

# WHY DO BLACKS MALES CONSIDER SUICIDE?



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Race & Opportunity Lab

BROWN SCHOOL AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



# BLACKS SUICIDE



- Approximately 3,254 Black Americans die by suicide each year, with the lifetime prevalence of suicide ideation for Black Americans is estimated at 11.7%
- Rates of suicide death among Black men increased by 25.3% from 8.72 per 100,000 in 2007 to 10.93 in 2017
- The rate of death for Black adults ages 15-24 (10.42/100,000) has increased approximately 35% from 2013 to 2018
- The Black population is projected to increase by 42% (from 42 to 60 million by 2060)

Source: Nguyen et al., 2017; Joe et. al, 2006



# Suicide in America

The background of the slide is a dark, semi-transparent image of the United States flag, showing the stars and stripes. The text is centered and written in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

**In the United  
States  
the most recent data  
reveal there were  
47,511 deaths  
from suicide  
In 2019**

## **Worrying trends in U.S. Suicide Rates**

- In America rates have risen in recent years, while rates in other nations have fallen.
  - We seen a **33% increase** in the rate of suicides from 1999 through 2017
  - Suicide ranks as **the 2<sup>nd</sup>** leading cause of death for 10- to 34-year-olds and the **4<sup>th</sup>** leading cause of death for people ages 35 to 54
  - **10th**  
Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death overall
- Rates have increased more **sharply since 2006**.
- But it's a different story in other parts of the world.
- Over roughly the same period, other countries have seen rates fall, including Japan, China, Russia and most of Western Europe. What is going wrong on our shores—and what lessons can we import from elsewhere?



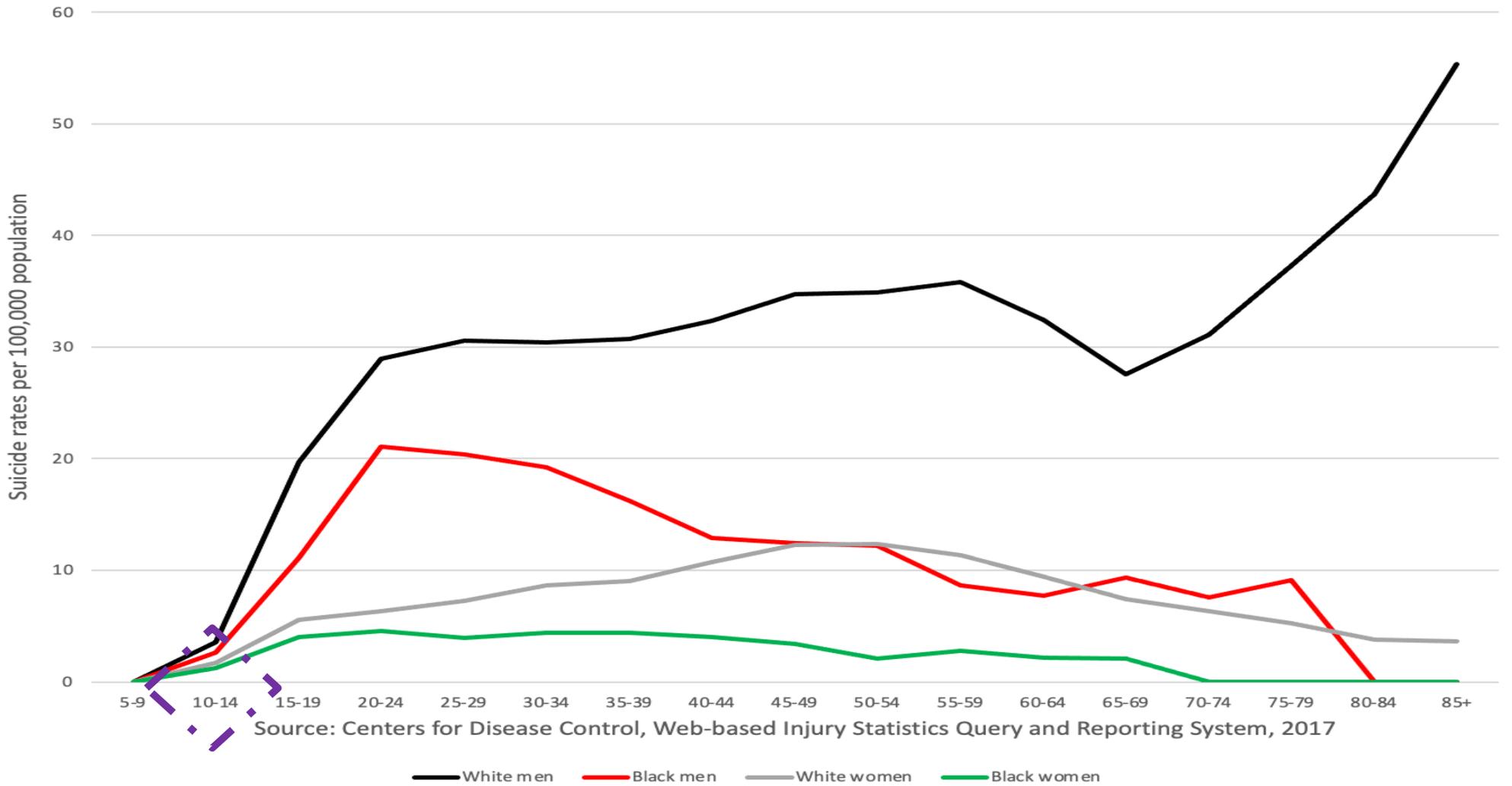
**Are some ethnic group of higher risk?**

