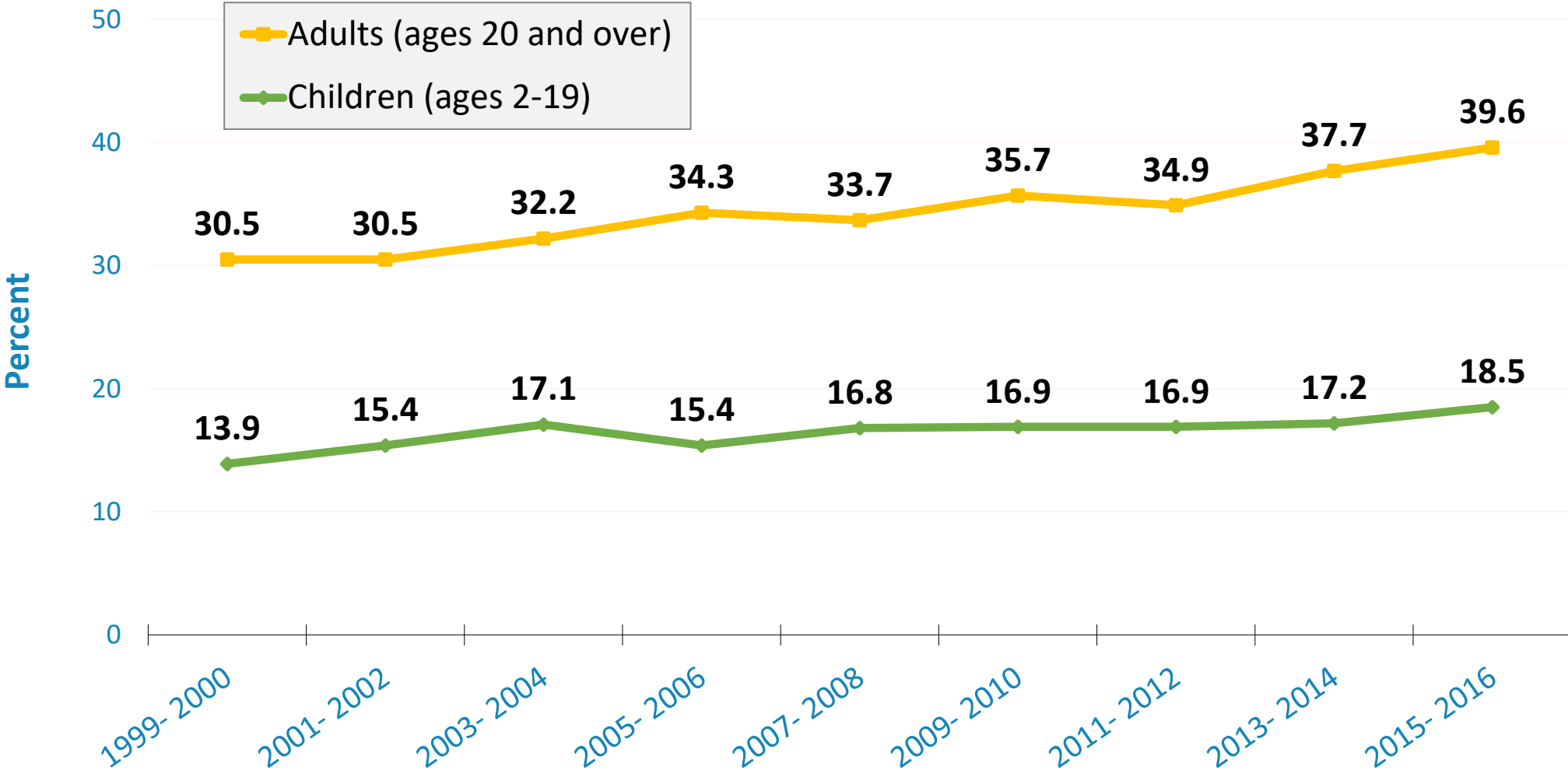
Source: AAP Health Services Research analysis of CDC/NCHS National Health Interview Survey data and <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/SHS/tables.htm>

