

# PREVENT YOUTH SUICIDE & ADDRESS THE CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS:

## STRENGTHEN SUICIDE PREVENTION EDUCATION FOR TEACHERS

### THE ISSUE:

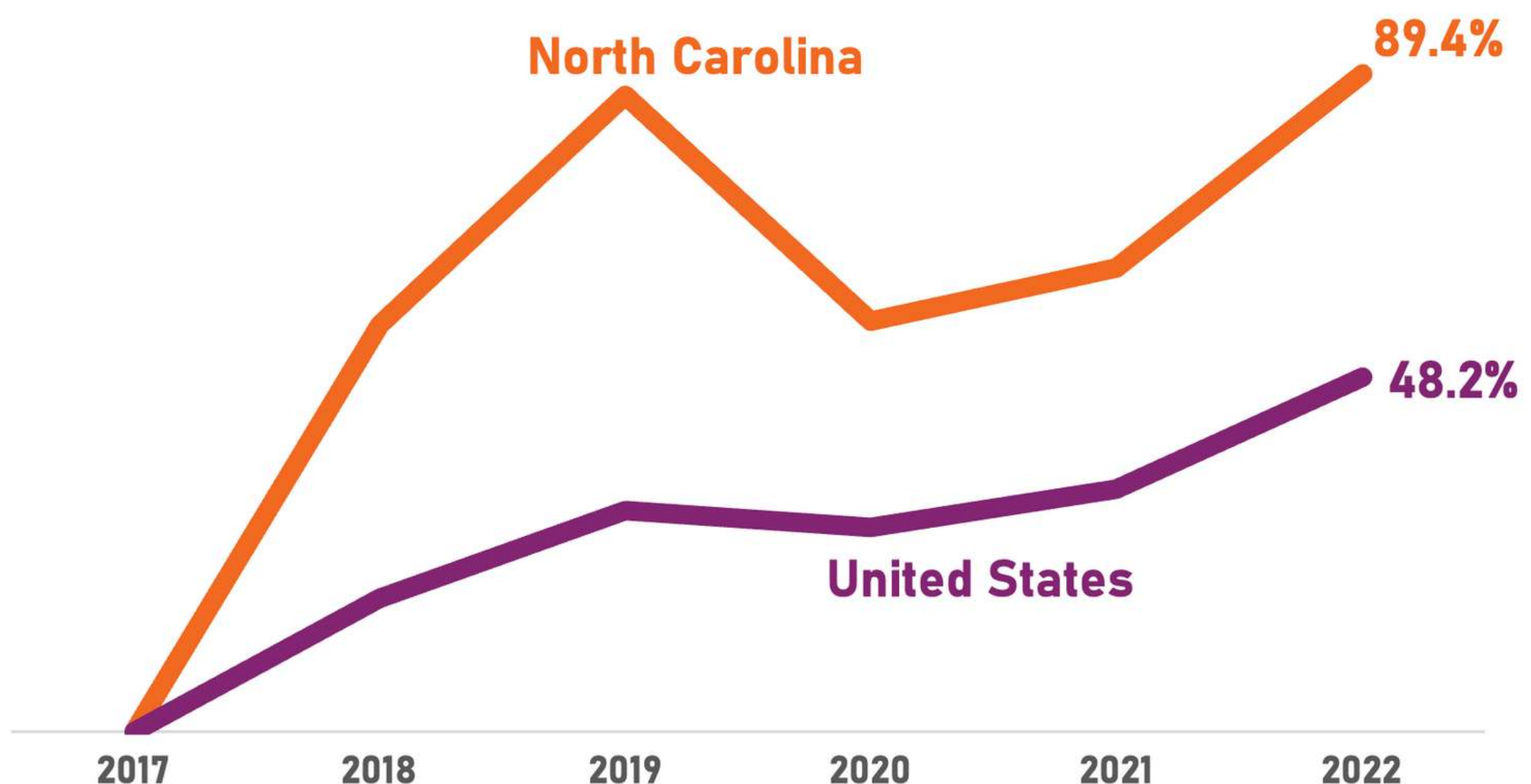
YOUTH SUICIDES AND THE NUMBER OF ANXIETY OR DEPRESSION DIAGNOSES HAVE BOTH RISEN SHARPLY OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS.

**1 in 5** high school students in North Carolina seriously considered suicide in 2021.<sup>1</sup>



Suicide has been the leading or second leading cause of death among youth ages **10-14** in NC in the last five years.<sup>2</sup>

THE NUMBER OF KIDS WITH ANXIETY OR DEPRESSION HAS NEARLY **DOUBLED** SINCE 2017.



SOURCE: National Survey of Children's Health, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, HRSA

# RECOMMENDATION: STRENGTHEN SUICIDE PREVENTION EDUCATION FOR TEACHERS

## COST TO THE STATE: \$0

- Partners such as the Jason Foundation will provide North Carolina schools with access to its extensive library of training materials.

## HOW MUCH DOES INACTION COST?

- Without training, school districts are at greater risk of liability. Across the country there are examples of cases where families have sued school districts when educators and other school personnel did not step in to help despite constant bullying and warning signs.

TEACHERS  
FIND  
SUICIDE  
PREVENTION  
TRAINING  
HELPFUL.



SOURCE: Jason Foundation Survey

## WHAT'S BEEN DONE SO FAR?

### S476, SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH

- All K-12 NC schools are required to create mental health plans which includes required trainings for teachers.

### H605, SCHOOL THREAT ASSESSMENT TEAMS

- A multi-pronged approach to school safety including assessment and referral protocols for children who may be in crisis.

## ABOUT NC CHILD

NC Child is a statewide, 501(c)(3) nonprofit that advances policies that ensure all of North Carolina's children have the opportunity to thrive.

IF WE DON'T ACT  
NOW, MORE  
FAMILIES WILL  
SUFFER.

#### REFERENCES:

- Analysis of Center for Disease Control Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) Data (2021)
- Center for Disease Control National Center for Health Statistics annual mortality data via WISQARS (2017-2021)