

Boys Do(n't) Cry:
**Suicide among
Black Boys**

Michael A. Lindsey, PhD, MSW, MPH



Carl Joseph
Walker-Hoover

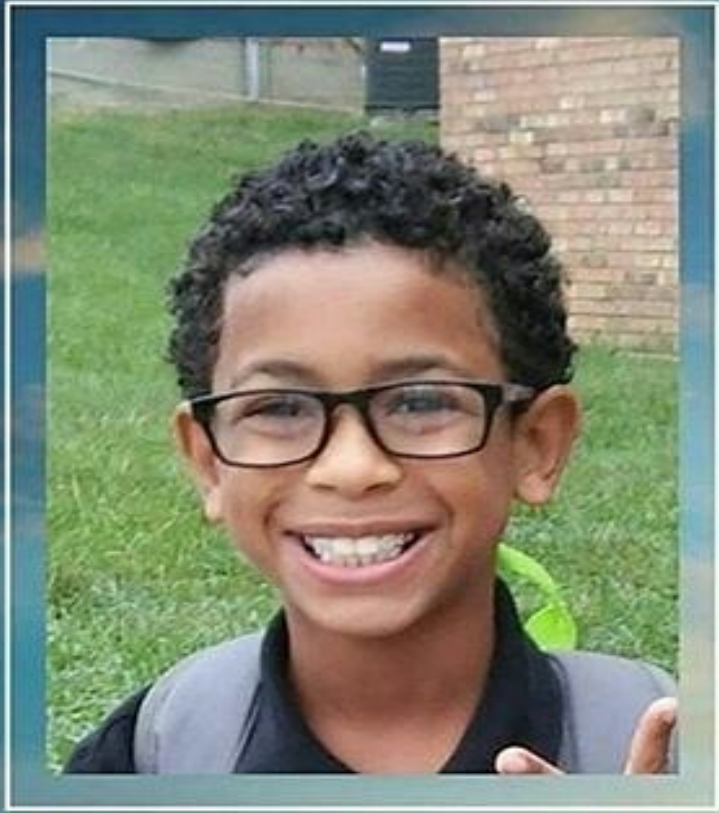
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Gabriel Benyam Taye
Feb 21, 2008 - Jan 26, 2017