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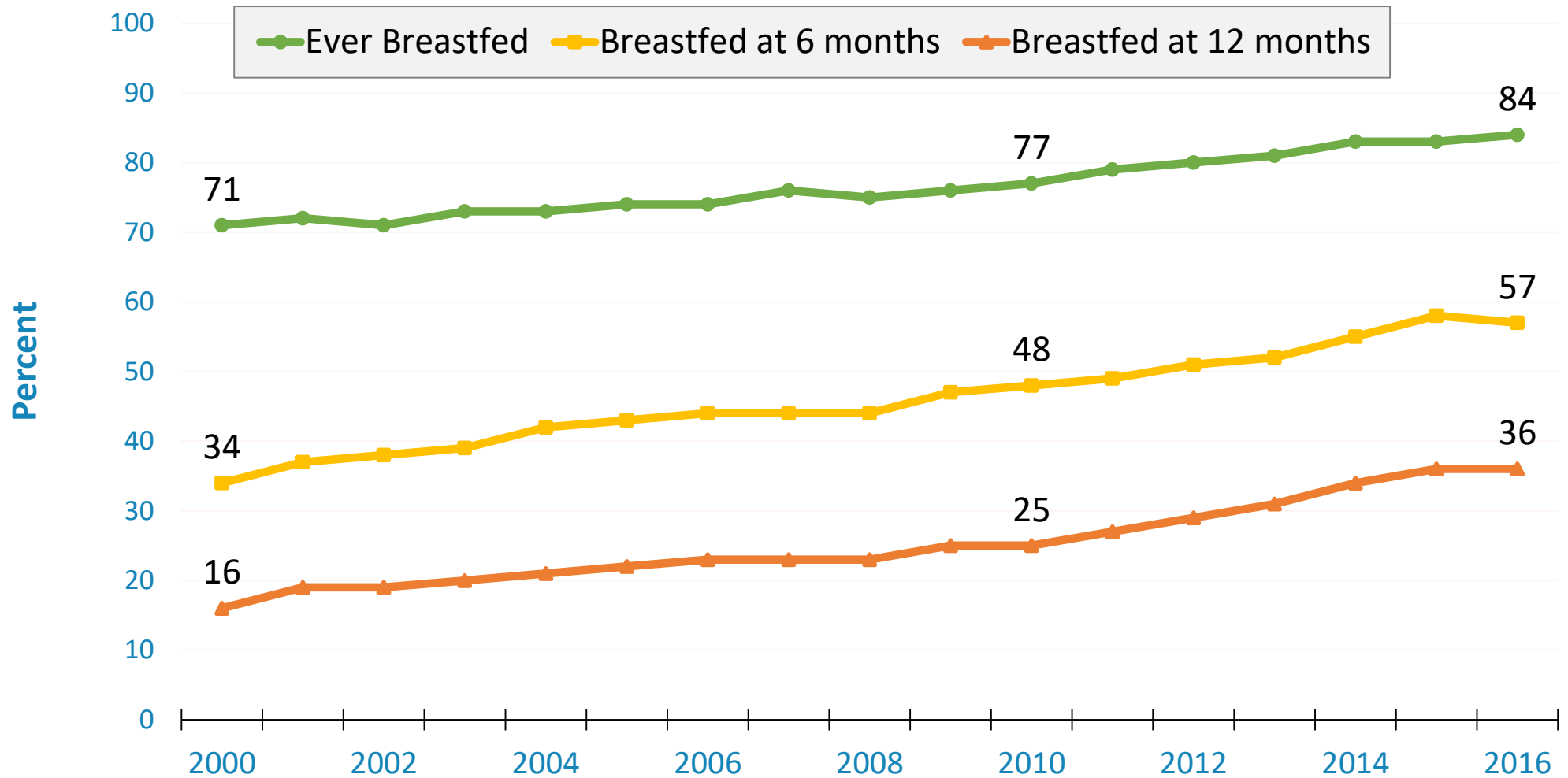
Obesity Prevalence among US Children and Adults, 1999-2016



Source: CDC/NCHS, National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db288.pdf>)



% of US Mothers Breastfeeding by Birth Year of Infant, 2000-2016



Health Takeaways

Improvements:

- Infant mortality rates have gone down
- Fatal and 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 recently started to stabilize
- Teen firearm and homicide death rates have decreased, but recently started to go up
- Suicide death rates among teenagers have started to go up
- Youth-reported major depressive episodes have gone up
- Mental health diagnoses have gone up
- Adolescent vaping rates have gone up
- 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