## “**Ethnic**” Advantage

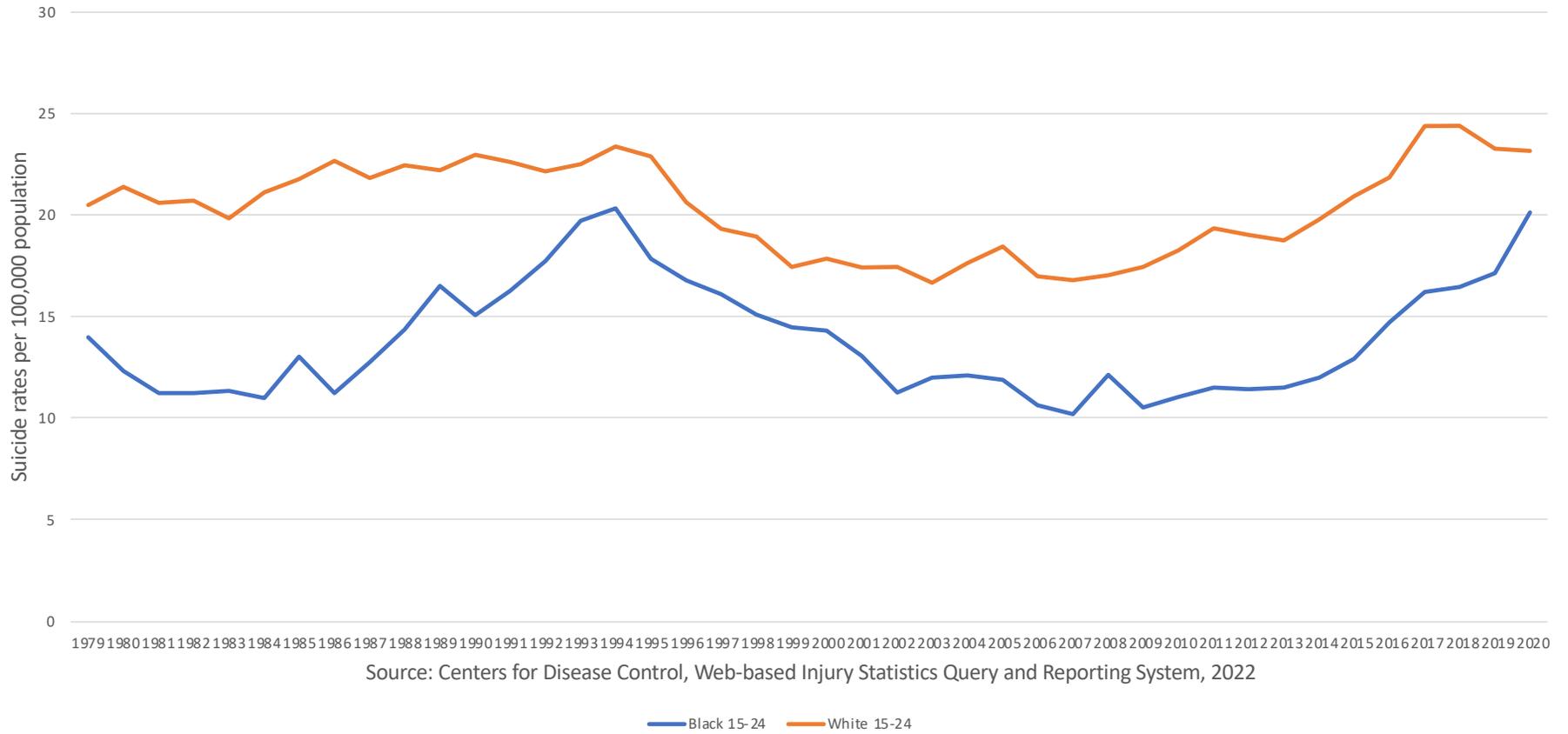


- Suicide is one of few health outcomes for which Black Americans have an advantage.
- The difference in suicide rates between whites and blacks aged 15-24 narrowed from a ratio of 1.9 in 1980 to 1.7 in 2006 (-22.2%,  $p < .001$ ).
- Suicide is 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of death for blacks ages 15-24 and 4<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death for black ages 10-14 years.

### Suicide Across the Life Span by Ethnicity and Sex, 2019



### Suicide rates of Black & White males 15 to 24yrs



Source: Centers for Disease Control, Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System, 2022

## **Suicide Trends Among Elementary School–Aged Children in the United States From 1993 to 2012 (Bridges et. al, 2015)**



- The suicide rate for children under age 12 reveals a markedly higher and statistically significant **86% increase in suicide among Black children** in contrast to white children (**32% decrease**) and Hispanic children (3% increase).

# Age-Related Racial Disparity in Suicide Rates Among US Youths From 2001 Through 2015



JAMA Pediatr. 2018;172(7):697-699. doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2018.0399