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Suicide in Youth

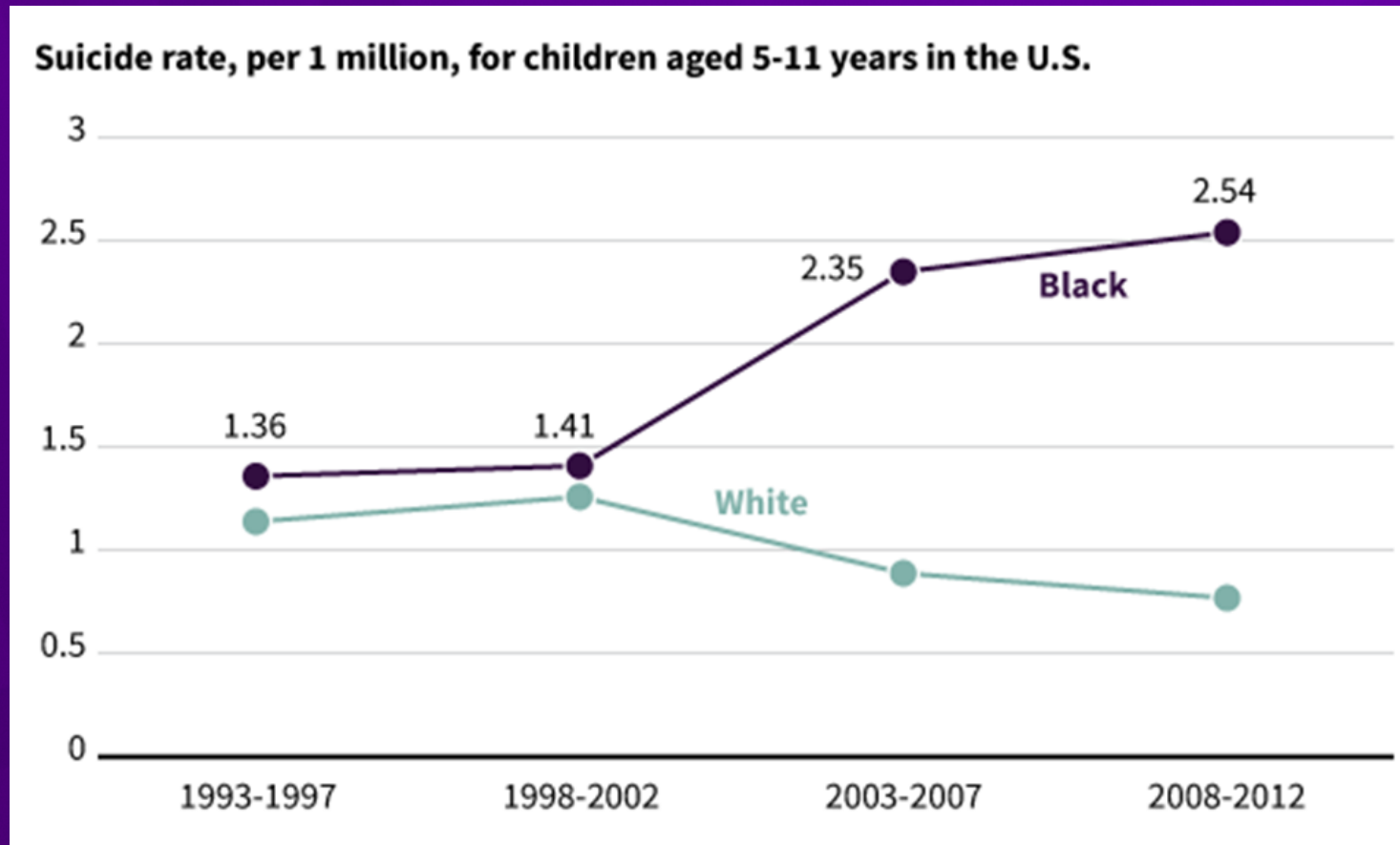
- From 1999 through 2015, **1,309** children ages 5 to 12 died of suicide in the U.S. (CDC, 2015)
- **1 child under the age of 13 dies of suicide almost every 5 days in the U.S.**
- 76% of those who died in 1999-2015 were **male**

Prevalence in Black Youth

- **Suicide:** 3rd leading cause of death among all Black American youth, ages 10-19 (CDC, 2014).
- From 1993-2012, suicide rates have doubled among Black children, principally males (Bridge et al., 2015).
- **Black boys ages 5-11:** Only age group where rates are higher than any other age group (Bridge et al., 2015).