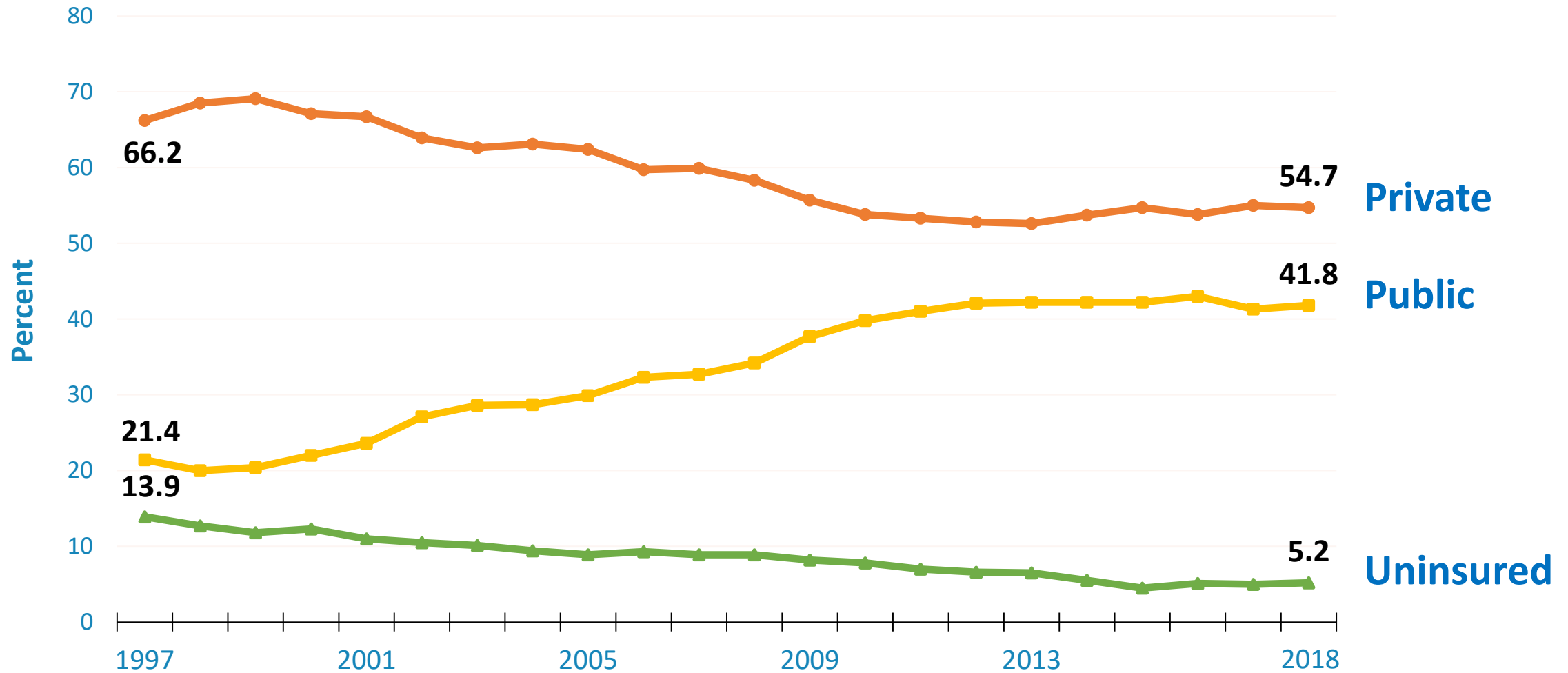


3. Health Care Trends

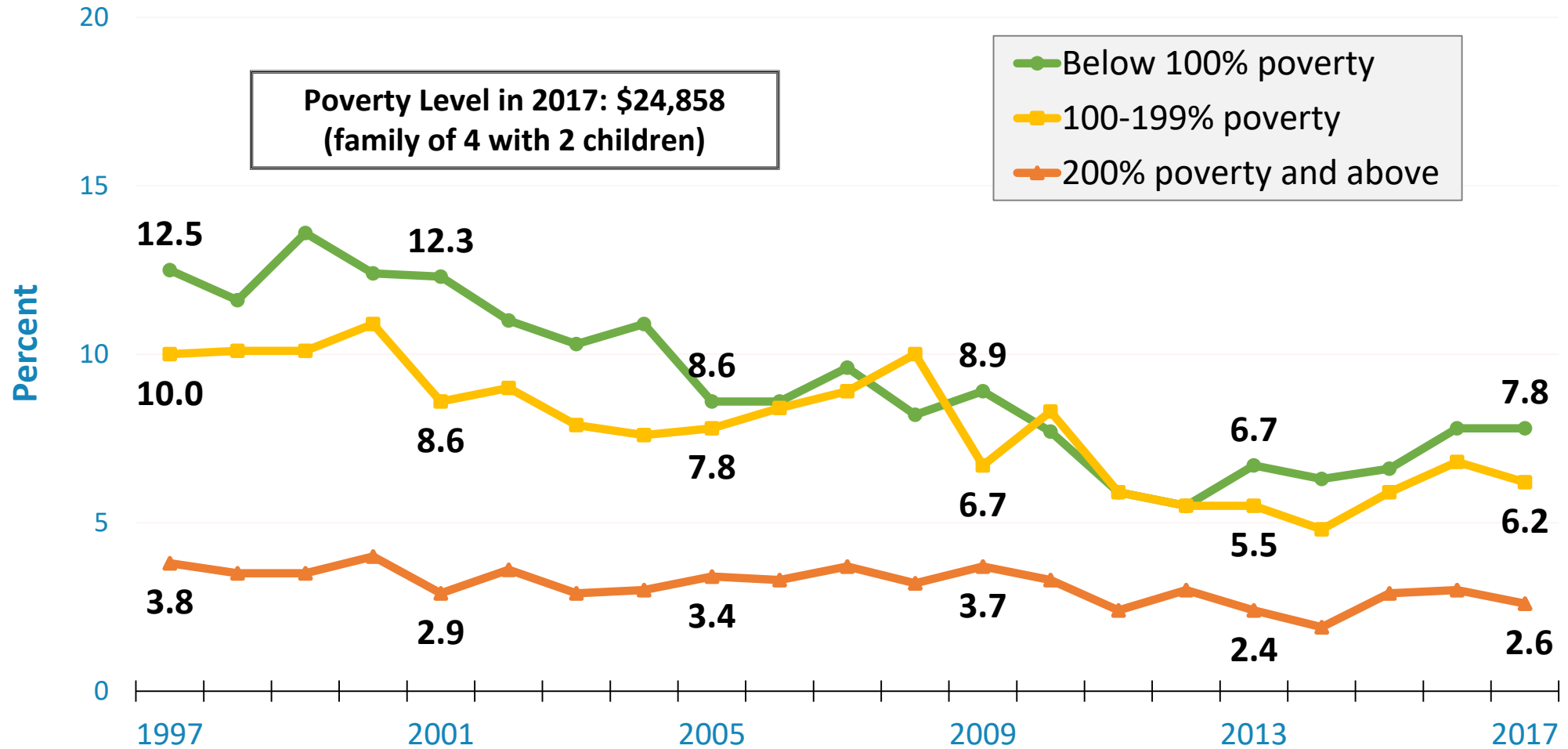
- Health insurance coverage
- Usual source of health care
- Immunizations
- Well-child visits
- Dental visits



% of US Children (ages 0-17) with Health Insurance by Coverage Type at Time of Interview, 1997-2018



% of US Children (ages 0-17) with No Usual Source of Health Care by Poverty Status, 1997-2017