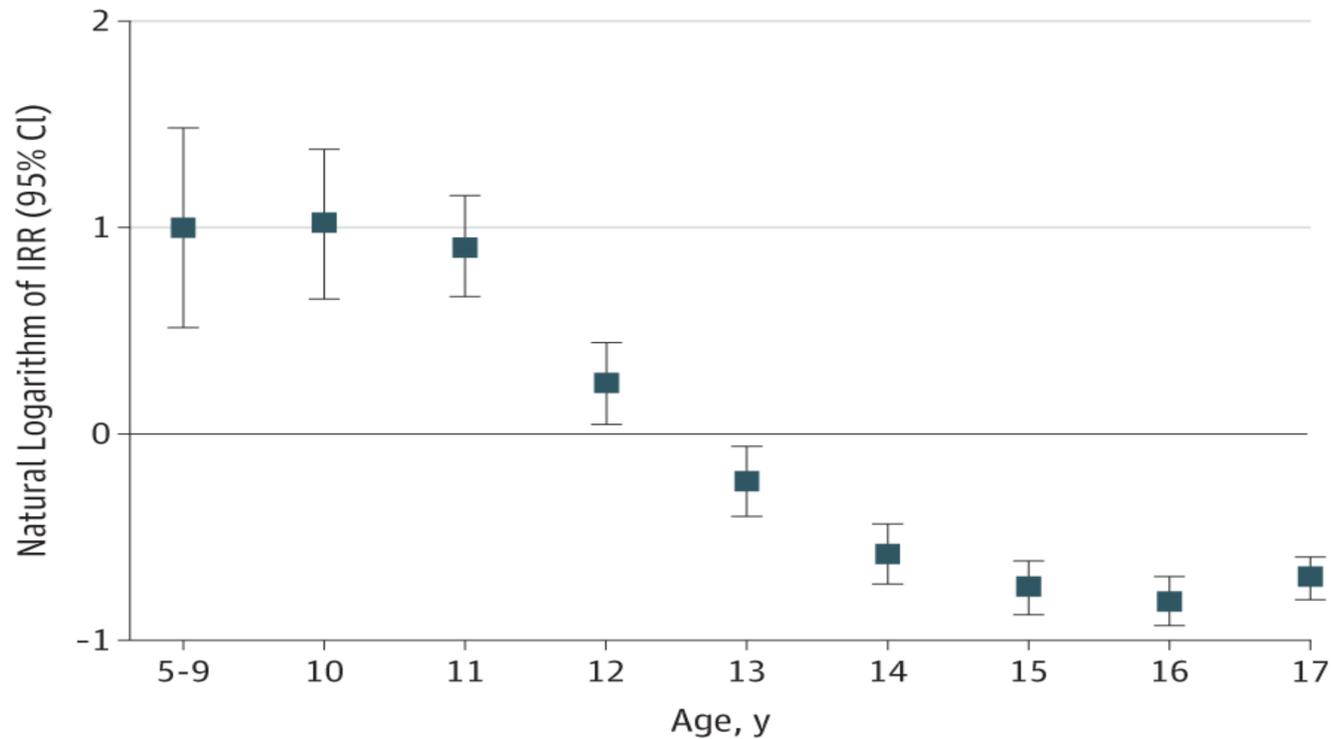


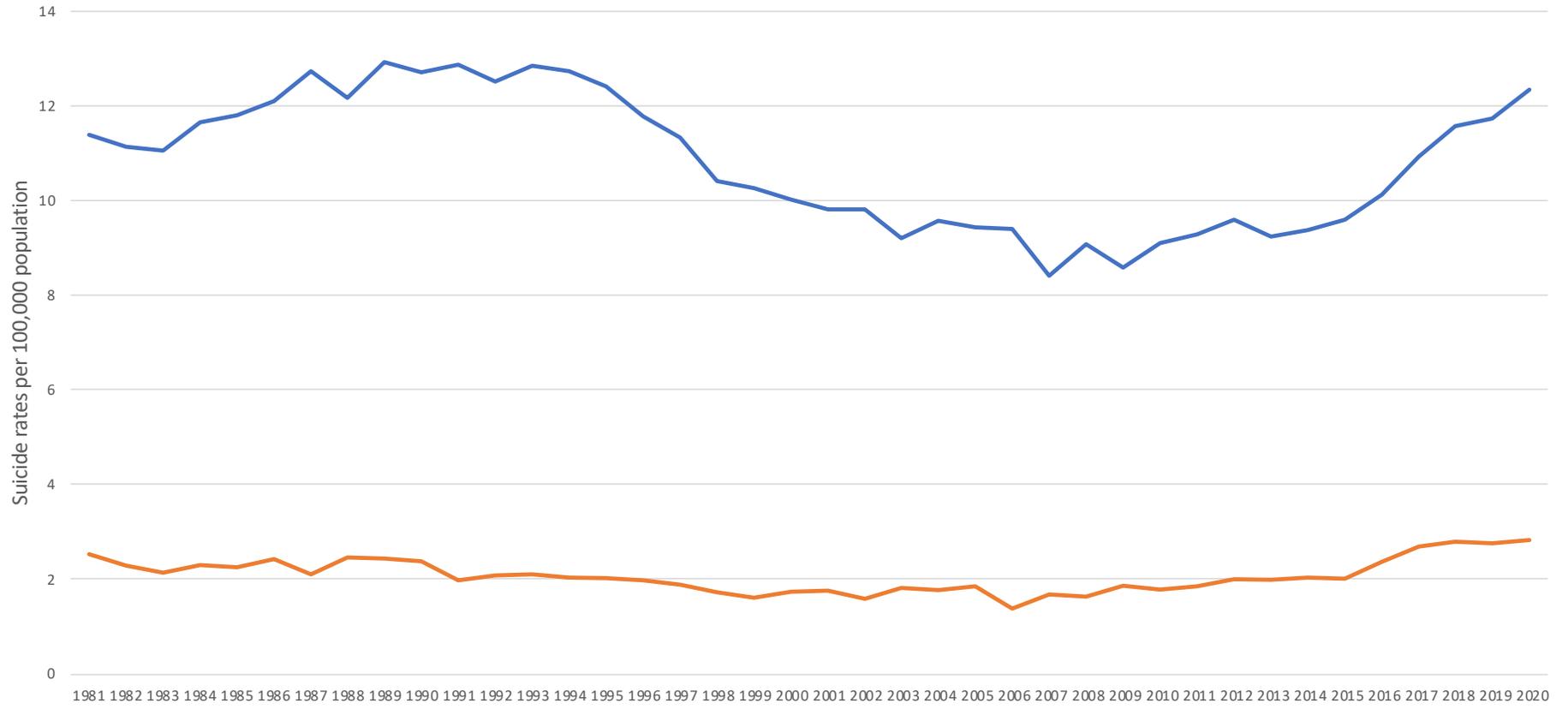
Figure Legend:

Comparison of Suicide Incidence Rates Between Black and White Youths in the United States From 2001 to 2015 by AgeSquares indicate the estimated natural logarithm of the age-specific incidence rate ratio (IRR); vertical lines, 95% CI. The reference group is white youth. The 95% CIs that do not include zero are considered to be statistically significant.



**Are males or females at higher risk?**

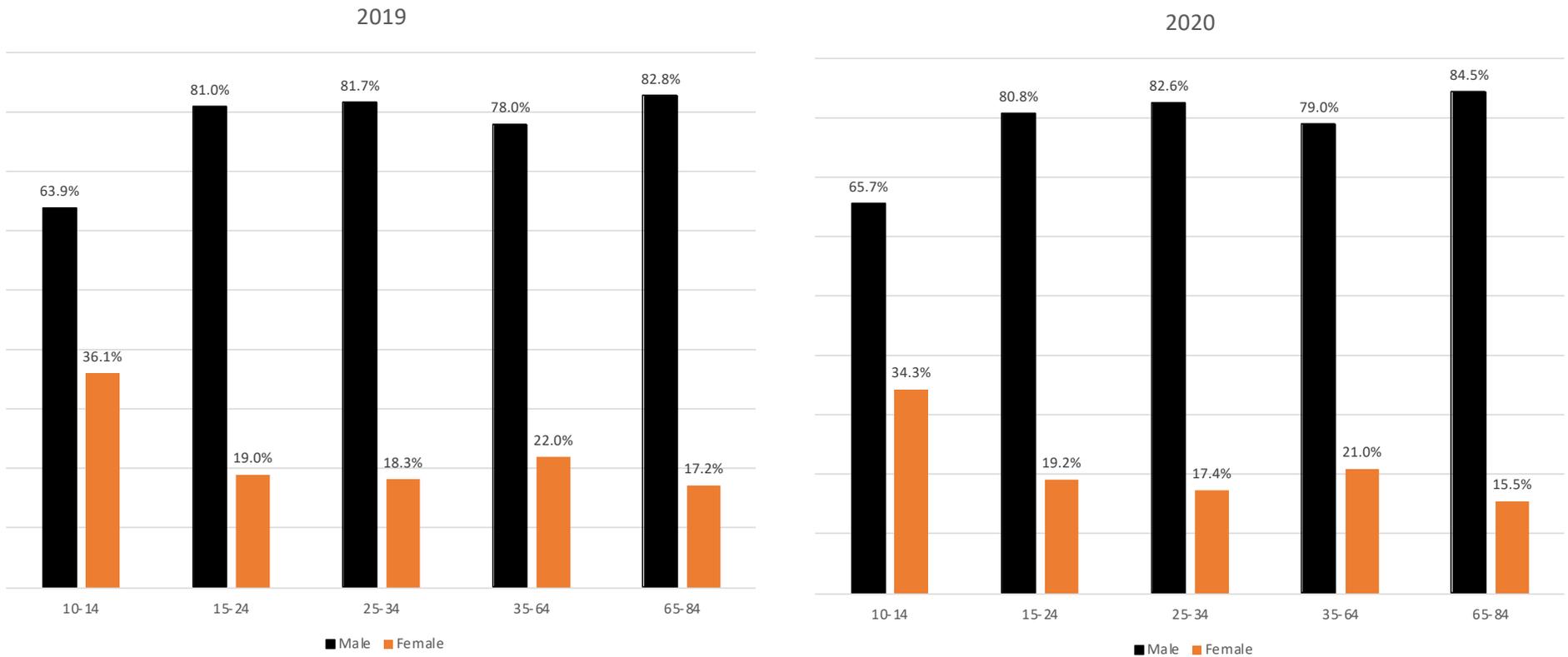
### Black Suicide rates by Gender from 1981 to 2020



