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 2021.¹

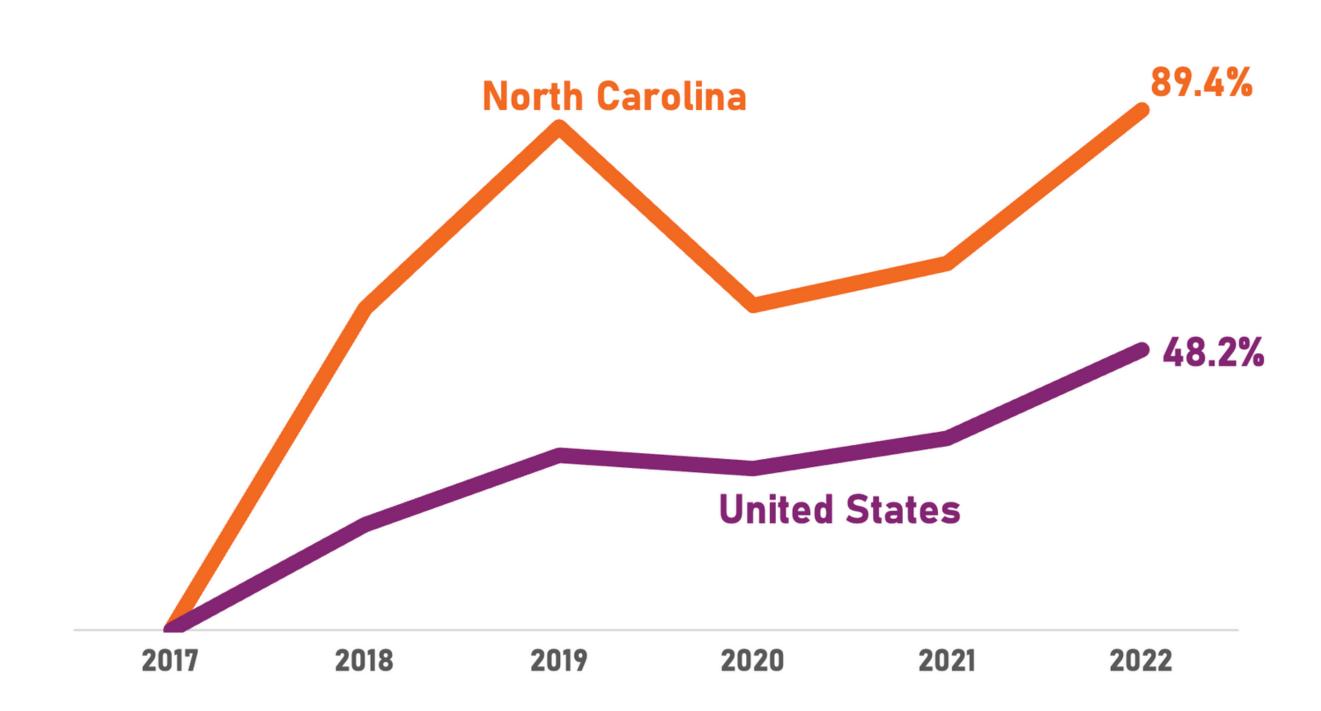


Suicide has been the leading or second leading cause of death among youth ages **10-14** in NC in the last five years.²

NC

Child

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

NCCHILD.ORG

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.

F	Percent who agree or strongly agree
Would recommend the trainings to other teachers, coaches, etc.	84.6%
Would take the training modules again	84.3%
More confident in ability to assist students who approach them	83.9%
Better recognize the warning signs and risk factors of suicidal ideation	82.2%
Signifcantly increased knowledge of youth suicide	80.5%
More confident in ability to recognize and approach students struggling with suicidal thoughts	78.5%

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

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:

1. Analysis of Center for Disease Control Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) Data (2021)

2. Center for Disease Control National Center for Health Statistics annual mortality data via WISQARS (2017-2021)

Tiffany Gladney, Senior Director of Policy and Government Relations, tiffany@ncchild.org

NCCHILD.ORG