Note: Based on parent-report

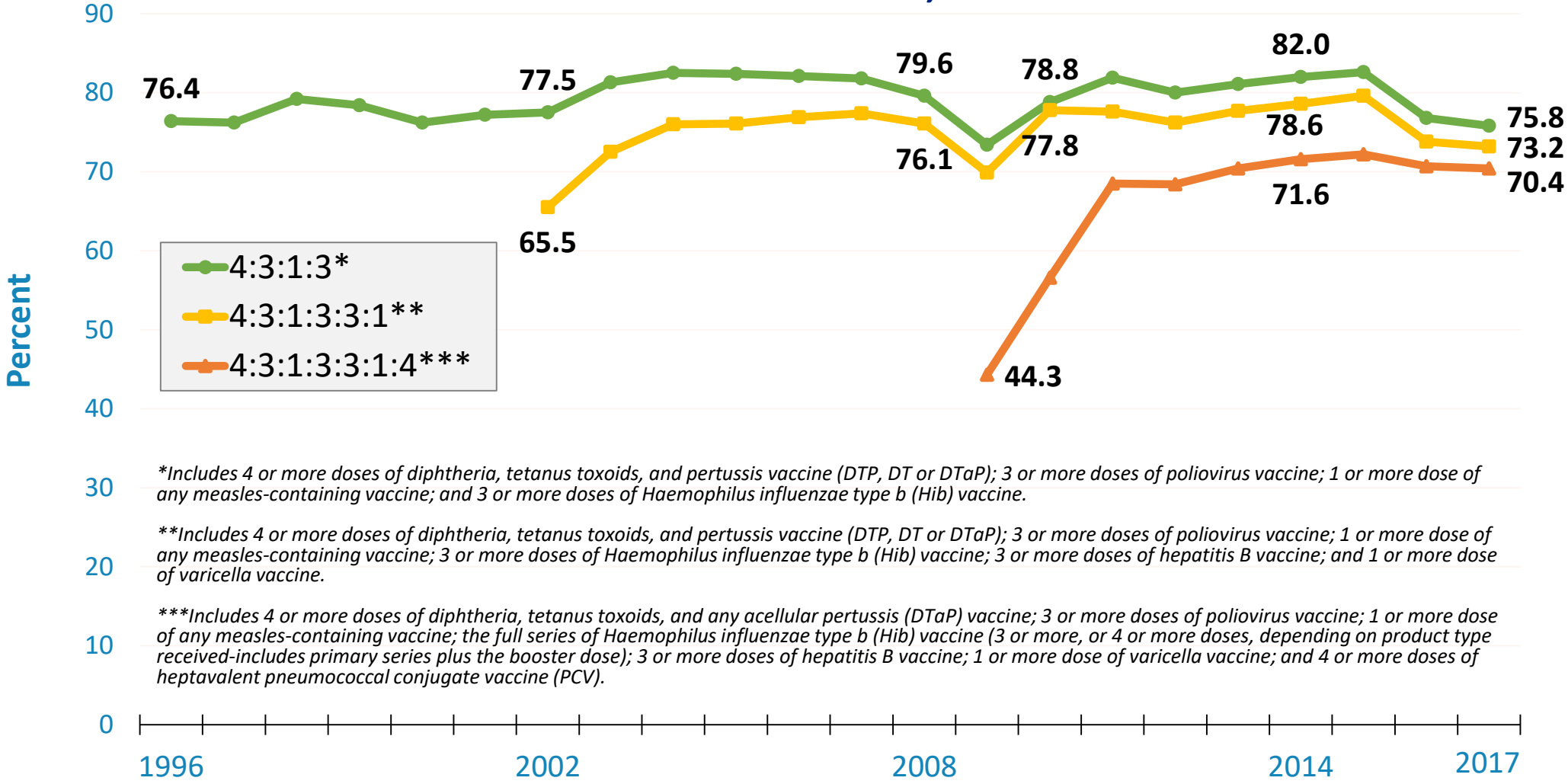
Source: CDC/NCHS, National Health Interview Survey (<http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/tables/hc2.asp>)

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% of US Children (ages 19-35 months) Receiving Combined Series Vaccinations, 1996-2017