Source: Centers for Disease Control, Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System, 2022

Male Female

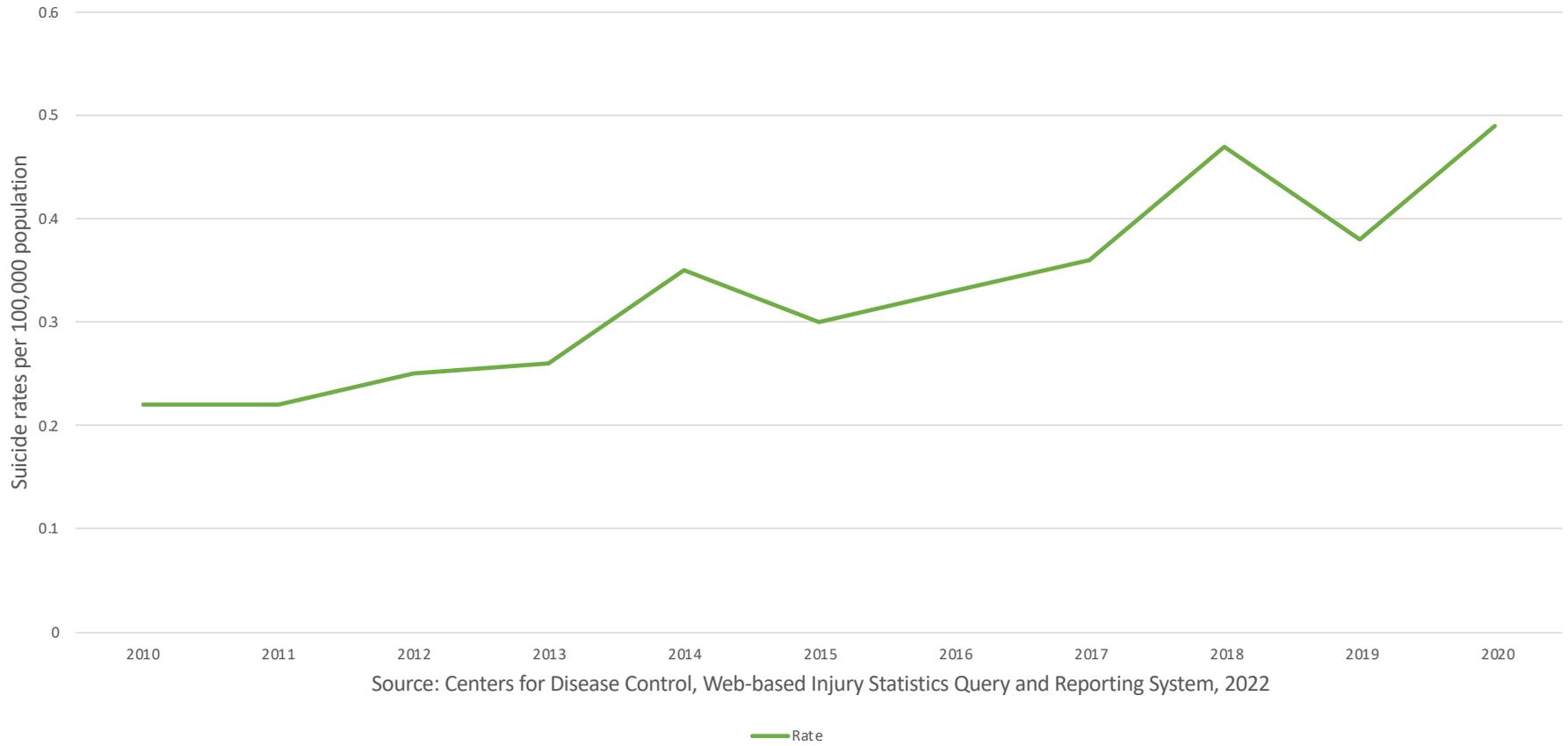
# Suicide rates among Blacks by Age group and Sex