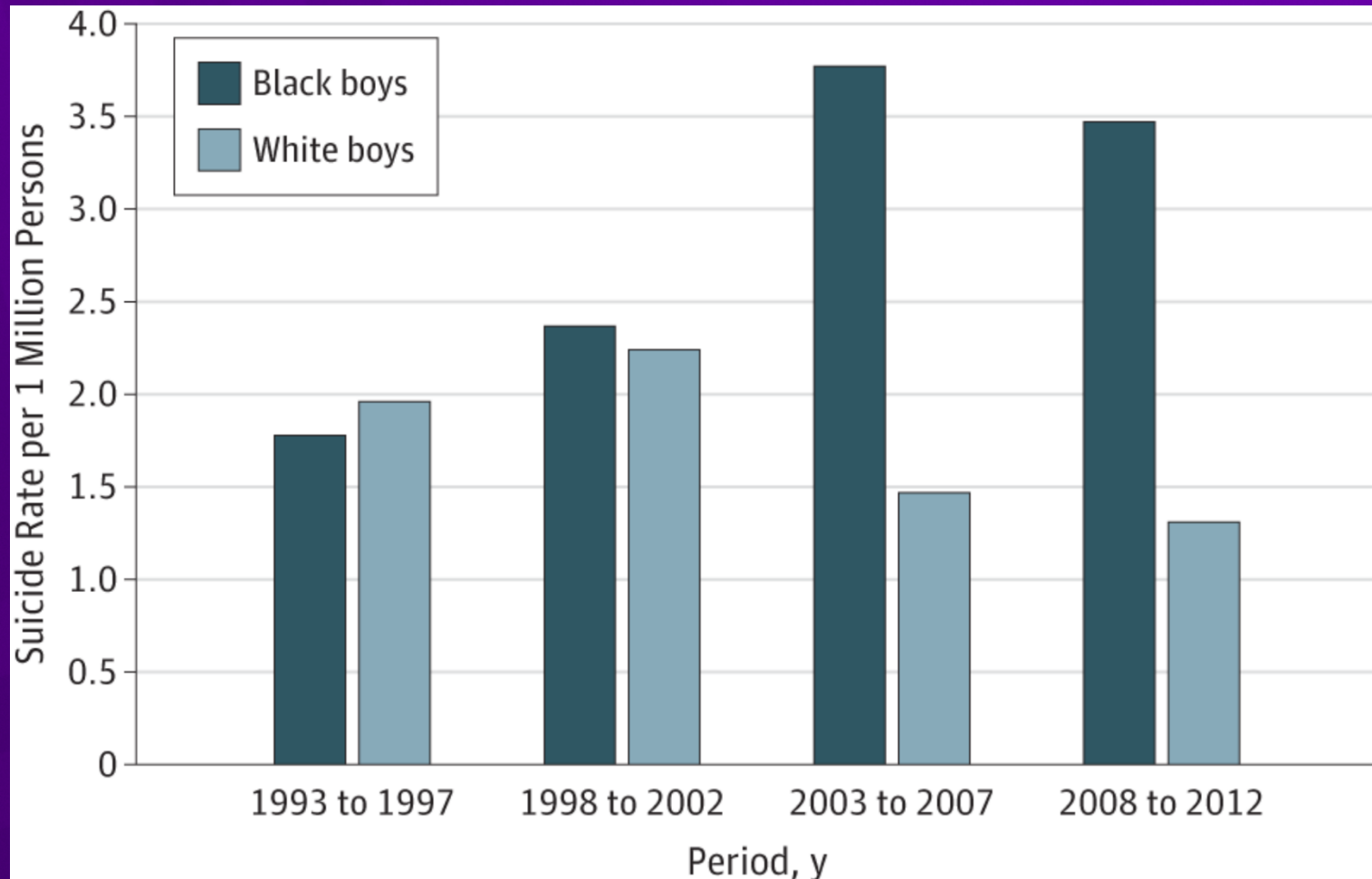
From: **Suicide Trends Among Elementary School–Aged Children in the United States From 1993 to 2012**

JAMA Pediatrics, 2015;169(7):673-677. doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2015.0465



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Additional Facts Related to Poverty

- › Suicide rates in the U.S. are closely correlated to **poverty** rates (Kubrin et al., 2006; Kerr et al., 2017)
- › **Trauma and Suicide**: Among urban males, PTSD is associated with increased suicide attempts (Wilcox et al., 2009)
- › **Incarcerated youth** die by suicide at a rate 2-3x higher than that of youth in the general population (Abram et al., 2008)

Other Contributing Factors

- **Depression/Anxiety**
- **Lack of access to mental health treatment**
- **Bullying or Teasing**
- **Substance abuse**
- **Racial discrimination and other psychosocial stressors (e.g., police harassment, violence)**
- **Puberty**



Solutions

Solutions



Solutions

- Educate on signs/symptoms of depression, trauma, anxiety at school and at home
- Need school-wide mental health prevention programs
- Provide more support for boys with caring adults, family members, and friends
- Increase opportunities for positive involvement in afterschool and mentoring programs

In Memory of...



...Gabriel Taye,
Carl Joseph
Walker-Hoover,
and the many
other young
Black boys ages
5-11 we are
losing to suicide.