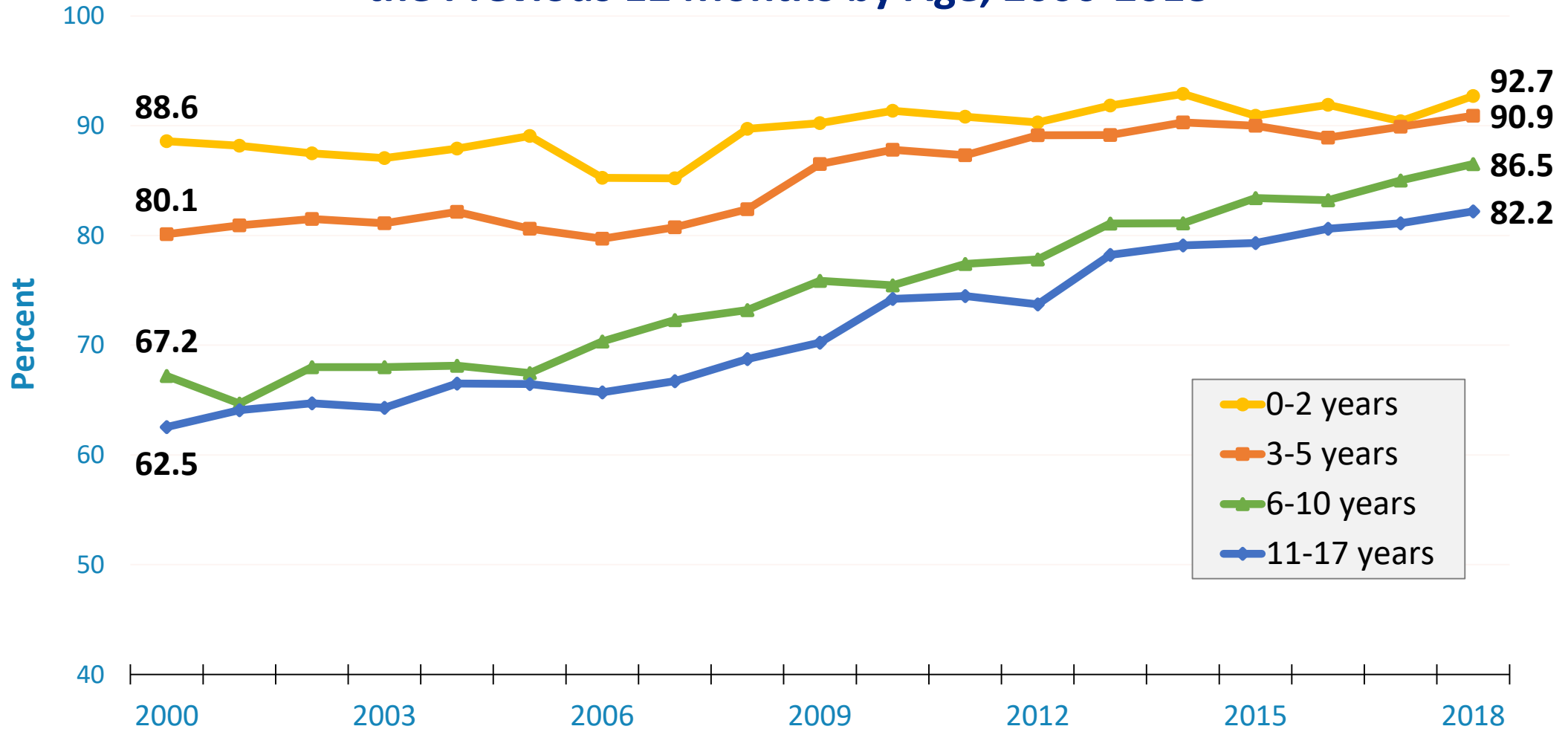
*Includes 4 or more doses of diphtheria, tetanus toxoids, and pertussis vaccine (DTP, DT or DTaP); 3 or more doses of poliovirus vaccine; 1 or more dose of any measles-containing vaccine; and 3 or more doses of Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) vaccine.

**Includes 4 or more doses of diphtheria, tetanus toxoids, and pertussis vaccine (DTP, DT or DTaP); 3 or more doses of poliovirus vaccine; 1 or more dose of any measles-containing vaccine; 3 or more doses of Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) vaccine; 3 or more doses of hepatitis B vaccine; and 1 or more dose of varicella vaccine.

***Includes 4 or more doses of diphtheria, tetanus toxoids, and any acellular pertussis (DTaP) vaccine; 3 or more doses of poliovirus vaccine; 1 or more dose of any measles-containing vaccine; the full series of Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) vaccine (3 or more, or 4 or more doses, depending on product type received-includes primary series plus the booster dose); 3 or more doses of hepatitis B vaccine; 1 or more dose of varicella vaccine; and 4 or more doses of heptavalent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV).