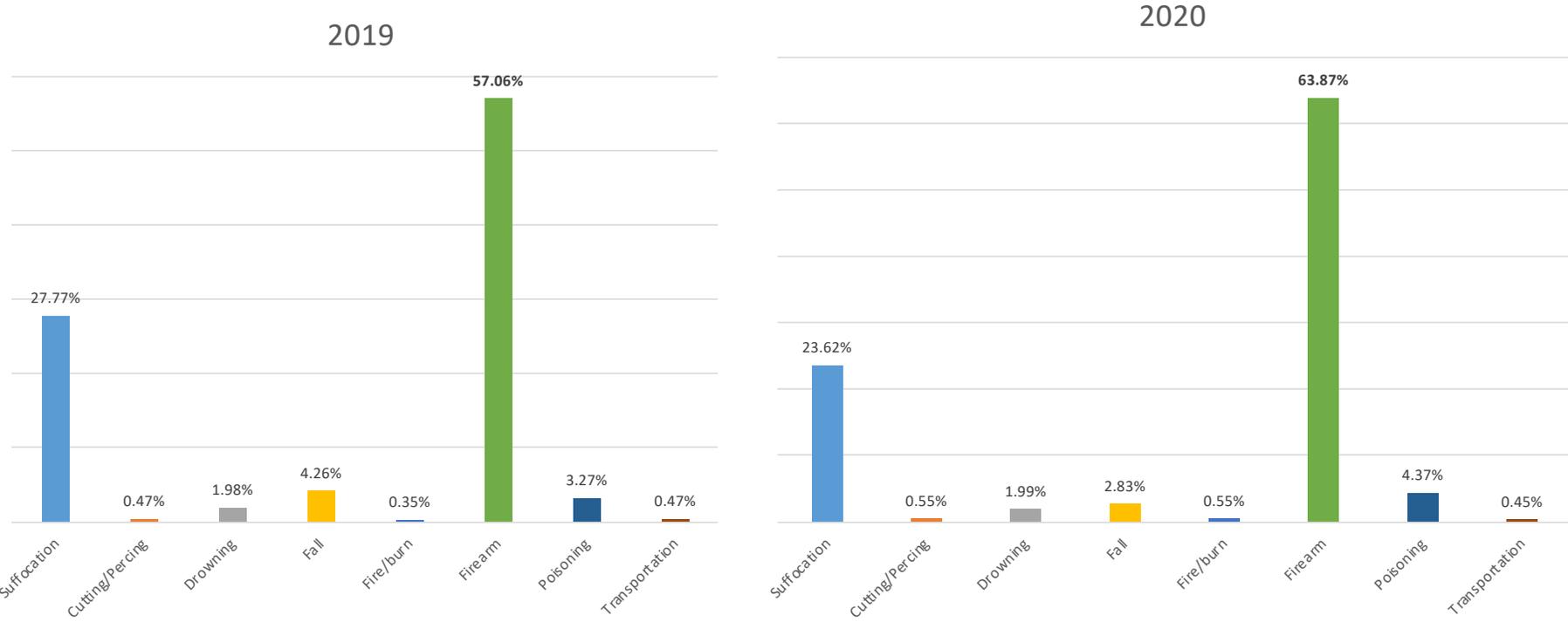
Percentage of suicide rates per 100,000 population

Source: Centers for Disease Control, Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System, 2021

### Suicide Rates for Blacks 12years and under from 2010 to 2020



# Suicide rates by method among Black Males 15 to 24years



Percentage of suicide rates per 100,000 population

Source: Centers for Disease Control, Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System, 2021

### 10 Leading Causes of Death, United States 2020, All Races, Both Sexes

[Click on any colored box for detailed causes and ICD codes.](#)

[Click on any age group for percentages.](#)

		Age Groups											
Rank	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	All Ages	
1	Congenital Anomalies 4,043	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 1,153	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 685	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 881	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 4,654	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 10,463	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 31,315	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 31,057	Malignant Neoplasms 34,589	Malignant Neoplasms 110,243	Heart Disease 556,665	Heart Disease 696,962	
2	Short Gestation 3,141	Congenital Anomalies 382	Malignant Neoplasms 382	<b>Suicide</b> 581	<b>Homicide</b> 1,572	<b>Homicide</b> 3,894	<b>Suicide</b> 8,454	Heart Disease 12,177	Heart Disease 34,169	Heart Disease 88,551	Malignant Neoplasms 440,753	Malignant Neoplasms 602,350	
3	SIDS 1,389	<b>Homicide</b> 311	Congenital Anomalies 171	Malignant Neoplasms 410	<b>Suicide</b> 2,216	<b>Suicide</b> 3,846	<b>Homicide</b> 7,125	Malignant Neoplasms 10,730	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 27,819	COVID-19 42,090	COVID-19 282,836	COVID-19 350,831	
4	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 1,194	Malignant Neoplasms 307	<b>Homicide</b> 169	<b>Homicide</b> 285	Malignant Neoplasms 549	Malignant Neoplasms 757	Heart Disease 3,984	<b>Suicide</b> 7,314	COVID-19 16,964	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 28,915	Cerebro-vascular 137,392	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 200,955	
5	Maternal Pregnancy Comp. 1,116	Heart Disease 112	Heart Disease 56	Congenital Anomalies 150	Heart Disease 294	Heart Disease 576	Malignant Neoplasms 3,573	COVID-19 6,079	Liver Disease 9,503	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 18,816	Alzheimer's Disease 132,741	Cerebro-vascular 160,264	
6	Placenta Cord Membranes 700	Influenza & Pneumonia 84	Influenza & Pneumonia 55	Heart Disease 111	Congenital Anomalies 184	COVID-19 383	COVID-19 2,254	Liver Disease 4,938	Diabetes Mellitus 7,546	Diabetes Mellitus 18,002	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 128,712	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 152,657	
7	Bacterial Sepsis 542	Cerebro-vascular 55	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 54	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 93	COVID-19 118	Diabetes Mellitus 219	Liver Disease 1,631	<b>Homicide</b> 4,482	<b>Suicide</b> 7,249	Liver Disease 16,151	Diabetes Mellitus 72,194	Alzheimer's Disease 134,242	
8	Respiratory Distress 388	Perinatal Period 54	Cerebro-vascular 32	Diabetes Mellitus 50	Diabetes Mellitus 93	Congenital Anomalies 200	Diabetes Mellitus 1,168	Diabetes Mellitus 2,904	Cerebro-vascular 5,686	Cerebro-vascular 14,153	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 62,796	Diabetes Mellitus 102,188	
9	Circulatory System Disease 386	Septicemia 43	Benign Neoplasms 28	Influenza & Pneumonia 50	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 90	Complicated Pregnancy 165	Cerebro-vascular 600	Cerebro-vascular 2,008	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 3,538	<b>Suicide</b> 7,160	Nephritis 42,675	Influenza & Pneumonia 53,544	
10	Neonatal Hemorrhage 317	Benign Neoplasms 35	<b>Suicide</b> 20	Cerebro-vascular 44	Cerebro-vascular 75	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 130	Complicated Pregnancy 594	Influenza & Pneumonia 1,148	<b>Homicide</b> 2,542	Influenza & Pneumonia 6,295	Influenza & Pneumonia 42,511	Nephritis 52,547	

[Terms for Causes of Death](#)

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## 10 Leading Causes of Death, United States 2020, Black, Both Sexes

[Click on any colored box for detailed causes and ICD codes.](#)

[Click on any age group for percentages.](#)