% of US Children (ages 0-17) Who Received a Well-Child Visit in the Previous 12 Months by Age, 2000-2018



Note: Based on parent-report

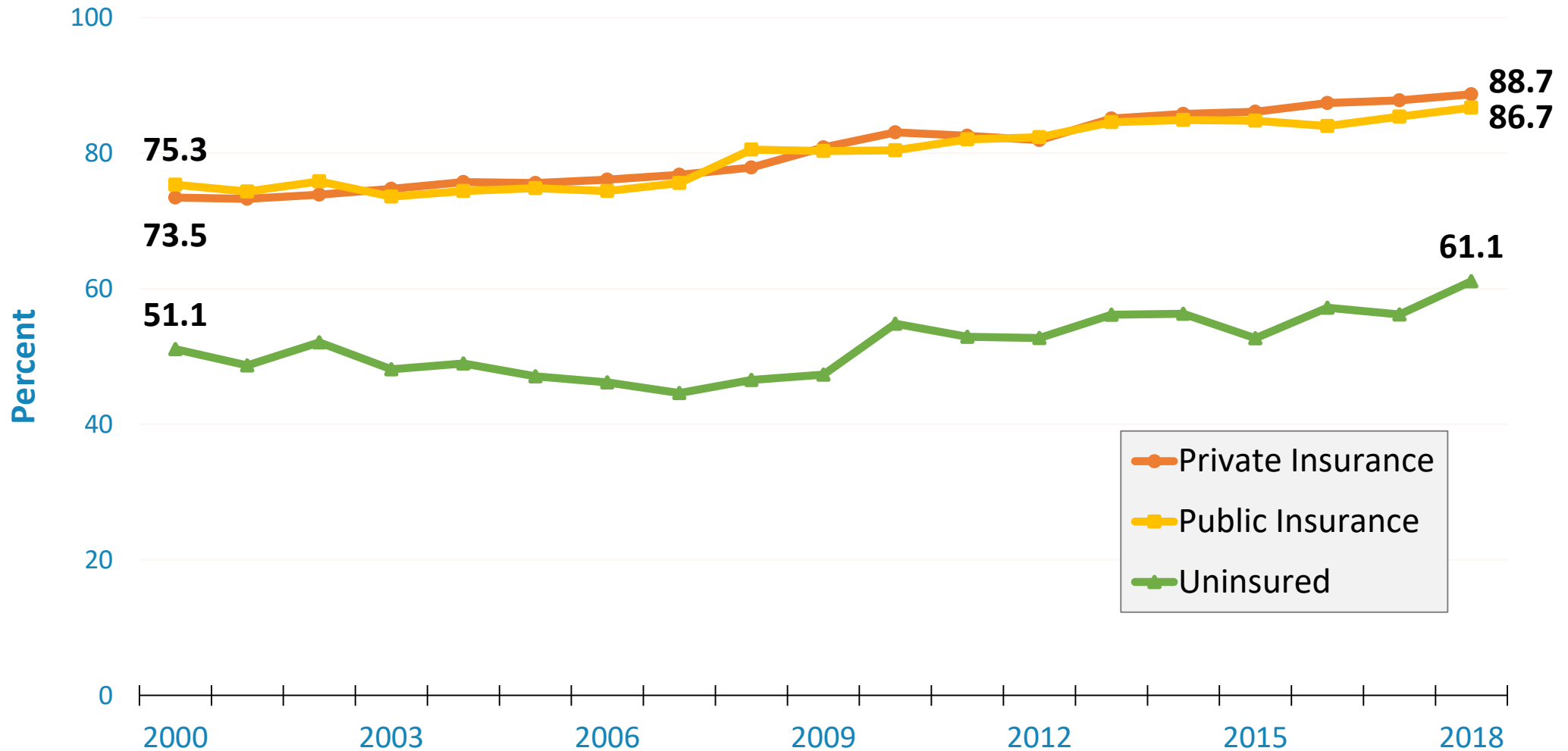
Source: AAP Health Services Research analysis of CDC/NCHS, National Health Interview Survey data

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% of US Children (ages 0-17) Who Received a Well-Child Visit in the Previous 12 Months by Type of Health Insurance, 2000-2018



Note: Based on parent-report

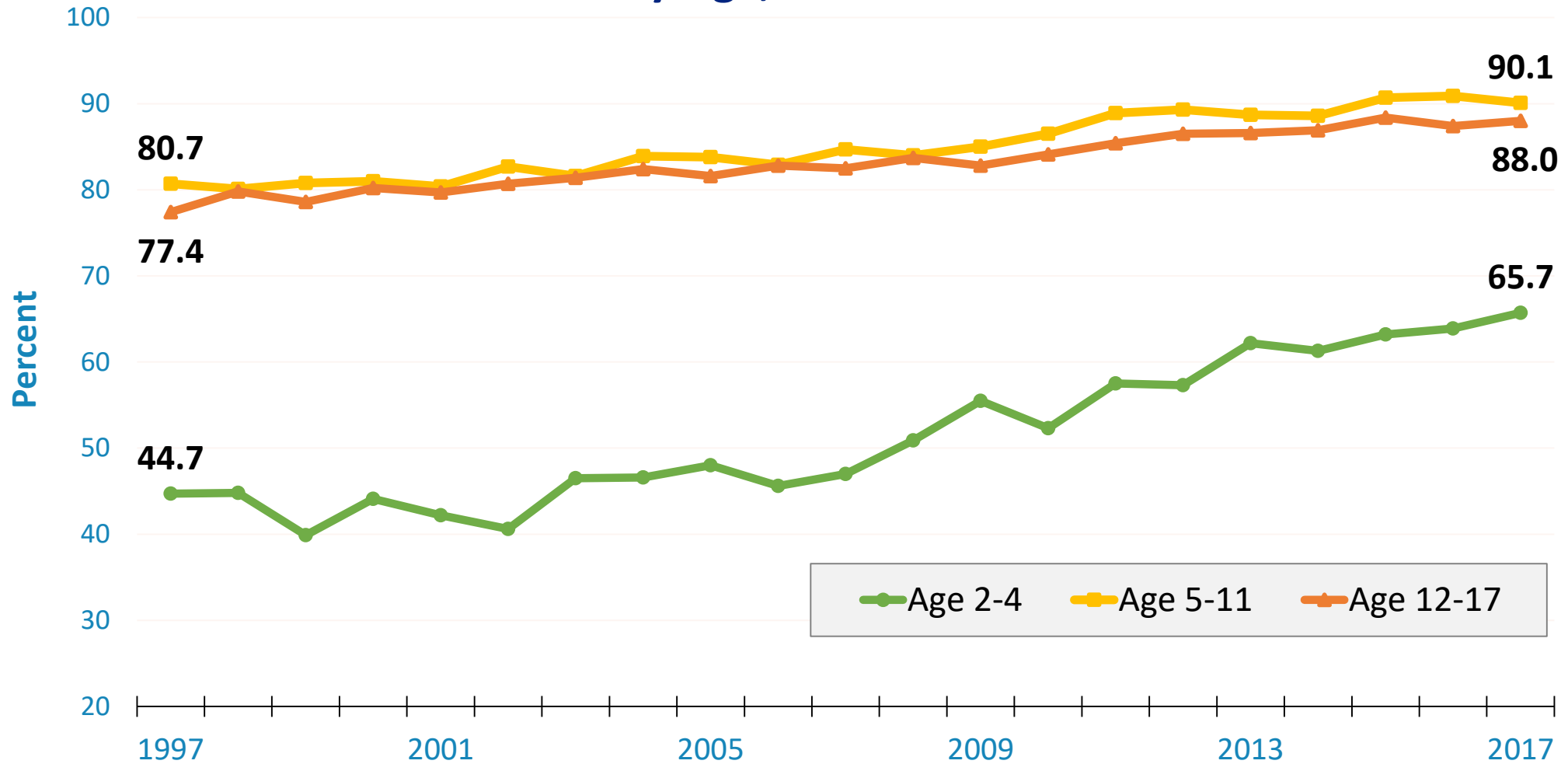
Source: AAP Health Services Research analysis of CDC/NCHS, National Health Interview Survey data

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% of US Children (ages 2-17) with a Dental Visit in the Past Year by Age, 1997-2017



Note: Based on parent-report

Source: CDC/NCHS, National Health Interview Survey (<http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/tables/hc4ab.asp>)

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Health Care Takeaways

- % of uninsured children has gone down, but recently started to stabilize
- % of children with public insurance has gone up, but started to stabilize
- % of children with no usual source of care has gone down
- Immunization rates have gone up and were stable, but recently started to go down
- % of children with well-child visits has gone up
- % of children with dental visits has gone up



Thank you!

For more information, please contact
Liz Gottschlich, MA or Kandyce Larson, PhD
in Health Services Research.

Slides are posted on the intranet
(Online Documents → Research → General Documents)