Rank	Age Groups											All Ages
	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	
1	Short Gestation 1,262	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 282	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 187	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 176	<b>Homicide</b> 1,647	<b>Homicide</b> 2,629	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 5,438	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 4,986	Heart Disease 2,996	Heart Disease 19,050	Heart Disease 61,826	Heart Disease 94,777
2	Congenital Anomalies 827	<b>Homicide</b> 154	<b>Homicide</b> 83	<b>Homicide</b> 140	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 827	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 1,996	<b>Homicide</b> 4,593	Heart Disease 3,606	Malignant Neoplasms 5,602	Malignant Neoplasms 17,192	Malignant Neoplasms 46,065	Malignant Neoplasms 71,879
3	SIDS 573	Congenital Anomalies 97	Malignant Neoplasms 59	<b>Suicide</b> 99	<b>Suicide</b> 287	<b>Suicide</b> 593	Heart Disease 1,262	<b>Homicide</b> 2,318	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 4,936	COVID-19 10,153	COVID-19 41,388	COVID-19 58,001
4	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 450	Malignant Neoplasms 50	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 35	Malignant Neoplasms 76	Malignant Neoplasms 100	Heart Disease 164	<b>Suicide</b> 1,040	Malignant Neoplasms 1,941	COVID-19 4,140	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 5,576	Cerebro-vascular 16,701	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 29,875
5	Maternal Pregnancy Comp. 383	Heart Disease 47	Congenital Anomalies 32	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 59	Heart Disease 88	Malignant Neoplasms 119	Malignant Neoplasms 665	COVID-19 1,538	Diabetes Mellitus 1,984	Diabetes Mellitus 4,311	Diabetes Mellitus 12,026	Cerebro-vascular 22,646
6	Placenta Cord Membranes 224	Perinatal Period 23	Influenza & Pneumonia 19	Congenital Anomalies 32	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 43	COVID-19 108	COVID-19 610	Diabetes Mellitus 918	Cerebro-vascular 1,504	Cerebro-vascular 3,559	Alzheimer's Disease 10,851	Diabetes Mellitus 19,768
7	Bacterial Sepsis 208	Cerebro-vascular 18	Heart Disease 17	Heart Disease 31	Congenital Anomalies 37	Diabetes Mellitus 77	Diabetes Mellitus 400	<b>Suicide</b> 596	<b>Homicide</b> 1,125	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 2,365	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 8,954	<b>Homicide</b> 13,780
8	Respiratory Distress 133	Influenza & Pneumonia 18	<b>Suicide</b> 9	Diabetes Mellitus 20	COVID-19 30	Congenital Anomalies 57	HIV 291	Cerebro-vascular 590	Nephritis 832	Nephritis 1,947	Nephritis 7,414	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 12,508
9	Circulatory System Disease 119	Septicemia 14	COVID-19 8	Cerebro-vascular 11	Diabetes Mellitus 28	Complicated Pregnancy 51	Complicated Pregnancy 199	HIV 452	Liver Disease 801	Liver Disease 1,543	Hypertension 5,679	Alzheimer's Disease 11,023
10	Necrotizing Enterocolitis 108	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 6	Cerebro-vascular 8	<b>Two Tied</b> 9	Complicated Pregnancy 19	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 46	Cerebro-vascular 184	Liver Disease 378	Hypertension 656	Hypertension 1,489	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 5,019	Nephritis 10,685

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## 10 Leading Causes of Death, United States 2020, Black, Males

[Click on any colored box for detailed causes and ICD codes.](#)

[Click on any age group for percentages.](#)

Rank	Age Groups											All Ages
	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	
1	Short Gestation 895	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 182	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 119	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 126	<b>Homicide</b> 1,479	<b>Homicide</b> 2,332	<b>Homicide</b> 4,109	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 3,668	Heart Disease 5,601	Heart Disease 12,298	Heart Disease 29,851	Heart Disease 51,092
2	Congenital Anomalies 427	<b>Homicide</b> 83	<b>Homicide</b> 38	<b>Homicide</b> 109	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 583	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 1,431	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 3,873	Heart Disease 2,302	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 3,624	Malignant Neoplasms 8,860	Malignant Neoplasms 23,558	Malignant Neoplasms 36,163
3	SIDS 301	Congenital Anomalies 53	Malignant Neoplasms 35	<b>Suicide</b> 65	<b>Suicide</b> 209	<b>Suicide</b> 502	<b>Suicide</b> 859	<b>Homicide</b> 2,004	COVID-19 2,500	COVID-19 5,945	COVID-19 21,057	COVID-19 30,864
4	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 254	Malignant Neoplasms 29	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 21	Malignant Neoplasms 39	Heart Disease 62	Heart Disease 97	Heart Disease 793	COVID-19 899	Malignant Neoplasms 2,464	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 4,135	Cerebro-vascular 6,985	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 21,155
5	Maternal Pregnancy Comp. 215	Heart Disease 22	Congenital Anomalies 18	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 37	Malignant Neoplasms 57	Malignant Neoplasms 61	COVID-19 367	Malignant Neoplasms 774	Diabetes Mellitus 1,177	Diabetes Mellitus 2,531	Diabetes Mellitus 5,655	<b>Homicide</b> 11,935
6	Placenta Cord Membranes 132	Perinatal Period 18	Heart Disease 10	Congenital Anomalies 17	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 22	COVID-19 59	Malignant Neoplasms 281	Diabetes Mellitus 578	<b>Homicide</b> 946	Cerebro-vascular 2,090	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 4,485	Cerebro-vascular 10,391
7	Bacterial Sepsis 116	Influenza & Pneumonia 11	Influenza & Pneumonia 10	Heart Disease 17	Congenital Anomalies 21	Diabetes Mellitus 42	Diabetes Mellitus 226	<b>Suicide</b> 474	Cerebro-vascular 842	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 1,173	Nephritis 3,388	Diabetes Mellitus 10,237
8	Respiratory Distress 68	Cerebro-vascular 10	Perinatal Period 6	Diabetes Mellitus 9	COVID-19 18	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 34	HIV 218	Cerebro-vascular 318	Nephritis 499	Nephritis 1,084	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 3,159	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 6,288
9	<b>Homicide</b> 67	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 5	Anemias 4	Cerebro-vascular 7	Diabetes Mellitus 17	Congenital Anomalies 31	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 107	HIV 275	Liver Disease 457	Liver Disease 975	Alzheimer's Disease 3,053	Nephritis 5,230
10	Necrotizing Enterocolitis 62	<b>Four Tied</b> 3	<b>Suicide</b> 4	COVID-19 6	Cerebro-vascular 9	HIV 29	Cerebro-vascular 101	Liver Disease 198	Hypertension 417	Hypertension 900	Hypertension 2,432	Hypertension 3,950

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## 10 Leading Causes of Death, United States 2020, Black, Females

[Click on any colored box for detailed causes and ICD codes.](#)

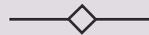
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		Age Groups											
Rank	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	All Ages	
1	Short Gestation 587	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 100	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 68	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 50	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 244	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 565	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 1,565	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 1,318	Malignant Neoplasms 3,138	Malignant Neoplasms 8,332	Heart Disease 31,975	Heart Disease 43,685	
2	Congenital Anomalies 400	<b>Homicide</b> 71	<b>Homicide</b> 45	Malignant Neoplasms 37	<b>Homicide</b> 168	<b>Homicide</b> 297	<b>Homicide</b> 488	Heart Disease 1,304	Heart Disease 3,005	Heart Disease 6,752	Malignant Neoplasms 22,507	Malignant Neoplasms 35,716	
3	SIDS 272	Congenital Anomalies 44	Malignant Neoplasms 24	<b>Suicide</b> 34	<b>Suicide</b> 78	<b>Suicide</b> 91	Heart Disease 469	Malignant Neoplasms 1,167	COVID-19 1,640	COVID-19 4,208	COVID-19 20,331	COVID-19 27,137	
4	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 196	Heart Disease 25	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 14	<b>Homicide</b> 31	Malignant Neoplasms 43	Heart Disease 67	Malignant Neoplasms 384	COVID-19 639	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 1,312	Diabetes Mellitus 1,780	Cerebrovascular 9,716	Cerebrovascular 12,255	
5	Maternal Pregnancy Comp. 168	Malignant Neoplasms 21	Congenital Anomalies 14	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 22	Heart Disease 26	Malignant Neoplasms 58	COVID-19 243	Diabetes Mellitus 340	Diabetes Mellitus 807	Cerebrovascular 1,469	Alzheimer's Disease 7,798	Diabetes Mellitus 9,531	
6	Bacterial Sepsis 92	Septicemia 11	Influenza & Pneumonia 9	Congenital Anomalies 15	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 21	Complicated Pregnancy 51	Complicated Pregnancy 199	<b>Homicide</b> 314	Cerebrovascular 662	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 1,441	Diabetes Mellitus 6,371	<b>Unintentional Injury</b> 8,720	
7	Placenta Cord Membranes 92	Cerebrovascular 8	Heart Disease 7	Heart Disease 14	Complicated Pregnancy 19	COVID-19 49	<b>Suicide</b> 181	Cerebrovascular 272	Liver Disease 344	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 1,192	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 4,469	Alzheimer's Disease 7,886	
8	Respiratory Distress 65	Influenza & Pneumonia 7	COVID-19 5	Diabetes Mellitus 11	Congenital Anomalies 16	Diabetes Mellitus 35	Diabetes Mellitus 174	Liver Disease 180	Nephritis 333	Nephritis 863	Nephritis 4,028	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 6,222	
9	Circulatory System Disease 62	Perinatal Period 5	Cerebrovascular 5	Influenza & Pneumonia 6	COVID-19 12	Congenital Anomalies 26	Cerebrovascular 83	HIV 177	Septicemia 306	Septicemia 665	Hypertension 3,247	Nephritis 5,455	
10	<b>Two Tied</b> 46	Benign Neoplasms 3	<b>Suicide</b> 5	Cerebrovascular 4	Diabetes Mellitus 11	Influenza & Pneumonia 19	HIV 73	Complicated Pregnancy 163	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 294	Hypertension 589	Septicemia 2,468	Hypertension 4,212	

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# LOSING FUTURE GENERATIONS



- Among Black Americans born after 1976 (under age 45), Suicide is among the top 10 Leading Cause of Death
- Among Black Americans born after 1986 (under age 35), Suicide is a top 5 Leading Cause of Death. This is true for both sexes. Men and Women.

# LOSING GENERATIONS



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**WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO  
HAVE A BLACK SOCIAL  
IDENTITY?**



# Suicide Treatment or Prevention Goal

**Hope** is that thing inside us that insists, despite all the evidence to the contrary, that something better awaits us if we have the courage to reach for it and to work for it and to fight for it.

## Humanity & Hope

- Put the peoples' humanity next to their need for Hope.

**RACE AND RACISM:**  
**Understanding Racecraft**

**“People are People”**



# Origins of the Race Concept

**Ideology or Objective Science**

# What is Race?



- Noun
  - each of the major divisions of humankind, having **distinct physical characteristics**
  - a group of people sharing the same culture, history, language, etc.; an ethnic group
  - the fact or condition of belonging to such a division or group; **the qualities or characteristics associated with this**
  - a group or **set of people** or things **with a common feature or features**
  
- **Biology** - a population within a species that is distinct in some way, esp. **a subspecies**

# What is Race?



- Ideas of race are centuries old
- Attempts to systematize racial divisions were not made until the **19th century**
- Theories of **race asserting a link between skin color and intelligence are now discredited**
  - Science accepts as obvious that there **are subdivisions of the human species**
  - Science also accepts that genetic variation between individuals of the same “race” can be as great as that between members of different “races”
  - Where did these theories originate?

## Birth Process for A Culture of Hate



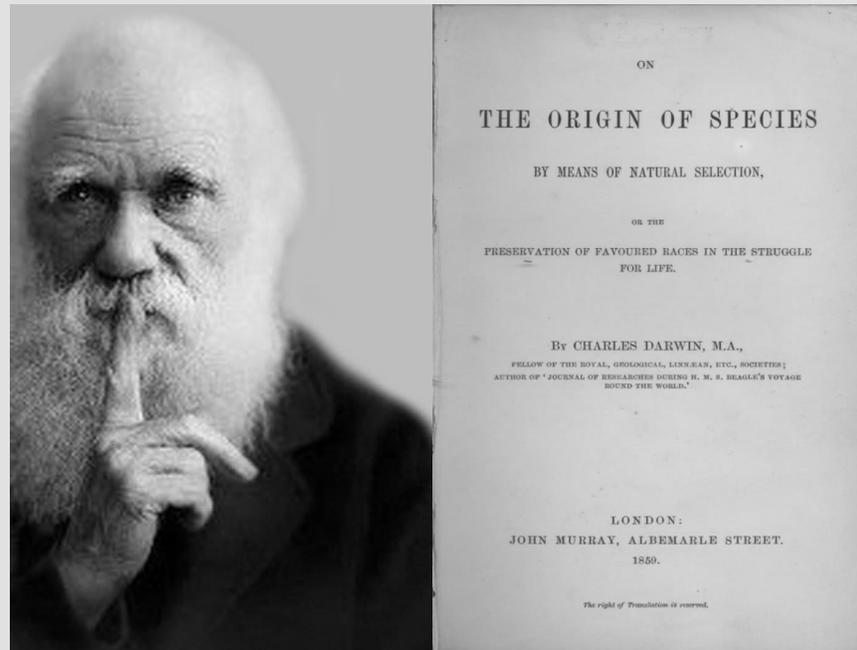
- ▼ Dehumanization (15<sup>th</sup> Century)
- ▼ Race (17<sup>th</sup> Century)
- ▼ Racism (White Superiority Lie & Terrorism)
- ▼ Systemic Racism (Codified in Culture & Practice)



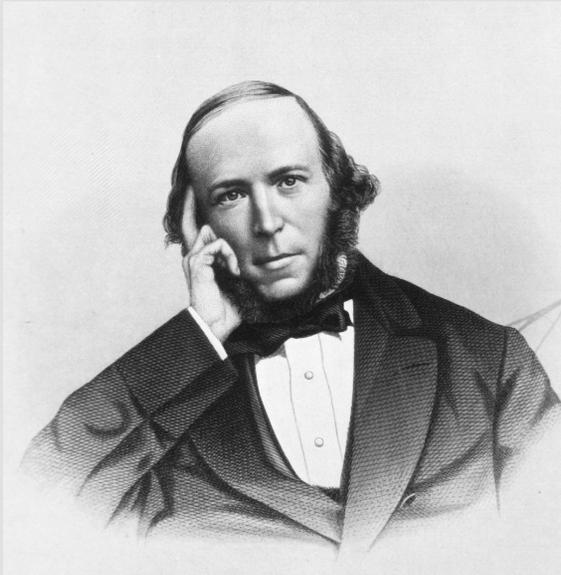
# CHARLES DARWIN

The “grade of civilization was the most important element in the success of nations” **and to preserve the best “grade”** we must promote the advances of the *superior races*.

“The Origin of Species”  
(1859)



## HERBERT SPENCER



“SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST”

<http://collections.countway.harvard.edu/onview/files/original/69f780d0f5f922570dee0c944a200c2d.jpg>



# What is Racecraft?

- First, you must take for granted the objective reality that human races exist
- How is smart people for a long time believe in witchcraft.
- Racism refer to the theory and practice of applying social, civic, or legal double standards
- “Segregation seemed to be a property of black people and not something white people imposed on them.”
  - Field & Field, 2012

## Why not use Race?



- If biological races does not exist then what we **will call “race” is the invention not of nature but** of our social institutions and practices (Graves, 2001).
- Although scientist generally agree on the fallacy of race, the idea has yet to find its way into our manuscripts, presentations, and classrooms.
- We scientific integrity to be morally opposed to racism and other forms of bigotry, objective science does not support the existence of subspecies (races) in the human species.
- **Socially constructed concept of race diverge from the biological concepts of race.**

# Ethnicity



- Meaning culture, ancestry, geography, behavior, etc.
- When describing people, because the preponderance of scientific evidence suggests that ethnicity is probably the most accurate way to describe variation among human beings (see Franz Boas; Sussman, 2014).

# Racism



- Racism is a fundamental force in the founding of the nation and many of our current social problems stem from this fact.
- Racism describes the nature of the social relationships(caste) between humans based on their skin color.
- Racism was enforced by violence and law
- Colorism and Racism are highly correlated
- Studying discriminatory behavior is important

# Racism in America



The Black American experiences in this country has been inundated with acts of racism, resulting in roughly **246 years** of chattel slavery, **100 years** of Jim Crow and Segregation, and **25 years** of mass incarceration.

(Alexander, 2012; Clarke, 1993; Kendi, 2016; Rothstein, 2017; Sussman, 2014; Wells, 2011; Zuberi, 2001 ).



## **Impact of Racism on Black Emerging Adults in America**

Findings from prior research found that experiences of racism was associated with the following outcomes for Black emerging adults in America:

- Stress
- Higher levels of psychological and emotional distress
- Hypertension
- Anxiety
- Preterm and low birth weight deliveries
- Obsessive-compulsive symptoms
- Increased symptoms of depression
- poor academic performance

(Carter, 2007; Din-Dzietham et al., 2004; Fisher, Wallace, & Fenton, 2007; Klonoff, Landrine, & Ullman, 1999; Sue et al., 2007; Williams, 1999; Williams, Neighbors, & Jackson, 2003).



“Race is the withcraft of our time”

-M. F. Ashley Montagu

Free your mind!!

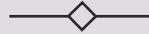
**What Matters!**

# Lack of Social Connectedness

- A close connections to other people
- Deep connections to moral and spiritual meaning.
- The absence of connectedness (Robert Karen)
  - “the superficial relationships,
  - “the poverty of feeling for others,
  - “the inaccessibility,
  - “the lack of emotional response,
  - “the often pointless deceitfulness and theft,
  - “and the inability to concentrate in school



# Black Masculinity



- Black masculinity have caused many Black men to struggle with being vulnerable and open about mental health challenges
- Black Americans are 20 percent more likely to experience serious psychological distress, such as major depressive disorder, than white Americans.
- Black Male are socialized and normalized to self mediate,

# Mental Health Service Use



- Lack of access to culturally responsive and appropriate mental health care, along with documented racism and bias within the healthcare system, have made some people in the Black community less likely to seek treatment.
- There is a collective mistrust of healthcare and medical providers because of abuse
- Lack of access to services is another factor that prevents adequate mental health care

## Non-Gender Conforming Men (Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender)



- The lack of love and acceptance that many of them face can create a separate emotional crisis.
- Prevent them from openly living the whole life for shame and hurt they may experience
- Limits their use of familial, kinship, or communal supports or emotional outlets

## *Population Level Change*

Social Lives of Black Americans

- Cultural (Values and Attitudes)
- Social Ties and Connectedness
- Structural Conditions (Opportunity)
- Immigration and Acculturation

## *Candidate Factors Associated with New Trends*

New Developmental Context

More accepting **Attitude Towards Suicide** among the young

Generational differences in coping styles (self blame vs. system blame)

Faithless or Hopelessness

Seeking Help is seen as-Weakness

Racism-induced gender role strain (males)

Access to lethal methods

## *New Developmental Context*

New generations of Black children have been raised amidst extreme developmental contexts that lack symbols of hope and appropriate coping styles, which helped earlier generations, face the challenges of adverse life circumstances.

—Joe (2006)



“The most authentic thing about us is our capacity to create, to overcome, to endure, to transform, to love and to be greater than our suffering.”

Ben Okri (Nigerian Author)

# *QUESTIONS*

